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1	APPEARANCES	rage 2
2	FOR APPLICANT MEWBOURNE OIL COMPANY:	
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(8:36 a.m.) 1 2 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Now go to page 2. I call Case Number 14958, application of 3 4 Mewbourne Oil Company for a nonstandard oil spacing and 5 proration unit and compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. 6 7 Call for appearances. MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of 8 Santa Fe representing the Applicant. 9 10 I have two witnesses. 11 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Okay. May the 12 witnesses stand, state their name and be sworn in, 13 please? 14 MR. BRUCE: State your names. 15 MR. CLESS: Nate Cless. 16 MR. MITCHELL: Corey Mitchell. 17 (Nate Cless and Corey Mitchel sworn.) 18 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: You may proceed, 19 Mr. Bruce. 20 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, first I need to give our condolences to the new examiner as introduction 21 to this. 22 23 EXAMINER GOETZE: Thank you. Thank you 24 (laughter).

25

- 1 COREY MITCHELL,
- after having been previously sworn under oath,
- 3 was questioned and testified as follows:
- 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 5 BY MR. BRUCE:
- 6 Q. Would you please state your name and city of
- 7 residence for the record?
- 8 A. Corey Mitchell. I reside in Midland, Texas.
- 9 Q. And who do you work for and in what capacity?
- 10 A. Mewbourne Oil Company as a landman.
- 11 Q. Have you previously testified before the
- 12 Division as a landman?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And were your credentials as a petroleum
- 15 landman accepted as a matter of record?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. And are you familiar with the land matters
- 18 involved in this case?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender
- 21 Mr. Mitchell as an expert petroleum landman.
- 22 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: So qualified.
- Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) Mr. Mitchell, will you please
- 24 identify Exhibit 1 and discuss the well unit, and
- 25 identify the well name and what zone you are seeking to

- 1 force pool?
- 2 A. Exhibit 1 is a Midland Map Company land plat of
- 3 Township 18 South, Range 30 East. In Section 30, we
- 4 have our proposed well unit highlighted. It is the
- 5 Bradley 30 Fed Com #4H. We are seeking an order
- approving a nonstandard well unit comprised of the north
- 7 half-north half of Section 30, as well as pooling from.
- the surface to the base of the Bone Spring Formation.
- 9 Q. And what Bone Spring pool is this in?
- 10 A. This is the Santa Nino Bone Spring pool, and I
- 11 believe it's Pool Code 54300.
- 12. EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Thank you very much. I
- 13 got the pool name from the application.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 15 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: That was -- that was
- 16 good. But the rest I didn't -- and then I searched for
- 17 the pool code, which is correct. So that's good.
- Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) And that pool does have special
- 19 pool rules; does it not?
- 20 A. Yes, sir. It provides for 80-acre oil units.
- Q. But insofar -- I believe the pool rules were
- 22 amended not too long ago to provide for 330-foot
- 23 setbacks; is that correct?
- 24 A. Correct. Correct.
- O. What is Exhibit 2?

- 1 A. Exhibit 2 is our tract ownership. This well
- 2 has quite a number of owners in it, over 50, so we have
- 3 lumped those all into Chesapeake, et al. They have all
- 4 participated under JOA. The parties we are seeking to
- 5 pool are marked with an asterisk, and they total
- 6 4.870983 percent.
- 7 Q. Could you identify Exhibit 3, and discuss your
- 8 attempts to either obtain the voluntary joinder of these
- 9 parties in the well or to locate the interest owners?
- 10 A. Exhibit 3 is a summary of our communications
- 11 with the respective parties that we are seeking to pool.
- 12 We've mailed well proposals, along with AFE, to all the
- 13 parties and received verification that they received it
- 14 except for two parties, which were returned unclaimed.
- 15 We have pooled all these parties in our previous three
- 16 wells drilled in this section. We have done county
- 17 searches for these people, Internet searches. I've
- 18 talked with the other owners in the section and have
- 19 been unable to locate them.
- 20 Q. And you've been looking at this section for --
- 21 well, more than a couple of years overall, haven't you?
- 22 A. Correct. Yes, sir.
- Q. So do you recall you have either made a
- 24 good-faith effort to obtain the voluntary joinder of the
- interest owners in the well or have made a good-faith

