

A.A.P.L. FORM 610-1982

MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT

OPERATING AGREEMENT

DATED

July 1 , 2001 ,
year

OPERATOR DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, L.P.,

an Oklahoma limited partnership

CONTRACT AREA South Half (S/2) of Section 15, Township 22 South, Range 26 East,

containing 320 acres, more or less

COUNTY OR PARISH OF Eddy STATE OF New Mexico

CANDLESTICK "15" STATE COM #1

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM
LANDMEN, 4100 FOSSIL CREEK BLVD., FORT
WORTH, TEXAS, 76137-2791, APPROVED
FORM. A.A.P.L. NO. 610 - 1982 REVISED

Case No. 13069
OCD Exhibit 7
May 15, 2003

If, in Operator's judgment, the well will not produce oil or gas in paying quantities, and it wishes to plug and abandon the well as a dry hole, the provisions of Article VI.E.1. shall thereafter apply.

B. Subsequent Operations:

1. Proposed Operations: Should any party hereto desire to drill any well on the Contract Area other than the well provided for in Article VI.A., or to rework, deepen, / or plug back a dry hole drilled at the joint expense of all parties or a well jointly owned by all the parties and not then producing in paying quantities, the party desiring to drill, rework, deepen, / or plug back such a well shall give the other parties written notice of the proposed operation, specifying the work to be performed, the location, proposed depth, objective formation and the estimated cost of the operation. The parties receiving such a notice shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice within which to notify the party wishing to do the work whether they elect to participate in the cost of the proposed operation. If a drilling rig is on location, notice of a proposal to rework, plug back, / or drill deeper may be given by telephone and the response period shall be limited to forty-eight (48) hours, / ~~exclusive~~ ^{inclusive} of Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays. Failure of a party receiving such notice to reply within the period above fixed shall constitute an election by that party not to participate in the cost of the proposed operation. Any notice or response given by telephone shall be promptly confirmed in writing.

If all parties elect to participate in such a proposed operation, Operator shall, within ninety (90) days after expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as promptly as possible after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case may be), actually commence the proposed operation and complete it with due diligence at the risk and expense of all parties hereto; provided, however, said commencement date may be extended upon written notice of same by Operator to the other parties, for a period of up to thirty (30) additional days if, in the sole opinion of Operator, such additional time is reasonably necessary to obtain permits from governmental authorities, surface rights (including rights-of-way) or appropriate drilling equipment, or to complete title examination or curative matter required for title approval or acceptance. Notwithstanding the force majeure provisions of Article XI, if the actual operation has not been commenced within the time provided (including any extension thereof as specifically permitted herein) and if any party hereto still desires to conduct said operation, written notice proposing same must be resubmitted to the other parties in accordance with the provisions hereof as if no prior proposal had been made.

2. Operations by Less than All Parties: If any party receiving such notice as provided in Article VI.B.1. or VII.D.1. (Option No. 2) elects not to participate in the proposed operation, then, in order to be entitled to the benefits of this Article, the party or parties giving the notice and such other parties as shall elect to participate in the operation shall, within ninety (90) days after the expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as promptly as possible after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case may be) actually commence the proposed operation and complete it with due diligence. Operator shall perform all work for the account of the Consenting Parties; provided, however, if no drilling rig or other equipment is on location, and if Operator is a Non-Consenting Party, the Consenting Parties shall either: (a) request Operator to perform the work required by such proposed operation for the account of the Consenting Parties, or (b) designate one (1) of the Consenting Parties as Operator to perform such work. Consenting Parties, when conducting operations on the Contract Area pursuant to this Article VI.B.2., shall comply with all terms and conditions of this agreement.

If less than all parties approve any proposed operation, the proposing party, immediately after the expiration of the applicable notice period, shall advise the Consenting Parties of the total interest of the parties approving such operation and its recommendation as to whether the Consenting Parties should proceed with the operation as proposed. Each Consenting Party, within forty-eight (48) hours / ~~exclusive~~ ^{inclusive} of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) after receipt of such notice, shall advise the proposing party of its desire to (a) limit participation to such party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" or (b) carry its proportionate part of Non-Consenting Parties' interests, and failure to advise the proposing party shall be deemed an election under (a). In the event a drilling rig is on location, the time permitted for such a response shall not exceed a total of forty-eight (48) hours (inclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays). The proposing party, at its election, may withdraw such proposal if there is insufficient participation and shall promptly notify all parties of such decision.

The entire cost and risk of conducting such operations shall be borne by the Consenting Parties in the proportions they have elected to bear same under the terms of the preceding paragraph. Consenting Parties shall keep the leasehold estates involved in such operations free and clear of all liens and encumbrances of every kind created by or arising from the operations of the Consenting Parties. If such an operation results in a dry hole, the Consenting Parties shall plug and abandon the well and restore the surface location at their sole cost, risk and expense. If any well drilled, reworked, deepened or plugged back under the provisions of this Article results in a producer of oil and/or gas in paying quantities, the Consenting Parties shall complete and equip the well to produce at their sole cost and risk,

ARTICLE VI
continued

1 and the well shall then be turned over to Operator and shall be operated by it at the expense and for the account of the Consenting Parties. Upon commencement of operations for the drilling, reworking, deepening or plugging back of any such well by Consenting Parties in accordance with the provisions of this Article, each Non-Consenting Party shall be deemed to have relinquished to Consenting Parties, and the Consenting Parties shall own and be entitled to receive, in proportion to their respective interests, all of such Non-Consenting Party's interest in the well and share of production therefrom until the proceeds of the sale of such share, calculated at the well, or market value thereof if such share is not sold, (after deducting production taxes, excise taxes, royalty, overriding royalty and other interests not excepted by Article III.D. payable out of or measured by the production from such well accruing with respect to such interest until it reverts) shall equal the total of the following:

2 (a) 100% of each such Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of any newly acquired surface equipment beyond the wellhead connections (including, but not limited to, stock tanks, separators, treaters, pumping equipment and piping), plus 100% of each such Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of operation of the well commencing with first production and continuing until each such Non-Consenting Party's relinquished interest shall revert to it under other provisions of this Article, it being agreed that each Non-Consenting Party's share of such costs and equipment will be that interest which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party had it participated in the well from the beginning of the operations; and

3 (b) 300 % of that portion of the costs and expenses of drilling, reworking, deepening, plugging back, testing and completing, after deducting any cash contributions received under Article VIII.C., and 300 % of that portion of the cost of newly acquired equipment in the well (to and including the wellhead connections), which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party if it had participated therein.

