

Idle Well Toolbox for State and Provincial Regulators

2017

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**Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission
Legal and Regulatory Affairs Committee
Inactive / Idle Well Information**

Idle Well Toolbox Synopsis

Thirty state and provincial oil and gas regulatory authorities responded to the questionnaire regarding the regulation of idle wells. The responses from each regulatory authority are included in alphabetical order following this synopsis. While the responses to the survey vary, there are prominent commonalities. The main questions posed were: (1) How does the regulatory authority classify idle well inventories? (2) How long may a well remain idle prior to requiring regulatory authority approval to remain idle? (3) How long does the regulatory authority allow wells to remain idle? (4) What are the requirements to obtain this approval, including any bonding requirements? (5) Are there any exceptions or exemptions to the regulatory requirements? And (6) What is the current idle well inventory for each regulatory authority? The synopsis below focuses on items 1-4 from the toolbox questionnaire.

Idle Well Classifications

All of the regulatory authorities that submitted responses define idle wells in some manner; however, there is no uniform method by which regulatory authorities refer to idle wells. In some jurisdictions, there is only one definition, while other regulatory authorities have numerous classifications. A distinguishing factor is often the condition of the well – regulatory authorities often distinguish between wells that are capable of immediately returning to active (producing or injecting) status versus those which would require the retrieval of a plug or other mechanism in order to be active.

Duration of Idle Status Prior Regulatory Approval

The timeframe a well may remain idle prior to regulatory approval varies. Sometimes, there is a difference in duration based upon the well's classification. Some jurisdictions have short timeframes, like ninety days, six months, or as soon as it is no longer being utilized for its intended purpose. Other jurisdictions have no timeframe specified in their regulations or statutes. In the jurisdictions where no prior approval is required for a well to remain idle, there may be annual filing or construction verification requirements. The majority of responding jurisdictions indicate some regulatory approval is required between one and three years of idle status.

Duration of Regulatory Approved Idle Status

Approval of idle wells status is generally broken into terms. Many jurisdictions require annual approval or filing with no prescribed end to the process, i.e., continuous one year incremental approvals. Some jurisdictions establish a timeframe that requires greater action like a mechanical integrity test or a hearing after a certain number of idle well status approvals. These jurisdictions represent the majority of respondents to the toolbox; however, there are a considerable number of jurisdictions in which there is no cut-off or time limit to idle well renewals. As the toolbox shows, many of these jurisdictions have financial or mechanical integrity requirements to provide protection to the jurisdictions from pollution threats or orphaned wells.

Regulatory Requirements

The template for the toolbox separates the regulatory requirements into three categories: general requirements, application fees, and financial assurance.

General Requirements

Each reporting jurisdiction requires some form of report or test regarding the mechanical condition of the idle wellbore. The frequency and type of well report or test vary by well type and across jurisdictions from annual to five-year increments.

Application Fees

The majority of responding jurisdictions charge no fee for approving idle well status. The application fees assessed range from \$100 per well per year of idle well status to \$500. The fees generally are directed into an operations account, but may also be used to cover the cost of matters like hearings on the applications. The majority of the application fees are standard set charges, while some jurisdictions have escalating fees based on the how many renewals of idle well status the operator has obtained for the well.

Financial Assurance

The reporting jurisdictions are effectively split on the issue of requiring additional financial assurance for keeping wells idle. Many of the responding states that do not require any additional financial assurance for idle wells refer back to blanket bonding requirements. The bonding requirements for jurisdictions requiring additional financial assurance specific to idle wells are distinct from one another. Some jurisdictions only require the additional financial assurance after a specific number of approved renewals. Others base it on the number of idle wells in an operator's inventory, using information regarding the wells depth to assist in deriving the specific bonding amount.

For purposes of this questionnaire, an idle well is a well that is not producing or injecting, or otherwise being used for its intended purpose.

ALABAMA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Shut-In (SI) Status – A well that is capable of producing but may not be connected to a processing facility or gathering system.

Temporary Abandoned (TA) Status – A well that is not producing but has future utility.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- Gas Production well: 6 months
- Oil Production well: 6 months
- Injection / Disposal Well: 6 months
- Nonproductive well: 30 days from the day drilling operations ceased

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

A well may be placed in SI or TA status for a period of time not more than one (1) year. Subsequently, it can be renewed for another period of time not more than one (1) year by demonstrating future utility.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- General Requirement(s): Demonstration of future utility and mechanical integrity.
- Application Fee(s): \$0
- Financial Assurance Requirement(s): A bond is required. The amount of bond varies based on depth, location, and risk.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

Operators may petition the Board for approval of exceptions after notice and hearing.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- Gas: 493
- Oil: 93
- Injection / Disposal: 84
- Other (please specify): 0
- Total number of wells: 670

7. Regulation or Statute:

- Citation: Rule [400-1-4-.14](#) and [400-1-4-.17](#)
- Last Update: 10/27/2009

ALASKA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

The AOGCC refers to wells that have an active production or injection status (i.e. wells that are not suspended or P&A'd) and have not had any production/injection activity for a full calendar year as shut-in wells.

Note: The AOGCC also regulates suspended wells (wells that have downhole plugs to prevent the flow of fluids but are not fully P&A'd), which requires AOGCC approval to suspend the well in the first place and then requires the suspension status to be renewed every five years thereafter until the well is reentered and returned to service or permanently P&A'd.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

There is currently no state approval required to keep a well idle. Operators must report on the mechanical condition of the well and its potential future utility by April 1st of each year if there has been no production/injection associated with the well during the prior calendar year.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: N/A – but must report on it annually.
- b. Oil Production: N/A – but must report on it annually.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: N/A – but must report on it annually.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): Must report on mechanical condition of the well, when it last produced/ injected, and possible future utility by April 1st each year.
- b. Application Fee(s): None.
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): None beyond normal bonding requirements.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

None. Any well that is not suspended or P&A'd is subject to the AOGCC's shut-in wells regulation.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

As noted above there's no requirement for AOGCC approval to maintain a well in idle status. Below is the number of wells in each category that are subject to that annual reporting requirements as of January 1, 2017.

- f. Gas: 83

- g. Oil: 406
- h. Injection / Disposal: 207
- i. Other (please specify): 3 water source wells.
- j. Total number of wells: 699

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [Regulation 20 AAC 25. 115](#)
- b. Last Update: 11/7/1999

ALBERTA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Alberta uses the term “Inactive” for any well that is no longer active, and has not been properly plugged and abandoned (downhole and surface). Wells are called “Suspended” when they meet the suspension requirements to leave the well in an inactive state in perpetuity.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: A well can remain inactive for 18 months for high risk wells and 24 months for low and medium and low risk wells before they are required to meet suspension requirements. Risk class is divided by primary purpose or production fluid type.
- b. Oil Production: as per above
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: as per above

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: In perpetuity when a well meets suspension requirements
- b. Oil Production: In perpetuity when a well meets suspension requirements
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: In perpetuity when a well meets suspension requirements

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s):

Table 1. Suspension requirements for all inactive wells

	Low-risk well	Medium-risk well	High-risk well
Well types	Type 1. Cased-hole wells that are not critical sour – no perforations. Type 2. Gas wells < 28 000 m ³ /day ¹ that are low risk (see the appendix). Type 3. Water source wells. Type 4. Class 4 injectors (see Directive 051, ² section 2). Type 5. Nonflowing ³ oil wells with an H ₂ S content ≤ 50 moles per kilomole (mol/kmol)	Type 1. Gas wells that are medium risk (see the appendix). Type 2. Nonflowing ³ oil wells > 50 mol/kmol H ₂ S. Type 3. Flowing oil wells. Type 4. Class 2 & 3 injection, carbon dioxide (CO ₂) injection/disposal wells (see Directive 051, section 2). Type 5. Class 1B waste disposal wells (see Directive 051, section 2). Type 6. Low-risk wells inactive longer than 10 years.	Type 1. Critical sour wells, perforated or not. Type 2. Acid gas wells. Type 3. Class 1A waste disposal wells (see Directive 051, section 2).
Downhole requirements	There are no downhole requirements.	Option 1. Packer and a tubing plug. Option 2. Bridge plug.	Option 1. Packer and a tubing plug. Option 2. Permanent bridge plug capped with 8 linear metres of class “G” cement.
Initial suspension & Ongoing inspection requirements	Types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Read and record shut-in tubing pressure (SITP) and shut-in casing pressure (SICP).	Option 1. Pressure test annulus and tubing to 7 MPa for 10 minutes. Option 2. Pressure test casing to 7 MPa for 10 minutes.	Option 1. Pressure test annulus and tubing to 7 MPa for 10 minutes. Option 2. Pressure test casing to 7 MPa for 10 minutes.
Inspection frequency	Types 1, 2, 3, 4 – 5 years. Type 5 – 1 year.	Option 1 – 3 years. Option 2 – 5 years.	Option 1 – 1 year. Option 2 – 5 years.
Reporting	For initial suspension: within 12 months from the “Directive 013 Inactive Status Date” and after the completion of initial suspension. For ongoing inspections: by the end of the calendar year in which the inspection due date is calculated and after the completion of the inspection. For the reactivation: within 30 days after attaining active status.		
Wellbore fluid	None.	Wellbore fluid is to be non saline water or a noncorrosive (inhibited) fluid with a nonfreezing fluid in the top 2 m.	
Wellheads	Unperforated wells may use a welded steel plate atop the production casing stub. The plate must provide access to the wellbore for pressure measurement. Perforated wells are to have standard wellheads.	Standard wellheads as outlined in Oil and Gas Conservation Rules sections 6.100(3), 6.130(1)(2), 7.050(3), and 7.060(8).	
Wellhead maintenance	There shall be no wellhead leaks. Regular wellheads require servicing and pressure testing of sealing elements at time of suspension and at each subsequent inspection. All outlets except surface casing vents are to be bull plugged or blind flanged with needle valves. Valves must be functional (open/close). Grease and service as required to maintain functionality.		
Security	All wellheads are to be conspicuously marked or fenced such that they are visible in all seasons with well identification sign in plain view. In agricultural areas, farming operations must be restricted to safe distances from the wellhead. Pumpjacks must be left in a secure condition. Valve handles must be chained and locked, or as an alternative, valve handles may be removed.		
Surface casing vent flows	Systems must be open and comply with the Oil and Gas Conservation Rules sections 6.100 (1) (2) (3). Vent flows, if detected, are to be handled as described in ID 2003-01: 1) Isolation Packer Testing, Reporting, and Repair Requirements; 2) Surface Casing Vent Flow/Gas Migration Testing, Reporting, and Repair Requirements; 3) Casing Failure Reporting and Repair Requirements.		

