



# Oil and Gas Division

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[www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/](http://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/)

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Rules Approved by Administrative Rules Committee

**BISMARCK-** The final pieces of proposed rule changes regulating the oil and gas industry were today unanimously approved by the Legislature's Administrative Rules Committee (ARC). The effective date of the held over rules is Jan. 1, 2017.

In September ARC held over six sections of rules to further clarify legislative intent and OGD jurisdiction. The held over sections of rules related to bonding requirements for underground gathering pipelines, authority over underground natural gas gathering pipelines and requirements for berms around facilities.

“By delaying some of these rules the division has been able to provide more certainty to industry,” said Division Director, Lynn Helms. “There is now clearer direction as to what sites may need to construct berms and where division authority lies when regulating underground gathering pipelines, all while maintaining strength and effectiveness of the rules.”

Pipeline Program Supervisor, Kevin Connors agrees the new rules provide added protections.

“Approval of these rules is a positive step towards improving safety and integrity for underground gathering pipelines in North Dakota. The division looks forward to fully implementing this new pipeline program with an immediate focus on installation and construction practices.”

Thirty-two sections of rule were approved by ARC in September. Those rules became effective Oct. 1 and include sections relating to saltwater handling facilities, production reporting and updating signs on facilities.

Information regarding rule changes can be found on the oil and gas division homepage at [www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas](http://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas)

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