



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, DEP SECRETARY

## Welcome to DEP's Oil and Gas News Line

Welcome to the first edition of The Oil and Gas News Line published by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Oil and Gas Planning and Program Management. This newsletter will feature website updates, short articles, upcoming trainings, and compliance information with links to additional information and sources related to oil and gas activities, DEP Oil and Gas Regional Offices, and staff.

## DEP's Oil and Gas Annual Report Details Increased Permitting and Inspection Efficiency

DEP's [2018 Oil and Gas Annual Report](#) shows that internal restructuring and continued expansion of electronic tools increased permitting and inspection efficiency, while also increasing the overall strength of DEP's oversight, even as unconventional gas production reached a record level in Pennsylvania.

"DEP attained new levels of efficiency in the permit application and review process as well as site inspections in 2018, and we continue to seek new avenues to improve customer service and environmental protection," said Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Governor Wolf and DEP have made permitting and inspection efficiency a priority – reducing overall permit backlog by more than 90 percent since 2016, and improving inspection efficiency while ensuring compliance with our environmental regulations."



## New Online Reporting Features

### eSubmission: Well Record, As-Drilled Directional Surveys

Directional Surveys are the measurements needed to calculate and plot a well path. Starting July 18, 2019, operators will have the ability to upload and submit "As-Drilled" Directional Surveys in a shapefile format when submitting a Well Record via the eSubmission application through the [DEP GreenPort website](#). The shapefile submission requirements for the "As-Drilled" Directional Surveys are the same as the shapefile submission requirements for the "Proposed" Directional Surveys that are required to be submitted for all non-vertical wells when submitting a well permit application via the ePermitting application. Submission of the "As-Drilled" Directional Surveys in a shapefile format is optional at this time. However, operators are encouraged to start utilizing this new functionality now, as submission of these records in a shapefile format will be required in the future. The data that is submitted will be viewable on the [DEP Oil and Gas Mapping tool](#) and will be publicly available in both the public eSubmission application and the [DEP Open Data Portal](#).

All questions can be directed to the Bureau of Oil and Gas Office of Planning and Program Management by calling 717-772-2199 or sending an email to [RA-ep-BOGMOGRE@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ep-BOGMOGRE@pa.gov).

### OGRE: Production Reporting Application

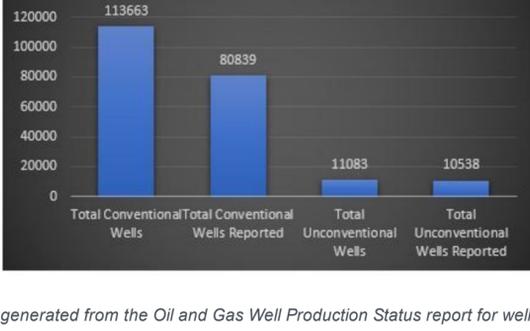
The OGRE Production Report system has been updated and now allows operators to enter a value of zero ("0") when reporting non-production for wells that had no production during the reporting period. If a value of 0 is entered in Quantity, a value of 0 must also be entered in the number of Days. Operators will still have the option to leave the fields blank, like in previous reporting, and only enter a non-production comment. No changes have been made regarding Waste Reporting submissions.

Product Type	Quantity	Units	Days
Gas	<input type="text"/>	MCF	<input type="text"/>
Condensate	<input type="text"/>	Barrels	<input type="text"/>
Oil	<input type="text"/>	Barrels	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>			

## 2018 Pennsylvania Production Report Submittal Statistics

In a recent review of data collected by DEP using the [Oil and Gas Well Production Status report](#), it is estimated that:

- 71% of active conventional wells operating in PA (including abandoned, or regulatory inactive conventional wells) were reported in 2018 annual production report.\*
- 87% of conventional well operators did not submit annual production reports.\*
- 95% of unconventional wells were reported in 2018.\*
- 10% of unconventional well operators did not submit a monthly production report.\*



\*Estimates generated from the Oil and Gas Well Production Status report for wells with active, abandoned or regulatory inactive status as well as operators with active client status only.

In an effort to reduce the percentage of conventional and unconventional well operators not reporting production as required by statute and regulation, the Bureau of Oil and Gas Planning and Program Management intends to increase enforcement efforts related to the well reporting requirements of Chapter 78.121 and 78a.121. Any operators that are currently in violation of the production and/or waste reporting requirements are strongly encouraged to resolve these violations by submitting the required data as soon as possible to avoid any potential escalated enforcement proceedings. If you have any questions regarding the laws, regulations, and operator requirements for conventional oil and gas wells, please contact the Bureau of Oil and Gas Planning and Program Management office in Harrisburg at 717-772-2199 or contact your local [DEP Oil and Gas District Office](#). You can also send an email to [RA-ep-BOGMOGRE@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ep-BOGMOGRE@pa.gov).

