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30-025-40621

August 4, 2012

**Modified C-144 Permit for Drying Pad
Caza Ridge State 14 No. 3H
Unit O, Sec. 14, T23S, R34E, Lea County NM**



**Prepared for
Caza Operating, LLC
200 N. Loraine, Suite 1550
Midland, Texas 79701**

**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

August 4, 2012

Mr. Geoffrey Leking
NMOCD District
1625 French Drive
Hobbs, NM 88240
Via E-Mail and FEDEX

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RE: Caza Ridge 14 State Com #3H, C-144 Permit Modification

Dear Geoff:

This is a modification of the Form C-144 CLEZ (OCD Permit Number PI 04744) for the utilization of a drying pad to manage the drill cuttings. Enclosed please find:

1. A C-144 for the proposed drying pad.
2. A design plan for a drying pad. Caza will follow the prescriptive mandates for a temporary pit, as the Pit Rule is relatively silent with respect to exactly how a drying pad should be constructed.
3. Figures showing the design of the drying pad.
4. An operation and maintenance plan for the drying pad. The Pit Rule is relatively silent on exactly how to operate a drying pad.
5. An excavation and removal closure plan for the drying pad.

The enclosed design plan demonstrates that the proposed drying pad meets the criteria set forth in the Pit Rule for design and construction:

H. Closed-loop systems.

- (1) The operator shall design and construct a closed-loop system to ensure the confinement of oil, gas or water to prevent uncontrolled releases.
- (2) An operator of a closed-loop system that uses temporary pits for solids management ...
- (3) An operator of a closed-loop system with drying pads shall design and construct the drying pads to include the following:
 - (a) appropriate liners that prevent the contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment;
 - (b) sumps to facilitate the collection of liquids derived from drill cuttings; and
 - (c) berms that prevent run-on of surface water or fluids.

The enclosed closure plan demonstrates that the proposed drying pad meets the criteria set forth in the Pit Rule for closure and reclamation:

D. Closure methods for closed-loop systems. An operator of a closed-loop system that uses a temporary pit, in lieu of a drying pad, shall comply with the closure requirements for temporary pits specified in Subsection B of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.

The operator of a closed loop system that uses a drying pad shall close the system by one of the following methods.

(1) Waste removal.

(a) The operator shall transfer the waste and the drying pad liner to a division-approved facility.

(b) The operator shall substantially restore and re-vegetate the impacted area's surface in accordance with Subsections G, H and I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.

G. Reclamation of pit locations, on-site burial locations and drying pad locations.

(1) Once the operator has closed a pit or trench or is no longer using a drying pad, below-grade tank or an area associated with a closed-loop system, pit, trench or below-grade tank, the operator shall reclaim the pit location, drying pad location, below-grade tank location or trench location and all areas associated with the closed-loop system, pit, trench or below-grade tank including associated access roads to a safe and stable condition that blends with the surrounding undisturbed area. The operator shall substantially restore the impacted surface area to the condition that existed prior to oil and gas operations by placement of the soil cover as provided in Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC, recontour the location and associated areas to a contour that approximates the original contour and blends with the surrounding topography and re-vegetate according to Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.

H. Soil cover designs.

(1) The soil cover for closures where the operator has removed the pit contents or remediated the contaminated soil to the division's satisfaction shall consist of the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater.

(2) The soil cover for burial-in-place or trench burial shall consist of a minimum of four feet of compacted, non-waste containing, earthen material. The soil cover shall include either the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater.

(3) The operator shall construct the soil cover to the site's existing grade and prevent ponding of water and erosion of the cover material.

I. Re-vegetation.

(1) The first growing season after the operator closes a pit or trench or is no longer using a drying pad, below-grade tank or an area associated with a closed-loop system, pit or below-grade tank including access roads, the operator shall seed or plant the disturbed areas.

(2) The operator shall accomplish seeding by drilling on the contour whenever practical or by other division-approved methods. The operator shall obtain vegetative cover that equals 70% of the native perennial vegetative cover (un-impacted by overgrazing, fire or other intrusion damaging to native vegetation) consisting of at least three native plant species, including at least one grass, but not including noxious weeds, and maintain that cover through two successive growing seasons. During the two growing seasons that prove viability, there shall be no artificial irrigation of the vegetation.

(3) The operator shall repeat seeding or planting until it successfully achieves the required vegetative cover.

(4) When conditions are not favorable for the establishment of vegetation, such as periods of drought, the division may allow the operator to delay seeding or planting until soil moisture conditions become favorable or may require the operator to use additional cultural techniques such as mulching, fertilizing, irrigating, fencing or other practices.

(5) The operator shall notify the division when it has seeded or planted and when it successfully achieves re-vegetation.

Soon after the spud date, we will provide NMOCD with a second modification to the permit. This modification will include all of the information required for trench burial of the dry cuttings and mud. For now, we ask that OCD quickly review this application that calls for using a drying pad in lieu of haul-off bins with removal of the solids to a landfill as identified in the closure plan.

