

CASE 5890: JAMES C. WHITTEN FOR AN  
UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATION, LEA COUNTY,  
NEW MEXICO

Case Number

5890

Application

Transcripts

Small Exhibits

ETC.



BEFORE THE  
NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
March 23, 1977

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of James C. Whitten for an ) CASE  
unorthodox well location, Lea County, ) 5890  
New Mexico. )

BEFORE: Richard L. Stamets, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

A P P E A R A N C E S

For the New Mexico Oil      Lynn Teschendorf, Esq.  
Conservation Commission:      Legal Counsel for the Commission  
State Land Office Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

For the Applicant:      Sim B. Christy, IV, Esq.  
JENNINGS, CHRISTY & COPPLE  
Attorneys at Law  
1012 Security National Bank Bldg.  
Roswell, New Mexico

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General Court Reporting Service  
825 Calle Meja, No. 122, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
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1 MR. STAMETS: The hearing will please come to order.

2 At this time we will call Case 5890.

3 MS. TESCHENDORF: Case 5890, application of James C.  
4 Whitten for an unorthodox well location, Lea County, New Mexico.

5 MR. CHRISTY: Sim Christy, Jennings, Christy and  
6 Copple for the applicant, Mr. Whitten and we have one witness.  
7 Would you stand, please?

8 (THEREUPON, the witness was duly sworn.)

9  
10 JAMES C. WHITTEN

11 called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, was examined  
12 and testified as follows:

13  
14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. CHRISTY:

16 Q Would you please state your name and address?

17 A James C. Whitten, 508 Oil & Gas Building, Midland,  
18 Te s.

19 Q What is your occupation, Mr. Whitten?

20 A I'm a petroleum geologist.

21 Q Have you previously testified before this  
22 regulatory body and had your qualifications as a petroleum  
23 geologist accepted?

24 A I have.

25 Q Are you familiar with what is sought in Case 5890?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Would you briefly tell the Commission what is sought  
3 and what you propose to do?

4 A. The field rules for the Lea Devonian Field require  
5 that a Devonian well should be drilled only in the northwest or  
6 the southeast quarter of each governmental quarter section. We  
7 are requesting that an unorthodox location be drilled in the  
8 northeast quarter of that governmental quarter section and it  
9 is shown on the map in Section 14 as a lease which I have of  
10 the southeast quarter of Section 14.

11 Q. That is depicted as Exhibit One?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. Would you now refer to Exhibit One and go forward  
14 with your explanation as to what is sought and why?

15 A. We have two possible locations to drill according  
16 to the field rules, as I stated the northwest or the southeast  
17 quarter. As you see in the northwest quarter a well has been  
18 drilled to the Devonian and plugged, so that eliminates that  
19 particular location.

20 A well in the southeast quarter of that quarter  
21 section could be drilled. There is no location there, no dry  
22 hole, except for the fact that we might in this unorthodox  
23 location gain structure of what I have shown as pretty fair  
24 control. I think we can gain approximately seventy feet,  
25 seventy or seventy-five feet, in the structure.

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1 In addition to this I would like to attempt at this  
2 location to reenter a dry hole. It's the J. C. Maxwell No. 1  
3 Roberts Federal which in Exhibit Two you will see a schematic  
4 of the surface casing that was set in the Maxwell well and it  
5 is that that is required for a regular field. In other words,  
6 it has thirteen and three-eighths set to eight hundred and  
7 forty-five feet with the cement circulated. That hole was also  
8 drilled to thirty-seven, fourteen which would save us considerable  
9 money in drilling. We would already have the surface casing  
10 set and circulated and we would have a hole to thirty-seven  
11 hundred feet.

12 Q Economically that would save you money, would it not?

13 A Quite a bit.

14 Q And avoid economic waste?

15 A Right.

16 Q Supposing you are unsuccessful in your reentry,  
17 what would you propose to do?

18 A Well, I propose to move up fifty to seventy-five feet  
19 north of this dry hole and spud a well to the Devonian.

20 Q That would be approximately two thousand and thirty  
21 feet from the south line and six hundred and sixty feet from  
22 the east line of Section 14?

