



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

**Temporary Abandonment of Wells on Federal Lands**  
**Conditions of Approval**

A temporarily abandoned well is defined as a completion that is not capable of production in paying quantities but which may have value as a service well. Pursuant to 43 CFR 3162.3-4 (c), no well may be temporarily abandoned for more than 30 days without the prior approval of the authorized officer.

Temporary Abandonment (TA) status approval requires a successful mechanical or casing integrity test as follows:

1. A Notice of Intent (NOI) Sundry Notice (Form 3160-5) requesting approval to run a mechanical integrity test (MIT) or casing integrity test (CIT).
2. A description of the temporary abandonment procedure.
  - a. A bridge plug or packer must be installed as close to 50 feet above any open perforations or open hole as possible. If a cement plug is used, the top of the cement must be verified by tagging. CIBP must be capped with minimum 25 sacks cement, **placed with tubing**.
  - b. The wellbore must be filled with corrosion inhibited fluid and pressure tested to 500 psi. The casing shall be capable of holding this pressure for at least 30 minutes. Any leak-off will be evaluated.
  - c. All downhole production/injection equipment (tubing, rods, etc.) shall be removed from the casing if they are not isolated by a packer.
  - d. A bradenhead test must be conducted. If the test indicates a problem exists, a remedial plan and time frame for remediation shall be submitted within ninety (90) days of the test.
  - e. Contact the appropriate BLM office at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled Casing Integrity Test. For wells in Eddy County, 575-361-2822; Lea County 575-393-3612.
3. **Provides justification why the well should be temporarily abandoned rather than permanently plugged and abandoned and an estimated date that the well will be returned to beneficial use or plugged and abandoned. 43 CFR 3162.3-4 (a) The operator shall promptly plug and abandon...wells in which oil or gas is not encountered in paying quantities...**

Wells that successfully pass the casing integrity test **may** be approved for Temporary Abandonment (TA) status provided that the operator:

1. **Submits a subsequent Sundry Notice** (Form 3160-5) requesting TA approval **with well bore diagram** with all perforations and CIBP's and tops of cement on CIBP's.
2. Describes the temporary abandonment procedure.
3. Attaches a clear copy or the original of the pressure test chart.
4. **Give justification to allow well to be place in TA status and plan for future use of well with time frame that well will be place back on line or plans to P&A well will be submitted.**

If the well does not pass the casing integrity test, then the operator shall within 30 days submit to BLM for approval one of the following:

1. A procedure to repair the casing so that a TA approval can be granted.
2. A procedure to plug and abandon the well.

### **Sims Federal #2**

1. Well may be approved to be TA/SI for a period of 6 months or until 5/10/2013 after successful MIT and subsequent report is submitted.
2. Place a cement plug across top of perms at 7079 – 7659. The plug must extend a minimum of 50 feet above top perf. and be tagged to verify placement. A cement plug across the top of liner at 5794' will also be required. This plug will be minimum of 100' in length and set from 5844' to 5744. Tag plug to verify placement prior to performing MIT test as per 2. b.
3. This will be the last TA approval for this well.
4. Contact BLM 24 Hrs. prior to setting of plugs so as it may be witnessed.