

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Testimony provided by Ryan A. Hoffman, Director, Conservation Division on Senate Bill 124 - Eliminating the sunset on land-spreading of oil and gas drilling waste.

Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources in Room 159-S

Chair Powell, Vice Chair Kerschen, Ranking Minority Member Francisco and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony with you regarding Senate Bill 124. The Conservation Division of the Kansas Corporation Commission is currently responsible for regulating oil and gas operators in Kansas including aspects of land-spreading (KDHE jointly manages the operation of land-spreading). KCC staff is here in support of SB 124, which would eliminate the sunset date of July 1, 2015.

As many of you are aware, the practice of land-spreading came to Kansas with the Mississippian Lime Play. At the time it was touted as a viable alternative to burial in place of the fresh water based drilling waste. Although this disposal alternative has been around for two years, only one company has pursued using this practice. The operator spread fresh water based drilling waste from two wells in 2013. 1,240 barrels were spread from the first well and 5,990 from the second well. The upper threshold of spreadable material was approximately 9,978 ppm Chloride. Any material that tested above this threshold was segregated and disposed of according to the contingency plans outlined in the application. Post spread samplings indicate that loading rates were well below the maximum allowable loading limit of 900 ppm Chloride. Even though the practice is currently not widely used in Kansas, staff believes it maybe more viable in the future and supports preserving it as an alternative disposal method.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express our support with you today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.