Title:	Permanent Abandonment of Shot Holes and Test Holes
Number:	ED2006-20
Program Name:	Operations
Effective Date:	November 8, 2006
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Background

Section 51 of the *Exploration Regulation (AR 284/2006)* requires all shot holes and test holes drilled in the conduct of an approved exploration program to be permanently abandoned immediately after detonation.

Requirements

The program licensee or program permittee as defined in sections 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 permanently abandoned by following the procedure section of this directive.

Procedure

Requirements for permanent abandonment of all shot holes:

- The excess wire attached to the charge must be pulled tight and cut level with the surface of the ground.
- The number of the program permittee must be clearly marked on the approved shot hole plug.
- All drill cuttings not required to fill the hole must be spread evenly over the ground surrounding the hole.

Requirements for permanent abandonment of shot holes for specified locations are described below:

- 1. Requirements for permanent 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 permanent 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 permanent abandonment of shot holes drilled within the **Green Area of the province**:
 - 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 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 permanent 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.

Note: Heli-portable operations and heli-portable sites are drill locations **that exclude all ground access except by foot**. Any form of access, including using mechanical equipment, vehicles or ATVs, is not permitted.

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, permanent 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 M	lines and Minerals (Par	rt 8) and Exploration	Regulation (AR 284/2006)
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Approved Original Signed by

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