
Applications for Commingled Abandonments

Guideline PNG015

July 2020

Revision 1.0

Governing Legislation:

Act: *The Oil and Gas Conservation Act*

Directive: *Directive PNG015: Well Abandonment Requirements*

Record of Change

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1. Introduction

This Guideline supports *Directive PNG015: Well Abandonment Requirements* (Directive PNG015) by providing instruction on how to apply for an approval of commingled abandonments for wells with completions in the Milk River and Medicine Hat Formations.

2. Application Procedure

The Ministry of Energy and Resources (ER) administers the application procedure for commingled abandonments in accordance with the requirements set out in sections 4.3 and 6.2.3 of Directive PNG015. The process described in this Guideline involves applying to ER for pre-authorization for the abandonment of a group of commingled wells before applying for the abandonment of these wells in the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS).

2.1 Application Requirements

The following information must be provided in an application for commingled abandonments:

- A listing of wells subject to the application;
- Necessary pressure data;
- A program of abandonment operations; and
- Declarations outlined in section 2.2 below.

2.2 Declarations

The following declarations must be submitted for each well with an application for a commingled abandonment:

- The zones to be abandoned commingled are Milk River Sands and Medicine Hat Sands;
- If the total depth of the well is deeper than the Medicine Hat Formation, the deeper portion of well is either cased with no perforations or has been properly abandoned;
- If there are shallower zones to be abandoned, they will be segregated from the Milk River and Medicine Hat Sands;
- There is surface casing in the well;
- The production casing and surface casing strings were cemented to surface;
- The cement quality behind the casing is adequate to provide base of ground water protection;
- There is hydraulic isolation above, below and in-between the zones being abandoned;
- The mineral lessor is Crown for both zones;
- There are no integrity issues with the well excluding any packer left in the well or fish-in-the-hole;
- If there is a packer to be left in the well, it is below the Milk River perforations;
- If there is a fish-in-the-hole, is it below the top of the Milk River;
- There are no surface casing vent flow or gas migration issues;
- The commingled shut-in pressure has been obtained and included with the application;
- The commingled shut-in pressure does not exceed 1,300 kilopascals;
- There is no active injection or disposal within 3 kilometers (km);
- There is no proposed hydraulic fracking planned within 3 km; and

- The produced gas from both formations does not contain detectable amounts of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S).

If a well does not meet all of the above declarations, it should not be included in the project abandonment application.

2.3 Application Submission

Applications must be submitted by email to the Swift Current Field Office of ER at the following email address: swiftcurrent@gov.sk.ca. If information referred to in section 2.2 changes once the approval has been granted, the Swift Current Field Office should be immediately notified.

3. Application Approval and Following Steps

Upon submission to the Swift Current Field Office, an application will be approved or rejected by email.

If approved, an application must follow in IRIS for each well to obtain an authorization number. The application must be submitted in IRIS with an abandonment form and include email approval of the commingled project abandonment from the Swift Current Field Office.

Upon submitting the application in IRIS, the company may proceed with any downhole work but must provide notification to the Swift Current Field Office at least one business day prior to the work commencing.

Upon downhole completion of the abandonment, the company must report in IRIS all necessary reportable requirements as per *Directive PNG013: Well Data Submission Requirements* and *Directive PNG015*.