

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 ninety (90) 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. Notification: 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. Blowout Preventers: 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. Mud Requirement: 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. Cement Requirement: 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.**

Unless otherwise specified in the approved procedure, the cement plug shall consist of either Neat Class "C", for up to 7,500 feet of depth or Neat Class "H", for deeper than 7,500 feet plugs.

6. Dry Hole Marker: All casing shall be cut-off at the base of the cellar or 3 feet below final restored ground level (whichever is deeper). The BLM is to be notified a minimum of 4 hours prior to the wellhead being cut off to verify that cement is to surface in the casing and all annuluses. Wellhead cut off shall commence within ten (10) calendar days of the well being plugged. If the cut off cannot be done by the 10th day, the BLM is to be contacted with justification to receive an extension for completing the cut off.

The well bore shall then be capped with a 4-inch pipe, 10-feet in length, 4 feet above ground and embedded in cement, unless otherwise noted in COA (requirements will be attached). The following information shall be permanently inscribed on the dry hole marker: well name and number, name of the operator, lease serial number, surveyed location (quarter-quarter section, section, township and range or other authorized survey designation acceptable to the authorized officer such as metes and bounds).

7. Subsequent Plugging Reporting: Within 30 days after plugging work is completed, file one original and three copies of the Subsequent Report of Abandonment, Form 3160-5 to BLM. The report should give in detail the manner in which the plugging work was carried out, the extent (by depths) of cement plugs placed, and the size and location (by depths) of casing left in the well. Show date well was plugged.

8. Trash: All trash, junk and other waste material shall be contained in trash cages or bins to prevent scattering and will be removed and deposited in an approved sanitary landfill. Burial on site is not permitted.

Following the submission and approval of the Subsequent Report of Abandonment, surface restoration will be required. See attached reclamation procedure.

J. Amos 3/6/11

Requirements for ground level dry hole markers

Well Identification Markers

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 1/4 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 1/4 1/4, Section, Township, and range. If the legal location cannot be placed on one row it can be split into two rows with the 1/4 1/4 (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.