

# METHANE EMISSION REDUCTION PROGRAM (MERP) FAQ

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## Frequently Asked Questions

*“Who is eligible to apply?”*

**Operators, qualified well pluggers, and third parties without any outstanding compliance issues.**

*“What wells are eligible?”*

**Marginal Conventional Wells (MCW), defined as a well that produces less than 15 barrels of oil, or 90,000 mcf of gas per day.**

*“Are wells that currently are in a Consent Order and Agreement to plug excluded from funding eligibility?”*

**The applicant’s compliance status is a factor in determining eligibility for the grant. Wells in a Consent Order Agreement are not in compliance, so they would not be eligible.**

*“Will grants be awarded on a “first-come, first-serve” basis?”*

**No. Applications will be accepted during an approximately 60-day period and reviewed. Prioritization will be evaluated during the application review and during on-site assessment.**

*“How are applications ranked/prioritized?”*

**The applicant will be responsible to complete a well scoring sheet prior to submitting the application. The total score of the well will be entered into the grant application, and the scoring sheet will be uploaded into the application itself. Top scoring wells will be ranked and prioritized accordingly. An onsite field verification will be conducted by DEP to ensure accuracy of the scoring.**

**The scoring sheet is being finalized at this time. It will be posted to the MERP webpage once available.**

*“How long do we have to plug the well after application approval?”*

**Funds shall only be available for 12 months following the date of Department approval. Any extension to this time requirement must be requested in writing by the Grantee and agreed to by the Department.**

*“What are the reimbursement amounts?”*

-Up to \$20,000 for wells 3,000’ or less

-Up to \$35,000 for wells greater than 3,000’

-Max reimbursement for applicant is \$420,000 per application period

*“Will grant funds be issued before or after plugging?”*

**The MERP grant is for reimbursement of costs associated with plugging Marginal Conventional Wells. Reimbursement will take place after plugging and associated paperwork is completed.**

*“How long after plugging will it take to be reimbursed?”*

**Upon the completion of work, technical staff will review invoices prior to submitting to the Grants Center for processing. Once received, standard practice is to process for payment within 5 business days of receipt. If there are no issues, standard Commonwealth payment terms are 30 days after that submission.**

*How often will the application period open?*

**The application period will open annually during a 60-day period. Exact dates of the application window will be posted on the [Methane Emission Reduction Program \(MERP\) \(pa.gov\)](http://www.pa.gov) website in advance. Additional application periods may be open throughout the year depending on availability of funds after the initial grant period.**

### **SAP Vendor Number**

**A SAP Vendor Number is required to process the grant application.**

If you do not have an SAP Vendor Number, you may register in advance of the grant application going live. Using Microsoft Edge or Chrome internet browser, open the Office of the Budget website at [www.budget.pa.gov](http://www.budget.pa.gov) and follow these steps:

1. Select “For Vendors”
2. Select “Vendor Registration”
3. Select “Non-Procurement”
4. Complete the sections of the Non-Procurement Vendor Registration process.

If you already have a SAP Vendor Number that begins with a 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, any changes to your vendor information such as bank account information or address changes must be completed by visiting the PA Supplier Portal at [www.pasupplierportal.state.pa.us](http://www.pasupplierportal.state.pa.us).

If you already have a SAP vendor number that begins with a 6, 7, or 8, any changes to your vendor information such as bank account information or address changes must be completed by visiting the Office of the Budget website at [www.budget.pa.gov](http://www.budget.pa.gov) and select “Non-procurement vendor help” and select from the “How To” actions for assistance.