





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

Permanent Abandonment of Federal Wells Conditions of Approval

Failure to comply with the following Conditions of Approval may result in a Notice of Incidents of Noncompliance (INC) in accordance with 43 CFR 3163.1.

1. Plugging operations shall commence within <u>ninety (90)</u> days from the approval date of this Notice of Intent to Abandon.

If you are unable to plug the well by the 90th day provide this office, prior to the 90th day, with the reason for not meeting the deadline and a date when we can expect the well to be plugged. Failure to do so will result in enforcement action.

The rig used for the plugging procedure cannot be released and moved off without the prior approval of the authorized officer. Failure to do so may result in enforcement action.

- 2. <u>Notification:</u> Contact the appropriate BLM office at least 24 hours prior to the commencing of any plugging operations. For wells in Chaves and Roosevelt County, call 575-627-0272; Eddy County, call 575-361-2822; Lea County, call 575-393-3612.
- 3. <u>Blowout Preventers</u>: A blowout preventer (BOP), as appropriate, shall be installed before commencing any plugging operation. The BOP must be installed and maintained as per API and manufacturer recommendations. The minimum BOP requirement is a 2M system for a well not deeper than 9,090 feet; a 3M system for a well not deeper than 13,636 feet; and a 5M system for a well not deeper than 22,727 feet.
- 4. <u>Mud Requirement:</u> Mud shall be placed between all plugs. Minimum consistency of plugging mud shall be obtained by mixing at the rate of 25 sacks (50 pounds each) of gel per 100 barrels of **brine** water. Minimum nine (9) pounds per gallon.
- 5. <u>Cement Requirement</u>: Sufficient cement shall be used to bring any required plug to the specified depth and length. Any given cement volumes on the proposed plugging procedure are merely estimates and are not final. Unless specific approval is received, no plug except the surface plug shall be less than 25 sacks of cement. Any plug that requires a tag will have a minimum WOC time of 4 hours.

In lieu of a cement plug across perforations in a cased hole (not for any other plugs), a bridge plug set within 50 feet to 100 feet above the perforations shall be capped with 25 sacks of cement. If a bailer is used to cap this plug, 35 feet of cement shall be sufficient. Before pumping or bailing cement on top of CIBP, tag will be required to verify depth. Based on depth, a tag of the cement may be deemed necessary.

Requirements for ground level dry hole markers <u>Well Identification Markers</u> Conditions of Approval (COA)

The BLM Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) Conditions of Approval (COA) Requires that ground level dry hole markers be placed on well within the Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat area. The dry hole markers will be to the following specifications. The operator will construct the markers as follows:

- 1. An 8 inch X 8 inch steel plate 1/8 to 3/16 of an inch thick is to be placed on the old dry hole marker stand pipe 2 inches from ground level, in the Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat area.
- 2. Steel plate may be welded or bolted approximately 2 inches from ground level on the stand pipes. If plates are bolted to the stand pipe, the person installing the plate will be required to weld a pipe collar on the plate and place a minimum of two set screws/bolt on each collar. Aluminum data plates may be bolted with minimum ¼ inch bolt and locking nuts or self tapping fine threaded screws. A minimum of one in each corner is to be installed on each plate.
- 3. An 8 inch x 8 inch aluminum plate, which is 12 gauge or .080 sign material (1/8 inch aluminum plate may be used in place of the .080 plate) with the required information for that well stamped or engraved in a minimum 3/8 inch tall letter or number.
- 4. The following information will be stamped or engraved on the 8 inch X 8 inch aluminum plate in the following order.
 - a. First row: Operators name
 - b. Second row: Well name and number
 - c. Third row: Legal location to include ¼ ¼, Section, Township, and range. If the legal location cannot be placed on one row it can be split into two rows with the ¼ ¼ (example: 1980 FNL 1980 FWL) being on the top row.
 - d. Fourth row: Lease Number and API number.
 - i. Example marker plate: (attached)

NMOCD Order No. R-12965 also required the operator to notify NMOCD when this type of dry hole marker is used. This can be done on the subsequent report of abandonment which is submitted to the BLM after the well is plugged. State that a ground level dry hole marker was installed as required in the COA's from the BLM.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Carlsbad Field Office 620 E Greene St Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220-6292 www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To: 1310

Reclamation Objectives and Procedures

Reclamation Objective: Oil and gas development is one of many uses of the public lands and resources. While development may have a short- or long-term effect on the land, successful reclamation can ensure the effect is not permanent. During the life of the development, all disturbed areas not needed for active support of production operations should undergo "interim" reclamation in order to minimize the environmental impacts of development on other resources and uses. At final abandonment, well locations, production facilities, and access roads must undergo "final" reclamation so that the character and productivity of the land and water are restored.

