

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED  
BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

ORIGINAL

APPLICATION OF MESQUITE SWD, INC. FOR CASE 15262  
APPROVAL OF A SALT WATER DISPOSAL WELL,  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

April 16, 2015

Santa Fe, New Mexico

BEFORE: WILLIAM JONES, CHIEF EXAMINER  
PHILLIP GOETZE, TECHNICAL EXAMINER  
ALLISON MARKS, LEGAL EXAMINER

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This matter came on for hearing before the  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, William V. Jones,  
Chief Examiner, Phillip Goetze, Technical Examiner, and  
Allison Marks, Legal Examiner, on Thursday, April 16,  
2015, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural  
Resources Department, Wendell Chino Building, 1220 South  
St. Francis Drive, Porter Hall, Room 102, Santa Fe, New  
Mexico.

REPORTED BY: ELLEN H. ALLANIC  
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## 1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 FOR APPLICANT MESQUITE SWD, INC.:

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6 FOR FULFER OIL and CATTLE AND DRIFTWOOD OIL, LLC:

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## I N D E X

11

12 CASE NUMBER 15262 CALLED

13

14 MESQUITE SWD, INC.'S CASE-IN-CHIEF:

15

16 WITNESS KAY HAVENOR

17

	DIRECT	REDIRECT	FURTHER
18 Mr. Bruce	6		

19

	CROSS	RECROSS	FURTHER
20 Mr. Hall	15		
21 Examiner Goetz	21		
22 Examiner Jones	24		

23

24

25

26 FULFER OIL AND CATTLE AND DRIFTWOOD OIL'S  
 CASE-IN-CHIEF

27

28 WITNESS STEPHEN L. PATTEE

29

	DIRECT	REDIRECT	FURTHER
30 Mr. Hall	35		

31

	CROSS	RECROSS	FURTHER
32 Mr. Bruce	61		
33 Examiner Marks	66		
34 Examiner Goetz	68	78	
35 Examiner Jones	69	79	

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41 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

42

85



1 (Time noted 9:38 a.m.)

2 EXAMINER JONES: Let's go back on the record  
3 this morning. And I call the last case on the docket,  
4 Case 15262, application of Mesquite SWD, Inc., for  
5 approval of a saltwater disposal well, Lea County, New  
6 Mexico.

7 Call for appearances.

8 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of Santa  
9 Fe representing the applicant, and I have one witness.

10 MR. HALL: Scott Hall, Montgomery and  
11 Andrews Law Firm, Santa Fe, appearing on behalf of  
12 Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood Oil, LLC. I have  
13 one primary witness. I'll swear in two, one I may bring  
14 on for rebuttal.

15 EXAMINER JONES: Will everyone who is going  
16 to testify please stand.

17 (Two Gentlemen Stand.)

18 EXAMINER JONES: Will the Court Reporter  
19 please swear the two witnesses.

20 (Whereupon the Court Reporter administered  
21 the oath to the two witnesses.)

22 EXAMINER JONES: Do you two want to have any  
23 opening statements at the hearing this morning?

24 MR. BRUCE: I don't think so.

25 EXAMINER JONES: I usually know the answer

1 for you.

2 MR. HALL: I have nothing to add to that.

3 EXAMINER JONES: We'll do closing arguments  
4 at the end.

5 KAY HAVENOR  
6 having been first duly sworn, was questioned and  
7 testified as follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. BRUCE:

10 Q. Will you please state your name for the record.

11 A. Kay Havenor.

12 Q. And where do you reside?

13 A. Roswell, New Mexico.

14 Q. And what is your occupation?

15 A. Consulting geologist.

16 Q. And are you consulting for Mesquite SWD, Inc., in  
17 this case?

18 A. Yes, I am.

19 Q. Have you previously testified before the  
20 Division?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. And have your credentials as an expert geologist  
23 been accepted as a matter of record?

24 A. Yes, they have.

25 Q. And are you familiar with the matters related to

1 the application in this case?

2 A. Yes, I am.

3 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender  
4 Mr. Havenor as an expert geologist.

5 MR. HALL: No objection.

6 EXAMINER JONES: No objection?

7 MR. HALL: Correct.

8 EXAMINER JONES: Dr. Havenor is qualified as  
9 an expert geologist.

10 BY MR. BRUCE (cont'd):

11 Q. Dr. Havenor, let's -- fortunately, this isn't one  
12 of the C-108s that's 80 or 100 pages long, so it's  
13 fairly short to run through.

14 First of all, in looking at Exhibit 1 to the  
15 C-108 -- did you prepare Exhibit 1?

16 (Mesquite SWD, Inc.'s Exhibit 1 introduced  
17 and identified.)

18 A. Yes, I prepared it.

19 Q. Could you turn to the third page and identify the  
20 well, give the well name and its location for the  
21 examiner.

22 A. The well name is the Johnny East SWD 1. And the  
23 location is Unit N, Section 11, Township 25, South  
24 Range, 36 East, Lea County.

25 Q. And what is the -- is this an existing well or

1 will this be a new drill?

2 A. This will be a new drill.

3 Q. And what is your proposed injection interval?

4 A. The proposed injection interval is the very  
5 basal-most part of the Yates Formation and the uppermost  
6 Seven Rivers.

7 Q. And what are the depths?

8 A. This was prepared so long ago, I have to look.  
9 Approximately 3,500 feet -- excuse me -- for the total  
10 depth of the well.

11 Q. For the total depth of the well?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. On that page 3, it says 3378 to 3388?

14 A. Correct. That is the proposed approximate  
15 depths.

16 Q. Will this be a commercial saltwater disposal --

17 A. Yes, it will be.

18 Q. Let's turn to page 7 of the C-108. Let's run  
19 through this a little bit. First, are there any wells  
20 within the half-mile area of review?

21 A. There are no known wells within the half mile  
22 areas of review.

23 Q. I notice you mention one Driftwood well. But is  
24 that outside of the half mile area?

25 A. Yes, it is outside the half-mile area of review.

1 Q. What are the proposed injection volumes?

2 A. The proposed injection volumes are a maximum of  
3 10,000 barrels of water per day.

4 Q. And insofar as the injection pressure, will it  
5 comply with the Division's .2 psi per foot of depth?

6 A. Yes, it will.

7 Q. And what formations would you anticipate the  
8 injected water will be produced from?

9 A. The injected water will be primarily into the  
10 upper Seven Rivers with possibly a foot or two of the  
11 basal-most Yates.

12 Q. But the produced water that will be injected,  
13 what are the primary sources of that?

14 A. That's often hard to say. But it will probably  
15 be Bone Springs type water.

16 Q. Are there any compatibility issues between Bone  
17 Spring water and the water in the injection formation?

18 A. No problems of compatibility.

19 Q. Let's turn to page 8 and 9. Could you discuss, a  
20 little bit, about the Capitan and what you inspected or  
21 what you reviewed to determine that this is not part of  
22 the Capitan?

23 A. The primary evidence that it is not part of the  
24 Capitan Reef is because of the recognizable and  
25 identifiable presence of Yates through Seven Rivers

1 Formation present, which are formations that are only  
2 found in the back reef area of the Capitan complex area.

3 Q. And is that what you are trying to show on pages  
4 8, 9, and 10 of this C-108?

5 A. Yes, it is.

6 Q. Are there any fresh water sources within two  
7 miles of the proposed injection well?

8 A. None that can be identified.

9 Q. And you checked with the State Engineer Office  
10 regarding that?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And on page 10, what does that plat reflect?

13 A. This plat was part of a Roswell Geological  
14 Society symposium publication in 1956. And this map was  
15 prepared by one of the participants which was and is a  
16 small part of the mapping of the Yates Formation on the  
17 Central Basin Platform itself.

18 And the interesting thing about this data, for  
19 the well data itself, there's often much more  
20 information available than is even available through OCD  
21 records. As I recall it was a geologist for Union Oil  
22 that prepared this for the symposium in -- 1956  
23 symposium.

24 And it is remarkably accurate to information that  
25 has been developed since 1956 in the adjacent areas,

1 particularly those farther to the west, which are still  
2 behind the Capitan Reef Complex itself and in the back  
3 reef faces carrying Yates through Seven Rivers  
4 deposits.

5 Q. Let's move on to page 11. Could you briefly  
6 discuss how the well will be drilled and completed.

7 A. It will be drilled by conventional rotary tools,  
8 vertical hole. And the entire drilled interval will be  
9 cased and -- would be logged, mud logged and electric  
10 logged and then cased and perforated for the basal  
11 couple of feet for the Yates and the Seven Rivers zone.

12 Q. Will the well be drilled and completed in such a  
13 fashion as to prevent any movement of injected fluids to  
14 any producing zone or would it allow -- let's just say,  
15 for a producing zone?

16 A. Yes, any potential zone would be protected.

17 Q. And you said there was no water within two miles,  
18 but does the casing program ensure that if there was  
19 shallow water it would be protected?

20 A. Yes. It will be protected by the first strain,  
21 9-5/8ths casing.

22 Q. Is the unit 12 simply to show the well site on  
23 the Johnny East Well?

24 A. Yes, it is.

25 Q. And did you check the records regarding offsets

1 and surface owner for this application?

2 A. Yes, I have.

3 Q. And are they reflected on page 13?

4 A. Yes, they are.

5 Q. You said the minerals owner; so it's federal  
6 land?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Federal minerals and federal surface?

9 A. For the well site area, yes, it is surface.

10 Q. Okay.

11 MR. BRUCE: And, Mr. Examiner, Exhibit 2 is  
12 simply an affidavit of notice to all of the parties. I  
13 notified Driftwood Oil via Mr. Hall. Mr. Hall called me  
14 on it. I don't think he got this letter until 12 days  
15 after it was mailed or something like that.

16 (Mesquite SWD, Inc.'s Exhibit 2 introduced  
17 and identified.)

18 BY MR. BRUCE (cont'd):

19 Q. Mr. Havenor, what is Exhibit 3?

20 (Mesquite SWD, Inc.'s Exhibit 3 introduced  
21 and identified.)

22 A. Exhibit 3 is what I refer to as a stick diagram.  
23 It is based on the -- it is an attempt to show the  
24 formation tops that will be involved in the drilling and  
25 completion of this well and their vertical relationship

1 to zero subsurface.

2 Q. Okay. Will the Mesquite SWD well be down dipped  
3 from the nearest Driftwood wells?

4 A. Yes, significantly down dipped.

5 Q. And does this also show, in connection with the  
6 other matters you've discussed in the C-108, that this  
7 is not the Capitan Reef, that it's the back reef?

8 A. Yes. It illustrates that in the sense that if  
9 the Yates Formation is present and identifiable and the  
10 zones down through and into the Seven Rivers, that is  
11 back reef and not Capitan Reef.

