

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  
July 21, 2008

For temporary pits, closed-loop systems, and below-grade tanks, submit to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.  
For permanent pits and exceptions submit to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office and provide a copy to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.

Pit, Closed-Loop System, Below-Grade Tank, or  
Proposed Alternative Method Permit or Closure Plan Application

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

**Instructions: Please submit one application (Form C-144) per individual pit, closed-loop system, 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.

Operator: Elm Ridge Exploration OGRID #: 149052  
Address: P.O. Box 156; Bloomfield, NM 87413  
Facility or well name: Bisti Coal 21-1  
API Number: 3004528009 OCD Permit Number:  
U/L or Qtr/Qtr A Section 21 Township 25N Range 12W County: San Juan  
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude 36.391422 Longitude -108.111612 NAD:  1927  1983  
Surface Owner:  Federal  State  Private  Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

2. **Ceased Operating Post August 8, 2008**  
 **Pit:** Subsection F or G of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Temporary:  Drilling  Workover  
 Permanent  Emergency  Cavitation  P&A  
 Lined  Unlined Liner type: Thickness \_\_\_\_\_ mil  LLDPE  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 String-Reinforced  
Liner Seams:  Welded  Factory  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Volume: \_\_\_\_\_ bbl Dimensions: L 18' x W 18' x D 3'

3.  **Closed-loop System:** Subsection H of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Type of Operation:  P&A  Drilling a new well  Workover or Drilling (Applies to activities which require prior approval of a permit or notice of intent)  
 Drying Pad  Above Ground Steel Tanks  Haul-off Bins  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lined  Unlined Liner type: Thickness \_\_\_\_\_ mil  LLDPE  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Liner Seams:  Welded  Factory  Other \_\_\_\_\_

4.  **Below-grade tank:** Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Volume: \_\_\_\_\_ bbl Type of fluid:  
Tank Construction material:  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

6.  
**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 4' tall hogwire fencing with pipe railing

7.  
**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)

8.  
**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

9.  
**Administrative Approvals 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:*  
 Administrative approval(s): Requests must be submitted to the appropriate division district or the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.  
 Exception(s): Requests must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

10.  
**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. Requests regarding changes to certain siting criteria may require administrative approval from the appropriate district office or may be considered an exception which must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval. Applicant must attach justification for request. Please refer to 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance. Siting criteria does not apply to drying pads or above-grade tanks associated with a closed-loop system.*

Ground water is less than 50 feet below the bottom of the temporary pit, permanent pit, or below-grade tank. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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).0. - 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. - ( <i>Applies to temporary, emergency, or cavitation pits and below-grade tanks</i> ) (	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Within 1000 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. ( <i>Applies to permanent pits</i> ) - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Within 500 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring that less than five households use for domestic or stock watering purposes, or within 1000 horizontal feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of initial application. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Within 500 feet of a wetland.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Within the area overlying a subsurface mine.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Within an unstable area. - Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Within a 100-year floodplain. - FEMA map	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

11. **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: \_\_\_\_\_

12. **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.

Geologic and Hydrogeologic Data (only for on-site closure) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (3) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC  
 Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations (only for on-site closure) - 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Previously Approved Operating and Maintenance Plan API Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Applies only to closed-loop system that use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure)

13. **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

14. **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  Closed-loop System  
 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 (Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau for consideration)

15. **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 F 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 I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
 Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

**16. 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 indentify 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 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

**17. 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 may require administrative approval from the appropriate district office or may be considered an exception which must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval. Justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency are required. Please refer to 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Ground water is less than 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 between 50 and 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 |
| 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 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).<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 500 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring that less than five households use for domestic or stock watering purposes, or within 1000 horizontal feet of any other fresh water well or spring, 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                                |
| 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.<br>- Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within 500 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 the area overlying a subsurface mine.<br>- Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within an unstable area.<br>- Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within a 100-year floodplain.<br>- FEMA map   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |

**18. 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 F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Construction/Design Plan of Burial Trench (if applicable) based upon the appropriate requirements 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 Subsection F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Waste Material Sampling Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection F 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 I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

19.

**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): Ms. Amy Mackey Title: Administrative Manager

Signature: [Signature] Date: 1-8-09

e-mail address: amackey1@elmridge.net Telephone: (505) 632-3476 Ext. 201

20.

