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**19.15.3.105 PIT FOR CLAY, SHALE, DRILL FLUID AND DRILL CUTTINGS**

A. In order to assure a supply of proper material for mud-laden fluid to confine oil, gas, or water to their native strata during the drilling of any well, operators shall provide before drilling is commenced an adequate pit for the accumulation of drill cuttings. Drilling fluids and drill cuttings must be disposed of at the well site in a manner to prevent contamination to surface or subsurface waters. Removal of drilling fluids or drill cuttings for offsite disposal will be permitted only by approval of the appropriate Division district supervisor.

B. To protect migratory birds, pits used for drilling, completion, blowdown, workover or an emergency immediately after cessation of the activity must have oil removed from their surface or be screened, netted or covered.

[1-1-50, 9-1-89...2-1-96; 19.15.3.105 NMAC - Rn, 19 NMAC 15.C.105, 11-15-01]