



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**BETTY RIVERA**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

*ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SWD-856*

## ***APPLICATION OF RICHARDSON OPERATING COMPANY FOR SALT WATER DISPOSAL, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO***

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Under the provisions of Rule 701(B), Richardson Operating Company (Neeley Consulting Service as agent) made application to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division on October 28, 2002, for permission to complete for produced water disposal its Salty Dog SWD Well No. 5 (API 30-045-25816) located 1825 feet from the South line and 990 feet from the West line (Unit L) of Section 30, Township 30 North, Range 14 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.

#### **THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:**

- (1) The application has been duly filed under the provisions of Rule 701(B) of the Division Rules and Regulations;
- (2) Satisfactory information has been provided that all offset operators and surface owners have been duly notified;
- (3) The applicant has presented satisfactory evidence that all requirements prescribed in Rule 701 will be met; and
- (4) No objections have been received within the waiting period prescribed by said rule.

#### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

Richardson Operating Company is hereby authorized to complete its Salty Dog SWD Well No. 5 (API 30-045-25816) located 1825 feet from the South line and 990 feet from the

West line (Unit L) of Section 30, Township 30 North, Range 14 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to permit the injection of produced water for disposal purposes into the Cliff House and Point Lookout members (this excludes the Menefee interval) of the Mesaverde formation from a depth of 2430 feet to 3375 feet through 2 7/8-inch plastic-lined tubing set in a packer located within 100 feet of the top of the injection interval.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The operator shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the injected water enters only the proposed injection interval and is not permitted to escape to other formations or onto the surface.

The casing-tubing annulus shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure the integrity of said casing.

The casing-tubing annulus shall be loaded with an inert fluid and equipped with a pressure gauge at the surface or left open to the atmosphere to facilitate detection of leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer.

The injection well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting device which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to no more than 486 psi.

The Director of the Division may authorize an increase in injection pressure upon a proper showing by the operator of said well that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the injected fluid from the injection formation. Such proper showing shall consist of a valid step-rate test run in accordance with and acceptable to this office.

The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Aztec District Office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of any mechanical integrity test so that the same may be inspected and witnessed.

The operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the Aztec District Office of the Division of the failure of the tubing, casing, or packer in said well and shall take such steps as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, 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 water or (2) consistent with the requirements in this order, whereupon the Division may, after notice

and hearing, terminate the injection authority granted herein.

The operator shall submit monthly reports of the disposal operations on Division Form C-115, in accordance with Rule Nos. 706 and 1120 of the Division Rules and Regulations.

The injection authority granted herein shall terminate one year after the effective date of this order if the operator has not commenced injection operations into the subject well, provided however, the Division, upon written request by the operator, may grant an extension thereof for good cause shown.

Approved at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on this 18th day of November 2002.

*Lori Wrotenbery*  
LORI WROTENBERY  
Director

LW/DRC

cc: Oil Conservation Division – Aztec  
Bureau of Land Management – Farmington