23 A Correct.

24 Q All right, sir. I notice there are two pages to  
25 Exhibit Two, what is the purpose of showing page two?



1 A. Well, I wanted to show you what Marathon has done in  
2 the past and where they set their pipe. As you can see, they  
3 set thirteen and three-eighths at eight hundred and fifty-five,  
4 approximately where this cement or casing is cemented in the  
5 dry hole which I wish to reenter.

6 Q. So the Maxwell reentry would be in conformity with  
7 present producing wells in the unit?

8 A. Yes, it would.

9 Q. And if you have to drill another hole do you plan a  
10 similar casing program?

11 A. We would anticipate, yes, the same surface program,  
12 we would set thirteen and three-eighths to approximately eight  
13 hundred and fifty feet and circulate the cement.

14 Q. All right, sir. Do you have an opinion as to whether  
15 or not the granting of this application would avoid waste?

16 A. Yes, it would.

17 Q. Is there anything I haven't asked you that you think  
18 should be brought to the attention of the Examiner in connection  
19 with consideration of the application?

20 A. I have on the map shown the percent water cut of the  
21 Devonian well. I might reiterate that this field is in a  
22 state of -- well, it has declined quite a bit. There has been  
23 quite a bit of production out of it but I think that we can  
24 show on this map that the water percentages are rather high  
25 and it is in the last stages of depletion where these wells are

1 drilled. I feel like it is not drilled in this particular  
2 area.

3 MR. CHRISTY: That's all.

4

5 CROSS EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. STAMETS:

7 Q Mr. Whitten, the well at this proposed location or  
8 at either of the two proposed locations allow you to drain this  
9 acreage?

10 A Yes, I think so.

11 Q And if you weren't allowed to drill the well at one  
12 of these unorthodox locations, is it possible that acreage  
13 would not be drained?

14 A That's true. I don't think the well could be drilled  
15 because of that dry hole in the northwest quarter of that  
16 quarter, the Southwestern No. 1. It tested oil but they  
17 weren't able to make a completion and I feel like if we can  
18 gain some seventy-five feet of structure, I think this is a  
19 drillable prospect. This well that was dry did test some oil.

20 MR. STAMETS: Are there any other questions of the  
21 witness? He may be excused.

22 (THEREUPON, the witness was excused.)

23 MR. CHRISTY: I offer into evidence Applicant's  
24 Exhibits One and Two.

25 MR. STAMETS: These exhibits will be admitted.

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1 (THEREUPON, Applicant's Exhibits One  
2 and Two were admitted into evidence.)

3 MR. CHRISTY: We have nothing further from the  
4 applicant.

5 MR. STAMETS: Anything from anyone else in this  
6 case? The case will be taken under consideration.

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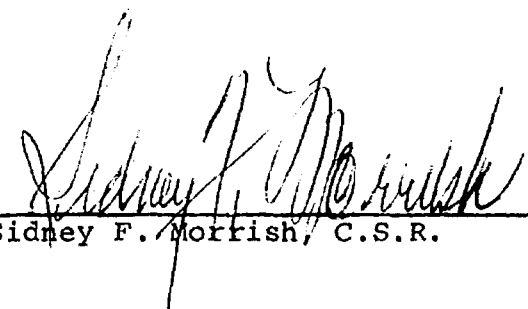
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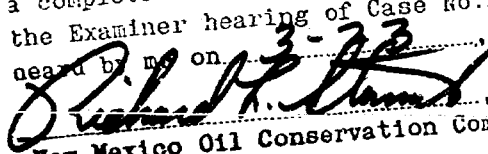
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, SIDNEY F. MORRISH, a Certified Shorthand Reporter,  
do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached Transcript  
of Hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission  
was reported by me, and the same is a true and correct record  
of the said proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skill and  
ability.

