

WOGCC/SEO

Updated 2/24/2014

Process Required for the Conversion of a CBM Well to Other Uses:

- The operator of the well must file a Notice of Intent to abandon (as a gas well), whether plugged or not, using WOGCC Form 4. This will include:
 - A fluid level must be measured before any plugs are set.
 - A plugging plan based on the configuration of each well. The operator who owns the well or wells and may not want to leave the well completely unplugged. (Most operators do set plugs).
- Landowners interested in taking over an orphaned CBM well must first contact the WOGCC to determine the status and condition etc. of the well or wells and that they are compatible for transfer to the landowner.
- In the event a landowner wants to initiate a well transfer to another use, that landowner shall begin by contacting the CBM well operator and the WOGCC.
- Subject to Chapter 3 Section 18 (b) (iv) (C) of the WOGCC rules, a bentonite plug and/or mechanical bridge plug shall be topped with a cement plug at one hundred feet (100'). At the supervisor's discretion, approval of other material for the openhole portion in lieu of the bentonite hole plug may be exercised.
- The operator must submit a signed and notarized WOGCC Landowner Release Form indicating the landowner's acceptance of the well in an agreed upon condition and his acceptance of the placement of a seal at the surface with an extended vent for gas. The release must also show the landowner's acceptance of responsibility for ultimate plugging and abandonment of the wellbore.
- If the subject well is located on state trust land, the operator must contact the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) for approval. A state grazing lessee may not approve the release. OSLI's transfer policy can be found at lands.state.wy.us.
- Landowner (or Owner/Operator on behalf of landowner) is then required to submit an application (SEO Form UW5) to the SEO.
- The operator/landowner notifies the SEO of the request to transfer by sending the following:
 1. Written statement from WOGCC the well is appropriate for conversion.
 2. Copy of landowner release, including the landowner's acceptance of responsibility for ultimate plugging and abandonment of the wellbore.
- The WOGCC will post on its website the approved notice of intent to abandon with conditions of approval with the landowner release. This is available for review under "Wells" by location, well name or API number.
- SEO matches the permit application with WOGCC package to review and process application.
- SEO sends an approved permit to applicant and copy to WOGCC.
- The operator files a Subsequent Report of Abandonment with the WOGCC Form 4. This signed and notarized original of Form 4 will include: a cementing report including the plugging procedure followed and an approved copy of the SEO permit in the landowner's name.
- The WOGCC will review the well files for all documents required through the life of the well. If the records are complete, the WOGCC will consider release of the well bond depending on the type of bond and bonding requirement status.

- The well will no longer be considered a gas or CBM well. It will be water well owned by the landowner and under the terms of the permit issued by the SEO's office.
- The SEO will require a Statement of Completion, Form UW6 from the landowner.

Any questions regarding the process should be directed to:

Lisa Lindemann, State Engineer's Office at (307) 777-5063 or lisa.lindemann@wyo.gov

Mark Watson, Oil and Gas Conservation Commission at (307) 234-7147 or mark.watson@wyo.gov