

Mitchell Energy P. O. Box 4000 The Woodlands, Texas 77387-4000

Attention: Mr. Mark Stevenson, Regulatory Manager

Re:

Application for Administrative Approval of Salt Water Disposal, Yates Petroleum Corporation's David Ross "AIT" State #1 Unit H, Section 35, T22S-R31E, Eddy County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Pursuant to our telephone agreement this afternoon, we are enclosing information which was requested by subpoena issued by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. This information, per our agreement, is limited from surface to 200' below the deepest injection interval, being 5,870 feet and is all the information which we have which falls into the categories listed in the subpoena. In accordance with our conversation, Mitchell has agreed not to continue the hearing, which has been set for this case, past the scheduled May 16, 1991 date and we agree that we will attempt to resolve this matter between now and the hearing date so that a hearing will not be necessary.

We look forward to a quick and amicable resolution to this matter.

Very truly yours,

YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Randy G. Patterson

Randy G. Patterson Land Manager

RGP/mw

Enclosures

cc: Mr. William LeMay, New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Mr. Ernest Carroll Ms. Karen Aubrey

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| ENERC | STATE OF NEW MEXICO DIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FORM C-109 Y AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT POST OFFICE BOX JUNH Revised 7-1-81 STATE LAND OFFICE BOX JUNH STATE LAND OFFICE BOX JUNE SANTA FE, NEW MEAKED B/JO1 |
|---------|--|
| APPLICA | TION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO INJECT |
| Ι. | Purpose: Secondary Recovery Pressure Maintenance Disposal Storage Application qualifies for administrative approval? yes no |
| II. | Operator:Yates Petroleum Corporation |
| | Address: 105 S. 4th Street, Artesia, NM 88210 |
| | Contact party: <u>Brian Collins</u> Phone: (505) 748-1471 |
| 111. | Well data: Complete the data required on the reverse side of this form for each well proposed for injection. Additional sheets may be attached if necessary. |
| 17. | Is this an expansion of an existing project? yes no If yes, give the Division order number authorizing the project |
| ۷. | Attach a map that identifies all wells and leases within two miles of any proposed injection well with a one-half mile radius circle drawn around each proposed injection well. This circle identifies the well's area of review. |
| * VI. | Attach a tabulation of data on all wells of public record within the area of review which penetrate the proposed injection zone. Such data shall include a description of each well's type, construction, date drilled, location, depth, record of completion, and a schematic of any plugged well illustrating all plugging detail. |
| VII. | Attach data on the proposed operation, including: |
| | Proposed average and maximum daily rate and volume of fluids to be injected; Whether the system is open or closed; Proposed average and maximum injection pressure; Sources and an appropriate analysis of injection fluid and compatibility with the receiving formation if other than reinjected produced water; and If injection is for disposal purposes into a zone not productive of oil or gas at or within one mile of the proposed well, attach a chemical analysis of the disposal zone formation water (may be measured or inferred from existing literature, studies, nearby wells, etc.). |
| *VIII. | Attach appropriate geological data on the injection zone including appropriate lithologic detail, geological name, thickness, and depth. Give the geologic name, and depth to bottom of all underground sources of drinking water (aquifers containing waters with total dissolved solids concentrations of 10,000 mg/l or less) overlying the proposed injection zone as well as any such source known to be immediately underlying the injection interval. |
| 1×. | Describe the proposed stimulation program, if any. |
| • X. | Attach appropriate logging and test data on the well. (If well logs have been filed with the Division they need not be resubmitted.) |
| * XI. | Attach a chemical analysis of fresh water from two or more fresh water wells (if avalable and producing) within one mile of any injection or disposal well showing location of wells and dates samples were taken. |
| XII. | Applicants for disposal wells must make an affirmative statement that they have examined available geologic and engineering data and find no evidence of open faults or any other hydrologic connection between the disposal zone and any underground source of drinking water. |
| XIII. | Applicants must complete the "Proof of Notice" section on the reverse side of this form. |
| XIV. | Certification |
| | I hereby certify that the information submitted with this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. |
| | Name: Brian Collins Title Petroleum Engineer |
| | Signature: // Date: March 27, 1991 |

 If the information required under Sections VI, VIII, X, and XI above has been previously submitted, it need not be duplicated and resubmitted. Please show the date and circumstance of the earlier submittal.

