STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

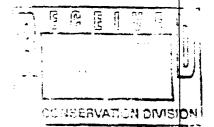
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

APPLICATION OF EXXON CORPORATION FOR A WATERFLOOD PROJECT, QUALIFICATION FOR THE RECOVERED OIL TAX RATE PURSUANT TO THE "NEW MEXICO ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY ACT" FOR SAID PROJECT, AND FOR 18 NONSTANDARD OIL WELL LOCATIONS, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

APPLICATION OF EXXON CORPORATION FOR STATUTORY UNITIZATION, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

) CASE NOS. 11,297) (11,298) (Consolidated)



REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

COMMISSION HEARING

BEFORE: WILLIAM J. LEMAY, CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM WEISS, COMMISSIONER
JAMI BAILEY, COMMISSIONER

Volume I December 14th, 1995 Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the Oil Conservation Commission on Thursday December 14th, 1995 (Volume I), 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.

* * *

formation is described in the unit agreement.

- Q. And would you explain for the Commissioners what Exhibit 1 is?
- A. Exhibit 1 is a land plat which outlines the proposed unit area and identifies the separate tracts which comprise the unit area.

These tracts are formed according to common mineral ownership. There are 12 tracts in the unit area, and prior to October 1st, 1995, Exxon operated five of the tracts, Yates Petroleum Corporation operated five of the tracts, MWJ operated one tract, and Premier operated one tract.

- Q. What is Exhibit 2, Mr. Thomas?
- A. Exhibit 2 is a proposed unit agreement. The unit agreement is a standard form except for a few minor revisions regularly used by the BLM and the Commissioner of Public Lands.

The unitized substances include all oil and gas produced from the unitized formation. The designated unit operator is Exxon Corporation.

- Q. Would you briefly discuss the unit operating agreement, which is Exhibit 3?
- A. Exhibit 3 is the proposed unit operating agreement, which sets forth the authorities and duties of the unit operator, as well as the apportionment of expenses

between the working interest owners.

- Q. Okay. Mr. Thomas, I believe the owners of the unit are set forth in Exhibit B to Exhibit 2, Exhibit B to the unit agreement; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.

- Q. How was that ownership determined?
- A. Exhibit B of the unit agreement is a tract-bytract listing of the interest owners. These names and
 interests were obtained from current Division order or
 title opinion files on the tracts Exxon operates. On the
 tracts operated by other parties, we based ownership based
 on information obtained from the other operators' files.
- Q. How many working and royalty interest owners are there in total in the unit?
- A. There are 43 working interest owners and 24 royalty or overriding royalty interest owners.
- Q. Referring to your Exhibits 4 and 4A, could you identify the working interest owners and which of the interest owners you seek to statutorily unitize?
- A. Exhibit 4 lists all working interest owners in the unit and contains working interest owner ratifications. The only working interest owners who have not yet ratified are shown in Exhibit 4A. We seek to statutorily unitize those owners.
 - Q. On Exhibit 4A?

UNIT OPERATING AGREEMENT OF THE AVALON (DELAWARE) UNIT EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Exhibit No. 5 Exxon Corporation Cases 11297 & 11298 Hearing Date: Dec. 14, 1995

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27		Exhibit "J"- Equal Opportunity Clause
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1			
2			UNIT OPERATING AGREEMENT
3			OF THE AVALON (DELAWARE) UNIT
4			EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
5			•
6		THIS	AGREEMENT, entered into as of the day of, 199_, by and
7	betwe	en the pa	arties who have signed the original of this instrument, a counterpart thereof or other
8	instru	ment agi	reeing to be bound or who are otherwise bound by the provisions hereof;
9		_	
10	WII	NES	SETH:
11			
12		WHE	REAS, the parties hereto as Working Interest Owners have executed, as of the date
13	hereo		reement entitled, "Unit Agreement for the Development and Operation of the
14		_	ware) Unit Area", Eddy County, New Mexico (the "Unit Agreement"), which,
15		-	hings, provides for a separate Agreement to be entered into by Working Interest
16		_	wide for the development and operation of the Unit Area as therein defined;
17		•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
18		NOW	THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual agreements herein set forth, it is
19	agree	d as follo	
20	_		
21			ARTICLE 1
22		(CONFIRMATION OF UNIT AGREEMENT AND DEFINITIONS
23			
24	1.1	Confi	rmation of Unit Agreement. The Unit Agreement is hereby confirmed and by
25	refere		le a part of this Agreement. If there is any conflict between the Unit Agreement and
26			nt, the Unit Agreement shall govern.
27			
28	1.2	Defini	itions. The definitions contained in the Unit Agreement are adopted for all purposes
29	of thi	s Agreer	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
30			
31			ARTICLE 2
32			EXHIBITS
33			
34	2.1	Exhib	oits. The following exhibits are incorporated herein by reference:
35			•
36		2.1.1	Exhibits "A", "B", "C", and "D" of the Unit Agreement.
37			
38		2.1.2	Exhibit "E" attached hereto, which is a schedule showing the total Unit
39			Participation of each Working Interest Owner. Exhibit "E", or a revision thereof,
40			shall not be conclusive as to the information therein, except it may be used as
41			showing the Unit participation of the Working Interest Owners for the purposes of
42			this Agreement until shown to be in error and revised as herein.
43			·
44		2.1.3	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
45			the Unit Operations. If there is any conflict between this Agreement and

