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BURLINGTON RESOURCES

SAN JUAN DIVISION

April 23, 2001

Mr. Roberto Bernier Superfund Division (6SF-RO) U.S. EPA Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75202-2733 Certified Mail: 0002 8981 4141



Re: Clean Water Act Section 308 information Request Oil Spill in San Juan County, NM on or about November 27, 2000

Mr. Bernier:

As per Mr. Gazda's request (March 20, 2001), Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP (BR) is providing information regarding the oil spill that occurred on November 27, 2000. The undesirable event occurred at the natural gas well location Aztec A #1 located at Unit I; Section 22: Township 31 North; and Range 11 West, which is 3 miles northwest of Aztec, New Mexico in the northwest corner of the State of New Mexico.

The following addresses the specific questions directed in your letter:

- 1. A copy of the completed New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Release Notification and Corrective Action form detailing the specific circumstances of the incident is provided in Attachment 1.
- 2. The amount of oil spilled was 20 barrels (e.g., 42 gallons per barrel).
- 3. The duration of the actual spill event is unknown. The location is routinely visited by the lease operator who last visited it on 11/22/00. The spill was discovered on 11/27/00 at 1:30 pm. Spill response and remediation activities started immediately. The remediation activities first focused on the narrow flow path in the bottom of the dry wash and the area impacted prior to the flow path entered the dry wash. Impacted materials were removed from the dry wash with this phase of the cleanup completed on 12/1/00. A scheduled follow-up inspection of the cleanup area on 4/13/01 prompted limited additional excavation work that was completed on 4/20/01.
- 4. The cause of the spill was greater than anticipated water production causing the produced water storage tank to overflow. This production well produces natural gas from a coal seam formation and does not produce any crude oil or condenstate. The water production of the well was known from historic operation records. However, recent maintenance activities on the well caused uncharacteristically high water production. The storage tank

activities on the well caused uncharacteristically high water production. The storage tank contained approximately 20 barrels of oil from a previous location (this fact was unknown to our production operations group at the time the tank was moved on location). When the well began to produce water, the residual oil floated on top of the produced water and overflowed to the ground when the produced water storage tank's capacity was reached.

- 5. The spilled fluids did not contact any water but did enter an unnamed dry ephemeral wash. Approximately one mile from the spill area, the dry wash connects to the Animas River.
- 6. A site location map is provided in Attachment 2.
- 7. A drawing of the Aztec A #1 facilities is provided in Attachment 3.
- 8. A sketch of the spill site is provided in Attachment 4.
- 9. Photographs of the spill site after cleanup are provided in Attachment 5. BR does not have photographs of the spill site prior to cleanup.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at 326-9841.

Sincerely,

Ed Hasely

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Environmental Specialist

Attachments

cc: Mark Kelley, BLM
Denny Foust, NMOCD
Release File
Correspondence

District 1 - (505) 393-6161

P.O. Box 1940

Hobbs, NM 88241-1980

District II - (505) 748-1283

outh First

Artesia, NM 88210 District III - (505) 334-6178 1000 Rio Brazos Road

Aztec. NM 87410

State of New Mexico

Form C-141 Originated 2/13/97

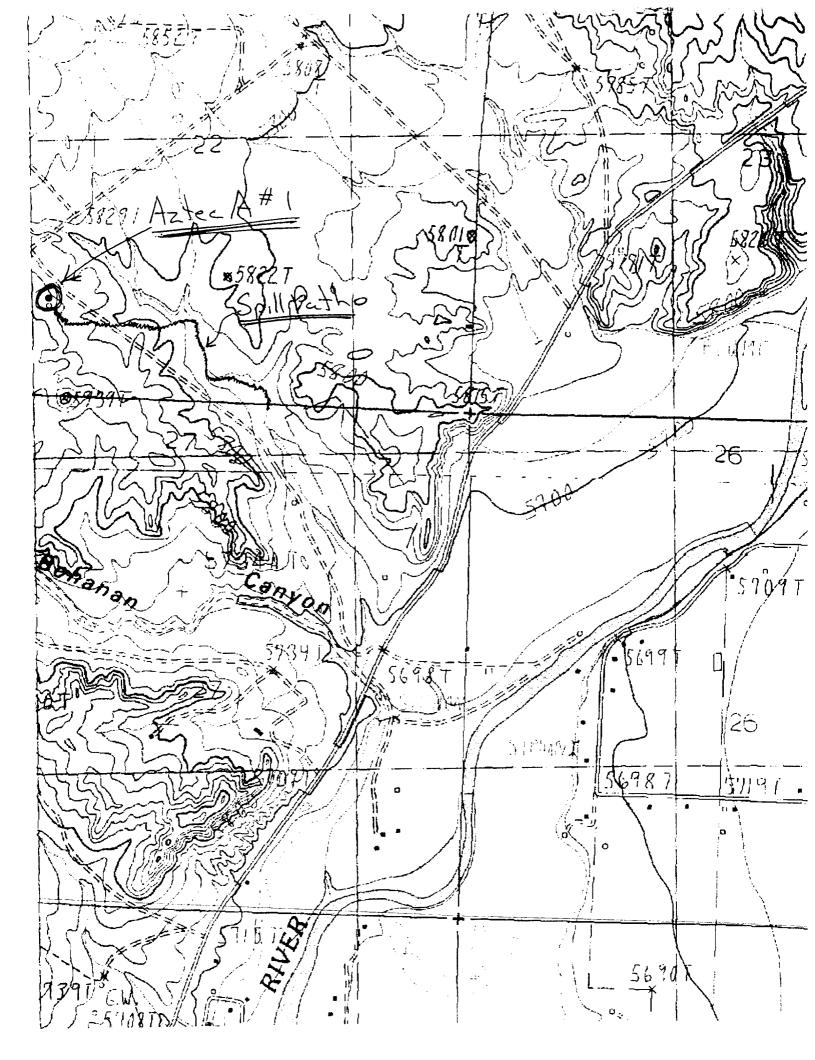
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department