- 1 effort to locate the interest owners?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Would you identify Exhibit 4, and discuss the
- 4 cost of the proposed well?
- 5 A. Exhibit 4 is our AFE, which sets out our
- 6 estimated well costs for this well. We are looking at
- 7 an estimated dry-hole cost of \$2,178,900 and completed
- 8 well costs of \$4,621,200.
- 9 O. And is this cost in line with the costs of
- 10 other wells drilled to this depth in this area of Eddy
- 11 County?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And you said you already drilled three wells in
- 14 this section, so I would guess that Mewbourne has a good
- 15 handle on the cost for drilling?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. What overhead rates do you request?
- 18 A. We are requesting 7,500 for drilling and 750
- 19 for producing.
- Q. And are those rates in line with the rates
- 21 charged by Mewbourne and other operators in this area
- 22 for wells of this depth?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Do you request the maximum cost, plus
- 25 200-percent risk charge be assessed against these

- 1 nonconsenting interest owners?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And was notice mailed to the locatable parties?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 O. And is that reflected in Exhibit 5A?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, if you look at
- 8 the back two pages of Exhibit 5A, you can see that there
- 9 were two people, Charles Robinson, and then Ron and Amie
- 10 Green, who we did not get green cards back.
- 11 Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) Insofar as Mr. Robinson,
- 12 Mr. Mitchell, have you spoken with him about this well?
- 13 A. Yes, sir, I have. He called me and made me
- 14 aware that he did receive all of our correspondence,
- 15 even the correspondence from Mr. Jim Bruce, but he did
- 16 not wish to do anything with his interest due to it
- 17 being so small, and he being unfamiliar with the oil and
- 18 gas industry.
- 19 Q. But he did acknowledge receipt of the notice
- 20 letter?
- 21 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.
- 22 Q. And insofar as Mr. and Mrs. Green, are you
- 23 confident that that is their accurate address?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And you have had correspondence with them over

- 1 the years, correct?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- MR. BRUCE: And I would point out,
- 4 Mr. Examiner, that in the last hearing we did an offset
- 5 well. Mr. Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Green were sent
- 6 notice in August of last year, Case 14899, and they --
- 7 the exhibits submitted in that case showed they did
- 8 receive actual notice at the same addresses?
- 9 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Which order is that?
- 10 Case number what?
- MR. BRUCE: Case 14899, and that was the
- 12 pooling of the well unit immediately to the south of
- this well unit, the south half-north half of Section 30.
- 14 So they did receive actual notice.
- Mr. Examiner, Exhibit 5B is a copy of the
- 16 notice that was sent for publication in the Carlsbad
- 17 newspaper. I have not yet received the Affidavit of
- 18 Publication, but I will submit that when I receive it
- 19 from the Carlsbad newspaper.
- 20 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Okay.
- Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) And, Mr. Mitchell, does Exhibit
- 22 6 accurately identify the offset operators to the
- 23 proposed well?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And other than Mewbourne, the only one is EOG

- 1 Resources?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And was EOG notified of this application?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, that is reflected
- in my Affidavit of Notice, submitted as Exhibit 7.
- 7 Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) In your opinion, Mr. Mitchell,
- 8 is the granting of this application in the interest of
- 9 conservation and the prevention of waste?
- 10 A. Yes, sir.
- 11 Q. And were Exhibits 1 through 7 prepared by you
- or compiled from company business records?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the
- admission of Exhibits 1 through 7.
- 16 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Exhibits 1 through 7
- 17 will be admitted.
- 18 (Mewbourne Oil Company Exhibit Numbers 1
- 19 through 7 were offered and admitted into
- 20 evidence.)
- MR. BRUCE: And I have no further questions
- 22 of the witness.
- 23 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Thank you.
- 24 Any questions?
- 25 EXAMINER BROOKS: No questions.

