State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

February 6, 2026

To: All Operators, San Juan Basin
From: John Garcia
Subject: Northwest Bradenhead Test Schedule 2026

San Juan Basin Operators,

Bradenhead tests are required to be conducted on all wells which are not plugged within Area "A" as identified on the below map between April 1, 2026, and October 30, 2026. This includes active, temporarily abandoned, shut-in, expired temporarily abandoned and new status.

In addition to Area "A" any wells not plugged located in Area's "B" or "C" not properly tested or reported in accordance with the previous year's Memorandum are also required to be tested during this year's test cycle. Once these wells are properly tested, they will be returned to their original area test schedule unless additional issues are identified.

Each operator of wells in the referenced area must submit a schedule to John Garcia at JohnA.Garcia@emnrd.nm.gov before March 1, 2026, indicating when the individual wells will be tested. The schedule must include:

- API number
- Well name and number
- ULSTR
- Well status
- Contact name and number
- Identify if the well is in a vulnerable area (as defined in the attached document)

OCD will witness oil and gas well testing as our schedules permit, however all saltwater disposal wells and water-flood wells performing bradenhead testing **must** be witnessed by OCD.

All bradenhead testing **must** be performed in accordance with the below procedure:

1. Each casing string valve, surface, intermediate, and production must be dug out, plumbed to the surface, and verified to be in working order before testing begins.

2. Each bradenhead and intermediate casing valve must be shut in a minimum of 24 hours before the test begins. Unless producing up the production casing, the production casing valve must also be shut in a **minimum** of 24 hours before the test begins (24 hours = 24 hours, not one day, meaning you cannot shut well in at 4 p.m. in the afternoon and test it at 8 a.m. the next day).

3. Bradenhead and Intermediate valves must be blown down for at least 15 minutes or to zero (whichever comes first) at least 24hrs but not more than one week prior to the Bradenhead test. During this initial blow down, any wells with pressure on the Bradenhead and Intermediate valves are required to be checked for H2S. If H2S is detected a dragger tube test or equivalent is required to be performed by a qualified individual to determine the H2S level.

4. Indicate on the test form whether the well is shut in or producing. *This status on the bradenhead test form is not the same as status on list turned in above*. Status on test form means at time of test if the well is capable of producing down the line or shut-in and cannot produce down the line. If the well is not shut-in and cycles during the test, the test may need to be repeated to ensure the source of any pressure changes are accurately identified.

5. Record the initial pressures measured on the tubing and each casing string including the intermediate casing, using a dead weight tester or a calibrated pressure gauge. If the well is a dual completion – record both formation pressures in the comment section. Report any H2S encountered in the comments field and the levels detected. In addition report in the comments field if there is a packer set in the production casing.

   NOTE: If the bradenhead does not exist or other conditions prevent measuring the pressure, **make a note in the comment section** and provide complete details including wellbore schematic. If there is no bradenhead the Operator needs to investigate why there is not a bradenhead valve and install one if possible.

6. Open the bradenhead valve to the atmosphere. If a gas or liquid flow is observed or indicated, use caution to not cause contamination. When needed, use a tank to prevent a release. **Flow the bradenhead for 30 minutes. If the valve has no pressure after 15 minutes the last 15 minutes of the test can be canceled (do not test less than 15 minutes**). Record pressures at five-minute intervals, on the bradenhead, production casing and each intermediate casing string. (If you are using a piece of equipment (tee or L with double outlets) which allows use of a gauge on one end and venting through the other end during bradenhead or intermediate testing- shutting the valve for each 5-minute pressure check is not necessary). At the end of the 15 to 30-minute test, shut the valve and record the pressure, wait five minutes and record the five-minute shut-in pressure.

7. Repeat the procedure on each intermediate casing string. Describe any discharge from the casing including measured or estimated rates of flow.

8. Any well with a bradenhead starting pressure over 20 psi or the bradenhead 5-minute shut-in pressure greater than 10 psi is required to submit a gas and a water analysis (if applicable) **on all strings**.

   Note: If water is found on bradenhead or intermediate, a water analysis (General Chemistry) is required to be submitted to OCD.

9. If pressure on **bradenhead is 40lbs** or more or **if intermediate pressure is 150lbs** or more. The Operator must notify OCD to determine if a second witnessed test is required.

10. Submit a recent wellbore schematic (identify formation and cement tops) with any gas and/or water analysis submittal. If a schematic has been submitted within the last three years and there have been no changes then a wellbore schematic does not have to be submitted.

11. Prior to submission, review **All** forms double checking all API numbers, checking for any increase in pressure in last three (3) years, water flow that wasn't previously present and/or any noticeable communication. Tests which indicate a 20% or more change in casing pressure since the last test need to be documented as such in the comments section of the test.

NOTE: File reports through the Bradenhead Electronic System or OCD Permitting under (UF-BHT) Bradenhead Test **within 30 days of the completion of the test**. Any analysis must be submitted within 6 weeks of sampling to John Garcia.

Tests must be completed, and forms submitted before November 1, 2026.

Review Rule 19.15.16.18 NMAC concerning well and lease equipment.

Any tests which indicate the possible appearance of casing failure are required to comply with 19.15.16.11 NMAC Defective Casing and its perspective timelines. This includes wells which appear to have communication between different casing valves.

