

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 593

By: Schulz of the Senate

3 and

4 McCall of the House

5 An Act relating to wind energy facilities; amending
6 Section 3, Chapter 92, O.S.L. 2015 (17 O.S. Supp.
7 2016, Section 160.21), which relates to notification
8 of intent to build a wind energy facility; specifying
9 terms of notification of intent to build a wind
10 facility; requiring an affidavit in certain
11 situations; requiring written notice in certain
12 timeline to certain people; requiring certain persons
13 to respond to notice of intent to build a wind
14 facility; amending Section 2, Chapter 92, O.S.L. 2015
15 (17 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 160.20), which relates
16 to setback requirements of wind energy development;
17 deleting certain location prohibition; amending 52
18 O.S. 2011, Section 803, which relates to surface
19 estates; removing requirement for wind energy
20 developer to follow certain procedures when intending
21 to construct a wind energy facility; removing
22 requirement for certain methods of notification;
23 conforming language; and declaring an emergency.

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 92, O.S.L. 2015
(17 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 160.21), is amended to read as follows:

Section 160.21. A. The owner of a wind energy facility shall
submit notification of intent to build a facility to the Corporation
Commission within six (6) months of the initial filing pertaining to
commencement of construction with the Federal Aviation
Administration (FAA) of an FAA Form 7460-1 (Notice of Proposed
Construction or Alteration) or any subsequent form required by the

1 FAA for evaluating the impact a proposed wind energy facility will
2 have on air commerce safety and the preservation of navigable
3 airspace. The Commission shall prescribe the form and submittal
4 requirements of the notification; provided, the information required
5 on the notification form shall include at least the same information
6 required on the FAA form. The owner of the wind energy facility
7 shall submit copies of the notification with the board of county
8 commissioners of every county in which all or a portion of the wind
9 energy facility is to be located within twenty-four (24) hours of
10 filing with the Commission. If all or a portion of the wind energy
11 facility is to be located within the incorporated area of a
12 municipality, copies of the notification shall also be submitted to
13 the governing body of the municipality within twenty-four (24) hours
14 of filing with the Commission.

15 B. Within six (6) months of submitting the notification with
16 the Commission as provided for in subsection A of this section, the
17 owner of the wind energy facility shall cause a copy of the
18 notification to be published in a newspaper of general circulation
19 in the county or counties in which all or a portion of the wind
20 energy facility is to be located. Proof of publication shall be
21 submitted to the Commission.

22 C. Within six (6) months of submitting the notification with
23 the Commission as provided in subsection A of this section, the
24

1 owner of the wind energy facility shall cause a copy of the
2 notification to be sent, by certified mail, to:

3 1. Any operator, as reflected in the records of the Corporation
4 Commission, who is conducting oil and gas operations upon all or any
5 part of the surface estate as to which the wind energy developer
6 intends the construction of the wind energy facility;

7 2. Any operator, as reflected in the records of the
8 Corporation Commission, of an unspaced unit, or a unit created by
9 order of the Corporation Commission, who is conducting oil and gas
10 operations for the unit where all or any part of the unit area is
11 within the geographical boundaries of the surface estate as to which
12 the wind energy developer intends the construction of the wind
13 energy facility; and

14 3. As to tracts of land not described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of
15 this subsection on which the wind energy developer intends to
16 construct a wind energy facility, all lessees of oil and gas leases
17 covering the mineral estate underlying any part of the tracts of
18 land that are filed of record with county clerk in the county where
19 the tracts are located and whose primary term has not expired.

20 If the wind energy developer makes a search with reasonable
21 diligence, and the whereabouts of a party entitled to any notice
22 described in this subsection cannot be ascertained or such notice
23 cannot be delivered, then an affidavit attesting to such diligent
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1 search for the parties shall be placed in the records of the county
2 clerk where the surface estate is actually located.

3 D. Within sixty (60) days of publishing the notification in a
4 newspaper as provided for in subsection B of this section, the owner
5 of the wind energy facility shall hold a public meeting. Notice of
6 the public meeting shall be published in a newspaper of general
7 circulation and submitted to the board of county commissioners in
8 the county or counties in which all or a portion of the wind energy
9 facility is to be located. The notice shall contain the place, date
10 and time of the public meeting. Proof of publication of the notice
11 shall be submitted to the Commission. The public meeting shall be
12 held in one of the counties in which all or a portion of the wind
13 energy facility is to be located.

