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NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

GARY E. JOHNSON
Governor
Jennifer A. Salisbury
Cabinet Secretary

August 3, 2000

Lori Wrotenbery
Director
Oil Conservation Division

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT NO. 5051-0951

Mr. Brett Hurlbut
Trigon Sheehan
126 Rock Point Drive
Suite B
Durango, CO 81301

**Re: Hydrostatic Test Water Discharge
El Paso Field Services Coal Bed Methane and Van Bremmer Discharge Pipelines
Colfax County, New Mexico**

Dear Mr. Hurlbut:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has received the Trigon Sheehan letter dated July 14, 2000 on behalf of El Paso Field Services (EPFS). The request for authorization to discharge approximately 271,614 gallons of wastewater from the hydrostatic test of 23 miles of new pipeline (12" Coal Bed Methane pipeline and 8" Van Bremmer discharge pipeline) in Colfax County, New Mexico.

Based on the information provided in the request, the hydrostatic test water discharge is hereby approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The test water (271,614 gallons) will be discharged into storage and frac-tanks and then disposed of in the El Paso Energy-Raton water disposal well located in the NE/4 of Section 1, Township 31 North, Range 19 East, NMPM, Colfax County, New Mexico;
2. The test water to be used is produced water;
3. The liquids will not be allowed to reach the ground surface.
4. Written permission of landowners (Vermejo Park Ranch L.L.C) must be obtained;

Pursuant to WQCC Regulation 3-106.B, this approval will allow EPFS to discharge without an approved discharge plan for a period not to exceed 120 days. If the site is to be used for more

than one test discharge, formal reapplication must be made. If the discharge exceeds 120 days, a formal discharge plan must be submitted for review.

Please be advised that this approval does not relieve EPNG of liability should their operation result in pollution of surface water, ground water, or the environment. In addition, OCD approval does not relieve EPNG of responsibility for compliance with other federal, state or local regulations.

If there are any questions, please call Martyne Kieling at (505) 827-7153.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger C. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "A".

Roger C. Anderson
Environmental Bureau Chief

RCA/mjk

xc: Roy Johnson, OCD District 4