



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
(505) 827-7131

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SWD-485

***APPLICATION OF SONAT EXPLORATION COMPANY FOR SALT WATER DISPOSAL,
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.***

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Under the provisions of Rule 701(B), Sonat Exploration Company made application to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division on July 30, 1997, for permission to complete for salt water disposal its Littlefield Federal Well No.1 located 660 feet from the North line and 1980 feet from the East line (Unit B) of Section 11, Township 24 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Eddy 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 herein, Sonat Exploration Company is hereby authorized to complete its Littlefield Federal Well No.1 located 660 feet from the North line and 1980 feet from the East line (Unit B) of Section 11, Township 24 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, in such manner as to permit the injection of salt water for disposal purposes into the Bell Canyon and Cherry Canyon formations at approximately 4580 feet to 6500 feet through 2 3/8-inch plastic-lined tubing set in a packer located at approximately 4500 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.

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 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 916 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 Bell Canyon Cherry Canyon formations. 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 Artesia district office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of the mechanical integrity test so that the same may be inspected and witnessed.

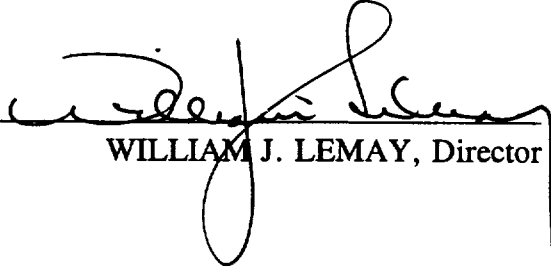
The operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the Artesia district office of the Division of the failure of the tubing, casing, or packer in said well and shall take such steps as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, jurisdiction of this cause is hereby retained by the Division for the entry of such further order or orders as may be deemed necessary or convenient for the prevention of waste and/or protection of correlative rights; upon failure of the operator to conduct operations in a manner which will ensure the protection of fresh water or in a manner inconsistent with the requirements set forth in this order, the Division may, after notice and hearing, terminate the injection authority granted herein.

The operator shall submit monthly reports of the disposal operation on Form C-115 and 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 20th day of November, 1997.


WILLIAM J. LEMAY, Director

WJL/BES

xc: Oil Conservation Division - Artesia