



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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

*ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SWD-751*

***APPLICATION OF JOHN R. STEARNS D/B/A STEARNS FOR SALT WATER  
DISPOSAL, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.***

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Under the provisions of Rule 701(B), John R. Stearns d/b/a Stearns made application to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division on June 7, 1999, for permission to complete for salt water disposal its Gray Well No. 1 located 660 feet from the North line and 3300 feet from the East line (Unit C) of Section 18, Township 9 South, Range 34 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:**

The applicant herein, is hereby authorized to complete its Gray Well No. 1 located 660 feet from the North line and 3300 feet from the East line (Unit C) of Section 18, Township 9 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, in a such manner as to permit the injection of produced salt water for disposal purposes into the Pennsylvanian (Bough "C") formation from approximately 9,662 feet to 9,678 feet through 2 7/8 inch plastic-lined tubing set in a packer located at approximately 9,600 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.

Prior to commencing injection operations into the well, the casing 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 1,932 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 Pennsylvanian (Bough "C") 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 the installation of disposal equipment and of any mechanical integrity test so that the same may be inspected and 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 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.

*Administrative Order SWD-751*  
*John R. Stearns d/b/a Stearns*  
*July 19, 1999*  
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Approved at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on this 19th day of July, 1999.

  
LORI WROTENBERY, Director

LW/MWA/kv

cc: Oil Conservation Division - Hobbs