

District I
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240
District II
1301 W. Grand Avenue, Artesia, NM 88210
District III
1000 Rio Brazos Road, Aztec, NM 87410
District IV
1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505

State of New Mexico
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources
Department
Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Form C-144
June 16, 2008

For temporary pits, closed-loop systems, and below-grade tanks, submit to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.
For permanent pits and exceptions submit to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office and provide a copy to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.

JUL 10 2008
OCD-ARTESIA

Pit, Closed-Loop System, Below-Grade Tank, or
Proposed Alternative Method Permit or Closure Plan Application

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Type of action: ☒ Permit of a pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method
☐ Closure of a pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method

Instructions: Please submit one application (Form C-144) per individual pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank or alternative request

Please be advised that approval of this request does not relieve the operator of liability should operations result in pollution of surface water, ground water or the environment. Nor does approval relieve the operator of its responsibility to comply with any other applicable governmental authority's rules, regulations or ordinances.

Operator: Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado OGRID #: 162683
Address: PO Box 140907; Irving, TX 75014-0907
Facility or well name: Vega 9 Federal No. 4
API Number: 30-015-36714 OCD Permit Number: _____
U/L or Qtr/Qtr D Section 9 Township 17S Range 30E County: Eddy
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude 32° 51' 12.93" Longitude 103° 59' 04.16" NAD: ☐ 1927 ☒ 1983
Surface Owner: ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ Private ☐ Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

☐ **Pit:** Subsection F or G of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
Temporary: ☐ Drilling ☐ Workover
☐ Permanent ☐ Emergency ☐ Cavitation
☐ Lined ☐ Unlined
Liner type: Thickness _____ mil ☐ LLDPE ☐ HDPE ☐ PVC
☐ Other _____ ☐ String-Reinforced
Seams: ☐ Welded ☐ Factory ☐ Other _____
Volume: _____ bbl Dimensions: L _____ x W _____ x D _____

☒ **Closed-loop System:** Subsection H of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Drying Pad ☐ Tanks ☒ Haul-off Bins ☐ Other _____
☐ Lined ☐ Unlined
Liner type: Thickness _____ mil ☐ LLDPE ☐ HDPE ☐ PVC
☐ Other _____
Seams: ☐ Welded ☐ Factory ☐ Other _____
Volume: _____ bbl _____ yd³
Dimensions: Length _____ x Width _____

☐ **Below-grade tank:** Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
Volume: _____ bbl
Type of fluid: _____
Tank Construction material: _____
☐ Secondary containment with leak detection
☐ Visible sidewalls, liner, 6-inch lift and automatic overflow shut-off
☐ Visible sidewalls and liner
☐ Visible sidewalls only
☐ Other _____
Liner type: Thickness _____ mil ☐ HDPE ☐ PVC
☐ Other _____

Fencing: Subsection D of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Chain link, six feet in height, two strands of barbed wire at top
☐ Four foot height, four strands of barbed wire evenly spaced between one and four feet
Netting: Subsection E of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Screen ☐ Netting ☐ Other _____
☐ Monthly inspections
Signs: Subsection C of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ 12'x24', 2' lettering, providing Operator's name, site location, and emergency telephone numbers
☐ Signed in compliance with 19.15.3.103 NMAC

☐ **Alternative Method:**
Submittal of an exception request is required. Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

Administrative Approvals and Exceptions:
Justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency are required. Please refer to 19.15.17 NMAC for guidance.
Please check a box if one or more of the following is requested, if not leave blank:
☐ Administrative approval(s): Requests must be submitted to the appropriate division district or the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.
☐ Exception(s): Requests must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

Siting Criteria (regarding permitting): 19.15.17.10 NMAC

Instructions: The applicant must demonstrate compliance for each siting criteria below in the application. Recommendations of acceptable source material are provided below. Requests regarding changes to certain siting criteria may require administrative approval from the appropriate district office or may be considered an exception which must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval. Applicant must attach justification for request. Please refer to 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance. Siting criteria does not apply to drying pads or above-grade tanks associated with a closed-loop system.

