

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

CASE No. 2859  
Order No. R-2542

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED  
BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
ON ITS OWN MOTION TO CONSIDER THE  
REVISION OF RULE 202 OF THE COMMISSION RULES AND REGULATIONS.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 o'clock a.m. on July 17, 1963, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this 7th day of August, 1963, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony presented and the exhibits received at said hearing, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) That in order to clarify the requirements of Rule 1106-(b) concerning reports on well plugging operations, Rule 202 of the Commission Rules and Regulations should be amended to incorporate the provisions of Rule 1106-(b).

(3) That adoption of the proposed rule change will enable the Oil Conservation Commission to more efficiently and effectively administer the laws of the State of New Mexico concerning the conservation of oil and gas and the prevention of waste.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That Rule 202 of the Commission Rules and Regulations is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

RULE 202. METHOD OF PLUGGING

(a) Before any well is abandoned, it shall be plugged in a manner which will permanently confine all oil, gas, and water in the separate strata originally containing

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them. This operation shall be accomplished by the use of mud-laden fluid, cement and plugs, used singly or in combination as may be approved by the Commission. The exact location of abandoned wells shall be shown by a steel marker at least four inches in diameter set in concrete, and extending at least four feet above mean ground level. The name and number of the well and its location (unit letter, section, township, and range) shall be welded, stamped, or otherwise permanently engraved into the metal of the marker. Seismic, core or other exploratory holes drilled to or below sands containing fresh water shall be plugged and abandoned in accordance with the applicable provisions recited above. Permanent markers are not required on seismic holes.

Within thirty days following the completion of plugging operations on any well, a record of the work done shall be filed with the Commission in TRIPLICATE, on Form C-103. Such report shall be filed by the owner of the well and shall include the date the plugging operations were begun along with the date the work was completed; a detailed account of the manner in which the work was performed; the depths and lengths of the various plugs set; the nature and quantities of materials employed in plugging operations; the amount, size and depth of all casing left in the hole and the weight of mud employed in plugging the well and any other pertinent information. No plugging report submitted on Form C-103 shall be approved by the Commission unless such report specifically states that pits have been filled and the location levelled, and cleared of junk. The filing of Form C-105, "Well Record," is also necessary to obtain Commission approval of a plugging report.

It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the plugged well to contact the appropriate District Office of the Commission to arrange for an inspection of the plugged well and the location by a Commission representative.

(b) If a well is to be abandoned temporarily and no casing pulled, then a plug shall be placed at the top and bottom of the casing in such manner as to prevent the intrusion of any foreign matter into the well and a record of the work done shall be filed with the Commission in TRIPLICATE on Form C-103 within thirty days following the completion of the temporary plugging operations.

(c) When drilling operations have been suspended for sixty days, the well shall be plugged and abandoned unless a permit for temporary abandonment has been obtained from the Commission.

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(2) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Jack M. Campbell*

JACK M. CAMPBELL, Chairman

*E. S. Walker*

E. S. WALKER, Member

*A. L. Porter, Jr.*

A. L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

