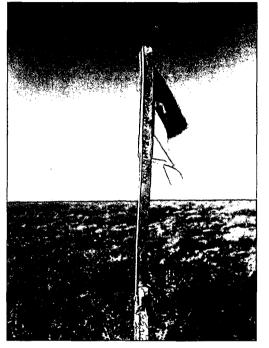
C-144 Permit Package for Brininstool 4 State #3H Temporary Pit Section 4 T24S R33E Lea County NM



HOBBS OCD SEP 1 2 2013

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Prepared for Murchison Oil and Gas, Inc. Plano, Texas

Prepared by R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd. Albuquerque, New Mexico

SEP 16 2013

R. T. HICKS CONSULTANTS, LTD.

901 Rio Grande Blvd NW ▲ Suite F-142 ▲ Albuquerque, NM 87104 ▲ 505.266.5004 ▲ Fax: 505.266-0745

September 10, 2013

HOBBS OCD

SEP 1 2 2013

RECEIVED

Mr. Geoffrey Leking NMOCD District 1 1625 French Drive Hobbs, New Mexico 88240 Via E-mail and US Mail

RE: Murchison Brininstool 4 State 3H, C-144 Permit Modification/In-place Burial Notice Unit M, Section 4 T24S R33E, API #30-025-41030

Dear Mr. Leking:

On behalf of Murchison Oil and Gas, R. T. Hicks Consultants encloses:

- 1. A C-144 Form to modify the existing application (approved on March 19, 2013) to comply with the new Rule and
- 2. Updated (and recent OCD-approved) closure plans that are consistent with the new Rule.

The site-specific discussion, figures, plates, and appendix are unchanged from the earlier approved plan. We plan to proceed with closure activities on Thursday.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

R.T. Hicks Consultants

Knistin Pope

Kristin Pope

Copy: Murchison Oil and Gas Terry Warnell, State Land Office

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C-144 and Site Specific Information for Temporary Pit

R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd. 901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142 Albuquergue, NM 87104

Santa Pe, NM 8/305 Date appropriate ANOCO District Online. Proposed Alternative Method Permit or Closure Plan Application SEP 1.2 2013 Modification to an existing permitive regression Of a pit, below grade tank, or proposed alternative method Modification to an existing permitive regression Of closure of a pit, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method Internative Method Pacino Close Parali habishould op	<u>District I</u> 1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240 <u>District II</u> 811 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210 <u>District III</u> 1000 Rio Brazos Road, Aztec, NM 87410 <u>District IV</u> 1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505	State of New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department Oil Conservation Division 1220 South St. Francis Dr. Santa Fe, NM 87505	For temporary pits, below-grade tanks, and multi-well fluid management pits, submit to the appropriate NMOCD District Office. For permanent pits submit to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office and provide a copy to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.
Operator: Murchison Oil & Gas, Inc. OGRID #: 15363 Address: 1100 Mira Vista Blvd, Plano, TX 75093-4698 Facility or well name: Brininstool 4 State 3H API Number: 30-025-41030 OCD Permit Number: PI-o 5 82 2Q U/L or Qtr/Qtr M Section 4 Township 24S Range 33E County: Lea Center of Proposed Design: Latitude 32° 14' 23 920° N Longitude 103° 35' 07.120° W NAD:]1927 [2] 1983 Surface Owner: Federal [2] State [] Private [] Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment NAD:]1927 [2] 1983 Surface Owner: String-Reinforced Low Chloride Drilling Fluid [] yes [2] no [2] Lined [] Unlined Liner type: Thickness _20	Permit Closure Modifie Closure or proposed alternative meth <i>Instructions: Please submit on</i> Please be advised that approval of this request does not	of a pit or proposed alternative method e of a pit, below-grade tank, or proposed alternatic cation to an existing permit/or registration e plan only submitted for an existing permitted of od <i>e application (Form C-144) per individual pit, below</i> relieve the operator of liability should operations result i	ive method RECEIVED r non-permitted pit, below-grade tank, <i>e-grade tank or alternative request</i> in pollution of surface water, ground water or the
2. Pit: Subsection F, G or J of 19.15.17.11 NMAC Temporary: Drilling Workover Permanent Emergency Cavitation P&A Multi-Well Fluid Management Low Chloride Drilling Fluid yes X no X X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X X Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no X Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no Yes X no Yes Yes X no	Operator: Murchison Oil & Gas, Inc. Address: 1100 Mira Vista Blvd., Plano, Facility or well name: Brininstool 4 State 3 API Number: 30-025-41030 U/L or Qtr/Qtr M Section 4 Center of Proposed Design: Latitude	TX 75093-4698 H OCD Permit Number: Pl-o Township 24S Range 33E Cou 23.920" N Longitude	5829
Below-grade tank: Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC Volume: bbl Type of fluid: Tank Construction material:	 Pit: Subsection F, G or J of 19.15.17.11 NM Temporary: Drilling Workover Permanent Emergency Cavitation F Lined Unlined Liner type: Thickness _ String-Reinforced 	P&A ☐ Multi-Well Fluid Management L 20 mil 🛛 LLDPE 🗌 HDPE 🗋 PVC 🗌 Oth	er
Alternative Method: Submittal of an exception request is required. Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.	Below-grade tank: Subsection I of 19.15.17 Volume: bbl Tank Construction material:	luid:] Visible sidewalls, liner, 6-inch lift and automatic o alls only [] Other	verflow shut-off
	Alternative Method:	ceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environme	ental Bureau office for consideration of approval.
Fencing: Subsection D of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (Applies to permanent pits, temporary pits, and below-grade tanks) Chain link, six feet in height, two strands of barbed wire at top (Required if located within 1000 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church) Four foot height, four strands of barbed wire evenly spaced between one and four feet Alternate. Please specify	Fencing: Subsection D of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (A) □ Chain link, six feet in height, two strands of ba institution or church) ☑ ☑ Four foot height, four strands of barbed wire explanation	rbed wire at top (<i>Required if located within 1000 feet</i> wenly spaced between one and four feet	,

State of New Mexico

Form C-144 Revised June 6, 2013

Netting: Subsection E of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (Applies to permanent pits and permanent open top tanks)

Screen Netting Other_

6.

7.

9.

Monthly inspections (If netting or screening is not physically feasible)

Signs: Subsection C of 19.15.17.11 NMAC

12"x 24", 2" lettering, providing Operator's name, site location, and emergency telephone numbers

Signed in compliance with 19.15.16.8 NMAC

Variances and Exceptions:

Justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency are required. Please refer to 19.15.17 NMAC for guidance.

Please check a box if one or more of the following is requested, if not leave blank:

- Variance(s): Requests must be submitted to the appropriate division district for consideration of approval.
- Exception(s): Requests must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

Siting Criteria (regarding permitting): 19.15.17.10 NMAC

Instructions: The applicant must demonstrate compliance for each siting criteria below in the application. Recommendations of acceptable source material are provided below. Siting criteria does not apply to drying pads or above-grade tanks.

General siting	
<u>Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of a low chloride temporary pit or below-grade tank.</u> NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; _ USGS; _ Data obtained from nearby wells	☐ Yes ☐ No ⊠ NA
Ground water is less than 50 feet below the bottom of a Temporary pit, permanent pit, or Multi-Well Fluid Management pit. NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells See Figures 1 & 2	☐ Yes ⊠ No ☐ NA
 Within incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended. (Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 5 Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality 	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
 Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. (Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 7 Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division 	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
 Within an unstable area. (Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 8 Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map 	🗋 Yes 🛛 No
Within a 100-year floodplain. (Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 9 - FEMA map	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
Below Grade Tanks	
 Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, significant watercourse, lake bed, sinkhole, wetland or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	🗋 Yes 🗌 No
 Within 200 horizontal feet of a spring or a fresh water well used for public or livestock consumption;. NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	🗌 Yes 🗋 No
Temporary Pit using Low Chloride Drilling Fluid (maximum chloride content 15,000 mg/liter)	
 Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or any other significant watercourse or within 200 feet of any lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). (Applies to low chloride temporary pits.) Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	Yes 🗌 No
Within 300 feet from a occupied permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.	🗌 Yes 🗌 No
- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image	
Within 200 horizontal feet of a spring or a private, domestic fresh water well used by less than five households for domestic or stock watering purposes, or 300feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of the initial application. NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	🗋 Yes 🗌 No

 Within 100 feet of a wetland. US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	Yes No
Temporary Pit Non-low chloride drilling fluid	
 Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or any other significant watercourse, or within 200 feet of any lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). See Figure 3 Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
 Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image. See Figure 4 	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
 Within 500 horizontal feet of a spring or a private, domestic fresh water well used by less than five households for domestic or stock watering purposes, or 1000 feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in the existence at the time of the initial application; NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site See Figures 1 & 2 	🗋 Yes 🛛 No
 Within 300 feet of a wetland. See Figure 6 US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
<u>Permanent Pit or Multi-Well Fluid Management Pit</u>	
 Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse, or lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	🗌 Yes 🗌 No
 Within 1000 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image 	🗌 Yes 🗌 No
 Within 500 horizontal feet of a spring or a fresh water well used for domestic or stock watering purposes, in existence at the time of initial application. NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	🗌 Yes 🗌 No
Within 500 feet of a wetland. - US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	🗌 Yes 🗌 No
10. Temporary Pits, Emergency Pits, and Below-grade Tanks Permit Application Attachment Checklist: Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NM Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the doct attached. □ Hydrogeologic Report (Below-grade Tanks) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC ○ Hydrogeologic Data (Temporary and Emergency Pits) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (2) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC ○ Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC ○ Design Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC ○ Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC ○ Closure Plan (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.1 and 19.15.17.13 NMAC □ Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design) API Number: or Permit Number:	<i>uments are</i> NMAC 5.17.9 NMAC
Multi-Well Fluid Management Pit Checklist: Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the doct attached. Design Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC A List of wells with approved application for permit to drill associated with the pit. Closure Plan (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.1 and 19.15.17.13 NMAC Hydrogeologic Data - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.10 NMAC Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design) API Number:	15.17.9 NMAC

