

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 Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources  
Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Form C-144 CLEZ  
July 21, 2008

For closed-loop systems that only use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure, submit to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.

**Closed-Loop System Permit or Closure Plan Application**

(that only use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure)

Type of action: ☒ Permit ☐ Closure

Instructions: Please submit one application (Form C-144 CLEZ) per individual closed-loop system request. For any application request other than for a closed-loop system that only use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure, please submit a Form C-144.

Please be advised that approval of this request does not relieve the operator of liability should operations result in pollution of surface water, ground water or the environment. Nor does approval relieve the operator of its responsibility to comply with any other applicable governmental authority's rules, regulations or ordinances.

1.  
Operator: Devon Energy Production Co., LP OGRID #: 6137  
Address: 333 W. Sheridan OKC, OK 73102-8260  
Facility or well name: Thistle Unit 33 State 43H  
API Number 30-025-40898 OCD Permit Number: PI-05547  
U/L or Qtr/Qtr M Section 33 Township 23S Range 33E County: Lea County, NM  
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude \_\_\_\_\_ NAD: ☐ 1927 ☐ 1983  
Surface Owner: ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ Private ☐ Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

2.  
☒ **Closed-loop System:** Subsection H of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Operation: ☒ Drilling a new well ☐ Workover or Drilling (Applies to activities which require prior approval of a permit or notice of intent) ☐ P&A  
☒ Above Ground Steel Tanks or ☒ Haul-off Bins

3.  
**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 19.15.3.103 NMAC

4.  
**Closed-loop Systems Permit Application Attachment 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 documents are 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  
☒ Closure Plan (Please complete Box 5) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
☐ Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design) API Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Previously Approved Operating and Maintenance Plan API Number: \_\_\_\_\_

5.  
**Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Above Ground Steel Tanks or Haul-off Bins Only:** (19.15.17.13.D NMAC)  
Instructions: Please identify the facility or facilities for the disposal of liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings. Use attachment if more than two facilities are required.  
Disposal Facility Name: CRT R36D Disposal Facility Permit Number: R9166 dm-01-0006  
Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Will any of the proposed closed-loop system operations and associated activities occur on or in areas that will not be used for future service and operations?  
☐ Yes (If yes, please provide the information below) ☒ No  
Required for impacted areas which will not be used for future service and operations:  
☐ 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 I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
☐ Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

6.  
**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 belief.  
Name (Print): David Cook Title: Regulatory Specialist  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 12/19/12  
e-mail address: David.Cook@dvn.com Telephone: 405.552.7848

7.

**OCD Approval:** ☐ Permit Application (including closure plan) ☐ Closure Plan (only)

OCD Representative Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval Date: 12/26/12

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

Petroleum Engineer

OCD Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

P1-05547

8.

**Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion):** Subsection K of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

*Instructions: Operators are required to obtain an approved closure plan prior to implementing any closure activities and submitting the closure report. The closure report is required to be submitted to the division within 60 days of the completion of the closure activities. Please do not complete this section of the form until an approved closure plan has been obtained and the closure activities have been completed.*

☐ Closure Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9.

**Closure Report Regarding Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Above Ground Steel Tanks or Haul-off Bins Only:**

*Instructions: Please indentify the facility or facilities for where the liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings were disposed. Use attachment if more than two facilities were utilized.*

Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Were the closed-loop system operations and associated activities performed on or in areas that *will not* be used for future service and operations?

☐ Yes (If yes, please demonstrate compliance to the items below) ☐ No

*Required for impacted areas which will not be used for future service and operations:*

☐ Site Reclamation (Photo Documentation)

☐ Soil Backfilling and Cover Installation

☐ Re-vegetation Application Rates and Seeding Technique

10.

**Operator Closure Certification:**

I hereby certify that the information and attachments submitted with this closure report is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also certify that the closure complies with all applicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved closure plan.

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

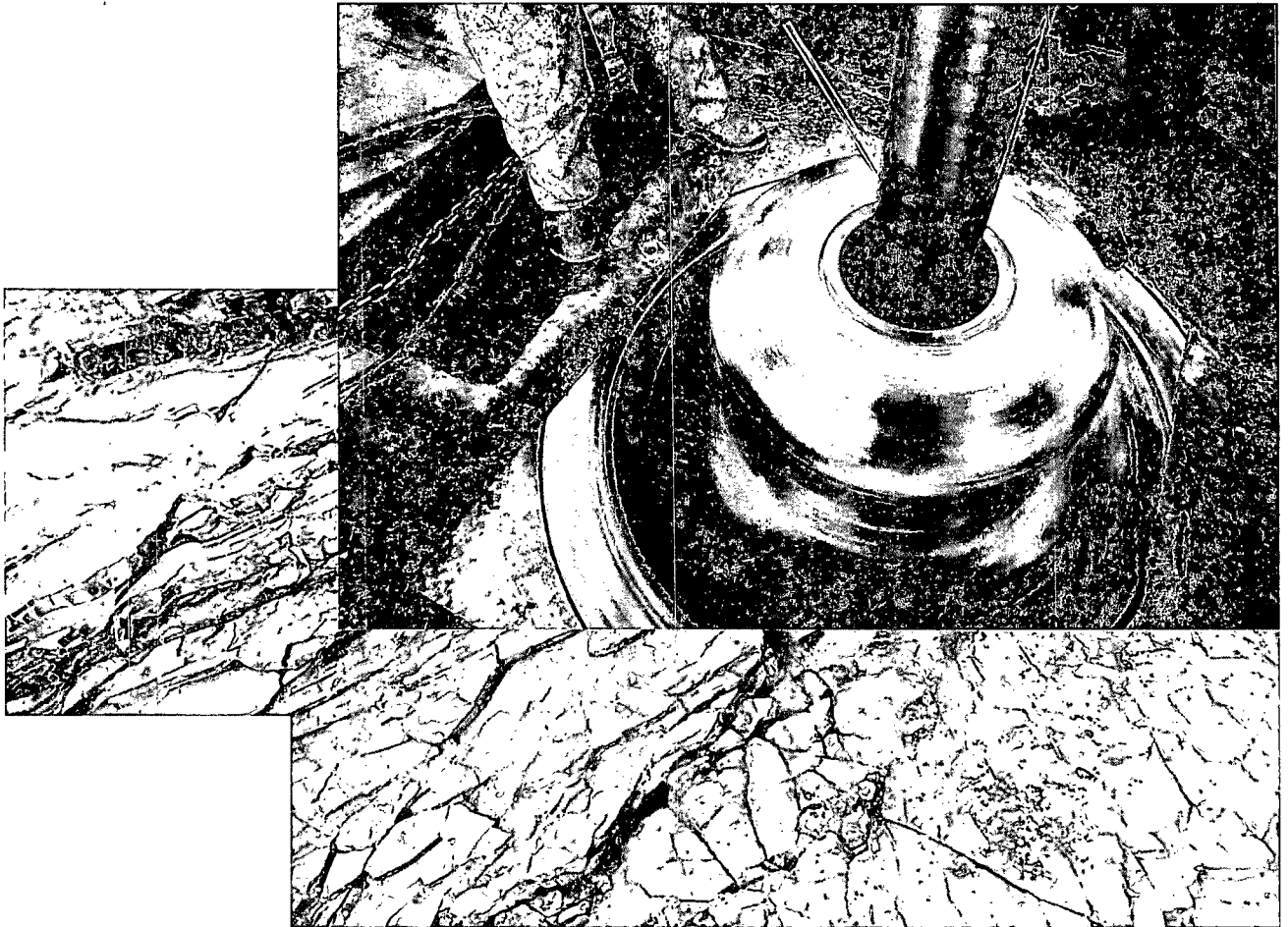
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



Commitment Runs Deep



Design Plan  
Operation and Maintenance Plan  
Closure Plan

SENM - Closed Loop Systems  
June 2010

## **I. Design Plan**

Devon uses MI SWACO closed loop system (CLS). The MI SWACO CLS is designed to maintain drill solids at or below 5%. The equipment is arranged to progressively remove solids from the largest to the smallest size. Drilling fluids can thus be reused and savings is realized on mud and disposal costs. Dewatering may be required with the centrifuges to insure removal of ultra fine solids.

The drilling location is constructed to allow storm water to flow to a central sump normally the cellar. This insures no contamination leaves the drilling pad in the event of a spill. Storm water is reused in the mud system or stored in a reserve fluid tank farm until it can be reused. All lubricants, oils, or chemicals are removed immediately from the ground to prevent the contamination of storm water. An oil trap is normally installed on the sump if an oil spill occurs during a storm.

A tank farm is utilized to store drilling fluids including fresh water and brine fluids. The tank farm is constructed on a 20 ml plastic lined, bermed pad to prevent the contamination of the drilling site during a spill. Fluids from other sites may be stored in these tanks for processing by the solids control equipment and reused in the mud system. At the end of the well the fluids are transported from the tank farm to an adjoining well or to the next well for the rig.

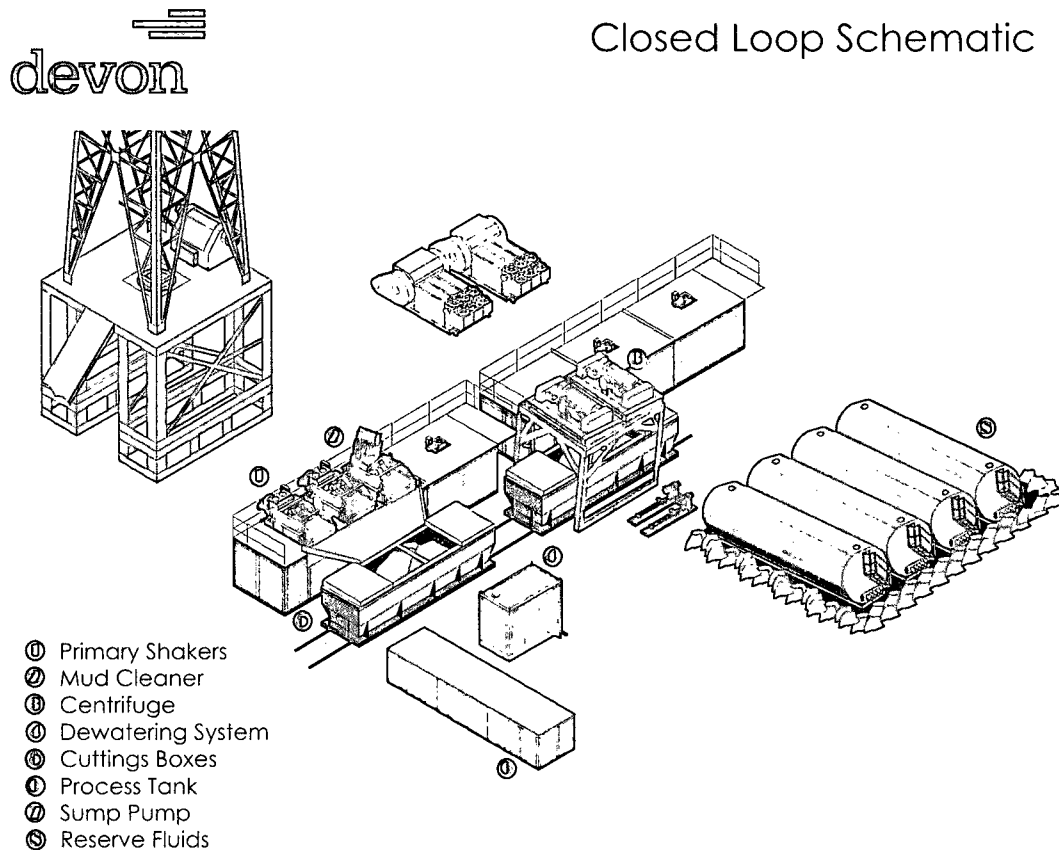
Prior to installing a closed-loop system on site, the topsoil, if present, will be stripped and stockpiled for use as the final cover or fill at the time of closure.

Signs will be posted on the fence surrounding the closed-loop system unless the closed-loop system is located on a site where there is an existing well, that is operated by Devon.

## **II. Operations and Maintenance Plan**

*Primary Shakers:* The primary shakers make the first removal of drill solids from the drilling mud as it leaves the well bore. The shakers are sized to handle maximum drilling rate at optimal screen size. The shakers normally remove solids down to 74 microns.

