

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

**APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION,
THROUGH THE ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER, FOR A
COMPLIANCE ORDER AGAINST THORNTON HOPPER FINDING THAT
THE OPERATOR IS IN VIOLATION OF 19.15.4.201 NMAC AS TO FIVE
WELLS, REQUIRING OPERATOR TO BRING SAID WELLS INTO
COMPLIANCE WITH 19.15.4.201 NMAC BY A DATE CERTAIN, AND IN THE
EVENT OF NON-COMPLIANCE DECLARING THE WELLS ABANDONED
AND AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION TO PLUG THE WELLS, EDDY
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

CASE NO. 13844

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

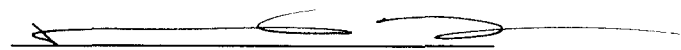
In accordance with Division Rule 1227.D [19.15.14.1227.D NMAC] and Rule 1210 (19.15.14.1210 NMAC) I hereby certify that notice of the January 4, 2007 hearing in the above-captioned case was mailed to the following by certified mail, return receipt requested, at least 20 days prior to the hearing date, with a copy of the application:

Thornton Hopper
P.O. Box 953
Midland, TX 79701

Exhibit A to this affidavit is a copy of the notice, with a copy of the signed return receipt.


Gail MacQuesten

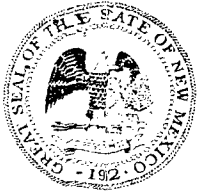
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 18th day of December 2006.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

4/2/07

Examiner	<u>Catawacha</u>
Case No.	<u>13844</u>
EXHIBIT NO.	<u>1</u>



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON

Governor

Joann Prukop

Cabinet Secretary

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.

Director

Oil Conservation Division

December 1, 2006

Thornton Hopper
P.O. Box 953
Midland, TX 79701

Certified Mail No. 7002 3150 0004 4924 0717

CASE 13844: APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION, THROUGH THE ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER, FOR A COMPLIANCE ORDER AGAINST THORNTON HOPPER FINDING THAT THE OPERATOR IS IN VIOLATION OF 19.15.4.201 NMAC AS TO FIVE WELLS, REQUIRING OPERATOR TO BRING SAID WELLS INTO COMPLIANCE WITH 19.15.4.201 NMAC BY A DATE CERTAIN, AND IN THE EVENT OF NON-COMPLIANCE DECLARING THE WELLS ABANDONED AND AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION TO PLUG THE WELLS, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Dear Mr. Hopper:

You are hereby notified that the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has filed the above-captioned application for a compliance order against Thornton Hopper. A copy of the application is enclosed.

A hearing on this application will take place before a Division hearing officer on **Thursday, January 4, 2007**, at 8:15 a.m., in Porter Hall, First Floor, 1220 South St. Francis Drive in Santa Fe, New Mexico. At that hearing Mr. Hopper will have an opportunity to oppose the entry of the order. **If you intend to present evidence at the hearing, you should file a pre-hearing statement at least four business days in advance of the hearing, as required by 19.15.14.1211.B NMAC.** A copy of that rule is enclosed. I have also enclosed a copy of 19.15.14.1212, which addresses representation at administrative hearings before the Division.

If you have questions about the application you may call me at (505) 476-3451.

Very truly yours,

Gail MacQuesten

Assistant General Counsel

Encl: Application in Case 13844
Rule 1211 [19.15.14.1211 NMAC]
Rule 1212 [19.15.14.1212 NMAC]

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

2008 NOV 29 PM 1 08

APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION, THROUGH THE ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER, FOR A COMPLIANCE ORDER AGAINST THORNTON HOPPER FINDING THAT THE OPERATOR IS IN VIOLATION OF 19.15.4.201 NMAC AS TO FIVE WELLS, REQUIRING OPERATOR TO BRING SAID WELLS INTO COMPLIANCE WITH 19.15.4.201 NMAC BY A DATE CERTAIN, AND IN THE EVENT OF NON-COMPLIANCE DECLARING THE WELLS ABANDONED AND AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION TO PLUG THE WELLS, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO. 13844

APPLICATION FOR COMPLIANCE ORDER
AGAINST THORNTON HOPPER

1. Thornton Hopper ("Operator") is a sole proprietor operating wells in New Mexico under OGRID 22997.

2. The wells Operator operates in New Mexico are federal wells; Operator is not required to post and has not posted financial assurances to secure its obligation to plug and abandon the wells.

