

**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 BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS COMPANY FOR DOWNHOLE  
COMMINGLING REFERENCE CASE FOR ITS  
SAN JUAN 28-5 UNIT  
PURSUANT TO DIVISION RULE 303.E  
SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

**RECEIVED**

SEP 19 1996

Oil Conservation Division

**APPLICATION**

Comes now BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS COMPANY (formerly Meridian Oil Inc.), by and through its attorneys, Kellahin and Kellahin, and applies to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division for the establishment of a downhole commingling reference case pursuant to Division Rule 303.E for its San Juan 28-5 Unit and the adoption of special administrative rules therefore, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, in accordance with Division Rule 303.E seeks to establish a downhole commingling reference case to provide for (a) marginal economic criteria, (b) pressure criteria, (c) allocation formulas, and (d) modification of notification rules on an area-wide basis authorization for downhole commingling of Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland-Coal and Pictured Cliffs gas production in the wellbores of existing or future wells drilled anywhere within the San Juan 28-5 Unit located in Township 28 North Range 5 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.

In support of its application, Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company ("Burlington"). states:

(1) Burlington is the operator of the San Juan 28-5 Unit which currently includes 67 Dakota wells, 71 Mesaverde wells, 19 Fruitland-Coal wells and 16 Pictured Cliffs wells all located within an area known as the "San Juan 28-5 Unit" consisting of 17,399 acres, more or less of acreage, as identified on Exhibit "A".

(2) In the absence of the establishment of a "reference case" as provided in Rule 303.E, Division general state-wide Rule 303.C requires that administrative applications for downhole commingling of gas production be submitted, processed and approved on a well by well basis including submittal of the following:

- (a) economic criteria to support that at least one zone to be commingled is marginal.
- (b) pressure criteria to demonstrate that the bottomhole pressure of all zones to be commingled is less than the original bottom hole pressure of the lowest pressures zone,
- (c) allocation formulas,
- (d) notification by certified mail return receipt to each interest owner where ownership is not common in the zones to be commingled, and
- (e) notification by certified mail return receipt to each offset operator

(3) Sufficient data is now available from existing wells in this unit to support the Division approving the downhole commingling of Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland-Coal and Pictured Cliffs gas production within this unit on an "area-wide" basis rather than on a "well-by-well basis."

(4) Sufficient data is now available from existing wells in this unit to support the Division adopting a "reference case" for the downhole commingling of Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland-Coal and Pictured Cliffs gas production within this unit as to the following criteria:

- (a) economic criteria to support that at least one zone to be commingled is marginal;
- (b) allocation formula:
- (c) notification by certified mail-return receipt to (a) each interest owner where ownership is not common in the zones to be commingled and to (b) each offset operator who is also an interest owner in this unit; and

- (d) notification by certified mail-return receipt to each offset operator, except as provided in paragraph (d) above will continue to be made provided those offset operators are operators other than applicant.

(5) Burlington seeks authorization pursuant to Division Rule 303.E that all administrative application for downhole commingling of Mesaverde, Dakota, Fruitland-Coal and Pictured Cliffs gas production within this unit submitted subsequent to the filing of this application in this case shall be authorized to refer to the order entered in this case and will not be required to submit evidence or data for the following criteria (a) marginal economic criteria, (b) pressure criteria, (c) allocation formulas, and (d) notice to owners of any production within spacing units where the ownership is no common and offset operators who also own an interest in this unit.

(6) Production from the Dakota and Pictured Cliffs pools is now either marginal or uneconomic from existing wells within this unit and the economic life of that production is extended if it is downhole commingled with Mesaverde or Fruitland-Coal production.

(7) The approval of downhole commingling of these formations within this unit will extend the economic life of the existing wells and thereby increase ultimate recovery from these formations.

(8) In addition, any new wells to be drilled or recompleted in this unit should be approved for downhole commingling because either the Dakota or the Pictured Cliffs zones is marginal based upon criteria which the applicant will submit at the hearing of this case.

(9) It is anticipated that new wells, recompleted wells or existing wellbores in this unit will be most economically completed if there is a summary administrative procedure by which those wells may be downhole commingled.

(10) The processing of downhole commingling application for this unit in the absence of adopting a reference case will be an administrative burden to the Division and to the operator.

(11) Approval of downhole commingling reference case for this unit on an area-wide basis is in the best interest of conservation, the prevention of waste and the protection of correlative rights.

(12) Burlington requests the adoption of a summary administrative procedure with the necessary exceptions to the Division Rule 303.C so that the Supervisor of the Aztec District Office of the Division shall approve the downhole commingling of said production on an area-wide basis for this unit.

(13) The ownership is not common among these four formations within this unit.

(14) In accordance with Division Rule 303.C(1)(b), the Applicant states and will demonstrate at hearing:

1. That the wells in this unit which are currently single completions in the Dakota formation or the Pictured Cliffs formation are now marginal and production cannot be economically continued nor further developed unless it is done so by downhole commingling that production.
2. That there will be no unrecovered production crossflowing between or among the zones commingled.
3. That the value of the commingled production will not be less than the sum of the values of the individual production.

