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STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

APPLICATION OF DELAWARE ENERGY LLC TO REVOKE THE INJECTION AUTHORITY GRANTED UNDER SWD-1680 FOR THE ALPHA SWD NO. 1 WELL OPERATED BY ALPHA SWD OPERATING LLC, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Case No. 15855 (de novo) Order No. R-14484-A

PRE-HEARING STATEMENT OF ALPHA SWD OPERATING, LLC

De novo applicant Alpha SWD Operating, LLC ("Alpha SWD") submits this Pre-Hearing Statement as required by the Oil Conservation Commission's ("Commission's") rules.

APPEARANCES

<u>PARTIES</u>	ATTORNEYS
----------------	------------------

APPLICANT

Alpha SWD Operating, LLC Gary W. Larson, Esq. Hinkle Shanor LLP

P.O. Box 2068 Santa Fe, NM 87504

glarson@hinklelawfirm.com

OPPONENT

Delaware Energy, LLC Michael H. Feldewert, Esq.

Adam G. Rankin, Esq.
Jordan L. Kessler, Esq.
Holland & Hart LLP
Post Office Box 2208\
Santa Fe, NM 87504-2208
mfeldewert@hollandhart.com
agrankin@hollandhart.com
ilkessler@hollandhart.com

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On March 14, 2018, Alpha SWD timely filed an application for a *de novo* hearing before the Commission on Delaware Energy, LLC's ("Delaware") application requesting the revocation of the injection authority granted to Alpha SWD under Administrative Order SWD-1680 ("SWD-1680"). Delaware filed its application with the Oil Conservation Division ("Division") rather than seeking a *de novo* review of SWD-1680. Following a hearing on Delaware's application, the Division issued Order No. R-14484-A, which rescinds Alpha SWD's injection authority on the basis that the Division violated 19.15.26.8(C) NMAC.

This case has not followed the normal course of a *de novo* appeal. Delaware attempted to short circuit the process by filing a Motion for Judgment Based on the Division Record, which Alpha SWD opposed on the grounds that the relief requested by Delaware would deprive Alpha SWD of its statutory right to a *de novo* hearing. At its hearing on May 22, 2018, the Commission denied Delaware's motion, and set a hearing on July 20, 2018 limited to three issues: (1) whether the Division had jurisdiction to hear Delaware's application when Delaware had failed to file a *de novo* appeal under the Oil and Gas Act; (2) if the Commission does not have jurisdiction in this matter, whether the Division applied the 15-day waiting period in 19.15.26.8(C); and (3) if the Commission does have jurisdiction, and rules that there was a violation of 19.15.26.8(C), what is proper remedy for the violation. Alpha SWD will present its position on each of those issues in its Pre-Hearing Brief.

PROPOSED EVIDENCE

Alpha SWD will not present any witnesses. It will introduce three exhibits, which are attached hereto. The exhibits will be introduced for the sole purpose of demonstrating the potential consequences of the Commission's ruling on the applicability of 19.15.26.8(C).

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Alpha SWD is not aware of any procedural matters to be resolved prior to or at the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

HINKLE SHANOR LLP

Gary W. Larson

P.O. Box 2068

Santa Fe, NM 87504-2068 Phone: (505) 982-4554

Facsimile: (505) 982-8623 glarson@hinklelawfirm.com

Counsel for Alpha SWD Operating LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 12th day of July, 2018, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing *Pre-Hearing Statement of Alpha SWD Operating, LLC* via email to:

Michael H. Feldewert, Esq.
Adam G. Rankin, Esq.
Jordan L. Kessler, Esq.
Holland & Hart LLP
Post Office Box 2208
Santa Fe, NM 87504-2208
mfeldewert@hollandhart.com
agrankin@hollandhart.com
jlkessler@hollandhart.com

Counsel for Delaware Energy LLC

Gary W. Larson

TYPE SWD

PRG1611138501

No coversheet

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR DIVISION USE ONLY

NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

- Engineering Bureau -1220 South St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505



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\cap	Note	: Statement must	t be completed by an individual w	ith managerial and/or sup	pervisory capacity.	
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rinc	or 13portante	31	OCC Case No. 15855 ALPHA SWD OPERATING Exhibit #1	e-mail Address	onms@gm	ail.com
Print	or Type Name	Si	ALPHA SWD OPERATING	Title Ocesh e-mail Address	onms@gm	Date

Goetze, Phillip, EMNRD

From: Sent:

To:

Goetze, Phillip, EMNRD

Subject:

RE: Application Coversheet - Delaware Energy Application for the Pardue 31 Com. No. 1

Attachments:

Pardue 31 Com #1 Notices.pdf

Mr. Goetze,

Attached please find proofs of notice and Affidavit of Publication for the subject application.