12. <u>Permanent Pits Permit Application Checklist</u> : Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the	documents are
attached. Hydrogeologic Report - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC Climatological Factors Assessment Certified Engineering Design Plans - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC Dike Protection and Structural Integrity Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC Leak Detection Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC Quality Control/Quality Assurance Construction and Installation Plan Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC Nuisance or Hazardous Odors, including H ₂ S, Prevention Plan Emergency Response Plan Oil Field Waste Stream Characterization Monitoring and Inspection Plan Erosion Control Plan Closure Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC	
<u>Proposed Closure</u> : 19.15.17.13 NMAC Instructions: Please complete the applicable boxes, Boxes 14 through 18, in regards to the proposed closure plan.	
Type: Drilling Workover Emergency Cavitation P&A Permanent Pit Below-grade Tank Multi-well F	luid Management Pit
Proposed Closure Method: Waste Excavation and Removal Waste Removal (Closed-loop systems only)	
 On-site Closure Method (Only for temporary pits and closed-loop systems) In-place Burial On-site Trench Burial 	
Alternative Closure Method	
Waste Excavation and Removal Closure Plan Checklist: (19.15.17.13 NMAC) Instructions: Each of the following items must be closure plan. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached. Protocols and Procedures - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Confirmation Sampling Plan (if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number (for liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings) Soil Backfill and Cover Design Specifications - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC	
15. Siting Criteria (regarding on-site closure methods only): 19.15.17.10 NMAC	
Instructions: Each siting criteria requires a demonstration of compliance in the closure plan. Recommendations of acceptable sour provided below. Requests regarding changes to certain siting criteria require justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency. F 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance.	
Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of the buried waste. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	□ Yes ⊠ No □ NA
Ground water is between 25-50 feet below the bottom of the buried waste - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	□ Yes ⊠ No □ NA
 Ground water is more than 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste. NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells 	Yes 🗌 No
 Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse, lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	🗋 Yes 🛛 No
 Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image 	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
 Within 300 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring used for domestic or stock watering purposes, in existence at the time of initial application. NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	🗋 Yes 🛛 No
Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
Within 300 feet of a wetland. US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
Within incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance	

 adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended. Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality 								
	🗌 Yes 🖾 No							
 Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division 	🗌 Yes 🛛 No							
Within an unstable area. - Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological								
Society; Topographic map	🗌 Yes 🛛 No							
Within a 100-year floodplain. - FEMA map	🗌 Yes 🛛 No							
16. On-Site Closure Plan Checklist: (19.15.17.13 NMAC) Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the closure plan. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached. Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC Proof of Surface Owner Notice - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection E of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Construction/Design Plan of Burial Trench (if applicable) based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection K of 19.15.17.11 NMAC Construction/Design Plan of Temporary Pit (for in-place burial of a drying pad) - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Protocols and Procedures - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Confirmation Sampling Plan (if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Waste Material Sampling Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Waste Material Sampling Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H o								
17. Operator Application Certification:								
I hereby certify that the information submitted with this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and b	elief.							
Name (Print): Greg Boans Title: Production Superintend	lent							
Signature: Date: Date: September 10, 2013								
e-mail address: gboans@jdmii.com Telephone:(575) 361-4962								
18. OCD Approval: Permit Application (including closure plan) Closure Plan (only) OCD Conditions (see attachment) OCD Representative Signature:								
OCD Representative Signature:	3113							
Title: Environmental Specialist OCD Permit Number: P1-05829	3113							
Environmental Specialist OCD Permit Number: P1-05829 19. Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion): 19.15.17.13 NMAC Instructions: Operators are required to obtain an approved closure plan prior to implementing any closure activities and submitted The closure report is required to be submitted to the division within 60 days of the completion of the closure activities. Please do the section of the form until an approved closure plan has been obtained and the closure activities have been completed.	ng the closure report.							
Environmental Specialist OCD Permit Number: P1-05829 19. Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion): 19.15.17.13 NMAC Instructions: Operators are required to obtain an approved closure plan prior to implementing any closure activities and submitted The closure report is required to be submitted to the division within 60 days of the completion of the closure activities. Please do the section of the form until an approved closure plan has been obtained and the closure activities have been completed.	ng the closure report.							
Environmental Specialist OCD Permit Number: P1-05829 19. Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion): 19.15.17.13 NMAC Instructions: Operators are required to obtain an approved closure plan prior to implementing any closure activities and submitted The closure report is required to be submitted to the division within 60 days of the completion of the closure activities. Please do the section of the form until an approved closure plan has been obtained and the closure activities have been completed.	ng the closure report. tot complete this							

22. Operator Closure Certification:

	bmitted with this closure report is true, accurate and complete to the bes pplicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved	
Name (Print):	Title:	
Signature:	Date:	
e-mail address:	Telephone:	

Distance to Groundwater

Figure 1, Figure 2, and the discussion presented below demonstrates that groundwater (fresh water as defined by NMOCD Rules) at the location is greater than 50 feet beneath the temporary pit.

Figure 1 is an area geologic and topographic map that shows:

- 1. The location of the temporary pit as an orange square.
- 2. Water wells from the OSE database as a blue triangle inside colored circles that indicate well depth. Please note, OSE wells are often miss-located in the WATERS database as older wells are plotted in the center of the quarter, quarter, quarter, of the Section Township and Range.
- 3. Water wells from the USGS database as large green triangles.
- 4. Water wells, which are not documented in the public databases but were identified by field inspection or other published reports as colored squares.
- 5. The depth-to-water from the most recent available measurement for each well is provided adjacent to the well symbol.

Figure 2 is an area topographic map that shows:

- 1. The location of the temporary pit as an orange square.
- 2. Water wells with the same symbols as those shown in Figure 1.
- 3. The date of the most recent depth-to-water measurement for each water well and the identifier number of the well.

Geology

The proposed temporary pit is located on exposures of Quaternary Age eolian and piedmont deposits (Qe/Qp on Figure 1). These deposits are a thin covering of the underlying Tertiary Ogallala Formation or, in some places, the redbeds of the Dockum Group. The Ogallala Formation consists primarily of sand with some clay, silt and gravel, generally capped by caliche. Based on information from Ground-Water Report 6 (GWR-6) *Geology and Ground-Water Conditions in Southern Lea County, New Mexico* by Alexander Nicholson and Alfred Clebsch (1961), the top of the redbeds in the area is about 3600 above sea level (see Plate 1 of GWR-6). Because the location lies at an elevation of 3636.3, Ogallala Formation, if it is present, must be less than 36 feet thick (3636-3600). This thickness estimate based upon published data agrees very well with the data collected from the Mogi 9 State 1h rathole (see attached Mogi 9 State 1H Rat Hole Evaluation).

Topographically, the site lies immediately outside of the northwestern boundary of the Bell Lake Sink, a 2-mile wide circular depression (see Figures 2 and 3). This and other nearby depressions have been described as an ancient collapse feature (breccia pipes) associated with the removal of salt due to upward groundwater flow from the Capitan Reef¹. Approximately 70 feet of topographic relief is present from the bottom of the sink to the proposed location of the well

¹ <u>http://nmgs.nmt.edu/publications/guidebooks/downloads/57/57_p0233_p0242.pdf</u>

Siting Criteria (19.15.17.10 NMAC) Murchison Oil and Gas: Brininstool 4 State 3H

(3636-3563=73). The deepest point of the sink is approximately 1/2 mile to the southeast of the site and is about 200 feet north and 5 feet below the site of the Bell Lake Windmill on Figure 3.

Water Table Elevation

Twelve water wells were identified on Figures 1 and 2 to determine the water table elevation below the temporary pit. We also employed data from the Mogi 9 State 1H rathole, located 1 mile south of the proposed pit.

Four of these eleven wells appear on more than one database. They include eleven listings from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) database – note that 2430, 2431 and 2432 are measurements taken from one well and C 2275 and C 2276 appear to be one well. Two wells are derived from the USGS database (one of which are also on the OSE database and in Open File Report 95). Four wells described in Open File Report No. 95 (OFR-95) and GWR-6; two of these four are also listed in the OSE database and one is in the USGS database. A summary of the available water well data is provided on the table below. One well (Bell Lake Windmill on Figure 3) was inspected in the field as plugged and abandoned and not listed in the Table.

A depth to water measurement for Well Misc. 11 is reported in Open File Report OFR-95; but the reported data is a mis-reading of data in GWR-6; therefore no depth to water data are available in publications.

		v	Vell L	ocatio	n			Well Source Information					Groundwater Elevation Data								
Well Numbers	Township (south)	Range (east)	Section	Quar (64,	ter Se 16,		NM-OSE Database	USGS Database	Open File Rpt. 95	GW Report No. 6	USGS Topo Sheet	Aerial Photograph	Field Verification	Surface Elevation (published)	Surface Elevation (Topo Sheet)	Well Total Depth (published)	Depth to Water (published)	Groundwater Elev. (published)	Groundwater Elev. (using topo elev.)	Gauging Date	Alias ID
C 2216	23	32	21	2	2	4	~				1				3670	585	400		3085	12/31/1912	
C 2275	23	33	19	3	1	4	,				1				3700	650	400		3300	12/31/1957	
C 2276	23	33	19	3	1	1	1		ļ						3700	650	400		3300	1/1/1958	
C 2277	23	33	20	2	2	4	1				1				3685	550	400		3285	12/31/1974	
C 02284	23	33	26	4	2	4	1				1				3635	325.0	225.0		3,310	12/31/1919	
15	23	33	28	3	4	4	1		1		1	1	1	3675		575.0	500.0	3175.0		12/12/9999	C 2279
C 02278	23	33	28	2	4	3	1		<u> </u>			- <u>-</u> -	I.,		3685	650.0	400.0		3,035	12/31/1981	
C 02279	23	33	28	3	4	3	1		ļ		1	1	1		3675	650.0	400.0	-	3,025	12/31/1981	Misc. 15
<u>C 02280</u>	23	33	28	4	2	3	1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>				<u>/</u>		3678	650.0	400.0		3,028	12/31/1981	
C 02281	23	33	28	4	4	3	1	<u> </u>					1	2660	3685	545.0	400.0		3,140	12/31/1944	
432	24 24	32 32	3 10	3	2	2			1	1	1	1		3660 3589		500.0	19.4	3570	3660	2/7/2006	
432 445	24	32	10	1	3	4			1		1	1		3589			22.1	3570		3/13/1996	C 2308, Misc. 18
18	24	33	10	-1	3	4		1	1		1	-	1	3589		40.0	22.1	3567.0	-	5/23/2012	USGS-445, C 2308
C 02308	24	33	10	1	3	1	1	· /	1		1		1	5505	3589	40.0	20.0	3307.0	3,549	6/30/1920	USGS-445, Misc. 18
C 02308	24	33	16	3	3	3		-	- -		1		1		3572	643.0	415.0		2,929	12/31/1920	C 2431, 2432
C 02430	24	33	17	4	4	4	1				1		1		3572	525.0	415.0		3,047	12/31/1982	C2430, 2432
C 02431	24	33	17	4	4	4			<u> </u>		1		1		3572	640.0	415.0		2,932	12/31/1980	C 2430, 2431
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✓ Indicates well					es well		fied, a	nd ir	ndicate	s no at	ttempt	to veri	fv				/				

 Indicates well was verified, (plank) indicates well not verified, and -- indicates no attempt to Indicates wells completed in the (deeper) Triassic aquifer, based on groundwater elevation

Table 1 – Groundwater Data

Visual inspections of questionable wells were performed to verify the information provided by the public records and published reports. Initially, an attempt was made to identify each well using USGS topographic maps. The surface elevations of wells identified on the maps were

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compared to the published surface elevation, if available. Wells that could not be verified using maps were searched for using current and historic satellite photographs in an effort to identify windmills, tanks, or roads associated with the well. Locations that could not be verified by maps or photographs were verified in the field. Attempts were also made to gauge wells during the field investigation when access was permitted. The results of the field inspections are summarized as follows:

- Six of the 14 water wells were physically located by field inspection.
- Water well #18 (445, C2308) was accessed on October 10, 2012 and the depth-to-water was measured at 22 feet below ground surface.
- Water well #C2279 (#15) is a windmill at the Ranch Headquarters.
- Water wells C2280 and C2281 are abandoned/plugged
- At the three-well cluster shown as C2430-C2432, we identified only one operational well in the field
- The Bell Lake Windmill, which is not on the Table but is identified on the topographic map is plugged and abandoned

Hydrogeology

GWR-6 (1961) indicates that Ogallala groundwater is not present as a regional aquifer within the Bell Lake area, although the Bell Lake Windmill and wells #18 and #432 obviously tap a shallow water table associated with the collapse features described above. The lack of a regional water table aquifer described in GWR-6 is borne out in the data from well #12, located about 2.5 miles east-southeast from the proposed pit. Here the water supply well spuds on Ogallala Formation (To), is drilled to a total depth of 232 feet and records a water level of 208.7 feet below land surface (see Table 1). The water level in well #12 lies below the projected bottom of the Ogallala Formation. All wells outside of ancient collapse features record water levels below the projected base of the Ogallala and tap water-bearing units within the red beds (Dockum Group). Based on the depth-to-water measurements (published and recent) the regional groundwater (Triassic Santa Rosa Formation) is present across the area at an elevation below 3,150 feet.

