

Directive PNG015: Well Abandonment Requirements v.2

Interim Application Process

The Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) is undergoing changes to implement the procedures outlined in *Directive PNG015: Well Abandonment Requirements v.2* (Directive PNG015) for applying to the Ministry of Energy and Resources (ER) for routine or non-routine well abandonments.

Until these IRIS changes are complete, ER requires operators to follow a workaround process, outlined below:

1. Under the current IRIS configuration, all well abandonment applications are non-routine, requiring review by ER.
2. For routine and non-routine abandonments, operators are required to use the [well abandonment application form](#). The form is to be attached to the well abandonment application in IRIS and ER will review each form. Attach to the application the following supporting documentation, where applicable as separate files:
 - Program of operations for abandonment;
 - Supporting documentation;
 - Wellbore schematic;
 - Cut and cap procedures (if applicable); and
 - Email correspondence (if applicable)
3. The form features a series of "yes/no" disclosure questions. The answers to these questions will determine if the abandonment is routine or non-routine as defined by Directive PNG015, and the form has built-in intelligence to automatically add a routine or non-routine flag. This flag will determine how ER processes each application.
4. Routine Abandonment (Section 5.1): ER will approve abandonment applications flagged as routine with no further review and will enter "Routine Abandonment" in the description field of the IRIS abandonment application screen. An IRIS authorization number will be issued and ER will make it clear that abandonment operations may proceed immediately upon issuance of the IRIS authorization number.
5. Non-Routine Abandonments (Section 6.1): non-routine abandonment applications will follow the existing process, which includes ER review of the application and communication with the applicant through IRIS on ER's decision concerning the proposed abandonment method before abandonment operations begin. If approved, an IRIS authorization number will be generated.
6. With respect to steps 4 and 5, prior notification of at least one business day must be provided to the appropriate ER Field Office before commencing field work.
7. Within seven (7) days of the completion of abandonment operations, the applicant will use the IRIS authorization number to report the downhole abandonment. This changes the status of the

well in IRIS to "Downhole Abandoned" and sets a 30-day timeframe for submission of the Detailed Abandonment Report. Also, Directive PNG015 requires that cut and cap operations be finalized within one year of the completion of the downhole abandonment operation, unless otherwise approved.

8. Project Abandonments (Section 4.3): project abandonments may be approved with a submission to the appropriate ER Field Office containing a proposed program and list of wells. Following ER review/approval of the proposed abandonment method involving a series of wells, an email communication will go back to the company and act as supporting documentation. Once approved the list of wells can be applied for as a routine abandonment. Every well will require an application to be made in IRIS for abandonment and it should include the project abandonment approval correspondence. An IRIS authorization number will be generated, and the applicant will use the authorization number to report the downhole abandonment within seven (7) days of the completion of abandonment operations. This changes the status of the well in IRIS to "Downhole Abandoned" and sets a 30-day timeframe for submission of the Detailed Abandonment Report. Also, Directive PNG015 requires that cut and cap operations be finalized within one year of the completion of the downhole abandonment operation.
9. Routine Abandonment that Becomes Non-Routine or Modifications to Approvals (Section 5.2.8): these situations require notification to ER regarding a change in well conditions or an event that causes a well abandonment that had initially been classified as routine to become non-routine. This will involve communications with the appropriate ER Field Office on how to proceed with the abandonment and ER may require that a new non-routine application be submitted for that well. If so, the operator must:
 - Create a new non-routine well abandonment application in IRIS for that well referencing the authorization number for the original routine well abandonment application in the "Description" field; and
 - Include an attachment containing the email correspondence between ER and the operator confirming how the abandonment must be done differently;

While the well will have two well abandonment applications associated with it, ER will change the status of the original routine well abandonment application to "Revoked". The reference to the original routine application authorization number in the new non-routine application will indicate that it is part of the same abandonment operation.