

District I  
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240  
District II  
811 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210  
District III  
1000 Rio Brazos Road, Aztec, NM 87410  
District IV  
1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505

NM OIL CONSERVATION State of New Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

SEP 09 2016

Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Form C-129  
Revised August 1, 2011

Submit one copy to appropriate  
District Office

RECEIVED

NFO Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(For Division Use Only)

**APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO NO-FLARE RULE 19.15.18.12**

(See Rule 19.15.18.12 NMAC and Rule 19.15.7.37 NMAC)

- A. Applicant VANGUARD OPERATING, LLC  
whose address is 5847 SAN FELIPE, STE. 3000 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77057  
hereby requests an exception to Rule 19.15.18.12 for 3 days or until  
                    , Yr             , for the following described tank battery (or LACT):  
Name of Lease WELCH RL STATE BATTERY Name of Pool ARTESIA; GLORIETA-YESO,  
RED LAKE; SAN ANDRES  
Location of Battery: Unit Letter E Section 28 Township 17S Range 28E  
Number of wells producing into battery 12
- B. Based upon oil production of 129 barrels per day, the estimated \* volume  
of gas to be flared is 1,335 MCF; Value \$1,175 per day.
- C. Name and location of nearest gas gathering facility: Frontier Empire Abo Gas Plant
- D. Distance 4 MILES Estimated cost of connection N/A
- E. This exception is requested for the following reasons: Requesting to flare gas due to Force Majeure  
unscheduled maintenance event affecting Frontier's Empire Abo Gas Plant

30-015-31946

**OPERATOR**

I hereby certify that the rules and regulations of the Oil Conservation  
Division have been complied with and that the information given above  
is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature Kyle Zimmermann

Printed Name Kyle Zimmermann

& Title Operations Engineer I

E-mail Address kzimmerman@vnrllc.com

Date 09/08/2016 Telephone No. 432-202-0175

**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Approved Until Sept. 30, 2016

By Amalia Bustamante

Title Business Op. Sp.

Date 9/9/16

\*Please see attached C.O.A.'s

\* Gas-Oil ratio test may be required to verify estimated gas volume.



**Facility Name: Welch RL State Battery**

<b>Well Name</b>	<b>API #</b>	<b>Footage</b>	<b>1/4 1/4 (UL)</b>	<b>Sec</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Meridian</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>State</b>
Welch RL State #1	30-015-31916	2,310' FNL, 430' FWL	SWNW (E)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #2	30-015-31917	2,310' FNL, 1,650' FWL	SENW (F)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #4	30-015-36031	660' FNL, 990' FWL	NWNW (D)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #5	30-015-37314	1,650' FNL, 2,310' FWL	SENW (F)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #6	30-015-32456	990' FNL, 1,650' FWL	NENW (C)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #7	30-015-37694	990' FNL, 2,310' FEL	NWNE (B)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #10	30-015-20586	1,810' FNL, 790' FWL	SWNW (E)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #14	30-015-40068	2,310' FNL, 2,310' FWL	SENW (F)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #18	30-015-40084	430' FNL, 330' FWL	NWNW (D)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #19	30-015-42305	965' FNL, 965' FWL	NWNW (D)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #20	30-015-42367	1,650' FNL, 420' FWL	SWNW (E)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM
Welch RL State #21	30-015-42306	2,265' FNL, 965' FWL	SWNW (E)	28	17S	28E	NMP	Eddy	NM

**NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
DISTRICT 2 OFFICE  
811 SOUTH FIRST STREET  
ARTESIA, NM 88210  
(575)748-1283**

**CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL for FLARING or VENTING GAS**

1. Venting gas is absolutely not allowed.
2. Prior to flaring gas, C-129 must be filed & approved. Blanket approval cannot be given for this operation.
3. Flared volumes of gas are to be metered & reported.
4. Flares WILL be manned at all times. Brush should be cut down to 1 or 2 inches around flare stack at least a radial distance of 2 times the height of the flare stack.
5. Flares WILL NOT be left unattended.
6. No flaring operations to be conducted during red-flag days.  
<http://www.gacc.nifc.gov/swcc> (go to "Predictive Services" on SWCC website) to check for red flag warnings.
7. Follow safe practices for flaring guidelines.
8. Permit may be rescinded at any time by NMOCD.
9. If well is able to be connected to a gas gathering system, it will be done so as soon as possible.
10. **Flaring of gas is prohibited.** The State Forester grants an exception to the prohibition on open fires for the flaring of natural gas when the following conditions are met. Unless flaring is needed for safety purposes, flaring pursuant to this exception shall not be done on days that are "red flag days" as determined by the National Weather Service or on days when the sustained wind is in excess of 25 miles per hour in the area.
- 11.1. The day is not a "red flag day" as determined by the National Weather Service and the sustained wind is not in excess of 25 miles per hour in the area.
- 12.2. The local fire department and county dispatch are notified at least 24 hours in advance of anticipated releases that will result in flaring. If flaring is done by an automated system then the schedule of flaring shall be provided to the local fire department and county dispatch. The area is mowed and maintained at a length not to exceed 4 inches and all other flammable products or debris shall be cleared in the area for a distance of one and one half times the height of the stack.
- 13.3. At least one adult is on site with communications equipment adequate to reach county dispatch and the local fire department in the event of a fire. The individual should also be equipped with a shovel and a water backpack pump or other equipment to deliver water to suppress a fire
- 14.4. If flaring is to take place at an unmanned facility, then the area around the flare stack is mowed and maintained at a length not to exceed 4 inches and all other flammable products or debris shall be cleared in the area for a distance of three times the height of the stack.

