

1R - 209

**GENERAL
CORRESPONDENCE**

YEAR(S):

1996-1995

NEW MEXICO ENERGY MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 1980
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO 88241-1980
(505) 393-8161

OIL C. COUNSEL DIVISION
OIL C. '96
'96
FEB 22 1996
52
117 8 52
2

NMOCD INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Roger Anderson-Environmental Bureau Chief

From: Wayne Price-Environmental Engineer *Wayne Price*

Date: Feb. 17, 1996

Reference: Petroleum Production Management, Inc. (PPM)

Subject: Pit Closure @ State "BD" #1 SWD-288
sec 34-Ts 13s-R 32 e

Comments:

Dear Roger,

Jerry Sexton has requested that I contact you concerning this pit closure at the above mentioned location. Jerry would like for me to coordinate this closure thru your office.

The original pit closure request was submitted to the Hobbs District and received on April 21, 1995. On May 1, 1995 I visited the site and took pictures. It was discovered at that time that the pit closure had already began. The dikes on the south side of the pit had been broken and the pit liquids were allowed to flow out onto the ground.

At this time I advised Jerry Sexton that it appears that PPM's remedial action of allowing the pit liquids to be discharged to the ground was ambiguous and not consistent with their pit closure submittal which stated "No Free liquids are in the pit". Also the pit closure plan did not address some of the key environmental assessment criteria, such as vertical extent of the contamination and final remediation levels.

Jerry had informed me that PPM had indicated to District personnel that they felt they were not in a good economic position to close the pit per NMOCD guidelines and the fact that the guidelines were not rules, made it unclear to the District as to what legal authority the NMOCD had on determining when, how or what criteria should be used to close pits.

In early May of 1995 we had a meeting with yourself, Bill Olson, and Bill LeMay in Hobbs concerning procedures to be used at the District level. At that time we all had discussed an "Interim Policy" concerning pit closures and Bill Olson had designed the new "Approval Conditions" to streamline the approval process.

As you know the "Interim Policy" never became reality and this particular pit closure submittal was never approved and no action taken on the District level.

On Feb. 7, 1996 of this year Jerry Sexton received a letter from Gary Cothran of PPM (attached) requesting permission to remove the contaminated soils from this lease and move it to their yard north of crossroads and use it as road repair materials.

Jerry requested I check into this matter and if I agree he would approve. I went to crossroads and the pit site and took pictures (enclosed).

After discussing the issue with Mr. Cothran, he indicated to me that PPM has plans on selling this SWD-288 (location of pit) to Penroc Corp.

According to Mr. Cothran, Penroc has requested the visually contaminated soils be removed from the site in order to complete the deal. PPM has no other plans concerning the pit closure other than to remove the contaminated soils from the surface and haul to their Crossroads yard. If anything else is required then PPM feels that they will just P&A the SWD and leave the site.

Mr. Cothran indicated if PPM is allowed to haul the material off-site as proposed then PPM feels that their responsibility of any further pit closure plans will be transferred to Penroc upon and pending the sell conditions.

After discussing with Jerry, he didn't think Penroc will be willing to accept this responsibility.

Jerry Sexton informed me that I should contact you and request that the NMOCD Environmental Bureau handle this pit closure.

Therefore, we have enclosed a complete copy of the file associated with this location and respectively request your Environmental Bureau's assistance in this matter.

Please let us know if we can assist you or your staff in any way concerning this matter.

cc: Jerry Sexton-District I Supervisor
Gary Wink-NMOCD Field Rep. II
Bill Olson-Hydrogeologist Santa Fe

attachments- Original C-103 "Pit Closure".
Two May 1995 pictures of pit location site.
Two Feb. 1996 picture of pit location site.
Two Feb. 1996 pictures of Crossroads location.
Letter dated Feb. 5, 1996 (request to move
contaminated soils).
Map of area.

DISTRICT I
P.O. Box 1980, Hobbs, NM 88240

DISTRICT II
P.O. Drawer DD, Artesia, NM 88210

DISTRICT III
1000 Rio Brazos Rd., Aztec, NM 87410

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

P.O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

WELL API NO.

