



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON

Governor

Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary

Lori Wrotenbery

Director

Oil Conservation Division

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SWD-877

APPLICATION OF RICE OPERATING COMPANY FOR SALT WATER DISPOSAL, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Under the provisions of Rule 701(B), Rice Operating Company made application to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division on March 21, 2003, for permission to re-complete for produced water disposal its Blinebry-Drinkard SWD Well No. 2 (API 30-025-24399) located 660 feet from the North line and 2305 feet from the West line, Lot 3 of Section 2, Township 22 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:

- (1) The application has been duly filed under the provisions of Rule 701(B) of the Division Rules and Regulations;
- (2) Satisfactory information has been provided that all offset operators and surface owners have been duly notified;
- (3) The applicant has presented satisfactory evidence that all requirements prescribed in Rule 701 will be met; and
- (4) No objections have been received within the waiting period prescribed by said rule.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

Rice Operating Company is hereby authorized to re-complete for produced water disposal its Blinebry-Drinkard SWD Well No. 2 (API 30-025-24399) located 660 feet from the North line and 2305 feet from the West line, Lot 3 of Section 2, Township 22 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to permit the injection of produced water for disposal purposes into the San Andres formation from a **depth of 4,230 feet to 4,950 feet through 5-1/2 inch plastic-lined tubing set in a packer located at approximately 4,150 feet.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The operator shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the injected water enters only the proposed injection interval and is not permitted to escape to other formations or onto the surface.

The casing-tubing annulus shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure the integrity of said casing.

The casing-tubing annulus shall be loaded with an inert fluid and equipped with a pressure gauge at the surface or left open to the atmosphere to facilitate detection of leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer.

The injection well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting device which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to **no more than 846 psi**.

The Director of the Division may authorize an increase in injection pressure upon a proper showing by the operator of said well that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the injected fluid from the injection formation. Such proper showing shall consist of a valid step-rate test run in accordance with and acceptable to this office.

The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Hobbs District Office of the Division of the date and time of mechanical integrity pressure tests so that these operations may be witnessed.

The operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the Hobbs District Office of the Division of the failure of the tubing, casing, or packer in said well and shall take such steps as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, jurisdiction is retained by the Division for the entry of such further orders as may be necessary for the prevention of waste and/or protection of correlative rights or upon failure of the operator to conduct operations (1) to protect fresh water or (2) consistent with the requirements in this order, whereupon the Division may, after notice and hearing, terminate the injection authority granted herein.

The operator shall submit monthly reports of the disposal operations on Division Form C-115, in accordance with Rule Nos. 706 and 1120 of the Division Rules and Regulations.

The injection authority granted herein shall terminate one year after the effective date of

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Rice Operating Company

April 7, 2003

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this order if the operator has not commenced injection operations into the subject well, provided however, the Division, upon written request by the operator, may grant an extension thereof for good cause shown.

Approved at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on this 7th day of April 2003.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori Wrottenbery", with a flourish extending to the right.

LORI WROTENBERY
Director

LW/wvjj

cc: Oil Conservation Division – Hobbs
State Land Office-Oil & Gas Division