

Entered August 5, 1980
JLR

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. 6945
Order No. R-6414

APPLICATION OF ARCO OIL AND GAS
COMPANY FOR SALT WATER DISPOSAL,
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on June 25, 1980, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this 5th day of August, 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, ARCO Oil and Gas Company, is the owner and operator of the Fletcher Well No. 4, located in Unit J of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lynch Field, Lea County, New Mexico.

(3) That the applicant proposes to utilize said well to dispose of produced salt water into the Yates-Seven Rivers formation, with injection into the open hole interval from approximately 3643 feet to 4000 feet.

(4) That the injection should be accomplished through 2 3/8-inch plastic lined tubing installed in a packer set at approximately 3530 feet; that the casing-tubing annulus should be filled with an inert fluid; and that a pressure gauge or approved leak detection device should be attached to the annulus in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer.

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(5) That the injection well or system should be equipped with a pressure limiting switch or acceptable substitute which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to no more than 730 psi.

(6) That the Director of the Division should be authorized to administratively approve an increase in the injection pressure upon a proper showing by the operator that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the injected waters from the Yates-Seven Rivers formation.

(7) That the operator should notify the supervisor of the Hobbs district office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment so that the same may be inspected.

(8) That the operator should take all steps necessary to ensure that the injected water enters only the proposed injection interval and is not permitted to escape to other formations or onto the surface.

(9) That approval of the subject application will prevent the drilling of unnecessary wells and otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, ARCO Oil and Gas Company, is hereby authorized to utilize its Fletcher Well No. 4, located in Unit J of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lynch Field, Lea County, New Mexico, to dispose of produced salt water into the Yates-Seven Rivers formation, injection to be accomplished through 2 3/8-inch tubing installed in a packer set at approximately 3530 feet, with injection into the open hole interval from approximately 3643 feet to 4000 feet;

PROVIDED HOWEVER, that the tubing shall be plastic-lined; that the casing-tubing annulus shall be filled with an inert fluid; and that a pressure gauge shall be attached to the annulus or the annulus shall be equipped with an approved leak detection device in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer.

(2) That the injection well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting switch or acceptable substitute which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to no more than 730 psi.

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(3). That the Director of the Division may authorize an increase in injection pressure upon a proper showing by the operator of said well that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the injected fluid from the Yates-Seven Rivers formation.

(4) That the operator shall notify the supervisor of the Hobbs district office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment so that the same may be inspected.

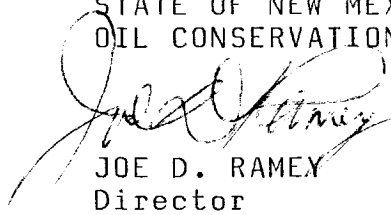
(5) That the operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the Division's Hobbs district office of the failure of the tubing, casing, or packer, in said well or the leakage of water from or around said well and shall take such steps as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

(6) That the applicant shall submit monthly reports of its disposal operations in accordance with Rules 704 and 1120 of the Division Rules and Regulations.

(7) 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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