

District I  
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240  
District II  
1301 W. Grand Avenue, 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  
Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Form C-144 CLEZ  
July 21, 2008

For closed-loop systems that only use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure, submit to the appropriate NMOC District Office.

**Closed-Loop System Permit or Closure Plan Application**

*(that only use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure)*

Type of action: ☒ Permit ☐ Closure

*Instructions: Please submit one application (Form C-144 CLEZ) per individual closed-loop system request. For any application request other than for a closed-loop system that only use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure, please submit a Form C-144.*

Please be advised that approval of this request does not relieve the operator of liability should operations result in pollution of surface water, ground water or the environment. Nor does approval relieve the operator of its responsibility to comply with any other applicable governmental authority's rules, regulations or ordinances.

1.  
Operator: Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado OGRID #: 162683  
Address: 600 N. Marienfeld St., Ste. 600, Midland, TX 79701  
Facility or well name: Pondhawk 32 State No. 3  
API Number: 30-015-38128 OCD Permit Number: 210719  
U/L or Qtr/Qtr O Section 32 Township 16S Range 29E County: Eddy  
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude 32° 52' 18.46" Longitude 104° 05' 45.32" NAD: ☐ 1927 ☒ 1983  
Surface Owner: ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ Private ☐ Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

2.  
☒ **Closed-loop System:** Subsection H of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Operation: ☒ Drilling a new well ☐ Workover or Drilling (Applies to activities which require prior approval of a permit or notice of intent) ☐ P&A  
☐ Above Ground Steel Tanks or ☒ Haul-off Bins

3.  
**Signs:** Subsection C of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
☐ 12"x 24", 2" lettering, providing Operator's name, site location, and emergency telephone numbers  
☒ Signed in compliance with 19.15.3.103 NMAC

4.  
**Closed-loop Systems Permit Application Attachment Checklist:** Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC  
*Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.*  
☒ Design Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
☒ Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC  
☒ Closure Plan (Please complete Box 5) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
☐ Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design) API Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Previously Approved Operating and Maintenance Plan API Number: \_\_\_\_\_

5.  
**Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Above Ground Steel Tanks or Haul-off Bins Only:** (19.15.17.13.D NMAC)  
*Instructions: Please identify the facility or facilities for the disposal of liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings. Use attachment if more than two facilities are required.*  
Disposal Facility Name: CRI Disposal Facility Permit Number: R-9166  
Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Will any of the proposed closed-loop system operations and associated activities occur on or in areas that will not be used for future service and operations?  
☐ Yes (If yes, please provide the information below) ☒ No  
*Required for impacted areas which will not be used for future service and operations:*  
☐ Soil Backfill and Cover Design Specifications - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
☐ Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
☐ Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

6.  
**Operator Application Certification:**  
I hereby certify that the information submitted with this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
Name (Print): Zeno Farris Title: Manager Operations Administration  
Signature: Zeno Farris Date: 8.30.2010  
e-mail address: zfarris@cimarex.com Telephone: 432-620-1938

7. **OCD Approval:** ☒ Permit Application (including closure plan) ☐ Closure Plan (only)

OCD Representative Signature: *Reward D. Dade* Approval Date: 09/03/2010

Title: *Dist R Supervisor* OCD Permit Number: 210719

8. **Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion):** Subsection K of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

*Instructions: Operators are required to obtain an approved closure plan prior to implementing any closure activities and submitting the closure report. The closure report is required to be submitted to the division within 60 days of the completion of the closure activities. Please do not complete this section of the form until an approved closure plan has been obtained and the closure activities have been completed.*

☐ Closure Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Closure Report Regarding Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Above Ground Steel Tanks or Haul-off Bins Only:**

*Instructions: Please indentify the facility or facilities for where the liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings were disposed. Use attachment if more than two facilities were utilized.*

Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Were the closed-loop system operations and associated activities performed on or in areas that *will not* be used for future service and operations?

