

What is the Start of Construction Date?

When determining the applicability of air authorizations under §106.352 and the oil and gas standard permit, it is important to consider the Start of Construction of the project or registration. The start of construction is the date on which construction begins at a site after the well has been drilled and tested. The post-well test construction (i.e. building pads for engines, installing platforms for tanks, etc.) is when the start of construction should be considered. For sites that are not well tested (such as midstream sites or gathering stations), the start of construction is considered the date on which equipment is brought onsite or physical modifications are made at a site in order to install equipment.

Consistent with the policy memo regarding start of construction, land clearing, leveling of the area, road building, fencing, etc. are considered “site clearance/preparation” and are not considered part of the start of construction. Construction equipment used to drill the well or equipment used to conduct the well test is not considered part of the start of construction date. If a trailer is brought onto a site for site personnel, it is not considered part of the start of construction. A well test lasting less than 72 hours is not considered start of construction. In situations where production equipment is brought onto a site while the well is still being drilled, the 73rd hour of the well test will be considered the start of construction for the site.

The following link will provide additional information:

www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcereview/before.html