

PERMANENT WELL PLUGGING REQUIREMENTS—Continued

If you have . . .	Then you must use . . .
(10) Permafrost areas,	(i) A fluid to be left in the hole that has a freezing point below the temperature of the permafrost, and a treatment to inhibit corrosion; and (ii) Cement plugs designed to set before freezing and have a low heat of hydration.
(11) Removed the barriers required in § 250.420(b)(3) for the well to be completed	Two independent barriers, one of which must be a mechanical barrier, in the center wellbore as described in § 250.420(b)(3) once the well is to be placed in a permanent or temporary abandonment.

(b) You must test the first plug below the surface plug and all plugs in lost circulation areas that are in open hole. The plug must pass one of the following tests to verify plug integrity:

- (1) A pipe weight of at least 15,000 pounds on the plug; or
- (2) A pump pressure of at least 1,000 pounds per square inch. Ensure that the pressure does not drop more than 10 percent in 15 minutes. The District Manager may require you to tests other plug(s).

[76 FR 64462, Oct. 18, 2011, as amended at 77 FR 50900, Aug. 22, 2012]

**§ 250.1716 To what depth must I remove wellheads and casings?**

(a) Unless the District Manager approves an alternate depth under paragraph (b) of this section, you must remove all wellheads and casings to at least 15 feet below the mud line.

(b) The District Manager may approve an alternate removal depth if:

- (1) The wellhead or casing would not become an obstruction to other users of the seafloor or area, and geotechnical and other information you provide demonstrate that erosional processes capable of exposing the obstructions are not expected; or
- (2) You determine, and BSEE concurs, that you must use divers, and the seafloor sediment stability poses safety concerns; or
- (3) The water depth is greater than 800 meters (2,624 feet).

**§ 250.1717 After I permanently plug a well, what information must I submit?**

Within 30 days after you permanently plug a well, you must submit form BSEE-0124, Application for Permit to Modify (subsequent report), to the appropriate District Manager, and include the following information:

(a) Information included in § 250.1712 with a final well schematic;

(b) Description of the plugging work;

(c) Nature and quantities of material used in the plugs; and

(d) If you cut and pulled any casing string, the following information:

- (1) A description of the methods used (including information on explosives, if used);
- (2) Size and amount of casing removed; and
- (3) Casing removal depth.

TEMPORARY ABANDONED WELLS

**§ 250.1721 If I temporarily abandon a well that I plan to re-enter, what must I do?**

You may temporarily abandon a well when it is necessary for proper development and production of a lease. To temporarily abandon a well, you must do all of the following:

(a) Submit form BSEE-0124, Application for Permit to Modify, and the applicable information required by § 250.1712 to the appropriate District Manager and receive approval;

(b) Adhere to the plugging and testing requirements for permanently plugged wells listed in the table in § 250.1715, except for § 250.1715(a)(8). You do not need to sever the casings, remove the wellhead, or clear the site;

(c) Set a bridge plug or a cement plug at least 100-feet long at the base of the deepest casing string, unless the casing string has been cemented and has not been drilled out. If a cement plug is set, it is not necessary for the cement plug to extend below the casing shoe into the open hole;

(d) Set a retrievable or a permanent-type bridge plug or a cement plug at least 100 feet long in the inner-most casing. The top of the bridge plug or cement plug must be no more than

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1,000 feet below the mud line. BSEE may consider approving alternate requirements for subsea wells case-by-case;

(e) Identify and report subsea wellheads, casing stubs, or other obstructions that extend above the mud line according to U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) requirements;

(f) Except in water depths greater than 300 feet, protect subsea wellheads, casing stubs, mud line suspensions, or other obstructions remaining above the seafloor by using one of the following methods, as approved by the District Manager or Regional Supervisor:

(1) A caisson designed according to 30 CFR 250, subpart I, and equipped with aids to navigation;

(2) A jacket designed according to 30 CFR 250, subpart I, and equipped with aids to navigation; or

(3) A subsea protective device that meets the requirements in § 250.1722.

(g) Within 30 days after you temporarily plug a well, you must submit form BSEE-0124, Application for Permit to Modify (subsequent report), and include the following information:

(1) Information included in § 250.1712 with a well schematic;

(2) Information required by § 250.1717(b), (c), and (d); and

(3) A description of any remaining subsea wellheads, casing stubs, mudline suspension equipment, or other obstructions that extend above the seafloor; and

(h) Submit certification by a Registered Professional Engineer of the well abandonment design and procedures and that all plugs meet the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section. In addition to the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, the Registered Professional Engineer must also certify the design will include two independent barriers, one of which must be a mechanical barrier, in the center wellbore as described in § 250.420(b)(3). The Registered Professional Engineer must be registered in a State of the United States and have sufficient expertise and experience to perform the certification. You must submit this certification with your

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APM (Form BSEE-0124) required by § 250.1712 of this part.

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### **§ 250.1722 If I install a subsea protective device, what requirements must I meet?**

If you install a subsea protective device under § 250.1721(f)(3), you must install it in a manner that allows fishing gear to pass over the obstruction without damage to the obstruction, the protective device, or the fishing gear.

(a) Use form BSEE-0124, Application for Permit to Modify to request approval from the appropriate District Manager to install a subsea protective device.

(b) The protective device may not extend more than 10 feet above the seafloor (unless BSEE approves otherwise).

(c) You must trawl over the protective device when you install it (adhere to the requirements at § 250.1741(d) through (h)). If the trawl does not pass over the protective device or causes damage to it, you must notify the appropriate District Manager within 5 days and perform remedial action within 30 days of the trawl;

(d) Within 30 days after you complete the trawling test described in paragraph (c) of this section, submit a report to the appropriate District Manager using form BSEE-0124, Application for Permit to Modify that includes the following:

(1) The date(s) the trawling test was performed and the vessel that was used;

(2) A plat at an appropriate scale showing the trawl lines;

(3) A description of the trawling operation and the net(s) that were used;

(4) An estimate by the trawling contractor of the seafloor penetration depth achieved by the trawl;

(5) A summary of the results of the trawling test including a discussion of any snags and interruptions, a description of any damage to the protective covering, the casing stub or mud line suspension equipment, or the trawl, and a discussion of any snag removals requiring diver assistance; and