

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 8659  
Order No. R-8015

APPLICATION OF SANTA FE ENERGY  
COMPANY FOR SALT WATER DISPOSAL,  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8 a.m. on July 31, 1985, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Gilbert P. Quintana.

NOW, on this 20th day of August, 1985, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

- (1) Due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) The applicant, Santa Fe Energy Company, is the owner and operator of the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Well No. 15, located in Unit B of Section 34, Township 9 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.
- (3) The applicant proposes to utilize said well to dispose of produced salt water into the San Andres formation, with injection into the perforated interval from approximately 4985 feet to 5020 feet.
- (4) The injection should be accomplished through 2 3/8-inch plastic lined tubing installed in a packer set at approximately 4900 feet; the casing-tubing annulus should be filled with an inert fluid; and a pressure gauge or approved leak detection device should be attached to the annulus in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer.

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(5) The injection well or system should be equipped with a pressure limiting switch or other acceptable device which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to no more than 997 psi.

(6) The Director of the Division should be authorized to administratively approve an increase in the injection pressure upon a proper showing by the operator that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the injected waters from the San Andres formation.

(7) The operator should notify the supervisor of the Hobbs district office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment so that the same may be inspected.

(8) The operator should 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.

(9) Approval of the subject application will prevent the drilling of unnecessary wells and otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The applicant, Santa Fe Energy Company, is hereby authorized to complete its Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Well No. 15, located in Unit B of Section 34, Township 9 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to permit the injection of salt water for disposal purposes into the San Andres formation at approximately 4985 feet to approximately 5020 feet through 2 3/8-inch plastic lined tubing set in a packer located at approximately 4900 feet.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) 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 997 psi.

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(5) 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 San Andres formation.

(6) The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Hobbs district office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment so that the same may be inspected.

(7) The operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the Division's Hobbs district office of the failure of the tubing, casing, or packer, in said well or the leakage of water from or around said well and shall take such steps as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

(8) The applicant shall conduct disposal operations and submit monthly reports in accordance with Rules 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 708, and 1120 of the Division Rules and Regulations.

(9) Jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



R. L. STAMETS  
Director

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