Exhibit "F", this Agreement shall govern.

1		
2	2.1.4	Exhibit "G", attached hereto, which is the Gas Balancing Agreement applicable
3		to Unit Operations.
4		
5	_	
6	2.1.5	Exhibit "H", attached hereto, which is the List of Well Bores.
7		
8	2.1.6	Exhibit "I", attached hereto, which is the Notice of Lien and Mortgage-
9		Financing Statement.
0		
1	2.1.7	Exhibit "J", attached hereto, which contains Equal Opportunity provisions
2		applicable to Unit Operations.
3		
4		ion of Exhibits. Should Exhibits "A", "B", "C", be revised in accordance with
5		the Unit Agreement, Exhibit "E" shall be revised accordingly and be effective as of
6		. Unit Operator shall also revise Exhibit "E" from time to time as required to
7		anges in ownership of which Unit Operator has been notified as provided in the
8	Unit Agreeme	ent.
9	01 5.	
:0		ence to Exhibits. When reference is made herein to an exhibit, it is to the exhibit as
1	originally atta	sched or, if revised, to the last revision.
2		
23		ARTICLE 3
4	SUPI	ERVISION OF OPERATIONS BY WORKING INTEREST OWNERS
25 26	3.1 Overs	all Supervision. Working Interest Owners shall exercise overall supervision and
.0 !7		matters pertaining to Unit Operations, to this Agreement and to the Unit
28		n the exercise of such authority, each Working Interest Owner shall act solely in its
.o !9		the capacity of an individual owner and not on behalf of the owners as an entirety.
10	Own bendin h	the departy of an marvidual owner and not on behalf of the owners as an entirety.
31	3.2 Speci	fic Authorities and Duties. The matters with respect to which the Working Interest
32		rs shall decide and take action shall include, but not be limited to the following:
33	·	is shall decide and take abdon shall include, but not be inflict to the following.
34	3.2.1	Method of Operation. The method of operation, including any type of Improved
35	J	Recovery Project.
36		11000 1017 1 105000
37	3.2.2	Drilling of Wells. The drilling of any well whether for production of Unitized
38	J.2.2	Substances, for use as an injection well, or for other purposes.
39		bubbanious, for about an injurious well, or for outer purposes.
40	3.2.3	Well Recompletion and Change of Status. The recompletion, abandonment or
41	J. 2. J	change of status of any well, or the use of any well for injection or other purposes.
42		g,,
43	3.2.4	Expenditures. The making of any single expenditure in excess of One Hundred
44	<u> </u>	Thousand Dollars (\$100,000); provided that approval by Working Interest
45		Owners of the drilling, reworking, deepening or plugging back of any well shall
46		include approval of all necessary expenditures required therefore, and for

