

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

Form C-144  
Revised June 6, 2013

For temporary pits, below-grade tanks, and multi-well fluid management pits, submit to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.  
For permanent pits submit to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office and provide a copy to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.

Pit, Below-Grade Tank, or

12989 Proposed Alternative Method Permit or Closure Plan Application

- Type of action:
- Below grade tank registration
  - Permit of a pit or proposed alternative method
  - Closure of a pit, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method
  - Modification to an existing permit/or registration
  - Closure plan only submitted for an existing permitted or non-permitted pit, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method

**Instructions: Please submit one application (Form C-144) per individual pit, below-grade tank or alternative request**

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: XTO Energy, Inc. OGRID #: 5380  
Address: #382 County Road 3100, Aztec, NM 87410  
Facility or well name: Valencia Canyon Unit # 5  
API Number: 30-039-21474 OCD Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
U/L or Qtr/Qtr P Section 26 Township 28N Range 4W County: San Juan  
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude 36.628654 Longitude -107.215447 NAD:  1927  1983  
Surface Owner:  Federal  State  Private  Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

**OIL CONS. DIV DIST. 3**  
**JUL 01 2015**

2.  
 **Pit:** Subsection F, G or J of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Temporary:  Drilling  Workover  
 Permanent  Emergency  Cavitation  P&A  Multi-Well Fluid Management Low Chloride Drilling Fluid  yes  no  
 Lined  Unlined Liner type: Thickness \_\_\_\_\_ mil  LLDPE  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 String-Reinforced  
Liner Seams:  Welded  Factory  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Volume: \_\_\_\_\_ bbl Dimensions: L \_\_\_\_\_ x W \_\_\_\_\_ x D \_\_\_\_\_

3.  
 **Below-grade tank:** Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Volume: 100 bbl Type of fluid: Produced Water  
Tank Construction material: Steel  
 Secondary containment with leak detection  Visible sidewalls, liner, 6-inch lift and automatic overflow shut-off  
 Visible sidewalls and liner  Visible sidewalls only  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Liner type: Thickness \_\_\_\_\_ mil  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_

4.  
 **Alternative Method:**  
Submittal of an exception request is required. Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

5.  
**Fencing:** Subsection D of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (*Applies to permanent pits, temporary pits, and below-grade tanks*)  
 Chain link, six feet in height, two strands of barbed wire at top (*Required if located within 1000 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church*)  
 Four foot height, four strands of barbed wire evenly spaced between one and four feet  
 Alternate. Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

6.

**Netting:** Subsection E of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (*Applies to permanent pits and permanent open top tanks*)

Screen  Netting  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly inspections (If netting or screening is not physically feasible)

7.

**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 19.15.16.8 NMAC

8.

**Variations and Exceptions:**

Justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency are required. Please refer to 19.15.17 NMAC for guidance.

**Please check a box if one or more of the following is requested, if not leave blank:**

Variance(s): Requests must be submitted to the appropriate division district for consideration of approval.

Exception(s): Requests must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

9.

**Siting Criteria (regarding permitting):** 19.15.17.10 NMAC

**Instructions:** *The applicant must demonstrate compliance for each siting criteria below in the application. Recommendations of acceptable source material are provided below. Siting criteria does not apply to drying pads or above-grade tanks.*

**General siting**

**Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of a low chloride temporary pit or below-grade tank.**

-  NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search;  USGS;  Data obtained from nearby wells

Yes  No  
 NA

**Ground water is less than 50 feet below the bottom of a Temporary pit, permanent pit, or Multi-Well Fluid Management pit.**

NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells

Yes  No  
 NA

Within incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended. **(Does not apply to below grade tanks)**

- Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality

Yes  No

Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. **(Does not apply to below grade tanks)**

- Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division

Yes  No

Within an unstable area. **(Does not apply to below grade tanks)**

- Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map

Yes  No

Within a 100-year floodplain. **(Does not apply to below grade tanks)**

- FEMA map

Yes  No

**Below Grade Tanks**

Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, significant watercourse, lake bed, sinkhole, wetland or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).

- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site

Yes  No

Within 200 horizontal feet of a spring or a fresh water well used for public or livestock consumption;.

- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site

Yes  No

**Temporary Pit using Low Chloride Drilling Fluid** (maximum chloride content 15,000 mg/liter)

Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or any other significant watercourse or within 200 feet of any lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). (Applies to low chloride temporary pits.)

- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site

Yes  No

Within 300 feet from a occupied permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.

- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image

Yes  No

Within 200 horizontal feet of a spring or a private, domestic fresh water well used by less than five households for domestic or stock watering purposes, or 300feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of the initial application.

NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site

Yes  No

Within 100 feet of a wetland.  
- US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site  Yes  No

**Temporary Pit Non-low chloride drilling fluid**

Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or any other significant watercourse, or within 200 feet of any lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).  
- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site  Yes  No

Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.  
- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image  Yes  No

Within 500 horizontal feet of a spring or a private, domestic fresh water well used by less than five households for domestic or stock watering purposes, or 1000 feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in the existence at the time of the initial application;  
- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site  Yes  No

Within 300 feet of a wetland.  
- US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site  Yes  No

**Permanent Pit or Multi-Well Fluid Management Pit**

Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse, or lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).  
- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site  Yes  No

Within 1000 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.  
- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image  Yes  No

Within 500 horizontal feet of a spring or a fresh water well used for domestic or stock watering purposes, in existence at the time of initial application.  
- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site  Yes  No

Within 500 feet of a wetland.  
- US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site  Yes  No

10.  
**Temporary Pits, Emergency Pits, and Below-grade Tanks 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.*  
 Hydrogeologic Report (Below-grade Tanks) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC  
 Hydrogeologic Data (Temporary and Emergency Pits) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (2) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC  
 Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC  
 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 Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - 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: \_\_\_\_\_ or Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

11.  
**Multi-Well Fluid Management Pit 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  
 A List of wells with approved application for permit to drill associated with the pit.  
 Closure Plan (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
 Hydrogeologic Data - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC  
 Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC  
 Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design) API Number: \_\_\_\_\_ or Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

12.

