

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION IX 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105 (WTR-9)

November 10, 1999

# CERTIFIED MAIL P 389 854 167 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

John Cunningham Action Oil Company c/o J.C. Operating Co. P.O. Box 51 Farmington, NM 87499

> Re: Class IID UIC Permit No. NN299000021 King Kong Well No. 20, Salt Creek Dakota Field San Juan County, New Mexico Navajo Nation

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

We enclose copies of the draft Permit, Statement of Basis, and Public Notice for the above well. The Public Notice will be published in the Farmington Daily Times on November 21, 1999, and the public comment period will be open for 30 days after that date.

All comments must be submitted in writing before December 21, 1999 to: David Holguin USEPA Region IX Mail Code WTR-9 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105

If a request for a public hearing and substantive comments are not received, the draft permit will become effective on December 21, 1999. If you or members of the public request significant changes to the draft permit, the comments will be addressed and a revised permit may be issued. The permit would then become effective 30 days after issuance unless a petition for review by the Director is filed by a commenter or any person that participated in a hearing or takes issue with any changes in the Draft Permit.

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T. Marine	BEFORE EXAMINER	Charles and
N. N.S.		
1000	OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION	
	EXHIBIT NO. 15	
	CASE NO/3&3>	

<sup>\*</sup> If you have any question regarding administrative procedures or the permit issuance process, please call me at (505) 599-6317

Sincerely,

Guy Rolin

ALC: NO PARTY

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James D. Walker Environmental Engineer Ground Water Office

enclosures

cc:

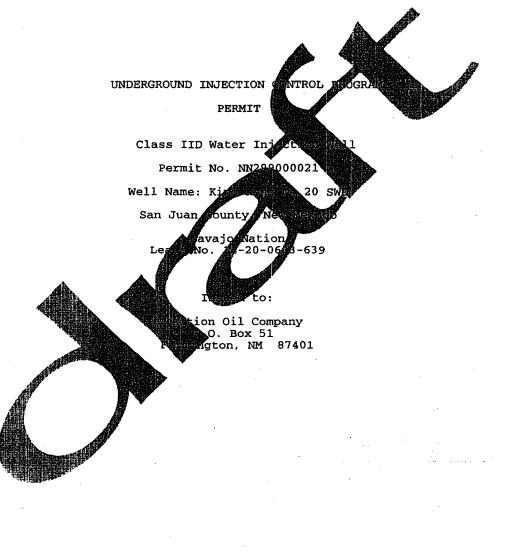
Derrith Watchman-Moore, Director Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

Lee Otteni, Farmington District Manager U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management

Charmaine Hosteen, Program Manager Navajo Nation UIC Program

Jerry Thomas, Natural Resources Manager U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, Shiprock Agency

Genni Denetsone, Supervisor Realty Specialist U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Area Office



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#### PART I. AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE AND INJECT

Pursuant to the Underground Injection Control Regulations of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency codified at Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 124, 144, 145, 146, 147, and 148,

> Action Oil Company P.O. Box 51 Farmington, NM 87401

is hereby authorized to operate an existing well monoly known as the King Kong No.20 SWD, a Class IID oter structure well. The well is located in Section 4, T30N, R17 in San authority, Never Mexico.

Injection shall be for the purpose of reduced water of disposal in the Salt Creek Dakota for in accordance with conditions set forth herein.

That portion of the Dakota aquif ne quarter mile of the well is hereby exempted from classifing underground source of drinking water bin account of the source of drinking water bin account of the source of as an with 40 CFR in acco §146.4(a) and (b)(1). It does ntly s as a source of drinking water and it cannot per an an another the future ser as a source of drinking water because the phydrocarbon beari formation. The vertical diminsions of the perpendicular area is defined as the interval between the upper and lower boundaries the injection zone, which is the interval between 1050 to 1067 the future serve hydrocarbon bearing and lower boundaries of feet in the King Kong N "20 w Π.

All conditions forth prefer to Title 40 Parts 124, 144, 146 147, and of the of Federal Regulations and are regulated that that effect on the date that this permit becomes effect.

This **Example** considered a total of twenty (20) pages and includes a **Markov** is a lister in the Table of Contents. Further, it is based upon a mentations made by the permittee and on other information contraction in the administrative record. It is the respinsibility of the permittee to read and understand all provisions of the permit.



Page 4 of 20 UIC Permit NN299000021 This permit and the authorization to inject are issued for a period of twenty (20) years unless terminated under the conditions set forth in Part III, Section B of this permit. The permit will expire upon delegation of primary enforcement responsibility for the UIC Class II Program to an appropriate agency of the Navajo Nation, unless the Navajo Nation agency has the appropriate authority and chooses to adopt and enforce this permit as a Tribal permit.

Issued this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_ This permit shall become effective Alexis rauss birec Water D STATES A

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#### PART II. SPECIFIC PERMIT CONDITIONS

#### A. WELL CONSTRUCTION

- 1. <u>Casing and Cementing</u>. The construction details submitted with the permit application are incorporated into this permit as APPENDIX C. and shall be binding on the permittee. The well has been cased and cemented to prevent the movement of fluids behind the casing and this pasing shall be maintained throughout the operating life of the well.
- 2. Formation Logging and Testing. Prior to commencing injection and through the static water level in the well still be reason to the presence of the state of the director.
- 3. <u>Monitoring Devices</u>. The operator of a linstall and maintain in good operating condition:
  - (a) A tap on the discharge line between the injection pump and the wellhead for the purpose the ining representative samples the injection fluids;
  - (b) Two one-half (1/2) ich F ings isolated by plug or globe valves, d pos brovide for either he-half (1/2) inch c atta (1), the permane hment no.), the attachments for equivalent of garges at the wellhead on the ing and on the rubing/casing annulus. ad show be of a design to provide (1), a range before percent greater than the MIP gauges, or "quick-discog injection ty The gauges ed sha s rang percent greater than the full pre antici essure, and (2), a certified pperat deviat yracy of five (5) percent or less;
  - (c) measured cumulative volumes that are convict for reviation accuracy of five (5) percent throughout the range of injection rates allow the permit.