12 Q. And was Exhibit 3 prepared by you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What is Exhibit 4, Dr. Havenor?

15 (Mesquite SWD, Inc.'s Exhibit 4 introduced  
16 and identified.)

17 A. Informational -- I don't think I have a copy of  
18 that. (Pause.)

19 This was primarily intended for my information to  
20 Mr. Bruce. And it was in relation to Driftwood having  
21 filed a protest along with Mr. Fulfer.

22 Q. And, Dr. Havenor, in our prehearing statement,  
23 Fulfer and Driftwood stated that they opposed Mesquite's  
24 application because they have wells producing and  
25 capable of producing hydrocarbons in close proximity to

1 the proposed disposal well.

2 In looking at Exhibit 4, did you check Division  
3 records regarding production from the Driftwood wells?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And --

6 A. Yes, that is what Exhibit 4 is, and this was  
7 prepared yesterday.

8 Q. When was the last date that these wells produced,  
9 as far as you could tell?

10 A. It was in, as I recall, 2003.

11 Q. 2013?

12 A. Excuse me. 2013, correct.

13 Q. Were they marginal producers even.

14 A. A marginal producer would be in the eye of the  
15 beholder. In my opinion, it would be low production and  
16 potentially higher and increasing water. What I saw on  
17 the production records on file was that the small  
18 amounts of oil and -- smaller amounts of oil and  
19 decreasing volumes of gas and an almost immediate  
20 cut-off in a following month going to all water.

21 Q. And, again, Exhibit 4 was prepared by you?

22 A. Yes, it was.

23 Q. In your opinion, is the granting of this  
24 application in the interest of conservation and the  
25 prevention of waste?

1 A. Yes, it is.

2 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move the  
3 admission of Exhibits 1 through 4.

4 EXAMINER JONES: Objection?

5 MR. HALL: No objection.

6 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 1 through 4 will  
7 be admitted.

8 (Mesquite SWD, Inc.'s Exhibits 1 through 4  
9 were admitted into evidence.)

10 MR. BRUCE: I pass the witness.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. HALL:

13 Q. Dr. Havenor, let me ask you, do you know if this  
14 well proposal has been presented to the Bureau of Land  
15 Management?

16 A. Yes, it has.

17 Q. And has it been approved by them?

18 A. It was not objected to.

19 Q. Do we have an approval, do you know?

20 MR. BRUCE: Excuse me. Are you asking for  
21 an approved APD?

22 MR. HALL: Yes.

23 A. You don't normally -- I don't normally submit an  
24 APD until after approval of the SWD.

25 Q. So an injection permit has been submitted to BLM;

1 is that right?

2 A. I'm sorry?

3 Q. What has been submitted to BLM?

4 A. A copy of the application.

5 Q. The C-108?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And they neither approve or disapprove of C-108s;  
8 isn't that correct?

9 A. I can only say they did not disapprove.

10 Q. Okay. Do you know Mr. Fulfer?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. Are you aware that this location for the Johnny  
13 East SWD well is within his federal raising allotment?

14 A. Yes, I do.

15 Q. And is there some reason that the location for  
16 the well is 300 feet off the south line of the section?  
17 Do you know why that location is chosen?

18 A. I selected it, and it was intended to not be able  
19 to or to not interfere with any normal spacing of oil  
20 and gas exploration, should any occur.

21 Q. Did you examine area well logs within the  
22 two-mile radius to determine the presence of the Yates,  
23 Seven Rivers in those well bores?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. And do I understand your testimony, where you

1 encounter Yates, Seven Rivers in the well bore, does  
2 that preclude the existence of the Capitan Reef?

3 A. Absolutely.

4 Q. You have referred to "the back side of the reef";  
5 is that a particular geologic term?

6 A. It's a semi-generic term, "the back side of the  
7 reef." The reef is a very complex thing. And the  
8 physical body of the reef itself is greatly confined to  
9 the leading edge of the reef, the basin-ward side of the  
10 reef, meaning that is the area in which we know that  
11 water moves around the margin of the basin.

12 And the back reef is a description of the  
13 significant change in porosity that occurs in front of  
14 the reef as compared to very dense carbonates normally  
15 making up the back side of the reef, the reef body.

16 Q. If we have a location that is in the so-called  
17 back side, is it still considered to be within the  
18 capital [sic] reef complex itself?

19 A. I don't understand your question.

20 Q. Have you encountered the term "the capital reef  
21 complex"? Is that a term used in your business?

22 A. We have to go back in history. I don't really  
23 understand -- could you rephrase your question, please.

24 Q. Let me ask you this way.

25 Is "Capital reef complex" a term of art that's

1 used by geologists practicing in this area?

2 A. The Capitan Reef Complex is a generalized term  
3 that has developed over the last 75 years. Of course,  
4 we know much more about the construction or the nature  
5 of the reef and the formations in front of the reef, in  
6 the reef, and behind the reef now than we did 50 to  
7 75 years ago.

8 Q. All right. If we turn to the C-108, numbered  
9 page 10, it is the structure map at the top of the Yates  
10 there.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you know if in the geological body of  
13 literature for the Capitan Reef whether there's an  
14 agreed on boundary to locate the outer limits of the  
15 Capitan Reef?

16 A. Of the reef itself?

17 Q. Yes, sir.

18 A. There is good delineation of the front of the  
19 reef. But due to the changing lithology within the reef  
20 body itself, from the very front, northward, and behind  
21 the reef, there is a significant area that many, many  
22 years ago the Bureau of Land Management had mapped and  
23 they presented a map at that time, and that was -- I  
24 can't remember exactly the year, but it was in the 1960s  
25 as I recall.

1           It presented a map that showed, fairly sharply,  
2 the front edge of the reef but left a very large area  
3 surrounding the curved reef. And the Bureau of Land  
4 Management, in the non-geological sense, sort of adopted  
5 that this was all part of the potential Capitan Reef,  
6 and so took control of the development and the progress  
7 of development throughout that broad zone.

8           Since that time, many hundreds or probably  
9 thousands of wells have been drilled, and we have much  
10 more information today than they had at that time. And  
11 we just understand a lot more about it geologically.

12         Q. The location of the reef has been more clearly  
13 defined over time?

14         A. It depends on what you wish to call "the reef."

15         Q. Right. Let's look back at your page --

16         A. I would comment on this page 10. This page 10 is  
17 the -- is not in the reef area. This is in the  
18 production zone along the eastern edge of the state.

19         Q. So if we were to overlay the locational  
20 boundaries of the reef that's been looked over the past  
21 years since 1960, it wouldn't show on the structure map  
22 at all?

23         A. Not on the map on page 10, no.

24         Q. Okay.

25         A. It would be many miles to the west.

1 Q. What is the proximity of this location to the  
2 Central Basin Platform?

3 A. It is on the western edge of the Central Basin  
4 Platform.

5 Q. Thank you, Dr. Havenor.

6 MR. HALL: No more questions.

7 EXAMINER JONES: Do you guys want to go  
8 first?

9 EXAMINER MARKS: Sure. I do have one  
10 question actually.

11 On these addresses here, I just pulled up  
12 one on -- and if you could just maybe educate me. For  
13 example, Chevron U.S.A., I was just looking on -- just  
14 because we were talking about notice this morning, on  
15 the Secretary of State's website, they have an agent in  
16 Hobbs and then they have a corporate address in San  
17 Ramon, California. Where do we get this Texas address  
18 from?

19 MR. BRUCE: That's just -- I have it in my  
20 file. That's Chevron's address. San Roman, I have  
21 mailed stuff there and nothing ever comes back. And I  
22 normally don't send it to the registered agent, because  
23 there's no telling what that is.

24 But Chevron's two main offices are at -- its  
25 main permanent office is at 15 Smith Road in Midland and

1 its other main office, for Texas and New Mexico, is at  
2 1400 Smith Road in Houston.

3 I just have it in my files from years of  
4 sending mail to them. That's all.

5 EXAMINER MARKS: I was just wondering  
6 because everything on the Secretary of State website --

7 MR. BRUCE: Yeah, the overall corporate  
8 Chevron offices are in California still. And that's  
9 where that address comes in. It is from outside of San  
10 Francisco, I believe. But any geologist or engineer who  
11 is going to look at this application would be in either  
12 Midland or Houston.

13 EXAMINER MARKS: Okay.

14 EXAMINER GOETZ: Are you done?

15 EXAMINER MARKS: Yes.

16 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER GOETZ

17 EXAMINER GOETZ: Point of clarity on your  
18 C-108 application. Our completion diagram shows  
19 perforations from 3378 to 3428. And our application for  
20 up front is 3328 to 3388. 3378 to 3388, is that what we  
21 are really asking for?

22 THE WITNESS: No. We are asking for what is  
23 on the front page.

24 EXAMINER GOETZ: So it's a ten-foot  
25 interval?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 EXAMINER GOETZ: Thank you.

3 Are there any other saltwater disposals  
4 sharing a zone in the immediate area of this well, let's  
5 say within two miles?

6 THE WITNESS: Within two miles?

7 EXAMINER GOETZ: Roughly.

8 THE WITNESS: I have to look at the map to  
9 see where two miles is.

10 EXAMINER GOETZ: Well, a mile to two miles.

11 THE WITNESS: Not in a mile or two miles,  
12 no.

13 EXAMINER GOETZ: Okay.

14 THE WITNESS: Well, there is one Mesquite  
15 well to the northwest. It is in section 10, which would  
16 be about a mile and a half northwest of this proposed  
17 location.

18 EXAMINER GOETZ: Okay.

19 THE WITNESS: It's also in lithologies that  
20 are almost exactly what we expect in this well.

21 EXAMINER GOETZ: And the injection history  
22 of this well, have there been any problems with it?  
23 Have we requested an IPI?

24 THE WITNESS: No. Not to my knowledge.

25 EXAMINER GOETZ: So it is still operating

1 under its original administrative pressure.

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is.

3 EXAMINER GOETZ: The injection interval of  
4 10 feet, we've defined somewhat what the confining layer  
5 above is. How are we to know that this injection fluid  
6 will stay within formation and will not travel  
7 vertically and migrate in depth?

8 THE WITNESS: Well, in general, the density  
9 of the formations overlying and underlying will contain  
10 it.

11 EXAMINER GOETZ: So we are basing this on an  
12 assumption of geology in the area?

13 THE WITNESS: That is in part why I have  
14 them drill deeper, so that we can confirm that those  
15 formations are there and we'll be able to log them.

16 EXAMINER GOETZ: Has there been any estimate  
17 as to the life of this well with regards to how much of  
18 a zone it will flood over its lifetime, a radius of  
19 influence?

20 THE WITNESS: "Radius"?

21 EXAMINER GOETZ: Yes.

22 THE WITNESS: That's always a questionable  
23 thing because of -- well, I can't answer the radius. I  
24 have no estimate on the life. It will be economic for  
25 Mesquite, but I have no estimate on its life.

1 EXAMINER GOETZ: I have no further questions  
2 of this witness.

3 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER JONES

4 EXAMINER JONES: First of all, Dr. Havenor,  
5 nice to see you again.

6 THE WITNESS: (Waved.)

7 EXAMINER JONES: On this business about --  
8 you want to permit only a 10-foot thickness, that's what  
9 you advertised -- correct? -- you advertised 10-foot?

10 THE WITNESS: I believe that is correct.  
11 There is a copy of the advertisement in the report, on  
12 page 14, 3378 to -88.

13 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. What porosity would  
14 you have there, just roughly? Effective porosity?

15 THE WITNESS: It's pretty good.

16 EXAMINER JONES: Like 20 percent,  
17 25 percent?

18 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't make an estimate.  
19 But based upon what has taken place in the same interval  
20 to the northwest and in other areas that I have looked  
21 at, it is pretty substantial. It will take a lot of  
22 water to fill up any zone that is 10-feet deep.

23 EXAMINER JONES: But you could calculate  
24 that --

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, if we said it is an open

1 hole and extended this far, we could calculate it.

2 EXAMINER JONES: We always try to do these  
3 permits specific to one location and specific to  
4 whatever you advertise in your interval.

5 THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 EXAMINER JONES: If you have a 10-foot  
7 thickness that you advertise, that is one thing. If you  
8 have 10-foot perforations and you expect water to go  
9 totally into the Yates, Seven Rivers, well, then, you  
10 would define that thickness and advertise that. And,  
11 that way, we could kind of back into your radius over  
12 how many, you know -- 10,000 barrels a day you said  
13 maximum, right?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 EXAMINER JONES: So we could kind of figure  
16 out -- you know, it doesn't ever go regularly, of  
17 course. You know that better than I do. But we could  
18 kind of figure out how many years, how far you expect it  
19 to go if it's going to stay in zone. So that's one  
20 thing that we would need to look at.

21 THE WITNESS: We could know better after we  
22 get the logs --

23 EXAMINER JONES: You bet, you bet.

24 Speaking of that, I noticed on this stick  
25 diagram the salt. They are kind of sensitive about the

WV  
2

1 salt on there too in this part of the country. And on  
2 the Ralph Lowe Well, the salt top shows at 2,830 and the  
3 AN hydride at 3,800 feet. That would mean that hydride is  
4 thicker than I've ever heard of, a hydride above the  
5 salt.

6 THE WITNESS: I was only able to take the  
7 figures that they reported.

8 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. So for argument, we  
9 can assume the hydride is 100, 150-foot thick, so you've  
10 got a salt section of, let's say, 1,400 feet down to  
11 3,100 feet, and you are only proposing to put two  
12 strings of casing in this well, so you would be drilling  
13 through the salt, saltwater mud by the time you got all  
14 the way down to the bottom?

15 THE WITNESS: It would be pretty quick.

16 EXAMINER JONES: Would you be amenable to  
17 changing your casing design to protect -- to put another  
18 string through the salt to protect it?

19 THE WITNESS: To protect the salt?  
20 Normally -- well, we'll do what you want to have done.  
21 I don't see that that would be necessary to protect the  
22 salt here, because we will be sure that there is  
23 circulation and use DV tools, plural, if we feel that it  
24 is necessary. And we'll tell that in the drilling.

25 EXAMINER JONES: You have the application

1 ready to submit to BLM; you just haven't done it yet; is  
2 that correct?

3 THE WITNESS: I don't prepare it until you  
4 decide it is okay.

5 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. And you probably  
6 work with a drilling engineer to do that?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes.

8 EXAMINER JONES: Tell me about the lithology  
9 out here in the Seven Rivers and the Yates. Going from  
10 the top down, the Yates, what is the Yates?

11 THE WITNESS: Sand.

12 EXAMINER JONES: So it's sand intermixed  
13 with silt; is that what it is?

14 THE WITNESS: Well, some of the zones are  
15 silty, yes. They are not all clean sands -- interbedded  
16 with dolomites and hydroids.

17 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

18 THE WITNESS: Typical back reef lithology.

19 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. And the Seven  
20 Rivers, what about it?

21 THE WITNESS: It is typical of the Seven  
22 Rivers Formation. It is -- only that there is a reduced  
23 thickness of the Seven Rivers type lithology in this  
24 area. It's just dense dolomites underneath it.

25 EXAMINER JONES: So it is dolomite?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 EXAMINER JONES: It is not limestone?

3 THE WITNESS: No.

4 EXAMINER JONES: So it was dolomitized after  
5 it was laid down sometime or --

6 THE WITNESS: I've never really understood  
7 how it becomes dolomitized, but it does.

8 EXAMINER JONES: Are you a hydrologist?

9 THE WITNESS: No, I am not a hydrologist per  
10 se. I am primarily a geologist.

11 EXAMINER JONES: I noticed that we qualified  
12 you as a geologist, and, obviously, you are a doctor in  
13 geology. But the Capitan Reef, we come up here and we  
14 argue over the delfs, these formation tops. But isn't  
15 it true that the aquifer, the Capitan Aquifer is a  
16 different animal than the Capitan Reef Formation?

17 THE WITNESS: No.

18 EXAMINER JONES: It's not true?

19 THE WITNESS: No. The Capitan Reef is a  
20 term that is very broad. The physical reef itself is  
21 fairly narrow, sharply defined on the basin side and not  
22 well defined on the back side. But it's pretty narrow,  
23 particularly the area that carries water.

24 EXAMINER JONES: So where you are proposing  
25 to drill is on the closest -- closest to the basin side?

1 THE WITNESS: No.

2 EXAMINER JONES: I thought you were drilling  
3 on the west side of -- the reef would be east of you; is  
4 that correct?

5 THE WITNESS: No. The main reef will be  
6 east of us -- excuse me. I'm sorry. The main reef will  
7 be west. We are drilling eastward.

8 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. So you are in the  
9 back reef area where you've got those inter-fingered  
10 formations that it's hard to tell really what you got  
11 when you drill there; is that correct?

12 THE WITNESS: If you have the formations  
13 immediately overlying the Yates, and the Yates and down  
14 through to the top or into the Seven Rivers, they are  
15 very clearly defined.

16 EXAMINER JONES: So it would be clearly  
17 defined in a well that you drill. But how do you know  
18 that it's clearly defined if you move to the west? How  
19 far after you move to the west would you know that you  
20 got exactly what you got in your well?

21 THE WITNESS: That's where the stick diagram  
22 can be utilized, because it shows wells that are  
23 considerably west of our proposed location that clearly  
24 show the top of the Yates Formation and Seven Rivers  
25 also.

1 EXAMINER JONES: But not the reef?

2 THE WITNESS: But not the reef.

3 EXAMINER JONES: So they don't show the reef  
4 because they weren't interested in drilling through the  
5 reef at that time; is that correct?

6 THE WITNESS: (No verbal response.)

7 EXAMINER JONES: So you can't tell if you go  
8 west exactly where the reef is because you don't have  
9 the well control?

10 THE WITNESS: No. We have plenty of well  
11 control to delineate the front of the reef. That is  
12 pretty well defined.

13 EXAMINER JONES: Through --

14 THE WITNESS: Through wells that have  
15 penetrated.

16 EXAMINER JONES: Are they drilling the Bone  
17 Spring right around this area at this time?

18 THE WITNESS: Not at this time, no.

19 EXAMINER JONES: So why would you pick this  
20 location if there is no close by disposal waters?

21 THE WITNESS: It's right on the highway.  
22 That's the truthful answer.

23 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. And how would you  
24 complete and how would you test this well? How would  
25 you know you are not into protectable waters once you

1 get down there?

2 THE WITNESS: Well, we will have mud logger  
3 on it, the base of the salt.

4 EXAMINER JONES: But you said you are going  
5 to drill with salt mud?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 EXAMINER JONES: And you said the formation  
8 is extremely high permeability and porosity, so --

9 THE WITNESS: In the zone itself, yes.

10 EXAMINER JONES: So how are we going to know  
11 whether it's protectable waters or not? You said it is  
12 not protect productive, so that means we need to look at  
13 the salinity part of it. It is less than 10,000 or not,  
14 how do we know that?

15 THE WITNESS: Well, I don't know of any  
16 wells in that environment around the back of the reef  
17 that have ever had protectable water.

18 EXAMINER JONES: Could you know if you cased  
19 off the salt and you drilled through it with freshwater  
20 mud and then you run an induction log and back into the  
21 salinity of it that way?

22 THE WITNESS: It wouldn't be my preference,  
23 but I suppose that you could.

24 EXAMINER JONES: How would you test your  
25 well? Just look at it on the mud log and your --

1 THE WITNESS: Well, we will have a mud  
2 logger on it and we will observe it all the way through  
3 it and we will run a suite of logs afterwards.

4 EXAMINER JONES: Did you see any windmills  
5 out there? You said there's no freshwater wells on the  
6 State Engineer's side, and that seems to go back to  
7 1973. And there's a lot of old wells sometimes.

8 Just for the record, did you see any  
9 windmills out there from earlier --

10 THE WITNESS: No, I haven't. And I've also  
11 looked at about ten years of satellite imagery --

12 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

13 THE WITNESS: -- and I haven't seen  
14 anything.

15 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. And no feedback from  
16 the BLM yet?

17 THE WITNESS: Their responses are very quick  
18 if they object. And I've had no response.

19 EXAMINER JONES: Wesley Ingram is not there  
20 anymore, though, is he?

21 THE WITNESS: He's in Amarillo.

22 EXAMINER JONES: So is John Simmons still in  
23 Roswell?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

25 EXAMINER JONES: Have you talked to him

1 about it?

2 THE WITNESS: No, I haven't talked to him  
3 about this.

4 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. The notice, I -- did  
5 you work with a landman on that or did you work with  
6 your attorney on that, on the notice, figuring out the  
7 parties to notice?

8 THE WITNESS: No. I did the digging myself.

9 EXAMINER JONES: So you'd go to the  
10 courthouse and pull it out?

11 THE WITNESS: The records that are  
12 available.

13 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. On page 13 of  
14 Exhibit 1, there's two northeast, northeast, section 15,  
15 and I guess that means COG and Oxy own half of those; is  
16 that correct?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's correct.

18 EXAMINER JONES: But who owns the southeast,  
19 southeast of 10 and who owns the east half, northeast  
20 quarter of 14? I didn't see those.

21 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I did actually  
22 double-check Dr. Havenor's. And that's Chevron.

23 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Both of those are  
24 Chevron?

