

STATE OF ALASKA

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AOGCC Industry Guidance Bulletin No. 06-03 VBR Testing

Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission ("Commission") regulations are currently silent regarding variable bore ram ("VBR") BOPE. However, 20 AAC 25.527(c)(5) requires well control equipment and fluids to be installed, used, maintained, and tested in a manner that ensures well control and, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, that conforms with the applicable provisions of API RP 53, *Recommended Practices for Blowout Prevention Equipment Systems for Drilling Wells*, 3d Edition, March 1997, which are adopted by reference.

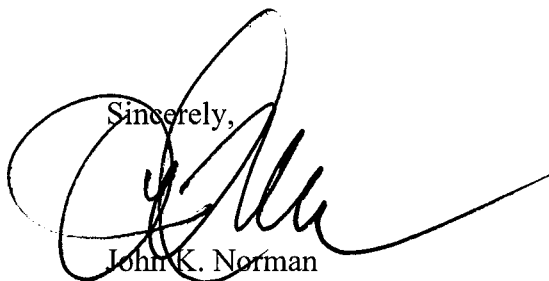
The American Petroleum Institute ("API") has issued recommendations on VBR testing in sections 17.5.5 and 18.5.5 of API RP 53:

Variable bore rams should be initially pressure tested on the largest and smallest OD pipe sizes that may be used during the well operation.

The Commission provides the following guidance on VBR testing. For each BOPE test during drilling, completion and workover operations, VBRs must be tested to the required pressure on the smallest OD and largest OD tubulars that may be used during that test cycle. VBRs need not be tested on BHAs and drill collars.

In order to ensure regulatory compliance, please share this guidance with all appropriate members of your organizations. Please direct questions or discussion to Winton Aubert at (907) 793-1231.

Sincerely,



John K. Norman
Chairman