Proposed Charles and Workovers. The permittee shall give advance notice to the Director,\* as soon as possible, if any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted injection well. Any changes in the well construction will require prior approval of the PA and a permit modification under the remain the ments of 40 CFR Part 144.39.

"Director", as used herein, refers to the Director, Water Division, U.S. EPA Region 9, San Francisco, CA.

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In addition, the permittee shall provide all records of well workovers, logging, or other subsequent test data, including required mechanical integrity testing, to EPA within sixty (60) days of completion of the activity. Appendix B contains samples of the appropriate reporting forms. Demonstration of mechanical integrity shall be performed within thirty (30) days of completion of workovers or alterations and prior to resuming injection activities in accordance with Part II, Section C.16(a) of this permit.

### B. CORRECTIVE ACTION

No corrective action will be required on the within within the area of review (AOR). All wells within the area of properly constructed or plugged and abardoned action to the provisions of 40 CFR §144.55 and 40 CFR §146.

### C. WELL OPERATION

- 1. <u>Mechanical Integrity</u>.
  - (a) Method for Demonstratize Chanical Cority.
    - (i) All injection tells we and maintain mechanical interity on the with 40 CFR §146.8. The permittle must show there are no significant leaked in the casing and tubing and that the plus no significant fluid movement into USDWs through artical channels adjacent to the injection welling.

The mittee the demonstrate that no slip the subscription of a shut-in annual pressure test. The casing/tubing annulus must here pressure equal to the maximum allowable pjection pressure for a period of 30 heres with no more than a 5 percent change in the sure.

(iii) The Finittee has fulfilled the requirements lasted in 40 CFR §146.8 for demonstrating the obsence of fluid movement into a USDW through vertical channels adjacent to the injection wellbore. The permittee has submitted proof of an adequate cementing record.

**Prohibition Without Demonstration**. Injection into this well may continue after the effective date of this permit only if:

(i) the well has passed a mechanical integrity test in accordance with Part II Section C.1.(a) of this permit and

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(ii) the permittee has received written notice from the Director that the MIT demonstration is satisfactory.

The permittee shall notify the Director of intent to demonstrate mechanical integrity at least 30 days prior to the test.

- (c) Subsequent Mechanical Integrity Demonstration
  - (i) A demonstration of mechanical in in accordance with provisions of USE ION IX MECHANICAL INTEGRITY TE9 MITŃ REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERN f which TEST. is contained in Append K B att sh be conducted at least hce et Tv fiv during the life of the Mechanic ty shall also be demon d any time that a seal is broken at workover is conducted of the wellhead assembly, truction of the well is modified, or then a integrity becomes evident du of mechanical gration.

(ii) It shall be the s resumability to rhanical integrity nsibility to arrange and co **uuct** shall notify the demonstration Th funtent 1eas Director of rate mechanical. integrity (30) days in advance of thirt osequent notification the demo rati AS the Novajo Nation UIC office at a advance of the MIT in order to must be Iven least hour entative to witness the MIT. for a arı of th shall be submitted to the as soon as possible, but not later than six days after the demonstration.

> addination any demonstration made under ngraph (i) above, the Director may require a instration of mechanical integrity at any time the permitted life of the well.

(d) Mechanical Integrity. If (1), the well fails Loss o postrate mechanical integrity during a test, or loss of mechanical integrity becomes evident to der (2), g operation, or (3), a significant change in the dur ction pressure occurs during normal operating conditions, the permittee shall notify the Director in accordance with Part III, Section E.10 of this permit. Furthermore, injection activities shall be terminated immediately and operation shall not be resumed until the permittee has taken necessary actions to restore integrity to the well and EPA gives approval to recommence injection.

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- Injection Intervals. Injection shall be permitted for the Dakota sandstone formation in the subsurface interval of 1050 to 1067 feet. Alteration of the injection interval and other rework operations must be properly reported (EPA Form 7520-12) and the well must demonstrate mechanical integrity before injection is resumed.
- 3. <u>Injection Pressure Limitation</u>. The injection pressure shall not exceed a surface (wellhead) injection pressure of 350 psig. The maximum allowable injection pressure was determined by EPA on the basis of a preprate test.

Injection pressure at the wellhead may be sed only if ducted a valid step-rate test has been of ed and mana woved by the EPA. The test will be evaluated be det allowable injection pressure wil results of which will be incorpo ted into this This 📲 the maximum allowable injection ure. 5e considered a minor permit modifie and will not be open for further public comment.

4. Injection Volume (Rate) Limitation.

2.

- (a) The maximum injection the sell be whited to 300 barrels per day.
- (b) The permittee may request any registrate in the maximum rate allowed in yaragraph (a) when you such request shall be made in writing to the Director.
- (c) Should any perease in rate be requested, the permittee shall donostry storide satisfaction of the Director bet the satisfaction of the higration of formation or injected fluids into any below the injection zone, nor cause any matter with the below the injection zone, nor cause any matter with the below the store beyond the area within onematter with the below the well, which defines the below the Dakota aquifer.

