

Chronology of oil and gas regulations in North Carolina

North Carolina Geological Survey

1945

- 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

- 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

- On July 1, 1974, Agency reorganization shifts the "owner" of authority
- State reorganization effectively replaces the Petroleum Division references with the Department of Natural and Economic Resources (DNER)

1976

- 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

- 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

- 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

- **05H** explicitly ties to **05C** for exploration surveys on March 17, 2015
- New **05H** rules reference existing 05C for pre-drilling exploration/geophysical surveys

2025

- Geophysical Exploration (**05C**) ruleset adoption from the Mining Commission is completed by the Oil & Gas commission in September

2026

- Oil & Gas commission begins mandatory 10-year readoption of 05H ruleset