Attachments:

- Bradenhead report form
- Working criteria for determining vulnerable area Bradenhead tests.
- Map indicating area

NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
AZTEC DISTRICT OFFICE
1000 RIO BRAZOS ROAD
AZTEC NM 87410
(505) 320-0243
File Via OCD Permitting

BRADENHEAD TEST REPORT

(submit 1 copy to above address)

Date of Test_____ Operator_____API #30-0_____

Property Name_____Well No._____Location: Unit___Section____Township____Range____

Well Status(Shut-In or Producing) Initial PSI: Tubing____ Intermediate____ Casing____ Bradenhead_____

OPEN BRADENHEAD AND INTERMEDIATE TO ATMOSPHERE INDIVIDUALLY FOR 15 MINUTES EACH

Testing	PRESSURE Bradenhead BH	Bradenhead Int	Bradenhead Csg	INTERM Int	INTERM Csg
TIME 5 min					
10 min					
15 min					
20 min					
25 min					
30 min					

FLOW CHARACTERISTICS

	BRADENHEAD	**INTERMEDIATE**
Steady Flow		
Surges		
Down to Nothing		
Nothing		
Gas		
Gas & Water		
Water		

If bradenhead flowed water, check all of the descriptions that apply below:

CLEAR_____ FRESH_____ SALTY_____ SULFUR_____ BLACK_____

5 MINUTE SHUT-IN PRESSURE BRADENHEAD_____ INTERMEDIATE_____

REMARKS:

_____

_____

_____

By_____ Witness_____

_____
(Position)

E-mail address _____

WORKING CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING VULNERABLE AREA BRADENHEAD TESTS

1) Any locations within 100 vertical feet and one mile of the San Juan, Animas or LaPlata Rivers

2) Any locations 50 vertical feet and one-half mile of tributaries to these rivers

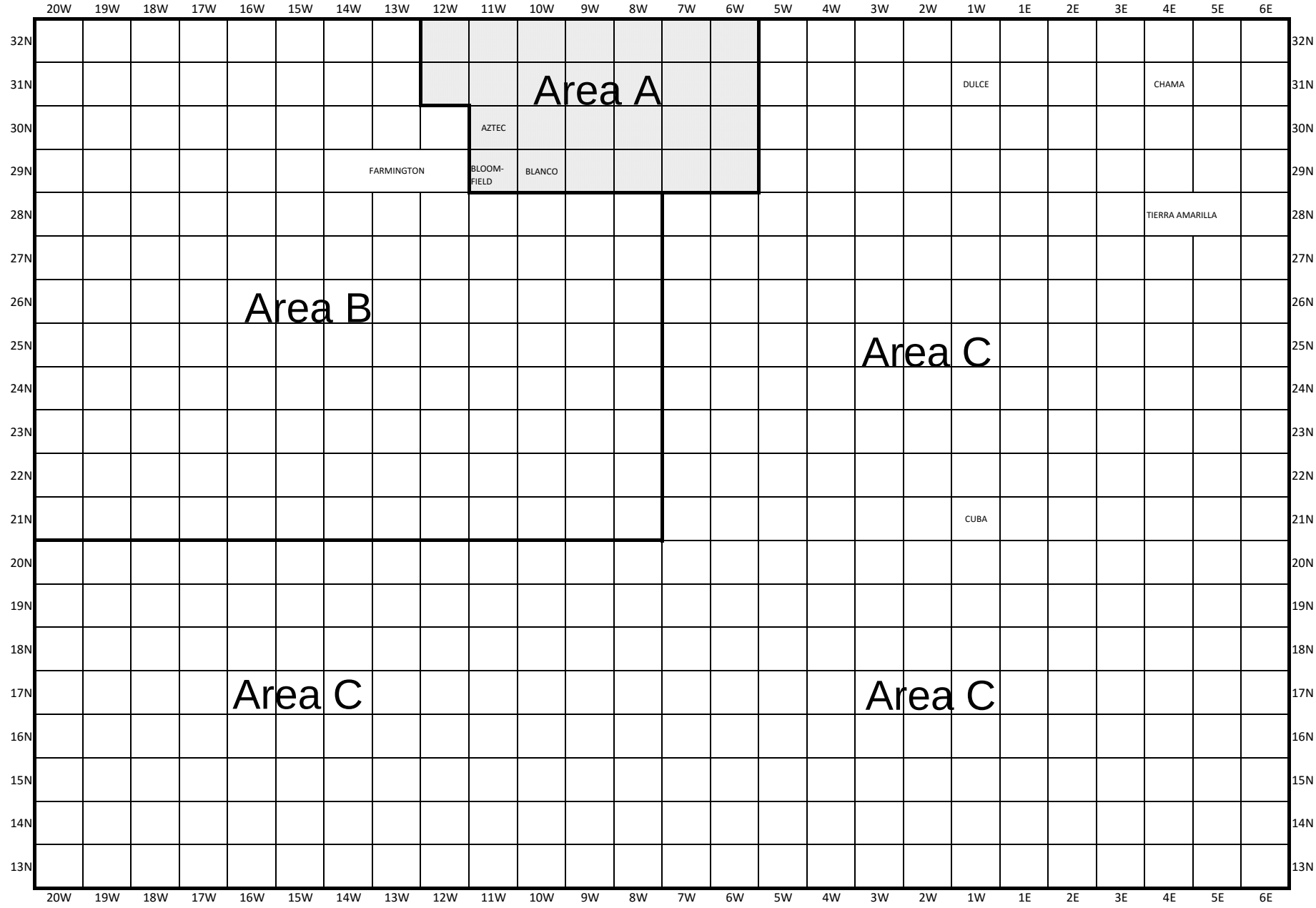
3) Any locations within 50 vertical feet and 1,000 horizontal feet of a water course*

4) Any well within 200 horizontal feet of private domestic water sources.

5) Any well within 1,000, horizontal feet of any other water source (public water wells, ponds, springs, lakes, or running water natural or man-made).

*WATERCOURSE shall mean any lakebed, gully, draw, stream bed, wash, arroyo, or natural or man-made channel through which water flows or has flowed.

Area A Map



map revised 2/2/2017