

§ 250.1740

30 CFR Ch. II (7-1-20 Edition)

SITE CLEARANCE FOR WELLS,
PLATFORMS, AND OTHER FACILITIES

§ 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:

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

(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:

For . . .	You must trawl . . .	And you must . . .
(1) Buried active pipelines,		First contact the pipeline owner or operator to determine the condition of the pipeline before trawling over the buried pipeline.
(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,	