

**FORM
INSP**Rev
X/20**State of Colorado
Oil and Gas Conservation Commission**1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 894-2100 Fax: (303) 894-2109

Inspection Date:

11/22/2022

Submitted Date:

12/02/2022

Document Number:

696105614

FIELD INSPECTION FORMLoc ID 312292 Inspector Name: Edwardson, Dylan On-Site Inspection ☐ 2A Doc Num: _____**Operator Information:**

OGCC Operator Number: 95620

Name of Operator: WESTERN OPERATING COMPANY

Address: 1165 DELAWARE STREET #200

City: DENVER State: CO Zip: 80204

Status Summary:

- ☒ THIS IS A FOLLOW UP INSPECTION
- ☒ FOLLOW UP INSPECTION REQUIRED
- ☐ NO FOLLOW UP INSPECTION REQUIRED

Findings:

10 Number of Comments

4 Number of Corrective Actions

- ☒ Corrective Action Response Requested

**ANY CORRECTIVE ACTION(S) FROM
PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS THAT HAVE NOT
BEEN ADDRESSED ARE STILL APPLICABLE****Contact Information:**

Contact Name	Phone	Email	Comment
James, Steven	(303) 893-2438	steve@westernoperating.com	All Inspections
Anderson, Laurel		laurel.anderson@state.co.us	
Arthur, Denise		denise.arthur@state.co.us	
Ahmadian, Alexander		alexander.ahmadian@state.co.us	
		caitlin.stafford@coag.gov	
Fischer, Alex		alex.fischer@state.co.us	

Inspected Facilities:

Facility ID	Type	Status	Status Date	Well Class	API Num	Facility Name	Insp Status
221086	WELL	PR	03/27/2006	OW	075-09212	PROPST 2	RI
312292	LOCATION	AC			-	PROPST-611N53W 27NESE	RI

General Comment:

This is a follow-up Interim Reclamation and Stormwater Inspection to FIR (Doc #696105387).

This inspection is also in response to NOAV (Doc #402277076) to document compliance with the following corrective actions and abatement: Stormwater, Reclamation, and Remediation.

The following compliance issues were observed during this inspection:

- Stormwater
- Reclamation

The following compliance issues are addressed in a separate Environmental Inspection Report (see Doc# 690900217):

- Good Housekeeping
- Environmental

It was observed in this inspection that the Location remains out of compliance with COGCC Rules, Corrective actions, as well as Abatement or Corrective Action requirements per NOAV #402277076.

Refer to the "Location", "Reclamation", "Environmental" and "Stormwater" sections of this inspection report for additional details.

Refer to the photo-documentation of the observed compliance issues attached to this report.

Any corrective action(s) from previous inspections that have not been addressed are still applicable.

A follow up inspection on this site will be conducted to ensure the compliance issues have been corrected to comply with COGCC rules.

LocationOverall Good: ☐

Emergency Contact Number:

Comment: Corrective Action: Date: **Good Housekeeping:**

Type	DEBRIS		
Comment:	It appears the operator has removed the degraded straw wattle as identified in previous inspection report (Doc #696105387). However, debris and trash remain throughout the location. Refer to Environmental Inspection (Doc #690900217) for Comments and Corrective Action/Dates.		
Corrective Action:		Date:	
Type	UNUSED EQUIPMENT		
Comment:	It appears the operator has removed the buried drag/road maintenance equipment as identified in the previous inspection report (Doc #696105387).		
Corrective Action:		Date:	

Overall Good: ☐**Spills:**

Type	Area	Volume		
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In Containment: No

Comment: ☐ Multiple Spills and Releases?**Venting:**

Yes/No			
Comment:			
Corrective Action:		Date:	

Flaring:

Type		
Comment:		
Corrective Action:		Date:

Inspected Facilities									
Facility ID:	221086	Type:	WELL	API Number:	075-09212	Status:	PR	Insp. Status:	RI
Facility ID:	312292	Type:	LOCATION	API Number:	-	Status:	AC	Insp. Status:	RI

Environmental**Spill/Remediation:****Comment:**

Operator submitted Form 27 #402444865 (5/21/2020) stating additional remediation and reclamation efforts are planned (compaction alleviation, gypsum application, and mulching), with reseeding activities planned between 11/1/2020 and 4/15/2021. Form 27s #402509005 and #402392898 (5/21/2020) also indicates additional samples were collected and submitted, and that soil contamination was delineated.

