

Instructions to Pit Application
Authority: Statewide Rule 8, Water Protection

- A. File the application, including all attachments, with the Railroad Commission, Oil and Gas Division, P.O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711. On the same day file one copy of the application and its attachments with the appropriate District Office. This form is not required for a minor permit.
- B. Notify the surface owner of the land where the pit will be located by mailing or delivering a copy of the application form, both front and back, but excluding the attachments. If the land where the pit is proposed is within corporate limits, also notify the city clerk or other appropriate city official. If application is for renewal of an existing permit, notice is not required.
- C. Attach a plat showing the size of the lease or tract and the location of the pit within the lease or tract. Give approximate perpendicular distance to nearest intersecting lease/unit lines and section/survey lines. To avoid confusion, distinguish between the two sets of lines. Indicate scale on this plat.
- D. Attach a county highway map (scale: 1" = 4 miles) showing the location of the pit. County highway maps are available from the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation, P. O. Box 5051, Attn: Map Distribution File D-10, Austin, TX 78763.
- E. If application is for renewal of a permit for an existing pit, attach a copy of your current authority to use the pit.
- F. Identify the type of pit in item 13 using one of the following as defined in Statewide Rule 8(a): Emergency Saltwater Storage Pit, Collecting Pit, Gas Plant Evaporation/Retention Pit, Brine Pit (located at underground hydrocarbon storage facilities only), Saltwater Disposal Pit, Skimming Pit, Washout Pit, Drilling Fluid Disposal Pit, Drilling Fluid Storage Pit, or other (specify in item 13 and explain in item 15a).
- G. Attach a drawing of two perpendicular, sectional views of the pit showing the pit bottom, sides, dikes and the natural grade. For an existing pit, dimensions below fluid level may be approximated. If the pit length and width are irregular, include a top view to show pit dimensions and dike widths. Indicate scale on all views.
- H. **If pit is lined**, attach data on liner material, thickness, and installation procedures.
- I. Attach an identification and description of the soil or subsoil that will make up the pit bottom and sides. The information shall describe the soil by typical name, appropriate proportion of grain sizes, texture, consistency, moisture condition, and other pertinent characteristics. (Example: clayey silt, slightly plastic, small percentage of fine sand, firm and dry in place.) Identify the source of soil information. Information on how to classify soils is available from the District Office or Austin Office upon request. If application is for renewal of a permit for an existing emergency saltwater storage pit or a lined pit with a leak detection system, this attachment is not required.
- J. **If pit is equipped with a leak detection system**, attach engineering design drawing of the pit and leak detection system.
- K. **If lined pit is not equipped with a leak detection system**, describe procedures for periodic maintenance and determining liner integrity, including any special monitoring.
- L. **If pit is an emergency salt water storage pit**, attach justification for pit size based on water production, lease water storage capacity, and anticipated well or equipment shut-down time.

Note: The Director of the Oil and Gas Division may require the applicant to provide the Commission with any additional engineering, geological, or other information which the Director deems necessary to show that issuance of the permit will not result in the waste of oil, gas, or geothermal resources or the pollution of surface or subsurface water.

Protests and hearings.

An affected person may file a protest to the application and request a hearing. Any protest to the application should be filed with the Commission in Austin within fifteen days of the date the application is filed with the Commission. Any such protest shall be made in writing and shall include (1) the name, mailing address, and phone number of the person making the protest; and (2) a brief description of how the protestant would be adversely affected by the granting of the permit. If the Commission determines that a valid protest has been received, or that a hearing would be in the public interest, a hearing will be held after the issuance of proper and timely notice of the hearing by the Commission. If no protest is received within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the application in Austin, the application may be processed administratively.