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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:

ORIGINAL

CASE NO. 14455

APPLICATION OF COG OPERATING, LLC
FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT INJECTION
OPERATIONS FOR EVALUATION FOR SECONDARY
RECOVERY OPERATIONS, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

and

APPLICATION OF COG OPERATING, LLC
FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT INJECTION
OPERATIONS FOR EVALUATION FOR SECONDARY
RECOVERY OPERATIONS, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO. 14456

and

APPLICATION OF COG OPERATING, LLC
FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT INJECTION
OPERATIONS FOR EVALUATION FOR SECONDARY
RECOVERY OPERATIONS, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO. 14457

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

April 1, 2010
Santa Fe, New Mexico

BEFORE: WILLIAM B. JONES: Hearing Examiner
DAVID BROOKS: Legal Adviser

This matter came for hearing before the New Mexico
Oil Conservation Division, William B. Jones, Hearing
Examiner, on April 1, 2010, 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
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500 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 105
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A P P E A R A N C E S

18	FOR THE APPLICANT:	SCOTT HALL, ESQ.
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20		Santa Fe, NM 87504-2307
21	FOR BP AMERICA:	WILLIAM F. CARR, ESQ.
22		Holland and Hart
		110 North Guadalupe, Suite 1
23		Santa Fe, NM 87501

1 HEARING EXAMINER: At this time, let's call Case
2 14455, the Application of COG Operating LLC for
3 Authorization to Conduct Injection Operations for
4 Evaluation of Secondary Recovery Operations, Eddy County,
5 New Mexico. Call for appearances.

6 MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, Scott Hall of the
7 Montgomery and Andrews Law Firm in Santa Fe on behalf of
8 the Applicant. And I have two witnesses this morning.

9 HEARING EXAMINER: Other appearances?

10 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, William
11 F. Carr with the Santa Fe office of Holland and Hart, LLP.
12 I represent BP America Production Company. I do not have
13 a witness. We're not here to attempt to hinder COG's
14 efforts to test water flood feasibility, but we are in the
15 area of interest.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: Any other appearances? Okay,
17 I think in the record we have an appearance from Limerock
18 Resources.

19 MR. HALL: Yes. And they have provided us with
20 a waiver of objection letter which we'll introduce.

21 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. With that, will the
22 two witnesses please stand and state your names and be
23 sworn?

24 MR. PRENTICE: Richard Prentice.

25 MR. REYES: Ramon Reyes.

1 (Note: The witnesses were placed under oath.)

2 MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, if I may provide you
3 with a brief opening statement. These three cases involve
4 four wells in Case 14455. There is the Continental A
5 State No. 11 and the Continental A State No. 12.

6 Case 14456 is for the Mesquite State No. 15, and
7 Case No. 14457 is for the Texaco BE State No. 8. We ask
8 that all three of these cases be consolidated for hearing.

9 We have provided you with what we've labeled
10 as -- Exhibit 3 is, in fact, a compilation of the C-108s
11 and the reporting materials for each of these wells.

12 And the reason we want to proceed this way is to
13 advise the Examiner that COG is at the point in this
14 operation to simply gather data. It is something of an
15 science experiment at this point.

16 COG is not at the point where it's actually
17 implementing secondary recovery operations, it's simply
18 obtaining data to determine the feasibility of that.

19 And so there is very little -- no need for land
20 testimony, frankly, but we thought a good place for us to
21 start would be to provide you with an overview of the
22 geology of the injection intervals in the Glorieta-Yeso
23 formation. And for that purpose, we have Mr. Ramon Reyes,
24 geologist, to testify this morning.

25 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Should we call the

1 other two cases formally?

2 MR. BROOKS: And consolidate them, yes.

3 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Let's call also Case
4 14456, the Application of COG Operating, LLC for
5 Authorization to Conduct Injection Operations for
6 Evaluation of Secondary Recovery Operations, Eddy County,
7 New Mexico. Call for appearances on this case.

8 MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, Scott Hall of
9 Montgomery and Andrews, Santa Fe, on behalf of the
10 Applicant, COG Operating, LLC.

11 HEARING EXAMINER: Any other appearances?

12 MR. CARR: I would request the record just note
13 our appearance in the consolidated cases.

14 HEARING EXAMINER: And we would also call Case
15 14457, the Application of COG Operating, LLC for
16 Authorization to Conduct Injection Operations for
17 Evaluation for Secondary Recovery Operations, Eddy County,
18 New Mexico. And the appearances are the same? Okay. You
19 may proceed.

20 RAMON REYES,
21 the witness herein, after first being duly sworn
22 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. HALL:

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

1 A. Ramon Reyes.

2 Q. Mr. Reyes, where do you live and by whom are you
3 employed?

4 A. I live in Midland, Texas, and I'm employed with
5 Concho, or COG Operating Company.

6 Q. And what do you could for Concho, COG?

7 A. I'm a geologist for Concho.

8 Q. Have you previously testified before the
9 Division and had your credentials established as a matter
10 of record?

11 A. Yes, I have.

12 Q. Are you familiar with the wells and the lands
13 that are the subject of these three applications?

14 A. I am.

15 Q. And have you conducted a geologic study of the
16 area?

17 A. I have.

18 MR. HALL: At this point, Mr. Examiner, we'd
19 offer Mr. Reyes as a qualified expert petroleum geologist.

20 HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Reyes is qualified as an
21 expert petroleum geologist.

22 Q. If you would, please, Mr. Reyes, let's turn to
23 your Exhibit 1, and would you provide the Hearing Examiner
24 with an overview of the geology for the Yeso, explain what
25 we're trying to do here.

1 A. Okay. Good morning. The first map that we have
2 in front of you is a structure map, and the structure map
3 is on top of the Yeso. And really, it's just showing you
4 a regional overview of the four wells that we're going to
5 be speaking about here this morning.

6 Three are pretty concentrated over here in
7 Township 17 29, and the Texaco BE No. 8 over here to the
8 east are in 17 30. This map represents, again, a
9 structure map.

10 As you can see, these are located in the
11 southern end of the northwest shelf. And you can see by
12 the contours at the bottom part of this map, you can see
13 the shelf influence for the Delaware-Basin. Kind of gives
14 us the boundary, so to speak, for the production part of
15 the Yeso and in this part of the world.

16 These pools or fills are pretty much tied in
17 together, and they're pretty extensive. They go all the
18 way down -- all the way to 17 32 in Lea County, and all
19 the way to the west to 17 28, and a little bit beyond
20 that.

21 Also what you see on the map here, as you see,
22 the yellow. The yellow represents our acreage position in
23 this part with varying degrees of ownership. Also you'll
24 note that there is quite a few locations and there's a lot
25 of well control. So this is a pretty accurate map of what

1 you're seeing overall.

2 The structure map going from west to east is a
3 downward structure going -- it's dipping to the east. So
4 the wells over to the east are probably roughly 1,500 feet
5 deeper than they are on the western edge.

6 So there's just a nice, smooth down-dip
7 structure overall. Not much to say otherwise, and it's
8 all pretty much consistent and there's not a whole lot of
9 change as far as thickening and thinning of the overall
10 section of where we're talking about. So we'll go ahead
11 and move on to the next exhibit.

