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
)

APPLICATION OF EOG RESOURCES, INC., FOR COMPULSORY POOLING, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

CASE NO. 12,924

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID K. BROOKS, Hearing Examiner

September 19th, 2002

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID K. BROOKS, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, September 19th, 2002, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

* * *

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September 19th, 2002

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APPEARANCES

FOR THE DIVISION:

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Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Assistant General Counsel
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

FOR THE APPLICANT:

HOLLAND & HART, L.L.P., and CAMPBELL & CARR 110 N. Guadalupe, Suite 1 P.O. Box 2208
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208
By: WILLIAM F. CARR

* * *

ALSO PRESENT:

MICHAEL E. STOGNER Hearing Examiner New Mexico Oil Conservation Division 1220 South Saint Francis Drive Santa Fe, NM 87505

WILLIAM B. OWEN
Landman, David Petroleum

* * *

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WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
 1
     8:58 a.m.:
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               EXAMINER BROOKS: Call Case Number 12,924,
 5
     Application of EOG Resources, Inc., for compulsory pooling,
 6
     Lea County, New Mexico.
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               Call for appearances.
               MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is
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     William F. Carr. I'm with the Santa Fe office of Holland
10
     and Hart, L.L.P.
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12
               We represent EOG Resources, and I have two
     witnesses.
13
               EXAMINER BROOKS: Any other appearances?
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15
               MR. OWEN: Sir, I'm Bill Owen, I'm with David
     Petroleum, and I think with Mr. Tower's testimony, you will
16
     understand why I'm here, basically representing the David
17
     and Yates group relative to this particular case.
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19
               EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good. Do you have any
     witnesses?
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21
               MR. OWEN: No, sir.
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               EXAMINER BROOKS: Will the witnesses please stand
     to be sworn?
23
24
               (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)
25
               EXAMINER BROOKS: You may proceed, Mr. Carr.
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1	PATRICK J. TOWER,
2	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
3	his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
4	DIRECT EXAMINATION
5	BY MR. CARR:
6	Q. Would you state your name for the record, please?
7	A. Patrick J. Tower.
8	Q. Mr. Tower, where do you reside?
9	A. Midland, Texas.
10	Q. By whom are you employed?
11	A. EOG Resources, Inc.
12	Q. And what is your current position with EOG
13	Resources?
14	A. My title is Division Land Specialist.
15	Q. Have you previously testified before this
16	Division?
17	A. Yes, I have.
18	Q. At the time of that testimony, were your
19	credentials as an expert in petroleum land matters accepted
20	and made a matter of record?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
23	this case?
24	A. Yes, I am.
25	Q. Are you familiar with the status of the lands in

the area which is the subject of the Application?

A. Yes, I am.

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MR. CARR: Are Mr. Tower's qualifications acceptable?

EXAMINER BROOKS: Qualifications are accepted.

- Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Tower, would you briefly state what it is that EOG Resources seeks in this case?
- Yes, EOG is seeking an order pooling all minerals from the surface through the top 100 feet of the Chester formation in the space south half -- the spacing unit being the south half of Section 30, Township 15 South, Range 35 East, in Lea County, New Mexico, the south half equivalent, which is 321.94 acres, which is in effect, Lots 3 and 4, the east half of the southwest quarter and southeast quarter for all formations and pools developed on 320-acre spacing, which would include but not necessarily be limited to the Undesignated North Hume-Morrow Gas Pool and the Undesignated North Eidson-Morrow Gas Pool, the southwest quarter for all formations developed on 160-acre spacing, the north half, southwest quarter, for all formations developed on 80-acre spacing, which would again include but not necessarily be limited to the Big Dog-Atoka Pool, and the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter for all formations developed on 40-acre spacing, which again would include but not necessarily be limited to the Undesignated

- Big Dog-Strawn Pool and the Undesignated Townsend-PermoUpper Penn Pool, and to be dedicated to EOG's proposed

 Johns Hopper "30" Federal Well Number 3, which will be

 drilled at a standard location, gas well location, 1980

 feet from the south line and 880 feet from the west line of

 Section 30.
 - Q. Mr. Tower, the Johns Hopper, that's the name of a trout fly, is it not?
 - A. I believe so.
- 10 Q. Have you acquired this interest from Mr.
- 11 | Arrington?

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- 12 A. Yes, we have.
- Q. And how have you acquired that interest? By farmout?
- 15 A. By farmout agreement.
 - Q. Could you identify what has been marked as EOG Exhibit Number 1?
 - A. Exhibit Number 1 is a land plat. It depicts the spacing unit in red for the primary objective and it shows the proposed location and the general ownership in the area.
 - Q. What is the status of this acreage? State, federal or fee land?
 - A. It is all fee.
 - Q. And what is the primary objective?

