

Interpretation Note 13-02 Naming Convention for Wells Drilled from a “Common Surface Location”

The Board has developed pursuant to Section 3 of the *Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Drilling and Production Regulations* the following naming convention for wells drilled from a “common surface location” in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area. This includes wells drilled from a fixed platform or from sub-sea templates. The naming convention builds on the traditional unit and section convention employed in the C-NLOPB jurisdictional area and is applicable to all wells regardless of well classification. An operator must follow this naming convention in respect of filing an application for an Approval to Drill a Well (ADW) with the Board.

Development Wells

In respect of development wells, the “common surface location” naming convention is currently being used to identify development wells associated with producing fields.

- Wells drilled from a fixed platform shall take the unit and section number associated with the platform installation. For example, development wells drilled from the Hibernia Gravity Based Structure (GBS) shall have the common unit and section number B-16.
- Wells drilled from a sub-sea template shall take the unit and section number associated with the drill center in which the template is located. Development wells drilled in association with the White Rose Field, the North Amethyst Field and the Terra Nova Field are all drilled from sub-sea templates located in excavated drill centers.

Note: Where a sub-sea satellite well (i.e. a stand alone well) is drilled and tied back to a drill center by flow-line, the well unit and section number shall be associated with the surface location of the well and not the location of the drill center.

“Well Designator”:

To differentiate development wells drilled from a “common surface location”, the C-NLOPB assigns a “well designator” based on the sequence in which an ADW application is received by the Board. The well designator is the number that follows the unit and section number in a well name, i.e. HMDC et al Hibernia B-16 4 where the “4” represents the 4th ADW application received from the operator in respect of development drilling on the Hibernia Field.

“Sidetrack Designator”:

A well is deemed to be “sidetracked” when it deviates from the original wellbore. Reasons for sidetracking may include “operational issues” encountered in drilling or completing the planned well; re-use of the well slot and part of the wellbore on abandonment of the original well; or, as part of a planned drilling and completion strategy, where a number of “multi-laterals” are drilled off the original wellbore. A revised or new ADW must be filed with the Board in support of a sidetracked well. Where multi-laterals are planned, the “sidetrack designator” will only be issued after each planned leg has successfully reached total depth per the ADW, to allow for “unforeseen” sidetracks that may result from “operational issues” experienced while drilling.

Where a well is “sidetracked” either for “unforeseen” or “planned” reasons, a “reverse alphabet” notation is used to designate the sidetracked wellbore. “Z” is used to denote the first deviation from the original wellbore. “Y” denotes the

second sidetrack, if applicable, and so on following the reverse alphabet format. The letter identifying the sidetrack follows the “well designator”.

For example, HMDC Hibernia B-16 4Z well can be broken down as follows:

HMDC Hibernia B-16 4Z

- HMDC** is the operator.
- Hibernia** is the name of the field.
- B-16** is the unit and section number of the “common surface location”, i.e. the Hibernia GBS, from which wells are drilled.
- 4** is the sequence number in which the ADW for the well to be drilled by HMDC was received by the C-NLOPB.
- Z** represents a sidetrack from the original wellbore due to “operational issues” experienced.

Exploration and Delineation Wells

This naming convention should also be applied to exploration and delineation wells. While an exploration or delineation well would employ the unit and section numbers in its name, it would not typically employ the “well designator” as it represents the drilling of a single well from a surface location. If the well is sidetracked, the “sidetrack designator” would be used employing the reverse alphabet notation starting with the letter “Z” to denote the 1st sidetrack.

For example, the Husky Oil et al White Rose F-04Z delineation well is named as follows:

Husky Oil et al White Rose F-04Z

- Husky Oil et al** represents the operator and its partners.
- White Rose** is the name of the field.
- F-04** is the unit and section number of the surface location of the well.
- Z** indicates a planned sidetrack from the original F-04 wellbore to target a new bottom-hole location in an adjacent fault block.

Note: Where an exploration or delineation well is “re-spudded”, the letter “A” would be used as the “sidetrack designator” and would follow the section number to indicate that the well was “re-spudded”. If the re-spudded well was subsequently sidetracked, the designation “A” would be replaced by the letter “Z” to indicate the 1st sidetrack.

Batch-Drilling or Pre-Drilling of Well(s) Prior to Receiving an ADW Application

Where permitted under an Operations Authorization, approval may be given by the Board to “batch-drill” or “pre-drill” the conductor hole section, or surface hole section of a well prior to filing an ADW application. In such cases the naming of a well(s) “must not be assigned” until such time that an ADW has been received documenting the target bottom-hole location of the well. An ADW should be filed with the Board approximately 21 days prior to anticipated spud, i.e. the date that the well is re-entered for the purpose of drilling ahead in accordance with the ADW as approved by the Board.

Exceptional Circumstances

There may arise circumstances that require deviation from, or revision to, the above well naming convention. The Board has delegated authority respecting the naming and classification of wells to the Chief Conservation Officer. An operator should contact the Chief Conservation Officer at 778-1400, or by emailing *Information@cnlopb.nl.ca*, if uncertainty exists in respect of applying this naming convention in support of an ADW submission.