  
Sidney F. Morrish, C.S.R.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is  
a complete record of the proceedings in  
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 5890  
heard by me on 3-23, 1977  
, Examiner  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

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BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 5890  
Order No. R-5407

APPLICATION OF JAMES C. WHITTEN  
FOR AN UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATION,  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on March 23, 1977,  
at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this 29th day of March, 1977, the Commission, a  
quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record,  
and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised  
in the premises,

FINDS:

- (1) That due public notice having been given as required by  
law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject  
matter thereof.
- (2) That the applicant, James C. Whitten, seeks approval for  
the re-entry of the Roberts Federal Well No. 1 at an unorthodox  
location 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East  
line of Section 14, Township 20 South, Range 34 East, Lea Devonian  
Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.
- (3) That if said re-entry is unsuccessful, applicant proposes  
to drill a new well at an unorthodox location 2030 feet from the  
South line and 660 feet from the East line of said Section 14.
- (4) That the SE/4 of said Section 14 is to be dedicated to  
one of the aforesaid wells.
- (5) That a well at said unorthodox location will better  
enable applicant to produce the oil underlying the proration unit.
- (6) That no offset operator objected to the proposed  
unorthodox location.

-2-

Case No. 5890  
Order No. R-5407

(7) That approval of the subject application will afford the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the oil in the subject pool, will prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, and will otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That applicant is hereby given approval to re-enter the Roberts Federal Well No. 1 at an unorthodox location 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line of Section 14, Township 20 South, Range 34 East, Lea Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

PROVIDED HOWEVER, That if re-entry of said Roberts Federal Well No. 1 should prove unsuccessful, the applicant is authorized to drill a new well at an unorthodox location 2030 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line of said Section 14, Lea Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

(2) That the SE/4 of said Section 14 shall be dedicated to one of the above-described wells.

(3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year herein-above designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PHIL R. LUCERO, Chairman

  
*Emery C. Arnold*  
EMERY C. ARNOLD, Member

*Joe D. Ramey*  
JOE D. RAMEY, Member & Secretary

S E A L

jr/

Dockets Nos. 11-77 and 12-77 are tentatively set for hearing on April 6 and April 20, 1977. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 22 days in advance of hearing date.

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - MARCH 23, 1977

9 A.M. - OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM  
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The following cases will be heard before Richard L. Stamets, Examiner, or Daniel S. Hutter, Alternate Examiner:

- CASE 5882: Application of Amoco Production Company for special pool rules, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the promulgation of a special gas-oil ratio limit of 6000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil for the South Empire Wolfcamp Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- CASE 5883: Application of Am-Bett Oil Company, Inc. for an oil treating plant permit, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority for the construction and operation of an oil treating plant for the purposes of treating and reclaiming sediment oil at a site in the SE/4 NW/4 of Section 3, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, Lea County, New Mexico.
- CASE 5884: Application of BCO, Inc., for downhole commingling, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to commingle Greenhorn, Graneros, and Dakota production in the wellbore of its Dunn Well No. 1 located in Unit M of Section 10, Township 23 North, Range 7 West, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.
- CASE 5885: Application of Continental Oil Company for amendment of Order No. R-5315, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the amendment of Order No. R-5315 to permit the dedication of a previously approved 320-acre proration unit comprising the W/2 of Section 31, Township 22 South, Range 31 East, Los Medanos Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, to a well to be drilled at a standard location in Unit E of said Section 31, rather than in Unit L as previously approved.
- CASE 5886: Application of Continental Oil Company for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the unorthodox location of a well to be drilled at a point 1980 feet from the North line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 31, Township 22 South, Range 31 East, Los Medanos Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, the N/2 of said Section 31 to be dedicated to the well.
- CASE 5887: Application of Gas Company of New Mexico for suspension of Rules 14(a) and 15(a) of the gas proration rules, Catclaw Draw-Morrow Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks suspension for a period of one year from April 1, 1977, of those provisions of Rules 14(a) and 15(a) of the General Rules and Regulations for the prorated gas pools of Southeastern New Mexico promulgated by Order No. R-1670, as amended, that provide for the cancellation of underproduction and the shutting-in of overproduced wells, as applied to the Catclaw Draw-Morrow Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- CASE 5888: Application of Dalport Oil Corporation for an unorthodox gas well location, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the unorthodox location of its A. L. Christmas Well No. 3 to be drilled 330 feet from the South line and 2310 feet from the East line of Section 25, Township 22 South, Range 36 East, Jalmat Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.
- CASE 5889: Application of Saturn Oil Company for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests down to and including the Blinberry formation underlying the NE/4 SE/4 of Section 11, Township 23 South, Range 37 East, Lea County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to its Lineberry Well No. 1 located in Unit I of said Section; and underlying the NW/4 SE/4 of said Section 11 to be dedicated to its Lineberry Well No. 2 located in Unit J of said Section. In the event re-entry into either well is unsuccessful, applicant proposes to drill a replacement well at a standard location on its tracts. Also to be considered will be the costs of recompletion or drilling and completing said wells and the allocation of the costs thereof, as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision. Also to be considered will be the designation of applicant as operator of the wells and a charge for risk involved in recompletion or drilling of said wells.
- CASE 5890: Application of James C. Whitten for an unorthodox well location, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the re-entry of a well at an unorthodox location 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line of Section 14, Township 20 South, Range 34 East, Lea Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico. If said re-entry is unsuccessful, applicant proposes to drill a new well at an unorthodox location 2030 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line of said Section 14.



