Definitions

**Well:** borehole which is drilled in order to discover or delimit a petroleum deposit and/or to produce petroleum or water for injection purposes, to inject gas, water or other medium, or to map or monitor well parameters. There are several categories of wells. A well may consist of one or several wellbores (well paths) and may have one or several termination points.

**Wellbore (well path):** designates the location of the well from one termination point to the wellhead. A wellbore may consist of one or more well tracks.

**Well track:** the part of a wellbore (well path) which extends from a point of drilling out on the existing wellbore (kick-off point) to a new termination point for the well.

**Multilateral wellbore:** has more than one wellbore radiating from the main wellbore. In contrast to sidetracked wells where the first bottom section is plugged back before a sidetrack is drilled, multilateral wellbores have more than one wellbore open at the same time.

**Other wellbore:** SOIL DRILLING (drilling in connection with subsurface surveys to investigate the soil conditions prior to placement of facilities), SHALLOW GAS (drilling to investigate shallow gas before the first 'real' drilling on the location), PILOT (drilling to investigate the geology and fluid contacts for location of the main wellbore), SCIENTIFIC (drilling according to Act relating to Scientific research and exploration), STRATIGRAPHIC (drilling according to Act relating to Petroleum activities §2-1).
Example 1 - Relation between well and wellbores

Example 2 - Multilateral wellbores

Well 6503/10-B-5 with 3 wellbores

Wellhead

Kickoff points

2. target

3. target

1. target

Well 6503/10-B-5 with 3 wellbores

Wellhead

Kickoff points

2. target

3. target

1. target

Well 6503/10-B-5 with 6 wellbores. Wellbores 6503/10-B-5 and 6503/10-B-5 A are plugged.

Wellhead

Kickoff points

Plugged wellbores

6503/10-B-5

6503/10-B-5 BY3

6503/10-B-5 BY1

6503/10-B-5 BY2

6503/10-B-5 BY4
Table description

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Wellbore designation maintained by the operator companies based on NPD guidelines

Wellbore designation determined by the NPD

Well designation determined by the NPD

Textual description

Well /Wellbore determined by the NPD

Item I: Quadrant number
Item II: Block number
Item III: Identification of the wellbore or name of the installation
  - Not used for exploration wellbores
  - A – Z: installation development wellbores (except U, T)
  - AA-ZZ: if the entire alphabet has been used for identification, a second character can be used to identify the installation.
  - U: other wellbores
  - T: test production wellbore

Item IV: Well Number, serial number/hole number from 1-99
  - There must always be a space after Item IV, the well number

Item V:
  - S: exploration wellbore planned to be deviated
  - A, B, etc.: side tracks
  - R: re-entered exploration wellbores
  - Y: planned as multilateral wellbores (see own description below)
Item VI:
- Numbers 2, 3 etc.: a count of the number of re–entries (i.e. R, R2, etc.)
- Numbers 1,2,3, etc.: a count of the well tracks in multilateral wellbores

Item VII:
- H: Sub-sea completed

Item VIII:
- Fx: Multi field (where x = 2, 3, 4 etc.).

Fx is used to identify multi field wellbores and should be used where production / and or injection is done from more than one field. The wellbore for the “first” field is not using Item VIII, the wellbore for the second field is named F2, for the third F3 etc.

Wellbore designations maintained by the operator company

Item IX
This item is used for more detailed identification of a wellbore (for instance when a technical sidetrack is drilled). The item list can be extended, and will be updated by NPD. To ensure that uniqueness is achieved, the item list is sorted in alphabetical order. The current item list is:
- T2, T3 etc. are used to identify technical sidetrack wellbores. T2 is used for the first sidetrack, T3 for the next etc.
- Q1, Q2 etc. are used to identify multi-purpose wellbores and should be used where production and/or injection is done from separate zones within the wellbore. Q1 is used for the first stream, Q2 for the next, etc.
**Multilateral wellbores**

Multilateral wellbores have more than one wellbore radiating from the main wellbore. In contrast to sidetracked wells where the first bottom section is plugged back before a sidetrack is drilled, multilateral wellbores have more than one wellbore open at the same time.

Wellbores planned as multilaterals are named Y1, Y2, Y3 etc. (Item V), i.e. 31/2-L-12 Y1H and 31/2-L-12 Y2H. Multilaterals can also be drilled from sidetracks, i.e. 31/2-E-6 DY1H and 31/2-E-6 DY2H.

If a wellbore originally was not planned as multilateral, and the decision to drill multilateral from this wellbore is made at a later stage, the original wellbore keeps its name, i.e. 6608/10-E-1 H and the new wellbores are named Y2, Y3 etc. i.e. 6608/10-E-1 Y2H.

The numbering of the wellbores does not necessarily reflect the order the wellbores were drilled in.

Wellbores drilled out of other wellbores are not designated as sidetracks even if their purpose is observation rather than production and even if they are plugged back after drilling.

**Writing rules**

In writing no leading zeros are used. Numbers in Item I shall have right alignment. All other numbers and letters have left alignment. There must always be a space between Item IV (well number) and the rest of the wellbore reference. If any of the items is empty (e.g. Item III for exploration wells), that item is skipped when the well/wellbore name is written.

*According to section 13 in the Regulations relating to resource management in the petroleum activities (Resource management regulations) the licensee shall obtain registration number and well/well path designation from the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate in respect of each separate well or well path prior to commencement of drilling activities.*