A. The Morrow formation.

- Q. Let's go to what has been marked for identification as EOG Exhibit Number 2.
- A. Exhibit Number 2 is an ownership breakdown in the south half of Section 30, specifically listing the interests in this south half that are not voluntarily committed to this spacing unit at this time.
- Q. EOG owns all the remaining working interest owner in the acreage?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. What do these figures, these percentages, represent?
- A. These percentages are based on title opinion provided to EOG by its counsel and basically what our counsel believes is the ownership of Yates and David -- or this collective group, which I will collectively refer to them in this testimony as Yates and David Petroleum, because they represent the entire group, primarily.
- Q. Mr. Tower, if we look at this ownership interest, is it common throughout the 320-acre spacing unit?
 - A. Yes, it's all undivided interests.
- Q. So if we are looking at a 160-acre spacing unit or a 40-acre spacing unit, the ownership would be the same?
 - A. That is correct.
 - Q. Is there a disagreement with Yates and David

Petroleum concerning these percentages?

A. Yes, the percentages, as I mentioned, are based on our title information and our attorneys. However, there is a disagreement on these percentages between EOG and this collective group. It arises from a certain contractual issue that involves when an old joint operating agreement expired, and then certain top leases that were acquired during that period as to what the sharing percentages of those agreements are.

In effect -- Their contention would be to the effect that there's approximately 19-, 20-percent difference in the interests, where there is some, you know, again, disagreement where possibly the 16 rounded off percentage I list on my exhibit, in their opinion, could be as much as 34 to 35 percent.

- Q. You're currently negotiating with Yates and the David Petroleum group on this matter?
 - A. Yes, we are, we have been --
- Q. What if you're unable to reach a voluntary agreement? What are you going to do?
 - A. Our plans would be to seek, most likely, arbitration or a court order of some type to decide the issue.
- Q. When are you proposing to actually commence the drilling of this well?

- 1 Α. On or before October 6th. 2 Q. And what are you going to do with the share of 3 the proceeds which would be affected by this dispute as to the ownership percentages in the acreage? 4 5 Α. We'll escrow this disputed amount in a bank in Lea County, New Mexico. 6 7 Q. But regardless of what these percentages actually work out to be, the parties are the same? 8 9 Α. Yes. In all spacing units? 10 Q. That is correct. Α. 11 12 0. And all funds in dispute will be escrowed until 13 the matter is resolved? That is correct. 14 Α. 15 Are there any owners that you've been unable to Q. locate? 16 Α. No. 17 18 Let's go to what has been marked EOG Exhibit Q. Number 3, and could you summarize for Examiner Brooks the 19 20 efforts you've made to reach voluntary agreement? Exhibit Number 3 is a collective group of 21
 - A. Yes. Exhibit Number 3 is a collective group of

 -- The front page is just a summary of my discussions with

 David Petroleum and Yates Petroleum Corporation, which

 between those two entities represent the entire group being

 pooled here, and just a summary of my discussions or the

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dates.

And then behind that is the original well proposal with AFE and various fax correspondence along with certified receipts, the original well proposal, just documenting the negotiations between our companies.

- Q. Let's go to what has been marked for identification as EOG Exhibit Number 4, the AFE. Would you review that, please?
- A. EOG Exhibit Number 4 is the AFE or drilling cost estimate for the drilling of this 13,300-foot well, the Johns Hopper "30" Number 2. Collectively we're estimating that the dryhole cost is \$692,600, with a completed well cost of \$1,365,500.
- Q. Are these costs in line with what has been incurred in the drilling of similar wells in this area?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Have you made an estimate of the overhead and administrative costs to be incurred while drilling the well and also while producing it, if it is successful?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And what are those figures?
- A. We would recommend that a drilling well rate, fixed drilling well rate, of \$6000 and a producing well rate of \$600 be applied to this Order.
 - Q. And you recommend that these figures be

incorporated into the order that results from this hearing? 1 Α. Yes. 2 Is Exhibit 29 a copy of the 1984 COPAS Accounting 3 Q. Procedures for Joint Operations? 4 5 Α. Yes, Exhibit Number 5, yes. I'm sorry, Exhibit Number 5. 6 Q. 7 Α. Yes. If we look at the numbers set forth in this 8 0. agreement, it has \$5800 while drilling and \$580 while 9 10 producing; is that right? 11 Α. That is correct. 12 Q. Those are not the numbers that are applicable to 13 this well? 14 Α. No, that should have been changed to \$6000 and \$600. 15 16 Q. And you're seeking the \$6000 and \$600? That is correct. 17 Α. Do the COPAS accounting procedures set forth in 18 Q. Exhibit Number 5 provide for periodic adjustments of the 19 overhead and administrative costs? 20 21 Α. Yes, they do. 22 Does EOG request that the figures set by the Q. order that results from this hearing also provide that 23 24 these numbers can be adjusted in accordance with COPAS 25 procedures?