I thank you in advance for your efforts. For future submissions, we will provide OCD with more time between permit submission and the proposed spud date.

Sincerely,
R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale T. Littlejohn".

Dale T. Littlejohn
Environmental and Natural Resource Consultant

Copy: Richard Wright, Caza Operating, LLC

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C-144 and Supplemental Information For Drying Pad

R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.

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

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

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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 August 1, 2011

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

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

- Type of action: Permit of a pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method
 Closure of a pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method
 Modification to an existing permit
 Closure plan only submitted for an existing permitted or non-permitted pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method

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

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

1.
Operator: Caza Operating LLC OGRID #: 249099
Address: 200 N. Loraine, Suite 1550, Midland Texas 79701
Facility or well name: Caza Ridge 14 State Com #3H
API Number: 30-025-40621 OCD Permit Number: PI - 04744
U/L or Qtr/Qtr O Section 14 Township 23S Range 34.E County: Lea
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude 32.298142 Longitude -103.438222 NAD: 1927 1983
Surface Owner: Federal State Private Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

2.
 Pit: Subsection F or G of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
Temporary: Drilling Workover
 Permanent Emergency Cavitation P&A
 Lined Unlined Liner type: Thickness _____ mil LLDPE HDPE PVC Other _____
 String-Reinforced
Liner Seams: Welded Factory Other _____ Volume: _____ bbl Dimensions: L _____ x W _____ x D _____

3.
 Closed-loop System: Subsection H of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
Type of Operation: P&A Drilling a new well Workover or Drilling (Applies to activities which require prior approval of a permit or notice of intent)
 Drying Pad Above Ground Steel Tanks Haul-off Bins Other _____
 Lined Unlined Liner type: Thickness 20 mil LLDPE HDPE PVC Other _____
Liner Seams: Welded Factory Other _____

4.
 Below-grade tank: Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
Volume: _____ bbl Type of fluid: _____
Tank Construction material: _____
 Secondary containment with leak detection Visible sidewalls, liner, 6-inch lift and automatic overflow shut-off
 Visible sidewalls and liner Visible sidewalls only Other _____
Liner type: Thickness _____ mil HDPE PVC Other _____

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

6.

Fencing: Subsection D of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (*Applies to permanent pits, temporary pits, and below-grade tanks*)

- Chain link, six feet in height, two strands of barbed wire at top (*Required if located within 1000 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church*)
- Four foot height, four strands of barbed wire evenly spaced between one and four feet
- Alternate. Please specify _____

7.

Netting: Subsection E of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (*Applies to permanent pits and permanent open top tanks*)

- Screen Netting Other _____
- Monthly inspections (If netting or screening is not physically feasible)

8.

Signs: Subsection C of 19.15.17.11 NMAC

- 12"x 24", 2" lettering, providing Operator's name, site location, and emergency telephone numbers
- Signed in compliance with 19.15.16.8 NMAC

9.

Administrative Approvals and Exceptions:

Justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency are required. Please refer to 19.15.17 NMAC for guidance.

Please check a box if one or more of the following is requested, if not leave blank:

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

10.

Siting Criteria (regarding permitting): 19.15.17.10 NMAC

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

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

11.

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

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

- Hydrogeologic Report (Below-grade Tanks) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
- Hydrogeologic Data (Temporary and Emergency Pits) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (2) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
- Design Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC
- Closure Plan (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC

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

12.

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

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

- Geologic and Hydrogeologic Data (only for on-site closure) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (3) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9
- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations (only for on-site closure) - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
- Design Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC
- Closure Plan (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC

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

Previously Approved Operating and Maintenance Plan API Number: _____ (Applies only to closed-loop system that use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure)

13.

Permanent Pits Permit Application Checklist: Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC

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

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

14.

Proposed Closure: 19.15.17.13 NMAC

Instructions: Please complete the applicable boxes, Boxes 14 through 18, in regards to the proposed closure plan.

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

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

15.

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

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

16.

Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Above Ground Steel Tanks or Haul-off Bins Only: (19.15.17.13.D NMAC)

Instructions: Please identify the facility or facilities for the disposal of liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings. Use attachment if more than two facilities are required.

Disposal Facility Name: _____ Disposal Facility Permit Number: _____

Disposal Facility Name: _____ Disposal Facility Permit Number: _____

Will any of the proposed closed-loop system operations and associated activities occur on or in areas that *will not* be used for future service and operations?

Yes (If yes, please provide the information below) No

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

- Soil Backfill and Cover Design Specifications - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

17.

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

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

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

18.

