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# GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

# **YEAR(S):** 2004 - 1998

ChevronTexaco Mid-Continent Business Unit 11111 South Wilcrest Houston, Texas 77099 Tel (281) 561-4991 Fax (281) 561-3702 KEWJ@chevrontexaco.com Kenneth W. Jackson Regulatory Specialist



# ChevronTexaco

January 12, 2004

New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Attn: Roger C. Anderson 1220 South St. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Please find enclosed an original and one copy of the executed attachment to the Buckeye  $CO_2$  Gas Processing Plant Discharge Permit GW-312. Also, enclosed is a check for the \$4,000.00 flat fee as required by WQC regulations.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel to call me at (281) 561-4991 or contact me at the address shown above.

Yours truly, ChevronTexaco

Kometic Jod

Kenneth W. Jackson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF CHECX/CASH

I hereby acknowledge receipt of check No. dated 3/2or cash received on in the amount of \$ from CHEVRON-\$ for VCRE Submitted by: NAYNE Data: Submitted to ASD by: Date: Received in ASD by: Data: Filing Fee \_\_\_\_ New Facility Renewal Modification Other Organization Code <u>521.07</u> Applicable FY 2004 To be deposited in the Water Quality Management Fund. Full Payment or Annual Increment 93-516 Chevron No. 929 Chevron U.S.A. Production Company A Division of Chevron U.S.A. Inc. March 2 11111 South Wilcrest, Houston, TX 77099 05 Water Quality Management Fund % Oil Conservation Division 1220 South Saint Francis Drive Pay to 4,000.00 order of Santa Fe, NM 87505 Not Valid For More Than \$ \*\*\*\* Wells Fargo Bank Montana, N.A. 404 West Broadway, Lewistown, MT 59457 ignatures Required \$16,000.00 and ove CK-254 (8-00)

	Total	·	CK-254 (8-00)
No.	Discount	NTE ==> 03/02/05 AMOUNT ==> 4,000.00 Discharge Permit Renewel Fee Groundwater Discharge Permit Renewel Fee UC500G01Y 00800	
A Division of Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	Amount	03/02/05 AMDUNT ==> -ge Permit Renewel Fe vater Discharge Permi 11	
<b>Chevron U.S.A. Production Company,</b> A Division of Chevron U.S.A. Inc. 11111 South Wilcres Laton, TX 77099	Description	719 Df 500601Y ndwater ent for ge code Code 755 any Code	ting Check
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DIVESION

### NM OIL CONSERVATION D'V 1220 ST. FRANCIS DR AHM: Wayne Price SANTA FENM 87505

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#### AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

#### STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF SANTA FE

I, B. Perner, being first duly sworn declare and say that I am Legal Advertising Representative of THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN, a daily newspaper published in the English language, and having a general circulation in the Counties of Santa Fe and Los Alamos, State of New Mexico and being a newspaper duly qualified to publish legal notices and advertisements under the provisions of Chapter 167 on Session Laws of 1937; that the publication # 75143 a copy of which is hereto attached was published in said newspaper 1 day(s) between 10/27/2004 and 10/27/2004 and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper and not in any supplement; the first date of publication being on the 27th day of October, 2004 and that the undersigned has personal knowledge of the matter and things set forth in this affidavit.



LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 27th day of October, 2004

. (tard Notary 11/23/07 **Commission Expires:** 



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

#### STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulations, the following discharge permit application(s) has been submitted to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, 1220 S. Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, Telephone (505) 476-3440:

(GW-312) - Texaco Exploration and Produc-tion, Inc., Jesse Navar-rette (505-396-4916 x136) HRC 60, Box 425, Lovington, NM 88260 has submitted an aphas submitted an ap-plication for a dis-charge plan for its Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant lo-cated in Section 36, township 17 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, LacCounty Novy Mox Lea County, New Mexico. Approximately 5400 gallons per day of oil and gas produc-tion process water recycled be will off-site into class II injection wells for en-hanced oil recovery for the Vacuum Glorietta West Unit Water-flood System. Ground water most likely to be affected by any accidental discharge is at a depth of approxi-mately 120 feet and has a total dissolved solids content of approximately 360 mg/l. The discharge plan addresses how solid waste, spills, leaks, and other accidental discharges to the sur-face will be managed

Any interested person may obtain further information from the Oil Conservation Division and may submit written comments to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division at the address given above. The discharge permit application and draft discharge permit may be viewed at the above address between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The draft discharge permit may also be viewed at OCD's web site

http://www.emnrd.st ate.nm.us/ocd/. Prior to ruling on any proposed discharge permit or its modification, the Director of the Oil Conservation Division shall allow at least thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice during which comments may be submitted and a public hearing may be requested by any interested person. Requests for a public hearing shall set forth the reasons why a hearing should be held. A hearing will be held if the Director determines there is significant public interest.

If no public hearing is held, the Director will approve or disapprove the proposed permit based on information available. If a public hearing is held, the director will approve or disapprove the proposed permit based on information in the permit and information submitted at the hearing.

GIVEN under the Seal of New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on this 19th day of October 2004.

> STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

SEAL

Mark Fesmire, Director Legal #75143 Pub. October 27, 2004

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GIVEN under the Seal of New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2004.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Mark Fesmire, Director

SEAL

DRAFT

October 19, 2004

#### <u>CERTIFIED MAIL</u> RETURN RECEIPT NO.

Jesse Navarrette Chevron/Texaco U.S.A. Inc. HCR 60, Box 425 Lovington, New Mexico 88260

RE: Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant Discharge Plan GW-312

Dear Mr. Jesse Navarrette:

The ground water discharge plan GW-312 for the Chevron/Texaco U.S.A. Inc. Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 17 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, is hereby approved under the conditions contained in the enclosed attachment. The discharge plan consists of the application dated January 15, 1999, and the attached discharge plan approval conditions. Enclosed are two copies of the conditions of approval, please sign and return one copy to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) Santa Fe Office within 10 working days of receipt of this letter.

The discharge plan was submitted pursuant to Section 3106 of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. It is approved pursuant to Section 3109.A. Please note Sections 3109.E and 3109.F, which provide for possible future amendments or modifications of the plan. Please be advised that approval of this plan does not relieve Chevron/Texaco U.S.A. Inc. of liability should operations result in pollution of surface water, ground water, or the environment.

Please be advised that all exposed pits, including lined pits and open tanks (tanks exceeding 16 feet in diameter), shall be screened, netted, or otherwise rendered nonhazardous to wildlife including migratory birds.

Please note that Section 3104 of the regulations provides: "When a facility has been approved, discharges must be consistent with the terms and conditions of the plan." Pursuant to Section 3107.C., Chevron/Texaco U.S.A. Inc. is required to notify the Director of any facility expansion, production increase, or process modification that would result in any change in the discharge of water quality or volume.

Pursuant to Section 3109.G.4., this plan is for a period of five years. This approval will expire on April 19, 2009 and Chevron/Texaco U.S.A. Inc. should submit an application in ample time before this date. Note that under Section 3106.F. of the regulations, if a discharger submits a discharge plan renewal application at least 120 days before the discharge plan expires and is in compliance with the approved plan, then the existing discharge plan will not expire until the application for renewal has been approved or disapproved. It should be noted that all discharge plan facilities will be required to submit the results of an underground drainage testing program as a requirement for discharge plan renewal.

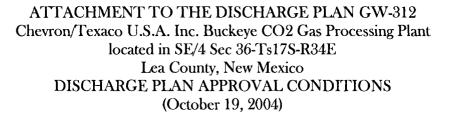
The discharge plan application for the Chevron/Texaco U.S.A., Inc. facility is subject to WQCC Regulation 3114 discharge plan fees. Every billable facility submitting a discharge plan will be assessed a fee equal to the filing fee of \$100 plus a flat fee of \$4000.00 for Gas Processing Plants. The OCD has received the filing fee. The flat fee may be paid in a single payment due on the date of the discharge plan approval or in five equal installments over the expected duration of the discharge plan. Installment payments shall be remitted yearly, with the first installment due on the date of the discharge plan approval.

Please make all checks payable to:	Water Quality Management Fund
	C/o: Oil Conservation Division
	1220 South Saint Francis Drive
	Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Price of my staff at (505-476-3487) or E-mail wprice@state.nm.us. On behalf of the staff of the OCD, I wish to thank you and your staff for your cooperation during this discharge plan review.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Anderson Environmental Bureau Chief RCA/lwp Attachment-1 xc: OCD Hobbs Office



- 1. <u>Payment of Discharge Plan Fees:</u> The \$100.00 filing fee has been submitted, please submit the \$4000.00 required flat fee, which may be paid in a single payment due at the time of approval, or in equal annual installments over the duration of the plan, with the first payment due upon receipt of this approval.
- 2. <u>Commitments:</u> Chevron/Texaco U.S.A. Inc. will abide by all commitments submitted in the discharge plan application dated August 26, 2004 and all previous submittals.
- 3. <u>Waste Disposal</u>: All wastes will be disposed of at an OCD approved facility. Only oilfield exempt wastes shall be disposed of down Class II injection wells. Non-exempt oilfield wastes that are non-hazardous may be disposed of at an OCD approved facility upon proper waste determination per 40 CFR Part 261. Any waste stream that is not listed in the discharge will be approved by OCD on a case-by-case basis.

<u>Rule 712 Waste:</u> Pursuant to Rule 712, disposal of certain non-domestic waste is allowed at solid waste facilities permitted by the New Mexico Environment Department as long as the waste stream is identified in the discharge, and existing process knowledge of the waste stream does not change without notification to the Oil Conservation Division

- 4. <u>Drum Storage:</u> All drums containing materials other than fresh water must be stored on an impermeable pad with curbing. All empty drums will be stored on their sides with the bungs in and lined up on a horizontal plane. Chemicals in other containers such as sacks or buckets will also be stored on an impermeable pad and curb type containment.
- 5. <u>Process Areas:</u> All process and maintenance areas which show evidence that leaks and spills are reaching the ground surface must be either paved and curbed or have some type of spill collection device incorporated into the design.

- 6. <u>Above Ground Tanks</u>: All above ground tanks which contain fluids other than fresh water must be bermed to contain a volume of one-third more than the total volume of the largest tank or of all interconnected tanks. All new tanks or existing tanks that undergo a major modification, as determined by the Division, must be placed within an impermeable bermed enclosure.
- 7. <u>Above Ground Saddle Tanks:</u> Above ground saddle tanks must have impermeable pad and curb type containment unless they contain fresh water or fluids that are gases at atmospheric temperature and pressure.
- 8. <u>Labeling:</u> All tanks, drums and containers will be clearly labeled to identify their contents and other emergency notification information.
- 9. <u>Below Grade Tanks/Sumps:</u> All below grade tanks, sumps, and pits must be approved by the OCD prior to installation or upon modification and must incorporate secondary containment and leak-detection into the design. All pre-existing sumps and below-grade tanks must demonstrate integrity on an annual basis. Integrity tests include pressure testing to 3 pounds per square inch above normal operating pressure and/or visual inspection of cleaned out tanks and/or sumps, or other OCD approved methods. The OCD will be notified at least 72 hours prior to all testing.
- 10. <u>Underground Process/Wastewater Lines:</u> All underground process/wastewater pipelines must be tested to demonstrate their mechanical integrity at present and then every 5 years thereafter, or prior to discharge plan renewal. Permittees may propose various methods for testing such as pressure testing to 3 pounds per square inch above normal operating pressure or other means acceptable to the OCD. The OCD will be notified at least 72 hours prior to all testing.
- 11. <u>Class V Wells</u>: Leach fields and other wastewater disposal systems at OCD regulated facilities which inject non-hazardous fluid into or above an underground source of drinking water are considered Class V injection wells under the EPA UIC program. All Class V wells that inject non-hazardous industrial wastes or a mixture of industrial wastes and domestic wastes will be closed unless it can be demonstrated that groundwater will not be impacted in the reasonably foreseeable future. Closure of Class V wells must be in accordance with a plan approved by the Division's Santa Fe Office. The OCD allows industry to submit closure plans which are protective of human health, the environment and groundwater as defined by the WQCC, and are cost effective. Class V wells that inject domestic waste only must be permitted by the New Mexico Environment Department.
- 12. <u>Housekeeping:</u> All systems designed for spill collection/prevention will be inspected weekly and after each storm event to ensure proper operation and to prevent overtopping or system failure. A record of inspections will be retained on site for a period of five years.

- 13. <u>Spill Reporting:</u> All spills/releases will be reported pursuant to OCD Rule 116 and WQCC 1203 to the OCD Hobbs District Office.
- 14. <u>Transfer of Discharge Plan:</u> The OCD will be notified prior to any transfer of ownership, control, or possession of a facility with an approved discharge plan. A written commitment to comply with the terms and conditions of the previously approved discharge plan must be submitted by the purchaser and approved by the OCD prior to transfer.
- 15. <u>Closure:</u> The OCD will be notified when operations of the facility are discontinued for a period in excess of six months. Prior to closure of the facility a closure plan will be submitted for approval by the Director. Closure and waste disposal will be in accordance with the statutes, rules and regulations in effect at the time of closure.
- 16. <u>Certification:</u> Chevron/Texaco U.S.A. Inc. by the officer whose signature appears below, accepts this permit and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions contained herein and further acknowledges that these conditions and requirements of this permit may be changed administratively by the Division for good cause shown as necessary to protect fresh water, human health and the environment.

Accepted:

Chevron/Texaco U.S.A. Inc.

Print Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:	

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF CHECX/CASH

I hereby acknowledge receipt of ch	
or cash received on	
from CHEURON TEXACO	in the amount of \$ 100 =
for CO, PLANT (BUCKEYS)	
Submitted by: UAYNG REER	\$ GW-312-
Submitted to ASD by:	Data: 9/3/04
Received in ASD by:	Date:/,
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Filing Fee New Facility	Renewal
Modification Other	
Organization Code <u>521.07</u> To be deposited in the Water Quality Full Payment or Annual :	y Management Fund.
evionTexaco ChevronTexeco Expl & Prod. Cla Division of Chevroniu S.A. Inc Chevro Sca Concord CA, 94524 VIO DERIOF STATE OF NEW MEXICO DIL CONSERVATION DIV 1220 SOUTH ST FRANCIS DR SAVIA FE, NM 67506	State         NO.           1.05/27/2004         1.05/27/2004           1.05/27/2004         1.05/27/2004

District I 1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240 District II 1301 W. Grand Avenue, Artesia, NM 88210 District III 1000 Rio Brazos Road, Aztec, NM 87410 District IV 1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505	State of New Energy Minerals and I Oil Conservatio 1220 South St. Santa Fe, NM	Mexico Natural Resources on Division Francis Dr. <sup>OIL</sup>		Revised June 10, 2003 Submit Original Plus 1 Copy
(Refer to the OCD G	MPRESSOR, GE CRUDE OIL PUN ruidelines for assistance	OTHERMAI IP STATION e in completing the	L FACILITES S e application)	•
I Turner CO2 Plant	X Renewal	Modificatio	on	
<ol> <li>Type: <u>CO2 Plant</u></li> <li>Operator: Chevron U.S.A. In</li> </ol>				
-				
Address: HCR 60, Box 425,				
Contact Person: <u>Jesse Navarre</u>	tte	Phone:	(505) 396-	<u>4916 Ext. 1</u> 36
	/4 Section <u>36</u> ge scale topographic ma			nge <u>34 east</u>
<ol> <li>Attach the name, telephone number and No change to original pl</li> <li>Attach the description of the facility with</li> </ol>	an for questio	ons 4 throug	h 13.	nks on the facility.
6. Attach a description of all materials store	ed or used at the facilit	y.		
7. Attach a description of present sources of must be included.	of effluent and waste so	olids. Average qua	lity and daily volu	me of waste water
8. Attach a description of current liquid and	d solid waste collection	n/treatment/disposa	l procedures.	
9. Attach a description of proposed modified	cations to existing colle	ection/treatment/di	sposal systems.	
10. Attach a routine inspection and mainten	ance plan to ensure pe	rmit compliance.		
11. Attach a contingency plan for reporting	and clean-up of spills	or releases.		
12. Attach geological/hydrological information	tion for the facility. D	epth to and quality	of ground water 1	must be included.
13. Attach a facility closure plan, and other rules, regulations and/or orders.	information as is nece	ssary to demonstra	te compliance wit	h any other OCD
14. CERTIFICATIONI hereby certify tha best of my knowledge and belief.	t the information subm	nitted with this appl	lication is true and	l correct to the
Name: UESSE MAVARRET	ITE	Title: <u>PIAr</u>	IT SUPER	VISOR
Signature: Jesse S. Novor	A	Date: <u><u>HU</u></u>	IT SUPER SUST 26,	2004
E-mail Address: JESSEN AUARIEET 7	E CHEURON TEXA	con con		

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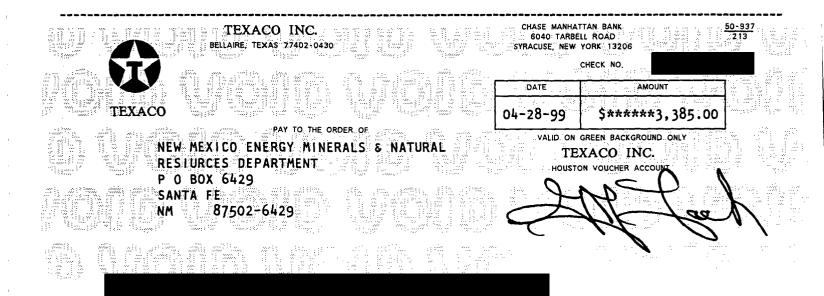
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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF CHECK/CASH

I hereby acknowledge receipt of check Nodated 4-28-99
or cash received on in the amount of \$ $3,385$ .
from TEXACO INC.
for TEXACO BUCKEYE CO2 PLANE GW-312.
Submitted by: Augus Price Date: 5/12/97
Submitted to ASD by: Kichnen Date: 5/12/95
Received in ASD by:Date:
Filing Fee 🗸 New Facility 🗸 Renewal
Modification Other
Organization Code <u>521.07</u> Applicable FY <u>99</u>
To be deposited in the Water Quality Management Fund.
Full Payment or Annual Increment



and No Souther	PAYMENT IDENTIFICATION	SUB	NUMBER	NET AMOUNT	
EXACO					
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	GW-312		,		-
PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PAYMENT TO THE NOIVIDUAL WHO INITIATE	AFFER TO YOUR INVOICE NUMBER				

FOLD AND TEAR ALONG PERFORATION

## **OCD ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU**

# SITE INSPECTION SHEET

DATE: 6/18/99 Time: 1 PM - 3 PM
FACILITY NAME: TEXACO CO BUCKEYE PLANE
Type of Facility:       Refinery       Gas Plant       Compressor St.       Brine St.       OilField Service Co.         Surface Waste Mgt.       Facility       E&P Site       Other       +       COL       RECOVERY
Discharge Plan: No D Yes & DP#
PHYSICAL LOCATION: 2-3 probes Sooth of BUCKEYE NAL Legal: QRT_QRT Sec. <u>36</u> TS 175 R 34 E
OWNER/OPERATOR (NAME)       TEXA(0       E + P         Contact Person:       05 CAR       QMIR 02       Tele:#       915       366       8801       ×       675         MAILING ADDRESS:       501       \$       Loop 338       EAST       State       7×       ZIP       7970
Contact Person: 05CAR QAIR 32 Tele:# 915 366 88.91 × 615
MAILING ADDRESS: <u>561 \$ 2000 338 EAST</u> State <u>7×</u> ZIP <u>7976</u>
OCD INSPECTORS: PRICE + FORD JARAE
1. Drum Storage: All drums containing materials other than fresh water must be stored on an impermeable pad with curbing. All empty drums will be stored on their sides with the bungs in and lined up on a horizontal plane. Chemicals in other container such as sacks or buckets will also be stored on an impermeable pad and curb type containment.
OK
2. <u>Process Areas</u> : All process and maintenance areas which show evidence that leaks and spills are reaching the ground surface must be either paved and curbed or have some type of spill collection device incorporated into the design.
ok
3. Above Ground Tanks: All above ground tanks which contain fluids other than fresh water must be bermed to contain a
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OK - TETACO TO PLACE PLUGS IN SEC. CONTAINMENT DRAIN VALVE - (GULK STORAGE AREA) HEST SAFE 05 PLANE.

OCD Inspection Sheet Page 1 of 3

enclosure.

4. <u>Above Ground Saddle Tanks</u>: Above ground saddle tanks must have impermeable pad and curb type containment unless they contain fresh water or fluids that are gases at atmospheric temperature and pressure.

5. Labeling: All tanks, drums and containers will be clearly labeled to identify their contents and other emergency information.

7. <u>Underground Process/Wastewater Lines:</u> All underground process/wastewater pipelines must be tested to demonstrate their mechanical integrity at present and then every 5 years thereafter, or prior to discharge plan renewal. The permittee may propose various methods for testing such as pressure testing to 3 pounds per square inch above normal operating pressure or other means acceptable to the OCD. The OCD will be notified at least 72 hours prior to all testing.

OK

OK

τ.

8. <u>Onsite/Offsite Waste Disposal and Storage Practices:</u> Are all wastes properly characterized and disposed of correctly? Does the facility have an EPA hazardous waste number? <u>Yes</u> No

ARE ALL WASTE CHARACTERIZED AND DISPOSED OF PROPERLY? YES 👉 NO 🗇 IF NO DETAIL BELOW.

9. Class V Wells: Leach fields and other wastewater disposal systems at OCD regulated facilities which inject non-hazardous

OCD Inspection Sheet Page <u>2</u> of <u>3</u>



fluid into or above an underground source of drinking water are considered Class V injection wells under the EPA UIC program. All Class V wells that inject non-hazardous industrial wastes or a mixture of industrial wastes and domestic wastes will be closed unless it can be demonstrated that groundwater will not be impacted in the reasonably foreseeable future. Closure of Class V wells must be in accordance with a plan approved by the Division's Santa Fe Office. The OCD allows industry to submit closure plans which are protective of human health, the environment and groundwater as defined by the WQCC, and are cost effective. Class V wells that inject domestic waste only must be permitted by the New Mexico Environment Department.

ANY CLASS V WELLS NO & YES I IF YES DESCRIBE BELOW !

10. <u>Housekeeping</u>: All systems designed for spill collection/prevention will be inspected weekly and after each storm event to ensure proper operation and to prevent overtopping or system failure. A record of inspections will be retained on site for a period of five years.

EXCRUANT

11. <u>Spill Reporting:</u> All spills/releases will be reported pursuant to OCD Rule 116 and WQCC 1203 to the proper OCD District Office.

No spice - OK

12. Does the facility have any other potential environmental concerns/issues?

NOVE OBSERVED

13. Does the facility have any other environmental permits - i.e. SPCC. Stormwater Plan, etc.?

MARNOWN - DOD NOT CHECK

14. ANY WATER WELLS ON SITE ? NO Ø YES O IF YES, HOW IS IT BEING USED ?

FRESH MAKE-UP ZIATER COMES FROM TEXALO GAS PLAN t

**Miscellaneous Comments:** 

Number of Photos taken at this site:

5 - 0: (ENUR... ) PIC\_ CAM 000+3- \ PIC 000 13

attachments-

OCD Inspection Sheet Page 3 of 3



## NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

April 19, 1999

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-7131

CALLEIS & [2] 99 COMBIGIOUS & FEE CS&T MESSAGE! 2019

#### CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT NO.\_P 288 259 114

Oscar Quiroz Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. 501 South Loop 338 East Odessa, Texas 79762

RE: Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant Discharge Plan GW-312

Dear Mr. Quiroz:

The ground water discharge plan GW-312 for the Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. (TEPI) Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 17 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, is hereby approved under the conditions contained in the enclosed attachment. The discharge plan consists of the application dated January 15, 1999, and the attached discharge plan approval conditions. Enclosed are two copies of the conditions of approval, please sign and return one copy to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) Santa Fe Office within 10 working days of receipt of this letter.

The discharge plan was submitted pursuant to Section 3106 of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. It is approved pursuant to Section 3109.A. Please note Sections 3109.E and 3109.F, which provide for possible future amendments or modifications of the plan. Please be advised that approval of this plan does not relieve Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. of liability should operations result in pollution of surface water, ground water, or the environment.

Please be advised that all exposed pits, including lined pits and open tanks (tanks exceeding 16 feet in diameter), shall be screened, netted, or otherwise rendered nonhazardous to wildlife including migratory birds.

Please note that Section 3104 of the regulations provides: "When a facility has been approved, discharges must be consistent with the terms and conditions of the plan." Pursuant to Section 3107.C., Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. is required to notify the Director of any facility expansion, production increase, or process modification that would result in any change in the discharge of water quality or volume.

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Pursuant to Section 3109.G.4., this plan is for a period of five years. This approval will expire on April 19, 2004 and Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. should submit an application in ample time before this date. Note that under Section 3106.F. of the regulations, if a discharger submits a discharge plan renewal application at least 120 days before the discharge plan expires and is in compliance with the approved plan, then the existing discharge plan will not expire until the application for renewal has been approved or disapproved. It should be noted that all discharge plan facilities will be required to submit the results of an underground drainage testing program as a requirement for discharge plan renewal.

The discharge plan application for the Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. facility is subject to WQCC Regulation 3114 discharge plan fees. Every billable facility submitting a discharge plan will be assessed a fee equal to the filing fee of \$50 plus a flat fee of \$3335.00 for Gas Processing Plants. The OCD has not received the filing fee as of this date. The flat fee may be paid in a single payment due on the date of the discharge plan approval or in five equal installments over the expected duration of the discharge plan. Installment payments shall be remitted yearly, with the first installment due on the date of the discharge plan approval.

Please make all checks payable to NMED-Water Quality Management and addressed to the OCD Santa Fe Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Price of my staff at (505-827-7155). On behalf of the staff of the OCD, I wish to thank you and your staff for your cooperation during this discharge plan review.

Sincerely,

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Roger Anderson Environmental Bureau Chief

RA/lwp Attachment-1

xc: OCD Hobbs Office

#### ATTACHMENT TO THE DISCHARGE PLAN GW-312 Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant located in SE/4 Sec 36-Ts17S-R34E Lea County, New Mexico DISCHARGE PLAN APPROVAL CONDITIONS (April 19, 1999)

- 1. <u>Payment of Discharge Plan Fees:</u> The \$50.00 filing fee has not been submitted, please submit along with the \$3335 required flat fee, which may be paid in a single payment due at the time of approval, or in equal annual installments over the duration of the plan, with the first payment due upon receipt of this approval.
- 2. <u>Commitments:</u> Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. will abide by all commitments submitted in the discharge plan application dated January 15, 1999.
- 3. <u>Waste Disposal</u>: All wastes will be disposed of at an OCD approved facility. Only oilfield exempt wastes shall be disposed of down Class II injection wells. Non-exempt oilfield wastes that are non-hazardous may be disposed of at an OCD approved facility upon proper waste characterization per 40 CFR Part 261.
- 4. <u>Drum Storage:</u> All drums containing materials other than fresh water must be stored on an impermeable pad with curbing. All empty drums will be stored on their sides with the bungs in and lined up on a horizontal plane. Chemicals in other containers such as sacks or buckets will also be stored on an impermeable pad and curb type containment.
- 5. <u>Process Areas:</u> All process and maintenance areas which show evidence that leaks and spills are reaching the ground surface must be either paved and curbed or have some type of spill collection device incorporated into the design.
- 6. <u>Above Ground Tanks:</u> All above ground tanks which contain fluids other than fresh water must be bermed to contain a volume of one-third more than the total volume of the largest tank or of all interconnected tanks. All new tanks or existing tanks that undergo a major modification, as determined by the Division, must be placed within an impermeable bermed enclosure.
- 7. <u>Above Ground Saddle Tanks</u>: Above ground saddle tanks must have impermeable pad and curb type containment unless they contain fresh water or fluids that are gases at atmospheric temperature and pressure.
- 8. <u>Labeling:</u> All tanks, drums and containers will be clearly labeled to identify their contents and other emergency notification information.

- 9. <u>Below Grade Tanks/Sumps:</u> All below grade tanks, sumps, and pits must be approved by the OCD prior to installation or upon modification and must incorporate secondary containment and leak-detection into the design. All pre-existing sumps and below-grade tanks must demonstrate integrity on an annual basis. Integrity tests include pressure testing to 3 pounds per square inch above normal operating pressure and/or visual inspection of cleaned out tanks and/or sumps, or other OCD approved methods. The OCD will be notified at least 72 hours prior to all testing.
- 10. <u>Underground Process/Wastewater Lines:</u> All underground process/wastewater pipelines must be tested to demonstrate their mechanical integrity at present and then every 5 years thereafter, or prior to discharge plan renewal. Permittees may propose various methods for testing such as pressure testing to 3 pounds per square inch above normal operating pressure or other means acceptable to the OCD. The OCD will be notified at least 72 hours prior to all testing.
- 11. <u>Class V Wells</u>: Leach fields and other wastewater disposal systems at OCD regulated facilities which inject non-hazardous fluid into or above an underground source of drinking water are considered Class V injection wells under the EPA UIC program. All Class V wells that inject non-hazardous industrial wastes or a mixture of industrial wastes and domestic wastes will be closed unless it can be demonstrated that groundwater will not be impacted in the reasonably foresceable future. Closure of Class V wells must be in accordance with a plan approved by the Division's Santa Fe Office. The OCD allows industry to submit closure plans which are protective of human health, the environment and groundwater as defined by the WQCC, and are cost effective. Class V wells that inject domestic waste only must be permitted by the New Mexico Environment Department.
- 12. <u>Housekeeping:</u> All systems designed for spill collection/prevention will be inspected weekly and after each storm event to ensure proper operation and to prevent overtopping or system failure. A record of inspections will be retained on site for a period of five years.
- 13. <u>Spill Reporting:</u> All spills/releases will be reported pursuant to OCD Rule 116 and WQCC 1203 to the OCD Hobbs District Office.
- 14. <u>Transfer of Discharge Plan:</u> The OCD will be notified prior to any transfer of ownership, control, or possession of a facility with an approved discharge plan. A written commitment to comply with the terms and conditions of the previously approved discharge plan must be submitted by the purchaser and approved by the OCD prior to transfer.

- 15. <u>Closure:</u> The OCD will be notified when operations of the facility are discontinued for a period in excess of six months. Prior to closure of the facility a closure plan will be submitted for approval by the Director. Closure and waste disposal will be in accordance with the statutes, rules and regulations in effect at the time of closure.
- 16. <u>Certification:</u> Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. by the officer whose signature appears below, accepts this permit and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions contained herein and further acknowledges that these conditions and requirements of this permit may be changed administratively by the Division for good cause shown as necessary to protect fresh water, human health and the environment.

Accepted:

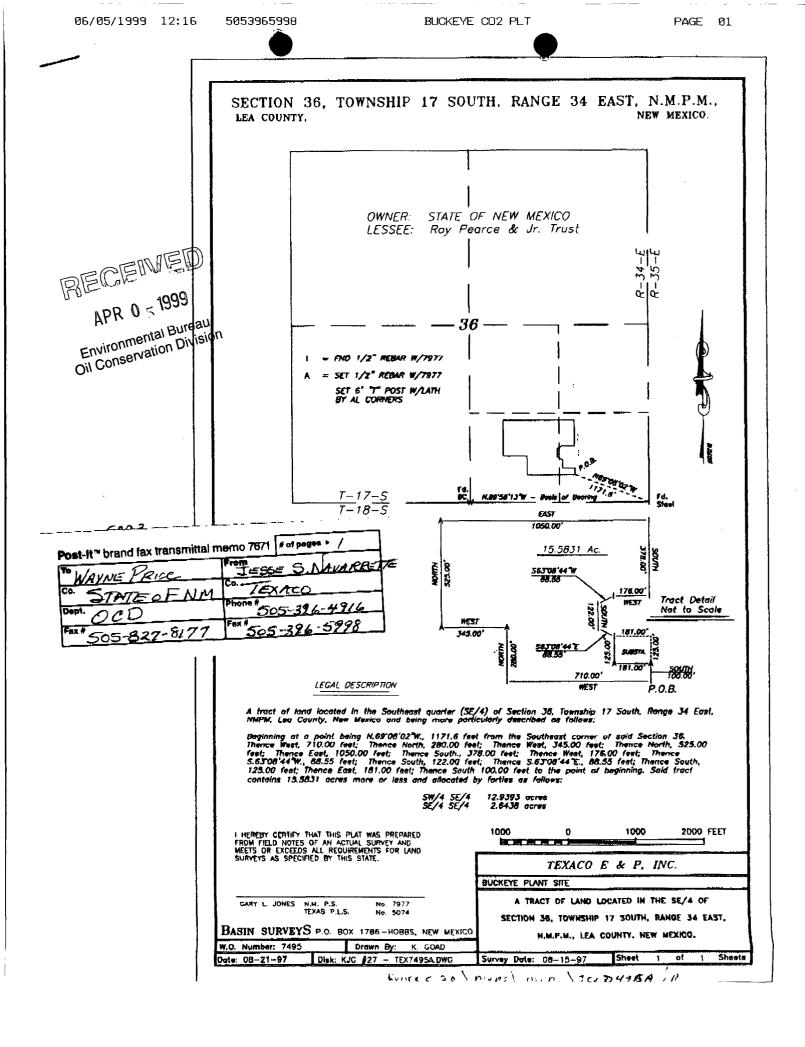
**Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc.** 

Print Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_



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## Affidavit of Publication

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

COUNTY OF LEA

Joyce Clemens being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that he is Adv. Director of THE LOVINGTON DAILY LEADER, a daily newspaper of general paid circulation published in the English language at Lovington, Lea County, New Mexico; that said newspaper has been so published in such county continuously and uninterruptedly for a period in excess of Twenty-six (26) consecutive weeks next prior to the first publication of the notice hereto attached as hereinafter shown; and that said newspaper is in all things duly qualified to publish legal notices within the meaning of Chapter 167 of the 1937 Session Laws of the State of New Mexico.

That the notice which is hereto attached, entitled

Notice of Publication GW-312

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(GW-312) Texaco Exploration and loration and fuction, Inc., Oscar bz, 501 South Loop East, Odessa, Texas 79726 has submitted an application for a discharge plan for its Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant located in Section 36, Township 17 South Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico. Approximately 5400 galions per day of oil and gas production process w will be recycled off-site into class II injection wells for enhanced oil recovery for the Vacuum Giorletta West Unit Waterflood System. Ground water most likely to be affected by an accidental discharge is at a depth of approximately 120 feet fand has a total dissolved polids content of approxi-mately 360 mg/l. The discharge plan addresses how solid waste, spills, leaks, and other accidental discharges to the surface will be managed.

Any interested person may obtain further information from the Oil Conservation Division and may submit written comments to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division at the address given above. The discharge plan application may be viewed at the above address between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Prior to ruling on any pro-posed discharge plan or its modification, the Director of the Conservation Div Oil Division shall allow at least thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice during which comments may be submitted to him and a public hearing may be requested by any interested person. Requests for a public hearing shall set forth the reasons why a hearing should be held. A hearing will be held if the Director determines there is significant public Interest.

If no public hearing is held, the Director will approve or disapprove the proposed plan based on information available. If a public hearing is held, the director will approve or disapprove the proposed plan based on information in the plan and information submitted at the hearing. GIVEN under the Seal of New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe.

DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION New Mexico, on this 29th day of January 1999. ÷ DIVISION No. Notice is hereby given STATE OF that pursuant to New Mexico Water Quality: NEW MEXICO OL र राजन ,, CONSERVATION Commission Regulations, the following DIVISION LORI WROTENBERY. discharge plan application has been submitted to the Jar # Director they Oil Division, SEAL Director of Conservation 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Published in the Lovington Daily Leader February 2, 1999. 87505, Telephone (505)

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF

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#### Affidavit of Publication

COUNTY OF LEA

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Joyce Clemens being first duly sworn on oath Adv. Director of deposes and says that he is THE LOVINGTON DAILY LEADER, a daily newspaper of general paid circulation published in the English language at Lovington, Lea County, New Mexico; that said newspaper has been so published in such county continuously and uninterruptedly for a period in excess of Twenty-six (26) consecutive weeks next prior to the first publication of the notice hereto attached as hereinafter shown; and that said newspaper is in all things duly qualified to publish legal notices within the meaning of Chapter 167 of the 1937 Session Laws of the State of New Mexico.

That the notice which is hereto attached, entitled Notice of Publication GW-312

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And that the cost of publishing said notice is the sum of S 51.36 which um has been (Raid) threesed XXas Court Costs lmin Subscribed and sworn to before me this ... 99 February 2 19. day of n ne Notary Public. Les County, New Mexico ¥¥ 2002 My Commission Expires ...... June 22

Texaco (GW-312) Exploration and Production, Inc., Oscar Quiroz, 501 South Loop 338 East, Odessa, Texas 79726 has submitted an application for a discharge an for its Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant located in Section 36, Township 17 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico. Approximately 5400 galions per day of oil and gas production process water will be recycled off-site into class il injection wells tor enhanced oil recovery for the Vacuum Glorietta West Unit Waterflood System. Ground water most likely to be affected by an accidental discharge is at a depth of approximately 120 feet and has a total dissolved solids content of approximately 360 mg/l. The discharge plan addresses how solid waste, spills, leaks, and other accidental discharges to the sur-face will be managed.

Any interested personal may obtain further information from the Oll Conservation Division and may submit written comments to the Director of the Oil Conservation given above. The discharge plan application may be viewed at the above address between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Prior to ruling on any proposed discharge plan or its modification, the Director of the Conservation Di Oil Division shall allow at least thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice during which comments may be submitted to him and a public hearing may be requested by any interested person. Requests for a public hearing shall set forth the reasons why a hearing should be held. A hearing will be held if the Director determines there is significant public interest.

If no public hearing is held, the Director will approve or disapprove the proposed plan based on information available. If a public hearing is held, the director will approve or disapprove the proposed plan based on information in the plan and information submitted at the hearina.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF

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DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to New Mexico Water Quality

discharge plan application has been submitted to the

of the Oil

Conservation Division, 2040 South Pacheco,

Santa Fe, New Mexico

87505, Telephone (505)

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Director

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GIVEN under the Seal of Oil Mexico New Conservation Commission at Santa Fe, a New Mexico, on this 29th a day of January 1999. 20013 STATE OF

NEW MEXICO OL CONSERVATION ... DIVISION LORI WROTENBERY, Director SEAL

Published in the Lovington Daily Leader February 2, 1999.

## Affidavit of Publication

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

COUNTY OF LEA

being first duly sworn on oath Joyce Clemens Adv. Director of deposes and says that he is THE LOVINGTON DAILY LEADER, a daily newspaper of general paid circulation published in the English language at Lovington, Lea County, New Mexico; that said newspaper has been so published in such county continuously and uninterruptedly for a period in excess of Twenty-six (26) consecutive weeks next prior to the first publication of the notice hereto attached as hereinafter shown; and that said newspaper is in all things duly qualified to publish legal notices within the meaning of Chapter 157 of the 1937 Session Laws of the State of New Mexico.

That the notice which is hereto attached, entitled

Notice of Publication GW-312

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99 February 2 day of 19  $\Delta h$ Notary Public, Las County, New Mexico 19. 2002

June 22 My Commission Expires ....

(GW-312) , gradient (GW-31 oduction, Inc., Oscar roz, 501 South Loop 8 East, Odessa, Texas 79726 has submitted an application for a discharge plan for its Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant located in Section 36, Township 17 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico. Approximately 5400 gallons per day of oil and gas production process water will be recycled off-site Into class II injection wells for enhanced oil recovery for the Vacuum Giorletta West Unit Waterflood System. Ground water most likely to be affected by an accidental dis-charge is at a depth of approximately 120 feet Fand has a total dissolved solids content of approxi-mately 360 mg/l. The discharge plan addresses how solid waste, spills, leaks, and other accidental discharges to the surface will be managed.

Any Interested person may obtain turther information from the Oil Conservation Division and may submit written com-7 ments to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division at the address given above. The discharge plan application may be viewed at the above address between 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Prior to ruling on any pro-posed discharge plan or posed discharge ..... its modification, the of the Oil Conservation Division shall allow at least thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice during which comments may be submitted to him and a public hearing may be requested by any interested person. Requests for a public hearing shall set forth the reasons why a hearing should be held. A hearing will be held if the Director determines there is significant public interest.

If no public hearing is held, the Director will approve or disapprove the proposed plan based on information available. If a public hearing is held, the director will approve or disapprove the proposed plan based on information in the plan and informa-tion submitted at the hearing.

Oil

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NEW MEXICO GIVEN under the Seal of 40 ENERGY, MINERALS New . Mexico Conservetion NATURAL RESOURCES Commission at Santa Fe, DEPARTMENT New Mexico, on this 29th **OIL CONSERVATION** day of January 1999. 1 Notice is hereby given STATE OF that pursuant to New Mexico Water Quality NEW MEXICO Commission CONSERVATION Regulations, the following DIVISION LORI WROTENBERY. discharge plan application has been submitted to the Cash 20 Director

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF

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DIVISION

Director of the Oil Conservation Division,

2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico

87505, Telephone (505)

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SEAL Published in the Lovington Daily Leader February 2, 1999.

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### Since 1849. We Read You.

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#### AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

#### STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulations, the following discharge plan application has been submitted to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, Telephone (505) 827-7131:

(GW-312) - Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc., Oscar Quiroz, 501 South Loop 338 East, Odessa, Texas 79762 has submitted an application for a discharge plan for its Buckeye C02 Gas Processing Plant located in Section 36, township 17 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico. Approximately 5400 gallons per day of oil and gas production process water will be recycled off-site into class !! injection wells for enhanced oil recovery for the Vacuum Giorieta West Unit Waterflood System. Ground water most likely to be affected by any accidental discharge is at a depth of approximately 120 feet and has a total dissolved solids content or approxi-mately 360 mg/l. The discharge plan addresses how solid waste, spills, leaks, and other accidental discharges to the surface will be managed.

Any interested person may

vision and may submit writ-ten comments to the Director I, B Prive 8:00 a. m. and 4:00 p. m., Monday through Friday. posed discharge plan or its modification, the Director of the Oil Conservation Division #64819 shall allow at least thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice during which comments may be submitted to him and a public hearing may be requested by any interested person. Requests for a public hearing shall set forth the reasons why a hearing should be held. A hearing will be held if the Director determines there is significant public interest.

If no public hearing is held, the Director will approve or disapprove the proposed plan based on information available. If a public hearing is held, the director will approve or disapprove the proposed plan based on information in the plan and information submitted at the hearing.

GIVEN under the Seal of New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on this 29th day of January 1999.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DI-VISION

LORI WROTENBERY, Director

Legal #64819 Pub. February 4, 1999

und being first duly sworn declare and of the Oil Conservation Divi-sion at the address given CANTER AT MEYTCAN a daily newspaper published in above. The discharge plan SANTE FE NEW MEXICAN, a daily newspaper published in application may be viewed at the English language, and having a general circulation the above address between in the Counties of Santa Fe and Los Alamos, State of New Mexico and being a Newspaper duly qualified to publish Prior to ruling on any pro- legal notices and advertisements under the provisions of Chapter 167 on Session Laws of 1937; that the publication a copy of which is hereto attached was published in said newspaper 1 day(s) between 02/04/1999 and 02/04/1999 and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper and not in any supplement; the first publication being on the 4 day of February, 1999 and that the undersigned has personal knowledge of the matter and things set forth in this affidavit.

/S/ TISEMENT REPRESENTATIVE LEGAL ADVEN

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 4 day of February A.D., 1999

Notary Commission Expires



#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

#### STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulations, the following discharge plan application has been submitted to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, Telephone (505) 827-7131:

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GIVEN under the Seal of New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on this 29th day of January 1999.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

LORI WROTENBERY, Director

SEAL



January 15, 1999

Mr. Roger Anderson Bureau Chief – Environmental New Mexico Oil Conservation Division 2040 S. Pacheco Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Anderson,

Enclosed is Texaco Exploration & Production Inc.s' Buckeye CO2 Plant Groundwater Discharge Plan.

The Buckeye Gas Plant was merged with assets from Dynegy Inc., but Texaco retained the CO2 plant. At that time we should have begun work on a revised discharge plan. Thank You for the 120 extension day extension we requested.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Oscar Quiroz at 915-366-8801 X675.

Sincerely,

Bryan A. Tucker Complex Manager

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#### Anderson, Roger

To:Quiroz, Oscar SSubject:RE: Texaco's Buckeye PlantImportance:High

Mr. Oscar Quiroz Texaco Inc.

#### RE: Extension to Discharge Buckeye Plant Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Sinclair:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division has received the request (via E- Mail) dated December 8, 1998 from Texaco for an extension to discharge without an approved discharge plan for 120 days.

Pursuant to Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations 3106.B, and for good cause shown, an 120 extension to discharge without an approved discharge plan for the Texaco facility located in Lea County, New Mexico is hereby approved.

Please be advised this extension does not relieve Texaco of liability should the operation of the facility result in pollution of surface waters, ground waters or the environment.

Sincerely,

Roger C Anderson Environmental Bureau Chief

From:	Quiroz, Oscar S[SMTP:quiroos@texaco.com]
Sent:	Tuesday, December 08, 1998 6:42 AM
To:	Anderson, Roger
Subject:	Texaco's Buckeye Plant

Mr. Anderson,

Preliminary steps for startup have been underway for sometime, at the Buckeye Plant. Lastweek we requested 120 days for submittal of our Groundwater Discharge Plan. We are awaiting your response for plant startup. Please call or E-mail me with your verbal or written approval so that I may forward this message to the plant supervisor and startup can begin.

Oscar Quiroz 915/366 8801 X675 email: quiroos@texaco.com





DEC 0 1998

Environmental Bureau Oil Conservation Division

December 2, 1998

Mr. Roger Anderson Bureau Chief – Environmental New Mexico Oil Conservation Division 2040 S. Pacheco Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Anderson,

Texaco Exploration & Production Inc.s' Buckeye CO2 Plant would like to request a 120 day extension on the requirement for having an approved Groundwater Discharge Plan prior to startup. We anticipate "official startup" to occur during the week of December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Texaco's Buckeye Gas Plant had an approved discharge plan. We began constructing the CO2 project as an "add on" to the Buckeye Gas Plant. On July 1, 1998, the Buckeye Gas Plant was merged with assets from Dynegy Inc., but Texaco retained the CO2 plant. At that time we should have begun work on a revised discharge plan.

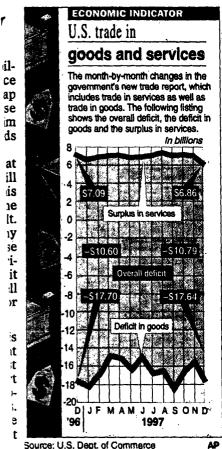
We appreciate you bringing this to our attention. We are completing the Groundwater Discharge plan and will be submitting it to your office shortly. We appreciate your advice and assistance on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Oscar Quiroz at 915-366-8801 X675.

Sincerely,

2 19 Bryan A. Tucker (×. **Complex Manager** Oscar Quiroz Texaco Exploration and PSM/RMP Coordinator **Production Inc** Headlee Bradford 501 South Loop 338 East Gas Complex Odessa TX 79762 Gas Plants BU 915 363 8041 915 363 0274 FAX 915 368 4733 Home recycled paper Č in end and extending the sole of the 1.3.9.003

Friday, February 20, 1998 THE NEW MEXICAN B-5

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Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce

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ndard & Poor's 500-stock index fell 28.28, and the NYSE composite in-22 to 535.01. Both measures had ecord highs on Wednesday.

company measures held up better: 1 2000 index slipped 0.42 to 454.27, nerican Stock Exchange composose 0.36 to 688.86.

volume totaled 589.38 million wn slightly from the pace of the

essions. Tokyo's Nikkei stock average

# Texaco gets \$469,335 tax break from Lea County

#### The Associated Press

HOBBS, N.M. - Texaco has won a \$469,335 tax break from Lea County as an inducement for a costly CO2 gas injection system that would save millions of barrels of water and extend the life of its oil field.

With the words "We'll go in business with you," Commission Chairman Ken Batson signaled the approval of the tax abatement Wednesday for Texaco, Lea County's largest oil-industry employer and one of the world's largest energy companies.

Texaco came to the commission asking a five-year, 50-percent tax break on the estimated value of its \$22.8 million Buckeye CO2 Gas Processing Plant east of here. The county commissioners approved the deal, which. averages out to \$93,867 per year between 1999 and 2003, netting Texaco a \$469,335 savings.

Texaco sought the break because it plans to use CO2 injection instead of water injection to stimulate oil production. The gas injection is expensive but saves water, and it's estimated it could extend the oil field's life by 20 years.

Texaco said it appropriated \$26.5 million to construct the

CO2 facility over a three-year period and expects to employ about 100 Lea County construction workers during that period. But it said it has projected unspecified losses during the first four years of CO2 operation.

Most of those revenues about \$10.4 million - would come from taxes on the additional oil and gas production that Texaco expects to net from the field with CO2 injection.

Texaco said the proposal also would:

Create 100 construction jobs over the next three years in addition to a projected seven permanent positions once the plant is fully operational.

Conserve an estimated 130 million barrels of fresh water plus generate an additional 130 million barrels of salt water that would be raised from the field. via CO2 injection. The salt water could then be used for water flooding elsewhere.

Based on a projection that the plant would hold its value for the next 10 years, Texaco estimated a tax levy of \$187,734 per year. Instead, under the 50 percent ad-valorem tax break approved Wednesday, Texaco would pay \$93,867 a year for five years, beginning in September 1999, Pollock said.

# Feds to continue to reduce small producers' royalties

#### **The Associated Press**

ROSWELL, N.M. — The Interior Department on Thursday agreed to continue a policy of reducing royalty rates for small, independent oil and gas producSecretary Bruce Babbitt, said the program has meant the difference between keeping stripper wells in production or seeing them abandoned. Stripper wells produce less than 15 barrels a day.