

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
3 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

4 IN THE MATTER OF:)
5 APPLICATION OF WOODBINE PETROLEUM, INC.)
6 FOR AN EXCEPTION TO DIVISION ORDER) CASE NO. 10282
7 NO. R-3221, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.)
8 -----)

9 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

10 EXAMINER HEARING

11 BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Examiner

12 May 2, 1991
13 9:15 a.m.
14 Santa Fe, New Mexico

15 This matter came on for hearing before the Oil
16 Conservation Division on May 2, 1991, at 9:15 a.m. at the
17 Oil Conservation Conference Room, State Land Office
18 Building, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico,
19 before Susan G. Ptacek, a Certified Court Reporter No. 124,
20 State of New Mexico.

21 FOR: OIL CONSERVATION BY: SUSAN G. PTACEK
22 DIVISION Certified Court Reporter
23 CCR No. 124
24
25

I N D E X

May 2, 1991
Examiner Hearing
Case No. 10282

	PAGE
APPEARANCES	3
WOODBINE PETROLEUM WITNESS:	
TOM MAIRS	
Direct Examination by Mr. Pearce	4
Examination by Examiner Stogner	21
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	29

* * *

E X H I B I T S

	Admtd
WOODBINE PETROLEUM EXHIBIT	
1	21
2	21
3	21
4	21
5	21
6	21
7	21
8	21
9	21
10	21
11	21
12	21
13	21

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE DIVISION: ROBERT G. STOVALL, ESQ.
General Counsel
Oil Conservation Division
State Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

FOR THE WOODBINE MONTGOMERY & ANDREWS, P.A.
PETROLEUM, INC. Attorneys at Law
BY: W. PERRY PEARCE, ESQ.
325 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

* * *

1 EXAMINER STOGNER: Call the next case, 10282.

2 MR. STOVALL: Application of Woodbine Petroleum, Inc.
3 for an exception to Division Order R-3221, Eddy County, New
4 Mexico.

5 EXAMINER STOGNER: Call for appearances.

6 MR. PEARCE: May it please the examiner, I am W. Perry
7 Pearce of the Santa Fe office of the law firm of Montgomery
8 & Andrews, appearing in this matter on behalf of the
9 applicant. I have one witness who needs to be sworn.

10 EXAMINER STOGNER: Are there any other appearances?
11 Will the witness please stand and be sworn at this time?

12 (Whereupon the witness was duly
13 sworn.)

14 TOM MAIRS,
15 the Witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was
16 examined and testified as follows:

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. PEARCE:

19 Q. For the record, would you please state your name
20 and place of residence?

21 A. My name is Tom Mairs. I'm a consulting
22 geologist and live in Dallas, Texas.

23 Q. Mr. Mairs, have you appeared before the Oil
24 Conservation Division examiners previously and had your
25 credentials as an expert in the field of petroleum geology

1 A. Woodbine is seeking an exception to Rule 3221 as
2 amended to allow them to construct a salt water -- surface
3 salt water disposal pit in the southwest of the southeast
4 quarter or Unit 0.

5 Q. And in the course of your study of this area
6 have you found other exceptions to 3221 which have been
7 granted in this area?

8 A. Yes, sir, I have.

9 Q. Let's look, please, at Exhibit 2 to this
10 proceeding.

11 A. I might mention before we leave this,
12 Mr. Pearce, that Woodbine Petroleum operates six wells on
13 these leases and apparently are preparing to drill a
14 seventh well. They operate four wells on the Yates Federal
15 lease, two wells on the Hadson Federal lease and are
16 preparing to drill a third well on the Hadson Federal
17 lease. These wells produce -- the oil wells produce oil
18 and salt water from the Yates Seven Rivers section between
19 the depths of approximately 2500 and 2700 feet.

20 This lease is owned by the BLM, the U.S.
21 Government lease, and all the contiguous offset sections
22 are owned by the BLM and/or the state of New Mexico. I
23 might add that this plat includes the subject section and
24 the two contiguous offset sections and covers an area of 25
25 square miles which all the maps will cover this area.

1 Q. As I understand the proposal, only the wells on
2 the Woodbine lease are going to be disposing of water into
3 the proposed pit; is that correct?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. Let's look now to Exhibit 2, please.

