

USING THE H-15 REASON FOR FILING

In the spirit of Chairman Craddick's Oil Field Relief Initiative, the GAU has a new practice related to applications for Test on Inactive Wells 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §3.15(l) Fluid level or hydraulic pressure test for inactive wells more than 25 years old; and 16 TAC §3.15(m) Fluid level or hydraulic pressure test for inactive land well less than 25 years old (Form H-15).

When applying for a Groundwater Protection Determination Letter with the **Reason for Filing of Test on Inactive Well (H-15)** be aware that the GAU has created a new practice allowing operators to request an Areal Extent that is larger than in the past. With this new practice only the deepest depth of the Base of Usable-Quality Water (3,000 mg/l TDS) over the area is given in the Groundwater Protection Determination Letter.

When creating an application in the GW-1 Online Application, select the **Reason for Filing of Test on Inactive Well (H-15)** and an **Areal Extent**. If you only want one well, select **Well Location**. If you want more than one well, select one of the following options from the drop-down menu.

- **Radius:** Attach a list of API Numbers for wells within the radius. If the radius is over 2000 feet, put a 1 in the **Radius Distance** and include the desired radius in the **Remarks** section at the bottom of the application.
- **Lease:** Attach a list of API Numbers for wells in the lease.
- For all other Areal Extent options from the drop-down menu API Numbers are not required.

The Groundwater Protection Determination Letter will have the following statement:

This Groundwater Protection Determination Letter is only applicable to testing of an Inactive Wellbore in accordance with 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §3.15(l) Fluid level or hydraulic pressure test for inactive wells more than 25 years old; and 16 TAC §3.15(m) Fluid level or hydraulic pressure test for inactive land well less than 25 years old (Form H-15).

The estimated deepest depth to the Base of the Usable-Quality Water over this area is XXXX feet below surface elevation.

If a well fails H-15 testing and is going to be plugged or subjected to an activity requiring a current Groundwater Determination Letter, then a new application must be submitted with the appropriate Reason for Filing to obtain all the groundwater protection isolation depths for the well.

Note that the "XXXX"s represent the depth of the deepest Base of Usable-Quality Water.

So, for example if the depth of the Base of Usable-Quality Water ranges from depths of between 1,000 to 1,300 feet below surface, the value replacing the "XXXX" is 1,300. In some areas the range of depths is much larger.