

News from Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chairman Todd Hiatt



July 13, 2020

Contact: Nicole King
405-521-2264
nicole.king@occ.ok.gov

Moving Forward

Commission Chairman praises staff's response to Covid-19, calls for new steps to help stakeholders

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chairman Todd Hiatt is praising the continued day-to-day work of OCC staff as the effort continues to protect the health of staff and the public.

“Since the necessary decision was made to close the Commission’s facilities to the public beginning March 22, staff has gone above and beyond to meet stakeholder’s needs in a very challenging environment,” Hiatt said. “A good example is within our court system, which has used remote technology to hold 3,111 hearings from March 22 through July 10. During that same time period, 2,896 orders were issued. These hearings and orders account for millions of dollars of economic activity in the state.

“Because the work of the Commission is so important to many of the key drivers of Oklahoma’s economy, I think it is time that we move forward in a measured, cautious approach to return to in-person hearings for contested cases. Allowing the parties and the decision makers the opportunity to personally observe the demeanor of witnesses can lend itself to a more fair process.” Hiatt added. “With the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-06, I believe we have the ability to move in this direction during unprecedented times.”

Hiatt’s plan calls for prioritizing contested cases, with scheduled in-person hearings limited to parties of designated cases, while still observing such requirements as face masks, social distancing, etc.