

# Corporation Commission

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OIL & GAS CONSERVATION DIVISION



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## Media Advisory – Further earthquake response

The Oil and Gas Division staff of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission is taking action in response to the earthquake activity in the Edmond area. This is an ongoing response, and details on the most immediate actions should be available Monday, January 4. The issue is extremely complex, as the initial review of the data for the area in question has not identified any oil and gas wastewater disposal wells that are both high volume and in the state's deepest formation, a combination that researchers have identified as being at the highest risk for inducing earthquakes.

It is important to note that based on the data provided by researchers, the focus of the effort is directed at oil and gas wastewater disposal wells disposing into the Arbuckle formation, the state's deepest formation. The source of most of the wastewater is not from hydraulic fracturing operations, but rather from producing oil and gas wells. The wastewater is "produced" water; i.e., salt water that already exists underground and comes up with the oil and natural gas.

Please find below a list of highlights of some of the major actions taken thus far in relation to earthquakes. There are links for more details.

12/03/15 – Byron/Cherokee area: 4 disposal wells shut-in, volume cuts of 25 to 50 percent for 47 other disposal wells. [http://www.occeweb.com/News/12-03-15BYRON-CHEROKEE\\_MEDFORD%20EARTHQUAKE%20RESPONSE.pdf](http://www.occeweb.com/News/12-03-15BYRON-CHEROKEE_MEDFORD%20EARTHQUAKE%20RESPONSE.pdf)

12/03/15 – Medford: 3 disposal wells shut-in, volume cuts of 25 to 50 percent for 19 other disposal wells. [http://www.occeweb.com/News/12-03-15BYRON-CHEROKEE\\_MEDFORD%20EARTHQUAKE%20RESPONSE.pdf](http://www.occeweb.com/News/12-03-15BYRON-CHEROKEE_MEDFORD%20EARTHQUAKE%20RESPONSE.pdf)

11/20/15 – Crescent: 4 disposal wells shut-in, 7 others reduce volume 50 percent. <http://www.occeweb.com/News/11-20-15CRESCENT%20ADVISORY.pdf>

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**11/19/15 – Cherokee: 2 disposal wells shut-in, 23 others reduce volume 25 to 50 percent.**

**<http://www.occeweb.com/News/CHEROKEE%20ADVISORY-VOLUME,%20OPERATOR.PDF>**

**11/16/15 – Fairview: 2 wells reduce volume 25 percent, 1 well stop operations and reduce depth.**

**<http://www.occeweb.com/News/11-16-15FAIRVIEW%20and%20MAP.pdf>**

**11/10/15 – Medford: 10 wells reducing volume disposed 25 to 50 percent. <http://www.occeweb.com/News/11-10-15MEDFORD02.pdf>**

**10/19/2015 – Cushing: 13 wells either ceasing operations or cutting volume disposed 25 percent.**

**<http://www.occeweb.com/News/10-19-15CUSHING%202.pdf>**

**8/3/2015 – Volume cutback plan for area that includes portions of northern Oklahoma, Logan, Lincoln, and Payne counties. Goal is to bring total disposed volume in area to 30 percent below 2012 total (pre seismicity). Plan covers 23 wells. <http://www.occeweb.com/News/08-03-15VOLUME%20ADVISORY%20RELEASE.pdf>**

**July 28, 2015 – Crescent: 2 wells shut in, 1 reducing volume 50 percent.**

**<http://www.occeweb.com/News/Crescent%20wells.pdf>**

**\*\* July 17, 2015 – Directive for 211 disposal wells in the Arbuckle to check depth, not resume until it is proven that depth is not in communication with basement rock, or a plug back operation is completed to bring the bottom of the well at least 100 feet up into the Arbuckle. <http://www.occeweb.com/News/DIRECTIVE-2.pdf>**

**\*\* March 25, 2015 – Directive for 347 wells in the Arbuckle to check depth, etc.**

**<http://www.occeweb.com/News/2015/03-25-15%20Media%20Advisory%20-%20TL%20and%20related%20documents.pdf>**

**\*\* To date, the July 17 and March 25 directives have resulted in 224 wells plugging back (i.e., reducing depth), and 14 wells reducing their disposed volume by half.**

**Response continues.**

**Some of the other actions taken:**

**All applications for Arbuckle disposal wells must go through a seismicity review. If approved, permit is only good for six months and well can be shut in at any time because of seismicity concerns. Monitoring for seismicity and other requirements are also placed on the wells.**

**All Arbuckle disposal wells operating in earthquake areas (“areas of interest”) have to record daily and report weekly their volumes and pressures. The data is then put on an FTP site where it can be accessed by researchers.**