

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:)

CASE NO. 11,826

APPLICATION OF QUAY VALLEY, INC., TO)
REOPEN CASE NO. 11,826 AND FOR AMENDMENT)
OF DIVISION ORDER NOS. R-4629 AND)
R-4629-A TO AUTHORIZE A TERTIARY)
RECOVERY PROJECT BY THE INJECTION OF)
MICROEMULSION IN ITS NORTH EL MAR-)
DELAWARE UNIT WATERFLOOD PROJECT AREA,)
AND TO QUALIFY THIS PROJECT FOR THE)
RECOVERED OIL TAX RATE PURSUANT TO THE)
ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY ACT, LEA COUNTY,)
NEW MEXICO)

ORIGINAL

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner

May 4th, 2000

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, May 4th, 2000, 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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May 4th, 2000
 Examiner Hearing
 CASE NO. 11,826

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* * *

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE DIVISION:

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 By: WILLIAM F. CARR

* * *

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2 11:15 a.m.:

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: We'll call Case 11,826, the
4 Application of Quay Valley, Incorporated, to reopen Case
5 No. 11,826 and for amendment of Division Order Numbers R-
6 4629 and R-4629-A to authorize a tertiary recovery project
7 by the injection of microemulsion in its North El Mar-
8 Delaware Unit Waterflood Project Area, and to qualify this
9 project for the recovered oil tax rate pursuant to the
10 Enhanced Oil Recovery Act, Lea County, New Mexico.

11 Call for appearances in this case.

12 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is
13 William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law firm Campbell, Carr,
14 Berge and Sheridan. We represent Quay Valley, Inc., in
15 this matter, and I have three witnesses.

16 EXAMINER CATANACH: Any additional appearances?
17 Okay, will the three witnesses please stand to be sworn in?

18 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)

19 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, initially we would
20 request that you incorporate the record of Case Number
21 11,826. This case was presented to the Division on August
22 the 7th and September the 4th, 1977 [sic]. In that case,
23 the Division approved a carbon dioxide enhanced oil
24 recovery project in the north El Mar Unit.

25 That application and this Application are based

1 on the same C-108 and the data contained therein. We will
2 not re-present the C-108 but ask that the record from the
3 prior case be incorporated, and then with our testimony we
4 will supplement the record to show why a microemulsion
5 flood is appropriate for this reservoir.

6 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, at your request, Case
7 11,826, the record in that case will be incorporated into
8 this case.

9 MR. CARR: At this time we call Mr. David Rose.

10 DAVID G. ROSE,
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 full name for the record,
16 please?

17 A. David G. Rose.

18 Q. And where do you reside?

19 A. Midland, Texas.

20 Q. By whom are you employed?

21 A. I am self-employed.

22 Q. What is your relationship with Quay Valley, Inc.?

23 A. I am a consulting landman with Quay Valley, Inc.

24 Q. Have you previously testified before this
25 Division?

1 A. No, I have not.

2 Q. Would you summarize for Mr. Catanach your
3 educational background?

4 A. 1971 BA graduate from New Mexico State University
5 and an additional 18 hours of business from the University
6 of Tennessee in Nashville.

7 Q. Could you review for the Examiner your work
8 experience in the oil and gas industry?

9 A. Since 1979 I've been a self-employed landman. I
10 have been also an in-house contract landman for several
11 companies, including Exxon and Texaco, Pogo Producing, Inc.

12 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
13 this case on behalf of Quay Valley?

14 A. Yes, I am.

15 Q. Are you familiar with the North El Mar Unit in
16 Quay Valley's plans to utilize microemulsion flooding in
17 this waterflood project area?

18 A. Yes, I am.

19 Q. Are you familiar with the status of the lands in
20 the subject area?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And have you prepared exhibits for presentation
23 here today?

24 A. Yes, we have.

25 MR. CARR: We tender Mr. Rose as an expert

1 witness in petroleum land matters.

2 EXAMINER CATANACH: Mr. Rose is so qualified.

3 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Rose, would you briefly
4 summarize for Mr. Catanach the history of the North El Mar
5 Unit?

6 A. The North El Mar Unit was originally a voluntary
7 waterflood unit, authorized under Division Order R-4629,
8 dated September 13th of 1973 as to the Delaware formation.

9 In November of 1997, pursuant to Division Order
10 R-4629-A, the Division order approved the institution of a
11 tertiary recovery project in the North El Mar Unit
12 waterflood project area by the injection of combined water,
13 carbon dioxide and produced gas into the Delaware
14 formation.