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MR. BRUCE: The application does not

24

25

include 40 acres.

said now about giving me this pool so that I know which

pool, to understand what you are asking for. Okay. So

24

25

- 1 instead of the vertical being on the 40, it's going to
- 2 be on 80, because of the special pool rule, right? Is
- 3 that what you're saying?
- 4 MR. BRUCE: Correct.
- 5 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: And then also on the
- 6 project area? You are pooling the project area, too?
- 7 MR. BRUCE: Yes.
- 8 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: The 160.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 10 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Okay. Is it all going
- 11 to be from the southwest or vertical --
- MR. BRUCE: It is the Bone Spring
- 13 Formation.
- 14 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Just the Bone Spring?
- MR. BRUCE: Yes, sir.
- 16 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: You are not interested
- 17 in going uphole?
- MR. BRUCE: Nothing uphole.
- 19 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: So the Bone Spring --
- 20 both on the vertical, and the -- okay. It's important
- 21 to understand what you guys need.
- 22 Q. (BY EXAMINER EZEANYIM) So there are some
- 23 interests in another well. That's why we had that
- 24 publication, right?
- A. (Indicating.)

- 1 Q. Is that correct?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. And any API number for this?
- A.  $\subseteq$  The API number is 3001540934.
- 5 Q. 540934.
- 6 A. 934, yes, sir.
- 7 Q. Give it to me again.
- 8 A. 3001540934.
- 9 Q. Okay. Nothing further.
- 10 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Call your next witness.
- 11 NATE CLESS,
- 12 after having been previously sworn under oath, was
- questioned and testified as follows:
- 14 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 15 BY MR. BRUCE:
- 16 Q. Would you please state your name and city of
- 17 residence for the record?
- 18 A. Nate Cless, Midland, Texas.
- 19 Q. Who do you work for and in what capacity?
- 20 A. I work for Mewbourne Oil Company as a
- 21 geologist.
- Q. Have you previously testified before the
- 23 Division?
- 24 A. Yes, I have.
- Q. And have your credentials as a petroleum

- 1 geologist been accepted as a matter of record?
- 2 A. Yes, they were.
- 3 Q. And are you familiar with the geology involved
- 4 in this case?
- 5 A. Yes, sir, I am.
- 6 Q. And were you also the geologist for the other
- 7 wells drilled in this section?
- 8 A. Yes, I was.
- 9 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender
- 10 Mr. Cless has an expert petroleum geologist.
- 11 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: He is so qualified.
- 12 Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) Mr. Cless, would you identify
- 13 Exhibit 8 for the Examiner?
- 14 A. Exhibit 8 is a structure map, and it's of the
- nine-section area surrounding Section 30 of 18 South, 30
- 16 East. The structure is on the base of the 2nd Bone
- 17 Spring Sand Formation. I've highlighted all the Bone
- 18 Spring producers in this area.
- 19 Basically, the Bone Spring producers
- 20 consist of just the 1st sand and the 2nd sand. And the
- 21 2nd sand producers have the yellow circle on each
- 22 wellbore, and then the 1st sand producers have the
- 23 orange circle on each of the wellbores. We're going for
- 24 the target interval here at the 2nd Bone Spring Sand.
- 25 You can see all of the other horizontals

- 1 drilled in this area, in Section 20. In Section 20, 29
- 2 and 30, as well as 19, those are all 2nd Bone Spring
- 3 Sand horizontals that Mewbourne has drilled. We've
- 4 drilled them all east to west. And you can see I've
- 5 marked with a red arrow on the north half-north half of
- 6 Section 30 the location along the proposed well.
- 7 O. Go on to Exhibit 9.
- 8 A. Exhibit 9 is a gross ISOPACH map of the lower
- 9 2nd Bone Spring Sand Formation. Below each vertical
- 10 wellbore, there is a number, and that number represents
- 11 the gross beat in each particular wellbore of the lower
- 12 2nd Bone Spring Sand. So you can see in the
- 13 north half-north half of Section 30 we're going by three
- 14 different vertical wells, and you can see the average
- 15 thickness through that interval is about 110 feet thick
- 16 in the gross interval. So we anticipate that this
- 17 interval will be consistently thick across that north
- 18 half-north half section -- of Section 30.
- 19 Q. And you would anticipate that each
- 20 quarter-quarter section could be more or less included
- in production?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Let's move on to your cross section and discuss
- 24 a little bit more of the horizontal target.
- 25 A. So this next exhibit is a three-well cross

