

**BW - \_\_\_\_\_ 030 \_\_\_\_\_**

**COMPLIANCE  
REVIEW**

**2018**

**From:** [Ames, Eric, EMNRD](#)  
**To:** [Chavez, Carl J, EMNRD](#)  
**Cc:** [Ames, Eric, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Certified Mail Request  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 11:19:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [Compliance Order - November 3 2020.pdf](#)  
[Civil Penalty Calculation - Condition 2\(D\) - November 3 2020.pdf](#)  
[Civil Penalty Calculation - Condition 2\(I\) - November 3 2020.pdf](#)

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Eric Ames  
Office of General Counsel  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
Cell (575) 741-1231

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**From:** Ames, Eric, EMNRD <Eric.Ames@state.nm.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 7:06 AM  
**To:** Valentine, Velvet, EMNRD <Velvet.Valentine@state.nm.us>  
**Cc:** Ames, Eric, EMNRD <Eric.Ames@state.nm.us>  
**Subject:** Certified Mail Request

Hi Velvet. Could you please print and send the attached pdfs by certified mail-return receipt requested, and send me a scan of the ticket, and then a scan of the green card when it is received?

Thanks.

Eric Ames  
Office of General Counsel  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
Cell (575) 741-1231

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

**PERMIAN WATER SOLUTIONS, LLC**

**No. WQA-OCD-CO-2020-001**

**COMPLIANCE ORDER**

Pursuant to the New Mexico Water Quality Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 74-6-1 *et seq.*, (“Act”), and the regulations promulgated under the Act (“Regulations”), the Director of the Oil Conservation Division (“OCD”) issues this Compliance Order to Permian Water Solutions, LLC (“PWS”), directing PWS to comply with the Act, Regulations, and Discharge Permits BW-027 and BW-030.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Water Quality Control Commission (“WQCC”) has adopted Regulations that require a person proposing to inject fluids related to oil and gas operations to obtain a permit from the Oil Conservation Division (“OCD”) in accordance with 20.6.2.5004 NMAC.

2. WQCC delegated authority to the Oil Conservation Commission (“OCC”) to enforce the Regulations for wells involved in oil and gas operations. NMSA 1978, Section § 74-6-8; WQCC, *Delegation of Responsibilities to Environmental Improvement Division and Oil Conservation Division*, July 21, 1989.

3. The OCD has concurrent authority with the OCC. NMSA 1978, § 70-2-6(B).

4. The OCD is authorized to issue a compliance order requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time period, suspending or terminating a permit, or assessing a civil penalty to any person who violated or is violating the Act, Regulations, or a permit issued pursuant to the Act. NMSA 1978, § 74-6-10.

5. PWS is a limited liability company doing business in the State of New Mexico.
6. On November 8, 2013, OCD issued Discharge Permit BW-27 to Pyote Well Service, LLC (“Pyote”), authorizing Pyote to operate the Dunaway #1 and #2 Brine Wells in Unit F, Section 23, Township 22 South, Range 27 East NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.
7. On November 8, 2013, OCD issued Discharge Permit BW-30 to Pyote, authorizing Pyote to operate the Hobbs State #10 Brine Well in Unit F, Section 29, Township 18 South, Range 38 East NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.
8. On November 21, 2016, OCD approved the transfer of the Hobbs State #10 Brine Well and Dunaway #1 and #2 Brine Wells (“Wells”) from Pyote to Cambrian Management, Ltd. (“Cambrian”).
9. On October 16, 2018, OCD approved the transfer of the Wells from Cambrian to PWS.
10. PWS certified as a condition of the transfer of the Wells that it would be responsible for complying with Discharge Permits BW-27 and BW-30.
11. Discharge Permits BW-27 and BW-30 expired on November 8, 2018.
12. On December 26, 2019, OCD notified PWS that it was in violation of various conditions in Discharge Permits BW-27 and BW-30, including:
 

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Violation</u>
2(D)	PWS failed to submit closure plans for the Wells.
2(I)	PWS failed to maintain single well plugging bonds for the Wells.
13. On December 26, 2019, OCD requested that PWS cease operation of the Wells, submit written notification confirming cessation, and submit closure and plugging and abandonment plans for the Wells within a specified period of time.

14. PWS did not respond to OCD's request.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

15. OCD has jurisdiction over PWS and the subject matter of this proceeding.

16. PWS violated Discharge Permits BW-27 and BW-30 as specified Paragraph 12.

**ORDER**

17. PWS shall take the following actions:

a. no later than thirty (30) days after service of this Order, provide written confirmation that the injection of fresh water into and production of brine from the Wells have ceased and the date of such cessation;

b. No later than thirty (30) days after service of this Order, submit single well plugging bonds for the Wells; and

c. No later than thirty (30) days after service of this Order, submit a closure plan containing the information required by Discharge Permits BW-27 and BW-30, and a third-party cost estimate to plug and abandon the Wells and to conduct remediation and reclamation of the facilities and surface.

18. OCD assesses the following civil penalties for violation of Discharge Permits BW-27 and BW-30 pursuant to the Act, Sections 74-6-10.1:

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Civil Penalty</u>
2(D)	\$ 30,000
2(I)	\$ 30,000

**OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

19. You may file a request for a public hearing with the WQCC Hearing Clerk, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469, no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of this Order.

20. Your request shall contain an Answer (a) admitting or denying each alleged finding of fact, except that a fact not specifically denied shall be deemed to be admitted; (b) asserting affirmative defenses, except that an affirmative defense not specifically asserted shall be deemed to be waived; (c) signed under oath or affirmation that the Answer is true and correct to the best of your knowledge; and (d) attaching a copy of this Order.

21. The public hearing will be governed by the WQCC's Adjudicatory Procedures, 20.1.3 NMAC.

22. You may request a conference with OCD to discuss settlement of this Order at any time, but such request or conference shall not extend or waive the deadline to request a public hearing. You may appear at a settlement conference either pro se or through legal counsel. A settlement of this Order will be entered as a Stipulated Final Order. To request a settlement conference, contact:

Eric Ames  
Office of General Counsel  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
575-741-1231  
[eric.ames@state.nm.us](mailto:eric.ames@state.nm.us)

23. This Order shall become final upon receipt by PWS.

24. This Order shall terminate upon the entry of a Stipulated Final Order.

**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adrienne Sandoval  
Director

Date: 11/3/2020

**Violation Summary**

Alleged Violator: Permian Water Solutions - Discharge Permits BW-27 and BW-30

Violation Date:

<b>Conditions 2(l): Failure to maintain single well plugging bonds for the Wells</b>	<b>MinPA(\$)</b>
	\$ 15,000.00

Basis: *PWS filed to maintain single well plugging bonds for the Wells. The failure to maintain bonds is a major deviation from the applicable requirement and poses a major potential for harm.*

2
Penalty Subtotal: \$ 30,000.00

**Adjustment Factors**

<b>Effort to Comply:</b>	<b>Factor</b>
Comments:	
<b>History of Non-Compliance:</b>	
Comments:	
<b>Negligence and Willfulness:</b>	0.2
Comments: <i>PWS knew or should have known that it was required to maintain single well plugging bonds.</i>	
<b>Economic Impact:</b>	
Comments:	
Factor Subtotal:	1.2

**Outstanding Conditions**

No outstanding conditions

<b>MaxPA(\$)/day</b>
\$ 15,000.00
<b>Total Penalty=</b>
<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>



**New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
Civil Penalty Calculation Worksheet**



Processed: 11/3/2020 6:45

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Comments:	
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**New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
Civil Penalty Calculation Worksheet**



Processed: 11/3/2020 6:45

**From:** [Griswold, Jim, EMNRD](#)  
**To:** [Chavez, Carl J, EMNRD](#); [Ames, Eric, EMNRD](#); [Bratcher, Mike, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** Compliance letter to Permian Water Solutions regarding brine wells BW-27 and BW-30  
**Date:** Thursday, December 26, 2019 4:23:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Permian Water Solutions BW-27 and 30 compliance ltr of 12-26-19.pdf](#)

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See attached. Original sent to Mr. Hendricks with Permian Water Solutions via snailmail today. Carl, would you please be sure this gets into the administrative record. Thanks.

**Jim Griswold**

*Environmental Bureau Chief*  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
505.476.3465  
email: [jim.griswold@state.nm.us](mailto:jim.griswold@state.nm.us)

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor

**Sarah Cottrell Propst**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD**  
Deputy Secretary

**Adrienne Sandoval**  
Director, Oil Conservation Division



**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**  
**No. 7018 0040 0000 3405 6932**

December 26, 2019

Mr. Robert Hendricks  
Permian Water Solutions, LLC  
600 Travis Street, Suite 4700  
Houston, TX 77002

**Re: WQCC Discharge Permit (BW-027)**  
**Dunaway Wells No. 1 & 2, API Nos. 30-015-28083 & 30-015-28084**

**WQCC Discharge Permit (BW-030)**  
**Hobbs State No. 10, API No. 30-025-35915**

Mr. Hendricks,

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (“OCD”) requests that Permian Water Solutions, LLC (“Permian”) immediately cease operation of the wells and submit closure plans and plugging and abandonment plans as specified below.

WQCC Discharge Permits BW-027 and BW-030 expired on November 8, 2018. Permian’s continued operation of the wells violates the permits and OCD regulations.

OCD has identified additional violations of the discharge permits, including:

- Condition 1.F (operation after expiration of the permits)
- Condition 2.A (failure to submit 40 quarterly analyses of injected fluids and brine)
- Condition 2.A(1) (failure to monitor well)
- Condition 2.B(1) & 5.C (failure to comply with Surface Subsidence Monitoring Plan)
- Conditions 2(B)(2) & 5.D (failure to submit Solution Cavern Characterization Program)
- Condition 2.B(3) (failure to submit 5 annual certifications per facility)
- Condition 2.H(3)(a) (failure to install a groundwater monitoring well)

December 26, 2019

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Condition 2.I (failure to maintain single well plugging bond)  
Conditions 2.J & 5.A (failure to submit five annual reports per facility)  
Condition 3.C (failure to install continuous monitoring devices per facility)  
Condition 3.K (failure to submit monthly reports since November 8, 2013)

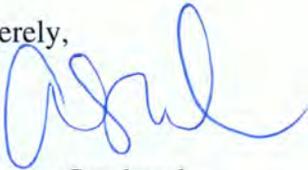
OCD reserves the right to enforce these violations.

Permian shall take the following actions:

- (1) Immediately cease operation of the wells and submit written notification confirming such cessation within five (5) business days of receipt of this letter;
- (2) Submit a closure plan and a plugging and abandonment plan for the wells no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter. The plans shall provide the information specified in the discharge permits. Additionally, the plans shall incorporate the surface subsidence monitoring plan requirements in Condition 2.B(1), and identify any potential releases or contamination at the facility as required by OCD rules.

Please contact Mr. Carl Chavez of my staff at your earliest convenience to arrange for the submittal of the plans and other information. Mr. Chavez can be reached at (505) 476-3490. Your failure to comply with this letter may result in the filing of an enforcement action.

Sincerely,



Adrienne Sandoval  
*OCD Director*

cc: Carl Chavez, OCD Environmental Bureau  
OCD Hobbs District Office  
Office of General Counsel, EMNRD

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**Ken McQueen**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Matthias Sayer**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Heather Riley**, Division Director  
Oil Conservation Division



**FEBRUARY 16, 2018**

Mr. Andrew E. Rickard  
Cambrian Management, LTD  
415 West Wall St., Suite 900  
Midland, Texas 79701

**Re: Discharge Permit (BW-30) Cambrian Management, LTD, UIC Class III Brine Well Hobbs State Well #10 API No. 30-025-35915 UL: F Section 29 Township 18 South, Range 38 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico**

Mr. Rickard,

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) notices Cambrian's discharge permit will expire this year on November 8, 2018. The OCD requests Cambrian review the submittal deadlines for documents over the past 5-years which are required under the permit, i.e.,

- Section 2.A Quarterly analysis of injected fluids and brine
- Section 2.B.1 Surface Subsidence Monitoring Plan information
- Section 2.B.2 Solution Cavern Characterization Plan
- Section 2.B.3 Annual Certification
- Section 2.J Annual Report (note list of items to be included) due by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
- Section 3.C Continuous Monitoring Devices, and
- Section 3.K Fluids Injection and Brine Production Volumes and Pressures submittal of monthly reports of injection and production volumes on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month.

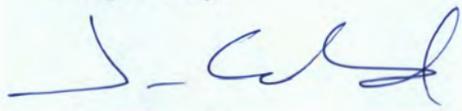
The OCD has some of these submittals, but other required information appears to be absent. Therefore, the OCD is requesting Cambrian to review the OCD administrative record (BW-30) on "OCD Online" and submit all required and/or missing information no later than May 4, 2018. OCD will then complete its review of the records to determine the scope of any actions, if any, it may take to bring the discharge permit into compliance.

If you have any questions, please contact Carl Chavez at (505) 476-3490 or by email at [Car1J.Chavez@state.nm.us](mailto:Car1J.Chavez@state.nm.us).

February 16, 2018

Page 2

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Griswold", is written over a light green rectangular background.

Jim Griswold

*Environmental Bureau Chief*

JG/cc

Enclosure: Discharge Permit BW-30

cc: Hobbs District Office

## DISCHARGE PERMIT BW-30

### 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

**1.A. PERMITTEE AND PERMITTED FACILITY:** The Director of the Oil Conservation Division (OCD) of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department renews Discharge Permit BW-30 (Discharge Permit) to Pyote Well Service, LLC (Permittee) to operate its Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class III well for the in situ extraction of salt (Hobbs State #10 API No. 30-025-35915) located 2565 FNL and 2330 FWL (SE/4 NW/4, Unit Letter F) of Section 29, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico at its Brine Production Facility (Facility). The Facility is located within Hobbs approximately 0.2 miles east of the intersection of W Mahon Dr. and CR 66A (NW County Road).

The Permittee is permitted to inject water into the subsurface salt layers and produce brine for use in the oil and gas industry. Ground water that may be affected by a spill, leak, or accidental discharge occurs at a depth of approximately 50 feet below ground surface and has a total dissolved solids concentration of approximately 800 mg/L.

**1.B. SCOPE OF PERMIT:** OCD has been granted the authority by statute and by delegation from the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to administer the Water Quality Act (Chapter 74, Article 6 NMSA 1978) as it applies to Class III wells associated with the oil and gas industry (See Section 74-6-4, 74-6-5 NMSA 1978).

The Water Quality Act and the rules promulgated pursuant to the Act protect ground water and surface water of the State of New Mexico by providing that, unless otherwise allowed by 20.6.2 NMAC, no person shall cause or allow effluent or leachate to discharge so that it may move directly or indirectly into ground water unless such discharge is pursuant to an approved discharge plan (See 20.6.2.3104 NMAC, 20.6.2.3106 NMAC, and 20.6.2.5000 through 20.6.2.5299 NMAC).

This Discharge Permit for a Class III well is issued pursuant to the Water Quality Act and WQCC rules, 20.6.2 NMAC. This Discharge Permit does not authorize any treatment of, or on-site disposal of, any materials, product, by-product, or oil-field waste.

Pursuant to 20.6.2.5004A NMAC, the following underground injection activities are prohibited:

1. The injection of fluids into a motor vehicle waste disposal well is prohibited.
2. The injection of fluids into a large capacity cesspool is prohibited.
3. The injection of any hazardous or radioactive waste into a well is prohibited except as provided by 20.6.2.5004A(3) NMAC.
4. Class IV wells are prohibited, except for wells re-injecting treated ground water into the same formation from which it was drawn as part of a removal or remedial action.

**5.** Barrier wells, drainage wells, recharge wells, return flow wells, and motor vehicle waste disposal wells are prohibited.

This Discharge Permit does not convey any property rights of any sort nor any exclusive privilege, and does not authorize any injury to persons or property, any invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of state, federal, or local laws, rules or regulations.

The Permittee shall operate in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in this Discharge Permit to comply with the Water Quality Act and the rules issued pursuant to that Act, so that neither a hazard to public health nor undue risk to property will result (see 20.6.2.3109C NMAC); so that no discharge will cause or may cause any stream standard to be violated (see 20.6.2.3109H(2) NMAC); so that no discharge of any water contaminant will result in a hazard to public health, (see 20.6.2.3109H(3) NMAC); so that the numerical standards specified of 20.6.2.3103 NMAC are not exceeded; and, so that the technical criteria and performance standards (see 20.6.2.5000 through 20.6.2.5299 NMAC) for Class III wells are met. Pursuant to 20.6.2.5003B NMAC, the Permittee shall comply with 20.6.2.1 through 20.6.2.5299 NMAC.

The Permittee shall not allow or cause water pollution, discharge, or release of any water contaminant that exceeds the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) standards specified at 20.6.2.3101 NMAC and 20.6.2.3103 NMAC or 20.6.4 NMAC (Water Quality Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Streams). Pursuant to 20.6.2.5101A NMAC, the Permittee shall not inject non-hazardous fluids into ground water having 10,000 mg/l or less total dissolved solids (TDS).

The issuance of this permit does not relieve the Permittee from the responsibility of complying with the provisions of the Water Quality Act, any applicable regulations or water quality standards of the WQCC, or any applicable federal laws, regulations or standards (See Section 74-6-5 NMSA 1978).

**1.C. DISCHARGE PERMIT RENEWAL:** This Discharge Permit is a permit renewal that replaces the permit being renewed. Replacement of a prior permit does not relieve the Permittee of its responsibility to comply with the terms of that prior permit while that permit was in effect.

**1.D. DEFINITIONS:** Terms not specifically defined in this Discharge Permit shall have the same meanings as those in the Water Quality Act or the rules adopted pursuant to the Act, as the context requires.

**1.E. FILING FEES AND PERMIT FEES:** Pursuant to 20.6.2.3114 NMAC, every facility that submits a Discharge Permit application for initial approval or renewal shall pay the permit fees specified in Table 1 and the filing fee specified in Table 2 of 20.6.2.3114 NMAC. OCD has already received the required \$100.00 filing fee. The Permittee is now required to submit the \$1,700.00 permit fee for a Class III well. Please remit payment made payable to the Water Quality Management Fund in care of OCD at 1220 South St. Francis Drive in Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

**1.F. EFFECTIVE DATE, EXPIRATION, RENEWAL CONDITIONS, AND PENALTIES FOR OPERATING WITHOUT A DISCHARGE PERMIT:** This Discharge Permit becomes effective 30 days from the date that the Permittee receives this discharge permit or until the permit is terminated or expires. This Discharge Permit will expire on **November 8, 2018**. The Permittee shall submit an application for renewal no later than 120 days before that expiration date, pursuant to 20.6.2.5101F NMAC. If a Permittee submits a renewal application at least 120 days before the Discharge Permit expires and is in compliance with the approved Discharge Permit, then the existing Discharge Permit will not expire until OCD has approved or disapproved the renewal application. A discharge permit continued under this provision remains fully effective and enforceable. Operating with an expired Discharge Permit may subject the Permittee to civil and/or criminal penalties (See Section 74-6-10.1 NMSA 1978 and Section 74-6-10.2 NMSA 1978).

**1.G. MODIFICATIONS AND TERMINATIONS:** The Permittee shall notify the OCD Director and OCD's Environmental Bureau of any Facility expansion or process modification (See 20.6.2.3107C NMAC). The OCD Director may require the Permittee to submit a Discharge Permit modification application pursuant to 20.6.2.3109E NMAC and may modify or terminate a Discharge Permit pursuant to Sections 74-6-5(M) through (N) NMSA 1978.

**1.** If data submitted pursuant to any monitoring requirements specified in this Discharge Permit or other information available to the OCD Director indicate that 20.6.2 NMAC is being or may be violated, then the OCD Director may require modification or, if it is determined by the OCD Director that the modification may not be adequate, may terminate this Discharge Permit for a Class III well that was approved pursuant to the requirements of 20.6.2.5000 through 20.6.2.5299 NMAC for the following causes:

**a.** Noncompliance by Permittee with any condition of this Discharge Permit;  
or,

**b.** The Permittee's failure in the discharge permit application or during the discharge permit review process to disclose fully all relevant facts, or Permittee's misrepresentation of any relevant facts at any time; or,

**c.** A determination that the permitted activity may cause a hazard to public health or undue risk to property and can only be regulated to acceptable levels by discharge permit modification or termination (See Section 75-6-6 NMSA 1978; 20.6.2.5101I NMAC; and, 20.6.2.3109E NMAC).

**2.** This Discharge Permit may also be modified or terminated for any of the following causes:

**a.** Violation of any provisions of the Water Quality Act or any applicable regulations, standard of performance or water quality standards;

**b.** Violation of any applicable state or federal effluent regulations or limitations; or

c. Change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge (See Section 75-6-5M NMSA 1978).

**1.H. TRANSFER OF CLASS III WELL DISCHARGE PERMIT:**

1. The transfer provisions of 20.6.2.3111 NMAC do not apply to a discharge permit for a Class III well.

2. Pursuant to 20.6.2.5101H NMAC, the Permittee may request to transfer its Class III well discharge permit if:

a. The OCD Director receives written notice 30 days prior to the transfer date; and,

b. The OCD Director does not object prior to the proposed transfer date. OCD may require modifications to the discharge permit as a condition of transfer, and may require demonstration of adequate financial responsibility.

3. The written notice required in accordance with Permit Condition 1.H.2.a shall:

a. Have been signed by the Permittee and the succeeding Permittee, and shall include an acknowledgement that the succeeding Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with the Class III well discharge permit upon taking possession of the facility; and

b. Set a specific date for transfer of the discharge permit responsibility, coverage and liability; and

c. Include information relating to the succeeding Permittee's financial responsibility required by 20.6.2.5210B(17) NMAC.

**1.I. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT:** If the Permittee violates or is violating a condition of this Discharge Permit, OCD may issue a compliance order that requires compliance immediately or within a specified time period, or assess a civil penalty, or both (See Section 74-6-10 NMSA 1978). The compliance order may also include a suspension or termination of this Discharge Permit. OCD may also commence a civil action in district court for appropriate relief, including injunctive relief (See Section 74-6-10(A)(2) NMSA 1978). The Permittee may be subject to criminal penalties for discharging a water contaminant without a discharge permit or in violation of a condition of a discharge permit; making any false material statement, representation, certification or omission of material fact in a renewal application, record, report, plan or other document filed, submitted or required to be maintained under the Water Quality Act; falsifying, tampering with or rendering inaccurate any monitoring device, method or record required to be maintained under the Water Quality Act; or failing to monitor, sample or report as required by a Discharge Permit issued pursuant to a state or federal law or regulation (See Section 74-6-10.2 NMSA 1978).

**2. GENERAL FACILITY OPERATIONS:**

**2.A. QUARTERLY MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS III WELLS:** The Permittee may use either or both fresh water or water from otherwise non-potable sources. Pursuant to 20.6.2.5207C, the Permittee shall provide analysis of the injected fluids at least quarterly to yield data representative of their characteristics. The Permittee shall analyze the injected fluids for the following characteristics:

- pH;
- density;
- concentration of total dissolved solids; and,
- chloride concentration.

The Permittee shall also provide analysis of the produced brine on a quarterly basis. The Permittee shall analyze the produced brine for the following characteristics:

- pH;
- density;
- concentration of total dissolved solids;
- chloride concentration; and,
- sodium concentration.

**2.B. SOLUTION CAVERN MONITORING PROGRAM:**

**1. Surface Subsidence Monitoring Plan:** The Permittee shall submit a Surface Subsidence Monitoring Plan to OCD within 180 days of the effective date of this permit. The Surface Subsidence Monitoring Plan shall specify that the Permittee will install at least three survey monuments and shall include a proposal to monitor the elevation of the monuments at least semiannually.

The Permittee shall survey each benchmark at least semiannually to monitor for possible surface subsidence and shall tie each survey to the nearest USGS benchmark. The Permittee shall employ a licensed professional surveyor to conduct the subsidence monitoring program. The Permittee shall submit the results of all subsidence surveys to OCD within 15 days of the survey. If the monitored surface subsidence at any measuring point reaches 0.10 feet compared to its baseline elevation, then the Permittee shall suspend operation of the Class III well. If the Permittee cannot demonstrate the integrity of the cavern and well to the satisfaction of OCD, then it shall cease all brine production and submit a corrective action plan to mitigate the subsidence.

**2. Solution Cavern Characterization Program:** The Permittee shall submit a Solution Cavern Characterization Plan to characterize the size and shape of the solution cavern using geophysical methods within 180 days of the effective date of this permit. The Permittee shall characterize the size and shape of the solution cavern using a geophysical method approved by OCD at least once before November 8, 2018. The Permittee shall demonstrate that at least 90% of the calculated volume of salt removed based upon injection and production volumes has been accounted for by the approved geophysical method(s) for such testing to be considered truly representative.

a. The Permittee shall provide an estimate of the size and shape of the solution cavern at least annually, based on fluid injection and brine production data.

b. The Permit shall compare the ratio of the volume of injected fluids to the volume of produced brine monthly. If the average ratio of injected fluid to produced brine varies is less than 90% or greater than 110%, the Permittee shall report this to OCD and cease injection and production operations of its Class III well within 24 hours. The Permittee shall begin an investigation to determine the cause of this abnormal ratio within 72 hours. The Permittee shall submit to OCD a report of its investigation within 15 days of cessation of injection and production operations of its Class III well.

**3. Annual Certification:** The Permittee shall certify annually that continued salt solution mining will not cause cavern collapse, surface subsidence, property damage, or otherwise threaten public health and the environment, based on geologic and engineering data.

If the solution cavern is determined by either OCD or the Permittee to be potentially unstable by either direct or indirect means, then the Permittee shall cease all fluid injection and brine production within 24 hours. If the Permittee ceases operations because it or OCD has determined that the solution cavern is unstable, then it shall submit a plan to stabilize the solution cavern within 30 days. OCD may require the Permittee to implement additional subsidence monitoring and to conduct additional corrective action.

**2.C. CONTINGENCY PLANS:** The Permittee shall implement its proposed contingency plan(s) included in its Permit Renewal Application to cope with failure of a system(s) in the Discharge Permit.

**2.D. CLOSURE:** Prior to closure of the facility, the Permittee shall submit for OCD's approval, a closure plan including a completed form C-103 for plugging and abandonment of the Class III well. The Permittee shall plug and abandon its well pursuant to 20.6.2.5209 NMAC and as specified in Permit Condition 2.D.

**1. Pre-Closure Notification:** Pursuant to 20.6.2.5005A NMAC, the Permittee shall submit a pre-closure notification to OCD's Environmental Bureau at least 30 days prior to the date that it proposes to close or to discontinue operation of its Class III well. Pursuant to 20.6.2.5005B NMAC, OCD's Environmental Bureau must approve all proposed well closure activities before Permittee may implement its proposed closure plan.

**2. Required Information:** The Permittee shall provide OCD's Environmental Bureau with the following information:

- Name of facility;
- Address of facility;
- Name of Permittee (and owner or operator, if appropriate);
- Address of Permittee (and owner or operator, if appropriate);
- Contact person;
- Phone number;
- Number and type of well(s);
- Year of well construction;
- Well construction details;

- Type of discharge;
- Average flow (gallons per day);
- Proposed well closure activities (*e.g.*, sample fluids/sediment, appropriate disposal of remaining fluids/sediments, remove well and any contaminated soil, clean out well, install permanent plug, conversion to other type of well, ground water and vadose zone investigation, other);
- Proposed date of well closure;
- Name of Preparer; and,
- Date.

**2.E. PLUGGING AND ABANDONMENT PLAN:** Pursuant to 20.6.2.5209A NMAC, when the Permittee proposes to plug and abandon its Class III well, it shall submit to OCD a plugging and abandonment plan that meets the requirements of 20.6.2.3109C NMAC, 20.6.2.5101C NMAC, and 20.6.2.5005 NMAC for protection of ground water. If requested by OCD, Permittee shall submit for approval prior to closure, a revised or updated plugging and abandonment plan. The obligation to implement the plugging and abandonment plan as well as the requirements of the plan survives the termination or expiration of this Discharge Permit. The Permittee shall comply with 20.6.2.5209 NMAC.

**2.F RECORD KEEPING:** The Permittee shall maintain records of all inspections, surveys, investigations, *etc.*, required by this Discharge Permit at its Facility office for a minimum of five years and shall make those records available for inspection by OCD.

**2.G. RELEASE REPORTING:** The Permittee shall comply with the following permit conditions, pursuant to 20.6.2.1203 NMAC, if it determines that a release of oil or other water contaminant, in such quantity as may with reasonable probability injure or be detrimental to human health, animal or plant life, or property, or unreasonably interfere with the public welfare or the use of property, has occurred. The Permittee shall report unauthorized releases of water contaminants in accordance with any additional commitments made in its approved Contingency Plan. If the Permittee determines that any constituent exceeds the standards specified at 20.6.2.3103 NMAC, then it shall report a release to OCD's Environmental Bureau.

**1. Oral Notification:** As soon as possible after learning of such a discharge, but in no event more than twenty-four (24) hours thereafter, the Permittee shall notify OCD's Environmental Bureau. The Permittee shall provide the following:

- The name, address, and telephone number of the person or persons in charge of the facility, as well as of the owner and/or operator of the facility;
- The name and location of the facility;
- The date, time, location, and duration of the discharge;
- The source and cause of discharge;
- A description of the discharge, including its chemical composition;
- The estimated volume of the discharge; and,
- Any corrective or abatement actions taken to mitigate immediate damage from the discharge.

**2. Written Notification:** Within one week after the Permittee has discovered a discharge, the Permittee shall send written notification (may use form C-141 with attachments) to OCD's Environmental Bureau verifying the prior oral notification as to each of the foregoing items and providing any appropriate additions or corrections to the information contained in the prior oral notification.

The Permittee shall provide subsequent written reports as required by OCD's Environmental Bureau.

## **2.H. OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

**1. Inspection and Entry:** Pursuant to Section 74-6-9 NMSA 1978 and 20.6.2.3107A NMAC, the Permittee shall allow any authorized representative of the OCD Director, to:

- Upon the presentation of proper credentials, enter the premises at reasonable times;
- Inspect and copy records required by this Discharge Permit;
- Inspect any treatment works, monitoring, and analytical equipment;
- Sample any injection fluid or produced brine; and,
- Use the Permittee's monitoring systems and wells in order to collect samples.

**2. Advance Notice:** The Permittee shall provide OCD's Environmental Bureau and Hobbs District Office with at least five (5) working days advance notice of any environmental sampling to be performed pursuant to this Discharge Permit, or any well plugging, abandonment or decommissioning of any equipment associated with its Class III well.

**3. Environmental Monitoring:** The Permittee shall ensure that any environmental sampling and analytical laboratory data collected meets the standards specified in 20.6.2.3107B NMAC. The Permittee shall ensure that all environmental samples are analyzed by an accredited "National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference" (NELAC) Laboratory. The Permittee shall submit data summary tables, all raw analytical data, and laboratory QA/QC.

**2.I. BONDING OR FINANCIAL ASSURANCE:** Pursuant to 20.6.2.5210B(17) NMAC, the Permittee shall maintain at a minimum, a single well plugging bond in the amount that it shall determine, in accordance with Permit Condition 5.B, to cover potential costs associated with plugging and abandonment of the Class III well, surface restoration, and post-operational monitoring, as may be needed. OCD may require additional financial assurance to ensure adequate funding is available to plug and abandon the well and/or for any required corrective actions.

Methods by which the Permittee shall demonstrate the ability to undertake these measures shall include submission of a surety bond or other adequate assurances, such as financial statements or other materials acceptable to the OCD Director, such as: (1) a surety bond; (2) a trust fund with a New Mexico bank in the name of the State of New Mexico, with the State as Beneficiary; (3) a non-renewable letter of credit made out to the State of New Mexico; (4) liability insurance specifically covering the contingencies listed in this paragraph; or (5) a performance bond,

generally in conjunction with another type of financial assurance. If an adequate bond is posted by the Permittee to a federal or another state agency, and this bond covers all of the measures specified above, the OCD Director shall consider this bond as satisfying the bonding requirements of Sections 20.6.2.5000 through 20.6.2.5299 NMAC wholly or in part, depending upon the extent to which such bond is adequate to ensure that the Permittee will fully perform the measures required hereinabove.

**2.J. ANNUAL REPORT:** The Permittee shall submit its annual report pursuant to 20.6.2.3107 NMAC to OCD's Environmental Bureau by **June 1<sup>st</sup>** of the following year. The annual report shall include the following:

- Cover sheet marked as "Annual Class III Well Report, Name of Permittee, Discharge Permit Number, API number of well(s), date of report, and person submitting report;
- Summary of Class III well operations for the year including a description and reason for any remedial or major work on the well with a copy of form C-103;
- Monthly fluid injection and brine production volume, including the cumulative total carried over each year;
- Injection pressure data;
- A copy of the quarterly chemical analyses shall be included with data summary and all QA/QC information;
- Copy of any mechanical integrity test chart, including the type of test, *i.e.*, duration, gauge pressure, etc.;
- Brief explanation describing deviations from the normal operations;
- Results of any leaks and spill reports;
- An Area of Review (AOR) update summary;
- A summary with interpretation of MITs, surface subsidence surveys, cavern volume and geometry measurements with conclusion(s) and recommendation(s);
- A summary of the ratio of the volume of injected fluids to the volume of produced brine;
- A summary of all major Facility activities or events, which occurred during the year with any conclusions and recommendations;
- Annual Certification in accordance with Permit Condition 2.B.3.
- A summary of any new discoveries of ground water contamination with all leaks, spills and releases and corrective actions taken; and,
- The Permittee shall file its Annual Report in an electronic format with a hard copy submittal to OCD's Environmental Bureau.

**3. CLASS III WELL OPERATIONS:**

**3.A. OPERATING REQUIREMENTS:** The Permittee shall comply with the operating requirements specified in 20.6.2.5206A NMAC and 20.6.2.5206A NMAC to ensure that:

1. Injection will occur through the innermost tubing string and brine production through the annulus between the casing and tubing string to promote cavern development at depth. Injection and production flow can be reversed as required to achieve optimal cavern shaping, mine salt most efficiently, and to periodically clean the tubing and annulus. Injection must only occur in the intended solution mining interval.

2. Injection between the outermost casing and the well bore is prohibited in a zone other than the authorized injection zone. If the Permittee determines that its Class III well is discharging or suspects that it is discharging fluids into a zone or zones other than the permitted injection zone specified in Permit Condition 3.B.1., then the Permittee shall within 24 hours notify OCD's Environmental Bureau and Hobbs District Office of the circumstances and action(s) taken. The Permittee shall cease operations until proper repairs are made and it has received approval from OCD to re-start injection operations.

**3.B. INJECTION OPERATIONS:**

1. **Well Injection Pressure Limit:** The Permittee shall ensure that the maximum wellhead or surface injection pressure on its Class III well shall not exceed the fracture pressure of the injection salt formation and will not cause new fractures or propagate any existing fractures of cause damage to the system.

2. **Pressure Limiting Device:** The Permittee shall equip and operate its Class III well or system with a pressure limiting device which shall, at all times, limit surface injection pressure to the maximum allowable pressure for its Class III well. The Permittee shall monitor the pressure-limiting device daily and shall report all pressure exceedances within 24 hours of detecting an exceedance to OCD's Environmental Bureau.

The Permittee shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the injected fluids enter only the proposed injection interval and is not permitted to escape to other formations or onto the ground surface. The Permittee shall report to OCD's Environmental Bureau within 24 hours of discovery any indication that new fractures or existing fractures have been propagated, or that damage to the well, the injection zone, or formation has occurred.

**3.C. CONTINUOUS MONITORING DEVICES:** The Permittee shall use continuous monitoring devices to provide a record of injection pressure, flow rate, flow volume, and pressure on the annulus between the tubing and the long string of casing.

**3.D. MECHANICAL INTEGRITY FOR CLASS III WELLS:**

1. Pursuant to 20.6.2.5204 NMAC, the Permittee shall demonstrate mechanical integrity for its Class III well at least once every five years or more frequently as the OCD

Director may require for good cause during the life of the well. The Permittee shall demonstrate mechanical integrity for its Class III well every time it performs a well workover, including when it pulls the tubing. A Class III well has mechanical integrity if there is no detectable leak in the casing or tubing which OCD considers to be significant at maximum operating temperature and pressure; and no detectable conduit for fluid movement out of the injection zone through the well bore or vertical channels adjacent to the well bore which the OCD Director considers to be significant. The Permittee shall conduct a casing Mechanical Integrity Test (MIT) from the surface to the approved injection depth to assess casing integrity. The MIT shall consist of a 30-minute test at a minimum pressure of 300 psig measured at the surface.

The Permittee shall notify OCD's Environmental Bureau 5 days prior to conducting any MIT to allow OCD the opportunity to witness the MIT.

2. The following criteria will determine if the Class III well has passed the MIT:

- a. Passes MIT if zero bleed-off during the test;
- b. Passes MIT if final test pressure is within  $\pm 10\%$  of starting pressure, if approved by OCD;
- c. When the MIT is not witnessed by OCD and fails, the Permittee shall notify OCD within 24 hours of the failure of the MIT.

3. Pursuant to 20.6.2.5204C NMAC, the OCD Director may consider the use by the Permittee of equivalent alternative test methods to determine mechanical integrity. The Permittee shall submit information on the proposed test and all technical data supporting its use. The OCD Director may approve the Permittee's request if it will reliably demonstrate the mechanical integrity of the well for which its use is proposed.

4. Pursuant to 20.6.2.5204D NMAC, when conducting and evaluating the MIT(s), the Permittee shall apply methods and standards generally accepted in the oil and gas industry. When the Permittee reports the results of all MIT(s) to the OCD Director, it shall include a description of the test(s), the method(s) used, and the test results.

**3.E. WELL WORKOVER OPERATIONS:** Pursuant to 20.6.2.5205A(5) NMAC, the Permittee shall provide notice to and shall obtain approval from OCD's District Office in Hobbs and the Environmental Bureau in Santa Fe prior to commencement of any remedial work or any other workover operations to allow OCD the opportunity to witness the operation. The Permittee shall request approval using form C-103 (Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells) with copies sent to OCD's Environmental Bureau and Hobbs District Office. Properly completed Forms C-103 and/or C-105 must be filed with OCD upon completion of workover activities and copies included in that year's Annual Report.

**3.K. FLUIDS INJECTION AND BRINE PRODUCTION VOLUMES AND PRESSURES:** The Permittee shall continuously monitor the volumes of water injected and brine production. The Permittee shall submit monthly reports of its injection and production volumes on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. The Permittee shall suspend injection if the monthly injection volume is less than 110% or greater than 120% of associated brine production. If such an event occurs, the Permittee shall notify OCD within 24 hours.

**3.L. AREA OF REVIEW (AOR):** The Permittee shall report within 72 hours of discovery any new wells, conduits, or any other device that penetrates or may penetrate the injection zone within a 1-mile radius from its Class III well.

**4. CLASS V WELLS:** Pursuant to 20.6.2.5002B NMAC, leach fields and other waste fluids disposal systems that inject non-hazardous fluid into or above an underground source of drinking water are UIC Class V injection wells. This Discharge Permit does not authorize the use of a Class V injection well for the disposal of industrial waste. Pursuant to 20.6.2.5005 NMAC, the Permittee shall close any Class V industrial waste injection well that injects non-hazardous industrial wastes or a mixture of industrial wastes and domestic wastes (*e.g.*, septic systems, leach fields, dry wells, *etc.*) within 90 calendar days of the issuance of this Discharge Permit. The Permittee shall document the closure of any Class V wells used for the disposal of non-hazardous industrial wastes or a mixture of industrial wastes and domestic wastes other than contaminated ground water in its Annual Report. Other Class V wells, including wells used only for the injection of domestic wastes, shall be permitted by the New Mexico Environment Department.

**5. SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE:**

**5.A. ANNUAL REPORT:** The Permittee shall submit its annual report to OCD by June 1st of each year.

**5.B. BONDING OR FINANCIAL ASSURANCE:** The Permittee shall submit an estimate of the minimum cost to properly close, plug and abandon its Class III well, conduct ground water restoration if applicable, and any post-operational monitoring as may be needed (see 20.6.2.5210B(17) NMAC) within 90 days of permit issuance (See 20.6.2.5210B(17) NMAC). The Permittee's cost estimate shall be based on third person estimates. After review, OCD will require the Permittee to submit a single well plugging bond based on the third person cost estimate.

**5.C. SURFACE SUBSIDENCE MONITORING PLAN:** The Permittee shall submit the Surface Subsidence Monitoring Plan required in accordance with Permit Condition 2.B.1 within 180 days of permit issuance.

**5.D. SOLUTION CAVERN CHARACTERIZATION PLAN:** The Permittee shall submit the Solution Cavern Characterization Plan required in accordance with Permit Condition 2.B.2 within 180 days of permit issuance.