

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites

Disposal of residual waste—land application
(§ 78a.63)

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) Who administers the residual waste application and permit for drill cuttings?

The DEP Office of Oil and Gas Management will administer residual waste disposal permits under sections 78a.61 through 78a.63. (posted 10/20/16)

- 2) Does a waste disposal permit for the disposal of drill cuttings below the casing seat require that the operator file an OG-71? If so, it is not mentioned in the instructions. What will the approval process be?

No, an OG-71 will not be used for the disposal of residual waste, including contaminated drill cuttings at an unconventional well site. An operator needs to apply for an onsite residual waste management disposal permit administered by the DEP Office of Oil and Gas Management. (posted 10/20/16)

- 3) Is DEP Oil and Gas regulating the burial of drill cuttings from below the casing seat? Under the regulations, it says that approval is issued under this chapter but it sounded that an operator would seek approval through the division of residual waste? Please clarify.

The DEP Office of Oil and Gas Management will be regulating the burial and land application of drill cuttings below the casing seat. It will apply the same requirements for residual waste disposal as that activity is authorized under the Solid Waste Management Act, Act 97 of 1980. (posted 10/20/16)

- 4) Is only landowner notification and not landowner approval required for onsite disposal?

Correct. (posted 10/20/16)