- 1 section containing the three wells in the north
- 2 half-north half of Section 30, starting with the well in
- 3 30 -- 30D, which is the well that we'll be landing by,
- 4 and going to the well in 30C, as well as the well in
- 5 30B. And you can see, on the right-hand side, I've
- 6 labeled where the top of the lower 2nd Bone Spring
- 7 Sand intervals are.
- 8 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Mr. Cless, could you
- 9 repeat what you said about B, C and D? What are those?
- 10 THE WITNESS: Those are just the wells that
- 11 we're going by, that we'll be going by.
- 12 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Oh, okay. Those are
- 13 vertical wells. Okay.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Yeah.
- 15 A. As you can see in each of those wells, the
- 16 interval of the lower 2nd Bone Spring Sand is consistent
- 17 across that entire interval.
- 18 You can also see, on the right-hand side,
- 19 I've listed where our horizontal target will be. So
- 20 we'll be targeting that lower part of the 2nd Bone.
- 21 Spring Sand.
- Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) Is the 3rd Bone Spring
- 23 productive in this area?
- 24 A. The 3rd Bone Spring Sand is present in this
- 25 area. There is no real vertical testing in the 3rd Bone

- 1 Spring Sand. At some point in time, we might come back
- 2 to it.
- 3 Q. In your opinion, will your proposed well
- 4 efficiently and economically drain this particular
- 5 portion of the Bone Spring reservoir?
- 6 A. Yes, we believe it will.
- 7 Q. Let's move on to Exhibit 11 and maybe discuss a
- 8 little of the production in this area.
- 9 A. So Exhibit 11 is just a production table of all
- 10 the Bone Spring wells in this nonsection area. You can
- 11 see there is a lot of -- there is quite a bit of Bone
- 12 Spring production, and I've broken out each well by its
- 13 name, operator. I've listed the API number; the
- 14 location of all these wells, whether it's vertical or
- 15 horizontal; when it was completed in the Bone Spring
- interval; what part of the Bone Spring it was completed
- in; whether it was the 1st Sand or the 2nd Sand; and
- 18 then also the CUM oil, CUM gas and CUM water of each
- 19 particular well.
- I've highlighted a couple of wells. The
- 21 first well is highlighted in yellow; the Elliott Federal
- 22 #3 is a vertical well that was drilled in this area. It
- 23 tested both the 1st and 2nd Bone Spring Sand. It was
- 24 drilled in 1988, and in that time, it made just over
- 25 30,000 barrels of oil.

- 1 And then the next -- the next well that's
- 2 highlighted in yellow, the Bradley 30 Fed Com #1H, is a
- 3 well that we drilled in this section, a horizontal well,
- 4 that was completed just over a year ago, in 2011. And
- 5 in that time, it's made over 42,000 barrels of oil. So
- 6 that shows that the -- that the drilling of these
- 7 horizontal wells is more efficiently draining this
- 8 interval as opposed to drilling the vertical wells.
- 9 Q. And then it appears that the production from
- 10 the Elliott Federal #3 hasn't adversely affected
- 11 production of the Bradley 30 #1.
- 12 A. No. We don't believe that it has.
- 13 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 14 BY EXAMINER EZEANYIM:
- 15 Q. Yeah. While we are on that subject, go to the
- 16 middle, the Phoenix 21 Federal. What's going on with
- 17 that well?
- 18 A. That well is just off this map. It's in
- 19 Section 21, and it's a north-south well. It's a
- 20 north-south horizontal well that we've drilled, and it's
- 21 the only north-south horizontal well that we've drilled.
- 22 And I put that on here to show that that well was
- 23 completed just about the same time as the Bradley 30
- 24 #1H, and it made 21,000 barrels of oil in just about the
- same amount of time that the Bradley 30 #1H made 42,000

- 1 barrels of oil. So we believe that that shows that
- 2 we've got to drill east-west in this area as opposed to
- 3 north-south.
- 4 Q. That's why I ask that question, and that's one
- 5 of the statements that I ask why you want to do this.
- 6 And I think it shows clearly.
- 7 What are those wells you are drilling at
- 8 this time, 11 to -- they are close to the same time.
- 9 The middle area made less oil than the one that was
- 10 drilled --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. You see, this is very important in deciding
- 13 whether to go east to west or something like that.
- 14 Imagine if you are coming in here and saying you want to
- 15 go north-south? With this information, do you think we
- 16 are going to prevent wells? No. So this is really what
- 17 I like to see when we want to do these east-west,
- 18 north-south --
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. -- to be convinced they're all the same --
- 21 And then when we are talking about the
- 22 wellbore [sic] here, I wonder who is -- who is drilling
- 23 those two wells on station 32?
- 24 A. Those wells were drilled --
- Q. Is it Mewbourne?

- 1 A. Those wells -- the 1st Sand horizontals, they
- 2 were -- it's not Mewbourne. It was drilled by Marbob,
- 3 which is now operated by Concho, and those were drilled
- 4 in the 1st Sand. And they're -- they're not -- they're
- 5 not that great of wells. We do still believe that the
- 6 1st Sand has potential up in this area. So that'll be
- 7 something that I'm sure we'll test later on down the
- 8 road.
- 9 Q. And do you know the type of -- what they are
- 10 producing?
- 11 A. The last three wells on this --
- 12 Q. I'm back to Section 30. Do you know what those
- 13 two wells are doing?
- 14 A. The last -- the last three wells on the
- 15 production table are those three wells, and those wells
- 16 were drilled in 2007 and 2008. And they have -- on
- 17 average, they've made about 25,000 barrels in that -- in
- 18 that time frame.
- 19 Q. Okay. I think I may have -- and I bet you that
- 20 came from the same pool, you know --
- 21 A. Yeah.
- Q. -- maybe -- maybe at the same time.
- A. It's the 1st Bone Spring Sand. I believe it's
- 24 the same pool.
- 25 MR. BRUCE: Yeah. There isn't a division.

- 1 There isn't a vertical division in this pool.
- 2 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Okay. That is very
- 3 interesting. Keep it to this to show me why you want
- 4 the orientation you want to do. That was very good.
- 5 CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 6 BY MR. BRUCE:
- 7 Q. Finally, Mr. Cless, could you identify Exhibit
- 8 12 and briefly discuss how Mewbourne completes these
- 9 wells?
- 10 A. Yeah. Exhibit 12 is a horizontal drilling plan
- 11 that we've been given by Directional Drilling Company.
- 12 On the front page, it has our service location, 330 from
- 13 north, 110 from west. Our landing point is 335 from
- 14 north, 580 from west, so it's a legal location. And
- then our bottom-hole location, 400 from north, 330 from
- 16 east, which is also a legal location.
- 17 And then if you just flip through there, it
- 18 just has our proposed -- proposed outline of our
- 19 horizontal well. And then if you flip to the last two
- 20 pages -- or, the very last page is the wellbore diagram
- 21 of the horizontal well showing where we're going to
- 22 kick-off at, and then where our estimated landing point
- 23 is and our bottom-hole location.
- Q. In your opinion, is the granting of this
- 25 application in the interest of conservation and the

- 1 prevention of waste?
- 2 A. Yes, it is.
- Q. And were Exhibits 8 through 12 either prepared
- 4 by you or compiled from company business records?
- 5 A. Yes, they were.
- 6 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the
- 7 admission of Exhibits 8 through 12.
- 8 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Exhibits 8 through 12
- 9 will be admitted.
- 10 (Mewbourne Oil Company Exhibit Numbers 8
- 11 through 12 were offered and admitted into
- 12 evidence.)
- MR. BRUCE: I have no further questions for
- 14 this witness.
- 15 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Do you have any
- 16 questions?
- 17 EXAMINER BROOKS: No questions.
- 18 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Do you have any
- 19 questions?
- 20 EXAMINER GOETZE: No questions at this
- 21 time.
- 22 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: I think all my
- 23 questions have been answered. Thank you.
- 24 Anything further?
- 25 MR. BRUCE: Nothing further in this matter,

1	STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2	COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
3	
4	CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER
5	I, MARY C. HANKINS, New Mexico Certified
6	Court Reporter No. 20, and Registered Professional
7	Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported the
8	foregoing proceedings in stenographic shorthand and that
9	the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of
10	those proceedings that were reduced to printed form by
11	me to the best of my ability.
12	I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Reporter's
13	Record of the proceedings truly and accurately reflects
14	the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.
15	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
16	employed by nor related to any of the parties or
17	attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in
18	the final disposition of this case.
19	1 11 1
20	Mary C. Hankins, CCR, RPR
21	Paul Baca Court Reporters New Mexico CCR No. 20
22	Date of CCR Expiration: 12/31/2013
23	
24	
25	