CASE 7076: VISTA RESOURCES, INC. FOR AN JNORTHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION, RÍO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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Application

Transcripts.

5man Exhibits



LARRY KEHOE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

November 20, 1980

POST OFFICE BOX 2088 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501 (505) 827-2434

Mr. Kenneth Bateman White, Koch, Kelly & McCarthy Attorneys at Law Post Office Box 787 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

CASE NO. 7076 ORDER NO. R-6521

Applicant:

Vista Resources, Inc.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are two copies of the above-referenced Division order recently entered in the subject case.

murs very truly, JOE D. RAMEY Director

JDR/fd

Copy of order also sent to:

Hobbs OCD Artesia OCD Aztec OCD

Other

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 7076 Order No. R-6521

APPLICATION OF VISTA RESOURCES, INC. FOR AN UNDRIHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION, RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on November 12, 1980, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamete.

NOW, on this 17th day of November, 1980, the Division Director, 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 Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the applicant, Vista Resources, Inc., seeks approval of an unorthodox gas well location for its John H. Dashko Federal Well No. 1 to be drilled 2510 feet from the South line and 790 feet from the East line of Section 11, Township 24 North, Range 7 West, NMPM, Basin-Dakota Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.
- (3) That the E/2 of said Section 11 is to be dedicated to the well.
- (4) That a well at said unorthodox location will better phable applicant to produce the gas underlying the proration poit.
- (5) That no offset operator objected to the proposed un-

-2-Case No. 7076 Order No. R-6521

(6) That approval of the subject application will afford the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the gas 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 an unorthodox gas well location is hereby approved for the Vista Resources, Inc. John H. Dashko Federal Well No. 1 to be located at a point 2510 feet from the South line and 790 feet from the East line of Section II, Township 24 North, Range 7 West, NMPM, Basin-Dakota Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.
- (2) That the t/2 of said Section 11 shall be dedicated to the above-described well.
- (3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may doen necessary.

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

S E A L

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

JOE D. RAMEY Director IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Vista Resources, Inc.,) for an unorthodox gas well location ,) Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

CASE 7076

BEFORE: Richard L. Stamets

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

APPEARANCES

For the Oil Conservation Division:

Ernest L. Padilla, Esq. Legal Counsel to the Division State Land Office Bldg. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

For the Applicant:

Ken Bateman, Esq.
WHITE, KOCH, KELLY & McCARTHY
220 Otero Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

SALLY W. (30YD, C. Rt. 1 110x 193-8
Santa Fe, New Mexico 873
Phone (8)5) 455-7409

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MR. STAMETS: We'll call next Case 7076. MR. PADILLA: Application of Vista 4 Resources, Inc., for an unorthodox gas well location, Rio 5 Arriba County, New Mexico. MR. STAMETS: Call for appearances in this case. 8 MR. BATEMAN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Ken 9 Bateman of White, Koch, Kelly and McCarthy, and I have one 10 11 witness. 12 MR. STAMETS: I'd like to have the 13 witness stand and be sworn, please. 14 15 (Witness sworn.) 16 17 JOHN H. SIMONS 18 being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his oath, 19 20 testified as follows, to-wit: 21 22 DIRECT EXAMINATION 23 BY MR. BATEMAN: 24 Sir, will you state your full name, 25 place of employment and position for the record, please? 26 My name is John H. Simons. I'm Presi-27 dent of Vista Resources, whose offices are located in Albu-28

1 querque. New Mexico, at 800 Rio Grande Boulevard. Northwest. Suite Ten. Have you previously testified before the Commission? No, I have not. Would you state briefly for the record, 8 then, your educational and work experience? 9 I have a chemical engineering degree 10 11 from the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a degree 12 in geology from the University of New Mexico. 13 I have worked for numerous major com-14 panies in the San Juan Basin, namely being the old Stanoline 15 Oil and Gas Company, and Tenneco Oil and Gas Company, where 16 I was in charge of the exploration for Tenneco in the north-17 western portion of New Mexico, as well as other areas. I've 18 had in excess of twenty years experience in the San Juan Basin 19 20 Are you familiar with the well in ques-21 tion and its geology? 22 Yes, I am. 23 MR. BATEMAN: Are the witness credentials 24 acceptable? 25 MR. STAMETS: Mr. Simons, was your ex-26 perience with Stanoline and Tenneco primarily as a geologist, 27 28 an exploration geologist?

