

Well Spacing Rules Statement of Intent

Revised Code section 1509.24 authorizes the Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management (DOGRM), with the approval of the Technical Advisory Council on oil and gas, to adopt, amend or rescind rules relative to the minimum acreage requirements for drilling units and minimum distances from which a new well may be drilled from boundaries of tracts, drilling units and other wells to conserve oil and gas reserves and to protect correlative rights. Enacted in 2010, Sub. Senate Bill 165 modified the language of Revised Code 1509.24 to include the statement that “[t]he rules relative to minimum acreage requirements for drilling shall require a drilling unit to be compact and composed of contiguous land.” The DOGRM intends to amend the existing well spacing rule by revising the minimum acreage requirements for conventional wells and establishing new provisions pertaining to the minimum distance requirement from which a new horizontal shale well may be drilled from boundaries of drilling units and other horizontal wells. The standards will be applied statewide. The intent of this rule amendment is to replace the existing acreage requirement with one that is consistent with the minimum setback distance to drilling unit boundaries and to create a drilling unit that is more compact than that which is created under the current rule. The Technical Advisory Council approved the rule amendment on January 17, 2017.