6 A. Exhibit No. 2 also is on a scale of one to 2000
7 feet, showing the same area. Shows the exceptions to Rule
8 3221. It shows the order numbers, the dates that these
9 exceptions were granted. As you can see on this map, there
10 have been several exceptions in Section 12 of the same
11 township and range; Section 3, one in Section 3; one in
12 Section 1; and then sections 34 and 35 in Township 18 South
13 of 31 East. This map also depicts the proposed salt water
14 disposal location, salt water pit disposal location.

15 Q. Anything else on Exhibit 2?

16 A. No, sir. At this time, Mr. Mairs, to give us
17 some indication of production in this area, would you look
18 please at what we have marked as Exhibit No. 3 and describe
19 that exhibit.

20 A. Yes, Exhibit No. 3 is designed to show the
21 reservoirs from which all the wells in this map produce.
22 Just south of Section 11 there is -- they're color coded
23 here on the reservoirs. This is just south of Section 11
24 in sections of the southeast portion of this map. That is
25 part of the West Lusk Unit. I think the predominant

1 production is from the Strawn. In the southwest corner of
2 this map there is Yates Seven Rivers production. And I
3 believe that's in the Hackeberry field. To the north of
4 Section 11 is a lot of Queen Grayburg production and Yates
5 Seven Rivers. That is in the Shugart field. And, of
6 course, Section 11, although Woodbine's wells are
7 classified in the Shugart field.

8 This also shows the current daily average
9 production above the line by each well, and cumulative
10 production through April of 1990 of each well.

11 Q. So, referring to either Exhibit 3 or turning
12 back to Exhibit 2, I want to ask you a couple of questions
13 about water wells in the area. Have you or someone under
14 your supervision checked to see whether or not there are
15 active water well permits in this area?

16 A. Yes, we have.

17 Q. And are there?

18 A. There are no active permits in this 25-mile
19 square area.

20 Q. Do you know of any water wells permitted in this
21 area?

22 A. I know of none that are permitted in this area.

23 Q. Looking at Exhibit 2 in the far southeast
24 quarter of the 25-square-mile area, Section 19 --

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. -- it appears that there is an exception in the
2 southeast corner of this map. Can you tell us about that
3 exception, please?

4 A. Yes, that was a Phillips Petroleum Company well
5 drilled for the Environmental Protection Agency, and this
6 is on their last gasoline plant site. This was an
7 exploratory well to see if they could find fresh water.
8 That particular well was drilled to a depth of 260 feet.
9 The record indicates -- the driller's record indicates that
10 water stood at 245 feet. They attempted to use this well
11 for water for the plant, but it was not of sufficient
12 quantity, and I think the well has been plugged.

13 Q. All right, sir. Anything else with regard to
14 that?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. All right. Let's look, please, now at Exhibit
17 No. 4. Could you describe that for us.

18 A. Yes, Exhibit No. 4 is lease production summary
19 on the Hadson Federal lease. As I mentioned, there are two
20 active producing wells. We have shown here the average --
21 they report production on a lease basis, so we've had to --
22 we're showing an average, 31-day production average, for
23 each lease. That lease produces an average of 67 barrels
24 of oil per day in this period. This average period was
25 from the March 10, 1991 to April the 9, 1991. And also

1 produces 47 barrels of salt water per day.

2 The Yates Federal lease has two active wells at
3 the time of this report, which were producing an average of
4 135 barrels of oil per day and 32 barrels of salt water per
5 day. I might mention that the Yates Federal No. 3 and 4
6 have just recently been drilled. They were drilled in late
7 March and early April. At the time we had no production
8 data on them yet. They had just gone on production in late
9 April.

10 The production figures in parentheses -- I might
11 also mention that this field was discovered in October of
12 1990, and they're still in the development stage and are
13 currently drilling development wells. They plan two future
14 development wells on the Hadson Federal lease, anticipated
15 oil production will be 65 barrels of oil per day and 120
16 barrels of salt water per day. They anticipate drilling
17 two more -- excuse me -- they have already drilled the two
18 more wells on the Yates Federal lease and they're
19 anticipating 135 barrels of oil per day additional oil
20 production and 100 barrels of water per day of water
21 production.

