

1R - 428-44

# REPORTS

DATE:

3-19-09

1R428-44

Hobbs F-29-1a Vent

3-19-09

CLOSURE

**RICE OPERATING COMPANY  
JUNCTION BOX FINAL REPORT**

**BOX LOCATION**

SWD SYSTEM	JUNCTION	UNIT	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	COUNTY	BOX DIMENSIONS - FEET
Hobbs	F-29-1A vent	F	29	18S	38E	Lea	no box--System abandonment

LAND TYPE: BLM \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ FEE LANDOWNER Occidental Petroleum Corp.  
(Oxy) \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Depth to Groundwater 58 feet NMOCD SITE ASSESSMENT RANKING SCORE: 10

Date Started 11/3/2004 Date Completed 8/1/2006 OCD Witness no

Soil Excavated 20 cubic yards Excavation Length 44 Width 39 Depth 0.317 feet


Soil Disposed 20 cubic yards Offsite Facility Sundance Location Eunice, NM

**General Description of Remedial Action:** This junction box site was addressed according to the OCD-approved Investigation and Characterization Plan submitted by R.T. Hicks Consultants on March 11, 2004, and the OCD-approved Corrective Action Plan submitted on November 14, 2005. The corrective action work was completed on August 1, 2006. A letter requesting closure of the regulatory file was submitted to OCD in March of 2008. OCD approved the closure request and gave notice that the remediation plan was terminated on September 16, 2008.

enclosures: Termination email from OCD, Transmittal email of closure letter, Closure letter from Hicks

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY  
KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

REPORT  
ASSEMBLED BY Katie Jones

SIGNATURE 

DATE 3/19/2009

TITLE Environmental Engineering Assistant

**Katie Jones**

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**From:** Katie Jones [kjones@riceswd.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 11:24 AM  
**To:** Katie Jones  
**Subject:** 1R428-44 Termination

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**From:** Hansen, Edward J., EMNRD [mailto:edwardj.hansen@state.nm.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2008 5:42 PM  
**To:** Hack Conder  
**Cc:** Price, Wayne, EMNRD; Johnson, Larry, EMNRD; Marvin Burrows; Katie Lee  
**Subject:** 1R428-44 Termination

**RE: "Closure Report"**  
**for the Rice Operating Company's**  
**Hobbs SWD F-29-1a Site**  
**Unit Letter F, Section 29, T18S, R38, Lea County, New Mexico**  
**Remediation Plan (1R428-44) Termination**

Dear Mr. Conder

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has received the closure report for the Hobbs SWD F-29-1a site, dated March 2008 and has conducted a review of the report. The closure report, submitted for the above reference site, indicates that the Rice Operating Company (ROC) has met the closure requirements. Therefore, the OCD hereby conditionally approves the closure report and gives notice that the Remediation Plan (1R428-44) is terminated.

ROC must obtain approval from the OCD prior to plugging and abandoning of the groundwater monitoring wells at the site.

Please be advised that NMOCD approval of this report does not relieve the owner/operator of responsibility should operations pose a threat to ground water, surface water, human health or the environment. In addition, NMOCD approval does not relieve the owner/operator of responsibility for compliance with any OCD, federal, state, or local laws and/or regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 505-476-3489.

Edward J. Hansen  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

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2/18/2009

**Kristin Pope**

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**From:** "Katie Lee" <katie@rthicksconsult.com>  
**To:** "Edward J. EMNRD Hansen" <edwardj.hansen@state.nm.us>; "Wayne Price" <wayne.price@state.nm.us>  
**Cc:** "Randall Hicks (Randall Hicks)" <R@rthicksconsult.com>; "Kristin Pope" <kpope@riceswd.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2008 4:15 PM  
**Attach:** F29-1a Closure Report via email.pdf  
**Subject:** F-29-1a Vent Closure Report, NMOCD Case # not assigned

Mr. Hansen,

On behalf of Rice Operating Company, we are pleased to submit the attached Closure Report for F-29-1a, NMOCD Case # not assigned. A hard copy (and a cd with a complete electronic copy) will follow via mail. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at 505-266-5004, or Kristin Farris-Pope at 505-393-3174.

