

(7) If the possessor of a permit wishes to dispose of his interest in the storage project, he shall inform the department of his intention so to do, and supply the name and address of the person to whom it is intended to transfer the same. Such notice shall be given at least two weeks before the intended transfer, and no transfer of permit shall be made without the prior approval of the department.

Before approval of transfer will be made, the department shall have opportunity to investigate the proposed recipient of the permit and this person, having acquired any such interest, shall submit a statement concerning the data which would be required of him were he an original applicant, and shall also state that he will assume full responsibility for the operation and for compliance with the statute in the event of the abandonment of the storage project in conformance with these regulations.

(e) (A) Every applicant for a storage permit shall at the time of application, file with the department a surety bond in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), payable to the Comptroller of the State of Maryland, which bond shall be on a form approved by the ~~department~~ DEPARTMENT and executed by a responsible surety company authorized to do business in the State of Maryland. Such bond is for the purpose of insuring that necessary safety measures are maintained, and that any well or other opening used in connection with the storage project is properly sealed after abandonment of the project if such action is considered necessary by the ~~department~~ DEPARTMENT to protect one or more of the natural resources of the State. Any transferee shall likewise deposit such a bond.

(d) (B) No permeable sand or stratum containing gas, or into which gas or a liquefied petroleum derivative has been forced under pressure, shall be drilled or left open so that avoidable escape of gas shall occur. No well connected with such storage reservoir containing either natural gas or a petroleum derivative stored under pressure, shall be situated within fifty (50) yards of any existing building used as a residence or office.

(e) (C) All fresh-water sands penetrated in drilling to a storage reservoir shall be fully protected by cement grout placed in such manner as to provide an effective seal to the nearest thick clay bed above the gas storage stratum having a thickness of at least twenty-five (25) feet, and to provide an effective seal in the nearest thick clay bed above the gas storage stratum which such clay bed shall be of such thickness and have such other geologic properties as will, in the opinion of the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources AND THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION constitute sufficient protection to the potable fresh-water supplies existing in any ~~aquifers next above the gas storage stratum~~ AQUIFERS.

648MM. THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 648HH TO 648LL, INCLUSIVE, SHALL BE APPLICABLE ONLY TO THE STORAGE OF NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL GAS AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1957.*

Approved April 15, 1957.