3. Division rule 19.15.4.201 NMAC requires an operator to plug and abandon or temporarily abandon a well in accordance with Division rules within 90 days after a period of one year of continuous inactivity.

4. The following wells ("subject wells") operated by Operator in New Mexico have been inactive for a continuous period exceeding one year plus 90 days, and are neither plugged and abandoned in accord with 19.15.4.202 NMAC nor on approved temporary abandonment status in accord with 19.15.4.203 NMAC:

- Bradley Federal #001, D-13-24S-26E, 30-015-00391
- Bradley Federal #002, P-11-24S-26E, 30-015-00387
- Bradley Federal #005, P-11-24S-26E, 30-015-00382
- Bradley Federal #006, I-11-24S-26E, 30-015-00386
- Bradley Federal #008, K-11-24S-26E, 30-015-00383

5. Division rule 19.15.3.101(H) NMAC authorizes the Director to order the operator to plug and abandon any well not in compliance with 19.15.4.201 NMAC and restore and remediate the location by a date certain.

6. NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-12(B)(18) and NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-38 authorize the Division to plug and abandon wells, and restore and remediate the location of abandoned wells.

WHEREFORE, the Enforcement and Compliance Manager of the Division hereby applies to the Director to enter an order:

- A. Determining that the subject wells are not in compliance with 19.15.4.201 NMAC;
- B. Requiring the Operator to plug and abandon each of the subject wells by a date certain;
- C. If the subject wells are not brought into compliance with 19.15.4.201 NMAC by the date set in the order, declaring the wells abandoned and authorizing the Division to plug the subject wells in accordance with a Division-approved plugging program and restore and remediate the location; and
- D. For such other and further relief as the Director deems just and proper under the circumstances.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
this _____ day of November, 2006 by

Gail MacQuesten
Assistant General Counsel
Energy, Minerals and Natural
Resources Department of the State of
New Mexico
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 476-3451

Attorney for The New Mexico Oil
Conservation Division

Case No. _____ Application of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
for a Compliance Order against Thornton Hopper. The Applicant seeks an order finding
that operator is in violation of 19.15.4.201 NMAC as to five wells, requiring operator to
bring the five wells into compliance with 19.15.4.201 NMAC by a date certain and
authorizing the division to plug said wells in the event of non-compliance. The affected
wells are: Bradley Federal #001, D-13-24S-26E, 30-015-00391; Bradley Federal #002, P-
11-24S-26E, 30-015-00387; Bradley Federal #005, P-11-24S-26E, 30-015-00382;
Bradley Federal #006, I-11-24S-26E, 30-015-00386; Bradley Federal #008, K-11-24S-
26E, 30-015-00383. The wells are located approximately 5 miles northeast of Whites
City in Eddy County, New Mexico.

19.15.14.1211 PLEADINGS, COPIES, PRE-HEARING STATEMENTS, EXHIBITS AND MOTIONS FOR CONTINUANCE:

A. Pleadings. Applicants shall file two sets of pleadings and correspondence in cases pending before a division examiner with the division clerk and six sets of pleadings and correspondence in cases pending before the commission with the commission clerk. For cases pending before the commission, the commission clerk shall disseminate copies of pleadings and correspondence to the commission members. The party filing the pleading or correspondence shall at the same time serve a copy of the pleading or correspondence upon each party who has entered an appearance in the case on or prior to the business day immediately preceding the date when the party files the pleading or correspondence with the division or the commission clerk, as applicable. Parties shall accomplish service by hand delivery or transmission by facsimile or electronic mail to any party who has entered an appearance or, if the party is represented, the party's attorney of record. Service upon a party who has not filed a pleading containing a facsimile number or e-mail address may be made by ordinary first class mail. Parties shall be deemed to have made an appearance when they have either sent a letter regarding the case to the division or commission clerk or made an in person appearance at any hearing before the commission or before a division examiner. A written appearance, however, shall not be complete until the appearing party has provided notice to other parties of record. Any initial pleading or written entry of appearance a party other than the applicant files shall include the party's address or the address of the party's attorney and an e-mail and facsimile number if available.