CASE 5891: Application of Sam H. Snoddy for directional drilling and a non-standard gas proration unit, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the directional drilling of two 13,500 foot Morrow test wells from a single drilling site in the extreme Northwest five acres of the NW/4 SE/4 of Section 25, Township 20 South, Range 32 East, Potash-Oil Area, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant proposes to vertically drill each of said wells to a depth of approximately 3000 feet and to then directionally drill one well in a Northeasterly direction bottoming said well in the approximate center of the NE/4 of said Section 25, and to then directionally drill the other well in a Southwesterly direction, bottoming said well in the approximate center of the SW/4 of said Section 25. Applicant would dedicate the N/2 to the first of the aforesaid wells, and would dedicate a non-standard 160-acre unit comprising the SW/4 of said Section 25 to the second.

CASE 5820: (Continued from March 9, 1977, Examiner Hearing)

Application of Texas Oil & Gas Corporation for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Wolfcamp and Pennsylvanian formations underlying the W/2 of Section 4, Township 22 South, Range 26 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location thereon. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof, as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision. Also to be considered will be the designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.

CASE 5892: Southeastern New Mexico nomenclature case calling for the creation and extension of certain pools in Eddy and Lea Counties, New Mexico.

(a) CREATE a new pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Atoka production and designated as the East Burton Flat-Atoka Gas Pool. The discovery well is the J. C. Williamson & D. W. Underwood et al Williamson Federal Well No. 1 located in Unit J of Section 9, Township 20 South, Range 29 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, NMPM  
Section 9: E/2

(b) CREATE a new pool in Lea County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Morrow production and designated as the North Eidson-Morrow Gas Pool. The discovery well is the Sabine Production Company North Eidson Fee Well No. 1 located in Unit M of Section 34, Township 15 South, Range 34 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, NMPM  
Section 34: W/2

(c) CREATE a new pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, classified as an oil pool for Delaware production and designated as the Forehand Ranch Delaware Pool. The discovery well is the Husky Oil Company of Delaware Forehand Well No. 2 located in Unit K of Section 15, Township 23 South, Range 27 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST, NMPM  
Section 15: SW/4

(d) CREATE a new pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Strawn production and designated as the Grayburg-Strawn Gas Pool. The discovery well is the Amoco Production Company Empire South Deep Unit Gas Com Well No. 8 located in Unit L of Section 33, Township 17 South, Range 29 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, NMPM  
Section 33: S/2

(e) CREATE a new pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Morrow production and designated as the Indian Flats-Morrow Gas Pool. The discovery well is the Perry R. Bass Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 located in Unit J of Section 35, Township 21 South, Range 28 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, NMPM  
Section 35: E/2

(f) CREATE a new pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Morrow production and designated as the South Maroon Cliffs-Morrow Gas Pool. The discovery well is the Perry R. Bass Big Eddy Unit Well No. 44 located in Unit H of Section 16, Township 21 South, Range 30 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, NMPM  
Section 16: E/2

