



Users Guide to Wildcat and Suspense Records on Microfilm

Background information about the microfilm.

The Railroad Commission's past efforts for preserving permit, completion, and plugging records involved gathering the complete record of a well and placing those paper records in a storage filing system that was known as Potential Filing.

Potential Filing contained the complete records of a well that included information such as Operator Names, Field Names, API numbers, and Lease Numbers. At a later date, the complete paper records in the Potential Filing were gathered and imaged onto Potential Film. The images of the records that make up the Potential Film can also be found here:

[Imaged Oil and Gas Well Records Located on Neubus](#)

The Wildcat and Suspense Records on Microfilm contain records that did not make it to the Potential Filing.

There may have been any number of reasons that a record did not make the transition to Potential Filing.

The primary reason a record was not transferred to the Potential Filing was that it was not complete. For instance, if a permit arrived to the RRC, it sat in suspense until a Completion report arrived as well. Then the complete record was transferred to Potential Filing. Also, if a plugging report arrived and there was no completion report to match it with, it also would not be moved into Potential Filing. It was said that these records were kept in 'suspense' until they moved into the Potential Filing.

After a number of years, the number of incomplete records accumulated. Every few years these incomplete records in 'suspense' were gathered and filmed. The name of this series of film; Wildcat and Suspense, reflects the fact that these records were the ones kept in suspense and did not become part of a complete record.

The organization of the images on the Wildcat and Suspense film directly reflects the frequency that these records were filmed, and the organization of the records while they were in suspense.

Organization of the Wildcat and Suspense Film.

The organization of the Wildcat and suspense film is as follows:

- District
 - Span of years
 - Records with no API number
 - Operator Name
 - Lease Name
 - Records With API Number
 - County Name – Alphabetized
 - API number

Users looking for a document and suspect that it may be located on the Wildcat and Suspense film will need to identify the location in the organizational hierarchy where the document may be located.

The first major division, District, groups all film rolls within a district together. The next division is Span of Years.

Common spans of years are:

1968 and prior – this refers to the year suspense filing likely began, 1965 through 1968.

1971 and prior – this refers to the span 1969-1971

1974 and prior – this refers to the span 1972-1974

1978 and prior – this refers to the span 1975-1978

1985 and prior – this refers to the span 1979-1985

1999 and prior – this refers to the span 1986-1999

Each district might not contain identical spans of years as other districts. Users will need to consult the index to determine what years constitute a span for each district.

You will need to refer to the index listing to determine what years a particular districts spans contain.

Steps for locating the Roll of Wildcat and Suspense Film needed.

Step 1 – User will consult the Index of Wildcat and Suspense Rolls.

[Wildcat and Suspense Microfilm Index](#)

[Downloadable .CSV file of the Wildcat and Suspense Index](#)

Step 2 – using the index, identify the correct district, the correct span of years, and within the span of years, the most likely range of API or Operator names your document will fall within.

Step 3 – Make note of the roll number in the last column of the index. You will need the Roll number exactly as it is found.

Step 4 – Navigate to the Wildcat and Suspense Profile on Neubus

[Wildcat and Suspense Records on Microfilm](#)

For Document Type, choose Wildcat and Suspense

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Microfilm > Key Search

Document Type ▾ Reel Number

➤ **Advanced**

Then enter the roll number exactly as found in the Index. In this example, WS8-20 is shown.

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Programs ▾

Microfilm > Key Search

Document Type ▾ Reel Number

➤ **Advanced**

Showing 1 of 1 Records (sort data by clicking on any column heading)

	Document Type	Reel Number
 Actions ▾		WS8-20

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Navigating the Images found on the Wildcat and Suspense Film.

Please recall that the images found on the Wildcat and Suspense Profile, have been imaged exactly as they are found on the physical Wildcat and Suspense Rolls. Users will find that generally more recent images are in a more pristine condition than older images.

The images found on each roll of film are organized in the exact information hierarchy as noted earlier:

- District
 - Span of years
 - Records with no API number
 - Operator Name
 - Lease Name
 - Records With API Number
 - County Name – Alphabetized
 - API number

Users should orient themselves using the information found on one image, to determine if they need to scroll forward or backwards in within the roll of film.

Helpful Tips

The portion of the film devoted to documents that do not have API numbers is generally very small. For instance, the rolls of film for the span of years 1974 and prior, may only contain a few dozen documents without API numbers. The span of film 1999 and prior will not contain any documents that do not have an API number.

You may have to look in a later span of years. For instance if a user is looking for a W-3 that they are certain was completed in 1974, there is a chance it will be found in the 1978 and prior span of film instead of the 1974 and prior span of film. This may be because even though the W-3 was completed in 1974, it did not actually make it to the filing system until 1975.

Some documents found on the Wildcat and Suspense film are called Suspense X-Reference. Users will see that this document is an itemized list of documents associated with a certain API. An X-reference is an indication that the documents listed can be found elsewhere. As an example, image 1000 on roll WS8-20 is an X-Reference for API number 371-30970.

All the documents listed on this particular X-Reference for API 371-30970 can be found on the Oil and Gas Well Records profile through the Oil and Gas Imaged Records Menu Query.

Contact Us

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