

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 342 (SB 165)

2016 Regular Session

Allain

New law requires the commissioner of conservation to require that an operator identify on a form approved by the commissioner, the surface owner of lands on which a well site is located, no later than 30 days after the issuance of an amended permit to transfer a well to another operator. Defines "surface owner" as the person shown in the assessor's rolls of the parish as the current owner of the surface rights for the land on which the well site is located.

Prior law required the commissioner to seek to notify the last operator of record, at his last known address contained in DNR records, of the site that is to be declared orphaned and 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.

New law retains these provisions and requires the assistant secretary to notify the surface owner of the site, at the address provided by the operator, that the site is declared orphaned. Specifies that the failure to notify the surface owner does not invalidate the decision to declare a site orphaned.

Effective August 1, 2016.

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