Ground water is less than 50 feet below the bottom of the temporary pit, permanent pit, or below-grade tank. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	☐ Yes ☐ No
Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other watercourse, lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). - Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	☐ Yes ☐ No
Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. (Applies to temporary, emergency, or cavitation pits and below-grade tanks) - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA
Within 1000 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. (Applies to permanent pits) - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA
Within 500 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring that less than five households use for domestic or stock watering purposes, or within 1000 horizontal feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of initial application. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	☐ Yes ☐ No
Within incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended. - Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality	☐ Yes ☐ No
Within 500 feet of a wetland. - US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	☐ Yes ☐ No
Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. - Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division	☐ Yes ☐ No
Within an unstable area. - Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map	☐ Yes ☐ No
Within a 100-year floodplain. - FEMA map	☐ Yes ☐ No

Temporary Pits, Emergency Pits, and Below-grade Tanks Permit Application Attachment Checklist: Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC

Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.

- ☐ Hydrogeologic Report (Below-grade Tanks) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
☐ Hydrogeologic Data (Temporary and Emergency Pits) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (2) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
☐ Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
☐ Design Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC
☐ Closure Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC

☐ Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design) API Number: _____ or Permit Number: _____

Closed-loop Systems Permit Application Attachment Checklist: Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC

Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.

- ☐ Geologic and Hydrogeologic Data (required for on-site closure) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (3) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
☐ Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations (required for on-site closure) - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
☒ Design Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☒ Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC
☒ Closure Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC

NMAC

☒ Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design) API Number: _____ to be assigned _____

Permanent Pits Permit Application Checklist: Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC

Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.

- ☐ Hydrogeologic Report - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
☐ Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
☐ Climatological Factors Assessment
☐ Certified Engineering Design Plans - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Dike Protection and Structural Integrity Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Leak Detection Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Liner Specifications and Compatibility Assessment - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Quality Control/Quality Assurance Construction and Installation Plan
☐ Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC
☐ Freeboard and Overtopping Prevention Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Nuisance or Hazardous Odors, including H₂S, Prevention Plan
☐ Emergency Response Plan
☐ Oil Field Waste Stream Characterization
☐ Monitoring and Inspection Plan
☐ Erosion Control Plan
☐ Closure Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC

Proposed Closure: 19.15.17.13 NMAC

Type: ☐ Drilling ☐ Workover ☐ Emergency ☐ Cavitation ☐ Permanent Pit ☐ Below-grade Tank ☐ Closed-loop System ☐ Alternative

Proposed Closure Method: ☐ Waste Excavation and Removal
☐ On-site Closure Method (only for temporary pits and closed-loop systems)
 ☐ In-place Burial ☐ On-site Trench Burial
☐ Alternative Closure Method (Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau for consideration)

Siting Criteria (regarding on-site closure methods only): 19.15.17.10 NMAC

Instructions: Each siting criteria requires a demonstration of compliance in the closure plan. Recommendations of acceptable source material are provided below. Requests regarding changes to certain siting criteria may require administrative approval from the appropriate district office or may be considered an exception which must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval. Justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency are required. Please refer to 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Ground water is less than 50 feet below the bottom of the buried waste. | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells | ☐ NA |
| Ground water is between 50 and 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells | ☐ NA |
| Ground water is more than 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste. | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells | ☐ NA |
| Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other watercourse, lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site | |
| Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image | |
| Within 500 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring that less than five households use for domestic or stock watering purposes, or within 1000 horizontal feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of initial application. | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site | |
| Within incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended. | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality | |
| Within 500 feet of a wetland. | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site | |
| Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division | |
| Within an unstable area. | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map | |
| Within a 100-year floodplain. | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| - FEMA map | |

Waste Excavation and Removal Closure Plan Checklist: (19.15.17.13 NMAC) *Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the closure plan. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.*

- ☐ Protocols and Procedures - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☐ Confirmation Sampling Plan (if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☒ Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number (for liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings)
☐ Soil Backfill and Cover Design Specifications - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☐ Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☐ Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Haul-off Bins Only: (19.15.17.13.D NMAC) *Instructions: Please identify the facility or facilities for the disposal of liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings.*

Disposal Facility Name: CRI Disposal Facility Permit Number: R-9166

On-Site Closure Plan Checklist: (19.15.17.13 NMAC) *Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the closure plan. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.*

- ☐ Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
☐ Proof of Surface Owner Notice - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☐ Construction and Design of Burial Trench (if applicable) based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
☐ Protocols and Procedures - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☐ Confirmation Sampling Plan (if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☐ Waste Material Sampling Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☐ Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number (for liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings or in case on-site closure standards cannot be achieved)
☐ Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☐ Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
☐ Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

