



New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Bill Richardson
Governor

Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary

Mark Fesmire
Division Director
Oil Conservation Division



Administrative Order WFX-857

December 22, 2009

Kevin Mayes
Apache Corporation
6150 S Yale Ave
Suite 1500
Tulsa, OK 74136-4224

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Under the provisions of Division Order R-12981, Apache Corporation has made application (*administrative application reference No. pTGW0932454411*) to the Division for permission to a well to its West Blinbry Drinkard Unit Waterflood Project located within the North Eunice Blinbry-Tubb Drinkard Pool (22900) in Lea County, New Mexico.

THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:

The application was filed in due form. No objections have been filed within the waiting period prescribed by Division Rule 26.8C(2). The proposed injection wells are eligible for conversion to injection under the terms of Rule 26.8. The operator is in compliance with Rule 5.9.

The proposed expansion of the above-referenced waterflood project, will prevent waste, is in the best interests of conservation, will not impair correlative rights, and should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

Apache Corporation (OGRID No. 873) is hereby authorized to inject water into the unitized interval from 5560 or top of Blinbry to 6750 or top of Abo, through 2.875 inch plastic-lined tubing set in packers located within 100 feet of the top of the injection intervals in the following-described wells for purposes of secondary recovery in the following described well:



West Blinebry Drinkard Unit Well No.137
API No. 30-025-39574
680' FSL & 2130' FEL Unit O
Section 4, Township 21S, Range 37E

The injection well shall be equipped with a pressure control device or acceptable substitute that will limit the surface pressure to no more than 1,120 psig or 0.2 psig per foot of depth to the uppermost perforation, whichever is less.

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.

Prior to commencing injection operations into these wells, the casing shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure casing integrity.

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 wells or injection system shall be equipped with pressure limiting devices which will limit the wellhead pressure to the maximum surface injection pressure described above.

The Director of the Division may authorize increases in injection pressure upon a proper showing by the operator that higher pressure will not result in migration of the injected fluid from the permitted injection interval or harmful formation fracturing. Such proper showing shall consist of valid step-rate tests and possibly injection profiles or pressure transient testing run in accordance with and acceptable to this office.

The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Hobbs District Office of the date and time of the installation of injection equipment and of all mechanical integrity tests so that the same may be inspected and witnessed.

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


The subject wells shall be governed by all provisions of Division Order No. R-12981, and Rules 26.9 through 26.13 of the Divisions Rules and Regulations not inconsistent herewith.

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 injection authority granted herein shall terminate one year after the effective date of this order if the operator has not commenced injection operations into at least one of the subject wells, provided however, the Division, upon written request by the operator received prior to the one year deadline, may grant an extension thereof for good cause shown.

Jurisdiction of this case is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

Sincerely,



MARK E. FESMIRE, P.E.
Director

MEF/tw

cc: Oil Conservation Division –Hobbs
Hearing Order No. R-12981
Well File API No. 30-025639574