

1R - 427-0

REPORTS

DATE:

2012

RICE *Operating Company*

122 West Taylor • Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Phone: (575) 393-9174 • Fax: (575) 397-1471

April 1, 2013

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APR - 2 2013

Mr. Edward Hansen
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources
Oil Conservation Division, Environmental Bureau
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Oil Conservation Division
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: JUNCTION BOX UPGRADE REPORT for 2012
EME SWD SYSTEM
Lea County, New Mexico

Mr. Hansen:

Rice Operating Company (ROC) takes this opportunity to submit the Junction Box Upgrade results for the year 2012. Enclosed is a list of the completed junction boxes and their respective closure/disclosure dates. These boxes are located in the Eunice-Monument-Eumont (EME) Salt Water Disposal (SWD) System located in the vicinity of Eunice, New Mexico.

ROC completed 21 junction boxes in 2012. Junction box upgrades in 2013 will be conducted in conjunction with scheduled pipeline replacements.

Enclosed are the 2008 results (17 sites evaluated with 22 sampling locations) from the PID/BTEX study described in the NMOCD-approved Revised Junction Box Upgrade Work Plan (July 16, 2003). A third-party analysis, conducted by Peter Galusky, Jr. Ph.D. of Texerra, concluded from the data collected thus far that field-composited values tend to produce slightly higher BTEX numbers above the point at which BTEX concentrations become significant. This is likely due to the fact that BTEX is volatile and quickly biodegradable. This analysis was submitted to NMOCD on March 12, 2009. An appropriate number of sample sites could not be obtained to conduct a 2012 BTEX comparison analysis. Peter Galusky, Jr. Ph.D. of Texerra also compared ROC's 2012 chloride field tests to chloride laboratory analyses; the analysis is also enclosed. The study of this data continues to validate the accuracy of the chloride field tests employed by ROC.

ROC is the service provider (agent) for the EME SWD System and has no ownership of any portion of the pipeline, well, or facility. The System is owned by a consortium of oil producers, System Parties, who provide all operating capital on a percentage ownership/usage basis.

Replacement/closure projects of this magnitude require System Party AFE approval and work begins as funds are received.

Thank you for your consideration of this Junction Box Upgrade Report for 2012.

RICE OPERATING COMPANY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Conder", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hack Conder
Environmental Manager

enclosures as stated

cc: SC, file, Mr. Geoffrey Leking
NMOCD, District I Office
1625 N. French Drive
Hobbs, NM 88240

**Rice Operating Company
EME SWD System Junction Box Upgrade Project
2012 Completed Boxes**

	Jct Box Name	Legal Description				Completion Date	OCD Assessment Score	Report Status	Case Number
		Unit	Sec	T	R				
1	A-18 EOL	A	18	19S	37E	4/10/2012	10	Closure	
2	E-14 EOL	E	14	21S	36E	11/14/2012	0	Closure	
3	H-23 EOL	H	23	20S	36E	7/20/2012	0	Closure	
4	H-4 EOL	H	4	20S	37E	9/17/2012	20	Closure	
5	I-17 EOL	I	17	19S	37E	4/10/2012	10	Closure	
6	J-20 EOL	J	20	19S	37E	4/11/2012	10	Closure	
7	J-29 EOL	J	29	20S	36E	3/20/2012	0	Closure	
8	Jct. T-6	T	6	21S	36E	5/30/2012	10	Closure	
9	K-17 EOL	K	17	21S	36E	11/15/2012	0	Closure	
10	K-21 EOL	K	21	19S	37E	4/11/2012	20	Closure	
11	L-29 EOL	L	29	19S	37E	8/10/2012	20	Closure	
12	M-25 EOL	M	25	20S	36E	4/18/2012	0	Closure	
13	N-23 EOL	N	23	20S	36E	7/18/2012	0	Closure	
14	O-20 EOL	O	20	21S	36E	3/14/2012	0	Closure	
15	P-20 EOL	P	20	19S	37E	8/9/2012	20	Closure	
16	C-33 EOL	C	33	20S	36E	5/7/2012	0	Disclosure	
17	H-9 EOL	H	9	21S	36E	6/5/2012	0	Disclosure	
18	Jct. F-32	F	32	19S	37E	11/13/2012	20	Disclosure	
19	Jct. J-4	J	4	20S	37E	10/15/2012	20	Disclosure	
20	K-30 EOL	K	30	19S	37E	9/14/2012	40	Disclosure	
21	N-28 EOL	N	28	20S	36E	5/23/2012	0	Disclosure	