25 MR. BRUCE: Yes.

1 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

2 THE WITNESS: I failed to include that on  
3 page 13.

4 EXAMINER JONES: The AOR map, the half mile  
5 and the two-mile radius, it's got the well spotted  
6 almost exactly on the section line, but you really meant  
7 that to be a little bit further north; is that correct?

8 THE WITNESS: I think it's 300 feet.

9 EXAMINER JONES: So it should have been  
10 moved a little bit. And I don't think that would change  
11 your notice at all.

12 I don't have any more questions.

13 MR. BRUCE: I was going to say,  
14 Mr. Examiner, actually I checked. I mean, the east  
15 half -- in looking at page 6, the area of review and the  
16 notice, section 10, that is Chevron. The east half,  
17 northeast of 15 is Driftwood.

18 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.

19 Thank you, Dr. Havenor.

20 MR. BRUCE: I have nothing further in this  
21 matter.

22 MR. HALL: Are we ready?

23 EXAMINER JONES: Yes.

24 MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, we call Steve  
25 Pattee to the stand.



1 for going on nine years, dealing in all matters of  
2 petroleum-related work.

3 Q. And have you appeared before well and gas  
4 regulatory agencies in other states as an expert  
5 witness?

6 A. Yes. The Texas Railroad Commission mainly as an  
7 expert witness.

8 Q. Have you reviewed the C-108 application that  
9 Mesquite has filed --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are you familiar with the lands that are the  
12 subject of this application?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And what is your relationship to Fulfer Oil and  
15 Cattle and Driftwood Oil?

16 A. Lonquist and Co. is representing them as a  
17 consulting engineering and geology group in the matter  
18 of this hearing.

19 Q. Okay.

20 MR. HALL: We'd offer Mr. Pattee as a  
21 qualified expert in petroleum engineering.

22 MR. BRUCE: No objection.

23 EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Pattee is qualified as  
24 an expert in petroleum engineering.

25 BY MR. HALL (cont'd):

1 Q. Mr. Pattee, have you prepared a number of  
2 exhibits for your testimony.

3 A. I have or under my direction and supervision.

4 Q. All right. Let's start with what has been marked  
5 as Exhibit 1. And if you would identify that and tell  
6 us what that is intended to show.

7 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
8 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 1 introduced and  
9 identified.)

10 A. All right. One of the first steps we took in  
11 preparation for this case was to evaluate nearby  
12 production to see if there's potential for impact of  
13 exploitation of natural resources, hydrocarbons in the  
14 area.

15 This map shows a summary of our findings. The  
16 black dot in the center is the Mesquite SWD well in  
17 question. You can see we populated oil production  
18 mainly to the east of the proposed location.

19 We are of the opinion -- this is basically  
20 geology driven -- that all of the production is to the  
21 east. There is one well identified here in a black  
22 diamond. This is the well that is referred to in the  
23 C-108.

24 It is Driftwood Koontz Well No. 1. It is ends in  
25 API 28127. Another well that is of interest to the

1 client I'm representing is just to the north and east of  
2 that, 09752. Those are the last five digits of the API.  
3 And that would be the -- I believe Mr. Hannigan -- yes.  
4 It's the Hannigan No. 3.

5 Q. So in the course of your investigation, did you  
6 determine whether there are recoverable hydrocarbon  
7 reserves in close proximity to the Mesquite well?

8 A. There appears to be so, yes.

9 Q. And what's the basis of your conclusions?

10 A. In looking at offset geology, we have some  
11 cross-sections coming up showing the producing  
12 intervals. And in a couple following exhibits, we've  
13 run a two decline curve analyses of the target wells for  
14 our client as an example of recoverable resources still  
15 available.

16 Q. All right. By the way, when we look at Exhibit  
17 Number 1, what do the orange lines depict on there?

18 A. We began our investigation in preparation for  
19 this in trying to research and identify the defined  
20 Capitan Reef Formation. And as I will demonstrate, this  
21 orange line indicates, based on published documents, the  
22 location of the Capitan Reef.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So it is showing that the SWD, according to  
25 published geologic papers and studies, falls on the

1 eastern edge of the Capitan Reef.

2 Q. And we will have more testimony on that in a  
3 moment.

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Let's turn to Exhibits 2 and 3, please.

6 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood?  
7 Oil, LLC's Exhibits 2 and 3 introduced and  
8 identified.)

9 A. (Witness complies.)

10 Q. Could you identify those for us and tell us about  
11 your conclusions from these.

12 A. Yes. Exhibit 2 is the J.A. Koontz, API ending in  
13 -28127. It is -- what we did was we took historical  
14 production. The well was off line for the better part  
15 of 2014, as we understand, for mechanical and well  
16 condition situations or conditions. It has since been  
17 brought back on line. It is my understanding it came  
18 back on line for production in the beginning of March.

19 We took the produced -- the production from the  
20 well as of its reinstatement, going back on line, and  
21 carried our decline curve analysis out.

22 The decline curve indicates that there is -- it  
23 is a stripper well. It is in the -- it is not going to,  
24 you know, be a major producer. But it does have  
25 capacity in combination with low operating costs to

1 extend the operational life of this well out.

2 We ran a reserves and economics model using two  
3 pricing indexes. The first one, the lower pricing  
4 index, you'll see about halfway across the spreadsheet,  
5 Average oil price per barrel. That is the current NYMEX  
6 price strip.

7 Q. You are looking at page 2?

8 A. Yes, page 2. I'm sorry. Yes, sir.

9 Q. All right.

10 A. And on page 3, this was done by the SEC price  
11 index, and you will see it is a much higher price per  
12 barrel. We threw it in to just -- as of the end of  
13 2014, that is where people were reporting oil economics.

14 So page 2 is a more conservative look. It is  
15 what the current NYMEX pricing strip looks like.

16 We are showing a PV-10 life for this well,  
17 estimated, if production follows the decline curve of  
18 over 40 years. It's not going to produce an enormous  
19 amount of oil but it will continue to produce.

20 Q. If you look on page 1 for the J.A. Koontz well,  
21 the tabulated data for the oil production, does that  
22 show us remaining recoverable reserves?

23 A. Yes. Under the green dots, the oil barrels  
24 column; according to our Aries model run, it shows  
25 remaining oil reserves at 36,000 barrels recoverable.

1 Again, that's if the trend continues along this line,  
2 projected out.

3 Q. And what producing formation is this?

4 A. This is in the Yates; I believe, upper Yates.

5 Q. Okay. Turn to exhibit --

6 A. Sorry, the basal of the Yates. It's at the  
7 bottom. It's just above the Seven Rivers.

8 Q. Turn to Exhibit 3. If you would review that.

9 A. Yes. This is another one of Driftwood's wells,  
10 near by, identified in Exhibit 1, 09752; just over a  
11 mile away, I guess. It's less than two.

12 This well is producing -- has been producing for  
13 a considerable length of time and is producing greater  
14 than the first example. Currently anywhere from nine to  
15 18 barrels a day is coming from this well.

16 This we ran again using Aries modeling, decline  
17 curve analysis on this well. It is indicating that  
18 there's approximately 124,000 barrels remaining at this  
19 well's location, recoverable reserves. And that is  
20 shown on page 1 of Exhibit 3.

21 Page 2 and page 3 of Exhibit 3, again we ran the  
22 economics based on the current NYMEX pricing strip as  
23 well as the year-end 2014 SEC pricing index.

24 Q. Thank you.

25 From your review of the Mesquite proposal, were

1 you able to determine whether there is adequate  
2 horizontal and vertical separation between the producing  
3 intervals for the W.F. Hannigan and the J.A. Koontz  
4 wells in the proposal injection interval?

5 A. We have an exhibit, a cross-section, a geologic  
6 cross-section that shows, according to our research, it  
7 shows that the -- the proposed injection interval for  
8 the SWD, for the Mesquite SWD well, will be a similar  
9 interval as the production from these wells here, with  
10 no vertical faulting, horizontal faulting or blocks or  
11 traps preventing migration to the well and no vertical  
12 separation that appears to exist.

13 Q. Do you conclude that there is a likelihood that  
14 otherwise recoverable hydrocarbon reserves will be  
15 rendered unrecoverable because of the Mesquite  
16 location?

17 A. It is possible, in our opinion, in my opinion  
18 that injected water into this well could impact future  
19 production from nearby hydrocarbon wells.

20 Q. And waste would result?

21 A. Waste would result if that happened, yes.

22 Q. Let's turn to the C-108 before you.

23 EXAMINER JONES: Is that your exhibit or is  
24 it the Applicant's.

25 MR. HALL: No. It's the Applicant's. That

1 is Applicant's Exhibit 1.

2 Q. If you turn to numbered page 8 --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- of C-108, I will read you an entry from that  
5 first paragraph at the top of the page.

6 And it says, "The C-108 location is east of the  
7 Capitan, onto the uplifted western flank of the Central  
8 Basin Platform. The proposed location is geologically,  
9 structurally, hydrologically, and lithologically  
10 isolated and separated from the water bearing area of  
11 the reef."

12 Did I read that correctly?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Are you in agreement with that statement in the  
15 C-108?

16 A. Based on the following exhibits, I would have to  
17 say no.

18 Q. All right.

19 A. And I hope to demonstrate that answer.

20 Q. All right. Let's turn to Exhibit 4 then.

21 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
22 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 4 introduced and  
23 identified.)

24 A. As part of our research, which involved  
25 reviewing, evaluating, and following up on as many

1 published papers on the Capitan Reef as we could find,  
2 we were able to identify multiple I want to say greater  
3 than nine or more sources.

4 One of the resources that we went to most  
5 frequently is Exhibit 4. It was a report done in  
6 September 2009 of the Capitan Reef Complex for the Texas  
7 Water Development Board.

8 And in Exhibit 4 -- we bring up here in this  
9 Exhibit 2 key facts that we took from this paper. The  
10 first is the location of the Capitan Reef. It is on  
11 page 2 of Exhibit 4. It is listed as figure 1.

12 And this gives an outline of the inner and outer  
13 edges of the reef. It is tied to a highway placement  
14 map. And it is this highway structure map that we use  
15 to geo-reference this outline onto the geology and  
16 mapping that we produced for this hearing.

17 So you can see all of the highways as they are  
18 located. And that was our points of geo-referencing for  
19 making sure we had the location from this paper  
20 correctly transposed.

21 This paper references several other papers. And  
22 we went back through and looked and data mined through  
23 those papers -- one of which is coming up I think on  
24 Exhibit 6.

25 Most of the papers we discovered or uncovered

1 reference this paper from 1959, I believe, which  
2 corresponds to previous testimony.

3 The third page of Exhibit 4, it is listed as  
4 figure 7. This is the well control as part of this  
5 paper that identified the Capitan Reef. And this is how  
6 they identified the leading and back edge of the reef.

