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RECOGNIZED SPECIALIST IN THE AREA OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES-OIL AND GAS LAW

JASON KELLAHIN (RETIRED 1991)

March 10, 1998

**HAND DELIVERED**

Ms. Lori Wrotenbery, Director  
Oil Conservation Division  
2040 South Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Request of Marathon Oil Company  
for Extension of Date for Commencement of Well  
Pursuant to Compulsory Pooling Order R-10930  
Case 11883 (Courtman "4" State Well No.1)  
N/2 Equivalent of Irregular Section 4,  
T19S, R28E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico

Dear Ms. Wrotenbery:

On behalf of Marathon Oil Company ("Marathon") and in accordance with the provisions of the referenced order (copy enclosed), I am requesting a 30-day extension to the commencement date for subject well and in support state:

- (1) The order was entered effective December 22, 1997 and provides that this well shall be commenced on or before March 15, 1998;
- (2) The Courtman "4" State Well No. 1 is part of Marathon's current drilling program in Eddy County, New Mexico involving the continuous use of two rigs throughout the year;
- (3) Marathon had originally expected to be able to spud the Courtman "4" State Well No. 1 by March 15, 1998 with one of the two contract rigs involved in this drilling program;
- (4) However, the schedule for the Courtman "4" State Well No. 1 has been delayed because each rig is still occupied drilling other wells with the first rig not available until after March 15, 1998:

Oil Conservation Division  
March 10, 1998  
Page 2.

(a) Rig # 4 is currently on location for the Indian Hills Unit Com Well No. 13 and has been delayed due to drilling difficulties, and is approximately 2-3 weeks beyond the original expected completion date; and

(b) Rig # 7 is currently on location for the Rocky Hills SWD Well No. 1 and is not due to be released until after March 15, 1998.

(5) An extension of the commencement date for the Courtman "4" State Well No. 1 will provide the opportunity to coordinate the commencement of this well with the completion of the other wells in the program;

(6) Due to the unexpected nature of the problems with Rig #4 and the short time from until March 15, 1998, efforts to obtain a third rig for this program so that the Courtman "4" State Well No. 1 can be commenced by March 15, 1998 will cause Marathon to undertake extraordinary efforts and expenses.

(7) Marathon anticipates being able to commence drilling this well on or before April 15, 1998.

Should you grant this extension, I have enclosed for your consideration a proposed letter which will authorize the requested extension. Should you decide to deny this request, I would appreciate being advised immediately so that Marathon can timely file to re-instate this pooling order which will otherwise expire.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Thomas Kellahin', written in a cursive style.

W. Thomas Kellahin

cc: David R. Catanach (NMOCD Hearing Examiner)  
cc: Marathon Oil Company  
Attn: Thomas C. Lowry, Esq.