

## NEW MEXICO EF RGY, MINERALS & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) \$27-5950

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY

March 8, 1996



BPF Inc. 1555 Valwood Parkway Suite 100 Carrollton, Texas 75006

Attention: John R. Garland

Dear Mr. Garland:

Reference is made to your request dated February 16, 1996 for authorization to conduct a bench scale demonstration of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) injection technology within two Class II disposal wells located in Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico. It is our understanding that this DOE funded project is designed to test a technology whereby NORM waste is thermally and chemically treated so as to render it suitable for injection. It is further our understanding that Phase I of this project involves the injection of less than one barrel of treated NORM waste into the following described Class II disposal wells operated by Conoco Inc.:

WELL NAME	WELL LOCATION	PERMIT NUMBER
SEMU SWD No. 95	Unit J, Section 23, T-20S, R-37E Lea County, New Mexico	R-9327
King SWD No. 1	Unit C, Section 9, T-20S, R-25E Eddy County, New Mexico	R-5250

BPF Inc. is hereby authorized to conduct the bench scale test as described above. Such injection shall be limited to the volume of NORM treated waste detailed in your request. In addition, inasmuch as your proposed operation is considered by the Division to be a technology demonstration, amendment of R-9327 and R-5250, including notification to offset operators, will not be required. Injection of larger volumes of NORM shall be subject to Division Rules and Regulations which will be promulgated shortly.

Please provide 24 hour notice to the Artesia and Hobbs district offices of the Division prior to conducting the bench scale test in order that such operations may be witnessed. If you should have any questions, please contact Mr. David Catanach at (505) 827-8184.

Singerely, 00 William J. LeMay Director

xc: OCD-Hobbs, Attn: Jerry Sexton OCD-Artesia, Attn: Tim Gum Case Files-10107, 5708 D. Catanach