



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

Authorized Pits

Adrian Charles April 9, 2025











Division 3 - §4.111





Permits issued on/or after July 1 will be issued under Chapter 4

Permits in process before July 1 may need to be considered under Chapter 4

Contested permits pending Hearings will be issued under Chapter 4

Subchapter A



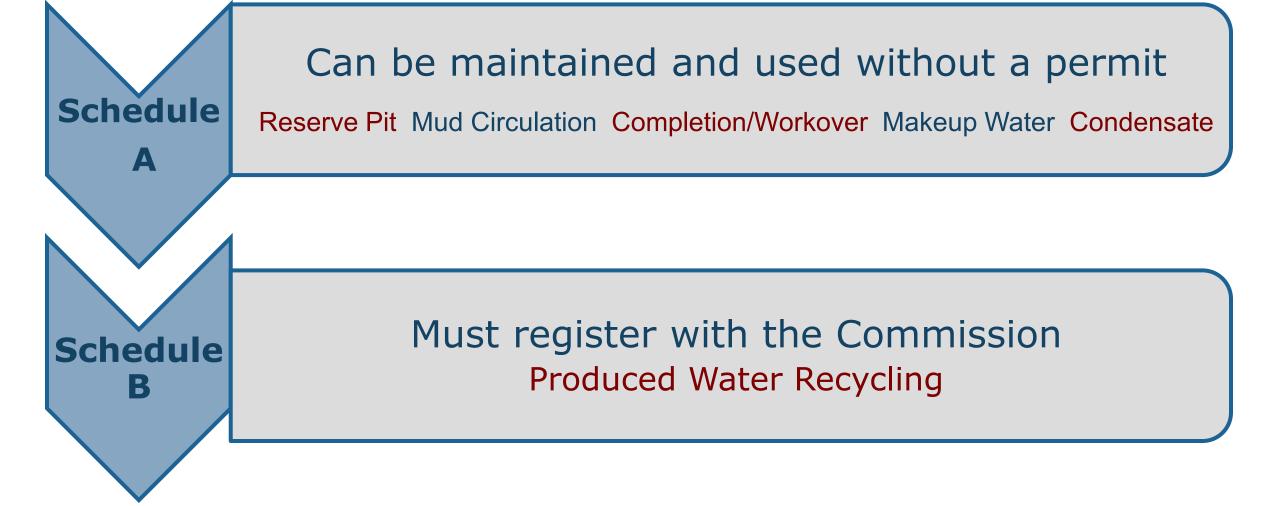
Division 3 Authorized Pits

Schedule A – lower volume & operate short term
 Schedule B – larger volume & operate long term
 Pit Registration

§4.113 & §4.115 Authorized Pits



Two Types of Authorized Pits





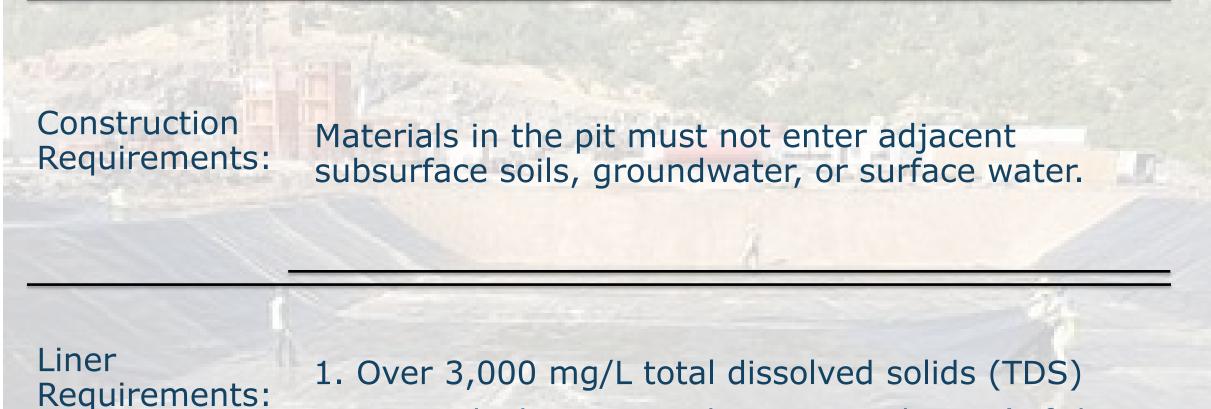
General Requirements:

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

If constructed before July 1, 2025, and compliant with §3.8 continued operations are authorized and contingent upon:

- 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.
- Effective July 1, 2026, all non-commercial fluid recycling pits must be registered as produced water recycling pits.

