



Stay-At-Home Orders and Expiring Permits; Extending the Life of Drilling Permits in a Crisis

By [Jill Fulcher](#) and [James Parrot](#)

In the midst of unprecedented action taken by federal, state, and local governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses and individuals are being forced to shelter in place and halt normal business in an effort to mitigate and minimize the impact of the virus. Many of these stay-at-home orders provide exceptions for oil and gas operations, allowing companies to continue drilling operations. With a growing number of COVID-19 cases, however, and the sharp decline in commodity prices, companies still may find it difficult to timely spud wells prior to permit expiration dates.

Wyoming recently adopted changes to its oil and gas regulations aimed at alleviating various well permitting problems in Wyoming.

Read the entire article [here](#).

How to Comply with Families First: Details on Companies' New Duties under Recent Federal Legislation and Tax Credits

By [Karen Spaulding](#)

As a result of the harsh economic realities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 18, 2020, the federal government passed H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which the President signed into law on that date. [The Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) covers seven different pieces of legislation, including the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and the tax credit relief discussed herein. Below is a short summary of the relevant provisions of this new legislation. Employers must comply with both acts no later than April 2, 2020.

Read the entire article [here](#).

Seeking COVID-19 Regulatory Relief

Many operators and trade associations are seeking regulatory relief during the COVID-19 pandemic. Labor and supply shortages have made it exceptionally challenging to operate safely and responsibly while preventing the spread of COVID-19. The oil and gas industry can meet this challenge better than anyone, but regulatory relief is necessary and appropriate.

Below are links to letters from EPA, the North Dakota Petroleum Council, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regarding regulatory compliance and rulemaking during the COVID-19 outbreak. Beatty & Wozniak, P.C. will provide notice of additional agency letters as we receive them.

Here are the letters:

- COVID-19 Implications for EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program - [view](#)
- EPA Letter 03/20/20 - [view](#)
- Request for Pause on Environmental Regulatory and Policy Work - [view](#)

COGCC Approves Noble Energy's CDP

Beatty & Wozniak would like to congratulate Noble Energy on the COGCC's approval of the Wells Ranch Comprehensive Drilling Plan in Weld County.

Noble set a new standard for collaboration among operators, stakeholders, and the Commission. The decision grants Noble exclusive operatorship within the CDP (approximately 41,000 gross acres) as well as conceptual approval of locations. View the press release [here](#).

For more information regarding CDPs, please contact [Jim Martin](#) or [Jill Fulcher](#).

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