III. WELL DATA

- A. The following well data must be submitted for each injection well covered by this application. The data must be both in tabular and schematic form and shall include:
 - Lease name; Well No.; location by Section, Township, and Range; and footage location within the section.
 - (2) Each casing string used with its size, setting depth, sacks of cement used, hole size, top of cement, and how such top was determined.
 - (3) A description of the tubing to be used including its size, lining material, and setting depth.
 - (4) The name, model, and setting depth of the packer used or a description of any other seal system or assembly used.

Division District offices have supplies of Well Data Sheets which may be used or which may be used as models for this purpose. Applicants for several identical wells may submit a "typical data sheet" rather than submitting the data for each well.

- B. The following must be submitted for each injection well covered by this application. All items must be addressed for the initial well. Responses for additional wells need be shown only when different. Information shown on schematics need not be repeated.
 - (1) The name of the injection formation and, if applicable, the field or pool name.
 - (2) The injection interval and whether it is perforated or open-hole.
 - (3) State if the well was drilled for injection or, if not, the original purpose of the well.
 - (4) Give the depths of any other perforated intervals and detail on the sacks of cement or bridge plugs used to seal off such perforations.
 - (5) Give the depth to and name of the next higher and next lower oil or gas zone in the area of the well, if any.

XIV. PROOF OF NOTICE

All applicants must furnish proof that a copy of the application has been furnished, by certified or registered mail, to the owner of the surface of the land on which the well is to be located and to each leasehold operator within one-half mile of the well location.

Where an application is subject to administrative approval, a proof of publication must be submitted. Such proof shall consist of a copy of the legal advertisement which was published in the county in which the well is located. The contents of such advertisement must include:

- (1) The name, address, phone number, and contact party for the applicant;
- (2) the intended purpose of the injection well; with the exact location of single wells or the section, township, and range location of multiple wells;
- (3) the formation name and depth with expected maximum injection rates and pressures; and
- (4) a notation that interested parties must file objections or requests for hearing with the Oil Conservation Division, P. O. Box 2088, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 within 15 days.

NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON THE APPLICATION UNTIL PROPER PROOF OF NOTICE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.

NOTICE: Surface owners or offset operators must file any objections or requests for hearing of administrative applications within 15 days from the date this application was mailed to them. MARTIN YATES, III 1912 - 1985 FRANK W. YATES 1936 - 1986



S. P. YATES CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD JOHN A. YATES PRESIDENT PEYTON YATES EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT RANDY G. PATTERSON SECRETARY DENNIS G. KINSEY TREASURER

105 SOUTH FOURTH STREET ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO 88210 TELEPHONE (505) 748-1471

March 27, 1991

New Mexico Energy & Minerals Department Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, NM 87504

Attention: David Catanach

Dear Mr. Catanach,

Enclosed please find our application for authorization to inject for the David Ross "AIT" Fed #1 located in Section 35-22S-31E of Eddy County.

Sincerely,

Join Whin

Brian Collins Petroleum Engineer

BC/th

Enclosures

C-108 Application For Authorization To Inject Yates Petroleum Corporation David Ross "AIT" Fed #1 H 35-22S-31E Eddy County, New Mexico

I. The purpose of completing this well is to make a disposal well for produced Delaware Sand water into the Delaware Sand formation.

Yates Petroleum plans to convert this well to a water disposal well into the Delaware Sand.

- II. Operator: Yates Petroleum Corporation 105 South Fourth Street Artesia, NM 88210 Brian Collins (505) 748-1471
- III. Well Data: See Attachment A
 - IV. This is not an expansion of an existing project.
 - V. See attached map, Attachment B
- VI. No wells within the area of review penetrate the proposed injection zone.
- VII. 1. Proposed average daily injection volume approximately 5000 BWPD. Maximum daily injection volume approximately 15000 BWPD.
 - 2. This will be a closed system.
 - 3. Proposed average injection pressure-unknown Proposed maximum injection pressure--900 psi.
 - 4. Sources of injected water would be produced water from the Delaware Sand. (Attachment C)
 - 5. See Attachment C.

