



Change of Suspension Requirements for Inactive Wells

EFFECTIVE DATE: OCT. 4, 2016

The Commission has updated the suspension requirements for inactive wells (specific to inactive medium risk Type 6 wells; Option C), in order to comply with Section 25 of the Drilling and Production Regulation (DPR). Section 25 of the DPR states:

- (3) The well permit holder of a suspended well must establish a program of inspections sufficient to ensure the ongoing integrity of the well.
- (5) The well permit holder of an inactive well, within 60 days of the well becoming inactive, must suspend the well in a manner that ensures the ongoing integrity of the well.

Effective Jan. 1, 2017, completed low risk inactive or suspended wells for at least 10 consecutive years must be suspended following Options A or B. Option C will apply to non-perforated wells and will include the requirement to pressure test every five years.

Previously Option C allowed a permit holder to suspend the well by having two master valves. This option is no longer accepted. Option requirements are reflected in the updated [Chapter 9 Well Activity: Completions, Maintenance and Abandonment of the Oil and Gas Activity Operations Manual](#). Operators are advised to review the updated chapter. Changes were published in version 1.3 of the manual, released in August 2016.

The Commission does not require permit holders to suspend currently compliant wells as per the new standard; however, the Commission does expect the new guidelines to be followed starting Jan. 1, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding this Industry Bulletin, please contact:

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