Within the Bell Lake Sink are two water supply wells (see Figure 3), the plugged Bell Lake Windmill and the abandoned (but open casing) Bell Well. The water level in the abandoned Bell Well is 22 feet below grade at a projected elevation of 3568 (3590-22). Obviously this water level is highly localized because the surface elevation at Bell Lake is 3562 (about 5-feet lower than the Bell Lake Windmill) and the lake holds no water. The horizontal limit of groundwater within the Bell Lake Sink is also documented by the hydrogeologic logging conducted at the Mogi 9 State 1H site (see attached Mogi 9 State 1H Rat Hole Evaluation).

The hydrologic and geologic data demonstrate that groundwater within the Bell Lake Sink is highly localized. The fact that both water supply wells are abandoned also suggests that groundwater for beneficial use no longer exists in the Sink area. We conclude with a high degree of certainty that groundwater, as defined by OCD Rules, exists beneath the Brinninstool 4 State 3H site only in the Triassic Dockum Group redbeds at a depth of about 400 feet.

Distance to Surface Water

Figure 3 and the site visit demonstrates that the location is not within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse or lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).

- The nearest topographic low area is the Bell Lake Sink located southeast of the location. Neither Bell lake nor excavated areas south of Bell Lake contained surface water on the day of the inspection. Our examination of Google Earth images suggests the excavated areas south of the lakebed contained water periodically from 1996 to 2012. Bell Lake, however, did not exhibit evidence of surface water during this period.
- A watercourse is mapped about 1000 feet east of the proposed temporary pit
- No other watercourses, as defined by NMOCD Rules, or water bodies exist with 300-feet of the location
- The Bell Lake Sink is an ancient collapse feature but is not considered a sinkhole as typically used in NMOCD Rules.

Distance to Permanent Residence or Structures

Figure 4 and the site visit demonstrates that the location is not within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, church, or other structure in existence at the time of initial application.

• The nearest structures are tank batteries and a corral.

Distance to Non-Public Water Supply

Figures 1 and Figure 2 demonstrates that the location is not within 500 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring that less than five households use for domestic or stock watering purposes, or within 1000 horizontal feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of initial application.

- Figure 1 and 2 show the locations of all area water; the nearest active water wells are located approximately 1.5 miles north and 1.5 miles south. There are no known domestic water wells located within 1000 feet of the location.
- No springs were identified within the mapping area.

Distance to Municipal Boundaries and Fresh Water Fields

Figure 5 demonstrates that the location is not within incorporated municipal boundaries or defined municipal fresh water well fields covered under a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended.

- The closest municipality is Jal, NM approximately 28 miles to the southeast.
- The closest public well field is located approximately 50 miles to the west.

Distance to Wetlands

Figure 6 demonstrates the location is not within 500 feet of wetlands.

• The nearest designated wetlands is a "Freshwater Pond" located approximately 1/2 mile to the southeast (Bell Lake area excavations).

Siting Criteria (19.15.17.10 NMAC) Murchison Oil and Gas: Brininstool 4 State 3H

Distance to Subsurface Mines

Figure 7 and our general reconnaissance of the area demonstrate that the nearest mines are caliche pits.

• The nearest caliche pit is located approximately 5 miles to the southwest.

Distance to High or Critical Karst Areas

Figure 8 shows the location of the temporary pits with respect BLM Karst areas

- The proposed temporary pit is located within a "low" potential karst area.
- The nearest "high" or "critical" potential karst area is located approximately 18 miles west of the site.
- No evidence of solution voids were observed near the site during the field inspection.
- No evidence of unstable ground was observed in Bell Lake Sink

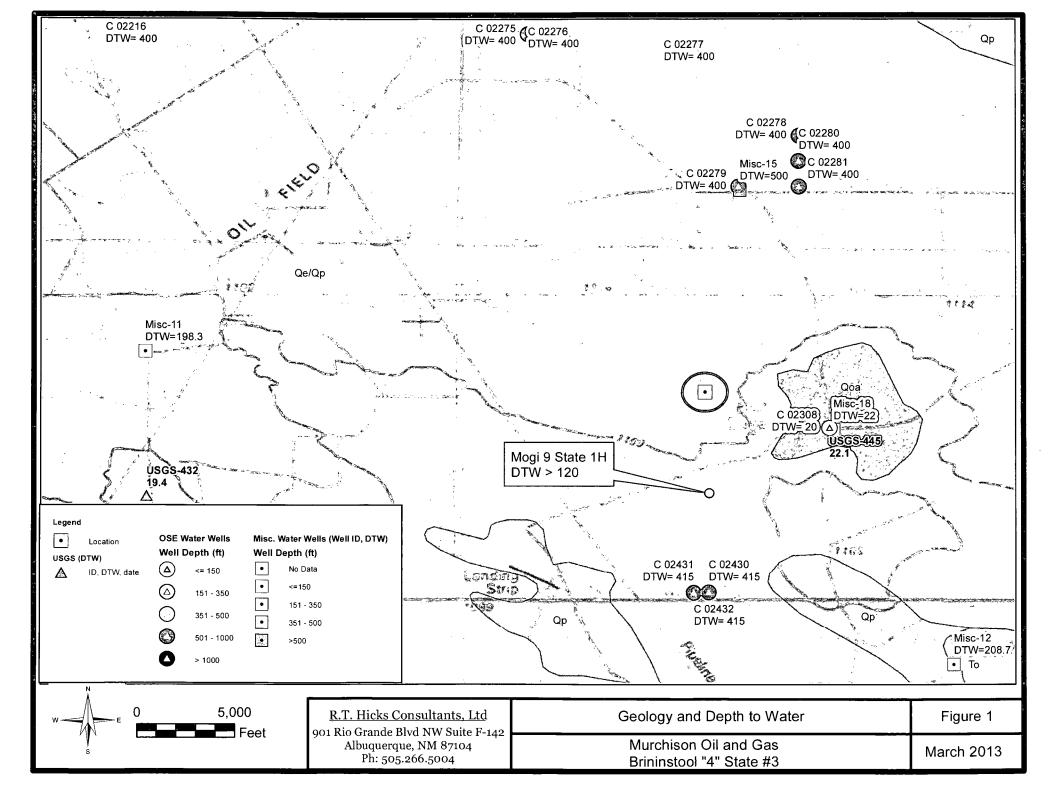
Distance to 100-Year Floodplain

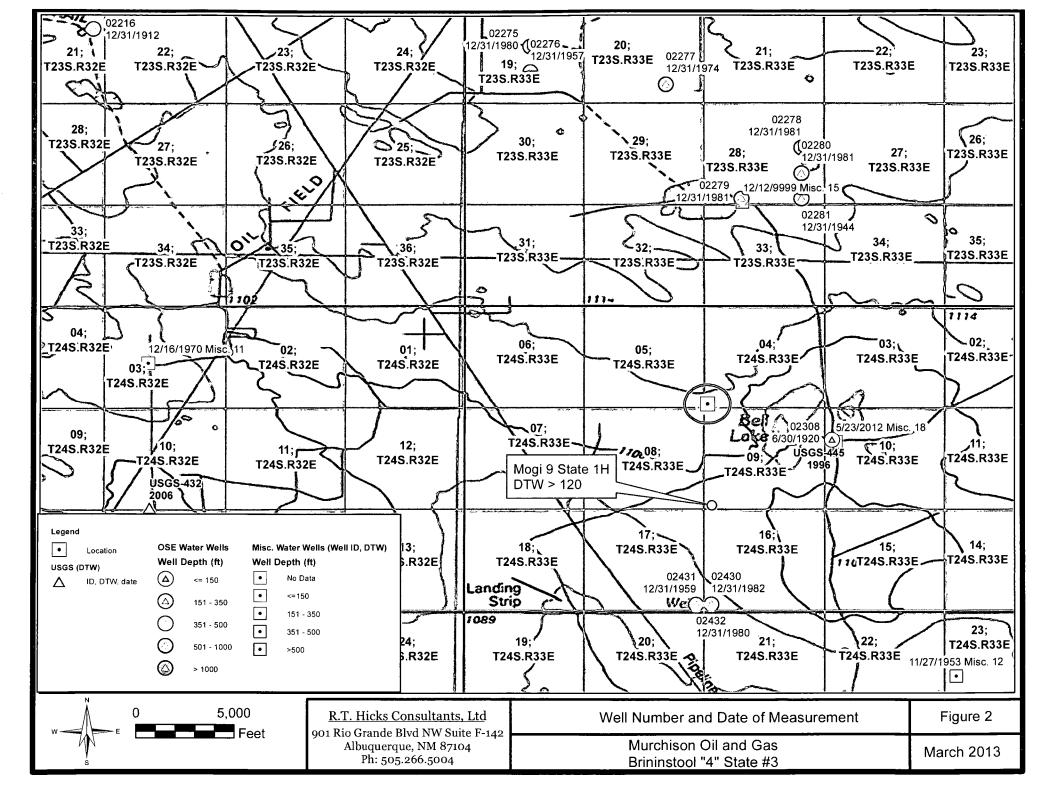
Figure 9 demonstrates that the location is within an area that has not yet been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency with respect to the Flood Insurance Rate 100-Year Floodplain.

