



8/21/2023

***By Email***

To: Office of Conservation  
Engineering Administrative Division  
Attn: Carrie Wiebelt  
P.O. Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9285

**RE: Attention: Venting and Flaring of Natural Gas**

Dear Ms. Wiebelt,

Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA) is a state trade association representing all oil and natural gas industry sectors in Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico. Our members provide safe, affordable, reliable energy products that make modern life possible and meet the demands of a global economy. LMOGA appreciates the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) engaging stakeholders in formal rulemaking to foster a collaborative environment that encourages constructive dialogue.

LMOGA is interested in the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation notice of intent to amend LAC 43:XIX and Subpart 1. (Statewide Order No. 29-B) Chapter 1 (General Provisions) and Subpart 15 (Statewide Order No. 45-I-A) Chapter 35 (Gas/Oil Ratios, Allowables and Venting of Natural Gas) to prohibit venting and flaring of natural gas except as authorized in Subpart 15 because its member companies are subject this environmental regulation. LMOGA requests that the following comments be included in the administrative record for this rulemaking:

**Comments**

- **Comment 1 – Expansion of Section §3507. A.**





Louisiana Mid-Continent  
Oil & Gas Association

Proposed subsection §3507.A provides, "The venting natural gas from any well operating in Louisiana is strictly prohibited, except in cases where the permitted flaring detailed in §3507.B is neither economical nor safe." LMOGA comments that the scope of §3507.A seems limited and should be broadened to encompass routine flaring and the scenarios provided as exceptions in §3509. Accordingly, LMOGA suggests revising §3507.A to state: "The venting of natural gas from any well producing in the state of Louisiana is hereby expressly prohibited except in those instances where flaring as specified in §3507.B is not an economical or safe alternative or those instances which are included as exceptions under §3509."

- **Comment 2 – Clarification of Section §3507.D.**

Proposed subsection §3507.D provides, "Any permissible flares must be placed a sufficient distance from wells, storage tanks, and any other significant structures or objects so that the flare does not create a safety hazard." LMOGA is concerned that using undefined terms will create confusion. There are no "permissible" flaring instances in the rule – it prohibits all such actions unless exempted. LMOGA suggests amending subsection §3507.D to State: "Any ~~permissible~~ flares allowed under this Subpart must be placed a sufficient distance from wells, storage tanks, and any other significant structures or objects so that the flare does not create a safety hazard."

- **Comment 3 – Clarification of Section §3507.E.**

Proposed subsection §3507.A provides, "Any permissible venting or flaring shall be reported, including measured or estimated volumes of each, on the monthly OGP and R5D. LMOGA is concerned that using undefined terms will create confusion. There are no "permissible" flaring instances in the rule – it prohibits all such actions unless exempted. LMOGA suggests amending subsection §3507.E to State: Any ~~permissible~~ venting or flaring allowed under this Subpart, except in those instances which are included as exceptions under §3509, shall be reported, including measured or estimated volumes of each, on the monthly OGP and R5D."





- **Comment 4 – Expansion of Section §3509.A.3**

Proposed subsection §3509.A.3 provides, "These rules and regulations shall govern the production of oil and gas or both in Louisiana, except venting or flaring during drilling, completion, and hydraulic fracturing operations." The scope of §3509.A.3 seems limited and should be broadened to encompass routine flaring and the scenarios provided as exceptions in §3509.A.3. LMOGA suggests amending subsection §3509.A.3 to state: "These rules and regulations shall govern the production of oil and gas or both in the state of Louisiana, except venting or flaring during drilling, completion, and hydraulic fracturing operations, during maintenance activities such as liquid unloading, during workover or intervention operations, delineation or wildcat wells, sour oil wells with associated gas far down the decline curve, and declined oil wells with associated gas where uneconomic to install a gas line."

- **Section 3511.A (Violations), we request the following changes:**

Proposed subsection §3509.A.3 provides, "However any venting or flaring which contradicts the spirit or intent of this Statewide Order shall be a [v]iolation [...]." LMOGA comments that this wording is overly vague and could be interpreted too broadly. LMOGA suggests amending subsection §3509.A.3 as follows: "However any venting or flaring which contradicts the spirit or intent of this Statewide Order shall be a [v]iolation [...]."

### **Conclusion**

LMOGA firmly believes that energy production and environmental preservation can coexist harmoniously. Louisiana holds significant potential to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions while continuing to produce lower-carbon energy for years to come. Our industry provides affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy solutions that simultaneously bolster Louisiana's economy. LMOGA's members are committed to developing solutions to address the climate challenge, and we look forward to collaborating with the State toward achieving its climate-related goals. LMOGA appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments and looks forward to the





Agency's completion of the rulemaking process. Should the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources require additional supporting information relative to these comments or have any questions concerning this submittal, don't hesitate to contact Damien Watt at 225-387-3205 or by email at [Damien.Watt@lmoga.com](mailto:Damien.Watt@lmoga.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Faucheux". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tommy Faucheux  
President, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association

