

BEFORE THE
NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Santa Fe, New Mexico
October 9, 1963

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Case No. 2660 being reopened pursuant to the provisions of Order No. R-2348, which order established temporary 80 acre proration units for the Middle Lane-Pennsylvanian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, for a period of one year.

Case No. 2660

BEFORE: MR. ELVIS A. UTZ, EXAMINER

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

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CASE NO. 2660

BEFORE: MR. ELVIS A. UTZ, EXAMINER

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

MR. UTZ: Hearing will come to order, please. Case No. 2660.

MR. DURRETT: In the Matter of Case No. 2660 being reopened pursuant to the provisions of Order No. R-2348.

MR. MORRIS: If the Examiner please, I am Richard Morris of Seth, Montgomery, Federici & Andrews, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, representing the Midwest Oil Corporation.

MR. UTZ: Are there other appearances in this case?

MR. KELLAHIN: Jason Kellahin appearing on behalf of Hissom Drilling Company.

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MR. UTZ: Are there other appearances? You may proceed.

MR. MORRIS: By way of explanation, by Order Number R-2348, entered on October 25, 1962, the Commission established 80 acre oil proration units in the what was designated the Middle Lane-Pennsylvanian Pool, and established special rules and regulations governing the pool. As the record of that hearing will reflect, there was one well drilled at that time, and additional development was expected. Temporary one year rule was sought, and it was granted by that order, with the expectation that further development would lead to evidence that would be sufficient to justify a permanent 80 acre order. As the testimony that we will present will show, there has been very little additional development and we have not come up with sufficient information at this time upon which would ask the Commission to make permanent the special rules and regulations established for the Middle Lane Pool. We would like to bring the Commission's attention, or bring the Commission up to date, however, on what has been done. What we think will be done, and as a basis for asking that the present orders be continued in effect for one year period.

I have one witness I would like to have sworn at this time, please.

(Witness sworn)

NEIL OWENS,

having been called as a witness herein, being first duly sworn,

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was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q Please state your name and your position?

A Neil Owens. I am Petroleum Engineer for Midwest Oil Corporation.

Q How long have you been with Midwest Oil Corporation, Mr. Owens?

A Five years.

Q How long have you been in the Midland office?

A That length of time.

Q Do your duties take in the activities of Midwest Oil Corporation in New Mexico?

A Yes, they do.

Q Are you familiar with the Middle Lane Pool and the geology, the engineering and the background of the exploration in that pool to date?

A Well, I am familiar with the engineering of it because I completed it myself personally, of one well in the field, but I am not familiar with the geology of the area except for our interest well.

Q Do you have prepared as an exhibit a plat showing the Middle Lane-Pennsylvanian Pool, and the area surrounding that pool?

A Yes.



Q That is marked as Exhibit Number One?

A Yes, I believe so.

Q Referring to that Exhibit Number One, would you point out the location of the Middle Lane Pool with reference to the other pools surrounding it?

A Yes. It has been established by one well in Section 14, Ten south, 33 East, and it is approximately midway between what is known as the Lane Pool and the South Lane Pool.

Q The Lane Pool being to the North and the South Lane Pool being to the South- - in the bottom of this exhibit?

A That is correct.

Q What is the acreage in green representing as shown on this exhibit?

A That represents acreage in which Midwest has a leasehold interest.

Q Now, you refer to the one well establishing this Middle Lane Pool, would you point that out and state how it is designated on this exhibit?

A It is designated as the Midwest LLE State Number One, and it is in the Southwest Quarter of Section 14.

Q Was that the discovery well in this pool?

A Yes.

Q And was that the only well in existence at the time the temporary rules were established in this pool a year ago?

A Yes.



Q How many other wells are there in the Middle Lane-Pennsylvanian Pool at the present time?

A There is our well and one more that has recently been completed in this last week.

Q Would you point it out to the Commission on the exhibit, please?

A It is in the Northeast Quarter of Section 14.

Q How is it designated?

A Designated as the Hissom Drilling Company Midwest State.

Q Could you give a little of the background of that well, and its ownership?

A The Hissom well?

Q Yes, please.

