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W. THOMAS KELLAHIN*

*NEW MEXICO BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION
RECOGNIZED SPECIALIST IN THE AREA OF
NATURAL RESOURCES-OIL AND GAS LAW

JASON KELLAHIN (RETIRED 1991)

December 9, 1999

HAND DELIVERED

Mr. David R. Catanach
Hearing Examiner

Rand L. Carroll, Esq.
Division Attorney
Oil Conservation Division
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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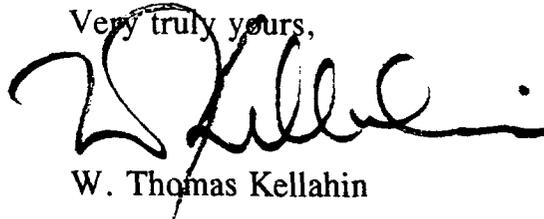
99 DEC 10 PM 2:17
OIL CONSERVATION DIV

Re: **MOTION TO DISMISS**
NMOCD Case 12312
Application of Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc.
for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico
S/2 Sec 30, T16S, R32E (Texmack "30" State Com Well No. 1)

Gentlemen:

On behalf of OXY USA Inc., an adversely affected interest owner, please find enclosed our MOTION TO DISMISS the referenced case filed by Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. This case is currently set on the Examiner's Docket scheduled for December 16, 1999.

Very truly yours,


W. Thomas Kellahin

cc: William F. Carr, Esq.
Attorney for Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc.
OXY USA Inc.
Attn: Richard Foppiano

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF TEXACO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION, INC.
FOR COMPULSORY POOLING
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

CASE NO. 12312

OIL CONSERVATION DIV.
1999 DEC 10 PM 2:17

MOTION TO DISMISS

Comes now OXY USA Inc. ("OXY"), by its attorneys, Kellahin and Kellahin, enters its appearance in this case as an interested party in opposition to the applicant and moves the Division to dismiss this case because the applicant, Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. ("Texaco") seeks to pool acreage a portion of which is already dedicated to and approved by the Division as a spacing unit for OXY's Purple Martin Well No. 1 located in Unit M, Section 30, T16S, R32E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico; And in support states:

RELEVANT FACTS

- (1) OXY controls 100% of the working interest in the W/2 of Section 30, T16S, R32E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.
- (2) Texaco's working interest is confined to the E/2 of this section.
- (3) On November 16, 1999, the Division approved OXY's application for permit to drill its Purple Martin Well No. 1 as a wildcat Morrow gas well to be located at a standard well location in Unit M of this section and to be dedicated to a standard 322.16-acre gas spacing and proration unit consisting of the W/2 of Section 30. See **Exhibits A and B**.

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OXY USA Inc.'s motion to dismiss

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(4) On November 22, 1999, Texaco filed an application with the Division seeking a compulsory pooling order to drill its Texmack "30" State Com Well No. 1 to be located on acreage leased to OXY in the SW/4 of Section 30.

(5) Texaco's application seeks a pooling order for the following spacing units:

- (a) a 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit consisting of the S/2 of this section.
- (b) a 160-acre spacing and proration unit consisting of the SW/4 of this section.
- (c) an 80-acre spacing and proration unit consisting of the S/2SW/4 of this section.
- (d) an 40-acre spacing and proration unit consisting of the SW/4SW/4 of this section.

ARGUMENT

The Division cannot issue a compulsory pooling order for a spacing unit in which Texaco has no interest. Texaco has no interest in the SW/4 of this section and its request to pool for 160-acre, 80-acre and 40-acre units must be dismissed.

In addition, the S/2 of this section is not available to Texaco as a 320-acre spacing unit because the W/2 of this section has already been approved by the Division as a spacing unit for OXY's Purple Martin Well No. 1. Prior to Texaco filing its application for compulsory pooling, OXY obtained the Division's approval to drill its Purple Martin Well No 1 in the SW/4 of this section.

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OXY USA Inc.'s motion to dismiss

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OXY, with 100% of the working interest ownership in the W/2 of this section, has obtained Division approval to drill its own well on its own acreage. On the other hand, Texaco wants to drill its well on OXY's acreage and has not consolidated 100% of the working interest owners for its proposed spacing unit in the S/2 of this section.

The E/2 of this section is the only remaining 320-acre spacing unit now available in this section. Fortunately for Texaco, its working interest is located in the E/2 of this section and it can pursue efforts to locate its well on its own acreage and form a voluntary agreement with the owners in the E/2 of this section.

