

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites

Permit application fee schedule
(§ 78a.19)

The purpose of this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is to highlight changes in and address questions about the new regulations. This FAQ should not be used in lieu of reference to the 2012 Oil and Gas Act, 25 Pa.Code Chapter 78a and other applicable laws and regulations. The answers outlined in this FAQ are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in this document shall affect statutory or regulatory requirements.

This document is not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of the Department to give this document that weight or deference. The Department may supplement or amend this document at any time as necessary without notice.

- 1) The \$250 surcharges are still to be in addition to the permit fees correct? So it would be \$4200 or \$5000 plus \$250 correct?

That is correct. The \$250 surcharge for gas wells and the \$150 surcharge for oil wells is imposed by Section 3271 (pertaining to well plugging funds) of the 2012 Oil and Gas Act and is not changed by this rulemaking. (posted 09/23/16)

- 2) What is a “nonvertical unconventional well”? How is it different from a vertical one?

These terms are defined in Section 78a.1:

Nonvertical unconventional well—

- (i) An unconventional well drilled intentionally to deviate from a vertical axis.
- (ii) The term includes wells drilled diagonally and wells that have horizontal bore holes.

Vertical unconventional well—An unconventional well with a single vertical well bore.

The well permit application instructions state, “If the wellbore is intended to be deviated from vertical by more than 3 degrees, check deviated.” (posted 09/23/16)