DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 550-2100-005

TITLE: Redrilling Incidental to Authorized Plugging of an Abandoned Well.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 31, 1998

AUTHORITY: The Oil and Gas Act (P.L. 1140, No. 223) (58 P.S. Section 601.101 et seq.)
Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act (P.L. 1069, No. 214)
(58 P.S. Section 501.1 et seq.)
The Administrative Code (P.L. 177, No. 175) (71 P.S. Section 510.1 et seq.)
25 Pa. Code Section 78.75

POLICY: DEP will review all applications for orders to plug abandoned gas wells (under Act 214, Section 13(c)) for compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

APPLICABILITY: This policy applies as guidance for decisions by DEP's oil and gas management program when considering an application for an order to plug an abandoned gas well under the authority of Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act, Section 13(c).

PURPOSE: This guidance document provides the Department's interpretation of applicable laws and regulations where necessary detail is absent from the law or regulation.

DISCLAIMER: The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance document are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in the policies or procedures shall affect regulatory requirements.

The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or regulation. There is no intent on the part of the Department to give these rules that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework within which DEP will exercise its administrative discretion in the future. DEP reserves the discretion to deviate from this policy statement if circumstances warrant.

LENGTH: 2 pages

LOCATION: Volume 11, Tab 05

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GENERAL:

Before issuing an order to plug an abandoned gas well under Section 13(c) of the Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act (58 P.S. Section 501.13(c)), the Deparment will review the applicatant's plans for plugging for completeness, accuracy, and adherence with all applicable statutes and regulations.

Signature requirements on an application for an order to plug a well under Section 13(c) are the same as for well drilling permit applications. Refer to Oil and Gas Well Drilling Permits and Related Approvals, Technical Guidance Document ID# 550-2100-003.

REDRILLING INCIDENTAL TO AUTHORIZED PLUGGING

The application for an order to plug a "nonproducing well" must include a description of the method to be used for cleaning out and plugging the well. Where the applicant must redrill the well as part of the procedure to clean out and immediately plug the well, a permit to redrill is not required.