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

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

19. **Operator Application Certification:**
 I hereby certify that the information submitted with this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name (Print): Richard Wrist Title: Operations Manager
 Signature: Richard L. Wrist Date: 8-4-12
 e-mail address: r.wrist@cazapetro.com Telephone: 432-682-7424 X-1006

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

OCD Representative Signature: _____ Approval Date: _____
 Title: _____ OCD Permit Number: _____

21. **Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion):** Subsection K of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
Instructions: Operators are required to obtain an approved closure plan prior to implementing any closure activities and submitting the closure report. The closure report is required to be submitted to the division within 60 days of the completion of the closure activities. Please do not complete this section of the form until an approved closure plan has been obtained and the closure activities have been completed.

Closure Completion Date: _____

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

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

Disposal Facility Name: _____ Disposal Facility Permit Number: _____
 Disposal Facility Name: _____ Disposal Facility Permit Number: _____

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

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

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

Proof of Closure Notice (surface owner and division)
 Proof of Deed Notice (required for on-site closure)
 Plot Plan (for on-site closures and temporary pits)
 Confirmation Sampling Analytical Results (if applicable)
 Waste Material Sampling Analytical Results (required for on-site closure)
 Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number
 Soil Backfilling and Cover Installation
 Re-vegetation Application Rates and Seeding Technique
 Site Reclamation (Photo Documentation)

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

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

Name (Print): _____ Title: _____
 Signature: _____ Date: _____
 e-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____

Drying Pad Design Plan

The operator will ensure that fluid reuse or fluid disposal will be conducted in a manner approved by the division that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment.

Design Plan- Operator Instructions

1. The design will contain liquids and solids and prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment.
2. The design prevents run-on of surface water.
3. The operator will post an upright sign in compliance with 19.15.16.8 NMAC. The operator will post the sign in a manner and location such that a person can easily read the legend. The sign will provide the following information: the operator's name; the location of the site by quarter-quarter or unit letter, section, township and range; and emergency telephone numbers.
4. The drying pad will be completely fenced at all times excluding drilling and workover/stimulation operations. During drilling or workover operations, the operator is not required to fence the edge of the drying pad adjacent to the drilling or workover rig.
5. The operator will maintain the fences in good repair from beginning of drying pad use to the time of drying pad closure.
6. The drilling and lining contractor will provide for devices to protect the liner from any force or mechanical damage at any point of discharge into or suction from the lined drying pad.
7. The operator or operator's representative will inspect the drying pad before and after lining to ensure that construction of the drying pad:
 - a. Has not penetrated any solution features such as fissures, tubes or caves
 - b. Can prevent unauthorized releases and ensure the confinement of liquids
 - c. Is consistent with the design criteria of Plate 1 and 2 or any agreed alteration to meet field conditions
 - d. Meets the prescriptive mandates outlined below

Construction Plan- Construction Contractor Instructions

- A. Prior to constructing the drying pad the qualified contractor will examine Plate 1 and 2 and provide the operator (or operator's representative) with an affirmation of their understanding of the design.
- B. The contractor will strip and stockpile the topsoil for use as the final cover or fill at the time of closure.
- C. The drying pad will have a properly constructed foundation and interior slopes consisting of a firm, unyielding base, smooth and free of rocks, debris, sharp edges or irregularities to prevent the liner's rupture or tear.
- D. The interior slopes of the drying pad will be no steeper than 1.5 horizontal feet to 1 vertical foot (1.5H:1V).
- E. As necessary, a berm or ditch will surround the drying pad to prevent run-on of surface water.
- F. The exterior walls of the drying pad will be two feet above the lowest natural grade before removal of topsoil and leveling the pad.

Construction Plan – Liner Contractor Instructions

- I. Install a geomembrane liner in drying pad, with a double liner in the sump.
- II. The geomembrane liner will consist of 20-mil string reinforced LLDPE or equivalent liner material that the appropriate division district office approves. The geomembrane liner will be composed of an impervious, synthetic material that is resistant to petroleum hydrocarbons, salts and acidic and alkaline solutions. The liner material will be resistant to ultraviolet light. Liner compatibility will comply with EPA SW-846 method 9090A.
- III. Minimize liner seams and orient them up and down, not across a slope.
- IV. Use factory welded seams where possible.
- V. Prior to any field seaming, the contractor will overlap liners four to six inches and orient seams parallel to the line of maximum slope, *i.e.*, oriented along, not across, the slope. The contractor will minimize the number of welded field seams in corners and irregularly shaped areas. Field seams will be welded by qualified personnel.
- VI. Avoid excessive stress-strain on the liner.
- VII. Geotextile will be placed under the liner where needed to reduce localized stress-strain or protuberances that may otherwise compromise the liner's integrity.
- VIII. Anchor the edges of all liners in the bottom of a compacted earth-filled trench. The anchor trench will be at least 18 inches deep.
- IX. Install any devices used to ensure that the liner is protected from any force or mechanical damage at any point of discharge into or suction from the lined drying pad.
- x. Fence the drying pad in a manner that prevents unauthorized access. The contractor will fence the drying pad to exclude livestock with a four-foot fence that has at least four strands of barbed wire evenly spaced in the interval between one foot and four feet above ground level.