### 5. <u>Injection</u> Limitation.

(a)

The perimetee shall not inject any hazardous wastes as defined by 40 CFR §261 at any time during the operation of the facility.

(b) The well shall be used only for the disposal of water broduced in connection with Dakota formation oil broduction.

(c) Fluids to be injected other than those described in paragraph (b) above shall be limited to occasional minor amounts of well treatment fluids such as dilute acids and corrosion inhibiting fluids. Injection of any fluids other than those described in paragraph (b) above shall be reported to the Director within 30 days.

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#### MONITORING, RECORDKEEPING, AND REPORTING OF RESULTS D.

- Injection Well Monitoring Program. Samples and measure-ments shall be representative of the monitored activity. The permittee shall utilize the applicable analytical methods described in Table I of 40 CFR \$136.3, or in Appendix III of 40 CFR \$261, or, in certain circumstances, other methods that have been approved by the EPA Administrator. Monitoring shall consist of:
  - (a) Analysis of the injection fluids. The anal sis shall be performed:
    - ed Sol annually for Total Diss jor ions (i) y and s pH, specific conductiv avity
    - (ii) whenever there is a cl ge id the soul injection fluids
  - Weekly observations of inject (b) ssure, annulus pressure, flow rate and currentat lume.
- Monitoring Information. Reco of any **Mo**ring activity required under this permit aclude
  - of sampling or the date, exact place, (a) field measurement
  - who performed the sam-(b) the name of th indiv dual(s) pling or mea ement

pling used to take samples; (c) the exact

analyses were performed; he da abora

(e) ame individual(s) who performed the

of analyses; and

of such analyses. (g) the re

es;

Recordkeepi ία.

(a)

1.

2.

The ermittee shall retain records concerning:

> the nature and composition of all injected fluids until three (3) years after the plugging and abandonment has been carried out in accordance with the Plugging and Abandonment Plan shown in Appendix A,

(ii) all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring

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instrumentation and copies of all reports required by this permit, for a period of at least five (5) years from the date of the sample, measurement or report throughout the operating life of the well.

- (b) The permittee shall continue to retain such records after the retention period specified in paragraphs
   (a) (i) and (a) (ii) unless it delivers the records to the Director or obtains written approval from the Director to discard the records.
- (c) The permittee shall maintain copies (or originals) of all pertinent monthly observation records (Part II, Section D.1 of this permit) available for in pection at the lease facility.
- Reporting of Results. The permittee shall Annual Report to the Director surplatizing 4. sha an 1ts of the monitoring required by Paul II, S Fiði of this permit. Copies of all n hthly, ecords acted fluid, an rates, volumes, pressures, and major changes in the characteris r sources of injected fluid shall be included Annual Report. The first Annual Report shall co eriod from the effective date of the permiss thr cember 31, 1999 and shall be submitted by January n00. The period Subsequently, the Annual Repr hall c **W**be of January 1 through Decem nd sha submitted by January 31 at the Appendix B contains For 7520 11 and used to submit the annual sur ling Vear. hay be copied of monitoring. summer

#### E. PLUGGING AND ABANDON ENT

3.

- 1. Notice of Plugging and announcent. The permittee shall notify the Dirac or for series (45) days before further conversion, the ver, our pundonment of the well. The Dirac or many arrive that the plugging and abandonment be when and by a representative.
- 2. Pluggild the Abandom the Plan. The permittee shall plug and Abandom the well as provided in the Plugging and Abandonment of the manner in which the Well will be plugged if the well is modified during its permitted life or if the will is not made consistent with EPA requirements for construction and mechanical integrity. The Director may ask the permittee to estimate and to update the estimated plugging cost periodically. Such estimates shall be based upon costs which a third party would incur to plug that well according to the plan.

Cessation of Injection Activities. After a cessation of operations of two (2) years, the permittee shall plug and abandon the well in accordance with the Plugging & Abandon-ment Plan, unless it:

(a) has provided notice to the Director;

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- (b) has demonstrated that the well will be used in the future, and
- (c) has described actions or procedures, satisfactory to the Director, that will be taken to ensure that the well will not endanger underground sources of drinking water during the period of temporary abandonment.

<u>Plugging and Abandonment Report</u>. Within sixty (60) days after plugging the well, the permittee shall submit a report on Form 7520-13 to the Director. The report shall be certified as accurate by the person who performed the plugging operation and the report shall consist of either: (1) a statement that the well was plugged in accordance with the plan, or (2) where actual plugging different from the plan, a statement specifying the different procedures followed.

#### FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

1.

Demonstration of Financial Response fty. The Y onsibility and is required to maintain financia resources to close, plug, and aba he injection well as provided in the plugging and abay plan and in accordance with 40 CFR §144.52(4)(7) permittee shall not substitute an alternative demonstr f financial has approved, responsibility from that whi e Direo ed evidence of unless the permittee has submit that alternative demonstration Director and the Director has notified the permits alternative demonstration is acces iting that the

- is ( vered ] The subject a Bureau of Indian hd issued by Far West Insurance Affairs col] Live 1 odland company of 94 and approved by BIA June ed Jun \$75,000 is #90009281 and the e bond 16, 199 the United States of America. The denefie to plug and abandon the well is \$3,000. imateo
- b) **We bancia to possibility** mechanism shall be Dire and unlated periodically, upon request of the Dire with permittee may be required to change to an all method of demonstrating financial respondently, such as a surety bond, letter of credit of trust fund which names EPA as the beneficiary. Any such change must be approved in writing by the Director prior to the change.

