### 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:

APPLICATION OF R.C.L. RESOURCES, INC. AND ROBERT LANDRETH FOR POOL EXTENSION, ETC., LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Cage No. 13085

### ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

James Bruce enters his appearance in the above case on behalf of Southwestern Energy Production Company.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bruce Post Office Box 1056 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 (505) 982-2043

Attorney for Southwestern Energy Production Company

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing pleading was served upon the following counsel of record via facsimile transmission this <u>1876</u> day of September, 2003:

> W. Thomas Kellahin Kellahin & Kellahin Post Office Box 2265 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 Fax No. (505) 982-2047

> J. Scott Hall Miller Stratvert P.A. P.O. Box 1986 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 (505) 989-9857

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James Bruce

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF EGL RESOURCES, INC. AND ROBERT LANDRETH FOR POOL EXTENSION FOR THE NORTH BELL LAKE-DEVONIAN GAS POOL, OR ALTERNATIVELY, FOR POOL CREATION AND SPECIAL POOL RULES, AND EXPANSION OF GAS SPACING AND PRORATION UNIT, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO CASE NO. 13085

# PRE-HEARING STATEMENT

This Pre-Hearing Statement is submitted by Miller Stratvert P.A. (J. Scott Hall) on behalf

of EGL Resources, Inc. and Robert Landreth, as required by the Oil Conservation Division.

# APPEARANCES

# APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY

# APPLICANT EGL Resources, Inc. and

J. Scott Hall, Esq. Miller Stratvert P.A. Post Office Box 1986 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1986 (505) 989-9614

OPPONENT'S ATTORNEY

W. Thomas Kellahin, Esq. Kellahin & Kellahin 117 North Guadalupe Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 <u>OPPONENT</u>

Devon Energy Production Company

Southwestern Energy Production Company

James Bruce, Esq. Post Office Box 1056 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 (505) 982-2043

# Robert Landreth

# Pre-Hearing Statement Page 2

### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

# APPLICANT

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EGL Resources, Inc., ("EGL"), and Robert Landreth, ("Landreth"), seek an order extending the pool boundaries of the North Bell Lake-Devonian Gas Pool (71840) to include Sections 4 and 5, Township 23 South, Range 34 East, NMPM in Lea County. Alternatively, Applicants seek the creation of a new pool consisting of said Section 4 with the promulgation of special pool rules for the production of gas from the Devonian formation including provisions for 640-acre gas spacing and proration units and designated well location requirements. Applicants also seek the concurrent expansion of the 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit created by Order No. R-11962 presently consisting of the N/2 of said Section 4 to include the entirety of Section 4 to form a 640-acre gas spacing and proration unit from the base of the Morrow formation to the base of the Devonian formation.

EGL is the operator of the Rio Blanco "4" Federal Well No. 1 well located at a standard location (Unit F) 1980 feet from the north and west lines of Section 4, T-23-S, R-34-E in Lea County, EGL has recently deepened the Rio Blanco well from the Morrow formation to the Devonian formation.

The Section 4 lands dedicated to the Rio Blanco "4" well were the subject of competing compulsory pooling applications brought by EGL and Devon. Devon's Application in Case No. 13048 sought the creation of a 320-acre N/2 unit. EGL's Application in Case No. 13049 sought the creation of a 640-acre unit. The Division consolidated the two applications for hearing on April 10, 2003 and subsequently issued Order No. R-11962 on May 13, 2003.

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# Pre-Hcaring Statement Page 3

In Order No. R-11962, the Division interpreted its well spacing and acreage dedication requirements under Rule 104 and determined that 320-acre "wildcat" well spacing applied. Accordingly, the Order pooled the Devonian formation mineral interests underlying the N/2 of Section 4 to form a 320-acre unit.

On May 15, 2003, following the issuance of Order No. R-11962, EGL and Landreth fled an Application for Hearing De Novo in order to have the Commission further consider the Division's interpretation of its acreage dedication rules consistent with established agency precedent. Devon filed its own Application for Hearing De Novo on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Commission hearing on the EGL and Devon de novo applications has not yet been set.

Under Order No. R-11962, the Division invited EGL and Landreth to file a separate application to expand the 320-acre unit in the context of an application to extend the limits of the North Bell Lake Devonian Gas Pool, the pool rules for which provide for 640-acre spacing units. (Order No. R-11962, finding 17). EGL and Landreth accordingly filed their Application in this matter with the Division on May 23, 2003, Subsequently, on June 25, 2003, EGL and Landreth filed an Amended Application seeking the additional, alternative relief of the creation of a new pool consisting of the entirely of Section 4, along with special pool rules providing for 640 acre spacing and commensurate well location requirements.

## OPPOSITION OR OTHER PARTY

## **FROPOSED EVIDENCE**

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APPLICANT

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WITNESSES:

Est. Time

No. of Exhibits

11

7

Robert Landreth/Petroleum Engineering

1 hour 30 minutes

45 minutes

James Stanton/Geophysicist

# **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

Devon Energy Production Company filed its Motion to Dismiss on August 18, 2003.

MILLER STRATVERT P.A.

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By:

J. Scott Hall Attorneys for David H. Arrington Oil & Gas, Inc. Post Office Box 1986 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1986 (505) 989-9614

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**Prc-Hearing Statement** Page 5

# Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was faxed to counsel of record on the 29th day of September, 2003 as follows:

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