



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON

Governor

Joanna Prukop

Cabinet Secretary

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.

Director

Oil Conservation Division

28-Oct-05

MERIT ENERGY CO

PO Box 69

Loco Hills NM 88255-0000

NOTICE OF VIOLATION - Inactive Well(s)

Dear Operator:

A review of our records and recent inspection(s) indicate that the subject well(s) has been shut-in for an extended period of time. Rule 201 of the Rules and Regulation of the Oil Conservation Division provides that a well may be shut-in no longer than sixty days after suspension of drilling operations, upon determining that the well is no longer usable (e.g., a dry hole), or one year after last production. To comply with guidelines as established in the Rules and Regulations, corrective actions must be taken immediately and the well(s) brought into compliance.

The detail section below indicates preliminary findings and/or probable nature of the violation.

The following options are available:

1. Immediately restore the well(s) to production, injection or disposal as applicable.
2. Request 'Temporary Abandoned' status pursuant to Rule 203, which requires that you set a plug and conduct a mechanical integrity test.
3. Submit a proposal to 'Plug and Abandon' the well(s) pursuant to Rule 202, proceed with plugging procedures on a timely basis after the proposal has been evaluated, amended and/or approved.

In the event that a satisfactory response is not received to this letter of direction by the "Corrective Action Due By:" date shown above, further enforcement will occur. Such enforcement may include this office applying to the Division for an order summoning you to a hearing before a Division Examiner in Santa Fe to show cause why you should not be ordered to permanently plug and abandon this well. Such a hearing may result in imposition of CIVIL PENALTIES for your violation of OCD rules.

IDLE WELL INSPECTION DETAIL SECTION

V L FOSTER 004	J-17-17S-31E	30-015-05203-00-00	Inspection No. iCLB0530035142
Inspection Date:	10/27/2005 9:45:42 AM	Corrective Action Due by: 1/30/2006	
Type Inspection	Inspector	Violation?	*Significant Non-Compliance?
Routine/Periodic	Chris Beadle	Yes	No
Comments on Inspection:	Idle Well (Rule 201). Last reported production was 1/1/1999. Road into location has been washed out and is impassable by motor vehicle. PJ on location, rod in hole, flowline is attached. Production equipment appears to be capable of producing the well.		

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and your efforts in helping to protect our environment and the infrastructure of the oil and gas industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ch. L. Beal".

Artesia OCD District Office

* Significant Non-Compliance events are reported directly to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI, Dallas, Texas.