



Title 16 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 4 Subchapter A Revisions to Oil and Gas Waste Management Rules

Authorized Pits

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Division 3 - Overview



Chapter 4 rules are effective July 1, 2025

§4.111 – Authorized Disposal Methods for Certain Wastes

§4.112 – Authorized Recycling

§4.113 – Authorized Pits

§4.114 & 4.115 – Schedule A and B Pits

Authorized Disposal Methods for Certain Wastes

- ☐ Water Condensate
- ☐ Inert Oil and Gas Wastes
- ☐ Low Chloride Water-Based Drilling Fluid
- ☐ Other Oil and Gas Wastes

Authorized Disposal Methods for Certain Wastes

☐ Water Condensate:

- ☐ A person may, without a permit, dispose of by land application water which has been condensed from natural gas and collected at gas pipeline drip stations or gas compressor stations. The disposal is authorized provided TAC §4.111 (a) provisions 1-6 are met.



Authorized Disposal Methods for Certain Wastes

☐ Inert Oil and Gas Wastes

- ☐ A person may, without a permit, dispose of inert oil and gas wastes on the property on which the waste was generated provided disposal is by a method other than those outlined in TAC §4.111 (b) provisions 1 and 2.

Authorized Disposal Methods for Certain Wastes

☐ Low Chloride Water-Based Drilling Fluid

- ☐ A person may, without a permit, dispose of the following oil and gas wastes by landfarming: water-based drilling fluids with a chloride concentration of 3,000 mg/liter or less; drill cuttings, sands, and silts obtained while using water-based drilling fluids with a chloride concentration of 3,000 mg/liter or less; and wash water used for cleaning drill pipe and other equipment at the well site. The disposal is authorized provided TAC §4.111 (c) provisions 1-10 are met.

Authorized Disposal Methods for Certain Wastes

☐ Other Oil and Gas Wastes

- ☐ A person may, without a permit, dispose of the following oil and gas wastes by burial in a reserve pit or a completion/workover pit: solids from dewatered drilling mud and fluids generated during well drilling, completion, and workover activities, including drill cuttings, sand, silt, paraffin, and debris. The disposal is authorized provided TAC §4.111 (d) provisions 1-5:



Authorized Recycling

- ❑ (a) Produced water recycling is authorized provided TAC §4.112 (a) provisions 1-3 are met:

Authorized Recycling

- ❑(b) Treated fluid may be reused in any other manner without a permit from the Commission provided the reuse occurs pursuant to a permit issued by another state or federal agency.

Authorized Recycling

- ❑ (c) Fluid that meets the requirements of subsection (a) or (b) of this section is a recyclable product.

Authorized Pits

- ☐ Schedule A – lower volume & operate short term
- ☐ Schedule B – larger volume & operate long term
- ☐ Pit Registration
- ☐ Financial Assurance for Schedule B Pits

Authorized Pit Registration Form



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oil & Gas Division | Technical Permitting
Authorized Pit Registration/Change Form

EPS - AR-1
(Rev. 04/02/25)

P-5 No.: _____
Drilling Permit No.: _____

Request for: ☐ Authorized Pit Registration Date Pit Operations Start: Click or tap to enter a date.
☐ Change Pit Registration Date of Change: Click or tap to enter a date.
☐ Terminate Pit Registration Date Pit Closed: Click or tap to enter a date.

Organization Name: _____

Pit Type: (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule A - Authorized Pit | <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B - Authorized Pit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Makeup Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mud Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Mining Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completion/Workover | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Condensate |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Produced Water Recycling |

Pit Details: (complete for each pit - use **worksheet AR-1** for additional pit details)
Pit Location (Use the 1983 North American Datum (NAD) in decimal degrees)

Lease Name: _____ Lease No.: _____

Longitude: _____ Latitude: _____
Pit Capacity: _____ bbl (Barrels)
Depth of Groundwater from the Bottom of the Pit: _____ ft

Lease Name: _____ Lease No.: _____

Longitude: _____ Latitude: _____
Pit Capacity: _____ Bbl (Barrels)
Depth of Groundwater from the Bottom of the Pit: _____ ft

For pits that require financial security, submit the receipt with the registration/change form.
Enter financial security receipt information.