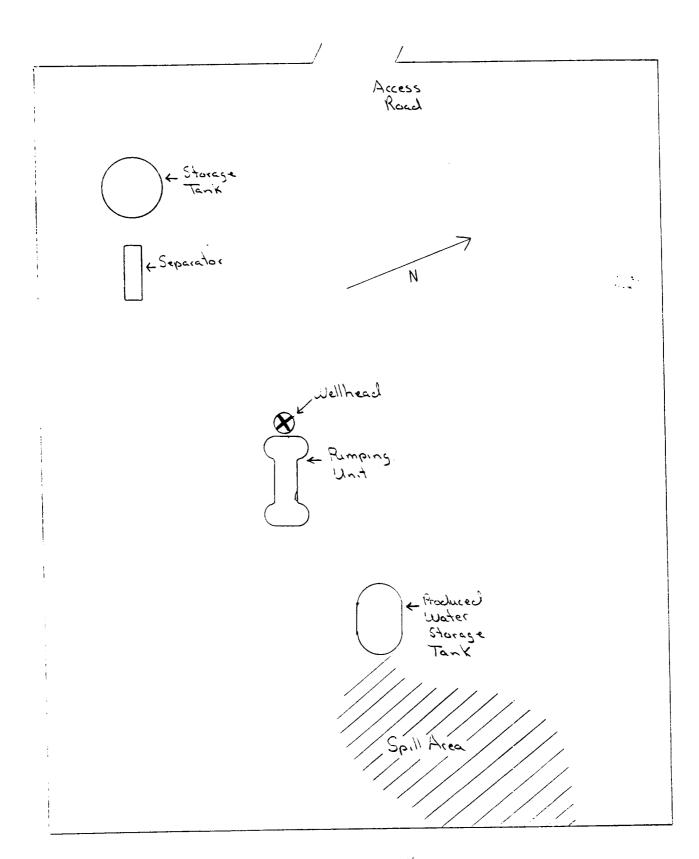
Oil Conservation Division

2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-7131

Submit 2 copies to: **Appropriate District** Office in accordanc with Rule 116.

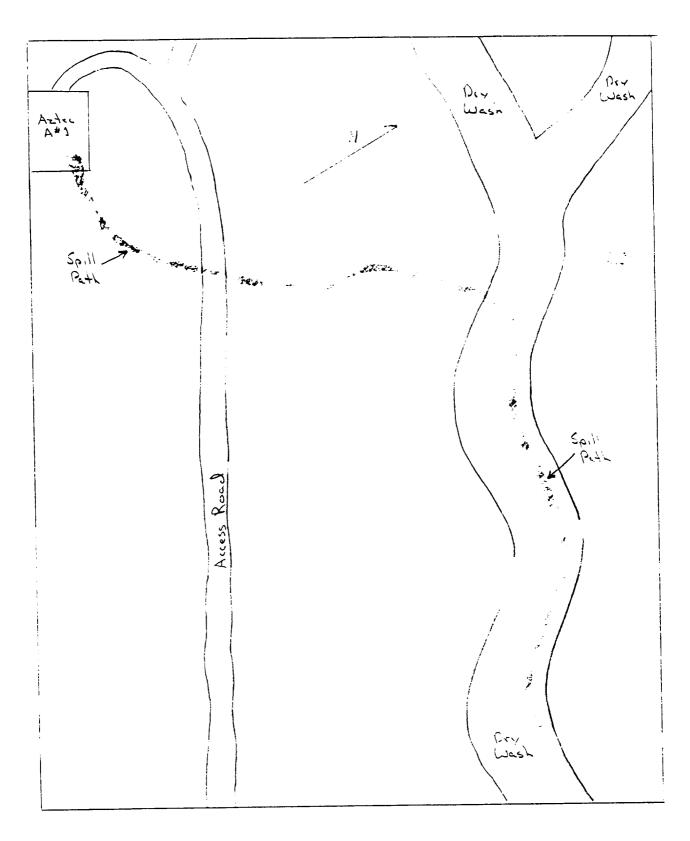
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Aztec A#1
Facility Drawing

Not to Scale



Azirec in = 1 Spill Drawing

Not to Scale



