



September 15, 2025

**Industry Guidance Bulletin 21-002B**  
**Suspended Well Guidance**

Introduction: Suspension of a well or the renewal of the suspension of a well may be approved as outlined in 20 AAC 25.110. This guidance bulletin supersedes Guidance Bulletin 21-002A and clarifies the requirements for well-site inspections.

Suspended Well Inspection.

1. Suspended well inspections must be performed when the well and surrounding area are free of snow and ice.
2. Operator shall provide the AOGCC notice of at least 10 days before any inspection using the web notice form (<http://aogweb.state.ak.us/TestWitnessNotification/>).
3. Operator shall provide the opportunity for AOGCC inspectors to accompany the operator on the inspection tour.

Well site Inspection Guidance.

1. Operator representative must be present for the AOGCC suspended well inspection.
2. The following information must be available at the time of inspection:
  - a. Approved Sundry
  - b. Method for identifying well location
  - c. Current wellbore schematic
  - d. Date well was suspended
  - e. Date of last suspended well inspection
3. Measure and record well pressures.<sup>1,2</sup>
4. Photos taken during the well site inspection must include:
  - a. Well sign
  - b. Wellhead from all four sides
  - c. Down into the cellar

<sup>1</sup> Wells wrapped must be uncovered to check for pressures. Water and snow must be removed.

<sup>2</sup> The operator must have a procedure for managing water in the cellar, especially before freezing conditions occur. Instances have occurred where ice in the well cellar of suspended wells has damaged an annulus outlet and the equipment attached (valves, valve handles, gauges, flanges) enabling the release of fluids from wellbore annuli into the adjacent well pad.

- d. Any gauges that are installed, permanently or temporarily, on the wellhead to show readings
  - e. Pictures from the wellhead in all directions to show any debris
- 5. If the well site is in a remote location (not accessible by AOGCC-operated vehicle), it is the responsibility of the operator to provide transportation for the AOGCC inspector.
- 6. Inspecting wells annually is a good practice.

Please share this Guidance Bulletin with appropriate members of your organizations. Questions regarding this guidance should be directed to Jim Regg at (907) 793-1236 or [jim.regg@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.regg@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

Jessie L.  
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