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HOUSE MEMORIAL 84

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Brian F. Egolf

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION OF THE ENERGY,
MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO POST CERTAIN
INFORMATION RELATING TO THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ON THE
DIVISION'S WEB SITE.

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is a critical industry
for the state of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks fifth in the United States in
its oil reserves with over seven hundred million barrels; and

WHEREAS, the state receives significant taxes, royalties
and revenues from the oil and gas industry each year; and

WHEREAS, a strong and thriving oil and gas industry in New
Mexico helps to fund the state's educational systems, roads,
public facilities and economy; and

WHEREAS, various media reports have raised concerns about
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1 the potential negative impact of oil and gas drilling on the
2 environment and public health and have elevated public concern;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, it is important to address any public fears
5 regarding the negative impact of the oil and gas industry on
6 the environment, particularly ground water; and

7 WHEREAS, transparency and accurate information is critical
8 to the functioning of our democratic system;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the oil
11 conservation division of the energy, minerals and natural
12 resources department be requested to post the following
13 information on the division's web site in an easy to find and
14 user-friendly format for each of the years 2008 through 2012
15 and annually for each year thereafter:

16 A. the number of stripper, active, temporary and
17 orphaned oil and gas wells;

18 B. the number of oil conservation division oil and
19 gas well inspectors;

20 C. information on violations under the Oil and Gas
21 Act, including:

22 (1) a general categorization of violations,
23 including categories for violations that threaten or
24 contaminate ground water;

25 (2) the number of violations and amount of

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1 penalties collected for each category;

2 (3) a listing of the oil and gas facilities
3 that received violations for each category, the county in which
4 the violation occurred, the date of the violation, the date
5 compliance was achieved, whether the violation was filed in
6 court and whether the violation was settled in court; and

7 (4) the specific actions taken by the oil
8 conservation division for each violation that threatened or
9 contaminated ground water;

10 D. the cash balance in the oil and gas reclamation
11 fund at the beginning of each fiscal year; and

12 E. the amount, purpose and type of expenditures
13 from the oil and gas reclamation fund; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, by November 1, 2013, the oil
15 conservation division present the information for years 2008
16 through 2012, with recommendations that could help the oil
17 conservation division's efforts to address public concerns
18 about the impact of drilling on ground water, to the governor
19 and to the three appropriate legislative interim committees
20 that deal with natural resources, hazardous materials and legal
21 issues; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the oil conservation division of the energy,
24 minerals and natural resources department, the governor, the
25 president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the

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1 house of representatives.

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