

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ALL NEW MEXICO INJECTION WELL OPERATORS
FROM: JOE D. RAMEY, DIRECTOR *JDR*
SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ABANDONMENT OF INJECTION WELLS

Division Rule 705A provides in part that "no injection well may be temporarily abandoned for more than six months unless the injection interval has been isolated by use of cement or a bridge plug." The Division Director may delay the cement or bridge plug requirement upon a request by the operator and a showing that such well is mechanically sound, that there is a continuing need for the well, and that the well constitutes no threat to underground sources of drinking water.

Division survey programs have found several hundred injection wells which have not been used for at least six months and which do not have the requisite plugs. Based upon these surveys the Division will be moving to enforce Rule 705A in the near future.

Operators should review the status of their injection wells and within the next six months take one of the following actions relative to injection wells which have been shut in for six months or longer:

- (1) Return the well to active operation.
- (2) Plug and abandon the well or place a cement or bridge plug above the injection interval.
- (3) File a workover or plugging plan and schedule with the appropriate Division district office.
- (4) File a request for exception to Rule 705A with the Division Director in Santa Fe.

September 30, 1981
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