

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

ORIGINAL

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

CASE NO. 14356

APPLICATION OF ENERGEN RESOURCES
CORPORATION TO AMEND ORDER
NO. R-10448 TO AUTHORIZE THE
INJECTION OF WATER FOR PRESSURE
MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS FOR THE
WEST LOVINGTON-STRAWN UNIT,
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

September 3, 2009
Santa Fe, New Mexico

BEFORE: TERRY WARNELL: Hearing Examiner
DAVID BROOKS: Technical Advisor

This matter came for hearing before the New Mexico
Oil Conservation Division, Terry Warnell Hearing Examiner,
on September 3, 2009, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals
and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South St. Francis
Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

REPORTED BY: PEGGY A. SEDILLO, NM CCR NO. 88
Paul Baca Court Reporters
500 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 105
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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21	For the Applicant:	J. SCOTT HALL, ESQ.
22		Montgomery & Andrews, PA
23		P. O. Box 2307
24		Santa Fe, NM 87504-2307
25		

1 HEARING EXAMINER: Let's start with Case
2 No. 14356. This is amended and readvertised. This is the
3 Application of Energen Resources Corporation to Amend
4 Order R-10448 to Authorize the Injection of Water for
5 Pressure Maintenance Operations for the West Lovington-
6 Strawn Unit, Lea County, New Mexico. Call for
7 appearances.

8 MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, Scott Hall of
9 Montgomery and Andrews Law Firm of Santa Fe appearing on
10 behalf of Energen Resources Corporation. And I have two
11 witnesses this morning.

12 HEARING EXAMINER: Any other appearances? Will
13 the witnesses please stand and state your name and be
14 sworn?

15 MR. SAULSBERRY: Jerrald Salsberry.

16 MR. BONDURANT: Albert Bondurant.

17 (Note: The witnesses were placed under oath
18 by the court reporter.)

19 JERRALD SAULSBERRY,
20 the witness herein, after first being duly sworn
21 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. HALL:

24 Q. For the record, please state your name.

25 A. Jerrald L. Saulsberry.

1 Q. And Mr. Saulsberry, where do you live and by
2 whom are you employed?

3 A. I live in Birmingham, Alabama, and I'm employed
4 by Energen Resources.

5 Q. In what capacity?

6 A. I'm the chief reservoir engineer.

7 Q. Have you previously testified before the
8 Division and had your credentials as a reservoir engineer
9 accepted as a matter of record?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And are you familiar with the application that's
12 been filed in this case and the lands that are the subject
13 of the application?

14 A. Yes.

15 MR. HALL: At this time, Mr. Examiner, we offer
16 Mr. Saulsberry as a qualified expert reservoir engineer.

17 HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Saulsberry is so
18 qualified.

19 Q. Mr. Saulsberry, does Energen seek to utilize the
20 West Lovington-Strawn Unit Well No. 8-R for in injection
21 operations in connection with unit operations for the West
22 Lovington-Strawn Unit?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I want you to give the Hearing Examiner a
25 historical summary background of the unit, its creation

1 and operations.

2 A. Okay. The West Lovington-Strawn is an oil
3 reservoir and it's in the Strawn formation. It was
4 discovered in 1992. It's a slightly undersaturated
5 volatile oil field that has good permeability. The
6 estimated original oil in place is about 20 million
7 barrels.

8 In 1995, it was unitized for gas injection for
9 pressure maintenance. And then there were two unit
10 expansions, one in '97, and one in '98. As additional
11 wells were drilled, the unit was expanded.

12 The gas injection started in 1995 and went
13 through 2002, and then the gas injection was stopped. And
14 since then, we produced cumulative oil of about 8.3
15 million barrels.

16 Q. All of these events are outlined on your
17 Exhibit 1?

18 A. Yes, other than the 8.3 million barrels.

19 Q. What were the engineering concepts behind the
20 original pressure maintenance project for the unit?

21 A. Well, because West Lovington oil is a volatile
22 oil, which means it has a large amount of solution gas in
23 it, that as the reservoir pressure would naturally
24 deplete, a large amount of gas would come out of the oil,
25 and there would be a very high oil shrinkage.