(g) CREATE a new pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Atoka production and designated as the Quahada Ridge-Atoka Gas Pool. The discovery well is the Perry R. Bass Big Eddy Unit Well No. 40 located in Unit G of Section 22, Township 21 South, Range 29 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, NMPM  
Section 22: N/2

(h) CREATE a new pool in Lea County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Morrow production and designated as the East Red Tank-Morrow Gas Pool. The discovery well is the Gulf Oil Corporation Covington "A" Federal Well No. 1 located in Unit C of Section 25, Township 22 South, Range 32 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 32 EAST, NMPM  
Section 25: N/2

(i) CREATE a new pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Morrow production and designated as the South Rock Tank-Morrow Gas Pool. The discovery well is the Amoco Production Company South Rock Tank Well No. 1 located in Unit H of Section 2, Township 24 South, Range 24 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM  
Section 2: N/2

(j) CREATE a new pool in Lea County, New Mexico, classified as an oil pool for Wolfcamp production and designated as the Trinity-Wolfcamp Pool. The discovery well is the Wainoco, Inc. Hodge et al Well No. 1 located in Unit P of Section 28, Township 12 South, Range 38 East, NMPM. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, NMPM  
Section 28: SE/4

(k) EXTEND the Baum-Upper Pennsylvanian Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, NMPM  
Section 30: NE/4

(l) EXTEND the South Bell Lake-Atoka Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, NMPM  
Section 31: S/2  
Section 32: W/2

(m) EXTEND the South Bell Lake-Morrow Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, NMPM  
Section 36: NE/4

(n) EXTEND the Blinebry Oil and Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, NMPM  
Section 21: SW/4  
Section 28: NW/4

(o) EXTEND the Cemetery-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM  
Section 36: S/2

TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST, NMPM  
Section 28: S/2  
Section 31: S/2  
Section 32: S/2  
Section 33: All  
Section 34: N/2  
Section 35: N/2

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM  
Section 1: All

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM  
Section 6: Lots 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15 & 16

(p) EXTEND the North Dagger Draw-Upper Pennsylvanian Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 13: SE/4

(q) EXTEND the South Empire-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 5: S/2

(r) EXTEND the Indian Draw-Delaware Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 7: S/2 SW/4  
Section 18: N/2 NE/4

(s) EXTEND the South Loco Hills-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 29: All

(t) EXTEND the Red Lake Queen-Grayburg-San Andres Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 22: S/2 NE/4  
Section 23: S/2 SE/4 and SW/4 NW/4

(u) EXTEND the North Teague-Devonian Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 37 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 22: SE/4

(v) EXTEND the North Vacuum-Abo Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 2: NW/4

(w) EXTEND the Warren-Tubb Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 21: S/2

(x) EXTEND the White City-Pennsylvanian Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 19: All  
Section 28: All

TOWNSHIP 25 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, N2E1/4  
Section 2: All

Docket No. 10-77

Dockets Nos. 11-77 and 12-77 are tentatively set for hearing on April 6 and April 20, 1977. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 22 days in advance of hearing date.

DOCKET: COMMISSION HEARING WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 1977

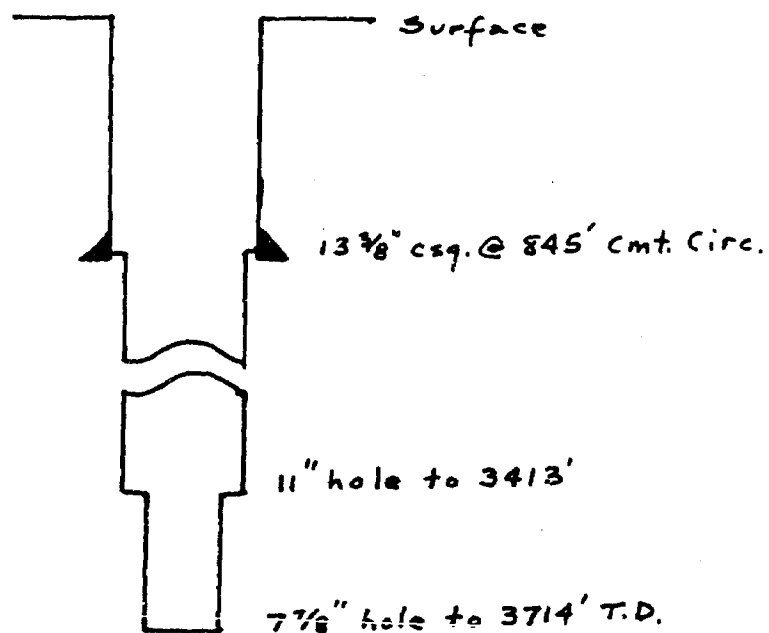
1 P.M. - OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM  
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

