



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON

Governor

Joanna Prukop

Cabinet Secretary

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.

Director

Oil Conservation Division

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SWD-1052

APPLICATION OF RICE OPERATING COMPANY FOR PRODUCED WATER DISPOSAL, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Under the provisions of Rule 701(B), Rice Operating Company made application to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division for permission to utilize for produced water disposal its proposed Blinebry-Drinkard SWD Well No. 32 (API No. 30-025-38528) to be located 1327 feet from the North line and 244 feet from the West line of Section 32, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:

- (1) The application has been duly filed under the provisions of Rule 701(B) of the Division Rules and Regulations;
- (2) Satisfactory information has been provided that all offset operators and surface owners have been duly notified;
- (3) The applicant has presented satisfactory evidence that all requirements prescribed in Rule 701 will be met; and
- (4) No objections have been received within the waiting period prescribed by said rule.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The applicant is hereby authorized to utilize its proposed Blinebry-Drinkard SWD Well No. 32 (API No. 30-025-38528) to be located 1327 feet from the North line and 244 feet from the West line of Section 32, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, in such manner as to permit the injection of produced water for disposal purposes into the San Andres formation through an open hole completion from approximately 4400 feet to 5000 feet and through plastic-lined tubing set in a packer located within 100 feet of the top of the

injection interval.

PRIOR TO INJECTION

The operator shall notify the district office of the Division of the date and time of the following operations so that the same may be inspected and witnessed.

Operations required on wells within the ½ mile area of review:

- Re-enter and re-plug the Central Drinkard Unit Well No. 133 API No. 30-025-06948 located 480 feet from the North line and 2160 feet from the West line of Section 32, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.
 - Objective: Raise cement to isolate the injection interval.
 - Methods: Plugging procedure to be supplied by the district office.

Operations, equipping and testing the approved injection well.

- Swab test the San Andres and supply the Division with water analysis and test results for this formation.
- The casing-tubing annulus shall be loaded with an inert fluid and equipped with a pressure gauge or an approved leak detection device in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer.
- The casing-tubing annulus shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure the integrity of said casing.

The operator shall provide written verification to the engineering bureau in the Santa Fe office of the Division of completion of the foregoing requirements. **The operator shall not commence injection until the Division issues written confirmation that these pre-injection requirements have been completed.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The operator shall 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.

The operator shall run an injection profile log on this well within 6 months after commencing injection and supply this log to the engineering bureau of the Division.

The wellhead injection pressure on the well shall be limited to **no more than 880 psi**. In addition, the injection well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting device in workable condition which shall, at all times, limit surface injection pressure to the maximum allowable pressure for this well. 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 injection formation. Such proper showing shall consist of a valid step-rate test run in accordance with and acceptable to this office.

The operator shall provide written notice of the date of commencement of injection to the district office of the Division. The operator shall report **the estimated initial static reservoir pressure of the injection interval on a sundry report**. The operator shall submit monthly reports of the disposal operations on Division Form C-115, in accordance with Rule Nos. 706 and 1120 of the Division Rules and Regulations.

The operator shall immediately notify the district office of the Division of the failure of the tubing, casing, or packer in said well and shall take such steps as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

The injection authority granted herein shall terminate one year after the effective date of this order if the operator has not commenced injection operations into the subject well, provided however, the Division, upon written request by the operator, may grant an extension thereof for good cause shown.

Jurisdiction is retained by the Division for the entry of such further orders as may be necessary for the prevention of waste and/or protection of correlative rights or upon failure of the operator to conduct operations (1) to protect fresh water or (2) consistent with the requirements in this order, whereupon the Division may, after notice and hearing, terminate the injection authority granted herein.

Approved at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on October 23, 2006.


MARK E. FESMIRE, P.E.
Director

MEF/wvjj

cc: Oil Conservation Division – Artesia
State Land Office – Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division