L. Peter Galusky, Jr. Ph.D., P.G.

Texerra

**505 N Big Spring, Suite 404 Midland, Texas 79701
Tel: 432-634-9257 E-mail: lpg@texerra.com**

March 10th, 2009

Mr. Brad Jones
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources
Oil Conservation Division, Environmental Bureau
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Re: Comparison of Field versus Lab Compositing of BTEX soil samples
Rice Operating Company, Junction Box Upgrade Work Plan

Sent via Certified Mail w/ Return Receipt No. 7006 0100 0001 2438 3944

Dear Mr. Jones:

On behalf of Rice Operating Company (ROC) I am submitting the attached comparison and analysis of field versus laboratory soil compositing for soil BTEX samples. This is to address the question of whether it is better to mix multiple samples in the field or to do so in the laboratory in order to produce a composite, representative sample for analysis. This work was undertaken in support of ROC's Junction Box Upgrade Work Plan to ensure the quality of their field analysis program.

In brief, this work indicates that field compositing of soil samples generally gives rise to *slightly* higher BTEX values than does laboratory compositing of multiple samples. This is presumably due to the likelihood that field compositing and packaging of soil samples better preserves sample integrity. It would therefore appear that field compositing would represent the better method of procuring soil samples for subsequent analysis of BTEX.

Please call me if you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the details of this study.

ROC is the service provider (agent) for various Salt Water Disposal Systems (SWDs) and has no ownership of any portion of pipeline, well or facility. The SWD Systems that ROC operates are owned by a consortium of oil producers, System Partners, who provide all operating capital on a percentage ownership/usage basis.

Sincerely,



L. Peter Galusky, Jr. Ph.D.
Principal

Copy: Rice Operating Company,
Edward Hansen (NMOCD) sent certified mail w/ return receipt
No. 7006 0100 0001 2438 3937

Attachment: As noted, above.

Rice Operating Company

Comparison of Field Compositing versus Laboratory Compositing of Soil BTEX Samples¹

The careful mixing of multiple soil samples is critical in order to produce a representative, composite sample from a respective study area (such as an excavation face or bottom). Field technicians typically take four or five “grab” samples from excavation walls and/or bottom and send each of these to a laboratory for analysis of the composite, or mixed, sample. It would be far simpler, however, to composite such samples in the field. This study was undertaken to determine if field compositing produced results substantially different than laboratory compositing for the analysis of BTEX. Data were provided by Rice Operating Company encompassing 22 sampling locations over the period of 2004 through 2008.

A comparison of lab-composited soil samples versus field-composited soil samples revealed a close correspondence for total BTEX between the two methods (Figure 1).