Insolutive of Financial Institution. In the event of the state of the trustee or issuing institution of the mancial mechanism, or a suspension or revocation of the authority of the trustee institution to act as trustee or the institution issuing the financial mechanism to issue

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such an instrument, the permittee must submit an alternative demonstration of financial responsibility acceptable to the director within sixty (60)days after such event. Failure to do so will result in the termination of this permit pursuant to 40 CFR §144.40(a)(1).

### 3. Insolvency of Owner or Operator

An owner or operator must also notify the Director by certified mail of the commencement of voluntary or involuntary proceedings under Title 11 (Bankruptcy), U.S. Code, naming the owner or operator as debtor, within ten (10) business days after the commencement of the proceeding. A guarantor of a corporate guarantee must make such a notification if he/she is named as debtor, as required under the terms of the guarantee.

#### PART III. GENERAL PERMIT CONDITION

#### A. EFFECT OF PERMIT

The permittee is allowed to engage in undergroun E his permit: in in accordance with the condition permittee, as authorized by this that, shall not lug, abandon, or construct, operate, maintain, con conduct any other injection active allows the movement of fluid contain. manner that aining contaminant ing warpen of the presence iolation any primary CFR §1, or otherwise into underground sources of drinking wa of that contaminant may cau drinking water regulation action adversely affect the headth of the injection activity not author zet Any underground injection activity not author zee to spermit or otherwise authorized by permit or the is prohibited. Issuance of this perfit does not only property rights of any sort or any error sive privile e; nor does it authorize any injury to permits or property, any invasion of other private rights, any princement of State or local law or regulation. Compliant the terms of this permit does not contract the a dame to any enforcement action water provisions of Section 1431 of the Safe Drug Water of DEWA) or any other law governing protected of pure realth or the any income s permit or ater (CFASDWA) or any other law governing of put the environment for any a substantial endangerment to human health or protection of pur imminet multi subs does it serve as a shield to the the t, no permittee legulation ependent obligation to comply with all UIC

#### PERMIT ACTIONS

Modification. Reissuance. or Termination. The Director may, for cause or upon request from the permittee, modify, and reissue, or terminate this permit in accordance with 40 CFR Sections 124.5, 144.12, 144.39, and 144.40. The permit is also subject to minor modifications for cause as specified in 40 CFR §144.41. The filing of a request for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination or the notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance on the part of the permittee does not stay the applicability or enforceability of any permit condition.

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Transfers. This permit may only be transferred after notice is provided to the Director and the permittee complies with the requirements of 40 CFR §144.38. The Director may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the permit to change the name of the permittee and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the SDWA.

### C. SEVERABILITY

2.

1

The provisions of this permit are severable hapf if any provision of this permit or the application provision of this permit to any circumstance is a print invalid, the remainder of this permit shall not be a print.

#### D. CONFIDENTIALITY

0 CFR §144.5 any in-In accordance with 40 CFR Part 2 formation submitted to EPA pursual his permit may be claimed as confidential by the s Any such claim must be asserted at the time of subm by stamping the words "confidential business informati each page containing such information. claim ] at the time of submission, EPA may mal ormati available to the public without furth noț claim is asserted, the validity of the cl em will d in accordance ublic Information) with the procedures i 40 CE Par Claims of confidents Lity f r the ollowing information will be denied:

The name any addre of the permittee,

Informed which the existence, hosence there of contaminants in the second secon

### E. GENERAL TILES AND RECUIREMENTS

Dudy to Canada The permittee shall comply with all condiflons of the permit, except to the extent and for the duration support for a support of the suppor

> Page 14 of 20 UIC Permit NN299000021

- 2. <u>Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions</u>. Any person who violates a permit requirement is subject to civil penalties, fines, and other enforcement action under the SDWA and may be subject to such actions pursuant to RCRA. Any person who willfully violates permit conditions may be subject to criminal prosecution.
- 3. <u>Need to Halt or Reduce Activity not a Defense</u>. It shall not be a defense, for a permittee in an enforcement action, that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.
- 4. <u>Duty to Mitigate</u>. The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or correct any adverse impact of the environment resulting from noncompliance with this permit.
- 5. Proper Operation and Maintenance. The performance shall at all times properly operate and maintain all arrestices and systems of treatment and control which are interestices and used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the or conditions of this permit. Proprior particles and maintenance includes effective propriation and funding, adequate operator staffingers training, and adequate laboratory and process on the including appropriate quality assurance provedure to including apquires the operation of back-up or aux are facilities or similar systems only when not barry to a noise compliance with the conditions of this to a similar system of this provision the provision of the performance of the
- 6. Duty to Provide Information. The provide shall furnish the Director, within a time pecific any information which the Director may requise to elermine whether cause exists for modifying revealing and reissuing, or terminating this permit, if to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Director, upon request, applies of the required to be kept by this permit.
- 7. Inspection and the The permittee shall allow the Director authorized representative, upon the presentation of created als and ther documents as may be required by law, the
  - enter the permittee's premises where a regulated facility activity is located or conducted, or where record are kept under the conditions of this permit;
  - (b) have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit;

inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and

> Page 15 of 20 UIC Permit NN299000021

(d) sample or monitor, at reasonable times, for the pur poses of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the SDWA, any substances or parameters at any location.

