

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

State of New Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

Form C- 144  
June 1, 2004

Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

For drilling and production facilities, submit to appropriate NMOCD District Office.  
For downstream facilities, submit to Santa Fe office

**Pit or Below-Grade Tank Registration or Closure**

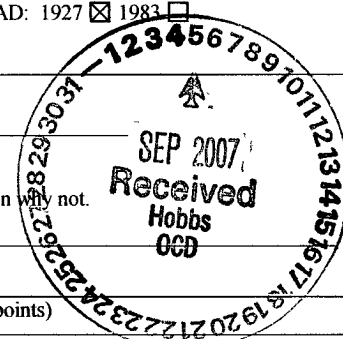
Is pit or below-grade tank covered by a "general plan"? Yes ☐ No ☒

Type of action: Registration of a pit or below-grade tank ☒ Closure of a pit or below-grade tank ☐

Operator: Chevron MidContinent Alaska Telephone: (505) 394-1237 e-mail address: BillyAnderson@chevron.com  
Address: Box 1949, Eunice, NM 88231  
Facility or well name: H.T. Mattern NCT B #27 #: 30-025-38339 U/L or Qtr/Qtr O Sec 30 T 21S R 37E  
County: Lea Latitude N 32 deg 44628' Longitude W 103 deg 19919' NAD: 1927 ☒ 1983 ☐  
Surface Owner: Federal ☐ State ☐ Private ☒ Indian ☐

**Pit**  
Type: Drilling ☒ Production ☐ Disposal ☐  
Workover ☐ Emergency ☐  
Lined ☒ Unlined ☐  
Liner type: Synthetic ☒ Thickness 20 mil Clay ☐  
Pit Volume 7000 bbl

**Below-grade tank**  
Volume: \_\_\_\_\_ bbl Type of fluid: \_\_\_\_\_  
Construction material: \_\_\_\_\_  
Double-walled, with leak detection? Yes ☐ If not, explain why not.



Depth to ground water (vertical distance from bottom of pit to seasonal high water elevation of ground water.)	Less than 50 feet	(20 points)
	50 feet or more, but less than 100 feet	(10 points) 99 Feet
	100 feet or more	( 0 points)
Wellhead protection area: (Less than 200 feet from a private domestic water source, or less than 1000 feet from all other water sources.)	Yes	(20 points)
	No	( 0 points)
Distance to surface water: (horizontal distance to all wetlands, playas, irrigation canals, ditches, and perennial and ephemeral watercourses.)	Less than 200 feet	(20 points)
	200 feet or more, but less than 1000 feet	(10 points)
	1000 feet or more	( 0 points)
Ranking Score (Total Points)		10

**If this is a pit closure:** (1) Attach a diagram of the facility showing the pit's relationship to other equipment and tanks. (2) Indicate disposal location: (check the onsite box if you are burying in place) onsite ☐ offsite ☒ If offsite, name of facility Sundance. (3) Attach a general description of remedial action taken including remediation start date and end date. (4) Groundwater encountered: No ☒ Yes ☐ If yes, show depth below ground surface \_\_\_\_\_ ft. and attach sample results  
(5) Attach soil sample results and a diagram of sample locations and excavations.

Additional Comments: All fluids will be removed from the pit. The pit liner and all impacted material will be hauled to an NMOCD approved disposal facility.

Samples will be collected below the liner and results will be submitted with the final C144 form.

The excavation will be backfilled with clean soil, graded to surface and re-seeded.

Work is scheduled to begin approximately 9/10/07.

I hereby certify that the information above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further certify that the above-described pit or below-grade tank has been/will be constructed or closed according to NMOCD guidelines ☒, a general permit ☐, or an (attached) alternative OCD-approved plan ☐.

Date: August 30, 2007

Printed Name/Title: Billy A. Anderson, HES Specialist

Signature

Your certification and NMOCD approval of this application/closure does not relieve the operator of liability should the contents of the pit or tank contaminate ground water or otherwise endanger public health or the environment. Nor does it relieve the operator of its responsibility for compliance with any other federal, state, or local laws and/or regulations.

Approval:

Printed Name/Title: L. JOHNSON - Enviro Engr

Signature

Date: 9.5.07

**ConocoPhillips' General Plan for  
Pit Construction & Closure in Southeast New Mexico  
October 2005**

In accordance with Rule 19.15.2.50(B)(2), the following information describes the construction and closure of drilling pits on COPC Southeast New Mexico (SENM) locations. This will become COPC's standard procedure on all SENM locations. If pits are constructed or closed out of the norm, a separate permit application will be submitted.