This is not a circumstance of competing well proposals or competing compulsory pooling applications. This is simply a case where OXY enjoys the opportunity and has exercised its right to drill a well on its own acreage. Texaco now seeks to frustrate that effort and to force its way into OXY's well.

The compulsory pooling statute is available only in the absence of a voluntary agreement. In this case, the Division is precluded from granting Texaco's application because the Division has already acted to approve OXY's application. Section 70-2-17(C) NMSA 1978 is very specific in its requirement that the compulsory pooling authority of the Division can only be exercised in those instances where the parties have not agreed to voluntarily pool their interests in a spacing unit for a specifically proposed well on that unit.

Failure to dismiss Texaco's application would establish a bad precedent for the Division and for the industry--a precedent which would unfairly allow compulsory pooling to void a previously approved application for permit to drill and to frustrate a company's efforts to drill wells located on their acreage in which they have 100% of the working interest and have commenced plans to drill and develop their property.

Compulsory pooling was intended only as a remedy of last resort and not as a means for one company to attempt to capture a portion of a well which another company is engaged in drilling.

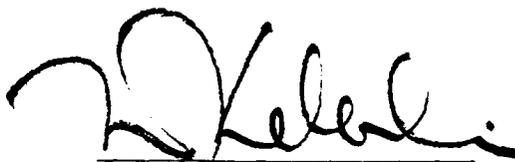
WHEREFORE OXY USA Inc. requests that the Division Hearing Examiner grant this motion and dismiss Oil Conservation Division Case 12312.



W. Thomas Kellahin
Kellahin & Kellahin
P. O. Box 2265
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
(505) 982-4285

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this pleading was hand delivered to counsel for applicant this 9th day of December, 1999. 



W. Thomas Kellahin

District I
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240
District II
311 South First, Artesia, NM 88210
District III
1000 Elie Square East, Aztec, NM 87410
District IV
2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, NM 87505

State of New Mexico
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

Form C-101
Revised March 17, 1999

Oil Conservation Division
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Submit to appropriate District Office
State License - 4 Copies
Fee License - 5 Copies

AMENDED REPORT

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO DRILL, RE-ENTER, DEEPEN, PLUGBACK, OR ADD A ZONE

Operator Name and Address OXY USA Inc. P.O. Box 50250 Midland, TX 79710-0250		OCEDD Number 16096
Property Code 23064		API Number 30-025-34764
Well Name OXY Purple Martin		Well No. 1

Surface Location

U.L. or Loc. no.	Section	Township	Range	Lot No.	Footnote No.	North/South line	Footnote No.	East/West line	County
M	30	16S	32E		660	South	660	West	Lin

Proposed Bottom Hole Location if Different From Surface

U.L. or Loc. no.	Section	Township	Range	Lot No.	Footnote No.	North/South line	Footnote No.	East/West line	County

Proposed Pool 1

Proposed Pool 2

Heat Undesignated Morrow - Gas

Well Type Code N	Well Type Code G	Cable/Entry R	License Type Code P	Ground Level Elevation 4160'
Multiple No	Proposed Depth 12400'	Formation Morrow	Contractor FWA Peterson	Spud Date 12/1/99

Proposed Casings and Cement Program

Hole Size	Casing Size	Casing weight/lb	Setting Depth	Seals of Cement	Estimated TOC
17-1/2"	13-3/8"	48#	625'	500	Surface
11"	8-5/8"	32-36#	4500'	1005	Surface
7-7/8"	5-1/2"	17#	12400'	665	9000'

22 Describe the proposed program. If this application is to DEEPEN or PLUG BACK, give the data on the present productive zone and proposed new productive zone. Describe the proposed production program, if any. Use additional sheets if necessary.

SEE OTHER SIDE

Permit Expires 1 Year From Approval Date Unless Drilling Underway

I hereby certify that the information given above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.		OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION	
Signature: <i>David Stewart</i>		Approved By: CHRIS WILLIAMS DISTRICT I SUPERVISOR	
Printed name: David Stewart		Title:	
Title: Regulatory Analyst		Approved Date: NOV 16 1999	Expiration Date:
Date: 11/10/99	Phone: 915-685-5717	Conditions of Approval: Attached <input type="checkbox"/>	



DISTRICT I
P.O. Box 1800, Hobbs, NM 88044

State of New Mexico

Energy, Mines & Natural Resources Department

Form C-102
Revised February 10, 1994
Instructions on back
Submit to Appropriate District Office
State Lease - 4 Copies
Fee Lease - 3 Copies

