Enabling Laws

Act 181 of 2016 A.C.A. §15-71-101 et seq. A.C.A. §15-72-101 et seq. A.C.A. §15-76-301 et seq.

History and Organization

The purpose and mission of the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission is to serve the public regarding oil, gas and brine matters, to protect the correlative rights and interests of mineral owners through orderly resource development and to regulate the oil, gas and brine production industries to insure compliance with state and federal laws regarding protection of the environment and waters of the state.

The Commission maintains administrative offices in Little Rock and district offices in El Dorado and Ft. Smith. Approximately 48,000 permits to drill have been issued by the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission since creation of the Commission in 1939. Well records for these wells are maintained at the Commission district offices in El Dorado and Ft. Smith and are available to the general public and regulated community during normal office hours. The Commission also maintains a web access to information pertinent to the general public and regulated community regarding the oil and gas industry in Arkansas.

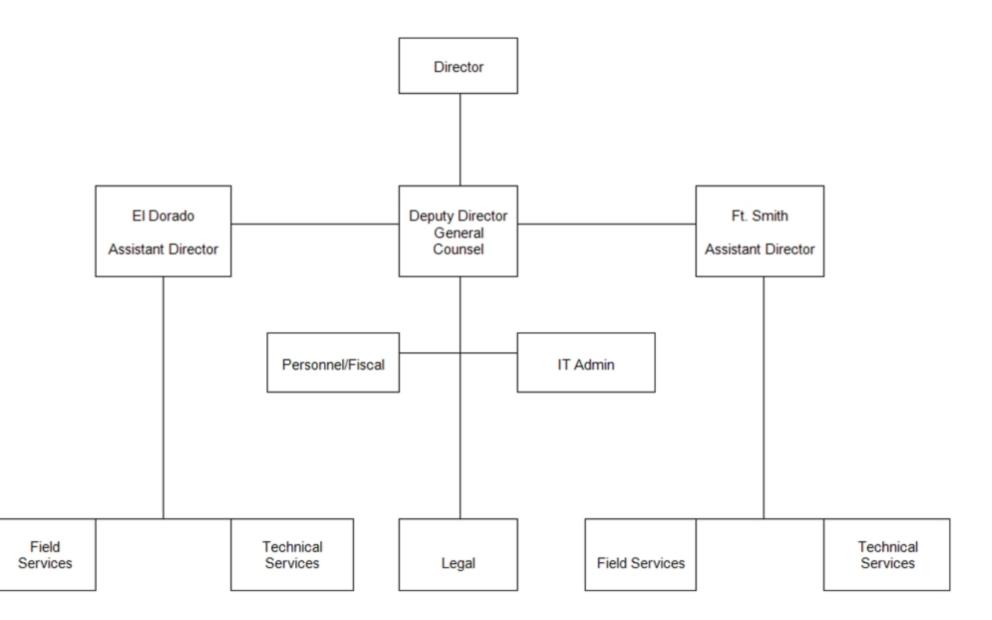
Act 105 of 1939, created the Oil and Gas Commission to oversee the oil and gas conservation and production requirements contained in Act 105. The Commission consisted of seven members with industry knowledge, appointed by the Governor to serve staggered six year terms. Compensation was also authorized for each day Commissioners attended a meeting or hearing, along with reimbursement of all necessary travel expenses. Act 680 of 1985 added two members to the Commission and specified that industry knowledge would not be a requirement of service by individuals holding these two positions. The Director of Production and Conservation serves as the ex-officio Secretary of the Commission and serves as the Director of the Commission staff. Act 472 of 1949, as amended by Act 232 of 1953, stipulates that the Director shall also serve as a member of the Pollution Control and Ecology Commission. Act 111 of 1969 amended Paragraph M of Section 11 of Act 105 of 1939 and empowered the Oil and Gas Commission to regulate the drilling for and production of salt water for the bromine industry.

In 1978, the U.S. Congress passed the Natural Gas Policy Act, and the Arkansas Department of Energy determined that the Oil and Gas Commission should serve as the jurisdictional agency for status determination under the provisions of that Act. Act 937 of 1979 provided additional authorities to the Commission to regulate drilling for and extraction of bromine from produced brine. In March 1984, the Oil and

Gas Commission assumed primacy for the Underground Injection Control Program from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Class II injection wells and Class V bromine-related brine disposal wells.

Act 5 of 1991 required persons and entities conducting or proposing to conduct field seismic operations in the State to obtain a permit from and post a bond with the Oil and Gas Commission. Acts 1265, 1266, and 1267 of 2005 created and Abandoned and Orphan Well Plugging Fund to plug abandoned oil and gas wells for which a responsible party no longer existed or could not be located. The Fund and associated plugging program is administered by the Oil and Gas Commission and is funded by an annually assessed fee paid by oil and gas production companies operating in Arkansas.