**Permanent Pits Permit Application 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.

- Hydrogeologic Report - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
- Climatological Factors Assessment
- Certified Engineering Design Plans - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Dike Protection and Structural Integrity Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Leak Detection Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Liner Specifications and Compatibility Assessment - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Quality Control/Quality Assurance Construction and Installation Plan
- Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC
- Freeboard and Overtopping Prevention Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Nuisance or Hazardous Odors, including H<sub>2</sub>S, Prevention Plan
- Emergency Response Plan
- Oil Field Waste Stream Characterization
- Monitoring and Inspection Plan
- Erosion Control Plan
- Closure Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC

13.

**Proposed Closure:** 19.15.17.13 NMAC

**Instructions:** Please complete the applicable boxes, Boxes 14 through 18, in regards to the proposed closure plan.

- Type:  Drilling  Workover  Emergency  Cavitation  P&A  Permanent Pit  Below-grade Tank  Multi-well Fluid Management Pit  
 Alternative
- Proposed Closure Method:  Waste Excavation and Removal  
 Waste Removal (Closed-loop systems only)  
 On-site Closure Method (Only for temporary pits and closed-loop systems)  
 In-place Burial  On-site Trench Burial  
 Alternative Closure Method

14.

**Waste Excavation and Removal Closure Plan Checklist:** (19.15.17.13 NMAC) **Instructions:** Each of the following items must be attached to the closure plan. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.

- Protocols and Procedures - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Confirmation Sampling Plan (if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number (for liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings)
- 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 H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

15.

**Siting Criteria (regarding on-site closure methods only):** 19.15.17.10 NMAC

**Instructions:** Each siting criteria requires a demonstration of compliance in the closure plan. Recommendations of acceptable source material are provided below. Requests regarding changes to certain siting criteria require justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency. Please refer to 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of the buried waste.<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> NA |
| Ground water is between 25-50 feet below the bottom of the buried waste<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> NA |
| Ground water is more than 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste.<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> NA |
| Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse, lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).<br>- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.<br>- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within 300 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring used for domestic or stock watering purposes, in existence at the time of initial application.<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within 300 feet of a wetland.<br>US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance   |   |

adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended.

- Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality

Yes  No

Within the area overlying a subsurface mine.

- Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division

Yes  No

Within an unstable area.

- Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map

Yes  No

Within a 100-year floodplain.

- FEMA map

Yes  No

16.

**On-Site Closure Plan Checklist:** (19.15.17.13 NMAC) *Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the closure plan. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.*

- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
- Proof of Surface Owner Notice - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection E of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Construction/Design Plan of Burial Trench (if applicable) based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection K of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Construction/Design Plan of Temporary Pit (for in-place burial of a drying pad) - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Protocols and Procedures - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Confirmation Sampling Plan (if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Waste Material Sampling Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number (for liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings or in case on-site closure standards cannot be achieved)
- Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

17.

**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.

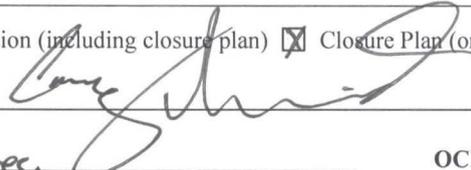
Name (Print): Kurt Hoekstra Title: EHS Coordinator

Signature:  Date: July 1, 2015

e-mail address: Kurt\_Hoekstra@xtoenergy.com Telephone: (505) 333-3100

18.

**OCD Approval:**  Permit Application (including closure plan)  Closure Plan (only)  OCD Conditions (see attachment)

OCD Representative Signature:  Approval Date: 7/8/15

Title: Environmental Spec. OCD Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

19.

**Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion):** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

20.

**Closure Method:**

- Waste Excavation and Removal  On-Site Closure Method  Alternative Closure Method  Waste Removal (Closed-loop systems only)
- If different from approved plan, please explain.

21.

**Closure Report Attachment Checklist:** *Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the closure report. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.*

- Proof of Closure Notice (surface owner and division)
- Proof of Deed Notice (required for on-site closure for private land only)
- Plot Plan (for on-site closures and temporary pits)
- Confirmation Sampling Analytical Results (if applicable)
- Waste Material Sampling Analytical Results (required for on-site closure)
- Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number
- Soil Backfilling and Cover Installation
- Re-vegetation Application Rates and Seeding Technique
- Site Reclamation (Photo Documentation)

On-site Closure Location: Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude \_\_\_\_\_ NAD:  1927  1983

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**XTO Energy Inc.  
San Juan Basin  
Below Grade Tank  
Closure Plan**

OIL CONS. DIV DIST. 3

JUN 24 2015

**Lease Name:** Valencia Canyon Unit # 5

**API No.:** 30-039-21474

**Description:** Unit P, Section 26, Township 28N, Range 4W, Rio Arriba County

In accordance with Rule 19.15.17.13 NMAC the following information describes the closure requirements of below-grade tanks on XTO Energy Inc. (XTO) locations. This is XTO's standard procedure for all below-grade tanks. A separate plan will be submitted for any below-grade tank which does not conform to this plan.

**General Plan**

1. XTO will obtain approval of this closure plan prior to commencing closure of the below grade tank at this location pursuant to 19.15.17.13.C (1) NMAC
2. XTO will notify the surface owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the operator plans closure operations at least 72 hours, but no more than one week, prior to any closure operation. Notice will include:
  - a. Well Name
  - b. API #
  - c. Well Location
3. XTO will notify the NMOCD Aztec Office by email that the operator plans closure operations at least 72 hours, but no more than one week, prior to any closure operation. Notice will include:
  - a. Well Name
  - b. API #
  - c. Well Location
4. Within 60 days of cessation of operations, XTO will remove liquids and sludge from below-grade tanks prior to implementing a closure method and will dispose of the liquids and sludge in a division-approved facility. Approved facilities and waste streams include:
  - a. Soils, tank bottoms, produced sand, pit sludge and other exempt wastes impacted by petroleum hydrocarbons will be disposed of at:  
*Envirotech: Permit #NM01-0011 and IEI: Permit # NM01-0010B*
  - b. Produced Water will be disposed of at:  
*Basin Disposal: Permit # NM01-005 and XTO owned salt water Disposal Facilities*

5. Within six (6) months of cessation of operations, XTO will 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. If there is any equipment associated with a below-grade tank, then the operator shall remove the equipment, unless the equipment is required for some other purpose.
6. XTO will collect a closure sample of the soil beneath the location of the below grade tank that is being closed. The closure sample will consist of a five-point composite sample to include any obvious stained or wet soils, or other evidence of contamination. The closure sample will be analyzed for all constituents listed in Table I below, including DRO+GRO, Chlorides, TPH, benzene and BTEX.

