

District I  
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240  
District II  
1301 W. Grand Avenue, Artesia, NM 88210  
District III  
1000 Rio Brazos Road, Aztec, NM 87410  
District IV  
1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505

State of New Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Form C-144  
March 12, 2004

For drilling and production facilities, submit to appropriate NMOCD District Office.  
For downstream facilities, submit to Santa Fe office

**Pit or Below-Grade Tank Registration or Closure**

Is pit or below-grade tank covered by a "general plan"? Yes ☐ No ☒

Type of action: Registration of a pit or below-grade tank ☐ Closure of a pit or below-grade tank ☐

Operator: Merit Energy Telephone: (505) 677-2327 e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: PO Box 300  
Facility or well name: Keel B # 22 API #: 30-015-0502 U/L or Qtr/Qtr L Sec 5 T 17S R 31E  
County: Edm Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude \_\_\_\_\_ NAD: 1927 ☐ 1983 ☐ Surface Owner Federal ☒ State ☐ Private ☐ Indian ☐

**Pit**

Type: Drilling ☐ Production ☐ Disposal ☐

Workover ☒ Emergency ☐

Lined ☒ Unlined ☐

Liner type: Synthetic ☒ Thickness 12 mil Clay ☐ Volume  
100 bbl

**Below-grade tank**

Volume: \_\_\_\_\_ bbl Type of fluid: \_\_\_\_\_

Construction material: \_\_\_\_\_

Double-walled, with leak detection? Yes ☐ If not, explain why not. \_\_\_\_\_

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MAY 03 2004

ARTEZIA

Depth to ground water (vertical distance from bottom of pit to seasonal high water elevation of ground water.)

Less than 50 feet

(20 points)

50 feet or more, but less than 100 feet

(10 points)

100 feet or more

(0 points) ☒

Wellhead protection area: (Less than 200 feet from a private domestic water source, or less than 1000 feet from all other water sources.)

Yes

(20 points)

No

(0 points) ☒

Distance to surface water: (horizontal distance to all wetlands, playas, irrigation canals, ditches, and perennial and ephemeral watercourses.)

Less than 200 feet

(20 points)

200 feet or more, but less than 1000 feet

(10 points)

1000 feet or more

(0 points) ☒

Ranking Score (Total Points)

**If this is a pit closure:** (1) attach a diagram of the facility showing the pit's relationship to other equipment and tanks. (2) Indicate disposal location:

onsite ☐ offsite ☐ If offsite, name of facility \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Attach a general description of remedial action taken including remediation start date and end date. (4) Groundwater encountered: No ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, show depth below ground surface \_\_\_\_\_ ft. and attach sample results. (5) Attach soil sample results and a diagram of sample locations and excavations.

I hereby certify that the information above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further certify that the above-described pit or below-grade tank has been/will be constructed or closed according to NMOCD guidelines ☒ a general permit ☐ or an (attached) alternative OCD-approved plan ☐.

Date: 4-30-04

Printed Name/Title: Brandon Ripley Pumper Signature: [Signature]

Your certification and NMOCD approval of this application/closure does not relieve the operator of liability should the contents of the pit or tank contaminate ground water or otherwise endanger public health or the environment. Nor does it relieve the operator of its responsibility for compliance with any other federal, state, or local laws and/or regulations.

Approved

Date: MAY 10 2004

Printed Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: [Signature]

Please see attached stipulations and/or requirements:



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**BILL RICHARDSON**  
Governor

**Joanna Prukop**  
Cabinet Secretary  
Acting Director  
Oil Conservation Division

12 May 2004

Merit Energy  
13727 Noel Ste. 500  
Dallas, Texas 75240

RE:

Approval of pit permit -

Keel B # 22

API# 30-015-05082

The Oil Conservation Division of Artesia is in receipt of your application to construct a pit for the purpose of drilling. The request is hereby accepted and approved with the following provisions:

1. Construction and closing of pit(s) must meet the criteria of Rule 19.15.2.50 and the Pit Guidelines.
2. The pit is not located in any watercourse, lakebed, sinkhole, playa lake, or wetland.
3. Notice is to be given to the OCD prior to construction of the pit(s).
4. Immediately upon cessation of use the freestanding fluid will be removed and disposed of in an OCD approved facility.
5. Pit encapsulations must meet all specific criteria including, but not limited to:
  - A. Site evaluation
  - B. Liner thickness and type must meet requirements as per guidelines.
  - C. Amount of and type of cover
  - D. Drill cuttings will be sampled as per guidelines. Notify OCD 48 hours prior to any sampling event
  - E. In the event that the integrity of the pit lining is breached in a manner such that soil contamination would result, the contents of the pit will have to be disposed of in an approved OCD facility.
6. The pit will not be used for any additional storage of fluids.
7. The Division may attach additional conditions to any permit upon a finding that such conditions are necessary to prevent the contamination of fresh water, or to protect public health or the environment. (19.15.2.50.C.3.G.1.)
8. Re-seeding mixture will must be approved or authorized by surface owner.
9. Please note that your selection of liner thickness requires you to haul the pit liner and it's contents to an approved disposal site.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to call (505) 748-1283 ext. 109.

Sincerely,

Van Barton