

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: )

APPLICATION OF BP AMERICA, INC., FOR )  
AN EXCEPTION TO THE WELL DENSITY )  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BLANCO-MESAVERDE )  
GAS POOL, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO )

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AN EXCEPTION TO THE WELL DENSITY )  
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AN EXCEPTION TO THE WELL DENSITY )  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BLANCO-MESAVERDE )  
GAS POOL, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO )

CASE NOS. 13,612

2006 FEB 16 PM 1 21

13,613

and 13,614

(Consolidated)

WVJ = 5/16/06

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

ORIGINAL

BEFORE: WILLIAM V. JONES, JR., Hearing Examiner

February 2nd, 2006

Santa Fe, New Mexico

These matters came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, WILLIAM V. JONES, JR., Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, February 2nd, 2006, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

\* \* \*

## I N D E X

February 2nd, 2006  
Examiner Hearing  
CASE NOS. 13,612, 13,613 and 13,614 (Consolidated)

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## A P P E A R A N C E S

## FOR THE DIVISION:

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## FOR THE APPLICANT:

HOLLAND & HART, L.L.P., and CAMPBELL & CARR  
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P.O. Box 2208  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208  
By: WILLIAM F. CARR

\* \* \*

1           WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at  
2 8:39 a.m.:

3           EXAMINER JONES: And let's call Case 13,612,  
4 Application of BP America, Incorporated, for an exception  
5 to the well density requirements for the Blanco-Mesaverde  
6 Gas Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico.

7           Call for appearances.

8           MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is  
9 William F. Carr with the Santa Fe office of Holland and  
10 Hart, L.L.P. We represent BP America Production Company in  
11 this case, and I have one witness.

12           I would request at this time that the Division  
13 also call Cases 13,613 and 13,614. The cases involve  
14 similar factual issues, and although we intend to review  
15 each of the subject spacing units individually, it would  
16 save some time to present them at one time, and we would  
17 request that they be consolidated and separate orders  
18 entered.

19           EXAMINER JONES: Okay, any other appearances in  
20 that particular case?

21           We'll also call Case 13,613 and Case 13,614.  
22 They are both the Application of BP America, Incorporated,  
23 for an exception to the well density requirements for the  
24 Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico.

25           And let's consolidate these three cases for

1 hearing, and we'll enter separate orders for each of these  
2 cases.

3 MR. CARR: And our witness is Bill Hawkins, and I  
4 believe he needs to be sworn. Have you been?

5 MR. HAWKINS: No, not yet.

6 EXAMINER JONES: Yes, please stand to be sworn.

7 (Thereupon, the witness was sworn.)

8 BILL HAWKINS,  
9 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon  
10 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. CARR:

13 Q. Would you state your name for the record, please?

14 A. It's James William Hawkins, I go by Bill.

15 Q. Mr. Hawkins, where do you reside?

16 A. I reside in Golden, Colorado.

17 Q. By whom are you employed?

18 A. I'm employed by BP.

19 Q. And what is your position with BP America  
20 Production Company?

21 A. I'm a petroleum engineer and I handle our  
22 regulatory affairs for the San Juan Basin.

23 Q. Have you previously testified before the New  
24 Mexico Oil Conservation Division and had your credentials  
25 as a petroleum engineer accepted and made a matter of

1 record?

2 A. I have.

3 Q. Are you familiar with the Applications filed in  
4 each of these consolidated cases?

5 A. Yes, I am.

6 Q. And are you familiar with the rules for the  
7 Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool and the wells that are the  
8 subject of this hearing?

9 A. Yes, I am.

10 MR. CARR: We tender Mr. Hawkins as an expert in  
11 petroleum engineering.

12 EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Hawkins is qualified as an  
13 expert petroleum engineer.

14 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Hawkins, would you briefly  
15 summarize for the Examiner what BP seeks with these  
16 Applications?

17 A. BP seeks the approval for an exception to the  
18 Mesaverde rules requiring certain density requirements.  
19 The Mesaverde has requirements that allow up to four wells  
20 to be drilled in a spacing unit, but there are some nuances  
21 that say you can only have one well in each -- or no more  
22 than one well in each quarter quarter and no more than two  
23 wells in each quarter section.