**TABLE I**

Depth Below bottom of pit to groundwater less than 10,000 mg/l TDS	Constituent	Method	Limit
≤ 50 Feet	Chloride	EPA 9056	600 mg/kg
	TPH	Method 418.1	100 mg/kg
	BTEX	Method 8021B	50 mg/kg
	Benzene	Method 8021B	10 mg/kg
51 feet - 100 feet	Chloride	EPA 9056	10,000 mg/kg
	TPH	Method 418.1	2,500 mg/kg
	GRO + DRO	Method 8015	1,000 mg/kg
	BTEX	Method 8021B	50 mg/kg
	Benzene	Method 8021B	10 mg/kg
> 100 feet	Chloride	EPA 9056	20,000 mg/kg
	TPH	EPA 418.1	2,500 mg/kg
	GRO + DRO	Method 8015	1,000 mg/kg
	BTEX	Method 8021B	50 mg/kg
	Benzene	Method 8021B	10 g/kg

7. XTO will meet the limits for <50' to groundwater detailed in table I.
  - a. In accordance with Rule 19.15.17.13.C(3)(b) if contaminant concentrations exceed the proposed limit and groundwater is found to be deeper than 50', XTO may elect to submit additional groundwater information to the Division and request a higher closure limit. XTO will submit the additional groundwater data via email documenting the depth to groundwater at the location. XTO will wait for approval of the groundwater data by the NMOCD, prior to completing closure activities at the site.
  - b. If a higher closure limit is submitted and approved by the Division, XTO will submit a copy of the request, the groundwater information and the received approval in their closure report
8. If any contaminant concentration is higher than the parameters listed in Table I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC, the division may require additional delineation upon review of the results and the operator must receive approval before proceeding with closure. If all contaminant concentrations are less than or equal to the parameters listed in Table I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC, then the operator can proceed to backfill the pit, pad, or excavation with non-waste containing, uncontaminated, earthen material.
9. After closure has occurred, XTO will reclaim the former BGT area, if it is no longer being used for extraction of oil and gas, by substantially restoring the impacted surface area to the condition that existed prior to oil and gas operations. XTO will construct the soil cover to the site's existing grade and prevent ponding of water and erosion of the cover materials. The soil cover shall consist of the background thickness of topsoil, or one foot of suitable materials to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater. All areas will be reclaimed as early as practicable, and as close to their original condition or land use as possible. They shall be maintained in a way as to control dust and minimize erosion.
10. XTO will complete reclamation of all disturbed areas no longer in use when the ground disturbance activities at the site have been completed. The reseeded shall take place during the first favorable growing season after closure. Reclamation activities will be considered completed when a uniform vegetative cover has been established that reflects a life-form ratio of plus or minus fifty percent (50%) of pre-disturbance levels, and a total percent plant cover of at least seventy percent (70%) of pre-disturbance levels, excluding noxious weeds.

\*Re-vegetation and reclamation obligations imposed by other applicable federal, state or tribal agencies on lands managed by those agencies shall supersede the above requirements, provided they provide equal or better protection of fresh water, human health and the environment.
11. XTO will notify the Aztec Office of the NMOCD by email when reclamation and closure activities are completed.

12. Within 60 days of closure, XTO will submit a closure report to the Aztec office of the NMOCD, filed on Form C-144. The report will include the following:
  - a. Proof of closure notice to NMOCD and surface owner
  - b. Confirmation sampling analytical results
  - c. Soil backfill and cover installation information
  - d. Photo documentation of site reclamation
  - e. Alternative Table I groundwater criteria request, groundwater information and received approval. (If Needed)



**Lodestar Services, Inc.**

PO Box 4465, Durango, CO 81302

### Pit Permit Siting Criteria Information Sheet

Client:	XTO Energy
Project:	tank permitting
Revised:	25-Nov-08
Prepared by:	Trevor Ycas

API#: 30-039-21474

USPLSS: 28N 04W 26 P

Name: VALENCIA CANYON UNIT No. 005

Lat/Long: 36.628630°, -107.214630°

Depth to groundwater: depth 50-100'

Geologic formation: San Jose Formation (Tsj), alluvium

Distance to closest continuously flowing watercourse: ~23 miles NW to 'San Juan River' at Navajo Reservoir

Site Elevation: 2237m/7339' groundwater depth estimation is based primarily on elevation of nearby springs

Distance to closest significant watercourse, lakebed, playa lake, or sinkhole: 5000' W to Valencia Canyon'

Soil Type: Rockland/ Aridisols

Permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church within 300': NO

Annual Precipitation: Navajo Dam: 12.95", Governador: 11.98", Capulin Rgr Stn.: 14.98", Otis: 10.41"

Domestic fresh water well or spring within 500': NO

Precipitation Notes: Historical daily max. precip.: 4.19" (Bloomfield)

Any other fresh water well or spring within 1000': NO

Within incorporated municipal boundaries: NO

Attached Documents: 27N03W\_iWaters.pdf, 27N04W\_iWaters.pdf, 27N05W\_iWaters.pdf, 28N03W\_iWaters.pdf, 28N04W\_iwaters.pdf, 28N05W\_iwaters.pdf, 29N03W\_iWaters.pdf, 29N04W\_iWaters.pdf, 29N05W\_iWaters.pdf

Within defined municipal fresh water well field: NO

FM350049IND0\_30-039-21474.jpg 30-039-21474\_gEarth-PLS.jpg, 30-039-21474\_topo-PLS.jpg, 30-039-21474\_gEarth-iWaters.jpg