7 You can see all of the red well spot locations  
8 used were the top of Capitan Reef where the reef  
9 formation was identified.

10 So this is the basis of accepting the outline of  
11 the reef as shown on page 2 of Exhibit 4. And we  
12 geo-referenced it and carried it forward.

13 Q. Let me ask you, just briefly, a foundational  
14 matter about Exhibit 4. Is Exhibit 4 an excerpt of the  
15 publication by the Texas Water Development Board?

16 A. Exhibit 4 is an excerpt. That's correct.

17 Q. Is it a publicly available document --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- in the literature?

20 A. Yes, it is.

21 Q. It is a multi-hundred-page document?

22 A. It's several hundred pages. I think it's  
23 270 pages with maps, cross-sections. It's a pretty  
24 extensive report.

25 MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, we will be glad to

1 make the entire document available to you if you want  
2 it. We didn't want to burden the record with too much  
3 paper.

4 Q. Let's move forward. Let's look at Exhibit 4 --

5 A. Exhibit 5.

6 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 5.

7 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
8 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 5 introduced and  
9 identified.)

10 A. Exhibit 5 is another report that we reviewed.  
11 This report was one of several. I think it is one of  
12 four or five reports.

13 As part of a feasibility study for I.C. Potash  
14 Corp., this is their Ochoa project in Lea County, New  
15 Mexico. This is also -- Exhibit 5 is also an excerpt of  
16 a much larger report. These reports were a couple of  
17 hundred pages each.

18 This one excerpt summarizes what we found  
19 commonly throughout the other four -- three or four  
20 reports. We pulled out the sections that spoke of  
21 geology and hydrology in this area, specifically  
22 pertaining to the Capitan Reef.

23 Part of this excerpt includes, on page 153 of the  
24 printed -- printed 153 of this exhibit, a stratigraphic  
25 column in this region, showing the Capitan Reef, a

1 complex structure surrounded by the Artesia Group, the  
2 Artesia Group consisting of Seven Rivers, the Yates, the  
3 Tansill and, farther to the east, the Queen Formation  
4 actually comes into play also. But they are all part of  
5 this Artesia Group surrounding and sandwiching this  
6 Capitan Reef structure.

7 It goes on to discuss, as you flip through the  
8 pages, each of the specific formations. It gives a  
9 little bit of background in them.

10 One point that I would -- that sort of raised a  
11 flag for us, which is on printed page 156 of Exhibit 5,  
12 in 25.9.2.6, where they describe the Capitan Aquifer, in  
13 the major paragraph, the lower third, you will see an  
14 area and I pulled out one section. There they talk  
15 about the Delaware Mountain Group acting as a barrier  
16 for groundwater movement into and out of the Capitan  
17 Reef.

18 But it goes on to say, "...however, groundwater  
19 interaction does occur with the outer arc deposits,  
20 particularly the Tansill and Yates Formations."

21 And throughout this paper and several other  
22 papers, Bjorklund and Motts, 1959, has been referenced;  
23 and we've included that as Exhibit Number 6.

24 Again, Exhibit 6 will be an excerpt of a much  
25 larger document that can be provided. But this was --

1 these statements and descriptions of the Capitan were  
2 viewed through reference to papers found to be complete  
3 and it maintains -- there's no differing of the thought  
4 process here.

5 Q. Exhibit 5, is it prepared for the Bureau of Land  
6 Management in conjunction with their evaluation of the  
7 Ochoa Potash Mine?

8 A. That is my understanding. That is correct.

9 Q. And is it a publicly available document online at  
10 the BLM's website?

11 A. Yes. And I think there are four feasibility  
12 studies and a final -- this one was done in this --  
13 Exhibit 5 was 2011, January. The most recent was 2014.

14 Q. In the course of your investigation, did you  
15 determine whether or not waters from the Capitan Aquifer  
16 in the brackish leg of the Capitan Reef are being  
17 considered as a source of supply for the Ochoan mining  
18 project?

19 A. Yes. The primary purpose for this feasibility  
20 study for the inclusion of the Capitan sections within  
21 these reports, the common thread found through all of  
22 them is there is a potential for utilization of Capitan  
23 Reef Aquifer fluids in support of this project.

24 And I believe they're proposing to consider use  
25 of 6,500 to 10,500 gallons per minute from the Capitan

1 Reef, is the proposal to the Bureau of Land Management.  
2 This equates to up to at the maximum about 17,000 acre  
3 feet per year.

4 So in our opinion this demonstrates that the  
5 Capitan is a resource that, at a minimum, industry is  
6 definitely looking at utilizing.

7 Q. And you previously discussed the interaction of  
8 the aquifer groundwaters with the brackish waters in the  
9 Capitan Reef Complex.

10 In your opinion, would injection operations  
11 through Mesquite's proposed well in such proximity to  
12 the Capitan Reef impair the ability to put waters from  
13 the reef to such a beneficial use as is being proposed  
14 for the Ochoa project?

15 A. At the location -- and we will show the structure  
16 map here a little bit -- the current location of the  
17 Mesquite SWD proposed well, it appears to be potentially  
18 injecting the water into these areas of concern that  
19 have been identified in these reports, potentially  
20 allowing the migration of fluids into that formation and  
21 into that aquifer.

22 Q. Is there any question that the introduction of  
23 produced water of completion flow-back fluids into the  
24 Capitan Reef water would be incompatible with the use  
25 that is being contemplated for the mine?

1           A. Chemically speaking on incompatibility, I don't  
2 know if I could attest to that. However, projects of  
3 this nature, when they are looking to exploit or  
4 utilize a groundwater resource of varying salinities  
5 through reverse osmosis or maybe even directly into a  
6 frack fluid supply, if there's evidence of produced  
7 water being injected into that aquifer, there is a  
8 strong potential for contamination of other  
9 carry-over chemicals from the stripping operations that  
10 pick up everything that was produced, that was handled  
11 and then disposed of. So it's possible that it  
12 could contaminate, at least regionally, this aquifer,  
13 yes.

14           Q. Do you know if the quality of the brackish waters  
15 are such that they are amenable to treatment to be able  
16 to be used for commercial use or potentially domestic  
17 use?

18           A. Yes, in the report, they discuss the use of  
19 reverse osmosis to treat the water and then utilize it  
20 for their needs up to and including potable water for  
21 their office facility and plant at the mine.

22                   It is discussed. They are planning on utilizing  
23 and treating this water for what they need.

24           Q. Let's turn to Exhibit 6. If you will identify  
25 that, please.

1 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
2 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 6 introduced and  
3 identified.)

4 A. Exhibit 6, again this is an excerpt -- actually  
5 just a title page for reference purposes of the  
6 Bjorklund and Motts report that is found prevalently  
7 referenced in many of the papers and research that we  
8 conducted.

9 Q. All right.

10 A. It was a report -- this report, I believe, if I  
11 am not mistaken, was 700-pages long, 1959; submitted to  
12 the U.S.G.S. originally, I believe here in Albuquerque;  
13 but, then, later, off to Washington.

14 But it covers, in great detail, several features  
15 of the Capitan, its potentials and where it falls  
16 short.

17 Q. It is part of the literature that you relied on  
18 in the course of your investigation?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Again, it is a publicly available document?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is there additional support for the location of  
23 the Capitan Reef within the AOR of Mesquite's proposed  
24 well?

25 A. I'm sorry?

1 Q. Is there additional support for your conclusion  
2 that the Capitan Reef exists within the AOR --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Let's look at some of the other exhibits you  
5 brought today. Let's turn to Exhibit 7. If you would  
6 identify that, please.

7 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
8 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 7 introduced and  
9 identified.)

10 A. Exhibit 7 is a structure map. What we did here  
11 was we combined the structure map found in the C-108, at  
12 the top of Yates, with the Siluro-Devonian Structure,  
13 which is your deep geology forming, coming off the  
14 Central Basin and down into the Delaware Basin.

15 And what we have here is, the blue outline  
16 depicts the Capitan Reef structure. And the what I  
17 guess would be dark blue contour lines, you will see  
18 these represent the top of the Devonian Formation.

19 The red lines indicate the major faults in this  
20 area. The faults exist. They are deep faults. They  
21 are ancient faults. They have been buried by geologic  
22 time. But they show the Central Basin on the east of  
23 the map. And you can see where you have contours,  
24 8,000, 9,000; and then you see some faulting, and also  
25 you're down into 15,000, 16,000, 17,000 in depth.

1           So to the east of the western-most red fault  
2 line, it is of our opinion that that is the western edge  
3 of the Central Basin platform.

4           Based on the structure map of the Siluro-Devonian  
5 map here, the Delaware Basin is to the west of this  
6 faulting system. The proposed Mesquite SWD well falls  
7 to the west, and, actually, in our opinion, is hovering  
8 over the top of the eastern fault of the Delaware Basin.

9           The structure map of the Yates somewhat  
10 correlates the faulting and the creation of the Delaware  
11 Basin. And you will see the Yates Formation structure  
12 map -- which I should identify are the black contour  
13 lines and are identical to in the C-108.

14           It is fairly flat, it appears to be fairly flat  
15 across the reference area. But, as you go to the west,  
16 corresponding to the western-most fault, you will see  
17 the contours, the structure starts to fall off. It  
18 starts to slope as if the Yates sort of rolled with the  
19 depression and into the depression. There is a  
20 cross-section reference indicated on here. This  
21 cross-section reference, there are five -- I'm sorry --  
22 six wells identified. This cross-section will be shown  
23 in Exhibit 13 when we get to it.

24           Q. All right. So speaking of cross-sections, let's  
25 turn to Exhibit 8. If you will explain that.

1 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
2 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 8 introduced and  
3 identified.)

4 A. Our geologist prepared multiple cross-sections,  
5 utilizing offset, open hole logs that could be not only  
6 uncovered through research but were presentable and  
7 usable and readable and gave the information we were  
8 looking for that we could correlate.

9 Exhibit 8 is a cross-section reference map of the  
10 first four cross-sections. And as I previously stated,  
11 the last cross-section is part of this structure map  
12 here. And, again, the orange outlines indicate what we  
13 have discovered to be and what's published as the  
14 Capitan Reef Formation.

15 Q. Let's go through your cross-section --

16 A. All right. Exhibit 9.

17 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
18 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 9 introduced and  
19 identified.)

20 A. Exhibit 9 references the A-A Prime cross-section.  
21 It is the red line on Exhibit 8.

22 So what we are trying to show here is correlation  
23 across this distance in the vicinity of the proposed SWD  
24 well. And corresponding to research uncovered primarily  
25 in the report, Exhibit 4, there were -- there

1 were cross-sections in that report that we used to  
2 correlate. There was one cross-section specifically  
3 that brought us right into this area around the Town of  
4 Jal.

