

OIL AND GAS WELLS, MUST BE PLUGGED IF ABANDONED
Act of May 26, 1891, P.L. 122, No. 114
AN ACT

Cl. 58

To prevent the pollution of springs, water wells and streams by water escaping from abandoned oil wells and gas wells.

Sec. 1. Abandoned oil or gas wells to be plugged

Upon the abandonment or ceasing to operate or use any well which shall have been drilled for oil or gas, it shall be the duty of the person or persons interested in such well to plug the same so as to completely shut off and prevent the escape of all water therefrom which may be impregnated with salt or other substances which will render such water unfit for use for domestic, steam making or manufacturing purposes, and in such manner as to prevent water from any such well injuring or polluting any spring, water well or stream which is or may be used for the purposes aforesaid. (1891, May 26, P.L. 122, Sec. 1.)

Section 2. Penalty for violation of act

Any person violating the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be sentenced, upon conviction thereof, to pay a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or to undergo an imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, or both, or either, at the discretion of the court. (1891, May 26, P.L. 122, Sec. 3.)

Section 3. Persons injured may plug wells and recover expenses

Whenever any person may be injured by neglect or refusal to comply with the first section of this act, it shall be lawful for such person, after notice to the owner or lessee of the premises upon which such well is located, to enter upon and fill up and plug such well in the manner directed by the first section hereof, and thereupon to recover the expense thereof from the person or persons whose duty it was to plug and fill up said well, in like manner as debts of such amount are recoverable. (1891, May 26, P.L. 122, Sec. 3.)