



DIVISIONS
ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL
RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Russell County Government Center
135 Highland Drive
Lebanon, Virginia 24266
(276) 415-9700 FAX (276) 415-9671
www.dmme.virginia.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gas Operators in Virginia

FROM: Rick Cooper, Director
Division of Gas and Oil

SUBJECT: Implementation API/US Well Identification Numbers on Gas and Oil permits

DATE: October 21, 2014

Introduction,

Currently, Virginia is one of two states that had not utilized the American Petroleum Institute (API)/US Well Identification numbering system for gas and oil wells. To maintain consistency with other states and accommodate many information requests the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Division of Gas and Oil (DGO) has implemented an API/US Well numbering system. This document will explain the numbering system which affects all existing and future wells.

<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dgo inquiry/frmmain.aspx>

Please refer to the guidance document for the definition of the numbers. I believe this consistency with other states will help all operators, concerned agencies and affiliates going forward.

¹ This memorandum is to be considered a guideline issued under the authority of § 45.1-361.27(E)(5) which reads: "The Director shall also have the authority to prescribe the nature of and form for the presentation of any information and documentation required by any provision of this article or regulation adopted thereunder.

Well Numbering System

The US Well Number Standard is maintained by the Professional Petroleum Data Management Association (PPDM). This standard is the successor to the American Petroleum Institute (API) Bulletin D12A, commonly referred to as *API numbers*. DGO has assigned API/USWell numbers to all existing wells

The API/US well number is assigned is a 12 digit number that consist of four semantic parts: the state code, county code, well code and wellbore code as follows:

- The first two digits are the state code, which is 45 for the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- The next three digits are the county code, which are as follows for the counties that currently have active wells (a complete list of county codes is available at www.wellidentification.org/usa)

Buchanan	027
Dickenson	051
Lee	050
Russell	167
Scott	169
Tazewell	185
Wise	195

- The following five digits are a unique identifier for the well based on the DGO File Number. The file number was selected in lieu of the permit number because the file number does not change and it is more commonly used to find information on the DGO Data Information System.

The DGO file number consists of a two letter county abbreviation followed by a four digit number. In general, the five digit well identifier in the API/ US well number is a zero followed by the four digit number from the file number. However, a different format was used for some of the early file numbers; they consist of the letter A followed by a two digit number and then a two letter county abbreviation. For these file numbers, to avoid duplication, the five digit number begins with 500 and then the two digit number from the file number. See the examples at the end of this document for clarification.

- The last two digits are the wellbore identifier. For wells with a single wellbore, these digits will be 00. For wells that have two or more laterals branching from a primary wellbore at the surface, each wellbore will be identified by the permit applicant on a map and/or cross section and then listed in the Wellbore Identification section of the Eforms permit application. The Eforms system will automatically assign a sequential two digit number to each wellbore listed in the application.

In addition, a new wellbore identifier is assigned to wellbores to deepen, bypass, or deviate a well. The wellbore used to deepen, bypass, or deviate a well must be identified on a map and/or cross-section and listed in the Wellbore Identification section in the permit modification application.

For further clarification and illustrations, refer to The US Well Number Standard document, which can be downloaded at <http://www.wellidentification.org/usa>. All of the numbers can be downloaded from the DGO Data Information System:

<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dgo inquiry/frmmain.aspx>

Buchanan County Well:

File Number: BU-4321 API/US Well No.: 450270432100
State: 45 County: 027 Well: 04321 Wellbore: 00

File Number: A01LE API/US Well No.: 450505000100
State: 45 County: 050 Well: 500001 Wellbore: 00

Buchanan County Well With Two Laterals:

File Number: BU-4816
Center wellbore API/US Well No.: 450270481600
East wellbore API/US Well No.: 450270481601
West wellbore API/US Well No.: 450270481602

If you have any questions concerning this document, please contact DGO at 276-415-9700.