

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  
July 21, 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

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

- 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  
 Modification to an existing permit  
 Closure plan only submitted for an existing permitted or non-permitted 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.

1  
Operator: Merit Energy Company \_\_\_\_\_ OGRID #: 14591 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: 13727 Noel Road, Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75240 \_\_\_\_\_  
Facility or well name: Turner B # 67 \_\_\_\_\_  
API Number: 3001505300 \_\_\_\_\_ OCD Permut Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
U/L or Qtr/Qtr \_\_\_\_\_ Section 23 \_\_\_\_\_ Township 17S \_\_\_\_\_ Range 31E \_\_\_\_\_ County: Eddy \_\_\_\_\_  
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude \_\_\_\_\_ NAD:  1927  1983  
Surface Owner:  Federal  State  Private  Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

2  
 **Pit:** Subsection F or G of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Temporary:  Drilling  Workover  
 Permanent  Emergency  Cavitation  P&A  
 Lined  Unlined Liner type: Thickness 20 \_\_\_\_\_ mil  LLDPE  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 String-Reinforced  
Liner Seams:  Welded  Factory  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Volume: 250 \_\_\_\_\_ bbl Dimensions: L 10' x W 24' x D 8' \_\_\_\_\_  
*PA well - expect 250-500 bbl/hr  
water flow - MCB*

3  
 **Closed-loop System:** Subsection H of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Type of Operation:  P&A  Drilling a new well  Workover or Drilling (Applies to activities which require prior approval of a permit or notice of intent)  
 Drying Pad  Above Ground Steel Tanks  Haul-off Bins  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lined  Unlined Liner type: Thickness \_\_\_\_\_ mil  LLDPE  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Liner Seams:  Welded  Factory  Other \_\_\_\_\_

4  
 **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 \_\_\_\_\_

5  
 **Alternative Method:**  
Submittal of an exception request is required. Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

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6.  
**Fencing:** Subsection D of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (*Applies to permanent pits, temporary pits, and below-grade tanks*)  
 Chain link, six feet in height, two strands of barbed wire at top (*Required if located within 1000 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church*)  
 Four foot height, four strands of barbed wire evenly spaced between one and four feet  
 Alternate. Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7.  
**Netting:** Subsection E of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (*Applies to permanent pits and permanent open top tanks*)  
 Screen  Netting  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Monthly inspections (If netting or screening is not physically feasible)

8.  
**Signs:** Subsection C of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
 12"x 24", 2" lettering, providing Operator's name, site location, and emergency telephone numbers  
 Signed in compliance with 19.15.3.103 NMAC

9.  
**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.

10.  
**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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse or lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). - Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. ( <i>Applies to temporary, emergency, or cavitation pits and below-grade tanks</i> ) - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Within 1000 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. ( <i>Applies to permanent pits</i> ) - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 500 feet of a wetland. - US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. - Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within an unstable area. - Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within a 100-year floodplain. - FEMA map	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

11

**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 (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - 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: \_\_\_\_\_

12.

**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 (only for on-site closure) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (3) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9
- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations (only 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 (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - 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: \_\_\_\_\_
- Previously Approved Operating and Maintenance Plan API Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Applies only to closed-loop system that use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure)

13.

**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 H<sub>2</sub>S, 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

14.

**Proposed Closure:** 19.15.17.13 NMAC**Instructions:** Please complete the applicable boxes, Boxes 14 through 18, in regards to the proposed closure plan.

- Type:  Drilling  Workover  Emergency  Cavitation  P&A  Permanent Pit  Below-grade Tank  Closed-loop System
- Alternative
- Proposed Closure Method:  Waste Excavation and Removal
- Waste Removal (Closed-loop systems only)
- 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)

15.

**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

16.

**Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Above Ground Steel Tanks or 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. Use attachment if more than two facilities are required.*

Disposal Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposal Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Will any of the proposed closed-loop system operations and associated activities occur on or in areas that *will not* be used for future service and operations?  
 Yes (If yes, please provide the information below)  No

*Required for impacted areas which will not be used for future service and operations:*

- 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

17.