Wetland within 500': NO

Mining Activity: None Near  
NM\_NRD-MMD\_MinesMillQuarries\_30-039-21474.jpg

Within unstable area: NO

Within 100 year flood plain: unmapped area

#### Additional Notes:

drains to 'Cereza Canyon' via 'Valencia Canyon' iWaters: springs SP03972(elev: 2182m), SP03619(elev. 2211m) both supply livestock water; Scissor Spring(SP03622) (elev.2234m) use unknown

located on 'Chosa Mesa', & E of 'Valencia Canyon'

## **Valencia Canyon Unit #5 Below Grade Tank Hydrogeologic Report for Siting Criteria**

### **General Geology and Hydrology**

The San Juan Basin is a typical Rocky Mountain basin with a gently dipping southern flank and a steeply dipping northern flank. Asymmetrically layered Tertiary sandstones and shales, along with Quaternary alluvial deposits, dominate surficial geology (Dane and Bachman, 1965). The proposed pit location will be located in the central Cereza Canyon region of the San Juan Basin near the upper reaches of Valencia Canyon and near Vigas & Chosa Mesas. The predominant geologic formation is the San Jose Formation of Tertiary age, which underlies surface soils and is often exposed (Dane and Bachman, 1965). Deposits of Quaternary alluvial and aeolian sands occur prominently near the surface of the area, especially near streams and washes.

Cretaceous and Tertiary sandstones, as well as Quaternary alluvial deposits serve as the primary aquifers in the San Juan basin (Stone et al., 1983). In most of the proposed area, the San Jose Formation lies at the surface and overlies the Nacimiento Formation. Thickness of the San Jose ranges from 200 to 2700 feet, thickening from west to east across the region of interest (Stone et al., 1983). Aquifers within the coarser and continuous sandstone bodies of the San Jose Formation are between 0 and 2700' deep in this section of the basin (Stone et al., 1983). Groundwater within these aquifers flows north, toward the San Juan River. Little specific hydrogeologic data is available for the San Jose Formation system, but "numerous wells and springs used for stock and domestic supplies" draw their water from the San Jose Formation (Stone et al, 1983).

The prominent soil type at the proposed site are entisols and aridisols, which are defined as soils exhibiting little to no profile development ([www.emnrd.state.nm.us](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us)). Soils are basically unaltered from their parent rock. Miles of arroyos, washes and intermittent streams exist as part of the drainage network towards the San Juan River. These features often cut into soil and other unconsolidated materials, contributing to sedimentation downstream. The sudden influx of water from storm events easily erodes the soils that cover the area and prohibits effective recharge to the underlying aquifers.

Regional weather further prohibit active recharge. The climate is arid, averaging just over 12 inches of rainfall annually. As is typical of the southwestern United States monsoonal weather patterns, most precipitation falls from August through October. The heaviest rainfall occurs in the summer in isolated, intense cloudbursts. November through June is relatively dry. Snow generally falls from December to mid-February and averages less than one-half inch in depth. However, most recharge occurs during the winter months during snowmelt periods from the upper elevations (Western Regional Climate Center [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)).

The predominant vegetation is sagebrush and grasses with a more restricted pinon-juniper association (Dick-Peddie, 1993).

## Site Specific Hydrogeology

Depth to groundwater is estimated to be between 50 and 100'. This estimation is based on data from Stone and others (1983), the USGS Groundwater Atlas of the United States and depth to groundwater data published on the New Mexico State Engineer's iWaters Database website. Local topography, proximity to adjacent channels & spring features at similar elevations nearby are also taken into consideration.

Beds of water-yielding sandstone are present in the San Jose Formation, which are fluvial in origin and are interbedded with mudstone, siltstone & shale. "Extensive intertonguing" of different members of this formation is reported. (Stone et al, 1983). Porous sandstones form the principal aquifers, while relatively impermeable shales and mudstones form confining units between the aquifers (Stone et al., 1983). Local aquifers exist within the San Jose Formation at depths greater than 100 feet and thicknesses of the aquifer can be up to several hundred feet (USGS, Groundwater Atlas of the US) (Stone et al, 1983).

The site in question is located on relatively flat ground, above Valencia Canyon, on Chosa Mesa at an elevation of approximately 7340 feet and approximately 2.9 miles north of the main Cereza Canyon wash channel, the nearest significant watercourse. This site drains to Cereza Canyon via Valencia Canyon. This region is deeply incised by canyons, washes, gullies and arroyos, with large, flat-topped mesas the predominant topographic feature. The mesas are composed of cliff-forming sandstone, and systems of dry washes and their tributaries composed of alluvium are evident on the attached aerial image. Groundwater is expected to be shallow within Largo and Blanco Canyons and within major tributary systems. Additionally, the Valencia Canyon area has many surface springs at varying elevations, including at least 6 within 5 miles of this site.

Groundwater data available from the NM State Engineer's iWaters Database for wells near the proposed site are attached. Groundwater data is extremely limited in this region; the nearest iWaters data point, Campos Spring, lies ~1.2 miles south (SP 03972); this spring is used for livestock watering, as are many others in the surrounding area. 'Deer Spring' is located ~3 miles WSW of the site in question, at a higher elevation (SP 04028). Additionally, 'Chosa Spring' is located ~1.6 mi. south & 'Horn Spring' is located ~3000' west on USGS topographic maps.

Wells located at similar elevations nearby contain groundwater at depths of 45 feet and deeper, occasionally in excess of 200 feet. However, there exist numerous surface springs in the PLSS section 28N, 04W. The exact topography (spring proximity, in a drainage), numerous springs, and elevation relative to nearby surface spring features (approx. 0'-50' higher) is enough to be certain that groundwater is deeper than 50 feet. A map showing the location of wells in reference to the proposed pit location is attached.

## References

Dane, C.H. and Bachman, G. O., 1965, Geologic Map of New Mexico: U.S. Geological Survey, 1 sheet, scale 1:500,000.

Dick-Peddie, W.A., 1993, New Mexico Vegetation – Past, Present and Future: Albuquerque, New Mexico, University of New Mexico Press, 244 p.

Stone, W.J., Lyford, F. P., Frenzel, P.F., Mizell, N.H. and Padgett, E.T., 1983, Hydrogeology and water resources of the San Juan Basin, New Mexico: HR-6 New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources Hydrology Report 6.