12 On the next exhibit, there's actually four
13 different cross-sections, each one having three wells hung
14 on top of the same structure map that I just showed you on
15 top of the Yeso.

16 The middle wells for each of the four
17 cross-sections are the subject wells that Mr. Prentice
18 will be talking about later on.

19 The cross-section pretty much just shows you how
20 consistent and how fluid the overall sections are that
21 we're going to be talking about. These wells are roughly
22 over 2 miles apart overall.

23 And you can see by our picks and how it's hung,
24 it's pretty consistent. You can see where it starts
25 getting down-dip as we go farther and farther east. It's

1 demonstrated by the structure map.

2 We'll be talking about the Yeso section. And
3 the Yeso section is a carbonate section that's roughly
4 about 1,200 feet thick overall. It's fairly well defined,
5 because the Glorieta is a siltstone section and it can be
6 well depicted on logs.

7 And at the base of the Yeso is the tub, again,
8 another siltstone that's fairly thick. And you can --
9 it's also very easy to depict on logs.

10 Focusing on the Yeso, the upper part of the
11 Yeso, because it is such a big section, we've broken it
12 down into two different names that -- the upper third part
13 of the section, we call it the Paddock, and then the
14 bottom two-thirds of it we call the Blinbry.

15 And the pick that you're seeing here, it's a
16 generalized over -- For the most part, everyone agrees
17 with the pick industry wise, but for our in-house, this is
18 what we use. Because it's a fairly consistent siltsand
19 section that's roughly about ten feet thick and it's
20 pretty consistent throughout going from west to east.

21 Just a little history on this Yeso production.
22 The majority of the production was focused on the Paddock,
23 which is the upper perms that you're seeing there up on
24 top.

25 That was fairly obvious, because if you look at

1 the logs, that's where you see the better concentration of
2 porosity. It's a little bit higher. It averages 8 to 10
3 percent porosity, sometimes in other places a little
4 higher. And so that's pretty obvious where you want to go
5 and try to make an economic or commercial well.

6 As you go farther down in the section of the
7 Blinebry, you'll see where the porosity signature on that
8 section is fairly tight. And I demonstrated it because
9 there's a green line going straight -- going down across,
10 and that's actually zero porosity. So anything to the
11 left of your -- if you're knowledgeable in reading logs is
12 where your porosity starts. Those are two percent
13 increments going to your left.

14 So you see the Blinebry is very tight rock. It
15 averages two to three percent porosity. Really tight.
16 Which is why for a long time this was not very
17 prospective. No one tapped into it, nobody understood
18 that it could be an economic and productive zone.

19 Due to new stimulation and fracing techniques,
20 we found that doing that has made wells productive and
21 commercial. So we feel we're one of the front runners as
22 far as producing the bottom two-thirds of this interval.

23 So now we're looking at pretty much the whole
24 package. And you will note in the Paddock, you'll see the
25 perfs pretty much mimic or mirror where the best porosity

1 interval is and where it was produced.

2 And then you have a 150 to 200 feet section that
3 is fairly tight. It's as tight, if not tighter, than the
4 rest of the log going down. And that kind of gives you --
5 that's where that separation that people saw that -- you
6 know, this is the best part to do, so everything else was
7 ignored.

8 So now here we are looking at this overall
9 section. And now we want to continue on with our
10 development and to do the ultimate we can to recover all
11 the hydrocarbons we can from these intervals.

12 Q. And Exhibit 1 is your structure map. And does
13 Exhibit 2 consist of four cross-sections consolidated into
14 one exhibit?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And were Exhibits 1 and 2 prepared by you?

17 A. They were.

18 MR. HALL: At this point, Mr. Examiner that
19 concludes the direct of this witness. And we'd move the
20 admission of Exhibits 1 and 2.

21 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 1 and 2 will be
22 admitted. Is this -- How do you pick the Blinbry if it's
23 so tight on the logs, do you pick it based on mud log
24 shows?

25 THE WITNESS: How do we pick the top of the

1 Blinebry?

2 HEARING EXAMINER: Well, the prospective zones
3 in the Blinebry.

4 THE WITNESS: How do we know where to put our
5 perfs?

6 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes.

7 THE WITNESS: Well, it's been a learning process
8 as we've gone along. We've increased the size of our
9 fracs. We've modified as we've gone along. What we've
10 down now is, we perforate at 200 foot intervals and we try
11 to pick as best we can with the tight rock that you see
12 there, we try to -- we try to space them up 100 feet apart
13 with 200 foot intervals and try to get as many of those
14 200 foot intervals as we can in that section.

15 Sometimes we'll do two, sometimes we'll do three
16 depending on how thick that interval is. And then we frac
17 them.

18 So yeah, you can distinguish -- I can't tell you
19 that the bottom third or the upper third is the better
20 part of the overall interval. I mean, we're talking three
21 percent porosity. So it's really tight rock.

22 HEARING EXAMINER: And that would imply that it
23 can't hold that much oil or gas either. So -- but I guess
24 the shale plays are -- I think cracking is the key, I
25 guess.

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

2 HEARING EXAMINER: And it looks like you're not
3 afraid to perforate the higher gamma ray zones either.

4 THE WITNESS: No, sir. You'll notice sometimes
5 that if you do get some silt sections in this part of the
6 world -- and that's influenced by being so close to the
7 shelf edge, that you start getting these channels as
8 you're coming off the shelf edge, and you do run into some
9 of those.

10 Part of that -- of this silts is, we try -- we
11 try not to see them but we do as we get farther down; they
12 tend to be more wet.

13 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

14 THE WITNESS: And so we try to avoid that as
15 much as we can.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. But it's extremely
17 tight rock and you're going to put water in it to try to
18 force oil to the producing wells. It's the same -- and
19 you have to frac it. So it just -- Good luck in your
20 venture. I hope it succeeds. But it just seems a little
21 bit -- Has it happened before, do you have some analogy of
22 Blinbry water floods?

23 THE WITNESS: I'll defer that to Mr. Prentice.

24 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. The difference between
25 the Glorieta and the Paddock, I've always wondered why --

1 because the Yeso includes such a huge interval and I
2 remember seeing it in the outcrops, you know, of Tijeras
3 Canyon and stuff, but it's totally different, I guess,
4 here.

5 THE WITNESS: Right. And the reason the
6 Glorieta is also -- includes the Yeso, because there has
7 been some producers that have actually perforated the
8 Glorieta, because it is higher porosity and it does give
9 you mud log shows. But overall, they tend to be more wet
10 than anything else. So we try to avoid that interval.

11 HEARING EXAMINER: And the Paddock is just a
12 porosity zone that comes and goes inside the Yeso?

13 THE WITNESS: Correct.

14 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Well, it's a big
15 dropoff in the structure, but you still -- you still have
16 oil saturations over on the lower structural -- you have
17 good production from this area?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. I have no more
20 questions.