☐ Yes (If yes, please demonstrate compliance to the items below) ☐ No

*Required for impacted areas which will not be used for future service and operations:*

☐ Site Reclamation (Photo Documentation)

☐ Soil Backfilling and Cover Installation

☐ Re-vegetation Application Rates and Seeding Technique

10. **Operator Closure Certification:**

I hereby certify that the information and attachments submitted with this closure report is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also certify that the closure complies with all applicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved closure plan.

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado – Closed-Loop System Design Plan**

### **Equipment List**

- Primary Shakers
- Mud Cleaner – hydro-cyclones
- 1 or 2 Centrifuges (depending on well depth)
- De-watering system with pH adjustment, coagulant mixing and dosing, and polymer mixing and dosing (may not be necessary for shallower wells)
- Drying Augur
- Sump Drying Augur
- Sump
- Cuttings Boxes
- Reserve Fluids Tank Farm
- Wire Mesh Trash Enclosure (spent motor oils kept in separate containers and later sent to approved landfill)

### **Operation and Maintenance**

The Cimarex Zero Discharge system is designed to maintain drill solids at or below 5%. The equipment is arranged to progressively remove solids from the largest to the smallest size. Drilling fluids can thus be reused and savings is realized on mud and disposal costs. Dewatering may be required with the centrifuges to insure removal of ultra fine solids.

The drilling location is constructed to allow storm water to flow to a central sump normally the cellar. This ensures no contamination leaves the drilling pad in the event of a spill. Storm water is reused in the mud system or stored in a reserve fluid tank farm until it can be reused. All lubricants, oils, or chemicals are removed immediately from the ground to prevent the contamination of storm water. An oil trap is normally installed on the sump if an oil spill occurs during a storm.

A tank farm is utilized to store drilling fluids including fresh water and brine fluids. The tank farm is constructed on a 20 ml plastic lined, bermed pad to prevent the contamination of the drilling site during a spill. Fluids from other sites may be stored in these tanks for processing by the solids control equipment and reused in the mud system. At the end of the well the fluids are transported from the tank farm to an adjoining well or to the next well for the rig.

These closed loop operations can be monitored by our service technicians. Daily logs are maintained to ensure optimal equipment operation and maintenance. Screen and chemical use is logged to maintain inventory control. Fluid properties are monitored and recorded and drilling mud volumes are accounted for in the mud storage farm. This data is kept for end of well review to insure performance goals are met. Lessons learned are logged and used to help with continuous improvement.

