

RULES UNDER THE UPPER MYANMAR OIL-FIELDS REGULATION.

No. 14

[Amendment : 18.06.1989]

No. 14. - In exercise of the power conferred by section 5 of the Upper Myanmar Oil-fields Regulation, 1910, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to make the following rules for the control of oil-winning operations and for the prevention of flooding of oil-sands by water in the Minbu Oil-field as notified in Revenue Department Notification No.185 of the 12th December 1912. These rules will come into force on the 1st February 1913.

Preliminary.

1. **Definitions.** - In these rules, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context-

- (a) **“Warden”** means the officer specially appointed by Government as warden of the oil-field;
- (b) **“Owner”** includes a grantee or lessee and any person under whose control oil-winning operations are conducted;
- (c) **“Field-manager”** means the officer of a company who directly superintends the drilling operations of an oil-field.

UNDER SECTION 5 (1) .

- 2. The warden or any officer superior to him or any person authorized by him shall have the right to inspect all boring and construction work connected with the storage, transport and exploitation of oil.

UNDER SECTION 5 (2) (b), (c), (f), (h) AND (k) TO (m).

Under (b).

- 3. Every owner of a drilled well who is not himself regularly resident on or near the oil-field shall appoint a resident agent and field-manager, who may reside either at Yenangyaung or on the Minbu Oil-field, and shall inform the warden of the name and address and of any change of the incumbent or incumbents of such positions.

Under (c).

- 4. During drilling the agent shall forward weekly a copy of the drilling record to the warden, containing such particulars as may be called for. The record shall be kept as confidential, but the warden may communicate to any agent such portion of this record as refers to the location and thickness of the water-sands and as appears to the warden expedient for the protection of the field from flooding.

Under (f).

5. The warden shall have the power to order the removal or exclusion from the oil-field or any part of it of any person not employed on any work in the oil-field, or who appears to be present for any vexatious or unlawful object or purpose.

Under (h).

6. Every owner and occupier of any premises within the oil-field where any accident of the description referred to in section 8 of the regulation occurs, shall report such accident without delay to the warden or, in his absence, to the nearest magistrate.

UNDER SUB-SECTIONS (k) To (m).

7. As soon as a bore strikes a water-sand the driller shall be bound to report the same to his field-manager, who shall, through his agent, apprise the warden without delay.
8. The agent shall report to the warden the depth and thickness of the water-sand, the nature of the underlying stratum, and the method proposed for shutting off the water.
9. The warden may satisfy himself that the water has been effectually shut off, and may issue any such instructions as he considers necessary.
10. The field-manager shall be bound to see that these instructions are carried out to the satisfaction of the warden, and shall not allow drilling to go on till the warden has satisfied himself that the water has been shut off effectually.
11. If, when a well flows or is put to pumping, water is found mixed with the oil, or if water which has been cased off subsequently breaks into a well, the field-manager shall, through his agent, immediately report the matter to the warden, and shall carry out any instructions which the warden may pass with a view to shutting off the water.
12. The owner of every well which is not flowing is responsible for periodically pump-ing it for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is admitting water. And if the well is found to be admitting water, he is responsible for keeping it continually free of water by pumping.
13. If the warden considers it necessary to satisfy himself that the well is kept free of water, he may require the field-manager to have the well pumped in his presence and may pass orders to make any necessary repairs or replacements that may be required.
14. If the owner neglects to keep the well pumped free of water the warden may, unless he be shown reasonable grounds for concluding that the water is coming from the same sand as the oil, require him

- immediately to plug the well or shut off the water ; and if he neglects to do so within a reasonable period the warden may cause it to be done, recovering the cost from the owner as if it were an arrear of revenue.
15. The owner of a well who desires to plug it shall give notice of his intention to the warden and obtain his permission to do so. The warden may require that the plugging shall be done under the supervision of some competent person to be nominated by him.
16. When it is not intended to recover the casing a well shall be plugged by filling in cement, puddled clay or other suitable material from the bottom up to a level which shall be fixed by the warden.
17. The process of plugging shall be carried out in accordance with the instructions and to the satisfaction of the warden.
18. Above the level fixed by the warden in accordance with rule 16 the hole shall be filled with earth, sand, stones or clay, as may be convenient.
19. If the owner wishes to recover the casing the following additional precautions shall be taken:-
- (a) As each length or section of two or three lengths of the casing of smallest diameter is pulled up and unscrewed, puddled clay or other plugging material shall be filled in through the casing still left in the bore up to the level of the shoe of the casing which is being removed.
 - (b) When the well is filled in up to the level of the shoe of the next larger casing in the well, the smallest casing may be drawn and similar steps taken to plug the portion of the well cased with pipes of the next larger diameter, and so on till the level fixed by the warden under rule 16 is reached, after which all the casings may be drawn and the hole filled with earth, sand, stones or clay, as may be found convenient.
 - (c) If, owing to the casing being tight, it is necessary to cut out and leave in the ground the bottom portion of the casing, the portion left in the ground shall be filled up as soon as it is certain that the lower portion has parted from the upper.
20. If, in the opinion of the warden, a well has, owing to an accident during drilling or subsequently, or to the use of bad materials or to bad workmanship, or other cause, become a source of danger from water, the warden may order that the well be partially or completely plugged or that further drilling be discontinued, unless the danger can otherwise be guarded against.

UNDER SECTION 5 (3).

21. Whoever disobeys an order under rule 5 or commits a breach of rules 3, 4 and 6 of these rules shall be punished, on conviction by a magistrate, with a fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

22. Whoever by any act or omission commits a breach of one or more of rules 7 to 20 shall for each such breach be punished, on conviction by a magistrate, with a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees; and if such act or omission causes damage to the oil-field, with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees or with both.
23. Rules 7, 10, 11, 12 and 14 are rules for the breach of which the Local Government may revoke any grant or lease or take possession of any well or site under the provision of section 14 of the Upper Myanmar Oil-fields Regulation, 1910.

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