21 MR. BROOKS: No questions.

22 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

24 MR. HALL: We would call Richard Prentice.

25

1 RICHARD PRENTICE,
2 the witness herein, after first being duly sworn
3 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. HALL:

6 Q. For the record, state your name.

7 A. Richard Prentice.

8 Q. Mr. Prentice, where do you live?

9 A. Midland, Texas.

10 Q. By whom are you employed?

11 A. Concho Resources.

12 Q. What do you do for Concho?

13 A. I'm a reservoir engineer.

14 Q. And Concho and COG are one and the same?

15 A. One and the same, yes, sir.

16 Q. All right. Have you previously testified before
17 the Division and had your credentials as an engineer
18 accepted as a matter of record?

19 A. Yes, I have.

20 Q. You're familiar with the lands and the wells
21 that are the subject of these three applications?

22 A. Yes, I am.

23 MR. HALL: At this point, Mr. Examiner, we would
24 offer Mr. Prentice as a qualified expert petroleum
25 engineer.

1 HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Prentice is so qualified.

2 Q. If you would, Mr. Prentice, would you give the
3 Hearing Examiner an overview summary of what COG is trying
4 to do with these wells?

5 A. As the Examiners have already begun to notice,
6 we are attempting to discover and determine the
7 feasibility of injecting fluids into the Paddock and
8 Blinebry in these four wells and in these fields, these
9 pools.

10 Q. And if we can turn to Exhibit 3, Mr. Prentice,
11 is Exhibit 3 your notebook with C-108 applications for
12 each of these wells?

13 A. Yes, they are.

14 MR. HALL: And a good way to find your way
15 through this material, Mr. Examiner, we've separated these
16 by case number. There is a tab for each case number.

17 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

18 MR. HALL: And then there is a table of contents
19 just below the case number tab which will provide you with
20 guidance for each of the subtabs. There is a Roman
21 numeral one.

22 Tab I is the justification for the project.

23 Tab II is a production plot and mobility ratio
24 plot.

25 Tab III provides you with the well data.

1 Tab V is the area of review maps.

2 Tab VI is a well tabulation.

3 Tab VII is the proposed operation.

4 Tab VIII is a geological review and analysis of
5 the ground water.

6 Tab IX is the injection proceed.

7 Tab X is the current test data.

8 Tab XI, fresh water analysis.

9 Tab XII, geological fresh water statement.

10 And then proof of notice that was given during
11 the administrative round. I have another set of notice
12 affidavits to give you.

13 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

14 Q. On top of the table of contents is the
15 Division's form C-108 for each of these wells. And I
16 thought that we would simply try to discuss these by
17 subject matter together for each well as we proceeded.

18 So if you could, Mr. Prentice, briefly identify
19 each of the wells and their prospective pools that they
20 are in.

21 A. The four wells that we're discussing this
22 morning are the Continental A State No. 11 and No. 12 in
23 Section 30; Units F and D of the Empire field; and
24 Mesquite State 15 in Section 20, Unit L of the Empire East
25 field; and Texaco BE No. 8 in Section 16; the Loco Hills

1 field in Section T 17S R 30E; the other 3R in 17 South
2 20E, all in Eddy County, new Mexico.

3 Q. And briefly, what are you trying to do here with
4 your injectivity project?

5 A. Briefly, what we're trying to do is to establish
6 -- this is part of an overall feasibility study of
7 potential secondary recovery operations in the Empire and
8 the Empire East fields and Loco Hills field in both the
9 Paddock and in the Blinbry areas.

10 Q. So COG is not implementing actual secondary
11 recovery operations at this time through this project; is
12 that correct?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. And so you're not asking for the designation of
15 project areas around these injectors?

16 A. No, we are not.

17 Q. Okay. If you would, we've already reviewed the
18 table of contents; let's get ourselves located, if you
19 could direct us to Tab V.

20 A. Tab V has area of review maps, the half mile
21 radius around each of the proposed injectors, and a two
22 mile radius map beyond that.

23 Q. And if we want to find the actual footage
24 locations for the surface and bottom holes for each of
25 these wells, can we find that under Tab III for each case?

1 A. Yes. Tab III on each of these wells lists the
2 footage of where each one of these wells is located.

3 Q. And Tab III also gives you -- it's labeled "Well
4 Data," is it not?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. It gives you some information with respect to
7 your packers and your packer setting depths?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Tell us, what is the source of the injection
10 fluids?

11 A. The source of the injection fluids is, we
12 produce water from the areas, from the area leases.

13 Q. Are they all COG leased wells?

14 A. Yes, they are.

15 Q. Okay. Tell the Hearing Examiner how you
16 selected these particular intervals of the Glorieta-Yeso
17 for injection.

18 A. We selected the wells based on ownership, and we
19 selected the wells for their completions in both the
20 Paddock and in the Blinebry that we thought might be
21 amenable to discovering what's feasible in our injection
22 plans.

23 Q. And the geological determinations in-house has
24 been that the formation in the Paddock and Blinebry is
25 fairly consistent contiguous throughout the area of the

1 four wells?

2 A. Yes, it appears to be that way.

3 Q. Okay. If we refer to Tab I for each of these
4 wells, what is Tab I?

5 A. Tab 1 is a justification for the conversion of
6 each of these wells to injection.

7 Q. What type of data do you hope to derive from
8 your injectivity testing?

9 A. We're hoping to determine data such as reservoir
10 preferential permeability trends, injectivities into each
11 interval, injection performances, sweep efficiencies,
12 operating pressure, so forth and so on, that might be
13 incorporated into future secondary recovery operations if
14 they prove to be feasible.

15 Q. What else is reflected on the justification
16 section?

17 A. There is a couple of different headings.
18 Beneath the statement of purpose, there is a heading
19 called "Oil in Place and Recoverable Reserves." I tried
20 to summarize for all four of these wells the potential
21 impacts on each well. I listed an oil in place per acre
22 by zone.

23 Typically between the two zones, the oil in
24 place is between 95,000 and 100,000 barrels per acre. I
25 tried to estimate what the impact of each individual well

1 might be and I suggested five acres and five percent, and
2 the oil recovery might be between 25,000 and 30,000
3 barrels per well for these individual well tests that
4 we're talking about.

5 Q. We get to Page 2 of that same section, and you
6 discuss mobility ratio data. Of what importance is that
7 data to you?

8 A. There was a request for whatever mobility ratio
9 data that we have. We had none in these fields. The
10 nearest mobility ratio I have is from what we call our
11 Skull unit over in Fren field in 17 31 back to the east.
12 I presented that data. It is located in the -- as a
13 matter of fact, in Tab II behind the well production
14 plots.

15 Basically, it shows that the -- a mobility ratio
16 of one is reached at a water saturation of about 43
17 percent. Most hole water saturations are below that. So
18 that gives us some level of comfort in the Paddock. This
19 is a Paddock relative perm data set.

20 Q. If we turn to Tab III, does that show us
21 something about the wellbore for each of those injections?

22 A. Yes, Tab III is the -- how each well is -- where
23 the producing horizons are and where the overlying and
24 underlying reservoirs are. It shows a schematic of the
25 well as it is now, and then a schematic of the well as we

1 propose it for injection.

2 Q. Can you explain to us the function of your
3 tandem packer setup?

4 A. Sure. The tandem packer and -- The last two
5 pages in those tabs are the tandem packer and the
6 arrangement of the wellbore as it will be. And the tandem
7 packer -- it's a downhole regulator.

