

## **APPROVED** By JKeyes at 2:20 pm, Feb 10, 2016

: YVfi Ufm2016

## C-144 Permit Package for Nectarine BSQ State Com 2H Section 24 T21S R33E, Lea Co, NM



View east showing staked locations of Nectarine 2H, which will be drilled in 2016 and in the foreground, Persimmon BSS State Com 1H, which will be drilled at a later date.

## Prepared for Yates Petroleum Corporation Artesia, NM

Prepared by R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd. Albuquerque, New Mexico

## R. T. HICKS CONSULTANTS, LTD.

901 Rio Grande Blvd NW ▲ Suite F-142 ▲ Albuquerque, NM 87104 ▲ 505.266.5004 ▲ Fax: 505.266-0745

February 4, 2016

Dr. Tomas Oberding Kellie Jones NMOCD District 1 1625 French Drive Hobbs, NM 88240 Via E-Mail

RE: Yates Petroleum, Nectarine BSQ State Com 2H, Temporary Pit

Dr. Oberding and Ms. Jones:

On behalf of Yates Petroleum Corporation, R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd. is pleased to submit the C-144 application package for the above-referenced well. Please note the following:

- 1. The distance between the bottom of the pit and groundwater is more than 100 feet.
- 2. The Design/Construction, O&M and Closure Plans are *almost* verbatim after the recentlyapproved. Note, however that the geometry and purpose of this pit is markedly different from a typical reserve pit. There are three cells of this single pit:
  - a. The cell nearest to the drill rig captures cuttings from the closed loop system
  - b. One fluid cell holds brine drilling fluids discharged from the steel tanks after completion of the intermediate casing (salt section)
  - c. The other fluid cell holds fresh water discharged from the steel drilling pits after completion of the surface casing and any residual cut brine in the pit after setting the production casing and workover (hydraulic stimulation) of the well
- 3. The Closure Plan is *almost* verbatim after recently approved reserve pits.
- 4. We anticipate "in place" burial of stabilized solids in the cuttings cell of the pit and, if necessary, the brine fluids cell.
- 5. This letter and application is copied to Mr. Ed Martin of the SLO to notify the surface landowner of the operator's intent to use on-site burial.
- 6. I certify that Hicks Consultants performed a visual inspection of the site.

The fluids cells shown in Plates 1 and 2 will accept residual drilling fluids from nearby wells for recycling in the drilling process or for other uses as approved by the Division. Any residual fluids in the temporary pit will be disposed if they cannot be recycled.

The attached variances, which have been approved previously, are meant to apply to all YPC pit permits. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this application or the "blanket variance", please contact me. As always, we appreciate your work ethic and attention to detail.

Sincerely, R.T. Hicks Consultants

Randall Hicks Principal

Copy: Yates Petroleum Corporation Mr. Ed Martin, NM State Land Office

#### Statement Explaining Why the Applicant Seeks a Variance

The prescriptive mandates of the Rule that are the subject of this variance request are the following subsections of 19.15.17.13.D [emphasis added]:

#### 19.15.17.13 CLOSURE AND SITE RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS:

D. Closure where wastes are destined for burial in place or into <u>nearby division approved pits</u> or trenches. This subsection applies to waste from temporary pits and closed-loop systems, when such waste may be disposed of in place in the existing temporary pit or disposed of at a nearby temporary pit or burial trench that is not a permitted commercial facility regulated under 19.15.36 NMAC. A nearby temporary pit or burial trench that receives waste from another temporary pit <u>must be onsite within the same lease</u>.

It is our understanding that the intent of this mandate of the Pit Rule is to limit the transfer of waste long distances or to limit the transfer between different surface owners. In general, such limits are good for all.

The attached maps show the location of wells that are the subject of this variance. While not on the same lease, the distance between the locations is small, the surface owner of all location is the SLO and we believe the spirit of the Rule is met. The pit size for all locations is small and the ability to move fluids and/or solids between pits allows flexibility that can minimize the excavation footprint.

#### Demonstration That the Variance Will Provide Equal or Better Protection of Fresh Water, Public Health and the Environment

We strongly believe approval of this variance will provide better protection of the environment than the alternatives

- 1. Hauling any excess cuttings and fluids many miles to R-360 or Sundance
- 2. Permitting and excavating pits that are larger than necessary to hold fluids and/or solids

We believe it is obvious that using an existing pit that can hold the solids creates a smaller environmental footprint than constructing a new pit for burial on the same lease. The movement of drilling fluids from site to site for recycling does not require a variance, and such actions are not the subject of this request.

Limiting the transport of cuttings reduces the dust, exhaust and road wear – all of which reduce the environmental footprint of the proposed alternative versus transport to a commercial facility.

## **Statement Explaining Why the Applicant Seeks a Variance**

The prescriptive mandates of the Rule that are the subject of this variance request are the following subsections of 19.15.17.13.E:

#### E. Closure notice.

(1) The operator shall notify the surface owner by certified mail, return receipt requested that the operator plans closure operations at least 72 hours, but not more than one week, prior to any closure operation. Notice shall include well name, API number and location. Evidence of mailing of the notice to the address of the surface owner shown in the county tax records is sufficient to demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

Hicks Consultants includes the SLO or BLM by carbon copy of the closure notice emails sent to NMOCD. This eliminates a delay in receipt of the notice by SLO or BLM and facilitates realtime dialogue between the surface owner, NMOCD, Hicks Consultants, and the operator should any questions arise about the closure. On November 24, 2014, Ed Martin of SLO confirmed that email is an acceptable method of copy for the notices of closure. BLM routinely accepts such email notifications.

## Demonstration that the Variance Will Provide Equal or Better Protection of Fresh Water, Public Health and the Environment

Approval of an email copy of the closure notice for a temporary pit to substitute for one sent via U.S. Mail would offer a reduction of paper received and stored at the State Land Office and well as energy expended (carbon-emitted) to produce and ship the document. Lowering the carbon footprint provides better protection of the environment than compliance with the prescriptive mandate of the Rule.

#### Statement Explaining Why the Applicant Seeks a Variance

The prescriptive mandates of the Rule that are the subject of this variance request are the following subsections of 19.15.17.16 [emphasis added]:

19.15.17.13 CLOSURE AND SITE RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS:

D.(5) The operator shall collect, at a minimum, a five point composite of the contents of the temporary pit or drying pad/tank associated with a closed-loop system to demonstrate that, after the waste is solidified or stabilized with soil or other non-waste material at a ratio of no more than 3:1 soil or other non-waste material to waste, the concentration of any contaminant in the stabilized waste is not higher than the parameters listed in <u>Table II of 19.15.17.13 NMAC</u>.

The referenced Table II, which is reproduced in part below, notes the Method with asterisk signifying: "\*Or other test methods approved by the division".

Table II Closure Criteria for Burial Trenches and Waste Left in Place in Temporary Pits			
Depth below bottom of pit to groundwater less than 10,000 mg/l TDS	Constituent	Method*	Limit**
	Chloride	EPA Method 300.0	20,000 mg/kg
25-50 feet	TPH	EPA SW-846 Method 418.1	100 mg/kg

After sampling solids of more than 50 drilling pits in the Permian Basin, we have observed and reported to OCD on numerous occasions significant problems with non-petroleum drilling additives (e.g. starch) interfering with the laboratory method 418.1. It is not surprising that in many instances we found no correlation between the laboratory results using 418.1 and the results using Method 8015.

We request a variance to substitute Method 8015 (GRO + DRO + MRO) for Method 418.1.

#### Demonstration That the Variance Will Provide Equal or Better Protection of Fresh Water, Public Health and the Environment

The purpose of TPH analyses in the Pit Rule is to measure total <u>petroleum</u> hydrocarbons not all non-polar compounds, such as starch or cellulose that can interfere with Method 418.1. While Method 418.1 may provide some useful data for transportation of crude oil or condensate spills to disposal, the addition of non-polar organic materials in drilling fluids, especially for horizontal wells, renders Method 418.1 highly problematic to determine compliance with the Rule. Using Method 8015 for TPH (GRO+DRO+MRO) provides a better measurement of what we believe the Commission intended operators to measure.

# C-144 and Site Specific Information for Temporary Pit

**R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.** 

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104

For temporary pits, below-grade tanks, and multi-well fluid management pits, submit to the appropriate NMOCD District Office. For permanent pits submit to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office and provide a copy to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.

#### <u>Pit, Below-Grade Tank, or</u> Proposed Alternative Method Permit or Closure Plan Application

Type of action: Below grade tank registration

Permit of a pit or proposed alternative method

Closure of a pit, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method

] Modification to an existing permit/or registration

Closure plan only submitted for an existing permitted or non-permitted pit, below-grade tank,

or proposed alternative method

Instructions: Please submit one application (Form C-144) per individual pit, 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: <u>Yates Petroleum Corporation</u> OGRID #: <u>25575</u>
Address: 105 S. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Artesia, NM 88210
Facility or well name: Nectarine BSQ State Com 2H
API Number:         30-025-42460         OCD Permit Number:
U/L or Qtr/Qtr P Section 24 Township 21S Range 33E County: Lea
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude <u>32 267 49.46</u> Longitude <u>-</u> 103 31 56.00 NAD: □1927 🛛 1983 Staked Location
Surface Owner: 🔲 Federal 🔀 State 🗌 Private 🗌 Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment
2.
∑ <u>Pit</u> : Subsection F, G or J of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
Temporary: 🛛 Drilling 🗌 Workover
□ Permanent □ Emergency □ Cavitation □ P&A □ Multi-Well Fluid Management Low Chloride Drilling Fluid □ yes ⊠ no
Lined Unlined Liner type: Thickness 20 mil LLDPE HDPE PVC Other
String-Reinforced
Liner Seams: Welded Factory Other Volume 14,308 bbl (drilling cell), 5986+3543 = 9529 bbls fluids cells Dimensions: L <u>165</u> x W 150 x D <u>9.5 ft average</u> Temporary Pit
3
3. Below-grade tank: Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
Below-grade tank: Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
Below-grade tank:       Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC         Volume:
Below-grade tank:       Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC         Volume:      bbl       Type of fluid:         Tank Construction material:
Below-grade tank:       Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC         Volume:      bbl       Type of fluid:         Tank Construction material:
Below-grade tank:       Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC         Volume:
Below-grade tank: Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC   Volume:bbl Type of fluid:   Tank Construction material:
Below-grade tank:       Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC         Volume:
Below-grade tank: Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC   Volume:bbl Type of fluid:   Tank Construction material:
Below-grade tank:       Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC         Volume:
Below-grade tank: Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC   Volume:bbl Type of fluid:   Tank Construction material:
Below-grade tank: Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC   Volume:

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)

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 19.15.16.8 NMAC

#### Variances and Exceptions:

7.

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:

- Variance(s): Requests must be submitted to the appropriate division district for consideration of approval.
   Exception(s): Requests must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

9. <u>Siting Criteria (regarding permitting)</u> : 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. Siting criteria does not apply to drying pads or above-grade tanks.			
General siting			
<u>Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of a low chloride temporary pit or below-grade tank.</u> - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	□ Yes □ No ⊠ NA		
Ground water is less than 50 feet below the bottom of a Temporary pit, permanent pit, or Multi-Well Fluid Management pit. NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells See Figures 1 & 2	☐ Yes ⊠ No ☐ NA		
<ul> <li>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. (Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 5</li> <li>Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🛛 No		
<ul> <li>Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. (Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 7</li> <li>Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🛛 No		
<ul> <li>Within an unstable area. (Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 8</li> <li>Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology &amp; Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🛛 No		
Within a 100-year floodplain. (Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 9 - FEMA map	🗌 Yes 🛛 No		
Below Grade Tanks			
<ul> <li>Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, significant watercourse, lake bed, sinkhole, wetland or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).</li> <li>Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🗌 No		
<ul> <li>Within 200 horizontal feet of a spring or a fresh water well used for public or livestock consumption;.</li> <li>NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🗌 No		
Temporary Pit using Low Chloride Drilling Fluid (maximum chloride content 15,000 mg/liter)			
<ul> <li>Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or any other significant watercourse or within 200 feet of any lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). (Applies to low chloride temporary pits.)</li> <li>Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🗌 No		
<ul> <li>Within 300 feet from a occupied permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.</li> <li>Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🗌 No		
Within 200 horizontal feet of a spring or a private, domestic fresh water well used by less than five households for domestic or stock watering purposes, or 300feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of the initial application. NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	🗌 Yes 🗌 No		

<ul> <li>Within 100 feet of a wetland.</li> <li>US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🗌 No
Temporary Pit Non-low chloride drilling fluid	
<ul> <li>Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or any other significant watercourse, or within 200 feet of any lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). See Figure 3</li> <li>Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.</li> <li>Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image. See Figure 4</li> </ul>	☐ Yes ⊠ No □ Yes ⊠ No
<ul> <li>Within 500 horizontal feet of a spring or a private, domestic fresh water well used by less than five households for domestic or stock watering purposes, or 1000 feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in the existence at the time of the initial application;</li> <li>NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site See Figures 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>	Yes X No
<ul> <li>Within 300 feet of a wetland. See Figure 6</li> <li>US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
Permanent Pit or Multi-Well Fluid Management Pit	
<ul> <li>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).</li> <li>Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🗌 No
<ul> <li>Within 1000 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.</li> <li>Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🗌 No
<ul> <li>Within 500 horizontal feet of a spring or a fresh water well used for domestic or stock watering purposes, in existence at the time of initial application.</li> <li>NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🗌 No
<ul> <li>Within 500 feet of a wetland.</li> <li>US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	Yes No
10. <b>Temporary Pits, Emergency Pits, and Below-grade Tanks Permit Application Attachment Checklist:</b> Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 N <i>Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the doc attached.</i> □       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 19.15.17.10 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. and 19.15.17.13 NMAC         □       Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design)       API Number: or Permit Number:	o NMAC 15.17.9 NMAC
11.	
In.       Multi-Well Fluid Management Pit 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 dot attached.         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         A List of wells with approved application for permit to drill associated with the pit.         Closure Plan (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19 and 19.15.17.13 NMAC         Hydrogeologic Data - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC         Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC         Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design)       API Number: or Permit Number:	.15.17.9 NMAC

12.       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 attached. <ul> <li>Hydrogeologic Report - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC</li> <li>Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC</li> <li>Climatological Factors Assessment</li> <li>Certified Engineering Design Plans - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC</li> <li>Dike Protection and Structural Integrity Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC</li> <li>Liner Specifications and Compatibility Assessment - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC</li> <li>Quality Control/Quality Assurance Construction and Installation Plan</li> <li>Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC</li> <li>Freeboard and Overtopping Prevention Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC</li> <li>Musiance or Hazardous Odors, including H<sub>2</sub>S, Prevention Plan</li> <li>Oil Field Waste Stream Characterization</li> <li>Monitoring and Inspection Plan</li> <li>Errosion Control Plan</li> <li>Closure Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC</li> </ul>	documents are
13.       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       □ Multi-well F.         □       □ Alternative       □       □ 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	luid Management Pit
<ul> <li>14.</li> <li>Waste Excavation and Removal Closure Plan Checklist: (19.15.17.13 NMAC) Instructions: Each of the following items must be a closure plan. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.</li> <li>Protocols and Procedures - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC</li> <li>Confirmation Sampling Plan (if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.13 NMAC</li> <li>Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number (for liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings)</li> <li>Soil Backfill and Cover Design Specifications - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC</li> <li>Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC</li> <li>Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC</li> </ul>	
<sup>15.</sup> <u>Siting Criteria (regarding on-site closure methods only)</u> : 19.15.17.10 NMAC Instructions: Each siting criteria requires a demonstration of compliance in the closure plan. Recommendations of acceptable sour provided below. Requests regarding changes to certain siting criteria require justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency. F 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance.	
<ul> <li>Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of the buried waste.</li> <li>NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells</li> <li>Ground water is between 25-50 feet below the bottom of the buried waste</li> </ul>	□ Yes ⊠ No □ NA □ Yes ⊠ No
<ul> <li>NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells</li> <li>Ground water is more than 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste.</li> <li>NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells</li> </ul>	□ NA ⊠ Yes □ No □ NA
<ul> <li>Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse, lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).</li> <li>Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	Yes No
<ul> <li>Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.</li> <li>Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
<ul> <li>Within 300 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring used for domestic or stock watering purposes, in existence at the time of initial application.</li> <li>NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
Within 300 feet of a wetland. US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; 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	

<ul> <li>adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended.</li> <li>Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtain</li> </ul>	ned from the munici	pality	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
<ul><li>Within the area overlying a subsurface mine.</li><li>Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mining an</li></ul>	neral Division		🗌 Yes 🛛 No
<ul> <li>Within an unstable area.</li> <li>Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology &amp; Mir</li> </ul>	eral Resources: US(	GS: NM Geological	
Society; Topographic map	erai Resources, OS	os, nui ocological	🗌 Yes 🛛 No
Within a 100-year floodplain. - FEMA map			🗌 Yes 🛛 No
16. On-Site Closure Plan Checklist: $(19.15.17.13 \text{ NMAC})$ Instructions: Each of the follow	ina itams must ha a	ttached to the closure pla	n Please indicate
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 E of 19.15.17.13 NMAC       Construction/Design Plan of Burial Trench (if applicable) based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection K 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 19.15.17.13 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 19.15.17.13 NMAC         Waste Material Sampling Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements 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 H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC         Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC         Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC         Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate re			
17. Operator Application Certification:			
I hereby certify that the information submitted with this application is true, accurate and co	omplete to the best o	of my knowledge and belie	ef.
Name (Print): Travis Hahn	Title: <u> </u>	and Regulatory Agent	
Signature: <u>Vah</u>	Date: J	anuary 29, 2016	
e-mail address:	Telephone: <u>5</u>	575 748 4120	
<b>18. OCD Approval:</b> Permit Application (including closure plan) Closure Plan (only)	OCD Conditi	ons (see attachment)	
OCD Representative Signature:	Aj	oproval Date:	
Title: OCD P	ermit Number:		
19. Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion): 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:			
20.         Closure Method:         Waste Excavation and Removal         On-Site Closure Method         If different from approved plan, please explain.	ure Method 🗌 W	aste Removal (Closed-lo	op systems only)
21.         Closure Report Attachment Checklist: Instructions: Each of the following items must 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 for private land only)         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	be attached to the c	closure report. Please ind	

#### 22. 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:		

#### **Geologic Setting of the Regional Fresh-Water Bearing Formations**

The proposed temporary pit site is located on the southern edge of the Grama Ridge Area. It is a topographically elevated erosional remnant of the High Plains that separates the San Simon Swale to the south from the Laguna Valley to the north; all of which are part of the eastern edge of the Pecos Valley Physiographic Province (see adjacent map insert).

The surface elevation for most of the Grama Ridge Area ranges from 3,700 to 3,800 feet above sea level (ASL), with the highest elevation at Hat Mesa (3,900 feet ASL)



located approximately six miles to the west of the proposed temporary pit site. The San Simon Sink is in the southeast end of the San Simon Swale. It is located twelve miles to the south-southeast of the site and represents the lowest surface elevation in the region at 3,273 feet ASL. To the north of the Grama Ridge Area the topography slopes gently into the Laguna Valley, toward three large playa lakes, the lowest of which is Laguna Plata at 3,440 feet AST. Regionally, surface drainage is to the south toward the San Simon Swale.

Groundwater in the Grama Ridge Area is found only in Mesozoic and Cenozoic Era rocks that were deposited approximately 235 million years ago. The oldest of these are the Mesozoic Era, Triassic Period, Dockum Group, Chinle and Santa Rosa Formations. They consist of conglomerates, cross-bedded sandstones, claystones, and siltstones that were deposited in a continental fluvial environment over the evaporites of the late Permian Ochoan Series, which had filled the Delaware Basin by that time.

Any later Jurassic or Cretaceous age rocks that were deposited above the Triassic have subsequently been removed by erosion leaving an irregular surface on the Triassic Chinle Formation. The Tertiary age Ogallala Formation and Quaternary age eolian and piedmont deposits represent the Cenozoic Era rocks deposited in the area. The Ogallala Formation consists of terrestrial sediments (sand with some clay, silt and gravel) that were deposited on the Triassic age surface. Generally, the Ogallala is capped by a caliche layer, observed in many outcrops along Grama Ridge, being resistant to the erosion that shaped the San Simon Swale.

The Ogallala aquifer is the primary groundwater source where it is present on the Eunice Plains approximately 12 to 25 miles to the east and on the High Plains to the north. Across most of the Laguna Valley, Grama Ridge Area, and San Simon Swale; the Triassic Chinle or Santa Rosa aquifers provide the only regionally extensive source of fresh groundwater. Within five miles of the proposed temporary pit site several water wells are present that produce water from the Cenozoic (Ogallala, Alluvium, or Bolsom aquifers). These wells are generally located to the north and east of the site and are believed to be associated with shallow, isolated areas where the

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geometry of the underlying Triassic beds have created a local containment for precipitation in the immediate area.

#### **Distance to Groundwater**

# Figure 1, Figure 2a, Figure 2b, and the discussion presented below demonstrates that groundwater (fresh water as defined by NMOCD Rules) at the location is greater than 100 feet beneath the temporary pit.

Figure 1 is an area geologic base map that depicts regional topography (metric contour units) and includes the water wells located nearest to the temporary pit site for which information is available, regardless of how comprehensive or useful. It also shows:

- 1. The location of the temporary pit site as a purple hexagon.
- 2. Water wells from the USGS database as color-coded triangles that indicated the producing aquifer (see Legend).
- 3. Water wells from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) database as a small blue triangle inside a colored circle that indicates the well depth (see Legend). Please note, OSE wells are often miss-located in the WATERS database as older wells are plotted in the center of the quarter, quarter, quarter, of the Section Township and Range. Topographic maps and/or aerial photographs verified all of the OSE well locations included on this map.
- 4. Water wells, which are not documented in the public databases but were identified by field inspection or other published reports are shown as a dot inside a color-coded (depth) square.
- 5. Depth to water and gauging dates from the most recent and reliable measurement for each well is provided adjacent to the well symbol. It should be noted that in most cases the depth to water provided by the OSE database are from drillers log notes estimated at the time of completion, rather than static (non-pumping) field measurements.

Figure 2a is a regional topographic base map (metric contour units) that depicts the potentiometric surface contours of the shallow-most aquifer surrounding the site. The potentiometric contours are labeled in feet ASL. The water wells plotted include only the USGS database and published report water wells from Figure 1 for which a reliable depth to water measurement has been recorded. While the OSE data can provide some useful data in some areas, the depth to water (and location) are reported by drillers and represent their best guess of depth to water or a measured depth in a non-static (muddy hole) condition. The USGS and Misc data on Figure 2a represents data collected by professionals. Figure 2a also shows:

- 1. The location of the temporary pit site as a purple hexagon.
- 2. Groundwater elevations and gauging dates from the most recent available static water level measurement for each well, regardless of which formation (or formations) are being produced.

Figure 2b contains the same well data as Figure 2a but instead of a topographic map, the potentiometric map from Ground-Water Report 6 (GWR-6) *Geology and Ground-Water Conditions in Southern Lea County, New Mexico* by Alexander Nicholson and Alfred Clebsch (1961) was used as a base map.

What is not shown in Figures 2a or 2b is a final depth to water measurement at the Calabash

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location. On January 23, 2016, a spudder rig advanced a boring from 65 feet to 80 feet and retrieved dust-dry cuttings from the auger at 70, 75 and 80 feet below grade. Prior to drilling the Calabash BWC State 1H an auger rig should penetrate groundwater and we will report the depth to water to OCD at that time. This will probably occur prior to drilling this Nectarine well.

#### **Site Geology**

The Yates Petroleum Corporation temporary pit is located on outcrop of Tertiary Age Ogallala Formation as described above (To on Figure 1). Beneath the Ogallala is the Triassic Dockum Group sediments.(Chinle Formation).

#### Water Table Elevation

We used data from many water wells identified in the area surrounding the temporary pit site to construct Figure 2a, but show only the nearest seven wells. In addition to data from the USGS, we used published and field verified well information, which is generally considered reliable. Figure 2a does not use data from wells listed on the OSE Waters database. As stated earlier, the groundwater elevations provided for these OSE wells are likely based on driller log notes rather than measurements made under static conditions.

Initially, an attempt was made to identify each well using USGS topographic maps. The surface elevation of each well identified on the topographic map was compared to the published surface elevation, if available. Wells that could not be verified using maps were searched for using current and historic satellite photographs in an effort to identify windmills, tanks, or roads associated with the present or former water well. The following comments should be noted from Figure 1 and 2a:

- Wells USGS-853 and CP 00498 are believed to be the same well, based on satellite image and field verification.
- There are at least six closely spaced wells at the location identified as USGS-793 and CP-01041. Several of the wells are believed to have been recently installed; they are currently being used for oil well drilling supply, based on field verification.
- West of the proposed pit are seven deep (some >1000 feet TD) supply wells in the OSE database and well USGS-798. Note that the reported depth to water in the OSE wells is 500-800 feet (driller's estimates) and the 1996 measured depth to water by USGS professionals is 178.85 feet. The USGS report that the aquifer is the Chinle Formation. Obviously, these data support a conclusion that the aquifer is encountered by drillers at depths exceeding 500 feet and the water is under pressure, rising more than 300 feet in the well.
- Misc 71 is a windmill that was not accessible to measure the depth to water. Based upon repeated measurement of Ogallala/Alluvium wells nearby, we do not believe the depth to water today is materially different from the 59 feet measured in 1971.

