§ 3261.10
(d) Permit conditions of approval; and
(e) Oral orders, which will be confirmed in writing.

Subpart 3261—Drilling Operations: Getting a Permit

§ 3261.10 How do I get approval to begin well pad construction?
(a) If you do not have an approved geothermal drilling permit, Form 3260–2, apply using a completed and signed Sundry Notice, Form 3260–3, to build well pads and access roads. Send us a complete operations plan (see § 3261.12) and an acceptable bond with your Sundry Notice. You may start well pad construction after we approve your Sundry Notice.

(b) If you already have an approved drilling permit and you have provided an acceptable bond, you do not need any further permission from BLM to start well pad construction, unless you intend to change something in the approved permit. If you propose a change in an approved permit, send us a completed and signed Sundry Notice so we may review your proposed change. Do not proceed with the change until we approve your Sundry Notice.

§ 3261.11 How do I apply for approval of drilling operations and well pad construction?
(a) Send to BLM:
   (1) A completed and signed drilling permit application, Form 3260–2;
   (2) A complete operations plan (§ 3261.12);
   (3) A complete drilling program (§ 3261.13); and
   (4) An acceptable bond (§ 3261.18).

(b) A drilling program describes all the operational aspects of your proposal to drill, complete, and test a well.

(b) Send to BLM:
   (1) A detailed description of the equipment, materials, and procedures you will use;
   (2) The proposed/anticipated depth of the well:
   (3) If you plan to directionally drill your well, also send us:
      (i) The proposed bottom hole location and distances from the nearest section or tract lines;
      (ii) The kick-off point;
      (iii) The direction of deviation;
      (iv) The angle of build-up and maximum angle; and
      (v) Plan and cross section maps indicating the surface and bottom hole locations;
   (4) The casing and cementing program;
   (5) The circulation media (mud, air, foam, etc.);
   (6) A description of the logs that you will run;
   (7) A description and diagram of the blowout prevention equipment you will use during each phase of drilling;
   (8) The expected depth and thickness of fresh water zones;
   (9) Anticipated lost circulation zones;
   (10) Anticipated reservoir temperature and pressure;
   (11) Anticipated temperature gradient in the area;
   (12) Any other information that BLM may require.

§ 3261.13 What is a drilling program and how do I apply for drilling program approval?
(a) A drilling program describes all the operational aspects of your proposal to drill, complete, and test a well.
§ 3261.14 When must I give BLM my operations plan?
Send us a complete operations plan before you begin any surface disturb-
ance on a lease. You do not need to submit an operations plan for subse-
quent well operations or altering exist-
ing production equipment, unless these activities will cause more surface dis-
urbance than originally approved, or we notify you that you must submit an 
operations plan. Do not start any ac-
tivities that will result in surface dis-
urbance until we approve your drilling 
permit or Sundry Notice.

§ 3261.15 Must I give BLM my drilling permit application, drilling pro-
gram, and operations plan at the same time?
You may submit your completed and signed drilling permit application and 
complete drilling program and opera-
tions plan either together or sepa-
rate.
(a) If you submit them together and we approve your drilling permit, the 
approved drilling permit will authorize both the pad construction and the 
drilling and testing of the well.
(b) If you submit the operations plan separately from the drilling permit ap-
plication and program, you must:
(1) Submit the operations plan before the drilling permit application and 
drilling program to allow BLM time to comply with National Environ-
mental Policy Act (NEPA); and
(2) Submit a completed and signed Sundry Notice for well pad and access 
road construction. Do not begin con-
struction until we approve your Sun-
dry Notice.

§ 3261.16 Can my operations plan, 

§ 3261.19 drilling permit, and drilling pro-
gram apply to more than one well?
(a) Your operations plan and drilling program can sometimes be combined to 
cover several wells, but your drilling permit cannot. To include more than 
one well in your operations plan, give us adequate information for all well 
sites, and we will combine your plan to cover those well sites that are in areas 
of similar geology and environment.
(b) Your drilling program may also apply to more than one well, provided 
you will drill the wells in the same 
manner, and you expect to encounter similar geologic and reservoir condi-
tions.
(c) You must submit a separate geo-

thermal drilling permit application for each well.

§ 3261.17 How do I amend my oper-
ations plan or drilling permit?
(a) If BLM has not yet approved your operations plan or drilling permit, send 
us your amended plan and completed and signed permit application.
(b) To amend an approved operations plan or drilling permit, submit a com-
pleted and signed Sundry Notice de-
scribing your proposed change. Do not 
start any amended operations until 
after BLM approves your drilling per-
mit or Sundry Notice.

§ 3261.18 Do I need to file a bond with BLM before I build a well pad or 
drill a well?
Before starting any operation, you 
must:
(a) File with BLM either a surety or 
personal bond in the following min-
imum amount:
(1) $10,000 for a single lease;
(2) $50,000 for all of your operations 
within a state; or
(3) $150,000 for all of your operations 
nationwide;
(b) Get our approval of your surety or 
personal bond; and
(c) To cover any drilling operations 
on all leases committed to a unit, ei-
ther submit a bond for that unit in an 
amount we specify, or provide a rider to a statewide or nationwide bond spe-
cifically covering the unit in an 
amount we specify.
(d) See subparts 3214 and 3215 for ad-
ditional details on bonding procedures.

§ 3261.19 When will BLM release my 

bond?
BLM will release your bond after you 
requests it and we determine that you 
have: