

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR
PERMANENT ABANDONMENT OF WELLS ON FEDERAL AND INDIAN LEASES
FARMINGTON DISTRICT OFFICE

1.0 The approved plugging plans may contain variances from the following minimum general requirements.

1.1 Modification of the approved plugging procedure is allowed only with the prior approval of the Farmington District office, *Branch of Drilling & Production*.

1.2 Requirements may be added to address specific well conditions.

2.0 Materials used must be accurately measured.

3.0 A tank or approved pit must be used for containment of any fluids from the wellbore during plugging operations and all unattended pits are to be fenced with woven wire. These pits will be fenced on three sides and once the rig leaves location, the fourth side will be fenced.

3.1 Pits are not to be used for disposal of any constituent(s) of concern.

4.0 All cement plugs are to be placed through a work string. Cement may be bull-headed down the casing with prior approval. Cement caps on top of bridge plugs or cement retainers may be placed by dump bailer.

4.1 The cement shall be as specified in the approved plugging plan.

4.2 All cement plugs placed inside casing shall have sufficient volume to fill a minimum of 100' of the casing, or *annular void(s) between casings*, plus an excess volume sufficient to provide for 50 linear feet of fill above the plug.

4.3 Surface plugs may be no less than 50' in length.

4.4 All cement plugs placed to fill annular void(s) between casing and the formation shall be of sufficient volume to fill a minimum of 100' of the annular space plus 100% excess, *calculated using the bit size, or 100' of annular capacity, determined from a caliper log*, plus an excess volume sufficient to provide for 50 linear feet of fill above the plug.

4.5 All cement plugs placed to fill an open hole shall be of sufficient volume to fill a minimum of 100' of hole, *as calculated from a caliper log*, plus an excess volume sufficient to provide for 50 linear feet of fill above the plug. In the absence of a caliper log, an excess of 100% shall be required.

5.0 All cement plugs spotted across, or above, any exposed zone(s), when; the wellbore is not full of fluid or the fluid level will not remain static, and in the case of lost circulation or partial returns during cement placement, shall be tested by: (1) tagging with the work string, or: (2) *for cased holes only*; pressuring to a minimum surface pressure of 500 PSI, with no more than a 10% drop during a 15-minute period.

5.1 The top of any cement plug verified by tagging must be at or above the depth specified in the approved plan, without regard to any excess.

5.2 Testing will not be required for any cement plug that is mechanically contained by use of a bridge plug and/or cement retainer.

5.3 Any cement plug which is the only isolating medium, *for a fresh water interval or a zone containing a prospectively valuable deposit of minerals*, shall be tested by tagging.

6.0 All wells are to be controlled by means of a wellbore fluid that is to be of a weight and consistency necessary to stabilize the wellbore. Wellbore fluid shall be left in place as filler between all plugs.

6.1 Drilling mud may be used as the wellbore fluid in open hole plugging operations.

6.2 The wellbore fluid used in cased holes shall be of sufficient weight to balance known pore pressures in all exposed formations.

7.0 A blowout preventer and related equipment (BOPE) shall be installed and tested prior to working in a wellbore with any exposed zone(s); (1) that are over pressured, (2) where the pressures are unknown, or (3) known to contain H₂S.

8.0 Within 30 days after plugging work is completed, file a Sundry Notice, *Subsequent Report of Abandonment (Form 3160-5)*, five copies, with the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, NM 87401. The report should show the manner in which the plugging work was carried out, the extent, *by depth(s)*, of cement plugs placed, and the size and location, *by depth(s)*, of casing left in the well. Show date well was plugged.

9.0 All permanently abandoned wells are to be marked with a permanent monument as specified in 43 CFR 3162.6(d). Unless otherwise approved.

All of the above are minimum requirements. Failure to comply with the above conditions of approval may result in an assessment for noncompliance and/or a Shut-in Order being issued pursuant to 43 CFR 3163.1. You are further advised that any instructions, orders or decisions issued by the Bureau of Land Management are subject to administrative review pursuant to 43 CFR 3165.3 and appeal pursuant to 43 CFR 3165.4 and 43 CFR 4.700.