22 The total current production is 202 barrels of
23 oil per day and 79 barrels of salt water per day, and the
24 total near future anticipated water -- anticipated
25 production is 400 barrels of oil per day and approximately

1 300 barrels of salt water per day.

2 Q. On the basis of the estimated future water
3 production, Woodbine Petroleum is seeking authorization to
4 dispose of up to 300 barrels per day; is that correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. All right, sir. Anything else to highlight on
7 Exhibit 4?

8 A. I don't believe so.

9 Q. All right, sir. Let's look at Exhibit No. 5,
10 please, and would you describe that for us.

11 A. Yes, Exhibit No. 5 is a structural contour map.
12 On the top of the Permian Rustler Anhydrite, which is an
13 excellent correlative marker regional. And the contour on
14 this is 20 feet, and the purpose of this map is to show the
15 dip direction on the top of the Rustler Anhydrite.

16 And as you can see from this map, the dip from
17 Section 11 is to the northeast. In this area the highest
18 well encountered on the top of the Rustler was in Section
19 21 at approximately 3,092 feet. The lowest well
20 encountered was in Section 6 over in Lea County of 18
21 South, 30 -- excuse me -- 19 South, 32 East at 2654. So
22 you can see there is northeast dip throughout the area of
23 this map.

24 The anatomic closure and nosing just south of
25 Section 11 is a great reflection over the Capitan reef.

1 We're right at the very northern edge of the Capitan reef.
2 The saddle shown just north or the sink line shown just
3 north of Section 11 -- there is a sink line just north of
4 Section 11 showing dip from the northern part of Section 11
5 northward. So the dip in this area for Section 11 is to
6 the northeast and to the north.

7 Q. And in regard to that dip, have you done a
8 calculation to determine what that dip is?

9 A. Yes, we have.

10 Q. Let's look, please, at Exhibit No. 6 and would
11 you describe that exhibit for us.

12 A. Exhibit No. 6 is a three-point -- a solution to
13 a three-point problem, which is an accepted way to define
14 the straddle of a dip of an inclined plane. This utilizes
15 the elevations of three wells, the Hadson Federal No. 1,
16 the Yates Federal No. 2 and Yates Federal No. 4. We have
17 constructed a strike line, and this shows dip in the
18 northeast direction of approximately 1 degree.

19 Q. I'd ask you now to address your attention to
20 what we have marked as Exhibit No. 7, and I would ask
21 Valerie Schultz, your associate, to approach those exhibits
22 and point out some information on them as you highlight it
23 for the examiner, please.

24 A. Yes. Exhibit No. 7 is a structural cross
25 section of A to A prime. The location of this cross

1 section is shown on the index map, with A being on the left
2 side of the cross section and A prime on the right side of
3 the cross section.

4 These locations or the location of this cross
5 section also shown on Exhibit No. 5, the structural map.
6 Generally this is a northwest southeast trending section
7 that just about parallels structural strike in this area.
8 The scale of this cross section -- the horizontal scale is
9 one inch equals 200 feet. The vertical scale is one inch
10 equals 100 feet. So the exaggeration is two times.

11 And the purpose of this cross section is to show
12 the stratigraphic sequence encountered in this area of the
13 Delaware Basin, the near surface stratigraphic sequence at
14 approximately 1600 feet. And also to describe the
15 lithology encountered in Woodbine's wells in Section 11.

16 Starting with the stratigraphic sequence, the
17 upper -- there is a very thin veneer of silt or fine grain
18 sand soil on the surface, underlain by approximately 10 to
19 25 feet of caliche. And this is all in the Quarternary
20 alluvium. This is an alluvium section. The Quarternary
21 alluvium is underlain unconformably by the Triassic Chinle
22 formation. The majority of the Tertiary rocks or all of
23 the Tertiary rocks, the Cretaceous and the Triassic rocks,
24 are absent. So we go from Quarternarian into Tertiary.
25 Then underneath -- beneath the Chinle are the Santa Rosa

1 formation -- is the Santa Rosa formation. These two
2 formations comprise the Dockum group, Triassic age.
3 Underneath the Santa Rosa formation is the top of the
4 Permian, is also an unconformity surface, and the first
5 formation encountered is Rustler Anhydrite.

