



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Betty Rivera**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

*ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SWD-855*

## ***APPLICATION OF RICHARDSON OPERATING COMPANY FOR SALT WATER DISPOSAL, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO***

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Under the provisions of Rule 701(B), Richardson Operating Company (Neeley Consulting Service as agent) made application to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division on October 11, 2002, for permission to re-complete for produced water disposal its Salty Dog SWD Well No. 3 (API 30-045-22254) located 890 feet from the North line and 790 feet from the East line (Unit A) of Section 28, Township 30 North, Range 14 West, NMPM, San Juan 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:

Richardson Operating Company is hereby authorized to re-complete its Salty Dog SWD Well No. 3 (API 30-045-22254) located 890 feet from the North line and 790 feet from the East line (Unit A) of Section 28, Township 30 North, Range 14 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to permit the injection of produced water for disposal purposes into the Morrison and Entrada formations from a depth of 6003 feet to 6965 feet through plastic-lined tubing set in a packer located within 100 feet of the top of the injection interval.

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.

**As preparation and prior to injection, the well bore shall be re-entered and the 8 5/8 inch casing tested for mechanical integrity. If the casing fails to hold pressure, any remedial operations shall be regulated and specified by the Aztec District office of the Division. In addition, the well bore shall be plugged back to the base of the Entrada formation at 7090 feet using a procedure approved by the Aztec District Office. A fluid sample from the Morrison-Entrada interval shall be obtained and the analysis submitted to the Aztec District Office.**

The casing-tubing annulus shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure the integrity of said casing.

The casing-tubing annulus 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 injection well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting device which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to **no more than 1200 psi**.

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 notify the supervisor of the Aztec District Office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of any mechanical integrity test so that the same may be inspected and witnessed.

The operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the Aztec 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.

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 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 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.

Approved at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October 2002.

*Lori Wrotenbery* (LWVJ)  
LORI WROTENBERY  
Director

LW/wvjj

cc: Oil Conservation Division – Aztec  
Bureau of Land Management – Farmington  
Neeley Consulting Service - Farmington