New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Bill Richardson
Governor

Jim Noel
Cabinet Secretary
Karen W. Garcia
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Mark Fesmire
Division Director
Oil Conservation Division

Administrative Order IPI-379
September 21, 2010

Noble Energy
1625 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

Attention: Melanie Peterson

RE: **Injection Pressure Increase Request**
Rio Bravo Well No. 5 (API No. 30-045-33583)
Unit E, Sec 27, Township 31 North, Range 13 West, NMPM, San Juan County
Cliff House Member of the Mesa Verde formation

Reference is made to your request on behalf of Noble Energy (OGRID 234550) received August 18, 2010, to increase the surface injection pressure limit on the above named well.

This well was last approved by the Division for injection into perforations from 3487 feet to 3561feet with Administrative Order SWD-1207 and given a maximum surface injection pressure of 700 psi.

It is our understanding that this well will not take a sufficient volume of water at this pressure limit and a higher pressure limit is needed to handle water (UIC Class II liquids only) disposal needs in this area.

The basis for granting this pressure increases the injection step rate test run on this well in July of 2010. The results of the step rate test show that an increase in the surface injection pressure for this well is justified and will not result in the fracturing of the injection formation and confining strata.

You are hereby authorized to utilize up to the following maximum surface injection pressure on this well provided the tubing, size, type, and setting depth does not change.

Max Surface Pressure
1300 psi

The operator is responsible for ensuring injected waters do not migrate upward inside or outside of this casing and enter formations above the permitted injection interval.

This approval is subject to your being in compliance with Division rules, including but not limited to Rule 5.9.

The Division Director may rescind this injection pressure increase if it becomes apparent that the injected fluid is not being confined to the injection zone or fresh water aquifers are being endangered.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.
Acting Director

MEF/tw

cc: Oil Conservation Division – Aztec
SWD-1207