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**GENERAL
CORRESPONDENCE**

YEAR(S):

2008



New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Bill Richardson
Governor

Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary
Reese Fullerton
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Mark Fesmire
Division Director
Oil Conservation Division



CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT NO: 3929 4449

August 12, 2008

Hack Conder
Rice Operating Company
122 West Taylor
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

RE: REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT ABATEMENT PLAN

Dear Mr. Conder:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has determined after reviewing your Notification of Groundwater Impact for each of the following four sites:

- 1) Rice Justis E-1 Vent
Unit E, Section 1, T25S, R37E
Lea County, New Mexico
OCD Case #1R0423-06
- 2) Rice BD P-26-1 Vent
Unit P, Section 26, T21S, R37E
Lea County, New Mexico
OCD Case #1R0426-106
- 3) Rice BD P-26-2
Unit P, Section 26, T21S, R37E
Lea County, New Mexico
OCD Case #1R0426-107
- 4) Rice Hobbs Jct. E-4 Vent
Unit E, Section 4, T19S, R38E
Lea County, New Mexico
OCD Case #1R0428-71

that the Rice Operating Company (ROC) must submit for each of the four sites a separate Stage 1 Abatement Plan in accordance with OCD Rule 19 (19.15.1.19 NMAC) to investigate the ground water contamination at each of these sites. The Stage 1 Abatement Plans must be submitted to the OCD Santa Fe Office with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office and must meet of all the requirements specified in OCD Rule 19 (19.15.1.19 NMAC), including, but not limited to, the public notice and participation requirements specified in Rule 19G. The Stage 1 Abatement Plan is due sixty (60) days from the receipt by ROC of this written notice.

ROC's Stage 1 Abatement Plans must specifically meet all of the requirements specified in OCD Rule 19E.3, including, but not limited to, a site investigation work plan and monitoring program that will enable it to characterize the release using an appropriate number of isoconcentration maps and cross sections that depict the contamination that has been released from the sites and to provide the data necessary to select and design an effective abatement option. ROC may, if it chooses, concurrently submit a Stage 2 Abatement Plan that addresses appropriate proactive abatement options.

ROC should submit one paper copy and an electronic copy on CD for each of the Plans and for all future workplans and/or reports for each of the Plans. Please be sure to include the current corresponding OCD Case # on each of the respective Abatement Plans. An Abatement Plan # will be assigned as each of the Plans are submitted to the OCD. If you have any questions, please contact Edward J. Hansen of my staff at (505) 476-3489 or <mailto:edwardj.hansen@state.nm.us>.

Sincerely,



Wayne Price
Environmental Bureau Chief

WP:EJH:ejh

cc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor
Larry Johnson, OCD Hobbs