Register No.: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____ Date Paid: Click or tap to enter a date.

I certify that I am authorized to complete this registration/change form, that this form was prepared by me or under my supervision and direction, and that the data and facts are true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I certify that the specifications correspond to the requirements of §4.113, §4.114, and §4.115.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: Click or tap to enter a date.



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oil & Gas Division | Technical Permitting
Authorized Pit Schedule B Worksheet

EP - 2
(Rev. 04/04/25)

Organization Name: _____ P-5 No. _____

Schedule B Authorized Pit Financial Security §4.115(c)(3)

(A) A person operating **five or less pits** may file a performance bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit in an amount equal to \$1.00 per barrel of total pit capacity.

Total Number of Pits _____
Total Capacity of All Pits _____ bbls
Total Financial Security \$ _____

(B) A person operating **more than five pits** may file a performance bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit in an amount equal to:

- ☐ (i) the greater of \$1.00 per barrel of water for ten percent of an operator's total produced water recycling pit capacity or \$1,000,000; or

Total Number of Pits _____
Total Capacity of All Pits _____ bbls
Total Financial Security \$ _____

- ☐ (ii) \$200,000 per pit, capped at \$5,000,000

Total Number of Pits _____
Total Capacity of All Pits _____ bbls
Total Financial Security \$ _____

	Pit ID by Operator	Total Pit Volume (barrels)	RRC Pit Registration No. (if assigned)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			

Authorized Pit Registration Form



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oil & Gas Division | Technical Permitting
Authorized Pit Schedule B Worksheet

EP - 2
(Rev. 04/04/25)

Organization Name: _____ P-5 No. _____

Schedule B Authorized Pit Financial Security \$4.115(c)(3)

(A) A person operating **five or less pits** may file a performance bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit in an amount equal to \$1.00 per barrel of total pit capacity.

Total Number of Pits _____
Total Capacity of All Pits _____ **bbls**
Total Financial Security \$ _____

(B) A person operating **more than five pits** may file a performance bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit in an amount equal to:

- ☐ (i) the greater of \$1.00 per barrel of water for ten percent of an operator's total produced water recycling pit capacity or \$1,000,000; or

Total Number of Pits _____
Total Capacity of All Pits _____ **bbls**
Total Financial Security \$ _____

- ☐ (ii) \$200,000 per pit, capped at \$5,000,000

Total Number of Pits _____
Total Capacity of All Pits _____ **bbls**
Total Financial Security \$ _____

	Pit ID by Operator	Total Pit Volume (barrels)	RRC Pit Registration No. (if assigned)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oil & Gas Division | Technical Permitting
Authorized Pit Schedule B Letter of Credit

EP - 4
(Rev. 04/02/25)

Date: _____ Click or tap to enter a date. **IRREVOCABLE STANDBY LETTER OF CREDIT NO.:** _____

Organization Name: _____ P-5 No. (if assigned) _____

Name of Issuing Bank: _____
Address of Issuing Bank: _____

To: RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Attention: Oil and Gas Division
Technical Permitting
P.O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967

This Letter of Credit covers pit(s):

	Pit ID by Operator	Pit Volume	RRC Pit Registration No. (if assigned)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			

We _____ hereby establish our Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit No. _____, in favor of the Railroad Commission of Texas, Austin, Texas _____, for the account of _____, for the amount or amounts not to exceed the aggregate \$_____ U.S., available by your drafts at sight on the bank, effective _____ and expiring on _____, but such expiration shall be automatically extended for a period of _____ year(s) beginning on the initial expiration date and each successive expiration date, unless at least 120 days before the expiration date applicable to the current term, we notify both the Director of Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas signs the return receipt card, you may draw on us hereunder upon presentation of your sight draft. This letter of credit may be terminated during its term only if we are provided with a letter from you stating that each of the above-referenced Produced Water Recycling Pit(s) has been closed in a manner that meets your requirements or on such date as you authorize the release of this Letter of Credit.

LOC No. _____



§4.113 Authorized Pits



General Requirements:

Must be constructed, used, operated, and maintained outside of a 100-year floodplain

Pits causing pollution are required to comply or close.

