



Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

State of Arizona  
**Oil and Gas Conservation Commission**  
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[www.azogcc.az.gov](http://www.azogcc.az.gov)  
Dennis L. Turner, Oil and Gas Administrator

Commissioners:  
Frank Thorwald, Chair  
Vice Chair, vacant  
Stephen R. Cooper  
William C. Feyerabend  
J. Dale Nations, Ph.D.

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**November 16, 2017**

PRESENT:

Mr. Frank Thorwald, Chairman of the Arizona Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (OGCC)  
Mr. Stephen R. Cooper, Member  
Mr. Bill Feyerabend, Member  
Dr. Dale Nations, Member, via telephone  
Mr. Rick Zeise, OGCC Counsel  
Mr. Dennis Turner, OGCC Program Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Thorwald called the OGCC Meeting of November 16, 2017 to order at 1:06 p.m. in Room 3100B at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Phoenix, Arizona.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Nations moved, seconded by Mr. Cooper:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 PUBLIC MEETING BE APPROVED.

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2017 PUBLIC MEETING BE APPROVED.

Both motions carried unanimously.

REPORT BY THE OIL AND GAS ADMINISTRATOR

Discussion of the Commission's extension of Triomphe Energy shut-in status: Prior to today's meeting Mr. Turner and Mr. Zeise discussed whether a Commission vote on ratification was needed regarding the approval of a one year extension of shut in status for Triomphe Energy's well (permit # 1095). Mr. Zeise determined a ratification was not needed as the rule grants a shut-in status of up to five years and that nothing in the rule precludes the Commission from renewing the shut-in status for up to five more years. Therefore, Triomphe's most recent one year extension (see Minutes of September 13, 2017) remains in effect.

Fieldwide Unitization: discussion on this topic was tabled, per Mr. Turner's request.

REPORT BY THE OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN:

OGCC meeting dates for 2018:

All regular meetings (public meetings) of the Arizona Oil and Gas Conservation Commission are scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Fridays, every 6 weeks, beginning January 12, 2018. Unless otherwise announced, all meetings will be at ADEQ's main building, conference room 3100B, 1110 W. Washington Street, Phoenix. Agendas will be posted approximately three to seven days in advance. These meeting dates are fixed and will not be changed.

**2018 SCHEDULE of REGULAR MEETING DATES (FRIDAYS)  
ARIZONA OIL and GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Jan. 12, 2018	Aug. 10
Feb. 23	Sep. 21
Apr. 6	Nov. 2
May 18	Dec. 14
June 29	

Hatch Helium Extraction Act of 2017: Mr. Thorwald made the Commissioners aware of Sen. Orrin Hatch's bill to add support to helium production in federal lands help ensure a long-term domestic supply of helium, which has been jeopardized by the impending closure of the Federal Helium Reserve in 2021. The Helium Extraction Act, S. 1572, would make an amendment to the Mineral Leasing Act to direct the BLM to treat helium leases in the same manner as oil and gas leases.

Link to press release (accessed December 29, 2017):

<https://www.hatch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/7/hatch-introduces-the-helium-extraction-act-to-bolster-helium-production>

OGCC staff needs and staff review: Mr. Thorwald stated that he would be meeting with Bret Park, ADEQ Deputy Director to discuss the GIS Viewer, the OGCC web site's independence and the OGCC's needs for the Administrator to perform the Commission's duties effectively. Dr. Nations expressed his strong desire to see ADEQ create and update maps (such as OG-12) and update the GIS Viewer to meet the needs of the OGCC. Mr. Turner acknowledged these limitations, but also pointed out that ADEQ's traditional mission did not require the same capabilities in map-making as the Arizona Geological Survey. ADEQ can develop these capabilities over time to meet the needs of the OGCC.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

The Commission convened an Executive Session at 1:33 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining legal advice on the following matters:

- Request legal advice on the development of the Oil & Gas Commission website
- Request legal advice on the results of a recent Plains LPG inspection.
- Request legal advice on Blackstone Exploration's permits' status.
- Discussion by the OGCC on how to coordinate communications with stakeholders, during the entire process of seeking a rule exception through the end of rule development
- Discussion by the OGCC on how to coordinate communications with the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC).

The OGCC returned to the Regular Session at 2:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Feyereabend moved, seconded by Mr. Cooper:


THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED

Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

REVIEWED



FRANK THORWALD  
CHAIRMAN

  
DATE

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Joe Dixon, AZ State Land Dept.  
Keenan Murray, AZ State Land Dept.

Michele Van Quathem, Attorney  
James H. Ballard