



## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor  
Colleen Callahan, Director

April 3, 2020

BRYAN HOOD  
PRESIDENT  
ILLINOIS OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION  
824 IL-15  
MOUNT VERNON, IL 62864

Re: **COVID-19**

Dear Mr. Hood:

Thank you for your letter of March 31, 2020 and for speaking with me as to the recent developments in the oil and gas industry in Illinois, especially those due to the effects of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

After a review of our Office's mission, statutory and regulatory responsibilities, it has been determined that, at this time, a moratorium on the issuance and enforcement of Notices of Non-Compliance (NNC) and Notices of Violations (NOV), even in light of the COVID-19 emergency, is not possible.

However, given the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the current state of the oil and gas industry in Illinois, and around the globe, the Department's Office of Oil and Gas Resource Management has instituted the following changes. Effective April 1, 2020, for any matter that results in the issuance of a NNC, the permittee will be automatically granted an extension of the maximum time allowed to return the well, facility or site to compliance. Additionally, the Office is reviewing all the relevant sections of the Illinois Oil and Gas Act (225 ILCS 725 et al.) and Illinois Administrative Code (62 Ill. Adm. Code 240 et al.) to determine how best to address all non-emergency violations.

I appreciate your acknowledgement of the need to treat some matters differently. Any violations determined to have a high degree of probability to cause environmental damage to soil and/or land surface, vegetation or crops, surface water, groundwater, livestock or wildlife, will be expeditiously investigated. Any violation which has been found to cause harm described above or offer a hazard to the safety of any person must be addressed immediately.

Finally, the Department will continue to assess the need for and the scope of these temporary measures. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Oil and Gas Resource Management and myself if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel M. Brennan".

Daniel M. Brennan,  
Acting Director  
Office of Oil and Gas Resource Management