It was observed in this inspection that remediation and/or reclamation of the spill areas below the produced water pit are not progressing towards COGCC standards; desirable vegetative germination and establishment is not uniform; impacts due to spill remain apparent. See "Reclamation". Additionally, stormwater management on the Location has been inadequate; erosion degradation from the pit berm has continued, resulting in additional off-site sediment transport and deposition. See "Stormwater".

After reviewing the figures and documents attached to the Form 27s, it has been noted that Operator only collected from two sample points within the entire spill area, with three samples taken at a depth of 0-6", 6-12", 12-18"; it has been determined that the sampling efforts are inadequate to effectively delineate both the horizontal and vertical impacts of the entire spill area. Additionally, remediation of the spill areas have not been resolved and closed, therefore the remediation project (#10266) is now subject to 900 Series Rules (effective 1/15/2021), including Table 915-1 concentration and cleanup standards.

Corrective Action:

Abatement or Corrective actions requirements per NOAV #402277076 have not been addressed, therefore the CA date of 02/17/2020 per the NOAV will remain applicable:

Date: 02/17/2020

Per Rule 913.b.(2), the Operator will conduct sampling and analysis of soil, and groundwater--if encountered, to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of any contamination that is in excess of the cleanup concentrations in Table 915-1 for soil and groundwater- Operator shall collect an appropriate number of representative soil samples throughout the entire spill area to delineate the horizontal and vertical extents of contamination, per Rule 915.e.(2).B.

Operator shall also conduct sampling and analysis of soils at the perimeter berm of the produced water pit.

The Operator shall analyze samples for the complete Table 915-1 list and shall compare analytical results for site investigation samples to both the Table 915-1 Residential Soil Screening Level Concentrations and the Protection of Groundwater Soil Screening Level Concentrations.

As discussed during the 11/17/2022 virtual meeting between COGCC and Western Operating Company, the Operator agreed to submit a Site Investigation/Remediation Workplan (Initial Form 27) providing a detailed site investigation approach to address the salt kill/release. Additionally, an Initial Form 19 will be required for the historic salt/kill release. It was also discussed that a Site Investigation/Remediation Workplan (Initial Form 27) will be required to close the Propst B-2 pit, Pit Facility ID: 100311.

Please include on the Form 27 "Please route to Environmental Supervisor Alex Fischer and Reclamation Specialist Dylan Edwardson." Mr. Fischer also requested a courtesy email at the time the Form 27s are submitted.

See Environmental Inspection Report Doc #690900217

Emission Control Burner (ECB): _____

Comment: _____

Pilot: _____ Wildlife Protection Devices (fired vessels): _____

Reclamation - Storm Water - Pit**Interim Reclamation:**

Date Interim Reclamation Started: _____ Date Interim Reclamation Completed: _____

Land Use: _____

Comment: _____

1002 SITE PREPARATION AND STABILIZATION

1002a. FENCING _____

Comment _____

Corrective Action _____

Date _____

1002b. SOIL REMOVAL AND SEGREGATION _____

Comment _____

Corrective Action _____

Date _____

1002c. PROTECTION OF SOILS _____

Comment _____

Corrective Action _____

Date _____

1002E. SURFACE DISTURBANCE MINIMIZATION _____ Fail _____

Comment _____

During this inspection it was observed that vehicle tracking has continued to occur off location near the entrance of the location's access road; this is separate from previous inspection observations and is a completely new disturbance. Operator was provided a corrective action in a previous inspection (Doc #696105387) to minimize surface disturbances and has failed to address this corrective action. Refer to attached inspection photos.

