

19.15.3.111 DEVIATION TESTS AND DIRECTIONAL WELLS:

- A.** Definitions - the following definitions shall apply to Section 111 of 19.15.3 NMAC only:
- (1)** Azimuth - the deviation in the horizontal plane of a wellbore expressed in terms of compass degrees.
 - (2)** Deviated Well - any wellbore which is intentionally deviated from vertical but not with

an intentional azimuth. Any deviated well is subject to Section 111, Subsection B of 19.15.3 NMAC.

(3) Directional Well - a wellbore which is intentionally deviated from vertical with an intentional azimuth. Any directional well is subject to Section 111, Subsection C of 19.15.3 NMAC.

(4) Kick-off Point - the point at which the wellbore is intentionally deviated from vertical.

(5) Lateral - any portion of a wellbore past the point where the wellbore has been intentionally departed from the vertical.

(6) Penetration Point - the point where the wellbore penetrates the top of the pool from which it is intended to produce.

(7) Producing Area - the area that lies within a window formed by plotting the measured distance from the North, South, East and West boundaries of a project area, inside of which a vertical wellbore can be drilled and produced in conformity with the setback requirements from the outer boundary of a standard spacing unit for the applicable pool(s).

(8) Producing Interval - that portion of the wellbore drilled inside the vertical limits of a pool, between its penetration point and its terminus.

(9) Project Area - an area designated on Form C-102 that is enclosed by the outer boundaries of a spacing unit, a combination of complete spacing units, or an approved secondary, secondary, tertiary or pressure maintenance project.

(10) Project Well - any well drilled, completed, produced or injected into as either a vertical well, deviated well or directional well.

(11) Spacing Unit - the acreage that is dedicated or a well in accordance with Rule 104. Included in this definition is a "unit of proration for oil or gas" as defined by the division and all non-standard such units previously approved by the division.

(12) Terminus - the farthest point attained along the wellbore.

(13) Unorthodox - any part of the producing interval which is located outside of the producing area.

(14) Vertical Well - a well that does not have an intentional departure or course deviation from the vertical.

(15) Wellbore - the interior surface of a cased or open hole through which drilling, production, or injection operations are conducted.

B. Deviated Wellbores

(1) Deviation Tests Required. Any vertical or deviated well which is drilled or deepened shall be tested at reasonably frequent intervals to determine the deviation from the vertical. Such tests shall be made at least once each 500 feet or at the first bit change succeeding 500 feet. A tabulation of all deviation tests run, sworn to and notarized, shall be filed with Form C-104, Request for Allowable and Authorization to Transport Oil and Natural Gas.

(2) Excessive Deviation. When the deviation averages more than five degrees in any 500-foot interval, the operator shall include the calculations of the maximum possible horizontal displacement of the hole. When the maximum possible horizontal displacement exceeds the distance to the nearest outer boundary line of the appropriate unit, the operator shall run a directional survey to establish the location of the producing interval(s).

(3) Unorthodox Locations. If the results of the directional survey indicate that the producing interval is more than 50 feet from the approved surface location and closer than the minimum setback requirements to the outer boundaries of the applicable unit, then the well shall be considered unorthodox. To obtain authority to produce such well, the operator shall file an application with the Division director, copy to the appropriate division district office, and shall otherwise follow the normal process outlined in Section 104, Subsection F, Paragraph (3) of 19.15.3 NMAC to obtain approval of the unorthodox location.

(4) Directional Survey Requirements. Upon request from the Division director, any vertical or deviated well shall be directionally surveyed. The appropriate division district office shall be notified of the approximate time any directional surveys are to be conducted. All directional surveys run

on any well in any manner for any reason must be filed with the division upon completion of the well. The division shall not assign an allowable to the well until all such directional surveys have been filed.

C. Directional Wellbores

(1) **Directional Drilling Within a Project Area.** A permit to directionally drill a wellbore may be granted by the appropriate division district office if the producing interval is entirely within the producing area or at an unorthodox location previously approved by the division. Additionally, if the project area consists of a combination of drilling units and includes any State or Federal acreage, a copy of the OCD Form C-102 shall be sent to the State Land Office or the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) **Unorthodox Wellbores.** If all or part of the producing interval of any directional wellbore is projected to be outside of the producing area, the wellbore shall be considered unorthodox. To obtain approval for such wellbore, the applicant shall file a written application in duplicate with the Division director, copy to the appropriate division district office, and shall otherwise follow the normal process outlined in Section 104, Subsection F, Paragraph (3) of 19.15.3 NMAC.

(3) **Allowables for Project Areas With Multiple Proration Units.** The maximum allowable assigned to the project area within a prorated pool shall be based upon the number of standard spacing units (or approved non-standard spacing units) that are developed or traversed by the producing interval of the directional wellbore or wellbores. Such maximum allowable shall be applicable to all production from the project area, including any vertical wellbores on standard spacing units inside the project area.

(4) **Directional Surveys Required.** A directional survey shall be required on each well drilled under the provisions of this section. The appropriate division district office shall be notified of the approximate time all directional surveys are to be conducted. All directional surveys run on any well in any manner for any reason must be filed with the division upon completion of the well. The division shall not assign an allowable to the well until all such directional surveys have been filed. If the directional survey indicates that any part of the producing interval is outside of the producing area, or, in the case of an approved unorthodox location, less than the approved setback requirements from the outer boundary of the applicable unit, then the operator shall file an application with the Division director, copy to the appropriate division district office, and shall otherwise follow the normal process outlined in Section 104, Subsection F, Paragraph (3) of 19.15.3 NMAC to obtain approval of the unorthodox location.

(5) **Re-entry of Vertical or Deviated Wellbores for Directional Drilling Projects.** These wellbores shall be considered orthodox provided the surface location is orthodox and the location of producing interval is within the tolerance allowed for deviated wellbores under Section 111, Subsection B, Paragraph (3) of 19.15.3 NMAC.

D. Additional Matters

(1) Directional surveys required under the provisions of Section 111 of 19.15.3 NMAC shall have shot points no more than 200 feet apart and shall be run by competent surveying companies that are approved by the Division director. Exceptions to the minimum shot point spacing will be allowed provided the accuracy of the survey is still within acceptable limits.

(2) The Division director, may, at his discretion, set any application for administrative approval whereby the operator shall submit appropriate information and give notice as requested by the Division director. Unprotested applications may be approved administratively within 20 days of receipt of the application and supporting information. If the application is protested, or the Division director decides that a public hearing is appropriate, the application may be set for public hearing.

(3) Permission to deviate or directionally drill any wellbore for any reason or in any manner not provided for in Section 111 of 19.15.3 NMAC shall be granted only after notice and opportunity for hearing.

E. Reserved.

(1) Reserved.

(2) Reserved.

F. Reserved.

(1) Reserved.

(2) Reserved.

(3) Reserved.

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