

**15A NCAC 05H .1205 WELL SPACING REQUIREMENTS FOR RESOURCES IN  
UNCONVENTIONAL RESERVOIRS**

(a) The drilling of a new oil or gas well in an unconventional reservoir, the reopening of an oil or gas well temporarily abandoned pursuant to Rule .1621 of this Subchapter, the deepening, plugging back, or sidetracking of an existing oil or gas well shall conform to the requirements of this Section.

(b) In unconventional reservoirs, no portion of the wellbore recovering hydrocarbons shall be less than 500 horizontal feet from the boundary of the drilling unit.

(c) A variance may be granted by the Commission to reduce the distance from the boundary of the drilling unit based on reservoir characteristics including permeability, porosity, and surrounding production history to optimize production and minimize waste. The variance, if granted, shall provide equal or greater protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-391(a)(12); 143B-293.1(b);  
Eff. March 17, 2015.