- 8. <u>Records of the Permit Application</u>. The permittee shall maintain records of all data required to complete the permit application and any supplemental information submitted for a period of five (5) years from the effective date of this permit. This period may be extended by request of the Director at any time.
- 9. <u>Signatory Requirements</u>. All reports or other information requested by the Director shall be signed and certofied by a responsible corporate officer or duly authorized representative according to 40 CFR §144.32.

# 10. <u>Reporting of Noncompliance</u>.

- (a) Anticipated Noncompliance. The pertitive states of give advance notice to the Director of any plant states in the permitted facility and the sult in noncompliance with permit and irements.
- (b) <u>Compliance Schedules</u>. Reports impliance or noncompliance with, or any program to ports on, interim and final requirements compliance in any compliance schedule of the permit of the submitted no later than thirty the text following each schedule date.

### (c) <u>Twenty-four Hour Report ng</u>.

1366 Martin Fill

All report to the Director any ich may endanger health or the formation shall be provided (4) hours from the time the (i) The perm ee sk ance y noncomp enviro ent. wenty ware of the circumstances by ee bec ing the EPA project officer. The ÷٦ information shall be included in the fol verba

> Any conitoring or other information which indicates that any contaminant may cause adangerment to an underground source of drinking water.

Any noncompliance with a permit condition or malfunction of the injection system which may cause fluid migration into or between underground sources of drinking water.

A written submission shall also be provided within five (5) days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the

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noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance.

- (d) <u>Other Noncompliance</u>. The permittee shall report all other instances of noncompliance not otherwise reported at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Part II, Section D.1 of this permit.
- (e) <u>Other Information</u>. Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit all relevant, facts in the permit application, or submitted incompared information in a permit application or information or information the Director, the permittee shall submit the submit of the start of information within two (2) beks of the submit of

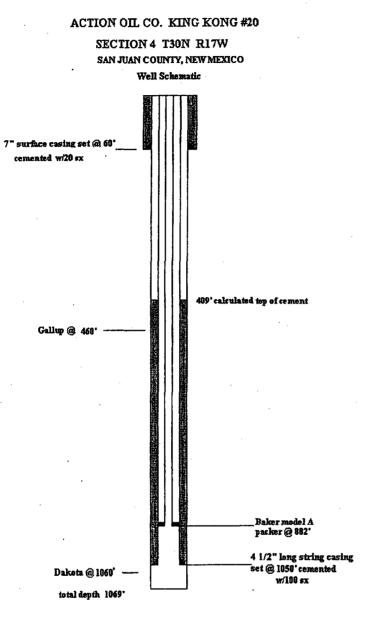
(INSTERNAL)

Page 17 of 20 UIC Permit NN299000021 APPENDIX B - Reporting Forms and Instructions

- 1.EPA Form 7520 -7:APPLICATION TO TRANSFER PERMIT
- 2.EPA Form 7520-10:WELL COMPLETION REPORT
- 3.EPA Form 7520-11:ANNUAL WELL MONITORING REPORT
- 4.EPA Form 7520-12:WELL REWORK RECORD
- 5.EPA Form 7520-13:PLUGGING RECORD
- 6.MECHANICAL INTEGRITY TEST (MIT) PART I: REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNAL TEST

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# APPENDIX C. WELL SCHEMATIC



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# STATEMENT OF BASIS CLASS II PERMIT APPLICATION ACTION OIL COMPANY

UIC Permit NN299000021 Salt Creek Dakota Field San Juan County, New Mexico LEASE NO.14-20-0603-639

#### CONTACTS:

John Cunningham Action Oil Company P.O. Box 51 Farmington, New Mexico 87401-0051 Telephone No. (505) 327-9931

James D. Walker United States Environmental Protection Agency c/o BLM, Farmington District Office 1235 La Plata Hiway Farmington, New Mexico 87401 Telephone No. (505) 599-6317

# **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Action Oil Company, "applicant", is applying for a permit to operate a salt water disposal well in the Salt Creek Field in San Juan County, New Mexico on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

The EPA has decided to approve this permit, pending public review and comment, and is now issuing a Draft Permit. The permit will be issued for a period of twenty (20) years unless the permit is terminated for reasonable cause (40 CFR §§144.39, 144.40, and 144.41). The permit will be reviewed by EPA every five years.

The source of the injection water will be water produced from the Dakota formation in association with oil production. The total dissolved solids (TDS) content of this water is approximated 5,000 mg/l. The water will be returned to its source by injection into the Dakota formation at a depth of 1050 to 1067 feet.

The applicant has notified all interested parties within the ½ mile radius area of review, which includes the local landowners, land-users, Navajo Nation, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the State of New Mexico. There are no other operators in the Salt Creek Field.

This Statement of Basis describes the specific permit conditions and the bases for those conditions under authority of the Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations promulgated for Class IID injection wells on Navajo Nation lands and the UIC provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

#### Aquifer Exemption Requirement

If the total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration in an aquifer is less than 10,000 mg/l, EPA considers that aquifer to be an underground source of drinking water (USDW) and is therefore protected under the Safe Drinking Water Act and the federal UIC regulations. Since the TDS concentration in the Dakota aquifer at this location is approximately 5,000 mg/l, the aquifer qualifies as a USDW except for the fact that it is oil and gas productive. EPA is therefore approving an exemption for the Dakota aquifer, within one quarter mile radius of the King Kong #20 well, in accordance with 40 CFR §146.4 (a) and (b)(1). It does not currently serve as a source of drinking water and it cannot now and will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water because it is hydrocarbon bearing. There are no drinking water wells within ½ mile of the King Kong #20 well.