CASE 5893: Application of the Oil Conservation Commission on its own motion for a redefinition of the vertical limits of the Blanco-Mesaverde Pool, Rio Arriba and San Juan Counties, New Mexico, to include the interval from the Huerfanito bentonite marker to a point 500 feet below the top of the Point Lookout sandstone, except that South and West of a Northwest-Southeast line generally running from the North-west corner of Township 31 North, Range 13 West, to the Southwest corner of Township 24 North, Range 1 East, the vertical limits would include only the interval from a point 750 feet below the Huerfanito bentonite marker to 500 feet below the top of the Point Lookout sandstone.

CASE 5821: (DE NOVO)

Application of Blackwood & Nichols Co., Ltd., for a hearing de novo, San Juan County, New Mexico. Upon petition of applicant in the above-styled cause and pursuant to the provisions of Rule 1220, Paragraphs (i) and (j) of Case No. 5821 will be heard de novo for the purpose of considering the nullification of Paragraphs (i) and (j) of Order No. R-5339 which created and defined the Navajo City-Chacra Pool in Township 30 North, Range 8 West, and the Animas-Chacra Pool in Township 31 North, Range 10 West, both in San Juan County, New Mexico.

J. C. Maxwell #1 Roberts Federal  
1980' FSL & 660' FEL Section 14  
T-20-S, R-34-E, Lea County, N.M.  
D&A 9-7-63 T.D. 3715'  
13 3/8" csg. set @ 845 w/575 sxs (Circulated)  
Plugs set 3550-3450', 1750-1650', 850-800,  
& top of 13 3/8" csg. No casing removed.