Corrective Action _____

Operator shall abide by the reclamation rules to minimize surface disturbances per the 1002.e Rule. Inform any contractors and personnel about restrictive off site travel.

Date **08/24/2022**

Comply with the 1003 interim reclamation rules and reclaim the newly created disturbance as identified in the FIR photo documentation.

Corrective action is being back dated to when location should have been in compliance.

1003a. Waste and Debris removed? _____

Comment _____

Corrective Action _____

Date _____

Unused or unneeded equipment onsite? _____

Comment _____

Corrective Action _____

Date _____

Pit, cellars, rat holes and other bores closed? _____

Comment _____

Corrective Action _____

Date _____

Guy line anchors marked? _____

Comment _____

Corrective Action _____

Date _____

1003b. Area no longer in use? FailProduction areas stabilized ? Fail

1003c. Compacted areas have been cross ripped? _____

1003d. Drilling pit closed? _____ Subsidence over on drill pit? _____

Cuttings management: _____

1003e. Areas no longer needed for drilling or subsequent operations for have been re-vegetated to 80% of pre-existing? _____

Production areas have been stabilized? Fail Segregated soils have been replaced? _____**RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION**Cropland

Top soil replaced _____ Recontoured _____ Perennial forage re-established _____

Non-CroplandTop soil replaced _____ Recontoured _____ 80% Revegetation Fail

1003e. INTERIM VEGETATION TRANSECT

TRANSECT RESULTS OF DISTURBED AREA% _____

TRANSECT RESULTS OF REFERENCE AREA% _____

TOTAL % OF DESIRABLE VEGETATION COVER _____

VEGETATIVE COVER _____

1003 f. Weeds Noxious weeds? _____

Comment This location does not comply with 1003 Rules. See "COGCC Comments" section for Reclamation comments.Corrective Action Due to the ongoing stormwater, remediation and reclamation compliance issues, a CA date of 02/17/2020 per the NOAV #402277076 is being provided.Date 02/17/2020

Complete remediation on the Location pursuant to Table 915-1 standards. After Soil Suitability for Reclamation standards have been met pursuant to Table 915-1, and/or impacted materials have been removed and properly disposed, Operator shall establish vegetation with total perennial, non-invasive uniform plant cover of at least eighty (80) percent of pre-disturbance or reference area levels in accordance with COGCC 1003 Rules; pursuant to Rule 1002.f, ensure erosion controls are implemented to stabilize the seeded soil, and continue to monitor and manage this site until reclamation has passed.

Overall Interim Reclamation Fail**Final Reclamation/ Abandoned Location:**

Date Final Reclamation Started: _____ Date Final Reclamation Completed: _____

Final Land Use: _____

Reminder: _____

Comment: _____

Well plugged _____ Pit mouse/rat holes, cellars backfilled _____

Debris removed _____ No disturbance /Location never built _____

Access Roads Regraded _____ Contoured _____ Culverts removed _____

Gravel removed _____

Location and associated production facilities reclaimed _____ Locations, facilities, roads, recontoured _____

Compaction alleviation _____ Dust and erosion control _____

Non cropland: Revegetated 80% _____ Cropland: perennial forage _____

Weeds present _____ Subsidence _____

1004.d. FINAL VEGETATION TRANSECT

TRANSECT RESULTS OF DISTURBED AREA% _____

TRANSECT RESULTS OF REFERENCE AREA% _____

TOTAL % OF DESIRABLE VEGETATION COVER _____

VEGETATIVE COVER _____

Comment: _____

Corrective Action: _____

Date _____

Overall Final Reclamation

Well Release on Active Location ☐Multi-Well Location ☐**Storm Water:**

Loc Erosion BMPs	BMP Maintenance	Lease Road Erosion BMPs	Lease BMP Maintenance	Chemical BMPs	Chemical BMP Maintenance	Comment

Comment: [This location does not comply with 1002.f Rules. See "COGCC Comments" section for Stormwater comments.](#)