¹ This flow rate is the stabilized wellhead absolute open flow (AOF).

² Directive 051: Injection and Disposal Wells – Well Classifications, Completions, Logging and Testing Requirements.

³ Nonflowing refers to wells without sufficient reservoir pressure to sustain flow against atmospheric pressure without artificial lift. The flowing product is a fluid.

- b. Application Fee(s): None
 - c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): None
5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:
- Wells that are excluded from meeting suspension requirements are
- wells with a licence status of Re-Entry, Abandoned, RecCertified, and RecExempt;
 - observation wells;
 - geothermal wells (used only for HVAC heating purposes);
 - training wells; and
 - farm wells.
6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:
- a. Gas: 25,621
 - b. Oil: 35,571
 - c. Injection / Disposal: 3,571
 - d. Other (please specify): 18,606
 - e. Total number of wells: 83,369

Note: These numbers do not include the wells identified as exemptions in question number five.

7. Regulation or Statute:
- a. Citation: [Directive 013: Suspension Requirements for Wells](#)
 - b. Last Update: Dec 20, 2016

ARKANSAS

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Arkansas utilizes term “temporarily abandoned” for wells in its idle well regulatory program.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: 24 months
- b. Oil Production: 24 months
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: Non-commercial = 24 months.
Commercial = 12 months

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- Director’s Approval (by Rule): For a., b. and Noncommercial c. wells above: Not to exceed three (3) years from the date of Director's approval.
- Full Commission Approval (after notice and hearing): For any of the above categories, including Commercial Injection / Disposal Wells, as specified in the Order, typically not to exceed three (3) years per Order.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s):

- Director’s Approval (by Rule):
 - The well has not produced crude oil, natural gas or brine in the last ten (10) years.
 - Well Operator does not have any outstanding Notices of Violations. (General Rule A-5).
 - Well is secured with a suitable wellhead with no leakage of any substance at the surface.
 - Well site is maintained in accordance with General Rule B-26 i).
 - Proper well identification is maintained.
 - Useable groundwaters are protected (bridge plug, or packer, at least 150 feet below the base of the lowest usable groundwater in the area; casing inspection log confirming mechanical integrity; or conduct witnessed initial and annual fluid level test confirming static fluid level is at least 150 feet below the base of the lowest usable groundwater in the area).
- Full Commission Approval (after notice and hearing): Additional requirements typically imposed by Order:
 - Operator shall secure bids for P&A of the well from 3rd party contractor and submit copies.
 - No transfer of the well without first obtaining approval of the Commission at a subsequent hearing.
 - Additional well specific financial assurance equal to cost estimate submitted by 3rd party contactor.

- b. Application Fee(s):
 - Director's Approval (by Rule) – none.
 - Full Commission Approval (after notice and hearing) - \$500 filing fee per well for hearing docket fee.
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s):
 - Director's Approval (by Rule) - No additional financial assurance required.
 - Commission Approval (after notice and hearing) - typically impose requirement to file an additional well-specific financial assurance equal to P&A cost estimate submitted by 3rd party contractor.
5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:
 - Wells in an approved waterflood/enhanced oil recovery unit are exempt from the three (3) year time limit as long as the unit remains active.
 - Additionally, if well has recently become active after being in approved idle, or operator failed to comply with idle requirements, full Commission approval after notice and hearing may be required (as opposed to Director approval).
6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:
 - a. Gas: 364
 - b. Oil: 39
 - c. Injection / Disposal: 14 total (see below)
 - Disposal: 4
 - EOR Injection: 10
 - d. Other (please specify): 7 total (see below)
 - Brine Supply Well for Bromine Industry: 3
 - Brine Injection Well for Bromine Industry: 4
 - e. Total number of wells: 424
7. Regulation or Statute:
 - a. Citation: [AOGC General Rules B-7, H-2 and H-3](#)
 - b. Last Update: February 19, 2009, October 24, 2009, and October 24, 2009 respectively.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Inactive Well – a well that has had no activity (production, disposal, drilling) for 1 year.

Suspended Well – an inactive well that has been suspended in accordance with regulations. Depending on the well type, this may involve the installation of temporary or permanent plugs and pressure testing.

Abandoned Well – a well that has been permanently plugged, cut and capped below the ground surface.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: Approval is not required.
- b. Oil Production: Approval is not required.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: Approval is not required.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: As long as the well has been suspended in accordance with the regulations and mineral rights are maintained, there is no time limit. If mineral rights are not maintained, an abandonment order is issued.
- b. Oil Production: As above.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: As above.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s):
 - i. All wells must be suspended within 60 days of obtaining inactive status.
 - ii. Wells and wellsites must be inspected, wellhead valves must be chained and locked, flow lines must be disconnected and there must be no open-ended lines except for the surface casing vent.
 - iii. Medium and high risk wells including disposal wells, sour gas wells (based on flowrate and H₂S content), wells with a flow rate >1,000,000 ft³/d and all wells that have been inactive for 10+ years must have downhole plugs installed (bridge plug or packer and tubing plug). Casing and tubing must be pressure tested as applicable.
 - iv. For low risk wells, service and inspect the wellhead and record the casing and tubing pressure as applicable. Wells with no open perforations must be pressure tested.
 - v. All suspended wells must be inspected at least once per year and pressure tests must be completed every 3 to 5 years.
- b. Application Fee(s): None.
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): Not specific to individual wells. The Commission has a Liability Management program that considers all of the producing assets and liabilities of an operator's permits. If liabilities exceed assets, a security deposit is required.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

Wells may be exempted from suspension requirements on a case-by-case basis.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: 3984
- b. Oil: 968
- c. Injection / Disposal: 193
- d. Other (please specify): Observation: 55, Water Source 62, Undefined (Cased or Completed but not produced) 1973
- e. Total number of wells: 7235

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [Drilling and Production Regulation Section 25](#). Guidance is contained in the [Oil and Gas Activity Operations Manual Section 9.4](#).
- b. Last Update: August 7, 2015.

CALIFORNIA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

California has defined an idle well as follows: "Idle well" means any well that has had 24 consecutive months of not either producing oil or natural gas, producing water to used in production stimulation, enhanced oil recovery, or reservoir pressure management, or being used for injection. A well that has not yet reached the 24 months, and is not active would be considered "shut-in".

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: No time limit as long as the testing and idle well fees are paid.
- b. Oil Production: No time limit as long as the testing and idle well fees are paid.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: No time limit as long as the testing and idle well fees are paid.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: No time limit as long as the testing and idle well fees are paid.
- b. Oil Production: No time limit as long as the testing and idle well fees are paid.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: No time limit as long as the testing and idle well fees are paid.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

General Requirement(s):

§ 3206.

(a) The operator of any idle well not covered by an indemnity bond provided under Section 3204, subdivision (c) of Section 3205, or subdivision (a) of Section 3205.2 shall do one of the following:

(1) File with the supervisor an annual fee for each idle well equal to the sum of the following amounts:

(A) One hundred dollars (\$100) for each idle well that has been idle for less than 10 years.

(B) Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each idle well that has been idle for 10 years or longer, but less than 15 years.

(C) Five hundred dollars (\$500) for each idle well that has been idle for 15 years or longer.

(2) Provide an escrow account in a federally insured bank that does business in, and has an office in, the State of California, by depositing the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each idle well, in the following manner:

(A) The escrow account shall be accessible only by the supervisor and the money shall be retained in the escrow account exclusively for use by the supervisor for plugging and abandoning the operator's idle wells that become deserted pursuant to Section 3237.

(B) The money in the escrow account may be released only by the supervisor and only in amounts covering any idle well that has properly been plugged and abandoned, returned to production or injection or converted to an active observation well, if that money remaining

in the escrow account is sufficient to fully fund the required deposits for all of the operator's remaining idle wells.

(C) The required deposit for each idle well shall be funded completely within 10 years of the date the well becomes idle, or 10 years from January 1, 1999, for any well that is idle as of January 1, 1999.

(D) The operator shall fund the escrow account at the rate of at least five hundred dollars (\$500) per well per year.

(E) Failure of an operator in any year to provide the minimum funding for any idle well shall result in the institution of the annual fees required by paragraph (1) for that idle well, and all money already on deposit for that idle well shall be treated as previously paid annual fees and shall be deposited into the Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Well Abatement Fund specified in subdivision (b) for expenditure pursuant to that subdivision.

(3) File with the supervisor an indemnity bond that provides the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each idle well. The bond shall be subject to the conditions provided in Section 3204.

(4) On or before July 1, 1999, file a plan with the supervisor to provide for the management and elimination of all long-term idle wells not covered under paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(A) For the purposes of the plan required by this paragraph, elimination of an idle well shall be accomplished when the well meets the requirements of Section 3208.

(B) A plan filed pursuant to this paragraph shall meet all of the following requirements and conditions:

(i) The plan shall cover a time period of no more than 10 years and may be renewed annually thereafter, subject to approval by the supervisor.

(ii) The plan shall be reviewed for performance annually by the supervisor, and be subject to amendment with the approval of the supervisor.

(iii) The required rate of long-term idle well elimination shall be based upon the number of idle wells under the control of an operator on January 1 of each year, as specified in clause IV. The supervisor may require additional well testing requirements as part of the plan.

(iv) The plan shall require that operators with 10 or fewer idle wells eliminate at least one long-term idle well every two years; operators with 11 to 20, inclusive, idle wells eliminate at least one long-term idle well each year; operators with 21 to 50, inclusive, idle wells eliminate at least two long-term idle wells each year; operators with 51 to 100, inclusive, idle wells eliminate at least five long-term idle wells each year; operators with 101 to 250, inclusive, idle wells eliminate at least 10 long-term wells each year; and operators with more than 250 idle wells eliminate at least 4 percent of their long-term idle wells each year.

(v) An operator who complies with the plan is exempt from any increased idle well bond or fee requirements.

(vi) An operator who fails to comply with the plan, as determined by the supervisor after the annual performance review, is not eligible to use the requirements of this

paragraph, for purposes of compliance with this section, for any of its idle wells. That operator shall immediately provide one of the alternatives in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) for its idle wells and may not propose a new idle well plan for the next five years. An operator may appeal to the director pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 3350) regarding the supervisor's rejection of a plan and plan amendments and the supervisor's determinations of the operator's failure to comply with a plan.

- a. Application Fee(s): See above
 - b. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): See above
5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:
- No exemptions or exceptions
6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:
- a. Gas: 945
 - b. Oil: 16,155
 - c. Injection / Disposal: 3,946
 - d. Other (please specify): 179 (Pressure maintenance, gas disposal, gas storage, and water source wells)
 - e. Total number of wells: 21,225
7. Regulation or Statute:
- a. Citation: State statute begins at [Section 3206 of the Public Resources Code](#).
 - b. Last Update: The regulations cited are the current regulations, however, California is working on a new rulemaking package. Assembly Bill 2729, signed September 9, 2016, requires the Division to have new regulations in place by January 1, 2018.

COLORADO

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):
 - a. **Inactive Well** shall mean any shut-in well from which no production has been sold for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months; any well which has been temporarily abandoned for a period of six (6) consecutive months; or, any injection well which has not been utilized for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months.
 - b. **Shut-in** shall mean a well which is capable of production or injection by opening valves, activating existing equipment or supplying a power source.
 - c. **Temporarily Abandoned** shall mean a well that has all downhole completed intervals isolated with a plug set above the highest perforation such that the well cannot produce without removing a plug or a well which is incapable of production or injection without the addition of one or more pieces of wellhead or other equipment, including valves, tubing, rods, pumps, heater treaters, separators, dehydrators compressors, piping or tanks.

[See 100-Series Rules – Definitions](#)

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

Colorado's rules are the same for both oil and gas wells.

Colorado does not have a defined time limit for the duration a well may remain shut-in or temporarily abandoned. Colorado requires the operator to perform a mechanical integrity test ("MIT") on shut-in or temporarily abandoned wells on the schedule set forth below. As long as the MITs are performed on the required schedule, a well may remain shut-in or temporarily abandoned indefinitely. An operator with "excess" inactive wells is subject to an increase in their financial assurance requirements per Rule 707.

Shut-in wells: An MIT shall be performed within two years of the initial shut-in date, and subsequently every five years as long as the well remains shut-in.

Temporarily abandoned wells: An MIT shall be performed within 30 days of temporarily abandoning the well and subsequently every five years as long as the well remains temporarily abandoned.

- a. Injection / Disposal Well:

Colorado requires an initial MIT for all injection wells before injection commences, and an MIT every five years thereafter regardless of the well's status. A new MIT is required any time there are casing repairs, after resetting the tubing or mechanical isolation device, or whenever the tubing and/or mechanical isolation device is moved during workover operations.

[See Rule 326.a.-c.](#)

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

See response to Question 2.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): See response to Question 2.
- b. Application Fee(s): No applicable fees.
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s):

Colorado requires additional financial assurance for “excess” inactive wells. Inactive wells are defined as: shut-in wells from which no production has been sold for 12 consecutive months; temporarily abandoned wells after six months; and injections wells that have not been used for a period of 12 months.

An operator is required to increase its financial assurance when its inactive well count is greater than its total financial assurance divided by \$10,000 for each inactive well less than 3,000 feet deep, and by \$20,000 for each inactive well equal to or greater than 3,000 feet in depth. The operator must increase its financial assurance by \$10,000 / \$20,000 depending on well depth for each excess inactive well.

Example: An operator has a \$60,000 blanket bond and has 4 inactive wells 3,000 feet or deeper and 2 inactive wells less than 3,000 feet deep. The operator would be required to increase its financial assurance by \$40,000.

[See Rule 707.](#)

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

An operator may submit an alternative plan for additional financial assurance, based on returning wells to production or plugging and abandoning wells on an approved schedule.

[See Rule 707.](#)

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

As noted above, Colorado does not formally “approve” wells to remain idle. Colorado currently has:

- a. 2,187 shut-in oil or gas wells
- b. 190 shut-in injection wells
- c. 1,032 temporarily abandoned wells
- d. 3,409 total shut-in or temporarily abandoned wells.

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: Noted above in text.
- b. Last Update: Various dates

IDAHO

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Idaho utilizes the term “Inactive well” for wells that are idle. (see [IDAPA 20.07.02.010.27](#))
2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?
 - a. Gas Production: 24 continuous months of inactivity ([IDAPA 20.07.02.501.01](#))
 - b. Oil Production: 24 continuous months of inactivity ([IDAPA 20.07.02.501.01](#))
 - c. Injection / Disposal Well: N/A
3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:
 - a. Gas Production: 3 years ([IDAPA 20.07.02.501.03](#))
 - b. Oil Production: 3 years ([IDAPA 20.07.02.501.03](#))
 - c. Injection / Disposal Well: N/A
4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:
 - a. General Requirement(s):

501. INACTIVE WELLS.

01. Determination of Inactive Status. The Department shall declare a well inactive after twenty-four (24) continuous months of inactivity if the owner or operator has not received approval for an extension of active status, or after an owner or operator fails to submit an annual report for an active well. The Department will immediately notify an owner or operator of this determination by certified mail, and the owner or operator may appeal this determination to the Commission. (3-29-12)

02. Owner’s or Operator’s Responsibility for Inactive Wells. The owner or operator must plug and abandon an inactive well in accordance with Section 502 of these rules within six (6) months of being notified by the Department unless the owner or operator supplies the following information within the six-month time period: (4-11-15)

a. A written request to extend inactive status; (3-29-12)

b. An individual bond, as provided for in Subsection 220.03 of these rules, if the well was covered by a blanket bond; and (4-11-15)

c. A description of how the well is closed to the atmosphere with a swedge and valve, packer, or other approved method, and how the well is to be maintained. (3-29-12)

03. Inactive Review and Decision. The Department shall review the request for approval, modification, or denial, and shall set the duration of the extension if approved. An extension shall not exceed three (3) years and may be renewed upon request. (3-29-12)

04. Testing of Inactive Wells. In addition to the requirements of Section 320 of these rules, inactive wells shall have a mechanical integrity test performed within two (2) years after the date of last use in order to retain inactive status. (4-11-15)

- b. Application Fee(s): None
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s):

220 Bonding

03. Inactive Well Bond. An owner or operator must provide the Department with a bond of at least ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) plus eight dollars (\$8) for each foot of planned well length for each inactive well-conditioned upon the performance of the duty to comply with the requirements of the Act and the rules of the Commission, with respect to the drilling, maintaining, operating, and plugging of each well drilled for oil and gas. Said bond shall remain in force and effect until the plugging of said well is approved by the Department, or the bond is released by the Department. Inactive wells may not be covered by a blanket bond as provided in Subsection 220.02 of this rule. (4-11-15)

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

Extensions may be reviewed upon request (see 501.03 above)

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: 0
- b. Oil: 0
- c. Injection / Disposal: N/A
- d. Other (please specify): N/A
- e. Total number of wells: 0

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [IDAPA 20.07.02.220, IDAPA 20.07.02.501](#)
- b. Last Update: 3-29-12; 4-11-15

ILLINOIS

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Temporarily Abandoned (TA)

Any idle production well on an active lease or unit that has not had commercial production during the last 24 consecutive months shall be deemed abandoned, in accordance with Section 240.1600(c), and plugged in accordance with Section 240.1140 unless the well has been approved for Temporary Abandonment.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

Production Wells: Wells that have not had commercial production within the last 2 years shall be temporarily abandoned or plugged.