## Reporting Requirements for Operators

Under applicable Pennsylvania law, operators of conventional oil and gas wells, including wells used for private use, are required to submit two separate annual reports to DEP. These reports are the *Annual Production and Waste Report* and the *Mechanical Integrity Assessment Report*. Operators of unconventional wells are required to submit monthly *Production and Waste Reports* and an annual *Mechanical Integrity Assessment Report*.

### Annual Production and Waste Reporting

All operators of conventional oil and gas wells, both commercial and private (i.e. home use), are required to submit an *Annual Production and Waste Report* each year. This report supplies data to DEP on the volume of gas or oil produced from wells within the reporting year, the status of each well (active, inactive, abandoned, plugged), and the type and volume of waste produced, if any. This reporting requirement continues each year until the well is plugged and a Plugging Certificate has been approved by DEP. If a well is not in operation and a non-production, the operator is still required to submit the *Annual Production and Waste Report* with a non-production comment as to why the well is not in production. *Annual Production and Waste Reports* are required to be submitted electronically through [DEP's reporting website GreenPort](#) on or before February 15 of the subsequent year. For more information, please see [Section 3222\(a\) of the 2012 Oil and Gas Act](#), related to Well Reporting Requirements, and 25 Pa. Code § [78.121](#).



- **Home Use Wells (Home Heating)**

If you are a homeowner or property owner who operates a private gas well (i.e. home heating, appliances, etc.), you are required to comply with the same statutory and regulatory requirements.



### Production Reporting Requirements for Unconventional Operators

Under applicable Pennsylvania law, operators of unconventional oil and gas wells, including wells used for private use, are required to submit monthly production and waste reports to DEP within 45 calendar days of the close of each monthly reporting period. For more information, please see [Section 3222\(a\) of the 2012 Oil and Gas Act](#), related to Well Reporting Requirements, and 25 Pa. Code § [78.121](#).

[78.121](#).

### Mechanical Integrity Assessment Reporting

The *Mechanical Integrity Assessment Report (Integrity Report)* is a separate report that is also required annually by all operators including those with private use wells. This report is separate from the *Annual Production Report* described above. The *Integrity Report* supplies DEP with data regarding the well's mechanical integrity status. The Mechanical Integrity Assessment program requires unconventional operators to submit four (4) quarterly inspections assessing the condition of all wells. However, only one (1) of these four (4) quarterly inspections must be submitted to satisfy to the *Integrity Report* requirement for these conventional wells. This reporting requirement applies to all active and abandoned wells that have not been plugged. An *Integrity Report* of the inspections must be submitted annually to DEP, either through [GreenPort](#) or a paper form supplied by DEP. For more information, please see [Section 3222\(a\) of the 2012 Oil and Gas Act](#), related to Well Reporting Requirements, and 25 Pa. Code §§ [78.88](#), [78a.88](#).

### Transferred or Sold a Well?

Under applicable Pennsylvania law the current operator of a well must have a valid permit or registration to lawfully operate the well. If you sold a well, or property that included ownership of an oil or gas well, and you are still listed as the operator of that well in the DEP system, or if you purchased a well, or property that included ownership of an oil or gas well, and you are not identified as the current operator of that well, DEP has not received the documentation to change the permit to designate the appropriate operator of that well. Additionally, if the status of a well has changed, for example, the well has been plugged, a form will most likely need to be submitted to update the well status in the DEP system. To resolve these issues, you will need to contact your [DEP Oil & Gas District office](#) where the well is located and request the proper forms to update your [DEP](#). [DEP](#) must receive proper documentation to update records, ownership, or well status. All forms should be submitted to the DEP Oil & Gas District offices for the county the well is located.

## Legacy Wells Webpage Update!

The Legacy Oil and Gas Wells Webpage has been updated! The new website contains an easier to use navigation bar with specific information for landowners, plugging contractors, local government personnel, as well as information about the well plugging program. For more information please visit [www.dep.pa.gov/legacywells](http://www.dep.pa.gov/legacywells).

Department of Environmental Protection

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## Rewriting Pennsylvania's Legacy

## Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit-3 (ESCGP-3) Update

On October 6, 2018 the Department published notice of availability of the ESCGP-3 in the PA Bulletin. Final versions of the ESCGP-3 and associated documents are now available in eLibrary. Recorded ESCGP-3 trainings are posted in the Oil and Gas website. For more information please visit our [Public Resources webpage](#).

If you have any questions related to the articles in this newsletter or if you have something you would like to see included in this newsletter, please contact the Bureau of Oil and Gas Planning and Program Management office in Harrisburg at 717-772-2199 or email [RA-ep-BOGMOGRE@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ep-BOGMOGRE@pa.gov).

Click here for a complete list of our [DEP Oil and Gas Office locations](#).

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17101



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