USGS, Groundwater Atlas of the United States: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, HA 730-C: (<http://www.pubs.usgs.gov>).

Western Region Climate Center, 2008, New Mexico climate summaries: Desert Research Institute at <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/summary/climsmnm.html>.

New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department,  
[www.emnrd.state.nm.us](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us)



10mi

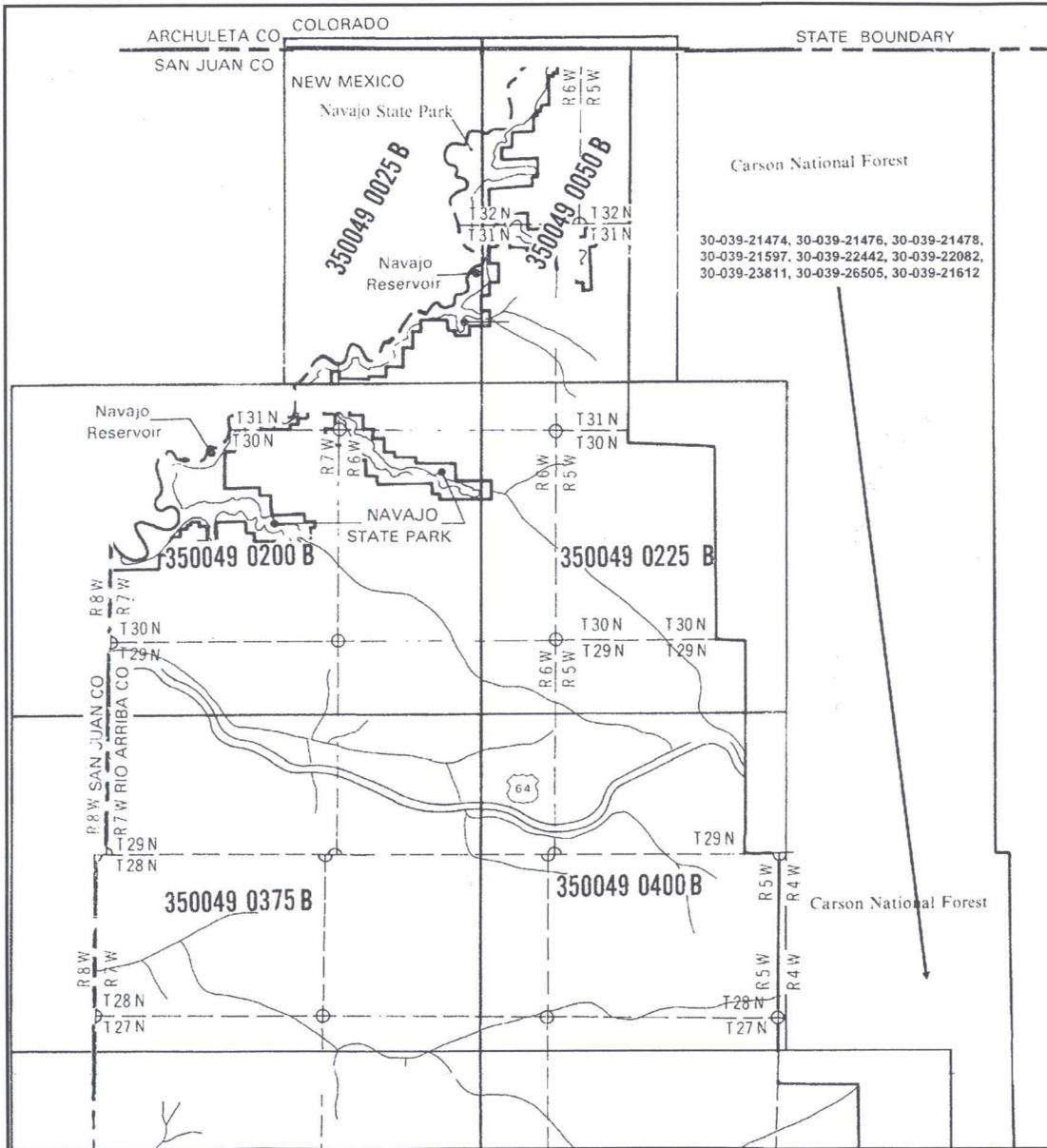




lat 39.017932° lon -107.236777

Impr. NMRCS

ctw 2200m



SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS HAVE NOT BEEN DETERMINED OR MAPPED FOR PORTIONS OF CARSON NATIONAL FOREST, SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST, SAN JUAN INDIAN RESERVATION, JICARILLA APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION, AND SANTA CLARA INDIAN RESERVATION. FLOOD INSURANCE UNDER THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM IS NOT AVAILABLE IN UNMAPPED AREAS.

**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

**FIRM  
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP**

**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY,  
NEW MEXICO  
UNINCORPORATED AREAS**

**MAP INDEX**

PANELS PRINTED: 25, 50, 75, 95, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 260, 275, 300, 325, 350, 375, 400, 425, 450, 475, 500, 525, 550, 575, 600, 625, 650, 675, 700, 725, 750, 775, 800, 825, 850, 875, 900, 925, 950, 975, 1000, 1025, 1050, 1070, 1075, 1090, 1125, 1150, 1175, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1205, 1225, 1270, 1275, 1280, 1285, 1290, 1325

**COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBERS**

350049 0001-1325

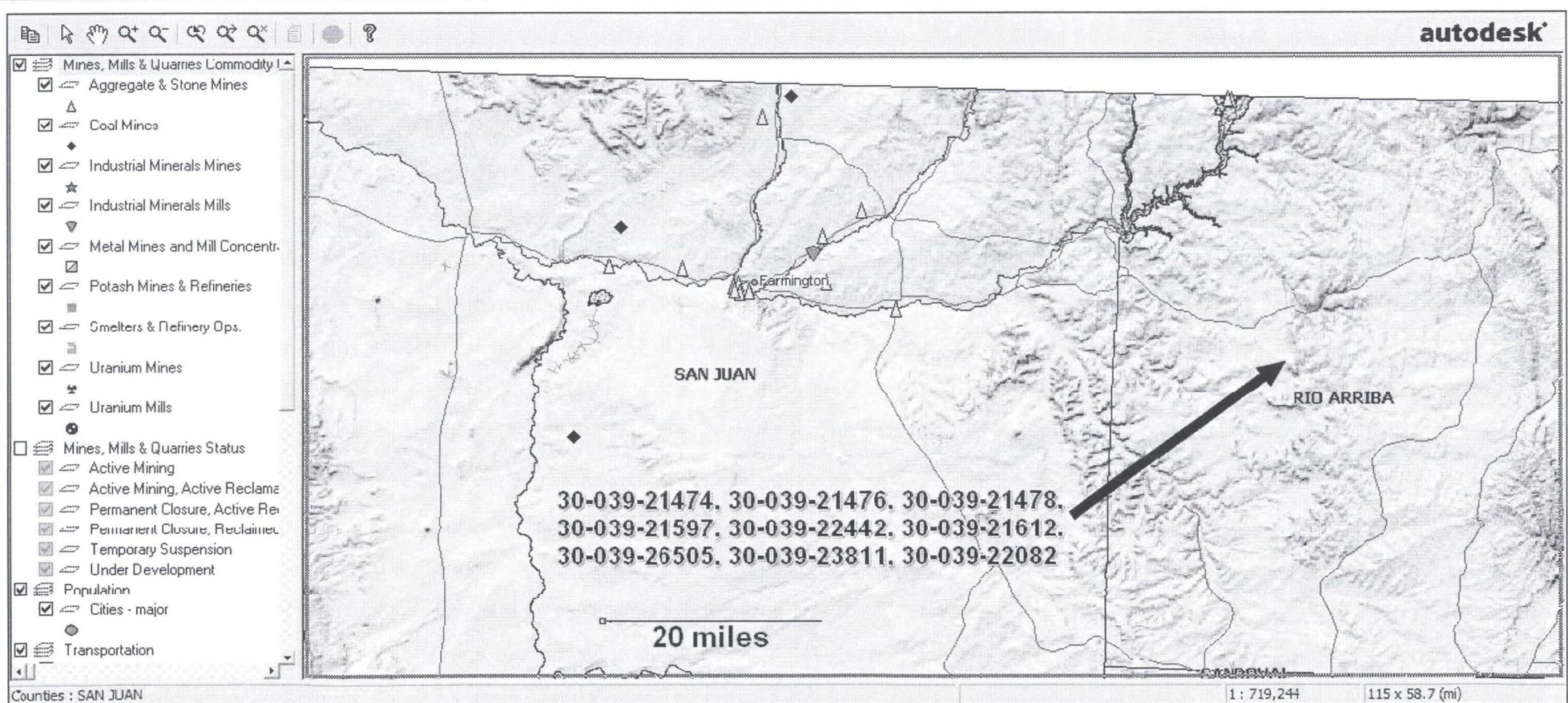
**MAP REVISED:  
AUGUST 5, 1997**



Federal Emergency Management Agency

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov)

# Mines, Mills and Quarries Web Map



New Mexico Office of the State Engineer  
POD Reports and Downloads

Township: 28N Range: 05W Sections:

NAD27 X:  Y:  Zone:  Search Radius:

County:  Basin:  Number:  Suffix:

Owner Name: (First)  (Last)   Non-Domestic  Domestic  All

POD / SURFACE DATA REPORT 10/11/2008

DB File Nbr	Use	Diversion	Owner	POD Number	Source	(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)				X Y are in Feet			UTM are in Meters)			Start Date	Finish Date	Depth Well
						Tws	Rng	Sec	q	q	q	q	Zone	X	Y			
SD 07850	PDL	3	ROSA B. MARTINEZ	SD 07850		28N	05W	18	2	3	4	13	285663	4060122				
SD 07851	PDL	3	ROSA B. MARTINEZ	SD 07851		28N	05W	18	1	2	1	13	285228	4060731				
SD 07852	PDL	3	ROSA B. MARTINEZ	SD 07852		28N	05W	18	2	1	1	13	285579	4060759				
SJ 00036	IND	65	BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS	SJ 00036	Shallow	28N	05W	28	3			13	288156	4056298	06/27/1953	06/27/1953	303	
SJ 00047	NOT	0	MAMIE MANGUM	SJ 00047	Shallow	28N	05W	28				13	288558	4056700	07/30/1953	08/04/1953	465	
SJ 01893	STK	3	ROSA B. OR JUAN L. MARTINEZ	SJ 01893	Shallow	28N	05W	18	4			13	285827	4059576	09/14/1984	10/12/1984	390	
SJ 03806	STK	3	ROSA B. MARTINEZ	SJ 03806 POD1		28N	05W	07	4	4	2	13	286111	4061033				

Record Count: 7

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer  
POD Reports and Downloads

Township: 28N Range: 04W Sections: \_\_\_\_\_

NAD27 X: \_\_\_\_\_ Y: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Search Radius: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Basin: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Name: (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_  Non-Domestic  Domestic  All

POD / SURFACE DATA REPORT 10/19/2008

DB File Nbr	Use	Diversion	Owner	POD Number	Source	(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)				X Y are in Feet			UTM are in Meters)			Start Date	Finish Date	Depth Well f
						Tws	Rng	Sec	q	q	q	q	Zone	X	Y			
SJ 00045	IND	0	U.S. GOVERNMENT	SJ 00045	Shallow	28N	04W	07					13	295235	4061453	09/04/1952	09/10/1952	600
SJ 02385	STK	3	CARSON NATIONAL FOREST	SJ 02385	Shallow	28N	04W	26	1	1	1		13	300818	4057064			160
SP 03618	STK	1.88	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	SP 03618		28N	04W	09	3	1			13	297832	4061209			
SP 03619	STK	0.36	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	SP 03619		28N	04W	21	4	4			13	298924	4057416			
SP 03620	STK	0.36	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	SP 03620		28N	04W	22	1	4			13	299736	4058240			
SP 03621	STK	0.58	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	SP 03621		28N	04W	29	2	2			13	297324	4057019			
SP 03622	STK	0.36	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	SP 03622		28N	04W	33	2	4			13	298821	4054927			
SP 03808	STK	1.67	CARSON NATIONAL FOREST	SP 03808		28N	04W	17	3	1			13	296199	4059551			
SP 03809	STK	1.67	CARSON NATIONAL FOREST	SP 03809		28N	04W	17	4	4			13	297378	4059116			
SP 03811	STK	1.67	CARSON NATIONAL FOREST	SP 03811		28N	04W	14	1	1			13	300944	4060310			
SP 03972	STK	0	CARSON NATIONAL FOREST	SP 03972		28N	04W	36	3	3			13	302344	4053996			
SP 04028	STK	0.85	CARSON NATIONAL FOREST	SP 04028		28N	04W	32	2	4			13	297271	4054953			