VIII. 1. The proposed injection interval is the portion of the Delaware Sand formation consisting of porous Sandstone from estimated depths: 4500'-4590' 4601'-4609' 4622'-4626' 5108'-5120' 5328'-5334' 5337'-5340' 5343'-5346' Application for Authorization to Inject David Ross "AIT" #1 -2-

> 5460'-5468' 5475'-5484' 5584'-5594' 5599'-5601' 5608'-5624' 5626'-5636' 5640'-5650' 5654'-5659' 5663'-5670'

- 2. Possible Fresh water zones overlie the proposed injection formations at depths to approximately 697 feet. There are no fresh water zones underlying the formation.
- IX. The proposed disposal interval may be acidized with 7-1/2% HCL acid, or 12-3 HF acid.
- X. Logs were filed at your office when the well was drilled.
- XI. No windmills exist within a one mile radius of the subject location.
- XII. Yates Petroleum Corporation has examined geologic and engineering data and has found that there is no evidence of faulting in the proposed interval.
- XIII. Proof of Notice
 - A. Certified letters sent to the surface owner and offset operators-attached. (Attachment D)
 - B. Copy of legal advertisement attached. (Attachment E)
- XIV. Certification is signed.

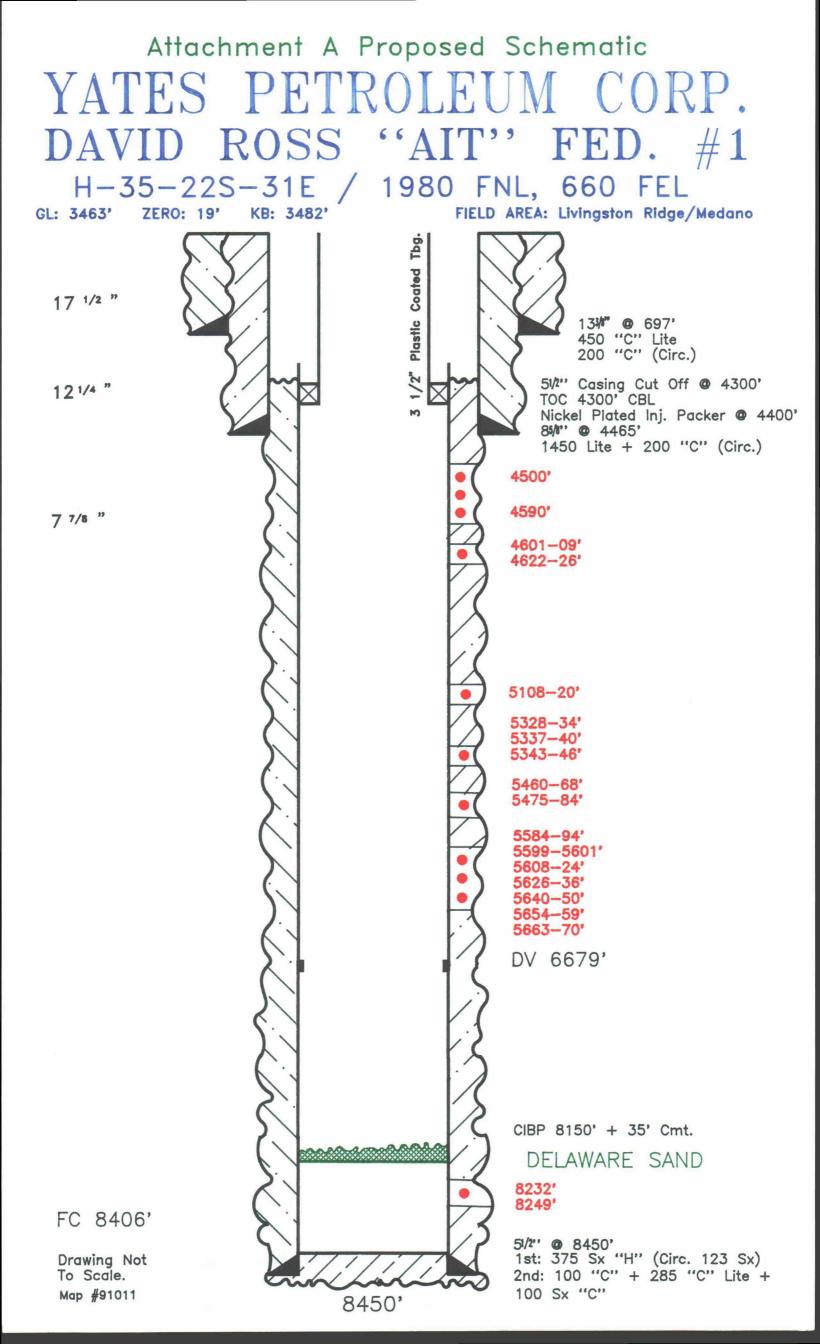
Yates Petroleum Corporation David Ross "AIT" Fed #1 H 35-22S-31E