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

OCD Representative Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ OCD Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

21.

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

22.

**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.

23.

**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

24.

**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)
- 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

25.

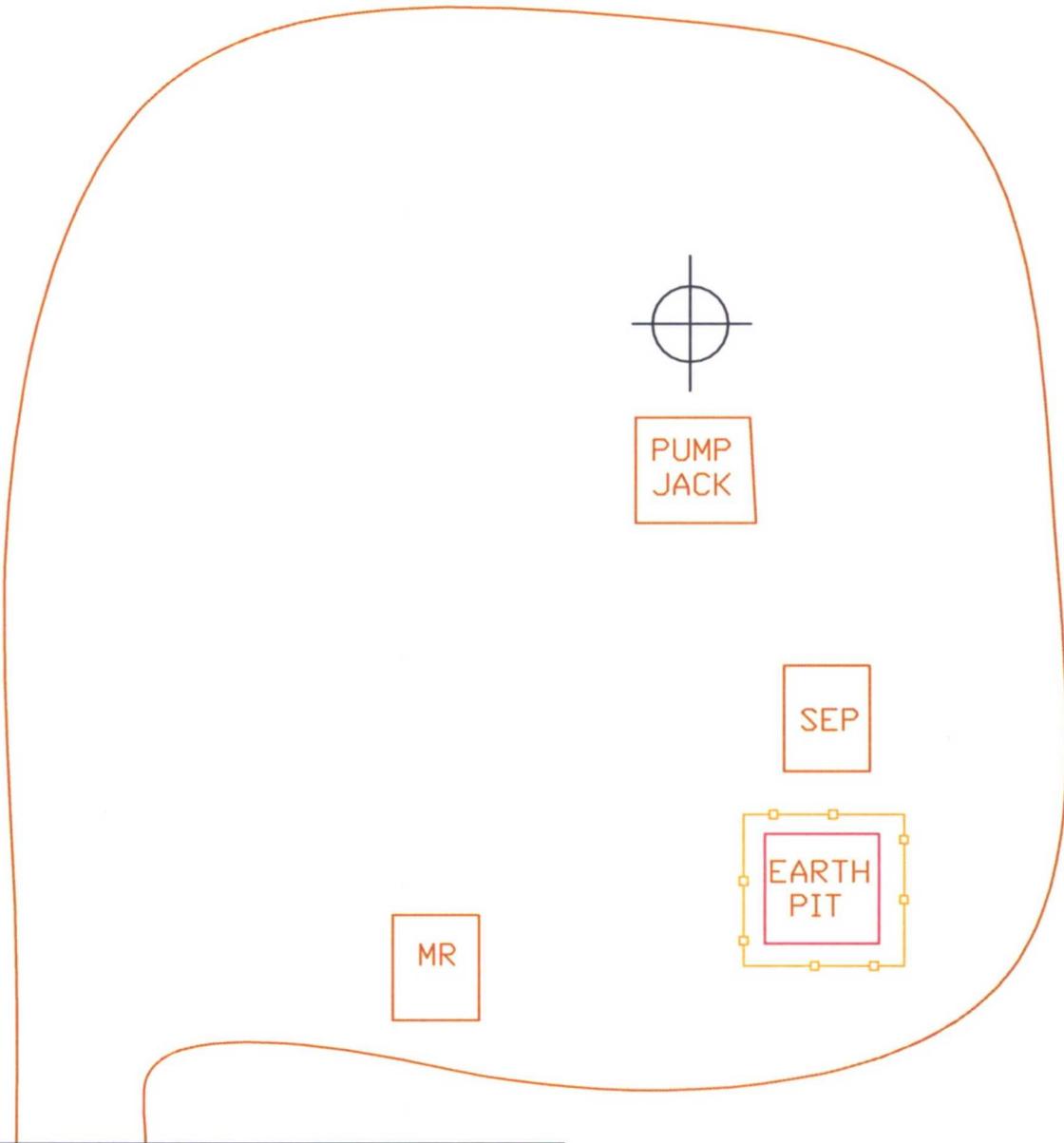
**Operator Closure Certification:**

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.

