Environmental Protection for Onshore Oil and Gas Production Operations and Leases

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 51R
FIRST EDITION, JULY 2009

REAFFIRMED, DECEMBER 2015



AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

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Upstream Segment

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Environmental Protection for Onshore Oil and Gas Production Operations and Leases

1 Scope

This standard provides environmentally sound practices for domestic onshore oil and gas production operations. It is intended to be applicable to contractors as well as operators. Facilities within the scope of this document include all production facilities, including produced water handling facilities. Offshore and arctic areas are beyond the scope of this document. Operational coverage begins with the design and construction of access roads and well locations, and includes reclamation, abandonment, and restoration operations. Gas compression for transmission purposes or production operations, such as gas lift, pressure maintenance, or enhanced oil recovery (EOR) is included; however, gas processing for liquids recovery is not addressed. Annex A provides guidance for a company to consider as a "good neighbor."

2 References

2.1 Normative References

This recommended practice (RP) includes by reference, either in total or in part, the following standards and publications. Users should investigate use of the appropriate portion of the most recent editions of the publications listed below.

API, *API Environmental Guidance Document: Onshore Solid Waste Management in Exploration and Production Operations*

API, *Guidelines for Commercial Exploration and Production Waste Management Facilities*

API Bulletin E2, *Bulletin on Management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) in Oil and Gas Production*

API Bulletin E3, *Environmental Guidance Document: Well Abandonment and Inactive Well Practices for U.S. Exploration and Production Operations*

API Specification 7B-11C, *Specification for Internal-Combustion Reciprocating Engines for Oil-Field Service*

API Recommended Practice 7C-11F, *Recommended Practice for Installation, Maintenance, and Operation of Internal-Combustion Engines*

API Recommended Practice 11ER, *Recommended Practice for Guarding of Pumping Units*

API Bulletin 11K, *Data Sheet for the Design of Air Exchange Coolers*

API Specification 11N, *Specification for Lease Automatic Custody Transfer (LACT) Equipment*

API Specification 12B, *Specification for Bolted Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids*

API Specification 12D, *Specification for Field Welded Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids*

API Specification 12F, *Specification for Shop Welded Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids*

API Specification 12J, *Specification for Oil and Gas Separators*