Acts 1047 and 1048 of 1999 empowered the Oil and Gas Commission to regulate certain aspects of natural gas gathering line systems. This authority was further amended by Act 452 of 2009, which in part, granted the AOGC additional jurisdiction to inspect and regulate pursuant to its DOT certificate, natural gas pipelines and associated facilities.



Agency Commentary

The Oil and Gas Commission is charged by state statute to administer and enforce state and federal laws dealing with the regulatory oversight of the oil, natural gas and brine production industries in Arkansas. These laws are designed to protect the correlative rights of mineral owners, protect the oil, natural gas and brine resources of the state, and to protect the environment and waters of the state during the production of these resources. The Oil and Gas Commission regulatory programs also include administration of the USEPA Underground Injection Control Program for operation of deep injection disposal wells, the USDOT Pipeline Safety Program for natural gas gathering lines and Arkansas Abandoned and Orphaned Well Plugging Program used to plug old abandoned oil and gas wells for which the operators no longer are in existence.

The Fayetteville Shale development continues in the north central part of the state and over the last 8 years has resulted in a six (6) fold increase in the State's total natural gas production. The Fayetteville Shale development occurred in an area of the State which had not previously experienced oil and natural gas development, and which resulted in increased field inspections to ensure compliance with Commission regulations. The Commission addressed this need during previous budget cycles and received additional staff and appropriations to meet the growing regulatory program during the expansion of the Fayetteville Shale. Although there has been a reduction in the drilling activity in the Fayetteville Shale over the last 2 years due to reduced natural gas price, the Commission continues to perform field inspection activities on the approximately 6,000 producing wells in the Fayetteville Shale production area.

There are approximately 500 abandoned and orphaned oil and gas wells currently in the Commission Abandoned and Orphan Well Plugging Program awaiting plugging. In order to sufficiently fund the program to cover the plugging costs for these abandoned and orphan wells, the Commission is requesting to reauthorize special language to transfer up to \$2,000,000 annually from the Commission Treasury Fund to the Abandoned and Orphan Well Plugging Fund and maintain the expenditure appropriation at the Base Level amount \$2,500,000 annually.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AUDIT OF : ARKANSAS OIL AND GAS COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

State Contracts Over \$50,000 Awarded To Minority Owned Businesses Fiscal Year 2016

None

Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	22	18	40	95 %
Black Employees	0	2	2	5 %
Other Racial Minorities	0	0	0	0 %
Total Minorities			2	5 %
Total Employees			42	100 %

Cash Fund Balance Description as of June 30, 2016

Fund Account 3010000	Balance \$207,893	Type Checking	Location Bank of the Ozark, Little Rock
Statutory/Other Rest	rictions on use:		
	or Fees, Fines, Penalties:		

A.C.A. 15-71-110 Gives the Commission authority to oversee production of oil and gas and collect fees and fines to fund operations.

Revenue Receipts Cycle:

Fees and penalities are collected throughout the year.

Fund Balance Utilization:

Refunds/Transfers-Funds are collected on a daily basis. Appropriation is used to make refunds for overpayments and to reimburse posted bonds. The remaining balance at the end of each month is transferred to the State Treasury.

Publications

	Statutory	Requi	red for	# of	Reason(s) for Continued	Unbound Black & White Copies	Cost of Unbound Copies Produced
Name	Authorization	Governor	General Assembly	Copies	Publication and Distribution	Produced During the Last Two Years	During the Last Two Years
Rules and Regulations	15-71-111	N	N	0	Required by industry to inform them of Agency rules and regulations. Also included are forms required to be filed for drilling and required production reporting in Arkansas. Available on agency web site.		0.00
Weekly Permit and Completion Report	None	N	N	0	Weekly status report of current oil and gas well drilling and completion. Provided to all parties via agency webpage and also available to the general public in Oil & Gas Commission offices.	0	0.00

A.C.A. 25-1-201 et seq.