24 And in this case, in each of these cases, we  
25 ended up with three wells in a quarter section, and we have

1 shut one of those wells in so that we are currently in  
2 compliance, but we'd like the ability to return those wells  
3 to production.

4 Q. Mr. Hawkins, a year ago you appeared before Mr.  
5 Jones with a similar application, did you not?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. BP had too many wells in a quarter quarter  
8 section?

9 A. In a quarter section, that's correct.

10 Q. And at that hearing you were -- it was suggested  
11 that you inventory properties, BP properties, to assure you  
12 had no more of these; is that right?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. And you have done that?

15 A. Yes, we have.

16 Q. And you have three?

17 A. These are the three.

18 Q. And so that's why we are back here today, to  
19 address each of those individual situations, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You indicated that the spacing for the Blanco-  
22 Mesaverde Gas Pool was 320-acre spacing. In fact, when  
23 they allow four wells on those units, they require that  
24 they be two in each quarter section and that the wells in  
25 the quarter section be in different quarter quarter

1 sections; is that correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Let's go to the exhibits for the first well.

4 It's marked BP Exhibit Number 1 for the Gartner A Number 2B  
5 well. Would you identify that for the Examiner?

6 A. Yes. Well, Exhibit Number 1 is the packet that  
7 we put together regarding the Gartner wells. We have four  
8 tabs here, and we can -- I can walk you through these.

9 Q. On the cover of the exhibit you identify one of  
10 the wells, the Gartner A Well Number 2B.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Why have you identified that individual well?

13 A. This is the well that has been shut in, in order  
14 to stay in compliance with the Mesaverde requirements.

15 Q. And if your Application is granted, that well  
16 would be returned to production; is that correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What is behind Tab 1 in that exhibit packet?

19 A. Tab 1 is a copy of the Application that was filed  
20 for this case, as well as a list of the -- on Exhibit A,  
21 the notification list for the Application, and then the  
22 advertisement for the Application.

23 Q. Behind that we have Tab 2. What's behind that  
24 tab?

25 A. Tab 2, we have a couple of plats. The first plat

1 highlights in a darker orange color the spacing unit that's  
2 in question here with the Gartner wells, and then the  
3 surrounding spacing units that are highlighted in yellow  
4 are the spacing units that BP operates. So the spacing  
5 units that are not operated by BP are just shown in blank,  
6 no highlighted color, and the ones that offset this Gartner  
7 spacing unit are operated by Burlington Resources.

8 Q. And Burlington is the only offsetting operator?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And ConocoPhillips is a partner in some of those  
11 wells --

12 A. Yes --

13 Q. -- is that right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Let's go to the next page. It's a better  
16 exhibit, it's an enlargement of the section. And would you  
17 review this exhibit?

18 A. This is just an enlargement of the Section 28,  
19 and again you can see the spacing unit on the east half is  
20 the one that we're concerned with.

21 What I'd like to do is just kind of briefly run  
22 through the history of this spacing unit. The Gartner  
23 Number 2 well was the first well in, and it's up in the  
24 north half. It was drilled in 1951 and produced until 1998  
25 in the Blanco-Mesaverde, and then we had some repair -- or

1 casing-leak problems with the well, and the well was shut  
2 in.

3 The Gartner Number 2A was the first spacing --  
4 first infill well, and it's drilled down in the southern  
5 half of the spacing unit. And then in --

6 Q. That well was drilled in 1977?

7 A. 1977.

8 Q. Okay, and the third well, or the second infill  
9 well, is which one?

10 A. Yeah, the second infill well was the Gartner  
11 Number 2R, and this was a high-angle horizontal well that  
12 we drilled in 1994. We did ask for some special relief in  
13 order to be able to drill that well and produce all three  
14 wells concurrently, and we were given that approval by the  
15 Division. *where?*

16 And then the last well to be drilled was the  
17 Gartner A Number 2B. This well was drilled in 2002, at  
18 about the same time that we received a demand from the BLM  
19 to return the Gartner Number A2 back to production. And  
20 unfortunately, we drilled the Gartner A Number 2B and then  
21 did return the Gartner Number A2 back to production, which  
22 brought us into the problem of having three wells in the  
23 north half. We didn't really discover that until more  
24 recently. We shut the well in in 2005 and have come here.