5 And it shows that the Capitan Reef, moving from  
6 west to east, it pinches out, but the Artesian Group  
7 overlays on top of it. So you will find in the area of  
8 Jal, the Seven Rivers, the Yates, the Tansill.

9 And so based on drilling records, reports filed,  
10 with the OCD and open hole logs, we correlated our  
11 formation tops as indicated here.

12 The Capitan Reef, we identified where the  
13 limestone -- the lime of Seven Rivers becomes very  
14 dense, and that is where it rolls into and becomes the  
15 Capitan Reef Formation at that point.

16 So our cross-sections here, in our opinion, do  
17 correspond to the well control in the reports that  
18 identified the location of the Capitan Reef.

19 Q. Turn to cross-section Exhibit 10.

20 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
21 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 10 introduced and  
22 identified.)

23 A. No. 10 is the B-B Prime. This one on our  
24 reference map, Exhibit 8, is the -- this is the green  
25 line. It is going southwest to northeast. And you can

1 see, as a matter of fact, on API ending -- it's the  
2 center log in this cross-section -- but API ending  
3 -21419. The geologist involved with the drilling of  
4 this well made his marks on this identifying certain  
5 tops. And our geologist looked at it and correlated it  
6 as such.

7           Again, you can see where the gamma clings right  
8 up into the reef formation. That's our selected  
9 interval. In this one, I don't remember -- yeah, in the  
10 first one, you do. As you go to the west -- sorry. As  
11 you go to the eastern edge, you will see evidence of the  
12 Queen coming back in.

13           MR. HALL: We have larger blown-up versions  
14 of these logs. If you would like to see them, just let  
15 us know.

16           Q. Let's turn to Exhibit 11.

17                           (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
18                           Oil, LLC's Exhibit 11 introduced and  
19                           identified.)

20           A. Okay. Exhibit 11. So this is going to be the  
21 dark blue line on Exhibit 8. It's, for the most part,  
22 west to east in orientation. And, again, it's showing  
23 the same geology -- I mean, all of these cross-sections  
24 are going to show the same, and, like I said, not only  
25 did our geologists evaluate the logs but they also

1 referred back to other geologists' interpretations of  
2 formations in the area.

3 As I pointed out in the previous exhibit, you can  
4 see the notes from the previous geologists on there. So  
5 a multifaceted collaborative effort in creating these  
6 cross-sections.

7 Q. Do all these cross-sections together demonstrate  
8 that there is a lack of horizontal and vertical  
9 segregation between the injection interval in the  
10 Capitan Reef?

11 A. Yes. And the primary example is Exhibit 13 where  
12 we show the -- in 13, we are going to show the proposed  
13 injection interval, offset production intervals,  
14 perforated to zones and the geology. And it will  
15 demonstrate lateral as well as vertical lack of barrier.

16 Q. Okay. Let's work our way through the next one,  
17 Exhibit 12.

18 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
19 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 12 introduced and  
20 identified.)

21 A. Yes. I need the roll.

22 (Pause.)

23 A. Okay. And the final of the first four  
24 cross-sections here, Exhibit 12, this is the yellow line  
25 on the reference map, Exhibit 8. And we pulled a

1 cross-section going from south to north along just to  
2 see if everything stayed true to what the previous  
3 evaluations had shown.

4 This one includes the Mesquite SWD. And at a  
5 proposed interval of 3378 and 3388, we are showing it in  
6 the lower portion of the Yates anticipated.

7 Q. Anything further with respect to the set of  
8 cross-sections?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Okay. Let's move to Exhibit 13.

11 A. Thirteen are all rolls.

12 (Pause.)

13 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 13, and if you could  
14 explain that to the hearing examiners.

15 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
16 Oil, LLC's Exhibit 13 introduced and  
17 identified.)

18 A. Okay. This cross-section is a west/east  
19 cross-section. This is Exhibit 13. It is  
20 referencing -- the path of this cross-section is  
21 referenced back in Exhibit No. 7 on a structure map.

22 This includes offset wells to the west as well as  
23 the east and includes the proposed SWD well, Mesquite  
24 SWD, as well as Driftwood's Koontz No. 1, API ending in  
25 -28127.

1 This cross-section corresponds to formation tops  
2 selected in the previous four cross-sections, but also  
3 includes where the proposed injection is as described in  
4 the C-108.

5 Now, when we did the perforations here, you will  
6 notice that in the Mesquite SWD we used the perforation  
7 depths as shown on the schematic, and not on the front  
8 page. And so it takes into account the larger growth or  
9 initial injection interval. I'll note that.

10 The current interval of ten feet will be  
11 shallower than that and will not cross over the Seven  
12 Rivers formation as shown here. But if the perforations  
13 become the maximum interval as indicated on the  
14 schematic in the C-108, then they would be injecting  
15 directly into the location that is being produced in the  
16 Koontz No. 1.

17 Q. Anything further with respect to Exhibit 13?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Let me refer you back to C --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Go ahead.

22 A. If I may. Well number 4, Legacy Reserves  
23 operating number 4, API ending -26403, we also included  
24 production perforations zones in that well.

25 And what this indicates, if you look at the

1 geology in that open hole log, there's no indication  
2 that injection, even into the reduced ten-foot interval  
3 at 3378, into that part of the Yates, there's no  
4 vertical separation, differentiating injection from  
5 production.

6 Now, it is approximately a mile and a quarter  
7 away. But you would be injecting into a production  
8 zone.

9 Q. If you would, please, in your consultation with  
10 Fulfer and Driftwood about their plans for future  
11 operations reentries, refer back to page 6 of the C-108  
12 exhibit. It shows the area of review.

13 A. Okay, the area of review.

14 Q. So you testified previously you looked at the  
15 Koontz well and the Hannigan well --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And if we look to page 6 of the C-108, if we look  
18 at section 11, there is a lease there, in the southeast  
19 quarter of section 11, the Conditt lease; do you see  
20 that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is Mr. Fulfer identified to you as having any  
23 potential project wells on that lease for reentry?

24 A. In our discussions Mr. Fulfer identified possible  
25 future development of oil wells in the area, up to and

1 including new drills, as well as reentry to an existing  
2 well to recomplete it into a zone that his Hannigan Well  
3 was producing out of.

4 So, yes, I have been informed that there's  
5 potential future development in the works here and in a  
6 nearly half-mile vicinity of the proposed injection  
7 well.

8 Q. Right. Is it your opinion that potential future  
9 productions of hydrocarbon reserves could be potentially  
10 adversely affected by the disposal operation?

11 A. It could potentially be adversely affected, yes.

12 Q. Right. Mr. Pattee, in your opinion, can the  
13 examiner make a conclusion with absolute certainty that  
14 granting Mesquite's application is consistent with the  
15 interests of conservation and will result in the  
16 prevention of waste?

17 A. I am not convinced of that based on the data that  
18 we were able to research and review. The data indicates  
19 otherwise with specific reference to offset production  
20 and proximity to the Capitan Reef.

21 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 13 prepared by you or at  
22 your direction and control?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR. HALL: At this time, Mr. Examiner, we  
25 move the admission of Exhibits 1 through 13 and pass the

1 witness.

2 MR. BRUCE: Just one question, Mr. Pattee,  
3 regarding the cross-sections and geologic exhibits. Is  
4 your geologist here with you today?

5 THE WITNESS: One of our geologists is here,  
6 yes.

7 MR. BRUCE: Then I have no objection.

8 MR. HALL: We would pass the witness.

9 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 1 through 13 will  
10 be admitted.

11 (Fulfer Oil and Cattle and Driftwood  
12 Oil, LLC's Exhibits 1 through 13 were  
13 admitted into evidence.)

14 CROSS-EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. BRUCE:

16 Q. Mr. Pattee, have you ever -- is this your first  
17 experience in dealing with the Capitan Reef Complex in  
18 New Mexico?

19 A. At a hearing, yes. In permitting geology review  
20 well design, no.

21 Q. And I don't mean to put words in your mouth, but  
22 you indicated that Mr. Fulfer had told you that he had  
23 or Driftwood had plans to reenter additional wells in  
24 this area or possibly even drill new wells?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Was there any time frame put on that?

2 A. To my recollection, no. One part of the  
3 discussion was that the engineering of the wells was  
4 underway but they were not yet complete. But as to a  
5 final submittal to go forward, no.

6 Q. Do you have any idea why he would wait until oil  
7 was \$50 a barrel to do that rather than do it a couple  
8 of years ago when prices were \$100 a barrel?

9 A. No, I couldn't attest to that. No. Sorry.

10 Q. Looking at your Exhibit 2, which is Driftwood's  
11 Koontz No. 1 well, I believe --

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Looking over at the bottom left.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When was this well drilled, do you know?

16 A. I don't remember. I would have to look it up.  
17 We have pulled records back from the beginning of its  
18 production, so I would estimate in circa '95, because  
19 that's where our production starts.

20 Q. Would it surprise you if the well was drilled and  
21 completed in March of 1983? You don't need to answer  
22 that, Mr. Pattee.

23 MR. BRUCE: But, Mr. Examiner, I would ask  
24 the Division to take administrative notice of its file  
25 on that well. The well completion reports show it was

1 completed and ready for production March 1, 1983.

2 Q. But in looking in the lower left, I guess -- so  
3 that well produced for 30 years and you have cumulative  
4 production at 22,600 barrels; am I reading that right?

5 A. That is what this is showing, yes, correct.

6 Q. Why would this well then produce in the next  
7 30-plus years 36,000 barrels when it could only produce  
8 22,000 barrels when it had flush production?

9 A. Sure. The data strip that we were -- that our  
10 petroleum engineer was able to grab historical data from  
11 did not yield significant enough of a type curve by the  
12 well itself. So what he did was he evaluated the wells  
13 within a one-mile halo and from that was able to come up  
14 with a type curve for the production in the area.

15 Q. So --

16 A. And --

17 Q. Go ahead. I don't want to interrupt.

18 A. No. In and of itself, this one well, he was not  
19 convinced that it had sufficient data, so he ran the  
20 one-mile halo.

21 Q. So the long and short of it is this remaining  
22 reserves is not based on an analysis of this particular  
23 well?

24 A. It's a one-mile halo around this well, that's  
25 correct.

1 Q. And how many wells were in that one-mile halo, do  
2 you recall?

3 A. I do not recall.

4 Q. And do these wells also produce substantial  
5 water?

6 A. I do not know the answer.

7 Q. Now you said you understood that the number 1  
8 well was recently put back on production?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Do you know the rates?

11 A. At approximately three barrels a day.

12 Q. And you said this would be considered a stripper  
13 well?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And your statement is that Mesquite's proposed  
16 well -- and again I am not putting words in your mouth  
17 but I think I quoted you as saying -- "could impact  
18 producing wells in this area"?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Is that a fair statement?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is it also possible it could have no impact on  
23 the wells?

