

Artesia Aeration, LLC
P.O. Box 310
Hobbs, NM 88240

Permit Number: NM-1-0030

Re: Administrative Modification of Landfarm Permits

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) issued the landfarm permit identified above under OCD Rule 711. As explained in the public notice given prior to the issuance of the permit, the permit was for landfarming to remediate hydrocarbon-contaminated soils. The language of the permit, however, is broader, allowing the facility to accept oilfield contaminated solids which are either exempt from the Federal RCRA Subtitle C (hazardous waste) regulations or are "nonhazardous" by characteristic testing. If this language were interpreted to allow the landfarm to accept oilfield waste contaminated with salts, the salts could compromise the biodegradation capacity of the landfarm. And because salts leach more easily than hydrocarbons, the landfarm may pose a greater threat to groundwater.

According to the terms of the permit identified above, the OCD may change the permit conditions administratively for good cause shown as necessary to protect fresh water, human health and the environment. The OCD has determined that it is necessary to protect fresh water, human health and the environment to modify the permit as follows:

Effective immediately, the NMOCD permitted landfarm identified above is prohibited from accepting oilfield waste contaminated with salts.

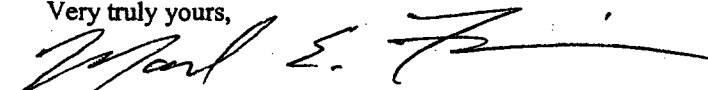
If the landfarm identified above wishes to accept oilfield waste contaminated with salts, you will need to file an application to modify the permit pursuant to OCD Rule 711.B(1) and follow the notice requirements of OCD Rule 711.B(2). If you have already filed a complete application for permit modification with this office and complied with the notice requirements, the OCD will process the application promptly.

Landfarms that wish to accept oilfield wastes contaminated with salts while their application for permit modification is pending may apply to the Division Director for an emergency order under OCD Rule 1202. Applications for emergency orders will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

This notice is being sent to all entities operating landfarm facilities in New Mexico permitted pursuant to OCD Rule 711, as shown on the attached list.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Martin at (505) 476-3492 or emartin@state.nm.us.

Very truly yours,



Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.