Operating and Maintenance Plan

Solids from the closed-loop system discharge into a steel bin. As solids accumulate, a backhoe removes the solids and any entrained liquid to the drying pad.

The operator will operate and maintain the drying pad to contain liquids and solids. The operator will maintain the integrity of the liner to prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment as described below.

1. If feasible, the operator will recycle, reuse or reclaim of all fluids in the drying pad sump 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.
2. If re-use is not possible, fluids will be sent to disposal at division-approved facility.
3. The operator will not discharge into or store any hazardous waste in the drying pad.
4. If the drying pad liner integrity is compromised, or if any penetration of the liner occurs above the liquid's surface of the sump, then the operator will notify the appropriate division district office within 48 hours (phone or email) of the discovery and repair the damage or replace the liner.
5. If the drying pad develops a leak or if any penetration of the liner occurs below the liquid's surface in the sump, then the operator will remove all liquid above the damage or leak line within 48 hours, notify the district office within 48 hours (phone or email) of the discovery and repair the damage or replace the liner.
6. The operator will install diversion ditches and berms around the drying pad as necessary to prevent the collection of surface water run-on.
7. No fluids used or generated during the drilling or workover (stimulation) process will be discharged to the drying pad.
8. The operator will maintain the drying pad free of miscellaneous solid waste or debris.
9. The operator will inspect the drying pad at least daily during drilling and stimulation to ensure compliance with this plan.
10. After drilling and stimulation operations, the operator will inspect the drying pad weekly so long as free liquids drain to the sump.
11. The operator will maintain a log of such inspections and make the log available for the district office's review upon request.
12. The operator will file a copy of the log with the appropriate division district office when the operator closes the drying pad.
13. The operator will note the date of the drilling and stimulation rig's release on form C-105 or C-103 upon completion of applicable activities.

Closure Plan- General Conditions

The preferred closure alternative is to excavate and remove the waste to a NMOCD-approved facility.

Notifications and Reports

- The operator will notify the landowner by certified mail, return receipt requested, prior to closure, that the operator plans to close the drying pad.
- The operator of the drying pad will notify the division district office verbally or by email at least 72 hours, but not more than one week, prior to any closure operation. The notice will include the operator's name and the location to be closed by unit letter, section, township and range, well's name, number, the API number.
- Within 60 days of closure completion, the operator will submit a closure report on form C-144, with necessary attachments to document all closure activities including sampling results; information required by 19.15.17 NMAC; a plot plan; and details on back-filling, capping and covering, where applicable.

Protocols and Procedures

- The operator of the drying pad will remove all liquids from the drying pad prior to closure and either:
 - Dispose of the liquids in a division-approved facility, or
 - Recycle, reuse or reclaim the liquids in a manner approved by the district office.
- The operator will close the drying pad within six months of the date that the operator releases the rig. An extension not to exceed three months may be requested of the district office.
- The operator will close the drying pad by an earlier date than the division requires because of imminent danger to fresh water, public health or the environment.
- In the closure report, the operator will certify that all information in the report and attachments is correct and that the operator has complied with all applicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved closure plan.
- The operator will provide a plat of the drying pad location on form C-105 with the closure report within 60 days of closing the drying pad.

Site Reclamation Plan

After the operator has closed the drying pad, the operator will reclaim the drying pad location and all areas associated with the drying pad, including associated access roads to a safe and stable condition that blends with the surrounding undisturbed area. The operator will substantially restore the impacted surface area to the condition that existed prior to oil and gas operations by placement of the soil cover as provided in Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC, re-contour the location and associated areas to a contour that approximates the original contour and blends with the surrounding topography and re-vegetate according to Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.

Soil Cover Design Plan

If the operator removes the drying pad contents or remediates any contaminated soil to the division's satisfaction the soil cover will consist of the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater.

The soil cover for the reclamation of the drying pad will consist of a minimum of four feet of compacted, non-waste containing, earthen material. The soil cover will include either the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater.

The operator will construct the soil cover to the site's existing grade and prevent ponding of water and erosion of the cover material.

Re-vegetation Plan

1. The first growing season after the operator closes the drying pad, including access roads, the operator will seed or plant the disturbed areas.
2. The operator will accomplish seeding by drilling on the contour whenever practical.
3. The operator will obtain vegetative cover that equals 70% of the native perennial vegetative cover (un-impacted by overgrazing, fire or other intrusion damaging to native vegetation).
4. The operator will follow surface owner mandates for the seed mixture and maintain that cover through two successive growing seasons.
5. During the two growing seasons that prove viability, there will be no artificial irrigation of the vegetation.
6. The operator will repeat seeding or planting until it successfully achieves the required vegetative cover.
7. If conditions are not favorable for the establishment of vegetation, such as periods of drought, the operator may request that the division allow the operator to delay seeding or planting until soil moisture conditions become favorable or may require the operator to use additional cultural techniques such as mulching, fertilizing, irrigating, fencing or other practices.
8. The operator will notify the division when it has seeded or planted and when it successfully achieves re-vegetation.

Excavation and Removal Closure Plan

Protocols and Procedures for Excavation and Removal

The operator will close the drying pad by excavating all contents and any synthetic liners that cannot be re-used and transferring those materials to one of the division-approved facilities listed below:

Controlled Recovery, Inc.	NM-01-0006
Lea Land, LLC	NM-01-0035

If the sampling program described below demonstrates that a release has not occurred or that any release does not exceed the concentrations specified in Subparagraph (b.ii) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.13 NMAC, then the operator will:

Drying Pad Closure Plan.

1. Backfill the drying pad excavation with compacted, non-waste containing, earthen material;
2. Construct a division-prescribed soil cover to existing grade as described in the Soil Cover Plan (above);
3. Re-contour and re vegetate the site as described in the Re-vegetation Plan (above).

Confirmation Sampling Plan for Excavation and Removal

The operator will test the soils beneath the drying pad after excavation to determine whether a release has occurred. To determine if a release has occurred, the operator and/or qualified contractor will collect, at a minimum:

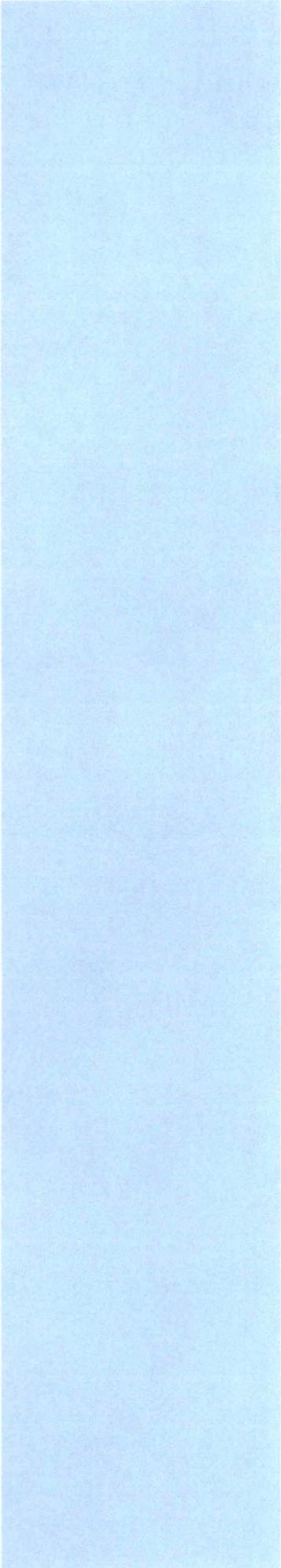
- A five point, composite sample and;
- Individual grab samples from any area that is wet, discolored or showing other evidence of a release

The purpose of this sampling is to demonstrate that:

- Benzene, as determined by EPA SW-846 method 8021B or 8260B does not exceed 0.2 mg/kg;
- Total BTEX, as determined by EPA SW-846 method 8021B or 8260B does not exceed 50 mg/kg;
- The GRO and DRO combined fraction, as determined by EPA SW-846 method 8015M, does not exceed 500 mg/kg;
- The TPH, as determined by EPA method 418.1 does not exceed 2,500 mg/kg; and
- Chloride, as determined by EPA method 300.1, does not exceed 1,000 mg/kg or the background concentration, whichever is greater.

Reporting

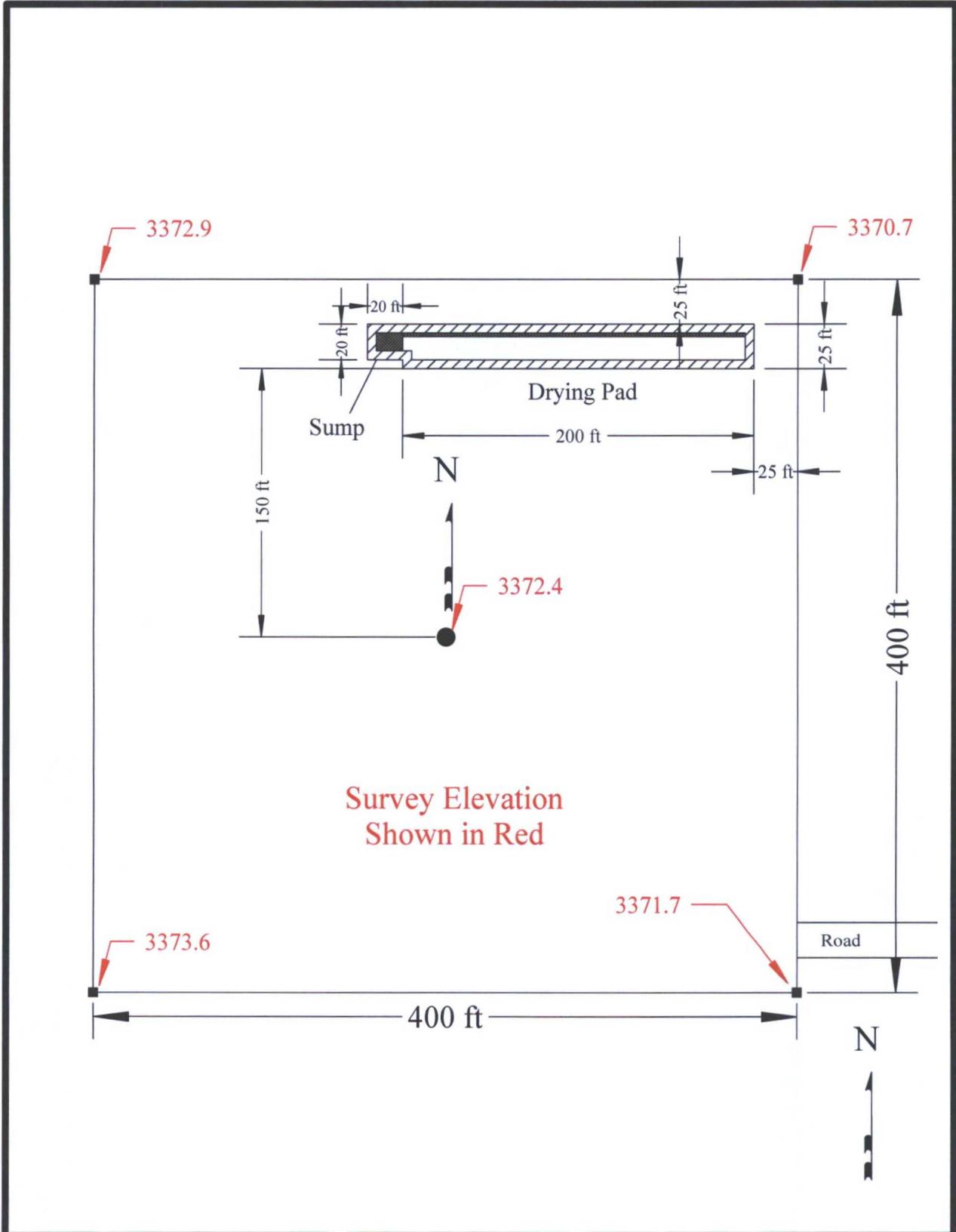
The operator shall notify the division of its results of on form C-141. If the operator or the division determines that a release has occurred, then the operator will comply with 19.15.29 NMAC and 19.15.30 NMAC, as appropriate.



