

Measurement and Production Team

A new component to the annual inspection strategy is the implementation of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Measurement and Production Team (MPT) at the National Operations Center (NOC) in Denver. The MPT was formed as part of a multi-agency agreement between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) to adopt recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations to address more comprehensive oil and gas measurement inspections in concert with advances in industry measurement and production technologies. Utilizing data-driven tools and predictive modeling techniques available through ONRR, the MPT can determine high-priority cases and investigate anomalies affecting production measurement and royalties on a national scale. Another advantage of this partnership with ONRR is the MPT's ability to work with our offshore counterparts at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to share information including common oversight techniques and procedures that may mutually benefit each agency.

The MPT consists of full-performance Petroleum Engineering Technicians (PET) and Petroleum Engineers (PE) dedicated to technical expertise in the field of production measurement technologies, procedures and oversight. The effort compliments BLM's current risk-based inspection approach with an integrated analytical strategy to strengthen production accountability and revenue collection for oil and gas operations.

One function of the MPT is to provide comprehensive field measurement inspections (which may include full production inspections) on priority oil and gas leases identified by the ONRR's Production Risk Management Group. The MPT will identify key leases to inspect and then will coordinate their efforts with the respective Field Offices (FOs). If identical cases are identified by both the FOs and the MPT, the MPT can deploy personnel to perform the inspections that will not only satisfy ONRR's requirements but in most cases will also satisfy the FO's annual inspection strategy goals. The MPT will coordinate closely with FOs to ensure they are maximizing efficiency and performing work that will complement FO's inspection efforts while striving to minimize the use of FO resources. The MPT will also accept referrals from State and Field Offices to review unfamiliar or questionable measurement methods and activities.

The MPT will provide a list of ONRR's top priority cases to the BLM FOs **before the end of September 2020**. The FOs can then identify cases on the ONRR priority list that they plan to do production inspections as part of their annual strategy. The MPT may also be able to provide funding for overtime or PET assistance to help accomplish these goals.

The MPT can also respond to inquiries from other agencies, including (but not limited to) the GAO, Office of Management and Budget, and Office of the Inspector General. Additionally in coordination with BLM's Production Accountability Technician (PAT) Group and Production Measurement Team, the MPT serves as a technical resource by providing technical assistance to the Headquarters/Washington, State, and Field Offices in the development regulations, policy/guidance, analysis, mentoring to PEs, PETs and PATs about measurement activities/issues.

To request assistance with measurement issues, field inspections, or for more information contact Abdelgadir Elmadani, Acting Section Chief Fluid Minerals at 303-236-9359 or aelmadani@blm.gov.