Air quality construction permitting.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Bebout, Anderson, J.D. (SD02), Cooper and Von Flatern and Representative(s) Larsen, Lockhart, Throne and Walters

A BILL

for

AN ACT relating to environmental quality; authorizing the operation of specified oil and gas exploration or production wells or activities following application for a construction permit; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. W.S. 35-11-801(c) and by creating new subsections (e) and (f) is amended to read:

35-11-801. Issuance of permits and licenses.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a permit to construct is required before construction or modification of any industrial facility
capable of causing or increasing air or water pollution in excess of standards established by the department is commenced.

(e) Except for sources required to have a permit before construction or modification under the applicable requirements of W.S. 35-11-203 and sources specified by the director, if an applicant for an air quality permit for an oil or gas exploration or production well, with its associated equipment, has submitted a timely and complete application for a permit to construct or modify within ninety (90) days of the first date of production of the oil and gas operation, the applicant's failure to have a permit shall not be a violation of this section. An applicant complies with this section if the applicant demonstrates to the administrator of the air quality division that the oil and gas exploration or production activity qualifies as a nonmajor source. The application shall contain, at a minimum, a demonstration that the applicant will apply the best available control technology to the oil and gas production and exploration activity.
(f) As used in subsection (e) of this section, "first date of production" means the date permanent production equipment is in place and product is consistently flowing to sales lines, gathering lines or storage tanks. Production occurring during well completion activities which is routed to temporary production equipment is considered to occur prior to the first date of production. If extended periods of time may pass between zone completions but production from initially completed zones is consistently flowing to permanent production equipment, the first date of production is the date when production from the initial zones began consistently flowing to the permanent production equipment, even though more zones will be completed later.

Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2015.