

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 165

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

CONSERVATION. Requires landowner notification when an operator transfers an oil or gas well. (8/1/16)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 30:91(B)(1) and to enact R.S. 30:28(J), relative to the
3 commissioner of conservation; to require notification to certain landowners; to
4 provide for orphaned oilfield sites; to provide for requirements of drilling permits;
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 30:91(B)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 30:28(J) is
8 hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §28. Drilling permits; issuance; fees; location plat; notice and hearing; funds from
10 drilling permit fees

11 * * *

12 **J. No later than thirty days after the issuance of an amended permit to**
13 **transfer a well to another operator, the commissioner shall require that the**
14 **operator to the best of his knowledge identify on a form approved by the**
15 **commissioner the surface owner of lands on which the well site is located.**

16 * * *

17 §91. Orphaned oilfield sites

1 * * *

2 B.(1) Prior to declaring a site to be an orphaned oilfield site, the assistant
 3 secretary shall seek to notify the last operator of record, at his last known address
 4 contained in the department records, of the site that is to be declared orphaned and
 5 shall publish a notice in the Louisiana Register that the oilfield site is to be declared
 6 orphaned. **Additionally, the assistant secretary shall seek to notify the surface**
 7 **owner of the site that is to be declared orphaned when the department has been**
 8 **provided such information pursuant to R.S. 30:28.** If resolution of a factual
 9 dispute is requested by any owner or operator, the assistant secretary shall hold a
 10 fact-finding hearing prior to declaring the site orphaned and the assistant secretary
 11 shall make any fact determination necessary to resolve the dispute.

12 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

DIGEST

SB 165 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Allain

Proposed law requires the commissioner of conservation to require the operator identify to the best of his knowledge, on a form approved by the commissioner, the surface owner of lands on which the well site is located, no later than 30 days after the issuance of an amended permit to transfer a well to another operator.

Present law requires the commissioner to seek to notify the last operator of record, at his last known address contained in the department records, of the site that is to be declared orphaned and shall publish a notice in the Louisiana Register that the oilfield site is to be declared orphaned, prior to declaring a site to be an orphaned oilfield site.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires the commissioner to seek to notify the surface owner of the site that is to be declared orphaned when the department has been provided such information pursuant to proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 30:91(B)(1); adds R.S. 30:28(J))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Changes the notification requirements.