NEW MEX	XICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
	EXAMINER HEARING	
	SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO	
Hearing Date	FEBRUARY 6, 1997	Time: <u>8:15 A.M.</u>
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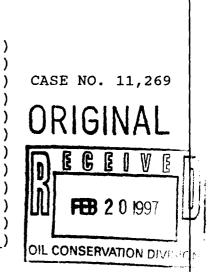
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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:

IN THE MATTER OF CASE NO. 11,269 BEING) REOPENED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF) DIVISION ORDER NO. R-10,427, WHICH ORDER) PROMULGATED TEMPORARY SPECIAL RULES AND) REGULATIONS FOR THE NORTH BELL LAKE-) ELLENBURGER GAS POOL IN LEA COUNTY,) NEW MEXICO)



REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner

February 6th, 1997

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New

Mexico Oil Conservation Division, MICHAEL E. STOGNER,

Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, February 6th, 1997, at the

New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources

Department, Porter Hall, 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New

Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7

for the State of New Mexico.

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EXHIBITS Identified Admitted Applicant's Exhibit 1 7 8 Exhibit 2 11 ---Exhibit 3 13 ---Exhibit 4 18 21 Exhibit 5 18 21 Exhibit 6 19 21 Exhibit 7 20 21 * * * APPEARANCES FOR AMERADA HESS CORPORATION: CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE and SHERIDAN, P.A. Suite 1 - 110 N. Guadalupe P.O. Box 2208 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208 By: WILLIAM F. CARR * * *

	**
1	WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2	8:20 a.m.:
3	EXAMINER STOGNER: This hearing will come to
4	order for today's docket, which is designated Number 4-97.
5	Please note today's date, Thursday, February 6th, 1997.
6	I'm Michael Edward Stogner, appointed hearing Examiner for
7	today's cases.
8	At this time I will call Case Number 11,269,
9	which is reopened, and this is the matter of said case,
10	pursuant to the provisions of Division Order Number
11	R-10,427, which promulgated temporary special rules and
12	regulations for the North Bell Lake-Ellenburger Gas Pool in
13	Lea County, New Mexico.
14	At this time, operators in subject pool may
15	appear and show cause why these temporary special pool
16	rules and regulations should not be rescinded.
17	Call for appearances.
18	MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is
19	William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law firm Campbell, Carr,
20	Berge and Sheridan. We represent Amerada Hess Corporation,
21	the original Applicant in this case, and I have three
22	witnesses.
23	EXAMINER STOGNER: Are there any other
24	appearances in this matter?
25	Will the three witnesses please stand to be sworn

at this time? 1 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.) 2 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Carr? 3 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we would 4 call Dan C. Foland. 5 6 EXAMINER STOGNER: How do you spell that name? 7 MR. CARR: F-o-l-a-n-d. EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Carr? 8 9 DAN C. FOLAND, the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon 10 his oath, was examined and testified as follows: 11 DIRECT EXAMINATION 12 13 BY MR. CARR: 14 Q. Would you state your name for the record, please? Dan C. Foland. 15 A. 16 Q. Where do you reside? 17 Α. Spring, Texas. 18 Q. By whom are you employed? 19 Α. Amerada Hess Corporation. Mr. Foland, what is your current position with 20 Q. Amerada Hess? 21 22 Α. Senior professional landman. 23 Have you previously testified before this **Q**. 24 **Division**? 25 Α. Yes.

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1	Q. At the time of that testimony, were your
2	credentials as an expert in petroleum land matters accepted
3	and made a matter of record?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
6	this case, in the original case on behalf of Amerada Hess?
7	A. Yes.
8	Q. And are you familiar with the current status of
9	the lands in the area surrounding the north Bell Lake-
10	Ellenburger Gas Pool?
11	A. Yes.
12	MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications
13	acceptable?
14	EXAMINER STOGNER: They are.
15	Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Foland, could you first
16	briefly summarize for Mr. Stogner what it is that Amerada
17	Hess seeks in this case?
18	A. Yes, adoption of permanent special pool rules for
19	the North Bell Lake-Ellenburger Gas Pool with 640-acre
20	spacing and proration units and special well-location
21	requirements 650 feet from the outer boundary of the
22	proration unit and 330 feet from any quarter-quarter
23	section line.
24	Q. Could you refer to what has been marked for
25	identification as Amerada Hess Exhibit Number 1, identify