1 And so if you produced it on natural, just
2 completion drive, the oil would have a high shrinkage and
3 the geo margin would fill up rapidly and you'd produce a
4 lot of gas. The gas would come out of the reservoir
5 prematurely and would deplete the reservoir pressure.

6 So the idea was, was to inject gas at the top of
7 the structure to maintain the pressure so that you kept
8 the pressure up high and didn't allow all that solution
9 gas to come out. And so, we injected gas at the top of
10 the structure.

11 And the gas that was produced in the other wells
12 would go to an MGL plant to take out the liquids. And
13 then the dry gas would be injected back into the
14 reservoir.

15 In addition to the dry gas, there was also some
16 purchased gas to try to make up for it to keep that
17 pressure constant.

18 Q. Were pressure maintenance injection operations
19 first authorized by the Division's 1995 Order No. R-10448?

20 A. Yes, that's the authorization.

21 Q. Okay. What was the name of the location of the
22 original injection well?

23 A. That was the Gillespie No. 1, also now known as
24 the West Lovington No. 7.

25 Q. If we look on your Exhibit 2, is that the well

1 that's on here?

2 A. Yes, it is shown in the circle there.

3 Q. Okay. And what else does Exhibit 2 show us?

4 A. Exhibit 2 also shows the structure. And if you
5 see right below the circle, that was a discovery well, and
6 the injection well was right below it.

7 Q. It was in Section 1?

8 A. Yeah, Section 1. If you notice the contours,
9 those are the top of the structure contours. And that is
10 the high point of the reservoir. And then it goes down
11 dip from there.

12 The triangle shows the well that we're going to
13 convert to water injection, the 8-R. And the different --
14 I might be getting ahead a little bit, but the different
15 colors show the unit expansion.

16 The yellow is the original unit, and then it was
17 expanded and included the blue, and then the second
18 expansion included the red.

19 Q. All right. Tell us what the approximate volumes
20 of gas that were injected for pressure maintenance.

21 A. Approximately 13.1 BCF.

22 Q. And did those injection operations succeed in
23 preventing premature dissipation of reservoir energy?

24 A. Yes. I believe it worked very well. If you
25 turn to the next exhibit, Exhibit 3, that really shows the

1 production rate for the unit. It shows the oil, gas, and
2 water, and also shows the gas injection volume, which is
3 in purple.

4 And in addition, it shows the reservoir pressure
5 which are the square dots. If you'll notice, during the
6 gas injection period, the reservoir pressure was held
7 fairly constant, and also, the oil rate went up some when
8 we started the injection.

9 And the oil recovery in the field has been
10 really good. It's been better than expectations. So I
11 think it's been very successful.

12 Q. Now, has most of the injection volume been
13 recovered back?

14 A. Well, we injected 13.1 BCF of gas, and since the
15 end of injection, we have produced an additional 18.7 BCF
16 after the injection stopped.

17 Q. All right. Tell us about the drive mechanisms
18 for the reservoir.

19 A. It's a combination drive. It includes the
20 solution gas. There's a secondary gas cap. There's some
21 gravity drainage effects, and we've also found that there
22 is a partial water drive support down dip.

23 Q. All right. With all of those mechanisms at
24 work, is there any particular problem in adding injection
25 water?

1 A. No, I don't think so. Because the water has
2 been encroaching down dip, and it's been watering out
3 wells over time as it's gradually encroached up the
4 structure, and the 8-R has already watered out, it's not
5 making any hydrocarbons. And so I think it's a good one
6 to inject in.

7 Q. All right. And what is the purpose of the
8 injection, what's the value to slow the rate of the
9 decline and reservoir pressure?

10 A. Yes. I wouldn't call it pressure maintenance,
11 but it would just slow the depletion rate.

12 Q. It will prolong the life of the unit?

13 A. Yes, it should prolong it.

14 Q. All right. And what's the status of the
15 original injection well, the No. 7 well?

16 A. It is still producing.

17 Q. It's been converted to a producer?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Tell us why you selected the West Lovington-
20 Strawn Unit Well No. 8-R as your injection candidate.

