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## Oil Compact Calls on Congress to Let States Oversee Wastes

**Journal Record** [Oklahoma City, Okla] 12 Dec 1991.

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The commission represents the governors of the 29 oil-and-gas-producing states. At the conclusion of its annual meeting in New Orleans, the organization urged Congress to preserve the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act exemption and to leave "the primary responsibility for the regulation of oil and gas exploration and production wastes with the states."

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NEW ORLEANS - The **Interstate Oil** and Gas Compact Commission called on Congress Wednesday to allow the states to continue regulating oil and gas exploration and production wastes.

Congress is considering reauthorization of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Currently, the act exempts oil and gas wastes from its coverage.

The commission represents the governors of the 29 oil-and-gas-producing states. At the conclusion of its annual meeting in New Orleans, the organization urged Congress to preserve the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act exemption and to leave "the primary responsibility for the regulation of oil and gas exploration and production wastes with the states." A resolution adopted unanimously by the **Interstate Oil** and Gas Compact Commission said that "reclassification of oil and gas exploration and production wastes would so increase the cost of their disposal as to cause the premature abandonment of tens of thousands of wells, causing waste of resources while providing no environmental advantages." Through its Council on Regulatory Needs, the **Interstate Oil** and Gas Compact Commission is working with member states to strengthen oil and gas regulatory programs. The council has established guidelines for a model state program and is now reviewing existing programs on a state-by-state basis to determine if they contain the elements of the model program. The project is in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition, the council is providing training of state personnel and development of data management systems, said W. **Timothy Dowd**, executive director of the **Interstate Oil** and Gas Compact Commission.

New chairman of the organization is Oklahoma Gov. David Walters.

Word count: **263**

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