

# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

**Matt Skinner, Public Information**

**Phone: (405) 521-4180, FAX: (405) 522-1623, m.skinner@occemail.com**

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## **A “STRONGER” ENDORSEMENT**

*Corporation Commission’s regulation of energy industry gets top marks from EPA-funded review team*

(Oklahoma City) Calling it “well managed” and “professional,” a State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations (STRONGER) team has completed a review of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission’s (OCC) oil and natural gas regulatory program.

Corporation Commission Chairman Jeff Cloud says the review’s findings underscore the OCC’s commitment to the safe and efficient development of Oklahoma’s critical oil and natural gas resources.

“I am proud of the findings in the STRONGER report concluding that the OCC’s oil and gas regulatory program is well managed, professional and meeting objectives.

“We at the Commission have long respected the work of the people in the agency’s Oil and Gas Division to protect the environment and the rights of various parties while at the same time maintaining a regulatory climate that encourages oil and gas industry investment and responsible operations across Oklahoma,” said Cloud.

Cloud added, “It is gratifying to see an outside, independent organization like STRONGER, through its review process, issue an affirmation of the Commission’s successful efforts. We are indebted to the STRONGER review team for its hard work not only in pointing out the strengths of Oklahoma’s regulatory program but also in making recommendations for further improvement.”

Commissioner Denise Bode said the success of the OCC’s program is the result of a collaborative effort.

“Staff works closely with industry and citizens groups in developing regulations in order to be sure that all rules will and do accomplish their intended purpose,” said Bode. “The end result is proof that domestic oil and natural gas production can be conducted in such a way so as to be both financially and environmentally viable.”

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Commissioner Bob Anthony said the report from the STRONGER review is a great compliment to the Commission’s Oil and Gas Conservation Division and its field staff.

“An important part of being recognized for having a well managed professional program is getting the right rules and planning in place,” Anthony said. “But equally important are the efforts of the field staff who day-by-day work with the industry and the public to make sure those rules are properly implemented at the individual well site.”

**Among the Oklahoma program's strengths identified by the team:**

- **Development and use of creative new technologies to aid in enforcement and compliance**
- **Public outreach programs and citizen advisory groups**
- **Timely response to citizen complaints**

**The STRONGER review team included staffers from the Wyoming Environmental Council, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Trout Unlimited, and the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association. A copy of the review is available by visiting STRONGER's web site at [www.strongerinc.org](http://www.strongerinc.org).**

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