Department Appropriation Summary

		Historical Data								Ager	icy Request	and E	xecutive Re	ecomm	nendation			
	2015-20	16	2016-20	17	2016-20	17	2017-2018							2018-20	19			
Appropriation	Actual	Pos	Budget	Pos	Authorized	Pos	Base Level	Pos	Agency	Pos	Executive	Pos	Base Level	Pos	Agency	Pos	Executive	Pos
204 Oil & Gas Commission-Operations	4,277,946	43	5,268,732	44	5,249,119	44	5,132,065	44	5,132,065	44	5,132,065	44	5,134,396	44	5,134,396	44	5,134,396	44
2XV Well Plugging Program	626,671	0	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0
A20 Refunds/Reimbursements	232,000	0	200,000	0	500,000	0	200,000	0	200,000	0	200,000	0	200,000	0	200,000	0	200,000	0
Total	5,136,617	43	7,968,732	44	8,249,119	44	7,832,065	44	7,832,065	44	7,832,065	44	7,834,396	44	7,834,396	44	7,834,396	44
Funding Sources		%		%				%		%		%		%		%		%
Fund Balance 4000005	46,143,525	90.2	45,999,502	90.8			42,680,770	90.2	42,680,770	90.2	42,680,770	90.2	39,498,705	89.5	39,498,705	89.5	39,498,705	89.5
Special Revenue 4000030	4,994,241	9.8	4,150,000	8.2			4,150,000	8.8	4,150,000	8.8	4,150,000	8.8	4,150,000	9.4	4,150,000	9.4	4,150,000	9.4
Cash Fund 4000045	0	0.0	500,000	1.0			500,000	1.1	500,000	1.1	500,000	1.1	500,000	1.1	500,000	1.1	500,000	1.1
Transfer from Special Revenue 4000565	0	0.0	2,000,000	3.9			2,000,000	4.2	2,000,000	4.2	2,000,000	4.2	2,000,000	4.5	2,000,000	4.5	2,000,000	4.5
Transfers / Adjustments 4000683	(1,647)	0.0	(2,000,000)	(3.9)			(2,000,000)	(4.2)	(2,000,000)	(4.2)	(2,000,000)	(4.2)	(2,000,000)	(4.5)	(2,000,000)	(4.5)	(2,000,000)	(4.5)
Total Funds	51,136,119	100.0	50,649,502	100.0			47,330,770	100.0	47,330,770	100.0	47,330,770	100.0	44,148,705	100.0	44,148,705	100.0	44,148,705	100.0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	(45,999,502)		(42,680,770)				(39,498,705)		(39,498,705)		(39,498,705)		(36,314,309)		(36,314,309)		(36,314,309)	
Grand Total	5,136,617		7,968,732				7,832,065		7,832,065		7,832,065		7,834,396		7,834,396		7,834,396	

Agency Position Usage Report

FY2014 - 2015							FY2015 - 2016						FY2016 - 2017				
Authorized		Budgete	d	Unbudgeted		Authorized Budgeted Unbudgeted			Authorized	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of			
in Act	Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total	Authorized Unused	in Act	Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total	Authorized Unused	in Act	Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total	Authorized Unused
44	43	0	43	1	2.27 %	44	42	2	44	0	4.55 %	44	42	2	44	0	4.55 %

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 204 - Oil & Gas Commission-Operations

Funding Sources:SDO - Oil and Gas Commission Fund

The Oil & Gas Commission's operating appropriation is funded by special revenues, as authorized in A.C.A §19-6-410.

Base Level Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching include the continuation of the previously authorized 2017 Salaries and Career Service Payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching includes the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$420 per month. Base Level salaries and matching do not include appropriation for a Cost of Living Adjustment or Merit Pay Increases. The Base Level salary of unclassified positions reflects the FY17 line item maximum plus the previously authorized 2016 1% Cost of Living Adjustment authorized by Act 1007 (3 (B)) of 2015.

The Commission is requesting Base Level appropriation of \$5,132,065 in FY18 and \$5,134,396 in FY19.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the Agency Request.

