

Chronology of Oil and Gas Regulations in North Carolina

North Carolina Geological Survey

Year	O&G Regulation Event
1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil and Gas statutory foundation established Oil and Gas Conservation Act of 1945 provides oil and gas rulemaking authority, historically through the Petroleum Division
1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rulemaking authority reiterated in statute Statute reiterates the (then) Petroleum Division’s authority to adopt oil and gas rules under G.S. 113-391
1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 1, 1974, Agency reorganization shifts the power of “owner” of authority State reorganization effectively replaces the Petroleum Division references with the Department of Natural and Economic Resources (DNER)
1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early oil and gas rules go into effect (precursors to 05H) Under G.S. 113-391, two key subchapters take effect: 1) 05C Geophysical Exploration (effective 2/1/1976), and 2) 05D “Oil & Gas Cons.” (effective 2/1/1976)
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining & Energy Commission era (programs combined) NC Legislature creates the Mining and Energy Commission (MEC) via S.L. 2012-143 and mandates rules for pre-drilling exploration activities (seismic/geophysical), keeping that requirement in G.S. 113-391 (oil and gas chapter)
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern Oil & Gas program created via 15A NCAC 05H S.L. 2014-4 makes statutory changes to create the Oil and Gas Commission and separates petroleum from mining Key ruleset change: NC Legislature repeals old 05D and adopts new 05H (“Oil and Gas Conservation”)
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 05H explicitly ties to 05C for exploration surveys on March 17, 2015 New 05H rules reference existing 05C for pre-drilling exploration/geophysical activities
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geophysical Exploration (05C) ruleset adoption from the Mining Commission is completed by the Oil & Gas Commission in September
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil & Gas Commission begins mandatory 10-year readoption of 05H ruleset