

October 4, 2007

**COMMENTS ON STATE OF NEW MEXICO OCD  
PROPOSED NEW RULE 50 (19.15.17 NMAC)**

Marlyn Waltner  
Raven Industries, Inc.

Please submit the following comments concerning the proposed pit rules posted on September 21, 2007.

**19.15.17.11.F.(3): Design and Construction Specifications – Temporary Pits  
and**

**19.15.17.11.J.(4): Design and Construction Specifications–On-site deep trenches for closure  
and**

**19.15.17.11.J.(10): Design and Construction Specifications–On-site deep trenches for closure**

The geomembrane liner shall consist of 20 mil string reinforced LLDPE or equivalent liner material that the appropriate division district office approves. The geomembrane liner shall be composed of an impervious, synthetic material that is resistant to petroleum hydrocarbons, salts and acidic and alkaline solutions. The liner material shall be resistant to ultraviolet light. Liner compatibility shall comply with EPA SW846 method 9090A.

***Comments:***

1. You are currently specifying a 20 mil string reinforced LLDPE material which has a successful track record for this application. Up to this point, these materials have typically been manufactured in the U.S. We are starting to see lower quality, string reinforced materials being imported into the U.S. To protect the New Mexico environment, it is my recommendation that you simply add the following: “The geomembrane liner shall consist of 20 mil string reinforced LLDPE geomembrane sheet produced in the U.S. by an ISO 9001 certified manufacturer or equivalent liner material that the appropriate division district office approves.” This added statement will prevent materials with much lower specifications and quality standards from being used.
2. In reference to “Liner compatibility shall comply with EPA SW846 method 9090A”, it is my suggestion that this line be removed. Method 9090A only provides for a testing method and not specification limits or properties required. There is no Pass/Fail criteria. Also, this method states that “Site Specific Leachate” should be used for testing. Due to the fact that every pit may have a different concentration of chemicals, it would be impossible to test per Method 9090A. It is already stated that the material must be resistant to petroleum hydrocarbons, salts and acidic and alkaline solutions. The proposed specified material has been proven to adequately contain these products.
3. In section 19.15.17.11.G.(5) for Permanent Pits, it is stated “The operator shall ensure field seams in geosynthetic material are thermally seamed.” During the Task Force meetings, it was stated that the OCD was going to require thermally welded seams in temporary pits as well. This is not currently stated in the temporary pit section. If the OCD intends to require thermally welded seams, it is my recommendation that it is simply stated, “The operator shall ensure field seams in geosynthetic material are thermally seamed.” For temporary pits, it is unnecessary and unfeasible to require a double track weld and air pressure testing.

Marlyn Waltner  
800-635-3456  
[Marlyn.Waltner@RavenInd.com](mailto:Marlyn.Waltner@RavenInd.com)