			·
1 2	8.2	Other	Taxes. Each Working Interest Owner shall pay, or cause to be paid, all production,
3			thering and other taxes imposed upon, or with respect to, the production or handling
4		_	Unitized Substances.
5			
6			ARTICLE 9
7			INSURANCE
8			
9	9.1	Insur	ance. Unit Operator, with respect to Unit Operations, shall do the following:
10			
11		9.1.1	Workman's Compensation. Comply with the Workman's Compensation laws of
12			the State of New Mexico.
13			
14		9.1.2	Employer's Liability Insurance. Carry Employer's Liability and other insurance
15			as required by the laws of the State of New Mexico.
16			
17		9.1.3	Other Insurance. Unit Operator shall not carry any other insurance on behalf of
18			the Unit.
19			
20			ARTICLE 10
21			PROPERTY TAKEN OVER
22		_	
23	10.1		onal Property Taken Over. Upon the Effective Date of the Unit, the Working
24			ers shall deliver to Unit Operator all personal property and fixtures necessary or
25	usen	il for Un	it Operations as follows:
26		1011	337.31 3.337.33.35
27			Wells and Well Equipment. All wells listed on Exhibit "H" and associated well
28		-	ment shall be delivered subject to the terms of Article 11 hereof, provided that: (i) it "H" may be amended to add or delete wells by vote of the Working Interest
29			rs as provided herein; and (ii) Within ten (10) days after the Effective Date, or after
30 31			has been added to Exhibit "H" by vote of the Working Interest Owners, whichever
32			licable, the owner of such well may elect, by written notification to Unit Operator,
33			un such well and its associated well equipment, subject to the requirements of
34			on 11.4 hereof.
35		beene	
36		10.1.2	Lease and Operating Equipment. Subject to the procedures set out in Section
37			all lease and operating equipment, and all wells other than those covered by Section
38			and facility systems related to production from the Unitized Formation or which
39			be useful for Unit Operations and which are located on the Unitized Area shall be
40		deem	ed to have been delivered to Unit Operator as of the Effective Date, provided that
41		within	ten (10) days of such Effective Date the owner of any such equipment that does
42		not w	ish to contribute it to the Unit may, by written notification to Operator, elect to
43		retain	such equipment.
44			
45			Working Interest Owners Retain Responsibility for Wells. Notwithstanding
46		anyth	ing contained herein to the contrary, it is understood and agreed that the parties shall

retain the authority to conduct testing, evaluation and repair operations on the wells listed on Exhibit "H" hereto, and the facilities associated therewith in order to establish and/or render same useful for Unit Operations as provided in Article 10 & 11, and that, until such time as said well(s) and well equipment have been accepted by the Unit as provided herein, the owners thereof shall retain all liability and responsibility for such wells, and shall be solely responsible for complying with all permitting and bonding requirements applicable thereto.

10.2 Records. Within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, each Working Interest Owner shall deliver to Unit Operator a copy of all production and well records pertaining to any well which (i) has produced or is currently producing from the Unitized Formation; and/or (ii) is listed on Exhibit "H".

10.3 Inventory and Evaluation of Personal Property. Working Interest Owners shall appoint an inventory committee which shall, as of the Effective Date or as soon thereafter as is feasible, cause to be taken, under the supervision of the Unit Operator and at Unit Expense, joint physical inventories of the lease and well equipment described in Section 10.1.2, which inventories shall be used as a basis for determining the items of equipment to be taken over by the Unit Operator hereunder. Physical inventories conducted prior to the Effective Date hereof may be used for this purpose with approval by Working Interest Owners. The Unit Operator shall notify each Working Interest Owner within each separate Tract at least ten (10) days prior to the taking of the inventory with respect to said Tract, so that each of said Working Interest Owners may make arrangements to be represented at the taking of the inventory. Such inventories shall include those items of equipment normally considered controllable as recommended in the materials classification manual in Bulletin No. 6 dated June, 1982 or any amendments thereto, published by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies, except that intangible drill and complete costs will also be included and valued at \$225,000 per well for the purposes of the inventory adjustment. Such inventories shall exclude all items not of use and value to the Unit and not necessary to Unit Operations. Following completion of the inventories, such inventories shall be priced in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit "F" hereto, and made a part hereof. Such pricing shall be performed under the supervision of the Unit Operator, with Working Interest Owners furnishing such additional assistance in valuation as may be available and necessary.

10.4 Inventory and Valuations. After completion of the applicable inventory and evaluation of property in accordance with the provisions of Section 10.3, Unit Operator shall submit to each Working Interest Owner a copy of the inventory and valuations thereon together with a letter ballot for approval of such inventory and valuations. Any item of equipment not listed on said inventory shall be deemed excluded from the Unit. Within sixty (60) days after receipt of such inventory and valuations each Working Interest Owner shall return such letter ballot to Unit Operator indicating its approval or disapproval thereof. It is agreed that such inventory and valuations shall be binding upon all parties if approved by Working Interest Owners owning as much as sixty-five percent (65%) of the Working Interest in the Unit Area, except that if one owner exceeds sixty five percent (65%), one other Working Interest Owner will be required to approve such inventory and valuations for it to be binding. It is understood and agreed that, notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, Unit Operator shall submit the

inventory and evaluation for approval by Working Interest Owners only after all of the wellbores to be included in the Unit have been declared to be either usable or not usable in accordance with the terms of Article 11 hereof.