15 Q. What does Quay Valley seek with this Application
16 today?

17 A. Quay Valley seeks amendment of Orders Numbers
18 4629 and 4629-A to authorize Tertiary recovery by the
19 injection of microemulsion into the Delaware formation in
20 this North El, Mar waterflood project area.

21 Also, we seek qualification of the project for
22 the recovered oil tax rate authorized by the New Mexico
23 Enhanced Oil Recovery Act.

24 Q. Will Quay Valley, in terms of injecting the
25 microemulsion, use the same injection wells as were

1 approved for the CO₂ project in 1997?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Would you just briefly summarize the benefits
4 that will result from the proposed microemulsion flood?

5 A. Primarily, it will be increased recovery from
6 improved efficiency, and we will provide some additional
7 witnesses with supplemental testimony as to other details
8 of benefits.

9 Q. Could you summarize for Mr. Catanach initially
10 the production history of this project?

11 A. Since 1973, the waterflood operations have been
12 conducted. The total number of injection wells is 31.
13 Presently there are 29 shut in and two active. There has
14 been a cumulative 16.6 million barrels of water injected
15 into the formation. The current injection rate from the
16 two wells is 650 barrels of water per day.

17 There are 19 producing oil wells on the unit, 12
18 shut-in wells, and since the commencement of the waterflood
19 operation in 1973, there's been 1.3 million barrels of oil
20 recovered.

21 Q. Could you identify what has been marked as Quay
22 Valley Exhibit Number 1?

23 A. This is the same C-108 that was presented in the
24 1997 hearing. To avoid confusion, we have not changed any
25 of the data presented, the data that's presented that's

1 related to the CO project.

2 We have updated the well sheets in every well.
3 Every updated revision has been signified with a purple
4 tab. We will later explain, through our testimony, the
5 differences between the CO₂ Application and what is
6 required for implementation of the microemulsion flood.

7 Q. Mr. Rose, if we look at this exhibit and we go to
8 any one of the purple tabs and take any one of the sheets,
9 what we have done is not only placed the tab on the page,
10 but there is sticker that has been added that actually
11 identifies the change; is that correct?

12 A. That is correct.

13 MR. CARR: And these are more in the nature, Mr.
14 Examiner, of clerical changes. Some of them were matters
15 discovered by the Division during the prior review of this
16 C-108, corrections in perforated intervals, things of that
17 nature.

18 But other than that, this is the original
19 Application, and we will explain to you now changes that
20 are necessary for the microemulsion flood.

21 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Let's go to the base map of the
22 project, which is Exhibit 1A in the exhibit book. Would
23 you just basically identify what this is?

24 A. Okay, Exhibit 1A is an identification of the
25 injection wells located throughout the unit area.

1 It also indicates the offsetting tracts and the
2 offsetting operators around the unit, and it shows all
3 wells.

4 Q. And this is the identical base map that was
5 presented before; is that right?

6 A. Yes, that is correct.

7 Q. Let's go to what is behind Exhibit Tab 1B. Would
8 you identify that, please?

9 A. This identifies the project area, which is the
10 same as the unit boundary. The number of acres in the
11 project area is 2361.16 acres.

12 All the injection wells are identified, whether
13 they be shut-in injectors or active injectors. All the
14 producing wells are likewise identified.

15 Q. And then the planned status for those wells in
16 the project is also indicated; is that right?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. What is the character of the land in the North El
19 Mar Unit area?

20 A. The make-up of the land is 90 percent federal
21 acreage and 10 percent state lands.

22 Q. Could you tell us who is Quay Valley? What kind
23 of a company is Quay Valley?

24 A. Quay Valley is an operating company that operates
25 numerous wells in New Mexico and Texas, west Texas.

1 Q. For whom does it operate?

2 A. They operate exclusively for the owners,
3 Childress Royalty Company and Pansam Trust.

4 Q. So they're actually the operating arm for these
5 two entities?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Do they operate for any other interest owners?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. What percent of the working interest do they
10 represent and have they committed to this particular
11 project?

12 A. Yes, they represent 98.4 percent of the ownership
13 in the unit, and it has been verbally committed to this
14 microemulsion flood.

15 Q. Is Quay Valley Exhibit 2 an affidavit confirming
16 that notice of this Application has been provided in
17 accordance with Division rules?

