



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
AZTEC DISTRICT OFFICE



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GOVERNOR

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AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410
(303) 334-6178

August 6, 1993

Ms. Anu Pundari
Sr. Compliance Engineer
El Paso Natural Gas Company
PO Box 4990
Farmington, NM 87499

RE: Illegal Pits in Northwestern New Mexico
Lateral 5A-11 Line Drip, L-35-30N-14W
Archuleta #3, ~~D~~-19-30N-08W
2 C

Dear Ms. Pundari:

I am in receipt of your letter dated July 23, 1993. Until such time all pits are properly closed, EPNG must comply with New Mexico Oil Conservation Order R-8952 (for the protection of migratory birds) which became effective June 15, 1989. This order states that all pits and open tanks more than 16' in diameter shall be screened, netted or covered. Also, all pits used for drilling, completion, blowdown, workover or an emergency immediately after cessation of the activity must have oil removed from their surface or be screened, netted or covered.

The Lateral 5A-11 Line Drip, L-35-30N-14W was reinspected by Denny Foust and I on July 28, 1993 and was 1/4 full of oil (more than a small amount), tumbleweeds and cardboard. I also reinspected the Archuleta #3, ~~D~~-19-30N-8W pit which still contained a small amount of black hydrocarbon sludge (trace of oil). In order for these pits to be in compliance, you are hereby directed to remove all fluid or properly net these pits by August 23, 1993. This is an extension to the dates mentioned in my June 30 and July 13, 1993 letters.

Sincerely,

Dianna K. Fairhurst

Dianna K. Fairhurst
Deputy Oil & Gas Inspector

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