

3.13 OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION

- *Question: Do I need a permit to search or use reserves of gas or oil?*

Why do I need this approval?

The exploration for and subsequent development of oil and gas resources is an important economic factor for the State of Maryland. While promoting the development of these resources, it is necessary to employ environmentally sound drilling and production methods to prevent detrimental impacts to the general welfare, health, safety, and property interests of the citizens of Maryland.

Any person proposing to drill a well for oil or gas must submit a permit application to the Mining Program.

The review process is to evaluate the technical adequacy of the project, ensure sufficient environmental controls are employed, and assure citizens that property and mineral interests are protected.

What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

STATE: Environment Article - Title 14, Subtitle 1, 2 and 3; COMAR 26.19.01 and .02.

What is the process to get this approval?

- 1) An application to drill and operate an oil and gas well or to conduct seismic operations must be submitted to the Department.
- 2) A detailed review of the application is conducted by the Department including comments from other review agencies including the Maryland Geologic Survey, the Department of Natural Resources and local review agencies.
- 3) Once the application has been determined to be complete, an opportunity for a public hearing will be provided.
- 4) A decision on the application will be made no later than 30 days of the close of the record of the public hearing.
- 5) Submit application and supporting documents to:
Maryland Department of the Environment
Mining Program
1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 435
Baltimore, MD 21230-1708

Before I apply for this approval, do I need to get any approvals from the local or federal government?

Local approvals from local planning & zoning authorities, soil conservation districts and county/state roads departments may be required.

Is this approval directly related or contingent on other approvals?

No.

Are there any other requirements?

PRE-APPROVAL: All other related approvals must be obtained prior to issuance of a gas/oil permit. A bond of up to \$100,000 is required prior to the issuance of a permit.

POST-APPROVAL: A final inspection will be made prior to bond release.

How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?

5 months

Once I get this approval, how long will it last?

Maximum of five years

How much will this approval cost?

No fee.

Who do I contact with additional questions?

C. Edmon Larrimore
Mining Program
Ed.Larrimore@maryland.gov
(410) 537-3557

Related link:

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/landpermits/pages/forms.asp>
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