



# The Express

For Members of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association

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2006 Edition - Volume Two

March 2nd, 2006

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2006 Annual  
Winter Meeting**  
March 29th-31st

**Ohio Geological  
Society Meeting**  
March 29th

**OOGEOP Media  
Training**  
March 30th

**PAC Reception  
In Honor of  
Ohio Senate  
President Bill Harris**  
March 30th

**2006 Annual  
Summer Meeting**  
August 14th-15th

**2006 Annual Fall  
Technical &  
Special Issues  
Conference &  
PTTC Technical  
Meeting**  
October 18th-19th

**Oil and Gas Hall of  
Fame Dinner/  
Banquet**  
November 17th

For more  
information on these  
events, log on to  
[www.ooga.org](http://www.ooga.org)

## EPA Extends Federal SPCC Deadline to October 2007

U.S. EPA has extended to October 31st, 2007 the deadline for when facility owners must prepare, amend and implement SPCC plans to conform with the July 2002 revisions to the federal oil pollution prevention rules. The [February 17th Federal Register](#) statement represents the fourth time that the EPA has delayed the compliance date as the agency works to address ongoing issues raised by the industry with proposed changes to federal SPCC requirements.

**Latest Changes to Federal SPCC Rule:** On February 10th, OOGA submitted [comments](#) to the EPA on their latest attempt to modify the 2002 rules to account for, among several problems, the impact on marginal oil and gas production. For more information and updates on these topics, you can log onto the "SPCC page" of our website located at: <http://www.ooga.org/issues/SPCC Info.htm>

## Urban Drilling Lawsuit Decision Delayed

On Valentine's Day, the Judge presiding over the House Bill 278 lawsuit delayed further action on the case. The Judge needed more time to review the extensive legal documents and to make a decision. If you remember, the lawsuit was filed by half a dozen suburbs around the city of Cleveland against the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and two Ohio producers on the constitutionality of "home rule" provisions. The plaintiffs claim that House Bill 278 takes away the authority of local governments. For more information and updates on this measure, go to the House Bill 278 webpage on our website located at: <http://www.ooga.org/issues/HB278WebPage.htm>

## OOGA Weighs In On EPA Stormwater Rule Revisions

On February 21st, OOGA submitted [comments](#) to the U.S. EPA supporting the agency revision to NPDES Stormwater regulations that would codify recent favorable changes in federal law regarding a long-running dispute with industry on the extent of the E&P exemption from regulation. OOGA supported EPA's December 2005 proposal that would implement the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requirement that makes clear that stormwater discharges from all oil and gas field activities and operations, including site construction, are exempt from NPDES permitting requirements unless contamination occurs. OOGA has been a co-plaintiff with IPAA, TIPRO and other associations suing the EPA for just such a clarification. IPAA, along with OOGA and many other cooperating associations, filed separate [supporting comments](#). For more information, log on to our website's "Stormwater" page located at: <http://www.ooga.org/issues/Stormwater Info.htm>

## OOGA Negotiating Revised Formula Valuing Oil & Gas Real Estate Tax

Discussions continue between OOGA and the Department of Taxation over the uniform formula used each year to calculate the multiplier used in the valuation of oil and gas deposits in Ohio's counties to determine the county real estate tax based on the annualized average production from a producing well. Because the negotiations are expected to continue into March, oil and gas well owners can expect a delay in the publication of the 2006 Tax Department entry publishing the 2006 valuation that's usually available in February.

Last year, OOGA successfully lobbied for an amendment to the biennium budget and tax reform bill that strips out from the real property tax that portion attributed to tangible personal property associated with producing a well. Also, all tangible personal property used in recovery of oil and gas and installed on the lease premises was exempted from taxation. Because of the change the tax commissioner was required to review the valuation formula. For more information, call Tom Stewart at (740-587-0444) or log on to our webpage's "Tax Information" section for more updates located at: <http://www.ooga.org/issues/taxinfo.htm>

## Remember! The 2006 Winter Meeting Is Only Three Weeks Away!

Go to <http://www.ooga.org/calendar/meetings.htm> for more information.