Best Regards,

Preston Stein
Petroleum Attorney / Landman
(214) 558-1371

This electronic transmission and any attached documents or other writings are intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify sender by return e-mail and destroy the communication. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action concerning the contents of this communication or any attachments by anyone other than the named recipient is strictly prohibited.

From:

Sent: None

To: Goetze, Phillip, EMNRD < Phillip.Goetze@state.nm.us>

Subject: RE: Application Coversheet - Delaware Energy Application for the Pardue 31 Com. No. 1

Mr. Goetze

Attached please find what you requested.

Best Regards,

Preston Stein
Petroleum Attorney / Landman
(214) 558-1371

This electronic transmission and any attached documents or other writings are intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify sender by return e-mail and destroy the communication. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action concerning the cantents of this communication or any attachments by anyone other than the nomed recipient is strictly prohibited.

From: Goetze, Phillip, EMNRD [mailto:Phillip.Goetze@state.nm.us]

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 11:42 AM **To:** Preston Stein prestonms@gmail.com

Subject: Application Coversheet - Delaware Energy Application for the Pardue 31 Com. No. 1

OCC Case No. 15855

ALPHA SWD OPERATING

Exhibit *2

Mr. Stein:

Please complete one version of the attached coversheet and return the completed form as a PDF when possible. Thank you. PRG

Phillip R. Goetze, PG

Engineering and Geological Services Bureau Oil Conservation Division New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department 1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, NM 87505

Direct: 505.476.3466

e-mail: phillip.goetze@state.nm.us



COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION A. Signature S-Acent Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Addressee Print your name and address on the reverse X The C. Date of Delivery so that we can return the card to you. B. Received by (Printed Name) Attach this card to the back of the maliplece, or on the front if space permits. ☐ Yes D. Is delivery address different from item 1? If YES, enter delivery address below: 1. Article Addressed to: VICKIE CONNALLY 211 R ASH ROAD LOVING, NM B8256 ☐ Priority Mail Exprese® ☐ Registered Mail™ ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery Service Type ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery ☐ Certified Meli® ☐ Certified Meli Restricted Delivery ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise 9590 9402 1604 5362 5783 60 ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery ☐ Signature Confirmation™ ☐ Signature Confirmation 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) Insured Mail Insured Mail Restricted Delivery Restricted Delivery 7015 3010 0000 2212 1546 over \$500) Domestic Return Receipt PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053 COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION A. Signature ☐ Agent Complete items 1, 2, and 3. ☐ Addressee Print your name and address on the reverse Date of Delivery so that we can return the card to you. Name) Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. D. Is delivery address different from item 1? If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No 1. Article Addressed to: YHTES PETENCEUM COLP.

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Domestic Return Receipt

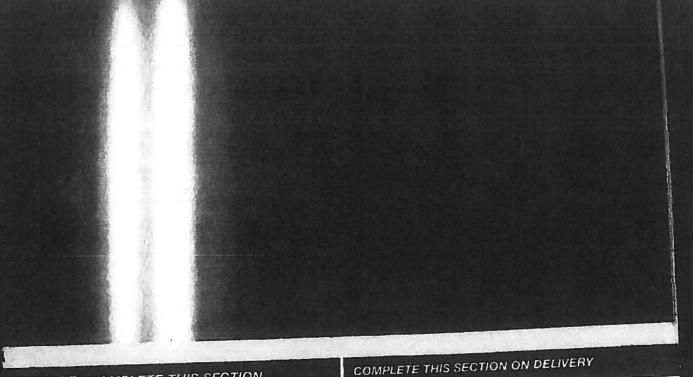
COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION A. Signature Complete Items 1, 2, and 3. **⊞** Agent X Louise Brown Print your name and address on the reverse ☐ Addressee C. Date of Delivery so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the malipiece, or on the front if space permits. ☐ Yes D. Is delivery address different from Item 1? 1. Article Addressed to: if YES, enter delivery address below: BTA OIL PRODUCERS 104 S. PECUS ST. MISCHNO, TX 79701 Priority Mail Express® Registered Mail** Registered Mail Restricted Delivery 3. Service Type Adult Signature Adult Signature Fleetricted Delivery Certified Mail® Certified Mail Restricted Delivery ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise 9590 9402 1604 5362 5783 39 ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery □ Signature Confirmation™ 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) ☐ Signature Confirmation ared Mali ared Mali Flestricted Delivery **Restricted Delivery** 7015 3010 0000 2212 1560 ar \$500) PS Form 3811, July 2016 PSN 7530-02-000-9063 **Domestic Return Receipt** COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION A. Signature ☐ Agent * andrea Chrispe Complete Items 1, 2, and 3. Addressee Print your name and address on the reverse C. Date of Delivery B. Received by (Printed Name) so that we can return the card to you. 4-1-16 Attach this card to the back of the mailplece, Andrea Arispe D. Is delivery address different from item 1? or on the front if space permits. ☐ Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: 1. Article Addressed to: COG OPERATING, UC 600 W. ILLINOIS AVE MIOURNO, TX 79701 ☐ Priority Mail Express® ☐ Registered Mail restricted ☐ Registered Mail Restricted ☐ Delivery ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise Service Type ☐ Adult Signature ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery 9590 9402 1604 5362 5783 46 ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery ☐ Signature Confirmation™ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery 2. Article Number (Transfer from service libel)