Attachment A Page 1

III. Well Data

A. 1. Lease Name/Location: David Ross "AIT" Fed. #1 H 35-22S-31E 1980' FNL & 660' FEL

- 2. Casing Strings:
 - a. Present Well Condition 13-3/8" 54.5#, J55 @ 697' w/650 sx (circ) 8-5/8" 32#, J55, 580 @ 4465' w/1650 sx (circ) 5-1/2" 15.5#, 17#, J55 @ 8450' w/860 sx (TOC 4300') Present Status: SI. Unsuccessful completion attempt in Delaware 8232'-8249'.
- 3. Proposed well condition: Casing same as above except 5 1/2" casing will be cut above TOC estimated at 4300' by CBL and pulled. 3 1/2" 9.3 J55 or 2-7/8" 6.5 J55 plasticcoated injection tubing @ 4400'
- 4. Propose to use Guiberson or Baker plasticcoated or nickel-plated packer set at 4400'.
- B. 1. Injection Formation: Delaware Sand
 - 2. Injection Interval will be through perforations from approximately 4500-5670'.
 - 3. Well was originally drilled as an exploratory Delaware Sand oil well. Well will be Delaware Sand water disposal well (4500'-5670') when work is completed.
 - 4. Perforations: 8232'-8249' Delaware CIBP 8150' + 35' cement
 - 5. Next higher (shallower) oil or gas zone within 2 miles--None Next lower (deeper) oil or gas zone within 2 miles--Bone Spring



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ATTACHMENT C

WATER ANALYSIS REPORT

| ompan idres Lease Well Sample | s : ARTESIA : MEDANO <u>⊒RA</u> ∨A : 1 | | Date Date Sampled Analysis No. | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| | ANALYSIS | | mg/L | * meq/L |
| 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. | <pre>pH H2S Specific Gravity Total Dissolved Solids Suspended Solids Dissolved Oxygen Dissolved CO2 Oil In Water Phenolphthalein Alkali Methyl Orange Alkalins Bicarbonate Chloride Sulfate Calcium Magnesium Sodium (calculated) Iron Barium Strontium Total Hardness (CaCO3)</pre> | inity (CaCO3) ity (CaCO3) HCO3 C1 SO4 Ca Mg Na Fe Ba Sr | 68799.0 | 3.4 1940.7 36.4 73.9 22.1 1884.7 |

