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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

December 17, 2014

Notice to Oil and Gas Producers

Re: Application of Utah Administrative Rule R649-3-15 "Pollution and Surface Damage Control" to well cellars and casing valves

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division) has observed oil and gas well cellars often contain oil, water and other exploration and production (E&P) fluids and casing valves are often buried or partially buried. It is the regulatory stance of the Division that all well cellars shall be kept clean and free of oil or other E&P fluids.

Casing valves should be maintained in good mechanical condition, fully exposed and readily available. It is important that valves are maintained in a condition that facilitates inspections for corrosion or leaks, and allows monitoring of pressures for all well annuli.

Please take the appropriate steps to remove oil and other liquids from well cellars and repair any leaks from stuffing boxes or other sources which could contribute to surface discharge. It is expected that cellars remain free of oil and other E&P liquids. Please ensure that all casing valves are exposed, maintained in good repair and readily accessible.

Beginning in April 2015, the Division will issue a Notice of Violation regarding any well deemed in violation of R649-3-15 as described above.

Sincerely,

John Rogers
Associate Director, Oil & Gas