30-025-00320

5. Indicate Type of Lease

STATE ☒

FEE ☐

6. State Oil & Gas Lease No.

SWD-288

SUNDRY NOTICES AND REPORTS ON WELLS
(DO NOT USE THIS FORM FOR PROPOSALS TO DRILL OR TO DEEPEN OR PLUG BACK TO A
DIFFERENT RESERVOIR. USE "APPLICATION FOR PERMIT"
(FORM C-101) FOR SUCH PROPOSALS.)

1. Type of Well:

OIL
WELL ☐

GAS
WELL ☐

OTHER

SWD

2. Name of Operator

Petroleum Production Management, Inc.

3. Address of Operator

P.O. Box 957 Crossroads, New Mexico 88114

8. Well No.

1

9. Pool name or Wildcat

SWD
Undesignated Devonian

4. Well Location

Unit Letter N : 1980 Feet From The West Line and 660 Feet From The South Line

Section 34 Township 13-S Range 32-E NMPM Lea County

10. Elevation (Show whether DF, RKB, RT, GR, etc.)

11. Check Appropriate Box to Indicate Nature of Notice, Report, or Other Data

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO:

PERFORM REMEDIAL WORK ☐

PLUG AND ABANDON ☐

TEMPORARILY ABANDON ☐

CHANGE PLANS ☐

PULL OR ALTER CASING ☐

OTHER: Pit Closure ☒

SUBSEQUENT REPORT OF:

REMEDIAL WORK ☐ ALTERING CASING ☐

COMMENCE DRILLING OPNS. ☐ PLUG AND ABANDONMENT ☐

CASING TEST AND CEMENT JOB ☐

OTHER: ☐

12. Describe Proposed or Completed Operations (Clearly state all pertinent details, and give pertinent dates, including estimated date of starting any proposed work) SEE RULE 1103.

NO FREE Liquids are in the pit.
Ground water is below 100'.
Domestic water source is over 1000'.
Evacuate contaminated soils and landfarm on location.
After soils are biodegraded, backfill and contour pit sight to provide
drainage away from site.

I hereby certify that the information above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNATURE

Gary T. Cothran

TITLE

District Superintendent

DATE 4-17-95

TYPE OR PRINT NAME

Gary T. Cothran

TELEPHONE NO. 675-2478

(This space for State Use)

APPROVED BY

TITLE

DATE

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL, IF ANY:

RECEIVED

APR 21 1963

COB. RECORDS
OFFICE



PPM

5/1/95

"Pit Closure"

PPM Pit-May 1, 1995-Picture by W. Price NMOCD; Looking north shows
pit south berm where sludge was allowed to discharge to ground.
sec 34-Ts 13s-R32e.



PPM

5/1/95

PPM Pit-May 1, 1995-Picture By W. Price NMOCB; Looking east, show
pit sludge contents on ground. sec 34-Ts 13s-R32e.



33-00 NRCM-15RU 064

PPM pit

2 of 4

LWP

2/13/76

PPM Pit-Feb. 13, 1996-Picture by W. Price NMOCD, Picture looking north shows weathered contents of pit sludge. Background shows pit. PPM proposes to haul off all visually contaminated surface soils and backfill and level location. sec 34-Ts 13s-R32e.



Look East

34-135-32E

PPM pit

3 of 4

LWP

2/13/76

PPM Pit-Feb. 13, 1996-Picture by W. Price NMOCB, standing on west side of pit looking east. sec 34-Ts 13s-R32e.



PPM

244

2/13/96

CWP

PPM Crossroads NM location; PPM proposes to stock pile soils here.
Picture looking NE at NE corner of yard.



PPM

4 of 4

2/13/76

LWP

PPM Crossroads NM location; Looking south background shows residence approx. 100 yds. Water well house located in background.



PETROLEUM PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC.

P.O. BOX 957

CROSSROADS, NEW MEXICO 88114

(505) 675-2478

MR Jerry Sexton
Oil Conservation Division
PO Box 1980
Hobbs, N.M. 88240

2-5-96

re: State BD #1
SWD-288
S 34 T 133 R 32 E

Dear Mr Sexton,

Petroleum Production Mgmt Inc request permission
to remove the contaminated soils from this
lease and move it to our yard, North of Crossroads
N.M. and use it as road repair materials.