Class II UIC Wells: Wells that are not equipped with tubing and packer or have not established mechanical integrity shall be temporarily abandoned or plugged.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

Temporary Abandonment status will be granted every 2 years provided the wells remain in compliance and the lease or unit on which the wells are located remains active.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

General Requirement(s):

Production Wells-

The permittee shall apply for Temporary Abandonment status by making written application on forms provided by the Department (Form OG-15). The Department may place the well on Temporary Abandonment status and issue a Temporary Abandonment permit, if the well meets the following conditions (which shall be continuing requirements):

- 1) The well:
 - A) shall have proper bond in effect in accordance with the Act, if applicable; and
 - B) cannot be the subject of any final administrative decision for abandonment.
- 2) The well shall have an intact leak free wellhead, or be capped with a valve, and configured to monitor casing or annular pressure.
- 3) If the well is a permitted gas well and the well has a sustained gas pressure at the surface, the requirements of subsections (c)(5) and (6) do not apply.
- 4) The wellhead shall be above ground level.

- 5) The fluid level is no higher than 100 feet below the base of the fresh water as evidenced by an annual fluid level test conducted by the permittee, after notice to and under the supervision of the Department, using acoustical or wire line measuring methods. If the Department authorizes the permittee to conduct an annual fluid level test without the presence of a well inspector, the permittee shall report the annual fluid level test on a form prescribed by the Department. The fluid level test shall be conducted annually unless the permittee elects to satisfy the requirements of subsection (c)(6)(A) or (B).
- 6) If the fluid level, as tested, is higher than 100 feet below the base of the fresh water, the permittee, in the presence of a Department representative, shall:
 - A) set a cast iron plug within 200 feet above the perforated or open hole interval in the cemented portion of the production casing, but no less than 100 feet below the base of the fresh water, remove any fluid to a level at least 100 feet below the base of the freshwater zone, and monitor the fluid level annually in accordance with subsection (c)(5); or
 - B) set a cast iron plug within 200 feet above the perforated or open hole interval in the cemented portion of the production casing, but no less than 100 feet below the base of the fresh water, and pressure test the casing by maintaining a pressure of 300 PSIG (which may vary no more than 5%) for a period of 30 minutes.

Class II UIC Wells-

The permittee shall apply for Temporary Abandonment status by making written application on forms provided by the Department (Form OG-15). The Department shall place the well on Temporary Abandonment status and issue a Temporary Abandonment permit if the well meets the following conditions (which shall be continuing requirements):

- 1) The well shall:
 - A) have proper bond in effect in accordance with the Act if applicable; and
 - B) not be the subject of any final administrative decision for abandonment.
- 2) The well shall have an intact, leak free wellhead, or be capped with a valve, be configured to monitor casing or annular pressure, and have injection lines disconnected.
- 3) The wellhead shall be above ground level.
- 4) The fluid level is no higher than 100 feet below the base of the fresh water and evidenced by a fluid level test conducted every 2 years by the permittee, after notice to and in the presence of a Department representative, using acoustical or wire line measuring methods. If the Department authorizes the permittee to conduct a fluid level test without the presence of a well inspector, the permittee shall report the fluid level test on a form prescribed by the Department. The fluid level test shall be conducted every 2 years.
- 5) If the fluid level, as tested, is higher than 100 feet below the base of the fresh water, the permittee, in the presence of a Department representative, shall:
 - A) set a cast iron plug within 200 feet above the perforated or open hole interval in the cemented portion of the production casing, but no less than 100 feet below the base of the fresh water, remove any fluid to a level at least 100 feet below the base of the freshwater zone, and monitor the fluid level every 2 years; or

B) set a cast iron plug within 200 feet above the perforated or open hole interval in the cemented portion of the production casing, but no less than 100 feet below the base of the fresh water, and pressure test the casing by maintaining a pressure of 300 PSIG (which may vary no more than 5%) for a period of 30 minutes.

Application Fee(s): None

Financial Assurance Requirement(s): None

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

Illinois has a number of gas production wells that do not have access to pipelines, these wells are sitting idle, but due to a broad interpretation of the rules and lease language, these wells are considered active if they are providing yearly shut it payments to the mineral owners. We track this process through our Idle Well System.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: G- 96 (Gas), GI- 7 (Gas Injection), GS- 1 (Gas Storage)
- b. Oil: 3,448 (Oil)
- c. Injection / Disposal: WI- 321 (Water Injection) / SWD-46 (Salt Water Disposal)
- d. Other (please specify): OBS- 5 (Observation Well)
WS- 40 (Water Supply)
- e. Total number of wells: 3964

7. Regulation or Statute:

Production Wells- [62 Ill. Adm. Code Section 240.1130](#) (4/22/2016)

Class II UIC Wells- [62 Ill. Adm. Code Section 240.1132](#) (7/6/2011)

Note: New rules currently under consideration with the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)

INDIANA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Indiana uses the term Temporarily Abandoned (TA) for wells that have received approval to remain in an idle status.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: 60 days after operation of the well has terminated.
- b. Oil Production: 60 days after operation of the well has terminated.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: 60 days after operation of the well has terminated.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: Temporary abandonment status may be granted for a period not to exceed five consecutive years; however, renewals of TA are permitted.
- b. Oil Production: Temporary abandonment status may be granted for a period not to exceed five consecutive years; however, renewals of TA are permitted.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: Temporary abandonment status may be granted for a period not to exceed five consecutive years; however, renewals of TA are permitted.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s):

An application for Temporary Abandonment must be submitted on a form prescribed by the division. The following information must be supplied on the form:

- i. Well owner's name, address and phone number
- ii. Well location information
- iii. Well permit number
- iv. Well type
- v. The size, setting depth, and cement information concerning surface and long string casing.
- vi. Explanation as to the purpose for the TA request
- vii. Information concerning the type of demonstration conducted to confirm the well will not pose a threat to USDW's.
- viii. Signature of operator or authorized agent.

- b. Application Fee(s): There are no application fees for TA's.

- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): No additional financial assurance required for TA.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

The well must otherwise be in compliance with state rules in order to be approved for TA.

-
6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:
 - k. Gas: 95
 - l. Oil: 181
 - m. Injection / Disposal: 55
 - n. Other (please specify):
 - o. Total number of wells: 331

 7. Regulation or Statute:
 - a. Citation: [312 IAC 16-5-20](#)
 - b. Last Update: October 1, 1999.

KANSAS

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Temporarily Abandoned (TA) is the term used in Kansas for idle wells requiring regulatory approval to remain in an idle status. Wells not subject to TA filing requirements as set out below are referred to as exempt or declaratory order wells because the Commission issued a declaratory order outlining what later became regulatory exemptions. If a well is inactive for greater than 90 days and is not exempt from the TA filing requirements, it is deemed abandoned by operation of the pertinent regulation, [K.A.R. 82-3-111](#).

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: 90 days after operations cease
- b. Oil Production: 90 days after operations cease
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: 90 days after operations cease

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: 1 year, up to 10 consecutive years
- b. Oil Production: 1 year, up to 10 consecutive years
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: 1 year, up to 10 consecutive years

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): The following information is required to be supplied on the CP-111 form used to apply for TA status before the form can be submitted:
 - i. API Number;
 - ii. Well Location;
 - iii. Contact Person;
 - iv. Well Type;
 - v. Permit Numbers associated with the well;
 - vi. Shut-in date;
 - vii. The size, setting depth, amount of cement, top of cement, and bottom of cement for any conductor pipe; surface casing, production casing, intermediate casing, liner, or tubing;
 - viii. Casing fluid level, how it was determined, and when;
 - ix. Verification of an existing oil and gas lease;
 - x. Alternate I or Alternate II completion;
 - xi. Total Depth; and
 - xii. Perforations or open-hole intervals (tops and bottoms).
- b. Application Fee(s): N/A
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): N/A for TA status. Financial assurance is addressed during the licensing process.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

Wells that are fully equipped and capable of returning to service and that have been in operation within the last 364 days are exempt from filing for TA status.

After 10 consecutive years of TA status, an operator must file an application for an exception 10 the 10-year limitation. The application has to be published, properly noticed, and the Commission may require a hearing on the application.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: 2,183
- b. Oil: 3,494
- c. Injection / Disposal: 574
- d. Other (please specify):
 - i. Water Supply Wells: 60
 - ii. Residential Gas Wells: 2
 - iii. Dry Holes: 13
 - iv. Dual Completed Injection/Production: 2
 - v. Oil and Gas Producer: 288
 - vi. Stratigraphic Hole: 6
- e. Total number of wells: 6,622

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/conservation/cons_rr_110308.pdf K.A.R. 82-3-111
- b. Last Update: October 24, 2008

LOUISIANA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Shut-In – status given to non-producing wells by the operator to describe well condition, dry hole – future utility, dry hole no future utility, productive future utility, productive no future utility, waiting on pipeline, waiting on market.

Inactive – no reported production, disposal, injection, or other permitted activity for a period greater than 6 months and is not part of an approved production program.

