

30-015-37911

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Carlsbad Field Office  
620 East Greene Street  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220  
575-234-5972**

**Temporary Abandonment of Wells on Federal Lands  
Conditions of Approval**

A temporarily abandoned well is defined as a completion that is not capable of production in paying quantities but which may have value as a service well. Pursuant to 43 CFR 3162.3-4 (c), no well may be temporarily abandoned for more than 30 days without the prior approval of the authorized officer.

Temporary Abandonment (TA) status approval requires a successful mechanical or casing integrity test as follows:

1. A Notice of Intent (NOI) Sundry Notice (Form 3160-5) requesting approval to run a mechanical integrity test (MIT) or casing integrity test (CIT).
2. A description of the temporary abandonment procedure.
  - a. A bridge plug or packer must be installed as close to 50 feet above any open perforations or open hole as possible. If a cement plug is used, the top of the cement must be verified by tagging.
  - b. The wellbore must be filled with corrosion inhibited fluid and pressure tested to 500 psi. The casing shall be capable of holding this pressure for at least 30 minutes. Any leak-off will be evaluated.
  - c. All downhole production/injection equipment (tubing, rods, etc.) shall be removed from the casing if they are not isolated by a packer.
  - d. A bradenhead test must be conducted. If the test indicates a problem exists, a remedial plan and time frame for remediation shall be submitted within ninety (90) days of the test.
  - e. Contact the appropriate BLM office at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled Casing Integrity Test. For wells in Eddy County, 575-361-2822; Lea County 575-393-3612.
3. **Provides justification why the well should be temporarily abandoned rather than permanently plugged and abandoned and an estimated date that the well will be returned to beneficial use or plugged and abandoned.**

Wells that successfully pass the casing integrity test may be approved for Temporary Abandonment (TA) status provided that the operator:

1. **Submits a subsequent Sundry Notice** (Form 3160-5) requesting TA approval **with well bore diagram** with all perforations and CIBP's and tops of cement on CIBP's.
2. Describes the temporary abandonment procedure.
3. Attaches a clear copy or the original of the pressure test chart.
4. Give justification to allow well to be place in TA status and plan for future use of well with time frame that well will be place back on line or plans to P&A well will be submitted.

If the well does not pass the casing integrity test, then the operator shall within 30 days submit to BLM for approval one of the following:

1. A procedure to repair the casing so that a TA approval can be granted.
2. A procedure to plug and abandon the well.

**Puckett North #9**

1. Well may be approved to be TA/SI for a period of 6 months or until 5/11/2012 after successful MIT and subsequent report with well bore diagram is submitted.
2. This will be the only TA approval for this well.
3. Well must be returned to production or plans to P&A must be submitted by May 11, 2012.
4. CIBP must be set 50' above top perforations which are at 3430'.
5. Notify BLM to witness setting of CIBP.