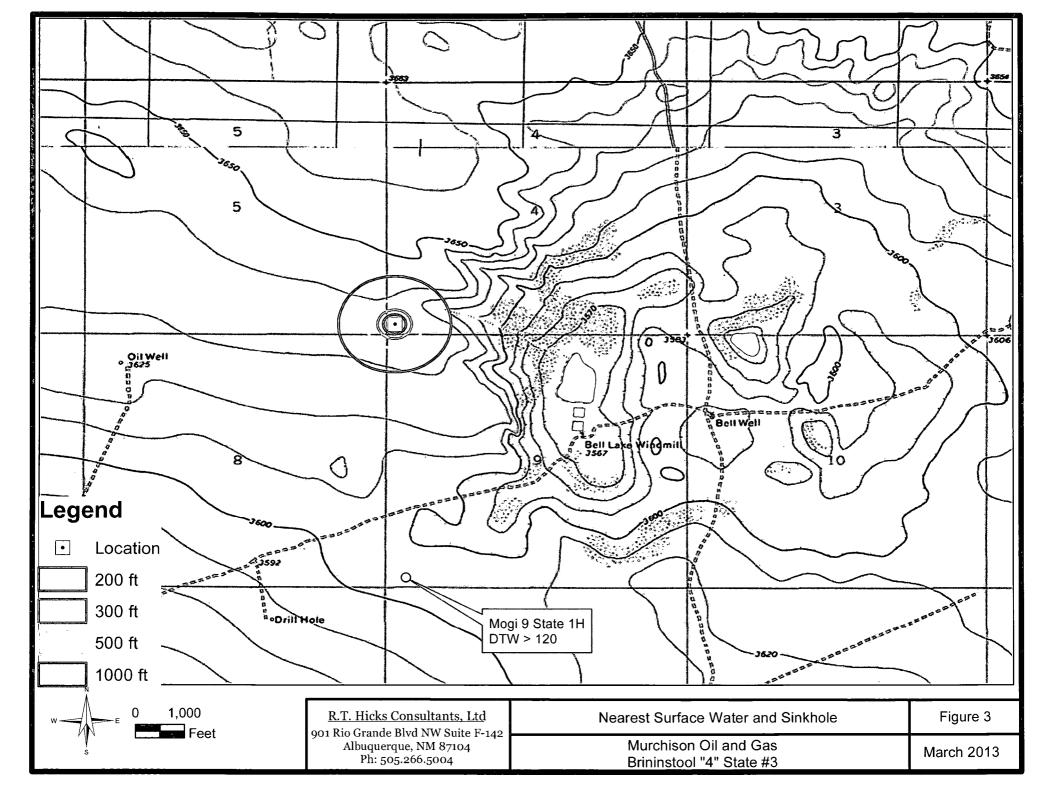
- Areas that are not mapped are generally considered minimal flood risk
- Our field inspection and examination of the topography permits a conclusion that the location is not within any floodplain

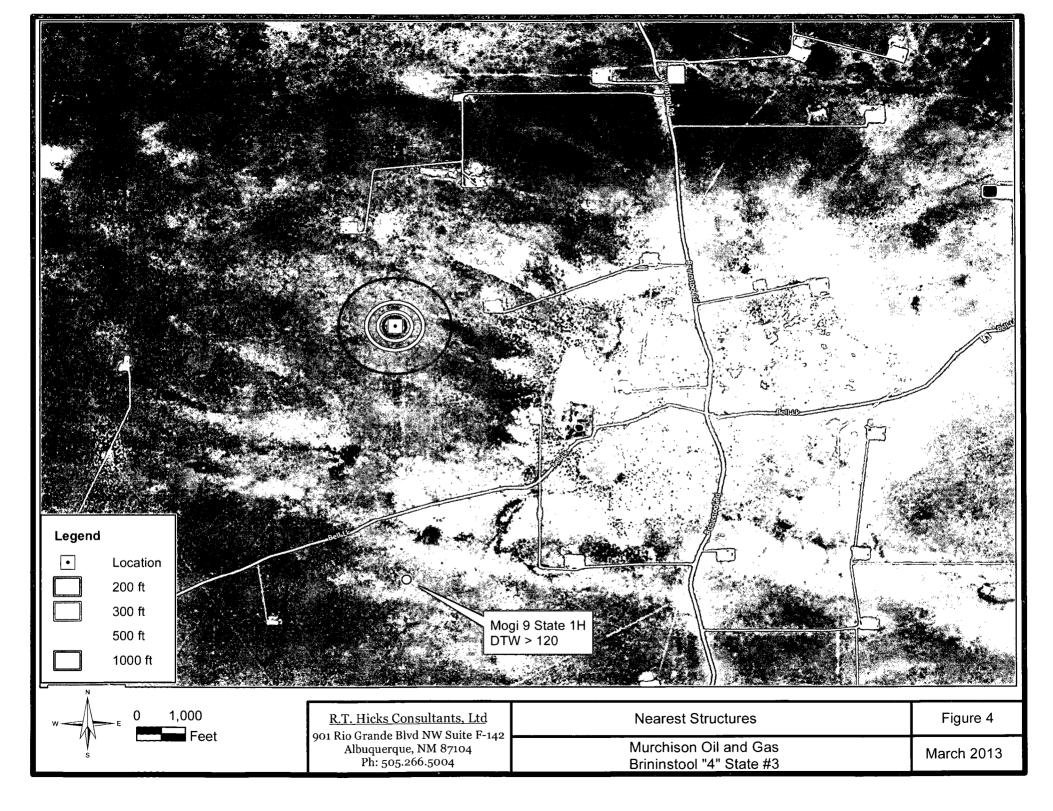
Temporary Pit Design

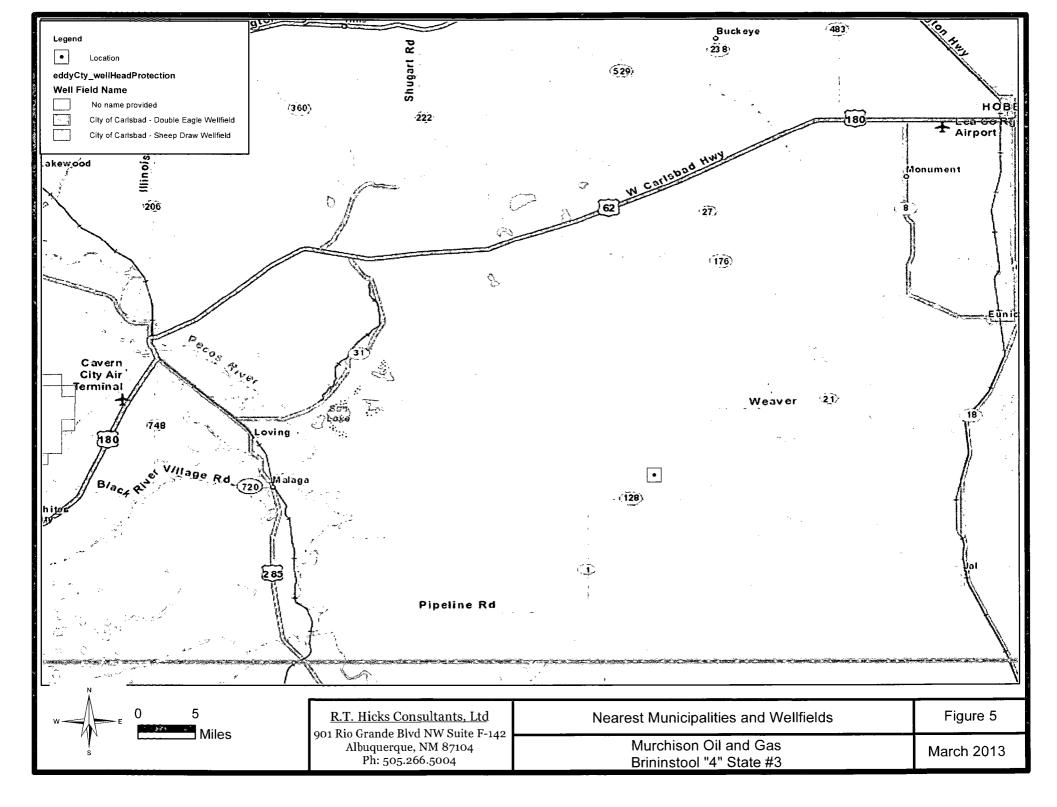
Please refer to Plates 1a, 1b and 1c for the design of the temporary pit and the Design and Construction Plan at the end of this application.