4 An election not to participate in the drilling, / ^{sidetracking} or the deepening of a well shall be deemed an election not to participate in any reworking or plugging back operation proposed in such a well, or portion thereof, to which the initial Non-Consent election applied that is conducted at any time prior to full recovery by the Consenting Parties of the Non-Consenting Party's recoupment account. Any such reworking or plugging back operation conducted during the recoupment period shall be deemed part of the cost of operation of said well and there shall be added to the sums to be recouped by the Consenting Parties one hundred percent (100%) of that portion of the costs of the reworking or plugging back operation which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party had it participated therein. If such a reworking or plugging back operation is proposed during such recoupment period, the provisions of this Article VI.B. shall be applicable as between said Consenting Parties in said well.

5 During the period of time Consenting Parties are entitled to receive Non-Consenting Party's share of production, or the proceeds therefrom, Consenting Parties shall be responsible for the payment of all production, severance, excise, gathering and other taxes, and all royalty, overriding royalty and other burdens applicable to Non-Consenting Party's share of production not excepted by Article III.D.

6 In the case of any reworking, plugging back or deeper drilling operation, the Consenting Parties shall be permitted to use, free of cost, all casing, tubing and other equipment in the well, but the ownership of all such equipment shall remain unchanged; and upon abandonment of a well after such reworking, plugging back or deeper drilling, the Consenting Parties shall account for all such equipment to the owners thereof, with each party receiving its proportionate part in kind or in value, less cost of salvage.

7 Within sixty (60) days after the completion of any operation under this Article, the party conducting the operations for the Consenting Parties shall furnish each Non-Consenting Party with an inventory of the equipment in and connected to the well, and an itemized statement of the cost of drilling, deepening, / ^{sidetracking} plugging back, testing, completing, and equipping the well for production; or, at its option, the operating party, in lieu of an itemized statement of such costs of operation, may submit a detailed statement of monthly billings. Each month thereafter, during the time the Consenting Parties are being reimbursed as provided above, the party conducting the operations for the Consenting Parties shall furnish the Non-Consenting Parties with an itemized statement of all costs and liabilities incurred in the operation of the well, together with a statement of the quantity of oil and gas produced from it and the amount of proceeds realized from the sale of the well's working interest production during the preceding month. In determining the quantity of oil and gas produced during any month, Consenting Parties shall use industry accepted methods such as, but not limited to, metering or periodic well tests. Any amount realized from the sale or other disposition of equipment newly acquired in connection with any such operation which would have been owned by a Non-Consenting Party had it participated therein shall be credited against the total unreturned costs of the work done and of the equipment purchased in determining when the interest of such Non-Consenting Party shall revert to it as above provided; and if there is a credit balance, it shall be paid to such Non-Consenting Party.

ARTICLE VI
continued

1 If and when the Consenting Parties recover from a Non-Consenting Party's relinquished interest the amounts provided for above,
2 the relinquished interests of such Non-Consenting Party shall automatically revert to it, and, from and after such reversion, such Non-
3 Consenting Party shall own the same interest in such well, the material and equipment in or pertaining thereto, and the production
4 therefrom as such Non-Consenting Party would have been entitled to had it participated in the drilling, reworking, deepening or plugging
5 back of said well. Thereafter, such Non-Consenting Party shall be charged with and shall pay its proportionate part of the further costs of
6 the operation of said well in accordance with the terms of this agreement and the Accounting Procedure attached hereto.

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10 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article VI.B.2., it is agreed that without the mutual consent of all parties, no wells shall
11 be completed in or produced from a source of supply from which a well located elsewhere on the Contract Area is producing, unless such
12 well conforms to the then-existing well spacing pattern for such source of supply.

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16 The provisions of this Article shall have no application whatsoever to the drilling of the initial well described in Article VI.A.
17 except (a) as to Article VII.D.1. (Option No. 2), if selected, or (b) as to the reworking, deepening, ^{sidetracking} and plugging back of such initial well
18 after it has been drilled to the depth specified in Article VI.A. if it shall thereafter prove to be a dry hole or, if initially completed for pro-
19 duction, ceases to produce in paying quantities.

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23 3. Stand-By Time: When a well which has been drilled or deepened has reached its authorized depth and all tests have been
24 completed, and the results thereof furnished to the parties, stand-by costs incurred pending response to a party's notice proposing a
25 reworking, deepening, plugging back or completing operation in such a well shall be charged and borne as part of the drilling or deepen-
26 ing operation just completed. Stand-by costs subsequent to all parties responding, or expiration of the response time permitted, whichever
27 first occurs, and prior to agreement as to the participating interests of all Consenting Parties pursuant to the terms of the second gram-
28 matical paragraph of Article VI.B.2., shall be charged to and borne as part of the proposed operation, but if the proposal is subsequently
29 withdrawn because of insufficient participation, such stand-by costs shall be allocated between the Consenting Parties in the proportion
30 each Consenting Party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all Consenting Par-
31 ties.

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35 4. Sidetracking: Except as hereinafter provided, those provisions of this agreement applicable to a "deepening" operation shall
36 also be applicable to any proposal to directionally control and intentionally deviate a well from vertical so as to change the bottom hole
37 location (herein call "sidetracking"), unless done to straighten the hole or to drill around junk in the hole or because of other
38 mechanical difficulties. Any party having the right to participate in a proposed sidetracking operation that does not own an interest in the
39 affected well bore at the time of the notice shall, upon electing to participate, tender to the well bore owners its proportionate share (equal
40 to its interest in the sidetracking operation) of the value of that portion of the existing well bore to be utilized as follows:

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44 (a) If the proposal is for sidetracking an existing dry hole, reimbursement shall be on the basis of the actual costs incurred in
45 the initial drilling of the well down to the depth at which the sidetracking operation is initiated.

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49 (b) If the proposal is for sidetracking a well which has previously produced, reimbursement shall be on the basis of the well's
50 salvable materials and equipment down to the depth at which the sidetracking operation is initiated, determined in accordance with the
51 provisions of Exhibit "C", less the estimated cost of salvaging and the estimated cost of plugging and abandoning.

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55 In the event that notice for a sidetracking operation is given while the drilling rig to be utilized is on location, the response period
56 shall be limited to forty-eight (48) hours, ^{inclusive} of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays; provided, however, any party may request and
57 receive up to ^{two (2)} ~~eight (8)~~ additional days after expiration of the forty-eight (48) hours within which to respond by paying for all stand-by time
58 incurred during such extended response period. If more than one party elects to take such additional time to respond to the notice, stand
59 by costs shall be allocated between the parties taking additional time to respond on a day-to-day basis in the proportion each electing par-
60 ty's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all the electing parties. In all other in-
61 stances the response period to a proposal for sidetracking shall be limited to thirty (30) days.

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65 C. TAKING PRODUCTION IN KIND:

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67 Each party shall ^{have the right to} take in kind or separately dispose of its proportionate share of all oil and gas produced from the Contract Area,
68 exclusive of production which may be used in development and producing operations and in preparing and treating oil and gas for
69 marketing purposes and production unavoidably lost. Any extra expenditure incurred in the taking in kind or separate disposition by any
70 party of its proportionate share of the production shall be borne by such party. Any party taking its share of production in kind shall be

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MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT

OPERATING AGREEMENT

DATED

_____, _____, _____
year

OPERATOR _____

CONTRACT AREA _____

COUNTY OR PARISH OF _____, STATE OF _____

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liens and encumbrances resulting therefrom except for those resulting from a bona fide dispute as to services rendered or materials supplied.

4. Custody of Funds: Operator shall hold for the account of the Non-Operators any funds of the Non-Operators advanced or paid to the Operator, either for the conduct of operations hereunder or as a result of the sale of production from the Contract Area, and such funds shall remain the funds of the Non-Operators on whose account they are advanced or paid until used for their intended purpose or otherwise delivered to the Non-Operators or applied toward the payment of debts as provided in Article VII.B. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to establish a fiduciary relationship between Operator and Non-Operators for any purpose other than to account for Non-Operator funds as herein specifically provided. Nothing in this paragraph shall require the maintenance by Operator of separate accounts for the funds of Non-Operators unless the parties otherwise specifically agree.

5. Access to Contract Area and Records: Operator shall, except as otherwise provided herein, permit each Non-Operator or its duly authorized representative, at the Non-Operator's sole risk and cost, full and free access at all reasonable times to all operations of every kind and character being conducted for the joint account on the Contract Area and to the records of operations conducted thereon or production therefrom, including Operator's books and records relating thereto. Such access rights shall not be exercised in a manner interfering with Operator's conduct of an operation hereunder and shall not obligate Operator to furnish any geologic or geophysical data of an interpretive nature unless the cost of preparation of such interpretive data was charged to the joint account. Operator will furnish to each Non-Operator upon request copies of any and all reports and information obtained by Operator in connection with production and related items, including, without limitation, meter and chart reports, production purchaser statements, run tickets and monthly gauge reports, but excluding purchase contracts and pricing information to the extent not applicable to the production of the Non-Operator seeking the information. Any audit of Operator's records relating to amounts expended and the appropriateness of such expenditures shall be conducted in accordance with the audit protocol specified in Exhibit "C."

6. Filing and Furnishing Governmental Reports: Operator will file, and upon written request promptly furnish copies to each requesting Non-Operator not in default of its payment obligations, all operational notices, reports or applications required to be filed by local, State, Federal or Indian agencies or authorities having jurisdiction over operations hereunder. Each Non-Operator shall provide to Operator on a timely basis all information necessary to Operator to make such filings.

7. Drilling and Testing Operations: The following provisions shall apply to each well drilled hereunder, including but not limited to the Initial Well:

(a) Operator will promptly advise Non-Operators of the date on which the well is spudded, or the date on which drilling operations are commenced.

(b) Operator will send to Non-Operators such reports, test results and notices regarding the progress of operations on the well as the Non-Operators shall reasonably request, including, but not limited to, daily drilling reports, completion reports, and well logs.

(c) Operator shall adequately test all Zones encountered which may reasonably be expected to be capable of producing Oil and Gas in paying quantities as a result of examination of the electric log or any other logs or cores or tests conducted hereunder.

8. Cost Estimates: Upon request of any Consenting Party, Operator shall furnish estimates of current and cumulative costs incurred for the joint account at reasonable intervals during the conduct of any operation pursuant to this agreement. Operator shall not be held liable for errors in such estimates so long as the estimates are made in good faith.

9. Insurance: At all times while operations are conducted hereunder, Operator shall comply with the workers compensation law of the state where the operations are being conducted; provided, however, that Operator may be a self-insurer for liability under said compensation laws in which event the only charge that shall be made to the joint account shall be as provided in Exhibit "C." Operator shall also carry or provide insurance for the benefit of the joint account of the parties as outlined in Exhibit "D" attached hereto and made a part hereof. Operator shall require all contractors engaged in work on or for the Contract Area to comply with the workers compensation law of the state where the operations are being conducted and to maintain such other insurance as Operator may require.

In the event automobile liability insurance is specified in said Exhibit "D," or subsequently receives the approval of the parties, no direct charge shall be made by Operator for premiums paid for such insurance for Operator's automotive equipment.

ARTICLE VI.
DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Initial Well:

On or before the _____ day of _____, _____, Operator shall commence the drilling of the Initial Well at the following location:

and shall thereafter continue the drilling of the well with due diligence to

The drilling of the Initial Well and the participation therein by all parties is obligatory, subject to Article VI.C.1. as to participation in Completion operations and Article VI.F. as to termination of operations and Article XI as to occurrence of force majeure.

B. Subsequent Operations:

1. Proposed Operations: If any party hereto should desire to drill any well on the Contract Area other than the Initial Well, or if any party should desire to Rework, Sidetrack, Deepen, Recomplete or Plug Back a dry hole or a well no longer capable of producing in paying quantities in which such party has not otherwise relinquished its interest in the proposed objective Zone under this agreement, the party desiring to drill, Rework, Sidetrack, Deepen, Recomplete or Plug Back such a well shall give written notice of the proposed operation to the parties who have not otherwise relinquished their interest in such objective Zone

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under this agreement and to all other parties in the case of a proposal for Sidetracking or Deepening, specifying the work to be performed, the location, proposed depth, objective Zone and the estimated cost of the operation. The parties to whom such a notice is delivered shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice within which to notify the party proposing to do the work whether they elect to participate in the cost of the proposed operation. If a drilling rig is on location, notice of a proposal to Rework, Sidetrack, Recomplete, Plug Back or Deepen may be given by telephone and the response period shall be limited to forty-eight (48) hours, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays. Failure of a party to whom such notice is delivered to reply within the period above fixed shall constitute an election by that party not to participate in the cost of the proposed operation. Any proposal by a party to conduct an operation conflicting with the operation initially proposed shall be delivered to all parties within the time and in the manner provided in Article VI.B.6.

If all parties to whom such notice is delivered elect to participate in such a proposed operation, the parties shall be contractually committed to participate therein provided such operations are commenced within the time period hereafter set forth, and Operator shall, no later than ninety (90) days after expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as promptly as practicable after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case may be), actually commence the proposed operation and thereafter complete it with due diligence at the risk and expense of the parties participating therein; provided, however, said commencement date may be extended upon written notice of same by Operator to the other parties, for a period of up to thirty (30) additional days if, in the sole opinion of Operator, such additional time is reasonably necessary to obtain permits from governmental authorities, surface rights (including rights-of-way) or appropriate drilling equipment, or to complete title examination or curative matter required for title approval or acceptance. If the actual operation has not been commenced within the time provided (including any extension thereof as specifically permitted herein or in the force majeure provisions of Article XI) and if any party hereto still desires to conduct said operation, written notice proposing same must be resubmitted to the other parties in accordance herewith as if no prior proposal had been made. Those parties that did not participate in the drilling of a well for which a proposal to Deepen or Sidetrack is made hereunder shall, if such parties desire to participate in the proposed Deepening or Sidetracking operation, reimburse the Drilling Parties in accordance with Article VI.B.4. in the event of a Deepening operation and in accordance with Article VI.B.5. in the event of a Sidetracking operation.

2. Operations by Less Than All Parties:

(a) Determination of Participation. If any party to whom such notice is delivered as provided in Article VI.B.1. or VI.C.1. (Option No. 2) elects not to participate in the proposed operation, then, in order to be entitled to the benefits of this Article, the party or parties giving the notice and such other parties as shall elect to participate in the operation shall, no later than ninety (90) days after the expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as promptly as practicable after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case may be) actually commence the proposed operation and complete it with due diligence. Operator shall perform all work for the account of the Consenting Parties; provided, however, if no drilling rig or other equipment is on location, and if Operator is a Non-Consenting Party, the Consenting Parties shall either: (i) request Operator to perform the work required by such proposed operation for the account of the Consenting Parties, or (ii) designate one of the Consenting Parties as Operator to perform such work. The rights and duties granted to and imposed upon the Operator under this agreement are granted to and imposed upon the party designated as Operator for an operation in which the original Operator is a Non-Consenting Party. Consenting Parties, when conducting operations on the Contract Area pursuant to this Article VI.B.2., shall comply with all terms and conditions of this agreement.

If less than all parties approve any proposed operation, the proposing party, immediately after the expiration of the applicable notice period, shall advise all Parties of the total interest of the parties approving such operation and its recommendation as to whether the Consenting Parties should proceed with the operation as proposed. Each Consenting Party, within forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays) after delivery of such notice, shall advise the proposing party of its desire to (i) limit participation to such party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" or (ii) carry only its proportionate part (determined by dividing such party's interest in the Contract Area by the interests of all Consenting Parties in the Contract Area) of Non-Consenting Parties' interests, or (iii) carry its proportionate part (determined as provided in (ii)) of Non-Consenting Parties' interests together with all or a portion of its proportionate part of any Non-Consenting Parties' interests that any Consenting Party did not elect to take. Any interest of Non-Consenting Parties that is not carried by a Consenting Party shall be deemed to be carried by the party proposing the operation if such party does not withdraw its proposal. Failure to advise the proposing party within the time required shall be deemed an election under (i). In the event a drilling rig is on location, notice may be given by telephone, and the time permitted for such a response shall not exceed a total of forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays). The proposing party, at its election, may withdraw such proposal if there is less than 100% participation and shall notify all parties of such decision within ten (10) days, or within twenty-four (24) hours if a drilling rig is on location, following expiration of the applicable response period. If 100% subscription to the proposed operation is obtained, the proposing party shall promptly notify the Consenting Parties of their proportionate interests in the operation and the party serving as Operator shall commence such operation within the period provided in Article VI.B.1., subject to the same extension right as provided therein.

