

Introduced by Senator RubioFebruary 10, 2011

An act to amend Section 3203 of the Public Resources Code, relating to oil and gas.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 250, as introduced, Rubio. Oil and gas: operations: notice of intention to commence drilling.

Under existing law, the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources in the Department of Conservation regulates the operation of oil, gas, and geothermal wells in specified districts of the state. Existing law requires the operator of a well, before commencing the work of drilling the well, to file with the State Oil and Gas Supervisor or the district deputy a written notice of intention to commence drilling, and prohibits the commencement of drilling until approval is given by the supervisor or the district deputy.

Existing law provides that the failure of the supervisor or the district deputy to respond to the notice within 10 working days shall be considered approval of the notice and the notice shall be deemed a written report of the supervisor.

This bill would, instead, provide that the failure of the supervisor or the district deputy to respond to the notice within 9 working days shall be considered approval of the notice.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 3203 of the Public Resources Code is
2 amended to read:

3 3203. (a) (1) The operator of ~~any~~ a well, before commencing
4 the work of drilling the well, shall file with the supervisor or the
5 district deputy a written notice of intention to commence drilling.
6 Drilling shall not commence until approval is given by the
7 supervisor or the district deputy. If the supervisor or the district
8 deputy fails to give the operator written response to the notice
9 within ~~10~~ nine working days from the date of receipt, that failure
10 shall be considered as an approval of the notice and the notice, for
11 the purposes and intents of this chapter, shall be deemed a written
12 report of the supervisor. If operations have not commenced within
13 one year of receipt of the notice, the notice shall be deemed
14 canceled. ~~The~~

15 (2) *The* notice shall contain the pertinent data the supervisor
16 requires on printed forms supplied by the division or on other
17 forms acceptable to the supervisor. The supervisor may require
18 other pertinent information to supplement the notice.

19 (b) After the completion of ~~any~~ a well, this section also applies
20 as far as may be, to the deepening or re-drilling of the well, any
21 operation involving the plugging of the well, or ~~any operations~~
22 *operation* permanently altering in any manner the casing of the
23 well. The number or designation of ~~any~~ a well, and the number or
24 designation specified for ~~any~~ a well in a notice filed as required
25 by this section, shall not be changed without first obtaining a
26 written consent of the supervisor.

27 (c) If an operator has failed to comply with an order of the
28 supervisor, the supervisor may deny approval of proposed well
29 operations until the operator brings its existing well operations
30 into compliance with the order. If an operator has failed to pay a
31 civil penalty, remedy a violation that it is required to remedy to
32 the satisfaction of the supervisor pursuant to an order issued under
33 Section 3236.5, or ~~to~~ pay any charges assessed under Article 7
34 (commencing with Section 3400), the supervisor may deny
35 approval to the operator's proposed well operations until the
36 operator pays the civil penalty, remedies the violation to the

- 1 satisfaction of the supervisor, or pays the charges assessed under
- 2 Article 7 (commencing with Section 3400).

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