Operator Application Certification:

I hereby certify that the information submitted with this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name (Print): Zeno Farris Title: Manager Operations Administration

Signature: Zeno Farris Date: July 10, 2008

e-mail address: zfarris@cimarex.com Telephone: 972-443-6489

OCD Approval: ☒ Permit Application (including closure plan) ☐ Closure Plan (only)

OCD Representative Signature: [Signature] Approval Date: 7/15/08

Title: District Supervisor Permit Number: 0208117

Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion): Subsection K of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

☐ Closure Completion Date: _____

Closure Method:

- ☐ Waste Excavation and Removal ☐ On-Site Closure Method ☐ Alternative Closure Method
☐ If different from approved plan, please explain.

Closure Report Attachment Checklist: *Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the closure report. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.*

- ☐ Proof of Closure Notice
☐ Proof of Deed Notice (if applicable)
☐ Plot Plan
☐ Confirmation Sampling Analytical Results
☐ Waste Material Sampling Analytical Results
☐ Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number
☐ Soil Backfilling and Cover Installation
☐ Re-vegetation Application Rates and Seeding Technique
☐ Site Reclamation (Photo Documentation)

On-site Closure Location: Latitude _____ Longitude _____ NAD: ☐ 1927 ☐ 1983

Operator Closure Certification:

I hereby certify that the information and attachments submitted with this closure report is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also certify that the closure complies with all applicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved closure plan.

Name (Print): _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

e-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____

Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado – Closed-Loop System Design Plan

Equipment List

- Primary Shakers
- Mud Cleaner – hydro-cyclones
- 1 or 2 Centrifuges (depending on well depth)
- De-watering system with pH adjustment, coagulant mixing and dosing, and polymer mixing and dosing (may not be necessary for shallower wells)
- Drying Augur
- Sump Drying Augur
- Sump
- Cuttings Boxes
- Reserve Fluids Tank Farm
- Wire Mesh Trash Enclosure (spent motor oils kept in separate containers and later sent to approved landfill)

Operation and Maintenance

The Cimarex Zero Discharge system is designed to maintain drill solids at or below 5%. The equipment is arranged to progressively remove solids from the largest to the smallest size. Drilling fluids can thus be reused and savings is realized on mud and disposal costs. Dewatering may be required with the centrifuges to insure removal of ultra fine solids.

The drilling location is constructed to allow storm water to flow to a central sump normally the cellar. This ensures no contamination leaves the drilling pad in the event of a spill. Storm water is reused in the mud system or stored in a reserve fluid tank farm until it can be reused. All lubricants, oils, or chemicals are removed immediately from the ground to prevent the contamination of storm water. An oil trap is normally installed on the sump if an oil spill occurs during a storm.

A tank farm is utilized to store drilling fluids including fresh water and brine fluids. The tank farm is constructed on a 20 ml plastic lined, bermed pad to prevent the contamination of the drilling site during a spill. Fluids from other sites may be stored in these tanks for processing by the solids control equipment and reused in the mud system. At the end of the well the fluids are transported from the tank farm to an adjoining well or to the next well for the rig.

These closed loop operations can be monitored by our service technicians. Daily logs are maintained to ensure optimal equipment operation and maintenance. Screen and chemical use is logged to maintain inventory control. Fluid properties are monitored and recorded and drilling mud volumes are accounted for in the mud storage farm. This data is kept for end of well review to insure performance goals are met. Lessons learned are logged and used to help with continuous improvement.

Spill prevention is accomplished by maintaining pump packing, hoses, and pipe fittings to insure no leaks are occurring. During an upset condition the source of the spill is isolated and repaired as soon as it is discovered. Free liquid is removed by a diaphragm pump and returned to the mud system. Loose topsoil may be used to stabilize the spill and the contaminated soil is excavated and placed in the cuttings boxes. After the well is finished and the rig has moved, the entire location is scrapped and tested for all regulated toxic materials. If found they are removed and disposed of per regulatory requirements.

Closure Plan

During drilling operations, all liquids, drilling fluids, and cuttings will be hauled off via CRI (Controlled Recovery Incorporated, Permit R-9166).

Closed Loop with Drying Auger and Dewatering System