Temporarily abandoned – all but top plug set.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: inactive future utility wells must be plugged within five years of becoming inactive unless 1) the operator pays an annual assessment of \$250 and puts up financial security or 2) the well is on an approved production program.
- b. Oil Production: inactive future utility wells must be plugged within five years of becoming inactive unless 1) the operator pays an annual assessment of \$250 and puts up financial security or 2) the well is on an approved production program.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: there is not an approved state or province idle well regulatory program for injection / disposal wells.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: inactive future utility wells must be plugged within five years of becoming inactive unless 1) the operator pays an annual assessment of \$250 and puts up financial security or 2) the well is on an approved production program.
- b. Oil Production: inactive future utility wells must be plugged within five years of becoming inactive unless 1) the operator pays an annual assessment of \$250 and puts up financial security or 2) the well is on an approved production program.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: injection / disposal wells are not defined as either active or idle. As long as an injection /disposal well maintains mechanical integrity an operator is in compliance whether the well is being actively utilized or maintained in a standby mode.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): an inactive future utility wells must be plugged within 5 years of becoming inactive unless the operator pays an annual assessment and puts up financial security.
- b. Application Fee(s): \$250
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): required.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

Wells can be exempt from these requirements if they are on an approved production program or an approved schedule of abandonment.

6. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [R.S. 43:XIX:101 & 137](#)
- b. Last Update: June 2015

KENTUCKY

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Kentucky uses the term “temporarily abandoned” for wells that are not in use. However, the operator must apply for a temporary abandonment permit or otherwise the wells could be classified as improperly abandoned.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

The regulation calls for the well to be plugged “after the well is no longer used for the purpose for which it was drilled or converted.” All wells are treated the same regardless of well type.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

A temporary abandonment permit may be issued for up to 2 years. At the end of the 2 year period, the operator may request a renewal by reapplication.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): Operators must submit a temporary abandonment application form and the form must be signed by a division field inspector. The central office would issue a notice that the temporary abandonment request has been granted or denied and the notice would contain the expiration date.
- b. Application Fee(s): No fee
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): There is no new bonding required for the TA status. The bond that was filed when the drilling permit was issued is all that is required.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

No exemptions

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: 124
- b. Oil: 155
- c. Injection / Disposal: 24
- d. Other (please specify): 9 (water supply, dry holes, unknown)
- e. Oil & Gas: 19
- f. Total number of wells: 331

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [805 KAR 1:060](#), [805 KAR 1:070](#)
- b. Last Update: 6/11/75 & 10/23/2009

MARYLAND

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Maryland does not provide any provisions for an idle well.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: Not provided
- b. Oil Production: None
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: None

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program: No provisions

- a. Gas Production: NA
- b. Oil Production: NA
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: NA

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program: None

- a. General Requirement(s): NA
- b. Application Fee(s): NA
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): NA

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

None

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: 0
- b. Oil: 0
- c. Injection / Disposal: 0
- d. Other (please specify): NA
- e. Total number of wells: 0

7. Regulation or Statute:

None

MICHIGAN

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Shut-in means an action by a permittee to close down a producing well, a well capable of producing, or an injection well temporarily for such things as repair; rework; recovering reservoir pressure; preparing for or evaluating for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) or other injection projects; waiting for connection to a sales line; or lack of a market.

Temporary Abandoned Status (TA) means a permittee of a well that has not been used for its permitted or intended purpose during 12 consecutive months shall plug the well, unless the well is granted temporary abandonment status. Temporary abandonment status shall be allowed only upon written application to, and approval of, the supervisor or authorized representative of the supervisor. TA status determinations are made depending on the reasons and justifications presented by the permittee.

Suspension of oil and gas operations is an action by the Supervisor of Wells ordering the permittee to cease operations. Suspension of operation orders are made to protect the public health and safety and the environment, prevent waste, and for compliance and enforcement actions.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?
 - a. Gas Production: 12 months
 - b. Oil Production: 12 months
 - c. Injection / Disposal Well: 12 months
3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:
 - a. Gas Production: 12 months
 - b. Oil Production: 12 months
 - c. Injection / Disposal Well: 12 months

The length of time any of the well types listed above depends on the reason for requesting TA status. The initial term is for one year unless it is for a market/flow line connection which is five years. Additional time may be granted on a yearly basis depending on the rationale.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:
 - a. General Requirement(s): Permittee must apply for temporary abandonment status and provide the rationale to demonstrate that granting the TA status would not be a risk to public health and safety, cause waste, harm the environment, and it must provide the reasons the well should be granted TA status.
 - b. Application Fee(s): \$0
 - c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): Supplemental bonds MAY be required. Bond amounts vary based on risk

The well must qualify for TA status for the following reasons: Mechanical back –up to a producing well on the same production unit; future use (deepening or re-completion); conversion to another use; sales line/market connection; processing constraints; EOR evaluation/conversion; and future use as observation or monitor well.

Not more than 10% of a permittee's wells may be TA at any time.

Fluid level shall be checked to make sure it is at least 100 feet below fresh water zones.

Permittees may enter into an agreement to keep wells on TA status for longer time periods. This may include sublimental bonding, Mechanical Integrity Testing (MIT), placement of down-hole plugs (mechanical or cement), additional pressure monitoring, or other requirement which will reduce risks and prevent waste.

- d. Other requirements may include: storage vessels must be drained and secured; well sites must continue to be maintained and monitored by permittee; well with greater than 300 ppm H₂S may require additional measure to protect public health; mineral leases and other agreements must be maintained; and transfers must include a written agreement with the acquiring permittee.
5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

Michigan does not exempt any wells. Exceptions are made during the TA status approval process and are extensions of the approved time interval rather than exceptions.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:
 - a. Gas: 281
 - b. Oil: 222
 - c. Injection / Disposal: 16
 - d. Other (please specify): 197 (waiting on completion, gas storage, observation wells, etc.)
 - e. Total number of wells: 711

7. Regulation or Statute:
 - a. Citation: Michigan's Oil and Gas Regulations - [Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended - Part 615, Supervisor of Wells and the Administrative Rules](#)
 - b. Last Update: March 2015

MISSISSIPPI

8. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Producing wells – Closed in (CI), SWD and EOR wells – standby (SB)

9. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: One year then Petition before the Board must be filed
- b. Oil Production: Same
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: Indefinite but must pass MIT once a year

10. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: Indefinite
- b. Oil Production: Indefinite
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: Indefinite, but must pass MIT once a year

11. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): All locations must comply with our rules
- b. Application Fee(s): None
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): Must be maintained until the well is P&A

12. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

N/A

13. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: 527
- b. Oil: 1700
- c. Injection / Disposal: EOR – 194, SWDW – 110 Total 304
- d. Other (please specify): SB gas storage 14
- e. Total number of wells: 2545

14. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [Statewide rules 28 and 53](#)
- b. Last Update: For 28 last 9/19/2012, For 53 last 3/22/1990

MONTANA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Montana has no nomenclature specific to idle wells. Monthly injection or production reports are required for all unplugged wells and that data is utilized for idle well analysis.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

ARM 36.22.1303 WELL PLUGGING REQUIREMENT (1) The owner shall not permit any well drilled for oil, gas, saltwater disposal, or any other purpose to remain unplugged after such well is no longer useful for the purpose for which it was drilled or converted. When a well is no longer capable of production because the underlying reservoir or reservoirs are depleted and there is no possible future use for the well in supplemental recovery operations or for disposal facilities, the operator shall within one year plug and abandon the well as set forth in this subchapter, unless otherwise authorized by the petroleum engineer or his authorized agent.

History: 82-11-111, MCA; IMP, 82-11-123, 82-11-124, MCA; Eff. 12/31/72; AMD, 1998 MAR p. 482, Eff. 2/13/98.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

No specific idle well regulatory program exists. See response to Question 2.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

Issues are addressed on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration whether or not the well is pre-regulatory, is located within the boundaries of an active enhanced recovery unit, and if the operator maintains the legal right to utilize the well.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

Not applicable – no established regulatory program for idle wells.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

Not applicable – no established regulatory program for idle wells.

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. [ARM 36.22.1303 Well Plugging Requirement](#)
- b. Last Update: 1998
- a. [ARM 36.22.1240 Report of Well Status Change](#)
- b. Last Update: 1993
- a. [ARM 36.22.1242 Reports by Producers](#)
- b. Last Applicable Update: 1993

NEBRASKA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

The defined term used in Nebraska is an INACTIVE WELL. Inactive wells can be classified as either SHUT-IN or TEMPORARILY ABANDONED. A SHUT-IN Well has perforations open to the wellbore while a TEMPORARILY ABANDONED well has perforations beneath a mechanical device which are not in communication with the wellbore.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: One Year
- b. Oil Production: One Year
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: One Year

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: Until the well has no further use.
- b. Oil Production: Until the well has no further use.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: Until the well has no further use.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): After one year of inactivity, the operator may submit a Sundry Notice with static fluid levels, wellhead pressures, general statement of future use and ask for a one-year extension.
- b. Application Fee(s): After two years of inactivity, a fee of \$200/Well/Yr is required with the request for continued inactivity.
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): The wells remain bonded until final plugging and abandonment operations have been completed.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

There are no exemptions for compliance with the rule.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

a. Gas:	148	
b. Oil:	322	
c. Injection / Disposal:	99	
d. Other (please specify):	4	Geothermal Monitoring Wells
e. Total number of wells:	573	

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [Rules, Chapter 3-040](#)
- b. Last Update: June 2014.

NEVADA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Shut-in

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: 1 year
- b. Oil Production: 1 year
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: 1 year

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: 1 year
- b. Oil Production: 1 year
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: 1 year

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): Well must be in compliance with all aspects of NAC 522, and NAC 445A if well is a disposal well.
- b. Application Fee(s): Sundry notice fee of \$100
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): Well bonding must be in place

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

A shut-in extension for a period of 1 year may be requested through a sundry notice form.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: 0 (Nevada does not have any gas production wells)
- b. Oil: 32 (in existing fields)
- c. Injection / Disposal: 0
- d. Other (please specify): Exploration: 9 (all on BLM managed lands)
- e. Total number of wells: 39

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [NAC 522.430](#)
- b. Last Update: 12/21/2015

NEW MEXICO

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Temporary abandonment means the status of a well that is inactive.

Approved temporary abandonment means the status of a well that is inactive, but has demonstrated by various methods, including a casing pressure test, that the well's casing and cementing are mechanically and physically sound to prevent; i) damage to the producing zone; ii) migration of hydrocarbons or water; iii) contamination to fresh water or other natural resources; and iv) the leakage of a substance at the surface.

Inactive well means a well that is not being used for beneficial purposes such as production, injection or monitoring and that is not being drilled, completed, repaired or worked over.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?
 - a. Oil or gas wells may remain idle for a period of one year plus 90 days. (19.15.5.9 NMAC)
 - b. Disposal wells are considered inactive and lose injection authority after a continuous period of one year of non-injection. (19.15.26.12 NMAC)
 - c. Injection wells are considered inactive and lose injection authority if the secondary or tertiary recovery project in which the wells are located is inactive for a continuous period of one year. (19.15.26.12 NMAC)
3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

After the 15-month period, operators are required to bring wells back into compliance by: i) plugging and abandoning the well; ii) bringing the well back on production; or iii) or placing the well in approved temporary abandonment status. If the well is placed in approved temporary abandoned status, the well may remain in that status for a period of up to five years, and may be extended for additional five year periods upon successful completion of mechanical integrity pressure tests. (19.15.25.8 NMAC)

New Mexico also has a program "Marginal Well Shut-In Program" whereby operators can apply to the Division to shut-in wells during times of low commodity prices. Operators are required to execute an Agreed Compliance Order that lists the wells to be shut-in, provides economic justification for having to shut-in the wells, and requires the operator to conduct periodic tests to ensure continued mechanical integrity of the shut-in wells. Pursuant to this program, wells can remain shut-in for a period of up to 4 years and 3 months.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

a. General Requirement(s):

Pursuant to Division rules, operators are not allowed to have more than the following number of inactive wells, not subject to an Agreed Compliance Order setting a schedule for bringing the wells into compliance (19.15.5.9 NMAC):

- a) Two wells or 50 percent of the wells the operator operates, whichever is less, if the operator operates 100 wells or less;
- b) Five wells if the operator operates between 101 and 500 wells;
- c) Seven wells if the operator operates between 501 and 1000 wells;
- d) Ten wells if the operator operates more than 1000 wells.

To qualify for the OCD's Marginal Well Shut-in Program, operators must be in compliance with all Division rules at the time of filing for such relief.

b. Application Fee(s): No fee.

c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s):

In addition to the standard single well or blanket plugging bond that is required to be in place when the well is drilled, the Division requires any well that is inactive for more than 2 years to have additional financial assurance as follows:

- a. If an inactive well is covered by a blanket plugging bond, the operator is required to file a single well inactive bond in the amount of \$5000 plus \$1 per foot of measured depth; or;
- b. If an operator elects to cover wells held, or which may be held, in temporary abandonment by a blanket plugging financial assurance for wells in temporarily abandoned status, the operator shall do so in the amounts stated below in accordance with the number of wells covered by the blanket plugging financial assurance for wells in temporarily abandoned status.
 - (a) A blanket financial assurance for the first five wells shall be in the amount of \$150,000.
 - (b) A blanket financial assurance for the six to 10 wells shall be in the amount of \$300,000.
 - (c) A blanket financial assurance for the 11 to 25 wells shall be in the amount of \$500,000.
 - (d) A blanket financial assurance for more than 25 wells shall be in the amount of \$1,000,000.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

As stated above, New Mexico has a program whereby marginal producing wells may be shut-in for a period of up to 4 years, 3 month upon a demonstration by the operator that the wells are uneconomic to produce at current market prices.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

a. Total number of wells: 660 (Marginal Well Shut-in Program)

7. Regulation or Statute:

Citation: [19.15.25 NMAC](#)

d. Last Update: 12/01/2008

NEW YORK

8. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Shut in – not defined in regulation, but understood to be closing in of a well that has produced on a commercial basis without conducting plugging and abandoning operations.

Temporarily abandoned - the discontinuation of operations on or the closing in of a well not produced on a commercial basis without conducting plugging and abandoning operations.

Orphaned - unplugged wells that have been abandoned by their original owners. Orphaned wells are not defined in regulation.

9. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

Wells cannot be **shut-in** for longer than one year without state approval. Permission for continued shut-in status may be approved for an additional year upon department acceptance of written demonstration of sufficient good cause from the operator. Subsequent extensions may be granted for one year periods.

Wells cannot be **temporarily abandoned** for longer than 90 days without state approval. Temporary abandonment can be extended for a reasonable time period upon department acceptance of written demonstration of sufficient good cause from the operator. Temporary abandonment may be renewed for reasonable time periods.

These time frames apply to wells regulated by the Department (listed above in a – f).

10. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

See answer to question 2 above.

11. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): Written request for continued idle status (shut-in or temporarily abandoned) must be submitted prior to the timeframes included in each category above (question 2). Requests are granted upon “demonstration of sufficient good cause” by the operator.
- b. Application Fee(s): None
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): None (current FS must be maintained).

12. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

None.

13. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: 189
- b. Oil: 36
- c. Injection / Disposal: 1 disposal well with SI approval, no injection wells
- d. Other (please specify):

- i. 1 storage monitoring well w/ SI approval
- ii. 15 brine w/ SI approval
- iii. no misc. monitoring, brine monitoring, stratigraphic, or geothermal wells approved as idle
- e. Total number of wells: 242

14. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [6 NYCRR Chapter V Parts 550-559](#)
- b. Last Update: 09/06/1991

NORTH DAKOTA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

IA-inactive-well has reported no production or injection for three consecutive months.

IAW-inactive with waiver-commission has granted approval for the well to remain on inactive status longer than twelve months due to economic conditions.

AB-abandoned-well has reported no production or injection for twelve consecutive months.

NC-not completed-well has been drilled to total depth but remained not completed for twelve months.

NCW-not completed with waiver-commission has granted approval for the well to remain not completed for more than twelve months due to economic conditions.

TA-temporary abandoned-well bore has been isolated from production or injection formation and tested for mechanical integrity.

TAO-temporary abandoned observation-well bore has tubing and packer to allow access to production or injection formation with annulus tested for mechanical integrity.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: 12 months
- b. Oil Production: 12 months
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: 12 months

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: one year, unlimited number of extensions, mechanical integrity test every five years
- b. Oil Production: one year, unlimited number of extensions, mechanical integrity test every five years
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: one year, unlimited number of extensions, mechanical integrity test every five years

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): file sundry for prior approval
 - i. Mechanical integrity test to TA
 - ii. File review and field inspector approval for IAW
 - iii. Negative pressure test, cement bond log, pressure gauges, and field inspector approval for NCW
- b. Application Fee(s): \$100
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s):
 - i. No additional requirements for IA, IAW, NC, NCW, TA, and TAO.
 - ii. AB well after 18 months requires single-well bond in an amount equal to the cost of plugging the well and reclaiming the well site.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

IAW and NCW status based on economic conditions

-
6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:
 - a. Gas: 18
 - b. Oil: 319
 - c. Injection / Disposal: 53
 - d. Other (please specify): 2 EOR water supply
 - e. Total number of wells: 392

 7. Regulation or Statute:
 - a. Citation: [North Dakota Century Code 38-08-04](#)
 - i. [North Dakota Administrative Code 43-02-03-55](#)
 - b. Last Update: October 1, 2016

OHIO

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Temporary inactive status

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

No requirement

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

Expires one year after the date of issuance, after the annual renewal date, or production from the well commences, whichever is sooner.

May be renewed annually by submitting an application at least 30 days prior to expiration of the temporary inactive status or of a renewal of temporary inactive status.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

The well owner and the well must be in compliance with the Oil and Gas Law, rules adopted under it, permit terms and conditions, and applicable orders of the Chief.

- a. General Requirement(s):

- i. Well owner's name and address, and if a corporation, the name and address of the statutory agent;
- ii. Signature of the well owner or authorized agent;
- iii. Well permit number;
- iv. A map that shows the well, tank battery, the latitude and longitude of the well, and all other data required by the Chief;
- v. A demonstration that the well is of future utility and that applicant has a viable plan to utilize the well within a reasonable period of time;
- vi. A demonstration that the well poses no threat to the health or safety of persons, property, or the environment; and
- vii. Any other relevant information the Chief prescribes by rule.

