

SOILS

Drilling mud application seminar educates landowners

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Oil and gas drilling and production are extremely important to the Oklahoma economy. According to a 2012 report by Dr. Russell Evans, economist at

Oklahoma City University, this industry accounts for about one-third of the state's economic output. The report further states that 71,224 jobs in Oklahoma are directly involved in oil and gas drilling and production, and 228,115 jobs are indirectly supported by the oil and gas industry. Dr. Evans' report estimates that oil and gas drilling and production account for \$14 billion in labor income in Oklahoma.

While it is obvious that oil and gas drilling and production are vital to the economy of the state, these activities create by-products that must be handled in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. One of these products is drilling fluid (drilling mud). According to an American Petroleum Institute report from 2000, about 1.2 barrels of drilling waste are produced per foot of well depth. One way to handle drilling fluids is application onto agricultural land.

There are many items a landowner should consider when making the decision about whether to allow drill-



ing mud to be applied onto his/her land. To help educate landowners on these factors, the Noble Foundation will host a seminar titled Application of Drilling Mud to Agricultural Land from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. on Thurs., May 23, 2013, at the Ardmore Convention Center in Ardmore, Okla.

The seminar will consist of three speakers who are experts in their respective areas. Sam Feagley, Ph.D., a soil chemist with Texas A&M University, will discuss the composition of drilling mud and the potential benefits and hazards of applying drilling mud onto agricultural land. ▶

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Mike Moore, a hydrologist with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, will discuss allowable application methods and the regulations concerning eligible lands, and the rates of drilling mud that can be applied onto land. Trae Gray, an attorney from Coalgate, Okla., will discuss the items that landowners should detail in the lease if they decide to allow drilling mud to be applied onto their land. A

question and answer session with all speakers will be held at the end of the last presentation.

The purpose of this seminar is to educate landowners on the benefits and drawbacks of applying drilling mud on agricultural land so they can make informed decisions about the application of drilling mud on their property. It will be a fair and unbiased look at the practice and is not intend-

ed to give a definite yes or no answer to whether landowners should allow drilling mud to be applied on their agricultural land.

This seminar is open to the public and offered at no charge, but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, please visit www.noble.org/agevents or contact Jackie Kelley at 580.224.6360. ■