

**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 TO CONSIDER:**

**CASE NO. 16334
ORDER NO. R-14874**

**APPLICATION OF COG OPERATING LLC FOR A NON-STANDARD SPACING
AND PRORATION UNIT AND COMPULSORY POOLING, LEA COUNTY, NEW
MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on August 9, 2018 at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Scott A. Dawson.

NOW, on this 19th day of September 2018, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice has been given, and the Division has jurisdiction of this case and of the subject matter.

(2) Case Nos. 16328, 16329, 16330, 16331, 16333, 16334, and 16335 were consolidated at the hearing for testimony; however, separate orders will be issued for each case.

(3) COG Operating LLC ("COG" or "Applicant"), seeks approval of a standard 240-acre oil spacing and proration unit ("the Unit") in the Wolfcamp formation, Wildcat; Wolfcamp Oil Pool (Pool Code 98247) underlying E/2 SW/4 of Section 28, and E/2 W/2 of Section 33, all in Township 20 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant further seeks an order pooling all uncommitted interests within the Unit in the Wolfcamp formation.

(4) The Unit will be dedicated to the Applicant's Little Bear Federal Com Well No. 8H (the "proposed well"; API No. 30-025-45104), a horizontal well to be drilled from a surface location 696 feet from the South line and 2197 feet from the East line, Unit O, of Section 33, to a terminus or bottom hole location 2440 feet from the South line and 2310

feet from the West line, Unit K, of Section 28, all in Township 20 South, Range 34 East. The location of the completed interval of the proposed well will be orthodox within the Unit.

(5) The proposed well is within the Wildcat; Wolfcamp Oil Pool (Pool Code 98247), and is subject to Division Rule 19.15.15.9(A) NMAC, which provides for 330-foot setbacks from the unit boundaries and standard 40-acre units each comprising a governmental quarter-quarter section. The proposed Unit and project area consists of six adjacent quarter-quarter sections oriented south to north.

(6) Applicant appeared at the hearing through counsel and presented evidence to the effect that:

- (a) the Wolfcamp formation in this area is suitable for development by horizontal drilling;
- (b) the proposed orientation of the horizontal wells from south to north is appropriate for the Unit;
- (c) all quarter-quarter sections to be included in the Unit are expected to be productive in the Wolfcamp formation, so that the Unit as requested will not impair correlative rights;
- (d) notice by certified mail was provided to all uncommitted interest owners in the proposed Unit whose interests were evidenced by a conveyance instrument, either of record or known to Applicant when the Application was filed, and to heirs known to Applicant of deceased persons who appear as owners in such instruments; and
- (e) those potentially affected parties whose whereabouts could not be ascertained were noticed by publication as provided in Rule 19.15.4.12.B NMAC.

(7) EOG Resources, Inc. made an entry of appearance, and appeared at the hearing, but otherwise did not oppose the granting of this application. No other party appeared at the hearing, or otherwise opposed the granting of this application.

The Division concludes that:

(8) The application in this case was filed after the horizontal rule amendments became effective (see Order No. R-14689). The proposed well had been permitted for drilling prior to June 26, 2018. Pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subsection E of 19.15.16.15, as amended, any project area approved for an existing or proposed well prior to June 26, 2018 remains in effect as a standard, or approved non-standard, horizontal spacing unit for the well(s) to which it was previously dedicated.

(9) The acreage dedicated to a horizontal well must consist of a “horizontal spacing unit” as defined in Subsection F of 19.15.16.7 NMAC. Pursuant to Subsection B of 19.15.16.15 NMAC effective June 26, 2018, the proposed horizontal oil well(s) will be dedicated to a standard Horizontal Oil Spacing Unit (the “Unit”).

(10) Applicant’s request to dismiss the portion of the case asking for a non-standard spacing and proration unit should be granted.

(11) Two or more separately owned tracts are embraced within the Unit, and/or there are royalty interests and/or undivided interests in oil and gas minerals in one or more tracts included in the Unit that are separately owned.

(12) Applicant is an owner of an oil and gas working interest within the Unit. Applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill the proposed well to a common source of supply within the Unit at the proposed location.

(13) There are interest owners in the Unit that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(14) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, protect correlative rights, prevent waste and afford to the owner of each interest in the Unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense its just and fair share of hydrocarbons, this application should be approved by pooling all uncommitted interests, whatever they may be, in the oil and gas in the Wolfcamp formation within the Unit.

(15) COG Operating LLC should be designated the operator of the proposed well and of the Unit.

(16) Infill wells within the Unit should be subject to Division Rules 19.15.13.9 NMAC through 19.15.13.10 NMAC and to the terms and conditions of this order.

(17) Any pooled working interest owner who does not pay its share of estimated well costs for any well in advance should have withheld from production its share of reasonable well costs of such well plus an additional 200% thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in drilling the well.

