

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

David R. Catanach, Division Director  
Oil Conservation Division



Administrative Order SWD-1649-A  
May 31, 2017

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Pursuant to the provisions of Division Rule 19.15.26.8B. NMAC, Mesquite SWD, Inc. (the "operator") seeks an administrative order for its Cedar Canyon SWD Well No. 1 with a location 1310 feet from the South Line and 1153 feet from the East line, Unit P of Section 8, Township 24 South, Range 29 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, for commercial disposal of produced water.

This Order supersedes and replaces Administrative Order SWD-1649, issued on September 2, 2016, which permitted injection in the Devonian and Silurian formations from 14800 feet to 16000 feet. The amended Administrative Order changes the injection interval in the Devonian, Silurian and Montoya formations **from 14686 feet to 15764 feet**. Further the operator provided an expert witness that stated that the portion of the Montoya formation that was penetrated was not porous, and the injected fluids would not penetrate into the lower Montoya formation.

Next, the tubing size has been changed from 4-1/2-inch tubing to a tapered tubing with 5-1/2-inch or smaller tubing inside the surface and intermediate casings, and 4-1/2-inch or smaller tubing inside the liner.

Lastly, the approved injection pressure decreased from **2960 psi to 2937 psi**.

**THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:**

The application has been duly filed under the provisions of Division Rule 19.15.26.8B. NMAC and satisfactory information has been provided that affected parties as defined in said rule have been notified and no objections have been received within the prescribed waiting period. The applicant has presented satisfactory evidence that all requirements prescribed in Division Rule 19.15.26.8 NMAC have been met and the operator is in compliance with Division Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

Mesquite SWD, Inc. (OGRID 161968), is hereby authorized to utilize its Cedar Canyon SWD Well No. 1 (API 30-015-44054) with a location 1310 feet from the South Line and 1153 feet from the East line, Unit P of Section 8, Township 24 South, Range 29 East, NMPM, Eddy County, for disposal of oil field produced water (UIC Class II only) through an open-hole interval within the Devonian and Silurian formations from 14686 feet to 15764 feet. Injection shall occur through

internally-coated, **5½-inch** or smaller tubing inside the surface and intermediate casings, and a **4-1/2 inch** or smaller tubing inside the liner, and a packer set within 100 feet of the uppermost perforation.

*This permit does not permit disposal into the Ellenburger formation (lower Ordovician) or lost circulation intervals directly on top and obviously connected to this formation.*

*The Engineering Bureau approved the change in tubing, and the Artesia District Office was notified of the change.*

*Within one year after commencing disposal, the operator shall submit to the Division copies of an injection survey run on this well consisting of a temperature log, or equivalent, run under representative disposal rates.*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:**

The operator shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the disposed water enters only the approved disposal interval and is not permitted to escape to other formations or onto the surface. This includes the well construction proposed and described in the application.

After installing tubing, the casing-tubing annulus shall be loaded with an inert fluid and equipped with a pressure gauge or an approved leak detection device in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer. The casing shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure casing integrity.

The well shall pass an initial mechanical integrity test ("MIT") prior to initially commencing disposal and prior to resuming disposal each time the disposal packer is unseated. All MIT procedures and schedules shall follow the requirements in Division Rule 19.15.26.11A. NMAC. The Division Director retains the right to require at any time wireline verification of completion and packer setting depths in this well.

The wellhead injection pressure on the well shall be limited to **no more than 2937 psi**. In addition, the disposal well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting device in workable condition which shall, at all times, limit surface tubing pressure to the maximum allowable pressure for this well.

The Director of the Division may authorize an increase in tubing pressure upon a proper showing by the operator of said well that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the disposed fluid from the target formation. Such proper showing shall be demonstrated by sufficient evidence including but not limited to an acceptable Step-Rate Test.

The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Division's District II office of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of any MIT so that the same may be inspected and witnessed. The operator shall provide written notice of the date of commencement of disposal to the Division's District office. The operator shall submit monthly reports of the disposal operations on Division Form C-115, in accordance with Division Rules 19.15.26.13 and 19.15.7.24

NMAC.

Without limitation on the duties of the operator as provided in Division Rules 19.15.29 and 19.15.30 NMAC, or otherwise, the operator shall immediately notify the Division's District II office of any failure of the tubing, casing or packer in the well, or of any leakage or release of water, oil or gas from around any produced or plugged and abandoned well in the area, and shall take such measures as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

The injection authority granted under this order is not transferable except upon division approval. The Division may require the operator to demonstrate mechanical integrity of any injection well that will be transferred prior to approving transfer of authority to inject.

The Division may revoke this injection permit after notice and hearing if the operator is in violation of 19.15.5.9 NMAC.

The disposal authority granted herein shall terminate two (2) years after the effective date of this order if the operator has not commenced injection operations into the subject well. One year after the last date of reported disposal into this well, the Division shall consider the well abandoned, and the authority to dispose will terminate *ipso facto*. The Division, upon written request mailed by the operator prior to the termination date, may grant an extension thereof for good cause.

Compliance with this order does not relieve the operator of the obligation to comply with other applicable federal, state or local laws or rules, or to exercise due care for the protection of fresh water, public health and safety and the environment.

Jurisdiction is retained by the Division for the entry of such further orders as may be necessary for the prevention of waste and/or protection of correlative rights or upon failure of the operator to conduct operations (1) to protect fresh or protectable waters or (2) consistent with the requirements in this order, whereupon the Division may, after notice and hearing, terminate the disposal authority granted herein.



**DAVID R. CATANACH**  
Director

DRC/mam

cc: Oil Conservation Division – Artesia District Office  
Well File 30-015-44054