Your initials here:

AB

DATE: 9/9/16

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**David Martin**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Tony Delfin**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**David Catanach**  
Division Director  
Oil Conservation Division



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Winchester (505)231-8800 E-Mail: [jim.winchester@state.nm.us](mailto:jim.winchester@state.nm.us)

## **Notice to Oil and Gas Facilities and Operators Flaring Gas in New Mexico**

SANTA FE, NM – The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) encourages all oil and gas facilities with flare stacks and well operators that are flaring gas to upgrade their *Fire Awareness Programs* this year. New Mexico State Forestry reports that 460 fires have burned 25,475 acres on state and private land in calendar year 2012.

Forecasts remain dismal this spring with fewer chances for normal precipitation, particularly in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. Temperatures could also be higher than normal.

Open flames and gas flares should be monitored carefully and oil and gas operators should create a defensible space to help prevent wildfires. Defensible Space is the area around a structure where combustible vegetation that can spread fire has been cleared, reduced or replaced. This space acts as a barrier between a structure and an advancing wildfire.

During the course of the upcoming fire season, it may become necessary for New Mexico State Forestry to issue fire restriction on State and private land. Log on to [www.nmforestry.com](http://www.nmforestry.com) for updates or call your local district office.

New Mexico State Forestry offers the following guidelines for establishing effective defensible space:

- Create a "Lean, Clean and Green" firebreak area by removing flammable vegetation and growth within 30 feet of each structure. Single trees and shrubs may be retained if they are well spaced, pruned and placed so they avoid the spread of fire. Maintain an irrigation system for any vegetation near structures.
- Keep grass and weeds mowed.
- Prune lower tree limbs to at least 6 feet up to 15 feet (or lower 1/3 of branches on smaller trees).
- Remove vegetation and debris around propane tanks.

For the latest fire weather information please visit USDA Forest Service website:

<http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/current.php>

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Susana Martinez**  
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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**David R. Catanach, Division Director**  
Oil Conservation Division



### NOTICE TO OPERATORS

The Oil Conservation Division ("OCD") has been tasked to study flaring and develop a gas capture plan by the end of the year with the ultimate goal to reduce natural gas emissions.

Current OCD reporting has no specific method to differentiate flared and vented volumes reported on C-115 reports. This prevents the OCD from having quantifiable flaring data per Rule 19.15.18.12.F NMAC.

Therefore, to collect flaring volumes and differentiate actual vented volumes going forward, NMOCD will implement a new "Non-Transported Disposition" Code (for gas) to be reported on the C-115 reports. The new code will be "F" for Flared. The new code "F" is to be used to report the volume of gas that is flared on a well basis, or total volume if flared at a common battery or gathering system and reported under one point of disposition. Operators must report vented and flared volumes separately to their respective "Non Transported Disposition" code ("V" for vented and "F" for flared).

The change will become effective for the November 2015 production month with reporting due by January 15, 2016.

The NMOCD will be conducting operator outreach training sessions in the Southeast and Northwest to provide information and answer questions regarding the process.

Meeting notices will be posted on NMOCD website at:  
<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/OCD/announcements.html>

The C-115 instructions are available on NMOCD website at:  
[http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/OCD/documents/eC115\\_FullInstructions.pdf](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/OCD/documents/eC115_FullInstructions.pdf)

## **RULES**

### **19.15.7.24 OPERATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT (Form C-115):**

*A. An operator shall file a form C-115 for each non-plugged well completion for which the division has approved a form C-104 and for each secondary or other enhanced recovery project or pressure maintenance project injection well or other injection well within the state, setting forth complete information and data indicated on the forms in the order, format and style the director prescribes. The operator shall estimate oil production from wells producing into common storage as accurately as possible on the basis of periodic tests.*

### **19.15.18.12 CASINGHEAD GAS:**

*F. Pending connection of a well to a gas-gathering facility, or when a well has been excepted from the provisions of Subsection A of 19.15.18.12 NMAC, the operator shall burn all gas produced and not used, and report the estimated volume on form C-115.*

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions please contact the appropriate OCD District Office.

Sincerely,



David R. Catanach  
Director, Oil Conservation Division