



GOVERNOR TOMBLIN ANNOUNCES COMMISSION ON OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY SAFETY

Plan for study announced during 2015 State of the State address

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (July 08, 2015) - Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin today announced the formation of the West Virginia Commission on Oil and Natural Gas Industry Safety, first announced during his 2015 State of the State address. The Commission was formed through Executive Order No. 7-15.

"As we continue to explore opportunities to diversify our state's energy portfolio, we must ensure the safety of hardworking West Virginians at drilling sites, production facilities and pipelines across the state," Gov. Tomblin said. "This Commission will help us determine how to best protect workers at natural gas operations while ensuring our workers have the proper training and skills to do their jobs in the safest, most effective way possible."

Members of the Commission are charged with reviewing current federal and state oil and natural gas workplace safety regulations and provide recommendations for improving workplace safety in the oil and natural gas industry in West Virginia. The Commission will issue a final report November 16.

The Commission is chaired by the Governor or his designee and includes the secretaries of the Departments of Environmental Protection, Commerce, Transportation and Military Affairs and Public Safety. It also includes 10 industry and labor representatives and four legislators:

- **Mary S. Friend, representative of the Public Service Commission;**
- Thomas Raught, representative with experience in federal occupational safety & health administration regulations;
- Chris Flanagan, representative with experience in oil and natural gas drilling and production;
- Benjamin A. Hardesty, representative with experience in oil and natural gas drilling and production;
- Bob Orndorff, representative with experience in oil or natural gas pipelines;
- Shawn Patterson, representative with experience in oil or natural gas pipelines;
- Mike McCown, representative of an independent oil and natural gas producer;
- Allen Nelson, representative of labor;
- Letha Haas, representative of labor;
- Bryan Christian, representative of the trucking industry;
- Senator Jack Yost, representing Brooke, Hancock, Ohio and parts of Marshall counties (ex-officio);
- Senator Jeff Mullins, representing Raleigh, Wyoming and parts of McDowell counties (ex-officio);
- Delegate Woody Ireland, representing Ritchie and parts of Pleasants counties (ex-officio);

- Delegate Patsy Trecost, representing Harrison and parts of Taylor counties (ex-officio).

To read the Executive Order in its entirety, [click here](#).

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