1	A. Yes.
2	Q. Does EOG seek to be designated operator of this
3	well?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. Is Exhibit Number 6 an affidavit confirming that
6	notice of this hearing has been provided in accordance with
7	Division Rules?
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. Have all the Yates and David Petroleum interest
10	owners been provided with notice of today's hearing?
11	A. Yes, they have.
12	Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 6 either prepared by you
13	or compiled under your direction?
14	A. Yes, they were.
15	MR. CARR: At this time, Examiner Brooks, we move
16	the admission into evidence of EOG Exhibits 1 through 6.
17	EXAMINER BROOKS: Any objection? Exhibits 1
18	through 6 will be admitted.
19	MR. CARR: That concludes my direct examination
20	of Mr. Tower.
21	EXAMINATION
22	BY EXAMINER BROOKS:
23	Q. Okay, I'm not sure I understood what you said
24	about the relationship of the figures appearing in Exhibit
25	Number 5 just what Exhibit Number 5 is, and how that

A. Okay.

- Q. -- relates to the fact that they do not apply to this well. Is it because of the escalation provisions in the COPAS that what you're asking for is higher than what's in Exhibit 5?
- A. Yes, this was just a -- this standard form we're presenting that has the language identifying the escalation provisions, and then in the overhead provision on the fixed rates, under page 4, we took this form just as an example for the language to be incorporated into the order allowing for the escalation.
- Q. Okay. I notice that it says, Attached to and made part of the joint operating agreement between EOG as operator and Yates as non-operator. Was this something that at some time was proposed with reference to this unit?
- A. No, this is just an example. Probably in fairness, we should have deleted that as no application, if you don't -- we should delete the heading. All we're doing here is supplying the form, and this form was taken from another agreement, but it is the form we would incorporate to extract the language for the order.

It has no bearing on this well, as far as this is not an agreement in place for this well at this time.

Q. There is no joint operating agreement between EOG and Yates --

That is correct, on this --1 Α. 2 0. -- is that correct --3 Α. -- on this particular well, you're exactly correct. 4 5 Q. Okay. This was just a form to be utilized. We should Α. 6 have deleted the reference to -- I apologize for that. 7 8 And in essence what you've told me is that there is a title dispute between EOG and --9 10 A. In essence, yes. It bears from a contractual issue, but in essence, yes. 11 Okay. Mr. Stogner? 12 EXAMINER BROOKS: EXAMINER STOGNER: Yes, I found a couple of 13 things we need to address here, Mr. Brooks. 14 15 **EXAMINATION** BY EXAMINER STOGNER: 16 First of all, the acreage is fee; is that 17 Q. correct? 18 Α. That is correct. 19 Okay, I believe we refer to the proposed well as 20 Q. Johns Hopper "30" Federal Number 3, but it appears that the 21 22 Application did not include "Federal", it was acci- -- or evidently put in there during the ad --23 That is --24 Α. -- and so that has no bearing or --25 Q.

- A. Has no bearing, it is a fee well.
- Q. Okay. Also, I notice the proposed 80-acre spacing we have for the south half, and that was in the proposed ad in it looks like the Application. I assume that that is an error?
 - A. That is, yes.

- Q. And what is the proposed --
- A. The proposed -- it should have been -- That is a typographical error, obviously, with the well location. It should be the north half of the southwest quarter.
- Q. Now, then, I don't have my special pool rules booklet here with me. Do you know, or perhaps the next witness would know, what the rules are in that Big Dog -- I believe that is the Big Dog-Atoka Pool, for 80-acre spacing and well locations?
- A. I do not currently know, but counsel supplied some of this. We will -- either next witness or get with counsel and supply that, but I'm not clear on that.

I will point out, it is a secondary objective.

The Morrow is primary, and this would be a -- definitely a secondary objective that may occur. It's not critical to the well.

Q. I do know that some of the old pools, for 80-acre spacing it refers to 150 feet within -- from the center of a quarter quarter section, making this well unorthodox.