6 I would like to direct your attention there to
7 the Hadson Federal No. 1 -- and the reason being this is
8 where the salt water disposal pit will be located or the
9 proposed location of the salt water disposal pit -- and
10 discuss the lithology encountered in that well. The
11 alluvium, Quarternary alluvium, was encountered from the
12 surface down to a depth of 59 feet. These are semi-arid
13 deposits, consisting of silts, siltstones, windblown sands,
14 coarse grain sands, unconsolidated gravels and some gypsum.
15 And these unconformably overlie the top of the Chinle
16 formation, which is approximately 127 feet thick, and the
17 Chinle formation consists of primary shales, siltstones,
18 very low permeability, rocks, some limestone, and some
19 gypsum.

20 This entire section, which is in this well 127
21 feet consists of a strata that are very low permeability
22 and acts as a confining bed or an aquiclude. Beneath
23 the -- let me explain the colors. Excuse me, I forgot to
24 explain the colors. The dark brown we have denoted the
25 very low permeability beds, which we consider to be

1 confining beds or aquicludes. The lighter brown are the
2 known shales that we have correlated in this area.

3 The top of the Santa Rosa sandstone in that
4 particular well was at 457 feet -- excuse me. It was at
5 127 feet and consists of an interval of about 427 feet down
6 to the top of the Rustler Anhydrite. The Santa Rosa
7 consists of shales and sandstones, Terrigenous sands, and
8 in this area of the Clayton Basin most of the usable
9 aquifers, fresh water, occur within the Santa Rosa section.
10 We see no apparent aquifers in this area. And below the --
11 as you can see, the upper part of the Santa Rosa, about the
12 upper 120 feet are primary shales and aquicludes, and there
13 is a sandy section. About the lower 100 is a shale in the
14 area. This unconformably overlies the Rustler Anhydrite,
15 which consists of Anhydrite and forms an excellent
16 aquiclude also.

17 Q. Anything else on the A prime?

18 A. No. I might point out -- excuse me. I
19 mentioned this strike section. You see the evidence of
20 this angular unconformity on the right side of the section.
21 You will see the beds below the Triassic unconformity are
22 dipping at a different direction than the beds of both in
23 the Quarternary alluvium, and generally this cross section
24 is getting lower towards the southeast in the near surface
25 rocks.

1 Q. Let's direct your attention, please, to what we
2 have marked as Exhibit No. 8.

3 A. Yes, Exhibit No. 8 is also a structural cross
4 section, structural cross section of B - B prime, location
5 of which is shown on the index map, and also on Exhibit 5
6 of the structural map. And this is a dip section, and the
7 purpose of this is to show, once again, which way the
8 formations are dipping, the near surface formations are
9 dipping, in the area of Section 11 and away from Section
10 11.

11 This has the same color code. Shows the
12 aquicludes and the shales, and definitely shows an angular
13 unconformity with beds being truncated westward at the top
14 of the Chinle, and shows dip in the very shallow beds to be
15 to the north northeast -- or the northeast east northeast,
16 actually.

17 Q. Anything else on that?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Thank you, sir. After reviewing the structure
20 map and the cross sections, Mr. Mairs, water which enters
21 the ground is likely to move in which direction?

22 A. Referring you back to the Hadson Federal No. 1,
23 any water put on the surface there will infiltrate
24 downward, vertically, until it hits confining bed, in this
25 case an aquiclude or low permeability bed, shale, et

1 cetera. Then it will disperse along that bedding plane in
2 a down dip or lateral strike direction.

3 Q. Which direction is that?

4 A. In this particular case it will be to the
5 northeast and to the east.

6 Q. All right. Let's look, please, at Exhibit No. 9
7 to this proceeding, and could you describe that for us.

8 A. Yes, Exhibit No. 9 shows the location, the
9 dimensions, et cetera, of the proposed salt water disposal
10 pit. As I previously testified, is located in the
11 southwest of the southeast quarter of Section 11 or Unit O.
12 The proposed dimensions will be 100 feet long by 80 feet
13 wide; the pit will be 12 feet deep with a two-foot berm.
14 So the volume or the pit capacity with a two-foot freeboard
15 will be 14,250 barrels.

16 I might -- I had also shown on this exhibit the
17 average annual rainfall in the area is 15 inches per year.
18 The normal annual runoff is .25 inches per year or
19 practically none, very negligible. And the average
20 evaporation in the area is 70 inches per year, and these
21 are figures put out by the United States Geological Survey
22 and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

23 Q. Anything else on 9?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. Have you caused water analyses to be performed

1 on the water which you propose to be disposed of into the
2 pit?