#### Hydrogeology

Two aquifers are present in the general area of the proposed pit: a shallow aquifer that exists around of the proposed pit and the regionally-extensive Chinle (red bed) aquifer that provides water to wells west of the Nectarine location.

The nearest water well, assumed to be an Ogallala or alluvium/Bolsom producer, is Misc-71, located approximately 1½ mile to the south-southeast. The groundwater elevation from this well and other shallow wells was used to produce the potentiometric map shown in Figure 2a in order to present the most conservative possible case. Wells to the west that measure water in the Chinle Formation are also used to create the surface presented in Figure 2a.

Potentiometric contours shown Figure 2b (GWR-6) provide a different interpretation of groundwater conditions. This map identifies that the elevation of the water table is higher than the



elevation of the top of the Chinle (red bed) Formation east and north of the hatched line shown in the inset figure below "GRAMA". South and west of that line groundwater occurs in the Chinle Formation as the Ogallala and Bolson are generally dry (but not Misc-71).

Based on the potentiometric surface contours shown in Figure 2A, we conclude that the

groundwater elevation at the temporary pit site is approximately 3,610 feet ASL. With a surface elevation of about 3,784 feet ASL and a maximum pit depth of 10 feet, the depth to groundwater below the pit floor should be (3784-10-3610=) 164 feet.

#### **Distance to Surface Water**

Figure 3 and the site visit demonstrates that the location is not within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or any other significant watercourse, or within 200 feet of any lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).

- No continuously flowing watercourses exist within 300 feet of the location.
- The nearest surface drainage feature (un-named intermittent stream identified on the USGS quadrangle map) is located about 1500 feet to the northeast.

#### **Distance to Permanent Residence or Structures**

Figure 4 and the site visit demonstrates that the location is not within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, church, or other structure in existence at the time of initial application.

• The nearest structures are oil well facilities

#### **Distance to Non-Public Water Supply**

Figures 1 and 3 demonstrate that the location is not 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.

- Figure 1 shows the locations of all area water wells; the nearest fresh water well is Misc-71, a stock well located 1.5 miles to the south-southeast.
- There are no known domestic water wells located within the mapping area.
- Figure 3 shows that no springs are identified within the mapping area.

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#### **Distance to Municipal Boundaries and Fresh Water Fields**

Figure 5 demonstrates that the location is not within incorporated municipal boundaries or defined municipal fresh water well fields covered under a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended.

- The closest municipality is Eunice, NM approximately 25 miles to the east.
- The closest public well field is located approximately 30 miles to the north.

#### **Distance to Wetlands**

#### Figure 6 demonstrates the location is not within 300 feet of wetlands.

- The nearest designated wetlands is a "Freshwater Pond" located about 1 mile eastsoutheast.
- Our site inspection showed no water in this pond during the inspection.

#### **Distance to Subsurface Mines**

Figure 7 and our general reconnaissance of the area demonstrate that the nearest mines are caliche pits.

• The nearest caliche pit is located approximately 2 miles to the southewest.

#### Stability of Pit Area and Distance to High or Critical Karst Areas

# Figure 8 shows the location of the proposed temporary pit with respect to BLM Karst areas using the 2014 map and Figure 1 shows the regional geology.

- The proposed temporary pit is located within a "low" potential karst area.
- The nearest "high" or "critical" potential karst area is located approximately 15 miles west of the site.
- We saw no evidence of solution voids were observed near the site during the field inspection.
- No evidence of unstable ground near the site was observed during the site inspection. A professional geologist (Randall Hicks) conducted the field survey and concluded that the ground is stable.

#### **Distance to 100-Year Floodplain**

Figure 9 demonstrates that the location is within an area that has not yet been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency with respect to the Flood Insurance Rate 100-Year Floodplain.

- Areas that are not mapped are designated as "Undetermined Flood Hazard" and are generally considered minimal flood risk.
- Our field inspection and examination of the topography permit a conclusion that the location is not within any floodplain.

#### **Temporary Pit Design**

Please refer to Plates 1 and 2 for the design of the temporary pit and the Design and Construction Plan at the end of this application.

# Site Specific Information Figures

# **R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104





<u>R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd</u> 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104 Ph: 505.266.5004	LEGEND - Depth To Water and Geology	Figure 1 LEGEND
	Yates Petroleum Corporation: Calabash BWC State 1H & Nectarine BSQ State Com 2H	January 2016



















# Site Specific Information Plates

# **R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104



#### Drilling Cell Dime

Total Width (left rig Total Length (up d Depth Discharge S Depth Far Side (D Depth Far Side (S Depth Suction Sid Length of Divider Divider Width Width of discharge Width of suction fle Pit Slopes (Rise to

#### Fresh/ Cut Brine

Total Width (left rig Total Length (up d Depth Pit Slopes (Rise to Distance from Drillin

### Brine Cell Dimen

Total Width (left rig Total Length (up d Depth Pit Slopes (Rise to Distance from Drillin

#### **Temporary Pit Di** Total Width (left rig Total Length (up d Depth Far Side Depth Rig Side

Drilling Cell Total Capacity Solids Capacity 4' Total Solids

Fresh/Cut Brine ( With 2 feet freebo Brine Cell Capaci With 2 feet freebo

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icks Consultants				
ouquerque, NM				
	YPC - Nectarine SQ	State Com 2H	Janua	ry 2016



# **Appendix A**

**Site Inspection Photographs** 

**& Survey Information** 

# **R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104



View southwest from northeast corner of pad



View south from about 650 feet north of staked location showing no evidence of watercourse in small swale.



View northwest from about 400 feet south of staked location showing south facing slope of Grama Ridge
DISTRICT I 1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240 Phone (575) 393-6161 Fax: (575) 393-0720 DISTRICT II 811 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210 Phone (575) 748-1283 Fax: (575) 748-9720

DISTRICT III 1000 Rio Brazos Rd., Aztec, NM 87410 Phone (505) 334-6178 Fax: (505) 334-6170 DISTRICT IV 1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505 Phone (505) 476-3460 Fax: (505) 476-3462 State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Form C-102 Revised August 1, 2011

Submit one copy to appropriate **District Office** 

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION 1220 South St. Francis Dr.