25 Q. What's behind Tab 3?

1           A.    Tab 3 has some of the forms.  In this case we  
2 have the plat that was submitted for the Gartner A Number  
3 2B -- that was the last well that was drilled -- just  
4 showing it was approved in February of 2002.  And then we  
5 have the APD -- or submitted in February, 2002.  Following  
6 that we have the APD that was sent to the BLM, and it was  
7 approved in April of 2002.

8           Q.    And the last document behind Tab 3?

9           A.    And it's a copy of a letter that references the  
10 three wells that we were allowed to produce in the  
11 Mesaverde before the 80-acre spacing was approved.

12          Q.    And what was the order number that approved those  
13 three wells?

14          A.    I think it's Order R-10,108 and Order 10,108-A.

15          Q.    Let's go to the now production information  
16 contained behind Tab 4.

17          A.    And we have four production plots for the wells  
18 that were drilled in this spacing unit.

19                The first one here, the Gartner Number A2, does  
20 have some designation.  You can see probably at the end of  
21 1997, first of 1998, the well dropped off production less  
22 than 100 MCFD.  And it does show that there was a couple of  
23 tests here or some water or something that was produced,  
24 but basically the well was shut in, you know, from that  
25 period of time, 1998, till 2001, when we started looking at

1 repair -- or 2002, excuse me. We did a repair on the  
2 casing and then perforated and frac'd some additional  
3 Mesaverde interval and brought it back on production, and  
4 it's currently producing around 200 MCFD.

5 On the second page, the Gartner Number 2A has  
6 produced, and it's currently making just under 200 MCFD.

7 The Number 2R is the horizontal well that has --  
8 it's producing about 250 MCFD, maybe a little better.

9 And then the Gartner A 2B was shut in at about  
10 100 MCFD or maybe a little more than that, and that's what  
11 we would expect to return the well to, to sustain  
12 production of 100 or 150 MCFD.

13 Q. Mr. Hawkins, on this spacing unit BP operates  
14 four Mesaverde wells?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And the rules authorize that many wells?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. But when you return this well to production  
19 pursuant to the BLM demand, you have too many of those  
20 wells in one quarter section; is that correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Okay. Let's now go to the information packet on  
23 the Hughes wells. That's marked BP Exhibit Number 2.  
24 Would you identify and review that, please?

25 A. Yes, this is a similar packet for the east half

1 of 19 of 29 and 8. It has the Hughes wells. It's a very  
2 similar situation to the Gartner. One of the wells was off  
3 production. We drilled a fourth well -- or a replacement  
4 well, I guess, for that -- that ended up in the same  
5 quarter section, and then we had a demand from the BLM to  
6 return the Number 7 well -- or return one of the wells back  
7 to production, and it created the same kind of situation.

8 Q. And the Hughes LS Number 7 well is the well that,  
9 if this Application is granted, will be allowed to produce;  
10 is that right?

11 A. Yes, that's the well that we've currently shut  
12 in.

13 Q. Would you review the information behind the tabs  
14 in this exhibit?

15 A. Similarly, behind Tab 1 we have the Application,  
16 and the parties that were notified in this case, again,  
17 Burlington and ConocoPhillips.

18 Behind Tab 2 we have a -- two plats. The one  
19 that's the nine-section plat that you can see highlights  
20 the area, the east half of 19 is shown with an orange  
21 boundary around the drilling portion of the spacing unit,  
22 and the spacing units that are operated by BP are shown in  
23 yellow. And in this case there are three spacing units  
24 that are not operated by BP -- they are all operated by  
25 Burlington -- that are offsetting the Hughes spacing unit.

1 Q. Let's go to the next page, and I'd ask you,  
2 working from this page to review the history of the  
3 development of the spacing unit.

4 A. On the east half of Section 19, the first well  
5 that was drilled was the Hughes B Number 2. That's shown  
6 up in the north half.

7 The second well, or the first infill well that  
8 was drilled, was the Hughes B Number 2A; it was drilled in  
9 1978. And that's down in the south half.

