

## Bureau of Land Management, Interior

## § 3173.1

records are generated, the record holder must retain all records regarding production from the lease, unit PA, or CA until the final nonappealable decision in such judicial proceeding is made, or with respect to that demand is rendered, unless the Secretary or his/her designee authorizes in writing a release of the requirement to maintain such records before a final nonappealable decision is made or rendered.

(2) If a judicial proceeding or demand is not commenced within 7 years after the records are generated, the record holder must retain all records regarding production from the unit or communitized area until the Secretary or his/her designee releases the record holder from the obligation to maintain the records;

(f) The lessee, operator, purchaser, or transporter must maintain an audit trail.

(g) All records, including source records, that are used to determine quality, quantity, disposition, and verification of production attributable to a Federal or Indian lease, unit PA, or CA, must include the FMP number or the lease, unit PA, or CA number, along with a unique equipment identifier (*e.g.*, a unique tank identification number and meter station number), and the name of the company that created the record. For all facilities existing prior to the assignment of an FMP number, all records must include the following information:

(1) The name of the operator;

(2) The lease, unit PA, or CA number; and

(3) The well or facility name and number.

(h) Upon request of the AO, the operator, purchaser, or transporter must provide such records to the AO as may be required by regulation, written order, Onshore Order, NTL, or COA.

(i) All records must be legible.

(j) All records requiring a signature must also have the signer's printed name.

### § 3170.8 Appeal procedures.

(a) BLM decisions, orders, assessments, or other actions under the regulations in this part are administratively appealable under the procedures

prescribed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), 3165.4, and part 4.

(b) For any recommendation made by the PMT, and approved by the BLM, a party affected by such recommendation may file a request for discretionary review by the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. The Assistant Secretary may delegate this review function as he or she deems appropriate, in which case the affected party's application for discretionary review must be made to the person or persons to whom the Assistant Secretary's review function has been delegated.

### § 3170.9 Enforcement.

Noncompliance with any of the requirements of this part or any order issued under this part may result in enforcement actions under 43 CFR subpart 3163 or any other remedy available under applicable law or regulation.

## Subparts 3171–3172 [Reserved]

## Subpart 3173—Requirements for Site Security and Production Handling

### § 3173.1 Definitions and acronyms.

(a) As used in this subpart, the term: *Access* means the ability to:

(i) Add liquids to or remove liquids from any tank or piping system, through a valve or combination of valves or by moving liquids from one tank to another tank; or

(ii) Enter any component in a measuring system affecting the accuracy of the measurement of the quality or quantity of the liquid being measured.

*Appropriate valves* means those valves that must be sealed during the production or sales phase (*e.g.*, fill lines, equalizer, overflow lines, sales lines, circulating lines, or drain lines).

*Authorized representative (AR)* has the same meaning as defined in 43 CFR 3160.0–5.

*Business day* means any day Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

*Commingling and allocation approval (CAA)* means a formal allocation agreement to combine production from two or more sources (leases, unit PAs, CAs,

or non-Federal or non-Indian properties) before that product reaches an FMP.

*Economically marginal property* means a lease, unit PA, or CA that does not generate sufficient revenue above operating costs, such that a prudent operator would opt to plug a well or shut-in the lease, unit PA, or CA instead of making the investments needed to achieve non-commingled measurement of production from that lease, unit PA, or CA. A lease, unit PA, or CA may be regarded as economically marginal if the operator demonstrates that the expected revenue (net any associated operating costs) generated from crude oil or natural gas production volumes on that property is not sufficient to cover the nominal cost of the capital expenditures required to achieve measurement of non-commingled production of oil or gas from that property over a payout period of 18 months. A lease, unit PA, or CA can also be considered economically marginal if the operator demonstrates that its royalty net present value (RNPV), or the discounted value of the Federal or Indian royalties collected on revenue earned from crude oil or natural gas production on the lease, unit PA, or CA, over the expected life of the equipment that would need to be installed to achieve non-commingled measurement volumes, is less than the capital cost of purchasing and installing this equipment. Both the payout period and the RNPV are determined separately for each lease, unit PA, or CA oil or gas FMP. Additionally, oil FMPs are evaluated using estimated revenue (net of taxes and operating costs) from crude oil production, as defined in this section, while gas FMPs are evaluated using estimated revenue (net of taxes and operating costs) from natural gas production, as defined in this section.

*Effectively sealed* means the placement of a seal in such a manner that the sealed component cannot be accessed, moved, or altered without breaking the seal.

*Free water* means the measured volume of water that is present in a container and that is not in suspension in the contained liquid at observed temperature.

*Land description* means a location surveyed in accordance with the U.S. Department of the Interior's *Manual of Surveying Instructions* (2009), that includes the quarter-quarter section, section, township, range, and principal meridian, or other authorized survey designation acceptable to the AO, such as metes-and-bounds, or latitude and longitude.