18 A. Yes, it is.

19 Q. And to whom was notice provided?

20 A. All offsetting leasehold operators within one-
21 half mile of any proposed injection well, which includes
22 all of the unit and the boundaries of that unit, and the
23 Bureau of Land Management and the State of New Mexico, as
24 owners of the surface of the land.

25 Q. So if we take all the one-half mile areas of

1 review for each injection well, we actually cover the
2 entire unit area and some acreage outside; is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And all those interest owners have been notified
5 of this particular Application?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Does Quay Valley also seek approval of an
8 administrative procedure whereby additional injection and
9 producing wells could be added to the project without the
10 necessity of an additional hearing?

11 A. Yes, sir, we do.

12 Q. Will Quay Valley call additional witnesses to
13 review the technical portions of this case?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Have you reviewed Quay Valley Exhibits 1 and 2?

16 A. Yes, I have.

17 Q. And can you testify as to their accuracy?

18 A. Yes, they are accurate.

19 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we would
20 move the admission into evidence of Quay Valley Exhibits 1
21 and 2.

22 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 and 2 will be
23 admitted as evidence.

24 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
25 examination of Mr. Rose.

EXAMINATION

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BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

Q. Mr. Rose, this was initially unitized a long time ago; is that correct?

A. Yes, it was in 1973.

Q. And at that time, was it 100-percent participation?

A. It is a 100-percent participation unit, a voluntary participation unit.

Q. Well, you cited a number, 98.4 percent. That was the interest that was -- Tell me what that is again.

A. Those are the interests that are owned by Childress Royalty Company and Pansam Trust within the unit.

Q. Pansam? And who is the additional interest owned by?

A. The additional 1.6-percent is owned by numerous other parties, including Burlington Resources and others that I cannot recall.

MR. CARR: Mr. Examiner, the other interest owners are set out on Exhibit A. The percentages aren't there, but they are identified on Exhibit A to Quay Valley Exhibit Number 2, and it's the notice affidavit.

Mr. Catanach, it's the notice affidavit.

EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibit A to the notice affidavit, okay.

1 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) Well, are those interest
2 owners -- They're effectively committed to the unit also?

3 A. They will be notified pending the results of this
4 particular hearing and order, what our plans are.

5 MR. CARR: They have been notified of the
6 Application, and they will be participating in the
7 microemulsion flood by virtue of their role in the unit.

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: I'm sorry, by virtue of what,
9 Mr. Carr?

10 MR. CARR: Their interest in the unit, they will
11 be in the project.

12 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, there is a --

13 MR. CARR: They have a hundred percent in the
14 unit, and they will be participating as an interest owner
15 in the unit.

16 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) There is an operating
17 agreement in place for this unit?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Okay. What happened to the CO₂ flood? Was it
20 never instituted?

21 A. The CO₂ flood was not instituted within the time
22 parameters of the original order, that's correct.

23 Q. Do you know why that didn't occur?

24 A. I think that Mr. Atnipp will be willing to
25 explain the economic reasons of that. Primarily, I believe

1 it was the downturn of the oil prices, immediately after
2 the order was granted.

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, I believe that's all I
4 have of this witness.

5 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we would
6 call Mr. Stan Atnipp.

7 STANLEY L. ATNIPP,
8 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
9 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. CARR:

12 Q. Will you state your name for the record, please?

13 A. Stanley L. Atnipp.

14 Q. Would you spell your last name, please?

15 A. It's A-t-n-i-p-p.

16 Q. And where do you reside?

17 A. Midland, Texas.

18 Q. By whom are you employed?

19 A. I'm self-employed.

20 Q. What is your relationship with Quay Valley, Inc.?

21 A. I'm the co-owner of the company which will be
22 providing the naturally occurring micro-organisms for this
23 project.

24 Q. Have you previously testified before this
25 Division?

1 A. No, I have not.

2 Q. Could you summarize your educational background
3 for Mr. Catanach?

4 A. I have a bachelor's of science in petroleum
5 engineering from Colorado School of Mines, Golden,
6 Colorado, 1977.

7 Q. And since graduation, for whom have you worked?

8 A. I worked from 1977 to 1979 for Aminoil, USA, 1979
9 through 1994 for Marathon Oil, and from 1994 to current as
10 a consulting engineer.

11 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
12 this case on behalf of Quay Valley?