8 What we're hoping to do is to very intentionally
9 force a certain volume of water into the Blinbry without
10 letting it all preferentially go into the Paddock. The
11 only way I know to do that is to use the downhole
12 regulator, and that is the mechanical arrangement of that
13 downhole regulator.

14 Q. You'll have similar arrays in each of the four
15 wells?

16 A. Yes. Yes, they're all the same.

17 Q. All right. Let's turn over to Tab VI. What
18 does that show us?

19 A. Tab VI is a tabulation of the wells in the areas
20 of review. Typically in the first two or three pages of
21 Tab VI, I list the wells by section.

22 About the fifth column over is the section
23 column, just to try to keep these all these numbers
24 relatively straight.

25 To the far right is the total depth of the well

1 that -- and that gives you an idea of what wells
2 penetrated the Yeso and which wells did not.

3 Continuing on the spreadsheet in about -- I'm in
4 the Continental book, but about Page 4, the spreadsheet is
5 continued. The wells start to repeat themselves. But
6 I've listed on those pages what the producing horizon is
7 when the wells were spudded, when the wells were
8 completed, when they were abandoned.

9 So it gives you some idea of where each well is
10 completed. And footages are listed on the first three
11 pages, of course, and unit locations.

12 Q. These wells are all reflected on the AOR maps as
13 well?

14 A. Yes, they are.

15 Q. Okay. If you turn back to the wellbore
16 schematic for any one of these wells under Tab III, can
17 you discuss the casing and cementing program for the
18 wells?

19 A. Sure. I'll just start for an instance in the
20 first tab. Again, I'm in the Continental book. The first
21 tab is a Concho State S 19 No. 1. Typically, 13 of 3 H
22 was set at about 350 to 450 feet to protect the fresh
23 water zones. 85 H was set at about 3,000 feet to protect
24 the salt sections.

25 Then the final one was set down below the zone

1 of -- this is an Abo well, Morrow well, but the 5 S was
2 set through the productive horizon, is the production
3 string. And in most cases, cement was circulated to the
4 surface.

5 Q. And that same information for each of the wells
6 can be found under Tab III for each --

7 A. Yes. I've tried to list each well by section to
8 again try to simplify finding individual wells instead of
9 going through a spaghetti bowl.

10 Q. Okay. Will these wells be open-hole completion?

11 A. No.

12 Q. How will they be completed?

13 A. Case hole. They are all case-hole completions.

14 Q. And will the fluids be injected under pressure?

15 A. Yes, they will be.

16 Q. At what pressures do you expect?

17 A. We've asked for a maximum pressure limit of
18 2,000 pounds and a maximum rate of 2,000 barrels a day
19 into these wells.

20 Q. Now, will the well heads be equipped with a
21 back-pressure limiting valve?

22 A. Yes. The service well equipment will, among
23 other things, have back-pressure check valves.

24 Q. All right. And what are the tubing materials?

25 A. Tubing is usually internally plastic coated

1 seven-eighths inch tubing.

2 Q. Okay. Let's talk about the average and maximum
3 daily injection rates you anticipate. What are those and
4 how did you determine them?

5 A. We're asking for -- like I said, a rate of 2,000
6 barrels a day, and a maximum pressure of 2,000 pounds of
7 well-head pressure. Our template is the Jenkins unit, a
8 previously authorized Paddock flood over in Loco Hills.

9 The pressure limit there is 880 pounds at the
10 well head. We had no rate limit. We found we could put
11 away 1,000 barrels a day at 880 pounds. In fact, we
12 needed to to fill up our pores and start to build pressure
13 at the well head.

14 As Mr. Reyes has indicated, the -- we have no
15 injection data points for the Blinebry, all we have is
16 core data, and we've got a very tight reservoir in the
17 Blinebry. So we're expecting a higher limit for our
18 pressure at the well head for the Blinebry.

19 Q. All right.

20 MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, there is an Order
21 authorizing injection for that Jenkins project. I'll send
22 that over to you.

23 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Thank you.

24 Q. Would you explain to the Examiner why you're
25 asking for pressures that exceed the standard gradient?

1 A. Once again, we are anticipating a much higher --
2 a lower injectivity, a higher pressure in the Blinebry
3 based simply on our core data. We cite some numbers that
4 we have on our core data.

5 On the Continental E 12 on a Blinebry hole core
6 in the interval throughout -- in the completion interval,
7 our permeabilities is two-tenths of a milidarcy. Our
8 porosity is 1.8, average. I mean, over the whole thing.

9 If we look at some of the -- That's a hole core.
10 If we look at some of the sidewall cores, the picture
11 improves a little bit on our Texaco BE 7. The porosity in
12 the Blinebry is about 6 percent and the perm is about .5
13 milidarcies. So it's not completely gloom and doom, but
14 it's not the best.

15 As compared to the Paddock -- this is in the
16 same well, the Texaco BE 7, flood core's average K is
17 about ten milidarcies, and porosity is about 12 percent.
18 So we got much better porosity and a whole lot better
19 permeability.

20 The flood on the Mesquite lease and the Paddock
21 is about 8 percent porosity and about 3 percent milidarcy
22 perms. On the Mesquite 14 in the Blinebry, we're back
23 down to 5 percent porosity and about nine-tenths of a
24 milidarcy perm. Again, these are plugged core datas.

25 On the Mesquite 16, the Blinebry is about 1.6

1 milidarcies and about 5 percent porosity. These give you
2 a flavor of why we're thinking we're going to need a
3 higher pressure on our Blinebry injection.

4 Q. You also have some shut-in pressure data that
5 you considered?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If you look under Tab VII.

8 A. Yeah, that's where I was going. Tab VII behind
9 the water analysis is a well chronology report. And I may
10 have highlighted, or may not have for the Examiner's copy,
11 but typically, I try to show what our shut-in frac
12 pressures were in the Blinebry and in the Paddock. I'm
13 looking at the Continental A 11. It's Page 3 of what we
14 call the chronology report.

15 After we frac'ed the Blinebry, our 15 minute
16 shut-in pressure was 856 pounds in the Blinebry. We
17 frac'ed the -- well, we frac'ed the Blinebry again, a
18 second Blinebry zone; a 15 minute shut-in was 809 pounds.
19 When we shot the Paddock on Page 8, the 15 minute shut-in
20 pressure was only 560 pounds.

21 So we've got some cleaves here that we're going
22 to be facing something a little bit stronger than what we
23 see in the Paddock. And these types of reports are --
24 there's another one for H 12 in the same book, and you can
25 find them in the notebooks, too.

1 MR. HALL: Excuse me, Mr. Examiner. I just need
2 a few moments here.

3 HEARING EXAMINER: Why don't we take a recess?

4 (Note: A break was taken.)

5 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, let's go back on the
6 record.

7 Q. Mr. Prentice, while we're discussing fracture
8 gradients, let's look at Exhibit 4 very briefly. Can you
9 identify that?

10 A. I think Exhibit 4 is the e-mail we received from
11 in Mr. Wesley Ingram with the BLM concerning frac
12 gradients of our proposals.

13 Q. Okay. Can you address the concerns that the BLM
14 expressed in that e-mail?

15 A. A couple things come to my attention. We're
16 seeing frac gradients out there between .75 and .9. I'm
17 not sure that I understand completely Mr. Ingram's --
18 where he got the .96 numbers.