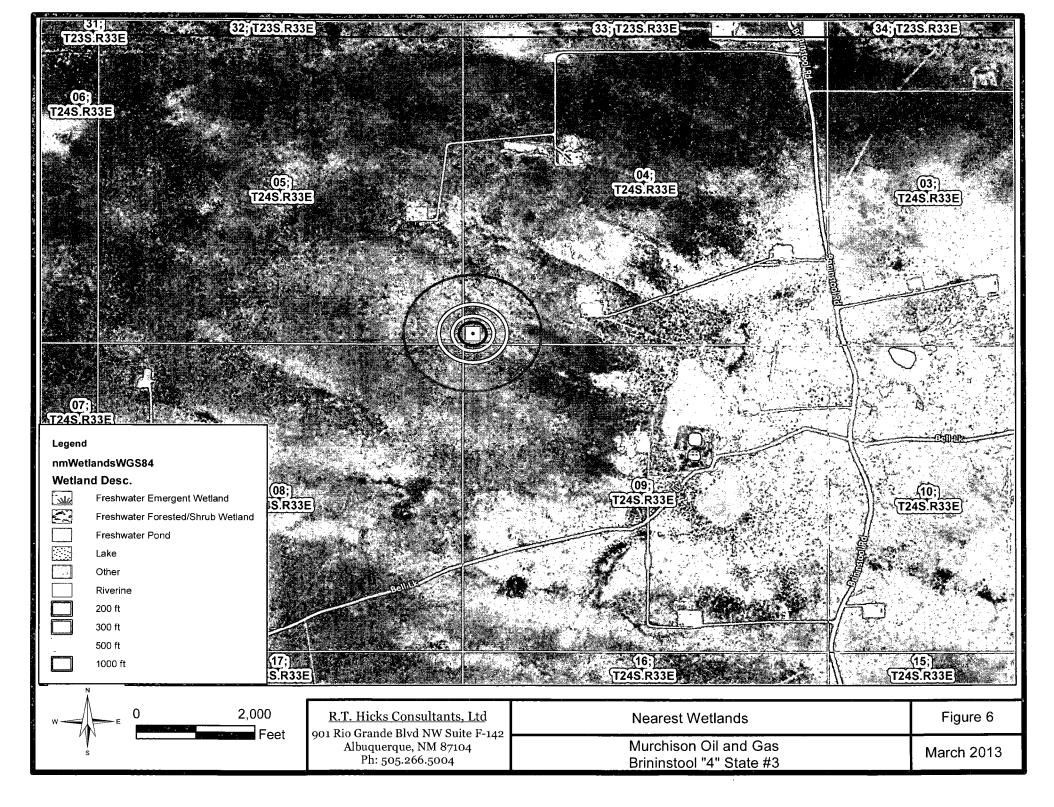






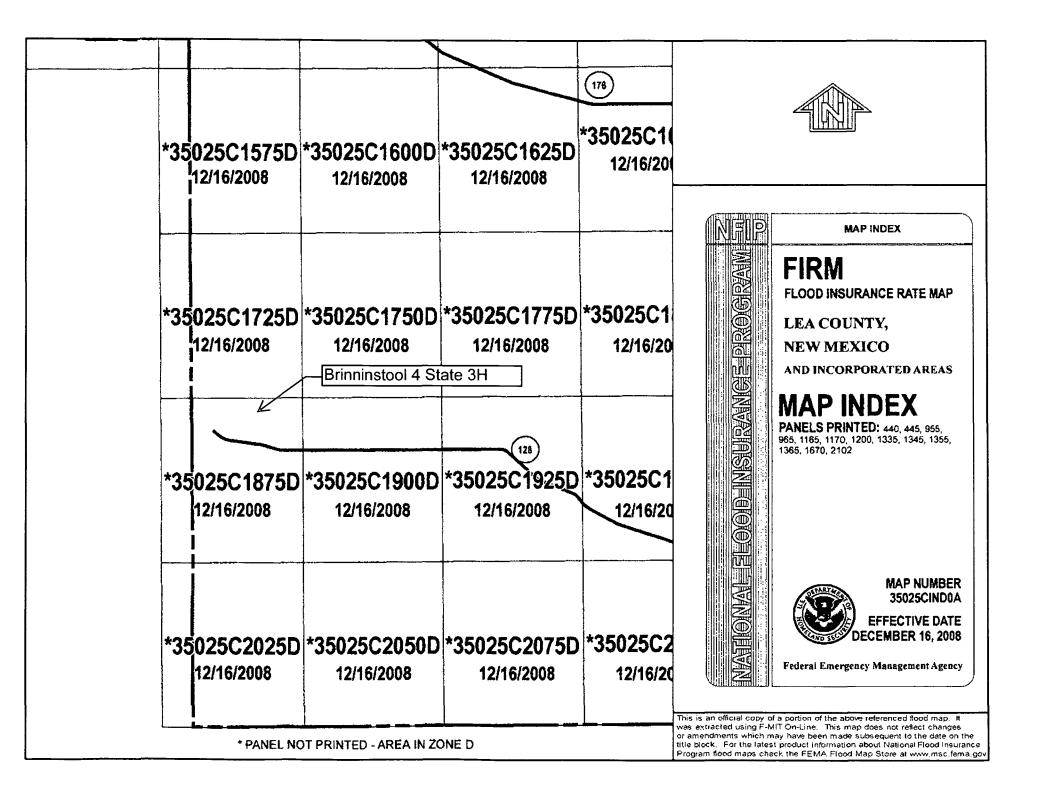






25; T23S.R32E 26; T23S.R32E	30; T23S.R33E	29; T23S.R33E	28; T23S.R33E	27; T23S.R33E	26; T23S.R33E	25; T23S.R33E
36; 35; T23S.R32E T23S.R32E	31; T23S.R33E	32; T23S.R33E	33; T23S.R33E	34; T23S.R33E	35; T23S.R33E	36; T23S.R33E
02; T24S.R32E 01; T24S.R32E	06; T24S.R33E	05; T24S.R33E	04; T24S.R33E	03; T24S.R33E	02; T24S.R33E	01; T24S.R33E
O 11; T24S.R32E 12; T24S.R32E	07; T24S.R33E	08; T24S.R33E	09; T24S.R33E	10; T24S.R33E	11; T24S.R33E	12; T24S.R33E
14; T24S.R32E 13; T24S.R32E	18; T24S.R33E	17; T24S.R33E	16; T24S.R33E	15; T24S.R33E	14; T24S.R33E	13; T24S.R33E
Location Potash District MILS Database SURFACE	19; T24S.R33E	20; T24S.R33E	21; T24S.R33E	2; T24S.R33E	23; T24S.R33E	24; T24S.R33E
wε 0 2,000 Fe	et 901 Rid	<u>C. Hicks Consultants, Ltd</u> o Grande Blvd NW Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104 Ph: 505.266.5004	Mu	Nearest Mines rchison Oil and Gas hinstool "4" State #3		Figure 7 March 2013

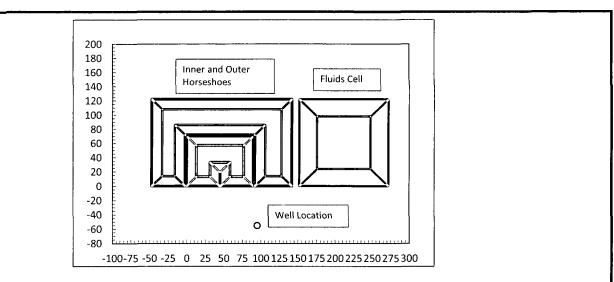
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T24S.R30E	TZAS.R31E		TZAS.R32E	Legend Lo blmCave/K	S.R33E
T25S.R30E	(T25S.R31E)		T25S.R32E		RIT IGH EDIUM DW
		<u>Consultants, Ltd</u> e Blvd NW Suite F-142	BLM Cave/Karst Potential M	ap	Figure 8
s	Albuque	rque, NM 87104 05.266.5004	Murchison Oil and Gas Brininstool "4" State #3		March 2013



Site Specific Information Plates

R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.

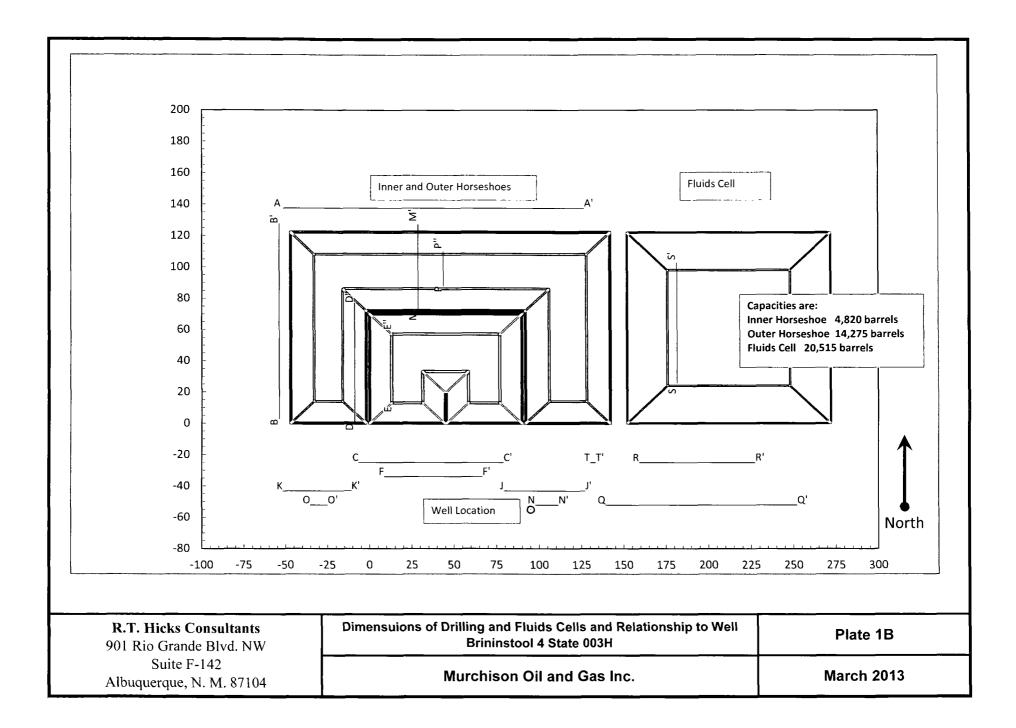
901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104

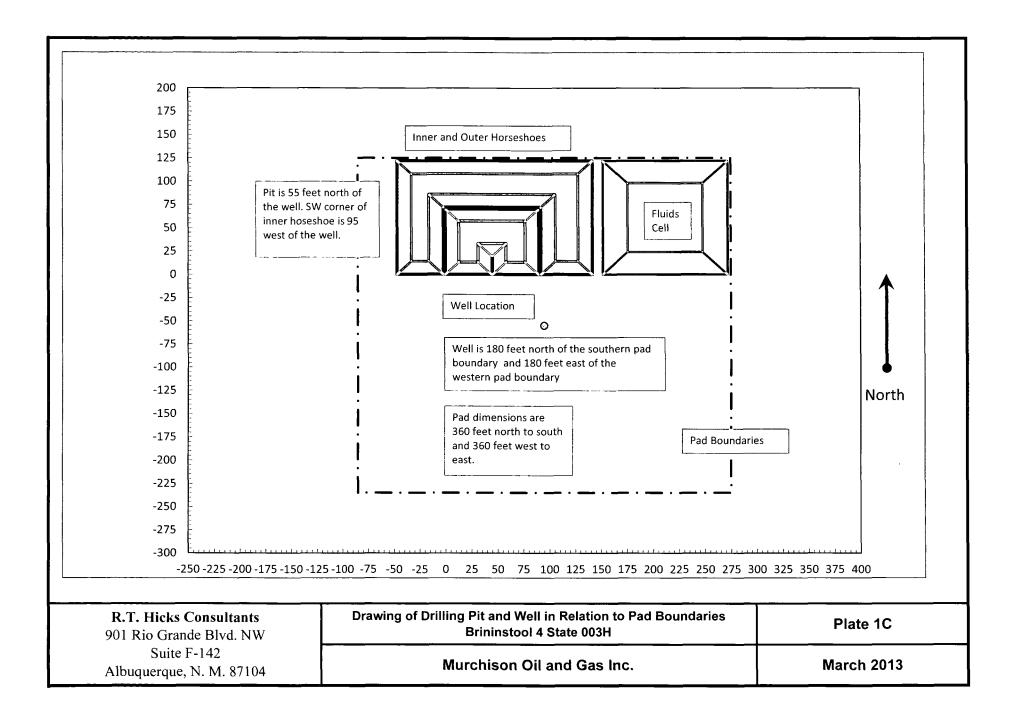


Width refers to East-West dimensions. Length refers to North-South dimensions.

	Total Width of Inner and Outer Horseshoe Cells A - A'	189.0	
Overall Horseshoe Cell	Total Length of Inner and Outer Horseshoe Cells including divider		[feet]
Dimensions	B - B'	122.0	
	Rise over Run for all slopes	2.0	[-]

Suite F-142 guergue, N. M. 87104	Murchison Oil and Gas Inc. March 2		
. Hicks Consultants Rio Grande Blvd. NW	Drilling Pit Dimensions Brininstool 4 State 003H		Plate 1A
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	Divider Width between Drilling Cells and Fluid Cell T - T'	10.0	
	Fluid Cell Length on Floor S - S'	74.0	
Fluid Cell Dimensions	Fluid Cell Width on Floor R - R'	72.0	[feet]
	Fluid Cell Depth	122.0	
	Fluid Cell Width Q - Q' Fluid Cell Length (North to South Dimension)	120.0	
	Outer Horseshoe north side Pit Floor P - P'	22.0	
	Width of Outer Horseshoe west side Pit Floor O - O'	22.0	[feet]
	Width of Outer Horseshoe east side Pit Floor N - N'	17.0	
	Depth of Outer Horseshoe Pit (North Side)	7.0	
Dimensions	Width of Outer Horseshoe Pit (North Side)	189.0	[feet]
Outer Horseshoe Cell	Length of Outer Horseshoe Pit M - M'	50.0	
	Depth of Outer Horseshoe Pit (West Side)	7.0	liceri
	Width of Outer Horseshoe Pit K - K'	45.0	[feet]
	Depth of Outer Horseshoe Pit (East Side)	7.0	[icor]
	Width of Outer Horseshoe Pit J - J'	50.0	[feet]
Divider Dimensions	Width of Divider between Inner and Outer Horseshoe Pits	2.0	[feet]
	Inner Horseshoe Pit Floor Width F - F'	64.0	
	Inner Horseshoe Pit Floor North to South E - E'	44.0	[feet]
Dimensions			
Inner Horseshoe Cell	Depth of Inner Horseshoe Pit	6.5	
	Length of Inner Horseshoe Pit D - D'	70.0	[feet]





Mogi 9 2H Rathole Data

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R. T. HICKS CONSULTANTS, LTD.

