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## THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

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### EARTHQUAKES

#### Okla. cuts disposal volume near site of 4.6 quake

Mike Lee, E&E News reporter

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Oklahoma officials have ordered a sharp reduction of injection at an oil field waste disposal well in an area that was shaken by two relatively large earthquakes in three days.

A magnitude 4.6 hit on Saturday near Perry, in the north-central part of the state, according to U.S. Geological Survey data, and a 4.5 magnitude quake hit nearby yesterday morning.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission was already monitoring reports of ground shaking in the area and ordered the disposal operator to scale back its operation on Saturday, commission spokesman Matt Skinner said yesterday.

The commission told M M Energy Inc., which owns the disposal well between Perry and Covington, Okla., to cut back its injection by more than two-thirds, from 17,000 barrels a day to 5,000. Perry is about 70 miles north of Oklahoma City.

The commission also may take action to address a string of quakes west of Enid that's unrelated to the Perry quakes.

At least four more quakes of magnitude 3 or larger struck the state between Friday and yesterday, along with a magnitude 3.3 quake Saturday just north of the state line in Kansas.

Oklahoma has become a hotbed of earthquakes linked to the oil and gas industry. Researchers have shown that injecting the wastewater from oil production can reduce the friction in underground faults, causing them to slip.

Since about 2013, the Corporation Commission has issued about 30 orders affecting more than 700 disposal wells.

*Reporter Mike Soraghan contributed.*

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