Corrective Action: [Due to the ongoing stormwater compliance issues, a CA date of 10/12/2017 per the NOAV #402277076 is being provided.](#)

Date: 10/12/2017

[Repair erosion degradation. Properly select, install and maintain required stormwater and sediment/erosion control BMPs in accordance to 1002.f and good engineering practices. If it is determined that a specific BMP is insufficient to minimize erosion and degradation on a site, cannot be implemented per installation specification, or maintained in effective operating condition, then alternative BMPs that are better suited to meet the site's conditions should be considered and applied, or used in conjunction.](#)

Pits: ☐ NO SURFACE INDICATION OF PIT

Permit:	Facility ID	Permit Num	Expiration Date
	256303	846025	

COGCC Comments

Comment	User	Date
<p>Reclamation Comments:</p> <p>Operator submitted Form 4 #402396218 on 5/21/2020 stating "reclamation actions took place at the Location in April and March 2018". Operator also submitted Form 27 #402444865 on 5/21/2020 stating additional remediation and reclamation efforts are planned (compaction alleviation, gypsum application, and mulching), with reseeding activities planned between 11/1/2020 and 4/15/2021.</p> <p>Whether work was conducted or not, it was observed in this inspection that no successful reclamation and/or remediation occurred on the Location. Revegetation of impacted areas are not progressing towards COGCC 1003 standards and requirements; perennial vegetation (e.g. buffalo grass, blue grama) observed was sparse on small portions of the location; affected areas consisted predominantly of annual Undesirable (weedy) Plant Species, such as Kochia.</p> <p>Additionally, a recently disturbed area of bare soil, approximately 145' x 25' in size, was observed south of the heater treater. It does not appear this area has been stabilized from wind and water erosion as evidenced by the absence of any stormwater controls to prevent run-on or run-off, or any evidence of revegetation efforts (e.g. drill rows, straw mulch) to protect and prevent further off-site degradation.</p> <p>It was also observed that downslope areas within the impacted spill area, as well as areas immediately adjacent to the pit where desirable perennial vegetative establishment is not occurring, and inadequate stormwater and erosion/stabilization control BMPs have resulted in continued off-site sediment transport and deposition from the pit.</p> <p>Remediation and reclamation efforts on the Location are insufficient/inadequate; impacted soils remain apparent resulting in reclamation failure.</p> <p>Refer to attached inspection photos.</p>	edwardsond	11/29/2022
<p>Stormwater Comments:</p> <p>Previous inspections and abatement requirements per NOAV #402277076 required Operator to comply with 1002.f, repair erosion degradation, and properly select, install and maintain required stormwater and sediment control BMPs on the Location.</p> <p>It should be noted that it does not appear the operator has addressed any previous stormwater corrective actions since the last inspection on 08/24/2022 (Doc #696105387), based on field observations during this inspection.</p> <p>It was observed in this inspection that stormwater and erosion/stabilization control BMPs remain inadequate and/or have not been maintained in proper functioning condition pursuant to Rule 1002.f, and per NOAV Abatement requirements; wattles implemented throughout Location have not been installed and maintained per good engineering practices, resulting in further off site sediment transportation and degradation to the adjacent lands; specifically, wattles observed are either missing ("blown out", debris), buried, or remain incorrectly installed.</p> <p>The ditch on the perimeter of the pit appears to have been constructed with impacted, unconsolidated material placed on top of existing wattles, rendering the wattle control inadequate; this has resulted in further degradation and offsite sediment transport. Further, the pit walls remain unstabilized resulting in continued rill/gully erosion and degradation issues on the west, south, and east walls remain evident.</p> <p>Refer to attached inspection photos.</p>	edwardsond	11/29/2022

Attached Documents

You can go to COGCC Images (<https://cogcc.state.co.us/webblink/>) and search by document number:

Document Num	Description	URL
696105615	Inspection Photos.	http://ogccwebblink.state.co.us/DownloadDocumentPDF.aspx?DocumentId=5931646