

**Regulatory Citation(s):**

**78.83b. Casing and cementing – lost circulation.**

(a) If cement used to permanently cement the surface or coal protective casing is not circulated to the surface despite pumping a volume of cement equal to or greater than 120% of the calculated annular space, the operator shall determine the top of the cement, notify the Department, and meet one of the following requirements as approved by the Department . . . .

**Question:**

How do operators proceed on weekends if they can't contact the Department to report no returns?

**Response:**

Once the top of cement is determined, the operator must contact the Department and operations must not proceed until Department-approval is granted. To aid the Department in determining an appropriate requirement in Section 78.83b(a), the operator must submit a copy of the well log used to determine the top of cement indicating the location of the cement in terms of feet below the ground surface. This may be submitted either in paper or electronically.

If notification takes place on a weekend or after hours, there may be some delay in operations at the well site. It is recommended that operators establish a pre-approved course of action in areas of operation where lost-circulation problems are expected and effective methods for countering these problems have been developed. This course of action should be summarized in the casing and cementing plan, and will help avoid any unnecessary down time on weekends or after normal business hours.