**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FOR OIL AND GAS
EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION**

Final Report
December 1997

By
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**National Petroleum Technology Office
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

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**IOGCC REPORT TO DOE
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Building partnerships and promoting dialogue among natural gas and oil industry, the states, and other interested parties through the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) committees and organizations is a key focus. The IOGCC recognizes the importance of sharing ideas and partnering with those regulators who encounter the same issues. This is accomplished through meetings and workshops. The environmental workshops provided standardized training for natural gas and oil exploration and production regulators, field inspectors, operating companies, and technical staff. The workshops enabled effective compliance, understanding, and implementation of state and federal environmental regulations and available environmental technologies.

The benefits gained through this grant have been tremendous and continue to be a strong voice in the Appalachian/Illinois Basin region. The directors and their agencies rely heavily on each other as a resource for regulatory issues and compliance. They also proactively seek new technology ideas that provide more efficient extraction and recovery of natural gas and oil for sharing with other agencies.

The overall performance of this group should be recognized as a model for partnering and teamwork. The Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors are committed to improving environmental compliance and have shown expertise in regulatory compliance.

The IOGCC Training Subcommittee took the workshop concept a step further and sponsored full training seminars following IOGCC Midyear and Annual meetings, two days in length. The Training Subcommittee has covered a vast array of topics and provides quality handout materials. Topics addressed include Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM), H₂S, Groundwater Risk Assessment, GIS/GPS, and Blow-Out Prevention.

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Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors

Introduction:

The Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors is a group devoted to increasing communication among the state oil and gas regulatory agencies within the Appalachian and Illinois Basin producing region. The group is comprised of representatives from the oil and gas regulatory agencies from states in the basin (Attachment A). The directors meet to discuss regulatory issues common to the area, organize workshops and seminars to meet the training needs of agencies dealing with the uniqueness of their producing region and perform other business pertinent to this area of oil and gas producing states. The emphasis of the coordinated work is a wide range of topics related to environmental compliance for natural gas and oil exploration and production.

Project Abstract:

The Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors' project promotes dialogue and builds partnerships not just among the states in that region, but also among the oil and natural gas industry, all oil and gas producing states, the federal government and other interested parties.

Among the projects addressed with the most frequency by the group are environmental issues constraining domestic natural gas and oil resource exploration and recovery, both on a national and regional scope. Emerging and existing regulatory issues are also topics of much discussion.

Results and Discussion:

From promoting dialogue and building partnerships among industry, the states and others through the IOGCC committees, the Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors have created a strong alliance. They are one of the more active IOGCC committees and continue to bring new ideas to each meeting. Their cohesion as a group provides a broad base of expertise in environmental compliance and evokes creative problem solving for complex regulatory issues.

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Training Subcommittee

Introduction:

The Training Subcommittee is a special-interest subcommittee of the IOGCC's Environmental and Safety Committee, which consists of a chairman and four committee members from the IOGCC member states (Attachment B). Representatives from EPA and DOE are also invited to the meetings.

The purpose of this subcommittee is to provide, plan and present training programs and seminars for the IOGCC member states and for others interested in the selected subjects. The subcommittee currently has two training seminars a year in connection with the Midyear and Annual Meetings, and they are working on other training programs which have been requested by the states.

Project Abstract:

The objective of the Training Subcommittee is to assist the states in training programs and seminars which they request or will be of benefit to them in training their personnel in environmental compliance on oil and gas exploration and production issues. The IOGCC believes providing operators and other regulatory agencies with training programs on state-specific and nationally compiled environmental issues will reduce operator costs, increase operator efficiency, enhance management of their state programs and aid the states in environmental safety issues, while allowing state and federal agencies the ability to apply this information in regulatory actions.

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Results and Discussion:

The Training Subcommittee has aggressively taken the challenge to provide informative, pertinent, and affordable training seminars. The IOGCC is proud of the topics and quality of training instructors that have participated in these series of seminars. The Training Subcommittee continues to identify topics of interest for future classes and hopes to reach an even larger audience of participants. Another project being pursued by the Training Subcommittee for use by state agencies, field personnel, and others is Computer Based Training (CBT). This form of training will allow personalized training at one's own pace and may be repeated when necessary.

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Ad Hoc Drilling and Production Database Standardization Subcommittee

Introduction:

The Ad Hoc Drilling and Production Database Standardization Subcommittee is a special-interest subcommittee of the IOGCC which consists of a chairman, vice chairman and ten committee members from the IOGCC member states (Attachment C).

The purpose of this subcommittee is to examine the issue of drilling and production database standardization among the states for coordination of data, use of common data fields and ease of reporting. The subcommittee also coordinates with other groups — national and regional — that are working toward resolution of the varied and numerous database standardization issues in the oil and natural gas industry.

