

Entered August 19, 1968
A.S.P.

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. 3636
Order No. R-3300-A

THE MATTER OF CASE 3636 BEING REOPENED
AT THE REQUEST OF THE APPLICANT, NEW
MEXICO SALT WATER DISPOSAL COMPANY, INC.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on June 19, 1968, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this 16th day of August, 1968, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony presented and the exhibits received at said hearing, 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 Order No. R-3300, issued in Case 3636, dated August 17, 1967, denied to the applicant, New Mexico Salt Water Disposal Company, Inc., authority to dispose of a maximum of 12,500 barrels per day of produced salt water in a playa lake located in Section 32, Township 10 South, Range 34 East, and in Sections 2 and 3, Township 11 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, said lake being known as North Lake of the Four Lakes.

(3) That the Commission denied the use of said lake for salt water disposal on the grounds that there is natural seepage of salt water from said lake into the Ogallala formation

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which has resulted in the natural contamination of a portion of the Ogallala formation south of the lake to an unknown extent, and that disposal of additional salt water in said lake would increase the amount of seepage from said lake and constitute an additional hazard to the fresh water supplies existing in the Ogallala formation south of the lake.

(4) That at the request of the applicant, New Mexico Salt Water Disposal Company, Inc., said Case 3636 was reopened in order to allow the applicant to seek authority to dispose of up to 10,000 barrels of salt water per day in the subject lake and to present additional evidence concerning the source of the aforementioned contamination.

(5) That additional evidence was presented indicating the possible presence of a Cretaceous ridge near the southern boundary of the subject lake that would prevent seepage from the lake into the Ogallala formation south of the lake.

(6) That the evidence presented concerning the presence of said ridge is in conflict with the evidence presented by the applicant's own witness in Case 3636 as originally heard in August, 1967, and as incorporated into this case.

(7) That additional evidence was presented concerning a "slight possibility," but not a probability, that the aforementioned contamination of the Ogallala formation to the south of the subject lake was caused by surface disposal of produced salt water in the area south and east of the contaminated area.

(8) That the evidence concerning the possible source of contamination is in conflict with the evidence presented by the applicant's own witness in Case 3636 as originally heard in August, 1967, and incorporated into this case.

(9) That the facts and circumstances found by the Commission to be existing at the time this case was originally heard, August 16, 1967, have not materially changed and, therefore, in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer the subject application should be denied.

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:


- (1) That the subject application is hereby denied.
- (2) That Order No. R-3300 is hereby affirmed in all respects.
- (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.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DAVID F. CARGO, Chairman


GUYTON B. HAYS, Member


A. L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

S E A L

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I do not concur.