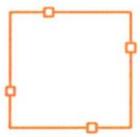
Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# LEGEND



4' Tall Hogwire Fencing



Berm



Well Head

## SITE MAP ELM RIDGE EXPLORATION BISTI COAL 21 - 1 SEC 21 TWN 25N RGE 12W SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

SCALE: NTS

FIGURE NO. A

REV

PROJECT N003056-0136

### REVISIONS

NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION
MAP DRWN	TLM	12/23/2008	BASE DRWN

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS & ENGINEERS  
**ENVIROTECH**

5796 U.S. HIGHWAY 64, FARMINGTON, NM 87410 505-632-0615

# **EARTHEN PIT CLOSURE PLAN**

**SITE NAME:**

**BISTI COAL 21-1  
UNIT LETTER A, SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 25N, RANGE 12W  
SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO  
LATITUDE 36.391422 LONGITUDE -108.111612**

**SUBMITTED TO:**

**MR. WAYNE PRICE  
NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
1220 SOUTH ST. FRANCIS DRIVE  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 476-3490**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**MS. AMY MACKEY  
ELM RIDGE EXPLORATION  
P.O. BOX 156  
BLOOMFIELD, NEW MEXICO 87413  
(505) 632-3476 EXT. 201**

**JANUARY 2009**

**EARTHEN PIT CLOSURE PLAN  
ELM RIDGE EXPLORATION  
BISTI COAL 21-1  
SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Elm Ridge Exploration would like to submit a closure plan for the earthen pit at the Bisti Coal 21-1 well site located in the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 21, Township 25N, Range 12W, San Juan County, New Mexico. This closure plan has been prepared in conformance with the closure requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.

## **SCOPE OF CLOSURE ACTIVITIES**

The purpose of this closure plan is to provide the details of activities involved in the closure of the permanent unlined pit at the Bisti Coal 21-1 well site. The following scope of closure activities has been designed to meet this objective:

- 1) Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will close all former earthen pits prior to the closure date agreed upon by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division of December 31, 2009.
- 2) In accordance with of Subsection A of 19.15.17.13 NMAC, Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will close any earthen pits at a date the division requires because of imminent danger to fresh water, public health, or the environment.
- 3) Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will close earthen pits first which seem to pose a greater risk to fresh water, public health, or the environment. This will be determined by the locations proximately to surface water sources and distance to groundwater.
- 4) No less than 60 days prior to any earthen pit closure activities, Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will provide written notification to the Santa Fe NMOC office as well as a schedule of on-site activities, as in accordance with 19.15.17.13 Subsection J Paragraph (3) NMAC.
- 5) No less than 24 hours and no greater than one (1) week prior to earthen pit removal Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will provide written notification to the appropriate surface owner as well as a schedule of on-site activities, as in accordance with 19.15.17.13 Subsection J Paragraph (1) NMAC. Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will notify the surface owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the operator plans to close a earthen pit. The return receipt will be used to ensure that the surface owner has received written notification no less than 24 hours and no greater than one (1) week prior to the beginning of BGT 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 with this requirement. Closure activities that will take place on tribal land will have notifications sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the appropriate tribal office. Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will notify the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of closure activities for wells located on federal land per a Sundry Notice, as in accordance with 19.15.17.13 Subsection J Paragraph (1) NMAC. All notices will be sent in such a way that the surface owner received notice at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of

closure activities.