901 Rio Grande Blvd NW 🛦 Suite F-142 🛦 Albuquerque, NM 87104 🛦 505.266.5004 🛦 Fax: 505.266-0745

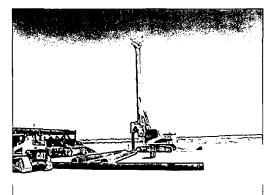
February 28, 2013

Memo: Murchison Oil and Gas, Mogi 9 State Com 1H Rat Hole Evaluation

The Mogi 9 State Com #1H well site has an elevation of 3606 and located 1 mile due south of the Brinninstool 4 State 3H site. The Brinninstool 4 State 3H site is 30 feet higher, with an elevation of 3636.3. The Mogi 9 State Com #1H rat hole location is:

- Lower in elevation than the Brinninstool well site,
- Closer to the center of the Bell Lake depression area
- Closer to the closed topographic contour that defines the edge of the ancient collapse feature

Within the eastern portion of the Bell Lake Sink shallow (Ogallala or Alluvium) groundwater is known to be present at an elevation of 3,566 feet (see Table 1 and Figure 1 in the C-144 application). In the western portion of the Sink, groundwater is likely deeper, as the surface elevation of Bell Lake is about 3565 and the lake is dry. Based on this information it is expected that the shallow groundwater, if present at the Brinninstool 4 State 3H site would be approximately 50 to 70 feet below the surface.



On February 27, 2013 I witnessed the drilling of the rat hole at the Mogi 9 #1H site. Ready Drill LLC of Monahans, Texas performed the work using a track-mounted 30-inch auger drilling rig as shown in the adjacent photograph.

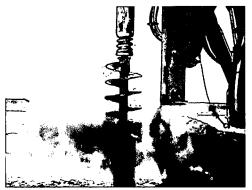
I arrived at the site at 10:30 am and found the operations shut down (waiting on fuel for the drilling rig) with the auger in the hole at a depth of approximately 70 feet. This provided an excellent opportunity to check for any

groundwater that may have accumulated in the bottom of the while the drilling rig was not operational.

At 11:25 am the rig had been re-fueled and the bottom 1 foot was cut, removed, and inspected for possible moisture. The photograph from the 70 to 71-foot depth interval (shown to the right) demonstrates that the soil cuttings were completely dry. Also, a mirror was used to reflect sunlight in to the boring in order to inspect the walls and bottom. There were no indications of water seeps in the walls or an accumulation of water at the total depth.



Over the next 2.5 hours the boring was advanced to a total depth of 120 feet by removing approximately 1 to 1.5 feet of material per trip into the hole. I carefully inspected each auger for the appearance moisture in the soil prior to it being spun off and removed from the drilling pad. Had the slightest indication of moisture been identified in the soil, the operation would have been suspended to allow for the accumulation of measurable water.

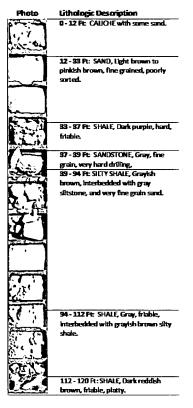


The photograph to the left was taken from the soil recovered at a depth of 98 feet as it is being spun from the auger. This photograph demonstrates the lack of moisture in the cuttings. It is believed that any potential moisture from the bottom or walls of the boring would have been easily identified during the drilling process as each trip into the hole should contact wet soil if it is present at any depth.

During the drilling operations, soil samples

were collected and described as shown on the adjacent log. Based on the evaluation of the cuttings it appears that the Ogallala (or alluvium) is present at least seven feet above the Bell Lake well groundwater elevation. The top of the Triassic is identified by the hard purple shale at a depth of 33 feet and extends to the total depth of the boring.

In light of the geology observed from the rat hole samples and the absence of any detectable moisture throughout the drilling operation, it was determined that the additional costs associated with suspending the installation of the conductor pipe for 24 to 72 hours in order to allow the accumulation of potential groundwater was not justified at this site. Had any moisture been observed during drilling, or had porous rocks been present below the groundwater elevation observed in Bell Lake water wells, the installation of conductor pipe would have been suspended. Based on my observations, I am 100% certain that no groundwater is present at the Brinninstool 3H site to a depth of at least 120 feet below the surface (3,486 feet above sea level).



Based on the location of the two Murchison Brinninstool 3H well location, relative to the Bell Lake Depression, we conclude that no shallow groundwater is present at the Brininstool 4 State 3H site.

Please contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely, R.T. Hicks Consultants

12 and Lattersto

Dale Littlejohn

Survey Information

R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104 District 1 1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs. NM 88240 Phone: (575) 393-6161 Fax: (575) 393-0720 District 11 811 S. First St., Artesia. NM 88210 Phone: (575) 748-1283 Fax: (575) 748-9720 District 111 1000 Rio Brazos Road. Aztec, NM 87410 Phone: (505) 334-6178 Fax: (505) 334-6170 District IV 1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505 Phone: (505) 476-3460 Fax: (505) 476-3462

State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION 1220 South St. Francis Dr. Santa Fe, NM 87505

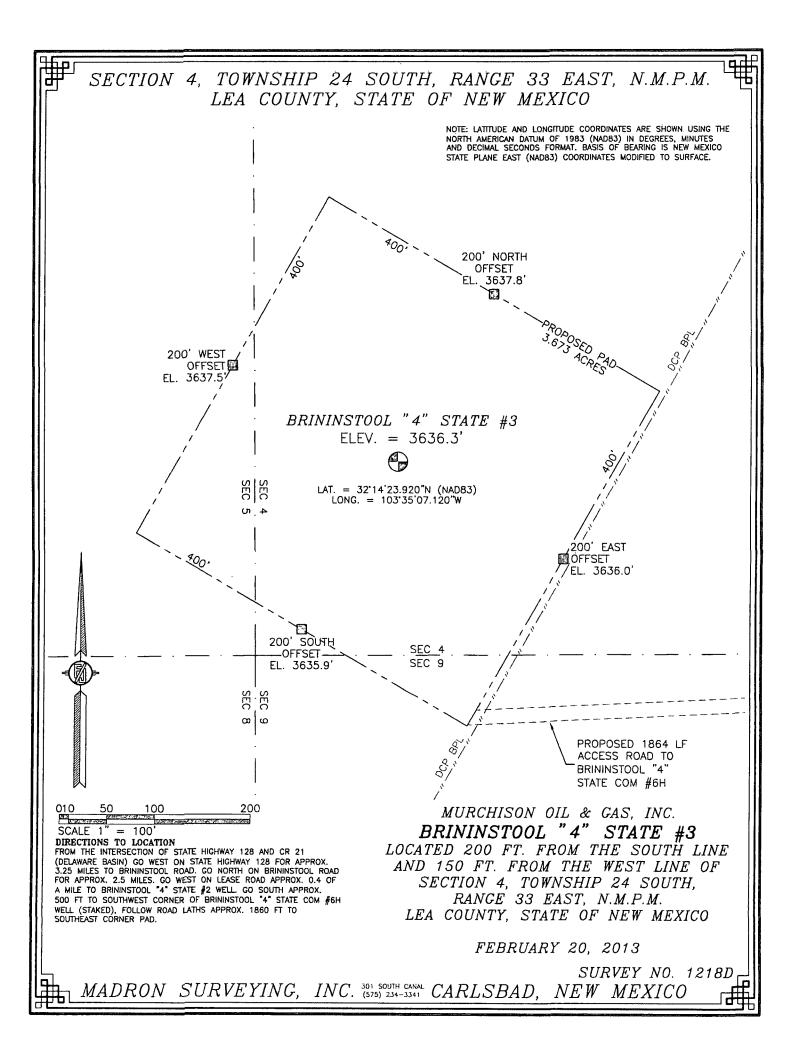
Form C-102 Revised August 1, 2011 Submit one copy to appropriate District Office

