

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 9401  
Order No. R-8685

APPLICATION OF NORTHWEST PIPELINE  
CORPORATION FOR SALT WATER DISPOSAL,  
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on June 8, 1988, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 1st day of July, 1988, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) The applicant, Northwest Pipeline Corporation, is the operator of the Rosa Unit Well No. 94 located 1650 feet from the South line and 1820 feet from the West line (Unit K) of Section 16, Township 31 North, Range 5 West, NMPM, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

(3) The applicant seeks authority to utilize said well to dispose of produced salt water into the Mesaverde formation, with injection into the perforated interval from approximately 5360 feet to 5681 feet.

(4) The Rosa Unit Well No. 94 is located within the horizontal boundaries of the Blanco-Mesaverde Pool.

(5) The record in this case indicates that the Rosa Unit Well No. 94 was drilled and completed in the Blanco-Mesaverde Pool in 1982 and was subsequently determined to be a non-commercial producer in said pool.

(6) Further evidence presented by the applicant indicates that there are currently six active Blanco-Mesaverde producing wells located within a radius of two miles of the proposed injection well which are capable of low producing rates within the Blanco-Mesaverde Pool.

(7) The evidence presented by the applicant indicates that injection into the proposed well should not result in the watering out of gas reserves within the Blanco-Mesaverde Pool.

(8) The injection should be accomplished through 2 7/8-inch plastic-lined tubing installed in a packer set at approximately 5300 feet; the casing-tubing annulus should be filled with an inert fluid; and a pressure gauge or approved leak-detection device should be attached to the annulus in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer.

(9) Prior to commencing injection operations, the casing in the subject well should be pressure-tested throughout the interval from the surface down to the proposed packer-setting depth, to assure the integrity of such casing.

(10) The injection well or system should be equipped with a pressure-limiting switch or other acceptable device which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to no more than 1072 psi.

(11) The Director of the Division should be authorized to administratively approve an increase in the injection pressure upon a proper showing by the operator that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the injected waters from the Mesaverde formation.

(12) The operator should notify the supervisor of the Aztec district office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of the mechanical integrity pressure test in order that the same may be witnessed.

(13) The operator should 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.

(14) Approval of the subject application will prevent the drilling of unnecessary wells and otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The applicant, Northwest Pipeline Corporation, is hereby authorized to utilize its Rosa Unit Well No. 94 located 1650 feet from the South line and 1820 feet from the West line (Unit K) of Section 16, Township 31 North, Range 5 West, NMPM, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, to dispose of produced salt water into the Mesaverde formation, injection to be accomplished through 2 7/8-inch tubing installed in a packer set at approximately 5300 feet, with injection into the perforated interval from approximately 5360 feet to 5681 feet.

PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT, the tubing shall be internally plastic-lined; the casing-tubing annulus shall be filled with an inert fluid; and a pressure gauge shall be attached to the annulus or the annulus shall be equipped with an approved leak-detection device in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, and/or packer.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, prior to commencing injection operations, the casing in the subject well shall be pressure-tested to assure the integrity of such casing in a manner that is satisfactory to the supervisor of the Division's district office at Aztec.

(2) The injection well or system shall be equipped with a pressure-limiting switch or other acceptable device which will limit the wellhead pressure on the injection well to no more than 1072 psi.

(3) 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 Mesaverde formation.

(4) The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Aztec district office of the Division of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of the mechanical integrity pressure test in order that the same may be witnessed.

(5) The operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the Division's Aztec district office of the failure of the tubing, casing, or packer, in said well or the leakage of water from or around said well and shall take such steps as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

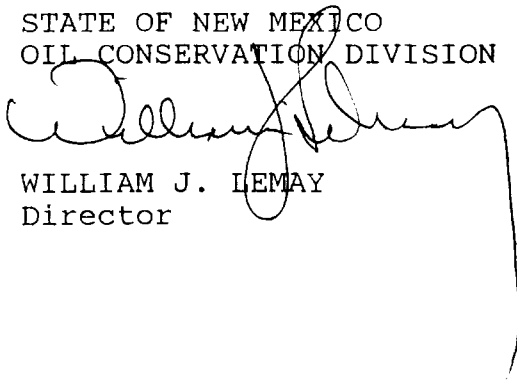
(6) The applicant shall conduct disposal operations and submit monthly reports in accordance with Rules 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 708, and 1120 of the Division Rules and Regulations.

(7) Jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

  
WILLIAM J. LEMAY  
Director