A The Hissom well has been drilled on a farm-out from Midwest Oil Corporation, and at the time this map was prepared, it had not been completed and was drilling. But, as of yesterday, I believe, if I am not mistaken, it was potentialed, and the papers filed with the Commission.

Q Now, you say that the acreage on which the Hissom well was drilled, was farmed out from Midwest to Hissom Drilling Company?

A Yes.

Q Was other acreage also farmed out?

A Yes.

Q Generally, would you describe that acreage?



A Well, it is green, marked in green, in Section 13, in the North Half of Section 13, plus the Northeast Quarter of Section 14.

Q Now, still referring to Exhibit Number One, I see some structure indicated on that exhibit. What is that, please?

A That is the top of the- -- what we designated, or our geologist designated, as the Bough "A" Pennsylvanian. It is a producing horizon. It is the producing horizon for all three fields shown on the map.

Q Now, a year ago, Mr. Owens, Midwest anticipated drilling a number of wells in this area. Could you give any reasons for the lack of development by Midwest in this pool?

A Yes. Our original discovery was unfortunately not as good a well as we anticipated.

Q Do you have some production data on that well?

A Yes, I do.

Q Has that been marked as Exhibit Number Two?

A Yes.

Q Would you state what is shown on that exhibit, please?

A All right. Our accumulative oil production as of September 1, 1963, was 9,392 barrels. Our accumulative gas production was 13,446 MCF, and accumulative production of 86,174 barrels.

Q You wouldn't consider that outstanding production data from which you could tell much about this pool, could you?



A No. We could not. Could not justify the drilling of another well to our management, or have not been able to up to date.

Q Now, do you have any data on the Hissom well that was just completed as to its potential?

A I have some production figures on the well. It produced 296 barrels of oil on a 14/64th choke and that was on a 12 hour basis, which would be half of that figure, what it actually produced.

Q Now, if that- - those figures are indicative of what type of a well this is going to be, would that appear to you to be a good well, or not?

A Yes, that would be an excellent Bough well.

Q On that basis, would you anticipate further development in this pool within the next year?

A Yes. Midwest Oil Corporation will almost definitely do some development work.

Q At the present time, is there any actual plan of development by Midwest for further drilling in this pool?

A We have two wells budgeted for this area, after the first of the year, or during 1964.

Q Do you know whether any other interest owners in this pool plan further development, or are committed to further development in this pool?

A I understand that, from discussions, that Hissom Drilling



Company is contemplating a well very soon offsetting their recent completion.

Q On the basis of the information presently available to Midwest Oil Corporation, would you feel justified in asking the Commission to make permanent its order, the temporary 80 acre order in this pool?

A Well, we just don't have the data to put before the Commission for permanent order probably. We would like to if - if - if we could justify it from the field around us, but we don't have the data to submit to the Commission.

Q If further development takes place as you have outlined, after the production from those other wells are analyzed, you would be in better shape at that time to perhaps justify a permanent 80 acre order?

A Yes, we certainly would.

Q How long a period of time would you say you would need before you would have such information available to you?

A Well, it would take the development of three or four more wells, which would take approximately a year.

Q All right.

MR. MORRIS: That is all I have with this witness at this time.

* * * *



EXAMINATION

BY MR. UTZ:

Q Mr. Owens, do you know where Midwest plans their next well at this time; would you have any opinion?

A No, sir. I could not. This well that has just been completed changed the picture of the situation as far as Midwest is concerned, I would assume, and we did have a well, though, tentatively located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 14. Would be Northwest of the Northwest. And then, we had a well tentatively located in the Section 11, but I could not say definitely now just where we would drill our next well.

Q What type of information, after you get some more development, do you plan to bring to the Commission?

A Well, have core data, and drillstem tests data, and production data, and bottom hole pressure data, and we will probably have interference tests or pressure data.

Q And the reason that you hadn't done any more development in this pool is simply because your Number One well didn't prove out to be a very good well?

A Yes, sir, that is correct.

Q You must have done a pretty good selling job to the drilling company then, mustn't you?

A Well, it took us a long time.

MR. UTZ: Any other questions of the witness?