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

WELL LOCATION AND ACDEACE DEDICATION DIAT

□ AMENDED REPORT

			WELL LO	CATION	AND ACREA	GE DEDICATI	ON PLAT		
API Number		]	Pool Code		Pool Name				
Property Code				NECTA	Property Nam RINE BSQ S		Well Number 2H		
OGRID No.					Operator Nam		Elevation		ion
025575		-			ETROLEUM C	EUM CORPORATION		3784	
					Surface Loca	ation			
UL or lot No.	Section	Township	Range	Lot Idn	Feet from the	North/South line	Feet from the	East/West line	County
Р	24	21 S	33 E		2440	SOUTH	760	WEST	LEA
			Bottom	Hole Loo	eation If Diffe	erent From Sur	face		
UL or lot No.	Section	Township	Range	Lot Idn	Feet from the	North/South line	Feet from the	East/West line	County
D	13	21 S	33 E		330	NORTH	760	WEST	LEA
Dedicated Acre	s Joint o	r Infill Co	nsolidation (	Code Or	ler No.				
NO ALLO	OWABLE W					UNTIL ALL INTER APPROVED BY		EN CONSOLIDA	ATED
			QN.:	541481.4	N.: 541504.7	N.: 541528.0			
PROPOSED BOTTOM HOLE LOCATION Lat - N 32*29'06.56" Long - W 103*31'56.07" NMSPCE- N 541158.2 E 788353.6 (NAD-83)		<u>ION</u> 9'06.56" 1'56.07"		541481.4 787591.1 VAD83)   	E:: 790235.7 (NAD83) 	E: 792880.4 (NAD83)	OPERATOR CERTIFICATION I hereby certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that this organization either owns a working interest or unLEAsed mineral interest in the land including the proposed bottom hole location or has a right to drill this well at this location pursuant to a contract with an owner of such a mineral or working interest, or to a voluntary pooling agreement or a compulsory pooling order heretofore entered by the division. Signature Date		
			7788.6'	   -	 - <u> </u> 		Printed Name	е	
				1	i i	· ·	Email Address		
			1	36201.2		N.: 536244.1	SURVEYO	R CERTIFICAT	ION
			Ι E.: /	Solo (1.2 7533.7 ADB3)             		E: 792921.5 (NAD83)	I hereby certify on this plat we actual surveys supervison, an correct to th SEPTE Date Surveys Signature &	that the well locating is plotted from field made by me or d that the same is best of my belief BER 22, 201 MEX Sect of	on shown notes of under my true and t
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3788.5'	
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	EXISTING LEASE ROAD
YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION NECTARINE BSQ STATE COM #2H ELEV. – 3784' Lat – N 32°27'49.46"	
Long – W 103°31'56.00" NMSPCE– N 533371.3 E 788417.4 (NAD-83)	EUNICE , NM IS $\pm 21$ MILES TO THE EAST OF LOCATION.
Directions to Location:	200 0 200 400 FEET SCALE: 1" = 200'
FROM CO RD 176 TURN SOUTH ON LEASE ROAD FOR 3.7 MILES, TURN RIGHT AT INTERSECTION FOR 1.7 MILES, TURN RIGHT ONTO LEASE ROAD FOR 0.67	PETROLEUM CORPORATION
MILES AND PROPOSED LEASE ROAD WILL BE ON RIGHT.	REF: NECTARINE BSQ STATE COM #2H / WELL PAD TOPO THE NECTARINE BSQ STATE COM #2H LOCATED 2440' FROM
basin	THE SOUTH LINE AND 760' FROM THE WEST LINE OF
SURVEYS      P.O. Box 1786      (575) 393-7316      Office        focused on excellence in the oilfield      1120 N. West County Rd.      (575) 392-2206      - Fax        Hobbs, New Mexico      88241      basinsurveys.com	SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST. N.M.P.M., LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.
W.O. Number: 28738 Drawn By: K. NORRIS Date: 10-0	









NECTARINE BSQ STATE COM #2H Located 2440' FSL and 760' FWL Section 24 Township 21 South, Range 33 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico.



P.O. Box 1786	
1120 N. West Count	ly Rd.
Hobbs, New Mexico	88241
(575) 393-7316 -	Office
(575) 392-2206 -	Fax
basinsurveys.com	

0' 1000' 2000' 3000' 400 SCALE: 1" = 2000'
W.O. Number: KAN 28738
Survey Date: 09-22-2013
YELLOW TINT – USA LAND BLUE TINT – STATE LAND NATURAL COLOR – FEE LAND



# Generic Plans for Temporary Pits

# **R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104

# **Temporary Pit Design/Construction Plan**

Plates 1 and 2 show the design of the temporary pit proposed for this project. Field conditions and the drilling rig layout will determine the final configuration of the pit, which will consist of cell for the burial of water-based drilling solids derived from a closed-loop system. If identified in the transmittal letter, Plates 1 and 2 show a second burial cell to accept intervals of the well drilled with oil based mud (OBM). Two fluids cells, one for brine and one for fresh water and cut brine store used drilling fluids for re-use (for drilling at nearby wells or for other uses approved by the OCD).

Although unlikely due to the nature of the operation, the operator <u>may</u> install a system that can drain water entrained in the drilling waste of the drilling pit. The drainage system may be installed in the entire cell. As described in, the closure plan this system of fabric-wrapped perforated pipe and drainage mats lie on the bottom of the pit over the liner. The system will drain to the lowest corner of pit where a standpipe rises from the depression to the top of the berm. The drainage system can remove water to an above-ground tank, a fluids cell of the pit or directly to a truck for re-use or disposal.

The temporary storage of fluids, fluid reuse or fluid disposal will be conducted in a manner approved by division rules that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment.

# Construction/Design Plan of Temporary Pit

#### Stockpile Topsoil by Earthwork Contractor

Prior to constructing the pit the qualified contractor will strip and stockpile any topsoil for use as the final cover or fill at the time of closure.

#### Signage Provided by Operator

The operator will post an upright sign in a conspicuous place in compliance with 19.15.16.8 NMAC as the pit and the well are operated by the same operator. Section 19.15.16.8 states in part:

19.15.16.8 SIGN ON WELLS:

B. For drilling wells, the operator shall post the sign on the derrick or not more than 20 feet from the well.

C. The sign shall be of durable construction and the lettering shall be legible and large enough to be read under normal conditions at a distance of 50 feet.

