Drilling Permit Approval Process for a problem-free application

* The approval steps for an application that does not require an SWR exception or manual review are highlighted in green. Applications requiring an SWR exception or manual review additionally require the steps highlighted in yellow.

1. Start
   - Operator submits W-1 application and attachments through RRC Online

2. New Drill?
   - Yes
     - 2. Mapping Queue
     - DP staff reviews all applications in the Mapping Queue.
     - For a New Drill, the well is plotted in the GIS, and the API number is issued.
   - No
     - 1. API Verification Queue
     - API is checked against historic records to confirm that location is current, and type of operation is valid.

3. Drilling Permits Queue
   - DP staff reviews all applications in the Drilling Permits Queue.

4. SWR Exception/Manual Review?
   - Yes
     - 4. Engineering Queue
     - DP staff reviews an application in the Engineering Queue when the operator has requested an exception to SWR 37 and/or Rule 38, or when manual review is required for special well spacing applicable to horizontal development.
     - If there is a Rule exception request that requires Notice to affected parties, the application moves to the Notice of Application (NOA) Queue; otherwise, it proceeds directly to the Public Sales Queue.
   - No
     - 3. Drilling Permits Queue

5. Notice of Application Queue
   - Application with SWR 37 or Rule 38 exception request requiring Notice to affected parties
   - Applications are held in the SWR Hold Queue during the Notice waiting period.

6. SWR Hold Queue
   - If no protests are received during the Notice waiting period, the application with the approved Rule exception moves back to the Engineering Queue.
   - If a Rule 38 exception request requires review of geologic data, it is forwarded to the Docket Services Queue.

7. Docket Services Queue (Hearings Division)
   - A Technical Examiner reviews geologic data

8. Technical Exam Queue (Hearings Division)
   - If geologic data is sufficient and no protests are received during the waiting period, the Rule 38 Exception request is approved.

9. Public Sales Queue
   - Applications pass through the Public Sales Queue before final approval. Any remaining funds due are collected from the operator and applied to the filing by Records Management staff.

10. Approved Queue
    - An approved application is routed to the Approved Queue as an approved drilling permit.

End