



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
3100 (CO-922) P

OCT 21 2016

Information Notice

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado Oil and Gas Well Survey Plat Requirements

BLM Colorado reminds oil and gas operators of BLM's survey plat standards contained in Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 1, Section III, D.2, for well location plats required as part of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD). The purpose of the plat is *to ensure that operations are within the boundaries of the lease or agreement and that the depiction of these operations is accurately recorded both as to location (latitude and longitude) and in relation to the surrounding lease or agreement boundaries (public land survey corner and boundary ties)*. The following existing survey standards for Colorado continue to apply:

1. A Colorado registered land surveyor must prepare, sign, and date the well plat depicting the location of the proposed well, to ensure that operations are within the boundaries of the lease or agreement. According to the Colorado State Board of Licensure for Architects, Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors (State Board), locating or reestablishing the section corners for a well location plat constitutes a practice of professional land surveying and falls under State Board regulation.
2. The plat must describe the location in feet and direction from the nearest two section lines as determined in a land survey. To locate the section lines in, for example, the northeast one-quarter (NE1/4) of a section, it is necessary to locate or reestablish the following three corners: The northeast section corner, the north 1/4 and east 1/4 section corners.
3. Because preparing a well location plat constitutes the practice of professional land surveying, the land surveyor is not merely reporting the location of found monuments that describe the location of the well, but professionally certifying these monuments as the true corners of the section, under the authority of his/her professional land surveying license, and must follow State Board rules, policies and Colorado State law.
 - A. A monument record shall be filed for all of the corners that control the location of the nearest two section lines if the monument and its accessories are not substantially described in an existing monument record previously submitted. See Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) 38-53-104.

B. In the case where a corner is accepted and is not of record either in the Clerk and Recorder's office of the county in which the monument lies or in the public office designated by the county commissioners, a land survey plat shall be prepared. See CRS 38-51-107.

C. In the case where a lost aliquot section, quarter section, or sixteenth section corner requires reestablishment, a land survey plat shall be prepared. See CRS 38-51-107.

4. The land surveyor should coordinate with the Branch of Cadastral Survey, Colorado State Office, in the case where the lands have not been surveyed or, in the case of pre-1910 surveys, where there is extensive obliteration of evidence of the original survey.

This notice is intended to reinforce the existing requirements contained in Onshore Order No. 1, Section III, D.2, as they pertain to the well location plat. It does not constitute additional requirements or standards.



Randy Bloom
Supervisory Land Surveyor
Branch of Cadastral Survey



Suzanne Mehlhoff
Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals
Division of Energy, Lands and
Minerals