Title:	Temporary Abandonment of Shot Holes and Test Holes
Number:	ED2006-19
Program Name:	Operations
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Background

Shot holes and test holes drilled in the conduct of an approved exploration program must not be left unattended until they are temporarily abandoned as per Section 50 of the *Exploration Regulation (AR 284/2006)*.

Requirements

The program licensee or program permittee as defined in section 1(ee) and 1(ff) of the *Exploration Regulation* must ensure that each shot hole and test hole drilled to a maximum depth of 20 m (Section 49 of the *Exploration Regulation*) is temporarily abandoned by complying with the procedure section of this directive.

Procedure

Requirements for temporary abandonment of all shot holes:

- The charge in the shot must be securely affixed to a winged sandpoint container.
- Drill cuttings or other approval materials must be placed in the hole to secure the charge at the depth at which it was loaded.
- The wire attached to the charge is pulled tight to the surface of the ground.
- The number of the program permittee is clearly marked on the approved shot hole plug.
- All drill cuttings not required to fill the hole are spread evenly over the ground surrounding the hole.
- Excess wire above the ground must be wrapped around the approved survey marker.

Requirements for temporary abandonment of shot holes for specified locations:

- 1. Requirements for temporary abandonment of shot holes drilled within the **White Area of the province** (excluding surveyed road allowances):
 - An approved plug must be placed in the shot hole at a depth of not less than 1 m below the surface of the ground.
 - Not less than 40 cm of an approved sealing product (e.g., bentonite) must be placed on top of the approved plug, followed by not less than 60 cm of drill cuttings or other material obtained from the shot hole, and thoroughly tamped.
- 2. Requirements for temporary abandonment of shot holes drilled within a **surveyed road allowance**:
 - An approved plug must be placed in the shot hole at a depth of not less than 4 m below the surface of the ground.

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- Not less than 3.4 m of an approved sealing product (e.g., bentonite) must be placed on top of the approved plug, followed by not less than 60 cm of drill cuttings or other material obtained from the shot hole, and thoroughly tamped.
- 3. Requirements for temporary abandonment of shot holes drilled within the **Green Area of the province**:
 - An approved plug must be placed in the hole at a depth of not less than 1 m below the surface of the ground.
 - Not less than 20 cm of approved sealing product (e.g., bentonite) must be placed on top of the approved plug, followed by not less than 80 cm of an approved sealing product, drill cuttings or other material obtained from the shot hole, and thoroughly tamped.
- 4. Requirements for temporary abandonment of shot holes drilled at **heli-portable sites of a heli-portable operations**:
 - An approved plug must be placed in the shot hole at a depth of not less than 1 m below the surface of the ground.
 - Approved sealing product, drill cuttings or other material obtained from the shot hole must be used to fill from the approved plug to the ground surface and thoroughly tamped.

Requirements for temporary abandonment of all test holes:

- The number of the program permittee must be clearly marked on the plug.
- All drill cuttings not required to fill the hole must be spread evenly over the ground surrounding the hole.

Requirements for temporary abandonment of shot holes for specified locations:

- 1. Requirements for temporary abandonment of test holes within the **White Area of the province** (excluding surveyed road allowances):
 - An approved plug must be placed in the hole at a depth of not less than 1 m below the surface of the ground.
 - Not less than 40 cm of an approved sealing product (e.g., bentonite) must be placed on top of the approved plug, followed by not less than 60 cm of drill cuttings or other material obtained from the hole, and thoroughly tamped.
- 2. Requirements for temporary abandonment of test holes within a surveyed road allowance:
 - An approved plug must be placed in the hole at a depth of not less than 1 m below the surface of the ground.
 - Not less than 40 cm of an approved sealing product (e.g., bentonite) must be placed on top of the approved plug, followed by not less than 60 cm of drill cuttings or other material obtained from the hole, and thoroughly tamped.

Temporary abandonment of test holes on road allowances requires a 1 m plug. Using the 3.4 m plug required for permanent abandonment on road allowances, as per Section 51 of the Exploration Regulation, creates difficulties when the test hole is to be re-entered. If re-entry is not an issue, the test hole should be permanently abandoned as per Section 51 of the Exploration Regulation and associated directive (ED 2006-20).

- 3. Requirements for temporary abandonment of test holes within the **Green Area of the province:**
 - An approved plug must be placed in the hole at a depth of not less than 1 m below the surface of the ground.
 - Not less than 20 cm of approved sealing product (e.g., bentonite) must be placed on top of the approved plug, followed by not less than 80 cm of an approved sealing product, drill cuttings or other material obtained from the hole, and thoroughly tamped.

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- 4. Requirements for temporary abandonment of test holes and test holes drilled at **heli-portable** sites of a heli-portable operations:
 - An approved plug must be placed in the hole at a depth of not less than 1 m below the surface of the ground.
 - Approved sealing product, drill cuttings or other material obtained from the hole must be used to fill from the approved plug to the surface and thoroughly tamped.

Other

White and Green areas of the province are defined on the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Corporate Region Map, scale 1:1 000 000 dated March 19, 2003.

If shot holes and test holes are to be drilled to a depth of more than 20 m, temporary abandonment will be described and approved within the application for an approval to conduct exploration as per Section 49 of the *Exploration Regulation* and the associated Exploration Directive, ED 2006-18.

Enforcement/Compliance

Enforcement policy and procedures are currently under review and this directive will be updated accordingly.

Contact Information

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Authorities *Mines and Minerals* (Part 8) and *Exploration Regulation* (AR 284/2006)

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