

EL PASO FIELD SERVICES

PRODUCTION PIT CLOSURE

DEPUTY OIL & GAS INSPECTOR

DEC 21 1998

Reams Com #3
Meter/Line ID - 95183

RECEIVED
JUL 2 1998

Approved

SITE DETAILS

Legals - Twn: 26 Rng: 06

Sec: 19

Unit: K

NMOCD Hazard Ranking: 40

Land Type: 2 - Federal

Operator: CONOCO - MESA OPERATING L

Pit Closure Date: ~~02/27/93~~ 02/27/93

OIL CON. DIV.

RATIONALE FOR RISK-BASED CLOSURE:

The above mentioned production pit was assessed and ranked according to the criteria in the New Mexico Conservation Division's Unlined Surface Impoundment Closure Guidelines.

The primary source, discharge to the pit, has been removed. There has been no discharge to the production pit for at least five years and the pit has been closed for at least three years.

The production pit has been remediated to the practical extent of the trackhoe or to the top of bedrock. Initial laboratory analysis has indicated that the soil remaining at the bottom of the excavation is above standards based on the hazard ranking score. Contaminated soil was removed and transported to an approved landfarm for disposal. The initial excavation was backfilled with clean soil and graded in a manner to divert precipitation away from the excavated area. Any rainfall that does infiltrate the ground surface must migrate through clean backfill before reaching any residual hydrocarbons remaining in the soil. Therefore, further mobility of residual hydrocarbons is unlikely.

Since the soil samples from the initial excavation were above standards, a test boring was drilled and a sample was collected to evaluate the vertical extent of impact to soils. Test boring sample results indicated soils below standards beneath the original excavation.

El Paso Field Services Company (EPFS) requests closure of the above mentioned production pit location for the following reasons:

- Discharge to the pit has not occurred in over five years and the pit has been closed for over three years.
- The bulk of the impacted soil was removed during the initial excavation.
- The excavation was backfilled with clean soil and graded to divert precipitation away from the excavation area.
- All source material has been removed from the ground surface, eliminating potential direct contact with livestock and the general public.
- Groundwater was not encountered in the initial excavation or test boring; therefore, impact to groundwater is unlikely.
- Soil samples collected beneath the initial excavation were below standards.
- No potential receptors are within 1,000 feet of the site.
- Residual hydrocarbons remaining in the soil at the bottom of the initial excavation will naturally degrade in time with minimal risk to the environment.