19 If I understand correctly, the way the frac
20 gradient is calculated, it's the well-head pressure
21 divided by the top perf. By my calculations, if that's
22 the case, our 2,000 pounds translates into a frac gradient
23 between .4 and .5.

24 I really do not understand what the point .9 and
25 .96 comes from. If you use a lower set of perforations,

1 then the frac gradient just becomes less than .4, 5.

2 The second issue that catches my attention, I
3 think Mr. Ingram has expressed a concern about water
4 migrating from the Blinebry to the Paddock.

5 As the logs that Mr. Reyes showed, there's about
6 a 150, 200 foot interval between the two zones. We don't
7 expect migrations between the two, and even if -- in the
8 remote case that there is, this is all considered to be
9 one pool by the Commission. I'm not sure we're violating
10 anything there legally if that by some happenstance
11 happens. So that's how I would address his concerns at
12 this point.

13 Q. Let's turn again to Tab VII, and then the second
14 page under each of those tabs. Is that your water
15 analysis report?

16 A. Yes. We included water analysis reports on each
17 of our books. We just wanted to point out the -- couple
18 of numbers. The total dissolved solvents over in that
19 left column was usually over 180,000, 185,000 or so. The
20 chloride contents in the middle column, usually 113,000 --
21 over at least 113,000 milligrams per liter in both cases.

22 The pH is located there in the middle column
23 below the chloride content, usually a little bit less than
24 seven neutral to -- I think slightly acidic. Those are
25 numbers that catch our attention.

1 Q. Does your water require any treatment before
2 injection?

3 A. Yes. We are -- well, we are treating our
4 produced water to keep the waters free -- the waters that
5 we treat that we inject in the Paddock, I think are
6 probably treated for saline purposes to drop out the total
7 dissolved solvents and to keep the waters more or less
8 clean.

9 Q. Okay. Can you discuss in a little more detail
10 the permeability and porosity of the reservoir?

11 A. Well, those are the numbers that I have already
12 quoted of the perm numbers that we're seeing core data
13 wise and the porosity numbers that -- The difference
14 between the two zones are fairly obvious at this point.

15 Q. Okay. What's the current dry mechanism for the
16 reservoir?

17 A. Currently, we believe this is a solution gas dry
18 reservoir with some water drive components either from the
19 edge or from the bottom.

20 Q. Are you satisfied that the injection fluids will
21 remain contained within the injection intervals?

22 A. Yes. We don't see any reason why they should
23 migrate out of the Yeso.

24 Q. For purposes of your hydrogeologic and geologic
25 analysis, what was your area of review?

1 A. The area of review was the -- Are we talking
2 about Exhibit 8 at this point?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Okay. Exhibit 8 was a review of the groundwater
5 sources more on a regional basis on the east half of Eddy
6 County east of the Pecos River. There's a two page
7 analysis there just highlighting the points that seem to
8 be relevant.

9 Groundwater is usually found in the upper
10 Permian and maybe Triassic age rocks of the Tertiary
11 quadrant age. I say that in Page 1. Below Permian age
12 rocks are too mineralized to be potable, usable as far as
13 we know for livestock.

14 I go into some detail on the second page of
15 that, basically, that the groundwaters are found 400 feet
16 from surface, generally less than 300 to 400 feet. I do
17 quote some early analyses out there in the middle of that
18 second paragraph.

19 I talk about the calcium carbonate samples range
20 from 201 to 3,590 parts per million in 21 samples that
21 they took, and were a thousand parts per million in 14 of
22 the 21 samples. Chloride content was 17 to 785 parts per
23 million in more than 210 of the samples.

24 What else? I tried to summarize everything down
25 there at the last paragraph. Generally, the Triassic beds

1 are found 300 feet or less. Water is generally fair
2 quality. Sometimes locally impotable.

3 The injection intervals start at about 3,800
4 feet, so we've got a 3,500 foot separation. We don't see
5 any communication between those two intervals.

6 I do cite my reference. It's a field of mines
7 and minerals resources book, Geology and Resources of Eddy
8 County, New Mexico. This became my source for my
9 analysis.

10 Q. From your review of the available data bases and
11 visual inspections in the field, did you find any
12 windmills, water wells within your areas of review?

13 A. We did not see anything on our current maps
14 indicating any windmills. We had guys in the field look
15 out, look across the area. We found no indication of
16 windmills. I did look at the earlier maps. They did have
17 spots of wells back in the '50s. If they were there -- I
18 have no reason to doubt that, but we certainly didn't see
19 them today.

20 Q. Okay. You're confident that no fresh water
21 zones exist below your injection interval; is that right?

22 A. That's correct. We're not seeing fresh water
23 zones anywhere below 400 feet from surface.

24 Q. Okay. And are you satisfied based on your
25 examination of all available geologic and engineering data

1 for evidence of open faults and any other hydrologic
2 connection between the injection zone and any source of
3 underground drinking water, do those exist?

4 A. No. We don't see any kind of faulting, any kind
5 of connection between our -- between the Yeso and the
6 surface waters.

7 Q. Okay. Let's go back to Tab VI. You have a
8 subtab with the section, township, and range on there.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Under that tab, are these compilations of the
11 wellbore schematics for all the wells that you show in the
12 area of review?

13 A. Yes, all wells that's penetrated the Yeso, yes.

14 Q. Okay. And what's the source of the data for
15 these?

16 A. This data all came from IHS public information
17 data bases.

18 Q. Were you satisfied that the data available to
19 you was sufficient to permit you to determine casing
20 depths and calculate cement tops on those?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Let's turn briefly to what we've marked as
23 Exhibit 5. Can you identify that, please?

24 A. Exhibit 5 is a letter from BP America that we
25 received listing their concerns about a well that they

1 operate, Empire Abo Unit No. 47. That is 1,900 feet, plus
2 or minus, from our Continental A State No. 11.

3 Q. Could you summarize the concerns that BP
4 expressed?

5 A. Sure. Maybe it would be helpful to find this
6 well on the map and then look at a schematic. If you look
7 at the A 11 area of review, the big circle, of course the
8 A 11 is marked with a blue triangle.

9 If you go south southeast and find Unit J in
10 Section 30, there's a cluster of wells. There's State B
11 dry hole Empire Abo unit line -- This is just east of the
12 Hermosa on the Navajo lease, 47, and then there's a 4 just
13 the east of that well. Those are all part of the
14 discussion.

15 BP is concerned about that No. 47 down there in
16 J of 30. I will turn to the tab that says Section 30, 17
17 29E. The first well in that tab is the Empire Abo BP
18 Empire 45. The next one is the 46, and the third page is
19 47.

20 This is a schematic of that well as we
21 understand it today. It's an old Abo unit well. TD about
22 6,359, cemented with 450 sacks. Got some perms squeezed
23 off below a bridge plug, and then perms 6,118 to 6,150,
24 complete in 1961, I believe.

25 BP's concern is that there's no document of

1 record of top of cement. There's a calculated top of
2 3,200 feet. And they are concerned that water from our
3 Continental 11 will migrate and maybe pose a hazard to a
4 well with the top of cement not known.