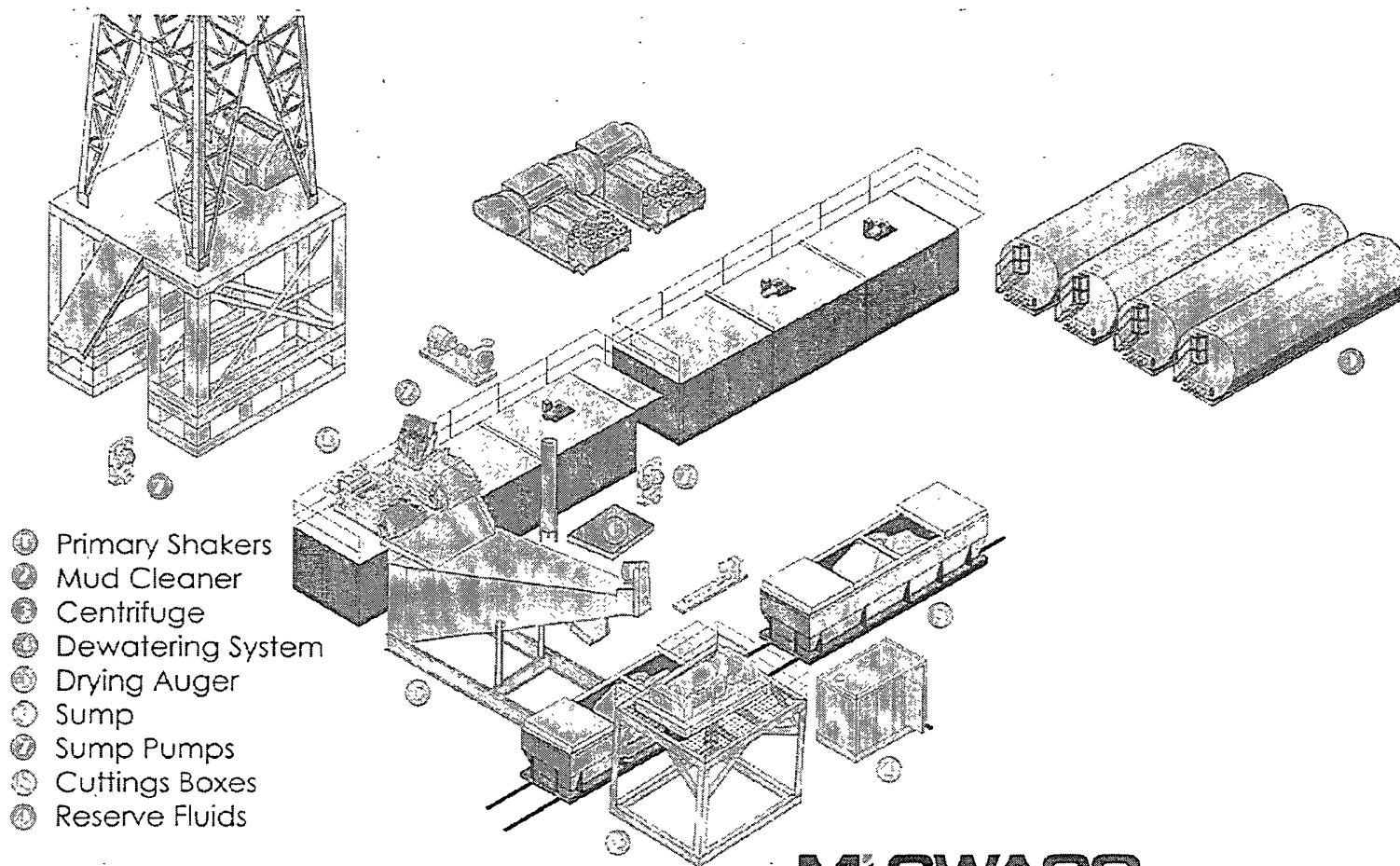
Spill prevention is accomplished by maintaining pump packing, hoses, and pipe fittings to insure no leaks are occurring. During an upset condition the source of the spill is isolated and repaired as soon as it is discovered. Free liquid is removed by a diaphragm pump and returned to the mud system. Loose topsoil may be used to stabilize the spill and the contaminated soil is excavated and placed in the cuttings boxes. After the well is finished and the rig has moved, the entire location is scrapped and tested for all regulated toxic materials. If found they are removed and disposed of per regulatory requirements.

### **Closure Plan**

During drilling operations, all liquids, drilling fluids, and cuttings will be hauled off via CRI (Controlled Recovery Incorporated, Permit R-9166).



## Closed Loop with Drying Auger and Dewatering System



**Mi SWACO**



**Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado**

600 N. Maricopa St. ♦ Suite 400 ♦ Midland, TX 79701 ♦ (432) 571-7800 ♦ Fax (432) 620-1940  
*A subsidiary of Cimarex Energy Co. ♦ A NYSE Listed Company ♦ "XEC"*

August 30, 2010

Oil Conservation Division  
District II Office  
1301 W. Grand Ave.  
Artesia, New Mexico 88210  
Attn: Ms. Linda Bratcher

Re: Statewide Rule 118  
Hydrogen Sulfide Gas Contingency Plan  
Proposed Pondhawk 32 State No. 3 Well

Dear Ms. Bratcher:

In accordance with NMAC 19.15.3.118 C. (1) governing the determination of the hydrogen sulfide concentration in gaseous mixtures in each of its operations, Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado does not anticipate that there will be enough H<sub>2</sub>S from the surface to the Blinberry formations to meet the OCD's minimum requirements for the submission of a contingency plan for the drilling and completion of the following test(s):

Pondhawk 32 State No. 3  
32-16S-29E  
330 FSL & 2310 FEL  
Eddy County, NM

If anything further is needed regarding this issue, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 432-620-1938.

Yours truly,

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

Zeno Farris  
Manager Operations Administration