

Onshore Oil and Gas Production Practices for Protection of the Environment

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 51
THIRD EDITION, FEBRUARY 2001

REAFFIRMED, JANUARY 2013



AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

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Upstream Segment

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Onshore Oil and Gas Production Practices for Protection of the Environment

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 ends with abandonment/ restoration operations. Gas compression for transmission purposes or production operations, such as gas lift, pressure maintenance, or enhanced oil recovery is included; however, gas processing for liquids recovery is not addressed.

2 References

2.1 REFERENCE STANDARDS

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

API

Bull E2	<i>Bulletin on Management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) in Oil and Gas Production</i>
Bull E3	<i>Well Abandonment and Inactive Well Practices for U.S. Exploration and Production Operations, Environmental Guidance Document</i>
API Environmental Guidance Document:	<i>Onshore Solid Waste Management in Exploration and Production Operations</i>
API Remediation of Salt-Affected Soils at Oil and Gas Production Facilities	
API Guidelines for Commercial Exploration and Production Waste Management Facilities	
Spec 7B–11C	<i>Specification for Internal-Combustion Reciprocating Engines for Oil Field Service</i>
RP 7C–11F	<i>Recommended Practice for Installation, Maintenance, and Operation of Internal-Combustion Engines</i>
Bull 11K	<i>Data Sheet for the Design of Air Exchange Coolers</i>
Spec 11N	<i>Specification for Lease Automatic Custody Transfer (LACT) Equipment</i>

Spec 11P	<i>Specification for Packaged High Speed Separable Engine-Driven Reciprocating Gas Compressors</i>
Spec 12B	<i>Specification for Bolted Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids</i>
Spec 12D	<i>Specification for Field Welded Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids</i>
Spec 12F	<i>Specification for Shop Welded Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids</i>
Spec 12J	<i>Specification for Oil and Gas Separators</i>
Spec 12K	<i>Specification for Indirect-Type Oil Field Heaters</i>
Spec 12L	<i>Specification for Vertical and Horizontal Emulsion Treaters</i>
RP 12N	<i>Recommended Practice for Operations, Maintenance and Testing of Firebox Flame Arresters</i>
RP 49	<i>Recommended Practices for Drilling and Drill Stem Testing of Wells Containing Hydrogen Sulfide</i>
RP 53	<i>Recommended Practices for Blowout Prevention Equipment Systems for Drilling Wells</i>
RP 55	<i>Recommended Practices for Conducting Oil and Gas Producing and Gas Processing Plant Operations Involving Hydrogen Sulfide</i>
NACE ¹	
Std MR0175	<i>Standard Material Requirements Sulfide Stress Cracking Resistant Metallic Materials for Oilfield Equipment</i>
RP0475	<i>Selection of Metallic Materials to be Used in All Phases of Waste Handling for Injection Into Oil Bearing Formations</i>

3 Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following acronyms and abbreviations are used in this standard:

API	American Petroleum Institute
BOPE	Blowout Preventer Equipment
E&P	Exploration and Production
ESD	Emergency Shut Down
IC	Internal Combustion
LACT	Lease Automatic Custody Transfer
mg/l	milligrams per liter
NORM	Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls

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