MR. DURRETT: Yes, I have one question. Mr. Owens, considering the fact that this is a good well, you would consider not to be really a good well, it is your opinion that it is draining 80 acres?

A Well, sir, I don't have the data to say yes or no on that.

Q Well, at the time that the case originally came on, when the order was promulgated establishing 80 acre spacing, it was your opinion at that time that this well would drain 80 acres economically?

A Yes. Has been proven in the area, I think, that similar wells do. But, --

Q You don't mean similar to this well, though, do you; you mean similar wells that are better?

A We thought it was going to be.

Q Then, it is not similar, that is the point I am making?

A That is right, yes, sir.

Q Well, I guess your statement is you don't really know whether it is, or not?

A Yes, sir.

Q Draining. Well, I will ask it this way: Do you have enough information on this second well that has been completed here to have an opinion as to whether, or not it is draining 80 acres?

A I don't have any information on that well, except what I



stated awhile ago.

MR. DURRETT: Thank you. That is all I have.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MORRIS:

Q Another question, if I may. Mr. Owens, while you weren't the witness that testified in the previous case, is it your understanding that the 80 acre rules that were adopted at that time, were justified on the basis of the other Pennsylvanian Pools in this area?

A Yes.

Q Is the producing formation in this Middle Lane Pool the same formation as in the Lane Pool to the North and South Lane Pool to the South?

A Yes, it is.

Q From the limited information that you have available, even from your own well, here, would you or could you say that the characteristics of the formation are generally the same as the other two pools?

A Yes, they are.

MR. UTZ: What is the horizontal limits of the Middle Lane Pool at this time; do you happen to know?

MR. MORRIS: If the Commission please, I would think it would be the same as it would have been established by the order creating the pool since there has been no further development



except for this one well. That would be the West Half of Section 14.

MR. UTZ: Got a little reckless in that order.

MR. MORRIS: I would ask the Commission to take notice if it would, of the Order R-2353A, which was entered on June 17th of this year, making permanent the 80 acre rules in the South Lane Pool. Inasmuch as we justified our temporary rules a year ago, on the basis of a comparison with the South Lane Pool, I think it is significant in this case that the Commission felt it had sufficient information to make the South Lane rules permanent, and while we are not in a position, as I have said, before, to ask that our rules be made permanent at this time, just on the basis of what you have done in the South Lane, still we think that the action of the Commission is significant at least to give us another year to acquire information to present at further hearing.

I believe I neglected to offer our Exhibit One and Two, which I would do at this time.

MR. UTZ: Without objection, the Exhibits One and Two will be entered into the record of this case.

MR. MORRIS: That is all. I have.

* * * *

MR. UTZ: Mr. Owens, did you, or do you feel that at the end of another year, should the Commission give you another year, you will be able to bring in some evidence?

A Yes, sir.



MR. UTZ: Any other questions? Witness will be excused

Is there further testimony in this case?

MR. KELLAHIN: We would like to offer one witness, if it please the Examiner.

(Witness sworn)

R. J. HISSOM,

called as a witness herein, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. KELLAHIN:

Q Would you state your name, please?

A Ronnie Hissom.

Q Mr. Hissom, what business are you engaged in?

A We are drilling contractors and producers.

Q Under what name do you operate?

A Hissom Drilling Company.

Q Is that a corporation?

A Yes, sir.

Q What position do you hold with the corporation?

A Vice-President.

Q Have you been actively engaged in the oil business?

A Yes.

Q For what period of time?

A Since graduation from school in '59.



Q And where?

A At what area, sir?

Q Yes.

A West Texas and New Mexico.

Q Have you worked as a drilling contractor?

A Yes, sir.

Q Have you had producing properties?

A Yes, sir.

Q And have you had experience in the Lane area?

A Yes, sir.

Q In the South Lane, the Middle Lane and the Lane Pool?

A Yes, sir. None in the Lane, the old Lane field, but in the South Lane and Middle Lane.

Q You have had operations in both of those pools?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, do you hold an interest in the Middle Lane Pool?

A Yes, sir.

Q What interest, briefly, do you hold in that area?

