

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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To:

All Field Officials

From:

Acting, Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals and Realty Management

Subject:

Notice of Staking (NOS) Requirements for Wells on Multi-Well Pads

Onshore Order No. 1 allows an operator to file a NOS with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to provide an opportunity to gather information to better address site-specific resource concerns prior to submitting the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) package. This can lead to faster APD processing times and assurance that resource concerns are known and addressed by the operator prior to the submission of an APD.

It is common practice for operators to drill multiple wells on a single pad or propose new wells on existing well pads and in some instances to submit a NOS for each new well. It is unnecessary for an operator to submit a NOS for each well on a multi-well pad or for a new well on an existing well pad, if no new surface disturbance is occurring. When an Operator proposes drilling multiple wells on a pad, WO advises that field offices work with operators to submit only one NOS per well pad and include all wells and facilities that will foreseeably be located on that pad. This will allow the BLM to conduct all the necessary reviews, while reducing burdens to staff by addressing all disturbance with a single review. This is a recommendation not a requirement, as an operator is entitled to submit more than one NOS per well pad. Some operators may do this to start the 30-day public posting period. However, if the operator includes multiple wells and facilities on a NOS submission and makes no appreciable changes when submitting the associated APDs, the multi-well pad NOS submittal will start the 30-day public posting period. When creating the multi-well pad NOS submittal, the operator should include all well information in the Comment section of the NOS form in AFMSS2 (A2) and then add appropriate attachments for each well. In A2, the operator can then clone to the previous NOS identification number which then copies all the location information over into the APD.

This guidance will streamline the NOS and APD permitting process for both industry and the BLM by eliminating repetitive reviews over the same well pad location.

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