

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

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

**NOMENCLATURE  
CASE NO. 11612  
Order No. R-10679**

**APPLICATION OF FASKEN OIL & RANCH  
LTD. FOR CREATION OF A NEW OIL POOL  
WITH SPECIAL RULES, LEA COUNTY, NEW  
MEXICO.**

**ORDER OF THE DIVISION**

**BY THE DIVISION:**

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on September 26, 1996, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 2nd day of October, 1996, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

**FINDS THAT:**

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

(2) The applicant, Fasken Oil & Ranch, Ltd., seeks the creation of a new pool for the production of oil from the Devonian formation comprising the W/2 SW/4 of Section 3, Township 13 South, Range 38 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, and the promulgation of special rules and regulations therefor including a provision for 80-acre spacing and proration units and designated well location requirements, and for the assignment of a discovery allowable.

(3) At the time of the hearing, the applicant requested that the portion of its application requesting the assignment of a discovery allowable to the Grande Well No. 1 be dismissed.

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(4) The evidence presented indicates that the applicant has recently drilled and completed its Grande Well No. 1 at a location 990 feet from the South line and 768 feet from the West line (Unit M) of said Section 3. The well was completed in the Devonian formation through perforations from 12,210 feet to 12,228 feet at an initial producing rate of approximately 201 barrels of oil per day and 30 MCF gas per day.

(5) Division records indicate that there is an existing Devonian pool located within one mile of the Grande Well No. 1, this being the Bronco-Siluro Devonian Pool. The Bronco-Siluro Devonian Pool is currently governed by Division General Rule No. 104 which requires standard 40-acre spacing and proration units with wells to be located no closer than 330 feet from the outer boundary of the proration unit.

(6) The geologic evidence presented by the applicant indicates that the Grande Well No. 1 has discovered a separate and distinct Devonian producing structure within Section 3. This producing structure, according to applicant's geologic evidence, appears to be limited in extent and comprises only a portion of the SW/4 of Section 3 and E/2 SE/4 of Section 4.

(7) The geologic evidence and testimony further indicates that the subject Devonian reservoir exhibits high permeability in the range of 236 md.

(8) The preliminary engineering evidence presented by the applicant indicates that the Grande Well No. 1 should be capable of draining an area in excess of 80-acres.

(9) Further engineering evidence and testimony presented by the applicant indicates that the Grande Well No. 1 may be capable of draining the entire structure, and that there is a possibility that no additional wells will be drilled to develop this reservoir.

(10) The applicant currently operates the affected acreage in Sections 3 and 4.

(11) No offset operator and/or interest owner appeared at the hearing in opposition to the application.

(12) In order to 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, prevent reduced recovery which might result from the drilling of too few wells, and to otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights, temporary special rules and regulations providing for 80-acre spacing units should be promulgated for the proposed pool.

(13) The temporary special rules and regulations should provide for designated well locations such that a well should be located within 150 feet of the center of a governmental quarter-quarter section or lot in order to assure the orderly development of the pool and protect correlative rights.

(14) Temporary special rules and regulations for the proposed pool should be established for a period of eighteen months in order to allow the operators in the subject pool the opportunity to gather sufficient reservoir information to show that an 80-acre proration unit in this pool can be efficiently and economically drained and developed by one well.

(15) Pursuant to Division General Rule Nos. 505 and 506, the subject pool should be assigned a depth bracket allowable of 490 barrels of oil per day at a limiting gas-oil ratio of 2,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil.

(16) A new pool classified as an oil pool for Devonian production should be created and designated the West Bronco-Devonian Pool, with vertical limits comprising the Devonian formation and horizontal limits comprising the W/2 SW/4 of Section 3, Township 13 South, Range 38 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

(17) This case should be reopened at an examiner hearing in March, 1998, at which time the operators in the subject pool should be prepared to appear and show cause why the Temporary Special Rules and Regulations for the West Bronco-Devonian Pool should not be rescinded.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

(1) Pursuant to the application of Fasken Oil & Ranch, Ltd., a new pool in Lea County, New Mexico, classified as an oil pool for Devonian production is hereby created and designated the West Bronco-Devonian Pool, with vertical limits comprising the Devonian formation, and horizontal limits comprising the W/2 SW/4 of Section 3, Township 13 South, Range 38 East, NMPM.

