



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

**COLORADO DISCHARGE PERMIT SYSTEM (CDPS)
FACT SHEET FOR MODIFICATION 5
PERMIT NUMBER CO0047767
PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES USA, INC.
EAST SPANISH PEAKS COALBED METHANE OPERATIONS
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY**

**Lori Mulsoff
3/22/16**

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I. TYPE OF PERMIT

A. Permit Type: Modification No. 5 – Minor Amendment

B. Discharge To: Surface Water

II. FACILITY INFORMATION

A. SIC Code: 1311 Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

B. Facility Location: Approximate Middle Point of Operation,
Latitude 37° 11' North, Longitude 104° 48' West

III. PURPOSE OF MODIFICATION

On January 22, 2016, the division received a modification request from the permittee.

Pioneer Natural Resources USA, Inc. requested that the Water Quality Control Division modify discharge permit CO-0047767 by reducing the frequency of acute Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing from quarterly to annual monitoring based on documented compliance with acute WET testing during the previous 5 year permit term.

The data over the past five years continues to show successful monitoring for acute WET. Given the extensive amount of acute WET data available, the success rate of such tests at outfalls, and the use of annual acute WET testing in past permits, Pioneer requests that the frequency of acute WET testing in Permit CO-0047767 be reduced from quarterly to annually in accordance with WQCD's WET testing policy and past practices.

IV. CHANGES AS A RESULT OF THE MODIFICATION

The division has reviewed discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) submitted by the facility during the previous permitting cycle for all 40 outfalls authorized in this permit. All 40 outfalls had acute WET testing in the previous permit term. Upon a review of effluent data from all 40 outfalls, from a period of December 2010

through December 2015, only one exceedence of the acute limit in December 2010 was recorded on an outfall that is still currently discharging (outfall 210).

As per Part VI. of the WET Policy (Reduced Monitoring WET Testing);

“For routine WET testing requirements, reduced monitoring frequencies may be allowed where the permittee has demonstrated compliance with the limitation.”

With the review of available data, the division concludes that the permittee has demonstrated consistent compliance with the acute limitation from December 2010 through December 2015, and reductions in sampling frequency for acute WET testing is warranted based on the underlying presumption that past effluent quality is representative of future effluent quality. Therefore, for outfalls 057-A, 060-A, 065-A, 094-A, 202-A, 230-A, 075-A, 096-A, 105-A, 147-A, 156-A, 228-A, 238-A, 239-A, 079-A, 160-A, 183-A, 220-A, 221-A, 004-A, 215A, 007A, 073A, 217A, 016-A, 022-A, 028-A, 061-A, 063-A, 071-A, 090-A, 108-A, 112-A, 152-A, 191-A, 198-A, 210-A, 212-A, 213-A, 222-A the respective tables in Part I.A.2 of the permit have been modified to changed the sampling frequency of acute WET testing from “quarterly” to “annual.”

V. PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENTS

The public notice period was from February 12, 2016 to March 14, 2016. No comments were received during the public notice period.