



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
Jicarilla Ranger District

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Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.
Director
Oil Conservation Division, New Mexico Department of
Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources
1220 South Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Fesmire:

This letter is in reference to case No. 14663, Amended application of Williams Production Co., LLC for approval of a closed loop system for the Rosa SWD well No. 2 and for the in-place burial of drilling waste at another well location, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

I have reviewed Williams Production Company, LLC's application for a closed loop system and for the in-place burial of drilling wastes at another well location within the Rosa Unit. I have also met with representatives of Williams Production Company to discuss the application. The proposed Rosa SWD well No. 2 will be located on federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Carson National Forest, Jicarilla Ranger District, within section 25, Township 31 North, Range 5 West, N.M.P.M., Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

The Forest Service supports William's application because it will remove cuttings and liquids generated from drilling and completing the well from an area where groundwater is less than 50 feet. Additional reasons the Forest Service supports this application include: (1) The cuttings will be tested and follow up monitoring requirements will be completed; (2) The application will reduce environmental impact by reducing the amount of trucking. The amount of trucking reduction is significant, being a 3 to 5 mile haul compared to 75 mile haul for an estimated 74 to 90 trucks. (3) This injection well project is important to us because it will enable Williams to begin construction and use of a produced water gathering system. Once any part of the system is in place, Williams can begin reducing the trucking of produced water within the Rosa Unit on National Forest system lands. This will help and minimize the environmental impacts associated with water hauling and road traffic, maintenance, and repair.

Sincerely,

MARK CATRON
District Ranger

cc: Ken McQueen, Williams Exploration and Production

