October 24, 2007

NOTICE TO OPERATORS

Subject: Installing Conductors

Before drilling a new well, operators must file a Notice of Intention to Drill New Well (Form OG105) with the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division).

This Notice must be filed and a permit must be issued before commencing any work on the well, including the setting of a conductor. Once a conductor has been set, if it is not to be used (as is the case when a permit is cancelled), it must be plugged timely and secured at the surface. Division staff must verify that unused conductors have been secured properly and the work history filed before Notice and permit cancellation and the bond is released from liability.

It is incumbent upon operators to ensure that Notices are filed with the Division and permits received before a conductor is set. Once a conductor has been set, it must be properly secured or covered at the surface to prevent someone or something from falling into an open conductor. In the event the operator decides not to use a conductor, the Division will provide plugging requirements to minimize the potential for subsurface contamination and hazardous surface conditions.

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Hal Bopp
State Oil and Gas Supervisor