5 They've indicated that -- Of course, our Navajo
6 No. 4 well to the east, if we see water in that well,
7 their concerns will be heightened.

8 We are completely agreeable to working with them
9 on this matter. We perceive the probability of the water
10 migrating from the 11 to this well is minimal. There are
11 at least two different pressure sinks in between.

12 We don't see water migrating that far south at
13 all. If we are, we're much more efficient than we ever
14 hope to be. But if we do see some response in our Navajo
15 well, we will be agreeable to working with BP.

16 And I suspect we probably have an ownership in
17 this well anyway. We'll be working with them to try to
18 determine the top of cement and if there is a hazard or
19 not.

20 I did some rough cement calculations. The top
21 of our injection hole was 3,926. By my calculations, if
22 there is a 25 percent loss, the top of cement would be
23 about 3,688 feet.

24 So no, I don't think anybody really knows how
25 much cement was lost in their cementing process. If it

1 was less than 25 percent, probably there's no issue at
2 all. If it was greater than 25 percent, there may be an
3 issue if water migrates that far south. But we're willing
4 to work with them.

5 Q. To summarize, are the recommendations set forth
6 in BP's letter agreeable to COG?

7 A. Yes, they are.

8 Q. Okay. And we had one other communication from
9 another operator, Limerock?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And have their concerns been resolved?

12 A. Yes, as far as we know. Again, going back to
13 the area of review map, this time looking at the A 12 area
14 of review map, Limerock operates to the northwest in
15 Section 24, the A 24 State wells.

16 I think their concern was mainly related to the
17 A 24 State No. 5 in P of 24. I think that's the only one
18 that's been completed. And we have an ownership in that
19 well, too.

20 They had done a pinnacle frac analysis, and at
21 one point in time were convinced that water was going to
22 migrate their direction.

23 Once again, we think the -- This is not a top of
24 cement issue, this is -- they're completed in the same
25 Yeso interval. We don't think that water will migrate

1 that far. There's too many pressure sinks in between.

2 I think they were agreeable to waive their
3 rights objection if we agreed to give them first right of
4 refusal into our water disposal system, and we agreed to
5 do that.

6 We have plenty of water available. We do not
7 intend to buy third-party water in the near future or
8 maybe the distant future. But they were agreeable to
9 that.

10 Q. To be clear, COG will not be operating these
11 four wells as disposal facilities?

12 A. That is correct, these are not disposal
13 operations.

14 Q. So Limerock has provided COG with that written
15 waiver of its objection, and it's Exhibit 6, the letter
16 before you?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. From your overall review of all of the wells in
19 the areas of review for each of the wells, have you found
20 any evidence of casing leaks?

21 A. No, we did not.

22 Q. Are you satisfied that the conditions of all of
23 those wells are such that none of them will act as a
24 conduit for fluids from the injection interval to fresh
25 drinking water supplies?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You do you see any evidence at all that the
3 wells may serve as conduits within the AOR outside of the
4 injection interval at all?

5 A. No, we do not.

6 Q. If we turn to Tab XIII, in each of the cases,
7 does Tab XIII carry copies of the notice letters provided
8 in the course of the administrative application for
9 approval from the Division?

10 A. Yes. We notified all of our offset operators,
11 all the co-owners that we had, landowners. We notified
12 everybody that we thought we were required to notice, and
13 these are receipts of that notice. Usually on the last
14 page of each of these is a publication notice in the
15 Artesia paper that we had publicized back in December

16 Q. Right. And did we notify the surface owner?

17 A. Yes, we did.

18 Q. All right. Do you foresee any need to request a
19 higher injection pressure from the Division in the future?

20 A. That will probably depend on what limit we are
21 granted from this hearing. If we are granted a .2 psi
22 limit, I can see very easily that we might be back with
23 step-rate tests and asking for a higher limit at some
24 point sometime in the future.

25 Q. Mr. Prentice, in your opinion, can this project

1 be operated so that the injection fluids remain contained
2 within the injection formation?

3 A. Yes.

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

7 A. No.

8 Q. And can this project be operated so that public
9 health and satisfy and the environment are protected?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And were all the materials in Exhibit 3 prepared
12 by you, compiled by you, or at your direction?

13 A. Yes, they were.

14 MR. HALL: That's my direct of this witness.
15 We'd move the admission of Exhibits 3, 4, 5 and 6.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: Any objection?

17 MR. CARR: No objection.

18 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 3, 4, 5 and 6 will
19 be admitted. Mr. Carr?

20 CROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. CARR:

22 Q. About your Exhibit No. 5, you have no objection
23 to the conditions in that order that were requested by BP;
24 is that correct?

25 A. No, we're willing to work with BP on this issue.

1 MR. CARR: We have no objection to the Order in
2 this case.

3 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. That Limerock concern,
4 did you say that their well -- did they only have one well
5 that they were concerned about, or was it a lease?

6 THE WITNESS: Well, the concern was expressed on
7 that one well. Actually, we never really informed about
8 specifically what well it was.

9 HEARING EXAMINER: Oh, okay.

10 THE WITNESS: Of the three wells out there, 5 is
11 the only one that's been completed.

12 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

13 THE WITNESS: So by process of elimination, we
14 think it's No. 5.

15 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. But for whatever
16 reason, they were completed in the same zone anyway?

17 THE WITNESS: The Yeso, yes.

18 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

19 THE WITNESS: We have an ownership in that well.

20 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Let's see here. Does
21 Mack Energy have any interest out here, or -- I saw in the
22 files where it looked like there was a transfer of
23 ownership from Mack to Concho or COG --

24 THE WITNESS: Most of the properties out here
25 are formerly Mack operated properties that have been

1 transferred over to COG, Concho.

2 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Does that mean that
3 some of COG's employees used to work for Mack, or still
4 do, or --

5 THE WITNESS: I would say that -- and I don't
6 know this for a fact, but there are some former Mack
7 employees that are now employees of Concho.

8 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. First of all, before I
9 forget, thanks for doing all of this work. This is a nice
10 packet you guys put together, and this was really nice.

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you for taking the time to
12 look at it.

13 HEARING EXAMINER: Yeah, I looked at it before
14 the hearing. Thankfully, Mr. Hall gave it to us before
15 the hearing. And that was nice reservoir engineering that
16 you did on this.

17 Before I forget to ask for it, there was a
18 few -- when I went through the area of review wells and
19 looked on your schematics and your cement top data, there
20 was a few on this that said "Cement top," and then a
21 question mark.

22 Did you look at all of those and use 75 percent
23 or 80 percent fill-up factor as a calculation, or do you
24 still -- could you go through and look at them again? I
25 mean, I -- and make sure there is none that still say

1 "question mark" and they don't have a cement top.

2 At least over the interval we're talking
3 about -- I don't care about if the DV tool was set below
4 your Yeso or -- you know, below your injection interval, I
5 don't care about the lower interval, if that's the case,
6 but there was a few that still had a question mark --

7 THE WITNESS: Did you have one of mine or --
8 This was some public information. So it may be -- the guy
9 that did it may have -- It may have come from what was
10 available from the OCD records or from --

11 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Under Tab VI on the
12 very first -- the Continental exhibit, the very first with
13 the DV tool set at 2,507 feet. So there was at least one.
14 Maybe you could just look through them and if you see any
15 like that, maybe do a quick calculation and shoot a copy
16 and send it to the --

17 THE WITNESS: Okay.

18 HEARING EXAMINER: Is that acceptable,
19 Mr. Brooks?

20 MR. BROOKS: Yes. With a copy to Mr. Carr.

21 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

22 MR. BROOKS: Not that he's necessarily
23 concerned with it, but it's something that needs to be
24 done.

25 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And the DV tool

1 setting depth, is that always designed to -- here, I guess
2 historically, the DV tools were set a certain depth for a
3 certain reason. Do you know the most common reason why
4 they were set and what formation they were protecting?

5 THE WITNESS: I'm not the drilling expert, but
6 I'm going to be presupposing that DV tools were set, at
7 least on the production strings, to enhance the
8 circulation surface above that.

9 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, that's fine. The salt
10 zone out here, the intermediate was protecting the salt;
11 is there any issue with salt flows in this area?

12 THE WITNESS: I'm not aware of any. I think --
13 you know, that's where you start seeing the DV tools in
14 that secondary string. I think they were probably
15 addressing that issue with DV tools again.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. How old are the
17 majority of these wells, when was it first -- I should
18 have asked Mr. Reyes this.

19 THE WITNESS: And I think it may depend on what
20 zone you're talking about. The old Empire Abo wells were
21 drilled back in the '60s, of course. The Paddock wells
22 are relatively new within the last -- since, oh, the late
23 1990s. From our wells, I'm looking at this first one,
24 this is a Morrow well that looked like 1978 probably.

25 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. It's a range of ages.

1 It's not too old, really, considering some fields are
2 drilled in the '30s, you know.

3 THE WITNESS: Some of the shallower stuff, of
4 course, was very, very early on. Less than a thousand
5 feet, that stuff is really early, early on. So.

6 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

7 THE WITNESS: And actually, You've got spud
8 dates over there on each one of those area of review wells
9 beginning at about Page 4, you've got completion dates.

10 HEARING EXAMINER: You or someone did a good job
11 of putting the APIs on.

12 THE WITNESS: IHS is a wonderful data base if
13 you just manipulate it correctly.

14 HEARING EXAMINER: Yeah. Okay. I guess one of
15 the big questions to get to the crux of it is, what
16 criteria will you use to monitor this project to see if
17 it's successful or not?

18 THE WITNESS: A couple of things. The object
19 is, of course, to put water in the ground. And then where
20 is it going to go? In the Jenkins we thought we had a --
21 They were facing the same problem a couple of years ago in
22 the Jenkins. They set the No. 5 spot. Well, the water
23 didn't go the way the 5 spot should go, it went
24 north/south.

25 So we just shot ourselves in the foot and have

1 had to realign it. So instead of setting up any kind of a
2 5 spot, now I'm trying to do one well, I'm trying to do
3 two zones. If I'm lucky, if we are fortunate, then the
4 permeability trends will be in the same direction in both
5 zones. That's a big if.

6 How will we monitor it? I tried to set these
7 things up where we have offsetting Blinebry-Paddock wells
8 north/south, east/west, northwest/southeast, then
9 southwest/northeast. So hopefully I will have my options
10 covered.

11 Again, if I can intentionally put a certain
12 amount of water into the Blinebry, once I see response
13 flow of water in one of the offsetting wells -- We had
14 pretty good success in the Jenkins with tagging it with
15 radioactive tracers. Those are pretty definitive.

16 So if I can, A, get a response, and, B, tag it
17 and say, okay, in this zone the preferential permeability
18 is this direction or that direction, that's how I plan to
19 monitor it.

20 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. How do you -- these
21 tubulars that you're proposing and -- you're planning on
22 using, do they have little meters down there and pressure
23 sensors, do they have realtime readouts, do they have --

24 THE WITNESS: My understanding of the way it
25 works is, you set a -- the analogy I'm going to use is an

1 orifice needle. You set a rate. If I can pump 2,000
2 barrels a day, the top zones -- if I restrict that to
3 1,000, then the rest of it's got to go down hole.

4 HEARING EXAMINER: So you can actually dial in
5 what your top zone is going to receive --

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: Because you know it's more
8 permeable.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes. I know it's more permeable,
10 and hence, I'm not at this point -- at least at this time
11 prepared to say if I set a packer above everything, I can
12 tell what I want from the entire section, I don't think I
13 can do that just yet.

14 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And are you going to
15 have pressure sensors down there or --

16 THE WITNESS: I don't think that is part of the
17 setup right now. I'm thinking our pressures will be at
18 the surface.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. And anyway, pressure
20 sensors most logically might be on a monitor well
21 producing and surrounding it.

22 THE WITNESS: Oh, the producing wells -- we'll
23 know from our well tests.

24 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. You have pretty good
25 facilities around these proposed injection wells?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 HEARING EXAMINER: Your porosity down in the
3 Blinebry, those three Blinebry zones being so low that
4 even the total porosity is low, and then you got shaleley,
5 so you've got effective porosity -- might be really slow.
6 So your injection may go long distances in little bitty
7 intervals then depending on how much pressure you put on
8 it.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes. One of the things I have
10 here that we didn't talk about was drainage areas. When
11 you say a long distance, long is relative. All this stuff
12 is on ten acre spacing. The picture that's emerging as
13 far as drainage is concerned is the Paddock will drain,
14 oh, ten plus acres. Blinebry, we're thinking drains five.

15 So what is long here? I expect drainage will
16 impact our ability to inject mainly due to reservoir
17 hydrogenates. I think there's lots of complex things
18 going on down there that we don't fully understand.

19 So that's another -- this is part of the
20 feasibility study, is it feasible to put water in the
21 Blinebry, and what is going to come out, what it's going
22 to look like.

23 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. I saw -- I think you
24 have pressure data for the different zones, at least set
25 at current pressures.

1 THE WITNESS: Yeah. We took some shut-in bottom
2 hole pressures down there

3 HEARING EXAMINER: Did you see any negative
4 skins or skin damage, do you calculate permeability from
5 these?

6 THE WITNESS: These are not buildups, these are
7 just drop-in bottom hole pressures. We have started a
8 program as part of the larger feasibility studies of
9 taking buildups. We're dealing with brand new wells.
10 We're not going to see any skin to speak of.

11 The question we're trying to address is, what is
12 the regional reservoir pressure down there in each
13 interval. We think it's changing, but we haven't got that
14 tied down yet.

15 HEARING EXAMINER: So the drop-ins are just fine
16 unless they're still building up?

17 THE WITNESS: Oh yeah, these are just drop-ins.

18 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Your primary recovery
19 out here, is it -- what kind of initial rate do you have
20 and what kind of declines are you on right now and
21 ultimate recoveries?

22 THE WITNESS: We're doing a lot of analyses
23 along those lines. We try to track this stuff by zone,
24 and then by 20 acre and 10 acre locations. That has some
25 relevance to this. So the answer is going to be depending

1 on what slice of the pie you're talking about.

2 Typically, new wells come in -- you know, Yeso
3 commingled with about 2,000 to 3,000 a month, a hundred or
4 less a day. Drop-off is 50, 60 percent. Ultimate
5 recoveries -- and I think I -- well, that may be oil in
6 place. You have a idea of that.