10 The Hughes Number 7 was drilled in 1980.  
11 Originally it was drilled for the Basin-Dakota. The Dakota  
12 formation was plugged and abandoned in 2000, and this well  
13 was recompleted to the Mesaverde, but it did not produce  
14 and was left shut in. And then following a demand from the  
15 BLM, this well was restored to production in the Mesaverde  
16 in 2002.

17 But it has been shut in since 2005 when we  
18 discovered that the subsequent well, the Hughes B Number  
19 2B, permitted in 2001, drilled in early 2002 as a  
20 directional well, at the time when the Number 7 was still  
21 off and had not yet been returned to production, and that's  
22 what basically created the problem in the south half. We  
23 ended up with the Hughes 7 being restored to production in  
24 the Mesaverde, and the Hughes B 2B, the long directional  
25 well, being drilled at about the same time.

1 Q. So again what we have is four wells, just in the  
2 wrong quarter -- quarter section; is that correct?

3 A. That's correct. We have not exceeded the total  
4 number of wells that the Rules would allow for the  
5 Mesaverde, just got them in the wrong spots.

6 Q. All right, let's go to the material behind Tab 3.

7 A. The -- We've got a sundry notice for the Hughes  
8 Number 7 well. It references conversation between the BLM  
9 and the NMOCD and the Aztec District about bringing this  
10 well back onto production. This was when the well was shut  
11 in and we had to do some repair work to return the B7 to  
12 production. And this notice of intent was approved in June  
13 of 2002.

14 The second -- the next page after that is  
15 relating to the Hughes B Number 2B. That was the long  
16 directional well that we drilled. It was permitted in late  
17 2001, before this other well was returned to production and  
18 approved by the BLM in early 2002. So it just shows some  
19 of the -- references some of the dates, and approvals for  
20 the two wells that kind of created the problem at about the  
21 same time.

22 Q. All right, let's go to the production  
23 information.

24 A. And we have the production from the four wells on  
25 the back. The first page shows the Hughes B2, just shows

1 the production, but it was drilled in 1952. If -- We just  
2 have production shown since 1970, but it's still making  
3 about 170 MCFD.

4 The second page is on the Hughes LS 2A. This  
5 well was drilled in 1978. It's currently producing about  
6 100, maybe a little better in the last test that's shown on  
7 this, 100 MCFD.

8 The third page is on the Hughes 7; we recompleted  
9 the well to the Mesaverde in 2000, but we were unable to  
10 establish production here until 2002. We did a -- repaired  
11 the casing leak and cleaned out fill and opened up the --  
12 got the Mesaverde producing, and it's making about 100  
13 MCFD, currently shut in.

14 And the last well would be the Hughes B 2B, the  
15 directional well. It's making just over 100 MCFD, maybe  
16 120.

17 Q. All right, Mr. Hawkins, let's go to BP Exhibit  
18 Number 3, the information on the west half of Section 14.

19 A. Okay, the last exhibit is similar. It's  
20 concerning the Mudge B Com 2A in the west half of Section  
21 14 of 31-11. The Mudge B Com 2A well is currently shut in,  
22 in order to be in compliance with the Mesaverde  
23 regulations.

24 The first tab -- I'll wait till you -- Have you  
25 got your exhibit?

1 EXAMINER JONES: Yeah.

2 THE WITNESS: Okay, the first tab is similar to  
3 the others. It has a copy of the Application. It includes  
4 the parties that were notified on Exhibit A on page 5 of  
5 that. Those include Burlington, Conoco, the Moore Loyal  
6 Trust, George William Umbach, and the Robert Umbach Cancer  
7 Foundation.

8 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Let's go to the plats behind Tab  
9 2.

10 A. Okay, the first plat shows highlighted in kind of  
11 an orange color, is the Mudge Com -- or the Mudge spacing  
12 unit that we're talking about today. The spacing units  
13 highlighted in yellow are operated by BP. In this case  
14 there is only one spacing unit that's adjacent to the Mudge  
15 that's operated by someone other than BP, and that's  
16 Burlington, in Section 22.