21 A. There's a few reasons. I already mentioned that
22 that well is watered out and we wouldn't be losing any
23 production from that. The well bore is good.

24 And the other thing is, if you look at
25 Exhibit 4, Exhibit 4 shows the structure. And I have

1 wells colored blue. The ones that are circular and blue,
2 those are completely watered out. And the square wells
3 are wells that are still producing but they're producing
4 at least a hundred barrels of water a day and they have a
5 water cut of over 90 percent.

6 The one with the triangle on it, that's the 8-R
7 that we want to inject water. And it's already watered
8 out but yet it's not that far away from where the wells
9 are that are still productive, so I think it will be an
10 advantage to them.

11 Q. Are you able to estimate the incremental oil
12 recoveries that you might expect from the proposed
13 injection of the water?

14 A. No, I can't, because the reservoir is light in
15 its life. It's down to about 800 pounds of pressure. We
16 don't know what the saturations are of the reservoir. And
17 with those combination drives, it's a very complex
18 reservoir, and the fluids are complex too. So I really
19 can't give you an estimate.

20 Q. Do you have sufficient confidence that you'll
21 see positive results in order to justify the cost of this
22 project?

23 A. Yes. I don't believe management would be
24 proposing it if they didn't think we could get enough oil
25 to make it economic.

1 Q. Okay. Will the substitution of water for gas
2 enhance your project economics?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How will fluids be injected through the 8-R
5 well?

6 A. Well, the reservoir, because of its high
7 permeability and low pressure, it should take the water
8 very easily. I would expect that the bottom hole pressure
9 to inject it will be below hydrostatic. But there may
10 need to be some pressure at the surface just to come over
11 the pipe friction.

12 And one thing I didn't say was, that the rate of
13 injection is going to be based on the water that's
14 produced, because we're simply going to take the produced
15 water and reinject it. And right now, that rate is around
16 two or three thousand barrels a day.

17 We've got an upward trend, so we expect that to
18 go up some, especially if we're reinjecting it. It could
19 go up to 5,000 barrels a day.

20 Q. All right. In your C-108 application and the
21 application for the hearing, you've indicated an average
22 daily injection rate of 3,000 barrels, and a maximum of
23 5,000 barrels. Do you expect those parameters will be
24 sufficient to allow you to inject the volumes that you are
25 seeking now?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. At this time, does Energen seek any other
3 relief than the amendment of Order R-10448 to authorize
4 the injection of water in lieu of gas for the unit?

5 A. No.

6 Q. There's no other need to amend the unit
7 agreement or unit operating agreement to change the track
8 allocations?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Nothing else? All right. Were Exhibits 1
11 through 4 prepared by you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. In your opinion, Mr. Saulsberry, will granting
14 Energen's application promote the interest of conservation
15 and result in the prevention of waste and the protection
16 of correlative rights?

17 A. Yes.

18 MR. HALL: That concludes my direct of this
19 witness, and we would move the admission of Exhibits 1
20 through 4.

21 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 1 through 4 are
22 admitted. Questions, Mr. Brooks?

23 MR. BROOKS: No questions.

24 HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Saulsberry, a couple of
25 questions. You said your daily water rate was about 100

1 barrels per well?

2 THE WITNESS: Well, the total for the unit is
3 around two or three thousand barrels. I think the --

4 HEARING EXAMINER: That's based on how many
5 wells?

6 THE WITNESS: How many are producing, it must
7 be -- well, between 10 and 20. I'm not sure what the
8 exact number is. The 100 barrels a day of water was at --
9 I'm showing how the water influx is on there. I'm saying
10 that some of the wells that have high water cuts are
11 making at least 100 barrels a day. I think that's where
12 the 100 barrels came from.

13 HEARING EXAMINER: All right.

14 THE WITNESS: Some of them are making 500 or 600
15 barrels, I think.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: When you did the economics on
17 this, do you know what you were calculating for a barrel
18 of oil?

19 THE WITNESS: What price for a barrel of oil?

20 HEARING EXAMINER: Price, yes.

21 THE WITNESS: No. We usually use a strip price
22 and -- But I'm not the reservoir engineer that did that
23 part of it, so I can't really say what he used.