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PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-0053

d Mail Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt



SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.
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MATADOR RESOURCES

5400 Lyndon B Johnson Fu

\$1500 Downs, TX 75240

9590 9402 1604 5362 5783 22

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

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A., Signature

☐ Agent

☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from Item 1? If YES, enter delivery address below:

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- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
 ☐ Certified Mail®
 ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery

- ☐ Collect on Delivery
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 - ed Mell Restricted Delivery \$500)
- Priority Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered MailTM
 ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

Domestic Return Receipt

Affidavit of Publication

State of New Mexico. County of Eddy, ss.

Rynni Henderson, being first duly swom, on oath says:

That she is the Publisher of the Carlsbad Current-Argus, a newspaper published daily at the City of Carlsbad, in said county of Eddy, state of New Mexico and of general paid circulation in said county; that the same is a duly qualified newspaper under the laws of the State wherein legal notices and advertisements may be published, that the printed notice attached hereto was published in the regular and entire edition of said newspaper and not in supplement thereof on the date as follows, to wit:

April 12 2016

That the cost of publication is \$72.15 and that payment thereof has been made and will be assessed as court costs.

Subscribed and swom to before me this 2 day of Called

My commission Expires

Notary Public

OFFICIAL SEAL
Cynthia Arredondo
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF NEW MEDICO

April 12, 2016

Delaware Exemply,

1. C has filed a form

G-108 (Application for the factor of the fac

Pardue 31 Com #1 / located at 990° FSI and 1980° FWL. Unit Letter N. Section 31, Township 23 South, Range 28 East, Edey County, New Mexico. The well will dispose of water produced from oil and 9as wells little the Devenian Formation at 13,650° to 14,500° at a maximum rate of 15,000 barrels of water per day at a maximum pressure of 2730 pst.

fritirested parties must file objections or peoples of or hearing with the Oil Conservations Devision, 1220 South St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe yew Mexico 87505 within 15 days. Delaware Ethings St. contact number is (214) 558-1371.

State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

OCC Case No. 15855

ALPHA SWD OPERATING

Exhibit #3

Susana Martinez Governor

David Martin Cabinet Secretary

Tony Delfin Deputy Cabinet Secretary David R. Catanach, Division Director Oil Conservation Division



Administrative Order SWD-1625 May 3, 2016

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Pursuant to the provisions of Division Rule 19.15.26.8B. NMAC, Delaware Energy, LLC (the "operator") seeks an administrative order for its proposed Pardue 31 Com. Well No. 1 with a location 990 feet from the South line and 1980 feet from the West line, Unit N of Section 31, Township 23 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, for commercial disposal of produced water.

THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:

The application has been duly filed under the provisions of Division Rule 19.15.26.8B. NMAC and satisfactory information has been provided that affected parties as defined in said rule have been notified and no objections have been received within the prescribed waiting period. The applicant has presented satisfactory evidence that all requirements prescribed in Division Rule 19.15.26.8 NMAC have been met and the operator is in compliance with Division Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

Delaware Energy, LLC (OGRID 371195), is hereby authorized to utilize its Pardue 31 Com. Well No. 1 (API 30-025-10842) with a location 990 feet from the South line and 1980 feet from the West line, Unit N of Section 31, Township 23 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, Eddy County, for disposal of oil field produced water (UIC Class II only) through a perforated interval within the Devonianformation from 13650 feet to 14500 feet. Injection will occur through internally-coated, 3½-inch or smaller tubing and a packer set within 100 feet of the uppermost perforation.

Prior to commencing disposal, the operator shall submit mudlog and geophysical logs information to the Division's District geologist and Santa Fe Bureau Engineering office, showing evidence agreeable that only the permitted formations are open for disposal including a summary of depths (picks) for contacts of the formations which the Division shall use to amend this order for a final description of the depth for the injection interval.

This permit does not permit disposal into the Ellenburger formation (lower Ordovician) or lost circulation intervals directly on top and obviously connected to this formation.

