

# Compact Comments



January 2006

## STRONGER: A YEAR IN REVIEW

There were no STRONGER, Inc. state reviews performed in 2005; however, 2006 looks to be a busy year with many states considering participation.

Kentucky will participate in a review this spring. New York, Kansas, Arkansas, Colorado and Utah are among other states considering reviews during the 2006 calendar year.

Also during 2005, the IOGCC State Review Committee voted to recommend revisions and additions to the STRONGER guidance document at the Annual Meeting in Jackson Hole, WY. The guidelines, however, were not accepted during the meeting's Business Session and STRONGER's board is now considering alternatives to advance the changes to the document. The board plans to rename sections to more accurately identify their content and initiate direct contact with IOGCC official representatives to gain support.

Looking ahead to 2006, Lori Wrotenbery, Oklahoma Corporation Commission's Oil and Gas Division director will serve as the STRONGER board chair and president. Jim Collins of JWC Consulting will serve as vice chairman and vice president, and Wilma Subra, president of Subra Company, will serve as secretary and treasurer. New board members are Kathy Martin from Oklahoma as a public sector member, replacing Donald Neepser; Hal Fitch from Michigan as an IOGCC regulatory member, replacing James Erb; and Bob Sandilos from Texas as an industry member, replacing Terry Adamson.

The IOGCC State Review Committee nominated and Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal, IOGCC chairman, appointed Bob Wilson of Virginia to serve as chairman of the committee. Wilson will replace Hal Fitch.

## HANSEN, BLISS REPRESENT IOGCC AT DOE NATURAL GAS SUPPLY ROUNDTABLE

The IOGCC was invited to participate in a recent roundtable conference called by the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., to discuss natural gas supply and demand. Executive Director Christine Hansen and Washington Representative Kevin Bliss attended the conference in December.

The roundtable allowed DOE to consult with energy experts prior to compiling a Natural

Gas Supply Shortage Report required by Section 1818 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The report will contain a comprehensive analysis of natural gas supply and demand in the United States for Jan. 1, 2004 through Dec. 31, 2015 and is due for completion in early February.

The complete provisions of the report as mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

## OKLAHOMA EVALUATES OIL AND GAS PROGRAMS

The Oklahoma Oil and Gas Conservation division participated recently in an assistance project to track the effectiveness of its programs and analyze objectives.

At the conclusion of the week-long assessment, each of the division's programs had created specific purpose statements. The division also created a family of steps to measure result, output, demand and efficiency; and a list of services each program provides to state and

federal programs, the general public and the oil and gas industry.

"The resulting business plan with performance measures gives us a useful tool for managing our programs and telling our story," said Lori Wrotenbery, division director.

The project, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, was contracted by the IOGCC to Weidner Consulting; a firm specializing in performance coaching for government agencies.

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### IOGCC OFFICERS

#### Chairman

Gov. Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming

#### Vice Chairman

Don Likwartz, Wyoming oil and gas supervisor

#### Second Vice Chairman

Victor Carrillo, Texas Railroad commissioner

#### Executive Director

Christine Hansen

## ON THE HILL

By Kevin Bliss

In a dramatic day on Capitol Hill Dec. 21, just prior to adjournment, the U.S. Senate narrowly turned back an attempt to approve opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling.

Rejection by the Senate was a bitter disappointment to the Alaska delegation. The latest attempt to approve opening ANWR to oil development involved the unorthodox move of attaching the provision to the defense appropriations bill.

Many also hoped the Offshore State Operations Act (OSOA), which included the Energy and Minerals Schools Reinvestment Act, would be included in the reconciliation bill, but that also failed to occur.

OSOA would have codified into law the federal moratorium on oil and gas production in federal waters of the Outer Continental Shelf bordering coastal states, but would have given states authority to opt-out and allow production should the governor and state legislature approve.

This year Congress did produce the long awaited "comprehensive energy bill" in the form of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which contained a number of important oil and natural gas provisions, and the IOGCC succeeded in obtaining a line-item appropriation.

## BRIEFLY APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER NEWS

- Please note the IOGCC Midyear Meeting will be held May 21 - 23 in Billings, MT at the Sheraton Billings Hotel.
- O. Gene Dishner, Virginia's official representative to the IOGCC, announced recently his retirement from state service. Dishner served as the director of Virginia's Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy since 1985.
- Jeffrey D. Jarrett was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the new assistant secretary of fossil energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. Most recently Jarrett served as the director of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) at the U.S. Department of the Interior.
- Bill Lawson, director of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory, Strategic Center for Natural Gas and Oil announced his retirement effective Jan. 3, 2006. Lawson plans to remain involved with IOGCC.
- Dan Gurney is retiring as product manager for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory. Gurney has been very supportive of the IOGCC in recent years. A replacement has not yet been announced.



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