



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor
Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.
Director
Oil Conservation Division

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SWD-941

APPLICATION OF EL PASO ENERGY RATON, LLC FOR PRODUCED WATER DISPOSAL, COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Under the provisions of Rule 701(B), El Paso Energy Raton, LLC made application to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division on September 3, 2004, for permission to utilize for produced water disposal its VPR "V" Well No. 1 (API No. 30-007-20539) located 1,640 feet from the North line and 384 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 10, Township 30 North, Range 19 East, NMPM, Colfax County, New Mexico.

THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:

- (1) The application has been duly filed under the provisions of Rule 701(B) of the Division Rules and Regulations;
- (2) Satisfactory information has been provided that all offset operators and surface owners have been duly notified;
- (3) The applicant has presented satisfactory evidence that all requirements prescribed in Rule 701 will be met; and
- (4) No objections have been received within the waiting period prescribed by said rule.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The applicant is hereby authorized to utilize its VPR "V" Well No. 1 (API No. 30-007-20539) located 1,640 feet from the North line and 384 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 10, Township 30 North, Range 19 East, NMPM, Colfax County, New Mexico, in such manner as to permit the injection of produced water for disposal purposes into the Entrada and Glorieta formations from 5,810 feet to 6,270 feet through tubing with an injection packer located within 100 feet of the top perforation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

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.

After completion of the well, the operator shall submit a written report to District 4 and copied to the engineering bureau of the Division, detailing the depths of all fresh water bearing intervals discovered or encountered during drilling, mud logging, and electric logging as well as an analysis of the main, water bearing interval - if one exists. These reports should reference Division order SWD-941 and will be incorporated into that file.

During well completion operations, the operator shall attempt to obtain water samples from the injection formations and submit the analyzed water samples to District 4 and to the engineering bureau of the Division for incorporation into the record.

After installing injection tubing and prior to commencing injection operations into the well, the casing shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure the integrity of said casing.

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.

The wellhead injection pressure on the well shall be limited to **no more than 1,162 psi**. In addition, the injection well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting device in workable condition which shall, at all times, limit surface injection pressure to the maximum allowable pressure for this well.

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 injection formation. Such proper showing shall consist of a valid step-rate test run in accordance with and acceptable to this office.

The operator shall notify the supervisor of the District 4 office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of any mechanical integrity test so that the same may be inspected and witnessed.

The operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the District 4 office of the Division of the failure of the tubing, casing, or packer in said well and shall take such steps as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

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El Paso Energy Raton, LLC

October 1, 2004

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PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, jurisdiction is retained by the Division for the entry of such further orders as may be necessary for the prevention of waste and/or protection of correlative rights or upon failure of the operator to conduct operations (1) to protect fresh water or (2) consistent with the requirements in this order, whereupon the Division may, after notice and hearing, terminate the injection authority granted herein.

The operator shall provide written notice of the date of commencement of injection to the District 4 Santa Fe office of the Division. The operator shall submit monthly reports of the disposal operations on Division Form C-115, in accordance with Rule Nos. 706 and 1120 of the Division Rules and Regulations.

The injection authority granted herein shall terminate one year after the effective date of this order if the operator has not commenced injection operations into the subject well, provided however, the Division, upon written request by the operator, may grant an extension thereof for good cause shown.

Approved at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the 1st day of October 2004.


MARK E. FESMIRE, P.E.
Director

MEF/wvjj

cc: Oil Conservation Division – District 4 Santa Fe