

Form #2

FILED

2001 JUL 23 P 1:22

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

AGENCY: State Tax Division TITLE NUMBER: 110

RULE TYPE: Procedural ; CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code § 11-13A-5a(c)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES ☒ NO ☐

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 13AA

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Information To Be Utilized For Calculating The
Distribution Of Oil And Gas Severance Taxes.

IF NO. SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON August 15, 2001 AT 5:00pm. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Legal Division

Department of Tax & Revenue

P.O. Box 1005

Charleston, WV 25324-1005

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.

Ben. Kottler

Brian Kastick, Secretary of Tax & Revenue

ATTACH A BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

\$3.60

SUMMARY OF RULE

This rule amends the procedures for distributing oil and gas Severance Taxes to counties and municipalities so that the State Tax Division will use the most recent oil and gas production data provided by the Department of Environmental Protection.

STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES

This rule amends the procedure to be utilized when distributing to counties and municipalities their appropriate share of oil and gas Severance Taxes, to permit the Tax Division to use the most current oil and gas production data actually available to it when calculating that share.

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Rule Title: Information To Be Utilized For Calculating The Distribution Of Oil And Gas Severance Taxes.

Type of Rule: Legislative Interpretive X Procedural

Agency: State Tax Division
Address: P.O. Box 1005
Charleston, WV 25324-1005

1. Effect of Proposed Rule

	ANNUAL FISCAL YEAR				
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
<u>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST</u>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0
CURRENT EXPENSE	0	0	0	0	0
REPAIRS & ALTERNATIONS	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0

2. Explanation of above estimates:

There should be no fiscal impact different from that anticipated by the Legislature when it enacted W. Va. Code § 11-13A-5a.

3. Objectives of these rules:

The objective of this rule is to amend the procedures to be followed for the distribution of oil and gas Severance Taxes to counties and municipalities, so that the State Tax Division will use the most recent oil and gas production data provided by the Department of Environmental Protection when calculating the amounts to be distributed.

Rule Title: Information To Be Utilized For Calculating The Distribution Of Oil And Gas Severance Taxes.

4. Explanation of Overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.

A. Economic Impact on State Government.

None.

B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific groups of Citizens.

None.

C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large.

None.

Date: _____

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald C. Stone", is written over a horizontal line.

Ronald C. Stone
Acting Tax Commissioner

PROPOSED

**TITLE 110
PROCEDURAL RULE
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TAX AND REVENUE
STATE TAX DIVISION**

FILED

2001 JUL 23 P 1:22

**SERIES 13AA
INFORMATION TO BE UTILIZED FOR CALCULATING THE
DISTRIBUTION OF OIL AND GAS SEVERANCE TAXES.**

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

§ 110-13AA-1. General.

1.1. **Scope.** -- The purpose of this rule is to set forth the procedures to be followed by the West Virginia Department of Tax and Revenue for distributing the municipal and county shares of the oil and gas severance taxes under W. Va. Code § 11-13A-5a.

1.2. **Authority.** -- W. Va. Code § 11-13A-5a(c).

1.3. **Filing Date.** --

1.4. **Effective Date.** --

§ 110-13AA-2. Interpretive Note.

This procedural rule shall be read in pari materia with the Severance Tax Legislative Rule (110 C.S.R. 13A) previously promulgated by the Tax Commissioner. The definitions, policies and procedures provided in 110 C.S.R. 13A are equally applicable to this procedural rule. Should there be any inconsistency between the promulgated legislative rule and this procedural rule, the legislative rule shall control, except to the extent the legislative rule does not reflect an amendment to the Severance Tax laws which is addressed in this or another procedural rule promulgated by the Tax Commissioner as provided in W. Va. Code § 29A-3-1 et seq.

§ 110-13AA-3. Definitions.

Where applicable, the definitions in 110 C.S.R. 13A are incorporated by reference into this rule.

§ 110-13AA-4. Activity For Which Information is Needed.

4.1. Effective July 1, 1996, W. Va. Code § 11-13A-5a requires that 5% of the Severance Tax imposed upon the severance of oil and gas in West Virginia is to be dedicated to the use and benefit of the counties and municipalities in West Virginia. Effective July 1, 1997, the percentage is increased to 10%.

4.2. W. Va. Code § 11-13A-5a requires that the funds be deposited by the West Virginia State Tax Division (hereinafter "Tax Division") into specified accounts created in the State Treasurer's Office. The Tax Division is required to deposit 75% of the dedicated funds in the "Oil and Gas County Revenue Fund," and 25% is to be deposited in the "All Counties and Municipalities Revenue Fund."

4.3. In order for the funds to be properly distributed, it is necessary to determine the counties where the oil and gas was severed and the amounts of oil and gas severed in each county.

4.4. The Tax Division will treat gas and oil as having been severed in the county in which the wellhead is located where the oil and gas were first brought to the surface of the Earth.

§ 110-13AA-5. Information Gathering Process.

5.1. Information as to the location of wellheads and the amount of oil and gas severed by county is currently being gathered by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (hereinafter "DEP") under 38 C.S.R. 18-15.1 through reports which are submitted by operators of oil and gas wells.

5.2. Because the information reported to the DEP is the information needed by the Tax Division to carry out the requirements imposed by W. Va. Code § 11-13A-5a, the Tax Division will use the most recent complete oil and gas production data provided to the Tax Division by the DEP ~~information supplied to the DEP~~ for this purpose.

5.3. The Tax Division and the DEP will mutually agree on the technical procedures to be established to facilitate the information sharing activities.

5.4. The Tax Division will utilize the most recent complete oil and gas production data provided by the DEP ~~information~~ to calculate the share of oil and natural gas severance tax receipts to be distributed.

§ 110-13AA-6. Presumptions.

6.1. For those tax returns or other reports wherein the operator fails to report separate amounts as gross proceeds for oil and separate amounts as gross proceeds for natural gas that was severed during the reporting period, the Tax Division will attempt to obtain the correct information from those operators. If the Tax Division is unable to obtain the necessary information after a reasonable effort to do so, the Tax Division will apply the presumption that gross proceeds from oil and gross proceeds from gas, respectively, from each well is consistent with the statewide average proportional production of oil and gas from all reporting wells, and that gross receipts from the production of wells for which the operator fails to report separate amounts as gross proceeds for oil and separate amounts as gross proceeds for natural gas is consistent with the statewide average for proportional gross receipts for oil and gas respectively.

6.2. Example:

(1) A Taxpayer files an annual report with the Tax Division stating that the Taxpayer has \$1 million gross receipts from the severance of natural gas and the severance of oil. However, the Taxpayer does not state how much of the gross receipts come from each.

(2) The Tax Division contacts the Taxpayer to seek the missing information. The Taxpayer fails to report the information.

(3) The Tax Division determines that the statewide average production of oil and gas based on gross receipts, is proportionally 88% gas and 12% oil for the production year.

(4) The Tax Division will presume that the Taxpayer's gross receipts from gas and oil production are consistent with the statewide average, and will apportion the gross receipts of the Taxpayer accordingly.

$\$1,000,000 \times 88\% = \$880,000$ gross receipts from severance of natural gas

$\$1,000,000 \times 12\% = \$120,000$ gross receipts from severance of oil

The Tax Division will apportion the tax derived from the Taxpayer's remittance of severance tax accordingly.