



New Rule Changes FAQ

What are the reasons behind the proposed rule changes?

- The goal is to conserve water for future generations.
- Treat each operator the same.
- As we were going through the Depletion Rule, the trigger mechanisms were confusing and convoluted. It was also apparent that areas with thin saturated thickness were suffering, even if high volume pumping was not happening in that area.

What is not changing?

- The **Maximum Annual Volume** of 1 acre-foot per contiguous acre per year, which has been in place since 2004. (*PGCD Rules, Rule 4.2 (g)*)
- The **Maximum Rate of Production** of 2,880 GPM on any square mile (equivalent to 640) within a CAT or 4.5 GPM/acre (for CATs containing less than 640 acres), which has also been in place since 2004. (*PGCD Rules, Rule 4.2 (g)*)
- The spacing rules in Rule 8.1 will remain the same.
- The Drilling Permit process will remain the same, except drillers are now required to drill within 3 yards of the blue PGCD flag. (*PGCD Rules, Rule 4.3*)

What does 1 acre-foot of water mean?

- There are 325,851 gallons of water in 1 acre-foot. An acre-foot calculates to 12 inches of water over 1 acre.

What is an Operating Permit?

- An Operating Permit is a permit required for all wells, new or existing, 2 inches or greater in pipe diameter and actively producing more than 17.5 GPM.
- An Operating Permit is made up of a Contiguous Acreage Tract (CAT) provided by the operator, which will be verified by District staff. Operators will also be required to list all wells and production associated with that tract.
- Multiple CATs will result in multiple Operating Permits. (*PGCD Rules, Rule 4.2*)

What does “contiguous” mean?

- Contiguous, as defined by PGCD, is land with or without production that shares a ¼ mile boundary.

What is the ¼ mile waiver?

- Operators will be allowed to waive the ¼ mile contiguous acre restriction one time per Operating Permit. The waiver states the operator can include up to 640 additional acres if the two properties share a common boundary. (*PGCD Rules, Rule 4.2 (a) (2)*)

Who is required to obtain an Operating Permit?

- Any operator who owns or controls wells 2 inches or greater in pipe diameter actively producing more than 17.5 GPM. Operating Permits are required to produce groundwater beginning January 1, 2020. **This means operators have 2019 to obtain their Operating Permit(s) from PGCD.**

What are the steps in obtaining an Operating Permit?

- The first step is to call the District office to begin the process. One of the initial questions you will be asked by staff members is whether the production on each CAT is metered, either at each well or through a central collection point. Operating Permits will not be granted until all production is captured by a metering device. Once documentation is completed and verified, the General Manager will deem the application as administratively complete and grant the Operating Permit.

How do I know if I need a flow meter?

- Flow meters are required on all wells producing more than 35 GPM. Meters may also be installed at a central collection point if all production is captured. (*PGCD Rules, Rule 4.4*)

Is there any financial assistance available to me to help with the cost of a flow meter?

- PGCD Board of Directors set aside \$350,000 this fiscal year (October 2018-September 2019) to cost share 50 percent of all meters on wells or central collection point that have not required a meter in the past. The cost share is for 50 percent of the meter cost up to \$1,500.

Who is responsible for ensuring meters are operational at all times?

- Operators are responsible for staying in compliance with District Meter Standards, meaning they are responsible to ensure meters are operating to manufacturer's specifications. Operators must notify the District within three working days on non-operational meters. A full copy of District Meter Standards can be found online at www.pgcd.us/metering. (*PGCD Rules, Rule 4.4*)

What are the requirements to obtain a Registration?

- Registrations are still required for all wells pumping less than 17.5 GPM and exempt wells. (*PGCD Rules, Rule 5.1*)

What is exempt from an Operating Permit?

- The following are exempt from an Operating Permit:
 - o (1) Drilling or operating a well, used solely for domestic use, or for providing water for livestock or poultry:
 - (A) if the well is drilled, completed, or equipped so that it is incapable of producing more than 17.5 gallons per minute or,
 - (B) if the well is drilled and completed with production pipe less than 2 inches in diameter or,
 - (C) windmills and solar wells producing 17.5 gallons per minute or less.
 - o (2) the drilling of a water well used solely to supply water for a drilling rig that is actively engaged in drilling or exploration operations for an oil or gas well permitted by the Railroad Commission of Texas, provided that the person holding the permit is responsible for drilling and operating the water well and the water well is located on the same lease or field associated with the drilling rig. All wells drilled and registered are required to meet water well spacing requirements in Rule 8. (*PGCD Rules, Rule 5.1 (a)*)