

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | March 24, 2020

North Dakota DMR to Reinstate Well Waivers

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Department of Mineral Resources was directed today by the North Dakota Industrial Commission to immediately reinstate guidelines that promote the prevention of waste of the state’s natural resources of oil and gas during the current economic climate.

The *Not Completed Well Waiver* guidelines allow operators to apply for *Not Completed Well Status*.

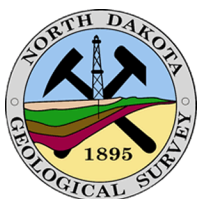
- Not Completed Well (NCW) Status: May only be given to wells that have been drilled but whose casing has not yet been perforated (i.e. the well is incapable of producing oil or gas because completion operations have not yet been performed).

The *Inactive Well Waiver* guidelines allow operators to apply for *Inactive Well Status*.

- Inactive Well (IAW) Status: May only be given to wells that have met certain criteria which includes documentation stating why the well is inactive and a statement that it is uneconomic to produce at current crude oil prices in addition to several additional criteria.

The *Suspension of Drilling Waiver* guidelines allow operators to apply for *Temporary Abandoned Surface Casing Status*.

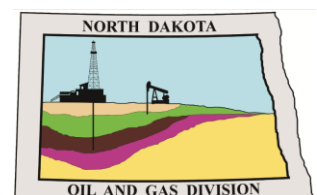
- Temporary Abandoned Surface Casing (TASC) Status: May only be given to wells that have had surface casing set and properly cemented and are properly secured until time



Lynn D. Helms
DIRECTOR
DEPT. OF MINERAL RESOURCES

Bruce E. Hicks
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

Edward C. Murphy
STATE GEOLOGIST
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



for a large drilling rig to drill the remaining portion of the well and equip it for completion operations.

Each waiver is good for one year and operators will be allowed to apply for renewal until WTI oil price exceeds \$50 per barrel for 90 days.

Guidelines will updated and posted to the Department of Mineral Resources website no later than April 1st at <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/policies.asp>.

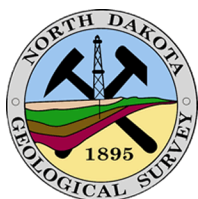
The North Dakota Industrial Commission is made up of North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

For more information, contact:

Katie Haarsager, Public Information Specialist
North Dakota Oil and Gas Division
600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept. 405 | Bismarck, ND 58505-0840
PHONE: 701-328-8036 | EMAIL: kahaarsager@nd.gov
www.dmr.nd.gov

To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division information center at <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/informationcenter.asp>.

#



Lynn D. Helms
DIRECTOR
DEPT. OF MINERAL RESOURCES

Bruce E. Hicks
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

Edward C. Murphy
STATE GEOLOGIST
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