Record Count: 12

*New Mexico Office of the State Engineer*  
**POD Reports and Downloads**

Township: 28N Range: 03W Sections:

NAD27 X:  Y:  Zone:  Search Radius:

County:  Basin:  Number:  Suffix:

Owner Name: (First)  (Last)   Non-Domestic  Domestic  All

POD / SURFACE DATA REPORT 10/19/2008

(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)  
 (quarters are biggest to smallest)

DB File Nbr	(acre ft per annum) Use	Diversion	Owner	POD Number	Source	Tw	Rng	Sec	q	q	q	X	Y	UTM_Zone	Easting	Northing	Start Date	Finish Date	Depth Well
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No Records found, try again

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer  
 POD Reports and Downloads

Township: 27N Range: 05W Sections:

NAD27 X:  Y:  Zone:  Search Radius:

County:  Basin:  Number:  Suffix:

Owner Name: (First)  (Last)   Non-Domestic  Domestic  All

POD / SURFACE DATA REPORT 09/16/2008

DB File Nbr	Use	Diversion	Owner	POD Number	Source	(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)				X Y are in Feet			UTM are in Meters			Start	Finish	Depth
						Tws	Rng	Sec	q	q	q	Zone	X	Y	UTM_Zone	Easting	Northing	Date
RG 81026	STK	3	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	RG 81026	Shallow	27N	05W	27	4	4	3	13	290530	4046294	09/12/2003	09/16/2003	460	
SJ 00046	IND	16	BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS	SJ 00046	Shallow	27N	05W	04	4	4		13	289133	4052788	01/13/1954	01/13/1954	506	
SJ 00199	OFM	4	BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS	SJ 00199	Artesian	27N	05W	03	2	1		13	290409	4053971		05/02/1967	1840	

Record Count: 3

*New Mexico Office of the State Engineer*  
**POD Reports and Downloads**

Township: 27N Range: 04W Sections:

NAD27 X:  Y:  Zone:  Search Radius:

County:  Basin:  Number:  Suffix:

Owner Name: (First)  (Last)   Non-Domestic  Domestic  All

POD / SURFACE DATA REPORT 09/16/2008

DB File Nbr	Use	Diversion	Owner	POD Number	Source	(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)				X Y are in Feet			UTM are in Meters)			Start Date	Finish Date	Depth Well s
						Tws	Rng	Sec	q	q	Zone	X	Y	UTM Zone	Easting			
<u>SJ 00048</u>	IND	48	BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS	<u>SJ 00048</u>	Shallow	27N	04W	01			13	302928	4052997	07/28/1953	07/31/1953	143		
<u>SJ 01049</u>	IND	30.55	BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS	<u>SJ 01049</u>		27N	04W	18	4	2	13	295646	4049831	06/30/1967		15		
<u>SJ 01205</u>	OIL	60	MERIDIAN OIL PRODUCTION, INC.	<u>SJ 01205</u>	Artesian	27N	04W	34	4	4	13	300255	4044335	10/18/1980	10/25/1980	3054		
<u>SP 03616</u>	STK	0.58	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<u>SP 03616</u>		27N	04W	24	2	4	13	303452	4048375					
<u>SP 03617</u>	STK	0.58	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<u>SP 03617</u>		27N	04W	25	4	4	13	303396	4045974					
<u>SP 03810</u>	PLS	1.24	CARSON NATIONAL FOREST	<u>SP 03810</u>		27N	04W	30	1	2	13	294693	4047368					
<u>SP 03971</u>	STK	0	CARSON NATIONAL FOREST	<u>SP 03971</u>		27N	04W	12	2	3	13	303116	4051580					

Record Count: 7

*New Mexico Office of the State Engineer*  
**POD Reports and Downloads**

Township:  Range:  Sections:

NAD27 X:  Y:  Zone:  Search Radius:

County:  Basin:  Number:  Suffix:

Owner Name: (First)  (Last)   Non-Domestic  Domestic  All

POD / SURFACE DATA REPORT 10/19/2008

(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)

(quarters are biggest to smallest X Y are in Feet

UTM are in Meters)

Start

Finish

Depth

DB File Nbr	Use	Diversion	Owner	POD Number	Source	Tws	Rng	Sec	q	q	q	Zone	X	Y	UTM_Zone	Easting	Northing	Date	Date	Well	f
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No Records found, try again

**New Mexico Office of the State Engineer  
POD Reports and Downloads**

Township:  Range:  Sections:

NAD27 X:  Y:  Zone:  Search Radius:

County:  Basin:  Number:  Suffix:

Owner Name: (First)  (Last)   Non-Domestic  Domestic  All

WATER COLUMN REPORT 08/12/2008

(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)  
(quarters are biggest to smallest)

POD Number	Tws	Rng	Sec	q	q	q	Zone	X	Y	Depth Well	Depth Water	Water Column
<u>SJ 02339</u>	29N	05W	29	3	3	3				350	108	242
<u>SJ 00422</u>	29N	05W	31	2						239	135	104
<u>SJ 00056</u>	29N	05W	31	2	3	1				142	50	92
<u>SJ 00057</u>	29N	05W	31	2	3	1				158	57	101
<u>SJ 03208</u>	29N	05W	31	3	3	3				220	160	60
<u>SJ 02383</u>	29N	05W	32	1	1	1				300	100	200

Record Count: 6

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer  
POD Reports and Downloads

Township:  Range:  Sections:   
NAD27 X:  Y:  Zone:  Search Radius:   
County:  Basin:  Number:  Suffix:   
Owner Name: (First)  (Last)   Non-Domestic  Domestic  All