If unauthorized oil & gas waste, treated fluid, or other substances are released from any pit authorized in this section, all efforts shall be taken to stop or control the release and be reported to the District office within **24 hours**.

§4.113 Authorized Pits



Transition of Existing Pits:

If constructed before July 1, 2025, and compliant with §3.8 continued operations are authorized and contingent upon the type of pit

By July 1, 2026, basic sediment and flare pits must be closed or permitted

By July 1, 2026, non-commercial fluid recycling pits need to be registered as produced water recycling pits

§4.114 & §4.115 Authorized Pits



Two Types of Authorized Pits

Schedule A

Reserve Pit - Mud Circulation - Completion/Workover - Fresh Mining Water -
Water Condensate - Makeup Water

Schedule B

Produced Water Recycling

§4.114 Schedule A Design & Construction



Siting & Construction Requirements:

1. Not located in within a 100-year flood plain
2. Pit contents are restricted by the type of pit
3. Materials in the pit must not enter adjacent subsurface soils, groundwater, or surface water.

Liner Requirements:

(For any Authorized Pit)

1. Over 3,000 mg/L total dissolved solids (TDS) OR
2. Located where groundwater is within 50' of the bottom of the pit.



Schedule A Closure




Pit Type	Special Condition	Closure 1	Closure 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Reserve *› Mud Circulation› Makeup Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– (1) Chloride $\leq 6,100\text{mg/L}$– (2) Chloride $> 6,100\text{mg/L}$	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Dewater, backfill, and compact within 1 year of cessation of drilling operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Dewater within 30 days – the rest as before.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Completion / Workover *	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Dewater within 30 days Backfill and compact within 120 days of well completion / workover operations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Fresh Mining Water› Water Condensate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Dewater, backfill, and compact within 120 days of final cessation of pit use	




Produced Water Recycling Pits



Before July 1, 2025, referred to as non-commercial fluid recycling pits (NCFR)



Pit may be located on a tract of land that is not an oil or gas lease operated by the operator of the produced water recycling pit



New Pits - Financial Security is Due Upon Registration
Existing Pit - Financial Security is Due by January 1, 2026



§4.115 Schedule B Authorized Pits (2 of 2)



Pit Registration Number	Capacity (bbl)	Required Financial Security
1	50,000	
2	75,000	
3	150,000	
4	300,000	
5	211,750	
Total:	786,750	\$786,750

Pit Registration Number	Capacity (bbl)	Required Financial Security
1	250,000	
2	300,000	
3	350,000	
4	400,000	
5	450,000	
6	500,000	
7	550,000	
8	600,000	
9	650,000	
10	700,000	
11	750,000	
12	800,000	
13	850,000	
Total:	7,150,000	\$1,000,000