A Well, we have the one well we just completed, then, I have a small working interest in the discovery well there.

Q Now, how many operators are there in this pool?

A There are two of us.

Q And then, in other words, all the operators are represented in this hearing; is that correct?

A Yes.



Q Now, you heard the testimony that has been given in this case already. Are you in agreement with that testimony?

A No, sir. I think we have got- - In other words, I think we have got the 80 acre spacing set up, I think that we definitely need 80 acres, compared to the well we just drilling and the way it is acting and the well, drillstem tests.

Q You are in agreement with the recommendation that has been made that this order be continued for another year, insofar as the spacing is concerned?

A Yes, the 80 acre spacing.

Q Are you in agreement with the present provisions of the order, in regard to well locations?

A No, sir.

Q What is your position on that?

A Well, it is fixed spacing now, and I just don't think we are going to be able to develop the field and find out the limits of the reservoir on the fixed spacing.

Q Now, for what reason, Mr. Hissom?

A Well, the wells are expensive and we don't know which direction to go. There is three or four factors that with fixed spacing, it just hinders us.

Q In that connection, what are the well costs in this area?

A They will run from hundred forty-five to fifty thousand dollars for a flowing well, to two hundred and two hundred twenty



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five for a pumping well.

Q You have had personal experience in that connection, have you?

A Yes, sir.

Q Have you examined the exhibit which have been offered in this case?

A Yes, sir.

Q Have you examined Midwest's Exhibit Number Two in regard to the structure?

A Yes, sir.

Q Are you in agreement with that?

A Our geologist are not in full agreement, no, sir.

Q Does that area of disagreement influence your statement in regard to the need for a flexible well location?

A Yes.

Q Why?

A Well, they have definitely got there what we might call features in the- - Without looking at it, I can't say, but on the west side of our well, I think, sir.

Q You can take a look at the exhibit.

A And we know that the original well in the field was, what the formation was at this time, in that well, and we have much better porosity and permeability and better looking section over here to the east. So, our contention is either to go east or, in other words, one location east.



Q Do you think that a flexible well location pattern would encourage development of this pool?

A Definitely, sir.

Q Are you familiar with the rules for the Lane and South Lane Pool?

A Yes, sir.

Q What is the situation?

A They are on the 80 acre spacing, but flexible locations.

Q Do you think that has encouraged the development of those pools?

A Very definitely.

Q You heard the question that was asked of the previous witness, if at the end of the year, you believe there would be sufficient information to present a case justifying the 80 acre spacing?

A If the flexible locations are changed where you can make a location of your choice on the 80 acres, I think there will be enough development, but otherwise, I don't think there will.

Q Basically, Mr. Hissom, you are in agreement with all of the testimony that has been presented here, but you do recommend that the order be changed to provide a flexible well pattern; is that correct?

A That is correct, sir.

Q Do you have anything further to add to your testimony?

A No, sir.



MR. KELLAHIN: That is all I have of the witness.

* * * *

EXAMINATION

BY MR. UTZ:

Q Mr. Hissom, where would you locate your next well if you had flexible spacing?

A It would be- - Can I look at the plat just a minute. Thank you. Would be 660 out of the Northeast- - In other words, would be in the Northeast of the Northeast, 14.

Q After you drilled a well there, then, you would have two wells in the North Half of the Northeast Quarter. Now, what evidence would you have to show that the South Half of that Quarter would be productive of oil?

A Well, there is another tract on here, sir, that is left out of this. There is another 80 acres down here that we have and might drill there. Would be directly south, would be in the North west of the Southeast of Section 14.

Q What you are saying is that if you drilled two wells in the North Half of the Northeast Quarter and got a well, then, you would be willing to come down to the North Half of the Southeast 14, and drill a well?

A Yes, sir. In other words, we want you to know we want to try to evaluate all the acreage we can possibly evaluate.

Q Well, if you drilled a well in the Southeast and Northeast, and got a producing well, whatever you got there, you would



evaluating the North Half of the Southeast better than drilling in the North Half of the Northeast?

A Well, I need first to- - we need another well, sir, before I would just step out and- - I hate to- - I hate to spend the money not - - thinking I wasn't going to get a well some place. Then, I think in Section 12, those operators, if I move there, I think they will start up there some place. In other words, with this well, we ought to get quite a bit of development, but I just don't think it will develop on fixed patterns, fixed locations. Steps out are just too far. We really don't know which direction it goes.

Q You would have to agree, wouldn't you, that further a step out would either prove or disprove it at a faster rate, wouldn't it?

A Yes, sir, sure would. I know down here in this Lane field, you know, the South Lane, the development was real successful, has been real rapid down there. They found the east edge and the north, and still working on the west side over there.

Q All right.

MR. UTZ: Any other questions of the witness?

MR. DURRETT: I have a question for clarification here. I would like to ask Mr. Kellahin. You are not proposing that the Commission consider changing the well location requirements in the order as written under the call of this docket, are you?

MR. KELLAHIN: Yes, we are proposing to change the



requirements of the order as to well locations.

MR. DURRETT: You feel that can be done under the call of this case?

MR. KELLAHIN: I feel that the call of the case was for the purpose of considering the order as a whole, and certainly on that basis, you could consider any portion of it.

MR. DURRETT: Thank you. I just wanted to clear what your client was seeking. I have a question of the witness, also. Mr. Henson, what is your opinion concerning the acreage that a well will drain in this pool?

A I think very definitely you can drain 80 acres with one well, sir.

MR. DURRETT: On what do you base that opinion?

A On recovery. The South Lane recovery of the other Bough field in that area.

MR. DURRETT: Do you have anything concerning this pool that you would base that opinion on?

A Well, this last well in here looks enough like the discovery well in the South Lane field that- - to practically be identical, as far as the number of net feet and the section and the permeability and porosity and drillstem test.

MR. DURRETT: Now, turning to the proposition that you are proposing concerning the spacing of wells or restricted well locations. Is there anything in this pool that would indicate to you that you have different problems as far as restrictive locations



than are always involved when you have restrictive well locations?

A Well, we have never run into it before, sir, restricted you know.

MR. DURRETT: The question I am seeking to clarify is that any time you have restricted or limited well locations, it causes certain problems; in other words, the problem is you are restricted to where you drill a well?

A That is right.

MR. DURRETT: Is there anything unusual about this pool that would cause it to be different in any other way from the usual problems that arise when you have restricted well locations; that is, that the well locations be restricted?

A Yes, sir, the cost, I would say.

MR. DURRETT: You think that the cost in this pool is greater than in other pools where we have restricted well locations?

A You are not- -- Yes, sir, I would say so, for the history of the Bough pay. It is not a- -- never has been a real long life pay. It is not anything like the Devonian, any of those, you know, some of the others, and it costs a lot of money to find it, find a good well up there. Some of them will make 400 thousand barrels, but the average will make 200 thousand barrels. When you have got two hundred thousand dollars and two hundred thousand barrels, you got it down so close that you- -- in other words, you just not going- -- they are good wells, don't let me- no mistake there, but they are just not real long life wells.



MR. DURRETT: Thank you. I think that is all.

MR. MORRIS: I have one question I would like to ask.

Mr. Hissom, are you familiar with the terms of the farm-out agreement from Midwest to your company?

A Yes, sir.

MR. MORRIS: Under the terms of that agreement to you, is it an earned acreage type of agreement?

A Yes, sir.

MR. MORRIS: What kind of a drilling obligation do you have under that?

A 90 days after the completion of one to the start of the next one.

MR. MORRIS: You have a continuous drilling obligation?

A Yes, sir.

MR. MORRIS: So, if you are going to develop this acreage, it is going to be done within the next year?

A Well, yes, sir. We will have to start a well within 90 days.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you. That is all.

* * *

MR. UTZ: Your interest in changing the pattern here is so that you can drill offsets closer to each other as you try to develop the pool; is that a fair statement?

A Well, not exactly here, sir. It is more or less to find out really which way we are going with it, I think. Quite a bit



of acreage involved and I just right now- - we just are concerned- - kind of at a loss ourselves which way we think we ought to go. Naturally, we probably prefer to go to the east, because we will earn another- - more acreage that way.

