

Minerals Management Service, Interior

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§250.1616 Supervision, surveillance, and training.

(a) The lessee shall provide onsite supervision of drilling operations at all times.

(b) From the time drilling operations are initiated and until the well is completed or abandoned, a member of the drilling crew or the toolpusher shall maintain rig-floor surveillance continuously, unless the well is secured with BOP's, bridge plugs, packers, or cement plugs.

(c) Lessee and drilling contractor personnel shall be trained and qualified in accordance with the provisions of subpart O of this part. Records of specific training that lessee and drilling contractor personnel have successfully completed, the dates of completion, and the names and dates of the courses shall be maintained at the drill site.

§250.1617 Application for permit to drill.

(a) Prior to commencing the drilling of a well under an approved Exploration Plan, Development and Production Plan, or Development Operations Coordination Document, the lessee shall file Form MMS-123, APD, with the District Supervisor for approval. Prior to commencing operations, written approval from the District Supervisor must be received by the lessee unless oral approval has been given pursuant to §250.140 of this part.

(b) An APD shall include rated capacities of the proposed drilling unit and of major drilling equipment. After a drilling unit has been approved for use in an MMS district, the information need not be resubmitted unless required by the District Supervisor or there are changes in the equipment that affect the rated capacity of the unit.

(c) An APD shall include a fully completed Form MMS-123 and the following:

(1) A plat, drawn to a scale of 2,000 feet to the inch, showing the surface and subsurface location of the well to be drilled and of all the wells previously drilled in the vicinity from which information is available. For development wells on a lease, the wells previously drilled in the vicinity need not be shown on the plat. Locations

shall be indicated in feet from the nearest block line;

(2) The design criteria considered for the well and for well control, including the following:

- (i) Pore pressure;
- (ii) Formation fracture gradients;
- (iii) Potential lost circulation zones;
- (iv) Mud weights;
- (v) Casing setting depths;
- (vi) Anticipated surface pressures (which for purposes of this section are defined as the pressure that can reasonably be expected to be exerted upon a casing string and its related wellhead equipment). In the calculation of anticipated surface pressure, the lessee shall take into account the drilling, completion, and producing conditions. The lessee shall consider mud densities to be used below various casing strings, fracture gradients of the exposed formations, casing setting depths, and cementing intervals, total well depth, formation fluid type, and other pertinent conditions. Considerations for calculating anticipated surface pressure may vary for each segment of the well. The lessee shall include as a part of the statement of anticipated surface pressure the calculations used to determine this pressure during the drilling phase and the completion phase, including the anticipated surface pressure used for production string design; and

(vii) If a shallow hazards site survey is conducted, the lessee shall submit with or prior to the submittal of the APD, two copies of a summary report describing the geological and manmade conditions present. The lessee shall also submit two copies of the site maps and data records identified in the survey strategy.

(3) A BOP equipment program including the following:

- (i) The pressure rating of BOP equipment,
- (ii) A schematic drawing of the diverter system to be used (plan and elevation views) showing spool outlet internal diameter(s); diverter line lengths and diameters, burst strengths, and radius of curvature at each turn; valve type, size, working-pressure rating, and location; the control instrumentation logic; and the operating procedure to be used by personnel, and

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(iii) A schematic drawing of the BOP stack showing the inside diameter of the BOP stack and the number of annular, pipe ram, variable-bore pipe ram, blind ram, and blind-shear ram preventers.

(4) A casing program including the following:

(i) Casing size, weight, grade, type of connection and setting depth, and

(ii) Casing design safety factors for tension, collapse, and burst with the assumptions made to arrive at these values.

(5) The drilling prognosis including the following:

(i) Estimated coring intervals,

(ii) Estimated depths to the top of significant marker formations, and

(iii) Estimated depths at which encounters with fresh water, sulphur, oil, gas, or abnormally pressured water are expected.

(6) A cementing program including type and amount of cement in cubic feet to be used for each casing string;

(7) A mud program including the minimum quantities of mud and mud materials, including weight materials, to be kept at the site;

(8) A directional survey program for directionally drilled wells;

(9) An H₂S Contingency Plan, if applicable, and if not previously submitted; and

(10) Such other information as may be required by the District Supervisor.

(d) Public information copies of the APD shall be submitted in accordance with § 250.190 of this part.

[56 FR 32100, July 15, 1991, as amended at 58 FR 49928, Sept. 24, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 29479, 29487, May 29, 1998; 64 FR 72794, Dec. 28, 1999]

§ 250.1618 Sundry notices and reports on wells.

(a) Notices of the lessee's intention to change plans, make changes in major drilling equipment, deepen, sidetrack, or plug back a well, or engage in similar activities and subsequent reports pertaining to such operations shall be submitted to the District Supervisor on Form MMS-124, Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells. Prior to commencing operations associated with the change, written approval must be received from the District Su-

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pervisor unless oral approval is obtained pursuant to § 250.140 of this part.

(b) The Form MMS-124 submittal shall contain a detailed statement of the proposed work that will materially change from the work described in the approved APD. Information submitted shall include the present state of the well, including the production liner and last string of casing, the well depth and production zone, and the well's capability to produce. Within 30 days after completion of the work, a subsequent detailed report of all the work done and the results obtained shall be submitted.

(c) Public information copies of Form MMS-124 shall be submitted in accordance with § 250.117 of this part.

[56 FR 32100, July 15, 1991, as amended at 58 FR 49928, Sept. 24, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 29479, 29487, May 29, 1998; 64 FR 72794, Dec. 28, 1999]

§ 250.1619 Well records.

(a) Complete and accurate records for each well and all well operations shall be retained for a period of 2 years at the lessee's field office nearest the OCS facility or at another location conveniently available to the District Supervisor. The records shall contain a description of any significant malfunction or problem; all the formations penetrated; the content and character of sulphur in each formation if cored and analyzed; the kind, weight, size, grade, and setting depth of casing; all well logs and surveys run in the wellbore; and all other information required by the District Supervisor in the interests of resource evaluation, prevention of waste, conservation of natural resources, protection of correlative rights, safety of operations, and environmental protection.

(b) When drilling operations are suspended or temporarily prohibited under the provisions of § 250.170 of this part, the lessee shall, within 30 days after termination of the suspension or temporary prohibition or within 30 days after the completion of any activities related to the suspension or prohibition, transmit to the District Supervisor duplicate copies of the records of all activities related to and conducted during the suspension or temporary prohibition on, or attached to, Form