#### SPECIFIC PERMIT CONDITIONS

#### Part II SECTION A. WELL CONSTRUCTION

#### Casing and Cementing:

The wellbore schematic diagrams can be seen in APPENDIX C of the permit.

The surface casing is 7 inches in diameter, set at 60 feet, and cemented with 20 sacks to the surface. The long string casing is 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, set at 1050 feet and is cemented with 100 sacks from 1050 feet to a depth of approximately 409 below ground surface (bgs). The tubing is 2 7/8 inches in diameter and is set in a Baker model "A" production packer at 882 feet.

The Dakota injection zone is overlain by a confining layer composed primarily of Mancos shale and limestone which is approximately 350 feet thick, and underlain by a confining layer composed primarily of Morrison formation shale and siltstone at least 100 feet thick. Based on hydrogeological and nearby well data, it is believed that USDWs may exist within the Gallup formation at a depth of approximately 460 feet bgs and within the Morrison formation at approximately 1230 feet bgs. The possible USDW in the Gallup formation is protected by the cement sheath, casing, tubing and packer placed in the wellbore to isolate the injected fluids from USDWs. The depth of the #20 well does not extend to the Morrison formation, but an injection pressure that exceeds the fracture pressure of the Dakota formation could cause a fracture that would reach the Morrison formation and result in potential endangerment of a USDW.

### Formation Logging and Testing:

The static fluid level must be measured and reported to EPA annually for the purpose of determining the extent of pressure buildup in the injection zone over time.

### Monitoring Devices:

The operator is required to install FIP fittings with cut-off valves to allow an inspector to obtain injection pressure measurements. A flowmeter shall be installed for measuring flow rates and cumulative volumes injected. A sampling tap shall be installed on the injection pump discharge line for the purpose of periodically obtaining representative samples of the injection fluid.

# SECTION B. CORRECTIVE ACTION

The applicant submitted the required construction and plugging and abandonment information on wells within the one-half mile radius Area of Review (AOR) with the permit application. No corrective action is required of the permittee because all of the wells within the AOR have been properly constructed or adequately plugged and abandoned to prevent the movement of fluid into USDWs.

# SECTION C. WELL OPERATION

#### Mechanical Integrity:

The construction details and cement records satisfy the requirements of 40 CFR 146.07(c)(2) for demonstrating the absence of significant fluid movement into underground sources of drinking water.

A mechanical integrity test (MIT) of the casing and tubing will be conducted prior to commencement of injection operations in the well and every five years thereafter. This test will involve conducting a pressure test to ensure there are no significant leaks in the tubing and casing. The pressure test will require applying a pressure of at least 350 psig (maximum allowable injection pressure) in the tubing/casing annulus for 30 minutes with no more than 5% change in pressure. A differential of at least 300 psig between the tubing and tubing/casing annulus will be maintained throughout the test.

Demonstrations of mechanical integrity of the injection tubing and casing will also be conducted within 30 days after any workovers or alterations of the wellbore and prior to resuming injection.

# **Injection Pressure Limitations:**

The wellhead injection pressure shall not exceed 350 psig. The maximum allowable injection pressure was established by an analysis of formation fracture pressure, which was determined from a valid step-rate test of the well. An EPA representative was present to witness the test and performed the analysis of test results that established the maximum allowable injection pressure.

Injection pressure may be increased only if a valid step-rate test is conducted and witnessed by an EPA representative and shall not exceed the fracture pressure of the injection zone as determined by EPA from the analysis of step-rate test results.

#### Injection Volume:

The proposed average injection rate is 150 barrels per day and the maximum injection rate is 300 barrels per day. The cumulative volume that would be injected into the Dakota formation, assuming the average injection rate is applied over the 20 year term of the permit, equals 1,095,000 barrels, which compares to an estimated 1,988,000 barrels of storage volume in the exempted portion of the aquifer. This calculation is based on a homogeneous aquifer, radial flow, average porosity of 16%, thickness of 17 feet, and water saturation of 75% in the injection zone. Since fluid withdrawals will exceed the volume of fluid injected, outward migration of injected fluid will be contained within the area of influence of the existing producing wells in the field, all of which are located within the 1/4 mile radius of the disposal well. Flow direction of injected water will be preferentially oriented toward the oil producing wells in the Salt Creek Dakota formation.

### SECTION D - MONITORING, RECORDKEEPING, AND REPORTING OF RESULTS

The permittee is required to sample and analyze the water quality of the injected fluids at annual intervals and whenever the source of the injection fluid changes. The water samples shall be analyzed for TDS, major ions, pH, specific conductivity, and specific gravity. Measurements of the injection pressure, annulus pressure, and injection rate must be observed weekly and recorded at least once per month. The permittee is required to submit an Annual Report to EPA summarizing the monitoring of injection rates, volumes, pressures, and injected fluid, and any major changes in the characteristics or sources of injected fluid.

### SECTION E - PLUGGING AND ABANDONMENT

We have reviewed and modified the plugging and abandonment plan submitted by the applicant. The modified plan is incorporated into the permit as Appendix A. The current estimated cost of plugging and abandoning the well is \$3,000.