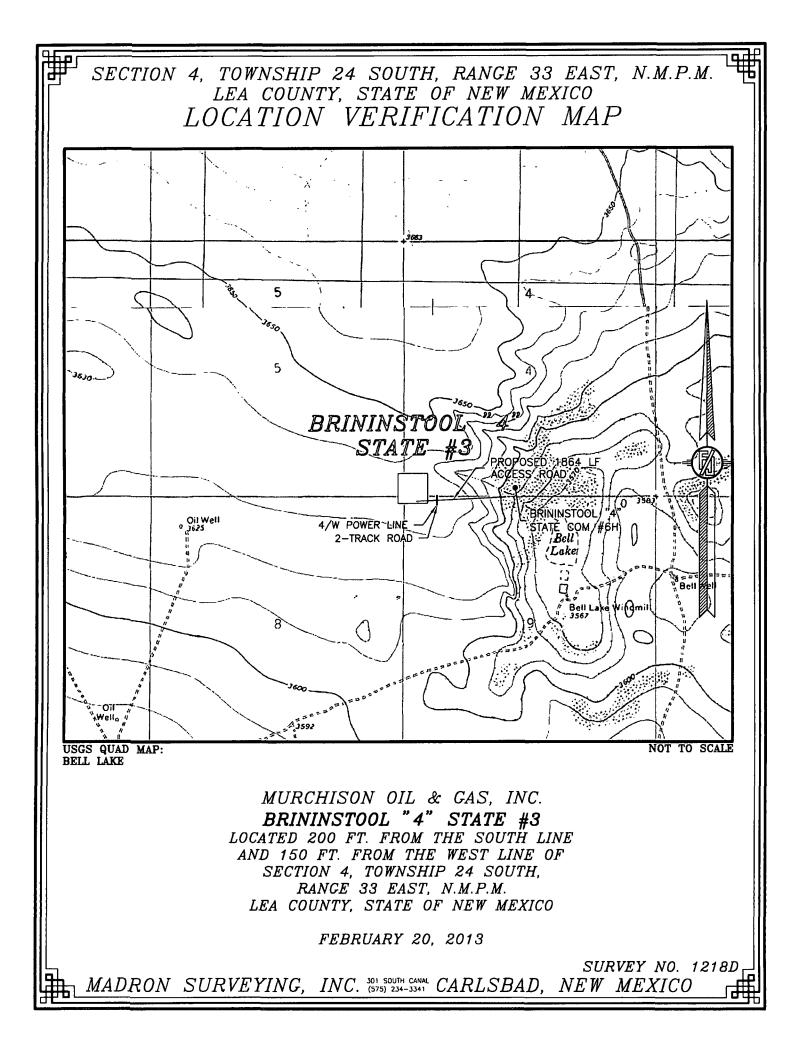
AMENDED REPORT

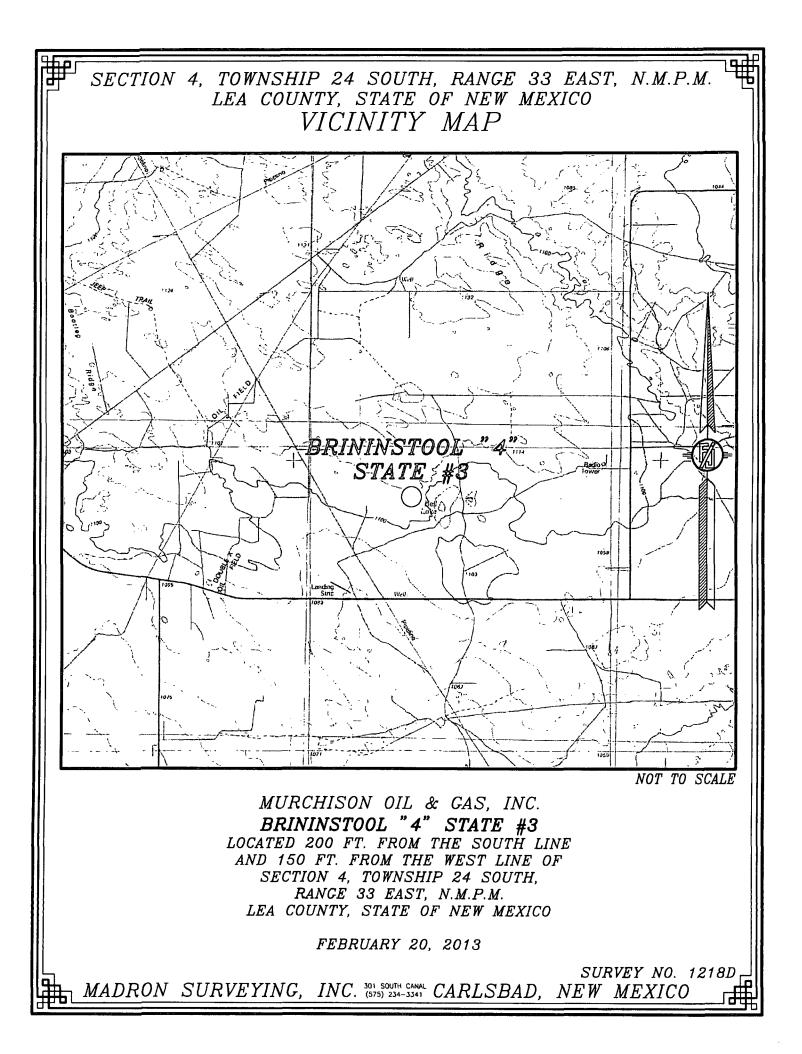
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¹ API Number ² Pool Code ³ Pool Name						me				
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⁷ OGRID	No.				* Operator	Name			⁹ Elevation	
15363 MURCHISON OIL AND GAS, INC. 3							3636.3			
	•				" Surface	Location				
UL or lot no.	Section	Township	Range	Lot Idn	Feet from the	North/South line	Feet from the	East/West line	County	
М	4	24 S	33 E		200	SOUTH	150	WEST	LEA	
			۳E	Bottom H	ole Location	If Different Fro	om Surface			
UL or lot no.	Section	Township	Range	Lot Idn	Feet from the	North/South line	Feet from the	East/West line	County	
4	4	24 S	33 E		330	NORTH	350	WEST	LEA	
Dedicated Acres	s ¹³ Joint 6	r Infill ¹⁴ C	onsolidation	Code ¹⁸ Or	rder No.	L	<u></u>			

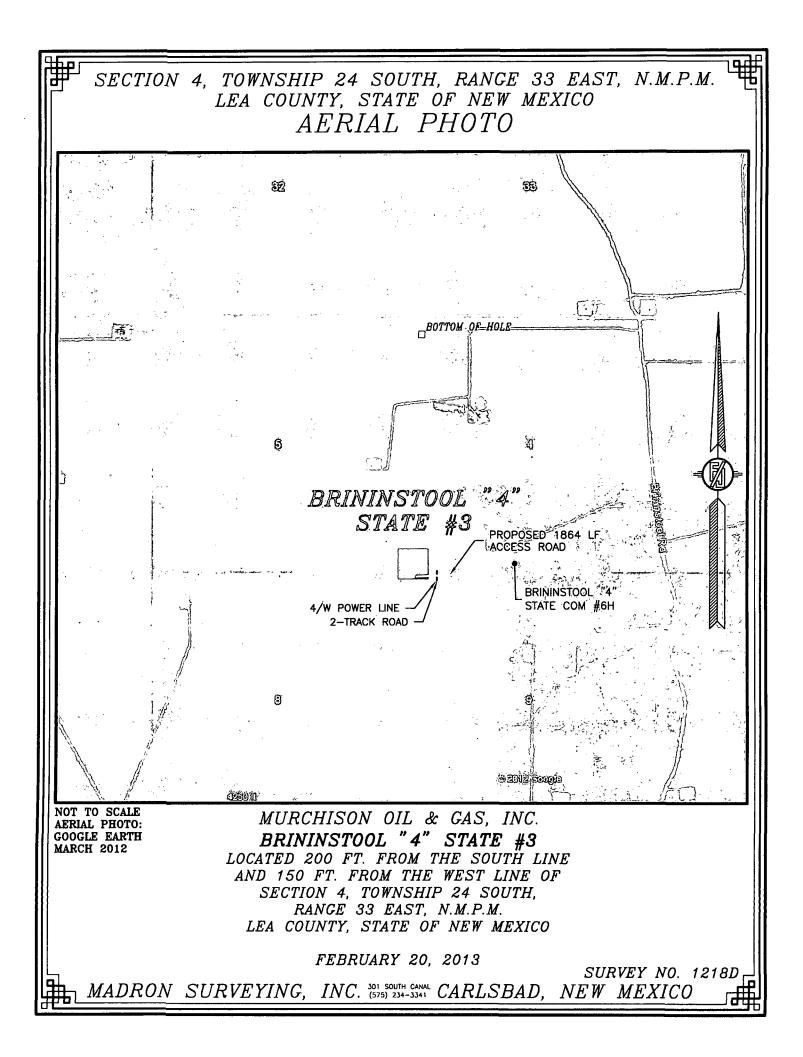
No allowable will be assigned to this completion until all interests have been consolidated or a non-standard unit has been approved by the division.

	S89'40'34"W 2635.19 FT	589' 37'29"W	2639.28 FT		"OPERATOR CERTIFICATION
		UARTER CORNER SEC. 4	NE CORNER SEC. 4		I hereby certify that the information contained herein is true and complete
		AT. = 32'15'14.068"N NG = 103'34'38.200"W	LAT. = 32'15'14.054"N LONG. = 103'34'07.466"W		to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that this organization either
		100 04 20.200 11			owns a working interest or unleased mineral interest in the land including
			,	_	the proposed bottom hole location or has a right to drill this well at this
S	OF HOLE	1	I	N00	location pursuant to a contract with an owner of such a mineral or working
25	BOTTOM OF HOLE		LOT 1	29	interest, or to a voluntary pooling agreement or a compulsory pooling
S00'25'24"E	LAT. = 32'15'10.834" LONG. = 103'35'04.810			۷°.59	order heretofore entered by the division.
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	LONG. = 103'35'08.873'W		LONG. = 103'34'07.417'W	1 1	*SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION
	1				I hereby certify that the well location shown on this
	1	ł	ł		plat was plotted from field notes of actual surveys
So		1	t	N00'29'31	made by me or under my supervision, and that the
S00'24'53"E	1	1	ŧ.	29	
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Ľ	SURFACE LOCATION		1	17	The for the fo
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			LAT. = 32'14'21.792"N LAT. = 103'34'07'372'W		SURVEY NO. 1218D
				L	









Generic Plans for Temporary Pits

R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd. 901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104

Temporary Pit Design/Construction Plan

Plates 1 and 2 show the design of the temporary pit proposed for this project. Field conditions and the drilling rig layout will determine the final configuration of the pit cells, which will consists of the following:

- 1. A cell for drilling fluid circulation and cuttings storage consisting of:
 - a. An inner horseshoe for fresh water fluid and cuttings
 - b. An outer horseshoe for brine and cut brine fluid and cuttings
- 2. A cell for the storage of fresh water (drilling/stimulation) and stimulation flow-back water prior to re-use or disposal (OPTIONAL)

In addition to the commitments listed below, the operator will install a system that can drain water entrained in the drilling waste of the drilling pit. As described in the closure plan, this system of filtered perforated pipe and drainage mats lie on the bottom of the drilling cell of the pit – the cut brine cell and the inner cell. The system will drain to the lowest corner of each cell, generally near the suction area. The exact location will be determined upon completion of the cells. Standpipes rise from the depression and can house a solar-powered pump. The drainage system for the brine-cut brine cell removes water to an above-ground tank, the fluids cell of the pit, or directly to a truck for re-use or disposal. The drainage system in the cut brine-brine cell may also be used to introduce water below the residual cuttings/mud, causing the introduced fluid to move upwards through the cuttings/mud and enhance the solids rinsing process. Introduced water to the cut brine-brine cell can be removed from the pit for re-use via a vacuum truck or recovered from the drainage system at the bottom.

The temporary storage of fluids, fluid reuse or fluid disposal will be conducted in a manner approved by division rules that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment. This drainage and rinsing system allows the operator to:

- Recover clear water for possible re-use
- Reduce the concentration of constituents of concern in the drilling waste by removing some water entrained in the drilling waste.

Precipitation and the possible addition of relatively fresh water (see closure plan) will rinse the solid drilling waste, causing additional reduction in the constituents of concern as the water is recovered for re-use or disposal.

For any temporary storage of fluids derived from the drilling pit and placed in an above-ground tank, the following will apply:

- 1. Construction, operation and maintenance of the temporary storage tank(s) will adhere to all applicable NMOCD Rules including but not limited to:
 - a. Safety stipulations
 - b. Protection from hydrogen sulfide mandates
 - c. Signage and identification requirements

- d. Secondary containment requirements for temporary tanks
- e. Applicable netting requirements
- 2. Any cleaning of the temporary tank(s) will adhere to NMOCD Rules relating to tank cleaning.
- 3. Transportation of water or drilling fluids derived from the drilling pit will adhere to all applicable NMOCD Rules relating to transportation.
- 4. Storage of water or drilling fluids in temporary above-ground tanks will also adhere to all applicable Federal mandates.

During final closure of the pit, the tanks and secondary containment system will be removed from the location and the area beneath the tank inspected for any leakage. If any leakage is suspected, the operator will sample the soil beneath the tanks and report any release pursuant to NMOCD Rules.

Finally, we intend to place any temporary tank used in conjunction with the pit drainage system on a 20-mil liner with a berm around it that would allow any inadvertently released fluids to drain or be pumped back into the pit.

Construction/Design Plan of Temporary Pit

Stockpile Topsoil

Prior to constructing the pit the qualified contractor will strip and stockpile the topsoil for use as the final cover or fill at the time of closure.

Signage

The operator will post an upright sign in a conspicuous place in compliance with 19.15.16.8 NMAC as the pit and the well are operated by the same operator. Section 19.15.16.8 states in part:

19.15.16.8 SIGN ON WELLS:

B. For drilling wells, the operator shall post the sign on the derrick or not more than 20 feet from the well.

C. The sign shall be of durable construction and the lettering shall be legible and large enough to be read under normal conditions at a distance of 50 feet.

- F. Each sign shall show the:
- (1) well number;
- (2) property name;
- (3) operator's name;
- (4) location by footage, quarter-quarter section, township and range (or unit letter can be substituted for the quarter-quarter section);
- and
- (5) API number.

The sign will also provide emergency telephone numbers.

Fencing:

During drilling or workover operations, the operator will not fence the edge of the pit adjacent to the drilling or workover rig.

As the pit is not located within 1000 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church, the operator will fence the pit to exclude livestock with four-wire strands evenly spaced in the interval between one foot and four feet above ground level.

Earthwork

The temporary pit will have a properly constructed foundation and interior slopes consisting of a firm, unyielding base, smooth and free of rocks, debris, sharp edges or irregularities to prevent the liner's rupture or tear.

The slopes of the pit will be no steeper than two horizontal feet to one vertical foot (2H:1V) unless in the transmittal letter the operator requested an alternative to the slope requirement with a demonstration that the pit can be operated in a safe manner to prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment.