A. Primarily with Stanoline as an exploration geologist, but with Tenneco as a manager of the office which controlled both the exploration and the production aspects of the operations.

MR. STAMETS: The witness is considered qualified.

Mr. Simons, would you refer to what's been marked Exhibit One and state briefly what you seek by the application?

A. Exhibit ONe is the -- is an index map of the San Juan Basin with the prospect area, or the area where we are asking for an unorthodox location where it is located, as related to the Basin Dakota Gas Field.

Q. Would you then proceed with Exhibit Two and state specifically where the proposed location is?

A. Exhibit Two is a detailed map showing only Dakota wells within the area. If you will note the yellow colored lens, that is where we feel there is an offshore type Dakota sand bar providing the stratigraphic trap for the production from the two wells shown as gas wells within the sand bar, being the T. H. McIlvain-Miller "A" 1 and the T. H. McIlvain-Miller "B" 5.

Going on to the north you'll see the Merrion and Bayless Dashko No. 2, which reached the Dakota,

was logged, and it is apparent to us in the cross section that it was a bypassed well. The well was drilled down to the Dakota, never treated, and eventually plugged from that -- from that horizon.

The sandbar is developed by log inter-

electric log interpretation in that well.

And then between the two wells you see

Merrion and Bayless Dashko No. 2 to the PanAm Dashko No. 3,

pretation, by electric log interpretation, in the Merrion

and Bayless Dashko No. 2. If you will look then south of the

which also reached the Dakota, the sandbar was not present by

our proposed location, which is unorthodox. The well is located properly in relation to the east line of the section; however, it's too close to the north quarter line of Section ll, and to be orthodox the well would have to be moved approximately 700 feet south, and we feel geologically that if we drilled that location at an orthodox location, that the chances of missing the sandbar are very great and could not -- we could not justify in our own minds that it would encounter the sandbar that we feel will be present at the unorthodox location.

We intend -- there are no more Dakota wells to the northwest and the extension of the sandbar to the northwest is only speculative. There are adequate logs and cross sections to prove the non-existence of the sandbar

in the areas outside of where the bar is represented to be.

p Exhibits Three, Four, and Five, I believe, are cross sections --

A Yes.

A. That's correct. And if you will continue to refer to Exhibit Two and look at the cross section C-C', which commences with the PanAm Dashko No. 3, proceeds to the Merrion and Bayless Dashko 2, and finally terminates at the T. H. McIlvain-Miller "B" 6, looking at the Dakota section in the PanAmerican Dashko No. 3, as you can see, the sandbar is not developed in that well, either by SP curves or resistivity curves.

Proceeding to the Merrion and Bayless
Dashko No. 2, you can see the sandbar development there with
adequate resistivity for production, and in our opinion a
bypassed well. We feel that a fracture treatment of this
well would have resulted in a commercial well.

Then proceeding on to the T. H. McIlvain-Miller "B" 6, again you can see the non-development of the sandbar in that well.

That cross section provides the information that we utilized to place on Exhibit Two the location

of the sandbar.

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Any movement of the proposed location at its unorthodox location towards the PanAm Dashko is moving it toward a dry hole, and again, emphasizing in our estimation would result in either a dry hole or a noncommercial well.

