

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:

*CASE NO. 10563
ORDER NO. R-9277-A*

**APPLICATION OF GREAT WESTERN DRILLING
COMPANY FOR COMPULSORY POOLING AND
A NON-STANDARD GAS PRORATION UNIT,
SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on October 1, 1992, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 23rd day of November, 1992, 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, Great Western Drilling Company (Great Western), seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, underlying all of Irregular Section 8, Township 32 North, Range 11 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, forming a non-standard 336-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool.

(3) Said unit is to be dedicated to its existing J. E. Decker Well No. 11 located at a standard coal gas well location 910 feet from the South line and 955 feet from the West line (Unit M) of said Irregular Section 8.

(4) The aforementioned well was the subject of Division Order No. R-9277, issued in Case No. 10048 and dated September 19, 1990, which denied Great Western Drilling Company their request for a non-standard proration unit in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool comprising Lots 3 and 4 and the S/2 SW/4 (SW/4 equivalent) of Irregular Section 8 and the W/2 W/2 of Section 17, both in Township 32 North, Range 11 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico. Said Order No. R-9277 mandated that the J.E. Decker Well No. 11 remain shut-in until such time as a gas spacing and proration unit comprising all of said Irregular Section 8 could be formed. It further provided a stipulation, in the event voluntary consolidation of acreage in Section 8 was not obtained, a forced pooling order could be sought which would address the issues for 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 Great Western as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(5) In the interim period from the date of Order No. R-9277 to the time that this hearing was convened for the day, there remains one working interest owner in said Section 8 who has not agreed to pool its interests.

(6) There is no record of any objection nor was there an appearance at the hearing of this particular interest.

(7) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights, to prevent waste and to afford to the owner of each interest in said unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense his just and fair share of the coal gas in said pool, the subject application should be approved by pooling all mineral interests, whatever they may be, within said unit.

(8) The applicant should be designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(9) Any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(10) Any non-consenting working interest owner who does not pay his share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production his share of reasonable well costs plus an additional charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(11) At the request of the applicant and based on precedent established in compulsory pooling cases in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, a 156 percent risk is deemed proper in this case.

(12) Any non-consenting interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(13) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(14) \$3783.00 per month while drilling and \$378.00 per month while producing should be fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating the subject well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(15) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(16) Should all the parties to this force-pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order should thereafter be of no further effect.

(17) The operator of the well and unit should notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All mineral interests, whatever they may be, in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, underlying all of Irregular Section 8, Township 32 North, Range 11 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled to form a non-standard 336-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool.

(2) Said unit shall be dedicated to its existing J. E. Decker Well No. 11 located 910 feet from the South line and 955 feet from the West line (Unit M) of said Section 8.

(3) Great Western Drilling Company is hereby designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(4) Within thirty days after the effective date of this order, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner in the subject unit an itemized schedule of estimated well costs.

(5) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him, any non-consenting working interest owner shall have the right to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production, and any such owner who pays his share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

(6) Any non-consenting working interest owner may, at least forty-five days after receiving the schedule of actual well costs but not more than ninety days after such receipt, file with the Division an objection to such costs; if no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division and the Division has not objected within the period from at least forty-five days to within ninety days following the receipt of said schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided however, if there is an objection to actual well costs within the aforesaid forty-fifth to ninetieth day period, the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(7) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator his pro rata share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator his pro rata share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(8) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (A) The pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him; and

(B) As a charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well, 156 percent of the pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(9) The operator shall distribute said costs and charges withheld from production to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(10) \$3783.00 per month while drilling and \$378.00 per month while producing are hereby fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(11) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under the terms of this order.

(12) Any well costs or charges which are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interest's share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(13) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in San Juan County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership; the operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of said escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with said escrow agent.

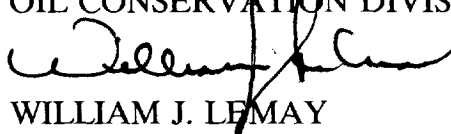
(14) Should all the parties to this force-pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(15) The operator of the subject well and unit shall notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order.

(16) 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.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



WILLIAM J. LEMAY
Director

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