

1R - 425-91

**APPROVALS**

**YEAR(S):**

2012

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**Hansen, Edward J., EMNRD**

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**From:** Hansen, Edward J., EMNRD  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 18, 2012 2:05 PM  
**To:** Hack Conder (hconder@riceswd.com)  
**Cc:** Leking, Geoffrey R, EMNRD; Laura Pena (lpena@riceswd.com); Scott Curtis (scurtis@riceswd.com)  
**Subject:** Remediation Plan (1R425-91) Termination - ROC Vacuum B-5-1 EOL Site

**RE: Termination Request  
for the Rice Operating Company's  
Vacuum B-5-1 EOL Site  
Unit Letter B, Section 5, T18S, R35E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico  
Remediation Plan (1R425-91) Termination**

Dear Mr. Conder:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has received Rice Operating Company's report and request to close the above-referenced site, dated June 22, 2012 (received June 28, 2012). The report is acceptable to the OCD.

The above-referenced report, submitted in accordance with 19.15.29 NMAC (Rule 29; formally, Rule 116), indicates that Rice Operating Company has met the requirements of 19.15.29 NMAC; therefore, the OCD approves the report and hereby notifies you that the remediation plan (1R425-91) is terminated in accordance with 19.15.29 NMAC.

Please be advised that OCD approval of this report does not relieve the owner/operator of responsibility should operations pose a threat to ground water, surface water, human health or the environment. In addition, OCD approval does not relieve the owner/operator of responsibility for compliance with any OCD, federal, state, or local laws and/or regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 505-476-3489.

Edward J. Hansen  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2012

**RICE** *Operating Company*

122 West Taylor • Hobbs, New Mexico 88240  
Phone: (575) 393-9174 • Fax: (575) 397-1471

Oil Conservation Division  
1220 S. St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

CERTIFIED MAIL

RETURN RECEIPT NO. 7007 2560 0000 4569 8647

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Mr. Edward Hansen  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources  
Oil Conservation Division, Environmental Bureau  
1220 S. St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: Termination Request  
Vacuum B-5-1 EOL (1R425-91): UL/B, Sec. 5, T18S, R35E  
RICE Operating Company – Vacuum SWD System

Mr. Hansen:

Rice Operating Company (ROC) is the service provider (agent) for the abandoned Vacuum Saltwater Disposal (SWD) System and has no ownership of any portion of the pipeline, well, or facility. The System is owned by a consortium of oil producers, System Parties, who provide all operating capital on a percentage ownership/usage basis.

**Background**

In 2010, ROC initiated work on the former B-5-1 junction box as part of the system abandonment. The site is located in UL/B, Sec. 5 T18S, R35E. NM OSE records indicate that groundwater would likely be encountered at a depth of approximately 66 +/- feet. The site was delineated using a backhoe to collect soil samples at regular intervals, creating a 5x3x9-ft deep excavation. Each sample was field titrated for chlorides and field screened using a PID for hydrocarbons, resulting in low concentrations of each. The 9-ft sample was sent to a commercial laboratory for analysis of chloride and TPH, resulting in a chloride concentration of 160 mg/kg, and concentrations of gasoline range organics (GRO) and diesel range organics (DRO) below detectable limits. The excavated soil was returned to the excavation to ground surface and contoured to the surrounding area. On 6/21/2010, the site was seeded with a blend of native vegetation and is expected to return to a productive capacity at a normal rate. The junction box final report, photo documentation, laboratory analysis, and PID sheet are attached.

**Recommendations**

Site investigation demonstrates that residual chloride and hydrocarbons in the vadose zone will not with reasonable probability contaminate groundwater in excess of NMOCD standards. This site meets the requirements of the NMOCD-approved Revised Junction Box Upgrade Work Plan (July 16, 2003). As such, ROC request termination of the regulatory file, or similar closure status.

Please contact me at (575)393-9174 if you have any questions or wish to discuss this site. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
RICE Operating Company

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Conder", written in a cursive style.

Hack Conder  
Environmental Manager

enclosures

**RICE OPERATING COMPANY  
JUNCTION BOX FINAL REPORT**

**BOX LOCATION**

SWD SYSTEM	JUNCTION	UNIT	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	COUNTY	BOX DIMENSIONS - FEET		
							Length	Width	Depth
Vacuum	B-5-1 EOL	B	5	18S	35E	Lea	Eliminated		

LAND TYPE: BLM \_\_\_\_\_ STATE X FEE LANDOWNER \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Depth to Groundwater: 66' feet NMOCD SITE ASSESSMENT RANKING SCORE: 10

Date Started 6/18/2010 Date Completed 6/21/2010 OCD Witness No

Soil Excavated 5.0 cubic yards Excavation Length 5 Width 3 Depth 9 feet

Soil Disposed 0 cubic yards Offsite Facility n/a Location n/a

**FINAL ANALYTICAL RESULTS:** Sample Date 6/21/2010 Sample Depth 9 ft

TPH and Chloride laboratory test results completed by using an approved lab and testing procedures pursuant to NMOCD guidelines.