24 A. There is that possibility, yes.

25 Q. You talked about that one of the reports talked

1 about brackish water. When the report talked about  
2 brackish water, what type of total dissolved solids were  
3 they looking at in that water?

4 A. They were looking at north of 10,000 parts per  
5 million. A water analysis of a well that was just  
6 drilled and evaluated into the Capitan to support this  
7 project indicates 18,000 parts per million. I believe  
8 it was 11,000 sodium and 7,000 chloride, for a total of  
9 18,000 parts per million, so the chloride would  
10 dissolve.

11 Q. I am going to whittle down my questions here,  
12 Mr. Pattee. Give me a second.

13 (Pause.)

14 Q. The cross-sections -- and I don't think we need  
15 to look at all of them.

16 A. Sure.

17 Q. But pick out 12. I have 12 in front of me.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Don't Exhibit 12 and Exhibits 11, 10, and 9  
20 show that the Mesquite Well would not be in the Capitan  
21 Reef?

22 A. Well, it is not in the Capitan Reef, but it would  
23 be injecting into the Yates Formation, which is part of  
24 the Artesian Group overlying the Capitan Reef with  
25 reported transmissivity between Yates, Tansill, and

1 Capitan Reef. That would be the concern.

2 You are correct, it is not in the Capitan, but it  
3 is in the Artesian Group above it, immediately above it.

4 Q. Where was that reported?

5 A. It was reported in several references, one that  
6 we included as an exhibit is Exhibit 5 in one of the  
7 feasibility study reports from IC Potash.

8 It was also identified -- it was also identified  
9 in the Bjorklund, Motts paper from 1959. It was  
10 specifically referenced.

11 Q. Aren't the Potash mines over in the Delaware  
12 Basin, though, quite a way east of here -- west of the  
13 proposed well?

14 A. This one here is -- this proposed operation, it  
15 is to the north and to the west. But, I believe, if I  
16 remember correctly, it was within two miles of this  
17 proposed SWD location, the outline of the entire  
18 project. So we felt this report was indicative of the  
19 area.

20 MR. BRUCE: I think those are the only  
21 questions I have, Mr. Examiner.

22 MR. HALL: I have no redirect.

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER MARKS

24 EXAMINER MARKS: I have just three  
25 questions. First, Exhibit 4 -- I am sure you talked

1 about this -- but this was commissioned by the Texas  
2 Water Development Board, correct?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's correct.

4 EXAMINER MARKS: And that was commissioned  
5 to develop a groundwater availability model; is that  
6 correct?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, I believe. That's right.

8 EXAMINER MARKS: And that board -- I'm not  
9 sure if you're familiar with it -- but it's a board of  
10 members appointed by the governor; it is a government  
11 board, correct?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

13 EXAMINER MARKS: Is there any depth to which  
14 you feel the SWD could be drilled which would have a  
15 minimal impact to hydrocarbons or that you would feel  
16 comfortable with?

17 THE WITNESS: In my opinion, there would be  
18 two possible options, either going deeper or more  
19 shallow. The problem with going more shallow is you run  
20 right into the Salado Formation. And the Salado and  
21 Rustler are your primary barriers for injection to any  
22 freshwater that may exist in the shallow formations.

23 So going shallower does not appear to be an  
24 option, because you will end up somewhere in that  
25 Artesian Group in one of -- Tansill, Yates, Seven

1 Rivers, Queen. There's production there and you are in  
2 close proximity to the Capitan Reef.

3 Going deeper may be an option, but you'd  
4 definitely have to re-evaluate the entire well  
5 construction to get down there. But that's how I  
6 respond to that question.

7 EXAMINER MARKS: I believe Mr. Bruce asked  
8 to take administrative notice of the Koontz well  
9 beginning production around 1983, and I am not sure -- I  
10 just want to make sure you didn't have any objections  
11 with that.

12 MR. HALL: I don't object to taking  
13 administrative notice. I object to Mr. Bruce  
14 testifying. That's all.

15 MR. BRUCE: I will withdraw my testimony.

16 EXAMINER MARKS: Of the well log perhaps --  
17 if we take administrative notice of the well log  
18 associated with that.

19 EXAMINER GOETZ: Okay, Counselor?

20 EXAMINER MARKS: Yes.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER GOETZ

22 EXAMINER GOETZ: Discussion on the Yates,  
23 what drive mechanism do we have? Is this a solution gas  
24 drive or is this a combination solution gas and water?

25 THE WITNESS: I believe it would be -- at

1 this point, it would be a water drive at this point.

2 EXAMINER GOETZ: Okay. And with the  
3 conversations with Mr. Fulfer or Driftwood, was there  
4 any indication that there would be any type of secondary  
5 recovery interest or would this just be single well  
6 development that there would be no consolidation later,  
7 was there any indication of that?

8 THE WITNESS: No, there is no indication of  
9 that. His plans include, with the Conditt lease to the  
10 north and east, to try to get into recovering similar  
11 results that he is receiving out of his Hannigan well,  
12 which is just a little bit further north and east. But  
13 his typical operations are low production, but wells  
14 just keep going.

15 EXAMINER GOETZ: No further questions.

16 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER JONES

17 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. I guess I should ask  
18 you about the transmissibility. Can you see that in the  
19 well logs and the gamma rays, no protection between the  
20 Yates here and the reef, or are you basing that on the  
21 reports or -- are you talking about the Capitan Aquifer  
22 or are you talking about --

23 THE WITNESS: Well, there is the Capitan  
24 Reef structure and then there is the Capitan Reef  
25 Complex, which includes the Artesian Groups which lie

1 below it and above it.

2 So during depositional environment, it got  
3 settled around and covered. We are seeing no indication  
4 in this area along the eastern edge in porosity logs  
5 that we have reviewed that indicate a tombstone type  
6 rock in the Artesian Group.

7 Exhibit 1 would indicate that as you move to  
8 the west, your porosities and permeabilities close up  
9 considerably. Because it's demonstrated not only in  
10 literature, but just in the fact that there is no  
11 production west of here and wells that have been -- I  
12 believe Mesquite has an SWD well to the north and to the  
13 west. And I believe it is a 1,500 barrels-a-day  
14 injection rate.

15 So the rock tightens up as you go to the  
16 west. And that is indicated in log responses,  
17 documentation, and in my opinion demonstrated where  
18 everybody's producing.

19 So in the area we're at, the indications in  
20 log responses, for example, on the porosity curves, we  
21 are not seeing anything go to tombstone. It might as  
22 well be a mud stone because nothing's getting through.  
23 We are not seeing any of that.

24 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. What about the  
25 pressure sink formed by production over the years in the

1 wells to the east, I guess, do you think that's going to  
2 influence the way this water travels when you inject it  
3 or did you look at that at all or --

4 THE WITNESS: Well, the only thing we looked  
5 at in terms of that question would be we identified more  
6 than one water flood set up to the east. So over the  
7 years of production, it appears that the depletion of  
8 the reservoir has created a pressure sink and they are  
9 supplementing that with enhanced oil recovery through  
10 water flow. All of that is to the east however.

11 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. So the pressures  
12 expected to be -- be able to encounter normal pressures  
13 if they drill this well and complete it?

14 THE WITNESS: I didn't see any indication it  
15 would be an underpressured or overpressured zone. I did  
16 not see any evidence. We didn't review mud records,  
17 road records that would indicate that any of these  
18 formations would be either underpressured or  
19 overpressured. I couldn't attest to that.

20 EXAMINER JONES: You talk about all this  
21 water. I have heard that water is being planned on  
22 being removed from the reef to the frack jobs, for  
23 instance. But what's that going to do to the influx of  
24 water into the reef? I mean, is that -- are we talking  
25 about such a minuscule amount compared to the whole

1 water in the reef that it's not going to affect flow,  
2 the hydrodynamic flow?

3 THE WITNESS: We did not evaluate the  
4 hydrodynamics to that detail. However, we did review a  
5 report on the hydrology and the hydro geology of the  
6 Capitan Reef Formation. And it was an extensive report.  
7 It is public record.

8 And the report indicates flow patterns into  
9 and out of the reef. It names sources such as test  
10 wells which are being monitored within the reef,  
11 Carlsbad, which is utilizing the reef as freshwater.

12 And it goes through the entire hydrology of  
13 the reef complex and the aquifer in general. Again, the  
14 location of that reef structure and the descriptions  
15 surrounding it match and correlate to every other  
16 periodical that we have been able to uncover.

17 EXAMINER JONES: If this well goes in and  
18 the Driftwood and the other well end up with a big water  
19 influx -- I notice water already has gone up in, at  
20 least this first one I was looking at here, in Exhibit  
21 No. 2.

22 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

23 EXAMINER JONES: The water has gone up  
24 already, so how are you going to tell if -- basically,  
25 are you saying that once it happens, that's it, that

1 well will be gone, right?

2 THE WITNESS: It will most likely reduce --  
3 either increase the water to oil ratio from production  
4 to a point where it is no longer economical or it will  
5 in an effect push the water away from this well -- or  
6 push the oil away from this well and decrease its  
7 production.

8 So you'll either see, potentially, a  
9 reduction in the amount of oil or an increase in the  
10 amount of water. Either condition could kill the  
11 well.

12 EXAMINER JONES: But no increase in oil for  
13 a while due to some swept oil?

14 THE WITNESS: We thought about that  
15 possibility. There is that possibility.

16 My opinion was more along the lines of, if  
17 any water drive mechanism is helping this particular  
18 well, the Koontz No. 1, it would be from the water flow  
19 from the east.

20 EXAMINER JONES: Oh.

21 THE WITNESS: And if we start injecting  
22 water from the west, then we are going to move the oil  
23 away from that well, and he'll either get too much water  
24 and the ratio will be uneconomical, or the oil recovered  
25 will be driven away, either way killing the well.

1                   EXAMINER JONES: Okay. So more than likely  
2 he probably has a little pump unit out there that runs  
3 part time, like a 114 unit or something. So it's not  
4 going to have to -- in other words, did you build into  
5 these economics changing out the pumping system  
6 totally --

7                   THE WITNESS: No.

8                   EXAMINER JONES: -- to something -- no  
9 capital cost --

10                  THE WITNESS: There is capital cost in here.

11                  EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

12                  THE WITNESS: Well, I don't know about  
13 capital cost. We included last years operating cost as  
14 a go forward. So there is no additional capital cost  
15 replacement of componentry out there.

16                  EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

17                  THE WITNESS: If necessary, we can provide a  
18 pretty accurate number to that and -- because he just  
19 got done revitalizing that well, working over the liner,  
20 new pump.

