

HIP - 96

**PERMITS,
RENEWALS, &
MODS**



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON

Governor

Joanna Prukop

Cabinet Secretary

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.

Director

Oil Conservation Division

June 8, 2005

Mr. Richard Duarte
El Paso Natural Gas Company
3801 Atrisco Blvd., NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

**Re: Hydrostatic Test Water Discharge HI-096
EPNG's 1300 Pipeline Near Belen, NM
Valencia County, New Mexico**

Dear Mr. Duarte:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has received El Paso Natural Gas Company's (EPNG) request, dated May 12, 2005, for authorization to discharge approximately 104,000 gallons of wastewater from the hydrostatic test of approximately 0.50 miles of used pipeline in Valencia County, New Mexico.

Based on the information provided in the request, the hydrostatic test water discharge **is hereby approved** with the following understandings and conditions:

1. The pipeline section from I-25 milepost 259+0015 to milepost 259+2389, located in Township 5 North, Range 2 East, will be cleansed prior to hydrostatic testing using "N-Spec 120 Cleaner". Approximately 100 gallons of this cleaner will be used for this cleaning.
2. Source of the hydrostatic test water will be a private well located near the vicinity of the test. Sample analysis of comparable water has been received with the application.
3. Prior to the test, EPNG will store the hydrostatic test water in tanks supplied by Rain-for-Rent, a company located in Phoenix, AZ.
4. Rinsate from this cleansing will be stored in a Frac tank and transported to EPNG's Belen Station for recycling.
5. EPNG will secure a water sample directly from the pipeline prior to commencing the 8-hour hydrostatic test, and immediately analyze it at a certified laboratory in Albuquerque, NM.
6. These test results will be sent to the OCD for review and subsequent approval or disapproval for the test water to be discharged along the EPNG pipeline right of way.
7. If final discharge of the test water is not approved by the OCD, EPNG will store the water in the Rain-for-Rent tanks and develop a separate disposal plan for evaluation and approval by the OCD.

8. If final discharge of the test water is approved, the fluids will not be allowed to migrate to a water of the state or a water of the U.S.
9. EPNG will collect a composite sample of the water during the discharge and submit it for analysis at a certified laboratory.
10. Landowner approval has been obtained for the discharge.

Pursuant to WQCC Regulation 3-106.B, this approval will allow EPNG to discharge without an approved discharge plan for a period not to exceed 120 days. If the site is to be used for more than one test discharge, formal reapplication must be made. If the discharge exceeds 120 days, a formal discharge plan must be submitted for review. It is understood that the test will take place during the June 16, 2005 to June 17, 2005 time period.

This approval does not relieve EPNG of responsibility should its operation result in pollution of surface water, ground water, or the environment. In addition, OCD approval does not relieve EPNG of responsibility for compliance with other federal, state or local regulations.

If there are any questions, please call Ed Martin at (505) 476-3492.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger C. Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger C. Anderson
Environmental Bureau Chief