3 A. Yes, we have.

4 Q. Let's direct your attention, please, to Exhibit
5 10, and would you discuss that for us.

6 A. Exhibit 10 shows salt water analyses from
7 producing wells on the subject leases. It's my
8 understanding -- I have not seen the oil, but it's my
9 understanding that this oil is -- the oil and the water are
10 a mixture, mixable, and continue to put them in the heater
11 treater until they go through the -- the volume goes
12 through the heater treater, it's hard to separate it out.
13 That's why you will see on this first one the sample was
14 grabbed from the Hadson heater treater, and shows a total
15 dissolved solids of 17,470 milligrams per liter. Chlorides
16 are 15,000 milligrams per liter.

17 The Hadson No. 2 -- sample was taken from the
18 Hadson Well No. 2, Hadson Federal No. 2. It shows very
19 similar type salt water, 17,410 total dissolved solids.
20 The one from the Yates heater treater is slightly higher.
21 Shows a total of 18,220 total of dissolved solids.

22 All of those analyses, all those samples, were
23 analyzed on April the 24th. As I mentioned the Woodbine is
24 in the process of testing and completing the Yates Federal
25 No. 3 and 4. Yates No. 4 is the only well that has been

1 completed thus far in Yates sandstone. The rest of the
2 wells are in the Seven Rivers dolomites.

3 We had a sample taken on April the 30th, day
4 before yesterday, and it indicates a little bit higher
5 salinity, 22,680 milligrams per liter, and chlorides of
6 18,500 milligrams per liter. They did fracture that zone.
7 Some of that may be due to the frac fluid they used which
8 was field salt water from another area.

9 Q. Mr. Mairs, with regard to the necessity of
10 economically disposing of water from these wells, I would
11 ask you to address your attention to Exhibit No. 11,
12 please, and describe that for us.

13 A. Yes, Exhibit No. 11 simply is a table showing
14 the individual well costs of all the wells that have been
15 drilled to date. Not all of the costs are in on the Yates
16 Federal 3 and 4, so those are minimum costs. The average
17 cost to drill a well out here to a depth of approximately
18 2800 feet is -- drill and complete the well is \$152,773.

19 Q. So let's look quickly at Exhibit No. 12, and do
20 a comparison of well costs and disposal costs; could you
21 describe that for us, please?

22 A. Current disposal costs, including taxes, \$1.34
23 per barrel; current water production, this is about \$40,000
24 annually, with the anticipated near future water production
25 of approximately 300 barrels. Total salt water disposal

1 costs would be approximately 147,000 barrels or the cost of
2 one well per year.

3 Q. With manual disposal costs of approximately
4 equal to the cost of drilling a well in this area, do you
5 believe that those costs unless reduced will cause the
6 premature abandonment of oil reserves in this area?

7 A. Yes, sir, I do.

8 Q. Mr. Mairs, after performing your geological
9 study that you have discussed with us, do you have an
10 opinion on whether disposal of this water into an unlined
11 pit in this area provides adequate protection to freshwater
12 resources?

13 A. Yes. From my studies and to the best of my
14 knowledge, we will not contaminate any known aquifers in
15 this area.

16 Q. You believe that the zones of reduced
17 permeability act adequately to channel that water away from
18 any water resources?

19 A. Yes, sir, I do.

20 Q. All right, sir. I would ask you to direct your
21 attention quickly to what we have marked as Exhibit No. 13.
22 Could you describe that for us, please?

23 A. These are notification letters sent to the
24 Bureau of Land Management and the state of New Mexico with
25 the receipt -- registered letter receipt attached to it.

1 Q. All right, sir. Did you have anything further
2 at this time, Mr. Mairs?

3 A. No, sir.

4 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Examiner, I have nothing further of
5 the witness at this time. I would move the admission of
6 Woodbine Exhibits 1 through 13.

7 EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 1 through 13 will be
8 admitted into evidence.

9 (Woodbine Petroleum Exhibits 1
10 through 13 were admitted in
11 evidence.)

