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I. Introduction

During the examination period of this article, the Nevada Legislature did not enact any legislation which significantly impacted the oil and gas industry. Although no permanent regulatory actions affecting the oil and gas industry occurred, Nevada's Commission on Mineral Resources approved a temporary reduction in administrative fees assessed to oil and gas purchasers and producers. Finally, there were no noteworthy cases decided during the examination period of this article which impact the oil and gas industry in Nevada.

II. Legislative and Regulatory Developments

A. State Legislative Developments

The 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature commenced on February 1, 2021 and adjourned on June 1, 2021.¹ No major legislative enactments affecting the oil and gas industry occurred during this session. However, last year's article discussed several joint resolutions passed in the 32nd Special Session of the Nevada Legislature, including proposed amendments to the Nevada Constitution regarding the taxation of minerals.² As explained in that article, prior to the proposed constitutional amendments taking effect, each joint resolution required approval by the Nevada Legislature in the 81st Session and subsequent ratification by voters. Notably, none of the joint resolutions were passed by the legislature in the 81st Session. Specifically, a waiver from Subsections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Joint Standing Rule 14.3 – governing the required timeframe for which action on a referred joint resolution must occur³ – was requested on each resolution in the Assembly.⁴ All such requested waivers were granted, effective on April 8, 2021.⁵ Accordingly, as of the writing of this article, none of the previously proposed constitutional amendments have become effective.

1. Nevada Legislature, *81st Session*, (June 1, 2021, 12:03 A.M.) <https://www.leg.state.nv.us>.

2. See Diana S. Prulhiere, *Nevada*, 6 OIL & GAS, NAT. RESOURCES & ENERGY J. 183 (2020).

3. Nevada Legislature, Joint Standing Rules, *available at* https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Docs/SR_Joint.pdf.

4. Nevada Legislature, 81st Session, Assembly Daily Journal, *available at* <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/81st2021/Journal/Assembly/Final/AJ068.pdf>.

5. *Id.*

B. State Regulatory Developments

Last year's article mentioned a discussion at the July 9, 2020 quarterly meeting of Nevada's Commission on Mineral Resources ("Commission") regarding temporarily lowering the administrative fee assessed to purchasers and producers of oil or natural gas under Nevada Administrative Code § 522.342 from 15 cents to 5 cents per oil or per 50,000 cubic feet of natural gas, as applicable.⁶ At the time of writing last year's article, the temporary reduction had not been formally adopted; however, that temporary reduction in administrative fees was unanimously approved by the Commission on November 16, 2020.⁷ As explained in the minutes from the Commission's October 27, 2020 quarterly meeting, "the temporary regulation will be effective until November 1, 2021, giving operators approximately 11 months of reduced rates for the fee."⁸ If the Commission were to desire to make this temporary reduction a permanent change, the same regulation would need to be formally proposed and go through public comment and hearing, among other steps.⁹ The Nevada Division of Minerals did not enact any other new regulations affecting the oil and gas industry during the examination period of this article.

III. Judicial Developments

No significant judicial developments affecting oil and gas in Nevada occurred during the examination period of this article.

6. See Diana S. Prulhiere, *Nevada*, 6 OIL & GAS, NAT. RESOURCES & ENERGY J. 183 (2020).

7. Nevada, Comm'n on Min. Res., Division of Minerals, *Commission on Mineral Resources Meetings, Agendas and Minutes* (Nov. 16, 2020, 1:00 P.M.), https://minerals.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/mineralsnvgov/content/Commissions/20201116_1300_Minutes_Oil_and_Gas_Hearing_Approved_11-16-20mv.pdf.

8. *Id.* at https://minerals.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/mineralsnvgov/content/Commissions/20201027_1000%20Oil%20and%20Gas%20Workshop%20Minutes%2010-27-20mv.pdf.

9. *Id.*