



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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Artesia, New Mexico 88210

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NOTICE

DRILLING WELL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEEP WELLS DRILLED ON FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES IN THE ARTESIA DISTRICT

The following requirements are established in accordance with 30 CFR 221.24, 221.36, and 221.37. Blowout preventer equipment, choke equipment, drilling fluid characteristics, drilling fluid monitors, and the conduct of drilling procedures shall be such as are necessary to prevent the blowout of any well. In addition to all other applicable rules, regulations, and accepted good operating practices, drilling shall be in accordance with the following safety requirements:

1. After setting the 9-5/8" casing string and before drilling into the Wolfcamp formation, the blowout preventers and related control equipment shall be pressure tested to rated working pressures by an independent service company. Any equipment failing to test satisfactorily shall be repaired or replaced. This office should be notified in sufficient time for a representative to witness the tests and shall be furnished a copy of the pressure test report. In addition, the pipe rams and bag-type preventer shall be actuated at least once each 24 hours and the blind rams each time the drill pipe is out of the hole.
2. Accumulators shall maintain a pressure capacity reserve at all times to provide for repeated operation of hydraulic preventers.
3. A drill string safety valve in the open position shall be maintained on the rig floor at all times while drilling operations are being conducted.
4. Blowout prevention drills shall be conducted as necessary to insure that each drilling crew is properly trained to carry out emergency duties.
5. Mud system monitoring equipment, with derrick floor indicators and visual and audio alarms, shall be installed and operating before