F. Each sign shall show the:

(1) well number;

(2) property name;

(3) operator's name;

(4) location by footage, quarter-quarter section, township and range (or unit letter can be substituted for the quarter-quarter section);

and

(5) API number.

The sign will also provide emergency telephone numbers.

#### **Fencing Provided by Liner Contractor**

During drilling or workover operations, the operator will not fence the edge of the pit adjacent to the drilling or workover rig.

As the pit is not located within 1000 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church, the operator will fence the pit to exclude livestock with four-wire strands evenly spaced in the interval between one foot and four feet above ground level.

#### Earthwork

The temporary pit will have a properly constructed foundation and interior slopes consisting of a firm, unyielding base that is smooth and free of rocks, debris, sharp edges or irregularities to prevent the liner's rupture or tear. Rolling the surface to prepare the foundation for placement of the liner is recommended.

The slopes of the pit will be no steeper than two horizontal feet to one vertical foot (2H:1V) <u>unless in the transmittal letter the operator requested an alternative to the slope requirement</u> with a demonstration that the pit can be operated in a safe manner to prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment.

A berm or ditch will surround the temporary pit to prevent run-on of surface water.

If the transmittal letter or contractor instructions identifies concerns relating to the presence of karst and associated instability, during construction of the pit the contractor will compact the earth material that forms the foundation for the pit liner. An expected proctor density of greater than 90% will be achieved by

- 1. adding water to the earth material as appropriate,
- 2. compacting the earth by walking a crawler-type tractor down the sides and bottom of the pit
- 3. repeating this process with a second 6-inch lift of earth material if necessary

#### **Liner Installation**

The geomembrane liner will consist of 20-mil string reinforced LLDPE (or thicker).

The operator will direct the liner installation contractor to:

- 1. minimize liner seams and orient them up and down, not across a slope
- 2. use factory welded seams where possible
- 3. overlap liners four to six inches and orient seams parallel to the line of maximum slope, i.e., oriented along, not across, the slope, prior to any field seaming
- 4. minimize the number of welded field seams in comers and irregularly shaped areas
- 5. utilize only qualified personnel to weld field seams
- 6. avoid excessive stress-strain on the liner
- 7. place geotextile under the liner where needed to reduce localized stress-strain or protuberances that may otherwise compromise the liner's integrity
- 8. anchor the edges of all liners in the bottom of a compacted earth-filled trench that is at <u>least 18 inches deep</u>

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9. place additional material (liner, felt, etc.) to ensure that the liner is protected from any fluid force or mechanical damage at any point of discharge into or suction from the lined temporary pit.

A berm or ditch will surround the temporary pit to prevent run-on of surface water. During drilling operations, the operator may elect to remove run-on protection on the pit edge adjacent to the drilling or workover rig provided that the pit is being used to collect liquids escaping from the drilling or workover rig and this additional fluid will not cause a breach of the temporary pit.

The temporary pit will not be used to vent or flare gas and the volume of the temporary drilling pit, including freeboard, will not exceed 10 acre-feet.

# **Temporary Pit Operating and Maintenance Plan**

The operator will maintain and operate the pit in accordance with the following plan to contain liquids and solids and maintain the integrity of the liner to prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment.

If feasible, the operator will recycle, reuse or reclaim all drilling fluids in the temporary pit in a manner approved by division rules that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment. Re-use of drilling fluids and workover fluids (stimulation flow-back) for drilling and stimulation of subsequent wells is anticipated. If re-use is not possible, fluids will be sent to disposal at a division-approved facility.

The operator will not discharge into or store any hazardous waste in the pit.

If the pit develops a leak or if any penetration of the pit liner occurs above the liquid's surface, then the operator will repair the damage or initiate replacement of the liner within 48 hours of discovery or will seek a variance from the division district office within this time period.

If the pit develops a leak or if any penetration of the pit liner occurs below the liquid's surface, then the operator will remove all liquid above the damage or leak line within 48 hours of discovery. The operator will also notify the district division office (19.15.29 NMAC) within this same 48 hours of the discovery and repair the damage or replace the pit liner.

The operator will ensure that the drilling contractor installs and uses a header, diverter or other hardware that prevents damage to the liner by erosion, fluid jets or impact from installation and removal of hoses or pipes during injection or withdrawal of liquids.

During construction, the operator or qualified contractor will install diversion ditches and berms around the pit as necessary to prevent the collection of surface water run-on. As outlined in the Construction and Design Plan, during drilling operations, the edge of the temporary pit adjacent to the drilling or workover rig may not have run-on protection if the operator is using the temporary pit to collect liquids escaping from the drilling or workover rig and run-on will not result in a breach of the temporary pit.

The operator will maintain on site an oil absorbent boom to contain and remove oil from the pit's surface.

The operator will only discharge fluids or mineral solids (including cement) generated or used during the drilling, completion, or workover processes into the pit.

The operator will maintain the temporary pit free of miscellaneous solid waste or debris. Immediately after cessation of drilling or a workover operation, the operator will remove any visible or measurable layer of oil from the surface of the pit.

The operator will maintain at least two feet of freeboard for the temporary pit, except under extenuating circumstances, which will be noted on the pit inspection log as described below.

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The operator will inspect the temporary pit containing drilling fluids daily while the drilling rig or workover rig is on site. After the rigs have left the site, the operator will inspect the pit weekly as long as liquids are present in the pit. The operator will maintain a log of the inspections. The operator will make the log available to the division district office upon request.

The operator will remove all free drilling fluids from the surface of the temporary pit within 60 days from the date that the last drilling or workover rig associated with the pit permit is released. The operator will note the date of this release upon Form C-105 or C-103 upon well or workover completion. The operator may request an extension up to two months from the division district office as long as this additional time does not exceed the temporary pit life span (Subsection R of 19.15.17.7 NMAC).

# **Temporary Pit In-Place Closure Plan**

The wastes in the temporary pit are destined for in place burial at the permitted location. However, a transmittal letter may notify OCD that drilling waste from a nearby site on the same lease may be placed in the temporary pit (e.g. placed in the drilling or fluids cells of the temporary pit). A notice will include the name of the nearby well, the date that the drilling or workover rig moved from the temporary pit, an affirmation that the temporary pit will be closed in conformance with the mandates of the Rule, including the mandated lifetime of the pit.

The operator will not begin closure operations without approval of the closure plan submitted with the permit application.

#### Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstration

Compliance with siting criteria is described in the site-specific information appended to the C-144.

