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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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Notice to Oil and Gas Producers

Statement to Operators for the Website regarding OPS wells

It has been the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining's (DOGM) policy since 2004 that for wells that have not been completed, and drilling has ceased for 2 consecutive months, that those wells would be put into a Drilling Operations Suspended (OPS) status to better track those wells that are in suspense for extended periods. The policy still required monthly drilling reports to be submitted. Effective immediately, this policy is being amended and the monthly drilling status reports will no longer be required for wells that have been approved in OPS status. R649-3-6 indicates a monthly status report shall be filed when the well is "drilling". If the well is not drilling this monthly report is not applicable. In order to keep these types of wells in compliance, a sundry shall be filed which requests "drilling operations suspended" status. On Sundry Form 9, file as a notice of intent and include the following information:

- Language indicating a request in status from drilling (DRL) to drilling operations suspended (OPS)
- Spud date
- Total depth of the well
- Hole size(s)
- Casing size(s), grade, weight of each if applicable:
- Cement – yield (volume) and type (Class A, B, C, G, H, etc)
- A copy of the casing test on the existing casing string that was conducted prior to suspending drilling operations as required by R649-3-13.

Operators should periodically monitor the wells for pressure and flow and ensure the wells are secure and not a threat to health, safety, or the environment during the suspense period. Prior to drilling operations resuming, another sundry shall be filed notifying DOGM of the intent to recommence drilling. The operator should also submit an APD extension through the ePermit system and gain approval for the extension prior to recommencing drilling operations if an extension is required. APD's are valid for 1 year from the date of approval. An extension would be required if the validation period has expired or if conditions detailed on the APD extension form have changed. The operator should then recommence submittal of the monthly drilling reports as required by R649-3-6.

Sincerely,

Bart Kettle, Deputy Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining