

**NM -** 13

**INSPECTIONS &  
DATA**

**Inspection Report  
Eunice Treatment Plant  
Lea County, NM**

**Inspection Date:** November 4, 1998

**EPA ID Number:** none

**Facility Name:** Eunice Treatment Plant

**Physical Location:** 1/4 mile north of Highway 8, Eunice, New Mexico

**Mailing Address:** Unknown

**Type of Ownership:** private

**Inspection Participants:**

**Lead EPA Inspector:** Melissa Smith (214) 665-7357      **Initials:** MLS

**Other Participants:**

Roger Anderson	New Mexico Oil Conservation Division ("NMOCD")	(505) 827-7152
Doug McKenna	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS")	(505) 589-2823
Greg Stover	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(505) 883-7828
Vince Balderaz	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	(505) 393-3612

**Facility Owner:** Jimmy Cooper, land owner

**Facility Description:** Inactive, former commercial oilfield waste treatment and disposal facility

**Generator Status:** Unknown

**Inspection Type:** Compliance evaluation inspection

**Reason for Evaluation:** General inspection

**Summary of Inspection:** see narrative

**Checklists Completed:** none

**Peer Reviewed by:** Jinda Hutchinson

**Date:** 7/9/99

**Compliance Evaluation Inspection Narrative  
Eunice Treatment Plant  
Lea County, NM**

On November 5, 1998, a compliance evaluation inspection was conducted at Eunice Treatment Plant located approximately 1/4 mile north off Highway 8 in Eunice, New Mexico. The purpose of the inspection was to determine if any pits or structures at the facility pose a threat to human health or the environment (including wildlife). The inspectors arrived at the facility at approximately 1:30 pm. According to the NMOCD inspector, the site is no longer active.

At the time of the inspection, the facility consisted of two large tanks and an unlined pit. It was not apparent at the time whether or not the tanks contained waste oil. The tanks were not equipped with secondary containment. The pit appeared to contain a combination of liquid, sludge, and oil (see Attachment A, photo #'s 1 & 2). The pit was not netted. The berm around the pit was heavily saturated with oil. There was fencing around the site; however, portions of it were missing and access to the site was not restricted. There were several homes located within approximately 1/4 mile from the facility. One of the homes appeared to have a windmill and/or water well.

No wildlife mortality was observed at the site.

**Areas of Concern**

- Although the facility has been inactive for several years, there are still tanks on-site which may contain waste oil, and a pit on-site which contains waste oil.
- The tanks are not equipped with secondary containment.
- The pit does not contain any wildlife exclusionary devices, such as netting.
- Although the material in the pit was below the berm, due to the staining of the berm it appeared that the pit had been operated at one time with little or no freeboard.
- The pit was not lined and is saturated with oil. It is within close proximity to residences and may be located over a drinking water aquifer.
- The same site conditions were observed during a similar inspection conducted in September, 1997, by EPA, FWS, and NMOCD.

**Attachments**

- A Photograph log

ATTACHMENT A

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Official Photograph Log



Photo Number: 1 Photographer: Melissa Smith  
Location: Eunice Treatment Plant  
Subject: Pit containing liquid, sludge, and oil  
City/County: Eunice, Lea County State: NM  
Date: 11/04/99 Time: pm Weather: cloudy, cool



Photo Number: 2 Photographer: Melissa Smith  
Location: Eunice Treatment Plant  
Subject: Pit containing liquid, sludge, and oil  
City/County: Eunice, Lea County State: NM  
Date: 11/04/99 Time: pm Weather: cloudy, cool