



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **STATEMENT ON USGS RELEASE OF EARTHQUAKE HAZARD MAPS**

Oklahoma City, OK – March 28, 2016 – Today, the U.S. Geological Survey released earthquake hazard maps that for the first time included data on induced seismic activity to gauge risk of earthquake activity through the end of this year.

Chad Warmington, president of Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association, said, “The information released today shows what Oklahoma researchers and regulators have already determined, that there are specific areas of increased seismic activity in parts of the state that need to be addressed. However, the recent significant actions of the Corporation Commission are not reflected in the report issued today. In the last three months the Commission has sought actions to reduce overall disposal of produced water into the area of seismic interest by up to 40 percent below the 2014 totals. The good news is that we are already seeing a very positive response to those actions in the form of reduced seismic activity in the central and north central areas of Oklahoma.

It’s important to keep in mind that the state has been repeatedly advised by independent experts that the actions taken by the OCC should not be expected to have instant results. In fact, the OCC has been told that their actions could reasonably take six months to two years to show the full effects of the directives.”

Warmington added, “Oklahoma oil and gas operators live and work here. This is their home. That’s why they have been sharing huge volumes of data that are very expensive and proprietary with those working on the issue. And they will continue collaborating with state officials, regulators and researchers to determine what information is needed to help make informed, scientific-based decisions that reduce seismic activity in the state.”

To help understand the intensity of seismic activity that Oklahoma may be at risk, as released in today’s USGS report, here is a link to the USGS Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale (MMI) used in the report:  
<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/topics/mercalli.php>

*The Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association is a non-profit association composed of oil and gas producers, operators, purchasers, pipelines, transporters, processors and service companies which represent a substantial sector of the oil and gas industry within the State of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association is dedicated to the advancement and improvement of the oil and gas industry within the State of Oklahoma and throughout the United States.*

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