Exhibit Four, which is another log cross section, and is A-A', which was -- was made to show the existence of the sandbar further to the south, commences with the T. H. McIlvain-Miller "B" 6, again, goes to the T. H. McIlvain-Miller "A" 1, and proceeds to the Redfern and Largo Spur (sic) No. 2 Well.

Again, at the McIlvain "B" 6 Well the sandbar is not developed. You can see the development colored in yellow at the Miller "A" l and the sandbar is slightly present in the Redfern and Heard but the section is all tight. It is non-permeable at that -- and very low in porosity -- at that location.

In our estimation that again proves the existence of this northwesterly-southeasterly trending sand-bar.

Going to Exhibit Five, this cross section was made to show the continuity of the sandbar along its strike, commencing with the Merrion and Bayless Dashko
No. 2, the dry hole, you can see the sandbar present colored

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in yellow. Proceeding to the McIlvain "B" 5, a productive Dakota well, and proceeding on to the T. H. McIlvain "A" 1, another productive Dakota Well.

I might say for the record that -- that our interests, that Vista's interests only relate to the Dakota. There is other production in this area from other horizons, primarily the Pictured Cliffs and the Gallup; however, we do not have the rights to those horizons in our arrangements.

Mr. Simons, do you believe that a well drilled at an unorthodox location would have any adverse effect on the offsetting production?

A. No, I do not believe so, and to support that belief, I prepared Exhibit Six, which is the production curves for the McIlvain-Miller "B" 5 and the McIlvain-Miller "A" 1, commencing in 1961 and ending in -- at the end of 1979.

The solid line is the production curve for the "B" 5 Well, the one nearest our proposed unorthodox location.

The dashed line represents the production from the Miller "A" 1, and the Miller "B" 5 has produced to 1-1-80 a little bit over 2.2 Bcf.

The Miller "A" 1 to -- to the end of

1979 had produced 1.9 Bcf. The present pressures and deliverabilities of the two wells are equivalent. In our estimation there appears to be no interference in productive capabilities of the two wells due to their similarity and the probably very efficient drainage of the stratigraphic trap.

And as you can see, the unorthodox proposed location is approximately the same distance from the nearest productive well as the two wells in question.

Q. All right, Exhibit Seven, I believe, illustrates other productive wells in the area, other horizons, is that correct?

A. Exhibit Seven was prepared to show the other wells that are present in the vicinity of Section 11. The wells with a triangle on them are wells that have reached the Dakota and then under each well, as an example, if you take the El Paso No. 88 Canyon Largo Well in Section 2, it gives its total depth, its plugged back total depth, and the IPF of the Pictured Cliffs formation on a 3/4 choke.

If the well was completed in the Gallup, the same initial potential information is given.

Mr. Simons, I take it, then, that you believe the economic risk of drilling at a standard location is too great and you could not drill at that location?

We could not justify the drilling of a

MR. STAMETS: These exhibits will be admitted. Are there any other questions of the witness? He may be excused. Anything further in this case? The case will be taken under advisement. (Hearing concluded.) 10. 27 -

CERTIFICATE

I, SALLY W. BOYD, C.S.R., DO HEREPY CERTIFY that the foregoing Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that the said transcript is a full, true, and correct record of the hearing, prepared by me to the best of my ability.

Saley W. Boyd CS.R.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case co. 7076.

Oil Conservation Division

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		For the Oil Conservation	Ernest L. Padilla, Esq.
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	20	For the Applicant:	The Charles of the Control of the Co
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If the well was completed in the Gallup, the same initial potential information is given.

Mr. Simons, I take it, then, that you believe the economic risk of drilling at a standard location is too great and you could not drill at that location?

We could not justify the drilling of a

Dakota well at a standard location.

And for that reason we feel that the unorthodox location will not affect reserves in any other well and we are dedicating the entire 320 acres to that well, not 160 acres which would be normal spacing. I believe that's correct for the Dakota in this area.

