

# **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 Well Site Restoration**

#### **1. What is a Post-Plugging Well Site Restoration Report?**

As per §78a.65(a)(2), the well owner or operator is required to restore the well site within 9 months after plugging the final well on the well site. The well owner or operator must remove all production or storage facilities, supplies and equipment and restore the well site and restore the stormwater runoff rate, volume and quality to preconstruction condition in accordance with §102.8. (posted 3/20/2026)

#### **2. When is a Post-Plugging Well Site Restoration Report required?**

Operators must submit a Post-Plugging Well Site Restoration Report (8000-FM-OOGM0075U) within 60 calendar days of achieving post-plugging restoration of the well site to the Department through [GreenPort](#). The well operator must also forward a copy of the Post-Plugging Well Site Restoration Report to the surface landowner. (posted 3/20/2026)

#### **3. Do I need to provide the date of the most recent waste report submitted using the Department's Oil and Gas Reporting Electronic Application (OGRE)?**

Yes, provide the complete date (MM/DD/YYYY) of the most recent waste report submitted. (posted 3/20/2026)

#### **4. Is it necessary to enter a value for the amount of land to not be immediately available for agricultural use, agricultural reserve, or forest reserve under the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974?**

Yes, the well operator must submit the area of the project site that is not available immediately for agricultural use, agricultural reserve, or forest reserve. Examples include but are not limited to areas occupied by roadways, pad areas, and related compressor stations. (posted 3/20/2026)

**5. Will submitting a Post-Plugging Well Site Restoration Report form (8000-FM-OOGM0075U) satisfy the requirement for the Post-Plugging Restoration Plan?**

No, the well operator must submit a Post-Plugging Well Site Restoration Report form in addition to developing a Restoration Plan as required by §78a.65(b). The Post-Plugging Well Site Restoration Report is submitted after the well site has been restored in accordance with the restoration plan. If the well operator intends to leave impervious areas on the well site after post-plugging restoration is completed, then a Post-Plugging Landowner Waiver of Well Site Restoration form (8000-FM-OOGM0155U) must be attached with the Post-Plugging Restoration Report. (posted 3/20/2026)

**6. Will the operator need a new authorization under ESGGP if earth disturbance associated with post plugging site restoration is greater than 5 acres?**

Yes, a new authorization under ESCGP is required if earth disturbance associated with the site restoration exceeds 5 acres and if the ESCGP that was issued for the initial site construction has been terminated or expired. If an authorization of coverage under ESCGP was issued and is active for the well site, an ESCGP Minor or Major Amendment may be required. The operator should contact the [Bureau of District Oil and Gas Operations](#) to determine which type of permit amendment is necessary. (posted 3/20/2026)