**Proposed Program:**

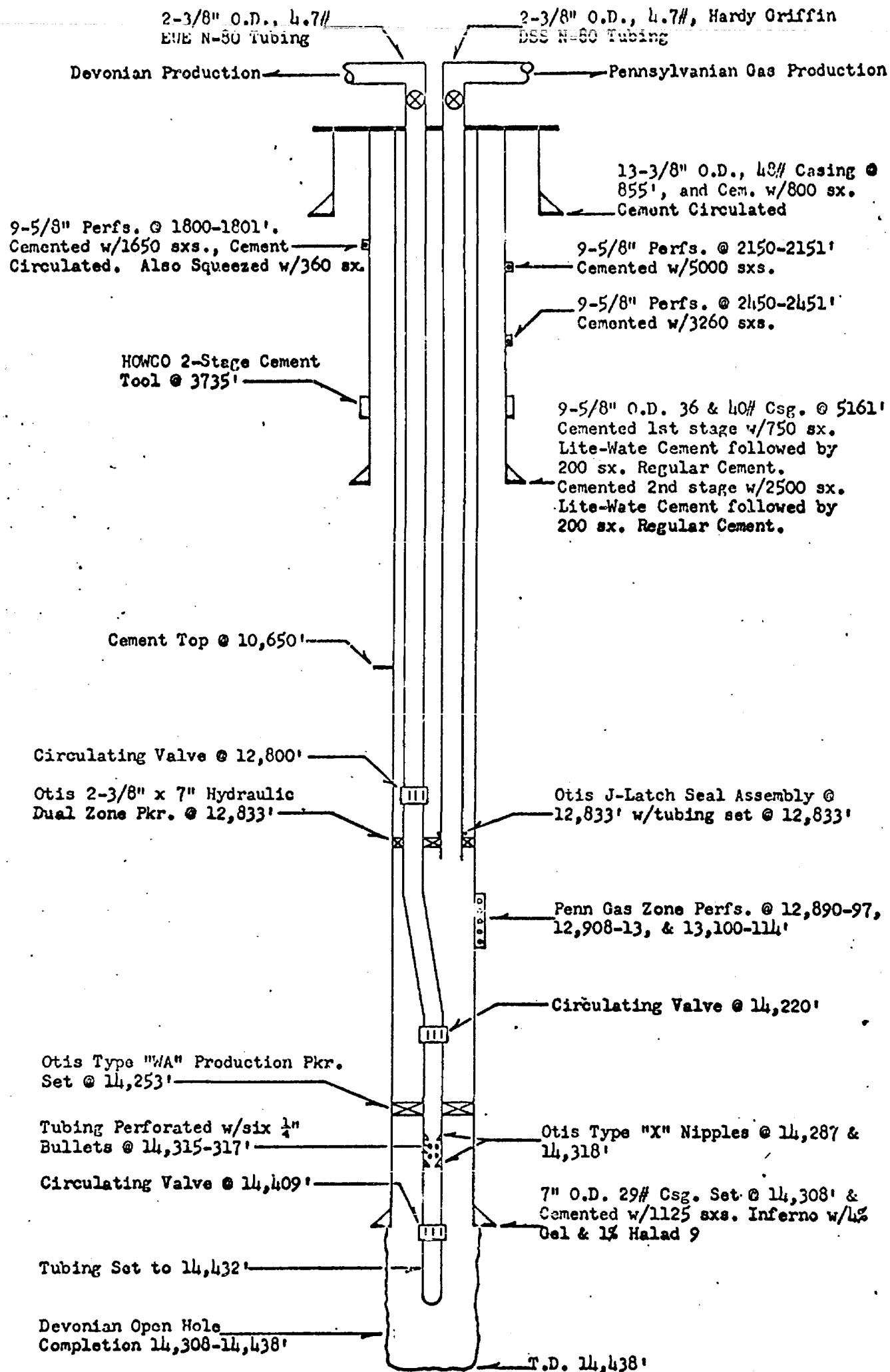
Re-enter the J. C. Maxwell No. 1 Roberts Federal to:

- (1) Drill a 11" hole to 5100' & set 9 5/8" csg.
- (2) Drill to T.D. of approximately 14600' for Devonian single completion or a Devonian and Penn dual completion.

Case 5890

EF 2

MARATHON OIL COMPANY  
 "Diagrammatic Sketch of Mechanical Equipment Used in Dual Completion"  
 Lea Unit, Well No. 10  
 Unit F, Sec. 13, T-20-S, R-34-E  
 Lea County, New Mexico



JAMES T. JENNINGS  
SIM B. CHRISTY IV  
BRIAN W. COPPLE  
ROBERT O. ARMSTRONG

LAW OFFICES OF  
JENNINGS, CHRISTY & COPPLE  
1012 SECURITY NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
P. O. BOX 1180  
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO 86201

Case 5870  
MAR 14 1977  
TELEPHONE 622-8432  
AREA CODE 808

March 3, 1977

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission  
P. O. Box 2088  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Gentlemen:

In behalf of James C. Whitten we enclose herewith  
Application for unorthodox well spacing in the Lea Devonian  
Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.


In view of the fact that I have jury trials both  
April 4 and April 6, and again April 13-15, I would appreciate  
it if you would not set the matter for hearing on those dates.  
Also, I have previously filed, in behalf of Sam H. Snoddy,  
an Application for directional drilling pursuant to Rule 111,  
Lea County, New Mexico, and it would be most helpful if the  
two cases could be set at the same date. If there is a problem  
on the matter I would appreciate a phone call.

Respectfully,

JENNINGS, CHRISTY & COPPLE

SBC/jy  
Encl.

