

## Proposed Standards for Wellheads

### Definitions:

1. "Wellhead" means the upper terminal of the well including adapters, ports, valves, seals, and other attachments.
2. "Christmas Tree" means the set of valves, spools and fittings connected to a wellhead to direct and control the flow of formation fluids from the well.

### Wellhead Equipment and Valves:

1. Wellhead equipment shall be installed and maintained so that static bottom hole pressures may be obtained at any time by the State. Valves shall be installed so that pressures can be readily obtained on both casing and tubing.
2. The wellhead must be equipped with a check valve to prevent backflow from the pipeline(s) into the well.
3. On completion of drilling operations, the operator shall install and use equipment (i.e. shut off valve) as may be necessary to enable the well to be effectively shut-in while logging and servicing the well after completion of well construction.

### Wellhead Signs:

1. The sign will be posted in a conspicuous location, either on or near the wellhead.
2. The sign must be made of durable weatherproof, rustproof metal or other material approved by the Director.
3. The sign must remain legible at all times.
4. The sign must be posted within 72 hours after completion of well construction activities.
5. We will require an equivalent sign to be posted during well construction.
6. Sign letters will be sized as two-inch or larger.
7. One sign will be required for each wellhead.
8. Each sign will have this information:
  - Name of well operator(s)
  - Name of county and nearest town
  - State permit number, lease name, and well number
  - Local emergency phone number and company emergency phone number

### Fencing Requirements:

1. The fence surrounding the wellhead shall be placed no closer than ten feet to the wellhead or any portion of the tank battery.
2. "Danger, Keep Out" (or similarly worded) and "No Smoking" signs shall be securely attached to each side of the outside of fencing.
3. A well operator identification sign shall be securely attached to each side of the outside of the fencing and will have this information:
  - a. Operator name
  - b. Operator emergency telephone number
  - c. Site location street address, or nearest address to access road entrance

## Proposed Standards for Wellheads

4. The well operator shall install the fence around the wellhead, tank battery, and associated production equipment, within 30 days after well construction.
5. An identification sign will also be required at any entrance to an access gate or access road that enters the respective property.
6. The fence shall be:
  - a. Chain link
  - b. Minimum eight feet in height
  - c. Nine gauge
  - d. Topped with 3 strands of barbed wire
  - e. Securely anchored in the ground

### Fence Gate(s):

1. Gate access is required for the fence surrounding the wellhead.
2. Any gate must be at least four feet in width.
3. Any gate must be lockable.
4. Any fence must have at least one gate.
5. If a fence surrounds two or more tanks in a battery, then two gates at opposite ends of the fencing shall be installed.
6. Keys or combinations to fence gate locks and access road gates shall be provided to DEMLR, on request.

### Wellhead Area:

1. Any rubbish or debris shall be disposed of so as not to constitute a fire hazard.
2. Equipment and vegetation shall be maintained consistent with reasonably prudent operations, including being free of refuse, in order to assure protection of public health or safety or to prevent damage to natural resources.
3. Equipment not used in the production of the well shall not be stored at the well site. Replacement equipment or replaced equipment shall not be stored on-site for more than thirty (30) days.
4. Horizontal separation distances around the wellhead. (Setback distances will ultimately be addressed through the Environmental Standards Committee and the Administration of Oil and Gas Committee. Thus, setback requirements are still under development.):
  - a. Oil Production Tanks
    - i. 50 ft from public road
    - ii. 100 ft from inhabited structures
    - iii. 50 ft from any well
    - iv. 3 ft between tanks
  - b. Mechanical Separators
    - i. 50 ft from any well
    - ii. 10 ft from production tanks
    - iii. 100 ft from inhabited structures