24 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. You said you may
25 require some pressure at the surface to overcome the pipe

1 friction?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, I believe so. I'm not sure
3 if that would be the case, but it could be. Because if
4 we're injecting 5,000 barrels a day through the tubing, it
5 may take some pressure just to get that water in the
6 tubing.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: I have no further questions.

8 MR. HALL: At this time, Mr. Examiner, I would
9 call Mr. Al Bondurant to the stand.

10 AL BONDURANT,
11 the witness herein, after first being duly sworn
12 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. HALL:

15 Q. Please state your name and place of residence.

16 A. My name is Albert Bondurant. I live in
17 Birmingham, Alabama.

18 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

19 A. I'm employed by Energen Resources as a staff
20 geologist.

21 Q. All right. Are you familiar with the
22 application that's been filed in this case and the lands
23 that are the subject of the application?

24 A. Yes, sir, I am.

25 Q. You've not previously testified before the

1 New Mexico Division?

2 A. No, I have not.

3 Q. Would you give the Hearing Examiner a brief
4 summary of your educational background and work
5 experience?

6 A. I graduated with a bachelor of science degree in
7 geology from LSU in Baton Rouge in 1977. I worked from
8 '77 to 1981 in Colorado Springs for Colorado Interstate
9 Gas doing development geology related to underground
10 storage fields, gas storage fields.

11 In 1981, I moved back to Louisiana. I was an
12 exploration geologist for Terrico Oil Company working on
13 the continental shelf from the Gulf of Mexico lease sales
14 as an exploration geologist.

15 After that, I became an independent geologist
16 and I was on retainer to several companies, including
17 Kettington Oil and a couple other small ones there in
18 Lafayette.

19 I was doing prospect generation in south
20 Louisiana. My specialty was working detail mapping of
21 nearly depleted oil fields and adding additional wells.

22 In 1987, I became an environmental geologist and
23 moved to Birmingham, Alabama, and had my own company for
24 seven years. And for the other time, worked as an
25 environmental consultant doing soil and ground water

1 investigations at contamination sites. Did several
2 projects involving underground injection of treated ground
3 water and that sort of thing.

4 And in October of last year, I was hired by
5 Energen Resources as a staff geologist.

6 Q. Now, your area of responsibility includes the
7 Permian Basin in west Texas and eastern New Mexico?

8 A. That is correct.

9 MR. HALL: At this time, Mr. Examiner, we offer
10 Mr. Bondurant as a qualified expert petroleum geologist.

11 HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Bondurant is so
12 qualified.

13 Q. Tell the Hearing Examiner what Energen is asking
14 the Division to do in this application.

15 A. Basically, we want to convert the WLSU No. 8-R
16 oil well to injection of produced water. And in the
17 conversion of that, it will be a closed system and all
18 water will be injected in preparation from 1,520 feet to
19 1,592 feet in the 8-R well, which is the permeable and
20 porous portion of the Strawn Formation in that well.

21 Q. If you'll look at Exhibit No. 5, did you assist
22 in the preparation of this C-108?

23 A. Yes, I did.

24 Q. Let's clarify one thing. If we look at the
25 fifth page of the C-108, it's some of the narrative you

1 have prepared?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. In our application, we ask for authorization to
4 inject perforations at depths from 11,520 feet to 11,592
5 feet. In the second paragraph of that page, it indicates
6 that the 8-R well penetrated the top of the Strawn
7 porosity at a depth of 11,546. Can you explain that
8 difference?

9 A. Yeah. The difference there is, the 8-R well is
10 actually perforated up to 11,520, which is 26 feet higher
11 than that number I have there. I'll show through a later
12 exhibit the actual log from that well.

13 The best part of the porosity in the section
14 starts at 11,546, and that's what we initially had
15 perforated it. And just to pick up anything possible in
16 the lower porosity section right above it, we have
17 perforated that. And it is in the Strawn, and it is --
18 you know, we're not adding anything different. It's below
19 the top of the Strawn marker and it's recognized as the
20 same unit.