13 A. Yes, I am.

14 Q. Are you familiar with the implementation of
15 microemulsion projects in reservoirs like the Delaware
16 formation in the North El Mar Unit area?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Are you prepared to review this proposed
19 microemulsion project with Mr. Catanach?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR. CARR: We tender Mr. Atnipp as an expert
22 witness in petroleum engineering.

23 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

24 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Atnipp, what are your
25 responsibilities in regard to this proposed microemulsion

1 flood?

2 A. There are two of them. I reviewed the data for
3 this project to determine both the slug size and the volume
4 of naturally occurring micro-organisms required for an
5 effective microemulsion flood; and the second is, I'll be
6 responsible for maintaining the microemulsion systems as
7 pertains to the microbes until that slug is put in the
8 ground.

9 Q. Are you familiar with Quay Valley Exhibit Number
10 1, Form C-108?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And is this the same exhibit, to your
13 understanding, that was previously presented in this case?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Let's take a look at what is marked as Exhibit 4
16 in the exhibit book, which is marked as Exhibit 1.

17 Would you identify that and just explain what
18 this shows?

19 A. That is a typical log showing the subject
20 Delaware interval that's going to be flooded.

21 And this happens to be the same interval which
22 Quay Valley proposed to use in its waterflood and CO₂
23 project.

24 Q. And what is the current status of Quay Valley's
25 efforts to implement a microemulsion flood in the unit

1 area?

2 A. They should be ready to begin as soon as
3 regulatory approvals are obtained.

4 Q. And how long will it be until you will have a
5 fully operational project?

6 A. I think it should be four to six months after
7 receiving regulatory approvals, we anticipate to be
8 completely operational with a full microemulsion flood,
9 utilizing the naturally occurring micro-organisms.

10 Q. With a microemulsion flood, you not only have the
11 natural-occurring micro-organisms, but you inject those
12 with water?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And what is the source of the water you're going
15 to be using in this project?

16 A. There will be two. One will be the Rustler
17 formation, along with the produced water out of the unit.

18 Q. And what volumes does Quay Valley propose to
19 inject?

20 A. On an average, around 2500 barrels of water
21 injected per day.

22 Q. And the maximum daily injection rate?

23 A. They anticipate 3500 barrels of water injected
24 per day.

25 Q. Will this be an open or a closed system?

1 A. Closed system.

2 Q. In 1997, the Division approved certain pressure
3 limitations for the CO₂ project. What were those?

4 A. For the CO₂ portion it was 1160 p.s.i. surface
5 pressure, and for the water phase of that it was 530 p.s.i.

6 Q. In this case, will Quay Valley need to increase
7 the injection pressure for the project?

8 A. No. In fact, the 530 p.s.i. should be sufficient
9 for initial operations for the water phase, since we will
10 not be doing CO₂.

11 Q. If in fact you need to at some subsequent time
12 increase the injection pressure, does Quay Valley propose
13 that this increase be established by Division-witnessed
14 step-rate tests?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Has there been any change in the data previously
17 presented to this Division concerning the injection of
18 water into these reservoirs?

19 A. No, not that I'm aware of.

20 Q. Will Quay Valley also call another witness to
21 review the Application for qualification of this project as
22 an enhanced oil recovery project?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, that concludes my
25 examination of this witness.

EXAMINATION

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BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

Q. Mr. Atnipp, what kind of volumes of your microemulsion are you talking about mixing with the water?

A. 150 parts per million on 1.5 million barrels of water.

Q. I'm sorry, on 1- --

A. 1.5 million barrels of water will be the slug size, and it will be 150 parts per million involved with that.

Q. What does that translate to in a volume of the actual microemulsion?

A. 9000 gallons.

Q. 9000 gallons. And will this be injected over a period of time, or what's the process?

A. Yes, the -- It should take about 15, 16 months, more than likely, to get the full slug size in. That 1.5 million will be treated with the microbes at that rate, and that will be injected into the system until that 1.5-million-barrel slug is put in the ground.

Q. And at that point there will be no more put in the ground?

A. That will be depending upon the system. As far as the slug size goes for the microemulsion, there will not be any further required for that. Bur accordingly, if we

1 have any scale problems or treater problems in our water,
2 we can use that to -- at a lower rate, part per million, to
3 continue to inject, if it's needed.

4 Q. Now, this isn't the first project that you guys
5 have done in New Mexico; is that right?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. I believe you've worked with Devon?