17 Q. Let's go to the next plat and review the history  
18 of the development of this spacing unit.

19 A. Okay, on the west half of Section 14 the first  
20 well that was drilled is the Neil LS 5A in the southern --  
21 on the very southern portion of the well -- or of the  
22 spacing unit. It was drilled in 1953 and produced from the  
23 Mesaverde pools, plugged and abandoned in 1956.

24 The second well that was drilled is up in the far  
25 northern part of the spacing unit, the Mudge Com B Number

1 2A. It was drilled in 1979, and this is the well that  
2 produced but has been shut in since June of 2005.

3 The third -- or the second infill well, the third  
4 well to be drilled, was the Mudge Com B Number 2E. This is  
5 down in the southern half of the spacing unit, kind of a  
6 replacement there -- not a replacement, but another well  
7 that was, you know, producing from the Mesaverde there. It  
8 actually was drilled to the Dakota and then recompleted to  
9 the Mesaverde in 1993.

10 The fourth well, the Mudge Com B Number 2, was  
11 drilled in 2000 to test the Dakota. It was recompleted in  
12 that year to the Mesaverde.

13 And then the last well, the Mudge Com B 2M, was  
14 drilled in 2004 as a Mesaverde-Dakota test. When we  
15 permitted this well, we -- the Aztec District tried to help  
16 us out. They found out that we had three wells in the  
17 northern half and said, Well, you can drill it but you have  
18 to shut in one of the other wells.

19 And we said, Well, let's just revise our plan and  
20 we'll directionally drill that well to across the section  
21 -- the quarter-section line, and get it into the south  
22 half. And we did revise it and drill directionally, but we  
23 didn't get it across the quarter-section line. So we've  
24 kept that well on production, but we -- and shut in one of  
25 the wells that was not making quite as much, but that was

1 the problem, we just -- Even though we tried to catch the  
2 problem, we didn't get it drilled across the section line.

3 Part of the reason for that -- and we'll go to  
4 Tab 3 and look at some of the spacing-unit information --  
5 when we first planned on drilling this well, it was going  
6 to be a vertical well, and we show the plat for the  
7 vertical well with the surface location on the first page.  
8 The APD that's behind that was approved by BLM, but hold  
9 for a change in status. They caught that there were three  
10 wells. So we decided on the third page to resubmit this as  
11 a directional well, and we projected that we would  
12 directionally drill it into the south half of the spacing  
13 unit.

14 Part of the problem here is that the spacing was  
15 -- or is 5460 feet long on this western edge, and that  
16 created some difficulties. I think there was some mixup,  
17 maybe, on some of the directional plans to drill that well.

18 And finally it was approved by the BLM as a  
19 directional well, it just -- we were unable to get it  
20 across the boundary.

21 Q. All right, Mr. Hawkins, let's look at the  
22 production information on each of these wells.

23 A. Okay, the first page is a production plot for the  
24 Neil 5A. This is also known as the Mudge Com B Number 2A.  
25 It shows up in the production reports under Neil 5A. It's

1 the well that's currently shut in. It was making about 150  
2 MCFD before it was shut in.

3 The Neil LS 5 was the first well that was drilled  
4 here. It was abandoned in 1996, so it's no longer  
5 producing.

6 The Mudge Com B 2E was -- has both the Mesaverde  
7 and Dakota producing currently maybe 80 MCFD, a little less  
8 than that, maybe.

9 And then the Mudge Com B 2 on the next page,  
10 producing about 150 MCFD.

11 And the last page, the Mudge Com B 2M, producing  
12 about 180 MCFD.

13 Q. Mr. Hawkins, will approval of these Applications  
14 impair the correlative rights of any other operator in the  
15 pool?

16 A. No, it will not.

17 Q. Each of the wells that we're talking about here  
18 today is at least a standard setback from the outer  
19 boundary of the dedicated spacing unit?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. We're not exceeding the density requirements in  
22 any spacing unit?

23 A. We're not exceeding the total number of well  
24 density, just the --

25 Q. You just have them in --

1 A. Some internal density issues, yeah.

2 Q. Correct. Okay, when you look at the production  
3 information that you've presented to Mr. Jones, do you see  
4 any evidence of interference between these wells?

5 A. Well, I don't think the wells are interfering  
6 with each other. The Mesaverde reservoir is fairly well  
7 depleted, so the rates are not very high, but I think all  
8 of the wells are needed to continue to efficiently deplete  
9 the reservoir.