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But some of the newer ones have 330 feet from the quarter
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     quarter section line, which that would extend --
               MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, or Examiner Brooks, would
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 4
     you object if we broke for just a minute --
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               EXAMINER BROOKS: Not at all.
               MR. CARR: -- so I could discuss this with Mr.
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 7
     Tower?
               EXAMINER BROOKS: No, that's okay. Let's take a
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     brief recess, take about five minutes.
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               MR. CARR: Okay.
               (Thereupon, a recess was taken at 9:14 a.m.)
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               (The following proceedings had at 9:22 a.m.)
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               EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay, back on the record.
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               MR. CARR: Mr. Examiner, we've looked at this
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     situation, and we've concluded that we only have one option
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     and that really is to dismiss the portion of our
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     Application that applies to 80-acre spacing, and we would
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     request permission to do that at this time.
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               EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good. You've dismissed
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     the 80-acre request, and that's the one that's the Big Dog-
20
     Atoka Pool?
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               MR. CARR:
                          Yes, sir.
22
               EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay. But you still have the
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     40-acre for the northwest of the southwest, which is
24
25
     correctly --
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1	MR. CARR: Correct, and
2	EXAMINER BROOKS: advertised?
3	MR. CARR: and the 160 and the 320.
4	EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay, very good. You may
5	continue.
6	MR. CARR: That's all we have with Mr. Tower,
7	unless the Examiner has additional questions.
8	EXAMINER BROOKS: No, I have nothing further,
9	thank you.
10	MR. CARR: At this time we would call Mr. Godsey.
11	EXAMINER BROOKS: Good morning.
12	MR. GODSEY: Good morning.
13	DAVID A. GODSEY,
14	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
15	his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
16	DIRECT EXAMINATION
17	BY MR. CARR:
18	Q. Would you state your name for the record, please?
19	A. David A. Godsey.
20	Q. Mr. Godsey, where do you reside?
21	A. Midland, Texas.
22	Q. By whom are you
23	EXAMINER BROOKS: I'm sorry, could you spell your
24	name, please?
25	THE WITNESS: G-o-d-s-e-y.

EXAMINER BROOKS: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Carr. 1 (By Mr. Carr) By whom are you employed? 2 Q. EOG Resources. 3 Α. And what is your position with EOG Resources? 0. I am project geologist. 5 Α. Have you previously testified before the New 6 Q. Mexico Oil Conservation Division? 7 8 Yes, I have. Α. At the time of that testimony, were your 9 ο. 10 credentials as an expert in petroleum geology accepted and made a matter of record? 11 12 Yes, they were. Α. Have you made a geological study of the area 13 Q. 14 which is the subject of this Application? 15 Α. Yes, I have. And are you prepared to share the results of that 16 Q. work with the Examiner? 17 18 A. Yes, I am. MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications 19 20 acceptable? 21 EXAMINER BROOKS: They are. 22 (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Godsey, let's go to what has Q. been marked for identification as EOG Exhibit Number 7, and 23 I'd ask you to identify this and review it for Mr. Brooks. 24 25 Α. Okay, Exhibit Number 7 is a production map that

covers the nine-section area surrounding Section 30 of 15 South, 35 East. This is a 1-to-1000-scale map. It shows all penetrations within the mapped area, and production is color-coded as per the producing horizon. The green circles would be the Atoka-Morrow, the orange would be the Wolfcamp, or Permo-Penn as it's called, the light blue is Strawn production.

Around each well, above the well, you will see the operator name, well name and well number.

Below the well, or to the side on one particular well for spacing reasons, you'll see the cumulative production to date, oil on top, gas on bottom, and that is in MBOs and MMCF, such that, for instance, the Yates Petroleum Corp. Arreguy "AVM" Number 1, which is in the northeast northeast of Section 25 -- it's a Morrow producer -- the production there to date -- when I say to date that's as of, I believe, June of this year -- that has made 55,000 barrels and 1.411 BCF of gas, which would be how you would read this map.

Also shown on here in red is the acreage that we have in the south half of Section 30. The location for the Johns Hopper is indicated on here, and cross-section A-A', which we'll see and review later.

Q. Mr. Godsey, what is the primary objective in the subject well?

A. The primary objective in this is the Morrow.

- Q. Are there any real secondary objectives in this area?
- A. Well, none that have been specifically mapped and targeted by this location. However, as you can see, there are other horizons that produce in this area. We'd be glad to take anything we can get, but nothing specific.
- Q. Let's go to Exhibit Number 8. Would you identify and review that, please?
- A. Exhibit Number 8 is a map that covers the same area as the production map we looked at. It's the same scale, covers the same area. It is a structure map on top of the Mississippian formation.

The well control here, though, is not all penetrations. This is only those wells that went as deep as 12,100 feet or deeper. So shallower wells that did not penetrate the Morrow formation are not shown on this base. Also, only the Morrow producers have been shown on this, as far as the production goes.

