

# Appendix F

## API Well Number

ONRR identifies each well with a unique, permanent API well number and completion code/producing interval. The API well number is assigned to each wellbore by BSEE or BLM. The standard API well number is structured as follows:

State	County	Sequence	Sidetrack (ST) or wellbore (WB)	Completion code/producing interval
99	999	99999	99	X99

Operators obtain this API well number from the financial accounting system through a WELL Confirmation Report.

**State** codes are two digits. The standard API State or pseudo-State codes must be used.

**County** codes are three digits. The standard API county or pseudo-county codes must be used.

**Sequence** codes are five digits. These numbers are assigned by State agencies or BSEE to identify the original wellbore. The numbers are assigned sequentially from 1 to 60,000 for each county or pseudo-county.

**Wellbore (WB)** codes are two digits. The WB code was previously called the sidetrack (ST) code but has been renamed to reflect the fact that the code applies to all subsequent wellbores drilled after the original hole, including sidetracks, bypasses, redrills, and well deepenings.

A wellbore/sidetrack is defined, for the purposes of this handbook, as any new borehole purposely or unintentionally kicked off or extended from an existing wellbore. This category includes drilled wellbores commonly referred to as sidetracks, bypasses, redrills, and well deepenings. (See [Appendix G](#) for examples.)

The original hole is identified using a WB code of **00**. For every sidetrack, bypass, redrill, well deepening, or other wellbore drilled after the original hole, the WB code is incremented and assigned sequentially with Form MMS-124, Sundry Notices and Reports on Well for offshore. WB codes in the range **70-79** are reserved for **historical** sidetracks, bypasses, redrills, and well deepenings that, for whatever reason, were not previously assigned WB codes. (See [Example G-20. Offshore—Historical wellbore with no API well number assigned on page G-23.](#))

**Completion code/producing interval**—see [Appendix G](#).

Additional details for assigning API well numbers are found in “API Well Number and Standard State and County Numeric Codes, Including Offshore Waters,” *API Bulletin D12A*, published in January 1979.

If an API well number has not been assigned or cannot be found by the operator or ONRR for an offshore well, BSEE assigns a temporary sequence number. The onshore operator must contact the appropriate BLM inspection office if an API well number has not been assigned. BSEE or BLM then assigns a sequence number between 85,000 and 90,000 to be used by the operator until the permanent number is found or assigned by the appropriate agency. When the permanent number is found, the operator will be notified.

The API well number is required on the OGOR-A and confirmed to the designated operator on the WELL Confirmation Report.