PROBABLE MINERAL COMPOSITION

| *milli equivalents per Liter | | Compound | Equiv wt | X meq/L | = mg/L |
|---|-------|-----------|----------|---------|-------------------|
| ++ +- | + | | | | |
| : 74: *Ca < *HCO3 : | 31 | Ca(HCO3)2 | 81.0 | 3.4 | 275 |
| > - | ! | CaSO4 | 68.1 | 36.4 | 2480 |
| : 22: *Mg> *SO4 : | 361 | CaC12 | 55.5 | 34.0 | 1888 [.] |
| ;; ;-</td <td>:</td> <td>Mg(HCO3)2</td> <td>73.2</td> <td></td> <td></td> | : | Mg(HCO3)2 | 73.2 | | |
| : 1885: *Na -> * Cl : | 1941: | MgSO4 | 60.2 | | 3 |
| ++ +- | + | MgC12 | 47.6 | 22.1 | 1050 |
| Saturation Values Dist. Water | 20 C | NaHCO3 | 84.0 | | • |
| CaCO3 13 mg/ | L | Na2SO4 | 71.0 | | |
| CaSO4 * 2H2O 2090 mg/ | | NaCl | 58.4 | 1884.7 | 110139 |
| BaSO4 2.4 mg/ | | | | | |

REMARKS:

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Petrolite Oilfield Chemicals Group

Respectfully submitted, L MALLETT

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SCALE TENDENCY REPORT

| Company | : YATES PET. | Date : 10-22-90 |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Address | : ARTESIA | Date Sampled : 10-19-90 |
| Lease | : MEDANO Based VA | Analysis No. : 1 |
| Well | : 1 | Analyst : L MALLETT |
| Sample Pt. | : WELLHEAD | · |

STABILITY INDEX CALCULATIONS (Stiff-Davis Method) CaCO3 Scaling Tendency

| S.I. | = | 0.2 | at | 60 | deg. | F | or | 16 | deg. | С |
|-------|---|-----|---------------|-----|------|---|----|----|------|---|
| S. I. | = | 0.3 | at | 80 | deg. | F | or | 27 | deg. | С |
| S.I. | = | 0.4 | \mathtt{at} | 100 | deg. | F | or | 38 | deg. | С |
| S. I. | = | 0.5 | at | 120 | deg. | F | or | 49 | deg. | С |
| S.I. | = | 0.5 | at | 140 | deg. | F | or | 60 | deg. | С |

CALCIUM SULFATE SCALING TENDENCY CALCULATIONS (Skillman-McDonald-Stiff Method) Calcium Sulfate

| \mathbf{S} | = | 5743 | at | 60 | deg. | F | or | 16 | deg | С |
|--------------|---|------|----|-----|------|---|----|----|-----|---|
| S | = | 6107 | at | 80 | deg. | F | or | 27 | deg | С |
| S | = | 6335 | at | 100 | deg. | F | or | 38 | deg | С |
| S | = | 6443 | at | 120 | deg. | F | or | 49 | deg | С |
| S | = | 6522 | at | 140 | deg. | F | or | 60 | deg | С |

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Petrolite Oilfield Chemicals Group

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Respectfully submitted, L MALLETT ATTACHMENT D

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MARTIN YATES, III 1912 - 1985 FRANK W. YATES 1936 - 1986



S. P. YATES CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD JOHN A. YATES PRESIDENT PEYTON YATES EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT RANDY G. PATTERSON SECRETARY DENNIS G. KINSEY TREASURER

φ.

105 SOUTH FOURTH STREET ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO 88210 TELEPHONE (505) 748-1471

March 28, 1991

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT

Mitchell Energy Corporation 400 W. Illinois Ave. Suite 1000 Midland, Texas 79701

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of form C-108 (Application for Authority to Inject) on Yates' David Ross "AIT" State #1 located in Unit H of Section 35-T22S-R31E.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (505) 748-1471.

Sincerely,

Mian Collin

Brian Collins Petroleum Engineer

BC/th

Enclosure

Attachment E

Legal Notice

Yates Petroleum Corporation, 105 South Fourth Street, Artesia, NM 88210, has filed form C-108 (Application for Authorization to Inject) with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division seeking administrative approval for an injection well. The proposed well, the "David Ross AIT Fed #1" located 1980' FNL & 660' FEL of Section 35, Township 22 South, Range 31 East of Eddy County, New Mexico, will be used for saltwater disposal. Disposal waters from the Delaware Sand will be re-injected into the Delaware Sand at a depth of 4500-5670 feet with a maximum pressure of 900 psi and a maximum rate of 15,000 BWPD.

