CBM ORPHANED & ABANDONED WELLS
PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING:
TRANSFER OF WELLS, PITS AND RESERVOIRS

Wyoming State Engineer’s Office
Gillette, WY
April 2, 2014

Lisa Lindemann, Ground Water Division
Rick Deuell, Surface Water Division
Domestic and Stock Uses

- **Domestic Use:**
  - Use of water in 3 single family dwellings or less, noncommercial watering of lawns and gardens totaling one acre or less.

- **Stock Watering Use:** Normal livestock use at four tanks or less within one mile of well or spring.
  - **Note:** Stock-watering pipelines and commercial feedlots are a Miscellaneous Use.

- **Other Permitted Uses:** Irrigation, Municipal, Industrial, Miscellaneous, CBM, Test Well
CBM Well Conversions

A CBM well converted to Domestic and/or Stock Use (or another use) can be an asset

- Water for people and animals
- Benefit to wildlife

With that asset, comes:

- Responsibilities, and
- Potential liability
Why the change in process?

2008 – 2013

- SEO approved ~ 400 applications converting CBM wells to water wells
- only ~10% of those wells are being used


“Beneficial use is the basis, the measure and limit of the right to use water at all times…”
1. WOGCC/SEO Letter sent to Landowners and Operators (Conversion of CBM Wells to Water Wells)

2. WOGCC/SEO Process Required for the Conversion of a CBM Well to Other Uses (Updated 3/20/2014)

3. Land Owner Release Form (NEW)
Landowner accepts responsibility for:

- the conversion and use of the well as approved and permitted by the SEO,
- permitting the well as a water supply well with the SEO,
- ultimate plugging and abandonment of the well.
Conversion applications received before January 21, 2014 require:

- complete SEO U.W. 5 Form, *Application for Permit to Appropriate Ground Water*,
- Sundry Notice Form 4 stating well is appropriate for conversion, approved and signed by WOGCC, and
- signed and notarized Landowner Release Form (September 2010 version).

* DOMESTIC USE applications - require evidence that a house exists or is planned, or a subdivision is fully platted and of record in the county
Conversion applications received after January 21, 2014 require:

- complete SEO U.W. 5 Form, *Application for Permit to Appropriate Ground Water*,
- Sundry Notice Form 4 stating well is appropriate for conversion, approved and signed by WOGCC, and
- signed and notarized Landowner Release Form *(NEW FORM – landowner assumes responsibility for permitting, and plugging and abandonment)*.

* DOMESTIC USE applications - require evidence that a house exists or is planned, or a subdivision is fully platted and of record in the county
Conditions and Limitations

- Completion of construction and beneficial use (max of 3 years)
- Failure to do so = forfeiture of the water right (< 2 years to plug and abandon well)
- If well is permanently abandoned or removed from service
  (≤ 2 years to plug and abandon well)
Conditions and Limitations: Domestic and Stock Uses

- Part I of Form U.W. 8, Proof of Appropriation and Beneficial Use of Ground Water required.
  - Name
  - Address
  - Use of Water
  - Date First Used
Irrigation, Industrial, Municipal and Miscellaneous Uses

U.W. 8, *Proof of Appropriation and Beneficial Use of Ground Water*, required, including:

- Part I
- Part II (plat prepared by L.S. or P.E.)
- Part III (“proof”) prepared by GW at time of inspection.
Reservoir Permit Application

STATE OF WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO APPROPRIATE SURFACE WATER

THIS SECTION IS NOT TO BE FILLED IN BY APPLICANT

THE STATE OF WYOMING
STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Filing Priority Date

This instrument was received and filed for record on the ______ day of ______, 20___

State Engineer

Recorded in Book _____ of Reservoir Permits, on Page ______

Fee Paid $ ________

WATER DIVISION NO. ______
DISTRICT NO. ______
TEMPORARY FILING NO. ______

PERMIT NO. ______

NAME OF FACILITY

Reservoir

1. Name(s), mailing address and phone no. of applicant(s) is/are:

   E-mail address:

2. Name & address of agent to receive correspondence and notices:

   E-mail address:

3. The use to which the water is to be applied:
   (a) If more than one beneficial use of water is applied for, the reservoir capacity must be allocated in acre-feet to the various uses:

      Active Capacity

      Inactive Capacity

   (b) The area of the high water line of the reservoir is ______ acres.
   (c) The total available capacity of the reservoir is ______ acre-feet.
   (d) If enlargement, the capacity of this enlargement is ______ acre-feet.

4. The source of the proposed appropriation is:

5. The outlet of the proposed reservoir is located ______ feet distant from the corner of Section ______, T. ______, R. ______, W. ______.

6. Are any of the lands covered by the proposed reservoir owned by the State or Federal government? If so, describe lands and designate whether State or Federally owned:

7. Fill out for either (a) or (b):
   (a) The reservoir is located in the channel of:
   (b) The reservoir is to be filled through the:

   Canal which has a carrying capacity of ______ cubic feet per second (c.f.s.)

8. (a) The dam is to be constructed as follows:

   (b) The face of the dam is to be protected from wave action in the following manner:

   (c) The dam height, as measured by the dam crest elevation minus the lowest downstream toe elevation is ______ feet.
- Landowner
  - No action necessary

- CBM Operator
  - Request name change, certification to accept reservoir, and land ownership documentation

- Both Landowner and CBM Operator
  - Request removal of CBM Operator, certification to accept reservoir
Beneficial Use Shown on Permit

- CBM Only
  - Cancel permit and re-permit for beneficial use or Petition Board of Control
- Identified Beneficial Use Only
  - No action necessary
- CBM and Other Identified Beneficial Use
  - Request removal of CBM Use
- Stock limited to 20 Acre Feet
Off Channel Reservoir
- Identify and permit water source(s)
- If no source identified, structure to be removed

On Channel Reservoir
- Natural channel is primary source
- Additional sources can be identified and permitted
Reservoir Size

- **Safety of Dams**
  - Embankment > 20 Ft. high or >50 Acre Feet Impoundment

- **Map Required**
  - Embankment > 20 Ft. High and <50 Acre Feet Impoundment

- **Stock Pond or Special Application**
  - Embankment < 20 Ft. High and < 20 Acre Feet Impoundment
Safety of Dams

- Plans and Specifications for construction or alterations certified by P.E.
- Construction inspection and report by P.E.
- Outlet required
- Five year inspections
- Map submitted by P.E. or L.S.
- Petition required for any changes
- Outlet may or may not be required depending on drainage location
Stock or Special Application Reservoir
Simplified permit

Some changes can be made by Authorization to Correct Record (ACR)

Outlet may or may not be required depending on location of the drainage
Questions/Contact Information

Wyoming State Engineer’s Office

Website: seo.wyo.gov

Phone: (307) 777-7354

Thank you