

**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. 12274
Order No. R-11284*

**APPLICATION OF DAVID H. ARRINGTON OIL AND GAS INC. FOR
COMPULSORY POOLING, DIRECTIONAL DRILLING AND AN UNORTHODOX
WELL LOCATION, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on November 4, 1999, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 2nd day of December, 1999, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice has been given and the Division has jurisdiction of this case and its subject matter.

(2) The applicant, David H. Arrington Oil & Gas Inc., seeks an order pooling all uncommitted mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Wolfcamp formation underlying the SE/4 NE/4 of Section 29, Township 15 South, Range 36 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, thereby forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit. This unit is to be dedicated to the Prince Nymph Well No. 1-A (formerly the Prince Nymph Well No. 1), which will be re-entered and directionally drilled from its current surface location 2308 feet from the South line and 943 feet from the East line (Unit I) of Section 29 to an unorthodox bottomhole location within 50 feet of a point 2440 feet from the North line and 866 feet from the East line (Unit H) of Section 29 and not closer than 200 feet to the southern boundary of the spacing unit.

(3) Division records indicate that the Prince Nymph Well No. 1 was originally drilled by David H. Arrington Oil and Gas Inc. during 1999 to a depth of approximately 12,050 feet. The well was drilled to an unorthodox bottomhole location 2446 feet from the South line and 1006 feet from the East line (Unit I) of Section 29 (approved by Division Order No. R-11094) to test the Strawn and Wolfcamp formations. The well was subsequently plugged and abandoned after encountering no commercial hydrocarbon production in these formations.

(4) The applicant proposes to re-enter the Prince Nymph Well No. 1 and directionally drill the well in a northerly direction to test the Wolfcamp formation, Caudill-Permo Upper Pennsylvanian Pool.

(5) The applicant presented sufficient geologic evidence to demonstrate the necessity of drilling the Prince Nymph Well No. 1-A to an unorthodox bottomhole location.

(6) The applicant estimates that re-entry and completion costs for the Prince Nymph Well No. 1-A will be approximately \$596,000.

(7) The applicant has the right to re-enter the Prince Nymph Well No. 1 and proposes to directionally drill the well to the unorthodox bottomhole location described above.

(8) There are interest owners in the proposed proration unit that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(9) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights, to avoid waste, and to afford to the owner of each interest in the unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense its just and fair share of production this application should be approved by pooling all uncommitted mineral interests, whatever they may be, within the unit.

(10) David H. Arrington Oil and Gas, Inc. should be designated the operator of the well and unit.

(11) Any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to pay its share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(12) Any non-consenting working interest owner who does not pay its share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production its share of reasonable well costs plus an additional 200 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(13) Any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(14) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(15) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$6,000.00 per month while drilling and \$600.00 per month while producing. The operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(16) All proceeds from production from the well not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(17) If the operator of the pooled unit fails to commence re-entry and directional drilling operations on or before March 1, 2000, or if all the parties to this compulsory pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order should become of no effect whatsoever.

(18) The operator of the well and unit should notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the compulsory pooling provisions of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All uncommitted mineral interests, whatever they may be, from the surface to the base of the Wolfcamp formation underlying the SE/4 NE/4 of Section 29, Township 15 South, Range 36 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled thereby forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit. This unit shall be dedicated to the Prince Nymph Well No. 1-A, which will be re-entered and directionally drilled from its current surface location 2308 feet from the South line and 943 feet from the East line (Unit I) of Section 29 to an unorthodox bottomhole location within 50 feet of a point 2440 feet from the North line and 866 feet from the East line (Unit H) of Section 29, provided, however, the bottomhole location shall not be located closer than 200 feet of the southern boundary of the spacing unit. Note: After pooling, "uncommitted" mineral working interest owners are referred to as "nonconsenting" working interest owners.

(2) The operator of the unit shall commence re-entry and directional drilling operations on or before March 1, 2000, and shall thereafter continue drilling the well with due diligence to a depth sufficient to test the Wolfcamp formation.

(3) In the event the operator does not commence re-entry and directional drilling operations on or before March 1, 2000, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no effect, unless the operator obtains a time extension from the Division Director for good cause shown.

(4) Should the well not be drilled to completion or abandoned within 120 days after commencement thereof, the operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Ordering Paragraph (1) should not be rescinded.

(5) David H. Arrington Oil and Gas, Inc. is hereby designated the operator of the well and unit.

(6) After the effective date of this order and within 90 days prior to commencing the well, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner in the unit an itemized schedule of estimated well costs.

(7) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished, any non-consenting working interest owner shall have the right to pay its share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production, and any such owner who pays its share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

(8) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the well. If no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of the schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided, however, that if there is an objection to actual well costs within the 45-day period the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(9) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated well costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator its share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator its share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(10) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (a) the proportionate share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid its share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished; and
- (b) as a charge for the risk involved in drilling the well, 200 percent of the above costs.

(11) The operator shall distribute the costs and charges withheld from production to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(12) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$6,000.00 per month while drilling and \$600.00 per month while producing. The operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(13) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths ($7/8$) working interest and a one-eighth ($1/8$) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under this order.

(14) Any well costs or charges that are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interest's share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(15) All proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason shall immediately be placed in escrow in Lea County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership. The operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of the escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with the escrow agent.

(16) Should all the parties to this forced pooling order reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(17) The operator of the well and unit shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

(18) Jurisdiction is hereby retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.



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STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Lori Wrotenberg
LORI WROTENBERY
Director