DISTRICT II
P.O. Drawer 00, Artesia, NM 88103

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

P.O. Box 2088

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

AMENDED REPORT

DISTRICT III
1000 Rio Grande Rd., Alton, NM 87110

WELL LOCATION AND ACREAGE DEDICATION PLAT

APN Number 30-025-	Pool Code	Pool Name Undesignated Morrow
Property Code 2503	Property Name OXY PURP E MARTIN	Well Number 1
OGED No. 16696	Operator Name OX' USA INC.	Elevation 4160'

Surface Location

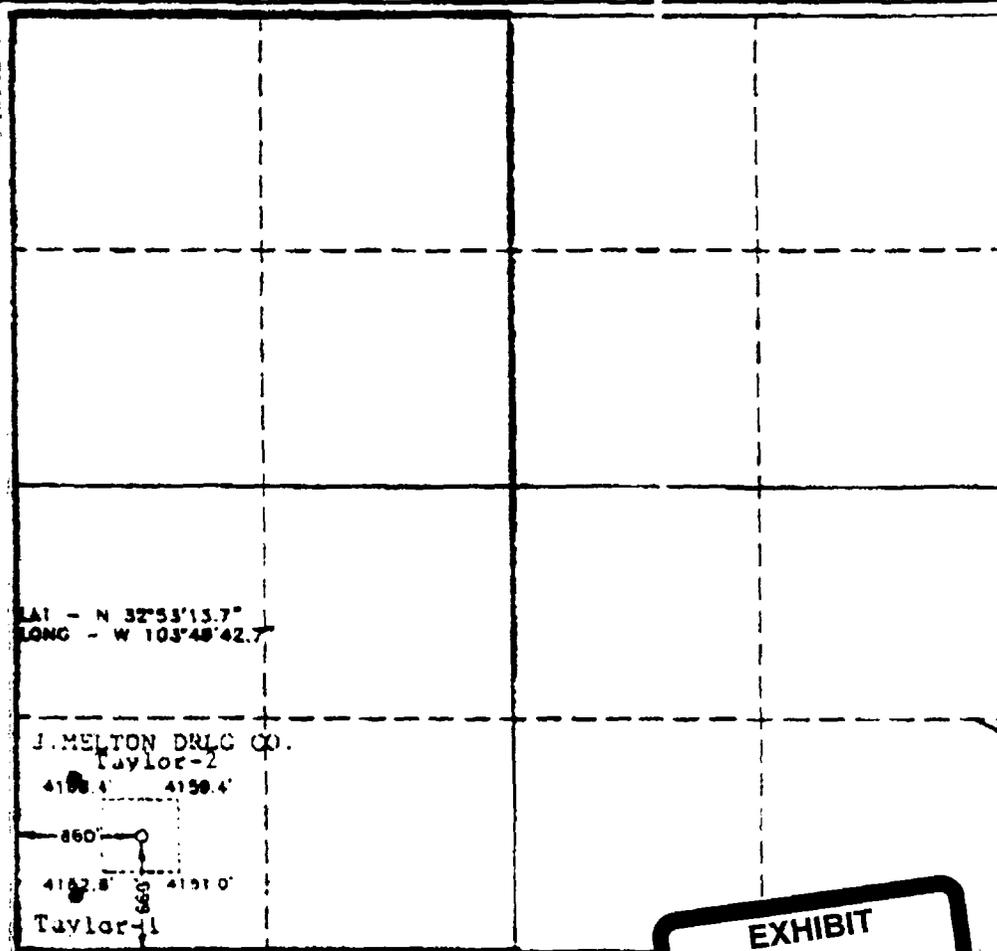
UL or lot No.	Section	Township	Range	Lot Idn	Feet from the	North/South Line	Feet from the	East/West Line	County
M	30	18 S	32 E		660	SOUTH	660	WEST	LEA

Bottom Hole Location If Different From Surface

UL or lot No.	Section	Township	Range	Lot Idn	Feet from the	North/South Line	Feet from the	East/West Line	County

Dedicated Acres 120	Joint or Infill N	Conservation Code	Order No.
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NO ALLOWABLE WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THIS COMPLETION UNTIL ALL INTERESTS HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATED OR A NON-STANDARD UNIT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DIVISION



OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

David Stewart
Signature

David Stewart
Printed Name

Regulatory Analyst
Title

11/10/99
Date

SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the well location shown on this plat was plotted from field notes of actual surveys made by me or under my supervision, and that the same is true and correct to the best of my belief.

November 08, 1999

James
Signature

W.O. No. 2884
Professional License No.

James 7877
Certificate No.

James 7877
Name

EXHIBIT
B