

# U.S. OIL AND GAS RESEARCH GUIDE

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Last Updated 5/5/2008

## **Introduction and Purpose**

Oil and gas law presents special issues to practitioners and is often collectively known as energy or natural resources law. Both titles are correct since the law in this area deals with the earth's natural resources, who owns them, and how they are used. This research guide will briefly define oil and gas law, give a list of resources available at the OCU Law Library, and mention free or low-cost resources.

## **Defining Oil and Gas Law**

Oil and gas law combines common law principles with increasingly complex statutory and regulatory requirements. Employment issues specific to the oil and gas industry also play a role in this area of the law.

## **Oil and Gas Law Research**

The resources you use depend on the facts and issues presented. If you are dealing with an oil lease issue you may consult different materials than if you are faced with a possible employment issue at an oil field or refinery. As with any other area of the law, if you are not familiar with it you may find a secondary resource helpful.

**NOTE:** Remember to check the coverage of any research source you use.

### **OCU Resources**

Below is a sample list of materials you may find helpful when researching an oil and gas law issue. These resources are available electronically or at the Oklahoma City University Law Library. This list is not all-inclusive.

#### **Secondary Materials**

**\*Note-Check each title for specific holdings and availability.**

#### **Treatises/Casebooks**

Treatises are written for practitioners and present background information about specific topics. Casebooks present similar information but are more general and cater to law students.

1. *Kuntz, law of oil and gas [electronic resource]* is available electronically via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.

2. *Law of oil and gas / by Richard W. Hemingway* is available in the library at [KF1850 .H44 1991](#).

3. *Miller's Oil and gas : federal income taxation / James L. Houghton, editor ; associate editors, Robert R. Crawford, James R. Gaar ; assistant to the editors, John R. Braden* is available at [KF6482 .M5 1983](#).

4. *Oil and gas federal income taxation* is available at [KF6482 .O37 date](#).
5. *Oil and gas drilling funds : a primer for attorneys and investors / Grayson Cecil Fox* is available at [KFT1458.A1 F69 1983](#).
6. *The oil and gas industry and the bankruptcy laws / Alan Gover, chairman* is available at [KF1535.P47 O44 1985](#).
7. *Oil and gas law in a nutshell / by John S. Lowe* is on reserve at [KF1850 .L68 2003](#).
8. *Williams & Meyers, Oil and gas law [electronic resource] / Howard R. Williams, Charles J. Meyers ; updated and revised by Patrick H. Martin and Bruce M. Kramer* is available electronically via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.
9. *Hemingway oil and gas law and taxation* is on reserve at [KF1850 .H44 2004](#).
10. *Oil & gas leases & title examination / Philip D. Hart...[et al.]* is available at [KFO1458.L4 O44 1982](#).
11. *Oil and gas operations on the upland federal domain / edited by George W. Hardy III* is available at [KF1865 .O34 1981](#).

#### **Journals/Law Reviews**

Journal and law review articles provide researchers with an excellent starting point because the authors usually analyze an issue in-depth and give detailed citation information. The following are accessible either in print or in one of the subscription databases available from the Law Library's databases page at [http://www.okcu.edu/law/lawlib/library\\_databases.php](http://www.okcu.edu/law/lawlib/library_databases.php).

1. *Oil & gas tax quarterly* is available from v.1-v.45 (1951-1997) in the law library's periodicals wing.
2. *Annual report / Interstate Oil Compact Commission* is available at [KF1852.A4 A22 date](#).
3. *Ernst & Young's oil and gas federal income taxation* is available at [KF6482 .O37 date](#).
4. *The journal record energy report* is available from v.59 (Jan. 2003)-v.63 (Sept. 2007) in the law library's periodicals wing.
5. *Oil and gas journal* is available from v.9 (1910)-v.98 (2000) at [MICROFORMS B 8](#).

6. *Oil, gas & energy quarterly* is available from v.46-49 (1997-2001) in the law library's periodicals wing.
7. *Texas journal of oil, gas & energy law* is available from 2006 to present in the law library's periodicals wing and via the subscription database Hein Online.
8. <http://www.ogj.com/index.cfm> -The current issue of the Oil and Gas Journal can be accessed at no charge and past issues can be searched. However, to retrieve the full-text of a past article, researchers must have a login and password.

### **Primary Materials**

**\*Note-Check each title for specific holdings and availability.**

The materials listed below are primary federal and state legal authority.

#### **Federal Statutory Materials**

1. *U.S.C.* (U.S. Code) is available in print at [KF62 1958 .A2](#) and electronically via various Web sites such as <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/> and <http://uscode.house.gov/>.
2. *U.S.C.A.* (U.S. Code Annotated) is available in the library at [KF62.5 .W45](#) and electronically via the subscription database Westlaw.
3. *U.S.C.S.* (U.S. Code Service) is available in the library at [KF48 .U54](#) and electronically via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.

#### **Federal Administrative Materials**

1. *C.F.R.* (Code of Federal Regulations) is available in print at [KF70 .A3 date](#) and via the subscription databases Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. The publication is also freely available via the government Web site <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>.
2. *Federal Register* is available in print at [KF 70 .A2 date](#) and via the subscription databases Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. The publication is also freely available via the government Web site <http://origin.www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>.

