



## DIVISION OF OIL & GAS RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL & GAS RESOURCES MANAGEMENT  
2045 Morse Road, F-2 • Columbus, OH 43229-6693  
OILANDGAS.OHIODNR.GOV

### What is an Aerial Magnetic Survey and Why is the ODNR conducting the surveys?

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management (DOGRM) conducted aerial magnetic surveys using a line of site Unmanned Aerial System, or drone technology, in this area. A magnetometer, a sensor that can locate metallic objects, such as a buried well head, is attached to a drone which is flown approximately 150 feet above the surface. **A magnetometer is not capable of taking or producing images and videos.** The Division is utilizing this technology to efficiently locate abandoned oil and gas wells that may be considered orphan wells. Locating these wells allows the Division's Orphan Well Program to create plans to effectively plug the wells when advisable.

### What is an Orphan Well and why do they plug them?

An orphan well is an abandoned oil and gas well that has no owner of record to plug the well, so the state of Ohio is left to ensure the well is properly plugged. Using historical records the Division is able to locate some orphaned wells and implement plans to plug them. When they are above ground, ODNR inspectors go to sites to get an accurate location. However, some well heads may be buried under several feet of soil which requires the ODNR to use a drone equipped with a magnetometer to find them.

Orphaned wells have the potential to discharge hazardous materials such as brine, crude oil, methane gas, and hydrogen sulfide at the surface. They also have the potential to leak into underground aquifers. Plugging a well mitigates public health and safety and environmental risks. The drone flights and plugging of wells is funded by a severance tax and is **AT NO COST TO THE LANDOWNER.**

### How do the surveys work and what's next?

Trained staff members, including licensed commercial drone pilots and professional surveyors, performed the aerial magnetic surveys. One or more anomalies (metal objects) were identified by the magnetometer on your property. The Division would like to perform additional work with hand tools, such as a shovel, to confirm the locations. To speed the process, a mini-excavator could be used. Any minimal disturbance will be restored to its prior condition. **The Division will notify landowners before performing this work.** There are no costs to the landowner and no guarantee that a well will be found or plugged.

### Questions?

Verdantas (Drone Operators)

Phone: 567-200-4732

Email: [mbeil@verdantas.com](mailto:mbeil@verdantas.com)

ODNR DOGRM

Phone: 330-308-0007

Email: [OrphanWellProgram@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:OrphanWellProgram@dnr.ohio.gov)





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## Right of Entry for Well Verification Survey Landowner Information

Name(s):

Address:

Date:

Phone:

Email:

	OH	

	M/D/YYYY

Please check one of the two options below. Please also sign and date.

- Landowner agrees to allow the Division or Division contractors to enter the property to confirm the location of one or more oil and gas well(s).
- I do NOT wish to participate in this state funded well verification survey. I understand that I may still participate in the other opportunities within the Orphan Well Program. I understand that this is a state funded program and there is no cost to me to participate. I understand the state funded program will also plug wells on my property. I understand that unplugged orphan wells may pose risks to my property. Knowing all this, I choose not to participate in the well verification survey.

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Landowner*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Landowner*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Table 1: PROPERTY OWNER Properties**

<b>Parcel ID Number</b>	<b>Parcel City</b>	<b>Parcel State</b>	<b>Parcel ZIP Code</b>
		OH	
		OH	
		OH	
		OH	
		OH	
		OH	
		OH	

**RETURN TO:**

Rural Action  
9030 Hocking Hills Drive  
The Plains, OH 45780