21 Q. So all these depths are contained within the
22 unitized formation --

23 A. That's correct. And that's what we advertised.
24 In the advertisement, it was only 11,520 to 11,592.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. So it was just an inadvertent thing on my part.
2 That's where I would pick the top of the porosity if I was
3 doing a log.

4 Q. Let's turn to the C-108, the first well
5 schematic. Is that the schematic for the 8-R, formerly
6 the Snyder "S" Con No. 1?

7 A. Yes, it is.

8 Q. And one thing we should note on there, the
9 surface location is reflected in the schematic; is that
10 right?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And the well has been sidetracked?

13 A. It was sidetracked. It was off by a little over
14 a hundred feet. And all of that, the C-102, the
15 directional survey, and all that information, the State
16 has.

17 Q. Okay. And Page 6 of the C-108 is your area of
18 review map, correct?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. It's also got the well location on there. And
21 then the C-105 for the 8-R well is also below the well
22 schematic, and we can find the bottom hole location for
23 the sidetrack?

24 A. That is correct. Yes.

25 Q. And would that be 1,870 from the south line, and

1 859 feet from the west line?

2 A. That is correct. It's also shown on the area of
3 review spreadsheet that lists all the wells that are
4 within a half mile radius.

5 Q. Okay.

6 HEARING EXAMINER: That's Unit L?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes.

8 A. And again, the area of review document, that's a
9 half mile radius for wells that penetrated the Strawn, and
10 then there is a two mile radius for water wells that
11 we see on there, and that's why there's two different
12 circles on there.

13 Q. Now, the seventh page of the C-108 is the page
14 just below your AOR map. What does that show us?

15 A. The spreadsheet?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Okay. Yeah, the spreadsheet includes all the
18 wells in the half mile radius AOR. It includes all the
19 Energen wells that have been drilled and/or abandoned that
20 are within that radius.

21 Of those wells, you can see on the spreadsheet
22 the AOR is listed as TA, it's temporarily abandoned.
23 We're not currently producing out of it. The 8 was
24 plugged and abandoned. There were several others. The 9
25 was plugged and abandoned, the 20 and the No. 2.

1 And then there is one other well in that unit
2 that has an asterisk by it, the Cabot Carbon Company
3 Warren Snyder No. 1, it is currently plugged and
4 abandoned. It was not drilled into the Strawn, it was
5 stopped in the perma phrase.

6 Q. All the other wells --

7 A. All the other wells were producers out of the
8 Strawn.

9 Q. All right, all the Strawn penetrations in the
10 AOR?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. Tell the Hearing Examiner how this interval of
13 the Strawn was selected for injection.

14 A. Well, it was selected because it has the best
15 porosity and permeability of the Strawn section. And in
16 the AOR, this section that we want to inject into was the
17 same section that we produced out of before it watered
18 out.

19 Q. Okay. And let's look again at the well bore
20 schematic for the 8-R. Can you discuss the casing and
21 cementing for the well?

22 A. Yes. The surface casing, which is 13 and 3/8
23 inch casing, was originally set to a depth of 391 feet to
24 protect the shallow ground water. It was cemented in
25 place and the cement was circulated to the surface.

1 A second strain, which was the intermediate
2 casing which was 8 5/8ths inch, extends back to the
3 surface from a depth of 4,753 feet. It too was cemented
4 in place, circulated to the surface.

5 Then the actual production casing, which is 5
6 1/2 inches, extends to the total depth of the well which
7 is 11,887, and it, too, was cemented back to the surface.

8 So the casing there is in good shape. And of
9 course, we will use production tubing inside of that. But
10 it was sufficient to protect the shallow -- to protect the
11 water aquifer, which is our main concern.

12 Q. If we could look at the profile for the original
13 plugged well on the schematic, it indicates there was a
14 casing collapse?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And if you look through some of the other
17 schematics, there's casing collapses indicated on them,
18 too?

19 A. Right. Well, Energen has been proactive when --
20 where we have casing problems in these wells, we have
21 either elected to -- or we've plugged and abandoned that
22 section and have elected to either sidetrack it or drill a
23 replacement well. And that would be our policy, again, to
24 prevent casing leaks causing a problem.

25 Q. Okay. Again, this will be an open hole

1 completion?

2 A. No, it's not an open hole completion, the casing
3 in the well will be perforated through the casing with
4 tubing.

5 Q. All right. Let's elaborate a little further.
6 How will liquids be injected, do you expect that the well
7 will take water by gravity drainage?

8 A. That is correct. Viable water will be
9 introduced into the well through tubing directly into the
10 perforated section that is a cast iron bridge plug above
11 the perforations.

12 And so the only interval open for injection will
13 be those Strawn perforations. And like I say, the
14 water -- not to elaborate on what our engineer said
15 because he knows more about that than I do, but basically,
16 there will be no additional pressure other than the casing
17 friction and that sort of thing caused by the water
18 actually going down the well.

19 Q. And the well will be equipped with a check
20 valve?

21 A. Yeah, it will have a check valve to prevent
22 backflow.

23 Q. Okay. Do you know what materials will be used
24 for the tubing?

25 A. Yeah. The tubing is a poly lined tubing to

1 prevent corrosion.

2 Q. Okay. Now, will this be a closed system?

3 A. Yes, indeed. No other water will be introduced
4 other than the produced water.

5 Q. Is there any reason to believe that the
6 injection fluids or reservoir fluids are incompatible?

7 A. No, they're one and the same.

8 Q. Would you give the Hearing Examiner a brief
9 overview of the Strawn formation?

10 A. The productive Strawn formation is a limestone.
11 It was formed -- it's a middle Pennsylvanian limestone.
12 It was formed by -- it's basically algal mounding, and
13 basically an algal-type reef.

14 And the algae precipitated the limestone and it
15 basically grows -- well, analogous to a reef situation of
16 today. And as the limestone was exposed summarily to
17 potentially fresh water, that sort of thing, it would
18 develop secondary porosity. As the water would dissolve
19 part of the limestone, it created a network of solution
20 openings through the limestone which is basically the
21 secondary porosity and permeability.

22 There is some intergranular, intercrystalline
23 porosity within the limestone that could be either
24 connected with some slight fracturing, and that sort of
25 thing.

1 Our experience is, that there is not a lot of
2 tectonic activity that resulted in a bunch of fracturings,
3 it's mostly just the small fracturing within the secondary
4 porosity of the Strawn. And where it's developed is
5 extremely productive, where it's not, it's extremely
6 tight.

7 Q. All right. Let's look at your geologic
8 exhibits, 6, 7, and 8, your structure and well log, and
9 then your cross-section.

10 A. There's three exhibits there. Okay, I'll take
11 them a little bit out of order. I'll take the well log
12 first. That is a copy of the neutron density log run on
13 the 8-R.

14 And again, just to back up to what we said a
15 little earlier, the top of the perforations in that well
16 are at 11,520 feet, which is -- if you look on it, you've
17 got one red line across it, STW, right at 11,500 feet,
18 that's the top of the Strawn marker.

19 And then the next red line across there which is
20 not labeled, that would be 11,520, and that's the top of
21 our perforations.

22 And the third red line that has the porosity
23 symbol on it, that was where we actually picked the top of
24 the best porosity in the zone. The base of the porosity
25 is also labeled right at 11,592.

1 Again, that is the interval, that entire
2 interval is where we will be injecting, and that again, is
3 the interval where we have produced out of this well.

4 Q. Okay. All these intervals are contained within
5 the unitized formations of the Strawn?

6 A. That is correct. And if you'll notice on the
7 neutron density curves, that's the red and blue dashed
8 curves on the right-hand side of the log, you can see that
9 the left deflection -- I'm not going to get into log
10 analysis, but the left deflection of that interval is
11 indicative of porosity.

12 And you'll notice that below that, say 11,600,
13 those lines just run with the track straight down
14 indicating very little or no porosity.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. The structure contour map, which was Exhibit 6,
17 first of all, the blue line across it, that is the actual
18 line of cross-section which is shown on Exhibit 8. I'll
19 talk about that in just a second.

20 The main things in there on the structure
21 contour map are, down structure on the north side, there's
22 a blue line that is labeled 7,627 feet subsea. That is
23 the depth of the original oil/water contact that was
24 determined in the field.