10 Q. The wells could have, in fact, been located in  
11 different quarter sections and been this far apart, and it  
12 still could have been approved? I mean, the wells are not  
13 drilled on top of one another?

14 A. No, they are not.

15 Q. They're effectively draining the area?

16 A. Yes, they are.

17 Q. Would denial of this Application result in waste?

18 A. It definitely would. These wells would not be  
19 allowed to be produced, we would have to consider re-  
20 drilling wells at a cost of maybe \$700,000 a well --

21 Q. Are they producing incremental reserves?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Are the wells, if they're not allowed to produce,  
24 are they likely to fall on the OCD's inactive well list?

25 A. Certainly.

1 Q. And if they're not approved, then you're going to  
2 be looking at either having too few wells and then having  
3 to incur the additional drilling costs, we are going to be  
4 underdeveloped, with a well that is a good producing well  
5 on the inactive list?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Does BP plan to drill additional Mesaverde wells  
8 on these spacing units?

9 A. Not in these spacing units, these spacing units  
10 would be fully developed with these four wells that exist  
11 today.

12 Q. Are Exhibits 4 through 6 affidavits confirming  
13 that notice of these applications have been provided to  
14 each of the interest owners identified in Exhibits 1  
15 through 3 --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- in accordance with Division Rules?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 6 either prepared by you  
20 or compiled at your direction?

21 A. Yes, they were.

22 MR. CARR: We move the admission into evidence of  
23 BP America Exhibits 1 through 6.

24 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 1 through 6 will be  
25 admitted to evidence.

1 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct  
2 examination of Mr. Hawkins.

3 EXAMINATION

4 BY EXAMINER JONES:

5 Q. Mr. Hawkins, first of all, how was that previous  
6 order about a year ago? Was it okay? Was there something  
7 -- was there anything that you would ask us to revise on  
8 the order?

9 A. I think it was fine. I think basically just -- I  
10 mean, I don't recall the exact wording on it, but I think  
11 it basically said you're -- have an exception to the  
12 Mesaverde density requirements.

13 Q. So then you were able to go to the Districts and  
14 put the well back on line that was shut in?

15 A. To the best of my knowledge, correct

16 MR. CARR: Mr. Jones, that was Order Number  
17 R-12,385. (Case 13483)

18 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.

19 Q. (By Examiner Jones) Okay, so at least one of  
20 these will be a revised -- another amendment to an existing  
21 order that had been done, about 1994, I think?

22 A. Yeah, well, that was for the first three wells,  
23 when we had three wells producing, back when there were  
24 supposed to be only two wells producing in the spacing  
25 unit, and we drilled the horizontal well into just the

1 upper leg of the Cliff House --

2 Q. Oh, okay.

3 A. -- and that's why we got approval to produce it  
4 that way. Subsequently, it was a -- you know, we had to  
5 change our plan on that horizontal well, and that's why it  
6 was amended to 10,108-A, I think it is.

7 Q. Yes. Okay, what does it take -- How many  
8 reserves does it take to drill another well here at these  
9 prices?

10 A. Yeah, at these prices -- I don't know the exact  
11 number, but I would say probably half a BCF would be  
12 economic for some operators. It may not be as attractive  
13 as other -- You may be able to find better places to drill  
14 than a half-a-BCF well, but I think a half-BCF well could  
15 be economic.

16 Q. Okay. So you don't know for sure if you'll get a  
17 half-BCF additional by drilling another well and making  
18 five wells in the spacing unit but three in the south half,  
19 or something like that?

20 A. Well, I think -- I mean, are you thinking that we  
21 would ask for an exception to drill a fifth well?

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. That's certainly something that could be  
24 considered. Right now, I know we still have an active  
25 Mesaverde drilling program.

1           If I go back to our reservoir engineers that are  
2 working that program and tell them we think we have an  
3 opportunity for maybe getting a fifth well here, they would  
4 take a look at it.

5           Q.    It seems like, you know, if you've got three  
6 wells in, for instance, the south half and one well in the  
7 north half --

8           A.    Maybe there's a way to put another well up there.

9           Q.    Yeah, maybe.  But -- that's your business, but is  
10 BP -- how's your budget?  Is your budget pretty good these  
11 days?