10.5 Investment Adjustments. As soon as practicable after approval by Working Interest Owners of the inventory and valuations as provided in Section 10.4, each Working Interest Owner shall be credited with the value of its interest in all personal property taken over by Unit Operator under Section 10.1, and charged with an amount equal to that obtained by multiplying the total value of all such personal property so taken over by Unit Operator under Section 10.1 by such Working Interest Owner's Unit Participation, as shown on Exhibit "E", attached hereto. If the charge against any Working Interest Owner is greater than the amount credited to such Working Interest Owner, the resulting net charge shall be paid and in all other respects be treated as any other item of Unit Expense chargeable against such Working Interest Owner subject to the terms of Section 12.3. If the credit to any Working Interest Owner is greater than the amount charged against such Working Interest Owner, the resulting net credit shall be paid to such Working Interest Owner by Unit Operator out of funds received by it in settlement of the net charges described above.

 10.6 General Facilities. The acquisition of any warehouses, warehouse stocks, lease houses, facility or facilities systems, and office buildings necessary for Unit Operations and not contributed to the Unit under the terms hereof, shall be by negotiations by and between the owners thereof and Unit Operator, subject to the requirements of Article 3.

10.7 Ownership of Personal Property and Facilities. Each Working Interest Owner, individually, shall, by virtue hereof, own an undivided interest in all personal property and facilities taken over or otherwise acquired by Unit Operator pursuant to this Agreement equal to its Unit Participation, as shown on Exhibit "E" attached hereto.

ARTICLE 11 WELLBORES

11.1 Usable Wells. Whether currently active, shut-in, temporarily abandoned, plugged and abandoned or completed in a non-Unitized interval, a well must meet all of the following conditions to qualify as "Usable" for the purposes of this Agreement:

11.1.1 Completion Interval. The well must be completed in the Unitized Formation, and not completed outside the Unitized Formation.

11.1.2 Casing Integrity. The well must demonstrate casing integrity by acceptably completing a pressure test for depths above the top of the Unitized Formation, said pressure test to be performed with water at a minimum surface pressure of 700 pounds per square inch for a minimum of thirty minutes, as documented using a chart recorder. To recognize thermal effects and other conditions that might affect pressure readings, a pressure change of 10% during the test period will be accepted if, in the opinion of the Unit Operator, such change is not the result of test fluid loss or gain.

- 11.1.3 Isolation of Non-Unitized Formations. If a well was ever previously completed in an interval other than the Unitized Formation or if pressure communication into such intervals is suspected for any reason, the source of the communication must be repaired.
- 11.1.4 Wellbore Condition. The well must be free of scale, junk and debris to the base of the productive zone of the Unitized Formation.
- 11.1.5 Wellbore Size. Any production casing and liner, if present, must be at least 4-1/2" diameter.
- 11.1.6 Cement Integrity. The well must have cement integrity sufficient to protect the Goat Seep Reef. The owner of the well must provide wellbore records sufficient to demonstrate such cement integrity. If the Unit Operator, acting in its sole discretion, determines that the records provided are not sufficient to demonstrate such cement integrity, an injecting temperature tracer survey shall be run in accordance with procedures established or approved by the Unit Operator.
- 11.1.7 Other Wells. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section 11.1 to the contrary, in the event that a well covered hereby is to be utilized as a source of water from, or for disposal to, a formation other than the Unitized Formation, than the zone to be used for water production or disposal shall be substituted for the Unitized Formation in the application of this Section, provided, that, with regard to Section 11.1.4, the criteria shall be that the well shall be sufficiently free of scale, junk and debris for the wells intended purpose.
- 11.2 Wellbores Made Usable. After the Effective Date, but within the two (2) year period described in Section 11.3 below, the Unit Operator shall determine which wells may be accepted as Usable in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 11.1.
 - 11.2.1 Testing and Remedial Work Performed by Wellbore Owner. The tests required to demonstrate a wellbore's compliance with the requirements of Section 11.1 may be performed by the owners of the wellbore at their risk and expense, provided that the procedures for such testing shall be approved in advance by Unit Operator, Unit Operator shall have the right to witness such tests, and Unit Operator shall make the final determination of whether a wellbore is Usable based on the results of such tests. Within thirty (30) days of being notified by Unit Operator that a wellbore has been determined not be Usable, the owners of such wellbore may elect to perform workover operations, at their sole risk and expense, to attempt to make a deficient well Usable, but the Unit Operator reserves the right to review and approve any of the workover procedure(s). The Unit Operator must be notified at least five (5) days prior to commencement of workover operations and Unit Operator's representatives must be permitted to witness such operations and such work must be completed within sixty (60) days of its commencement, unless an extension of such sixty (60) day period is granted by

Unit Operator.

