Coordinated Permitting Study Group
Background and Purpose

Mining and Energy Commission (MEC) Chairman James Womack has established the "Coordinated Permitting Study Group" and has identified Dr. Kenneth B. Taylor as the Study Group Director. Other study group members from the MEC are: Chairman Womack; Compulsory Pooling Study Group Director, Dr. Ray Covington; Environmental Standards Committee Chairman, Mr. George Howard; Water and Waste Management Committee Chairman, Dr. Vikram Rao; and Regulation of Oil and Gas Committee Chairman, Mr. Charles Holbrook.

The scope of the proposed work is found in Senate Bill 76 (Version 5), which has passed the State Senate and is awaiting action in the State House. The text of that charge is:

> Senate Bill 76 (Version 5)
> **PART I. ISSUANCE OF PERMITS**
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> **SECTION 1.(c)** The Mining and Energy Commission, with the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, shall study development of a coordinated permitting program for oil and gas exploration and development activities using horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing treatments in order that a single comprehensive environmental permit may be issued to a permit applicant to govern the applicant's exploration and development activities at a site, including, but not limited to, regulation of the following matters: well construction, siting, and closure requirements; hydraulic fracturing treatments, including subsurface injection of fluids for that purpose; water quality, including stormwater control, and management of water resources; management of waste; and regulation of air emissions.
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> The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall seek any approvals necessary from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a coordinated permitting program to allow issuance of a single comprehensive environmental permit for oil and gas exploration and development activities using horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing treatments. The Mining and Energy Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Environmental Review Commission and the Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy on or before October 1, 2013.

Additional study group members will include personnel from the Division of Water Quality; Division of Water Resources; Division of Waste Management; Division of Air Quality; and the Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources. Industry representatives will be also invited to join this study group.

The first meeting of the study group will take place on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 9:00 am to 10:30 am in the Archdale Building, Ground Floor Hearing Room. The study group will have six deliberative meetings total, with the seventh meeting in late September to review the final report before release to the ERC and Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy.

KBT – 4/29/2013