

**PECOS DISTRICT  
DRILLING OPERATIONS  
CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

OPERATOR'S NAME:	Nearburg Producing Company
LEASE NO.:	NMLC066126
WELL NAME & NO.:	1- Lea South 25 Federal
SURFACE HOLE FOOTAGE:	1650'/S & 330'/E
BOTTOM HOLE FOOTAGE:	1650'/S & 330'/E
LOCATION:	Section 25 T.20 S., R.34 E., NMPM
COUNTY:	Lea County, New Mexico

**A. DRILLING OPERATIONS REQUIREMENTS**

The BLM is to be notified in advance for a representative to witness:

- a. Spudding well (minimum of 24 hours)
- b. Setting and/or Cementing of all casing strings (minimum of 4 hours)
- c. BOPE tests (minimum of 4 hours)

**Lea County**

Call the Hobbs Field Station, 414 West Taylor, Hobbs NM 88240,  
(575) 393-3612

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1. A Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) Drilling Plan shall be activated **500** feet prior to drilling into the **Yates** formation. **As a result, the Hydrogen Sulfide area must meet Onshore Order 6 requirements, which includes equipment and personnel/public protection items. If Hydrogen Sulfide is encountered, please provide measured values and formations to the BLM.**
2. Unless the production casing has been run and cemented or the well has been properly plugged, the drilling rig shall not be removed from over the hole without prior approval. **If the drilling rig is removed without approval – an Incident of Non-Compliance will be written and will be a “Major” violation.**
3. Floor controls are required for 3M or Greater systems. These controls will be on the rig floor, unobstructed, readily accessible to the driller and will be operational at all times during drilling and/or completion activities. Rig floor is defined as the area immediately around the rotary table; the area immediately above the substructure on which the draw works is located, this does not include the dog house or stairway area.
4. **The record of the drilling rate along with the GR/N well log run from TD to surface (horizontal well – vertical portion of hole) shall be submitted to the BLM office as well as all other logs run on the borehole 30 days from completion. If**

available, a digital copy of the logs is to be submitted in addition to the paper copies. The Rustler top and top and bottom of Salt are to be recorded on the Completion Report.

## **B. CASING**

Changes to the approved APD casing program need prior approval if the items substituted are of lesser grade or different casing size or are Non-API. The Operator can exchange the components of the proposal with that of superior strength (i.e. changing from J-55 to N-80, or from 36# to 40#). Changes to the approved cement program need prior approval if the altered cement plan has less volume or strength or if the changes are substantial (i.e. Multistage tool, ECP, etc.).

The initial wellhead installed on the well will remain on the well with spools used as needed.

Centralizers required on surface casing per Onshore Order 2.III.B.1.f.

### **Wait on cement (WOC) for Potash Areas:**

After cementing but before commencing any tests, the casing string shall stand cemented under pressure until both of the following conditions have been met: 1) cement reaches a minimum compressive strength of 500 psi for all cement blends, 2) until cement has been in place at least 24 hours. WOC time will be recorded in the driller's log. **DURING THIS WOC TIME, NO DRILL PIPE, ETC. SHALL BE RUN IN THE HOLE.**

Provide compressive strengths including hours to reach required 500 pounds compressive strength prior to cementing each casing string. Have well specific cement details onsite prior to pumping the cement for each casing string.

No pea gravel permitted for remedial or fall back remedial without prior authorization from the BLM engineer.

### **Risks:**

Possibility of water flows in the Salado.

Possibility of lost circulation in the Rustler, Capitan Reef, Bone Spring Lime, Red Beds, and Delaware

Abnormal pressures may be encountered near the base of the Third Bone Spring Sandstone and subsequent formations.

1. The 13 3/8 inch surface casing shall be set at approximately 1910 feet **(in a competent bed below the Magenta Dolomite, which is a Member of the Rustler, and if salt is encountered, set casing at least 25 feet above the salt)** and cemented to the surface.
  - a. If cement does not circulate to the surface, the appropriate BLM office shall be notified and a temperature survey utilizing an electronic type temperature survey with surface log readout will be used or a cement bond log shall be run to verify the top of the cement. Temperature survey will be run a minimum of six hours after pumping cement and ideally between 8-10 hours after completing the cement job.
  - b. **Wait on cement (WOC) time for a primary cement job is to include the lead cement slurry.**
  - c. Wait on cement (WOC) time for a remedial job will be a minimum of 4 hours after bringing cement to surface or 500 pounds compressive strength, whichever is greater.
  - d. If cement falls back, remedial cementing will be done prior to drilling out that string.

