

# OROGO WELL MATERIAL AND CORE SAMPLING POLICY

## 1. INTRODUCTION

**Purpose** This policy of the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) describes the processes for:

- Visual examination of well materials;
- Applying to sample well materials;
- Reviewing applications;
- Obtaining samples; and
- Reporting on research results based on sampling.

**Principles** OROGO's core sampling policy reflects the following principles:

1. As the custodian of core samples related to oil and gas exploratory activity in its jurisdiction, OROGO has a responsibility to preserve the core from unnecessary or duplicative destructive sampling;
2. Sampling reports are not requirements of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* or the *Petroleum Resources Act* (PRA) and therefore are not subject to the privilege requirements contained in the PRA;
3. Organizations and individuals conducting research using core should have adequate time to complete the research and assess and act on the results before the report is made public; and
4. The core is a public resource and the public, including government, should have timely access to the results of research using the core.

**Location of Well Materials** Well materials are stored at the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) Core and Sample Repository in Calgary, Alberta.

**Contents** The Policy is organized as follows:

Section	Contents	Page
2	Visual Examination of Well Materials	2
3	Applying to Sample Well Materials	3
4	Reviewing Applications	5
5	Obtaining Samples	6
6	Reporting on Research Results	7

## 2. VISUAL EXAMINATION OF WELL MATERIALS

**Contents** This section contains information on applying for visual examination of well materials:

- Non-privileged well materials;
- Privileged well materials; and
- Process for accessing well materials.

**Non-privileged Well Materials** Non-privileged well materials may be visually examined without applying to OROGO for approval.

**Privileged Well Materials** Privileged well materials may be visually examined with written consent from the well operator. The written consent must be submitted to OROGO and the GSC.

**Accessing Well Materials** Contact the GSC for access to well materials for visual examination:

**Core and Sample Repository**

Geological Survey of Canada - Calgary  
3303 - 33 Street NW  
Calgary Alberta T2L 2A7  
Telephone: 403-292-7030  
Fax: 403-292-5377  
[richarde.fontaine@canada.ca](mailto:richarde.fontaine@canada.ca)

### 3. APPLYING TO SAMPLE WELL MATERIALS

<b>Contents</b>	This section contains information on applying to sample well materials:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allowable sampling;</li><li>• Acquiring sample portions;</li><li>• Application requirements for sample portions;</li><li>• Additional requirements for sampling privileged well materials;</li><li>• Submitting an application; and</li><li>• Use of Canadian laboratories.</li></ul>
<b>Allowable Sampling</b>	Sampling is only permitted on core and unwashed cuttings. Washed cuttings are not allowed to be sampled.
<b>Acquiring Sample Portions</b>	Approval from OROGO is required to acquire sample portions of well materials for the purpose of conducting studies.
<b>Application Requirements for Sample Portions</b>	<p>The written application to acquire sample portions must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the proposed study;</li><li>• Identify:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Expected commencement and study completion dates;</li><li>○ Well names and unique well identifiers (UWI);</li><li>○ Proposed intervals (list in both metric and imperial units); and</li><li>○ Proposed material quantities per interval;</li></ul></li><li>• Include a full description of analytical techniques;</li><li>• Indicate whether the study will be destructive or non-destructive;</li><li>• Contain a list of persons or companies, including addresses, who will be performing each analysis; and</li><li>• Contain the signature and name of the applicant or responsible person, including company, telephone number, e-mail and physical address.</li></ul>
<b>Additional Requirement: Privileged Well Materials</b>	To sample privileged well materials, the application must also include written consent from the well operator to examine or study the materials.

**Submitting an Application** Send the written application for sampling by email or letter to OROGO at:

**Information Office**

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
PO Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9  
Telephone: 867-767-9097 x 78004  
[orogo@gov.nt.ca](mailto:orogo@gov.nt.ca)

Send a copy of the application by email, letter or fax to the GSC at:

**Core and Sample Repository**

Geological Survey of Canada - Calgary  
3303 - 33 Street NW  
Calgary Alberta T2L 2A7  
Telephone: 403-292-7030  
Fax: 403-292-5377  
[richarde.fontaine@canada.ca](mailto:richarde.fontaine@canada.ca)

**Use of Canadian Laboratories**

OROGO expects applicants to prioritize the use of Canadian facilities over non-Canadian laboratories.

If the applicant plans to transport OROGO well materials outside of Canada, a separate approval must be requested at the time of application.

## 4. REVIEWING APPLICATIONS

**Contents** This section contains information on OROGO's review of applications:

- Timeframe for review;
- Review criteria; and
- Issuing approvals.

**Timeframe for Review** Once a complete application has been received, it may be subject to an assessment period of up to 20 business days prior to a decision.

**Review Criteria** OROGO will review the application and may send it to additional technical experts to determine:

- The current condition and quantity of existing well materials;
- Whether intervals have been previously studied using the proposed or similar techniques;
- Whether previous studies with similar techniques are non-privileged; and
- Whether sufficient geoscientific and interpretative value can be gained by the proposed study.

**Issuing Approvals** OROGO will issue the approval or provide written reasons for refusal. Approvals may be subject to various conditions.

OROGO will send a copy of the approval or reasons for refusal to the GSC.

## 5. OBTAINING SAMPLES

**Contents** This section provides information on accessing well materials:

- Obtaining samples;
- Deadline for sampling; and
- Requests for extensions.

**Obtaining samples** Once approval is received from OROGO, applicants can contact the GSC facility to arrange to collect the samples.

**Deadline for Sampling** Within six months of the approval date:

- Sampling must be completed; and
- The remaining sample materials and thin sections (including originals and duplicates) must be returned to the Geological Survey of Canada facility in Calgary.

**Extension Requests** Requests for extensions to the deadline for completing sampling will be considered in relation to the principles underlying this policy (see Section 1).

Extension requests must be submitted to OROGO before the original sampling deadline at:

**Information Office**

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
PO Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9  
Telephone: 867-767-9097 x 78004  
[orogo@gov.nt.ca](mailto:orogo@gov.nt.ca)

## 6. REPORTING ON RESEARCH RESULTS

<b>Contents</b>	This section provides information on reporting on research results from sampling:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The deadline for report submission;</li><li>• Requests for extensions;</li><li>• The content of reports; and</li><li>• The public availability of reports.</li></ul>
<b>Deadline for Report Submission</b>	Reports must be submitted to OROGO no later than 18 months after sampling has been completed.
<b>Extension Requests</b>	Requests for extensions to the deadlines for submitting the report will be considered in relation to the principles underlying this policy (see Section 1).  Extension requests must be submitted to OROGO before the original reporting deadline at:
	<p><b>Information Office</b> Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations Government of the Northwest Territories PO Box 1320 Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9 Telephone: 867-767-9097 x 78004 <a href="mailto:orogo@gov.nt.ca">orogo@gov.nt.ca</a></p>
<b>Report Contents</b>	Reports must include:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An introduction containing the purpose of the study and any background information;</li><li>• A summary of the results of the study;</li><li>• A summary of the testing / analysis procedures used;</li><li>• A list of the companies that performed the tests;</li><li>• A description of the data sufficient to confirm or examine it;</li><li>• An interpretation of the results and implications for future work; and</li><li>• Appendices that include raw data, graphs, plots, logs, photographs or images as well as before and after images of samples undergoing destructive testing.</li></ul>

**Reports  
Publicly  
Available**

Reports based on samples will be made publicly available as soon as they are received.