

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3162.6

§ 3162.5-2 Control of wells.

(a) *Drilling wells.* The operator shall take all necessary precautions to keep each well under control at all times, and shall utilize and maintain materials and equipment necessary to insure the safety of operating conditions and procedures.

(b) *Vertical drilling.* The operator shall conduct drilling operations in a manner so that the completed well does not deviate significantly from the vertical without the prior written approval of the authorized officer. Significant deviation means a projected deviation of the well bore from the vertical of 10° or more, or a projected bottom hole location which could be less than 200 feet from the spacing unit or lease boundary. Any well which deviates more than 10° from the vertical or could result in a bottom hole location less than 200 feet from the spacing unit or lease boundary without prior written approval must be promptly reported to the authorized officer. In these cases, a directional survey is required.

(c) *High pressure or loss of circulation.* The operator shall take immediate steps and utilize necessary resources to maintain or restore control of any well in which the pressure equilibrium has become unbalanced.

(d) *Protection of fresh water and other minerals.* The operator shall isolate freshwater-bearing and other usable water containing 5,000 ppm or less of dissolved solids and other mineral-bearing formations and protect them from contamination. Tests and surveys of the effectiveness of such measures shall be conducted by the operator using procedures and practices approved or prescribed by the authorized officer.

[47 FR 47765, Oct. 27, 1982. Redesignated and amended at 48 FR 36583-36586, Aug. 12, 1983, further amended at 53 FR 17363, May 16, 1988]

§ 3162.5-3 Safety precautions.

The operator shall perform operations and maintain equipment in a safe and workmanlike manner. The operator shall take all precautions necessary to provide adequate protection for the health and safety of life and the protection of property. Compliance

with health and safety requirements prescribed by the authorized officer shall not relieve the operator of the responsibility for compliance with other pertinent health and safety requirements under applicable laws or regulations.

[47 FR 47765, Oct. 27, 1982. Redesignated and amended at 48 FR 36583-36586, Aug. 12, 1983, further amended at 53 FR 17363, May 16, 1988]

§ 3162.6 Well and facility identification.

(a) Every well within a Federal or Indian lease or supervised agreement shall have a well identification sign. All signs shall be maintained in a legible condition.

(b) For wells located on Federal and Indian lands, the operator shall properly identify, by a sign in a conspicuous place, each well, other than those permanently abandoned. The well sign shall include the well number, the name of the operator, the lease serial number, the surveyed location (the quarter-quarter section, section, township and range or other authorized survey designation acceptable to the authorized officer; such as metes and bounds). When approved by the authorized officer, individual well signs may display only a unique well name and number. When specifically requested by the authorized officer, the sign shall include the unit or communitization name or number. The authorized officer may also require the sign to include the name of the Indian allottee lessor(s) preceding the lease serial number. In all cases, individual well signs in place on the effective date of this rulemaking which do not have the unit or communitization agreement number or do not have quarter-quarter identification will satisfy these requirements until such time as the sign is replaced. All new signs shall have identification as above, including quarter-quarter section.

(c) All facilities at which Federal or Indian oil is stored shall be clearly identified with a sign that contains the name of the operator, the lease serial number or communitization or unit agreement identification number, as appropriate, and in public land states, the quarter-quarter section, township, and range. On Indian leases, the sign

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also shall include the name of the appropriate Tribe and whether the lease is tribal or allotted. For situations of 1 tank battery servicing 1 well in the same location, the requirements of this paragraph and paragraph (b) of this section may be met by 1 sign as long as it includes the information required by both paragraphs. In addition, each storage tank shall be clearly identified by a unique number. All identification shall be maintained in legible condition and shall be clearly apparent to any person at or approaching the sales or transportation point. With regard to the quarter-quarter designation and the unique tank number, any such designation established by state law or regulation shall satisfy this requirement.

(d) All abandoned wells shall be marked with a permanent monument containing the information in paragraph (b) of this section. The requirement for a permanent monument may be waived in writing by the authorized officer.

[52 FR 5391, Feb. 20, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 17363, May 16, 1988]

§ 3162.7 Measurement, disposition, and protection of production.

§ 3162.7-1 Disposition of production.

(a) The operator shall put into marketable condition, if economically feasible, all oil, other hydrocarbons, gas, and sulphur produced from the leased land.

(b) Where oil accumulates in a pit, such oil must either be (1) recirculated through the regular treating system and returned to the stock tanks for sale, or (2) pumped into a stock tank without treatment and measured for sale in the same manner as from any sales tank in accordance with applicable orders and notices. In the absence of prior approval from the authorized officer, no oil should go to a pit except in an emergency. Each such occurrence must be reported to the authorized officer and the oil promptly recovered in accordance with applicable orders and notices.

(c)(1) Any person engaged in transporting by motor vehicle any oil from any lease site, or allocated to any such lease site, shall carry on his/her person,

in his/her vehicle, or in his/her immediate control, documentation showing at a minimum; the amount, origin, and intended first purchaser of the oil.

(2) Any person engaged in transporting any oil or gas by pipeline from any lease site, or allocated to any lease site, shall maintain documentation showing, at a minimum, the amount, origin, and intended first purchaser of such oil or gas.

(3) On any lease site, any authorized representative who is properly identified may stop and inspect any motor vehicle that he/she has probable cause to believe is carrying oil from any such lease site, or allocated to such lease site, to determine whether the driver possesses proper documentation for the load of oil.

(4) Any authorized representative who is properly identified and who is accompanied by an appropriate law enforcement officer, or an appropriate law enforcement officer alone, may stop and inspect any motor vehicle which is not on a lease site if he/she has probable cause to believe the vehicle is carrying oil from a lease site, or allocated to a lease site, to determine whether the driver possesses proper documentation for the load of oil.

(d) The operator shall conduct operations in such a manner as to prevent avoidable loss of oil and gas. A operator shall be liable for royalty payments on oil or gas lost or wasted from a lease site, or allocated to a lease site, when such loss or waste is due to negligence on the part of the operator of such lease, or due to the failure of the operator to comply with any regulation, order or citation issued pursuant to this part.

(e) When requested by the authorized officer, the operator shall furnish storage for royalty oil, on the leasehold or at a mutually agreed upon delivery point off the leased land without cost to the lessor, for 30 days following the end of the calendar month in which the royalty accrued.

(f) Any records generated under this section shall be maintained for 6 years from the date they were generated or, if notified by the Secretary, or his designee, that such records are involved in an audit or investigation, the records shall be maintained until the