7 Oil recoveries, we're seeing in excess of
8 100,000 barrels for a commingled Yeso, typically.
9 Sometimes the 10 acre, sometimes a little bit more,
10 sometimes a little bit less.

11 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

12 THE WITNESS: Blinebry -- you know, we separate
13 them under Paddock and Blinebry and get different numbers.

14 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: Our recovery factors, we're
16 thinking in terms of 15 percent. That's typical for most
17 carbonates. That's the number I grew up with, that's the
18 number I'm using. It tends to fit well with our
19 volumetrics.

20 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. This maximum pressure
21 limit, you're asking for 2,000 surface pressure?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes.

23 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And how much pressure
24 would you put on -- well, you're just going to control the
25 rate between the zones; is that correct?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 HEARING EXAMINER: So basically, that pressure
3 will be communicated down to the Blinebry?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes.

5 HEARING EXAMINER: And so what kind of surface
6 gradient is that down to the top perf in the Blinebry?

7 THE WITNESS: 2,000 pounds and -- Let's look
8 that up. ALN is a good example. The Blinebry is at
9 4,436. So 2,000.

10 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

11 THE WITNESS: 4,436 is about .45.

12 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. We're talking about
13 less than a .5 gradient?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes. And that's why I couldn't --
15 I didn't follow Wesley's .59.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: I can't speak for Wesley,
17 but -- I wish he'd come speak for himself sometimes, but I
18 think he's using bottom-hole gradients. That's what I
19 suspect. But I don't know for sure. Now, the rock over
20 on the east, the Texaco BE, that's a better reservoir; is
21 that correct?

22 THE WITNESS: I don't know if it's any better
23 reservoir --

24 HEARING EXAMINER: Well, more porosity, higher
25 permeability in the Blinebry?

1 THE WITNESS: Let me look at my numbers and see
2 what I said. The Blinebry was showing -- this is E 7 --
3 oh, about 6 percent and a half milidarcy. That really --

4 HEARING EXAMINER: Is that density porosity or
5 is that crossplot porosity?

6 THE WITNESS: This is core porosity.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: Core porosity.

8 THE WITNESS: This is plug sample core porosity.

9 HEARING EXAMINER: How does that relate to your
10 log porosities, do you guys do a relationship?

11 THE WITNESS: Oh yeah, they've got an analysis
12 built into the logs that takes core data into account and
13 tries to wait it out by -- They're using a crossplot
14 porosity, I'm sure.

15 HEARING EXAMINER: But that core -- that log
16 porosity you're seeing off the logs, is that pessimistic
17 compared to core porosity?

18 THE WITNESS: I think it has to do with -- they
19 try to adjust the crossplot porosity to that core data.
20 Whether it's pessimistic or not, I don't know.

21 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. I just wondered if you
22 just -- I glanced at a log, whether it was really better
23 than it looks there. And these frac jobs, are you into
24 designing them, or do you guys look at your frac height
25 and your length pretty scientifically?

1 THE WITNESS: They've done a lot of work on
2 that. They've used a lot of -- well, they use a lot of
3 design work. And then they've done some pinnacle-type
4 analysis where you can -- you know, these micro seismic
5 events.

6 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

7 THE WITNESS: I really don't think that our
8 design -- the industry's design standards match up quite
9 well with micro seismic analysis.

10 HEARING EXAMINER: Oh, really.

11 THE WITNESS: No. I think there's a lot going
12 on down there that --

13 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay, so the models are not
14 accurate as far as -- they don't even --

15 THE WITNESS: I think they're good starting
16 points. You got to start somewhere. But when you watch
17 these micro seismic events going on and -- It's an
18 interesting phenomenon if you've never watched them. It's
19 an interesting phenomenon.

20 HEARING EXAMINER: I have not. A guy I used to
21 work with is actually in that business up in the Rockies.

22 THE WITNESS: Lots of interesting things go on
23 when you pump fluid and --

24 HEARING EXAMINER: That's incredible that they
25 can actually tell that considering you got the salt zone

1 above you here and you're telling that even from --

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

3 HEARING EXAMINER: Also drainage from other
4 zones above you even. So it tends to make you wonder how
5 accurate that would be, too, you know. But does it show a
6 direction?

7 THE WITNESS: Oh, yeah, you can see azimuth.

8 HEARING EXAMINER: What direction is it out
9 here?

10 COURT REPORTER: You can see what?

11 THE WITNESS: Azimuth. East, west, north,
12 south. It will tell you where your frac is migrating.
13 What it's measuring is little earthquakes, and you see
14 little dots start to pop up called micro seismic events.
15 They're very fascinating.

16 This is not helping to address your question.
17 They're designed as best as we can. Mother Nature has her
18 own plans, quite frankly.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: Well, I wish you good luck on
20 this project.

21 THE WITNESS: We need all the luck we can get
22 our hands on.

23 HEARING EXAMINER: Sometimes luck is better
24 than --

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

1 HEARING EXAMINER: David, do you have questions?

2 MR. BROOKS: No, I don't think I have any

3 questions.

4 HEARING EXAMINER: So no project areas and no

5 salt water disposal, just injection?

6 MR. HALL: For today.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: For today. We'll hope to see

8 you guys in a couple of years with --

9 THE WITNESS: We would like very much to be able

10 to do this in a couple of years on a broader basis.

11 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Well, thanks,

12 Mr. Prentice and Mr. Reyes.

13 MR. HALL: Aa housekeeping matter. I provided

14 additional notice of the Examiner Hearing. So I'd ask to

15 introduce in Case 14455 Exhibit 7, which is our notice

16 affidavit materials. Exhibit 8 is the affidavit for Case

17 No. 14456. And Exhibit 9 is the notice for Case No.

18 14457. And that's all I have.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

20 MR. BROOKS: How did you select the people you

21 notified?

22 MR. HALL: I used the same list that they used

23 for the administrative notice.

24 MR. BROOKS: So you notified everybody within

25 one mile of each injection well?

1 MR. HALL: Right.

2 HEARING EXAMINER: One-half mile.

3 MR. BROOKS: One-half -- yeah, that is one-half
4 mile. That's right. And the way the Rule requires it to
5 be done -- I'm sure you understand, but just to make clear
6 for the record, you draw a half mile circle, and then you
7 have to figure each unit that's -- spacing unit, any part
8 of which is within that half mile. So you have to advise
9 the people that own --

10 MR. HALL: So the entire 40.

11 MR. BROOKS: Yeah. And is that the way you did
12 it?

13 MR. HALL: I believe so. So long as we're not
14 talking about H2S injection.

15 MR. BROOKS: We're not talking about -- I didn't
16 hear any testimony that we were talking about H2S
17 injection. That makes it easier.

18 MR. HALL: Which is different.

19 MR. BROOKS: Yes, it is different.

20 HEARING EXAMINER: So we'll admit Exhibits 7, 8
21 and 9, and take Cases 14455, 14456, and 14457 under
22 advisement. Thank you, folks. The docket is concluded.

23 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded.)

24

25

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiners hearing of Case No. _____
heard by me on _____

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 9th day of April, 2010.
 15
 16
 17

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 19 _____
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