§4.114 Schedule A Design & Construction



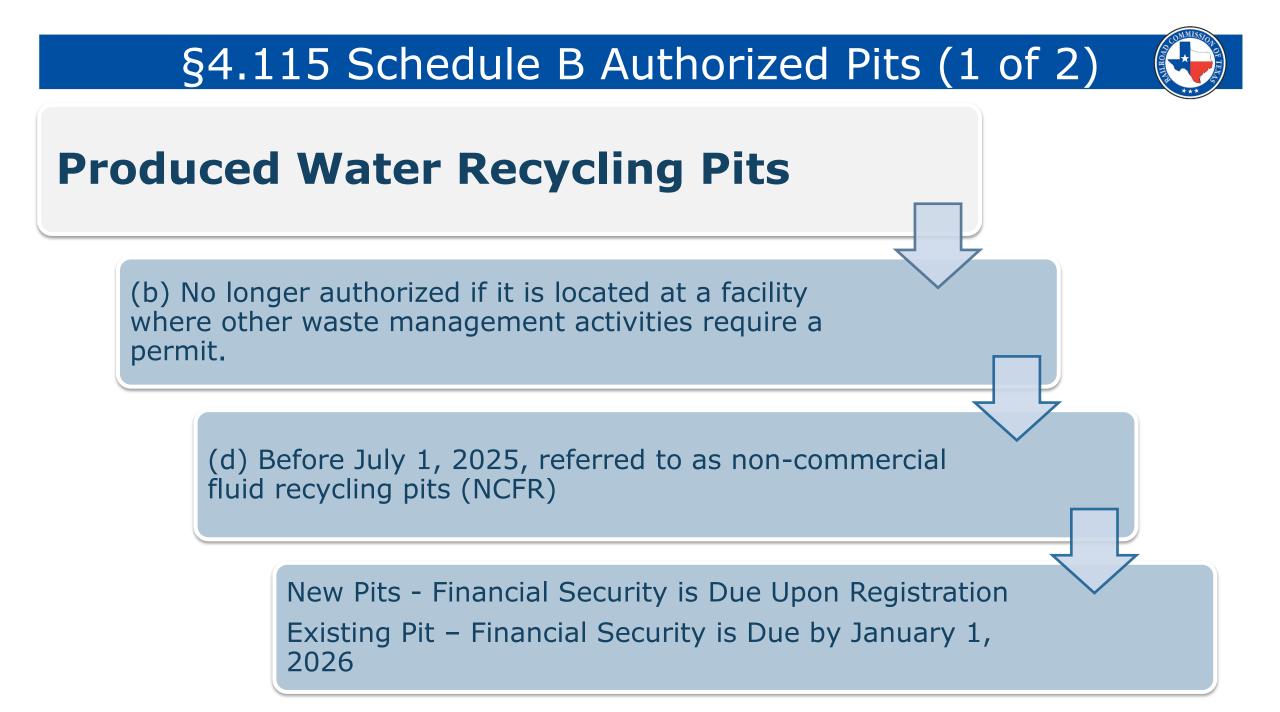
(For any Authorized Pit)

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

Schedule A Closure



Pit Type	Special Condition	Closure 1	Closure 2
 Reserve Mud Circulation Makeup Water 	 Chloride ≤6,100mg/L (1) Chloride > 6,100mg/L(2) 	 Dewater, backfill, and compact within 1 year of cessation of drilling operations. 	 Dewater within 30 days – the rest as before.
 Completion Workover 	 Completing (1) Working Over (2) 	 Dewater within 30 days Backfill and compact within 120 days of well completion 	 Dewater within 30 days – backfill and compact within 120 days of workover operations.
 > Fresh Mining > Water Condensate 	– None	 Dewater, backfill, and compact within 120 days of final cessation of pit use 	



§4.115 Schedule B (1 of 2)



General Location Requirements:

Shall not be located:
On a barrier island or beach
Within

- 100' of 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)



- Freeboard of 2' plus 25 year 24-hour rainfall event
- Double lined with leak detection system (LDS)
- Normal pit record maintenance & no free oil

Closure Requirements:

- Pit contents (including liner) removed for disposal at an authorized facility
- Soil sampling of native soils beneath and around pits
- Notify District Office for exceedances in testing parameters
- Non-exceedances backfill the pit

Subchapter A – Division 3 (1 of 2)



Authorized Disposal for Certain Wastes > Water condensate:

- Disposal by land application of water condensed from natural gas and collected at gas pipeline drip stations or gas compressor stations
- No application may reach surface waters, must meet parameters, and remain on-site
- Must be at least 500 feet from a public water supply system well or intake and 300 feet from any surface water, residential well, or irrigation water supply well
- > Inert oil & gas wastes:
 - May be disposed of on the property where generated
 - May not go into surface water
 - May not be burned



Low chloride water-based drilling fluids: Landfarming

- Landfarming must occur on the same lease/unit/ROW where generated and have written permission from the surface owner;
- > Slope of the land must be 3% or less;
- pH range is 6-9 standard units, and all hydrocarbons are removed before spreading;
- Depth of wastes must not exceed six inches of solids or six inches of fluids;
- No pooling/ponding/runoff occurs, and waste is disked into soils for distribution;
- EC does not exceed background level for undisturbed soils (*established* before authorized landfarming begins) immediately after landfarming the waste or 4 millimhos/centimeter (whichever is greater); and
- Immediately after landfarming, TPH does not exceed 1% by weight when sampled (EPA SW-846 418.1 or equivalent method)

Authorized Pit Registration Form



AuthPits@rrc.Texas.gov

	Oil & Gas Division	IISSION OF TEXAS Technical Permitting stration/Change Form P-5	EPS – AR-1 (Rev. 04/02/25)
		Drilling Permi	
Request	 Authorized Pit Registration 	te Pit Operations Start: C	lick or tap to enter a date.
for:	 Change Pit Registration Terminate Pit Registration 		lick or tap to enter a date. lick or tap to enter a date.
Organization	Name:		
Pit Type: (sete	ect all that apply)		
 Reserve Mud Circ 	- Handap Hat	er 🗆 Pr Water	chedule B – Authorized Pit roduced Water Recycling
	complete for each pit – use worksheet AR-1 for addi Jse the 1983 North American Datum (NAD) in de		
Lease Name:	:	Leas	e No.:
Longitude: Pit Capacity: Depth of Gro	bbl (Barrels) undwater from the Bottom of the Pit:	Latitude:ft	
Lease Name:		Leas	e No.:
Longitude:		Latitude:	
Pit Capacity: Depth of Gro	Bbl (Barrels) undwater from the Bottom of the Pit:	ft	
	require financial security, submit the l security receipt information.	receipt with the registra	tion/change form.
Register No.:	Amount Paid: \$	Date Paid: Cli	ck or tap to enter a date.
supervision and	m authorized to complete this registration/chan d direction, and that the data and facts are true, cations correspond to the requirements of §4.1	correct, and complete to the b	
Name:		Title:	



Authorized Pit Registration Form (2 of 2)



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS EPS - AR-B Oil & Gas Division Technical Permitting Produced Water Recycling Bond Form [Res. 04/22/25]	RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS EPS - AR-3 Oil & Gas Division Technical Permitting (Rev. 04/02/25) Produced Water Recycling Letter of Credit Form (Rev. 04/02/25)
Date: Click or tap to enter a date. PRODUCED WATER RECYCLING BOND NO.	Date: Click or tap to enter a date. IRREVOCABLE STANDBY LETTER OF CREDIT NO.:
Organization Name: P-5 No. (Fact Uned)	Organization Name: P-5 No. (if assigned)
INITIAL BOND INFORMATION	INITIAL LETTER OF CREDIT INFORMATION
Number of pits:	Number of pits:
CHANGE TO BOND INFORMATION The number of pits changed from:	CHANGE TO LETTER OF CREDIT INFORMATION The number of pits changed from:
Five or less to more than five More than five to less than five	 Five or less to more than five More than five to less than five
Background	
Initial control Data for the Railroad Commission approval to operate Produced Water Recycling Pit(s) subject to Texas laws. Texas Natural Resources Code \$91.109 and Texas Administrative Code Vol. 16, \$3.78, provide that the owner and operator of a Produced Water Recycling Pit(s) must maintain a bond or letter of credit that satisfies the Railroad Commission. 1.2 As specified in \$3.78, Principal has retained, a State of Texas authorized Surety, to secure this promise to pay. 1.3 This bond covers pit(s):	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
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Chapter 4 Questions: <u>AskAboutChpt4@rrc.texas.gov</u>

EPS Permitting: <u>enviro.permits@rrc.texas.gov</u>

EPS Waste Haulers: <u>whp@rrc.texas.gov</u>

EPS Compliance: <u>EPSCompl@rrc.texas.gov</u>

Authorized Pit Registration: <u>AuthPits@rrc.texas.gov</u>