**Drill Pit Construction:**

**General:**

- Depth to Ground Water, Wellhead Protection Area & Distance to Nearest Surface Water Body ranking criteria will be site specific and information will be provided on APD or Sundry form C-103.
  - In the case where groundwater is encountered during the construction of a drilling pit, the NMOCD will be contacted and COPC will either try to find an alternative well location or use a closed steel tank system.
- The pit size and design is specific to well depth and location conditions.
- Topsoil will be stockpiled in the construction zone for later use in restoration.
- Pits will not be located in natural drainages.
- Diversion ditches will be constructed and maintained so that runoff water from outside the location is not allowed to enter the pit.
- Under no circumstance will pits be cut and drained during the drilling operations.
- A well sign will be on location identifying ConocoPhillips as the operator.
- Waste material at construction sites shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. No trash shall be disposed of in the drilling pit.
- Immediately after cessation of drilling and completion pits shall have any visible or measurable layer of oil removed from the surface.
- Prior to any pit construction the OCD will be notified at least 48 hours in advance.

**Reserve Pit**

- Pits will be constructed so as not to leak, break or allow discharge of liquids or produced solids during the drilling operations.
- Pits will be lined with impervious material at least 12 mils thick, which meets long-term standards as referenced in the guidelines. Padding (hay or pad dirt) is used underneath the synthetic liner in rocky areas.
- The pit will have adequate capacity to maintain 2 feet of free board.
- The reserve pit will be fenced on three sides away from the pad during drilling and the fourth side fenced as soon as the rig moves out.

**Blow Pit**

- Pits will be constructed to allow gravity flow to discharge into lined drill pit.
- The lower half of the pit, which is toward the drain line to the fully lined reserve pit, will be lined.
- Design of pit has been changed to reduce potential for trapped fluid at tail end of pit
- Pit will be fenced on three sides away from the pad during drilling and the fourth side fenced as soon as the rig moves off.
- Corrective actions will be taken to ensure the pit does not contain fluid.
  - This includes pumping out trapped fluid or fluid in low spots.
  - Filling in low spots in the blow pit that are below the elevation of the drain pipe to the lined pit.
  - Removing any high spots in blow pit that could trap rain water.

## Pit Monitoring and Maintenance

- COPC will perform an inspection of the location including pit compliance within 72 hours of rig moving off.
- COPC will review the OCD pit requirements and the requirements included in this document with all COPC and contract personnel responsible for construction and closure of pits.

### Drill Pit Closure:

- Good faith effort is made to close pits within required timeframe on Federal wells (90 days) and State/Fee wells (6 months). If pits will remain open past due dates, an extension will be requested by sundry notice to allow pits to remain open.
- The BLM is notified 24 hours prior to fluid hauling on Federal wells.
- The NMOCD will be notified 48 hours prior to closing of any pit.
- Aeration of pit fluids will be confined within pit area.
- Wells which have not penetrated a salt section and where less than 9.5# brine was used during drilling will be encapsulated below-grade.
  - Encapsulation will be accomplished by mixing earthen materials with the pit contents to stiffen the pit contents, as necessary, folding the edges of the liner over the stiffened mud and cuttings and covering the encapsulated wastes and liner with a minimum of 3 feet of clean soil or like material that is capable of supporting native plant growth.
- Wells which have penetrated a salt section or 9.5# brine or greater was used during drilling may be capped and encapsulated insitu or deep trench buried and capped below-grade.
  - Capping and encapsulation insitu will be accomplished by mixing earthen materials with the pit contents, as necessary to stiffen the pit contents sufficiently to provide physical stability and support for the pit cover, folding the edges of the liner over the stiffened mud and cuttings; capping the pit with either a 1-foot thick clay cap compacted to ASTM standards, or a 20 mil minimum liner and covering the cap with a minimum of 3 feet of clean soil or like material that is capable of supporting native plant growth.
  - Deep trench burial and capping will be accomplished by digging a trench adjacent to the drilling pit; lining the trench with a 12 mil liner; mixing earthen materials with the pit contents, as necessary to stiffen the pit contents sufficiently to provide physical stability and support for the trench cap; capping the trench with either a 1-foot clay cap compacted to ASTM standards, or a 20 mil minimum liner and covering the cap with a minimum of 3 feet of clean soil or like material that is capable of supporting native plant growth.
  - When constructing the cap, the liner or clay cap will overlap the underlying pit or trench area by at least 3 feet in all directions.
- If the depth to groundwater is less than 50 feet or if the well is located less than 200 feet from a domestic fresh water well or spring or less than 1000 feet from any other fresh water well or if the distance to surface water body is less than 200 feet; the well is considered to be in sensitive area. (Keep in mind that these are not the only scenarios of sensitive area.)
  - A special encapsulation or solidification process prior to covering the pit contents will be accomplished by mixing the pit contents with cement or some other solidifying product at approximately a 3 to 1 ratio with samples taken and approved by the OCD prior to closure and then contents buried as described above.
  - OCD must give written approval on any special closure or encapsulation prior to any work being done.
- The reserve pit will then be backfilled, leveled and contoured so as to prevent run-off to surface water.
- The area will be reseeded with the appropriate seed mixture.
- The final grade of reserve pit (after reclamation) will be returned to natural contour of the land such that no pooling will occur.
- A closure report will be submitted on Form C-144 on all drilling pits.
- **Note: On Federal wells, a BLM inspector may witness pit closures and may mandate specific modifications to that which is mentioned above. If this happens, OCD will be contacted for concurrence and modifications will be noted in the closure report.**