**Special Capitan Reef requirements:**

**If lost circulation (50% or greater) occurs below the Base of the Salt, the operator shall do the following:**

- a. **Switch to fresh water mud to protect the Capitan Reef and use fresh water mud until setting the intermediate casing. The appropriate BLM office is to be notified for a PET to witness the switch to fresh water.**
- b. **Daily drilling reports from the Base of the Salt to the setting of the intermediate casing are to be submitted to the BLM CFO engineering staff via e-mail by 0800 hours each morning. Any lost circulation encountered is to be recorded on these drilling reports. The daily drilling report should show mud volume per shift/tour. Failure to submit these reports will result in an Incidence of Non-Compliance being issued for failure to comply with the Conditions of Approval. If not already planned, the operator shall run a caliper survey for the intermediate well bore and submit to the appropriate BLM office.**

2. The minimum required fill of cement behind the 9 5/8 inch intermediate casing is:

**Option 1:**

- Cement to surface. If cement does not circulate see B.1.a, c-d above. **Wait on cement (WOC) time for a primary cement job is to include the lead cement slurry due to potash.**

**Option 2:**

**Operator has proposed DV tool at depth of 4125', but will adjust cement proportionately if moved. DV tool shall be set a minimum of 50' below previous shoe and a minimum of 200' above current shoe. Operator shall submit sundry if DV tool depth cannot be set in this range. If an ECP is used, it is to be set a minimum of 50' below the shoe to provide cement across the shoe. If it cannot be set below the shoe, a CBL shall be run to verify cement coverage.**

a. First stage to DV tool:

- Cement to circulate. If cement does not circulate, contact the appropriate BLM office before proceeding with second stage cement job. Operator should have plans as to how they will achieve circulation on the next stage.

b. Second stage above DV tool:

- Cement to surface. If cement does not circulate see B.1.a, c-d above. **Wait on cement (WOC) time for a primary cement job is to include the lead cement slurry due to potash.**

**Formation below the 9 5/8 inch shoe to be tested according to Onshore Order 2.III.B.1.i. Test to be done as a mud equivalency test using the mud weight necessary for the pore pressure of the formation below the shoe (not the mud weight required to prevent dissolving the salt formation) and the mud weight for the bottom of the hole. Report results to BLM office.**

3. The minimum required fill of cement behind the 5 1/2 inch production casing is:

- Cement should tie-back at least **50 feet above the Capitan Reef which will be 3925 feet** (Top of Capitan Reef estimated at 3975 feet). Operator shall provide method of verification. **Excess calculates to negative 59 percent – additional cement will be required.**

4. If hardband drill pipe is rotated inside casing, returns will be monitored for metal. If metal is found in samples, drill pipe will be pulled and rubber protectors which have a larger diameter than the tool joints of the drill pipe will be installed prior to continuing drilling operations.

### C. PRESSURE CONTROL

1. All blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) shall comply with well control requirements as described in Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 2 and API 53.
2. Minimum working pressure of the blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) required for drilling **below the surface casing shoe** shall be **5000 (5M) psi. 5M/10M system requires an HCR valve, remote kill line and annular to match. The remote kill line is to be installed prior to testing the system and tested to stack pressure.**
3. The appropriate BLM office shall be notified a minimum of 4 hours in advance for a representative to witness the tests.
  - a. In potash areas, for all casing strings utilizing slips, these are to be set as soon as the crew and rig are ready and any fallback cement remediation has been done. For all casing strings, casing cut-off and BOP installation can be initiated at twelve hours after bumping the plug. However, **no tests** shall commence until the cement has had a minimum of 24 hours setup time.
  - b. The tests shall be done by an independent service company utilizing a test plug **not a cup or J-packer**. The operator also has the option of utilizing an independent tester to test without a plug (i.e. against the casing) pursuant to Onshore Order 2 with the pressure not to exceed 70% of the burst rating for the casing. Any test against the casing must meet the WOC time for water basin (8 hours) or potash (24 hours) or 500 pounds compressive strength, whichever is greater, prior to initiating the test (see casing segment as lead cement may be critical item).
  - c. The test shall be run on a 5000 psi chart for a 2-3M BOP/BOP, on a 10000 psi chart for a 5M BOP/BOPE and on a 15000 psi chart for a 10M BOP/BOPE. If a linear chart is used, it shall be a one hour chart. A circular chart shall have a maximum 2 hour clock. If a twelve hour or twenty-four hour chart is used, tester shall make a notation that it is run with a two hour clock.
  - d. The results of the test shall be reported to the appropriate BLM office.
  - e. All tests are required to be recorded on a calibrated test chart. **A copy of the BOP/BOPE test chart and a copy of independent service company test will be submitted to the appropriate BLM office.**
  - f. The BOP/BOPE test shall include a low pressure test from 250 to 300 psi. The test will be held for a minimum of 10 minutes if test is done with a test plug and 30 minutes without a test plug. This test shall be performed prior to

the test at full stack pressure.

- g. BOP/BOPE must be tested by an independent service company within 500 feet of the top of the **Third Bone Spring Sandstone** if the time between the setting of the intermediate casing and reaching this depth exceeds 20 days. This test does not exclude the test prior to drilling out the casing shoe as per Onshore Order No. 2.

#### **D. DRILLING MUD**

Mud system monitoring equipment, with derrick floor indicators and visual and audio alarms, shall be operating before drilling into the **Third Bone Spring Sandstone and subsequent formations**, and shall be used until production casing is run and cemented.

**Proposed mud weight may not be adequate for drilling through Third Bone Spring Sandstone and subsequent formations.**

#### **E. DRILL STEM TEST**

If drill stem tests are performed, Onshore Order 2.III.D shall be followed.

#### **F. WASTE MATERIAL AND FLUIDS**

All waste (i.e. drilling fluids, trash, salts, chemicals, sewage, gray water, etc.) created as a result of drilling operations and completion operations shall be safely contained and disposed of properly at a waste disposal facility. No waste material or fluid shall be disposed of on the well location or surrounding area.

Porto-johns and trash containers will be on-location during fracturing operations or any other crew-intensive operations.

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