
Oil & Gas

Operators Manual



Oil & Gas
The Drake Well 1859
Titusville, Pennsylvania



Bureau of Oil and Gas Management

OIL AND GAS OPERATORS MANUAL

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT
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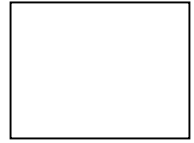
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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT**

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Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act (P.L. 1069, No. 214)
(58 P.S. Section 501.1 et seq.)
Oil and Gas Conservation Law (P.L. 825, No. 359) (58 P.S. Section 401.1 et seq.)
The Clean Streams Law (P.L. 1987, No. 394) (35 P.S. Section 691.1 et seq.)
Solid Waste Management Act (P.L. 380, No. 97) (35 P.S. Section 6018.101 et seq.)
The Administrative Code (P.L. 177, No. 175) (71 P.S. Section 510-1 et seq.)
25 Pa. Code Chapters 78, 79, 91, 92, 93, 95, 96, 102, 105, 106, 260, 261, 287, 288, 289, 291, 293, 299

POLICY: It is the policy of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to provide guidance and compliance assistance information to owners and operators of oil and gas wells, service companies and landowners.

PURPOSE: This manual provides an overview of statutes and regulations of DEP and other agencies, DEP guidance and procedures, and recommended practices for drilling wells and producing crude oil and natural gas in Pennsylvania. It is designed as an operator's handbook, for use primarily by people working in the oil and gas industry. The main text describes obligations and responsibilities for permitting, drilling, best management practices for erosion and sediment control, well site environmental controls, waste management practices, well plugging, and related activities. Appendices include copies of laws and regulations, forms, guidelines for submitting bonds, and a permitting manual for oil and gas wastewaters.

APPLICABILITY: This guidance is designed as a handbook for oil and gas operators and service companies. It can also be used by landowners that may have an oil or gas well on their land.

DISCLAIMER: The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance document are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in the policies or procedures will affect regulatory requirements.

The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of the Department to give these rules that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework, within which DEP will exercise its administrative discretion in the future. DEP reserves the discretion to deviate from this policy statement if circumstances warrant.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments and businesses to prevent pollution and restore our natural resources.

PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION **Article I, Section 27**

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

OIL AND GAS OPERATORS MANUAL

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CHAPTER 1

OIL AND GAS OPERATORS MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for enforcing numerous laws and regulations designed to protect the public's health and safety while preventing pollution of the environment. One of the industries affected by these laws and regulations is Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry.

In the past, DEP's regulation of the oil and gas industry has been pursuant to the Act of November 30, 1955, P.L. 756, No. 225, the Gas Operations, Well-Drilling, Petroleum and Coal Mining Act, which dealt largely with standards for wells in coal mining areas, and regulation of underground gas storage reservoirs, and the Act of July 25, 1961, P.L. 825, No. 359, the Oil and Gas Conservation Law, which governs conservation wells. With the passage of the Act of December 19, 1984, P.L. 1140, No. 223, the Oil and Gas Act of 1984, as amended, and the Act of December 18, 1984, P.L. 1069, No. 214, the Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act of 1984, and amendments, new requirements are in effect. The Oil and Gas Act has repealed all the provisions of the Gas Operations, Well Drilling, Petroleum, and Coal Mining Act. Regulations have been developed in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 78 under 6 laws: The Oil and Gas Act; The Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act; The Oil and Gas Conservation Law; The Clean Streams Law; The Solid Waste Management Act; and The Administrative Code. The regulations in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 79 promulgated under the Oil and Gas Conservation Law have been amended to make them consistent with the new Oil and Gas Act and the new requirements set forth in Chapter 78. Other DEP regulations seek to minimize soil erosion, to protect surface and ground waters and to assure the proper disposal of residual waste products.

The purpose of this manual is to provide a broad overview of the statutes, regulations and recommended practices relating to the oil and gas industry. The manual is designed primarily for use by persons working in the oil and gas industry. Other possible users include citizen groups and governmental personnel.

Further information can be obtained by contacting DEP's Bureau of Oil and Gas Management in Harrisburg at (717) 772-2199, or the Regional Offices in Pittsburgh (412) 442-4024 or Meadville (814) 332-6860.

