

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Guidance Document

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Onsite Pit Containment Interactive Tool (re: Utah Oil & Gas Conservation General Rules R649-3-16 Reserve Pits and Other On-site Pits)

This interactive tool is intended for use in determining the applicability and use of reserve pits, cuttings trenches and on-site pits used in the exploration and production of oil and gas. Utah Administrative Code R649-6-13 pertaining to requirements for reserve pit operations should be used in conjunction with this guidance.

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Our Mission

The Utah Oil and Gas Program within the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining:

- Promote the exploration, development and conservation of oil and gas resources*
- Foster a fair economic return to the general public for those resources*
- Maintain sound, regulatory oversight to ensure environmentally acceptable activities*

Introduction

This interactive tool sheet is designed to assist exploration & production (E&P) operators, third party contractors, stakeholders, and Division Staff in determining the appropriate containment requirements for fluids and drill cuttings used and produced as a byproduct of oil and gas drilling and production operations. This tool sheet will follow the ranking criteria established in the *Onsite Pit Guidance Document*.

Summation of Ranking Criteria to Determine Containment Level

The summation of all of the above ranking scores will yield one value which shall be used to determine the appropriate type of containment, on a case-by-case basis. The containment levels are as follows:

- Level I Containment ≥ 60
- Level II Containment 41-59
- Level III Containment 16-40
- Level IV Containment ≤ 15

Instructions

To determine the Containment Level of a particular site, the following table may be utilized to determine the total ranking score value. Follow the guidelines set forth in the *Onsite Pit Guidance Document*, Ranking Criteria for Drilling Fluids and Materials section to determine the appropriate value for each ranking criteria.

- Enter the known or anticipated value for the following:
- Select the appropriate value/factor from the drop down for the following:
 - Distance to Groundwater
 - Distance to Surface Water
 - Distance to Nearest Municipal Water Well
 - Distance to Other Water Wells
 - Native Soil Type
 - Fluid Type
 - Drill Cuttings
 - Annual Precipitation
 - Potentially Affected Populations
 - Presence of Onsite or Adjacent Utility Conduits
- Additional information may be entered by the form's user, such as:
 - Operator
 - Location Name
 - Surface Location Information
 - Other Relevant Information
- To reset the values in the form, Click "Clear Form"

The Division suggests that operators save each iteration of the interactive table they employ, as clicking the "Clear Form" button will revert the table to its original defaults.

Evaluation and Ranking Scores for Onsite Pit Containment Levels

| Ranking Criteria | Site Specific Factors | Units | Ranking |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|---------|
| Distance from Surface to Groundwater | | feet | |
| Distance to Surface Water | | feet | |
| Distance to Nearest Municipal Well | | feet | |
| Distance to Other Water Wells | | feet | |
| Native Soil Type | | permeability | |
| Fluid Type | | TDS in mg/L | |
| Drilling Cuttings | | rock type | |
| Annual Precipitation | | inches | |
| Potentially Affected Populations | | people | |
| Presence of On-site or Adjacent Utility Conduits | | proximity | |
| Sum of Ranking Scores | | | |

Containment Level:

Operator:

Location Name:

Surface Location: Qtr/Qtr: Sect: Township: Range:

Other Information: