Background & Facts

Pursuant to the **Michigan Zoning Enabling Act**, townships and counties DO NOT have authority to regulate oil and natural gas wells.


By design, oil and natural gas exploration (wells and well sites, specifically) is comprehensively regulated by the State, under Part 615 of NREPA (Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act). Michigan is similar to most states in that state law takes precedent to both foster exploration and comprehensively regulate.

The state occupies this regulatory arena and pre-empts local regulations and zoning for several reasons, which are positive, productive and protective for our state:

- The special expertise and experience needed (geologists, etc.) reside at the state level. Local governments typically do not have those and other resources necessary to assist in understanding oil and gas exploration and regulate it properly.

- Michigan and its citizens benefit greatly from the state’s approach to oil and gas regulation that spans half a century or more. This has resulted in a regulatory team at DEQ that is respected nationwide for its approach, experience and expertise.

- The state Supervisor of Wells and the state's regulatory authority is purposeful — designed in fact to *foster* the development of oil and gas “...along the most favorable lines...” — meaning without waste, with protection of the environment in mind, and to benefit the citizens of the state with home state produced energy, economic prosperity, tax revenues, royalty payments, contributions to the Natural Resources Trust Fund (state lands, parks, etc.), and the like.

**Technological advancements improve production while reducing waste and protecting communities and natural resources**

**Hydraulic fracturing in completing a well generates hair-like fractures in very dense shale rock that enables oil or natural gas to flow safely to the well.**

**Directional drilling minimizes disturbance to sensitive areas and allows wells to be located away from residences or other areas that should not be disturbed.**

Over / Continues
• Oil and gas exploration and production companies must and do comply with many of the same local regulations and ordinances that apply to others, i.e. truck routes, road restrictions (frost laws), etc.

Summary

Michigan's energy exploration is vitally important to our state and its citizens for supplying clean and affordable energy, powering our economy and generating much needed revenues to support public needs. Comprehensive state regulations foster exploration while ensuring communities and natural resources remain protected.

As exploration takes place in communities unfamiliar with our operations, we appreciate the opportunity to work directly with local officials and communities to address their concerns or needs.

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Learn more today about Michigan’s energy exploration michiganoilandgas.org and mogpef.org