B. Pre-hearing statements.

(1) Any party to an adjudicatory proceeding who intends to present evidence at the hearing shall file a pre-hearing statement, and serve copies on other parties or, for parties that are represented, their attorneys in the manner Subsection A of 19.15.14.1211 NMAC provides, at least four business days in advance of a scheduled hearing before the division or the commission, but in no event later than 5:00 pm mountain time, on the Thursday preceding the scheduled hearing date. The statement shall include:

- (a) the names of the party and the party's attorney;
- (b) a concise statement of the case;
- (c) the names of witnesses the party will call to testify at the hearing, and in the case of expert witnesses, their fields of expertise;
- (d) the approximate time the party will need to present its case; and
- (e) identification of any procedural matters that are to be resolved prior to the hearing.

(2) Any party other than the applicant shall include in its pre-hearing statement a statement of the extent to which the party supports or opposes the issuance of the order the applicant seeks and the reasons for such support or opposition. In cases to be heard by the commission, each party shall include copies of all exhibits that it proposes to offer in evidence at the hearing with the pre-hearing statement. The commission may exclude witnesses the party did not identify in the pre-hearing statement, or exhibits the party did not file and serve with the pre-hearing statement, unless the party offers such evidence solely for rebuttal or makes a satisfactory showing of good cause for failure to disclose the witness or exhibit.

(3) A pre-hearing statement filed by a corporation or other entity not represented by an attorney shall identify the person who will conduct the party's presentation at the hearing and include a sworn and notarized statement attesting that the corporation's or entity's governing body or chief executive officer authorizes the person to present the corporation or entity in the matter.

(4) For cases pending before the commission, the commission clerk shall disseminate copies of pre-hearing statements and exhibits to the commission members.

C. Motions for continuance. Parties shall file and serve motions for continuance no later than 48 hours prior to time the hearing is set to begin, unless the reasons for requesting a continuance arise after the deadline, in which case the party shall file the motion as expeditiously as possible after becoming aware of the need for a continuance.

[19.15.14.1211 NMAC - Rp, 19.15.14.1208 NMAC, 09/30/05]

19.15.14.1212 CONDUCT OF ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS:

A. Testimony. Hearings before the commission or a division examiner shall be conducted without rigid formality. The division or commission shall take or have someone take a transcript of testimony and preserve the transcript as a part of the division's permanent records. Any person testifying shall do so under oath. The division examiner or commission shall designate whether or not an interested party's un-sworn comments and observations are relevant and, if relevant, include the comments and observations in the record.

B. Pre-filed testimony. The division director may order the parties to file prepared written testimony in advance of the hearing for cases pending before the commission. The witness shall be present at the hearing and shall adopt, under oath, the prepared written testimony, subject to cross-examination and motions to strike unless the witness' presence at hearing is waived upon notice to other parties and without their objection. The parties shall number pages of the prepared written testimony, which shall contain line numbers on the left-hand side.

C. Appearances pro se or through an attorney. Parties may appear and participate in hearings either pro se (on their own behalf) or through an attorney. Corporations, partnerships, governmental entities, political subdivisions, unincorporated associations and other collective entities may appear only through an attorney or through a duly authorized officer or member. Participation in adjudicatory hearings shall be limited to parties, as defined in 19.15.14.1208 NMAC, except that a representative of a federal, state or tribal governmental agency or political subdivision may make a statement on the agency's or political subdivision's behalf. The commission or division examiner shall have the discretion to allow any other person present at the hearing to make a relevant statement, but not to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses. Any person making a statement at an adjudicatory hearing shall be subject to cross-examination by the parties or their attorneys.

[19.15.14.1212 NMAC - Rp, 19.15.14.1210 NMAC, 09/30/05]

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Thornton Hopper
P.O. Box 953
Midland, TX 79701

December 1, 2006 Ltr.

2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

7002 3150 0004 4924 0717

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
A. Signature

X *Mary Escobedo*

☒ Agent

☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

Mary Escobedo

C. Date of Delivery

12-5-06

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?

☐ Yes

If YES, enter delivery address below:

☐ No

3. Service Type

☒ Certified Mail

☒ Express Mail

☐ Registered

☒ Return Receipt for Merchandise

☐ Insured Mail

☐ C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)

☐ Yes