The operator shall supply the Division with a copy of a mudlog over the permitted disposal

1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 Phone (505) 476-3440 • Fax (505) 476-3462 • email: www.emnrd.state.nm.us/ocd interval and an estimated insitu water salinity based on open-hole logs. If significant hydrocarbon shows occur while drilling, the operator shall notify the Division's District II office and the operator shall be required to receive written permission prior to commencing disposal.

The operator shall execute the following procedures prior to deepening to the Devonian formation and running the 5-inch liner.

- Rig up work over unit, drill out surface plug from 0-188'. Test Casing to 500 psi. Drill out cement plugs at 2676' AND 2930' and clean out to PBTD OF 10,622'. Test casing 500 psi and hold for 30 minutes, record test.
- Rig up wire line and run Cement Bond Log (CBL) from 10,622' TO 1,600' and determine top of cement in the 7-inch casing.
- Dress Off 7-inch stub in preparation for 7-inch casing patch.
- If cement top is determined to be within 50 feet of stub, plan to utilize DV tool above casing patch. If Cement top is greater than 50 feet from the 7-inch chasing stub, shoot squeeze holes at cement top prior to running casing patch.
- Run casing patch and cement 7-inch casing to surface. Test casing to 500 psi and hold for 30 minutes, record test.
- These procedures maybe altered with both the Santa Fe Engineering Bureau and Artesia District Office approval.

Operator shall ensure adequate cement across the Delaware, Bone Spring, and Wolfcamp formations.

After the work over and deepening, the operator shall run a CBL across the 5-inch liner to 10,000 feet to demonstrate a good cement bond between the liner and 7-inch casing.

Within one year after commencing disposal, the operator shall submit to the Division copies of an injection survey run on this well consisting of a temperature log, or equivalent, run under representative disposal rates.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The operator shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the disposed water enters only the approved disposal interval and is not permitted to escape to other formations or onto the surface. This includes the well construction proposed and described in the application.

After installing tubing, the casing-tubing annulus shall be loaded with an inert fluid and equipped with a pressure gauge or an approved leak detection device in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer. The casing shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure casing integrity.

The well shall pass an initial mechanical integrity test ("MIT") prior to initially commencing disposal and prior to resuming disposal each time the disposal packer is unseated. All MIT procedures and schedules shall follow the requirements in Division Rule 19.15.26.11A. NMAC.

The well shall pass an MIT every two years.

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The well shall pass an MIT every two years.

The Division Director retains the right to require at any time wireline verification of completion and packer setting depths in this well.

Operator shall submit required sundry notices (C-103) to the Artesia District Office.

The wellhead injection pressure on the well shall be limited to <u>no more than 2730 psi</u>. In addition, the disposal well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting device in workable condition which shall, at all times, limit surface tubing pressure to the maximum allowable pressure for this well.

The Director of the Division may authorize an increase in tubing pressure upon a proper showing by the operator of said well that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the disposed fluid from the target formation. Such proper showing shall be demonstrated by sufficient evidence including but not limited to an acceptable Step-Rate Test.

The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Division's District II office of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of any MIT so that the same may be inspected and witnessed. The operator shall provide written notice of the date of commencement of disposal to the Division's District office. The operator shall submit monthly reports of the disposal operations on Division Form C-115, in accordance with Division Rules 19.15.26.13 and 19.15.7.24 NMAC.

Without limitation on the duties of the operator as provided in Division Rules 19.15.29 and 19.15.30 NMAC, or otherwise, the operator shall immediately notify the Division's District II office of any failure of the tubing, casing or packer in the well, or of any leakage or release of water, oil or gas from around any produced or plugged and abandoned well in the area, and shall take such measures as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

The injection authority granted under this order is not transferable except upon division approval. The Division may require the operator to demonstrate mechanical integrity of any injection well that will be transferred prior to approving transfer of authority to inject.

The Division may revoke this injection permit after notice and hearing if the operator is in violation of 19.15.5.9 NMAC.

The disposal authority granted herein shall terminate two (2) years after the effective date of this order if the operator has not commenced injection operations into the subject well. One year after the last date of reported disposal into this well, the Division shall consider the well abandoned, and the authority to dispose will terminate *ipso facto*. The Division, upon written request mailed by the operator prior to the termination date, may grant an extension thereof for good cause.

Compliance with this order does not relieve the operator of the obligation to comply with other applicable federal, state or local laws or rules, or to exercise due care for the protection of fresh water, public health and safety and the environment.

Administrative Order SWD-1625 Delaware Energy, LLC May 3, 2016 Page 4 of 4

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 or protectable waters or (2) consistent with the requirements in this order, whereupon the Division may, after notice and hearing, terminate the disposal authority granted herein.

DAVID R. CATANACH

Director

DRC/mam

cc: Oil Conservation Division - Artesia District Office