# SECTION F - FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The applicant has furnished a BIA collective bond in the sum of \$75,000, which is sufficient to guarantee costs of plugging and abandoning the subject well and all other existing wells on the lease in the event the permittee fails to properly plug and abandon all of those wells when that becomes necessary. The Director will review and may require updating of the financial responsibility mechanism periodically as plugging and abandonment costs increase or as other circumstances may require.

# PUBLIC NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF AN UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) CLASS IID PERMIT TO ACTION OIL COMPANY

# Purpose of Public Notice

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting public comments on its proposal to issue an Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit to Action Oil Company, for the operation of an existing Class IID injection well located in the Salt Creek Dakota Field, approximately five miles north of Shiprock, in Section 4, Township 30N, Range 17W. A complete permit application has been submitted by the company. Action Oil Company was previously granted an emergency permit to avoid a substantial delay in production of oil or gas resources that would occur if the emergency permit were denied. Emergency authorization to inject remains in effect until the EPA issues a final decision on the permit application

The address of the applicant is:

John Cunningham Action Oil Company P.O. Box 51 Farmington, New Mexico 87401

#### Background

EPA has completed its review of the application for an Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit for the King Kong #20 well submitted by Action Oil Company. The #20 well is a former producing oil well completed in the Dakota formation. The purpose of the well is to inject produced water which is directly associated with the production of oil and gas on the King Kong lease into the Dakota formation.

King Kong #20 will inject produced water into the Dakota formation between 1050 and 1067 feet below ground surface. If the total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration in an aquifer is less than 10,000 mg/l, EPA considers that aquifer to be an underground source of drinking water (USDW) and is therefore protected under the Safe Drinking Water Act and the federal UIC regulations. Since the TDS concentration in the Dakota aquifer at this location is approximately 5,000 mg/l, the aquifer is a USDW. EPA proposes to approve an exemption for the Dakota aquifer, within one quarter mile radius of the King Kong #20 well, in accordance with 40 CFR §146.4 (a) and (b)(1). It does not currently serve as a source of drinking water and it cannot now and will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water because it is hydrocarbon bearing. There are no drinking water wells within 1/2 mile of the King Kong #20 well.

The maximum allowable injection pressure shall be 350 psig measured at the wellhead, in accordance with federal UIC regulations at 40 CFR §144.28(f)(3)(ii) and §147.3006(a), and based on an evaluation by EPA of formation fracture pressure determined from a valid step-rate test. The maximum allowable injection pressure is subject to change if a subsequent step-rate test is conducted and it is determined that the fracture pressure of the Dakota formation is greater or less than 350 psig. The maximum injection rate permitted is 300 barrels per day. The well

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passed a mechanical integrity test to the satisfaction of EPA, prior to commencement of injection. Injection will not result in the movement of fluid into a USDW. The injection zone is overlain by a confining layer composed primarily of shale which is approximately 350 feet thick, and is underlain by a confining layer composed primarily of shale at least 100 feet thick.

EPA has made a preliminary determination to approve this permit application. This action is being taken as provided by Part C of the Safe Drinking Water Act and pursuant to Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 124, 144, 146, and 147.

#### **Public Comments**

All non-proprietary data submitted by the applicant and the Draft Permit prepared by EPA are contained in the administrative record for this injection well. The information is available at the location listed below:

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX Ground Water Office (WTR-9) 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105 Attention: David Holguin Telephone: (415) 744-1836

Public comments are encouraged and accepted, in writing, for a period of 30 days after publication of the notice of preliminary decision on the permit application and aquifer exemption. A copy of the Draft Permit and a Statement of Basis will be made available for public review at the main branch of the Farmington Library. A copy of the Draft Permit and Statement of Basis may be requested by contacting Mr. Holguin at the above address or by telephone.

A request for a public hearing may be made during the 30 day comment period. It should be in writing and should state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised at the hearing. A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ONLY IF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IS SHOWN.

#### Final Permit Decisions and Appeal Process

After the close of the public comment period, EPA will issue a final permit decision, and will notify all commenters regarding this decision. The final decision may be to issue, deny or modify the permit. The final decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after the final permit is issued, unless no commenters request a substantial change in the Draft Permit and no substantial changes are made from the Draft Permit to the Final Permit, in which case the permit shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

Within thirty (30) days after the final permit decision has been issued, any person who filed comments on the Draft Permit, participated in a public hearing, or takes issue with any changes in the Draft Permit, may petition the Director to review the permit decision. Commenters are referred to 40 CFR Sections 124.15 through 124.20 for procedural requirements of the appeal process.

# **BLM CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

Operator <u>Action Oil Company</u>	Well Name 20 King Kong
Legal Location 1650' FSL/ 330' FWL	Sec. <u>4</u> , T. <u>30 N</u> , R. <u>17 W.</u>
Lease Number14-20-0603-639	Field Inspection Date

The following stipulations will apply to this well unless a particular Surface Managing Agency or private surface owner has supplied to the BLM and the operator a contradictory environmental stipulation. The failure of the operator to comply with these requirements may result in the assessments or penalties pursuant to 43 CFR 3163.1 or 3163.2. A copy of these conditions of approval shall be present on the location during construction, drilling and reclamation activity.

An agreement between operator and fee land owner will take precedence over BLM surface stipulations unless (In reference to 43 CFR Part 3160) 1) BLM determines that operator's actions will affect adjacent Federal or Indian surface, or 2) operator does not maintain well area and lease premises in a workmanlike manner with due regard for safety, conservation and appearance, or 3) no such agreement exists, or 4) in the event of well abandonment, minimal Federal restoration requirements will be required.