21                  EXAMINER JONES: Oh, okay.

22                  THE WITNESS: And that is why it was off  
23 line for so long.

24                  EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

25                  THE WITNESS: All that work is done, so, if

1 necessary, we could probably provide a capital expense  
2 and then project that out if the Commission felt that we  
3 had to go that way.

4 EXAMINER JONES: And would it affect your  
5 economics at all if you got free water disposal back  
6 into that proposed well? You still have to get it over  
7 there, too, I guess.

8 THE WITNESS: Yeah. That's an economic  
9 question. We ran just the basics to prove that there  
10 was recoverable reserves remaining nearby.

11 EXAMINER JONES: Three barrels a day,  
12 though.

13 THE WITNESS: Three barrels a day.

14 EXAMINER JONES: Do you think that can last?  
15 That's a stretch, isn't it?

16 THE WITNESS: The production was -- it was  
17 approximately that before he did the work-over. So  
18 there's a possibility it is going to continue.

19 EXAMINER JONES: So basically it is one of  
20 these -- not a grand --

21 THE WITNESS: No.

22 EXAMINER JONES: You're expecting it to be  
23 pretty flat for a long time?

24 THE WITNESS: With low operating costs, it  
25 can continue. So if all of a sudden, he starts getting

1 additional water in there and he stays at three barrels,  
2 pretty soon his operating costs are going to exceed the  
3 value of the three barrels, assuming it stayed to  
4 perpetuity, and his operating costs are going to eat the  
5 well at that point.

6 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. This Exhibit 13, you  
7 said that injection into this well, even in that  
8 ten-foot zone, would be going over -- the perforations  
9 in that Jal, in that Yates well --

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 EXAMINER JONES: -- those perforations are  
12 up hole quite a bit in the Yates, aren't they?

13 THE WITNESS: They are. But there is no  
14 indication of any type of significant shale, mud stone,  
15 you know, you have small beds but nothing of  
16 significance to protect upper migration of fluid.

17 EXAMINER JONES: That well is pretty deep.  
18 It's 3,500 meters, so -- but -- and then the -- as far  
19 as the Driftwood well, that J.A. No. 1 --

20 THE WITNESS: Sure.

21 EXAMINER JONES: -- that one is a lot  
22 closer, isn't it?

23 THE WITNESS: It is just over a --

24 EXAMINER JONES: -- closer vertically --

25 THE WITNESS: -- half mile --

1 EXAMINER JONES: -- two years --

2 THE WITNESS: Yes.

3 EXAMINER JONES: So more than likely you may  
4 have some communication there?

5 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

6 EXAMINER JONES: So it's a question of the  
7 effect it's going to have.

8 And as far as the reef goes, you're looking  
9 at -- I'm playing geologist here, so Phillip will speak  
10 up a little bit here -- but your looking at 300 feet  
11 above the reef; is that right?

12 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

13 EXAMINER JONES: And you are talking about  
14 basically going through the Seven Rivers if it's going  
15 to get to the reef. And we had some testimony earlier  
16 that the Seven Rivers is a dolomite. Do you think it's  
17 a dolomite or is it a limestone similar to the Capitan  
18 Reef?

19 THE WITNESS: The Seven Rivers is described  
20 by some -- and this is a reference from research we did  
21 of the Artesia Group -- it's a -- the formation  
22 laterally grades from evaporite to a carbonate bases as  
23 it grades into the Capitan Reef. So it densifies as it  
24 becomes the Capitan Reef.

25 EXAMINER JONES: Yes. So there could be --

1 since there has been H2S out there in the past, there  
2 could be wormholes all through all that, couldn't  
3 there?

4 THE WITNESS: There could be secondary  
5 porosore pormealus.

6 EXAMINER JONES: I can't get Phillip to  
7 react here, so I am going to be quiet.

8 RE-CROSS-EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER GOETZ

9 EXAMINER GOETZ: I have just one more  
10 question.

11 THE WITNESS: Okay.

12 EXAMINER GOETZ: On your Exhibit 13, we have  
13 an indication of "Colored lithology adopted from  
14 driller's log."

15 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 EXAMINER GOETZ: What does that mean?

17 THE WITNESS: That means at the time we  
18 generated this, we did not have an open hole log for  
19 this, but we did have the drillers' logs when they  
20 encountered formations --

21 EXAMINER GOETZ: Okay.

22 THE WITNESS: -- and this correlates to  
23 what was reported to the OCD at the completion of this  
24 well..

25 EXAMINER GOETZ: Thank you.

1                   REXCROSS-EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER JONES

2                   EXAMINER JONES: I guess I better ask this  
3 question. "If this well did go in, would your client  
4 prefer a limit on rate or a limit on the life of the  
5 well, like some of the other states do? We don't do  
6 that in New Mexico very often. But have you got any  
7 recommendations for your client on that end for us?"

8                   THE WITNESS: With regard to rate, I would  
9 have to confer with my client to say if anything would  
10 be acceptable. But my only comment on rate is I've  
11 been -- just in the past nine months, I've been  
12 evaluating geology and doing well bore designs for  
13 injection wells in Lea County and Eddy County,  
14 approximately 12, 15 wells that are in permitting, in  
15 various stages of permitting or evaluation for project  
16 go or no-go.

17                   And ten feet of injection interval -- when I  
18 do injectivity calculations to get 10,000 barrels a day,  
19 even in porous formations, I am looking at at least  
20 80 feet. A really good well, to give me 10- to  
21 15,000 barrels a day, would be 150 feet to 200 feet of  
22 perforated interval to meet the New Mexico mandate of  
23 .2 psi per foot.

24                   In Texas you can get your .5 psi per foot;  
25 you have a higher pressure threshold to live with. New

1 Mexico is much more restrictive.

2 I haven't run an injectivity number on this  
3 particular well. I doubt very much that a ten-foot  
4 perforation interval is going to yield any significant  
5 amount of volume with the pressure thresholds, maybe  
6 1,500 barrels per day. I don't know. That's a guess at  
7 this point. But I could run some numbers, and I could  
8 come back and tell you what I think it would -- simulate  
9 what it would be.

10 EXAMINER JONES: If they are ten-foot  
11 perforated and they do get, let's say, 5,000-barrels a  
12 day into that well, where's it going; where would you  
13 think it would be going?

14 THE WITNESS: Another recent experience that  
15 we have been involved with is plume migration. And the  
16 narrower the formation interval, the greater lateral  
17 extent of the plume migration.

18 So in a ten-foot section, assuming you  
19 stayed within that ten-foot porous section of the  
20 geology, it's going to migrate laterally a larger  
21 distance than if it was a larger in net pay perforated  
22 interval.

23 So a ten-foot interval if they got 5,000  
24 barrels a day, in my opinion, would mostly likely push  
25 quite a distance away from the well, assuming it stayed

1 within the geology and you can get 5,000 barrels a day  
2 under the threshold limit. So a ten-foot window, in my  
3 opinion, would probably push it laterally.

4 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you very much.  
5 Anything further?

6 MR. HALL: Nothing further here.

7 EXAMINER JONES: Do you have another  
8 witness?

9 MR. HALL: I swore one in. I don't see the  
10 need to call him.

11 EXAMINER JONES: Do you folks want to say  
12 anything?

13 MR. HALL: I do not.

14 MR. BRUCE: I would like to say a couple  
15 things. First, it's probably unnecessary, but Mr. Hall  
16 mentioned something about Fulfer's grazing rights. I  
17 just want to point out that -- I've handed you what has  
18 been marked as Mesquite Exhibit 5, a letter from the BLM  
19 that says, basically, a grazing lessee cannot ask for or  
20 receive --

21 MR. HALL: At this point, I will object --  
22 the case is closed as to his direct case -- to try to  
23 introduce a new exhibit that has zero relevance. No  
24 foundation at all.

25 MR. BRUCE: So as long as Fulfer withdraws

1 its objection to the application, because it has no  
2 basis, legal or otherwise.

3 MR. HALL: I'm not going to do that. So  
4 you're being asked to receive an exhibit after the close  
5 of evidence.

6 MR. BRUCE: There hasn't been a close of  
7 evidence yet. I was going to recall Dr. Havenor, but  
8 and I didn't. But certainly the evidence has not been  
9 closed.

10 EXAMINER MARKS: Well, obviously, the formal  
11 rules of evidence don't apply. But it would seem like  
12 it would be -- to redirect on an issue already  
13 presented -- I just don't want -- I mean I think that  
14 the earlier point on testimony from an attorney is  
15 relevant, so...

16 MR. BRUCE: Well, I'm not testifying. I am  
17 just presenting an official document from the Bureau of  
18 Land Management. And this is called Federal Surface and  
19 Minerals. And I'm just pointing out that Fulfer Oil  
20 and Cattle has no basis for objecting to this  
21 application.

22 (Mesquite SWD, Inc.'s Exhibit 5  
23 introduced and identified.)

24 MR. HALL: And that's argumentative. I  
25 don't know what we are doing here. I think evidence is

1 closed. We are clearly making closing statements and  
2 argument of counsel and his conclusory statements about  
3 materials that were not admitted into evidence.

4 MR. BRUCE: You can make whatever ruling you  
5 want. The letter is obvious on its face. But I would  
6 just want to mention a couple of things. Even  
7 Driftwood's expert says that this is brackish water. It  
8 is not protected under the Division's rules.

9 Furthermore, all of his testimony regarding  
10 damage to Driftwood's wells is speculation. He says it  
11 may hurt the wells, it might do this, it might do that.

12 The fact of the matter is look at their own  
13 cross-sections and the Mesquite well is down dip from  
14 Driftwood's wells and there's no evidence that any harm  
15 will come to those wells.

16 And as of this point, there isn't any  
17 production data from the Driftwood wells to show that  
18 there is anything worth protecting on those wells. And  
19 we think they have not submitted sufficient evidence to  
20 show that the Mesquite application should be denied.  
21 And we would just simply ask that it be approved.

22 MR. HALL: Well, I will briefly respond --

23 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

24 MR. HALL: -- since our standing to object  
25 has been challenged. Look, the only thing we need to

1 establish to give us standing is that the ownership of  
2 held rights and otherwise recoverable resources within  
3 the immediate vicinity of the proposed injection  
4 operation and evidence supporting that those recoverable  
5 reserves are threatened by the proposed operation.  
6 Perfect case for standing proof to object to this. And  
7 that's all I have.

8 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

9 MR. BRUCE: It's noon.

10 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you very much, both  
11 of you. Thanks for coming. And thanks for coming from  
12 Austin.

13 And we'll take case 15262 under advisement.  
14 And this hearing is closed.

15 (Time noted 12:00 p.m.)

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25

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is  
a complete record of the proceedings in  
the Examiner hearing of Case No. \_\_\_\_\_  
heard by me on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO )  
2 ) ss.  
3 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO )  
4  
5  
6

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