



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAR 17 1995

David

REPLY TO: 6W-SU

Mr. William J. LeMay
Director
Oil Conservation Division
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and
Natural Resources Department
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RECEIVED

MAR 17 1995

Oil Conservation Division

Dear Mr. LeMay:

I am pleased to inform you that EPA Region 6 has approved your application for an aquifer exemption for a portion of the Entrada Formation located in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. The exemption is specific to that portion of the Entrada Formation that underlies the SW/4 of the SW/4 of Section 4, the S/2 of Section 5, the SE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 6, all of Sections 7 and 8, the W/2 of the W/2 of Section 9, the N/2 of the N/2 of Section 17 and the NE/4 of the NE/4 of Section 18 of Township 24 North, Range 3 West. A detailed description of the exempted portion of the aquifer is contained in the application.

This approval is based upon the criteria stipulated in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations §146.4, wherein an aquifer may be exempted if: (a) it does not currently serve as a source of drinking water; and (c) the total dissolved solids content of the groundwater is more than 3,000 and less than 10,000 mg/l and it is not reasonably expected to supply a public water system.

This exemption allows only for injection of Class II fluids into the Entrada Formation as proposed in the application. Injection of non-Class II fluids (e.g. hazardous wastes) or injection of fluids into other formations that qualify as underground sources of drinking water would require additional EPA approval.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please contact me or have your staff contact Ray Leissner at (214) 665-7183.

Sincerely yours,

Myron O. Knudson
Myron O. Knudson, P.E.
Director

Water Management Division (6W)

cc: David Catanach, NMOCD