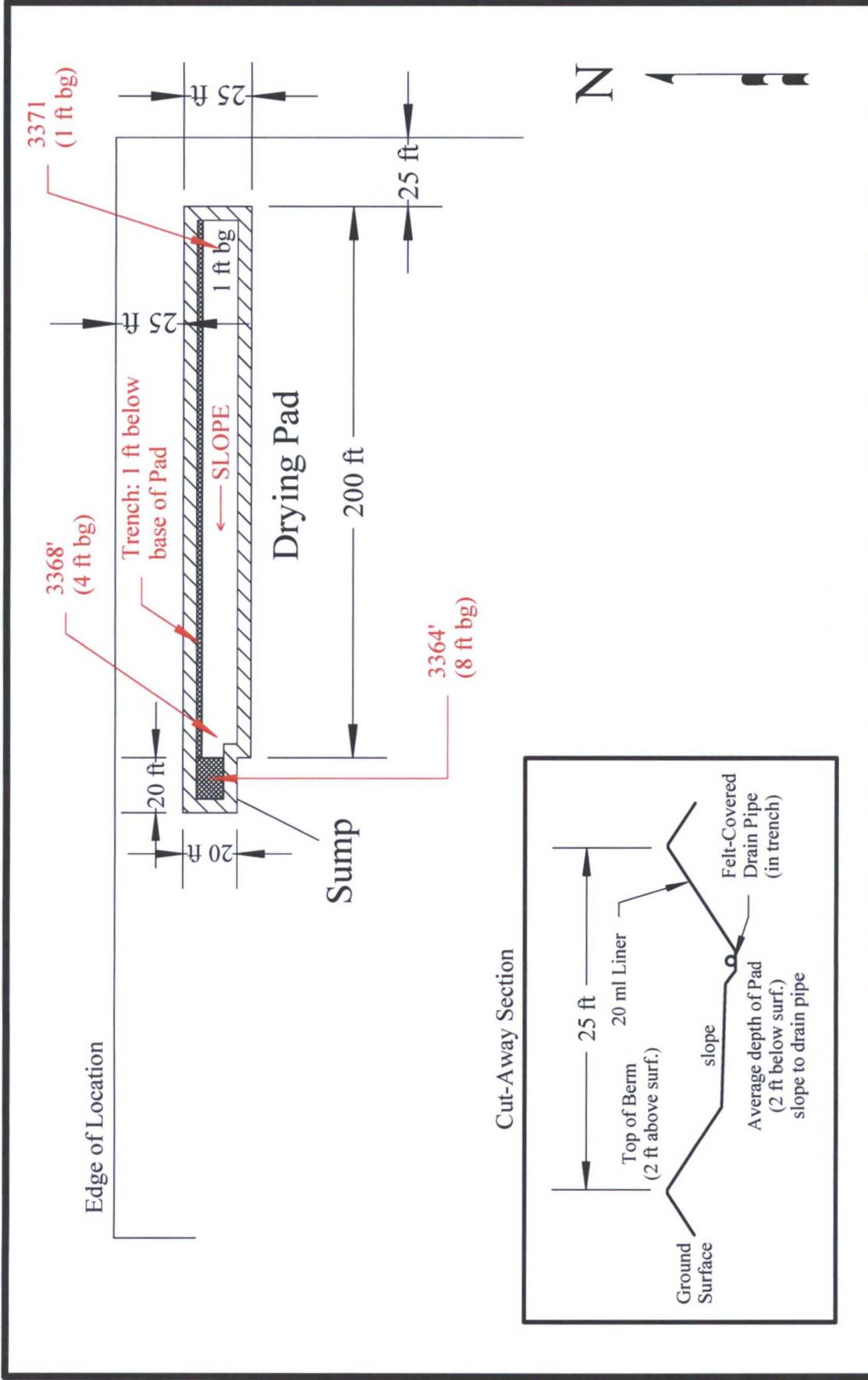
Figures

R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.