All interested parties opposing the aforementioned must file objections or requests for a hearing with the Oil Conservation Division, P. O. Box 2088, Santa Fe, NM 87501, within 15 days. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Brian Collins at (505) 748-1471. MARTIN YATES, III 1912 - 1985 FRANK W. YATES 1936 - 1986



S. P. YATES CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD JOHN A. YATES PRESIDENT PEYTON YATES EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT RANDY G. PATTERSON SECRETARY DENNIS G. KINSEY TREASURER

105 SOUTH FOURTH STREET ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO 88210 TELEPHONE (505) 748-1471

March 26, 1991

Artesia Daily Press 503 W. Main Artesia, New Mexico 88210

Gentlemen,

Yates Petroleum Corporation desires to place a public notice in your newspaper for one day. The notice is enclosed.

Please place this notice in your paper Friday, March 29, 1991 and forward a copy of it along with your billing as soon as possible to:

Yates Petroleum Corporation 105 S. 4th Street Artesia, NM 88210 Attn: Brian Collins

If you have any questions, please contact me at 748-1471, Ext. 180. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Pricen Willin

Brian Collins Petroleum Engineer

BC/th

Enclosure

KELLAHIN, KELLAHIN AND AUBREY

W. THOMAS KELLAHIN Karen Aubrey ATTORNEYS AT LAW EL PATIO BUILDING 117 NORTH GUADALUPE POST OFFICE BOX 2265 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-2265

TELEPHONE (505) 982-4285 TELEFAX (505) 982-2047

CANDACE HAMANN CALLAHAN

JASON KELLAHIN OF COUNSEL

April 17, 1991

William J. LeMay Director New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Post Office Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

HAND DELIVERED

Re: Application for Administrative Approval of Salt Water Disposal, Yates Petroleum Corporation's David Ross "AIT" State #1 Unit H, Section 35, T22S, R31E, Eddy County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. LeMay:

Mitchell Energy has asked our firm to oppose the granting of an administrative approval of Yates' request to dispose of salt water in the above wellbore. We request that this matter be set down for hearing on the next available docket.

Sincerely, Karen Aubrey

xc: Mark Stephenson, Mitchell Energy Brian Collins, Yates Petroleum Corporation

1989/ltrk417.031



APR 1 7 1991

OIL CONSERVATION DIV. SANTA FE

Affidavit of Publication

No. <u>13475</u>

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

County of Eddy:

| Gary D. Scottbeing duly |
|--|
| sworn, says: That he is the |
| Artesia Daily Press, a daily newspaper of general circulation, |
| published in English at Artesia, said county and state, and that |
| the hereto attached Legal Notice |
| was published in a regular and entire issue of the said Artesia |
| Daily Press, a daily newspaper duly qualified for that purpose |
| within the meaning of Chapter 167 of the 1937 Session Laws of |
| days the state of New Mexico forconsecutive weeks on |
| the same day as follows: |
| First Publication March 29, 1991 |
| Second Publication |
| Third Publication |
| Fourth Publication |
| - Maring Malt |
| Subscribed and sworn to before me this <u>8th</u> day |
| of 19 <u>91</u> |
| Sachare Con Dalan |
| Notary Public, Eddy County, New Mexico |
| |

My Commission expires <u>September 23, 1991</u>

Copy of Publication

LEGAL NOTICE

Yates Petroleum Corporation,

105 South Fourth Street, Ar-

tesia, NM 88210, has filed

form C-108 (Application for

Authorization to Inject) with

the New Mexico Oil Conserva-

tion Division seeking adminis-

trative approval for an injection well. The proposed well,

the "David Ross AIT Fed #1"

located 1980' FNL & 660'

FEL of Section 35, Township

22 South, Range 31 East of

.'

will be used for saltwater disposal. Disposal waters from the Delaware Sand will be reinjected into the Delaware Sand at a depth of 4500-5670 feet with a maximum pressure of 900 psi and a maximum rate of 15,000 BWPD.

