

## 29. MINERAL INTERESTS

We support:

1. A requirement that data from core tests of coal and fluorspar exploration be made available to the public after one year in the same manner that data on oil and gas wells are made available to the public.
2. Legislation to require the owners of oil and gas interests that have been severed from the existing surface ownership to provide to the surface owner:
  - A. A 30-day notice before entry is made onto the surface for oil and gas exploration and recovery.
  - B. Compliance with minimum reclamation standards to minimize surface impacts of such operation and full clean-up of oil and gas sites.
  - C. Complete compensation payable to the surface owner or tenant for damages incurred during such operation and annual production losses incurred by the presence of roads, tank batteries, well heads, and oil and gas production equipment.
  - D. Complete compensation for the loss in land value due to drilling operations.
3. Legislation requiring the operator of an oil and gas well to bury all electrical lines to a depth not less than 36 inches from the surface unless otherwise agreed to by the landowner.
4. Continued efforts to strengthen and clarify existing rules and regulations relating to oil and gas well site reclamation, well capping and well waste disposal, and to inform members of those regulations.
5. Establishing regulations for hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling on site preparation, drilling, well-casings, pipelines, waste-storage, and other appropriate safeguards in order to protect land and water resources.
6. Legislation requiring all new underground flow lines constructed as part of a high volume horizontal fracturing well site, production facility, or any oil or gas drilling operation which crosses agricultural land, shall be buried following the contour of the surface with a minimum of 60 inches of topcover.
7. Legislation which requires an operator of an oil or gas well to post and maintain a performance bond to protect the surface owner in the event that the operator abandons drilling, fails to plug the well(s) or restore the surface; or fails to provide complete compensation to the landowner for damage.
8. Legislation requiring individuals or companies seeking to acquire oil and gas mineral interests from landowners to provide the landowner a written summary of the landowner's legal and property rights relating to the actual exploration and production of oil and gas prior to any negotiation for the lease or purchase of such mineral interests.
9. Efforts by government agencies or private sector to address salt water contamination from abandoned oil wells.
10. A dedicated fund to address environmental problems related to abandoned oil and gas wells. Consideration should be given to additional funding for these activities.
11. Efforts by government agencies or the private sector to create and maintain an accurate and current listing of mineral rights owners for each tract of ground.
12. Legislation that would revert ownership interests of coal, oil, gas, and all other minerals (if unclaimed, unused, or dormant for a period of up to 20 years) back to the surface estate owner.
13. Landowners and owners of rural property being justly compensated by coalbed methane operators when landowner's property is being drilled upon in the absence of an agreement with the landowner.
14. Legislation that would revert ownership rights of utility, pipeline, and underground gas storage easements or leases back to the surface owner if unused, abandoned, or dormant for a period of 20 years.
15. Efforts by the Illinois County Assessment Officers Association to require oil and gas operators and first purchasers of oil and gas to report well production with accuracy to county assessing officials within a workable timeframe each year, or be subject to a fine for failure to report. This would include each county assessing official, where oil and gas production occurs, receiving an annual free copy of all pipeline reports.

We oppose:

1. The transfer or production of mineral rights or related rights (including subsidence rights) by any public body without first offering those rights back to the current owner of the surface estate.
2. Any moratorium on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing in Illinois.