
Chairman Patrice Douglas



Commissioner

February 18, 2014

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Corporation Commissioner Patrice Douglas resigns as Chairman, accepts Vice-Chairman position

Saying it is best for the day-to-day business of the Corporation Commission to have a Chairman who can spend the extra time required to be an effective Chairman, Commissioner Patrice Douglas today announced her intention to step down from that role. The Commission this morning voted to accept Commissioner Douglas' resignation, and name Commissioner Bob Anthony as Chairman and Commissioner Douglas as Vice-Chairman. The change will be effective March 1.

"I remain completely committed to my service as a Corporation Commissioner, but the role of Chairman requires a lot of additional focus, with many more duties than those of a commissioner," said Douglas. "I have greatly enjoyed serving in that role, but since I have announced my campaign for Congress, I think it is only fair to the people of Oklahoma that I step back and allow one of my fellow commissioners to serve as Chairman."

Commissioner Douglas said she believes Commissioner Anthony is ideally suited to serve as Chairman, and that she will work with him to make sure the transition is a smooth one.

"Commissioner Anthony has a great depth of knowledge and experience when it comes to the issues before the Commission," said Douglas. "I look forward to working with him to ensure the smoothest possible transition."

While Chairman, Douglas focused on bringing private sector principles to the commission. For the first time, an agency-wide strategic plan was completed and is being implemented, efficiencies were introduced to streamline processes and save taxpayer dollars, and auditing processes were put in place to provide additional safeguards for funds managed by the agency.

All OCC news releases are available on the OCC web site at www.occeweb.com

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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April 14, 2014

CALL FIRST, DIG SECOND

“...4 inch steel line severed by a back hoe....6 homes evacuated...”

“...evacuations today after line hit...”

“one of our lines hit last night...loss of service...”

“...cut line...businesses and residences evacuated...”

“...hit line...school evacuated...”

(Excerpts of recent utility notifications to the Commission regarding damage to natural gas lines)

Accidental “hits” on utility lines continues to be a very real problem in Oklahoma and across the nation. It is also avoidable. April has been declared Safe Digging month by Governor Fallin. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is joining with the Governor to remind all Oklahomans of the importance of calling 8-1-1 or 1-800-522-OKIE before starting any project that involves digging.

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chairman Bob Anthony says the warning is for all Oklahomans, not just those doing large projects.

“Many people wrongly think that they should only check if they are digging a deep hole,” Anthony said. “You can hit a line even if you’re digging relatively shallow holes, such as those for planting a small tree or a mailbox post. Erosion, soil shifting, and other factors can change how close a line is to the surface.”

Commission Vice Chair Patrice Douglas says it takes a small investment of time to buy a large margin of safety.

“It certainly doesn’t take much time to pick up a phone and dial 8-1-1 or 1-800-522-OKIE,” Douglas said. “That one phone call helps protect life and ensure reliable utility service.”

Commissioner Dana Murphy is chair of the Governor’s Pipeline Safety Task Force, which evaluated Oklahoma’s pipeline safety laws over the past two years. She says safe digging is the center point of preventing loss of life, property, and utility service.

People have been killed or badly injured as a result of striking an underground pipeline,” Murphy noted. “Even if there’s no injury, the damages can result in the loss of critical utility service to many customers, with the cost of damage being paid by utility ratepayers.”

(more)

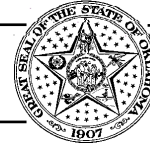
(8-1-1, p. 2)

Both 8-1-1 and CALL OKIE will put the caller in touch with the same free service, which will arrange to have underground lines marked before digging begins. For more information, visit www.callokie.com or www.call811.com.

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Vice Chairman Patrice Douglas



Commissioner

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May 27, 2014

An Oncoming Train

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Patrice Douglas warns U.S. Supreme Court refusal to hear OG&E case will cost Oklahomans

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Vice Chair Patrice Douglas says today's refusal by the U.S. Supreme court today to hear an appeal by Oklahoma Gas and Electric and Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt means Oklahomans may soon be on the hook for billions of dollars in costs resulting from Environmental Protection Agency mandates.

"This case not only involves billions of dollars of costs to the consumer, but also the critical and fundamental right of a state to govern itself. I am deeply disappointed the nation's highest court did not feel this case worthy of its consideration," Douglas said.

At issue was the EPA's rejection of Oklahoma's plan to deal with so-called regional haze and implementation of its own, far more expensive plan.

