

December 18, 2017

AOGCC Industry Guidance Bulletin 17-001
Testing Procedure for New Casing

Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) regulations governing casing are found at 20 AAC 25.030. Paragraph (e) requires new casing to be tested without specifying how to perform the test. Questions about what constitutes an acceptable test of new casing point to the need for clarification. The intent of 20 AAC 25.030(e) is to obtain a complete *system test* of the wellhead, blowout prevention equipment, and the casing. In addition to the guidance below, the regulation provides for approval of a variance if the alternative results in the same or better indication of a well's mechanical integrity.

Excluded from this guidance is the testing of production liners.

After installing and cementing new casing and with a blowout prevention equipment (BOPE) stack in place, a casing pressure test should be performed just prior to drilling out the casing shoe track. Testing of the casing should be performed with either closure of the blind rams or pipe rams closed on the drill string. In this way, a complete *system test* is accomplished by verifying the burst resistance of the casing, imparting a tensile load to the new wellhead installation, and otherwise assuring an acceptable level of mechanical integrity exists for the well.

Operators should anticipate the formation integrity test procedure in performing the casing test to ensure the incremental volume of fluid pumped to achieve the casing test closely matches with the incremental volumes pumped during the formation integrity test. This procedure facilitates plotting the casing and formation integrity test results on a single graph to be used in assessing the validity of the acquired data.

Please share this Guidance Bulletin with all appropriate members of your organizations. Questions regarding this guidance should be directed to Guy Schwartz at (907) 793-1226.

Sincerely,

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Cathy P. Foerster
Commissioner