**Mud Cleaner:** The Mud Cleaner cleans the fluid after it leaves the shakers. A set of hydrocyclones are sized to handle 1.25 to 1.5 times the maximum circulating rate. This ensures all the fluid is being processed to an average cut point of 25 microns. The wet discharged is dewatered on a shaker equipped with ultra fine mesh screens and generally cut at 40 microns.



**MI SWACO**

**Centrifuges:** The centrifuges can be one or two in number depending on the well geometry or depth of well. The centrifuges are sized to maintain low gravity solids at 5% or below. They may or may not need a dewatering system to enhance the removal rates. The centrifuges can make a cut point of 8-10 microns depending on bowl speed, feed rate, solids loading and other factors.

The centrifuge system is designed to work on the active system and be flexible to process incoming fluids from other locations. This set-up is also dependant on well factors.

**Dewatering System:** The dewatering system is a chemical mixing and dosing system designed to enhance the solids removal of the centrifuge. Not commonly used in shallow wells. It may contain pH adjustment, coagulant mixing and dosing, and polymer mixing and dosing. Chemical flocculation binds ultra fine solids into a mass that is within the centrifuge operating design. The

dewatering system improves the centrifuge cut point to infinity or allows for the return of clear water or brine fluid. This ability allows for the ultimate control of low gravity solids.

*Cuttings Boxes:* Cuttings boxes are utilized to capture drill solids that are discarded from the solids control equipment. These boxes are set upon a rail system that allows for the removal and replacement of a full box of cuttings with an empty one. They are equipped with a cover that insures no product is spilled into the environment during the transportation phase.

*Process Tank:* (Optional) The process tank allows for the holding and process of fluids that are being transferred into the mud system. Additionally, during times of lost circulation the process tank may hold active fluids that are removed for additional treatment. It can further be used as a mixing tank during well control conditions.

*Sump and Sump Pump:* The sump is used to collect storm water and the pump is used to transfer this fluid to the active system or to the tank for to hold in reserve. It can also be used to collect fluids that may escape during spills. The location contains drainage ditches that allow the location fluids to drain to the sump.

*Reserve Fluids (Tank Farm):* A series of frac tanks are used to replace the reserve pit. These are steel tanks that are equipped with a manifold system and a transfer pump. These tanks can contain any number of fluids used during the drilling process. These can include fresh water, cut brine, and saturated salt fluid. The fluid can be from the active well or reclaimed fluid from other locations. A 20 ml liner and berm system is employed to ensure the fluids do not migrate to the environment during a spill.

If a leak develops, the appropriate division district office will be notified within 48 hours of the discovery and the leak will be addressed. Spill prevention is accomplished by maintaining pump packing, hoses, and pipe fittings to insure no leaks are occurring. During an upset condition the source of the spill is isolated and repaired as soon as it is discovered. Free liquid is removed by a diaphragm pump and returned to the mud system. Loose topsoil may be used to stabilize the spill and the contaminated soil is excavated and placed in the cuttings boxes. After the well is finished and the rig has moved, the entire location is scrapped and testing will be performed to determine if a release has occurred.

All trash is kept in a wire mesh enclosure and removed to an approved landfill when full. All spent motor oils are kept in separate containers and they are removed and sent to an approved recycling center. Any spilled lubricants, pipe

dope, or regulated chemicals are removed from soil and sent to landfills approved for these products.

These operations are monitored by Mi Swaco service technicians. Daily logs are maintained to ensure optimal equipment operation and maintenance. Screen and chemical use is logged to maintain inventory control. Fluid properties are monitored and recorded and drilling mud volumes are accounted for in the mud storage farm. This data is kept for end of well review to insure performance goals are met. Lessons learned are logged and used to help with continuous improvement.

A MI SWACO field supervisor manages from 3-5 wells. They are responsible for training personnel, supervising installations, and inspecting sites for compliance of MI SWACO safety and operational policy.

### **III. Closure Plan**

A maximum 340' X 340' caliche pad is built per well. All of the trucks and steel tanks fit on this pad. All fluid cuttings go to the steel tanks to be hauled by various trucking companies to an agency approved disposal.