



New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Bill Richardson
Governor

Jim Noel
Cabinet Secretary
Karen W. Garcia
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Mark Fesmire
Division Director
Oil Conservation Division



28-Oct-10

RICE OPERATING COMPANY
122 W TAYLOR
HOBBS NM 88240-

LETTER OF VIOLATION and SHUT-IN DIRECTIVE Failed Mechanical Integrity Test

Dear Operator:

The following test(s) were performed on the listed dates on the following well(s) shown below in the test detail section. The test(s) indicates that the well or wells failed to meet mechanical integrity standards of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. To comply with guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the well(s) must be shut-in immediately until it is successfully repaired. The test detail section which follows indicates preliminary findings and/or probable causes of the failure. This determination is based on a test of your well or facility by an inspector employed by the Oil Conservation Division. Additional testing during the repair operation may be necessary to properly identify the nature of the well failure.

Please notify the proper district office of the Division at least 48 hours prior to the date and time that the well(s) will be retested so the test may be witnessed by a field representative.

MECHANICAL INTEGRITY TEST DETAIL SECTION

BLINEBRY DRINKARD No.035

30-025-22797-00-00

Active Salt Water Disposal Well

H-35-22S-37E

Test Date: 10/27/2010

Permitted Injection PSI:

Actual PSI:

Test Reason: Annual IMIT

Test Result: F

Repair Due: 1/30/2011

Test Type: Std. Annulus Pres. Test

FAIL TYPE: Other Internal Failure

FAIL CAUSE:

Comments on MIT: WHILE CONDUCTING PRESSURE TEST WELL WOULD NOT HOLD PRESSURE.
*****OPERATOR IN VIOLATION OF NMOCD RULE 19.15.26.11*****

Oil Conservation Division * 1625 N. French Dr.*

* Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

* Phone: (575) 393-6161 * Fax (575) 393-0720* <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us>



October 28, 2010

Page 2

In the event that a satisfactory response is not received to this letter of direction by the "Repair Due:" date shown above, or if the well(s) are not immediately shut-in, further enforcement will occur. Such enforcement may include this office applying to the Division for an order summoning you to a hearing before a Division Examiner in Santa Fe to show cause why you should not be ordered to permanently plug and abandon this well. Such a hearing may result in imposition of CIVIL PENALTIES for your violation of OCD rules.

Sincerely,



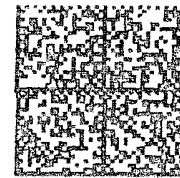
Julie L. Secker

Hobbs OCD District Office

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Note: Pressure Tests are performed prior to initial injection, after repairs and otherwise, every 5 years; Bradenhead Tests are performed annually. Information in Detail Section comes directly from field inspector data entries - not all blanks will contain data. "Failure Type" and "Failure Cause" and any Comments are not to be interpreted as a diagnosis of the condition of the wellbore. Additional testing should be conducted by the operator to accurately determine the nature of the actual failure. * Significant Non-Compliance events are reported directly to the EPA, Region VI, Dallas, Texas.

EMNRD
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
1625 N FRENCH DRIVE
HOBBS NM 88240



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122 W. TAYLOR
HOBBS, NM 88240