

R. T. HICKS CONSULTANTS, LTD.

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January 29, 2016

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

RE: Yates Petroleum Corporation, Persimmon BSS State Com 4H Drilling Pit
MINOR MODIFICATION

Dear Dr. Oberding and Ms. Jones:

On behalf of Yates Petroleum Corporation, R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd. is pleased to submit for the above-referenced approved pit permit:

- a modified drilling pit design
- a new C-144 and
- revised plans to accompany the revised protocols

Please note the following:

1. The pit will accept cuttings from the Persimmon 4H and the Nervosa 1H, as they are about 30 feet apart and will be drilled sequentially.
2. The Design/Construction Plan, O&M Plan and Closure Plan are verbatim from previously-submitted temporary pit permits (Wolverine and Calabash)
3. This letter is copied to the State Land Office to re-new our notification of the operator's intent to use on-site burial.
4. We are submitting two variance requests that OCD and the SLO have approved in the past regarding e-mail notification of closure and transfer of waste to a nearby pit that is not on the same lease. Please accept these variances for all YPC submissions for 2016.

All of the residual fluids from these two wells will be transferred for re-use to either the nearby Calabash BWC State 1H or Nectarine BSQ State Com 1H.

Sincerely,
R.T. Hicks Consultants



Randall Hicks
Principal

Copy: Yates Petroleum Corporation
Ed Martin, State Land Office

District I
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240
District II
811 S. First St., 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
Revised June 6, 2013

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.

Pit, Below-Grade Tank, or
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.

1.
Operator: Yates Petroleum Corporation OGRID #: 25575
Address: 105 S. 4th Street, Artesia, NM 88210
Facility or well name: Persimmon BSS State Com 4H
API Number: 30-025-41801 OCD Permit Number: _____
U/L or Qtr/Qtr H Section 24 Township 21S Range 33E County: Lea
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude 32 27' 53.40" Longitude - 103 31' 11.69" NAD: 1927 1983 Staked Location
Surface Owner: Federal State Private Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

2.
 Pit: 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 29,398 bbl Dimensions: L 250 x W 75 x D 11 ft Drilling

3.
 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 _____

4.
 Alternative Method:
Submittal of an exception request is required. Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

5.
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 _____

6.

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)

7.

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

8.

Variations 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:

- 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.

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. Siting criteria does not apply to drying pads or above-grade tanks.*

General siting

Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of a low chloride temporary pit or below-grade tank.

- 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

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**

- Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality

- Yes No

Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. **(Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 7**

- Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division

- Yes No

Within an unstable area. **(Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 8**

- Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map

- Yes No

Within a 100-year floodplain. **(Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 9**

- FEMA map

- Yes No

Below Grade Tanks

Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, significant watercourse, lake bed, sinkhole, wetland or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).

- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site

- Yes No

Within 200 horizontal feet of a spring or a fresh water well used for public or livestock consumption;.

- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site

- Yes No

Temporary Pit using Low Chloride Drilling Fluid (maximum chloride content 15,000 mg/liter)

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.)

- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site

- Yes No

Within 300 feet from a occupied permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.

- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image

- 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

<p>Within 100 feet of a wetland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><u>Temporary Pit Non-low chloride drilling fluid</u></p>	
<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image. See Figure 4 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>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;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site See Figures 1 & 2 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 300 feet of a wetland. See Figure 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
<p><u>Permanent Pit or Multi-Well Fluid Management Pit</u></p>	
<p>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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 1000 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 500 feet of a wetland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

10.

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: _____

11.

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 documents are 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 19.15.17.9 NMAC 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: _____

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 documents are attached.

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

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 Fluid Management Pit
 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

14. **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 C 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 H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

15. **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 require justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency. Please refer to 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance.

Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of the buried waste. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Ground water is between 25-50 feet below the bottom of the buried waste - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Ground water is more than 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
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). - 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. - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 300 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 incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended.

- Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality

Yes No

Within the area overlying a subsurface mine.

- Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division

Yes No

Within an unstable area.

- Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map

Yes No

Within a 100-year floodplain.

- FEMA map

Yes No

16.

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 19.15.17.11 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 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
- Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

17.

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): Travis Hahn Title: Land Regulatory Agent

Signature:  Date: January 29, 2016

e-mail address: thahn@yatespetroleum.com Telephone: 575 748 4120

18.

OCD Approval: Permit Application (including closure plan) Closure Plan (only) OCD Conditions (see attachment)

OCD Representative Signature: _____ **Approval Date:** _____

Title: _____ **OCD Permit 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 Alternative Closure Method Waste Removal (Closed-loop systems only)
- If different from approved plan, please explain.

21.