(18) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$7,000 per month, per well, while drilling and \$700 per month, per well, while producing, provided that these rates should be adjusted annually pursuant to the COPAS form titled “*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations*.”

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All uncommitted interests, whatever they may be, in the oil and gas in the Wolfcamp formation underlying a 240-acre (more or less) standard Horizontal Oil Spacing Unit (the “Unit”) in the Wildcat; Wolfcamp Oil Pool (Pool Code 98247) underlying the

E/2 SW/4 of Section 28, and the E/2 W/2 of Section 33, all in Township 20 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled.

(2) The portion of the case asking for approval of a non-standard spacing and proration unit is hereby dismissed.

(3) The Unit shall be dedicated to Applicant's Little Bear Federal Com Well No. 8H (the "proposed well"; API No. 30-025-45104), a horizontal well to be drilled from a surface location 696 feet from the South line and 2197 feet from the East line, Unit O, of Section 33, to a terminus or bottom hole location 2440 feet from the South line and 2310 feet from the West line, Unit K, of Section 28, all in Township 20 South, Range 34 East. The completed interval of the proposed well within the Unit is orthodox.

(4) The operator of the Unit shall commence drilling the proposed well on or before September 30, 2019 and shall thereafter continue drilling the wells with due diligence to test the Wolfcamp formation.

(5) In the event the operator does not commence drilling the proposed well on or before September 30, 2019, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no effect, unless the operator obtains a time extension from the Division Director for good cause demonstrated by satisfactory evidence.

(6) Unless the proposed well is drilled and completed within 120 days after commencement of drilling such well, then Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no further effect, and the Unit shall terminate unless operator requests in writing an extension of the time for completion of the proposed well for good cause shown by satisfactory evidence and the Division issues written approval. If the proposed well is not completed in all of the standard spacing units or horizontal building blocks included in the proposed project area (or Unit) then the operator shall apply to the Division for an amendment to this order to contract the Unit so that it includes only those standard spacing units or horizontal building blocks in which a well is completed.

(7) Upon final plugging and abandonment of the proposed well and any other well drilled on the Unit pursuant to Division Rule 19.15.13.9 NMAC, the pooled unit created by this order shall terminate unless this order has been amended to authorize further operations.

(8) Infill wells within the Unit shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this order.

(9) COG Operating, LLC (OGRID 229137) is hereby designated the operator of the wells and of the Unit.

(10) After pooling, uncommitted working interest owners are referred to as pooled working interest owners. ("Pooled working interest owners" are owners of working interests in the Unit, including unleased mineral interests, who are not parties to an

operating agreement governing the Unit.) After the effective date of this order, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner in the Unit separate itemized schedules of estimated costs of drilling, completing and equipping the proposed well ("well costs").

(11) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs for any well is furnished, any pooled working interest owner shall have the right to pay its share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production as hereinafter provided, and any such owner who pays its share of estimated well costs as provided above for any well shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges to the extent computed based on costs of such well. Pooled working interest owners who elect not to pay their share of estimated well costs as provided in this paragraph for shall thereafter be referred to as "non-consenting working interest owners."

(12) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner (including non-consenting working interest owners) an itemized schedule of actual well costs of each well within 90 days following completion of the proposed well. If no objection to the actual well costs for any well is received by the Division, and the Division has not objected, within 45 days following receipt of the schedule for such well, the actual well costs shall be deemed to be the reasonable well costs. If there is an objection to actual well costs within the 45-day period, the Division will determine reasonable well costs for such well after public notice and hearing.

(13) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs for any well, any pooled working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated costs of such well in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator its share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator the amount, if any, that the estimated well costs it has paid for such well exceed its share of reasonable well costs.

(14) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from each non-consenting working interest owner's share of production from each well:

- (a) the proportionate share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner; and
- (b) as a charge for the risk involved in drilling the well, 200% of the above costs.

(15) The operator shall distribute the costs and charges withheld from production, proportionately, to the parties who advanced the well costs for such well.

(16) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$7,000 per month, per well, while drilling and \$700 per month, per well, while producing, provided that these rates shall be adjusted annually pursuant to the COPAS form titled "Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations." The operator is authorized to withhold from production from each well the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating of such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to pooled working interest owners.

(17) Except as provided in the foregoing paragraphs, all proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason shall be held for the account of the person or persons entitled thereto pursuant to the Oil and Gas Proceeds Payment Act (NMSA 1978 Sections 70-10-1 through 70-10-6, as amended). If not disbursed, such proceeds shall be turned over to the appropriate authority as and when required by the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act (NMSA 1978 Sections 7-8A-1 through 70-8A-31, as amended).

(18) 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 this order. Any costs that are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interests' share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(19) Should all the parties to this compulsory pooling order reach voluntary agreement after entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(20) The operator of the wells and Unit shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of any party subject to the compulsory pooling provisions of this order.

(21) Jurisdiction of this case 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**



**HEATHER RILEY
Director**

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