



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON

Governor

Joanna Prukop

Cabinet Secretary

Lori Wrotenbery

Director

Oil Conservation Division

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SWD-871

APPLICATION OF APACHE CORPORATION FOR SALT WATER DISPOSAL, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Under the provisions of Rule 701(B), Apache Corporation made application to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division on January 17, 2003, for permission to complete for produced water disposal its proposed Southland Royalty "A" Well No. 15 to be located 2460 feet from the South line and 990 feet from the East line (Unit I) of Section 4, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea 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:

Apache Corporation is hereby authorized to complete for produced water disposal its proposed Southland Royalty "A" Well No. 15 to be located 2460 feet from the South line and 990 feet from the East line (Unit I) of Section 4, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to permit the injection of produced water for disposal purposes into the Grayburg formation from a depth of 3850 feet to 4000 feet through 2 3/8 inch plastic-lined tubing set in a packer located approximately at 3800 feet.

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.

As preparation and prior to any injection, the cement top shall be determined by cement bond log on offset well - Northeast Drinkard Unit Well No. 203. The bond log shall be supplied to the Hobbs District office of the Division. After consultation, an inadequate cement top shall be repaired by squeeze cementing operations, raising cement approximately 500 feet above the top of the intended injection interval. Post squeeze cement top shall be determined by cement bond log and that log sent to the Hobbs District office of the Division.

The casing-tubing annulus 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 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 770 psi.

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 Hobbs District 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 Hobbs District 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.

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 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 this 1st day of February 2003.

Lori Wrotenbery (WJT)
LORI WROTENBERY
Director

LW/wvjj
cc: Oil Conservation Division – Hobbs