

BELOW GRADE TANK (BGT) CLOSURE PLAN

SUBMITTED TO:

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU,
NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

ON BEHALF OF:

CHEVRON USA INC., CHEVRON MIDCONTINENT, L.P., AND FOUR STAR OIL & GAS
COMPANY
P.O. Box 730
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410
(505) 333-1901

Chevron

San Juan Basin

Below Grade Tank Closure Plan

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with NMAC §§ 19.15.17.9(B)(4) and 19.15.17.13, Chevron (representing Chevron USA Inc, Chevron Midcontinent, L.P., and Four Star Oil & Gas Company) submits this Closure Plan for below grade tanks (BGTs) in New Mexico. This Closure Plan contains standard conditions that attach to multiple BGTs. If needed for a particular BGT, a modified Closure Plan for a proposed alternative closure will be submitted to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD or the division) for approval prior to closure.

CLOSURE PLAN PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS (NMAC §§ 19.15.17.9(C) and 19.15.17.13).

- 1) Chevron, or a contractor acting on behalf of Chevron, will close a BGT within the time periods provided in NMAC § 19.15.17.13(A), or by an earlier date required by NMOCD to prevent an imminent danger to fresh water, public health, or the environment. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(A).
- 2) Chevron, or a contractor acting on behalf of Chevron, will close an existing BGT that does not meet the requirements of NMAC § 19.15.17.11(I)(1 through 4) or is not included in NMAC § 19.15.17.11(I)(5) within five years after June 16, 2008, if not retrofitted to comply with § 19.15.17.11(I)(1 through 4). NMAC § 19.15.17.13(A)(4).
- 3) Chevron shall close an existing below-grade tank that does not meet the requirements of Paragraphs (1) through (4) of Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC, if not retrofitted to comply with Paragraphs 1) through (4) of Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC, prior to any sale or change of operator pursuant to 19.15.9.9 NMAC.
- 4) Chevron, or a contractor acting on behalf of Chevron, will close a permitted BGT within 60 days of cessation of the BGT's operation or as required by the transitional provisions of NMAC § 19.15.17.17(B) in accordance with a closure plan that the appropriate division district office approves. NMAC §§ 19.15.17.13(A)(9) and 19.15.17.9(C).
- 5) In accordance with NMAC § 19.15.17.13(J)(1), Chevron will notify the surface owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, of its plans to close a BGT prior to beginning closure activities. Evidence of mailing of the notice to the address of the surface owner shown in the county tax records is sufficient to demonstrate compliance. Chevron will also notify the appropriate division district office verbally or by other means at least 72 hours, but not more than one week, prior to any closure operation. The notice shall include the operator's name and the location to be closed by unit letter, section, township and range. If the closure is associated with a particular well, then the notice shall also include the well's name, number and API number. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(J)(2).

- 6) Chevron, or a contractor acting on behalf of Chevron, will remove liquids and sludge from a BGT prior to implementing a closure method and will dispose of the liquids and sludge in a division approved facility. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(E)(1). A list of Chevron currently approved disposal facilities is included at the end of this document.
- 7) The proposed method of closure for this Closure Plan is waste excavation and removal. NMAC §§ 19.15.17.13 (E)(1).
- 8) Chevron, or a contractor acting on behalf of Chevron, shall remove the below-grade tank and dispose of it in a division-approved facility or recycle, reuse, or reclaim it in a manner that the appropriate division district office approves. When required, prior approval for disposal will be obtained. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(E)(2). Documentation regarding disposal of the BGT and its associated liner, if any, will be included in the closure report.
- 9) Waste generated during closure will be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable laws. NMAC § 19.15.35.8(C)(1)(m) provides that plastic pit liners may be disposed at a solid waste facility without testing before disposal, provided they are cleaned well.
- 10) Chevron, or a contractor acting on behalf of Chevron, will remove on-site equipment associated with a BGT unless the equipment is required for some other purpose. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(E)(3).
- 11) Chevron, or a contractor acting on behalf of Chevron, will test the soils beneath the BGT to determine whether a release has occurred. At a minimum, 5 point composite samples will be collected along with individual grab samples from any area that is wet, discolored, or showing other evidence of a release. Samples will be analyzed for BTEX, TPH and chlorides to demonstrate that the benzene concentration, as determined by EPA SW-846 methods 8021B or 8260B or EPA method that the division approves, does not exceed 0.2mg/kg; total BTEX concentration, as determined by EPA SW-846 methods 8021B or 8260B or other EPA method that the division approves, does not exceed 50mg/kg; the TPH concentration, as determined by EPA method 418.1 or other EPA method that the division approves, does not exceed 100mg/kg; and the chloride concentration, as determined by EPA method 300.1 or other EPA method that the division approves, does not exceed 250mg/kg; or the background concentration, whichever is greater. Chevron, or a contractor acting on behalf of Chevron, will notify the NMOCD Division District office of its results on form C-141. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(E)(4).
- 12) If Chevron or the division determines that a release has occurred, Chevron will comply with NMAC §§ 19.15.29 and 19.15.30, as appropriate. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(E)(5).
- 13) If the sampling program demonstrates that a release has not occurred or that any release does not exceed the concentrations specified in NMAC § 19.15.17.13(E)(4), Chevron will backfill the excavation with compacted, non-waste containing, earthen materials; construct a division prescribed soil cover; re-contour and re-vegetate the site. The division-prescribed soil cover, recontouring and re-vegetation requirements shall comply with NMAC § 19.15.17.13)(G, H and I). NMAC § 19.15.17.13(E)(6).