Project Abstract:

The objectives of the Ad Hoc Drilling and Production Database Standardization Subcommittee are to assist states in gaining consistency in the types and definitions of data they track, to encourage states to provide on-line public access to data, and to develop a reliable, cost-effective national data collection site for states' natural gas and oil exploration and production data. An additional objective is to provide states with opportunities to share data management expertise and learn from each others' successes and failures.

The IOGCC believes providing operators and other regulatory agencies with easy access to state-specific and nationally compiled state data will reduce operator costs, increase operator efficiency, enhance data management and geological information systems capabilities and aid research and development projects, while allowing state and federal agencies the ability to apply this data in regulatory actions.

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Results and Discussion:

The Ad Hoc Drilling and Production Database Standardization Subcommittee began with a "it would be great if.." idea of standardizing data and providing easy access to federal and state agencies, operators, and the general public. During the grant period this subcommittee has involved all of the oil and gas producing states, obtained their input, and surveyed each state on what data should be provided. The survey results were published in a easy to read document entitled, "Guidelines for States: Exploration and Production Data Management." A resolution was passed at the June 1997 IOGCC Midyear Meeting which stated that the subcommittee was in support of the development of a set of minimum data elements for accurate oil and gas data. The subcommittee was able to identify the pertinent data and launch a campaign among states to committ to the collection and reporting of this exploration and production data. A process was put in place for the collection and reporting and will soon be posted to the IOGCC Web page on a quarterly basis. The reporting mechanism is in its final stages and after follow-up to all states for review purposes, will be easily accessed through the IOGCC.

Once again, volunteers, teamwork, and a spirit of cooperation have brought us one step closer to becoming an industry with standardized data.

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PROJECT TASKS

Projects Timeline by Grant Report Periods:

12/94 - 2/95:

12/8/94

- H₂S & NORM Training, Bakersfield, CA

12/13/94

- H₂S & NORM Training, Lexington, KY

1/12-13/95

- H₂S & NORM Training, El Dorado, AR

2/15-16/95

- H₂S & NORM Training, Baton Rouge, LA

2/23-24/95

- H₂S & NORM Training, Denver, CO

3/95 - 5/95:

3/23-24/95

- H₂S & NORM Training, Wichita, KS

3/24/95

- NORM Training, Oklahoma City, OK

6/95 - 8/95:

- Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors held three (3) meetings and presented a training seminar for their exploration and production regulatory personnel. The training topics were H₂S & NORM.

9/95 - 11/95:

- Completion of Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors training for field managers.

12/95 - 2/96:

- December 1995 IOGCC Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas.
- Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors Business Meeting

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- Training Subcommittee Meeting
- Ad Hoc Drilling & Production Database Standardization Subcommittee Meeting

3/96 - 5/96:

- May 1996 IOGCC Midyear Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors Meeting
- Training Subcommittee Meeting
- Training Seminar - *Underground Gas Storage* (IOGCC/NARUC joint sponsored training)

6/96 - 8/96:

6/96

- Training Subcommittee Conference Call
- Update on Blow-Out Prevention Training Seminar
- WESTEC to provide BOP Training
- Neil Adams, give presentation on Kuwait oilfield fires of 1991-1992

7/96

- Ad Hoc Drilling & Production Database Standardization Subcommittee Conference Call
- Mailed out follow up letter about survey to unresponsive states
- Review of changes to *Guidelines for States: Exploration and Production Data Management*
- Discussion of update to findings and technology reports

8/96

- Ad Hoc Drilling & Production Database Standardization Subcommittee Conference Call
- Finalization of funding needs assessment
- *Guidelines for States: Exploration and Production Data Management* - report was approved by the committee for publication
- Communication plan approved for guidelines

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9/96 - 11/96:

10/96

- Training Subcommittee Conference Call
- Budget for the Blow-Out Prevention Seminar was discussed (IOGCC/PTTC joint sponsored training)
- Draft agenda for the Annual Meeting was approved
- Need to contact PTTC for course materials and supplies
- Possible NORM Training in Evansville, Ohio with attendance from Kentucky, New York & New Mexico
- Training Lending Library

11/96

- Training Subcommittee Conference Call
- Discussion of Groundwater Risk Assessment as topic for next training seminar. Identified 10 sub-topics

11/96

- Training Subcommittee Conference Call
- Continued discussion of Groundwater Risk Assessment training seminar
- Ad Hoc Database Standardization Committee - Distributed guidelines according to communication plan
- Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors - Prompted dialogue among members on states' efforts related to orphan and idle wells, risk-based data management, negotiations with the BLM related to royalties and ownership

12/96 - 2/97:

10/96

- Ad Hoc Database Standardization Subcommittee Conference Call
- IOGCC national database recommendations and letter requesting information from states on a quarterly basis
- Discussion of proposed State Technology Exchange program

12/96

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- Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors Meeting held in conjunction with the IOGCC Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Discussions included -
- Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) update
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) transfer
- Idle Well Report
- Uniform Production Reporting
- Future Meetings
- Election of new committee chairman
- New business

12/96

- Training Subcommittee sponsored training seminar, *Blow-Out Prevention*, after the IOGCC Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Training committee business meeting held.