The long-term objective of final reclamation is to set the course for eventual ecosystem restoration, including the restoration of the natural vegetation community, hydrology, and wildlife habitats. In most cases this means returning the land to a condition approximating or equal to that which existed prior to the disturbance. The final goal of reclamation is to restore the character of the land and water to its predisturbance condition. The operator is generally not responsible for achieving full ecological restoration of the site. Instead, the operator must achieve the short-term stability, visual, hydrological, and productivity objectives of the surface management agency and take steps necessary to ensure that long-term objectives will be reached through natural processes.

To achieve these objectives, remove any and all contaminants, scrap/trash, equipment, pipelines and powerlines. Strip and remove caliche, contour the location to blend with the surrounding landscape, redistribute the native soils, provide erosion control as needed, rip and seed as specified in the original APD COA. This will apply to well pads, facilities, and access roads. Barricade access road at the starting point. If reserve pits have not reclaimed due to salts or other contaminants, submit a plan for approval, as to how you propose to provide adequate restoration of the pit area.

- The Application for Permit to Drill or Reenter (APD, Form 3160-3), Surface Use Plan of
 Operations must include adequate measures for stabilization and reclamation of disturbed lands.
 Oil and Gas operators must plan for reclamation, both interim and final, up front in the APD
 process as per Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 1.
- 2. For wells and/or access roads not having an approved plan, or an inadequate plan for surface reclamation (either interim or final reclamation), the operator must submit a proposal describing the procedures for reclamation. For interim reclamation, the appropriate time for submittal would be when filing the Well Completion or Recompletion Report and Log (Form 3160-4). For final reclamation, the appropriate time for submittal would be when filing the Notice of Intent, or the Subsequent Report of Abandonment, Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells (Form 3160-5). Interim reclamation is to be completed within 6 months of well completion, and final reclamation is to be completed within 6 months of well abandonment.
- 3. The operator must file a Subsequent Report Plug and Abandonment (Form 3160-5) following the plugging of a well.
- 4. Previous instruction had you waiting for a BLM specialist to inspect the location and provide you with reclamation requirements. If you have an approved Surface Use Plan of Operation and/or an approved Sundry Notice, you are free to proceed with reclamation as per approved APD. If you have issues or concerns, contact a BLM specialist to assist you. It would be in your interest to have a BLM specialist look at the location and access road prior to the removal of reclamation

equipment to ensure that it meets BLM objectives. Upon conclusion submit a Form 3160-5, Subsequent Report of Reclamation. This will prompt a specialist to inspect the location to verify work was completed as per approved plans.

- 5. The approved Subsequent Report of Reclamation will be your notice that the native soils, contour and seedbed have been reestablished. If the BLM objectives have not been met the operator will be notified and corrective actions may be required.
- 6. It is the responsibility of the operator to monitor these locations and/or access roads until such time as the operator feels that the BLM objective has been met. If after two growing seasons the location and/or access roads are not showing the potential for successful revegetation, additional actions may be needed. When you feel the BLM objectives have been met submit a Final Abandonment Notice (FAN), Form 3160-5, stating that all reclamation requirements have been achieved and the location and/or access road is ready for a final abandonment inspection.
- 7. At this time the BLM specialist will inspect the location and/or access road. If the native soils and contour have been restored, and the revegetation is successful, the FAN will be approved, releasing the operator of any further liability of the location and/or access road. If the location and/or access road have not achieved the objective, you will be notified as to additional work needed or additional time being needed to achieve the objective.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact any of the following specialists:

Jim Amos Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist 575-234-5909, 575-361-2648 (Cell)

Terry Gregston Environmental Protection Specialist 575-234-5958

Bobby Ballard Environmental Protection Specialist 575-234-2230

Randy Rust Natural Resource Specialist 575-234-5943

Linda Denniston Environmental Protection Specialist 575-234-5974

Jennifer Van Curen Environmental Protection Specialist 575-234-5905

Justin Frye Environmental Protection Specialist 575-234-5922 Cody Layton Natural Resource Specialist 575-234-5959

Trishia Bad Bear Natural Resource Specialist 575-393-3612

Todd Suter Surface Protection Specialist 575-234-5987

Doug Hoag Civil Engineering Technician 575-234-5979

Tanner Nygren Natural Resource Specialist 575-234-5975

John Fast Natural Resource Specialist 575-2345996