

From: Patterson, Heather, EMNRD
To: ["Amber Griffin"](#)
Cc: [Katie Parker](#); [Chase Settle](#); [Bratcher, Mike, EMNRD](#); [Bayliss, Randolph, EMNRD](#)
Subject: RE: Bryan ME #1 (2RP-3164)
Date: Friday, July 15, 2016 7:11:00 AM

Amber,

After going back and reviewing emails I see that I had it backwards. I thought the pit was on the North side, but per your April 7th email, the pit is actually on the West side. Regardless, it appears that on both the north and the west sides the contamination cleans up within a few feet of your sidewalls. This appears to support the fact that this contamination is from the spill, not the pit. If you were going into the pit, your numbers should increase. But on both the West side and the North side your numbers significantly decrease as you moved outward.

That said, your pictures do seem to support some historical pit evidence. If Yates wants to use part 17 closure standards at this location (as requested in your June 23rd email), you may do so. But then I must use part 17 to close it, which does require plant growth and may drag this project on longer.

OCD approval does not relieve the operator of liability should their operations fail to adequately investigate and remediate contamination that may pose a threat to ground water, surface water, human health or the environment. In addition, OCD approval does not relieve the operator of responsibility for compliance with any other federal, state, local laws and/or regulations.

If you have any questions or concerns, and for notification, please contact me.

Heather Patterson
Environmental Specialist
NMOCD District II
Office (575)748-1283 ext.101
Cell (575)703-0228

From: Amber Griffin [mailto:AGriffin@yatespetroleum.com]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2016 9:56 AM
To: Patterson, Heather, EMNRD
Cc: Katie Parker; Chase Settle; Bratcher, Mike, EMNRD; Bayliss, Randolph, EMNRD
Subject: RE: Bryan ME #1 (2RP-3164)

Heather,

When this release occurred, contractors immediately bermed the release area to keep it from migrating horizontally. Yates made sure that during the excavation process we excavated outside of the bermed area to ensure that all soils contaminated by this release were excavated. The release occurred on top of the old drilling pit and the chlorides that Yates found on the west and north sidewalls are not a result of the release, but are a result of the historical drilling pit. There are multiple places near the release area where the old pit liner is visible, and that includes to the west and north of the current excavation.

Yates requests that since the west sidewall falls within the historical pit location, and was not impacted by this current release, you reconsider our request to backfill with no further excavation to be conducted on the west sidewall. Attached are photographs which show evidence of the historical drilling pit material (white liner) in the west sidewall. I also went ahead and took a photograph of the north sidewall, also showing the same historical pit liner evidence. These pictures were taken on 7/7/2016.

IMG_0687 – Dry hole marker showing I was at the Bryan ME #1 location.

IMG_0688 – Looking north to the excavated area from by the dry hole marker.

IMG_0689 – Looking north while inside the excavation showing the liner in the north sidewall.

IMG_0690 – Looking west while inside the excavation showing the liner in the west sidewall.

Thank you,
Amber

From: Patterson, Heather, EMNRD [<mailto:Heather.Patterson@state.nm.us>]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2016 9:20 AM
To: Amber Griffin
Cc: Bob Asher; Katie Parker; Chase Settle; Bratcher, Mike, EMNRD; Bayliss, Randolph, EMNRD
Subject: RE: Bryan ME #1 (2RP-3164)

Amber,

Please extend your excavation on the west side to remove contaminated soils, since this is not considered part of the pit. As for the north (pit) side, you have approval to backfill.

Please be advised that this RP may remain open until this area has achieved 70% plant cover (excluding noxious weeds). Leaving elevated chlorides in place may hinder that goal.

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Heather Patterson
Environmental Specialist
NMOCD District II
Office (575)748-1283 ext.101
Cell (575)703-0228

From: Amber Griffin [<mailto:AGriffin@yatespetroleum.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2016 8:58 AM
To: Patterson, Heather, EMNRD
Cc: Bob Asher; Katie Parker; Chase Settle

Subject: FW: Bryan ME #1 (2RP-3164)

Heather,

The Bryan ME #1 has been excavated to 4' below the surface level. As requested by NMOCD, Yates Petroleum has also field tested the sidewalls for chlorides.

The chloride testing results were:

- East Sidewall – 564 ppm
- South Sidewall – Non-Detect
- West Sidewall – 3,792 ppm – we tested out an additional 1'-2' and found that these levels decreased to 180 ppm.
- North Sidewall – 5,708 ppm – we tested out an additional 3-4' and found that these levels decreased to 1,204 ppm.

These chloride levels are not a result of the release that occurred at this site, but rather from a drilling pit on the location. Based off of the closure standards under Pit Rule 17, Yates Petroleum requests permission to backfill the excavation. No further excavation work will be completed, but Yates will install the 20 mil liner and backfill the location as previously approved by NMOCD.

Thank you,
Amber Griffin

From: Patterson, Heather, EMNRD [<mailto:Heather.Patterson@state.nm.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 11:07 AM
To: Amber Griffin; Bratcher, Mike, EMNRD
Subject: RE: Bryan ME #1 (2RP-3164)

RE: Yates Petroleum * Bryan ME #1 * 30-015-23097 * 2RP-3164

Amber,

Thank you for the vertical delineation at this location. Your work plan is approved with a few exceptions. For liner protection, the OCD would like a four foot excavation. Also, as it appears you may have discovered some historic contamination, the OCD requests sidewall confirmation samples at time of closure. These samples should display chloride levels at 800 mg/kg or less, and may be done with field screens if Yates prefers.

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If you have any questions or concerns, and for notification, please contact me.

Heather Patterson
Environmental Specialist
NMOCD District II

Office (575)748-1283 ext.101
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From: Amber Griffin [<mailto:AGriffin@yatespetroleum.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 3:27 PM
To: Patterson, Heather, EMNRD; Bratcher, Mike, EMNRD
Subject: Bryan ME #1 (2RP-3164)

Heather/Mike,

Please find attached a work plan for the release that occurred at the Bryan ME #1 on July 11, 2015 (2RP-3164).

Should you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Thank you,

Amber Griffin

Environmental Regulatory Agent
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