### **Proof of Surface Owner Notice**

The application package was transmitted to the BLM or State Land Office via email, which serves as notification that the operator intends on-site burial of solids. For private surface owners, this application package was delivered by email, US Mail or by hand delivery.

### **Construction/Design Plan of Temporary Pit**

The design and construction protocols for the temporary pit are provided in the design and construction plan and in Plates 1-2. The optional drainage system described in the design and construction plan is not shown on the Plates but can be important element of the closure plan.

#### **General Protocols and Procedures**

- All free liquids from the pit will be recycled or disposed in a manner consistent with OCD Rules.
- Residual free drilling or workover liquids will be removed from the pit within 60 days of release of the last drilling or workover rig associated with the relevant pit permit..
- The residual drilling mud and cuttings will be stabilized to a capacity sufficient to support the 4-foot thick soil cover.
- The residual pit solids will not be mixed at a ratio greater than 1 part pit solids to 3 parts dry earth material (e.g. subsoil).
- The pit will not be closed until the stabilized pit contents pass the paint filter liquids test.

## Waste Material Sampling Plan

Prior to closure, an five-point (minimum) composite sample of the residual solids in the drilling cell of the temporary pit and a five-point composite sample of any solids in the fluids cell of the temporary pit will be tested in a laboratory to demonstrate that the stabilized material will not exceed the contaminant concentrations listed in Table II of 19.15.17.13 NMAC after being mixed in a ratio of 3:1 with the earth material to be used for stabilization of the residual cuttings and mud. A volumetric average of the laboratory result from the drilling cell solids and any fluid cells solids will be used to determine compliance with the standards of Table II.

In-place burial is the selected on-site disposal alternative.

If a concentration of a contaminant within the material mixed at a ratio not exceeding 3:1 is higher than the concentration given in Table II, closure will proceed in accordance with Subsection C of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.

In the event that on-site closure standards cannot be achieved, the operator will remove the solid pit contents and transfer to the following division-approved facility, specifically:

R360 or Sundance Services

#### **Protocols and Procedures for Earthwork**

Stabilization of the residual cuttings and mud is accomplished by mixing dry earth material within the temporary pit footprint. After stabilization the operator or qualified contractor will:

- 1. Place a geomembrane cover over the sloping surface of the stabilized waste material. It will be placed in a manner so as to prevent infiltration of water and so that infiltrated water does not collect on the geomembrane cover after the upper soil cover has been placed.
- 2. Use a geomembrane cover made of 20-mil string reinforced LLDPE liner
- 3. Over the sloping, stabilized material and liner, place the <u>Soil Cover</u> of:
  - a. at least 3-feet of compacted, uncontaminated, non-waste containing earthen fill with chloride concentrations less than 600 mg/kg as analyzed by EPA Method 300.0.
  - b. either the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater, over the 3-foot earth material.
- 4. Contour the cover to
  - a. blend with the surrounding topography
  - b. prevent erosion of the cover and
  - c. prevent ponding over the cover.

#### **Closure Notice**

The operator will notify the surface owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the operator plans closure operations at least 72 hours, but not more than one week, prior to any closure operation. The notice will include the well name, API number, and location. Notification of the State Land Office or BLM as surface owner's representatives will be accomplished via email if a variance is granted by OCD.

After approval for in-place burial, the operator shall notify the district office verbally and in writing at least 72 hours but not more than one week before any closure operation. Notice will include the operator's name and the location of the temporary pit. The location will include unit letter, section number, township and range. If the location is associated with a well, then the well's name, number and API number will be included.

Should onsite burial be on private land, the operator will file a deed notice including exact location of the burial with the county clerk of the county where the onsite burial is located.

#### **Closure Report**

Within 60 days of closure completion, the operator will submit a

i. closure report on form C-144, with necessary attachments

- ii. a certification that all information in the report and attachments is correct, that the operator has complied with all applicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved closure plan
- a plat of the pit location on form C-105
  if burial includes solids derived from a nearby well on the same lease, the report will list the name, API # and location of the well(s) from which the solids originated

Unless the permit transmittal letter requests an alternative marker to comply with surface landowner specifications, the operator will place at the center of an onsite burial a steel marker that

- is not less than four inches in diameter
- is placed at the bottom of a three-foot deep hole (minimum) that is filled with cement to secure the marker
- is at least four feet above mean ground level
- permanently displays the operator name, lease name, well number, unit letter, section, township and range in welded or stamped legible letters/numbers

### **Timing of Closure**

The operator will close the temporary pit within 6 months from the date the drilling rig was released from the first well using the pit. This date will be noted on form C-105 or C-103 filed with the division upon the well's completion (or re-completion in the case of a workover).

### **Reclamation and Re-vegetation Plan**

In addition to the area of the in-place burial, the operator will reclaim the surface impacted by the temporary pit, including access roads associated with the pit, to a safe and stable condition that blends with the surrounding undisturbed area including:

Areas not reclaimed as described herein due to their use in production or drilling operations will be stabilized and maintained to minimize dust and erosion. This includes the area of the temporary pit if a transmittal letter to OCD proposes an alternative to the re-vegetation or recontouring requirement with

- a demonstration that the proposed alternative provides equal or better prevention of erosion, and protection of fresh water, public health and the environment
- written documentation that the alternative is agreed upon by the surface owner.

As stated above, the soil cover for burial in-place

- A. consists of a minimum of three feet of non-waste containing, uncontaminated, earthen material with chloride concentrations less than 600 mg/kg (or background concentration) as analyzed by EPA Method 300.0 placed over the liner and stabilized solids
- B. is capped by the background thickness of topsoil or 1-foot of suitable material to establish vegetation, whichever is greater
- C. blends into surrounding topography
- D. is graded to prevent ponding and to minimize erosion

For all areas disturbed by the closure process that will not be used for production operations or future drilling, the operator will:

- I. Replace topsoils and subsoils to their original relative positions
- II. Grade so as to achieve erosion control, long-term stability and preservation of surface water flow patterns
- III. Reseed in the first favorable growing season following closure

Re-vegetation and reclamation plans imposed by the surface owner will be outlined in communications with the OCD.

The operator will notify the division when the surface grading work element of reclamation is complete.

The operator will notify the division when the site meets the surface owner's requirements or exhibits a uniform vegetative cover that reflects a life-form ratio of plus or minus fifty percent (50%) of pre-disturbance levels and a total percent plant cover of at least seventy percent (70%) of pre-disturbance levels, excluding noxious weeds.