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

14 Q. In looking at your Exhibit No. 7, Mr. Mairs,
15 from the surface to the top of the first aquiclude --

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. -- what is that depth?

18 A. That is roughly 50 feet, average of about 50
19 feet.

20 Q. Have you done a percolation study or know what
21 the percolation rate is through that 50-foot zone before
22 hitting the aquiclude would roughly be?

23 A. I have not done a percolation study. We have
24 read in literature the relative permeability or
25 transmissivity of the water through that formation.

1 Q. You expect it to, obviously, go down?

2 A. Yes, it will go down.

3 Q. Any horizontal movement?

4 A. Not at the surface. There is negligible runoff
5 in this area. This is a very dry, dry area.

6 Q. I guess what I should say, is in this 50-foot
7 bed that the water has to go through --

8 A. No, I think there are some very permeable sands,
9 unconsolidated sands, to the best of my knowledge in this
10 interval. From sample descriptions, drillers' logs, this
11 will go down very fast. It will infiltrate vertically at a
12 rapid rate.

13 Q. Are there any minor -- I don't want to use the
14 word "aquiclude." I don't know if that's right.

15 A. Before we get into that, I might mention there
16 is a 10- to 15-foot caliche bed which -- near the surface,
17 right at the surface. As a matter of fact, they use this
18 caliche to build the pads for the drilling rigs. There may
19 be some lateral runoff along that caliche surface. It
20 undoubtedly has less permeability probably than the sands
21 underneath.

22 Q. Now, that caliche bed, this 10- to 15-foot
23 caliche bed that you referred to, is it primarily exposed
24 or covered with the sand and other top material?

25 A. The pictures that I have seen of these leases

1 and discussing the topography with the operator, there is a
2 very thin veneer of soil, siltsand or very fine sand, blow
3 sand. There are no dunes here. Very thin veneer of soil.
4 Fine grain silt.

5 Q. I guess what I am concerned about is, as water
6 goes down, hits the caliche bed and extends out laterally,
7 and does -- I will use the word -- "puddle" in other
8 low-lying depressions, say between sand dunes or between a
9 low-lying area, in which cattle or other livestock could
10 venture on and have access to, is that a possibility or a
11 danger out there?

12 A. No. There is such a thin veneer of soil above
13 that it's going to evaporate very rapidly. The caliche
14 will probably -- it is so dry, it will take water and I
15 think the infiltration rate through that caliche and
16 through the Quarternarian alluvium will be pretty hard.

17 The salt water pit, by the way, will be through
18 the -- at the base of the caliche. Like I said, it's -- as
19 a matter of fact, we estimated the Hadson Federal lease
20 that is approximately 10 feet thick. So the bottom of the
21 pit will be in the Quarternarian alluvium or very near it.

22 Q. Looking at a more expanded area or view -- I
23 guess I will refer to Exhibit No. 5 -- the drainage is
24 toward the northeast in this area and from your particular
25 surface disposal, where does that eventually run into? Is

1 there a salt lake or a flat salt lake out in that area?

2 A. Not in the immediate area. In my opinion, from
3 looking at the regional topo sheets and regional geology,
4 this water will migrate to the east, to the northeast, some
5 maybe to the north. It will eventually go along strike
6 southeastward. There are some big salt lakes southeast of
7 here in 32 East, 19 South, I believe, Laguna Plata, very
8 saline lake. It will eventually end up down there. I
9 don't know how long. I would assume it would eventually
10 end up in that area. It's going to be moving east and
11 south.

12 Q. But these low-depression areas, like you
13 referred to, the Laguna Plata, are the collecting points
14 for any drainage in this area; is that correct?

15 A. They're quite removed. I think Laguna Plata is,
16 if I remember right, 13, 16 miles away. But they do
17 collect a lot of water, Laguna Plata does, a very saline --
18 very saline lake.

19 Q. In looking at the pit construction, which
20 exhibit was that?

21 A. I think that's Exhibit 12.

22 Q. How about 9?

23 A. Exhibit No. 9.

24 Q. Be 12 feet deep with a two-foot berm, and the
25 berm will be made out of material that is being dug up, or

1 will that be a caliche berm?

2 A. It will a caliche berm.

3 Q. Will that be fenced off also?

4 A. Yes. They will have a fence around it and will
5 have nets over the pit.

6 Q. How will the accidental disposal of any oils,
7 crude or otherwise, been taken care of? Is there any
8 chance of oils being dispersed into this pit?