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

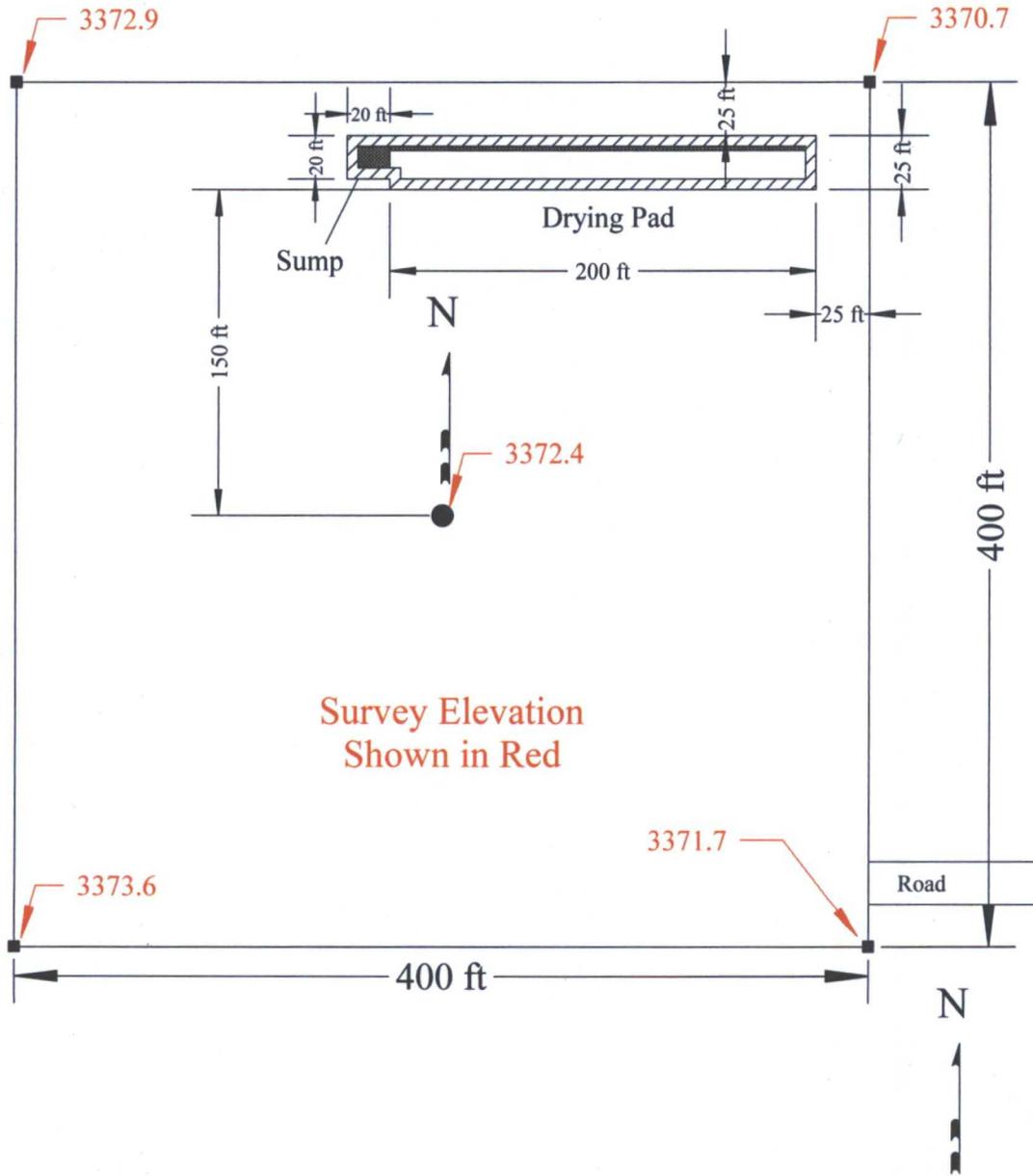


RT Hicks Consultants, Ltd.	Caza Ridge "14" State #3H	Plate 1
	Caza Operating, LLC	August 4, 2012



RT Hicks Consultants, Ltd.	Caza Ridge "14 State #3H Caza Operating, LLC	Plate 2 August 4, 2012
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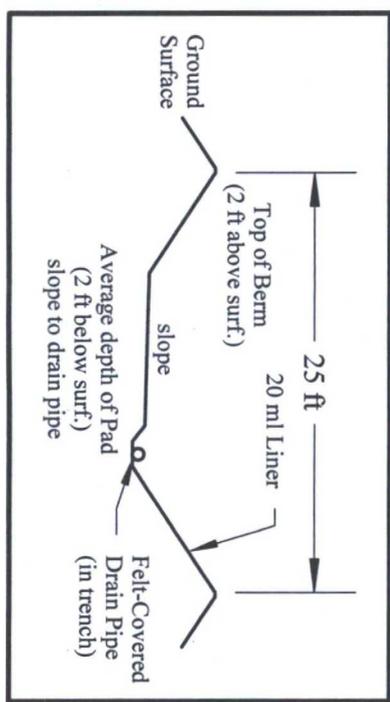
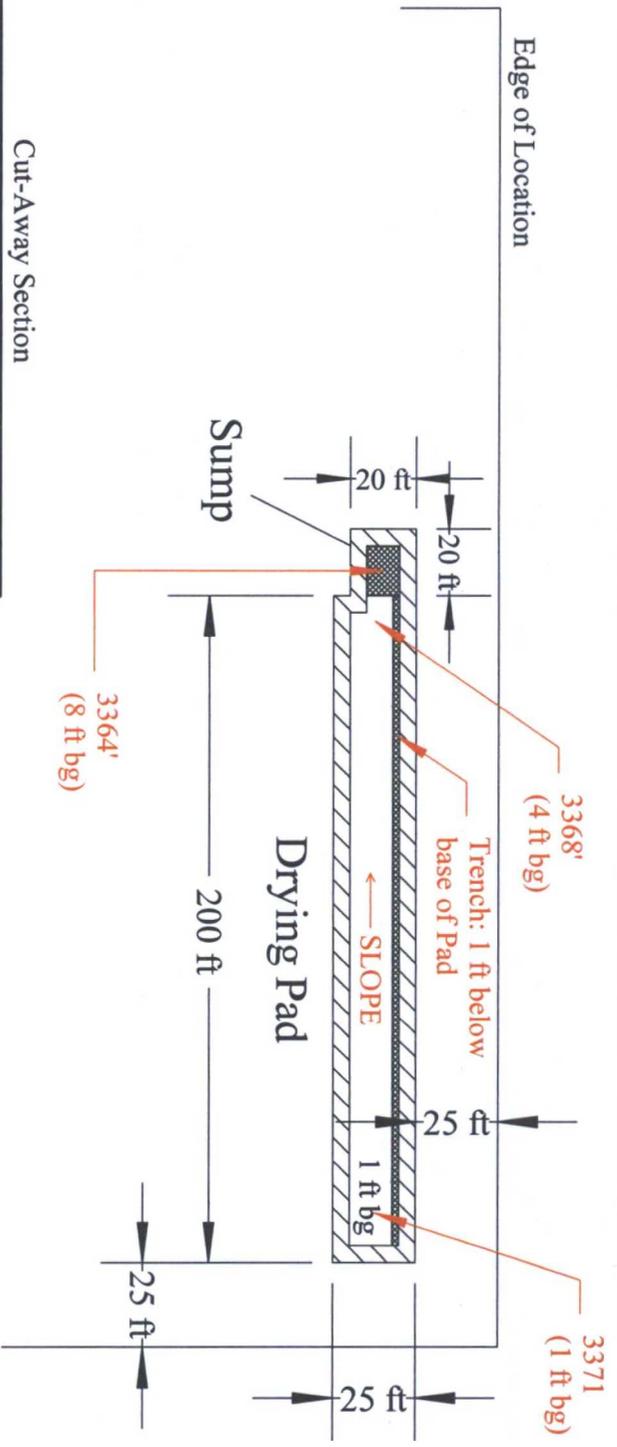


Survey Elevation
Shown in Red

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