Appropriation Summary

Appropriation: 204 - Oil & Gas Commission-Operations

Funding Sources: SDO - Oil and Gas Commission Fund

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

		2015-2016	2016-2017	2016-2017		2017-2018			2018-2019	
Commitment Iter	n	Actual	Budget	Authorized	Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries	5010000	2,090,028	2,095,177	2,073,664	2,096,477	2,096,477	2,096,477	2,098,377	2,098,377	2,098,377
#Positions		43	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
Extra Help	5010001	49,905	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
#Extra Help		8	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Personal Services Matching	5010003	694,881	692,041	693,941	704,074	704,074	704,074	704,505	704,505	704,505
Operating Expenses	5020002	589,238	987,797	987,797	987,797	987,797	987,797	987,797	987,797	987,797
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	23,822	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Professional Fees	5060010	6,142	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000
Construction	5090005	67,992	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants and Aid	5100004	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
Refunds/Reimbursements	5110014	6,500	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Capital Outlay	5120011	159,624	150,000	150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Data Processing Services	5900044	225,251	348,217	348,217	348,217	348,217	348,217	348,217	348,217	348,217
Interstate Oil Compact	5900046	0	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Geological Research	5900047	0	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Underground Injection Control	5900048	6,063	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Groundwater Protection	5900049	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
Total		4,277,946	5,268,732	5,249,119	5,132,065	5,132,065	5,132,065	5,134,396	5,134,396	5,134,396
Funding Sources	6									
Fund Balance	4000005	42,886,947	43,310,482		39,941,750	39,941,750	39,941,750	36,709,685	36,709,685	36,709,685
Special Revenue	4000030	4,701,481	3,900,000		3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000
Transfers / Adjustments	4000683	0	(2,000,000)		(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)
Total Funding		47,588,428	45,210,482		41,841,750	41,841,750	41,841,750	38,609,685	38,609,685	38,609,685
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(43,310,482)	(39,941,750)		(36,709,685)	(36,709,685)	(36,709,685)	(33,475,289)	(33,475,289)	(33,475,289)
Grand Total		4,277,946	5,268,732		5,132,065	5,132,065	5,132,065	5,134,396	5,134,396	5,134,396

FY17 Budget amount in Regular Salaries exceeds the authorized amount due to salary adjustments during the 2015-2017 Biennium.

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation:2XV - Well Plugging Program

Funding Sources: SAW - Abandoned and Orphan Well Plugging Fund

This appropriation is funded by special revenue derived from fees, forfeited bonds, proceeds from the sale of hydrocarbons, and grants or gifts from the public. In addition, upon review of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and the Legislative Council, special language allows a transfer up to \$750,000 per year from the Oil and Gas Fund to the Abandoned and Orphan Well Plugging Fund. The Oil & Gas Commission's Abandoned and Orphan Well Plugging Fund was established by Acts 1265 and 1267 of 2005 (A.C.A. §15-71-115). The fund is utilized for well plugging program expenses. The Commission specifically utilizes the funds to plug abandoned and orphaned wells by means of contracts, grants to landowners, or for the payment of other plugging costs or corrective work.

The Commission is requesting Base Level of \$2,500,000 each year of the 2017-2019 Biennium.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the Agency Request.

Appropriation Summary

Appropriation:2XV - Well Plugging ProgramFunding Sources:SAW - Abandoned and Orphan Well Plugging Fund

		F	listorical Data	a		Agency Rec	uest and Exec	utive Recomm	endation	
		2015-2016	2016-2017	2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		
Commitment Item		Actual	Budget	Authorized	Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Well Plugging Expenses	5900046	626,671	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Total		626,671	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	2,815,038	2,481,127		2,231,127	2,231,127	2,231,127	1,981,127	1,981,127	1,981,127
Special Revenue	4000030	292,760	250,000		250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Transfer from Special Revenue	4000565	0	2,000,000		2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Total Funding		3,107,798	4,731,127		4,481,127	4,481,127	4,481,127	4,231,127	4,231,127	4,231,127
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(2,481,127)	(2,231,127)		(1,981,127)	(1,981,127)	(1,981,127)	(1,731,127)	(1,731,127)	(1,731,127)
Grand Total		626,671	2,500,000		2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation:A20 - Refunds/ReimbursementsFunding Sources:301 - Oil and Gas Commission Cash

The Oil & Gas Commission's cash fund is used for deposit of special revenue fees collected by the Commission and to hold bonds posted by companies engaged in seismographic exploration in the State. This account provides checks with which to make transfers to the State Treasury and eliminates the necessity of sending cash through the mail. The Commission then transfers collected funds to the Oil and Gas Commission Fund to be utilized for Regular Salaries and Operating Expenses.

The Commission is requesting Base Level of \$200,000 each year of the 2017-2019 Biennium.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the Agency Request.

Appropriation Summary

Appropriation: A20 - Refunds/Reimbursements Funding Sources:

301 - Oil and Gas Commission Cash

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

		2015-2016	2016-2017	2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019			
Commitment Item		Actual	Budget	Authorized	Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive	
Refunds/Reimbursements	5110014	232,000	200,000	500,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	
Total		232,000	200,000	500,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	
Funding Sources											
Fund Balance	4000005	441,540	207,893		507,893	507,893	507,893	807,893	807,893	807,893	
Cash Fund	4000045	0	500,000		500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
Transfers / Adjustments	4000683	(1,647)	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Funding		439,893	707,893		1,007,893	1,007,893	1,007,893	1,307,893	1,307,893	1,307,893	
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	(207,893)	(507,893)		(807,893)	(807,893)	(807,893)	(1,107,893)	(1,107,893)	(1,107,893)	
Grand Total		232,000	200,000		200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	