The contour map itself is a 100-foot contour interval, and the subsurface datums for each well are indicated in red to the right of the well.

- Q. What is the significance of the structure in this area?
 - A. Well, we think structure is important out here in

the sense that in mapping on top of the Morrow formation,
we feel that this is a -- most of the time a fair
representation of paleodepositional structure, and we think
that the paleo lows had an influence on the deposition of
the Morrow formation.

- Q. And this map shows a low going across Section 30; is that correct?
 - A. Yes, it does.

- Q. Let's go to Exhibit Number 9. Would you identify and review this?
- A. Exhibit Number 9 is a gross Morrow sand isopach. The basis is the same setup as you see in the previous exhibit, where the scale is the same, the well control that's posted is the same. However, instead of a structure map, it's an isopach of the cumulative sand within each wellbore encountered in the mapped area. Again, the Morrow producers, Atoka-Morrow producers, are shown highlighted in the green circles.

This particular map is a 10-foot contour interval, and you will see that we have interpreted a relatively thick section of Morrow sands to be trending across our location.

Q. Let's go now to the cross-section, Exhibit 10.

There's a trace for the cross-section on the preceding exhibit. Would you review the information on Exhibit 10?

A. Okay, Exhibit 10 is a structural cross-section,
A-A', that's been indicated on the previous maps. The
scale vertically is 2 1/2 inches per 100 feet. The
horizontal scale is indicated on the cross-section with the
distance indicated between each borehole.

The cross-section on the A end, which is the left side of the cross-section, starts with the northerly end at the Yates Petroleum Arreguy "AVP" Com Number 1. It proceeds well number two to the Yates Arreguy "AVM" Number 1, which is in Section 25, through our location, and to the southeast to the BTA well in the southeast part of Section 30.

What's indicated on the cross-section in red is the top of the Morrow. Below that in black is the top of the Mississippian, which is the structural mapped horizon. We indicate the Chester down below that in light blue, and then the top of the lower Miss in a darker blue below that.

Also, we are indicating in yellow the sands that have been encountered by the wells in the cross-section, and that would correlate to the sand count that you see mapped on the isopach map.

- Q. Is it fair to say we have fairly good continuity of the gross sand intervals across this area?
- A. Well, that's a good question. We obviously can map the top of the Morrow, we can map the base of the

Morrow at the Mississippian, and we have a typical correlatability of sands within the Morrow.

We have some continuity, yes, but it is all interpretive.

- Q. Are you prepared to make a recommendation to the Examiner concerning the risk penalty that should be assessed against any interest that doesn't voluntarily participate in the well?
 - A. Yes, I am.

- Q. And what is that?
- A. I recommend the 200-percent penalty.
- Q. And what is the basis for that recommendation?
- A. Well, it ranges from the general to the specific. First of all, this is a Morrow prospect, and anyone who's worked the Morrow for any length of time in New Mexico knows that's a high-risk proposition to begin with. Our typical risk assessment for the Morrow is, you're looking at about a 30-percent success ratio.

As a matter of fact, if you take the nine-section area represented on the maps here and you look at that, you'll see four wells that have found production so far, out of 13 total penetrations. That is a 30-percent success.

So we think that, you know, the specifics of this prospect as well -- you know, applies very well to our

general knowledge of the risk assessment of the Morrow. 1 And you know, viewing the cross-section here and the 2 correlatability of specific intervals within the Morrow, 3 you can also see the risk also. 4 5 Mr. Godsey, in your opinion will approval of this Application and the drilling of the well as proposed be in 6 7 the best interest of conservation, the prevention of waste and the protection of correlative rights? 8 9 Α. Yes. 10 Q. Were Exhibits 7 through 10 prepared by you? Α. Yes. 11 MR. CARR: Mr. Brooks, at this time we move the 12 admission of EOG Exhibits 7 through 10. 13 14 EXAMINER BROOKS: Any objection? Seven through 10 are admitted. 15 16 MR. CARR: That concludes my direct examination of Mr. Godsey. 17 18 EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay, I don't believe I have any questions of this witness. 19 20 Do you, Mr. Stogner? EXAMINER STOGNER: No, sir. 21 22 EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good, the witness may stand down. 23 MR. CARR: That concludes our presentation in 24 25 this case.

EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay. Well, if there is nothing further, then Case Number 12,924 will be taken under advisement, and I am mindful that you have an October 6th date. (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at 9:37 a.m.) I do hereby certify that the foregon in a a complete record of the processing the Examiner hearing of Com No. 12924 heard by me on Oil Concervation Division

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 September 20th, 2002.

STEVEN T. BRENNER

CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 2002