

Entered January 7, 1980  
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STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 6762  
Order No. R-6224

APPLICATION OF JOE DON COOK FOR  
AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER NO. R-3221,  
AS AMENDED, EDDY COUNTY, NEW  
MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on December 12, 1979, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 9th day of January, 1980, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

- (1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the applicant, Joe Don Cook, is the owner and operator of the Hannifin Well No. 1, located in Unit L of Section 1, Township 19 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Shugart Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- (3) That Order (3) of Division Order No. R-3221, as amended, prohibits in that area encompassed by Lea, Eddy, Chaves, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the disposal, subject to minor exceptions, of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, stream-bed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any other place or in any manner which would constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

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(4) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.

(5) That the State Engineer has designated, pursuant to Section 65-3-11 (15), N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation, all underground water in the State of New Mexico containing 10,000 parts per million or less of dissolved solids as fresh water supplies to be afforded reasonable protection against contamination; except that said designation does not include any water for which there is no present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use that would be impaired by contamination.

(6) That the applicant seeks as an exception to the provisions of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the disposal of salt water produced by applicant's above-described well into an unlined surface pit located in Unit L of said Section 1.

(7) That applicant's Hannifin Lease produces approximately 120 barrels of water per day.

(8) That there appears to be no shallow fresh water in the vicinity of the subject pit for which a present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use is or will be made that would be impaired by contamination from the subject pit.

(9) That to prevent the waste of oil and gas in said Shugart Pool, authority to dispose of produced water from applicant's Hannifin Lease in an unlined surface pit on said lease should be granted.

(10) That the applicant should be permitted to dispose of water produced from said lease in an unlined surface pit on said lease until further order of the Division.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, Joe Don Cook, is hereby granted an exception to Order (3) of Division Order No. R-3221, as amended, to dispose of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, from his Hannifin Lease, located in Section 1, Township 19 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Shugart Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico, in an unlined surface pit located in Unit L of said Section 1, until further order of the Division.

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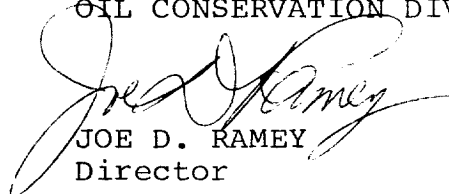
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(2) That the Director of the Division may by administrative order rescind such authority whenever it reasonably appears to the Director that such rescission would serve to protect fresh water supplies from contamination.

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

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



JOE D. RAMEY  
Director

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