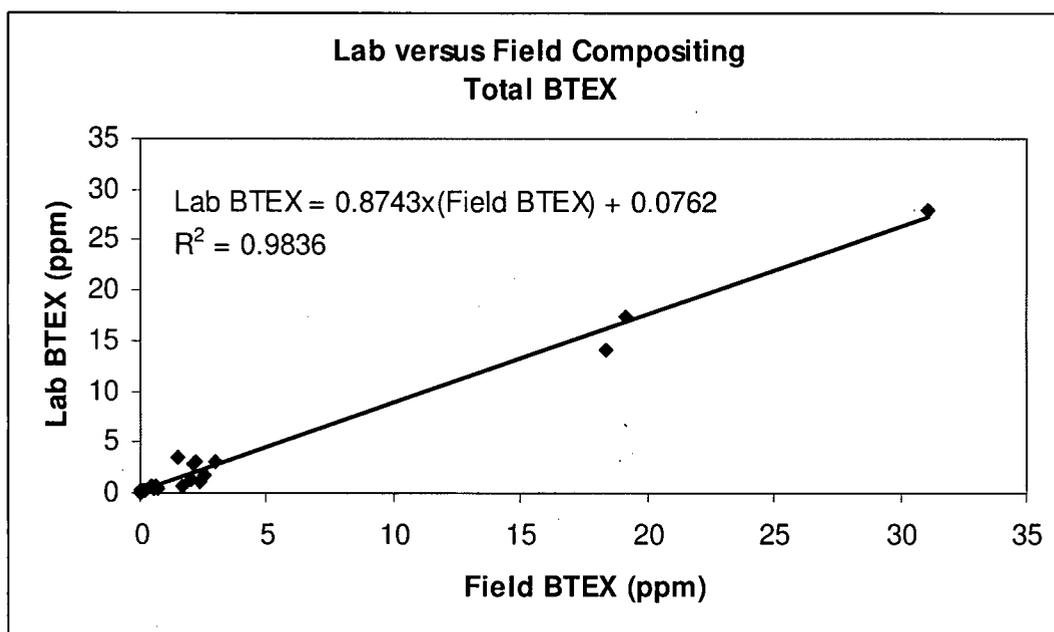


Figure 1 - Laboratory versus field-composited soil samples analyzed for BTEX.

The high R² value (0.9836) of the best-fit statistical regression line indicates a high degree of reliability in using the field-compositing method over the range of values observed. Below a “field-composited BTEX” value of 0.61 ppm the “lab-composited BTEX” values are slightly lower. However, above a field-composited BTEX value of 0.61 the lab-composited values run slightly lower. In other words, the field-composited values tended to produce slightly higher BTEX numbers above the point at which BTEX concentrations become significant.

There is a reason for this. BTEX is volatile and quickly biodegradable. The compositing and “packaging” of soil samples in the field minimize the handling and aeration that occur in the laboratory. Thus, field-composited soil samples lose less BTEX to evaporation and/or biodegradation prior to laboratory analysis. In other words, the field compositing and packaging of soil samples better preserves sample integrity, and for this reasons would appear to represent the better method of procuring soil samples for subsequent analysis of BTEX.

¹ Prepared 03-12-09 by L. Peter Galusky, Jr. of Texerra.

L. Peter Galusky, Jr. Ph.D., P.G.

Texerra LLC

**20055 Laredo Lane Monument, CO 80132
Tel: 719-339-6791 E-mail: lpg@texerra.com**

March 28th, 2013

Mr. Edward Hansen
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources
Oil Conservation Division, Environmental Bureau
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Comparison of 2012 Laboratory versus Field Measured Soil Chloride Values
Rice Operating Company, Junction Box Upgrade Work Plan

Sent via Certified Mail w/ Return Receipt No. 7011 0110 0002 5197 1358

Mr. Hansen:

The attached comparison and analysis of 2012 laboratory versus field measured soil chloride values is submitted in support of Rice Operating Company's (ROC's) Junction Box Upgrade Work Plan to ensure the quality of their field analysis program.

In brief, this work indicates that Rice's 2012 field chloride measurement efforts provided a reasonable qualitative approximation of the laboratory-measured (and presumed true) values.

ROC is the service provider (agent) for various Salt Water Disposal Systems (SWDs) and has no ownership of any portion of pipeline, well or facility. The SWD Systems that ROC operates are owned by a consortium of oil producers, System Parties, who provide all operating capital on a percentage ownership/usage basis.

Please call me if you have any questions or wish to discuss this study.

Sincerely,



L. Peter Galusky, Jr. Ph.D.
Principal

Copy: Rice Operating Company
Attachment: As noted, above.

Rice Operating Company
Comparison of Laboratory to Field Measured Soil Chloride Concentrations
Based upon 2012 Field Data

A representative sample of 22 pairs of laboratory versus field measured soil chloride values was compared to determine how well field measurements matched laboratory measurements. It is assumed that laboratory measurements better represent the “true” values due to the controlled environment that a laboratory provides. A simple plot of the laboratory versus field measured soil chloride values is given below (Figure 1).