(b) Relinquishment of Interest for Non-Participation. The entire cost and risk of conducting such operations shall be borne by the Consenting Parties in the proportions they have elected to bear same under the terms of the preceding paragraph. Consenting Parties shall keep the leasehold estates involved in such operations free and clear of all liens and encumbrances of every kind created by or arising from the operations of the Consenting Parties. If such an operation results in a dry hole, then subject to Articles VI.B.6. and VI.E.3., the Consenting Parties shall plug and abandon the well and restore the surface location at their sole cost, risk and expense; provided, however, that those Non-Consenting Parties that participated in the drilling, Deepening or Sidetracking of the well shall remain liable for, and shall pay, their proportionate shares of the cost of plugging and abandoning the well and restoring the surface location insofar only as those costs were not increased by the subsequent operations of the Consenting Parties. If any well drilled, Reworked, Sidetracked, Deepened, Recompleted or Plugged Back under the provisions of this Article results in a well capable of producing Oil and/or Gas in paying quantities, the Consenting Parties shall Complete and equip the well to produce at their sole cost and risk, and the well shall then be turned over to Operator (if the Operator did not conduct the operation) and shall be operated by it at the expense and for the account of the Consenting Parties. Upon commencement of operations for the drilling, Reworking, Sidetracking, ReCompleting, Deepening or Plugging Back of any such well by Consenting Parties in accordance with the provisions of this Article, each Non-Consenting Party shall be deemed to have relinquished to Consenting Parties, and the Consenting Parties shall own and be entitled to receive, in proportion to their respective interests, all of such Non-Consenting Party's interest in the well and share of production therefrom or, in the case of a Reworking, Sidetracking,

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1 Deepening, Recompleting or Plugging Back, or a Completion pursuant to Article VI.C.1. Option No. 2, all of such Non-
2 Consenting Party's interest in the production obtained from the operation in which the Non-Consenting Party did not elect
3 to participate. Such relinquishment shall be effective until the proceeds of the sale of such share, calculated at the well, or
4 market value thereof if such share is not sold (after deducting applicable ad valorem, production, severance, and excise taxes,
5 royalty, overriding royalty and other interests not excepted by Article III.C. payable out of or measured by the production
6 from such well accruing with respect to such interest until it reverts), shall equal the total of the following:

7 (i) _____ % of each such Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of any newly acquired surface equipment
8 beyond the wellhead connections (including but not limited to stock tanks, separators, treaters, pumping equipment and
9 piping), plus 100% of each such Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of operation of the well commencing with first
10 production and continuing until each such Non-Consenting Party's relinquished interest shall revert to it under other
11 provisions of this Article, it being agreed that each Non-Consenting Party's share of such costs and equipment will be that
12 interest which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party had it participated in the well from the beginning
13 of the operations; and

14 (ii) _____ % of (a) that portion of the costs and expenses of drilling, Reworking, Sidetracking, Deepening,
15 Plugging Back, testing, Completing, and Recompleting, after deducting any cash contributions received under Article VIII.C.,
16 and of (b) that portion of the cost of newly acquired equipment in the well (to and including the wellhead connections),
17 which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party if it had participated therein.

18 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Article VI.B., if the well does not reach the deepest objective Zone
19 described in the notice proposing the well for reasons other than the encountering of granite or practically impenetrable
20 substance or other condition in the hole rendering further operations impracticable, Operator shall give notice thereof to each
21 Non-Consenting Party who submitted or voted for an alternative proposal under Article VI.B.6. to drill the well to a
22 shallower Zone than the deepest objective Zone proposed in the notice under which the well was drilled, and each such Non-
23 Consenting Party shall have the option to participate in the initial proposed Completion of the well by paying its share of the
24 cost of drilling the well to its actual depth, calculated in the manner provided in Article VI.B.4. (a). If any such Non-
25 Consenting Party does not elect to participate in the first Completion proposed for such well, the relinquishment provisions
26 of this Article VI.B.2. (b) shall apply to such party's interest.

27 (c) Reworking, Recompleting or Plugging Back. An election not to participate in the drilling, Sidetracking or
28 Deepening of a well shall be deemed an election not to participate in any Reworking or Plugging Back operation proposed in
29 such a well, or portion thereof, to which the initial non-consent election applied that is conducted at any time prior to full
30 recovery by the Consenting Parties of the Non-Consenting Party's recoupment amount. Similarly, an election not to
31 participate in the Completing or Recompleting of a well shall be deemed an election not to participate in any Reworking
32 operation proposed in such a well, or portion thereof, to which the initial non-consent election applied that is conducted at
33 any time prior to full recovery by the Consenting Parties of the Non-Consenting Party's recoupment amount. Any such
34 Reworking, Recompleting or Plugging Back operation conducted during the recoupment period shall be deemed part of the
35 cost of operation of said well and there shall be added to the sums to be recouped by the Consenting Parties _____ % of
36 that portion of the costs of the Reworking, Recompleting or Plugging Back operation which would have been chargeable to
37 such Non-Consenting Party had it participated therein. If such a Reworking, Recompleting or Plugging Back operation is
38 proposed during such recoupment period, the provisions of this Article VI.B. shall be applicable as between said Consenting
39 Parties in said well.

40 (d) Recoupment Matters. During the period of time Consenting Parties are entitled to receive Non-Consenting Party's
41 share of production, or the proceeds therefrom, Consenting Parties shall be responsible for the payment of all ad valorem,
42 production, severance, excise, gathering and other taxes, and all royalty, overriding royalty and other burdens applicable to
43 Non-Consenting Party's share of production not excepted by Article III.C.

44 In the case of any Reworking, Sidetracking, Plugging Back, Recompleting or Deepening operation, the Consenting
45 Parties shall be permitted to use, free of cost, all casing, tubing and other equipment in the well, but the ownership of all
46 such equipment shall remain unchanged; and upon abandonment of a well after such Reworking, Sidetracking, Plugging Back,
47 Recompleting or Deepening, the Consenting Parties shall account for all such equipment to the owners thereof, with each
48 party receiving its proportionate part in kind or in value, less cost of salvage.

49 Within ninety (90) days after the completion of any operation under this Article, the party conducting the operations
50 for the Consenting Parties shall furnish each Non-Consenting Party with an inventory of the equipment in and connected to
51 the well, and an itemized statement of the cost of drilling, Sidetracking, Deepening, Plugging Back, testing, Completing,
52 Recompleting, and equipping the well for production; or, at its option, the operating party, in lieu of an itemized statement
53 of such costs of operation, may submit a detailed statement of monthly billings. Each month thereafter, during the time the
54 Consenting Parties are being reimbursed as provided above, the party conducting the operations for the Consenting Parties
55 shall furnish the Non-Consenting Parties with an itemized statement of all costs and liabilities incurred in the operation of
56 the well, together with a statement of the quantity of Oil and Gas produced from it and the amount of proceeds realized from
57 the sale of the well's working interest production during the preceding month. In determining the quantity of Oil and Gas
58 produced during any month, Consenting Parties shall use industry accepted methods such as but not limited to metering or
59 periodic well tests. Any amount realized from the sale or other disposition of equipment newly acquired in connection with
60 any such operation which would have been owned by a Non-Consenting Party had it participated therein shall be credited
61 against the total unreturned costs of the work done and of the equipment purchased in determining when the interest of such
62 Non-Consenting Party shall revert to it as above provided; and if there is a credit balance, it shall be paid to such Non-
63 Consenting Party.

64 If and when the Consenting Parties recover from a Non-Consenting Party's relinquished interest the amounts provided
65 for above, the relinquished interests of such Non-Consenting Party shall automatically revert to it as of 7:00 a.m. on the day
66 following the day on which such recoupment occurs, and, from and after such reversion, such Non-Consenting Party shall
67 own the same interest in such well, the material and equipment in or pertaining thereto, and the production therefrom as
68 such Non-Consenting Party would have been entitled to had it participated in the drilling, Sidetracking, Reworking,
69 Deepening, Recompleting or Plugging Back of said well. Thereafter, such Non-Consenting Party shall be charged with and
70 shall pay its proportionate part of the further costs of the operation of said well in accordance with the terms of this
71 agreement and Exhibit "C" attached hereto.

72 3. Stand-By Costs: When a well which has been drilled or Deepened has reached its authorized depth and all tests have
73 been completed and the results thereof furnished to the parties, or when operations on the well have been otherwise
74 terminated pursuant to Article VI.F., stand-by costs incurred pending response to a party's notice proposing a Reworking,

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1 Sidetracking, Deepening, Recompleting, Plugging Back or Completing operation in such a well (including the period required
2 under Article VI.B.6. to resolve competing proposals) shall be charged and borne as part of the drilling or Deepening
3 operation just completed. Stand-by costs subsequent to all parties responding, or expiration of the response time permitted,
4 whichever first occurs, and prior to agreement as to the participating interests of all Consenting Parties pursuant to the terms
5 of the second grammatical paragraph of Article VI.B.2. (a), shall be charged to and borne as part of the proposed operation,
6 but if the proposal is subsequently withdrawn because of insufficient participation, such stand-by costs shall be allocated
7 between the Consenting Parties in the proportion each Consenting Party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total
8 interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all Consenting Parties.

9 In the event that notice for a Sidetracking operation is given while the drilling rig to be utilized is on location, any party
10 may request and receive up to five (5) additional days after expiration of the forty-eight hour response period specified in
11 Article VI.B.1. within which to respond by paying for all stand-by costs and other costs incurred during such extended
12 response period; Operator may require such party to pay the estimated stand-by time in advance as a condition to extending
13 the response period. If more than one party elects to take such additional time to respond to the notice, standby costs shall be
14 allocated between the parties taking additional time to respond on a day-to-day basis in the proportion each electing party's
15 interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all the electing parties.

16 4. Deepening: If less than all parties elect to participate in a drilling, Sidetracking, or Deepening operation proposed
17 pursuant to Article VI.B.1., the interest relinquished by the Non-Consenting Parties to the Consenting Parties under Article
18 VI.B.2. shall relate only and be limited to the lesser of (i) the total depth actually drilled or (ii) the objective depth or Zone
19 of which the parties were given notice under Article VI.B.1. ("Initial Objective"). Such well shall not be Deepened beyond the
20 Initial Objective without first complying with this Article to afford the Non-Consenting Parties the opportunity to participate
21 in the Deepening operation.

22 In the event any Consenting Party desires to drill or Deepen a Non-Consent Well to a depth below the Initial Objective,
23 such party shall give notice thereof, complying with the requirements of Article VI.B.1., to all parties (including Non-
24 Consenting Parties). Thereupon, Articles VI.B.1. and 2. shall apply and all parties receiving such notice shall have the right to
25 participate or not participate in the Deepening of such well pursuant to said Articles VI.B.1. and 2. If a Deepening operation
26 is approved pursuant to such provisions, and if any Non-Consenting Party elects to participate in the Deepening operation,
27 such Non-Consenting party shall pay or make reimbursement (as the case may be) of the following costs and expenses.