9 A. They will have a -- the salt water line will be
10 coming -- will be gathering water from all these wells
11 coming out of the heater treater, salt water separator and
12 if everything was perfectly handled, there should not be
13 any oil spilled, but nothing is perfect. There could be
14 oil put into the pit, as we all know. I presume they would
15 clean it up as a reasonable operator, prudent operator.

16 Q. And being on federal land, the BLM does have
17 field personnel, and they probably will be checking on it
18 and they will abide by the rules and regulations by the
19 Bureau of Land Management?

20 A. Yes, sir. I might add that Woodbine Petroleum
21 operates such a salt water disposal pit in the Lusk field
22 on federal lands. I think it's in Section 16 of 19 South,
23 32 East. They have been operating that pit for six months
24 to eight months.

25 Q. You are anticipating once all the wells get

1 drilled on those two leases -- which by the way, is that
2 the extent of the two leases, what is shown on Exhibit
3 No. 1?

4 A. Yes, it is. The yellow shaded area are the
5 leases, the extent of leases.

6 Q. The disposal into this pit will be just
7 constricted down to the production from these two leases;
8 is that correct?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And no commercial facility?

11 A. No, no commercial facility. This is for their
12 own use.

13 Q. But as your Exhibit No. 4 shows, an anticipated
14 production or disposal of water is going to equal about 300
15 barrels a day.

16 A. That's the maximum anticipated. This is new
17 production and, of course, they anticipate that water
18 production may increase as the water table moves in, the
19 water level moves in, as you remove oil. What they're
20 anticipating is maximum salt water production. It would be
21 more or less. In the short production history it appears
22 that Seven Rivers has less water encroachment than maybe
23 the Yates. But it's still too early to tell. They have
24 not defined the water limits in this field. They're still
25 in the development stage and still drilling wells.

1 Q. On Exhibit No. 2 you showed other surface
2 facilities or surface disposal facilities in this
3 25-square-mile area.

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Do you know or have knowledge of how many of
6 those are still in existence and are still being disposed
7 into?

8 A. To the best of my knowledge I think all of them
9 are. Still have active wells on them. Although we can
10 look with the production map, same time, which is Exhibit
11 No. 3, and the way to tell, you can really tell in Section
12 34, for instance, for 18 South, 31 East, there are still
13 some active wells producing; in Section 35 there are still
14 active wells producing; Section 2; and the well in
15 southeast southeast of Section 3 is still producing. As
16 of -- I might mention as of May 1, 1990. So to the best of
17 my knowledge they're all still active salt water pits.

18 Q. And as you -- just repeating here again -- there
19 are no freshwater wells or windmills in the area that you
20 know of?

21 A. Not in the area of this map there are none.

22 EXAMINER STOGNER: Are there any other questions of
23 Mr. Mairs?

24 MR. STOVALL: I have none.

25 EXAMINER STOGNER: Does anybody else have anything

1 further for this witness? If not, he may be excused.

2 Does anybody else have anything further in case
3 number 10282.

4 MR. PEARCE: No, sir.

5 EXAMINER STOGNER: If not, this case will be taken
6 under advisement.

7 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded at the
8 approximate hour of 9:50 a.m.)

9 * * *

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25


1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss.
 2 COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

3 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

4
 5 I, Susan G. Ptacek, a Certified Court Reporter and
 6 Notary Public, do HEREBY CERTIFY that I stenographically
 7 reported the proceedings before the Oil Conservation
 8 Division, and that the foregoing is a true, complete and
 9 accurate transcript of the proceedings of said hearing as
 10 appears from my stenographic notes so taken and transcribed
 11 under my personal supervision.

12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not related to nor
 13 employed by any of the parties hereto, and have no interest
 14 in the outcome thereof.

15 DATED at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 7th day of June,
 16 1991.

17 
 18 SUSAN G. PTACEK
 19 My Commission Expires: Certified Court Reporter
 December 10, 1993 Notary Public

20


21

22

23

24

25

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
 a complete and true transcript of the proceedings in
 the Examiner hearing of Case No. 10282
 heard by me on 2 May 1991
, Examiner
 Oil Conservation Division