that and review it for Mr. Stogner? 1 2 Α. Exhibit Number 1 is a land map covering the North 3 Bell Lake-Ellenburger Gas Pool. It has the current wells 4 and spacing units. The North Bell Lake-Ellenburger Number 5 2, in the green hach, is the discovery well. And the North 6 Bell Lake-Ellenburger Number 3, in the blue hachmarks, is the extension. 7 The pool boundaries at this time include just 8 Q. 9 Section 5 and Section 6; is that right? Α. That is correct. 10 11 And this is located within a unit? Q. Α. Yes, it's located within the nine-section Bell 12 Lake Federal Unit. 13 Q. And who is the operator of that unit? 14 Conoco is the operator, and Amerada Hess is the 15 Α. suboperator of the two North Bell Lake Federal Unit wells. 16 17 ο. What is the character of the lands in this unit? State, federal, fee? 18 19 Α. In Sections 5 and 6 for the pool, they're all federal lands. 20 Q. Offsetting the unit on the east are certain other 21 22 interest owners. Are those correctly identified on this exhibit? 23 Α. 24 Yes. So other than Conoco and the individuals shown on 25 Q.

1	the eastern side of the unit, those are all of the owners
2	with of working interest or holders of operating rights
3	in the unit?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. What is Amerada Hess's interest in this pool?
6	A. In Section 5 it is 92.7 percent before payout,
7	and in Section 6 it is 100 percent before payout.
8	Q. And we're before payout?
9	A. Yes, we are.
10	Q. Do you have or does Amerada Hess have any further
11	development plans for this pool?
12	A. No.
13	Q. Will Amerada Hess also call a geological and
14	engineering witness to review the technical portions of
15	this Application?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. Was Exhibit Number 1 prepared by you?
18	A. Yes.
19	MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, at this time we would
20	move the admission into evidence of Amerada Hess
21	Corporation Exhibit Number 1.
22	EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibit Number 1 will be
23	admitted into evidence at this time.
24	MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
25	examination of Mr. Foland.

	9
1	EXAMINATION
2	BY EXAMINER STOGNER:
3	Q. Mr. Foland, how long has this the Bell Lake
4	Federal Unit been active?
5	A. I think it approximately in 1953.
6	Q. Are there any zones, other zones, besides the
7	Ellenburger, that's producing at this time?
8	A. In The Bell Lake Federal Unit is, if I'm
9	correct, the Devonian Unit, and the that is all that
10	produces there. It had one well for the nine-section Bell
11	Lake Federal Unit.
12	Q. Do you know if there has been production since
13	1953 from this unit? Has it been continuously productive?
14	A. It is my understanding it has been continuously
15	productive.
16	Q. Does Amerada Hess Corporation are they
17	suboperator of any other zones, other than just the
18	Ellenburger at this time?
19	A. No.
20	Q. So it's Conoco that's been essentially the only
21	operator since 1953?
22	A. I believe so.
23	Q. In both Sections 5 and 6, you have that cut up
24	into eight subsections, or eight quarter sections, I should
25	say. Are those all separate federal leases, although

1	they're in the same unit? Does that correctly state that,
2	or do you know if that's different tracts?
3	A. I don't know the answer to that. I assume that
4	that is correct, but I don't know the answer to that, if
5	there are eight separate federal leases.
6	EXAMINER STOGNER: I have no other questions of
7	Mr. Foland at this time.
8	MR. CARR: Thank you, Mr. Stogner. At this time
9	we would call our geological witness, Joe Degenstein.
10	JOEL A. DEGENSTEIN,
11	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
12	his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
13	DIRECT EXAMINATION
14	BY MR. CARR:
15	Q. Would you state your name for the record, please?
16	A. My name is Joel Degenstein.
17	Q. Can you spell your last name, please?
18	A. D-e-g-e-n-s-t-e-i-n.
19	Q. And where do you reside?
20	A. The Woodlands, Texas.
21	Q. By whom are you employed?
22	A. Amerada Hess Corporation.
23	Q. And what is your position with Amerada Hess?
24	A. I'm an exploration geologist.
25	Q. Mr. Degenstein, have you previously testified

1 before this Division? Yes, I have. 2 Α. At the time of that testimony, were your ο. 3 credentials as an expert witness in petroleum geology 4 accepted and made a matter of record? 5 Α. Yes, they were. 6 7 Are you familiar with the Application filed in Q. this case on behalf of Amerada Hess Corporation? 8 9 Α. Yes, I am. 10 Have you made a geological study of the Q. 11 Ellenburger formation in the area surrounding the North Bell Lake-Ellenburger Gas Pool? 12 13 Α. Yes, I have. And are you prepared to review the results of 14 0. that study with Mr. Stogner? 15 Α. 16 Yes. 17 MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications 18 acceptable? 19 EXAMINER STOGNER: They are. (By Mr. Carr) Would you refer to what has been 20 Q. marked as Amerada Hess Corporation Exhibit Number 2 and 21 identify and review that, please? 22 This is a structure map that's drawn on top of 23 Α. 24 the Ellenburger formation, and shown on it are faults that 25 bound the structure on the west and the east sides. And in