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 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 _____ NAD: 1927 1983

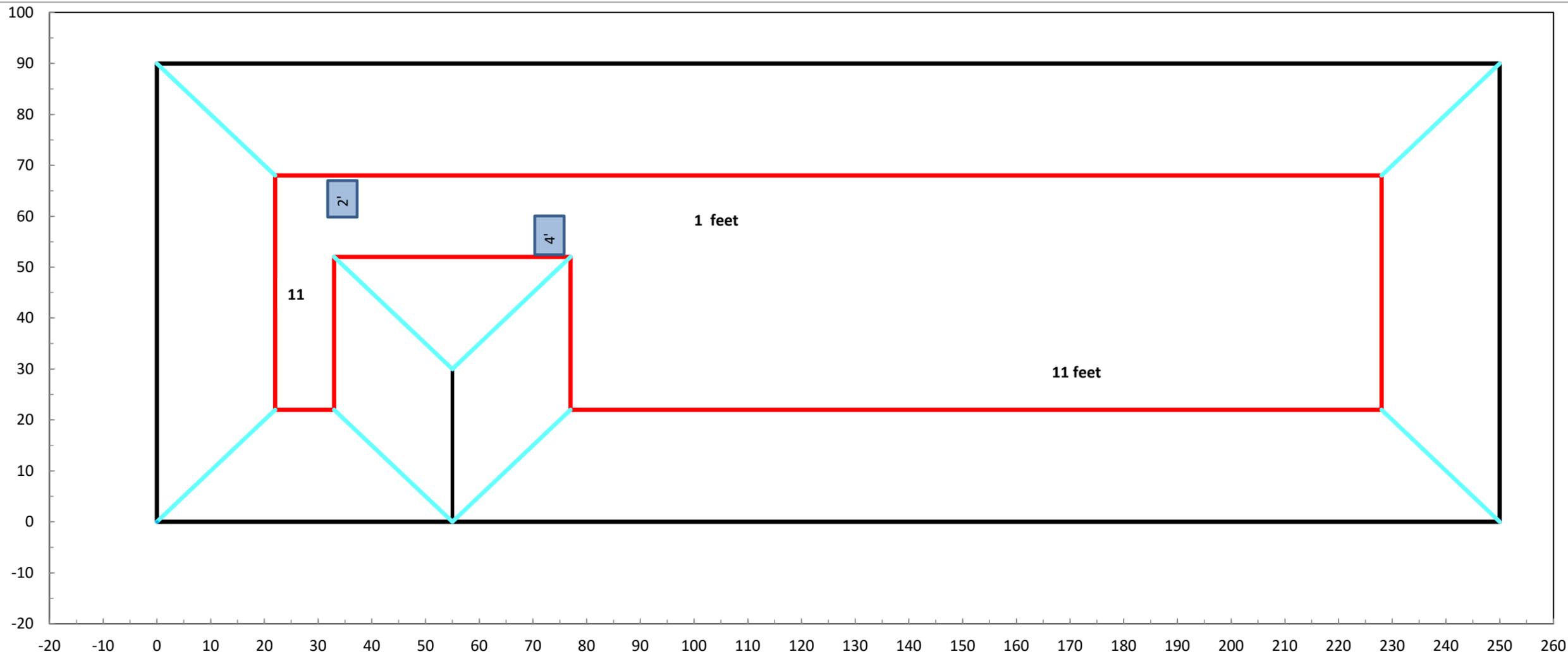
Operator Closure Certification:

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

Name (Print): _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

e-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____



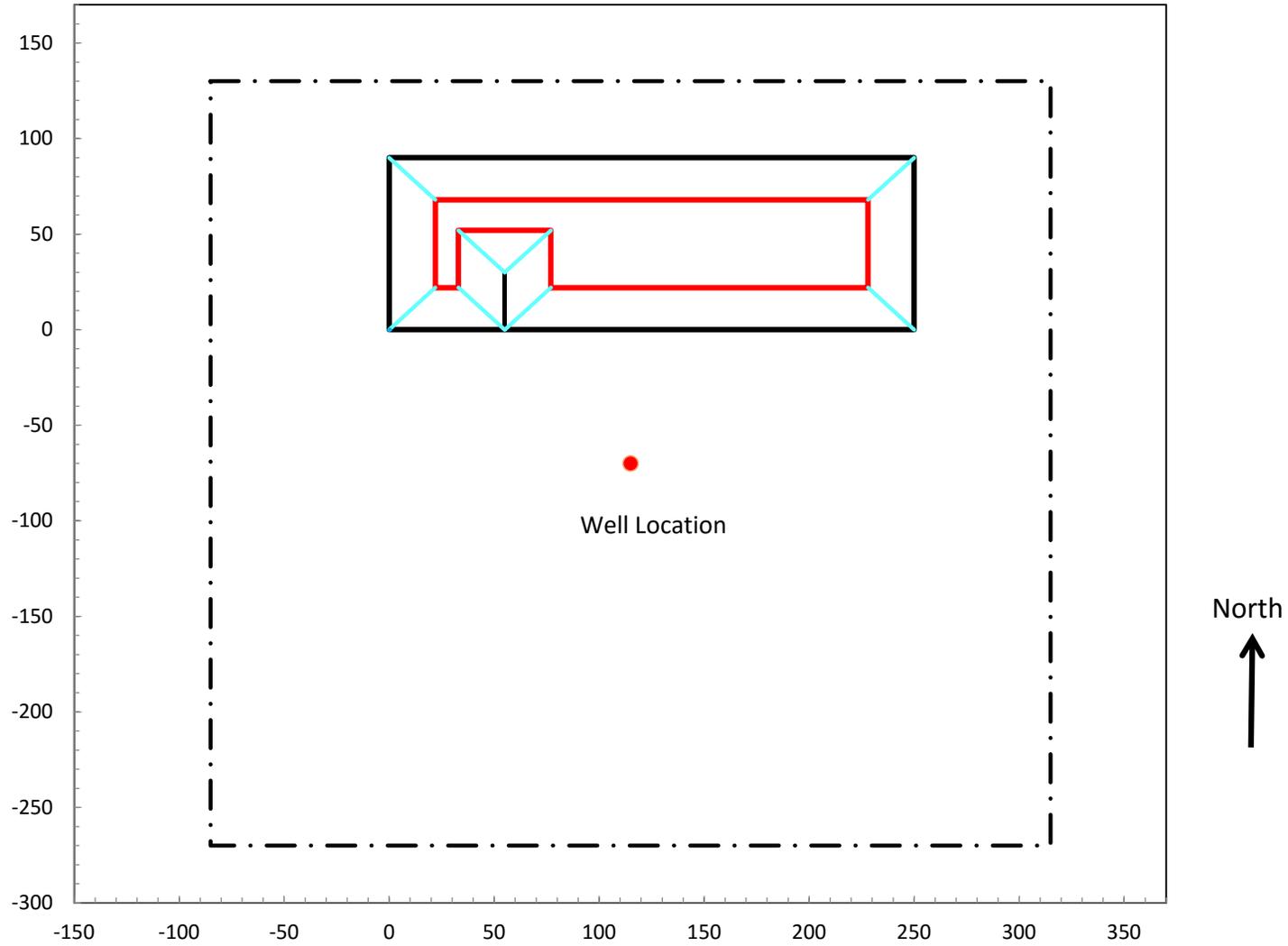
North

speed bump



Drilling Cell Dimensions in Feet		Fresh/ Cut Brine Cell Dimensions in Feet		Temporary Pit Dimensions		
Total Width (left right)	250.0	Total Width (left right)	0.0	Total Width (left right)	250.0 Feet	
Total Length (up down)	90.0	Total Length (up down)	70.0	Total Length (up down)	75.0	
Depth Discharge Side	11.0	Depth	10	Depth Far Side	11.0	
Depth Far Side (Discharge)	11.0	Pit Slopes (Rise to Run)	1.00 to 2.00	Depth Rig Side	11.0	
Depth Far Side (Suction)	11.0	Distance from Drilling Cell	-85.0	Drilling Cell		
Depth Suction Side	11.0	Brine Cell Dimensions in Feet		Total Capacity	29,398.13 bbls	
Length of Divider	30.0	Total Width (left right)	0.0	Solids Capacity 4' Freeboard	87,277.33 cu ft	
Divider Width	0.0	Total Length (up down)	70.0	Total Drilling Solids Estimate	52,725.59 cu ft	
Width of discharge floor	151.0	Depth	10	RT Hicks Consultants Albuquerque, NM	Pit Design	Plate 1
Width of suction floor	11.0	Pit Slopes (Rise to Run)	1.00 to 2.00			
Pit Slopes (Rise to Run)	1.00 to 2.00	Distance from Drilling Cell	-85.0	YPC Persimmon 4H/Nervosa 1H		January 2016
Distance from well to pit edge	70					

RT Hicks Consultants Albuquerque, NM	Pit Design	Plate 1
	YPC Persimmon 4H/Nervosa 1H	January 2016



R.T. Hicks Consultants
 901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW
 Suite F-142
 Albuquerque, N. M. 87104

Drawing of Temporary Pit and Well in Relation to Pad Boundary

Plate 2

YPC Persimmon 4H/Nervosa 1H

January 2016

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 may 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) unless in the transmittal letter the operator requested an alternative to the slope requirement 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 least 18 inches deep

C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

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.

C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

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.

C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

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 **Soil Cover** 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

C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

- 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
- iii. 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

C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

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.