



IN REPLY REFER TO:
3165.1 (016)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FARMINGTON RESOURCE AREA

Caller Service 4104
Farmington, New Mexico 87499

General Requirements For Non-Producing Wells on Federal Leases

May 12, 1986

RECEIVED
SEP 1 - 1988
OIL CON. DIV
DIST. 3

I. Any temporary abandonment request must include the following:

A. Justification of the reason the well should be temporarily abandoned rather than permanently plugged and abandoned.

B. A complete record of perforations in the well casing.

C. Provide for the installation of a bridge plug or a cement plug no more than 50 feet above each set of open perforations and the well bore filled with conditioned, non-corrosive fluid and shut-in at the surface. If a bridge plug is used, it must be capped with cement. The cement cap must be the greater of 35 feet or five sacks of cement if placed by dump bailer or, 25 sacks if spotted by tubing. If a cement plug is used it must be the greater of 100 feet or 25 sacks of cement.

D. The casing and uppermost plug must be pressure tested.

E. Rehabilitation of the surface must be performed on all disturbed surface except for that necessary to service the well.

F. The anticipated date the operations will occur. _____, Petroleum Engineering Technician, MUST BE NOTIFIED A MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS PRIOR TO COMMENCING ANY ABANDONMENT SO THAT THE OPERATIONS MAY BE WITNESSED.

G. Approval will be granted for one year and one extension may be granted upon receipt of a proper request. All temporarily abandoned wells must either be reconditioned to a useful function within two years from the date of the first approval or permanently plugged and abandoned.

II. Any request for long-term shut-in status will be approved under the following conditions:

A. Approval may be granted for long-term shut-in of a well for reasons that include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Unable to buck line pressure.

2. Unable to produce due to lack of or litigation of sale contracts.

3. Unable to produce in paying quantities under existing market conditions.

4. Sales line unavailable.

5. Time required to evaluate well for usefulness.

B. The following terms and conditions will apply to all wells approved for long-term shut-in:

1. Approval will be granted for one year and renewed annually, upon receipt of a proper request.

2. Approved SI wells are to be tested annually. This office shall be notified 48 hours prior to testing to allow BLM to witness the test. Testing will include verification of production capabilities and casing integrity, such as pressure testing annulus, bradenhead tests, etc.

3. Close all valves on wellhead and seal. (This is to only identify the well as shut-in and to let the operator/BLM know if the well has been tampered with. All disconnected lines shall have bull plugs installed in the connections broken.

4. Clean up the location - pick up trash and junk, and remove to an acceptable area.

5. For oil wells with pump jacks, the operator will be allowed to leave the pump and rods in the hole and close all valves at the surface. The operator is to advise BLM if they will be removing the pump jack.

6. All wells approved for long-term shut-in will be carried in BLM records as being in a producible condition.

III. Any request for permanent plugging and abandonment must include the following:

A. The reason that the well should be permanently plugged and abandoned.

B. A plugging program to isolate and protect subsurface zones, other minerals and water zones.

C. The anticipated date the plugging will occur. _____,
Petroleum Engineering Technician, MUST BE NOTIFIED A MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS PRIOR
TO COMMENCING ANY ABANDONMENT SO THAT THE PLUGGING MAY BE WITNESSED.