ESSENTIAL INFORMATION  
December 2015

Oil and Gas Water Quality, Production and Operation Laws  
Prepared by the Policy Surveillance Program Staff

SUMMARY
The production and operation phase is by far the longest in a well’s life cycle, lasting 30 to 40 years or more. During this phase the well produces oil and/or gas. The intense daily activity surrounding the drilling and well-completion phases subsides during the production and operation phase, but there are still ongoing activities at the well site.

This dataset includes laws for 17 states and federal rules for lands and minerals managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Forest Service, current as of November 25, 2015.

ABOUT OIL AND GAS WATER QUALITY PRODUCTION AND OPERATION LAWS & THE DATA
This map captures continuing inspection requirements and the authority and rights given to the state’s governing agency to inspect sites, enter a site, and access well records. Reporting requirements for spills and accidents are also crucial regulations in effect during this phase. The type of notification, the timeframe for reporting a spill, and whether the state requires that notification be given to the surface owner after a spill are crucial oversight regulations. Regulations on the collection, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of non-oil and gas products produced during this phase, such as exploration and production waste as well as produced water, are also compared across jurisdictions.

NAVIGATING THE DATA
There are two ways to navigate the data by clicking the Filter tab or the Explore tab — for each option, the data can be visualized in a map and table format or in jurisdiction profiles.

Filter
The dataset homepage will default to the Filter tab. Here, users may answer a series of questions to learn more about the characteristics of the laws. Answering more than one question will show all the jurisdictions that meet the combined criteria. Criteria selected will be listed above the questions, and can be removed by clicking the white X or by clicking “Reset” above the questions.
Explore

Users can access Explore by clicking the Explore tab in the bar above the questions. Using Explore, users will see the answers to one question across all jurisdictions.

The primary questions in this dataset are:

1. Does the state have ongoing well inspection/monitoring requirements?
2. What authority does the state's governing agency have regarding inspection/monitoring of oil and gas sites?
3. Does the state regulate the reuse and/or recycling of produced water during well operations?
4. Does the state have requirements for collecting, holding, and disposing of produced water?
5. Does the state have requirements for reporting spills and accidents?
6. Does the state have requirements for the storage, handling, transportation, treatment, recycling, or disposal of Exploration and Production waste?

DISPLAYING THE RESULTS

There are two display modes once criteria have been selected by using either the Filter or Explore tab — Map display mode and Profiles display mode.

Map Display

LawAtlas.org dataset homepages default to the map display mode. When querying the data using the Filter tab, all jurisdictions that meet the criteria selected will display in one tone of yellow. Those jurisdictions that do not meet the criteria selected will be colored gray. When querying the data using the Explore tab, the map will illuminate with colors from yellow to red that are associated with the various answer choices (the color-coding is defined by the key to the left of the map).

Below the map, a table will appear. Using the Filter or Explore tab to navigate the questions will change the display:

- Using the Filter tab, you can select an unlimited number of criteria and the applicable jurisdictions that meet the combined criteria will be displayed in the table below.
- Using the Explore tab, you can isolate a single criterion and the applicable jurisdictions will appear in the table below.

Profiles Display

The Profiles display presents the results of the criteria selected in a text-based format for each applicable jurisdiction. Using the Filter tab, jurisdictions that meet the criteria selected will display. Using the Explore tab, jurisdictions that meet the criterion selected will display. If no criteria are selected, the full profiles for each state will appear under both Filter and Explore.
Profile Legend
Within each Profile box, above the questions and answers, there are additional options and information useful in exploring the law:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toggle Legal Text</th>
<th>Selecting this option will show all the legal text used to answer questions for this jurisdiction.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toggle Full Place Profile</td>
<td>Selecting this option will show all questions and answers for this jurisdiction, regardless of what was selected using the Filter or Explore tabs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toggle Size</td>
<td>Selecting this option will make the profile larger, but will not change the information displayed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legal Text History – This interactive timeline displays when changes in the law have occurred within a jurisdiction. Using the arrows to the left or right, users may explore how the law has changed over time as new amendments to the law have been enacted. The timeline will change from gray to a shade of yellow when the jurisdiction passed its first relevant law. Each change in the law after that is marked by a break in the timeline.

Map and Profile Legend
There are a few symbols to be aware of in both Map and Profiles display modes:

| § | Section Symbol – Clicking this symbol will open a window that displays excerpts from the law that correspond to the question and answer. |
| ! | Caution Note – Clicking on this symbol will open a small window that displays text that describes important caveats about the question and answer. |

DATASET RESOURCES
Each dataset homepage includes the following resources available for download:

- Data: The Data file exports in CSV format and may contain two tabs. The “Statistical Data” tab contains the legal variables coded in the dataset, displayed as values defined in the accompanying Codebook. The “Summary Data” tab contains the legal variables coded in the dataset in text form, as well as the accompanying citations and any caution notes that may be included. Note: if there is only one tab available for download it will be the “Statistical Data” as described above.
• Codebook: The Codebook defines all of the coded variables in the dataset. The Codebook lists the question, question type, variable name, variable value and variable label. The Codebook should be used in conjunction with the Statistical Data extract.

• Research Protocol: The Research Protocol is a comprehensive document that outlines the entire methodology of the project, including the scope, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data collection methods, definitions, coding scheme decisions, as well as the quality control process.

• Summary Report: The Summary Report provides a snapshot of important findings from the dataset.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
For more information about oil- and gas-related laws, please see:

• Intermountain Oil and Gas Best Management Practices: http://www.oilandgasbmmps.org/


• State Review of Oil & Natural Gas Environmental Regulations (STRONGER): http://www.strongerinc.org/


• Hydraulic Fracturing & Water Stress: Water Demand by the Numbers: http://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/hydraulic-fracturing-water-stress-growingcompetitive-pressures-for-water/view

This collection of laws does not provide legal advice nor does it address enforcement of laws, administrative policies, case law, or any other sources of law. Should you have a specific question about these laws in your state, please contact an attorney in your jurisdiction.