(2) Temporary Special Rules and Regulations for the West Bronco-Devonian Pool are hereby promulgated as follows:

**SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS  
FOR THE  
WEST BRONCO-DEVONIAN POOL**

**RULE 1.** Each well completed in or recompleted in the West Bronco-Devonian Pool or in the Devonian formation within one mile thereof, and not nearer to or within the limits of another designated Devonian pool shall be spaced, drilled, operated, and produced in accordance with the Special Rules hereinafter set forth.

**RULE 2.** Each well completed or recompleted in the West Bronco-Devonian Pool shall be located on a unit containing 80 acres, more or less, which consists of the N/2, S/2, E/2 or W/2 of a single governmental quarter section.

**RULE 3.** The Director of the Oil Conservation Division, hereinafter referred to as the "Division" may grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 2 without hearing when an application has been filed for a non-standard unit consisting of less than 80 acres or the unorthodox size or shape of the tract is due to a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Lands Survey. All operators offsetting the proposed non-standard unit shall be notified of the application by registered or certified mail, and the application shall state that such notice has been furnished. The Director may approve the application upon receipt of written waivers from all offset operators or if no offset operator has entered an objection to the formation of the non-standard unit within 30 days after the Director has received the application.

**RULE 4.** Each well shall be located within 150 feet of the center of a governmental quarter-quarter section or lot.

**RULE 5.** The Division Director may grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 4 without hearing when an application has been filed for an unorthodox location necessitated by topographical conditions or the recompletion of a well previously drilled to a deeper horizon. All operators offsetting the proposed location shall be notified of the application by registered or certified mail, and the application shall state that such notice has been furnished. The Director may approve the application upon receipt of written waivers from all operators offsetting the proposed location or if no objection to the unorthodox location has been entered within 20 days after the Director has received the application.

**RULE 6.** The allowable for a standard proration unit (79 through 81 acres) shall be based on a depth bracket allowable of 490 barrels of oil per day, and in the event there is more than one well on an 80-acre proration unit, the operator may produce the allowable assigned to the unit from the wells on the unit in any proportion. The allowable assigned to a non-standard proration unit shall bear the same ratio to a standard allowable as the acreage in such non-standard unit bears to 80 acres.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:**

(3) The location of all wells presently drilling to or completed in the West Bronco-Devonian Pool or in the Devonian formation within one mile thereof are hereby approved; the operator of any well having an unorthodox location shall notify the Hobbs District Office of the Division in writing of the name and location of the well within 30 days from the date of this order.

(4) Pursuant to Paragraph A of Section 70-2-18, N.M.S.A. 1978 Comp., contained in Laws of 1969, Chapter 271, existing oil wells in the West Bronco-Devonian Pool shall have dedicated thereto 80 acres in accordance with the foregoing pool rules; or, pursuant to Paragraph C of said Section 70-2-18, existing wells may have non-standard spacing or proration units established by the Division and dedicated thereto.

Failure to file new Forms C-102 with the Division dedicating 80 acres to a well or to obtain a non-standard unit approved by the Division within 60 days from the date of this order shall subject the well to cancellation of allowable until a non-standard spacing unit has been approved and, subject to said 60-day limitation, each well presently drilling to or completed in the West Bronco-Devonian Pool or in its corresponding vertical limits as described in Ordering Paragraph No. (1) above, or within one mile thereof, shall receive no more than one-fourth of a standard allowable for said pool.

(5) This case shall be reopened at an examiner hearing in March, 1998, at which time the operators in the subject pool shall appear and show cause why the Temporary Special Rules and Regulations for the West Bronco-Devonian Pool promulgated herein should not be rescinded.

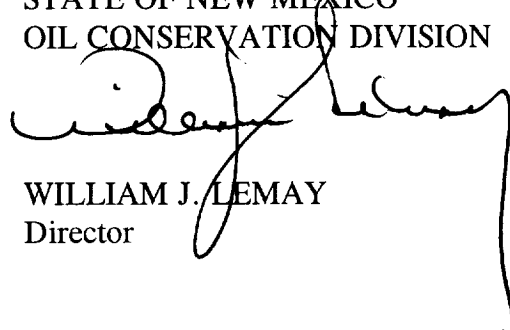
(6) Jurisdiction is hereby retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



WILLIAM J. LEMAY  
Director

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