Eddy County, New Mexico,

All interested parties opposing the aforementioned must file objections or requests for a hearing with the Oil Conservation Division, P.O. Box 2088, Santa Fe, NM 87501, within 15 days. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Brian Collins at (505) 748-1471.

Published in the Artesia Daily Press, Artesia, N.M. March 29, 1991.

Legal 13475

CONSER IN DIVISION 22 ດ ЯR rt Aga

KELLAHIN, KELLAHIN AND AUBREY

W. THOMAS KELLAHIN KAREN AUBREY ATTORNEYS AT LAW EL PATIO BUILDING 117 NORTH GUADALUPE POST OFFICE BOX 2265 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-2285

TELEPHONE (505) 982-4285 TELEFAX (505) 982-2047

CANDACE HAMANN CALLAHAN

JASON KELLAHIN OF COUNSEL

May 14, 1991

Mr. David Catanach Oil Conservation Division State Land Office Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 HAND DELIVERED

Re: Yates Petroleum Corporation NMOCD Case No. 10312 David Ross "AIT" Federal No. 1 SWD Well

Dear Mr. Catanach:

The referenced case is an administrative application of Yates Petroleum Corporation which was set for hearing because of the objection filed by Mitchell Energy Corporation.

On behalf of Mitchell Energy Corporation, I wish to withdraw its opposition to the referenced application of Yates Petroleum Corporation subject to the conditions set forth in the stipulation dated May 10, 1991, copy enclosed.

It is Mitchell's request that the conditions of the stipulation be incorporated into the Division Order approving this application.

It is Yates' request that this case be returned to you for administrative processing and that they not be required to come to the hearing now set for May 16, 1991.

Very Thomas Kellah

WTK/tic Enclosure Mr. David Catanach May 14, 1991 Page 2

cc: Ernest Carroll, Esq. Losee & Carson Post Office Box 239 Artesia, New Mexico 88210

> Mr. Mark Stephenson Mitchell Energy Corporation Post Office Box 4000 The Woodlands, Texas 77387-4000

1989/ltrk514.031

RECEIVED MAY 1 4 1991

May 10, 1991 VIA FAX AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Randy G. Patterson Land Manager Yates Petroleum Corporation 105 South Fourth Street Artesia, New Mexico 88210



Re: Application for Salt Water Disposal Yates Petroleum Corporation David Ross "AIT" State Well No. 1 Unit H, Sec. 35, T22S, R31E Eddy County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Patterson:

Mitchell Energy Corporation has reviewed the information provided with your May 3 letter in reference to the captioned matter. Our review indicates that several zones within the proposed disposal interval are potentially productive of hydrocarbons. We believe that injection of salt water into these zones may adversely affect the recovery of hydrocarbons. In the event a well in this area is completed as a producer in a correlative interval to the proposed disposal interval, we feel it may be necessary to amend or cancel the injection authority for the subject well.

Mitchell feels it has legitimate concerns about the proposed disposal operations and wishes to make those concerns known to the Oil Conservation Division. Mitchell is, however, also desirous of working with Yates on an equitable resolution of this conflict. Accordingly, we offer the following proposal for your consideration.

Mitchell is agreeable to withdrawing its protest, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. That the injection pressure be limited to 1200 psi; and
- 2. That the Authorization to Inject granted by the Oil Conservation Division include a provision to the effect that the injection authority shall be subject to review if a well within a one-mile radius of the subject well is completed in any zone within the correlative interval of the permitted disposal interval.

Yates Petroleum Corporation May 10, 1991 Page 2

If this proposal is acceptable to Yates, please so indicate by signing in the space below and return one executed copy of this letter to me via Fax at 713-377-6910. Also please send one executed original to me by U. S. Mail and two executed originals to Mr. Tom Kellahin by express mail.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

MITCHELL ENERGY CORPORATION

Mark N. Stephenson Manager Production-Regulatory Affairs

Agreed to and accepted this 13 day of May, 1991.