Q. In your opinion would the granting of your application prevent waste and protect correlative rights?

A. In my opinion it would certainly prevent waste because we would be drilling the well at the best geological position that we know, based on subsurface well control which we consider to be adequate to ask for the unorthodox location.

And based on the decline curves shown on Exhibit Six, we do not feel that it would interfere with any other production in the area, because there are dry holes, as you can see, very close to our proposed unorthodox location.

Q. Were Exhibits One through Seven prepared by you or under your direction?

A. They either were prepared by me or under my direction.

MR. BATEMAN: We offer Exhibits One through Seven at this time.

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	7	MR. STAMETS: These exhibits will be
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	4	admitted.
	5	Are there any other questions of the
		witness? He may be excused.
	- 6	Anything further in this case?
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	8	The case will be taken under advisement.
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CERTIFICATE

I, SALLY W. BOYD, C.S.R., DO HEREPY CERTIFY that the foregoing Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that the said transcript is a full, true, and correct record of the hearing, prepared by me to the best of my ability.

SALLY W. BOYD.

SALLY W. BOYD.

SALLY W. BOYD.

SALLY W. BOYD.

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I do hereby corner that the foregoing is
a complete record of the foregoing is
the Examiner hearing of Caso 19
heard by me on
Oll Conservation Division

Dockets Nos. 37-80 and 38-80 are tentatively set for November 25 and December 10, 1980. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 22 days in advance of hearing date.

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 12, 1980

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

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

- ALLOWABLE: (1) Consideration of the allowable production of gas for December, 1980, from fifteen prorated pools in Lea, Eddy, and Chaves Counties, New Mexico.
 - (2) Consideration of the allowable production of gas for Decomber, 1980, from four prorated pools in San Juan, Rio Arriba, and Sandoval Counties, New Yexico.
- CASE 7076: Application of Vista Resources, Inc. for an unorthodox gas well lication, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the unorthodox location of its John H. Dashko Federal Well No. 1 to be drilled 2510 feet from the South line and 790 feet from the East line of Section 11, Township 24 North, Range 7 West, Basin-Dakota Pool, the E/2 of said Section 11 to be dedicated to the well.
- CASE 7077: Application of Threshold Development Company for a dual completion, Eddy County, New Mexico.

 Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the dual completion of its Conoco "10"

 State Com Well No. 1 located in Unit I of Section 10, Township 19 South, Range 29 East, Turkey

 Track Field, to produce oil from the Wolfcamp formation and gas from the Atoka formation through
 parallel strings of tubing.
- CASE 7046: (Continued from October 15, 1980, Examiner Hearing)

Application of Cotton Petroleum Corporation for downhole commingling, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the downhole commingling of Chacra and Pictured Cliffs production in the wellbores of wells in the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool located in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 23, and 24, Township 24 North, Range 4 West.

- * CASE 7078: Application of Conoco Inc. for a dual completion, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the aboveexpled cause, tooks approval for the dual completion of its Marieu Unit Weil No. 02 located in Unit G of Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 38 East, to produce oil from the Blinebry Oil and Gas or Warren-Tubb Pools and the D-K Abo Pool.
- CASE 7079: Application of HNG Oil Company for the amendment of Order No. R-5727, Eddy County, New Mexico.

 Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the amendment of Order No. R-5727 to include the entire Pennsylvanian formation under the compulsory pooling order rather than only the Morrow formation as previously ordered.
- CASE 7080: Application of Franks Petroleum. Inc. for an unorthodox gas well location. Lea County. New Mexico.

 Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the unorthodox location of a well to be drilled 660 feet from the North and East lines of Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 32 East, Hat Mesa-Morrow Gas Pool, the E/2 of said Section 9 to be dedicated to the well.
- CASE 7081: Application of Belco Petroleum Corporation for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico.

 Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Pennsylvanian formation underlying the B/2 of Section 19, Township 23 South, Range 28 East, 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, designation of applicant as operator of the well, and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.
- CASE 7070: (Continued from October 29, 1980, Examiner Hearing)

Application of Tesoro Fetroleum Corporation for a pilot caustic flood project, McKinley County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to institute a one-acre pilot caustic flood project in the Hospah Field by the injection of caustic fluid into the Seven Lakes Sand of the Upper Hospah Field at an approximate depth of 300-500 feet through four injection wells in Unit K of Section 1, Township 17 North, Range 9 West.

CASE 7082: Application of Maralo, Inc. and Dalport Dil Corporation for u waterflood project, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicants, in the above-styled cause, seek authority to institute a joint waterflood project on Dalport's Winters Lease offsetting Maralo's Jalmat Yates Unit waterflood project by the injection of water into the Yates-Seven Rivers-Queen formations through a well to be jointly drilled at an unorthodox location 1260 feet from the South line and 1250 feet from the West line of Section 7, Township 25 South, lange 36 East, Jalmat Pool.

VISTA RESOURCES, INC. 800 Rio Grande Boulevard, N.W. Suite 10 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

(505) 247-3323

October 20, 1980



New Mexico Oil and Gas . Conservation Division P. O. Box 2088

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Attn: Mr. Richard A. Stamets Technical Support Chief 7076

John S. Dashko Federal #1 Dakota

I-11-24N-7W

Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

Vista Resources, Inc. hereby applies to the Oil and Gas Conservation Division for an unorthodox location of its John S. Dashko Federal #1 Dakota Well in the Basin Dakota Gas Pool and in support thereof states:

- 1) Applicants' geology indicates the necessity to locate this well in an unorthodox location 2510 feet from the South line and 790 feet from the East line of Section 11, Township 24 North, Range 7 West, N.M.P.M., Basin Dakota Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.
- Applicant proposes to dedicate the East one-half of Section 11 to the Dakota Production from this
- 3) The attached plat showing all wells drilled in the area that have penetrated the Dakota formation indicates that the East one-half of Section 11 has two dry holes that have penetrated the Dakota formation, making the location of appli cants' proposed test extremely critical.
- Applicant requests that this cause be placed on the next available examiner's docket as applicant is faced with a December 31, 1980 deadline to commence drilling of the proposed well.
- The granting of this application will prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

Respectfully submitted,

VISTA RESOURCES, INC

Broome, Agent

GBB/mcb

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 7076
ORDER NO. R- 6521
APPLICATION OF VISTA RESOURCES, INC.
FOR AN UNORTHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION,
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.
ORDER OF THE DIVISION BY THE DIVISION:
This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on November 12
1980 , at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.
NOW, on this day of November, 1980, the Division
Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the
recommendations of the Evaminer, and being fully advised in the
premises,
FINDS:
(1) That due public notice having been given as required by
law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject
matter thereof.
(2) That the applicant, Vista Resources, Inc. for its John H. Dashko Federal Well No. 1 to be drilled seeks approval of an unorthodox gas well location/ 2510
feet from the South line and 790 feet from the
East line of Section 11 , Township 24 North
Range 7 West , NMPM, to test the
formation, Basin-Dakota Pool, R io Arriba
County, New Mexico.
(3) That the $E/2$ of said Section 11 is to be
dedicated to the well.
(4) That a well at said unorthodox location will better
enable applicant to produce the gas underlying the proration unit.
(5) That no offset operator objected to the proposed unorthodox

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location.

	-2- Case No.
	Case NoOrder No. R
	(6) That approval of the subject application will afford the applicant
	the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the gas 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:
h	(1) That an unorthodox gas well location to the
	feet from the South line and 790 feet from the East
	line of Section 11 , Township 24 North , Range 7 West
	NMPM, Basin-Dakota Pool, Rio Arriba County,
	New Mexico.
	(2) That the $_{E/2}$ of said Section $_{11}$ shall be dedicated to
	the above-described well.
	(3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such
	further orders as the Division may deem necessary.
	DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

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