25 And as Jerry testified, there is some water

1 drive mechanism in it, so water influx has occurred from
2 the north to the south as production has occurred.

3 And if you look to the southern part of the
4 unit, it's around WLSU 7 and 5, there near the very top of
5 the structure, it has a very nice structural feature
6 there.

7 Part of the look of that is the result of that
8 algal mounding. I mean, it basically reflects the extra
9 reservoir thickness that has resulted from mounding, and a
10 lot of times it makes little biscuit-looking features.

11 So the Strawn itself, if you'll look on the
12 cross-section, the yellow zone highlighted is the Strawn
13 porosity --

14 Q. That's your Exhibit A?

15 A. Yes, that's correct, the top of the Strawn. The
16 Strawn marker is the top dashed black line, and the bottom
17 dashed black line would be the base of the porosity
18 section.

19 The dashed blue line is the oil/water contact,
20 and it's 7,716 feet. And of course, it would have come up
21 now and watered out some of these wells.

22 And the red dashed line at the bottom is the top
23 of the Atoka, which is also productive in this area but
24 it's not currently producing in any wells in the AOR.

25 The Strawn is encapsulated in low permeability,

1 low porosity shales, mudstones, and then the bottom part
2 of it is just very dense grainstones, that limestone.

3 So it's trapped structurally, but also
4 stratigraphically. So it makes an excellent reservoir, in
5 my opinion, for -- If you're injecting any additional
6 fluids, you can feel confident it's going to stay where
7 you're putting it.

8 Q. So you're confident that the injection fluids
9 will remain contained?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Is there currently any nonStrawn production
12 within your area of review?

13 A. Not in the area of review. There is shallow
14 production in the area from the perma Penn section, and
15 then there is some Atoka which is below the Strawn
16 production in the area also and not currently producing
17 within a half mile radius.

18 Q. Okay. And again, all of those wells are
19 reflected on your spreadsheet in the C-108?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And there are well bore schematics for each of
22 those wells that support --

23 A. There are schematics for each well that is in
24 the AOR.

25 Q. Are you confident that the available data was

1 sufficient to permit you to determine with some accuracy
2 the casing depths and the cement tops and bottoms in all
3 these wells?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was there any evidence of casing leaks in any of
6 the wells?

7 A. We have had casing leaks in some of our wells,
8 and I mentioned earlier that they were properly abandoned,
9 and some of the ones we sidetracked or run -- drilled a
10 replacement well. But none are currently leaking because
11 we took care of it.

12 Q. Is Energen satisfied that the conditions of all
13 of the wells within the area of review are such that none
14 of them will act as a conduit for the transmission of
15 injection fluids to fresh water?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Okay. Let's talk about all the fresh water
18 aquifers within the area of review.

19 A. All right. The primary drinking water aquifer
20 in the area is the Ogallala formation that's present from
21 50 feet to I guess 250 feet below ground surface.

22 Is it protected by the casing program in all
23 those wells, at least two strings of casing. The original
24 surface casing in there and intermediate casings were set
25 and cemented into place to protect the Ogallala from being

1 in contact with salt water.

2 I'm going to jump ahead. We sampled five water
3 wells that were present in the two mile AOR as required.
4 We sampled them back in March.

5 Q. And that's reflected in the --

6 A. Right, and we have analyses from those.

7 Q. The five wells you sampled, they're identified
8 on the spreadsheet in the C-108?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. Now, based on Energen's investigation of the
11 geologic and engineering data, have you seen any evidence
12 of open faults or other hydrologic connection between the
13 disposal -- rather, the injection interval in any sort of
14 underground drinking water?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. Does the C-108 reference the water wells
17 you sampled -- the chemical analysis also supporting your
18 spreadsheet of those wells you sampled?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. Let's talk about the notice that was provided by
21 way of the C-108. Did you notify the surface owner?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that's reflected on Page 5 of the C-108; is
24 that correct?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And Dan Field is the surface owner. Okay. Did
2 Energen receive any other objections to the project?