12          A.    It's pretty good these days.

13          Q.    But rig costs are high, though?

14          A.    Right.

15          Q.    And unavailable sometimes?

16          A.    Certainly.

17          Q.    The Dakota was abandoned in 2000 in a couple of  
18 these.  Was that because it was low gas prices at that  
19 time?

20          A.    I really couldn't respond to that.  I suspect it  
21 was that we could not make it produce at economic rates.  
22 And it may have -- that probably was aggravated somewhat by  
23 lower gas prices.

24          Q.    Okay.  I notice your wells, a lot of them are  
25 down to 150 MCF or -- and that's real hard to keep a well

1 on line at 150 MCF --

2 A. Right.

3 Q. -- a gas well. You seem to be doing a good job,  
4 with soaping them, or whatever you're doing with them --

5 A. Well, these don't have very much liquids, so  
6 they're in pretty good shape.

7 Q. Okay. So that really is a big plus, that you're  
8 able to produce at lower rates. But if you could combine  
9 the Dakota and the Mesaverde, you might get that 500 --

10 A. Right.

11 Q. -- thousand or something. But you have to drill  
12 deeper.

13 Speaking of that, is the Mesaverde -- what zone  
14 in the Mesaverde do you produce?

15 A. We produce the Cliff House, the Menefee and the  
16 Point Lookout.

17 Q. All three?

18 A. All three. In fact, some of the newer wells that  
19 are being drilled are -- we might not open up the Cliff  
20 House, because that's the zone that really has the highest  
21 permeability, it's the most depleted today, least amount of  
22 remaining reserves.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So the Menefee and the Point Lookout are more of  
25 a target these days than the Cliff House.

1 Q. So two frac jobs, probably, at least?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. How's the Menefee? Has it got any coals in it  
4 that are helping you here?

5 A. I know the Menefee has some coal in some places,  
6 and I'm not sure what kind of contribution it would be  
7 making here.

8 Q. Do you take care of the San Juan Basin in  
9 Colorado too?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are they doing anything different on the  
12 Mesaverde up there? Is it even up there?

13 A. Well, it's limited. In the southern part of  
14 Colorado there's still a Mesaverde trend that comes up  
15 across the straight line, but as you get a little bit  
16 further north, you know, that Mesaverde starts getting  
17 pretty shallow and not very prolific, and there's more of a  
18 coal development up there.

19 Q. But there's a big Mesaverde in the Piceance  
20 Basin. Do you take care of that too?

21 A. No.

22 Q. And it's being infill drilled --

23 A. Well, BP doesn't really have any land holdings in  
24 the Piceance.

25 Q. Okay.

1           A.    We -- Amoco did a long time ago, sold those, and  
2 there's a number of other companies taking advantage of all  
3 that.

4           Q.    Okay. Well, this Section 14 is a weird section,  
5 it's a rhombohedral or something.

6           A.    Let's see. It is. This is the last one we were  
7 looking at. I think --

8           Q.    It's a surveyor's nightmare, it looks like.

9           A.    Yeah. In fact, even after we had drilled that  
10 well, there was some confusion with the BLM records on  
11 whether it was a standard shaped spacing unit or not. But  
12 we went back out and had it re-surveyed, and we were  
13 assured that it's really long on one side, and that's just  
14 the way it is, so...

15           EXAMINER JONES: Well, let's see -- that was -- I  
16 don't -- can't think of any others. Gail do you have any?

17           MS. MacQUESTEN: No questions, thank you.

18           EXAMINER JONES: Sounds like the notice is in  
19 good shape if Gail's happy, and you own all the spacing  
20 units around all of these.

21           THE WITNESS: Most of them.

22           EXAMINER JONES: Okay, I guess we're done.

23           MR. CARR: That concludes our presentation in  
24 this case.

25           EXAMINER JONES: With that, we'll take Cases --

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these combined Cases 13,612, -613 and -614 under  
advisement.

(Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at  
9:14 a.m.)

\* \* \*

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

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF SANTA FE )

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL February 4th, 2006.



STEVEN T. BRENNER  
CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 16th, 2006