

Offset Well Evaluation

10-15-2014

Definition

None

Rule / Policy Citation

DJ Basin Horizontal Offset Policy (June 20, 2013; Rev December 17, 2013)

Interim Statewide Horizontal Offset Policy (February 10, 2014)

The Horizontal Offset Policies are detailed documents in which the COGCC and Operators agreed that all existing offset wellbores ("Offset Wells") within 1500' of a proposed horizontal wellbore ("Proposed Well") would be evaluated for adequate zonal isolation of oil, gas, and fresh water bearing horizons. COGCC's primary concern is with existing isolation or lack thereof in Offset Wells that are drilled deeper than or to the same objective formation as the Proposed Well. The risk of communication may increase when Offset Wells do not have adequate zonal isolation of oil, gas, or fresh water bearing horizons ("Wells of Concern").

The DJ Basin Horizontal Offset Policy includes this requirement: "Beginning March 1, 2013, all horizontal well APDs in the DJ Basin shall have the COGCC's standard "Offset Well Evaluations" document attached."

The Interim Statewide Horizontal Offset Policy includes this requirement: "Effective February 10, 2014, the Application for Permit to Drill, Form 2 (APD) for a Proposed Well shall include an Offset Well Evaluation of all Offset Wells within 1500' of the Proposed Well to determine if those wells have adequate zonal isolation."

Purpose

The Offset Well Evaluation is a detailed spreadsheet the operator prepares to (1) provide a list of all the "Offset Wells" existing within 1500' of a proposed horizontal wellbore and (2) summarize the wellbore configuration data of each well. This information is used by the operator and COGCC staff to evaluate the adequacy of the zonal isolation of oil, gas, and fresh water bearing horizons in these "Offset Wells". That evaluation results in the identification of "Wells of Concern" that will require mitigation prior to the hydraulic stimulation of the proposed horizontal wellbore.

Requirements

1. The Offset Well Evaluation must be attached to the Form 2 for a horizontal well.
2. The spreadsheet must be completed using the template and the instructions found on the COGCC website under FORMS - Application for Permit to Drill - Instructions.

Offset Well Evaluation

10-15-2014

3. The spreadsheet must include all the wells within 1500' of the proposed horizontal wellbore. The distance between wellbores is measured horizontally, in plan or map view, looking down at the proposed wellbore path as it relates to existing and planned wellbore paths of offset wells.
4. The spreadsheet must include all the required information for each well listed
5. The spreadsheet must include a comment for every well that requires further evaluation or mitigation prior to the hydraulic stimulation of the proposed horizontal wellbore.

Common Errors and Issues Encountered by COGCC Staff

1. The Offset Well Evaluation is not attached to the Form 2 for a horizontal well.
2. The spreadsheet is not completed using the template and the instructions found on the COGCC website under FORMS - Application for Permit to Drill - Instructions.
3. The spreadsheet does not include all the wells within 1500' of the proposed horizontal wellbore
4. The spreadsheet does not include all the required information for each well listed
5. The data in the spreadsheet is inaccurate
6. The spreadsheet does not include a comment for every well that requires further evaluation or mitigation prior to the hydraulic stimulation of the proposed horizontal wellbore.

Notes

1. Refer to the "DJ Basin Horizontal Offset Policy" on the POLICIES page of the COGCC website for a full explanation of the Offset Well Evaluation for horizontal wells in the DJ Basin.
2. Refer to the "Interim Statewide Horizontal Offset Policy" on the POLICIES page of the COGCC website for a full explanation of the Offset Well Evaluation for horizontal wells in all areas of the state outside the DJ Basin.
3. The template for the "Offset Well Evaluations Spreadsheet" is available in two locations on the COGCC website:
 - a. On the FORMS page: in the Instructions for the Form 2, provided in the "Form 2 Process Guidance and Instructions" list
 - b. In eForms: within the Form 2, as a download on the "Offset Wells Evaluation" tab
4. The spreadsheet has 3 tabs:
 - a. "List of Wells - Blank" available to be completed

Offset Well Evaluation

10-15-2014

- b. "List of Wells - Example" as guidance and instruction for completing the evaluation for a proposed well
- c. "Instructions" defines and explains each column in the spreadsheet