

From: [Najewicz, Justin](#)
To: [Weiland, April](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Dakota Oil & Gas Alternate Methods
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 12:55:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good afternoon April,

I concur with recommending the AM is approve.

While the perforations aren't required to be communicated to DEP as a regulatory requirement, the schematic indicates they will be placed per DEP. It is generally common practice for CBLs to be shared with OGIs during the plugging process. I intend for Matt to conduct twice weekly inspections and remain attentive to the sites throughout plugging.

Thank you,

Justin Najewicz | Oil & Gas Inspector Supervisor
Department of Environmental Protection
New Stanton District Office
131 Broadview Road | New Stanton, PA 15672
Phone: 724.925.5511
DEP 24-hour toll free Emergency Response number: 1-800-541-2050
www.dep.pa.gov

From: Weiland, April <apweiland@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 12:41 PM
To: Najewicz, Justin <jnajewicz@pa.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Dakota Oil & Gas Alternate Methods

Good afternoon, Justin:

Based upon the information provided, do you concur with Matt and recommend the approval of the alternate method?

Also does the operator intend to communicate the findings of the bond long with the Department to collaborative evaluate if/where squeezed shots will be needed?

Thank you,

April A. Weiland (She/Her/Hers) | Environmental Group Manager
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest District Oil and Gas Operations

Cambria District Office
286 Industrial Park Road | Ebensburg PA 15931-4119
Phone: 814.472.1820 | Fax: 814.472.1861



[Department of Environmental Protection](#)

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DEP 24-hour toll free Emergency and Incident Reporting number is: 1-800-541-2050

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From: Najewicz, Justin <jnajewicz@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 10:20 AM
To: Weiland, April <apweiland@pa.gov>
Cc: Woods, Matthew <matwoods@pa.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Dakota Oil & Gas Alternate Methods

Good morning April,

Matt has reviewed the attached AMs and recommends them for approval. I confirmed the 15 day objection period has passed. We received clarification from Dakota regarding noted concerns of “deteriorating well conditions” which was a reference to an open-hole bridged portion of the well. This resolved Matt’s concerns.

The AMs have been added to the EGM Request Tracker. The documents can be found in the following location:  [Dakota 129-23883 and 129-23834](#)

Thank you,

Justin Najewicz | Oil & Gas Inspector Supervisor
Department of Environmental Protection
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From: Woods, Matthew <matwoods@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 7:20 AM

To: Najewicz, Justin <jnajewicz@pa.gov>

Subject: Re: [External] RE: Dakota Oil & Gas Alternate Methods

Justin,

Yes, based on the information provided I would recommend the approval of the AM. As I stated in the 2/13 email I believe the cement plug will take care of the bottom hole issue.

Matt

From: Najewicz, Justin <jnajewicz@pa.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 27, 2026 2:47:24 PM

To: Woods, Matthew <matwoods@pa.gov>

Subject: RE: [External] RE: Dakota Oil & Gas Alternate Methods

Good afternoon Matt,

Based upon the information provided, do you recommend the approval of the alternate method?

Thank you,

Justin Najewicz | Oil & Gas Inspector Supervisor

Department of Environmental Protection

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131 Broadview Road | New Stanton, PA 15672

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From: Woods, Matthew <matwoods@pa.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 7:37 AM

To: Najewicz, Justin <jnajewicz@pa.gov>

Subject: FW: [External] RE: Dakota Oil & Gas Alternate Methods

Justin,

I was concerned that the issues were with the casing or some other type of integrity issue. If the issue is with bottom hole condition then I would recommend approval of the AM since the cement plug should take care of the open hole problem.

Matt

From: Marc Jacobs <dmarcj@penneco.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 4:05 PM

To: Najewicz, Justin <jnajewicz@pa.gov>
Cc: Woods, Matthew <matwoods@pa.gov>
Subject: [External] RE: Dakota Oil & Gas Alternate Methods

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Hi Justin.

Please see my responses below.

Many thanks,

D. Marc Jacobs, Jr.
Senior Vice President



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Ph: (724) 468-8232 • Fax: (724) 468-8230
Web: www.penneco.com

From: Najewicz, Justin <jnajewicz@pa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:10 PM
To: Marc Jacobs <dmarcj@penneco.com>
Cc: Woods, Matthew <matwoods@pa.gov>
Subject: Dakota Oil & Gas Alternate Methods

Good afternoon Marc,

DEP received the attached alternative methods, which are under review.

Can you please provide context to the deteriorating well conditions for well 129-23834?
"Deteriorating well conditions" is a reference to the bridged open-hole. This well was never fracked, but was produced from a natural flow of gas in the Fifth Sand, with compression, since the time it was drilled. Back in 1998, the open-hole caved in the Red Rock above the Fifth Sand and we drilled it out to re-establish flow. It is obviously caved again signaling continued instability. There is the possibility that we could reach a point in our reasonable attempts to achieve the original TD, that safe advance would be no longer possible requiring an assignment of attainable bottom by the Department. A solid column of cement is intended to be a significant factor in the determination matrix.

Also, please be aware DEP cannot finalize review of the AMs until 15 days after notification to the coal owners/operators are made. To clarify, did Dakota provide copies of the alternative method to the coal owners/operators or is Dakota's notification the letters included in the AMs? **Yes. Copies of the Alternate Method Form were included with the letters to the coal owners/operators.**

Thank you,

Justin Najewicz | Oil & Gas Inspector Supervisor
Department of Environmental Protection
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