

North Dakota Oil and Gas Division Well Status Designations Guide

North Dakota Oil and Gas Division Rules and Regulations can be found at www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas

Below are the well status designations issued by the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division following the basic life of a well. Note: Each well is unique, this path is not representative of every well. Descriptions are available as a reference; consult North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources and North Dakota state statutes for official definitions. Additional well status designations are listed on page 2.

LOC Location Status

- **Description:** A well that has been permitted to drill. A permit to drill automatically expires one year after the date it was issued, unless the well is drilling or has been drilled below surface casing. **North Dakota Administrative Code § 43-02-03-16.**
- **Department:** Permitting

DRL Drilling Status

- **Description:** Well status will change to "DRL" once drilling operations have begun. At this stage a rig has moved to location and the well has been spud. "Spud" – The first actual penetration of the earth with the drill bit.
- **Department(s):** Field Operations & Permitting

A Active Status

- **Description:** DMR has now received a Completion Report. (Required within 30 days) **North Dakota Administrative Code § 43-02-03-31.** "Completion" - When the first oil is produced through wellhead equipment into tanks from the ultimate producing interval after casing has been run. A gas well shall be considered complete when the well can produce gas through wellhead equipment from the ultimate producing zone after casing has been run. **North Dakota Administrative Code § 43-02-03-01.** The average life of an active Bakken well can be up to 30 years. However each well is different.
- **Department:** Production Auditing

IA Inactive Status

- **Description:** A well that has submitted no Oil Production Report or has had no production in over 3 months.
- **Department(s):** Production Auditing & Field Operations

AB Abandoned Status

- **Description:** The removal of production equipment or the failure to produce oil or gas, or the removal of production equipment or the failure to produce water from a source well, for one year constitutes abandonment of the well. An abandoned well must be plugged and its site must be reclaimed, an abandoned treating plant must be removed and its site must be reclaimed. **North Dakota Administrative Code § 43-02-03-55(1).** A well in abandoned-well status must be promptly returned to production in paying quantities, approved by the commission for temporarily abandoned status, or plugged and reclaimed within six months. If none of the three preceding conditions are met, the industrial commission may require the well to be placed immediately on a single-well bond in an amount equal to the cost of plugging the well and reclaiming the well site. **North Dakota Century Code § 38-08-04(12)**
- **Department(s):** Production Auditing & Field Operations

PA Plugged & Abandoned Status

- **Description:** This status is applied once a Plugging Report is filed – Due 30 days after the well is plugged. **North Dakota Administrative Code § 43-02-03-33.** Within a reasonable time, but not more than one year, after a well is plugged, or if a permit expires, has been canceled or revoked, or a treating plant or saltwater handling facility is decommissioned, the site, access road, and other associated facilities constructed shall be reclaimed as closely as practicable to original condition pursuant to North Dakota Century Code section 38-08-04.12. **North Dakota Administrative Code § 43-02-03-34.1 (1)**
- **Department(s):** Reclamation & Field Operations

Additional Well Status Designations:

EXP

Expired Status

- **Description:** Permit has expired. Permits to drill are only valid for 1 year unless renewed. Operator may choose not to drill the well or may request to renew the permit.
- **Department:** Permitting

PNC

Permit Now Cancelled Status

- **Description:** Operator's permit is cancelled either by the Oil and Gas Division or by the Operator. The Operator may later request to renew the permit.
- **Department:** Permitting

PNS

Permit Now Suspended Status

- **Description:** Operator's permit is suspended by the Oil and Gas Division. May be reevaluated and re-permitted to drill.
- **Department:** Permitting

NC

Not Complete Status

- **Description:** This status is applied once the rig moves off location. The well has been drilled to total depth but is waiting on completion crews.
- **Department(s):** Field Operations & Permitting

DRY

Dry Hole Status

- **Description:** Well has been drilled, however no production resulted from the location. At this point a "DRY" well would be plugged and the location reclaimed.
- **Department(s):** Field Operations & Permitting

TA

Temporarily Abandoned Status

TAI – Intermediate Casing Set;
TAO - Observation;
TASC – Surface Casing Set;
TATD – Drilled to Total Depth

- **Description:** The director may waive for one year the requirement to plug and reclaim an abandoned well by giving the well temporarily abandoned status. This status may only be given to wells that are to be used for purposes related to the production of oil and gas. If a well is given temporarily abandoned status, the well's perforations must be isolated, the integrity of its casing must be proven, and its casing must be sealed at the surface, all in a manner approved by the director. The director may extend a well's temporarily abandoned status and each extension may be approved for up to one year. A surface owner may request a review of a well temporarily abandoned for at least seven years pursuant to subsection 1 of North Dakota Century Code section 38-08-04. **North Dakota Administrative Code § 43-02-03-55(2)**
- **Department:** Petroleum Engineering