1/97

- Ad Hoc Database Standardization "Guidance.." document was placed on the IOGCC webpage.

1/97

- Training Subcommittee Meeting held in Houston, Texas.

2/97

- Training Subcommittee conference call held to discuss the June 1997 training seminar entitled, "Groundwater Risk Assessment."
- "Site and Risk Assessment" to be presented by Dr. Pettyjohn, Oklahoma State University; and Mr. Tim Baker, Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB).
- "Methods to Determine if Contaminants Exist," to be presented by Mr. Scott Kell, Ohio.

3/97 - 5/97:

3/97

- Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors Meeting in conjunction with the IOGCC quarterly

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meeting in Washington, D.C.

3/97

- Training Subcommittee conference call.

5/97

- Training Subcommittee conference call.

5/6/97

- NORM training seminar held in New Harmony, Indiana with 35 participants with some from surrounding states.

5/13/97

- NORM training seminar held in Hobbs, New Mexico, with 90 participants with some from surrounding states.

5/15/97

- NORM training seminar held in Farmington, New Mexico, with 28 participants with some from surrounding states.

5/14/97

- Representatives from the Training Subcommittee met with the Oilfield Training Center personnel in Roswell, New Mexico.

3-5/97

- Ad Hoc Database Standardization Subcommittee communicated with a limited number of phone calls concerning briefing papers/requirements.

5/97

- Ad Hoc Database Standardization Subcommittee submitted and passed resolution 96.121 (Attachment D) in support of the development of a set of minimum data elements for accurate Oil & Gas data to ensure sound public policy is implemented at the state and federal levels.

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6/97 - 8/97:

- IOGCC Midyear Meeting in Oklahoma City, June 1997.
- Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors business meeting.
- Training Subcommittee business meeting.
- Groundwater Risk Assessment Training Seminar conducted with 24 in attendance.

7/23-25/97

- Appalachian/ Illinois Basin Directors met with representatives of the Detroit-based "Big 3" automakers. The focus of the meeting was compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles and possible opportunities to expand Appalachian/Illinois Basin gas markets to meet the needs of these vehicles. The remainder of the meeting focused on state GIS/GPS initiatives and other business common the basin states.

9/97 - 12/97:

9/97

- NORM training seminar in Anchorage, Alaska with 30 meeting participants.

9/97

- IOGCC Quarterly Meeting held in San Antonio, Texas.
- Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors met to discuss upcoming projects and the program for the 1997 IOGCC Annual Meeting.
- Training Subcommittee met to finalize December Training Seminar.

12/97

- IOGCC Annual Meeting held in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Appalachian/Illinois Basin Directors met to discuss upcoming "Access" training seminar to be held in January 1998, and other business matters.
- Training Subcommittee sponsored the GIS/GPS training seminar with 38 pre-registrants. The Subcommittee also held a business meeting to discuss future training and CBT.
- Ad Hoc Database Standardization Subcommittee met to discuss continuation of the production data gathering statistics and other business matters.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
CBT	Computer Based Training
GIS/GPS	Global Information Systems/Global Positioning Systems
IOGCC	Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission
NORM	Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material

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Attachment A

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Attachment B

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Attachment C

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Attachment D

**RESOLUTION 96.121
In Support of the Recommendation of the
Ad Hoc Database Standardization Committee**

Whereas, the member states of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) recognize that accurate data on domestic oil and gas resources and domestic oil and gas industry activity is not now presently available on a nationwide basis; and

Whereas, the IOGCC member states realize the need for accurate oil and gas data to insure that sound public policy is implemented at the state and federal level; and

Whereas, the IOGCC has commissioned the Ad Hoc Database Standardization Committee to develop a set of minimum data elements that all states should keep and that should be available to the public and state and federal policy makers; and

Whereas, the member states realize it will take additional resources for some states to collect the necessary data and the committee report outlines those expected additional costs; and

Whereas, summary statistics of such minimum data elements must be aggregated on a nationwide level at a place that is easily accessible by all of those who wish to know the status of the domestic oil and gas industry and its activity; and

Whereas, the committee, after consultation with the member states, the federal government, and all those who would be users of the information, has developed such a set of minimum data elements.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, by the member states of the IOGCC at its meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on December 10, 1996, that we accept the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Database Standardization Committee for a set of minimum data elements, and pledge our commitment to work toward obtaining the resources for the member states to accomplish the recommendations outlined in the report.

And Be It Further Resolved, to pledge their commitment to make available to the IOGCC headquarters on a calendar quarter summaries of those data elements designated as the IOGCC National Data Elements from the report of the IOGCC Ad Hoc Database Standardization Committee that are called for in report to be so collected.

December 1996