14 E. With regard to the surface estate upon which the owner of a
15 wind energy facility intends to construct a wind energy facility, at
16 least sixty (60) days before entering upon the surface estate for
17 the purposes of commencement of construction of the wind energy
18 facility, the owner shall provide written notice, by certified mail,
19 of its intent to construct the wind energy facility to:

20 1. Any operator, as reflected in the records of the Corporation
21 Commission, who is conducting oil and gas operations upon all or any
22 part of the surface estate as to which the wind energy developer
23 intends the construction of the wind energy facility;
24

1 2. Any operator, as reflected in the records of the Corporation
2 Commission, of an unspaced unit, or a unit created by order of the
3 Corporation Commission, who is conducting oil and gas operations for
4 the unit where all or any part of the unit area is within the
5 geographical boundaries of the surface estate as to which the wind
6 energy developer intends the construction of the wind energy
7 facility; and

8 3. As to tracts of land not described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of
9 this subsection on which the wind energy developer intends to
10 construct a wind energy facility, all lessees of oil and gas leases
11 covering the mineral estate underlying any part of the tracts of
12 land that are filed of record with county clerk in the county where
13 the tracts are located and whose primary term has not expired.

14 The notice shall contain a map or plat of the proposed location,
15 with sufficient specificity of all of the various elements of the
16 wind energy facility to be located on the governmental section which
17 includes all or any part of the tracts of land described in
18 paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this subsection and the approximate date
19 that the owner of the wind energy facility proposes to commence
20 construction. If the wind energy developer makes a search with
21 reasonable diligence, and the whereabouts of a party entitled to any
22 notice described in this subsection cannot be ascertained or such
23 notice cannot be delivered, then an affidavit attesting to such
24 diligent search for the parties shall be placed in the records of

1 the county clerk where the surface estate is actually located.
2 Within thirty (30) days of receiving said notice, any operator, as
3 described in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this subsection shall
4 reciprocate, in writing by certified mail, certain site, operational
5 and infrastructure information, with sufficient specificity, to be
6 shared with the owner of the wind energy facility to assist both
7 with the safe construction and operation pertaining to the surface
8 estate. This information should include ALTA surveys of existing
9 subsurface and surface improvements on the property, if any, as well
10 as other technical specifications for existing improvements such as
11 pipe size, material, capacity and depth.

12 ~~D.~~ F. The owner of a wind energy facility shall not commence
13 construction on the facility until the notification and public
14 meeting requirements of this section have been met. If an owner of
15 a wind energy facility fails to submit the information with the
16 Commission as required in this section, the owner shall be subject
17 to an administrative penalty not to exceed One Thousand Five Hundred
18 Dollars (\$1,500.00) per day.

19 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 92, O.S.L. 2015
20 (17 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 160.20), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 160.20. A. After the effective date of this act, no
22 wind energy facility may be constructed if the base of any tower is
23 located at a distance of less than:
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1 1. One and one-half (1 1/2) nautical miles from the center line
2 of any runway located on:

3 a. a public-use airport as defined in Section 120.2 of
4 Title 3 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or

5 b. ~~a private-use airport as defined in Section 157.2 of~~
6 ~~Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations and for~~
7 ~~which:~~

8 ~~(1) a notice to the Federal Aviation Administration~~
9 ~~(FAA) has been filed under Section 157.3 of Title~~
10 ~~14 of the Code of Federal Regulations prior to~~
11 ~~the notification of intent to build a facility~~
12 ~~with the Corporation Commission pursuant to~~
13 ~~subsection A of Section 3 of this act, and~~

14 ~~(2) an airport determination has been issued by the~~
15 ~~FAA with a determination of no objection or a~~
16 ~~conditional determination or the airport~~
17 ~~determination remains pending, or~~

18 ~~e.~~ an airport owned by a municipality;

19 2. One and one-half (1 1/2) nautical miles from any public
20 school which is a part of a public school district; or

21 3. One and one-half (1 1/2) nautical miles from a hospital.

22 B. Attestation of compliance with the setback requirements in
23 this section shall be included in any reports required by the
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1 Corporation Commission. Disputes arising under this section shall
2 fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the district courts.

3 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 52 O.S. 2011, Section 803, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 803. A. Unless specifically provided otherwise in an
6 instrument transferring or retaining title to the mineral estate
7 separate from the surface estate, and subject to, and consistent
8 with, the provisions of the surface damages statutes and all other
9 applicable laws, rules and regulations, within a tract of real
10 property, the mineral owner has had, and shall hereafter continue to
11 have, the right to make reasonable use of the surface estate,
12 including the right of ingress and egress therefor, for the purpose
13 of exploring, severing, capturing and producing the minerals
14 underlying the tract of real property or lands spaced or pooled
15 therewith.

16 B. Notwithstanding any provision in a wind or solar energy
17 agreement in effect on, or entered into after, ~~the effective date of~~
18 ~~this act~~ May 10, 2011, or the provisions of the Oklahoma Wind Energy
19 Development Act, as the same is in effect or hereafter amended, the
20 lessee of a wind or solar energy agreement or the wind energy
21 developer shall not unreasonably interfere with the mineral owner's
22 right to make reasonable use of the surface estate, including the
23 right of ingress and egress therefor, for the purpose of exploring,
24 severing, capturing and producing the minerals.