28 (a) If the proposal to Deepen is made prior to the Completion of such well as a well capable of producing in paying
29 quantities, such Non-Consenting Party shall pay (or reimburse Consenting Parties for, as the case may be) that share of costs
30 and expenses incurred in connection with the drilling of said well from the surface to the Initial Objective which Non-
31 Consenting Party would have paid had such Non-Consenting Party agreed to participate therein, plus the Non-Consenting
32 Party's share of the cost of Deepening and of participating in any further operations on the well in accordance with the other
33 provisions of this Agreement; provided, however, all costs for testing and Completion or attempted Completion of the well
34 incurred by Consenting Parties prior to the point of actual operations to Deepen beyond the Initial Objective shall be for the
35 sole account of Consenting Parties.

36 (b) If the proposal is made for a Non-Consent Well that has been previously Completed as a well capable of producing
37 in paying quantities, but is no longer capable of producing in paying quantities, such Non-Consenting Party shall pay (or
38 reimburse Consenting Parties for, as the case may be) its proportionate share of all costs of drilling, Completing, and
39 equipping said well from the surface to the Initial Objective, calculated in the manner provided in paragraph (a) above, less
40 those costs recouped by the Consenting Parties from the sale of production from the well. The Non-Consenting Party shall
41 also pay its proportionate share of all costs of re-entering said well. The Non-Consenting Parties' proportionate part (based
42 on the percentage of such well Non-Consenting Party would have owned had it previously participated in such Non-Consent
43 Well) of the costs of salvable materials and equipment remaining in the hole and salvable surface equipment used in
44 connection with such well shall be determined in accordance with Exhibit "C." If the Consenting Parties have recouped the
45 cost of drilling, Completing, and equipping the well at the time such Deepening operation is conducted, then a Non-
46 Consenting Party may participate in the Deepening of the well with no payment for costs incurred prior to re-entering the
47 well for Deepening.

48 The foregoing shall not imply a right of any Consenting Party to propose any Deepening for a Non-Consent Well prior
49 to the drilling of such well to its Initial Objective without the consent of the other Consenting Parties as provided in Article
50 VI.F.

51 5. Sidetracking: Any party having the right to participate in a proposed Sidetracking operation that does not own an
52 interest in the affected wellbore at the time of the notice shall, upon electing to participate, tender to the wellbore owners its
53 proportionate share (equal to its interest in the Sidetracking operation) of the value of that portion of the existing wellbore
54 to be utilized as follows:

55 (a) If the proposal is for Sidetracking an existing dry hole, reimbursement shall be on the basis of the actual costs
56 incurred in the initial drilling of the well down to the depth at which the Sidetracking operation is initiated.

57 (b) If the proposal is for Sidetracking a well which has previously produced, reimbursement shall be on the basis of
58 such party's proportionate share of drilling and equipping costs incurred in the initial drilling of the well down to the depth
59 at which the Sidetracking operation is conducted, calculated in the manner described in Article VI.B.4(b) above. Such party's
60 proportionate share of the cost of the well's salvable materials and equipment down to the depth at which the Sidetracking
61 operation is initiated shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit "C."

62 6. Order of Preference of Operations. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this agreement, if any party desires to
63 propose the conduct of an operation that conflicts with a proposal that has been made by a party under this Article VI, such
64 party shall have fifteen (15) days from delivery of the initial proposal, in the case of a proposal to drill a well or to perform
65 an operation on a well where no drilling rig is on location, or twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal
66 holidays, from delivery of the initial proposal, if a drilling rig is on location for the well on which such operation is to be
67 conducted, to deliver to all parties entitled to participate in the proposed operation such party's alternative proposal, such
68 alternate proposal to contain the same information required to be included in the initial proposal. Each party receiving such
69 proposals shall elect by delivery of notice to Operator within five (5) days after expiration of the proposal period, or within
70 twenty-four (24) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) if a drilling rig is on location for the well that is the
71 subject of the proposals, to participate in one of the competing proposals. Any party not electing within the time required
72 shall be deemed not to have voted. The proposal receiving the vote of parties owning the largest aggregate percentage
73 interest of the parties voting shall have priority over all other competing proposals; in the case of a tie vote, the

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1 initial proposal shall prevail. Operator shall deliver notice of such result to all parties entitled to participate in the operation
2 within five (5) days after expiration of the election period (or within twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday
3 and legal holidays, if a drilling rig is on location). Each party shall then have two (2) days (or twenty-four (24) hours if a rig
4 is on location) from receipt of such notice to elect by delivery of notice to Operator to participate in such operation or to
5 relinquish interest in the affected well pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2.; failure by a party to deliver notice within
6 such period shall be deemed an election not to participate in the prevailing proposal.

7 7. Conformity to Spacing Pattern. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article VI.B.2., it is agreed that no wells shall be
8 proposed to be drilled to or Completed in or produced from a Zone from which a well located elsewhere on the Contract
9 Area is producing, unless such well conforms to the then-existing well spacing pattern for such Zone.

10 8. Paying Wells. No party shall conduct any Reworking, Deepening, Plugging Back, Completion, Recompletion, or
11 Sidetracking operation under this agreement with respect to any well then capable of producing in paying quantities except
12 with the consent of all parties that have not relinquished interests in the well at the time of such operation.

13 **C. Completion of Wells; Reworking and Plugging Back:**

14 1. Completion: Without the consent of all parties, no well shall be drilled, Deepened or Sidetracked, except any well
15 drilled, Deepened or Sidetracked pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2. of this agreement. Consent to the drilling,
16 Deepening or Sidetracking shall include:

17 ☐ Option No. 1: All necessary expenditures for the drilling, Deepening or Sidetracking, testing, Completing and
18 equipping of the well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities.