- b. Application Fee(s):

- i. nonrefundable \$100 for initial application
- ii. nonrefundable \$250 for first renewal
- iii. nonrefundable \$500 for each subsequent renewal

- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s):

The Chief may require a surety bond not to exceed \$10,000 for each well after a third renewal of temporary inactive status.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

The well owner and the well must be in compliance with the Oil and Gas Law, rules adopted under it, permit terms and conditions, and applicable orders of the Chief.

-
6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:
 - a. Total number of wells: 41

 7. Regulation or Statute:
 - a. Citation: [Ohio Revised Code 1509.062](#)
 - b. Last Update: 6/30/2010

OKLAHOMA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

May be classified as shut in, TA, or inactive.

Oil or gas wells may be **shut-in** or **Temporary Exemption from Plugging** ([Form1003A](#)) filed. An “injection/disposal well” not in use is considered “active” as long as the order/permit is in effect and well meets all the order/permit requirements and UIC rules for that class of well.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: indefinite - as long as it is on a producing lease.
- b. Oil Production: 1 year per rule, or if T-A is approved and on a producing lease- 1 to 5 years (maximum), for each renewal application. By statute, all wells on a producing lease are considered “active”, as long as at least one well is producing.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: 1 year on Commercial SWD and up to 5 years on Non-commercial SWDs and injection wells, as long as the well passes the scheduled MIT and is in compliance with the permit.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: indefinite - as long as it is on a producing lease. Note: By statute, a shut in gas well is considered a producing well as long as the lease is valid.
- b. Oil Production: 1 year per rule, if T-A is renewed, 1 to (max) 5 yr per approval
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: indefinite – as long as well passes required MIT schedule and the order/permit is current.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): All wells listed as; shut in, T-A, or inactive – “Shall be deemed a well in operation and shall meet all of the requirements for such; Proper lease signs, removal of junk, trash, and debris, and removal of fire hazards, and the lease road shall be maintained at all times for any emergency vehicles and OCC field staff ingress and egress.
- b. Application Fee(s): no fees for shut-ins, T-A's, or inactive wells
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): All operators must have valid Cat. A or B surety of minimum of \$25,000.00, for all their wells, this can be increased to \$100,000.00 through notice and hearing if an operator demonstrates a poor track record with Commission rules. Some Commercial SWD wells may be required to have a higher surety depending on the size of the facility. Note: Additional bonding is required for pits generally larger than 10,000 bbls. for commercial swds.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

Temporary Exemption from Plugging ([Form 1003A](#)) for any Oil or Gas wells. Any “exceptions” would be to the OCC rules, thru application and hearing, and would be issued (if approved) by an “order of the commission”.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: (+ -) 569 (Form 1003A)
- b. Oil: (+ -) 470 (Form 1003A)
- c. Injection / Disposal: (+ -) 159 (Elected to terminate the UIC permit and convert to service or producing well).
- d. Other (please specify): (+ -) 53 – dry, new drill- not competed, water supply wells
- e. Total number of wells: (+ -) 1249

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [TITLE 165: CORPORATION COMMISSION](#)
[CHAPTER 10: OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION](#)
- b. Last Update: EFFECTIVE AUGUST 25, 2016, are reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

PENNSYLVANIA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Abandoned – A well that has not produced gas or oil for more than one year.

Inactive – A well may be granted “inactive status” for a period of five years if it is mechanically sound and is intended to be put back into production. Inactive status can be renewed annually thereafter.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?
 - a. Gas Production: 1 year
 - b. Oil Production: 1 year
 - c. Injection / Disposal Well: 1 year

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

Wells can remain on “inactive status” indefinitely as long as they are mechanically sound and can reasonably be anticipated to be put back into production. After an initial 5 year period, inactive status must be re-applied for annually.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s):

To obtain inactive status, the applicant shall affirmatively demonstrate to the Department's satisfaction that the condition of the well is sufficient to:

- (i) Prevent damage to the producing zone or contamination of fresh water or other natural resources or surface leakage of substances.
- (ii) Stop the vertical flow of fluid or gas within the well bore.
- (iii) Protect fresh groundwater.
- (iv) Pose no threat to the health and safety of persons, property or the environment.
- (v) The operator demonstrates that the well has future utility.
- (vi) The well has an appropriate bond

- b. Application Fee(s):
None

- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s):
 - Bond of \$2,500 for a conventional well drilled after 1985
 - Bond of \$10,000 for an unconventional well
 - No bond required for wells drilled prior to 1985

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

None

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

1,192 total wells

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [58 Pa. C.S. § 3214](#)
- b. Last Update: 2012

SASKATCHEWAN

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

None. We have a classification of suspended which is industry set and has no requirements or stipulation as to when it is/can be set. It also does not require any physical work be done on the actual well to be set. It is a reporting status. A suspended status would mean that no reporting is expected on that well.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: no approval required, no time limit
- b. Oil Production: no approval required, no time limit
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: no approval required, no time limit

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: no approval required, no time limit
- b. Oil Production: no approval required, no time limit
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: no approval required, no time limit

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): There are no set requirements however the ministry does have regulatory authority to request abandonment of inactive wells where it has been determined a well has been inactive for an "unreasonable period" in the opinion of the minister.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

We do not have an idle well regulation therefore there is no exemption protocol.

6. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations, 2012](#), Section 44(1) Subject to subsection (4), no well, structure test hole or oil shale core hole shall remain unplugged or uncased after it is no longer used for the purpose for which it was intended. Section 44(4) The minister may extend the time for abandonment of any well, structure test hole or oil shale core hole on any terms and conditions that the minister considers advisable.
- b. Last Update: 2012

SOUTH DAKOTA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

South Dakota uses the term “temporarily abandoned wells.” Temporarily abandoned wells are defined as wells that have not produced or injected for a period of six or more months.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: six months
- b. Oil Production: six months
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: six months

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: Temporary abandonment will be granted for a term of five years after a successful mechanical integrity test is performed. Temporary abandonment may be extended or renewed after another successful mechanical integrity test is conducted.
- b. Oil Production: Temporary abandonment will be granted for a term of five years after a successful mechanical integrity test is performed. Temporary abandonment may be extended or renewed after another successful mechanical integrity test is conducted.
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: Temporary abandonment will be granted for a term of five years after a successful mechanical integrity test is performed. Temporary abandonment may be extended or renewed after another successful mechanical integrity test is conducted.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): Written approval must be obtained from the secretary for the temporary abandonment of a well. A well that is not completed with production casing may not be temporarily abandoned and must be plugged immediately. A well with production casing may not be temporarily abandoned for more than six months, unless the operator is granted an extension by the secretary.

Before approving a request for extension, the secretary may require mechanical integrity testing of the temporarily abandoned or shut-in well. A temporarily abandoned or shut-in well that successfully passes a mechanical integrity test may not be required to undergo another test for five years unless the secretary finds that circumstances have substantially changed to alter the condition of the well.

The manner in which the well is to be maintained must be reported to and approved by the secretary. Bonding requirements must be met until the well is permanently abandoned.

- b. Application Fee(s): \$0
 - c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): \$0
5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:
- None
6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:
- a. Gas: 3
 - b. Oil: 4
 - c. Injection / Disposal: 6
 - d. Other (please specify):
 - e. Total number of wells: 13
7. Regulation or Statute:
- a. Citation: [ARSD 74:12:03:03](#)
 - b. Last Update: January 12, 2012

TEXAS

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

The State of Texas uses the term “Inactive Well” defined as follows:

- An inactive well is an unplugged well that has been spudded or has been equipped with cemented casing and that has no reported production, disposal, injection, or other permitted activity for a period of greater than 12 months, 16 TAC §3.15(a)(6).

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

Please refer to 1 and reference [16 TAC §3.15\(a\)\(6\)](#).

- a. Gas Production: 12 consecutive months
 - b. Oil Production: 12 consecutive months
 - c. Injection / Disposal Well: 12 consecutive months
3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

An operator may obtain a “plugging extension” under [16 TAC §§ 3.14](#) (b)(2) and [3.15\(a\)\(6\)](#) by submitting [Form W-3C](#) and Form [W-3X](#) showing compliance with the requirements summarized below. (See 4a below)

Note: All plugging extensions must be renewed annually.

