

**19.15.1.21 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT AREA:**

A. The Chihuahuan desert area comprises:

(1) all of Sierra county except the area west of Range 8 West, NMPM and north of Township 18 South, NMPM; and

(2) all of Otero county except:

Township 12 South, Ranges 13 East through 16 East, NMPM;  
Township 13 South, Ranges 11 East through 16 East, NMPM;  
Township 14 South, Ranges 11 East through 16 East, NMPM;  
Township 15 South, Ranges 11 East through 16 East, NMPM;  
Township 16 South, Ranges 11 East through 15 East, NMPM;  
Township 17 South, Ranges 11 East through 15 East, NMPM;  
Township 18 South, Ranges 11 East through 15 East, NMPM;  
Township 21 South, Range 19 East and Range 20 East, NMPM;  
Township 22 South, Range 20 East, NMPM; and

The area bounded by Range 9 East, NMPM on the west, Township 9 South, NMPM on the north, Range 13 East, NMPM on the east, and Township 13 South, NMPM on the south.

B. The division shall not issue permits under 19.15.2.50 NMAC or 19.15.9.711 NMAC for pits located in the Chihuahuan desert area.

C. Produced water injection wells located in the Chihuahuan desert area are subject to the following requirements in addition to those set out in 19.15.9.701 NMAC through 19.15.9.710 NMAC:

(1) Permits shall be issued under 19.15.9.701 NMAC only after notice and hearing.

(2) The radius of the area of review shall be the greater of:

(a) one-half mile; or

(b) one and one-third times the radius of the zone of endangering influence

as calculated under Environmental Protection Agency regulation 40 CFR Part 146.6(a).

(3) Operators shall log or test to demonstrate the vertical extent of any fresh water aquifer(s) prior to using a new or existing well, and file the log or test results with the appropriate district office of the division.

(4) All fresh water aquifers shall be isolated throughout their vertical extent with at least two cemented casing strings. In addition,

(a) existing wells converted to injection shall have continuous, adequate cement from casing shoe to surface on the smallest diameter casing, and

(b) wells drilled for the purpose of injection shall have cement circulated continuously to surface on all casing strings, except the smallest diameter casing shall have cement raised to at least 100 feet above the casing shoe of the next larger diameter casing.

(5) Operators shall run cement bond logs acceptable to the division ~~during new construction~~ after each casing string is cemented, and file the logs with the appropriate district office of the division. For existing wells the operator proposes to convert to injection, the operator shall demonstrate to the division's satisfaction adequate and competent cementing of all casing strings.

(6) ~~Produced water transportation lines that are not laid adjacent to existing or constructed roads shall be constructed of double-walled pipe.~~ Produced water transportation lines shall be constructed of internally plastic-coated steel pipe. Produced water transportation lines shall be pressure tested to one and one-half times the working pressure prior to operation, and annually thereafter.

(7) All tanks shall be placed on an impermeable pad and surrounded by lined berms or other impermeable secondary containment device of adequate capacity to contain leaks or spills.

(8) Operators shall record injection pressures and volumes daily, and make the record available to the division upon request.

(9) Operators shall perform a mechanical integrity test as described in Paragraph 2 of Subsection A of 19.15.9.704 NMAC annually, advise the appropriate district office of the division at least 24 hours prior to testing, and file the pressure chart with the appropriate district office of the division.