

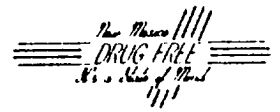


BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
AZTEC DISTRICT OFFICE

ANITA LOCKWOOD
CABINET SECRETARY

1000 RIO BRAZOS ROAD
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410
(505) 334-6178



February 4, 1993

Mr. Fred Lowery
BHP Petroleum Inc.
PO Box 977
Farmington NM 87499

RE: Illegal Pits in Northwestern New Mexico
O.H. Randel #5, D-10-26N-11W
O.H. Randel #3, A-09-26N-11W (Large Blow/Tank Drain Pit)

Dear Mr. Lowery:

New Mexico Oil Conservation Order R-8952 (for the protection of migratory birds) became effective June 15, 1989 and states that all pits and open tanks more than 16' in diameter shall be screened, netted or covered.

On February 3, 1993 field inspections revealed that the above mentioned pits contained oil (see enclosed copies). In order for these pits to be in compliance, you are hereby directed to remove all oil or net these pits by March 1, 1993.

I am returning the unapproved C-134 for the O.H. Randel #5 pit previously filed on October 5, 1989. BHP may reapply for a variance once the pits are returned to compliance.

If you have any questions please feel free to call this office.

Sincerely,

Dianna K. Fairhurst
Deputy Oil & Gas Inspector

xc: C-134 File
Well File
Don Ellsworth - BLM Farmington