By: Title:

MNS:lkl

Ross1Ltr.MNS

cc: Mr. William LeMay - New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Mr. Ernest Carroll - Losee & Carson Mr. Tom Kellahin - Kellahin, Kellahin & Aubrey

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



BRUCE KING

GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

POST OFFICE BOX 2088 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING SANTA FE. NEW MEXICO 87504 (505) 827-5800

TO: ALL OPERATORS

FROM: WILLIAM J. LEMAY, Director, Oil Conservation Division

SUBJECT: RECENT FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION REGARDING EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION WASTES

DATE: APRIL 25, 1991

This memo summarizes and provides information on three recent federal actions involving oil and gas exploration and production wastes.

- 1. On February 25, 1991, EPA Region 6, Dallas, issued final Clean Water Act NPDES General Permits for oil and gas facilities in the <u>Onshore Subcategory</u> of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category for the States of Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. These permits prohibit all discharges of pollutants to waters of the U.S. from these facilities consistent with the requirements codified at 40 CFR Part 435, Subpart C. The permits became effective on March 27, 1991. Under the New Mexico permit (NMG 320000), discharges to "waters of the United States" (e.g. watercourses, rivers, streams, lakes, and playas, etc.) are prohibited, and operators are directed to operate in accordance with OCD Rules and Regulations. The permit does not require the operator to make application or contact EPA unless a discharge actually occurs. In the event of bypass or upset discharge, 24-hour reporting to EPA is required. (Note: Discharges specifically authorized by EPA-issued NPDES permits under the Agriculture and Wildlife Water Use, or Stripper Subcategories are not affected by this rule).
- 2. In a legal opinion issued by letter from EPA Region 6 on March 26, 1991, Laguna Gatuna (a natural playa salt lake in western Lea County) is now considered to be a "water of the United States" for purposes of regulation under the Federal Clean Water Act, and discharges of oil and gas wastes to the playa are prohibited without a federal NPDES permit. The opinion was requested by the NM Environment Department as a result of information provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In the opinion, EPA states that under EPA's current definition of "waters of the U.S.", "even potential use by migratory birds is sufficient to show a specific surface water is subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act." As a result of this action and the effect of the new NPDES General Permit discussed above, facilities discharging oilfield wastes to

MEMORANDUM April 25, 1991 Page -2-

playas may not be in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act even though they have OCD-approved state permits. All operators discharging to such playas should review these developments with legal counsel familiar with federal environmental law and be prepared to modify discharge methods if necessary. This action does not change the status of OCD-approved permits; these permits remain in effect. Any modification to operations would be as a result of the requirements of federal law.

3. On April 2, 1991, EPA Washington, by letter, issued a preliminary determination that wastes generated by crude oil and tank bottom reclamation facilities are exempt from Subtitle C (Hazardous Waste) provisions of RCRA. This opinion was requested by several operators in southeast New Mexico and west Texas as a result of EPA's action, effective last fall, listing certain production-related wastes containing naturally occurring benzene as hazardous wastes. The April 2nd determination will be made final when published in the Federal Register, likely within the next 60 days. In the meantime, OCD believes the EPA letter serves as notification to treating plants and other reclamation facilities that they can again receive and treat these wastes under current OCD-approved permits. However, facilities can receive only production wastes for treatment (i.e. no used motor oils, or refined product tank bottoms) and no RCRA-regulated solvents may be used to treat production wastes (e.g. no chlorinated solvents or solvent mixtures containing xylenes, toluene and other mixtures as listed in 40 CFR Part 261.31).

Copies of all EPA documents mentioned in this memorandum are available at OCD district offices or through the Environmental Bureau in Santa Fe.

WJM/DGB/sl

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



BRUCE KING GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 2088 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504 (505) 827-5800

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May 22, 1991

YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION 105 South 4th Street Artesia, New Mexico 88210

RE: CASE NO. 10312 ORDER NO. R-9511

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are two copies of the above-referenced Division order recently entered in the subject case.

Sincerely,

Florene alavedsen

Florene Davidson OC Staff Specialist

FD/sl

cc: BLM Carlsbad Office T. Kellahin