- a. Gas Production: Indefinite with an approved “plugging extension” in place that must be renewed annually
 - b. Oil Production: Indefinite with an approved “plugging extension” in place that must be renewed annually
 - c. Injection / Disposal Well: Indefinite with an approved “plugging extension” in place that must be renewed annually
4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s):

In order to obtain a plugging extension:

- Operator must maintain a valid Form P-5 Organization Report
- Operator must have a good faith claim to continue to operate the well
- Well must be in compliance with Commission rules and regulations

- b. Application Fee(s):

Fees apply to certain in certain circumstances outlined below (See 4c)

- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s):

To obtain a plugging extension the operator must select one of eight options for each inactive well:

- An Operator may select one of the following “**Blanket**” options:
 - 10% Plugged / Restored at the time of the last annual renewal of the operator’s Organization Report – [Form P-5](#)
 - Blanket additional financial security covering the amount of the cost calculation for plugging all inactive wells or \$2 million dollars, whichever is less
 - If the operator is a publicly traded entity as the “debtor” and the Commission as the “secured creditor”

OR

- An Operator may select one of the following “**Individual Well**” options:
 - **An Abeyance of Plugging Report** covering the inactive well plus a fee of **\$250.00**
 - An Abeyance of Plugging Report is a document prepared by a professional engineer or geoscientist which certifies that the well may be ultimately restored to production
 - **Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)** project status (if eligible) – EOR is defined as a project that uses any process for the displacement of oil or other hydrocarbons from a reservoir other than primary recovery and includes the use of an immiscible, miscible, chemical, thermal, or biological process.
 - **Integrity Test ([Form H-15](#))** – performed on an inactive well not otherwise required by Commission rule to be tested plus a fee of **\$125.00**.
 - **Additional approved financial security** - supplemental bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit in an amount equal to the estimated plugging cost based on the average per foot cost, by district, for state funded plugging operations in the previous fiscal year. See [Cost Calculation](#)
 - **Escrow deposit** – cashier’s check in the amount of 10% of the estimated plugging cost based on the average per foot cost, by district, for state funded plugging operations in the previous fiscal year. See [Cost Calculation](#)

*In addition, the operator needs to comply with surface equipment removal requirements based on the age of the inactive well. See [Surface Equipment Cleanup / Removal Requirements](#)

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:
 - a. N/A

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: 25,458
 - b. Oil: 46,625
 - c. Injection / Disposal: 6,882
 - d. Other (please specify):
 - e. Total number of wells: 121,530
- (All totals are current as of as of April 13th, 2017)

7. Regulation or Statute:

Citation(s):

Texas Natural Resources Code 89.023 and 89.024

16 Texas Administrative Code [16 TAC §§ 3.14](#) (b)(2) and [3.15](#)(a)(6)

- Surface Equipment Removal Requirements and Inactive Wells
[SWR 3.15](#)
- Plugging
[SWR 3.14](#)

a. Last Update:

Amended to be effective January 1, 2017

UTAH

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Shut-in Well means a well that is completed, is shown to be capable of production in paying quantities, and is not presently being operated.

Temporarily Abandoned Well means a well that is completed, is shown not capable of production in paying quantities, and is not presently being operated.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?
 - a. Gas Production: 12 consecutive months
 - b. Oil Production: 12 consecutive months
 - c. Injection / Disposal Well: 12 consecutive months

Note: extensions are approved up to 12 months at a time.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:
 - a. Gas Production: 5 years unless approval given by the division upon a showing of good cause by the operator
 - b. Oil Production: 5 years unless approval given by the division upon a showing of good cause by the operator
 - c. Injection / Disposal Well: 5 years unless approval given by the division upon a showing of good cause by the operator
4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s):

If a well is to be shut-in or temporarily abandoned for a period exceeding twelve (12) consecutive months, the operator shall file a Sundry Notice providing the following information:

- 1.1. Reasons for shut-in or temporarily abandonment of the well,
- 1.2. The length of time the well is expected to be shut-in or temporarily abandoned, and
- 1.3. An explanation and supporting data, for showing the well has integrity, meaning that the casing, cement, equipment condition, static fluid level, pressure, existence or absence of Underground Sources of Drinking Water and other factors do not make the well a risk to public health and safety or the environment.

- b. Application Fee(s): N/A

- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s):

[R649-3-1.4.3](#)

If the division finds that a well subject to this bonding rule is in violation of Rule [R649-3-36](#)

Shut-in and Temporarily Abandoned Wells, the division shall require a bond amount for the applicable well in the amount of actual plugging and site restoration costs.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

May be initially shut-in or temporarily abandoned for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months without additional requirements.

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas & Oil: 54 out of 333
- b. Injection / Disposal: 5 out of 21
- c. Other (please specify): N/A
- d. Total number of wells: 59 out of 354 shut-in/temporarily abandoned wells

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [Utah Administrative Code R649-3-36](#)
- b. Last Update: 2003

VIRGINIA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

The only classification Virginia has for nonproducing wells is “Shut-in.”

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

A nonproducing well shall not remain shut-in for more than a three-year period unless approved by the director.

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

Should the well remain in a nonproducing status for a period of two years, the permittee shall submit a plan for future well production to the director.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

[4VAC25-150-390](#). Shut-In Wells.

a. If a well is shut-in or otherwise not produced for a period of 12 consecutive months, the permittee shall measure the shut-in pressure on the production string or strings and report such pressures to the division annually. If the well is producing on the backside or otherwise through the casing, the permittee shall measure the shut-in pressure on the annular space.

b. A report of the pressure measurements on the nonproducing well shall be maintained and reported to the director annually by the permittee for a maximum period of two years.

c. Should the well remain in a nonproducing status for a period of two years, the permittee shall submit a plan for future well production to the director. A nonproducing well shall not remain unplugged for more than a three-year period unless approved by the director.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

A nonproducing well shall not remain unplugged for more than a three-year period unless approved by the director.

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6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:
 - a. Gas: <75
 - b. Oil: <15
 - c. Injection / Disposal: N/A
 - d. Other (please specify): N/A
 - e. Total number of wells: <90

 7. Regulation or Statute:
 - a. Citation: [Virginia Gas and Oil Regulations 4VAC25-150-390. Shut-In Wells.](#)
 - b. Last Update: December 2016

WEST VIRGINIA

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Abandoned Wells: [W. Va. Code § 22-6-19](#) refers to any well which is completed as a dry hole or which is not in use for a period of twelve consecutive months shall be presumed to have been abandoned and shall promptly be plugged by the operator in accordance with the provisions of this article, unless the operator furnishes satisfactory proof to the director that there is a bona fide future use for such well.

Inactive Wells: For any well which is not in active (in use) status, an operator must demonstrate bona fide future use to avoid having such well deemed abandoned under [W. Va. Code § 22-6-19](#). Upon submittal of a completed designation of bona fide future use to the chief, any permitted well which satisfies the requirements shall be deemed to be in inactive status. [35CSR5-4.1](#) and [35CSR5-5.1](#)

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

Any well which is completed as a dry hole or which is not in use for a period of 12 consecutive months shall be presumed to have been abandoned and shall promptly be plugged by the operator...unless the operator furnishes satisfactory proof to the director that there is a bona fide future use for such well ([W. Va. Code § 22-6-19](#))

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

[35CSR5-5.4](#) The inactive status of any well with a designation of bona fide future use shall be valid for the time period requested by the operator, not to exceed 5 years from the date of filing with the chief, unless inactive status is revoked pursuant to subsection 5.5 of this rule, or unless the operator elects to extend the inactive status period pursuant to the provisions of subsection 3.3 of this rule.

[35CSR5-3.3](#) In order to extend the inactive period, the operator shall file a new designation of Bona Fide Future Use on forms prescribed by the chief within two weeks prior to the end of the inactive status period.

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

General Requirements: [35CSR5-4.1](#) For any well which is not in active status, an operator must demonstrate bona fide future use to avoid having such well deemed abandoned under [W. Va. Code § 22-6-19](#).

[35CSR5-5.1](#) – Upon submittal of a completed designation of bona fide future use to the chief, any permitted well which satisfies the following requirements shall be deemed to be in inactive status:

- a) The condition of the well is sufficient to prevent waste of oil and gas.
- b) The condition of the well is sufficient to prevent pollution of waters of the state.

c) The operator satisfies the bonding requirements of [W. Va. Code § 22-6-19](#).

Application Fees: There are no fees required for the filing of a Bona Fide Future Use.

Financial Assurance Requirements: The operator must satisfy the bonding requirements of W. Va. Code § 22-6-26.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

None

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas or Gas Wells: 128
- b. Injection / Disposal: 0
- c. Other (please specify): 1 (monitoring well)
- d. Total number of wells: 129

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [W. Va. Code § 22-6-19](#)
[35CSR5](#)
- b. Last Update: July 1, 1993

WYOMING

1. What term(s), name(s) or classification(s) does state or province utilize for wells that are idle as defined above (please specify and provide a brief explanation if necessary):

Shut-In Well shall mean a well not currently considered active in which the completion interval has not been isolated from the wellbore above and where the wellbore condition is such that its utility may be restored by opening valves or by energizing equipment involved in operating the well.

Temporarily Abandoned Well shall mean a well in which the completion interval has been isolated from the wellbore above and the surface. The completion interval may be isolated by a retainer, bridge plug, cement plug, tubing and packer with tubing plug, or any combination thereof.

2. How long may a well be idle prior to the need for state or province approval to remain idle in accordance with an approved state or province idle well regulatory program?

- a. Gas Production: 2 years
- b. Oil Production: 2 years
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: 2 years

3. Duration of time a well may remain idle in accordance with state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas Production: Indefinitely
- b. Oil Production: Indefinitely
- c. Injection / Disposal Well: Indefinitely

4. Requirements for state or province idle well regulatory program:

- a. General Requirement(s): MIT required initially and every five years.
- b. Application Fee(s): None
- c. Financial Assurance Requirement(s): \$10/ft based on vertical depth.

5. Exemptions or Exceptions for idle wells from state or province idle well regulatory program:

None

6. Number of wells that currently have state or province approval to remain idle as part of an idle well regulatory program:

- a. Gas: N/A
 - b. Oil: N/A
 - c. Injection / Disposal: N/A
 - d. Total number of wells: N/A
- These numbers fluctuate on a daily basis

7. Regulation or Statute:

- a. Citation: [Chapter 3, Sections 4 and 22](#)
- b. Last Update: March 2016