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**To:** [Oil and Gas Conservation Rulemaking](#)  
**Cc:** [lwasden@cableone.net](mailto:lwasden@cableone.net)  
**Subject:** Injection wells and Earthquakes  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 25, 2016 10:08:39 AM

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Mr. Wilson,

In case you have not yet seen this USGS report on Oklahoma earthquake activities, which is just the latest such report to be issued by USGS and OGS over the past three years, this report points the finger squarely at wastewater injection wells. Idaho needs to write tough, protective standards that prohibit injection wells anywhere near a geological fault line for two reasons:

First, the danger and pervasive threat of injuries, deaths and property destruction caused by earthquakes is very real, especially in an area as heavily faulted as Idaho; and

Second, drilling into or through a fault opens a rather large migration route for produced minerals to escape before reaching the surface reducing state mineral revenues due to lost gas or oil.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/usgs-oklahoma-quake-likely-caused-210625836.html>  
(verbiage of the article follows):

## **USGS: Oklahoma quake likely caused by wastewater disposal**

October 24, 2016

17 Comments



FAIRVIEW, Okla. (AP) — The third-largest earthquake in Oklahoma was likely triggered by underground disposal of wastewater from oil and natural gas production, the U.S. Geological Survey found in a report issued Monday.

The magnitude 5.1 quake that struck northwest of Fairview in February was likely induced by distant disposal wells, the agency said. The USGS report indicated that in the area around where the Fairview quake occurred, the volume of fluid injected had increased sevenfold over three years.

The Fairview temblor had been the largest in the central and eastern U.S. since a magnitude 5.7 quake hit near Prague in 2011. In September, the largest earthquake in the state struck near Pawnee with a magnitude 5.8. The relationship between that quake and wastewater injection is still being studied.

A study by the U.S. Geological Survey last year suggested that the sharp rise in earthquakes in Oklahoma in the past 100 years had likely been the result of industrial activities in the energy-rich state, such as oil and natural gas production.

Geologists say earthquakes of magnitude 2.5 to 3.0 are generally smallest that are felt by humans; damage is not likely in quakes below magnitude 4.0.

In response to research suggesting a wastewater disposal-earthquake link, state regulators have ordered the shutdown of some disposal wells and asked producers to reduce disposal volumes in earthquake-prone regions of the state.

Please make sure this e-mailed information is included in the official record of public documents submitted to IDL regarding Proposed Rules for Oil and Gas Conservation, Docket No. 20-0702-1601, as required by federal and state laws.

Most sincerely,

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*"We only have one environment. When we destroy it we will become as extinct as the dinosaurs!"*