

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

**APPLICATION OF ASCENT ENERGY, LLC
FOR COMPULSORY POOLING, EDDY COUNTY
NEW MEXICO**

CASE NOS. 21277 & 21278

**AMENDED APPLICATIONS OF APACHE
CORPORATION FOR COMPULSORY POOLING
AND APPROVAL OF A HORIZONTAL SPACING
UNIT AND POTASH DEVELOPMENT AREA,
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

CASE NOS. 21279 & 21280

ORDER NO. R-21454-A

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

THIS MATTER came before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission (“Commission”) on a Motion to Rehear Order No. R-21454, filed on September 10, 2020 by Ascent Energy LLC (“Ascent”). In addition to Ascent’s Motion to Rehear Order No. 21454, the Commission also considered responsive pleadings filed by Apache Corporation and Mewbourne Oil Company, as well as Ascent’s Reply.

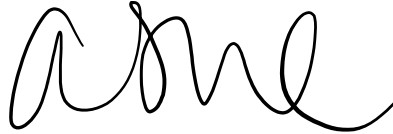
After review of Ascent’s Motion to Rehear Order No. 21454, which order stayed the *de novo* hearings in Case Nos. 21277, 21278, 21279 and 21280 until such time as the Oil Conservation Division holds a hearing regarding the competing cases, and the subsequent pleadings, the Commission finds that good cause remains to stay the proceedings in the above-captioned cases. Contrary to Ascent’s assertion, Order No. 21454 does not order the Oil Conservation Division to rehear Ascent Energy's pooling applications under Case Nos. 16841 and 16842. Rather, Order No. 21454 "stayed the hearings in the matters in Case Nos. 21277, 21278, 21279 and 21280 until all competing applications are heard by the Division or are otherwise resolved." Order No. 21454 promotes administrative efficiency and economy by ensuring that all of the related applications be heard in conjunction with one another, or be entirely consolidated for the purpose of hearing. To do otherwise would result in potentially piecemeal or inconsistent rulings.

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission finds that Ascent's Motion to Rehear Order No. 21454 is not well taken and is hereby DENIED. The hearings in these matters shall be stayed until all competing applications are heard by the Division or are otherwise resolved. The Commission urges the parties to file all applications with the Division by October 30, 2020, after which the Commission will determine the date and manner in which these competing applications will be heard.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on this 17 day of September 2020.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS', is written over the printed name of the chair.

By: ADRIENNE SANDOVAL, M.E., CHAIR