

WEST VIRGINIA CODE

CHAPTER 22C. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES; BOARDS, AUTHORITIES,
COMMISSIONS AND COMPACTS

ARTICLE 9. OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION

Section 22C-9-1. Declaration of public policy; legislative findings

(a) It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this state and in the public interest to:

- (1) Foster, encourage and promote exploration for and development, production, utilization and conservation of oil and gas resources;
- (2) Prohibit waste of oil and gas resources and unnecessary surface loss of oil and gas and their constituents;
- (3) Encourage the maximum recovery of oil and gas; and
- (4) Safeguard, protect and enforce the correlative rights of operators and royalty owners in a pool of oil or gas to the end that each such operator and royalty owner may obtain his just and equitable share of production from such pool of oil or gas.

(b) The Legislature hereby determines and finds that oil and natural gas found in West Virginia in shallow sands or strata have been produced continuously for more than one hundred years; that oil and gas deposits in such shallow sands or strata have geological and other characteristics different than those found in deeper formations; and that in order to encourage the maximum recovery of oil and gas from all productive formations in this state, it is not in the public interest, with the exception of shallow wells utilized in a secondary recovery program, to enact statutory provisions relating to the exploration for or production from oil and gas from shallow wells, as defined in section two of this article, but that it is in the public interest to enact statutory provisions establishing regulatory procedures and principles to be applied to the exploration for or production of oil and gas from deep wells, as defined in said section two.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Complementary Legislation:

- Ala.--Acts 1945, No. 91.
- Ariz.-- A.R.S. §§ 27-601 to 27-603.
- Ark.-- A.C.A. §§ 15-72-901 to 15-72-904.
- Cal.-- West's Ann.Cal.Pub.Res.Code §§ 3275 to 3278.
- Colo.-- West's C.R.S.A. § 34-60-123.
- Fla.-- West's F.S.A. §§ 377.01 to 377.05.
- Ill.--S.H.A. 45 ILCS 55/0.01 to 55/6
- Ind.-- West's A.I.C. 14-38-3-1.
- Kan.-- K.S.A. 55-801 to 55-866.
- Ky.-- KRS 353.500 to 353.720.
- La.--Acts 1940, No. 411.
- Md.-- Code, Environment, §§ 14-401 to 14-404.

Mich.-- M.C.L.A. §§ 324.62101 to 324.62103.
Miss.--Laws 1948, c. 526.
Mt.--M.C.A. 82-11-301 to 82-11-306.
Neb.--R.R.S. 1943, § A1-108.
Nev.-- N.R.S. 522.160 to 522.190.
N.Y.-- McKinney's ECL, § 23-2101.
N.D.--Laws 1953, p. 620.
Okl.-- 52 Okl.St. Ann. §§ 201 to 211.
Pa.--58 P.S. §§ 191 to 196.
S.C.--Code 1976, § 48-41-10.
S.D.-- SDCL 45-10-1 to 45-10-6.
Tex.-- V.T.C.A., Natural Resources Code §§ 90.001 to 90.007.
U.S.--July 28, 1955, c. 420, 69 Stat. 385; June 30, 1972, P.L. 92-322, 86 Stat. 383.
Utah-- U.C.A. 1953, 40-7-1 to 40-7-3.
Va.--Code 1950, §§ 45.1-381, 45.1-382.
W.Va.--Code, 22C-9-1 to 22C-9-16.
Wyo.-- Wyo.Stat. Ann. §§ 30-5-201 to 30-5-204.