**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.<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> NA |
| Ground water is between 50 and 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> NA |
| Ground water is more than 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste.<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> NA |
| Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse or lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).<br>- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.<br>- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| 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.<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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.<br>- Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within 500 feet of a wetland.<br>- US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within the area overlying a subsurface mine.<br>- Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within an unstable area.<br>- Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within a 100-year floodplain.<br>- FEMA map   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                |

18

**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/Design Plan of Burial Trench (if applicable) based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Construction/Design Plan of Temporary Pit (for in-place burial of a drying pad) - 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

19  
**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): Andrew Nguyen Title: Operations Engineering, Permian Region  
 Signature: Andy Date: 4/28/2009  
 e-mail address andy.nguyen@mentenergy.com Telephone: 972-628-1616

20.  
**OCD Approval:**  Permit Application (including closure plan)  Closure Plan (only)  OCD Conditions (see attachment)  
**OCD Representative Signature:** Signed By M. L. [Signature] Approval Date: APR 28 2009  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ **OCD Permit Number:** 0209270

21.  
**Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion):** Subsection K of 19.15 17.13 NMAC  
*Instructions: Operators are required to obtain an approved closure plan prior to implementing any closure activities and submitting the closure report. The closure report is required to be submitted to the division within 60 days of the completion of the closure activities. Please do not complete this section of the form until an approved closure plan has been obtained and the closure activities have been completed.*

Closure Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

22.  
**Closure Method:**  
 Waste Excavation and Removal  On-Site Closure Method  Alternative Closure Method  Waste Removal (Closed-loop systems only)  
 If different from approved plan, please explain.

23.  
**Closure Report Regarding Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Above Ground Steel Tanks or Haul-off Bins Only:**  
*Instructions: Please identify the facility or facilities for where the liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings were disposed. Use attachment if more than two facilities were utilized.*

Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Were the closed-loop system operations and associated activities performed on or in areas that *will not* be used for future service and operations?  
 Yes (If yes, please demonstrate compliance to the items below)  No

*Required for impacted areas which will not be used for future service and operations:*  
 Site Reclamation (Photo Documentation)  
 Soil Backfilling and Cover Installation  
 Re-vegetation Application Rates and Seeding Technique

24.  
**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 (surface owner and division)  
 Proof of Deed Notice (required for on-site closure)  
 Plot Plan (for on-site closures and temporary pits)  
 Confirmation Sampling Analytical Results (if applicable)  
 Waste Material Sampling Analytical Results (required for on-site closure)  
 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

25.  
**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Merit Energy Company**  
**Turner B # 67 C-144 Supplement**

The Turner B # 67 is a water injection well located on Merit Energy Company's Grayburg Jackson Field in Eddy County, New Mexico. This well is currently a P&A liability, and Merit has been ordered to plug and abandon this well by the NM OCD. During initial attempts to P&A this well in 2007, a down-hole water-flow of 250-500 BBL / hour was encountered, and operations were halted.

In order to successfully P&A this well, control of the flow must be attained. In order to control the down-hole flow, the tubulars and injection packer must first be removed from the wellbore, and it is a certainty that water flow will arrive at the surface and must be diverted to a pit for temporary storage.

Merit Energy Company proposes to dig a small trench and 250 BBL emergency pit in order to temporarily contain water flow during the P&A operation. The pit and trench will be lined with 20 mil welded plastic lining, and the surrounding 30-40 foot radius around the workover rig or snubbing unit will also be lined with plastic to contain residual water. An earthen dike will also surround the trench and pit in order to help contain backsplash. The contents of the pit will be continually transferred, via pump, to 500 BBL frac tanks on location for proper disposal, and water will reside in the pit for a minimal amount of time.

Once the flow has been contained and the well has been successfully P&A'd, the residual water from the pit and trench will be removed, the contents of the pit backfilled, and the location reclaimed as per BLM and OCD regulations.

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this proposal, please contact me at the information below.

**Andrew Nguyen** | Operations Engineering  
Permian Region  
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Direct: 972.628.1616 | Mobile: 281.202.8178  
Fax: 972.628.1916  
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