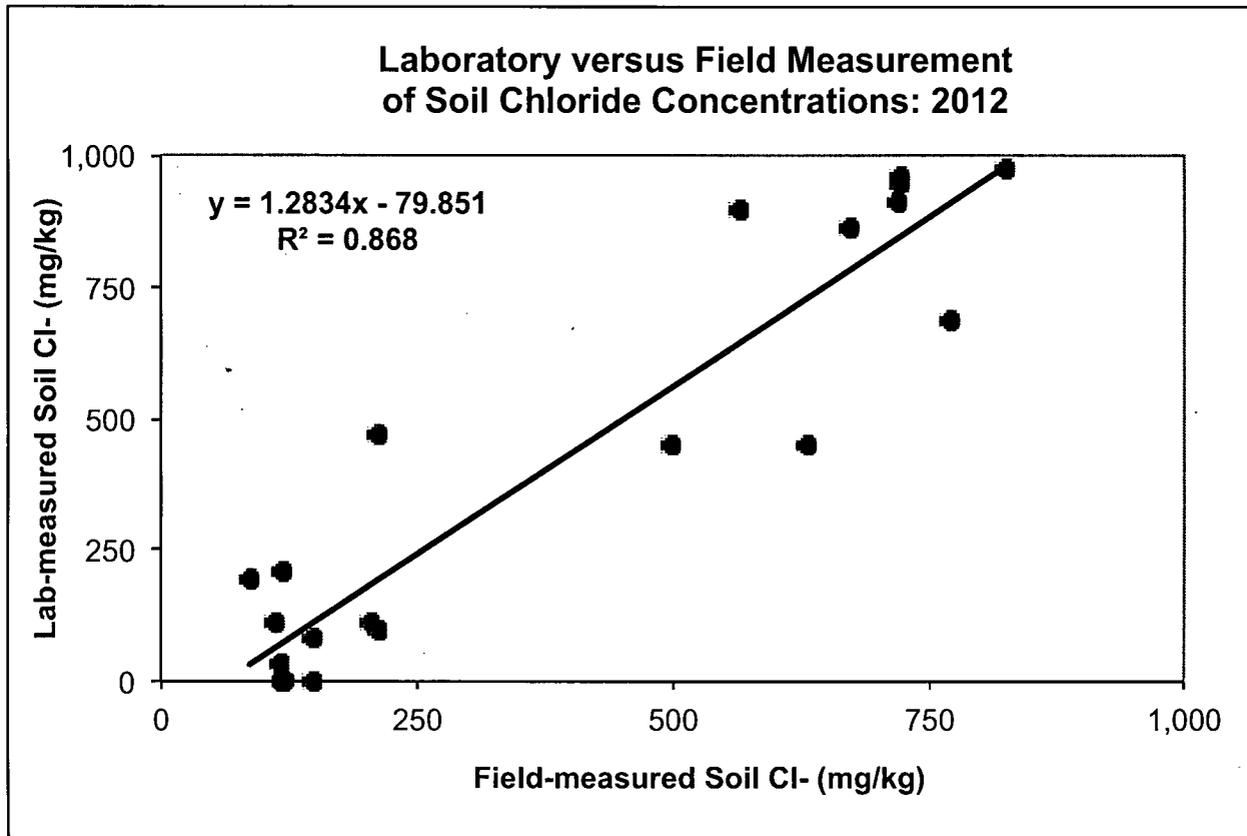


Figure 1 – Laboratory versus field measured soil chloride measurements (n = 22 paired sets).

A straight line fit to the data confirms a general linear trend over a wide range of soil chloride concentrations, and the R^2 value (0.868) indicates that field measurements provide a reliable approximation of laboratory-measured values.

Junction Box Upgrade Program Closure/Disclosure Submissions for 2012

Updated 3-29-12

BD										Closures	Disclosures
Closure	1									1	
Disclosure	7										7
EME											
Closure	15									15	
Disclosure	6										6
Total	29									16	13