

What do I need to do to become an oil or gas well operator in Pennsylvania?

Before drilling and operating a new oil and/or gas well, or assuming operation of an existing oil and/or gas well, an individual or organization must obtain a permit or registration for that well from the Department. The Department no longer issues new registrations for existing wells. However, a valid permit or registration that was previously issued to an operator of a well may be transferred to a new operator upon approval of the transfer by the Department. For new wells, a permit must be obtained.

However, before a well permit application or application for transfer of well permit or registration can be reviewed by the Department, the individual or organization submitting the form must be established as an oil or gas well operator with the Department. Upon becoming established as an oil and/or gas well operator, the Department will assign an OGO number to the individual or organization. The OGO number will begin with "OGO-", and will be followed by a 4 to 6 digit unique numerical identifier.

To become established as an oil and/or gas well operator, an individual or company must submit the following form to the regional permitting office which covers the county in which the existing or proposed well(s) are, or are proposed to be, located, along with a well permit application(s), an application for transfer of well permit or registration, and/or any other applicable forms.

[Form 8000-FM-OOGM0099](#) [Oil and Gas Operator's General Information Form](#)

The well permit application forms and application for transfer of well permit or registration form can be accessed using the links below.

[Application for Transfer of Well Permit or Registration](#)

[Well Permit Applications](#)

Please note that operators must submit an updated ownership and control information form with each well permit application.

[Form 8000-FM-OOGM0118](#) [Oil and Gas Operator Ownership and Control Information form](#)

Additionally, if the prospective operator intends to drill and operate a new well, or assume operation of an existing well that was drilled after April 17, 1985, they will need to have an approved bond in place before the Department can review the permit application and/or transfer request. Bond forms can be accessed using the link below. The appropriate bond forms should be submitted to the appropriate regional permitting office along with the above referenced forms. Please be advised that it may take several weeks for bond documents to be reviewed and approved by the Department. Prospective operators should take this into consideration and plan accordingly. New well permit applications and transfer requests will not be processed unless the necessary bonds are approved.

[Link to Bond Forms PDF.](#)

A map displaying the coverage area, mailing address, and contact information for each DEP oil and gas well permitting office can be accessed using the link below. Applicants should contact the appropriate regional office with any questions regarding this process.

[Oil and Gas Well Permitting Offices](#)