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1	the center of the plat is a northeast-trending closure that
2	is between the two wells, Bell Lake Federal Number 2 and 3.
3	I'd like to point out the location of the Number
4	2 well, which was the discovery well. This penetrated the
5	Ellenburger at a subsea depth of minus 13,675 feet, and to
6	the northwest the Number 3 well encountered the Ellenburger
7	formation 55 feet higher than the Number 2 well at a subsea
8	depth of minus 13,622 feet.
9	The reservoir limits of this pool are bounded on
10	the west and the east by these faults, and on the south, at
11	the very south end of the map, by a saddle where the
12	structure drops off.
13	Q. In your opinion, is this reservoir fully
14	developed with the two wells that are currently completed
15	in the Ellenburger formation?
16	A. Yes, it is.
17	Q. And as to the drainage considerations, will an
18	engineering witness address those issues?
19	A. Yes, he will.
20	Q. And this exhibit also contains a trace for a
21	subsequent cross-section?
22	A. I'd like to point out the blue line on there,
23	which shows a trace of a cross-section that's drawn between
24	the Number 2 and the Number 3 well. This cross-section
25	covers the Ellenburger formation. It's at a vertical scale

1 of one inch equals 100 feet.

2 Q. And you're now referring to Amerada Hess Exhibit3 Number 3?

A. Yes. The Ellenburger reservoir rock in this area
is a dolomite with fracture and vugular porosity
development. Our analysis of the fractures in this area
from our FMI logs indicate that the fractures are oriented
in an east-northeast direction.

9 On the cross-section, the purple line at the top 10 is the top of the Ellenburger formation, and on the two 11 logs, on the right side, what is highlighted in green is 12 porosity in this dolomite reservoir that's greater than 3 13 percent on both the density and the sonic curves.

Approximately 100 feet down from the top of the 14 Ellenburger is what we call the top of the Ellenburger 15 16 porosity zone. It is a zone that is about 100 to 120 feet 17 thick and is well developed between these two wells, as shown by the light green shaded zone between the Number 2 18 19 and the Number 3 well. We believe that this is the main 20 pay zone in the reservoir, and we have good correlation on 21 this zone across the pool.

Q. Can you just briefly summarize the geological
conclusions you've reached from your review of this area?
A. We have development of an Ellenburger Gas Pool,
approximately in this North Bell Lake area in the north-

trending structure, and we believe that it's fully 1 2 developed with the existing wells. Mr. Degenstein, were Exhibits 2 and 3 prepared by 3 0. you? 4 Yes, they were. 5 Α. MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, at this time we would 6 move the admission into evidence of Amerada Hess 7 Corporation Exhibits 2 and 3. 8 EXAMINER STOGNER: I don't seem to have a copy of 9 10 Exhibit Number 2. MR. CARR: Structure map? 11 12 EXAMINER STOGNER: Yeah. Thank you. 13 EXAMINATION 14 BY EXAMINER STOGNER: 15 On Exhibit Number 2, you show a well down there Q. 16 in Section 8. Now, did that penetrate the Ellenburger and 17 was that able to give you some information on the Ellenburger, or --18 19 Α. No, it did not. That well was TD'd in the Mississippian Barnett Shale and was initially completed in 20 the Morrow. It did not penetrate the Ellenburger or deeper 21 Ellenburger formation. 22 23 Q. In the preparation of this exhibit, were there 24 any other well controls, say, to the north, or -- well, 25 anywhere around here besides these two wells?

_	10
1	A. There are several wells off the map about In
2	terms of the Ellenburger penetrations, about six miles to
3	the south is the nearest Ellenburger penetration. There
4	are some Devonian wells that are probably two to three
5	miles away in a north-and-south direction.
6	Q. Did surface seismic have a lot to do with the
7	perforations of Exhibit Number 2?
8	A. Yes, we originally drilled the Number 5 well,
9	based on a 2-D seismic anomaly, and subsequent to that
10	discovery we shot a 3-D seismic survey across this area
11	that covers approximately 23 miles and drilled the Number 3
12	well based on the closure that was interpreted from that
13	seismic 3-D survey.
14	Q. Did you have the say of the placement on the
15	Federal Number 3?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. And when was that one drilled?
18	A. It was drilled earlier last year.
19	Q. That well was drilled as an unorthodox location;
20	is that correct?
21	A. Yes, it was.
22	Q. Were you responsible in the making of the
23	geological preparations for that particular application?
24	A. I was involved in it. It was myself and the
25	geophysicists that worked the seismic data.

