# 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 THE OPERATOR KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY VIOLATED NMSA 1978, SECTION 70-2-31(B)(2), 19.15.13.1115.A NMAC, AND 19.15.4.201 NMAC AS TO ELEVEN WELLS; 2) ASSESSING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS; 3) REQUIRING OPERATOR TO FILE CORRECTED PRODUCTION REPORTS BY A DATE CERTAIN; 4) REQUIRING OPERATOR TO BRING THE ELEVEN WELLS INTO COMPLIANCE WITH 19.15.4.201 NMAC BY A DATE CERTAIN AND AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION TO PLUG SAID WELLS AND FORFEIT THE APPLICABLE FINANCIAL ASSURANCE IN THE EVENT OF NON-COMPLIANCE; AND REQUIRING OPERATOR TO PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PRIVATE LESSORS AFFECTED BY THE VIOLATIONS; LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

**CASE NO. 13859** 

# 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**

APPLICANT
Oil Conservation Division

APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY
Gail MacQuesten
Oil Conservation Division
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#### RESPONDENT

Pronghorn Management Corp.

Pronghorn Management Corp. P.O. Box 1772

Hobbs, NM 88241 (505) 392-2495 FAX: 505-392-2592

#### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) seeks an order finding that Pronghorn Management Corp. (Pronghorn) knowingly and willfully violated NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-31(B)(2), 19.15.13.1115.A NMAC and 19.15.4.201 NMAC as to eleven inactive wells by filing false

Case 13859 Pre-hearing Statement Page 1 of 3 reports of production for the wells when the wells were incapable of production, and failing to comply with the OCD's inactive well rules.

The OCD also requests that the order impose penalties for those knowing and willful violations, require Pronghorn to file corrected reports by a date certain, require Pronghorn to bring the wells into compliance with 19.115.4.201 NMAC by a date certain and authorize the OCD to plug the wells and forfeit the applicable financial assurance if Pronghorn fails to comply, and require Pronghorn to provide contact information for private lessors affected by the violations.

Pronghorn has posted \$50,000 cash plugging bond.

#### APPLICANT'S PROPOSED EVIDENCE

WITNESS: ESTIMATED TIME:

Daniel Sanchez, Enforcement and Compliance 30 minutes

Manager

Dorothy Phillips, Financial Assurance Administrator by affidavit

Larry ("Buddy") Hill, District I 20 minutes

Well production and activity

Chris Williams, District I 10 minutes

Well production and activity

#### PROCEDURAL MATTERS

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

Case 13858 is a compliance action against Pronghorn as to sixteen inactive wells not covered by case 13859. Case 13858 alleges that Pronghorn knowingly and willfully failed to comply with 19.15.4.201 NMAC as to the sixteen wells by failing to plug them, place them on approved temporary abandonment status or return them to beneficial use after more than 15 months of inactivity.

In addition, the OCD requests that Mr. Hill and Mr. Williams be allowed to testify by telephone.

Respectfully submitted

this <u>7</u> day of January 2007 by

Gail MacQuesten

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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 day of January 2007:

Pronghorn Management Corp. P.O. Box 1772 Hobbs, NM 88241 505-392-2592 (Fax)

(By first class mail and FAX)

Karl Mac Casta