

*Entered June 10, 1969  
A.L.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. 4145  
Order No. R-3775

APPLICATION OF TENNECO OIL COMPANY  
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER NO. R-3221,  
AS AMENDED, LEA AND EDDY COUNTIES,  
NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on June 4, 1969,  
at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 10th day of June, 1969, 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, Tenneco Oil Company, is the owner  
and operator of certain leases in the Lusk Field comprising the  
SW/4 NW/4 of Section 19, Township 19 South, Range 32 East, NMPM,  
Lea County, New Mexico, and the NE/4 of Section 24, Township 19  
South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(3) That effective January 1, 1969, Order (3) of Commission  
Order No. R-3221, as amended, prohibits in that area encompassed  
by Lea, Eddy, Chaves, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the  
disposal, subject to minor exceptions, of water produced in  
conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the  
surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression,  
draw, streambed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any

-2-

CASE No. 4145

Order No. R-3775

other place or in any manner which would constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

(4) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.

(5) That the State Engineer has designated, pursuant to Section 65-3-11 (15), N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation, all underground water in the State of New Mexico containing 10,000 parts per million or less of dissolved solids as fresh water supplies to be afforded reasonable protection against contamination; except that said designation does not include any water for which there is no present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use that would be impaired by contamination.

(6) That the applicant seeks an exception to the provisions of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the disposal of salt water, produced by applicant's wells completed on said Lusk Field leases, in unlined surface pits on said leases.

(7) That the subject wells presently produce approximately 60 barrels of water per day.

(8) That there appears to be no shallow fresh water in the vicinity of the subject leases for which a present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use is or will be made that would be impaired by contamination from the subject pits.

(9) That the applicant should be permitted to dispose of salt water produced by wells located on said leases in unlined surface pits located on said leases.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, Tenneco Oil Company, is hereby granted an exception to Order (3) of Order No. R-3221, as amended, to dispose of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, by its wells located in the SW/4 NW/4 of Section 19, Township 19 South, Range 32 East, NMPM, Lusk Field, Lea County, New Mexico, and the NE/4 of Section 24, Township 19 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Lusk Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, in unlined surface pits located in said subdivisions.

-3-

CASE No. 4145

Order No. R-3775


(2) That the Commission may by administrative order rescind such authority whenever it reasonably appears to the Commission that such rescission would serve to protect fresh water supplies from contamination.

(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

  
ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member

  
A. L. PORTER, Jr. Member & Secretary

S E A L

esr/