EXAMINER STOGNER: I'll take administrative 1 notice of whatever order that was. You wouldn't happen, by 2 chance, to have it, Mr. Carr, would you? 3 MR. CARR: I don't happen to have it, but I will 4 find it, provide that --5 EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay, if we could just make 6 7 some sort of a -- I'll take administrative notice, anyway, of that file, that the administrative order was issued 8 subsequent. 9 10 MR. CARR: And I will get that order number for 11 you. 12 Q. (By Examiner Stogner) On your Exhibit Number 3, 13 does the green zone -- Or what is the perforations in this? 14 Is it selected perforated interval, I would assume? 15 If I could defer to the engineering exhibit, he Α. will -- he can go over that more detailed information with 16 17 you. 18 **Q**. Okay. The darker green peaks on the density side, again, what are --19 Those are highlighted, using a density and sonic 20 Α. porosity cutoff of 3 percent --21 22 Q. Three percent. 23 -- for a dolomite reservoir. Α. 24 EXAMINER STOGNER: I have no other questions of this witness. You may be excused. 25

1	MR. CARR: Thank you, Mr. Stogner. At this time
2	we would call Bob West.
3	BOB WEST,
4	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
5	his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
6	DIRECT EXAMINATION
7	BY MR. CARR:
8	Q. Would you state your name for the record, please?
9	A. Bob West.
10	Q. Where do you reside?
11	A. In Kingwood, Texas.
12	Q. By whom are you employed?
13	A. Amerada Hess Corporation.
14	Q. And what is your position with Amerada Hess?
15	A. I'm a reservoir engineer.
16	Q. Have you previously testified before this
17	Division?
18	A. Yes, I have.
19	Q. At the time of that testimony, were your
20	credentials as an expert in reservoir engineering accepted
21	and made a matter of record?
22	A. Yes, they were.
23	Q. Are you familiar with the data now available on
24	the wells which have been drilled and completed and
25	produced from the Ellenburger formation in this pool?

1	A. Yes, I am.
2	Q. Are you prepared to make recommendations to the
3	Examiner concerning appropriate rules to govern development
4	of the pool?
5	A. Yes, I am.
6	MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications
7	acceptable?
8	EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. West is so qualified.
9	Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. West, let's go to what has
10	been marked as Amerada Hess Corporation Exhibit Number 4.
11	Will you identify and review that for Mr. Stogner?
12	A. Yes, Exhibit Number 4 is a production plot for
13	the North Bell Lake Number 2 well. I've exhibited on the
14	plot flowing tubing pressure and rate in MCF per day.
15	The date for first production of this well was in
16	May of 1995. The Number 2 well is currently producing at a
17	rate of 586 MCF per day. It has a cumulative recovery of
18	580 million standard cubic feet with 900 million standard
19	cubic feet remaining reserves. That gives an estimated
20	ultimate recovery for this well of 1.5 BCF.
21	Q. Let's go to the production curve on the North
22	Bell Lake Number 3, Exhibit Number 5. Would you review
23	that information for Mr. Stogner?
24	A. Sure, this is Again, it's a production plot
25	for the Number 3 well. I have displayed here also the

flowing tubing pressure and the flowing rate in MCF per 1 2 day. Date of first production for this well was 3 January, 1996. It's currently producing at a rate of 1100 4 MCF per day. It has a 1.1 BCF cumulative recovery with 1.5 5 BCF remaining reserves. Estimated ultimate recovery here 6 7 is about 2.6 BCF. 8 0. What is Amerada Hess Exhibit Number 6? 9 Α. Exhibit Number 6 is the producing information for both wells. The dashed line shows the producing rate for 10 the Number 2 well, and the dotted line shows the producing 11 12 rate for the Number 3 well. This exhibit shows the Number 2 rate decline was 13 14 running at 25 percent per year before the Number 3 well was 15 brought on production. When the Number 3 well was brought 16 on production, the Number 2 decline rate increased to well 17 over 100 percent per year. 18 0. How far apart are these wells? 19 Α. These wells are 3119 feet apart. And what basically does this graph tell you about 20 Q. 21 the reservoir? 22 Α. This graph tells me that these wells are in communication with each other, and the interference between 23 24 the two wells is apparent. 25 Let's go to Exhibit Number 7. What is this? Q.