(15) In order to salvage the remaining Dakota and Pictured Cliffs production from this unit, Burlington seeks approval to downhole commingle all Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland-Coal and Pictured Cliffs production from any existing wells where mechanically feasible and the adoption of a summary procedures for the downhole commingling of future wells to be drilled in the Unit.

(16) Burlington will submit at hearing proposed formulas for the allocation of production to each of the commingled zones and a description of the factors or data used in determining such formulas.

(17) Applicant requests that this matter be docketed for hearing on the Division's Examiner docket now scheduled for October 17, 1996.

(18) Notice of this application has been sent to all interest owners entitled to receive production within the unit.

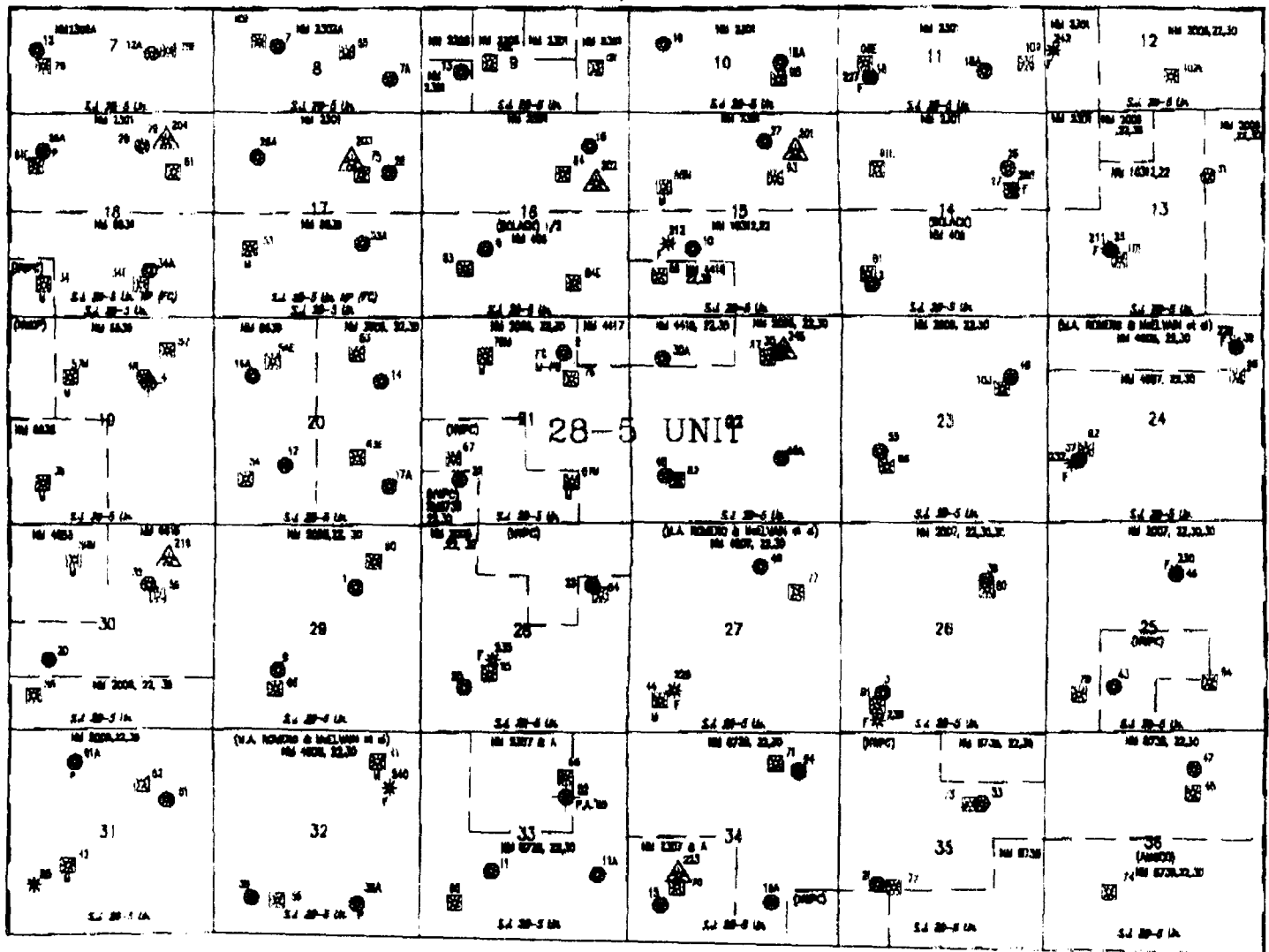
WHEREFORE Applicant requests that this matter be set for hearing on October 17, 1996 before a duly appointed Examiner of the Oil Conservation Division and that after notice and hearing as required by law, the Division enter its order granting this application.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Thomas Kellahin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

W. Thomas Kellahin  
KELLAHIN and KELLAHIN  
P. O. Box 2265  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
(505) 982-4285  
Attorneys for Applicant

San Juan 28-5 Unit  
Rio Arriba Co., New Mexico  
T28N,R5W



- △ FRUITLAND SAND    ● MESAVERT
- △ FRUITLAND COAL    □ DAKOTA
- ★ PICTURED CLIFFS    ◆ GALLIAT