*Maximum ultimate economic recovery* has the same meaning as defined in 43 CFR 3160.0–5.

*Mishandling* means failing to measure or account for removal of production from a facility.

*Payout period* means the time required, in months, for the cost of an investment in an oil or gas FMP for a specific lease, unit PA, or CA to be covered by the nominal revenue earned from crude oil production, for an oil FMP, or natural gas production, for a gas FMP, minus taxes, royalties, and any operating and variable costs. The payout period is determined separately for each oil or gas FMP for a given lease, unit PA, or CA.

*Permanent measurement facility* means all equipment constructed or installed and used on-site for 6 months or longer, for the purpose of determining the quantity, quality, or storage of production, and which meets the definition of FMP under §3170.3.

*Piping* means a tubular system (e.g., metallic, plastic, fiberglass, or rubber) used to move fluids (liquids and gases).

*Production phase* means that event during which oil is delivered directly to or through production equipment to the storage facilities and includes all operations at the facility other than those defined by the sales phase.

*Royalty Net Present Value (RNPV)* means the net present value of all Federal or Indian royalties paid on revenue earned from crude oil production or natural gas production from an oil or gas FMP for a given lease, unit PA, or CA over the expected life of metering equipment that must be installed for that lease, unit PA, or CA to achieve non-commingled measurement.

*Sales phase* means that event during which oil is removed from storage facilities for sale at an FMP.

*Seal* means a uniquely numbered device that completely secures either a

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valve or those components of a measuring system that affect the quality or quantity of the oil being measured.

(b) As used in this subpart, the following additional acronyms apply:

*BIA* means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

*BMP* means Best Management Practice.

### § 3173.2 Storage and sales facilities—seals.

(a) All lines entering or leaving any oil storage tank must have valves capable of being effectively sealed during the production and sales phases unless otherwise provided under this subpart. During the production phase, all appropriate valves that allow unmeasured production to be removed from storage must be effectively sealed in the closed position. During any other phase (sales, water drain, or hot oiling), and prior to taking the top tank gauge measurement, all appropriate valves that allow unmeasured production to enter or leave the sales tank must be effectively sealed in the closed position (see Appendix A to subpart 3173). Each unsealed or ineffectively sealed appropriate valve is a separate violation.

(b) Valves or combinations of valves and tanks that provide access to the production before it is measured for sales are considered appropriate valves and are subject to the seal requirements of this subpart (see Appendix A to subpart 3173). If there is more than one valve on a line from a tank, the valve closest to the tank must be sealed. All appropriate valves must be in an operable condition and accurately reflect whether the valve is open or closed.

(c) The following are not considered appropriate valves and are not subject to the sealing requirements of this subpart:

(1) Valves on production equipment (*e.g.*, separator, dehydrator, gun barrel, or wash tank);

(2) Valves on water tanks, provided that the possibility of access to production in the sales and storage tanks does not exist through a common circulating, drain, overflow, or equalizer system;

(3) Valves on tanks that contain oil that has been determined by the AO or AR to be waste or slop oil;

(4) Sample cock valves used on piping or tanks with a Nominal Pipe Size of 1 inch or less in diameter;

(5) Fill-line valves during shipment when a single tank with a nominal capacity of 500 barrels (bbl) or less is used for collecting marginal production of oil produced from a single well (*i.e.*, production that is less than 3 bbl per day). All other seal requirements of this subpart apply;

(6) Gas line valves used on piping with a Nominal Pipe Size of 1 inch or less used as tank bottom “roll” lines, provided there is no access to the contents of the storage tank and the roll lines cannot be used as equalizer lines;

(7) Valves on tank heating systems that use a fluid other than the contents of the storage tank (*i.e.*, steam, water, or glycol);

(8) Valves used on piping with a Nominal Pipe Size of 1 inch or less connected directly to the pump body or used on pump bleed off lines;

(9) Tank vent-line valves; and

(10) Sales, equalizer, or fill-line valves on systems where production may be removed only through approved oil metering systems (*e.g.*, LACT or CMS). However, any valve that allows access for removing oil before it is measured through the metering system must be effectively sealed (see Appendix A to subpart 3173).

(d) Tampering with any appropriate valve is prohibited. Tampering with an appropriate valve may result in an assessment of civil penalties for knowingly or willfully preparing, maintaining, or submitting false, inaccurate, or misleading reports, records, or written information under 30 U.S.C. 1719(d)(1) and 43 CFR 3163.2(f)(1), or knowingly or willfully taking, removing, transporting, using, or diverting oil or gas from a lease site without valid legal authority under 30 U.S.C. 1719(d)(2) and 43 CFR 3163.2(f)(2), together with any other remedies provided by law.

### § 3173.3 Oil measurement system components—seals.

(a) Components used for quantity or quality determination of oil must be