	20
1	A. Exhibit Number 7 is an inflow performance plot
2	for the Number 3 well. This is a plot of flowing
3	bottomhole pressure versus gas rate.
4	I constructed this plat based on the data that we
5	had available for the area. That data includes the fluid
6	properties that are outlined on the right-hand side, the
7	wellbore and hydraulic data and the reservoir data,
8	including the reservoir pressure of approximately 7100
9	p.s.i.
10	I constructed the inflow performance plot with
11	the tubing curve laid over it, using three different
12	drainage radii. I ranged the drainage radius from 2500 to
13	3000 to 3500 feet.
14	The purpose of this plot shows that the producing
15	rate is reasonable it's reasonable to assume that the
16	drainage rate is equal to the distance between the Number 2
17	and the Number 3 wells. That's a possible conclusion from
18	this plot.
19	Q. Based on the information you have on this
20	reservoir, do you see communication over large areas within
21	this pool?
22	A. Yes, I do.
23	Q. In your opinion, would a well in this reservoir
24	potentially drain up to 640 acres?
25	A. Yes, it would

1	Q. Is it possible in this reservoir that, in fact,
2	one well properly located could produce the entire
3	reservoir?
4	A. I believe that is possible.
5	Q. Is it your recommendations to the Examiner that
6	the temporary rules that were adopted 18 months ago be made
7	permanent rules for this reservoir?
8	A. Yes, it is.
9	Q. Were Exhibits 4 through 7 prepared by you or
10	compiled under your direction?
11	A. Yes, they were.
12	MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we would
13	move the admission into evidence of Amerada Hess
14	Corporation Exhibits 4 through 7.
15	EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 4 through 7 will be
16	admitted into evidence at this time.
17	MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
18	examination of Mr. West.
19	EXAMINATION
20	BY EXAMINER STOGNER:
21	Q. Mr. West, are these wells making water?
22	A. They're making a little water. The Number 2 well
23	is making more water than the Number 3 well. The Number 2
24	yield is running, I believe, 50 to 60 barrels per million.
25	The Number 3 well is running about 10 barrels per million.

	22
1	Q. Is that a factor in this pool? I mean, is it
2	going to water out eventually?
3	A. I expect that it will. It's exhibiting some slug
4	flow right now. These production plots are showing some,
5	if you will, ratty behavior there towards the tail end, and
6	that is a function of the water loading and unloading and
7	causing some slug flow up the tubing.
8	I honestly expected the Number 2 well to I
9	expect it to die at any time, frankly.
10	Q. When that occurs, will there be artificial lift
11	added, or what will be the
12	A. I believe there's some it's The depth of
13	the completion is about 17,000 feet, and that really
14	restricts our options.
15	Q. Which brings me back to and I asked your
16	geologist, the perforations in these wells
17	A. Yes, sir, the basically these wells, the
18	completion technique When we ran production casing on
19	here we used an external casing packer and set on At the
20	top of the Ellenburger formation we had an external casing
21	packer with another joint or two of casing underneath the
22	external casing packer, and we cemented from the external
23	casing packer up, leaving the bottom two or three joints
24	exposed in the formation.
25	Those are And those joints have been

1	perforated, but basically there's no cement between the
2	casing and the formation, and that was just allowing the
3	formation to flow more easily to the casing.
4	It's From an analysis standpoint for all
5	practical purposes, it's an open-hole completion.
6	Q. What was the stimulation method?
7	A. The Number 2 well, we stimulated, I believe, with
8	17,000 gallons of acid, and it took it readily on the
9	vacuum.
10	The Number 3 well, I don't believe that we
11	stimulated that well.
12	Q. Are these going to be the only two wells in this
13	pool?
14	A. I hope so, yes.
15	Q. What size of tubing is in those holes already?
16	A. It's 2 7/8 tubing.
17	Q. Isn't this about the deepest production in the
18	state?
19	A. I think it's pretty close. I'm really not sure.
20	EXAMINER STOGNER: I don't know about ever, but I
21	think maybe currently.
22	Okay, I have no other questions of this witness.
23	MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, that concludes our
24	presentation in this case.
25	EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay, subsequent to the

hearing, if you could just give me a reference or a copy of 1 2 the administrative order, and again I'll take 3 administrative notice of that. MR. CARR: Yes, sir, I will. 4 5 EXAMINER STOGNER: And if nobody else has anything further in reopened Case 11,269, then this case 6 7 will be taken under advisement. 8 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at 9 8:45 a.m.) 10 * * 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 I de hereby certify that the foregoing is 21 a complete record of the proceedings in the los ner bearing of Case No. 11269. 22 Fel conty 23 heard by Examiner Oll Conservation Division 24 25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)) ss. COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL February 6th, 1997.

STEVEN T. BRENNER CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 1998

L.C.C.