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

APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION, THROUGH THE ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER, FOR A COMPLIANCE ORDER AGAINST PRONGHORN MANAGEMENT CORP. 1) FINDING THAT OPERATOR KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY VIOLATED 19.15.4.201 NMAC AS TO SIXTEEN WELLS AND ASSESSING PENALTIES FOR THOSE VIOLATIONS; 2) REQUIRING OPERATOR TO BRING THE SIXTEEN WELLS INTO COMPLIANCE WITH 19.15.4.201 NMAC BY A DATE CERTAIN; AND 3) AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION TO PLUG SAID WELLS AND FORFEIT THE APPLICABLE FINANCIAL ASSURANCE IN THE EVENT OF NON-COMPLIANCE; LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

**CASE NO. 13858** 

# ENTRY OF APPEARANCE AND PRE-HEARING STATEMENT

The Oil Conservation Division submits this entry of appearance and pre-hearing statement pursuant to OCD Rule 1211 [19.15.14.1211 NMAC].

#### **APPEARANCES**

<u>APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY</u>

Oil Conservation Division Gail MacQuesten

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(505) 476-3451 FAX: 476-3462

RESPONDENT

Pronghorn Management Corp. Pronghorn Management Corp.

P.O. Box 1772 Hobbs, NM 88241 (505) 392-2495

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#### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) seeks an order finding that Pronghorn Management Corp. (Pronghorn) knowingly and willfully violated 19.15.4.201 NMAC as to sixteen inactive wells and assessing penalties for those violations. In addition, the OCD seeks an order requiring Pronghorn to return those wells to compliance by a date certain, and authorizing the OCD to plug the wells and forfeit the applicable financial assurance if Pronghorn does not comply. Pronghorn has posted \$50,000 cash plugging bond.

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Pre-hearing Statement

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The wells at issue in this case were the subject of inactive well agreed compliance orders 77 and 77-A. Those orders expired on May 31, 2006.

#### APPLICANT'S PROPOSED EVIDENCE

WITNESS:

**ESTIMATED TIME:** 

Daniel Sanchez, Enforcement and Compliance

10 min.

Manager

Dorothy Phillips, Financial Assurance Administrator

by affidavit

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The OCD requests that case 13858 be consolidated with case 13859 for purposes of testimony, because the testimony in the two cases will overlap.

Case 13859 is a compliance action against Pronghorn as to eleven inactive wells not covered by case 13858. Case 13859 alleges that Pronghorn falsely reported that the eleven wells were producing when they were not capable of production.

Respectfully submitted

this \_\_\_\_\_\_day of January 2007 by

Gail MacQuesten

Oil Conservation Division

Energy, Minerals and Natural

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Attorney for the Oil Conservation Division

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing pleading was served upon the following this 9% day of January 2007:

Pronghorn Management Corp.

P.O. Box 1772

Hobbs, NM 88241

505-392-2592 (Fax)

(By first class mail and FAX)

Gail MacQuesten