8 A. No, Triumph and also Shahara out of Loco Hills
9 here in New Mexico. We have several that have been
10 approved in Texas also.

11 Q. Have you seen any results from these yet?

12 A. As far as increased oil production, no; the
13 projects are in the early stages of that. What we have
14 seen is a reduction in injection pressures, which indicates
15 that we're moving more fluid at a lower pressure into the
16 ground, which is an indication that we should be doing that
17 in the formation as well.

18 Q. And again, can you just briefly explain the
19 process, what happens in the formation to aid in the
20 recovery?

21 A. What we're doing, we're doing two things. One,
22 we're creating a surfactant in the formation itself, and so
23 we're surfactant-flooding the formation. And that process
24 requires that we use some of the scale in the formation as
25 a food source.

1 And so we're actually removing the scale and
2 allowing the sweep efficiency to increase, as well as
3 producing the surfactant to help move the oil out of the
4 formation.

5 Q. Have you had some successes in other states with
6 this type of project?

7 A. I've got one currently going up in Garza County,
8 and we've seen a reduction in pressure, which means we're
9 removing the scale.

10 I have another one over at Mentone, Texas, that
11 they are now currently starting to get a response, but it's
12 only been about a year and a half since the project has
13 initiated.

14 So the ultimate recovery will be determined at
15 some later date.

16 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, I have nothing further.

17 H.L. ATNIPP,
18 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
19 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. CARR:

22 Q. Would you state your name for the record?

23 A. H.L. Atnipp.

24 Q. Do you spell your last name like the preceding
25 witness spells his?

1 A. Yes, I do.

2 Q. Where do you reside?

3 A. Midland, Texas.

4 Q. By whom are you employed?

5 A. Self-employed.

6 Q. And what is the name of your company?

7 A. Just H.L. Atnipp.

8 Q. What is your relationship with Quay Valley?

9 A. We will provide the naturally occurring micro-
10 organisms to create the microemulsion flood.

11 Q. Have you previously testified before this
12 Division and had your credentials accepted --

13 A. Yes, I have.

14 Q. -- as a matter of record?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And were you qualified as a petroleum engineer at
17 that time?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
20 this case on behalf of Quay Valley?

21 A. Yes, I am.

22 Q. And you're familiar with their proposed
23 microemulsion flood?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. CARR: Are Mr. Atnipp's qualifications

1 acceptable?

2 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

3 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Initially, Mr. Atnipp, would you
4 summarize for the Examiner the benefits that you anticipate
5 being obtained by the microemulsion flood?

6 A. Yes, I can. We anticipate -- and if I may answer
7 one of the questions that you asked, why the micro-emulsion
8 flood in relation to the CO₂ project?

9 The capital expenditures, exclusive of the CO₂,
10 for the CO₂ project was \$3.5 million. The proposed capital
11 expenditures for the microemulsion flood, exclusive of the
12 cost of the microbes, was \$3.5 million. The estimated cost
13 of the CO₂, \$20 million. The cost of the naturally
14 occurring micro-organisms, less than a million dollars.

15 The additional recovery anticipated, as shown
16 with the CO₂ project, 3.7 million barrels. The anticipated
17 additional recovery by the naturally occurring micro-
18 organisms, 3.7 million barrels.

19 Dollars relating to that, \$74 million for the CO₂
20 project, \$74 million for the microemulsion project.

21 Time framework, essentially the same,
22 anticipated.

23 One other thing for the microemulsion flood,
24 because those are naturally occurring micro-organisms,
25 there are no restraints or not negatives, if you get it in

1 the water system, because many of the naturally occurring
2 micro-organisms are actually utilized in water
3 purification. There are no adverse problems if you spill
4 it on the ground, because certain micro-organisms are used
5 for bioremediation.

6 So what translates is that there are no negatives
7 in relation ecologically by the use of the naturally
8 occurring micro-organisms. And we specify naturally
9 occurring, not generic [sic] engineered. All of ours are
10 naturally occurring.

11 Q. Now, Mr. Atnipp, Exhibit Number 3, is this a copy
12 of the formal Application of Quay Valley for qualification
13 under the Enhanced Oil Recovery Act?

14 A. Yes, it is.

15 Q. And does this exhibit contain all the information
16 required by the rules that implement that statute?

17 A. Yes, it does.

18 Q. And the figures and the numbers that you have
19 just presented, are they contained and set forth in this
20 exhibit?

