

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

State of New Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

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

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 WPX Energy Production, LLC

whose address is P.O. Box 640, Aztec NM 87410

hereby requests an exception to Rule 19.15.18.12 until 9/23/2017, for the following described tank battery (or LACT):

Name of Lease W Lybrook Unit 751H 30-045-35806 Name of Pool Lybrook Mancos W

Location of Battery: Unit Letter F Section 13 Township 23N Range 9W

Number of wells producing into battery 6

B. Based upon oil production of 700 barrels per day, the estimated \* volume of gas to be flared is

700 MCF; Value 2037 per day.

OIL CONS. DIV DIST. 3

C. Name and location of nearest gas gathering facility:

SEP 15 2017

Williams Field Service, H-28, Sec 33 T24N, R8W

D. Distance Built Estimated cost of connection \_\_\_\_\_

E. This exception is requested for the following reasons: **Flare for Reserve Recovery Operations**

WPX Energy requests authorization to flare the W Lybrook Unit #751H for 2-7 days starting 9/17/17 due to a work over job on the W Lybrook Unit #749H. Attached is a signed explanation letter.

**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 [Signature]

Printed Name  
& Title Lacey Granillo Permit Tech

E-mail  
Address lacey.granillo@wpxenergy.com

Date 9/15/17 Telephone No. 505-333-1808

**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Approved Until 9-23-17

By [Signature]

Title SUPERVISOR DISTRICT #3

Date 9-15-17

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



September 15, 2017

Mr. Charlie Perrin  
EMNRD District 3  
1000 Rio Brazos Road  
Aztec NM 87410

Dear Mr. Perrin,

We at WPX appreciate your concern regarding unnecessary flaring. We also believe our dedication to building infrastructure and facilities prior to drilling wells demonstrates our concern for minimizing flaring as well. However, there are special circumstances which arise occasionally that may necessitate flaring. Our commitment to drill longer laterals, which minimizes surface impact while fully developing the resource, has some unintended consequences. We are beginning to understand that bridges periodically form in these longer laterals, effectively sealing the remainder of the lateral from the producing wellbore and reducing the reserves in the wellbore. Those reserves at the toe end of the wellbore will be forever lost unless the bridge in the wellbore is cleaned out, which is an easier operation when done sooner rather than later. In other words, the longer the bridges remain in the wellbore, the more difficult they can become to remove.

Earlier in 2017, WPX used a coiled tubing unit on the West Lybrook 703H for this very reason. The results were nearly disastrous, as the coiled tubing became stuck from the bridging material and the wellbore was nearly lost. Coiled tubing has a lower flow rate for cleaning out the wellbore and removing debris, thereby increasing the chance of sticking. Coiled tubing also has a much lower tensile strength for pulling when the tubing becomes stuck, which can result parted tubing remaining in the wellbore and subsequent abandoning of the wellbore. As a result of the 703H incident, WPX believes utilizing a work over rig with stick pipe is the safest, most effective way to clean out these bridges, returning the lost reserves without undue risk of losing the wellbore.

The West Lybrook 752H was cleaned out over the weekend of September 9<sup>th</sup>, and attached to this letter you will see the dramatic improvement in production which reflects the reserves that will be recovered due to removing the bridges in the wellbore.

The unfortunate consequence of using stick pipe is that oxygen is introduced into the wellbore when the pipe connections are made. This oxygen will not dissipate if the wellbore is shut in, but rather will induce downhole corrosion and additional long-term operational issues. We also have observed that this oxygen migrates via faulting in the reservoir to offset wellbores, which increases their oxygen content and may require flaring for some of the wells offsetting the workover operation. If the high oxygen content gas is simply sent down the pipeline to the plant, it creates a dangerous potential for corrosion downstream, and can result in the entire gathering system being shut in. This would mean either flaring all the wells on the system or shutting them in. The only solution to effectively eliminate the oxygen post workover is to flare the gas until the oxygen content drops to a safe level. The typical amount of time to flare and eliminate the oxygen content post-cleanout is usually from 2 to 7 days. The flare request being made also includes any wells that may potentially see oxygen migration in addition to the well that is being worked on. There is no certainty that all these wells



**WPXENERGY.**

need to be flared, but WPX wants to be prepared for that potential should the need arise. The team will be diligently testing and monitoring for oxygen content during the workover operation to prevent any operational issues. We certainly appreciate your understanding as we work to recover these lost reserves in the longer laterals we have drilled.

Sincerely,



Marcia Brueggenjohann  
Reservoir Engineering Manager, San Juan  
WPX Energy

attachment

# West Lybrook Unit #752H – Horizontal Wellbore Cleanout Impact

