

## **Incident Notification Rules**

### **Statement of Intent**

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management (DOGRM), is drafting new rules pertaining to oilfield incident notification. The DOGRM has been assigned sole and exclusive authority over the permitting and oil and gas production operations. It is essential that the DOGRM, as an agency with unique knowledge of oil and gas industry practices, be amongst the first agencies notified when an incident occurs. In response to notifications, DOGRM responders may advise other responders, initiate enforcement actions, document compliance issues, oversee site restoration and identify patterns of failure that may be used to prioritize future regulations.

The draft rules will apply to all owners and all persons to whom an order or permit, a registration certificate or other approval has been issued authorizing an activity regulated under Revised Code Chapter 1509 or Section 1501:9 of the Administrative Code. Thus, the draft rule applies to those individuals conducting the following types of activities/operations:

1. Oil and gas well exploration and production activities;
2. Gas storage operations;
3. Horizontal well site construction;
4. Class II brine injection well facility operations (disposal and enhanced recovery);
5. Class III salt solution mining operations
6. Brine transportation;
7. Locally authorized spreading of brine for dust and ice control; and
8. Facilities used for temporary storage, treatment, processing or recycling of oilfield wastes.

The draft rules identify the types of incidents and establish thresholds that trigger mandatory notifications. Incidents can range from relatively minor events to significant occurrences that may require multi-agency emergency response and significant remedial measures.

The draft rules compliment notification standards established by the State Emergency Response Commission that requires notification of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Local Emergency Planning District and the jurisdictional fire department in response to releases of certain substances that exceed specified threshold quantities. Under DOGRM's proposed rules, owners and persons regulated under Revised Code Chapter 1509 will be required to notify the DOGRM, in addition to the entities that must be notified under Rule 3750-25 of the Administrative Code. The draft rules supplement other oilfield incident notification requirements that are unique to ORC Chapter 1509 such as mandatory notifications for defective casing and out-of-zone stimulations.