

Entered August 20, 1984
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STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 8292
Order No. R-3725-A

APPLICATION OF POLLUTION CONTROL INC.
FOR AN AMENDMENT TO DIVISION ORDER
NO. R-3725, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:00 a.m. on August 8, 1984, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this 20th day of August, 1984, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the records, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

- (1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the applicant, Pollution Control Inc., has been operating a surface salt water disposal facility at Laguna Gatuna and more specifically at the NE/4 NW/4 of Section 18, Township 20 South, Range 32 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, as an exception to Division Order No. R-3221, under the terms and conditions of Division Order No. R-3725.
- (3) That the applicant now seeks the amendment of said Order No. R-3725 to permit the use of a second salt water disposal site on Laguna Gatuna in the SW/4 SW/4 of Section 17 in said township and for authorization to dispose of solid oil-field waste products including drilling mud and cuttings at either or both sites.
- (4) That applicant proposes to utilize the expanded facility at a rate combined with its existing Laguna Gatuna facility so that the total combined discharge from both sites does not exceed 30,000 barrels of salt water per day.



(5) That the geohydrologic evidence presented in this case reaffirms or establishes that:

(a) Laguna Gatuna is sited within the confines of a collapse structure;

(b) naturally occurring highly mineralized springs are located on the periphery of Laguna Gatuna;

(c) the water in Laguna Gatuna is not fresh water;

(d) that portion of the Triassic red beds underlying said Laguna Gatuna is virtually impermeable and therefore prevents seepage from said lake into the sand stringers within said red beds which may contain fresh water;

(e) as to sands that are in communication with said lake, the major flow of surface and subsurface water within the boundaries of said collapse structure is towards Laguna Gatuna;

(f) the evidence indicates that there is no leakage of water from Laguna Gatuna into the adjoining formations containing fresh waters;

(g) the salt springs and brine associated with Laguna Gatuna are more highly mineralized than water collected from oil wells in the immediate area;

(h) Laguna Gatuna is a suitable disposal site for as much as 30,000 barrels of brine per day;

(i) there is no evidence that the fifteen years of operation by Pollution Control Inc has adversely impacted the hydrological system in the vicinity of Laguna Gatuna and that continued operations as proposed will not endanger the pre-1969 conditions;

(j) Laguna Gatuna is a satisfactory repository for solid oil-field waste products; and,

(k) the utilization of Laguna Gatuna for the disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, and oil field waste products, including drill cuttings and drilling muds will not constitute a hazard to fresh water supplies that may exist in the vicinity of said lake.

(6) That the applicant should be authorized the proposed expansion of its disposal operations at Laguna Gatuna.

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, Pollution Control Inc., is hereby authorized the expansion of its Laguna Gatuna disposal operation by approval of a second disposal site located in the SW/4 SW/4 of Section 17, Township 20 South, Range 32 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, and for disposal of solid oil-field wastes including drilling mud and cuttings at this and/or the original disposal site.

PROVIDED HOWEVER, that the total disposal rate of salt water into Laguna Gatuna at both sites shall not exceed 30,000 barrels per day.

PROVIDED FURTHER, that the applicant shall not permit any oil from the disposal operations to migrate to the surface of Laguna Gatuna and shall contain any oil contaminated waste products in earthen structures at the disposal sites.

(2) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION


JOE D. RAMEY,
Director

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