

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

David Martin
Cabinet Secretary-Designate

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Jami Bailey, Division Director
Oil Conservation Division



Administrative Order SWD-1437-A
October 11, 2013

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Pursuant to the provisions of 19.15.26.8B NMAC, the Strata Production Company (the "operator") seeks an administrative order to utilize its Forty Niner Ridge Unit Well No. 1 with a location of 1980 feet from the South line and 1980 feet from the East line, Unit letter J of Section 16, Township 23 South, Range 30 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, for produced water disposal purposes in a new injection interval.

The well is currently approved under Administrative Order SWD-845 for disposal in the Bell Canyon and Cherry Canyon formations from a depth of 4433 feet to 5952 feet. Additionally, the operation of the well has been modified with Administrative Order IPI-431 which permits a maximum surface tubing pressure of 1500 psig.

This order is amended to reflect additional information provided by the operator regarding the re-entry and completion of the new injection interval. The operator will squeeze the perforations in the Bell Canyon and Cherry Canyon formations prior to deepening the existing well. The remaining perforated zones may be sealed with the installation of the 5½-casing and cement. However, if there is a loss of control ("lost circulation") during the cleanout and deepening of the well, the operator will identify and squeeze the appropriate perforated zone(s) prior to continuing with the well conversion.

THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:

The application has been duly filed under the provisions of 19.15.26.8B NMAC and satisfactory information has been provided that affected parties as defined in said rule have been notified and no objections have been received within the prescribed waiting period. The applicant has presented satisfactory evidence that all requirements prescribed in 19.15.26.8 NMAC have been met and the operator is in compliance with 19.15.5.9 NMAC.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The applicant, Strata Production Company (OGRID 21712), is hereby authorized to utilize its Forty Niner Ridge Unit Well No. 1 (API 30-015-20899) with a location of 1980 feet from the South line and 1980 feet from the East line, Unit letter J of Section 16, Township 23 South, Range 30 East, NMPM, Eddy County, for disposal of oil field produced water (UIC Class II only) into the Devonian formation through open hole from a depth of 15650 feet to 16000 feet.

Injection will occur through internally coated tubing and a packer set within 100 feet of the permitted interval.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The operator shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the disposed water enters only the approved disposal interval and is not permitted to escape to other formations or onto the surface. This includes the well construction proposed and described in the application.

If the cement for the installation of the new 5½-inch casing does not circulate to surface, the operator shall determine the top of cement by cement bond log (or equivalent method) and submit a copy to Division district II.

The operator shall supply the Division with a copy of a mudlog over the permitted disposal interval and an estimated in-situ water salinity from open hole log correlations. If significant hydrocarbon shows occur in the injection interval while drilling, the operator shall notify Division district II and the operator shall be required to obtain permission from the Division prior to commencing injection.

After installing tubing, the casing-tubing annulus shall be loaded with an inert fluid and equipped with a pressure gauge or an approved leak detection device in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer. The casing shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure casing integrity.

The well shall pass an initial mechanical integrity test ("MIT") prior to initially commencing disposal and prior to resuming disposal each time the disposal packer is unseated. All MIT testing procedures and schedules shall follow the requirements in Division Rule 19.15.26.11A. NMAC. The Division Director retains the right to require at any time wireline verification of completion and packer setting depths in this well.

The wellhead injection pressure on the well shall be limited to **no more than 3130 psig**. In addition, the disposal well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting device in workable condition which shall, at all times, limit surface tubing pressure to the maximum allowable pressure for this well.

The Director of the Division may authorize an increase in tubing pressure upon a proper showing by the operator of said well that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the disposed fluid from the target formation. Such proper showing shall be demonstrated by sufficient evidence including but not limited to an acceptable Step-Rate Test.

The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Division's district II office of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of any MIT test so that the same may be inspected and witnessed. The operator shall provide written notice of the date of commencement of disposal to the Division's district office. The operator shall submit monthly reports of the disposal operations on Division Form C-115, in accordance with Division Rules 19.15.26.13 and 19.15.7.24 NMAC.

Without limitation on the duties of the operator as provided in Division Rules 19.15.29 and 19.15.30 NMAC, or otherwise, the operator shall immediately notify the Division's district II office of any failure of the tubing, casing or packer in the well, or of any leakage or release of water, oil or gas from around any produced or plugged and abandoned well in the area, and shall take such measures as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

The injection authority granted under this order is not transferable except upon division approval. The division may require the operator to demonstrate mechanical integrity of any injection well that will be transferred prior to approving transfer of authority to inject.

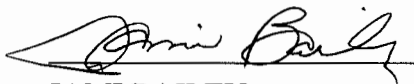
The division may revoke this injection permit after notice and hearing if the operator is in violation of 19.15.5.9 NMAC.

The disposal authority granted herein shall terminate two (2) years after the effective date of this order if the operator has not commenced injection operations into the subject well. One year after the last date of reported disposal into this well, the Division shall consider the well abandoned, and the authority to dispose will terminate *ipso facto*. The Division, upon written request mailed by the operator prior to the termination date, may grant an extension thereof for good cause.

The previous Administrative Order SWD-845 shall be terminated with the commencement of injection under this order. Additionally, Administrative Order IPI-431 shall be rescinded with the termination of Administrative Order SWD-845.

Compliance with this order does not relieve the operator of the obligation to comply with other applicable federal, state or local laws or rules, or to exercise due care for the protection of fresh water, public health and safety and the environment.

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 or protectable waters or (2) consistent with the requirements in this order, whereupon the Division may, after notice and hearing, terminate the disposal authority granted herein.



JAMI BAILEY
Director

JB/prg

cc: Oil Conservation Division – Artesia District Office
State Land Office – Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division