ARTICLE 12 NON-CONSENT PROVISION

12.1 Election. It is understood and agreed that any Working Interest Owner may elect to be carried hereunder, subject to the following terms and conditions: When Unit Operator circulates the Unit Agreement and Unit Operating Agreement for execution, Unit Operator shall also circulate a ballot under which a party may elect: (a) whether it wishes to be carried; and (b) if it

11.2.2 Testing and Remedial Work Performed by Unit Operator. At any time within six months after the Effective Date, any wellbore owner may request that any testing required under Section 11.1 and/or any remedial work required to make a wellbore Usable be performed by the Unit Operator. Following any such written request, the Unit Operator will review wellbore records to determine appropriate procedures and cost estimates. Should the Unit Operator determine that the required testing or remedial work is technically feasible and can be performed on a timely basis, then the Unit Operator may, at its sole discretion, agree to perform the required testing and/or remedial work. The wellbore owners shall bear the sole cost, risk, and expense of such testing and/or remedial work and the cost incurred by Unit Operator shall be reimbursed by the wellbore owners.

- 11.3 Wellbores Accepted as Usable. Any wellbore which is to be contributed to the Unit shall not be accepted as Usable until it can be assessed pursuant to Sections 11.1 and 11.2 hereof. Notwithstanding the foregoing any well not so assessed within two (2) years following the Effective Date of the Unit shall be deemed not Usable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if, at any time prior to the two (2) year period provided for herein, a workover is to be performed for the benefit of the Unit on a wellbore that has not yet been determined to be Usable, Unit Operator shall notify the owners of such wellbore, and said owners shall have thirty (30) days to perform the testing required under Section 11.1, or request that Unit Operator perform such testing pursuant to Section 11.2.2, and the provisions of said Section 11.2 shall apply to any remedial work which may be required as a result of such testing.
- Working Interest Owner, (2) is within the Unit area, (3) has previously been completed in the Unitized Formation or is suspected of being in pressure communication with the Unitized Formation, and (4) is not accepted as Usable by the Working Interest Owners pursuant to the terms hereof, must either be plugged and abandoned by the owner or isolated from the Unitized Formation and must pass a casing integrity pressure test as described in Section 11.1.2 to verify that isolation. Said test to be performed at the expense of the owner of the well provided that Unit Operator shall be given forty eight (48) hours notice of such test and shall have the opportunity to witness the test. In the event that any owner fails to comply with the pressure test request or to remedy any pressure communication conditions, the Unit Operator shall have the right to withhold production funds or credits from the non-complying owner(s) until such time as testing compliance is achieved, and any pressure communication is remedied.

-EXHIBIT "H"						
	L	ST OF WELL BORES				
WELL			WELL			
TRACT	OPERATOR	LEASE	NUMBER			
2711	EXXON	BURTON FLAT SECTION 6 STATE	1			
2709	EXXON	BURTON FLAT SECTION 6 STATE	3			
1919	EXXON	HONDO A STATE	1			
2119	EXXON	HONDO A STATE	2			
2319	EXXON	HONDO A STATE	3			
2519	EXXON	HONDO A STATE	4			
2321	EXXON	HONDO FEE	2			
2315	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	2			
2313	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	10			
	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	22			
2515	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	11			
2317	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	12			
2311	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	13			
2517	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	14			
2511	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	15			
1913	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	17			
2315	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	18			
1915	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	3			
2719	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	35			
2016	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	36			
1917	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	4			
1911	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	5			
2113	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	. 6			
2115	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	7			
2111	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	8			
2117	EXXON	YATES C FEDERAL	9			
2309	MWJ	GWA STATE	1			
2509	MWJ	GWA STATE	2			
1709	PREMIER	EDDY FV STATE	3			
1909	YATES	CITIDEL ZG	ı			
1311	YATES	STONEWALL EP ST	5			
1111	YATES	STONEWALL EP ST	7			
1313	YATES	STONEWALL EP ST	8			
1715	YATES	STONEWALL WM ST	1			
1717	YATES	STONEWALL WM ST	2			
1713	YATES	STONEWALL WM ST	3			
1711	YATES	STONEWALL WM ST	4			
1513	YATES	STONEWALL WM ST	5			
			6			
1515	YATES	STONEWALL YE STATE	1			