

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites**

### **Site Restoration**

**(25 Pa. Code § 78a.65)**

The purpose of this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is to address questions about site restoration requirements. This FAQ should not be used in lieu of reference to the 2012 Oil and Gas Act, 25 Pa. Code Chapter 78a and other applicable laws and regulations. The answers outlined in this FAQ are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in this document shall affect statutory or regulatory requirements.

This document is not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of the Department to give this document that weight or deference. The Department may supplement or amend this document at any time as necessary without notice.

### **Post-Plugging Landowner Waiver of Well Site Restoration**

- 1. When does the Post-Plugging Landowner Waiver of Well Site Restoration form (8000-FM-OOGM0155U) need to be submitted and who is responsible for the long-term operation and maintenance of PCSM SCMs after post-plugging restoration?**

If the well operator intends to leave impervious areas on the well site after post-plugging restoration is completed, they must implement PCSM SCMs to manage stormwater runoff rate, volume, and quality. Also, the Post-Plugging Landowner Waiver of Well Site Restoration form must be attached to the Post-Plugging Well Site Restoration Report (8000-PM-OOGM0075U).

If any PCSM SCMs are planned to remain on site with the consent of the landowner, the landowner must file an instrument with the county Recorder of Deeds office where the project is located, in accordance with §102.8(m)(2). The well operator also must provide the Department-approved PCSM plan to the surface landowner. Once the Post-Plugging Landowner Waiver of Well Site Restoration form (8000-FM-OOGM0155U) is signed by the landowner and submitted to the Department, the landowner becomes responsible for the long-term operation and maintenance of PCSM SCMs remaining after post-plugging restoration of the well site. (posted 3/20/2026)

- 2. Who should file an instrument with the recorder of deeds office if the project is located on a Commonwealth or federally owned property?**

If the project is located entirely on Commonwealth or federally owned property and if any PCSM SCMs are remaining on the site, then an instrument does not need to be filed with the county recorder of deeds office. However, the landowner, in this case the Commonwealth or federal government, remains responsible for long-term operation and maintenance of the remaining PCSM SCMs. (posted 3/20/2026)