MR. UTZ: It is your opinion that a pool can be more properly drained with wells clustered in one area creating a low pressure area and trying to drain the surrounding area, rather than be spaced more evenly throughout the pool?

A I am not an engineer, sir, but I just can't answer that question.

MR. UTZ: You would agree that under those conditions, would you not, would be much easier to dedicate questionable acreage to the well regardless of whether you might have 80 acres productive, or not?

A Yes, sir.

MR. UTZ: Any other questions of the witness? Witness may be excused. Are there any other testimony to be given in this case? Any statements?

MR. MORRIS: Just like to make one observation, if I may. Not a full fledged statement. We would ask for a continuance of the order in effect, for another year, to give us a chance to look at what further development may occur, in this pool, and try to justify a permanent order to the Commission. As Mr. Hissom testified, when I asked him a question a minute ago, he does have a continuous drilling obligation, if he is going to earn some



more acreage in the pool. He is going to have to drill two or three wells within the next year. Based on the information gained from those wells, Midwest will be in a better position to know how many wells it can drill and has testified they plan to drill at least two, but they can't say for sure where they will be. So, it would seem that based on that evidence, that we will be in a position a year from now to present a case to the Commission. At least, we will be in a better position or condition to know whether we can justify an 80 acres or not. And that is about all we can say at this time. We didn't want to come in here today without presenting any substantial evidence, try to get the Commission to enter some permanent order based upon analysis with other pools, even though we might have made that attempt. We would respectfully ask that the present order be continued for a year, either with or without the change as suggested by Mr. Hissom, with or without the change in the well location requirements. We are not opposing that change, but neither are we advocating it.

MR. DURRETT: May I ask a question, Mr. Morris? Mr. Morris, are you of the opinion that the Commission could change the well locations under the call of this docket and as advertised, the well location requirements in that order?

MR. MORRIS: Pretty limited. Never had occasion to consider it before, Mr. Durrett.

MR. DURRETT: Thank you.

MR. MORRIS: I wouldn't want to spread my legal opinion



on the record.

MR. KELLAHIN: I, of course, have already voiced my opinion on the question. I feel that the entire order is up for consideration. We join with the proponent of this case in asking for a continuation of the order and do urge that a flexible well pattern be set up, that essentially the pool is lying between two similar pools, as the testimony shows. Of course, there is nothing to show that they are the same pool, but they well could be. But, basically, there is no reason for the Middle Lane to be developed on any different pattern than the South Lane. They are practically the same type of reservoir and the Commission has seen fit to allow flexible pattern in the South Lane. We feel that it is indicated in the Middle Lane. This is all I have.

MR. UTZ: Mr. Kellahin, do you recall what testimony was in the record on which R-2348 was written? Did Midwest recommend fixed spacing?

MR. KELLAHIN: Midwest did. My client was not a participant in that case, but they did.

MR. MORRIS: Yes, they did.

MR. UTZ: I meant to ask Mr. Hissom the question in regard to completion data on his recently completed well. Did you have any water production on that well, Mr. Hissom?

A Yes, sir. From two to ten percent water, sir, on our shake out.

MR. UTZ: Indications were that wouldn't be a good water



producer as the Midwest was?

A No, sir, sure hope not.

MR. UTZ: That is all the questions I have. The case will be taken under advisement.

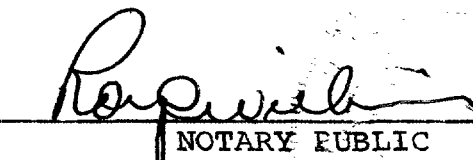
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STATE OF NEW MEXICO X

COUNTY OF BERNALILLO X

I, ROY D. WILKINS, a Notary Public in and for the County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached Transcript of Hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission was reported by me, and that the same is a true and correct record of the said proceedings, to the best of my knowledge, skill, and ability.

WITNESS my Hand and Seal of Office, this 6th day of December, 1963.


NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

September 6, 1967.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 2660, heard by me on Oct. 9, 1963.


Examiner
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

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