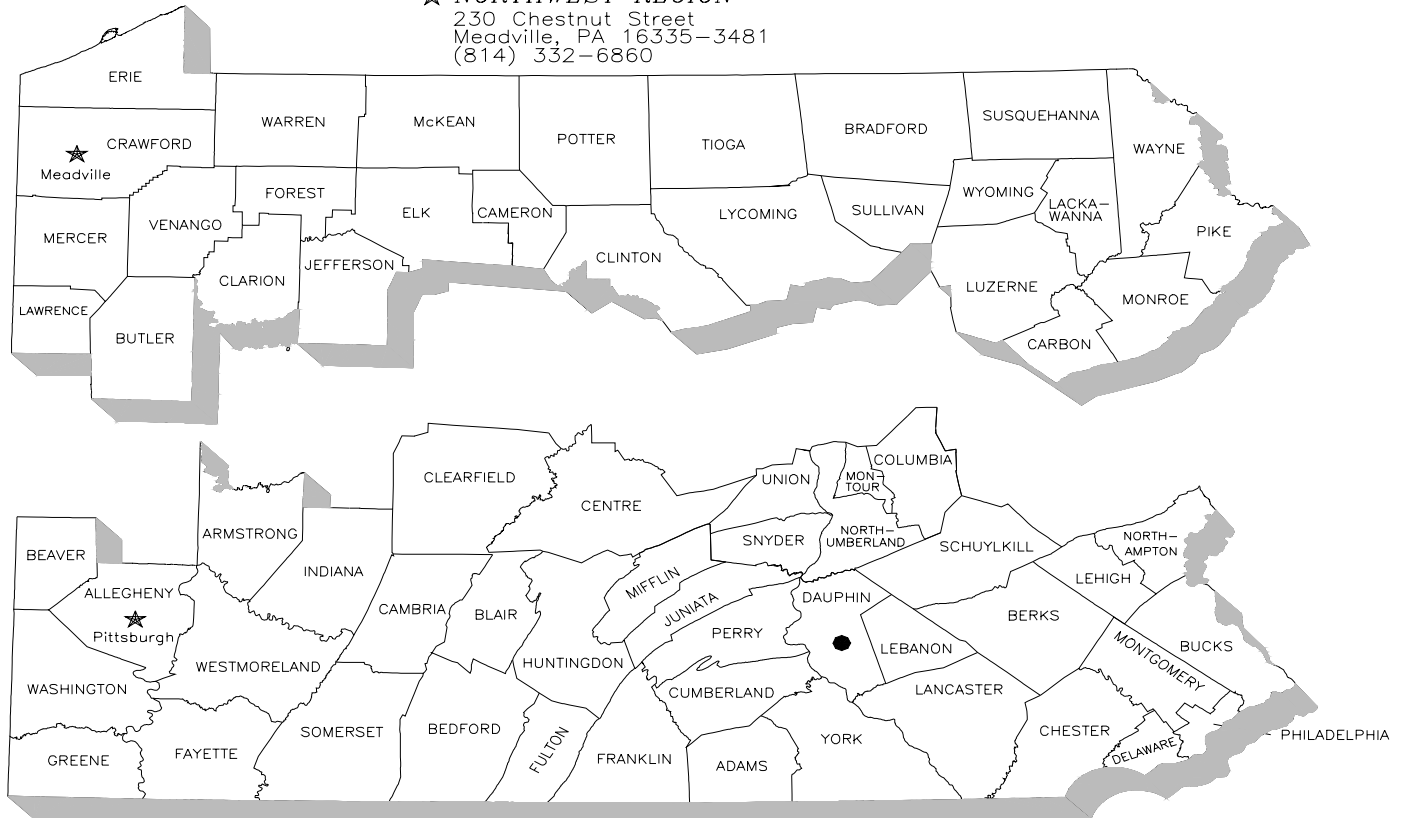
The map on pages 1-2 indicates the boundaries for the areas governed by the Oil and Gas Management Regional Offices.

This manual is not a substitute for reading and complying with the statutes and regulations discussed herein. The law is not reiterated in this manual, and the statutes and regulations contain more specific detail and additional requirements. This manual is not a complete review of all the laws that may impact the oil and gas industry. No person should rely solely on this manual to determine his legal rights and obligations. Errors contained in this manual will not excuse persons from complying with the law. In order to determine the requirements of pertinent laws, persons should refer to the statutes and regulations as published in the Laws of Pennsylvania.



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