21 A. Yes, they are.

22 Q. Does this exhibit also set out a production
23 history and production forecast for gas, oil and water
24 production from the project area, as required by the
25 Division rules?

1 A. Yes, it does.

2 Q. And they're set out on Exhibit E?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And in fact, based on what you've just testified
5 to, is it fair to say that with the microemulsion flood,
6 you're anticipating that the results you will obtain are as
7 good as what you would have received if, in fact, the CO₂
8 flood had been implemented in the project area?

9 A. Yes. In fact, there's a good chance that it will
10 exceed the CO₂.

11 Q. In the prior hearing, the 1997 hearing for
12 implementation of the CO₂ flood, only a portion of the unit
13 area was designated as the area which would, in fact,
14 derive the benefit or experience a production increase by
15 virtue of CO₂ injection.

16 My question for you is, with a micro-emulsion
17 flood, will the entire unit area benefit from the
18 microemulsion injection?

19 A. Yes, it will.

20 Q. And do you anticipate that a positive production
21 response or increase can be obtained throughout the entire
22 unit area with this flood?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. In your opinion, would approval of the
25 Application and implementation of this flood be in the best

1 interest of conservation, the prevention of waste and the
2 protection of correlative rights?

3 A. Yes, it will be.

4 Q. Have you reviewed Exhibit 3, and can you testify
5 that it is, in fact, the Application that contains the
6 numbers you've just reviewed with the Examiner?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, at this time we would
9 move the admission into evidence of Quay Valley Exhibit
10 Number 3.

11 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibit Number 3 will be
12 admitted as evidence.

13 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
14 examination of Mr. H.L. Atnipp.

15 EXAMINATION

16 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

17 Q. Mr. Atnipp, do you know if Quay Valley will
18 utilize all the injection wells in the project?

19 A. That is anticipated, yes. All of the wells that
20 are shown as injection wells will be utilized for the
21 injection of the water and the microbes.

22 Q. And essentially, does that involve starting up at
23 the same time, or does it --

24 A. Well, I think as Stan pointed out, that the total
25 process will take about six months. Currently, they have

1 two wells only accepting produced water. We will begin to
2 integrate the injection into wells as they come on stream
3 and are reworked, whatever is necessary. But we hope that
4 within four to six months we will have all wells on
5 injection.

6 I might add that the well that was referred to
7 before is also out of the Delaware, the one that they are
8 beginning to see some response in. It is a Delaware flood.

9 Q. That's the one in Texas?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Where do you obtain the micro-organisms?

12 A. Well, that's proprietary from our source, I might
13 add, and the strains are proprietary. But I can tell you
14 one. One of the strains came from the limestone outside of
15 Austin at no cost. They have growth facilities, they
16 isolate the micro-organisms.

17 And they're not the same micro-organisms for
18 all -- It's not one takes care of all. They are different
19 strains of micro-organisms, as required for, say, scale
20 removal or paraffin removal or reduction in paraffin. It's
21 an individual set of circumstances.

22 Q. So the ones you plan to inject into this flood,
23 is it a combination of different strains?

24 A. Yes, it is, it is a combination, and a
25 proprietary combination.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. This is our -- We have been approved for three in
3 the State of New Mexico. This will be our fourth.

4 EXAMINER CATANACH: I think I have everything I
5 need.

6 MR. CARR: I just have one more question.

7 EXAMINER CATANACH: Go ahead.

8 FURTHER EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. CARR:

10 Q. Mr. Atnipp, you testified about the use of
11 microemulsion being environmentally sound.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. When you compare the product that you obtain from
14 a microemulsion flood with the gas you would get as a
15 result of the CO₂ project, is it easier to sell the gas or
16 get it ready for market when you use microemulsion?

17 A. Well, yes. One of the problems with the CO₂
18 project is that you can't vent it. And therefore you have
19 to keep reinjecting it into the formation, which
20 substantially increases the cost. And since they can't
21 separate it, you can't sell the gas, naturally occurring
22 gas, from the formation.

23 Q. With microemulsion do you have any of those
24 problems?

25 A. No, you do not have any of those problems.

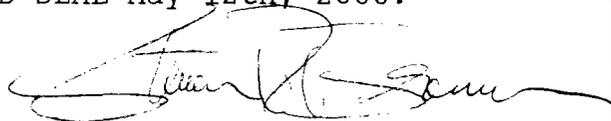
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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 May 12th, 2000.



STEVEN T. BRENNER
 CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 2002