


**AP - 078**

**GENERAL  
CORRESPONDENCE**

**2009**



# New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

**Joanna Prukop**  
Cabinet Secretary  
**Reese Fullerton**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Mark Fesmire**  
Division Director  
Oil Conservation Division



**March 6, 2009**

Mr. Matthew L. Pride  
Pride Energy Company  
P.O. Box 701950  
Tulsa, OK 74170-1950

**RE: STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLETENESS DETERMINATION  
PRIDE ENERGY - SOUTH FOUR LAKES #15 DRILLING PIT  
SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO  
OCD CASE NO. AP078**

Dear Mr. Pride:

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed the *Reserve Pit #15 Pride Energy - South Four Lakes - Investigation and Remediation Plan* dated April 11, 2008, submitted by R.T. Hicks on behalf of Pride Energy. Pride submitted this Stage 1 Abatement Plan proposal to conduct a ground water and soil investigation of brine released from its drilling pit at the South Four Lakes #15 site, located in Section 2, Township 12 South, Range 34 East, Lea County, New Mexico, in response to OCD's letter of February 12, 2008.

OCD has determined that Pride's Stage 1 Abatement Plan Proposal is administratively complete because Pride has met the requirements specified in OCD Rule Part 30.13C. Before OCD can complete a technical review of EMGR's Stage 1 proposal, Pride shall:

1. Issue written notice of the Stage 1 proposal pursuant to OCD Rule Part 30.15A, prior to issuing public notice. A listing of "*those persons, as identified by the Director, who have requested notification*" is attached.
2. Issue its OCD approved public notice in the Santa Fe New Mexican and the Hobbs News-Sun, pursuant to OCD Rule Part 30.15B.

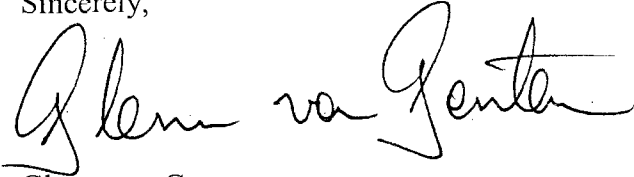


Mr. Mathew Pride  
February 6, 2009  
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3. Provide OCD with proof of publication and proof of written notice.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 505-476-3488.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn von Gonten". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Glenn von Gonten  
Senior Hydrologist

1 attachment

cc: Larry Johnson, OCD Hobbs District Office

## Interested Parties Notice Mailing List

Field Supervisor  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
2105 Osuna Road, Northeast  
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001  
(Wishes to be notified via regular mail)

State Historic Preservation Officer  
228 East Palace Avenue  
Villa Rivera Room 101  
Santa Fe, NM 87503  
(Wishes to be notified via regular mail)

Dr. Harry Bishara  
P.O. Box 748  
Cuba, NM 87013  
(Wishes to be notified via regular mail)

Director  
NM Department of Game & Fish  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
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Chief of Conservation Services  
NM Department of Game & Fish  
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Cabinet Secretary  
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Soil and Water Conservation Bureau  
New Mexico Department of Agriculture  
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## NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

State of New Mexico

2009 MAR 20 PM 1 08

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

### Oil Conservation Division

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Oil Conservation Division Regulations, the following Stage 1 Abatement Plan Proposal has been submitted to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, 1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, Telephone (505) 476-3440:

Matthew L. Pride, President of Pride Production Co., Inc., which is a General Partner of Pride Energy Company, an Oklahoma General Partnership, Telephone (918) 524-9200, P. O. Box 701950, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74170, has submitted a Stage 1 Abatement Plan Proposal (AP-78) for the South Four Lakes #15 site, located in Section 2, Township 12 South, Range 34 East, Lea County, New Mexico, approximately 10 miles west of Tatum, New Mexico. Pride Energy Company is the operator of an oil and gas well at the site. A former drilling pit is a suspected source of a release of brines into the vadose zone and groundwater at the site. The volume of any release is unknown. Assuming that the release of brine occurred soon after drilling was completed in March 2005; the down gradient extent of groundwater impairment could be 30 ft to 120 ft southeast of the pit. The Stage 1 Abatement Plan includes (1) a description of the site, site maps, and discussion of the site history including the nature of the release, (2) a description of the site geology and hydrology, (3) results of previous investigations, (4) the proposed characterization program, which includes the installation of soil borings and/or monitoring well(s) to delineate the vertical and horizontal extent of the constituents of concern, (5) a quality assurance plan, (6) assessment of restoration options, and (7) a schedule of proposed activities.

The division has determined that the application satisfies the requirements of OCD Rule Part 30.13C and is therefore administratively complete. The division will accept written comments on the abatement plan if the director receives them within 30 days after the date of publication of the public notice. Persons who are interested in obtaining further information, submitting comments, or wish to be placed on a facility-specific mailing list for future notices may contact the Environmental Bureau Chief of the Oil Conservation Division at the address given above. The application and administrative completeness determination may be viewed at the above address between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or may also be viewed at the OCD web site (<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/ocd>). Persons who are interested in obtaining a copy of the application and administrative completeness determination may contact Jim Snyder at the address given above, by telephone at 505-476-3484, or by email at [Jim.Snyder@state.nm.us](mailto:Jim.Snyder@state.nm.us).