

**BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

FILED

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel.)
JOHN D. DOAK, Insurance)
Commissioner,)
)
To)
)
All Licensed)
Property and Casualty)
Insurers Offering Earthquake)
Insurance in the State of Oklahoma,)
Advisory Organizations)

JUN 05 2016

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
OKLAHOMA

Case No. 16-0391-TRN

ORDER IN RE: EARTHQUAKE INSURANCE RATES

JURISDICTION

1. John D. Doak is the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oklahoma and as such is charged with the duty of administering and enforcing all provisions of the Oklahoma Insurance Code, 36 O. S. §§ 101- 7301.
2. Effected by this Order are licensed insurers (“insurers”) offering earthquake insurance covering property located in the State of Oklahoma.
3. The Insurance Commissioner is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Insurance Code.
4. The Competitive Loss Cost Rating Act (36 O.S. §§ 981-999) (“Rating Act”) regulates the filing and use of earthquake insurance rates the State of Oklahoma.
5. In a competitive market, as defined in § 982 of the Rating Act, insurers are permitted to use insurance rates as long as such rates and supplementary rate information are filed with the Commissioner within thirty (30) days following the effective date of the filing.

6. A competitive market is presumed to exist for a line of insurance unless the Commissioner, after a hearing, issues an order stating that a reasonable degree of competition does not exist in the market.

7. On April 19, 2016, notice was given to all property and casualty insurers and advisory organizations of a hearing pursuant to 36 O.S. § 984 (A) would be held at the Oklahoma Insurance Department, 3624 N.W. 56th St., Ste. 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73112, at 8:00 a.m. on May 24, 2016.

8. On May 24, 2016, at 8:00 a.m., hearing was convened by the Commissioner at the Oklahoma Insurance Department, 3624 N.W. 56th St., Ste. 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73112, at 8:00 a.m. to determine whether the rates for earthquake insurance in Oklahoma were not competitive.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Oklahomans have experienced a high volume of earthquakes 2013, 2014 and 2015.

2. The Commissioner has received many inquiries and statements of concern from the public regarding the cost v. benefit of earthquake insurance.

3. In early 2016, the United States Geological Society released a map that purports to show an increased risk of earthquake damage in central and north central Oklahoma.

4. The Commissioner has recently received several filings by insurers seeking to increase the cost and decrease the availability of earthquake coverage.

5. Insurers making such filings have not substantiated their need for increased rates based on objective criteria, such as adverse experience, increased acquisition expense or cost of reinsurance thereby raising the distinct possibility that such rates are excessive.

6. The number of insurers writing earthquake coverage is 119.

7. The majority of earthquake insurance is written as an endorsement to homeowners insurance policies.

8. The market share of the four largest writers of earthquake insurance carriers has exceeded 50% at all times over the six years preceding December 31, 2015.

9. The concentration of the market and the reticence of consumers to lose “package discounts” constitutes an economic barrier that could prevent new firms from entering the market.

10. The long-term profitability for insurers in the market is evidenced by an average loss ratio over the six years preceding December 31, 2015 of approximately 3% is unreasonable.

11. The relationship of insurers' costs to revenue over the six years preceding December 31, 2015 demonstrates that current rates appear to be excessive.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that based upon the forgoing findings, a reasonable degree of competition does not exist in the market for earthquake insurance, and such insurance is designated as a noncompetitive line of insurance.

WITNESS My Hand and Official Seal this 6th day of June, 2016.



John D. Doak

JOHN D. DOAK
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, John D. Doak, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Order was mailed by electronic mail, on this 6th day of June 2016, to:

All licensed property and casualty insurers issuing earthquake insurance in the State of Oklahoma.