§ 250.1740 How must I verify that the site of a permanently plugged well, removed platform, or other removed facility is clear of obstructions?

Within 60 days after you permanently plug a well or remove a platform or other facility, you must verify that the site is clear of obstructions by using one of the following methods:

(a) For a well site, you must either:
   (1) Drag a trawl over the site;
   (2) Scan across the location using sonar equipment;
   (3) Inspect the site using a diver;
   (4) Videotape the site using a camera on a remotely operated vehicle (ROV); or
   (5) Use another method approved by the District Manager if the particular site conditions warrant.

(b) For a platform or other facility site in water depths less than 300 feet, you must drag a trawl over the site.

(c) For a platform or other facility site in water depths 300 feet or more, you must either:
   (1) Drag a trawl over the site;
   (2) Scan across the site using sonar equipment; or
   (3) Use another method approved by the Regional Supervisor if the particular site conditions warrant.

§ 250.1741 If I drag a trawl across a site, what requirements must I meet?

If you drag a trawl across the site in accordance with §250.1740, you must meet all of the requirements of this section.

(a) You must drag the trawl in a grid-like pattern as shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For a . . .</th>
<th>You must drag the trawl across a . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Well site, 300-foot-radius circle centered on the well location.</td>
<td>300-foot-radius circle centered on the well location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Subsea well site, 600-foot-radius circle centered on the well location.</td>
<td>600-foot-radius circle centered on the well location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Platform site, 1,320-foot-radius circle centered on the location of the platform.</td>
<td>1,320-foot-radius circle centered on the location of the platform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Single-well caisson, well protector jacket, template, or manifold, 600-foot-radius circle centered on the structure location.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) You must trawl 100 percent of the limits described in paragraph (a) of this section in two directions.

(c) You must mark the area to be cleared as a hazard to navigation according to USCG requirements until you complete the site clearance procedures.

(d) You must use a trawling vessel equipped with a calibrated navigational positioning system capable of providing position accuracy of ±30 feet.

(e) You must use a trawling net that is representative of those used in the commercial fishing industry (one that has a net strength equal or greater than that provided by No. 18 twine).

(f) You must ensure that you trawl no closer than 300 feet from a shipwreck, and 500 feet from a sensitive biological feature.

(g) If you trawl near an active pipeline, you must meet the requirements in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For . . .</th>
<th>You must trawl . . .</th>
<th>And you must . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Buried active pipelines,</td>
<td>First contact the pipeline owner or operator to determine the condition of the pipeline before trawling over the buried pipeline.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For . . . | You must . . . | And you must . . .
---|---|---
(2) Unburied active pipelines that are 8 inches in diameter or larger, | no closer than 100 feet to the either side of the pipeline, | Trawl parallel to the pipeline. Do not trawl across the pipeline.
(3) Unburied smaller diameter active pipelines in the trawl area that have obstructions (e.g., pipeline valves) present, | no closer than 100 feet to either side of the pipeline, | Trawl parallel to the pipeline. Do not trawl across the pipeline.
(4) Unburied active pipelines in the trawl area that are smaller than 8 inches in diameter and have no obstructions present, | parallel to the pipeline, |

(h) You must ensure that any trawling contractor you may use:
(1) Has no corporate or other financial ties to you; and
(2) Has a valid commercial trawling license for both the vessel and its captain.

§ 250.1742 What other methods can I use to verify that a site is clear?
If you do not trawl a site, you can verify that the site is clear of obstructions by using any of the methods shown in the following table:

If you use . . . | You must . . . | And you must . . .
---|---|---
(a) Sonar, | cover 100 percent of the appropriate grid area listed in §250.1741(a), | Use a sonar signal with a frequency of at least 500 kHz.
(b) A diver, | ensure that the diver visually inspects 100 percent of the appropriate grid area listed in §250.1741(a), | Ensure that the diver uses a search pattern of concentric circles or parallel lines spaced no more than 10 feet apart.
(c) An ROV (remotely operated vehicle), | ensure that the ROV camera records videotape over 100 percent of the appropriate grid area listed in §250.1741(a), | Ensure that the ROV uses a pattern of concentric circles or parallel lines spaced no more than 10 feet apart.

§ 250.1743 How do I certify that a site is clear of obstructions?
(a) For a well site, you must submit to the appropriate District Manager within 30 days after you complete the verification activities a form BSEE–0124, Application for Permit to Modify, to include the following information:
(1) A signed certification that the well site area is cleared of all obstructions;
(2) The date the verification work was performed and the vessel used;
(3) The extent of the area surveyed;
(4) The survey method used;
(5) The results of the survey, including a list of any debris removed or a statement from the trawling contractor that no objects were recovered; and
(6) A post-trawling job plot or map showing the trawled area.

(b) For a platform or other facility site, you must submit the following information to the appropriate Regional Supervisor within 30 days after you complete the verification activities:
(1) A letter signed by an authorized company official certifying that the platform or other facility site area is cleared of all obstructions and that a company representative witnessed the verification activities;
(2) A letter signed by an authorized official of the company that performed the verification work for you certifying that it cleared the platform or other facility site area of all obstructions;
(3) The date the verification work was performed and the vessel used;
(4) The extent of the area surveyed;
(5) The survey method used;
(6) The results of the survey, including a list of any debris removed or a statement from the trawling contractor that no objects were recovered; and
(7) A post-trawling job plot or map showing the trawled area.