

# R. T. HICKS CONSULTANTS, LTD.

901 Rio Grande Blvd NW ▲ Suite F-142 ▲ Albuquerque, NM 87104 ▲ 505.266.5004 ▲ Fax: 505.266.0745

July 3, 2015

Ms. Heather Patterson  
NMOCD District 2  
811 S. First Street  
Artesia, New Mexico 88210  
Via Email and US Mail

RE: Murchison – War Horse Federal #3H Release, initial C-141 form

Dear Ms. Patterson:

On behalf of Murchison Oil and Gas, R.T Hicks Consultants submits the attached initial C-141 form for the above-referenced release. At 10:00 am on June 19, a release consisting of oil and produced water was discovered by a truck driver. A fire tube gasket on the heater treater ruptured, releasing approximately 35 barrels of fluid onto the location and affecting approximately 6,325 square feet of surface. A vacuum truck was immediately dispatched and recovered 30 barrels of fluid. After standing fluid was removed from the surface, moisture was observed to penetrate approximately 0.25-0.5 inch of depth.



**6/19/2015 Removing fluid from surface**



**6/20/2015 Affected material replaced**

On June 20, the fire tube gasket was replaced and approximately 0.5 inch of surface material was excavated from the entire footprint of the release. The excavated material (approximately 9 cubic yards) was placed on 20-mil plastic on the west end of the location. Earthen berms made from unaffected on-site material were constructed to stabilize the edges of the plastic and to inhibit lateral migration. Caliche was spread on the affected surface 0.5 inch thick to replace the excavated material on the location pad.

On June 25, chloride field tests were conducted on samples from two areas of the affected surface where fluid accumulated during the release. Both samples were from 2 inches below the pad surface and yielded 121 and 112 mg/kg concentrations, confirming that affected materials did not remain below the excavation. A chloride field test was also conducted on a 5-point composite sample of the excavated stockpile with a result of 4,446 mg/kg.

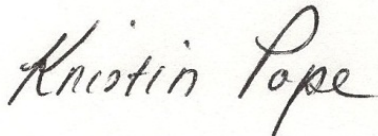
In May 2015, temporary pit applications were submitted to the District for the nearby staked wells War Horse Federal Com #2H and War Horse Federal Com #4H. Murchison has employed a drilling rig and these wells are scheduled to be drilled by the end of the year. In-place closure is planned for these sites. During the closure of the first of these wells to be drilled, the excavated soil from the #3H release will be added to the pit contents to stabilize the drilling waste in the pit in accordance with NMAC 19.15.17.13 of the Pit Rule. At the completion of closure of the War Horse temporary pit, a final C-141 form will be submitted to the District along with documentation of the final deposition of the excavated material from this release.

We have examined OCD Rules and conclude that the proposed remediation plan not only provides the highest net environmental benefit but is also the least expensive and is compliant with Part 29, Part 34 (after revision<sup>1</sup>) and Part 17. Murchison fully understands that employing this small volume of impacted material for stabilization must be considered in the calculations to determine compliance with 19.15.17.13 (closure requirements) for the War Horse temporary pit.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this submission.

Sincerely,

R.T. Hicks Consultants

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Pope". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristin Pope

Copy: Murchison Oil & Gas, Concho Resources, BLM (Jim Amos)

Enclosure: initial C-141 form

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Brancard and Mr. Feldewert are discussing correction of an error in the 2015 version of Part 34 that eliminated the previously-approved language that allows oilfield waste to be disposed in a pit pursuant to an approved remediation plan under Part 29.

District I  
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240  
District II  
811 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210  
District III  
1000 Rio Brazos Road, Aztec, NM 87410  
District IV  
1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505

State of New Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

Form C-141  
Revised August 8, 2011

Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Submit 1 Copy to appropriate District Office in  
accordance with 19.15.29 NMAC.

## Release Notification and Corrective Action

### OPERATOR

☒ Initial Report ☐ Final Report

Name of Company	Murchison Oil & Gas, Inc.	Contact	Greg Boans
Address	7250 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1400, Plano, TX 75024	Telephone No.	(575) 628-3932
Facility Name	War Horse Fed Com #3H	Facility Type	Production Battery
Surface Owner	Concho Resources	Mineral Owner	BLM
API No.	30-015-41227		

### LOCATION OF RELEASE

Unit Letter	Section	Township	Range	Feet from the	North/South Line	Feet from the	East/West Line	County
I	21	18S	29E	2290	South	175	East	Eddy

Latitude 32° 43' 55.195" N Longitude 104° 04' 18.317" W

### NATURE OF RELEASE

Type of Release	Oil and Produced Water	Volume of Release	35 bbls	Volume Recovered	30 bbls
Source of Release	Heater treater	Date and Hour of Occurrence	6/19/2015, before 10:00 am	Date and Hour of Discovery	6/19/2015 10:00 am
Was Immediate Notice Given?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Required	If YES, To Whom?	Heather Patterson		
By Whom?	Kristin Pope	Date and Hour	6/22/2015 12:45 pm		
Was a Watercourse Reached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If YES, Volume Impacting the Watercourse.			

If a Watercourse was Impacted, Describe Fully.\*

n/a

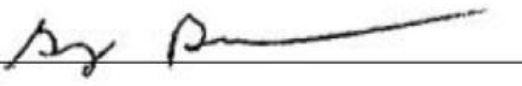
Describe Cause of Problem and Remedial Action Taken.\*

Fluid was lost due to a failure of a fire tube gasket on the heater treater. Within 1 hour of discovery, a vacuum truck removed standing fluid. The gasket was replaced.

Describe Area Affected and Cleanup Action Taken.\*

Produced water and oil was released from the heater treater, affecting approximately 6,325 ft<sup>2</sup>, all of which remained on the location pad. Soil moisture indicated that penetration was ¼-½ inch deep, chloride field tests on 2-in-deep samples confirmed. A backhoe excavated the affected material (approx. 9 yds<sup>3</sup>) from the surface of the release footprint and placed it on top of a 20-mil plastic liner. Earthen berms made from surrounding unaffected material were built around the stockpile. Clean caliche was used to replace the excavated material on the location pad. Two War Horse wells are planned to be drilled using a temporary pit and the excavated soil from this release will be used as stabilization material during the in-place closure of the first of these wells to be drilled.

I hereby certify that the information given above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and understand that pursuant to NMOCD rules and regulations all operators are required to report and/or file certain release notifications and perform corrective actions for releases which may endanger public health or the environment. The acceptance of a C-141 report by the NMOCD marked as "Final Report" does not relieve the operator of liability should their operations have failed to adequately investigate and remediate contamination that pose a threat to ground water, surface water, human health or the environment. In addition, NMOCD acceptance of a C-141 report does not relieve the operator of responsibility for compliance with any other federal, state, or local laws and/or regulations.

Signature: 	<u>OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION</u>		
Printed Name: Greg Boans	Approved by Environmental Specialist:		
Title: Production Superintendent	Approval Date:	Expiration Date:	
E-mail Address: gboans@jdmii.com	Conditions of Approval:		Attached <input type="checkbox"/>
Date: 7/3/2015	Phone: (575) 628-3932		

\* Attach Additional Sheets If Necessary