

PRESS BULLETIN NUMBER 5.

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WYOMING STATUTES RELATING TO OIL AND GAS WELLS.

Section 1. That Chapter 228, of the Wyoming Compiled Statutes 1910, be amended and re-enacted to read as follows:

Waste.

"Chapter 228. It shall be unlawful for any person or corporation having possession or control of natural gas or oil well, whether as a contractor, owner, lessee, agent or manager, to allow or permit the flow of gas or oil from any such well to escape into the open air, without being confined within such well or proper pipes, or other safe receptacle for a longer period than ten (10) days next after gas or oil shall have been struck in such well. And thereafter all such gas or oil shall be safely and securely confined in such well pipes or other safe and proper receptacles. (Wyo. Sess. Laws, 1913, Chap. 46.)

Plugging Abandoned Wells.

Sec. 2. Whenever any well shall have been sunk for the purpose of obtaining natural gas or oil or exploring for the same, and shall be abandoned or cease to be operated for utilizing the flow of gas or oil therefrom, it shall be the duty of any person or corporation having the custody or control of such well at the time of such abandonment or cessation of use, and also of the owner or owners of the land wherein such well is situated, to properly and securely stop and plug the same as follows: If such well has not been "shot" there shall be placed in the bottom of the hole thereof a plug of well seasoned pine wood, the diameter of which shall be within one-half inch as great as the hole of such well, to extend at least three feet above the salt water level, where salt water has been struck; where no salt water has been struck such plug shall extend at least three feet from the bottom of the well. In both cases such wooden plugs shall be thoroughly rammed down and tightened by the use of drilling tools. After such ramming and tightening the hole of such well shall be filled on top of such plug with finely broken stone or sand, which shall be placed and well rammed to a point at least four feet above the gas or oil bearing rock; on top of this stone or sand there shall be placed another wooden plug at least five feet long with diameter as aforesaid, which shall be thoroughly rammed and tightened. In case such well shall have been "shot", the bottom of the hole thereof shall be filled with a proper and sufficient mixture of sand stone and dry cement, so as to form a concrete up to

a point at least eight feet above the top of the gas or oil bearing rock or rocks and on top of this filling shall be placed a wooden plug at least six feet long, with a diameter as aforesaid, which shall be properly rammed as aforesaid. (Wyo. Sess. Laws, 1913, Chap. 46.)

Sworn Statement to be Filed.

Section 1. That Section 3, Chapter 46, Session Laws of Wyoming, 1913, be amended and re-enacted to read as follows:

Section 3. Whenever any person, persons or corporation have abandoned or ceased operating any well or wells, such person, persons or corporation shall file with the county clerk of the county in which such well or wells are located, and with the State Geologist, copies of a sworn statement setting out the manner in which such well or wells have been plugged, and the time that same were plugged, and the location of said well or wells. Said statement shall be sworn to by at least two persons who shall have assisted in the actual work of so plugging said well or wells. For each such certificate properly filed the party filing same shall receive fifty cents to be paid by the county commissioners upon the presentation of a proper claim approved by the state geologist. (Wyo. Sess. Laws, 1915, Chap. 22.)

Penalty.

Sec. 4. Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and not less than one hundred (\$100.00) in the discretion of the court, and all such fines when so collected shall be paid into the treasury of the county. (Wyo. Sess. Laws, 1913, Chap. 46.)

Adjoining Owners May Plug Abandoned Wells.

Sec. 5. Whenever any person or corporation in possession or control of any well in which natural gas or oil has been found shall fail to comply with the provisions of this chapter, any person or corporation lawfully in possession of lands situated adjacent to or in the vicinity or neighborhood of such well may enter upon the lands upon which such well is situated and take possession of such well from which gas or oil is allowed to escape in violation of the provisions of Section 1 hereof, and pack and tube such well and shut in and secure the flow of gas or oil, and maintain in a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction in this State, against the owner, lessee, agent or manager of said well, and each of them jointly and severally to recover the cost and expense of such tubing and packing, together with attorney's fees and costs of suit. This shall be in addition to the penalties provided for by Section 4 hereof. (Wyo. Sess. Laws, 1913, Chap. 46.)

Duties (State Geologist).

Section 1. That Section 211, Wyoming Compiled Statutes 1910, be and the same is hereby amended and re-enacted to read as follows:

"Section 211. It shall be the duty of the State Geologist

to make examinations and reports on any state or school lands when so requested by the State Land Board or the State School Land Board and to make a written report concerning the geology of any lands in which the State of Wyoming is or may hereafter become interested, and on such other matters as the respective state boards having to do with state lands or state school lands may desire information upon. Such reports as provided for in this section shall be in writing and filed with the Commissioner of Public lands. He shall be charged with the duty of enforcing all of the laws of the State of Wyoming relating to the oil industry. It shall be his further duty to perform such other acts as are provided by the laws of the State of Wyoming relating to the oil and mineral deposits, (other than coal deposits)." (Wyo. Sess. Laws, 1919, Chap. 72)

SAMPLE FORM
PROOF OF PLUGGING

STATE OF WYOMING,)
) ss.
County of))

..... and, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, each for himself and not one for the other, depose and say: That on theday of, 19...., he assisted in the plugging of a well on the of Section, Township North, Range West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, in County, Wyoming; that the well so plugged is located feet andfeet from the corner of said tract; that said well is abandoned; that prior to said abandonment said well had been shot. Total depth of well is feet.

Affiants further say that the said plugging was done in the following manner:

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this
..... day of 19....

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Notary Public.