Douglas said the EPA has yet to present any proven data showing its plan was superior to that of Oklahoma's. The EPA is substituting its judgment for that of Oklahomans, and is attempting to usurp the authority of our state's elected commissioners.

"In spite of what many claim, the EPA admits this case is not a public health issue, but rather simply one of visibility in national parks and wildlife areas," Douglas noted. "The state's plan would have addressed this issue within the required period of time in a more practical manner without a sudden sharp jump in consumer costs. The EPA is out of control, and is disregarding any common-sense approach."

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear this case effectively ends the judicial process.

All OCC news releases are available on the OCC web site at www.occeweb.com

News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

August 1, 2014

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MAKING TIME COUNT

Measures show work output up at OCC under strategic plan

Changes at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission aimed at making processes more efficient for staff, stakeholders and regulated industries are reflected by an increase in a key work measure, say the Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman.

“An 8 month ‘snapshot’ of Commission activity shows the number of orders issued by the Commission has increased since the changes were made,” noted Chairman Bob Anthony. “Each order represents economic activity in Oklahoma. In many cases, just one order means millions of dollars for our economy.”

The changes are part of a strategic planning process that began about two years ago, according to Vice Chairman Patrice Douglas.

“We began by asking the state auditor and inspector to place embedded auditors in the agency and make recommendations concerning both the agency’s financial accountability and agency processes in general. One of the recommendations was for a strategic plan,” Douglas explained.

Anthony and Douglas say the plan continues to evolve, but efficiencies recommended by staff are already having an impact, while Commissioners have made some changes as well.

“One of the key changes at the Commissioner level was the decision in February to try moving from a daily to a twice a week meeting schedule,” said Anthony. “The daily meetings often needlessly tied up Commissioners, staff and industry, leaving less time for them to do their core work.”

Douglas says the problem is that often “process” is confused as “work.”

“There are those who might use the number of regular meetings held as a ‘work’ measurement, but as I learned in the private sector, there can be a great difference between the process and work,” Douglas said. “While the changes we’ve made are by no means final and need to be monitored carefully, particularly when it comes to ensuring an open and transparent process, the initial results are encouraging.”

(more)

Strategic (pg 2)

Month	Cases Filed	Orders Issued	Hearings Held
November 2013	2,338	918	1,319
December 2013	2,110	1,266	1,255
January 2014	3,630	1,298	1,318
February 2014	2,661	965	1,252
TOTAL FOR PERIOD:	10,739	4,447	5,144
March 2014*	3,668	1,240	1,310
* Move from daily to twice weekly meeting			
April 2014	3,135	1,335	1,571
May 2014	2,720	1,484	1,229
June 2014	3,033	1,152	1,286
TOTAL FOR PERIOD:	12,556	5,211	5,396

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission regulates oil and natural gas exploration and production, fuel storage and dispensing to the public, utilities, trucking, taxicab/limo,bus services, pipelines, and other essential components of the Oklahoma economy.

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News from Commissioner Dana Murphy



August 12, 2014

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NEW RULES, NEW CHALLENGES

Commissioner Dana Murphy to host informational session on proposed EPA rule

Saying the impact on Oklahoma's electric infrastructure and ratepayers could be huge, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Dana Murphy has announced a public informational meeting on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed "Clean Power Plan" rule, also known as Rule 111(d).

While various Oklahoma stakeholders are involved in preparing comments on the proposed rule, Murphy says it's important for the public to be informed and aware of the process.

"There are billions of our dollars at stake as the EPA moves forward with its proposals that will significantly impact and change electric generation across America," Murphy said. "While the focus has been on other environmental compliance rules that are now in place, this proposed rule appears to present another significant and potentially-expensive issue for utility customers in Oklahoma and would require thoughtful, careful, and coordinated planning by the utility industry. That's why it's more important than ever to become informed early."

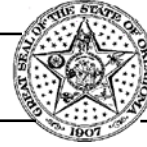
The informational meeting will be held at 10 a.m. August 21, 2014, in Room 301 of the Jim Thorpe Office Building, 2101 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City. Presenters will include the EPA, the Southwest Power Pool, and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

The EPA's proposed "Clean Power Plan" can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/06/18/2014-13726/carbon-pollution-emission-guidelines-for-existing-stationary-sources-electric-utility-generating>

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All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occeweb.com

News from Commissioner Dana Murphy



August 13, 2014

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CHANGES AND CHALLENGES WITH DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Commissioner Dana Murphy schedules meeting to address implementation of Senate Bill 1456

To ensure the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) is taking effective and efficient steps to address the provisions of Senate Bill 1456 on distributed generation, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Dana Murphy has set a meeting to discuss and receive input on that topic and scheduled it to begin at 1:30 p.m. September 11, 2014, following a technical conference on wind energy. Earlier in the week, the Commission approved opening a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) but that was limited to examining wind energy issues.