We respectfully request NMOCD approve site closure in writing. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Katie Lee  
Project Scientist  
R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.  
ph. 505-266-5004  
fax 505-266-0745  
mobile 505-400-7925

**March 2008**



**F-29-1a Vent  
Section 29, T18S, R38E**

**Closure Report**

**NMOCD Case #: not assigned**

**R. T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

901 Rio Grande Blvd. Suite F-142  
Albuquerque, NM 87501

# R. T. HICKS CONSULTANTS, LTD.

901 Rio Grande Blvd NW ▲ Suite F-142 ▲ Albuquerque, NM 87104 ▲ 505.266.5004 ▲ Fax: 505.266-0745

March 27, 2008

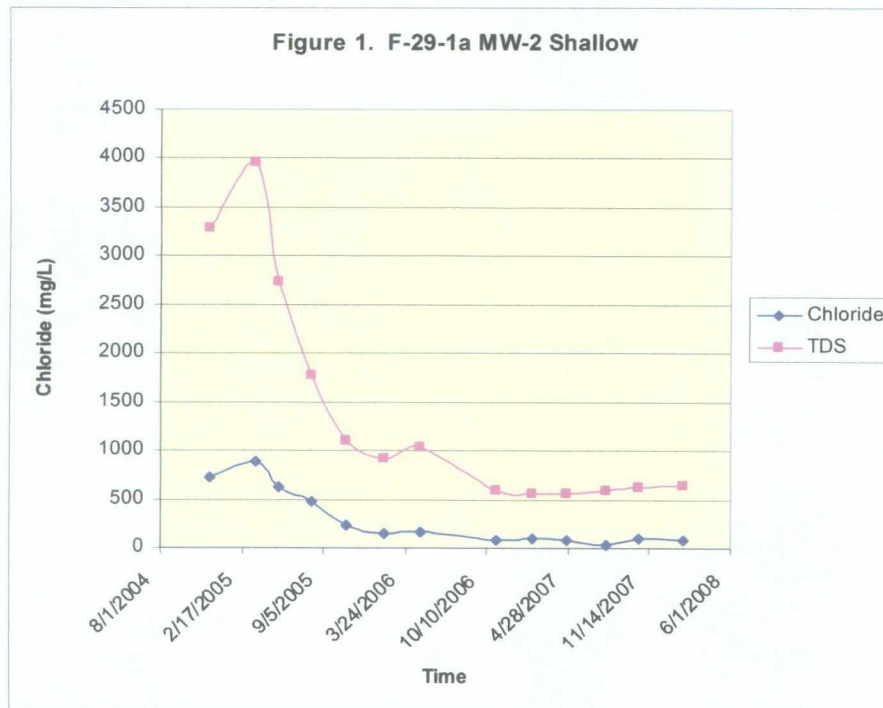
Mr. Ed Hansen  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: F-29-1a Vent, Section 29, T18S, R38E, unit "F"  
Hobbs SWD System Abandonment  
Closure Report  
NMOCD Case #: none assigned

