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 DIGEST

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SB 165 Reengrossed

2016 Regular Session

Allain

Proposed law requires the commissioner of conservation to require the operator identify on a form approved by the commissioner, the surface owner of lands on which the well site is located, no later than 30 days after the issuance of an amended permit to transfer a well to another operator. Defines "surface owner" as the person shown in the assessor's rolls of the parish as the current owner of the surface rights for the land on which the well site is located.

Present law requires the commissioner to seek to notify the last operator of record, at his last known address contained in the department records, of the site that is to be declared orphaned and shall publish a notice in the Louisiana Register that the oilfield site is to be declared orphaned, prior to declaring a site to be an orphaned oilfield site. Proposed law retains present law and requires the assistant secretary to notify the surface owner of the site, at the address provided by the operator pursuant to proposed law, that the site is declared orphaned. Specifies that the failure to notify the surface owner does not invalidate the decision to declare a site orphaned. Also provides that an oilfield site may be declared orphaned if the operator of that site is the operator of any oilfield site that has been declared orphaned.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 30:91(A) and (B)(1); Adds R.S. 30:28(J))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Changes the notification requirements.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Provides for the process of an operator being declared orphaned.
2. Defines "surface owner".

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the reengrossed bill:

1. Remove the process by which an operator of record may be declared orphaned.
2. Provide that an oilfield site may be declared orphaned if the operator of that site is the operator of any oilfield site that has been declared orphaned.