This looks okay to me.
If you agree just initials
I'll let them know
J S

Sincerely,
Gary S. Cochran
Dist Superintendent

Called Gary on 2/12/96
will go look at site, will
give him recommendation! JF

RECEIVED

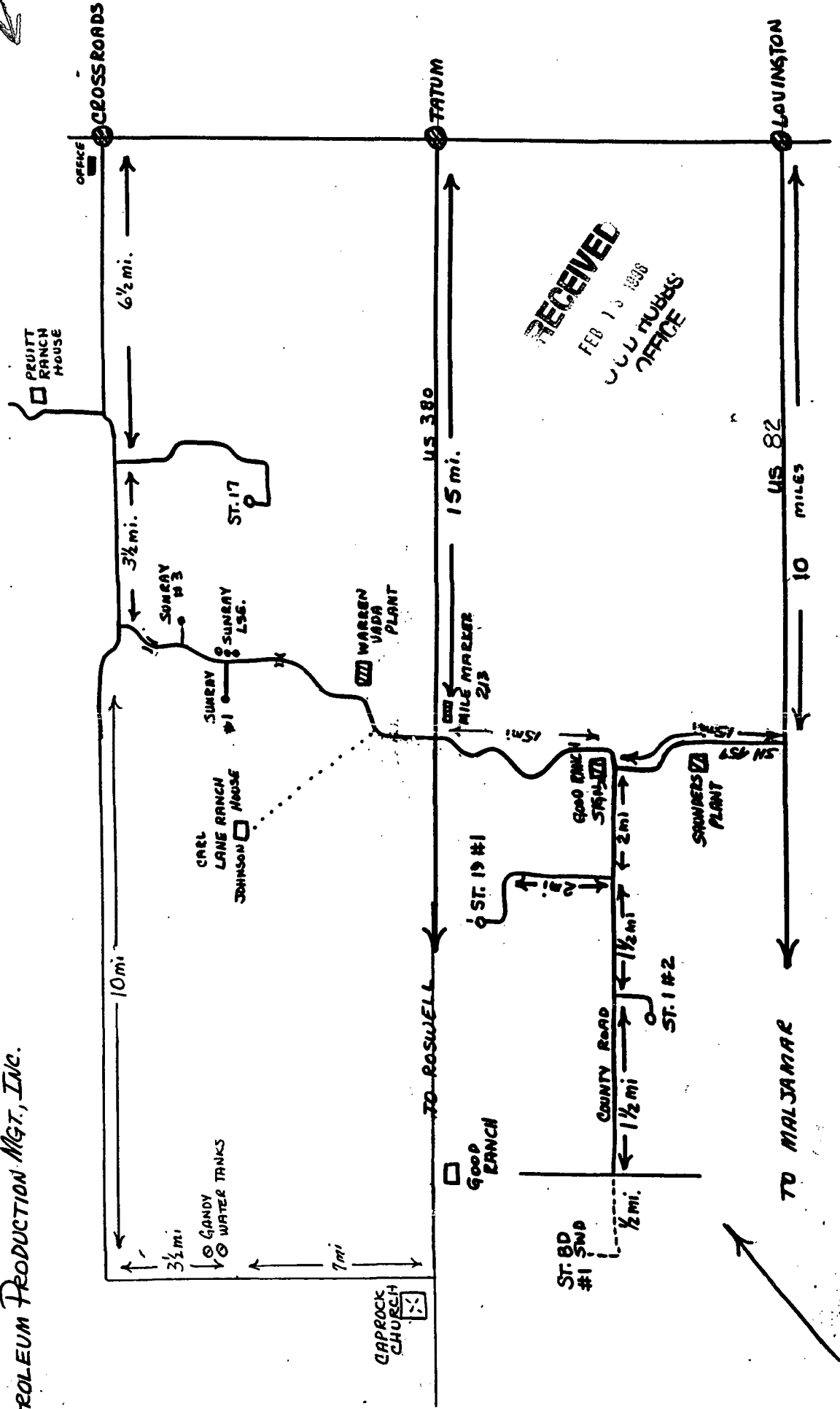
FEB

1996

ENVIRONMENTAL
OFFICE

MAP

PETROLEUM PRODUCTION MGT., INC.



RECEIVED
FEB 13 1938
WILL HUBBS
OFFICE

RAIM FIELD