1 C. ~~With regard to the surface estate upon which a wind energy~~
2 ~~developer intends to construct a wind energy facility, at least~~
3 ~~thirty (30) days before entering upon the surface estate for the~~
4 ~~purposes of beginning construction of a wind energy facility, the~~
5 ~~wind energy developer shall provide written notice, by certified~~
6 ~~mail, of its intent to construct the wind energy facility to:~~

7 1. ~~Any operator, as reflected in the records of the Corporation~~
8 ~~Commission, who is conducting oil and gas operations upon all or any~~
9 ~~part of the surface estate as to which the wind energy developer~~
10 ~~intends the construction of the wind energy facility;~~

11 2. ~~Any operator, as reflected in the records of the Corporation~~
12 ~~Commission, of an unspaced unit, or a unit created by order of the~~
13 ~~Corporation Commission, who is conducting oil and gas operations for~~
14 ~~the unit where all or any part of the unit area is within the~~
15 ~~geographical boundaries of the surface estate as to which the wind~~
16 ~~energy developer intends the construction of the wind energy~~
17 ~~facility; and~~

18 3. ~~As to tracts of land not described in paragraphs 1 and 2 on~~
19 ~~which the wind energy developer intends to construct a wind energy~~
20 ~~facility, all lessees of oil and gas leases covering the mineral~~
21 ~~estate underlying any part of the tracts of land that are filed of~~
22 ~~record with county clerk in the county where the tracts are located~~
23 ~~and whose primary term has not expired.~~

1 ~~The notice shall contain a map or plat of the proposed location~~
2 ~~of all of the various elements of the wind energy facility to be~~
3 ~~located on the governmental section which includes all or any part~~
4 ~~of the tracts of land described in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this~~
5 ~~subsection and the approximate date that the wind energy developer~~
6 ~~proposes to commence construction. If the wind energy developer~~
7 ~~makes a search with reasonable diligence, and the whereabouts of a~~
8 ~~party entitled to any notice described in this subsection cannot be~~
9 ~~ascertained or such notice cannot be delivered, then an affidavit~~
10 ~~attesting to such diligent search for the parties shall be placed in~~
11 ~~the records of the county clerk where the surface estate is actually~~
12 ~~located. The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable~~
13 ~~to a wind energy facility that has been constructed or is under~~
14 ~~construction prior to November 1, 2011.~~

15 ~~D. The wind energy developer also shall publish notice of the~~
16 ~~intent to begin construction of a wind energy facility in one issue~~
17 ~~of a newspaper qualified to publish legal notices in the county~~
18 ~~where the wind energy facility is intended to be constructed, as~~
19 ~~provided in Section 106 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, which~~
20 ~~notice shall be published at least thirty (30) days before entering~~
21 ~~upon the surface estate for the purpose of beginning construction of~~
22 ~~a wind energy facility and which notice shall include the legal~~
23 ~~description of the surface estate as to which the wind energy~~
24 ~~developer intends the construction of the wind energy facility. The~~

1 ~~provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to a wind~~
2 ~~energy facility that has been constructed or is under construction~~
3 ~~prior to November 1, 2011.~~

4 ~~E. Notices required by this section may be provided by a single~~
5 ~~wind energy developer with the authority to do so for any wind~~
6 ~~energy facility regardless of the number of separate persons or~~
7 ~~entities which may participate in, or have ownership or operational~~
8 ~~interests in, a wind energy facility.~~

9 ~~F.~~ It is the intent of ~~this act~~ the Exploration Rights Act of
10 2011 to confirm the mineral owner's historical right to make
11 reasonable use of the surface estate, including the right of ingress
12 and egress therefor, for the purpose of exploring, severing,
13 capturing and producing the minerals, and nothing in this act is
14 intended to expand or diminish those historical rights. Further,
15 nothing in this act shall amend or modify the surface damages
16 statutes or be interpreted to grant, expand or diminish any person's
17 rights therein.

18 ~~G.~~ D. For any alleged breach or violation of ~~this act~~ the
19 Exploration Rights Act of 2011, any affected person may petition the
20 district court in the county in which the real property is located
21 for either declaratory relief pursuant to Sections 1651 through 1657
22 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or injunctive relief pursuant
23 to Sections 1381 through 1397 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
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1 or both, in addition to any other remedies at law or in equity that
2 may otherwise be available.

3 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
4 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
5 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
6 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

7 Passed the Senate the 9th day of March, 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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11 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
12 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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