

# INSTRUCTIONS

Form H-15: Test on an Inactive  
Well Over 25 Years Old

Reference: Statewide Rule  
14(b)(2)

## 1. TESTING REQUIREMENTS

A wellbore that is 25 or more years old that has been inactive one year or more is to be tested to ensure it poses no potential pollution threat to natural resources including surface and subsurface water, oil, and gas. An annual fluid level test must indicate an adequate separation between the base of the deepest usable-quality water at the location of the wellbore and the top of the fluid in the wellbore.

You may choose to perform a mechanical integrity test instead of the fluid level test. If the integrity test is successful, no other test is required for up to five years. A mechanical integrity test that has been conducted successfully within the preceding five years where the results are on file with the Commission may be acceptable.

**NOTE:** Beginning January 1, 1997, a wellbore that is 25 or more years old and inactive 10 or more years is required to undergo the mechanical integrity test.

## 2. MULTIPLE COMPLETIONS

The wellbore, rather than any individual completion, is subject to the Statewide Rule 14(b)(2) testing requirements. The age of the oldest completion, even if plugged, determines if testing is required. Only one test and one H-15 report for a wellbore is necessary. In completing the H-15, show the common API number in Item 13; in Items 5, 6, 8, and 9 list all associated field and lease names, oil lease/gas ID and well numbers.

## 3. COMMISSION LISTING & DISCREPANCIES

You are responsible for testing and reporting test results in a timely manner on each of your wells subject to the Statewide Rule 14(b)(2) test provisions. However, to assist you, the Commission in mid-Summer mails a listing of wells due for testing by the following June 1. If the information in your records differs from that on the listing, in the appropriate area of the h-15, list both the information from the listing and from your files. Indicate historical wellbore date discrepancies only if the difference is more than one year; attach substantiating documentation (W-2/G-1 well cards, etc.). If there are differences in API, lease, and/or well identification information, also complete Item 16 with location information. If you did not test the wellbore because of a change of status (the wellbore is plugged, has gone back on production, is an active injection well, etc.), or change of operator, complete the H-15 identification areas (Items 1-9, 12, 13), attach supporting documentation (W-3, W-2/G-1, H-10, P-4, etc.), and file the H-15 with the Commission in Austin. Use Item 15 as needed for explanation.

## 4. PRIOR NOTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

For any test other than a fluid level test, contact the appropriate district office at least 3 days prior to testing to receive testing approval. The district office will advise of test standards and any supporting data to be filed with the test results.

## 5. FILING THE H-15 REPORT

The H-15 report is to be filed with the Commission within 30 days after the test is conducted.

**FLUID LEVEL TEST H-15:** File the H-15 (original only, no attachments other than those mentioned in No. 3, above) reporting the results of a fluid level test with the RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS, OIL AND GAS DIVISION, P.O. BOX 12967, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2967.

**MECHANICAL INTEGRITY TEST H-15:** File the H-15 (original and one copy of the h-15 along with one set of attachments as directed by the district office and as mentioned in No. 3, above) reporting the results of a mechanical integrity test with the appropriate district office. If the H-15 is based on prior mechanical integrity test results, attach a copy of the originally filed Form H-15, DISPOSAL/INJECTION WELL PRESSURE TEST REPORTS.

## 6. WATER DEPTH

Item 11. Give the base of the deepest usable quality water at the location of the well. The determination of this depth must have been made by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (Surface Casing - MC 151, P.O. Box 3087, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-3087) within the five years preceding the test.

## 7. SCHEDULE FOR INITIAL TESTING

An inactive well that fit the test requirement criteria June 1, 1992 is to be initially tested following a schedule (see below) based upon its age. A well that becomes both inactive and 25 or more years old after June 1, 1992 is to be tested within one year of the time it becomes both inactive and 25 or more years old.

### Initial Test Deadline for Wells Inactive One or more Years and 25 or more Years Old ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 1992

<u>Age of Wellbore</u>	<u>Deadline for Filing Initial Test Report</u>
45 or more years old	June 1, 1993
35 or more years old but less than 45	June 1, 1994
25 or more years old but less than 35	June 1, 1995