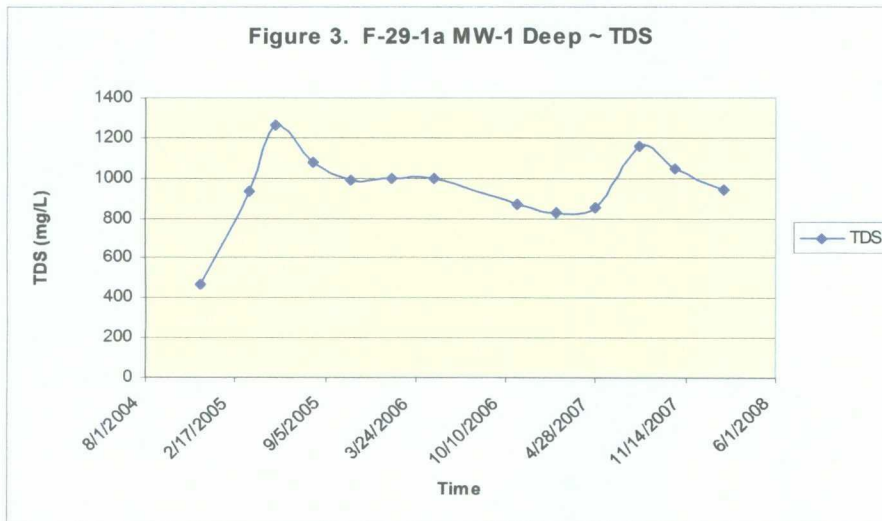
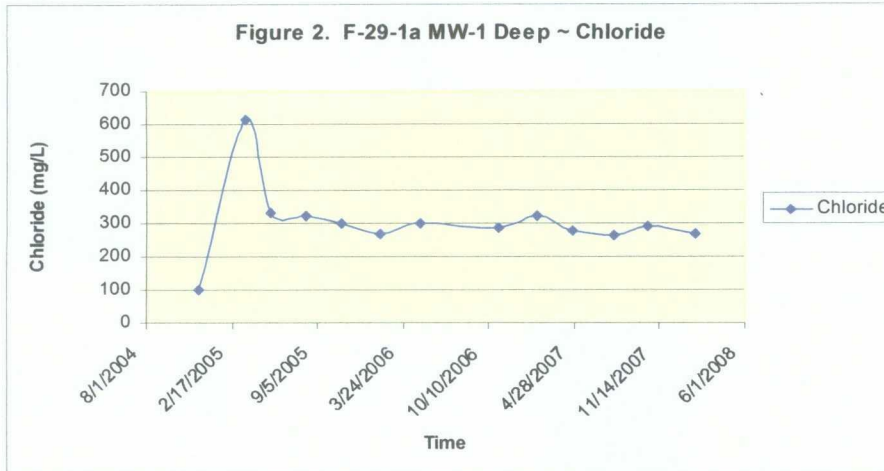
Dear Mr. Hansen:

This letter and appendices are the final Closure Report for the F-29-1a Vent site referenced above. The NMOCD approved Corrective Action Plan (Section 8.3.2, page 14) calls for restoration of the ground surface and re-vegetation, which was completed August 1, 2006.

Figure 1 shows that chloride concentrations since monitoring began in December 2004 in MW-2 (shallow) at the site. The last eight quarters in this well are all below 250 mg/L, TDS concentrations have been below 1,000 mg/L with the exception of a concentration of 1,040 mg/L in May of 2006. We believe this TDS anomaly is reflective of natural fluctuation and laboratory uncertainty.



As discussed in previous submissions (page 3 of the November 2005 CAP), water quality in monitoring well F-29-1a MW-1 (deep) is above WQCC Standards due to regional (up gradient) sources not associated with the F-29-1a site. Chloride and TDS in the deep well at the site are shown in Figures 2 and 3. Concentrations for both chloride and TDS remain slightly above or below standards.



In November of 2005, at the time of our writing of the CAP, we could find no evidence to link chloride in ground water to releases from the site. It appeared that the concentrations of chloride in the shallow well at the site in 2005 were also due to regional sources.

March 27, 2008

Page 3

However, ground water data in the shallow well over the past three years show a decline in TDS which suggests that minor leakage could have occurred at the site and the subsequent eight quarters of low TDS ground water are due to:

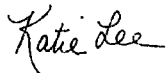
- Cessation of minor releases of produced water with the abandonment of the Hobbs SWD system in 2002,
- Installation of an effective vegetative cap at the site per our Corrective Action Plan in 2006 plus,
- Natural dilution and dispersion in the aquifer.

We have completed the NMOCD approved Corrective Action Plan and observed eight quarters of ground water below WQCC standards in the shallow well at F-29-1a and respectfully request NMOCD approve site closure in writing.

Appendix A includes the junction box closure form. Appendix B provides photographs of the re-vegetation at the site in 2006 and 2008. Appendix C includes copies of previous submissions and correspondence. As noted in the CAP, ROC plans to leave the well at this site in until it is no longer needed. We will notify NMOCD prior to plugging and abandoning this monitor well.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.



Katie Lee  
Project Scientist

Copy: Rice Operating Company  
Hobbs NMOCD Office