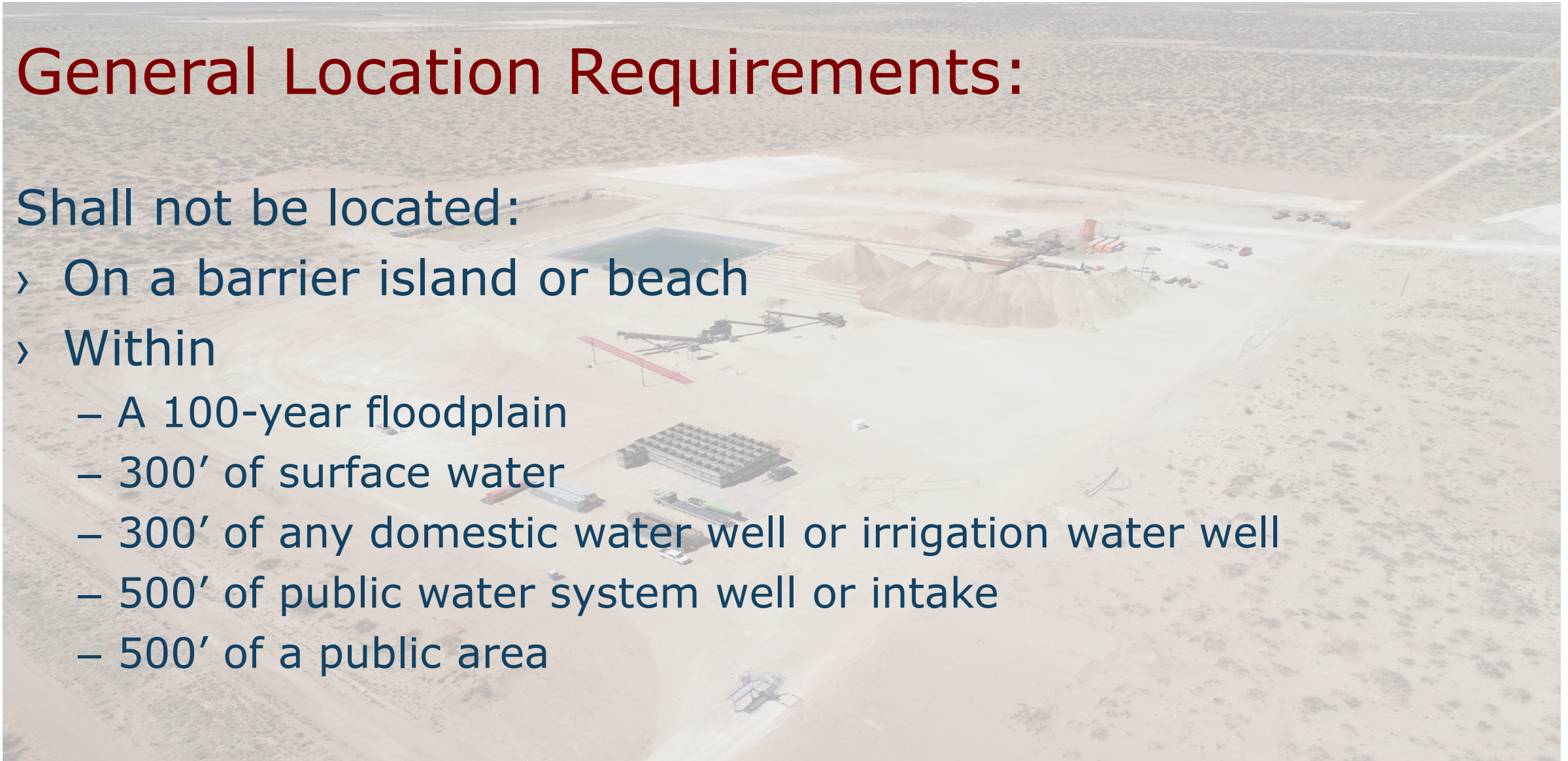
Pit Registration Number	Capacity (bbl)	Required Financial Security
1	350,000	
2	350,000	
3	350,000	
4	350,000	
5	350,000	
6	350,000	
7	350,000	
8	350,000	
9	350,000	
10	350,000	
11	350,000	
12	350,000	
13	350,000	
14	350,000	
15	350,000	
16	350,000	
17	350,000	
18	350,000	
19	350,000	
20	350,000	
21	350,000	
22	350,000	
23	350,000	
24	350,000	
25	350,000	
26	350,000	
27	350,000	
28	350,000	
29	350,000	
30	350,000	
31	350,000	
32	350,000	
33	350,000	
Total:	11,550,000	\$5,000,000



General Location Requirements:

Shall not be located:

- › On a barrier island or beach
- › Within
 - A 100-year floodplain
 - 300' of surface water
 - 300' of any domestic water well or irrigation water well
 - 500' of public water system well or intake
 - 500' of a public area





§4.115 Schedule B (2 of 2)



Operation Requirements:

- Freeboard of 2' plus 25 year 24-hour rainfall event
- Must be lined
- Normal pit record maintenance & no free oil

Closure Requirements:

- Pit contents (including liner) removed for disposal at an authorized facility or buried on site
- Soil sampling of native soils beneath and around pits
- Groundwater Monitoring (active life and post-closure)
- Notify District Office for exceedances in testing parameters
- Non-exceedances – backfill the pit

EPS Emails



Chapter 4 Questions: AskAboutChpt4@rrc.texas.gov

EPS Permitting: enviro.permits@rrc.texas.gov

EPS Waste Haulers: whp@rrc.texas.gov

EPS Compliance: EPSCompl@rrc.texas.gov

Authorized Pit Registration: AuthPits@rrc.texas.gov