

# Functional Integrity of Natural Gas Storage in Depleted Hydrocarbon Reservoirs and Aquifer Reservoirs

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 1171  
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## Foreword

API Recommended Practice 1171 applies to gas storage in depleted hydrocarbon reservoirs and aquifers. Gas storage in solution-mined salt caverns is not addressed, since API 1170 <sup>[1]</sup> applies to natural gas storage in solution-mined salt caverns.

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# Functional Integrity of Natural Gas Storage in Depleted Hydrocarbon Reservoirs and Aquifer Reservoirs

## 1 Scope

This recommended practice (RP) applies to natural gas storage in depleted oil and gas reservoirs and aquifer reservoirs, and focuses on storage well, reservoir, and fluid management for functional integrity in design, construction, operation, monitoring, maintenance, and documentation practices. The scope does not include pipelines, gas conditioning and liquid handling, compressors, and ancillary facilities associated with storage. Storage design, construction, operation, and maintenance include activities in risk management, site security, safety, emergency preparedness, and procedural documentation and training to embed human and organizational competence in the management of storage facilities. This RP embodies historical knowledge and experience and emphasizes the need for case-by-case and site-specific conditional assessments.

This RP applies to both existing and newly constructed facilities. However, Sections 5 and 7 apply exclusively to new facilities and facilities undergoing expansion, and Section 6 applies to new well construction and remediation of a new or existing well. Figure 1 provides a chart showing the flow of functional integrity assurance activities through the design, operation, and maintenance of storage facilities, with references to the sections within this RP containing guidance for those activities. Applicable distinctions for aquifer facilities are identified within each section as necessary. “Replacement,” as used in this document, refers to the complete replacement of a facility unit, as, for example, when an existing well is abandoned and replaced with a new well. This document recommends that operators manage integrity through monitoring, maintenance, and remediation practices and apply specific integrity assessments on a case-by-case basis.

The contents of this RP are not all inclusive or intended to replace the utilization of detailed information and procedures found in textbooks, manuals, technical papers, or other documents.

This document is intended to supplement, but not replace, applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

## 2 Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

API Recommended Practice 5A3, *Recommended Practice on Thread Compounds for Casing, Tubing, Line Pipe, and Drill Stem Elements*

API Recommended Practice 5C1, *Recommended Practice for Care and Use of Casing and Tubing*

API Technical Report 5C3, *Technical Report on Equations and Calculations for Casing, Tubing, and Line Pipe Used as Casing or Tubing; and Performance Properties Tables for Casing and Tubing*

API Specification 5CT, *Specification for Casing and Tubing*