By

  
S. B. Christy IV

cc: Mr. James C. Whitten

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF JAMES C. WHITTEN FOR UNORTHODOX )  
WELL LOCATION IN THE LEA DEVONIAN )  
POOL, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO. )

Case No. 5896

APPLICATION

Comes now James C. Whitten, whose address is 508 Oil & Gas Building, Midland, Texas 79701 ("Applicant"), and hereby requests unorthodox well location in the Lea Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, and states:

1. Applicant is the owner and holder of an Oil and Gas Lease from the United States of America as lessor to Applicant as lessee, bearing Serial No. NM-29707, covering the following described lands in Lea County, New Mexico:

Township 20 South, Range 34 East, N.M.P.M.  
Section 14: SE $\frac{1}{4}$

containing 160 acres, more or less.

2. Current Lea Devonian Pool rules provide for a well to be located 150 feet from the center of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  or the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of each governmental quarter section subject to the Pool rules.

3. Applicant requests permission for an unorthodox well location in the Lea Devonian Pool with a proposed location initially to be by attempted re-entry of the J. C. Maxwell No. 1 Roberts-Federal well located 1980' from the South line and 660' from the East line of said Section 14. Applicant proposes that the re-entry be made by setting 13-3/8" casing at 848 feet, 11" hole to 3413' and 7-7/8" hole to 3714' which would be below the salt-potash section. Granting of the re-entry would, in the opinion of Applicant, avoid waste.

4. If the proposed re-entry by Applicant is unsuccessful, then he would propose to drill a new well located approximately 50 feet North of the re-entry well and drilled at a location of 2030' from the South line and 660' from the East line of said Section 14.

Re-entry or new drilling operations contemplate a well to be drilled to the Lea Devonian Pool at approximately 14,600 feet subsurface.

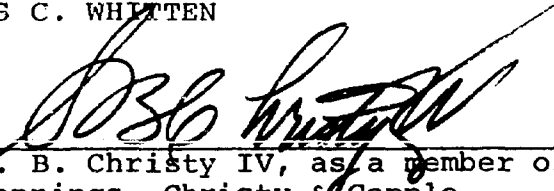
5. In the opinion of the Applicant the granting of this Application would prevent waste and not be in violation of the correlative rights of any interested party.

WHEREFORE, Applicant prays after notice and hearing that the Application for unorthodox well location be granted pursuant to the provisions of this Application.

Respectfully,

JAMES C. WHITTEN

By

  
S. B. Christy IV, as a member of  
Jennings, Christy & Copple,  
P. O. Box 1180,  
Roswell, New Mexico 88201  
Attorneys for the Applicant

DISTRIBUTION:

O & 2 -- NMOCC  
1 -- Marathon Oil Company  
1 -- James C. Whitten  
1 -- File



DRAFT

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

dr/

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 5890

Order No. R- 5407

APPLICATION OF JAMES C. WHITTEN  
FOR AN UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATION,  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on March 23,  
19 77, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 77, the Commission,  
a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record,  
and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised  
in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by  
law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject  
matter thereof.

(2) That the applicant, James C. Whitten, seeks approval for  
the re-entry of ~~a well~~ <sup>the Roberts Federal Well No. 1</sup> at an unorthodox location 1980 feet from the  
South line and 660 feet from the East line of Section 14, Township  
20 South, Range 34 East, Lea Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

(3) That if said re-entry is unsuccessful, applicant proposes  
to drill a new well at an unorthodox location 2030 feet from the  
South line and 660 feet from the East line of said Section 14.

(4) That the SE/4 of said Section 14 is to be  
<sup>one of the aforesaid</sup>  
dedicated to ~~the~~ wells.

(5) That a well at said unorthodox location will better enable applicant to produce the ~~hydrocarbon~~<sup>P1'</sup> underlying the proration unit.

(6) That no offset operator objected to the proposed unorthodox location.

(7) That approval of the subject application will afford the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the oil in the subject pool, will prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, and will otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The *Roberts Federal Well No 1*  
(1) That applicant is hereby given approval to re-enter a well at an unorthodox location 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line of Section 14, Township 20 South, Range 34 East, Lea Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

*Provided However, that if recovery of said Roberts Federal Well No. 1 should prove unsuccessful, the applicant is authorized to drill a new well at an unorthodox location*

(2) That the SE of said Section 14 shall be one of dedicated to the above-described wells.

(3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

*2030 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line of said Section 14, Lea Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico*

