

RCW 78.60.110 Suspension of drilling, shut-in or removal of equipment for authorized period—Unlawful abandonment. (1) The department may authorize the operator to suspend drilling operations, shut-in a completed well, or remove equipment from a well for the period stated in the department's written authorization. The period of suspension may be extended by the department upon the operator showing good cause for the granting of such extension.

(2) If drilling operations are not resumed by the operator, or the well is not put into production, upon expiration of the suspension or shut-in permit, an intention to unlawfully abandon shall be presumed.

(3) A well shall also be deemed unlawfully abandoned if, without written approval from the department, drilling equipment is removed.

(4) An unlawful abandonment under this chapter shall be entered in the department records and written notice thereof shall be mailed by registered mail both to such operator at his or her last known address as disclosed by records of the department and to the operator's surety. The department may thereafter proceed against the operator and his or her surety. [2013 c 23 s 254; 1974 ex.s. c 43 s 11. Formerly RCW 79.76.110.]