

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. 8525  
Order No. R-7930

APPLICATION OF HICKS OIL AND GAS,  
INC. FOR SALT WATER DISPOSAL, SAN  
JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8 a.m. on March 27, 1985, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 31st day of May, 1985, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

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

(2) At the time of the hearing Division Case Nos. 8525, 8546, 8547, and 8548 were consolidated for purposes of testimony.

(3) The applicant, Hicks Oil and Gas, Inc., is the owner and operator of the Southeast Cha Cha Unit Well No. 37, located 550 feet from the South line and 2100 feet from the East line (Unit O) of Section 15, Township 28 North, Range 13 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.

(4) The applicant proposes to utilize said well to dispose of produced salt water into the Cha Cha Gallup Oil Pool, with injection into the perforated interval from approximately 5492 feet to 5824 feet.

(5) The injection should be accomplished through 2 3/8-inch plastic lined tubing installed in a packer set at approximately 5400 feet; the casing-tubing annulus should be filled with an inert fluid; and a pressure gauge or approved

-2-

Case No. 8525  
Order No. R-7930

leak detection device should be attached to the annulus in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer.

(6) Prior to commencing injection operations, the casing in the subject well should be pressure-tested throughout the interval from the surface down to the proposed packer setting depth, to assure the integrity of such casing.

(7) The injection well or system should be equipped with a pressure limiting switch or other acceptable device which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to no more than 1058 psi.

(8) 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 Cha Cha-Gallup Oil Pool.

(9) The operator should notify the supervisor of the Aztec district office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of the mechanical integrity pressure test in order that the same may be witnessed.

(10) 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.

(11) Approval of the subject application will prevent the drilling of unnecessary wells and otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The applicant, Hicks Oil and Gas, Inc., is hereby authorized to utilize its Southeast Cha Cha Unit Well No. 37, located 550 feet from the South line and 2100 feet from the East line (Unit O) of Section 15, Township 28 North, Range 13 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, to dispose of produced salt water into the Cha Cha Gallup Oil Pool, injection to be accomplished through 2 3/8-inch tubing installed in a packer set at approximately 5400 feet, with injection into the perforated interval from approximately 5492 feet to 5824 feet;

PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT, the tubing shall be internally plastic-lined; the casing-tubing annulus shall be filled with an inert fluid; and a pressure gauge shall be attached to the annulus or the annulus shall be equipped with an approved leak

-3-

Case No. 8525  
Order No. R-7930

detection device in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, and/or packer.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, prior to commencing injection operations, the casing in the subject well shall be pressure-tested to assure the integrity of such casing in a manner that is satisfactory to the supervisor of the Division's district office at Aztec.

(2) The injection well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting switch or other acceptable device which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to no more than 1058 psi.

(3) The Director of the Division upon proper application 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 Cha Cha-Gallup Oil Pool.


(4) The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Aztec district office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of the mechanical integrity pressure test in order that the same may be witnessed.

(5) The operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the Division's Aztec 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) The applicant shall conduct disposal operations and submit monthly reports in accordance with Rules 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 708, and 1120 of the Division Rules and Regulations.

(7) 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  
  
R. L. STAMETS,  
Director

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