

By: Burnam

H.B. No. 1533

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to notice of and action on applications for permits to drill certain gas wells.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 86, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 86.044 to read as follows:

Sec. 86.044. NOTICE OF AND ACTION ON CERTAIN GAS WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS. (a) This section applies only to a gas well proposed to be located in a county that:

(1) has a population of more than 1.4 million; and

(2) is located wholly or partly above a hydrocarbon-producing geological formation in which during the preceding year the commission issued more than 2,000 drilling permits authorizing wells to be completed.

(b) On receipt of an application for a permit to drill a gas well, the commission must provide notice of the application, together with a copy of the application, by first class mail to:

(1) the state senator and representative who represent the general area in which the well is proposed to be located; and

(2) the following, as applicable:

(A) each member of the commissioners court of the county in which the well is proposed to be located, if the well is proposed to be located outside the corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality; or

1                   (B) each member of the governing body of the  
2 municipality, if the well is proposed to be located in the corporate  
3 limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality.

4                   (c) The commission may not issue a permit to drill a gas well  
5 before the 14th day after the date the commission mails notice of  
6 the application for the permit under Subsection (b).

7                   SECTION 2. This Act applies only to an application for a  
8 permit to drill a gas well that is filed with the Railroad  
9 Commission of Texas on or after the effective date of this Act. An  
10 application for a permit to drill a gas well that is filed with the  
11 commission before the effective date of this Act is governed by the  
12 law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act,  
13 and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

14                   SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.