“As I said on Tuesday when the wind NOI was voted upon, I supported including the topic of distributed generation within that NOI, since many of the same stakeholders would be interested in both and would be readily available on the same day. The OCC must plan and be prepared for filings that presumably will be made at the Commission as a result of Senate Bill 1456. Moreover, Executive Order 2014-07 issued by Governor Fallin should also be included in the discussion and information to be gathered on distributed generation.

“Given the OCC’s emphasized focus on efficiency and effectiveness, it is logical to include the discussions on distributed generation during the same timeframe as wind development issues, as many of the same parties and similar issues are involved,” Murphy said. “In other words, it’s just common sense.”

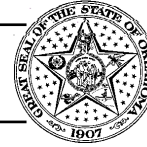
The distributed generation meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. September 11, 2014, in Room 301 of the Jim Thorpe Office Building, 2101 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City. The first technical conference for the Wind Energy NOI is set earlier in the day at 10 a.m. on September 11, 2014, in the same location.

Senate Bill 1456 can be found at: <https://www.sos.ok.gov/gov/legislation.aspx>

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All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occeweb.com

Vice Chairman Patrice Douglas



Commissioner

August 20, 2014

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Learn and Get Involved

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Patrice Douglas issues invitation for all concerned over earthquake increase

Saying the state's response to the alarming rise in earthquake activity is too critical for rhetoric and politics, Oklahoma Corporation Commission Vice Chairman Patrice Douglas is inviting all to learn more and get involved.

"One state senator, Jerry Ellis, urged us Tuesday to get 'a game plan.' The fact is we have one. It is ever-evolving, and it started over three years ago in response to earthquakes. Our game plan has involved other agencies, researchers, the governor, the secretary of energy, and more," Douglas said. "We are recognized by our peers as being in the forefront in our response to this issue.

"While I was not invited to the senator's meeting, it is my understanding that OCC staff spent hours with the senator and others explaining all we've done and are doing. He apparently didn't listen, since his call for a 'game plan' came one day later.

"I certainly agree with Senator Ellis' statement that 'we want Oklahoma to be a safe place to live.' My home and the homes of family and friends have been rocked by earthquakes. This is a very personal matter for me and many OCC staffers," Douglas added.

"If anyone has suggestions to add to our current game plan, please don't hesitate to bring them forward," Douglas said. "I encourage anyone who truly has a concern to take the time to learn something about what's really happening in terms of the state's response and the OCC's risk-based management plan based on the latest scientific and seismic data. While there is no indisputable scientific answer as to a cause for the increase in earthquakes, the OCC is not waiting for one. Those items of concern to seismologists studying Oklahoma include wastewater disposal wells under OCC jurisdiction, so they are at the center of our response."

The OCC approach includes:

- **Adoption of the "traffic light" system as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. Using the latest data, staff reviews proposed disposal wells for proximity to**

faults, seismicity in the area, and other factors in determining whether the wells should be permitted, permitted only with special restrictions and requirements, or not permitted. The system is also applied to existing wells in seismically active areas.

- **For existing wells, issues that may once have been considered minor now must be addressed immediately, even if that requires well shut-down.**
- **Any uncertainty about an existing well's actual depth must be addressed using modern technology to determine true depth. Any issue with depth must be corrected before restart, and permission for restart must be received from the oil and gas division.**
- **Daily volume and pressure reports are required from wells in "yellow light" areas.**
- **New rules that take effect in September will increase pressure and volume reporting requirements for disposal wells that disposed into the Arbuckle formation (the state's deepest injection formation) from monthly to daily.**
- **Under the new rules, Mechanical Integrity Tests for disposal wells of volumes of 20,000 barrels a day or more will increase from once every five years to every year, or more often if so directed by the Commission.**
- **The designated "area of interest" around earthquakes of 4.0 or greater, or seismic swarms, has been expanded to 10 kilometers (6 miles). All disposal well operations within that area are examined.**
- **Data is shared with Oklahoma Geological Survey seismologists and other researchers. Key to the effort is determining whether there is data supporting a possible correlation between a well's activity and seismic events in the area.**
- **OCC has provided matching funds necessary for OGS to secure a large Federal grant to further earthquake research and monitoring**
- **OCC is working with OGS and Stanford University (Dr. Mark Zoback) in developing more detailed fault maps, as well as maps showing faults under the greatest stress.**
- **The OCC has been part of the "StatesFirst" initiative since its beginning. The program focuses on the issue of seismicity in energy states, and brings together regulators and researchers from all over the country in a collaborative effort.**

All OCC news releases are available on the OCC web site at www.oceweb.com

News from Commissioner Dana Murphy



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August 20, 2014

MOVING FORWARD

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Dana Murphy calls for meeting on earthquake response

As much has changed in the past three years, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Dana Murphy is calling for a Commission meeting on the state's ever-evolving earthquake response.