<u>STANDARD STIPULATIONS FOR ALL WORKOVERS</u>: All surface areas disturbed during workover activities and not in use for production activities, will be reseeded the first July-September period after the well has been put back into production. This should occur in the first 12 months after completion of workover activities.

### SPECIAL STIPULATIONS FOR THIS SITE:

- 1. Pits will be fenced during work-over operation.
- 2. All disturbance will be kept on existing pad.
- 3. Empty and reclaim pit after work completed.
- 4. Pits will be lined with an impervious material at least 8 mils thick.



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#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

AUG 0.2 1999

#### **REPLY TO: WTR-9**

CERTIFIED MAIL P 424 455 143 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

John Cunningham Action Oil Company P.O. Box 51 Farmington, NM 87401

> Re: Class II Emergency Permit No. NN299000021 King Kong Well No. 20, Salt Creek Dakota Field San Juan County, New Mexico Navajo Nation

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Regulations at 40 C.F.R. §144.34 provide for issuance of temporary emergency permits. Action Oil Company has requested an emergency permit for the subject well in order to avoid a substantial delay in production of oil or gas resources that the Company states will occur unless a temporary emergency permit is granted.

In accordance with the provisions of those regulations, an emergency permit is issued to Action Oil Company for injection of produced water into King Kong Well No. 20, located at 1650 ft. FSL, 330 ft. FWL, Section 4, Township 30N, Range 17W. The effective date of the emergency permit is July 19, 1999, at which time oral authorization was given by EPA for commencement of injection, under the authority of regulations at 40 CFR §144.34(b)(6).

The Dakota injection interval, within one quarter mile (1320 feet) radius of the King Kong #5 injection well, is exempted as an underground source of drinking water (USDW) in accordance with 40 CFR §146.4(a) and (b)(1). The exemption was granted because the Dakota injection zone does not currently serve as a source of drinking water and it cannot now and will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water because it is hydrocarbon producing within the exempted area. Since the King Kong #20 well is located well within the exempted area, approximately 206 feet from the King Kong #5 well, it is authorized under this temporary permit to inject into the Dakota injection interval until such time as a final permit determination is issued. As permittee, you are authorized to inject for purposes of disposal of produced water under the following conditions:

- 1. Injection will not result in the movement of fluid into an Underground Source of Drinking Water (USDW).
- 2. Mechanical integrity of the well must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the EPA. This condition has been met because the well passed a mechanical integrity on July 19, 1999.
- 3. The permittee is authorized to inject produced water into the Dakota formation at injection intervals of 1050 to 1067 ft. below land surface. The injectate is water produced in association with the production of oil from Dakota wells in the Salt Creek Dakota Field. The maximum injection rate will be 150 barrels per day.
- 4. The operating water injection pressure at the wellhead shall not exceed 210 psig. Injection pressure at the wellhead may be increased only if a valid step-rate test has been conducted and approved by the EPA. The test will be evaluated and a maximum allowable injection pressure will be determined by EPA.
- 5. During the emergency authorization period, the owner/operator shall comply with all applicable UIC regulations at 40 C.F.R. §§144; 146; and 147, Subpart HHH.

A complete permit application has been submitted. Emergency authorization to inject shall remain in effect until the EPA issues a final decision on the permit application. Failure to abide with the above conditions is a violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act and may result in enforcement action.

Unauthorized conversion and injection into this well was observed prior to the issuance of this permit and before a mechanical integrity test had been performed on the well, which are violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act and Underground Injection Control regulations at 40 CFR §§144.11, 144.31 and 144.51(q). The operator was required to discontinue injection into the well on July 9, 1999. EPA reserves the right to initiate possible enforcement action against the operator for those violations.

If you have any questions regarding the conditions and term of this emergency permit, please contact James Walker of my staff at (505) 599-6317.

Sincerely yours,

Shannes 29 July 8. Alexis Strauss, Director Water Division

Derrith Watchman-Moore, Director Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

Lee Otteni, District Manager U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management

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Charmaine Hosteen, Environmental Specialist III Navajo Nation EPA, UIC Program

Jerry Thomas, Natural Resources Manager Bureau of Indian Affairs, Shiprock Agency

Genni Denetsone, Supervisor Realty Specialist Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Area Office

Operator ACTION OIL		Date of Test	t 7-19-99
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NO LOG FILE FORMATION: COMPLETION DATE: Sept. 20, 1959 CEMENT & TOP OF CEMENT LOCATION OF WELL : Unit Letter L, 1650' FSL 330' FWL Sec.4, T-30N, R-17W, San Juan County, New Mexico PLUG BACK T.D. 1070 70 Sacks 20 Sacks WELLS WITHIN AREA OF REVIEW ( 1/2 mile radius) WELL NO. : 20 PACKER DEPTH OPERATOR: OVERLAND OIL & GAS CORPORATION. PRODUCING FORMATION: Salt Creek Dakota Type of Lease: D.I.A. Navajo Tribal none WELL STATUE: Pumping oil well VI. SPUD DATE: Sept. 10, 1959 STIMULATION AND TREATMENT FIELD NAME Salt Creek DEPTH 601 1064 LEASE NAME: King Kong TOTAL DEPTH: 1070 DEPTH 1060 CASING RECORD: 4 1/2" 9.5# TUBING RECORD: ĒM 20# SIZE 2 3/8" Vatura SIZE 7"