A berm or ditch will surround the temporary pit to prevent run-on of surface water.

If the transmittal letter identifies concerns relating to the presence of karst and associated instability, during construction of the pit the contractor will compact the earth material that forms the foundation for the pit liner. An expected proctor density of greater than 90% will be achieved by

- 1. adding water to the earth material as appropriate,
- 2. compacting the earth by walking a crawler-type tractor down the sides and bottom of the pit
- 3. repeating this process with a second 6-inch lift of earth material if necessary

Liner Installation

The geomembrane liner will consist of 20-mil string reinforced LLDPE or equivalent liner material identified in the transmittal letter or on Form C-144 (that the appropriate division district office approves through approval of this permit application). The geomembrane liner will be composed of an impervious, synthetic material that is resistant to petroleum hydrocarbons, salts and acidic and alkaline solutions. The liner material will be resistant to ultraviolet light. Liner compatibility will comply with EPA SW-846 method 9090A.

The operator will direct the liner installation contractor to:

- 1. minimize liner seams and orient them up and down, not across a slope
- 2. use factory welded seams where possible
- 3. overlap liners four to six inches and orient seams parallel to the line of maximum slope, i.e., oriented along, not across, the slope, prior to any field seaming
- 4. minimize the number of welded field seams in comers and irregularly shaped areas
- 5. utilize only qualified personnel to weld field seams
- 6. avoid excessive stress-strain on the liner
- 7. place geotextile under the liner where needed to reduce localized stress-strain or protuberances that may otherwise compromise the liner's integrity
- 8. anchor the edges of all liners in the bottom of a compacted earth-filled trench that is

at least 18 inches deep

9. place additional material (liner, felt, etc.) to ensure that the liner is protected from any fluid force or mechanical damage at any point of discharge into or suction from the lined temporary pit.

A berm or ditch will surround the temporary pit to prevent run-on of surface water. During drilling operations, the operator may elect to remove run-on protection on the pit edge adjacent to the drilling or workover rig provided that the pit is being used to collect liquids escaping from the drilling or workover rig and this additional fluid will not cause a breach of the temporary pit.

The temporary pit will not be used to vent or flare gas and the volume of the temporary drilling pit, including freeboard, will not exceed 10 acre-feet.

Temporary Pit Operating and Maintenance Plan

The operator will maintain and operate the pit in accordance with the following plan to contain liquids and solids and maintain the integrity of the liner to prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment.

If feasible, the operator will recycle, reuse or reclaim all drilling fluids in the temporary pit in a manner approved by division rules that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment. Re-use of drilling fluids and workover fluids (stimulation flow-back) for drilling and stimulation of subsequent wells is anticipated. If re-use is not possible, fluids will be sent to disposal at a division-approved facility.

The operator will not discharge into or store any hazardous waste in the pit.

If the pit develops a leak or if any penetration of the pit liner occurs above the liquid's surface, then the operator will repair the damage or initiate replacement of the liner within 48 hours of discovery or will seek a variance from the division district office within this time period.

If the pit develops a leak or if any penetration of the pit liner occurs below the liquid's surface, then the operator will remove all liquid above the damage or leak line within 48 hours of discovery. The operator will also notify the district division office (19.15.29 NMAC) within this same 48 hours of the discovery and repair the damage or replace the pit liner.

The operator will ensure that the drilling contractor installs and uses a header, diverter or other hardware that prevents damage to the liner by erosion, fluid jets or impact from installation and removal of hoses or pipes during injection or withdrawal of liquids.

During construction, the operator or qualified contractor will install diversion ditches and berms around the pit as necessary to prevent the collection of surface water run-on. As outlined in the Construction and Design Plan, during drilling operations, the edge of the temporary pit adjacent to the drilling or workover rig may not have run-on protection if the operator is using the temporary pit to collect liquids escaping from the drilling or workover rig and run-on will not result in a breach of the temporary pit.

The operator will maintain on site an oil absorbent boom to contain and remove oil from the pit's surface.

The operator will only discharge fluids or mineral solids (including cement) generated or used during the drilling, completion, or workover processes into the pit. The operator will maintain the temporary pit free of miscellaneous solid waste or debris. Immediately after cessation of drilling or a workover operation, the operator will remove any visible or measurable layer of oil from the surface of the pit. The operator will maintain at least two feet of freeboard for the temporary pit, except under extenuating circumstances, which will be noted on the pit inspection log as described below.

The operator will inspect the temporary pit containing drilling fluids daily while the drilling rig or workover rig is on site. After the rigs have left the site, the operator will inspect the pit weekly as long as liquids are present in the pit. The operator will maintain a log of the inspections. The operator will make the log available to the division district office upon request.

The operator will remove all free drilling fluids from the surface of the temporary pit within 60 days from the date that the last drilling or workover rig associated with the pit permit is released. The operator will note the date of this release upon Form C-105 or C-103 upon well or workover completion. The operator may request an extension up to two months from the division district office as long as this additional time does not exceed the temporary pit life span (Subsection R of 19.15.17.7 NMAC).

Temporary Pit In-Place Closure Plan

The wastes in the temporary pit are destined for in place burial at the drilling location or, if stated in the permit transmittal letter, a nearby site on the same lease.

The operator will not begin closure operations without approval of the closure plan submitted with the permit application.

Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstration

Compliance with siting criteria is described in the site-specific information appended to the C-144.

Proof of Surface Owner Notice

The application package was transmitted to the surface landowner and OCD via email.

Construction/Design Plan of Temporary Pit

The design and construction protocols for the temporary pit are provided in the design and construction plan and in Plates 1-2. The drainage system described in the design and construction plan (above) is not shown on the Plates but can be important element of the closure plan.

General Protocols and Procedures

- All free liquids from the pit will be recycled or disposed in a manner consistent with OCD Rules.
- Residual drilling fluids will be removed from the pit within 60 days of release of the drilling rig.
- Water derived from the well stimulation program (flow-back or unused fresh water) that is significantly higher quality than the residual drilling fluids *may* discharge into the pit. The fresher water *may* discharge into the drainage system to flow through the solids or onto the solids in the pit.
- A low-flow pump *may* remove water from the drainage system to a tank or a fluids cell of the temporary pit; thereby further rinsing the residual solids in the pit.
- 20-60 days after placement of fresh flow-back water into the drilling cell, any water in the pit will be removed for re-use or disposal.
- The residual drilling mud and cuttings will be stabilized to a capacity sufficient to support the 4-foot thick soil cover.
- The residual pit solids will not be mixed at a ratio greater than 1 part pit solids to 3 parts dry earth material (e.g. subsoil).
- The pit will not be closed until the stabilized pit contents pass the paint filter liquids test.

Waste Material Sampling Plan

Prior to closure, a five-point (minimum) composite sample of the residual solids in the pit will be tested in a laboratory to demonstrate that the stabilized material will not exceed the contaminant concentrations listed in Table II of 19.15.17.13 NMAC mixed in a ratio of 3:1 with the earth material to be used for mixing and stabilization of the residual cuttings and mud.

In-place burial is the selected on-site disposal alternative.

If a concentration of a contaminant within the material mixed at a ratio not exceeding 3:1 is higher than the concentration given in Table II, closure will proceed in accordance with Subsection C of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.

Protocols and Procedures for Earthwork

Stabilization of the residual cuttings and mud is accomplished by mixing dry earth material within the temporary pit footprint. After stabilization the operator or qualified contractor will:

- 1. Place a geomembrane cover over the waste material in a way to prevent infiltration of water and so that infiltrated water does not collect on the geomembrane cover after the upper soil cover has been placed.
- 2. Use a geomembrane cover made of 20-mil string reinforced LLDPE liner or an equivalent cover approved by the district office that is composed of an impervious, synthetic material that is resistant to petroleum hydrocarbons, salts and acidic and alkaline solutions and complies with EPA SW-846 Method 9090A.
- 3. Over the sloping, stabilized material and liner, place the **Soil Cover Design**:
 - a. at least 3-feet of compacted, uncontaminated, non-waste containing earthen fill with chloride concentrations less than 600 mg/kg as analyzed by EPA Method 300.0.
 - b. either the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater, over the 3-foot earth material.
- 4. Contour the cover to blend with the surrounding topography and to prevent erosion of the cover and ponding over the cover.

Closure Notice

The operator will notify the surface owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the operator plans closure operations at least 72 hours, but not more than one week, prior to any closure operation. The notice will include the well name, API number, and location.

After approval for in-place burial, the operator shall notify the district office verbally and in writing at least 72 hours but not more than one week before any closure operation. Notice will include the operator's and the location of the temporary pit. The location will include unit letter, section number, township and range. If the location is associated with a well, then the well's name, number and API number will be included.

Should onsite burial be on private land, the operator will file a deed notice including exact location of the burial with the county clerk of the county where the onsite burial is located.

Closure Report

Within 60 days of closure completion, the operator will submit a

- i. closure report on form C-144, with necessary attachments
- ii. a certification that all information in the report and attachments is correct, that the operator has complied with all applicable closure requirements and conditions

specified in the approved closure plan

- iii. a plat of the pit location on form C-105
- iv. if burial is in a nearby trench/pit, a separate C-105 showing the exact location

Unless the permit transmittal letter requests an alternative maker to comply with surface landowner specifications, the operator will place at the center of an onsite burial a steel marker that

- is not less than four inches in diameter
- is placed at the bottom of a three-foot deep hole (minimum) that is filled with cement to secure the marker
- is at least four feet above mean ground level
- permanently displays the operator name, lease name, well number, unit letter, section, township and range in welded or stamped legible letters/numbers

Timing of Closure

The operator will close the temporary pit within 6 months from the date the drilling or workover rig was released from the site. This date will be noted on form C-105 or C-103 filed with the division upon the well's or workover's completion.

Reclamation and Re-vegetation Plan

In addition to the area of the in-place burial, the operator will reclaim to a safe and stable condition that blends with the surrounding undisturbed area

- 1. the pit location not used for burial
- 2. other areas associated with the in-place burial including access roads

Areas not reclaimed as described herein due to their use in production or drilling operations will be stabilized and maintained to minimize dust and erosion.

As stated above, the soil cover for burial in-place

- A. consists of a minimum of three feet of non-waste containing, uncontaminated, earthen material with chloride concentrations less than 600 mg/kg as analyzed by EPA Method 300.0 placed over the liner and stabilized solids
- B. is capped by the background thickness of topsoil or 1-foot of suitable material to establish vegetation, whichever is greater
- C. blends into surrounding topography
- D. is graded to prevent ponding and to minimize erosion

For all areas disturbed by the closure process that will not be used for production operations or future drilling, the operator will

- I. Replace topsoils and subsoils to their original relative positions
- II. Grade so as to achieve erosion control, long-term stability and preservation of surface

water flow patterns

III. Reseed in the first favorable growing season following closure

Re-vegetation and reclamation plans imposed by the surface owner will be outlined in communications with the OCD.

The operator will notify the division when the surface grading work element of reclamation is complete.

The operator will notify the division when the site meets the surface owner's requirements or exhibits a uniform vegetative cover that reflects a life-form ratio of plus or minus fifty percent (50%) of pre-disturbance levels and a total percent plant cover of at least seventy percent (70%) of pre-disturbance levels, excluding noxious weeds.