



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 18, 2001

## **Notice To Oil And Gas Operators**

Re: Processing APDs

The oil and gas industry in Utah is currently undergoing a boom period of activity, and accordingly, during the past several months, there has been a substantial increase in the number of oil and gas well drilling applications submitted to the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. This has caused the staff of the Division to allocate their time away from other valuable Division services and more toward the processing of these Applications for Permit to Drill ("APD"). At the same time, the Division has been receiving numerous requests by operators to expedite the processing of certain APDs for various reasons such as expiring leases or availability of drilling rigs. In order to prioritize the various requests for oil and gas well drilling approval, to fairly consider the needs of all operators to receive timely consideration of their APDs, and to properly allocate the manpower resources of the Division, we must change our procedures for processing of APDs including the scheduling of onsite predrill evaluations as required by Rule R649-3-18.

Therefore, effective immediately and until further notice, the Division can no longer honor requests for expedited processing of specific APDs, and we will only process APDs or schedule onsite predrill evaluations after submittal by operators of complete APDs. Such APDs will be considered in the order that they are received by the Division. Please note that in the future, the most effective way to expedite the processing of APDs by the Division is to submit a complete APD upon initial filing. Also, please recognize that making changes to an APD once it has begun processing will lengthen the time necessary to receive approval from the Division.

I believe that these changes will allow prudent and timely development of oil and gas resources in Utah to occur during this time of increasing focus on energy supplies. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience during this booming time in the oil and gas industry.

Sincerely,

John R. Baza  
Associate Director