"This would be an opportunity for all stakeholders to hear first-hand the latest on what's happening in terms of the ongoing research and response," Murphy explained. "It's very important for all to understand what's known, what's not known, and what the OCC and others have been and are doing. All of us who have had our homes shaken repeatedly personally know this is a frightening situation that misinformation and ignorance can only make worse. It is vitally important we all stay informed on everything being done. My recent meeting with Senator Ellis, the conflicting information that continues to be disseminated, and new data and regulatory changes have led me to call for a meeting at this time.

"For example, the OCC staff responds to seismic events by checking for anything unusual in the operation of any disposal wells within the vicinity of a 'seismic swarm', as disposal wells are of key interest to researchers studying Oklahoma's earthquake outbreak," Murphy said. "Minor or not, operational issues with any well must be immediately addressed, even if that involves shutting in the well.

"More money and equipment are being brought into the effort, with the Oklahoma Geological Survey working closely with this agency and others in the response. And while many know we have adopted the National Academy of Sciences 'traffic light' system for the permitting and operation of disposal wells, the way that is being used has advanced over time as more is known, and will no doubt continue to evolve," Murphy added. "Also, we adopted new rules that have now received the necessary approval of Governor Fallin to greatly increase reporting of the volume and pressure of many disposal wells, as well as increase testing requirements. Additional requirements are currently being discussed and considered.

"These are just a few examples," Murphy said. "There is a tremendous amount of energy and expertise being put into this effort, and it's vital that all of us be informed about it."

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News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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November 7, 2014

DECKER HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENERGY LAW

(Oklahoma City) Praised as a “superb servant of our state and a judicial guardian of our precious natural resources,” attorney and Oklahoma Corporation Commission official Michael Decker has been named the recipient of this year’s Eugene Kuntz award for his contributions to energy law.

The award was presented today at the 19th Annual Kuntz Conference on Natural Resources Law & Policy at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City, attended by more than 500.

Decker has been with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for 32 years, starting as an oil and gas attorney. He is now the Director of Administrative Proceedings, which includes the Commission’s court system, which handles more than 40,000 cases a year in such areas as oil and gas, public utilities, consumer services, and transportation, as well as others. He also maintains a full case load as a Commission judge, and oversees the Division’s more than 30 employees, including 14 Administrative Law Judges.

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chairman Bob Anthony praised Decker, calling him “a man of strong character who believes in high standards of judicial conduct and attorney ethics...I depend on his integrity and his extraordinary abilities every day.”

The Eugene Kuntz Award is presented by the University of Oklahoma College of Law to recognize and honor a lawyer “who has made significant contributions to energy law.” The Award is named in honor of the late Eugene Kuntz, a long-time OU law professor and noted authority on energy law.

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News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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December 30, 2014

Media Advisory

Corporation Commission Chairman Bob Anthony will also serve as Director of Administration for the agency effective January 1, 2015.

Anthony said he has agreed to take on the additional duties in order to help the Commission successfully complete its current transition phase.

“It is a legal requirement that this position be filled, and I agree to serve for a short time until our new commissioner arrives and can help us appoint the most qualified candidate,” Anthony said.

Commissioner-elect Todd Hiett will take office on January 12, 2015.

Current OCC Director of Administration Lori Wrotenbery informed Commissioners in October she would be leaving the agency for family reasons.

Bob Anthony’s business experience includes executive management of thousands of employees in hundreds of locations, president of a trucking company running over a million miles annually and service as chairman of the Trust Committee of Oklahoma’s largest bank trust department. He graduated with honors from the Wharton School of Finance, holds graduate degrees in administration from Yale and Harvard, and rose to the rank of captain in the U.S. Army Reserve.

He is currently the longest serving utility commissioner in the United States and has served six times as chairman of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. He holds positions with the National Petroleum Council, the Gas Technology Institute, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

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