- 14) As per NMAC § 19.15.17.13(G)(1), once Chevron has closed a BGT or is no longer using the BGT or an area associated with the BGT, Chevron will reclaim the BGT location and all areas associated with it including associated access roads not needed by the surface estate owner to a safe and stable condition that blends with the surrounding undisturbed area. Chevron will substantially restore impacted surface area to the condition that existed prior to its oil and gas operations by placement of soil cover as provided in NMAC § 19.15.17.13(H) (see below), re-contour the location and associated areas to a contour that approximates the original contour and blends with the surrounding topography, and re-vegetate according to NMAC § 19.15.17.13(I). NMAC § 19.15.17.13(G)(1).
- 15) Chevron may propose an alternative to the re-vegetation requirement of NMAC § 19.15.17.13(G)(1) if it demonstrates that the proposed alternative effectively prevents erosion, and protects fresh water, human health and the environment. The proposed alternative must be agreed upon in writing by the surface owner. Chevron will submit the proposed alternative, with written documentation that the surface owner agrees to the alternative, to the division for approval. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(G)(2).
- 16) Soil cover for closures where Chevron has removed the pit contents or remediated the contaminated soil to the division's satisfaction will consist of the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(H)(1).
- 17) Chevron will construct the soil cover to the site's existing grade and prevent ponding of water and erosion of the cover material. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(H)(3).
- 18) As per NMAC § 19.15.17.13(I)(1) and 19.15.17.13(G)(2), Chevron will seed or plant disturbed areas during the first growing season after it is no longer using a BGT or an area associated with the BGT including access roads unless needed by the surface estate owner as evidenced by a written agreement with the surface estate owner, if any and written approval by NMOCD.
- 19) Seeding will be accomplished by drilling on the contour whenever practical or by other division approved methods. Chevron will obtain vegetative cover that equals 70% of the native perennial vegetative cover (un-impacted by overgrazing, fire or other intrusion damaging to native vegetation) consisting of at least three native plant species, including at least one grass, but not including noxious weeds, and maintain that cover through two successive growing seasons. During the two growing seasons that prove viability, Chevron will not artificially irrigate the vegetation. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(I)(2).
- 20) Chevron will notify the division when it has seeded or planted and when it successfully achieves re-vegetation. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(I)(5).
- 21) Seeding or planting will be repeated until Chevron successfully achieves the required vegetative cover. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(I)(3).

- 22) When conditions are not favorable for the establishment of vegetation, such as periods of drought, the division may allow Chevron to delay seeding or planting until soil moisture conditions become favorable or may require Chevron to use additional cultural techniques such as mulching, fertilizing, irrigating, fencing or other practices. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(I)(4).
- 23) As per NMAC § 19.15.17.13(K), within 60 days of closure completion, Chevron will submit a closure report containing the elements required by NMAC § 19.15.17.13(K) including:
- i) Confirmation sampling results,
 - ii) A plot plan,
 - iii) Details on back-filling, capping and covering, where applicable, including revegetation application rates and seeding technique,
 - iv) Proof of closure notice to the surface owner, if any, and the division,
 - v) Name and permit number of disposal facility, and
 - vi) Photo documentation.
- 24) The closure report will be filed on NMOCD Form C-144. Chevron will certify that all information in the closure report and attachments is correct and that it has complied with all applicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved closure plan. NMAC § 19.15.17.13(K).
- 25) As requested, the following are the current Chevron approved Waste Disposal Sites for the identified waste streams:

Soils and Sludges

- i) Envirotech Inc. Soil Remediation Facility, Permit No. NM-01-0011

Solids

- ii) San Juan County Regional Land Fill (NMAC § 19.15.35.8 items only, with prior NMOCD approval when required)

Liquids

- i) Key Energy Disposal Facility, Permit No. NM-01-0009
- ii) Basin Disposals Facility, Permit No. NM-01-005.

- 26) These waste disposal sites are subject to change if their certification is lost or they are closed or other more appropriate, equally protective sites become available. Chevron will provide notice if such a change is affected.