

Entered March 18, 1981
LAR

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION
COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 7156
Order No. R-5516-A

APPLICATION OF PARABO, INC. FOR
AN ORDER AMENDING ORDER NO. R-5516,
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on February 18, 1981, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of the State of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this 18th day of March, 1981, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony presented and the exhibits received at said hearing, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) That the applicant, Parabo, Inc., is the operator of a facility described and permitted in Order No. R-5516, being a multi-pit surface salt water disposal facility.

(3) That the applicant seeks the deletion of the requirements of Orders Nos. (6) and (7) of said Order No. R-5516 requiring the further use of a horizontal monitor well at the East end of "Pit No. 1" within said facility.

(4) That during the initial three years of operation of the disposal facility, no evidence of the downward percolation of fluids through the pit floor has been detected in said monitor well.

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(5) That the surface location of said monitor well falls within the area of a newly constructed disposal pit rendering further use thereof impractical.

(6) That the proposed deletion of requirements for said horizontal monitor well should be approved.

(7) That with the periodic addition of new disposal pits at the facility, there will occur the need for the drilling of new monitor wells and the abandonment of old monitor wells.

(8) That rules should be adopted providing for the location, casing, and completion of new monitor wells and the plugging of monitor wells which would be abandoned.

(9) That at no time should disposal be permitted into any pit authorized by Order No. R-5516 or subsequently approved by the Division Director if the total quantity of water in such pit, from both natural precipitation and previous disposal, reaches a plane four feet below the level of the spill point of the Triassic red beds or the core dikes surrounding said pit, provided however, that the maximum water level in Pits Nos. 2 and 3 should be permitted to reach a plane three feet below such spill point; that the specific maximum water levels in the five pits authorized to date should be as follows:

Pit No. 1:	3447 feet above sea level
Pit No. 2:	3458 feet above sea level
Pit No. 3:	3458 feet above sea level
Pit No. 4:	3435 feet above sea level
Pit No. 5:	3446 feet above sea level

(10) That the amendment of Order No. R-5516 as described above and operation of the authorized disposal system in accordance with the provisions of said order amended as described above will afford reasonable protection to the underground fresh water supplies, will not cause waste nor impair correlative rights, and should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, Parabo, Inc., is hereby authorized to abandon the horizontal monitor well required by Orders Nos. (6) and (7) of Division Order No. R-5516 by filling such hole with cement.

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(2) That the applicant is hereby authorized and required to drill additional monitor wells around new pits within the disposal facility, originally approved by Division Order No. R-5516 and as expanded from time to time, and to abandon existing monitor wells in accordance with the following rules:

Rule 1. That monitor wells shall be maintained around the entire perimeter of the permitted disposal facility with horizontal spacing not to exceed 300 feet and with no single monitor well to be more than 300 feet from the external perimeter of any pit.

Rule 2. No monitor well shall be required between any two single evaporating ponds unless the horizontal distance between said ponds exceeds 700 feet.

Rule 3. That as the facilities are enlarged or modified in such a way that any monitor well is abandoned because it contravenes the provisions of Rule 1 or Rule 2 hereof, said well shall be plugged to its entire vertical depth with cement.

Rule 4. That prior to any additions, modifications or changes in locations of monitor wells, advance written approval of the Director shall be procured.

Rule 5. New monitor wells shall be drilled and cased to an elevation equivalent to 20 feet below the average elevation of the floor of the pond(s) they are intended to monitor.

Rule 6. New monitor wells shall be cased with two inch inside diameter PVC casing, which shall be perforated with saw cuts or at least eight (8) one-quarter (1/4) inch holes from the bottom of said well, to an elevation equal to the maximum design water level of the highest of the pond(s) they are intended to monitor.

Rule 7. That at no time shall disposal be permitted into any pit authorized by Order No. R-5516 or subsequently approved by the Division Director if the total quantity of water in such pit, from both natural precipitation and previous disposal, reaches a plane four feet below the level of the spill point of the Triassic red beds or the core dikes surrounding said pit, provided however, that the maximum water level in Pits Nos. 2 and 3 may reach a plane three feet below such spill point; that the specific maximum water levels in the five pits authorized to date shall be as follows:

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Pit No. 1: 3447 feet above sea level
Pit No. 2: 3458 feet above sea level
Pit No. 3: 3458 feet above sea level
Pit No. 4: 3435 feet above sea level
Pit No. 5: 3446 feet above sea level

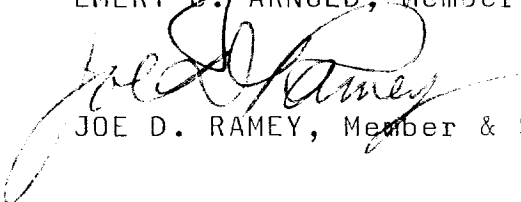
(3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member


EMERY C. ARNOLD, Member


JOE D. RAMEY, Member & Secretary

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