**CHLORIDE FIELD TESTS**

Sample Location	PID (field) ppm	GRO mg/kg	DRO mg/kg	Chloride mg/kg
SOURCE @ 9'	1.0	<10.0	<10.0	160

LOCATION	DEPTH	mg/kg
background	6"	113
vertical delineation trench at the junction (source)	2'	146
	3'	170
	4'	59
	5'	85
	6'	86
	7'	382
	8'	90
	9'	172

**General Description of Remedial Action:** This junction box was addressed during the Vacuum SWD System abandonment. After the former junction box was removed an investigation was conducted using a backhoe to collect soil sample at regular intervals creating a 3x5x9-ft deep excavation. Each sample was field tested for chlorides and organic vapors which yielded low concentrations similar to that of the background sample. The deepest sample, 9 ft BGS, was sent to a commercial laboratory for analysis of chloride and TPH which confirmed low concentrations. The excavated soil was returned to the excavation to ground surface and contoured to the surrounding area. On 6/21/2010, the site was seeded with a blend of native vegetation and is expected to return to a productive capacity at a normal rate.

enclosures: photos, lab results, PID (field) screenings, chloride curve

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

SITE SUPERVISOR Gerardo Martinez SIGNATURE *Gerardo Martinez* COMPANY RICE OPERATING COMPANY

REPORT ASSEMBLED BY Zach Conder INITIAL *ZC*

PROJECT LEADER Larry Bruce Baker Jr. SIGNATURE *Larry Bruce Baker Jr.* DATE 2-8-11

# Vacuum B-5-1 EOL

Unit B, Section 5, T18S, R35E



Site prior to delineation

6/18/2010



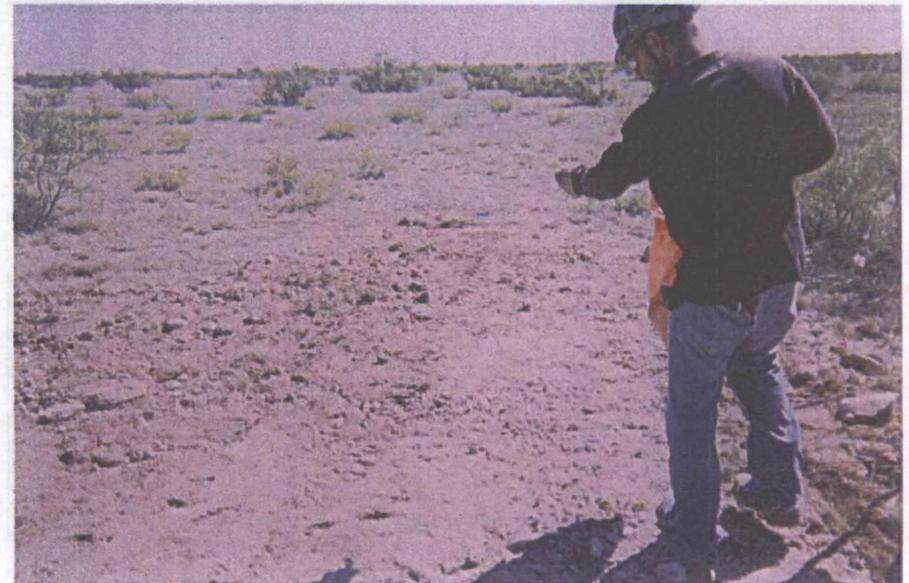
Collecting sample

6/18/2010



Backfilling excavation

6/18/2010



Seeding excavation

6/21/2010



# ARDINAL LABORATORIES

PHONE (575) 393-2326 • 101 E. MARLAND • HOBBS, NM 88240

ANALYTICAL RESULTS FOR  
RICE OPERATING COMPANY  
ATTN: BRUCE BAKER  
112 W. TAYLOR  
HOBBS, NM 88240

Receiving Date: 06/21/10  
Reporting Date: 06/24/10  
Project Number: NOT GIVEN  
Project Name: VACUUM B-5-1 EOL (18/35)  
Project Location: VACUUM B-5-1 EOL (18/35)

Sampling Date: 06/21/10  
Sample Type: SOIL  
Sample Condition: COOL & INTACT  
Sample Received By: JH  
Analyzed By: AB/HM

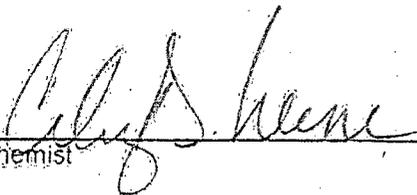
	GRO	DRO	
	(C <sub>6</sub> -C <sub>10</sub> )	(>C <sub>10</sub> -C <sub>25</sub> )	Cl*
LAB NUMBER	(mg/kg)	(mg/kg)	(mg/kg)

ANALYSIS DATE	06/24/10	06/24/10	06/22/10
H20171-1 SOURCE @ 9'	<10.0	<10.0	160
COPY			
Quality Control	448	531	500
True Value QC	500	500	500
% Recovery	89.6	106	100
Relative Percent Difference	0.6	0.5	< 0.1

METHODS: TPH GRO & DRO: EPA SW-846-8015 M; Cl: Std. Methods 4500-ClB

\*Analysis performed on a 1:4 w:v aqueous extract.

Reported on wet weight.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chemist

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

H20171 TCL RICE

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