



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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To: District Managers

From: Deputy State Director, Minerals and Lands

Subject: Storage of Oil/Gas Well Log Data

In accordance with 43 CFR 3162.4-1(b), oil and gas operators are required to submit to the Authorized Officer (AO) two copies of all electric and other logs run on a well. Most well logs are run when the well is drilled, although some well logs may be run subsequent to initial drilling operations. There are no restrictions on what format (paper copy, electronic transmission, compact disks (CD), etc.) the operators can submit the well log data. Many operators currently submit well log data on a CD but some operators still submit paper copies.

Historically, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices have primarily received paper copies of the required well log data, which has generated concerns over physical storage of this data. In some cases, file room storage has been exceeded causing the storage of paper well log data to occur in a warehouse located on or off-site. Utilization of warehouse or off-site storage raises concerns over security, access, and physical conditions concerning the handling of these Federal records.

The Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC), a State agency, in coordination with the BLM, has scanned all of the historical and current well log data for all wells in Wyoming. Access to the scanned well data is available to all the BLM Wyoming offices from WOGCC's website to view or print well log data. Upon agreement with the WOGCC, BLM Wyoming will periodically obtain a current update of WOGCC's scanned well log data and store the data on a separate Federal record keeping system to ensure the Federal well log records (as defined in 44 U.S.C. § 3301) are properly stored pursuant to the Federal Records Act and the Freedom of Information Act. This separate Federal record keeping system will be accessible to the BLM Wyoming offices for review and/or extraction of the well log data.

Should your office have a need to reduce the physical storage of Federal well log data (paper and/or CD), those records can be shipped to the Wyoming State Office, Wyoming Records Manager, April Deane. The Wyoming Records Manager will ensure the well log records are categorized, labeled, and separately filed for subsequent transfer to the Federal Records Center (FRC) in Denver, Colorado. These individual well log records will be identified for indefinite

storage or permanent storage pending final records disposition (i.e. the records will not be destroyed after a finite period) and will be available (within 2-3 days) upon request by the authorized officer. Justification for the changes for final records disposition we are requesting to both well log storage location and scheduling disposition is the historical factor of the data included in these well logs. It is imperative that we preserve this data for such purposes as response to FOIA requests and any possible future litigation. Please contact the Wyoming Records Manager to schedule a time to ship Federal well log records to the Wyoming State Office.

For day-to-day operations, the BLM Wyoming offices can continue to utilize the WOGCC website to access Federal well log data. Oil and gas operators are still required to submit two copies of all electric and other logs to the AO as required by regulation. The AO can choose to store Federal well log data in their office if space requirements permit proper records preservation and management.

Should you have any questions, please contact April Deane, Wyoming Records Manager, at (307) 775-6089, or Michael Madrid, Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals, Lands, and Appraisal, at (307) 775-6201.

Signed by:  
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Acting Deputy State Director, Minerals & Lands

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