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**Cc:** [Bratcher, Mike, EMNRD](#); [Venegas, Victoria, EMNRD](#); [Eads, Cristina, EMNRD](#); [BLM SPILL \(blm\\_nm\\_cfo\\_spill@blm.gov\)](#)  
**Subject:** Closure Denied - Devon - Cotton Draw Unit 171H - (Incident #NAB1508251701) (2RP-2907)  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 2:58:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Closure Denied - Devon - Cotton Draw Unit 171H.pdf](#)

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Chris,

We have received your closure report and final C-141 for **Incident #NAB1508251701 Cotton Draw Unit 171H**, thank you. This closure is denied.

- The OCD cannot accept field screening results from Petro FLAG Analyzer Systems, PID Meters, and Ground Conductivity Meters for sampling determination. Horizontal and vertical delineation should "only" be determined through actual laboratory analyzed samples.
- Please collect more confirmation samples, representing no more than 200 square feet. *Alternately, without division approval, the responsible party may elect to perform a composite and grab sample plan of the remediated area where each composite sample is not representative of more than 200 square feet 19.15.29.12D(1)(c).*
- Please continue to horizontally delineate sample points to 600 mg/kg for chlorides and TPH to 100 mg/kg on the outer edges/periphery and include sample points in your next report after closure criteria limits have been met. Surface sample points and sidewalls on the edge of the release need to be delineated to 600 mg/kg for chlorides and 100 mg/kg for TPH for the spill to be horizontally delineated. While vertical definition of contamination that may be acceptable is almost exclusively driven by depth to water, as determined, and as driven by Table I in rule, horizontal definition is different. The edges (horizontal definition) of a liquid release must be determined as well. The only value for determination of horizontal impact are derived by either "background" value as determined appropriate to Rule 29, or, for chloride, 600 mg/Kg in soils. This 600 mg/Kg value is discussed in detail in 19.15.29.13 D. (1). **Therefore, horizontal soils delineation for chloride should be 600 mg/KG (again, or background) for all liquid releases, either on or off production pad.** It is conceivable that a liquid release may occur with, for example, a surface soil chloride of 19,000 mg/Kg, and if it is reliably determined that groundwater is over 101 feet below ground surface, then that value may stand as a vertical definition, but nonetheless, the horizontal value(s) for lateral extent of liquid release would still, of Rule 29 necessity, be 600 mg/Kg chloride or less. **This would be inclusive of both "on-pad" of "off-pad" release area.** The above if laboratory data driven, not just reported visual extent of a liquid release or calculated and reported release volumes. As indicated in above portions, a scaled map with horizontal and vertical definition of actual laboratory values is required. Generally, the top one foot sample suffices for immediate horizontal evaluation and deeper contamination would likely be identified during actual remediation.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Regards,

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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 groundwater, 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, or local laws and/or regulations.