



New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

**Jon Goldstein**  
Cabinet Secretary

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**Mark Fesmire**  
Division Director  
Oil Conservation Division



**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. PMX-255**

***APPLICATION OF CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY TO EXPAND ITS PRESSURE MAINTENANCE PROJECT IN THE VACUUM-ABO REEF POOL IN LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO***

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Under the provisions of Division Orders No. R-3180 and R-3181, as amended, ConocoPhillips Company (OGRID 217817) has made application to the Division on January 20, 2010 for permission to expand its Vacuum Abo Unit Pressure Maintenance Project in the Vacuum-Abo Reef Pool in Lea County, New Mexico.

**THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:**

The application was filed in due form. No objections have been filed within the waiting period prescribed by Division Rule 26.8(C). The proposed well(s) are eligible for conversion to injection under the terms of Rule 26.8. The current operator is in compliance with Rule 5.9.

The proposed expansion of the above-referenced Pressure Maintenance Project will not cause waste nor impair correlative rights and should be approved.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The applicant, ConocoPhillips Company, is hereby authorized to inject water into the Abo formation, Vacuum-Abo Reef Pool, through the gross vertical interval from approximately 8,250 feet to 8,840 feet through 2.875 inch plastic-lined tubing set in a packer located within 100 feet of the uppermost injection perforations in the following-described wells for purposes of pressure maintenance to wit:



**Vacuum Abo Unit Well No. 9**  
**(API No. 30-025-03024)**

2316' FNL & 1980' FWL, Unit F, Section 34, T-17S, R-35E  
Injection Interval: 8,408'-8,788'

**Vacuum Abo Unit Well No. 13**  
**(API No. 30-025-03071)**

2310' FSL & 660' FEL, Unit I, Section 5, T-18S, R-35E  
Injection Interval: 8,274'-8,452'

**Vacuum Abo Unit Well No. 1**  
**(API No. 30-025-03063)**

1980' FSL & 1980' FWL, Unit K, Section 5, T-18S, R-35E  
Injection Interval: 8,250'-8,840'

all located in Lea County, New Mexico.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The operator shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the injected fluid enters only the proposed injection interval and is not permitted to escape to other formations or onto the surface.

Prior to commencing injection operations, the casing in each well shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure the integrity of said casing.

The injection wells or pressurization system shall be equipped so as to limit the surface injection pressure on the subject wells to no more than **1,350 psi**. The Division Director may authorize a higher surface injection pressure upon a showing by the applicant that such higher pressure will not result in the fracturing of the injection formation or confining strata.

The casing-tubing annulus in each well shall be loaded with an inert fluid and equipped with a pressure gauge at the surface or left open to the atmosphere to facilitate detection of leakage in the casing, tubing or packer.

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

The subject wells shall be governed by all provisions of Division Orders No. R-3180 and R-3181, as amended, and Rules 26.9-26.13 of the Division Rules and Regulations not inconsistent herewith.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, 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.

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

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO**  
**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**



MARK E. FESMIRE, P.E.,  
Director

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MEF/tw

cc: Oil Conservation Division - Hobbs  
New Mexico State Land Office – Santa Fe