19 ☐ Option No. 2: All necessary expenditures for the drilling, Deepening or Sidetracking and testing of the well. When
20 such well has reached its authorized depth, and all logs, cores and other tests have been completed, and the results
21 thereof furnished to the parties, Operator shall give immediate notice to the Non-Operators having the right to
22 participate in a Completion attempt whether or not Operator recommends attempting to Complete the well,
23 together with Operator's AFE for Completion costs if not previously provided. The parties receiving such notice
24 shall have forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) in which to elect by delivery of
25 notice to Operator to participate in a recommended Completion attempt or to make a Completion proposal with an
26 accompanying AFE. Operator shall deliver any such Completion proposal, or any Completion proposal conflicting
27 with Operator's proposal, to the other parties entitled to participate in such Completion in accordance with the
28 procedures specified in Article VI.B.6. Election to participate in a Completion attempt shall include consent to all
29 necessary expenditures for the Completing and equipping of such well, including necessary tankage and/or surface
30 facilities but excluding any stimulation operation not contained on the Completion AFE. Failure of any party
31 receiving such notice to reply within the period above fixed shall constitute an election by that party not to
32 participate in the cost of the Completion attempt; provided, that Article VI.B.6. shall control in the case of
33 conflicting Completion proposals. If one or more, but less than all of the parties, elect to attempt a Completion, the
34 provision of Article VI.B.2. hereof (the phrase "Reworking, Sidetracking, Deepening, Recompleting or Plugging
35 Back" as contained in Article VI.B.2. shall be deemed to include "Completing") shall apply to the operations
36 thereafter conducted by less than all parties; provided, however, that Article VI.B.2. shall apply separately to each
37 separate Completion or Recompletion attempt undertaken hereunder, and an election to become a Non-Consenting
38 Party as to one Completion or Recompletion attempt shall not prevent a party from becoming a Consenting Party
39 in subsequent Completion or Recompletion attempts regardless whether the Consenting Parties as to earlier
40 Completions or Recompletion have recouped their costs pursuant to Article VI.B.2.; provided further, that any
41 recoupment of costs by a Consenting Party shall be made solely from the production attributable to the Zone in
42 which the Completion attempt is made. Election by a previous Non-Consenting party to participate in a subsequent
43 Completion or Recompletion attempt shall require such party to pay its proportionate share of the cost of salvable
44 materials and equipment installed in the well pursuant to the previous Completion or Recompletion attempt,
45 insofar and only insofar as such materials and equipment benefit the Zone in which such party participates in a
46 Completion attempt.

47 2. Rework, Recomplete or Plug Back: No well shall be Reworked, Recompleted or Plugged Back except a well Reworked,
48 Recompleted, or Plugged Back pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2. of this agreement. Consent to the Reworking,
49 Recompleting or Plugging Back of a well shall include all necessary expenditures in conducting such operations and
50 Completing and equipping of said well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities.

51 **D. Other Operations:**

52 Operator shall not undertake any single project reasonably estimated to require an expenditure in excess of _____
53 _____ Dollars (\$ _____) except in connection with the
54 drilling, Sidetracking, Reworking, Deepening, Completing, Recompleting or Plugging Back of a well that has been previously
55 authorized by or pursuant to this agreement; provided, however, that, in case of explosion, fire, flood or other sudden
56 emergency, whether of the same or different nature, Operator may take such steps and incur such expenses as in its opinion
57 are required to deal with the emergency to safeguard life and property but Operator, as promptly as possible, shall report the
58 emergency to the other parties. If Operator prepares an AFE for its own use, Operator shall furnish any Non-Operator so
59 requesting an information copy thereof for any single project costing in excess of _____ Dollars
60 (\$ _____). Any party who has not relinquished its interest in a well shall have the right to propose that
61 Operator perform repair work or undertake the installation of artificial lift equipment or ancillary production facilities such as
62 salt water disposal wells or to conduct additional work with respect to a well drilled hereunder or other similar project (but
63 not including the installation of gathering lines or other transportation or marketing facilities, the installation of which shall
64 be governed by separate agreement between the parties) reasonably estimated to require an expenditure in excess of the
65 amount first set forth above in this Article VI.D. (except in connection with an operation required to be proposed under
66 Articles VI.B.1. or VI.C.1. Option No. 2, which shall be governed exclusively by those Articles). Operator shall deliver such
67 proposal to all parties entitled to participate therein. If within thirty (30) days thereof Operator secures the written consent
68 of any party or parties owning at least _____% of the interests of the parties entitled to participate in such operation,
69 each party having the right to participate in such project shall be bound by the terms of such proposal and shall be obligated
70 to pay its proportionate share of the costs of the proposed project as if it had consented to such project pursuant to the terms
71 of the proposal.

72 **E. Abandonment of Wells:**

73 1. Abandonment of Dry Holes: Except for any well drilled or Deepened pursuant to Article VI.B.2., any well which has
74 been drilled or Deepened under the terms of this agreement and is proposed to be completed as a dry hole shall not be



Amoco Production Company
1660 Lincoln Street, Suite 3000
Denver CO 80264

June 10, 2003

Ms. Lori Wrotenbery, Director
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
1220 So. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

CASE 13069: Application of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, through the Engineering Bureau Chief, for adoption of a new rule relating to compulsory pooling and proscribing risk charges

BP supports the application by the NMOCD to create a new statewide rule for compulsory pooling and setting standards for risk charges. We agree with the proposal to eliminate the need for geological and engineering testimony by the applicant to justify the standard charge for risk in compulsory pooling cases.

BP agrees with the NMOGA proposal to set the standard charge for risk at 200% for all pools, including the Basin Fruitland Coal Pool, and in all compulsory pooling cases whether regarding a new well to be drilled or for using an existing well bore.

BP believes that adopting this new rule with a standard 200% charge for risk in all cases will simplify and streamline the pooling process. From a practical point of view, standardization at 200% will encourage parties to enter into operating agreements and may reduce the need for compulsory pooling.

Sincerely,

Bill Hawkins
San Juan Regulatory Consultant