- 6) Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will remove all liquids, and/or sludge, to visual extents, prior to closure sampling. Material will be disposed of at Envirotech's Landfarm #2, Permit # NM-01-0011, TNT Environmental Inc. Landfarm, Permit # NM-01-0008, Industrial Ecosystems Inc. (IEI) Landfarm, Permit # NM-01-0010B or Basin Disposal, Permit # NM-01-0005, depending on the consistence of the material removed, as in accordance with 19.15.17.13 Subsection C Paragraph (1) NMAC .
- 7) Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will remove all on-site equipment associated with this earthen pit unless it is required for some other purpose, as in accordance with 19.15.17.13 Subsection C Paragraph (2) NMAC. The equipment that meets the requirements of 19.15.9.712 Subsection A NMAC and 19.15.9.712 Subsection D Paragraph (1) will be disposed of at San Juan County Regional Landfill. Waste that is classified by 19.15.9.712 Subsection D Paragraph (2) will be sampled accordingly to determine acceptance of this material at the San Juan County Regional Landfill. Waste that is unable to be accepted at the San Juan County Regional Landfill will be submitted to the OCD on a case-by-case basis in accordance with Paragraph (3) of Subsection D of 19.15.9.712.
- 8) Once the earthen pit is removed to visual extents of contamination, a five (5) - point composite sample will be collected from directly below the liner(s) or at native soil. Additional discrete samples will be collected from any area that is wet, discolored, or show other evidence of a release. All samples being collected will be analyzed for benzene, and total BTEX via USEPA Method 8021B, TPH via USEPA Method 418.1, and chlorides via USEPA 300.1, as in accordance with 19.15.17.13 Subsection C Paragraph (3) NMAC.
- 9) Depending on soil sample results the area will be either backfilled or the area will be excavated.
  - a. If soil samples do not exceed the regulatory standards of 0.2 mg/kg benzene, 50 mg/kg BTEX, 100 mg/kg TPH, and 250 mg/kg or background concentration of chlorides, as in accordance with 19.15.17.13 Subsection C Paragraph (3) NMAC.
    - i. Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, shall submit a Form C-141 with the laboratory results so that the division may review the results to determine if additional delineation is required in accordance with Paragraph (4) of Subsection C of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.
    - ii. Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will backfill the excavation or impacted area with non-waste containing, earthen material, in accordance with 19.15.17.13 Subsection E Paragraph (6) NMAC. A soil cover shall be installed for all backfilled excavations consisting of the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater in accordance with Subsections H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC. The operator shall construct the soil cover to the site's existing grade and prevent ponding of water and erosion of the cover material.
    - iii. All areas of the well site that are no longer utilized on a day to day basis for the production of oil and/or gas, Elm Ridge Exploration, or a

contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, will substantially restore, recontour, and re-vegetate the areas, in accordance with 19.15.17.13 Subsections G and I NMAC. The operator shall notify the division when it has re-seeded and when it has achieved successful re-vegetation. For re-vegetation methods, please see attached re-vegetation plan.

- b. If soil samples exceed the regulatory standards stated above.
  - i. Elm Ridge Exploration, or a contractor acting on behalf of Elm Ridge Exploration, shall submit a Form C-141 with the laboratory results so that the division may review the results to determine if additional delineation is required in accordance with Paragraph (4) of Subsection C of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.
  - ii. Activities beyond this point will be in accordance with 19.15.3.116 NMAC and 19.15.11.19 NMAC.

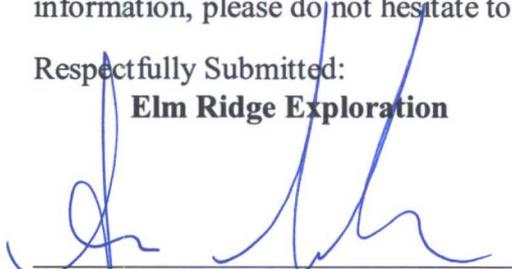
### REPORTING

Elm Ridge Exploration will submit a closure report within 60 days following the earthen pit closure. The closure report will consist of a form C-144 with all supporting data and a form C-141 with all supporting data. The supporting data will include proof of closure notice to the surface owner and the OCD, confirmation sampling analytical results, a site diagram, soil backfilling and cover installation, re-vegetation rates, re-seeding techniques, and site reclamation photo documentation if applicable, along with all other information related to the onsite activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (505) 632-0615.

Respectfully Submitted:

**Elm Ridge Exploration**



Amy Mackey  
Elm Ridge Exploration

**OCD Aztec District III  
ELM RIDGE Checklist  
Below Grade Tank Closure Plans**

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**19.15.17.9 Permit application**

- Signed C-144 (Page 5 of C-144)
- Site Specific Hydrogeology (Iwaters)

**19.15.17.10 Siting requirements**

- Proximity to watercourses (Topo map)
- Proximity to Permanent Structure (Aerial Map)
- Proximity to Flood Plain Map (Aerial Map)
- Proximity to Subsurface Mines Map (Aerial Map)

**19.15.17.13 Closure Plan**

- Below Grade Tank Closure Plan

**19.15.17.12 Operating and Maintenance Plan**

- Below Grade Tank Operating and Maintenance Plan

*UNside closure Report  
in well file*

**Requirements:** (Application Marked Closure Plan Only)

**Registration Date:** VF (CS) 5/18/18