

AP - 081

**GENERAL
CORRESPONDENCE**

YEAR(S):

2008



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON

Governor

Joanna Prukop

Cabinet Secretary

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.

Director

Oil Conservation Division

February 20, 2008

Mr. Billy Anderson
Chevron North America
Exploration and Production Company
2401 West Avenue "O"
P.O. Box 1949
Eunice, NM 88231

**RE: REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT ABATEMENT PLAN
CHEVRON USA - MARK #13 DRILL PIT
SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 37 EAST
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has determined that, based on the notification submitted by Environmental Plus, Inc. on January 28, 2008, Chevron North America (Chevron) must submit a Stage 1 Abatement Plan in accordance with OCD's Rule 19 (19.15.1.19 NMAC) to investigate ground water contamination at its Chevron USA - Mark #13 drill pit located in Section 3, Township 22 South, Range 37 East, Lea County, New Mexico. The Stage 1 Abatement Plan proposal must be submitted to the OCD Santa Fe Office with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office and must meet of all the requirements specified in OCD Rule 19 (19.15.1.19 NMAC), including, but not limited to, the public notice and participation requirements specified in OCD Rule 19G. The Stage 1 Abatement Plan is due sixty (60) days from the receipt by Chevron of this written notice.

Chevron's Stage 1 Abatement Plan must meet all of the requirements specified in OCD Rule 19E.3, including, but not limited to, a site investigation work plan and monitoring program that will enable it to characterize the chloride release using an appropriate number of isoconcentration maps and cross sections and to provide the data necessary to select and design an effective abatement option.

Mr. Billy Anderson
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OCD reminds Chevron that it was required, pursuant to OCD Rule 116, to submit *immediate verbal notice and timely written notice* to OCD when it determined that ground water had been impacted. Chevron must submit OCD Form C-141 that documents the appropriate information and plans and any other relevant information, including all relevant details of the pit (fluids handled, dimensions, volume, dates of operations, liner thickness, *etc.*) and details of any actions that Chevron has already taken by no later than March 5, 2008.

Chevron's request to close the Mark #13 drill pit is hereby denied. After OCD has properly reviewed all the information that Chevron is required to submit, it will determine what action to require of Chevron with respect to the drill pit.

Chevron should submit one paper copy with and an electronic copy on CD of all future workplans and/or reports. Please include "**OCD Case No. AP081**" on all future correspondence. If you have any questions, please contact Glenn von Gonten of my staff at (505) 476-3488.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W Price', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Wayne Price
Environmental Bureau Chief

cc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor



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