WATER COLUMN REPORT 08/12/2008

(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)  
(quarters are biggest to smallest)

POD Number	Tws	Rng	Sec	q	q	q	Zone	X	Y	Depth Well	Depth Water	Water (in feet) Column
<u>SJ 00037</u>	29N	04W	04	2						373		

Record Count: 1

*New Mexico Office of the State Engineer*  
**POD Reports and Downloads**

Township:  Range:  Sections:

NAD27 X:  Y:  Zone:  Search Radius:

County:  Basin:  Number:  Suffix:

Owner Name: (First)  (Last)   Non-Domestic  Domestic  All

WATER COLUMN REPORT 08/12/2008

(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)  
(quarters are biggest to smallest)

POD Number	Tws	Rng	Sec	q	q	q	Zone	X	Y	Depth Well	Depth Water	Water (in feet) Column
<u>SJ 01575</u>	29N	03W	08	4	4	2				306		

Record Count: 1

**XTO Energy Inc.  
San Juan Basin  
Below Grade Tank  
Variance Page**

**Lease Name: Valencia Canyon Unit # 5**

**API No.: 30-039-21474**

**Description: Unit P, Section 26, Township 28N, Range 4W, Rio Arriba County**

In accordance with Rule 19.15.17.15 NMAC, the following outlines all variances that are being requested for below grade tanks at XTO facilities. All variances requested provide equal or better protection of fresh water, public health and the environment.

**Fencing**

XTO requests a variance on rule 19.15.17.11.D(3) NMAC which requires fencing around below grade tanks to have at least four (4) strands of barbed wire evenly spaced in the interval between one foot and four feet above ground level. XTO instead requests to utilize hogwire fencing at least four (4) feet high with a top rail for fencing around below grade tanks. This will provide equal protection for livestock from the below grade tank.

**Closure Requirements**

XTO requests a variance on rule 19.15.17.13.C(3)(a) NMAC which requires operators to analyze closure samples for the constituents listed in Table I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC. XTO instead requests to replace the USEPA analytical method 300.0 for total chloride to USEPA Method 9056. The SW846 9056 method Determination of Inorganic Anions By Ion Chromatography, from *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods*, which also contains methods for the analysis of groundwater, is customarily used to comply with RCRA regulations. EPA Method 300.0 Determination of Inorganic Anions by Ion Chromatography is taken from *Methods for Chemical Analysis of Waters and Wastes*, and includes test procedures that are approved for monitoring under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The Scope of Application for each method is the same, and both methods utilize ion chromatograph instrumentation. Following either procedure, steps for instrument calibration and data calculation are equivalent. Sample preservation, holding time, handling and storage is identical between the two methods. It is expected that data produced from either method should be consistent.

XTO requests a variance on rule 19.15.17.13.E(2) requiring that operators notify the appropriate division office verbally AND in writing at least 72 hours prior to any closure operation. XTO instead requests that the verbal notification be waived, as suggested by the local division office. XTO will provide written notification to the division office in the form of an email at least 72 hours prior to beginning closure activities.

January 27, 2015

Mr. Cory Smith  
Oil Conservation Division  
1000 Rio Brazos Rd.  
Aztec, New Mexico 87410

Email: cory.smith@state.nm.us  
Phone (505) 334-6178 Ext 115

**RE: VARIANCE REQUEST FOR 19.15.17 NMAC TABLE I AND TABLE II**

Mr. Smith,

Please accept this letter as a variance request as outlined in 19.15.17.15(A) NMAC. XTO Energy would like to request the replacement of USEPA Method 418.1 for the analysis of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) for USEPA Method 8015M, measuring carbon ranges C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>, for all sampling associated with closures and confirmations samples in relation to 19.15.17 NMAC, both in Table I and Table II (2103) and the 'pit rule' passed in 2008.

XTO Energy is requesting this variance on the grounds that USEPA Method 418.1 is an outdated analytical method that reports a full range of hydrocarbons from C<sub>8</sub> through C<sub>40</sub>. (*Reference: American Petroleum Institute*). The attached table demonstrates the carbon ranges, and the typical hydrocarbon products that can be found in those ranges. As you can see, lube oil ranges from C<sub>28</sub>-C<sub>35</sub>. Analytical Method USEPA 418.1 extends past lube oils from C<sub>35</sub> through C<sub>40</sub>. This range of hydrocarbons is above the range that can reasonably be expected to be found in our field in both drilling pits and beneath below grade tanks. USEPA Method 8015M (GRO/DRO + extended analysis) will report hydrocarbons ranging from C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> for GRO, C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>28</sub> for DRO, and C<sub>28</sub>-C<sub>36</sub> for extended analysis. This information was provided by Environmental Science Corporation Laboratories. As the information demonstrates, the 8015M analytical method reports as low as C<sub>6</sub>, reporting lower than USEPA Method 418.1. Utilizing analytical method 8015M, lighter range hydrocarbons will be reported instead of higher range, heavy hydrocarbons that may not be reasonably expected to be found in our field. Utilization of USEPA Method 8015M will better protect groundwater resources by identifying lighter, more mobile hydrocarbons that USEPA Method 418.1 cannot identify. The heavier range hydrocarbons, C<sub>36</sub>-C<sub>40</sub>, that are not identified by USEPA Method 8015M are not a mobile form of hydrocarbon, and are not a threat to human health and the environment. With your acceptance of this variance request, XTO Energy will begin utilizing USEPA Method 8015M in place of USEPA Method 418.1 for all sampling activities associated with 19.15.17 NMAC, both from the rules passed in 2008 and 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

James McDaniel, CHMM #15676  
EH&S Supervisor  
XTO Energy, Inc.  
Western Division

### Carbon Ranges of Typical Hydrocarbons

Hydrocarbon	Carbon Range
Condensate	C2-C12
Aromatics	C5-C7
Gasoline	C7-C11
Kerosene	C6-C16
Diesel Fuel	C8-C21
Fuel Oil #1	C9-C16
Fuel Oil #2	C11-C20
Heating Oil	C14-C20
Lube Oil	C28-C35