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## IOGCC, EPA TO DISCUSS PROPOSED REGULATION OF OIL/GAS TOXIC WASTES

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Officials with the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency plan to meet Friday (March 15) to discuss an EPA proposal to apply the agency's Toxic Release Inventory reporting requirements to the oil and gas exploration and production industry.

An IOGCC spokeswoman last week said the meeting, which will be held in Washington as part of the organization's spring meeting, resulted from a letter in January to EPA Administrator Carol Browner from Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, the 1997 IOGCC chairman-elect, in which he expressed alarm about the proposed extension of TRI. The change "could result in unnecessary paperwork for oil and gas producers with little, if any, environmental benefit."

"The governors of the nation's oil and gas producing states urge logical, cost-effective regulation which adds to the national quality of life rather than regulation which will result in escalating loss of domestic petroleum production," Keating wrote.

TRI requires certain industries to report any environmental release of chemicals deemed toxic by EPA.

Lynn Goldman, EPA's assistant administrator for prevention, pesticides and toxic substances, responded with a letter that suggested the March meeting.

IOGCC Chairman Gov. E. Benjamin Nelson of Nebraska, the group's former chairman, North Dakota Gov. Ed Schafer, as well as IOGCC Executive Director Christine Hansen met early last month with Browner, Goldman and Michael Shapiro, director of EPA's Office of Solid Waste, on issues affecting states, including TRI. At the time, Browner pledged that EPA would consult with states before deciding on including oil and gas E&P in TRI, IOGCC said.

IOGCC represents the governors of 29 states on oil and gas issues. The group maintains that current state programs adequately address the issue of E&P wastes and that federal intervention is unneeded.

Expanding reporting requirements on routine operations, such as including injection of produced water from enhanced oil recovery or disposal, is unwise, IOGCC said.

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