

6 CRR-NY 554.1NY-CRR

OFFICIAL COMPILATION OF CODES, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK

TITLE 6. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

CHAPTER V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

SUBCHAPTER B. MINERAL RESOURCES

PART 554. DRILLING PRACTICES AND REPORTS

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554.1 Prevention of pollution and migration.

(a) The drilling, casing and completion program adopted for any well shall be such as to prevent pollution.

(b) Pollution of the land and/or of surface or ground fresh water resulting from exploration or drilling is prohibited.

(c)

(1) Prior to the issuance of a well-drilling permit for any operation in which the probability exists that brine, salt water or other polluting fluids will be produced or obtained during drilling operations in sufficient quantities to be deleterious to the surrounding environment, the operator must submit and receive approval for a plan for the environmentally safe and proper ultimate disposal of such fluids. For purposes of this subdivision, drilling muds are not considered to be polluting fluids. Before requesting a plan for disposal of such fluids, the department will take into consideration the known geology of the area, the sensitivity of the surrounding environment to the polluting fluids and the history of any other drilling operations in the area. Depending on the method of disposal chosen by the applicant, a permit for discharge and/or disposal may be required by the department in addition to the well-drilling permit. An applicant may also be required to submit an acceptable contingency plan, the use of which shall be required if the primary plan is unsafe or impracticable at the time of disposal.

(2) Brine or salt water may be temporarily stored prior to disposal in any water-tight tank, container or an earthen pit which is underlaid by soil such as heavy clay or hardpan. Impounding of brine or salt water in an earthen pit is prohibited where the soil underlying the pit is porous and/or is closely underlaid by a gravel, rock or sand stratum unless the pit is lined with watertight material. The tank, container or earthen pit shall be constructed and maintained so as to prevent escape of any fluids therefrom, including any amounts that may be added by natural precipitation.

(3) Storage of brine, salt water or other polluting fluids in such watertight tanks or earthen pits, prior to disposal, shall be for a maximum of 45 days after cessation of drilling operations, unless the department approves an extension based on circumstances beyond the operator's control. The department may also approve an extension if the fluid is to be used in subsequent operations according to the submitted plan, and the department has inspected and approved the storage facilities.

(d) Except as hereinafter provided, sufficient surface casing shall be run in all wells to extend below the deepest potable fresh water level.

(e) The drilling, casing and completion program adopted for any well shall be such as to prevent the migration of oil, gas or other fluids from one pool or stratum to another.

(f) The drilling, casing and completion program adopted for any well shall be such as to exclude oil, gas or other fluids from any underground mining properties or rights and to protect them in accordance with prudent operations.

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Current through February 29, 2016

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554.4 Rotary tool drilling practices.

(a) On all wells where rotary tools are employed, and the subsurface formations and pressures to be encountered have been reasonably well established by prior drilling experience, the operator shall have the option of either running surface casing as provided in section 554.1(b) of this Part or of cementing the production casing from below the deepest potable fresh water level to the surface. In areas where the subsurface formations and pressures to be encountered are unknown or uncertain, surface casing shall be run as provided in section 554.1(b) of this Part.

(b) When surface casing is utilized, it shall be cemented by the pump and plug or displacement method with sufficient cement to circulate to the top of the hole. Drilling shall not be resumed until the cement has been permitted to set in accordance with prudent current industry practices.

(c) In areas where the subsurface formations and pressures have been reasonably well established by prior drilling experience, the use of blowout equipment shall be in accordance with the established local practice. In areas where the subsurface formations and pressures are unknown or uncertain, all rotary drilled wells shall be equipped with blowout equipment maintained in good working condition at all times as follows:

(1) a master gate valve or its equivalent;

(2) a blowout preventer;

(3) a flowline equipped with a shutoff valve of adequate size and working pressure.

(d) If it is elected to complete a rotary-drilled well and production casing is run, it shall be cemented by a pump and plug or displacement method with sufficient cement to

circulate above the top of the completion zone to a height sufficient to prevent any movement of oil or gas or other fluids around the exterior of the production casing. In such instance, operations shall be suspended until the cement has been permitted to set in accordance with prudent current industry practices.

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