3 A. We received no objections.

4 Q. In your opinion, will injection operations pose
5 any threat of impairment of correlative rights or waste of
6 hydrocarbon reserves?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And in your opinion, can the project be operated
9 so that public health and safety and the environment will
10 be protected?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Now, were Exhibits 5 through 8 prepared by you
13 or at your direction?

14 A. That is correct, they were.

15 Q. All right.

16 MR. HALL: At this point, we would move the
17 admission of Exhibits 5, 6, 7, and 8, Mr. Examiner. And
18 that concludes our direct of this witness.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 5 through 8 will be
20 admitted. Questions, David?

21 MR. BROOKS: I have no questions.

22 HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Bondurant, let's go back.
23 I'm looking at the well sketch for the 8-R.

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

25 HEARING EXAMINER: I believe you said that that

1 intermediate string -- which is 8 and 5/8ths?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

3 HEARING EXAMINER: Was cemented and circulated
4 back to surface?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

6 HEARING EXAMINER: When I look at that, that
7 looks to me like the top of the cement there, is it 1,950?

8 THE WITNESS: Let me check my notes on here.
9 You are correct. I'm sorry.

10 HEARING EXAMINER: So it was not --

11 THE WITNESS: That's right, it was cemented back
12 to 1,950, that is correct.

13 HEARING EXAMINER: And the tubing size is what
14 size?

15 THE WITNESS: I'm going to say 2 and 3/8ths.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: I jotted down 2 and 7/8ths,
17 but --

18 THE WITNESS: 2 and 7/8ths. I've actually got
19 the details on it right here if I can put my fingers on
20 it.

21 HEARING EXAMINER: It's probably here in the
22 C-108. And then I was a little confused looking at the
23 log, your perms are marked on there now from 11,520 to
24 11,592?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes. It was actually 11,520 to

1 11,540, then 11,546 to 11,592 is what was actually --
2 this -- that was the -- To back up just a little bit. A
3 number of these wells, when they were originally
4 perforated, they were perforated in the various sweetest
5 part of the well, and that would have been the ones we've
6 shown here.

7 And then we came back through later in the
8 process of adding perfs in the very top to make sure that
9 we got all the available oil that was in there.

10 So that's why a number of these wells have two
11 sets of perfs, one over the meat of the well, and they're
12 listed right on the top. The porosity is not nearly as
13 well developed, but we didn't want to leave anything
14 behind.

15 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And then the top of
16 the Strawn you're calling at 11,500?

17 THE WITNESS: The top of the Strawn marker is at
18 11,500, yes, sir.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: And the base is --

20 THE WITNESS: Well, the base of the porosity is
21 at 11,592.

22 HEARING EXAMINER: What would you call the base
23 of the Strawn?

24 THE WITNESS: The base of the Strawn is actually
25 well below there. 11,800, I believe. We don't normally

1 worry about the base of it because -- I would say -- hang
2 on, I can tell you. 250 feet below the top of -- about
3 11,780, which would then be the top of the Atoka.

4 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. No further questions.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, I offer Exhibit 9,
7 which is our notice affidavit of the surface owner. And
8 then the New Mexico State Land office was notified.

9 Exhibit 10 is our published affidavit and notice
10 as well. And that's all we have.

11 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. If that's all then,
12 we'll take Case No. 14356 under advisement.

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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 _____

20

_____, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division

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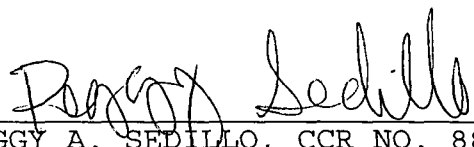
25

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

5 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
 6

7 I, PEGGY A. SEDILLO, Certified Court
 8 Reporter of the firm Paul Baca Professional
 9 Court Reporters do hereby certify that the
 10 foregoing transcript is a complete and accurate
 11 record of said proceedings as the same were
 12 recorded by me or under my supervision.

13 Dated at Albuquerque, New Mexico this
 14 10th day of September, 2009.
 15
 16
 17

18 
 19 PEGGY A. SEDILLO, CCR NO. 88
 20 License Expires 12/31/09
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