#### **Federal Case Law**

1. *U.S. Reports* are available at [KF101 .U54](#) and via the subscription database Hein Online.
2. *Supreme Court Reporter* is available at [KF101 .W4](#) and via the subscription database Westlaw.
3. *U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition* are available at [KF101 .U58](#) and via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.
4. *Federal Reporter 1<sup>st</sup>, 2d, 3d* is available at [KF105 .F4](#) and via the subscription databases Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis.

5. *Federal Supplement 1<sup>st</sup> and 2d* is available at [KF120 .F42](#) and via the subscription databases Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis.

#### **State Statutory and Administrative Sources**

1. *Oklahoma Statutes Annotated* are available at [KFO1231 .O52 date](#).
2. *Oklahoma Statutes* are available at [KFO1230 .O5](#) and freely available via the Oklahoma State Courts Web site <http://www.oscn.net>.
3. *Oklahoma Administrative Code* is available at [KFO1236 .O451](#) and freely available via the Oklahoma Secretary of State's Web site at <http://www.sos.state.ok.us/>.

#### **Subscription Databases**

To access materials in a subscription database, you need a username and password.

1. Westlaw contains several sections that may be helpful for oil and gas law research. To find the appropriate section, go to the directory and search using terms such as energy, oil and gas, or natural resources. Westlaw also has an energy tab that you can add (go to the add/delete tabs button).
2. Lexis-Nexis has several sections that may be helpful for oil and gas law research. You can go to Find a Source and look for information under energy law.

#### **Freely available resources**

##### **Federal**

1. <http://www.doe.gov/> -The U.S. Department of Energy is the primary administrative agency in charge of energy security, nuclear security, scientific discovery and innovation, environmental responsibility, and management excellence.
2. <http://www.usgs.gov/science/science.php?term=799> –Energy resources from the U.S. Geological Survey.
3. <http://www.usgs.gov/science/science.php?term=745> –Information about mineral resources from the U.S. Geological Survey.
4. <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/oilgaswelldrilling/index.html> -The Occupational Safety and Health Administration provides safety guides for oil and gas employers and employees.
5. <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy.1.html> -The Bureau of Land Management reviews and grants requests by private companies looking for energy resources on federal or Indian land.

6. <http://www.epa.gov/> -The Environmental Protection Agency is the federal agency charged with “protecting human health and the environment.” On the agency’s Web site you can get facts about reducing waste, find out about the EPA’s efforts in reducing pollution, and industry specific information.

7. <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/oilgas/index.html> -The Federal Trade Commission verifies that petroleum companies are not engaging in monopolistic practices.

#### **State**

1. <http://www.iogcc.state.ok.us/> -The Interstate Compact Oil and Gas Commission represents states in oil and gas matters and encourages cooperation between member states.

2. <http://www.occ.state.ok.us/> -The Oklahoma Corporation Commission regulates public utilities as well as Oklahoma’s oil and gas industry.

3. <http://www.ogs.ou.edu/index.php> -The Oklahoma Geologic Survey educates the public about geology and maps the state’s geology.

4. <http://www.ok.gov/marginalwells/> -The Oklahoma Marginal Well Commission assesses marginal oil wells’ economic benefit to the state.

#### **Oil and gas industry**

1. <http://api-ec.api.org/> -American Petroleum Institute is the national trade association for the oil and natural gas industry.

2. <http://www.okmoga.com/> -Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association of Oklahoma lobbies on behalf of Oklahoma’s petroleum industry.

3. <http://www.lmoga.com/> -Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association represents the petroleum industry’s interests in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region.

#### **Nongovernmental organizations**

1. <http://www.worldbank.org/ogsimpact/pssioverview.htm> -The World Bank offers its perspective on dealing with the ramifications of oil and gas production.

2. <http://www.aoghs.org/> -Based in Washington, D.C., the American Oil and Gas Historical Society documents and preserves the history of the U. S. energy industry.

#### **Other Research Guides**

Below are some oil and gas law research guides from other law libraries that you may find helpful.

1. <http://www.washlaw.edu/subject/oilgaslaw.html> -Washburn University has gathered various resources relevant to oil and gas law.

2. [http://www.law.ku.edu/library/research/guides/oilg\\_res.shtml](http://www.law.ku.edu/library/research/guides/oilg_res.shtml) -Oil and gas research guide from The University of Kansas.

## **Statistics**

When conducting oil and gas law research you may find statistics helpful. Listed are a few resources to get you started on compiling statistical data.

1. <http://www.eia.doe.gov/> -The Energy Information Administration provides statistics about energy and energy-related topics to the general public, lawmakers, and other interested parties.
2. <http://www.api.org/statistics/> -Statistics about the oil and gas industry presented by API or American Petroleum Institute.
3. <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/og/statistics/index.html> -Railroad Commission of Texas offers various statistics about the Texas oil and gas industry.
4. <http://www.mms.gov/stats/OCSproduction.htm> -The U.S. Department of the Interior, Offshore Minerals Management gives some statistics about oil and gas production.

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Last updated 5/5/08