



April 22, 2009

**INFORMATION LETTER # OGC 09-12**

**Subject: Changes to Well Suspension Requirements**

**To: Industry Clients**

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2009

**Background:**

**Regarding the OGAA Implementation:**

All necessary regulations, documents and background information on OGAA can be found at [www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/OGAA/](http://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/OGAA/)

For any questions pertaining to the status of this document, please contact the Commission representative listed at the bottom.

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) completed a review of the well suspension and inspection process. This review resulted in changes to the Well Suspension Requirements Form and the suspended wells inspections process.

In November 2008, the Commission updated the Suspended Wells Inspection Form and discontinued requirement for online reporting of suspended wells inspections (as per Information Letter 08-22).

The revised Well Suspension Requirements document and Form are now available via the Commission website at:  
[www.ogc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca) > Engineering and Geology > Operations Engineering Forms.

The revised Well Suspension Requirements document:

- Enhances public safety and environmental protection through increased scrutiny of well suspensions and implementation of regular pressure testing requirements;
- Where possible, harmonizes with Alberta's well suspension requirements; and,
- Increases options available for suspensions.

**Requirement:**

As defined in Table 2 of the Well Suspension Requirements document, all *high-risk* inactive wells, including wells that are currently suspended, must be brought into compliance with the revised Well Suspension Requirements by March 31, 2010.

All *medium and low-risk* inactive wells, including wells that are currently suspended, must be brought into compliance with the revised Well Suspension Requirements by March 31, 2011.

To assist industry in tracking inactive and suspended wells, the following reports are available on the Commission website:

- Inactive wells;
- Wells that will be inactive in six months or less; and,
- Suspended wells.

These reports are located on the Commission website under OGC Web Applications at: <http://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/webapplications.asp>. Click the first 'login' button (to view Well Lookup and Reports) in order to access the Reports.

Wells that have confidential status are not included in the reports.

**If you have any questions regarding this Information Letter, please contact:**

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***Original signed by:***

Alex Ferguson

Commissioner

BC Oil and Gas Commission