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NEW MEX	CICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
	EXAMINER HEARING	
	SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO	
Hearing Date	SEPTEMBER 5, 1991	Time: 8:15 A.M.
NAME	REPRESENTING	LOCATION
Karen Quhrey	Kellahin Ke Vahin Ruhiy	LOCATION Santu L
DAVE BONEAU	YATES PETROLEUM	ARTESIA
THERESA PADILLA	YATES PETROLEUM	ARTESIA
De Kelahi	Kelle La Carlsier	SARVE
william L. San	Laufbell, Jan, Jogs and Juriday	but te
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		,	

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

APPI	LICATION	\mathbf{OF}	ANSCHUTZ	CORI	PORATIO	1)			
FOR	COMPULSO)RY	POOLING,	LEA	COUNTY	,)			
NEW	MEXICO)	CASE	NO.	10380
)			

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: Michael E. Stogner, Hearing Examiner September 5, 1991 8:15 a.m.

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came for hearing before the Oil Conservation Division on September 5, 1991, at 8:15 a.m. at the State Land Office Building, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Linda Bumkens, CCR, Certified Court Reporter No. 3008, in and for the County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico.

FOR: OIL CONSERVATION

DIVISION

BY: LINDA BUMKENS CCR Certified Court Reporter CCR NO. 3008

ORIGINAL

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16	FOR THE DIVISION: ROBERT G. STOVALL, ESQ. General counsel		
17	Oil Conservation Commission	n	
18	310 Old Santa Fe Trail Santa Fe, New Mexico		
19	87501		
20	FOR ANSCHUTZ		
	CORPORATION: KELLAHIN & AUBRE		
2 1	BY: MISS KAREN AUBREY, ESQ 117 North Guadalupe	•	
22	Santa Fe, New Mexico		
23			
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MR. STOGNER: Hearing will come to order.
 1
  Docket number 25-91, today's date September 5,
 2
  1991.
          I'm Michael Stogner, appointed hearing
  commissioner for today's cases. We'll call first
 5
  case 10380.
 6
          MR. STOVALL: Application of Anschutz
  Corporation for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New
  Mexico.
 8
          MR. STOGNER: Call for appearances.
 9
          MISS AUBREY: Karen Ann Aubrey with Kellahin,
10
11 Kellahin & Aubrey appearing for the applicant.
  have two witnesses to be sworn.
          MR. STOGNER: Are there any other appearances
13
  in this matter?
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          (No response)
          MR. STOGNER: Will the witness please stand
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17
  and be sworn at this time?
18
          (At which time Phil M. Whitsitt and Paul
19 Marko were duly sworn.)
20
          MR. STOGNER: Thank you, Miss Aubrey. You may
21
   continue.
22
          MISS AUBREY: Thank you.
23
                     PHIL M. WHITSITT,
24 the Witness herein, being previously sworn, was
25 examined and testified as follows:
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DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MISS AUBREY:

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- Q. Will you state your name for the record, please?
- A. Phil Whitsitt.
- Q. Mr. Whitsitt, have you testified previously before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division?
- 8 A. I have not.
- Q. Would you review your professional degrees
 education and your professional experience for the
 Examiner?
- 12 A. I have a BBA degree. I entered the
 13 business in 1964; it would been 27 years experience
 14 as petroleum landman.
- Q. Who are you employed by now?
- 16 A. The Anschutz Corporation.
- Q. And how long have you been employed by
- 18 Anschutz?
- 19 A. Approximately four years.
- Q. Are you familiar with the application and the relief that Anschutz Corporation seeks today?
- 22 A. Yes, I am.
- 23 MISS AUBREY: Mr. Stogner, I tender
- 24 Mr. Whitsitt as an expert in petroleum land titles.
- 25 MR. STOGNER: Mr. Whitsitt is so qualified.

(By Miss Aubrey) Mr. Whitsitt, would you ο. refer to your Exhibit Number 2, please; exhibit Number 1 being the certificate of mailing and compliance with commissioner order on notice. This is a land plat. Would you explain for the Examiner what this plat shows?

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- It shows the location of our proposed Α. 12,000 foot Devonian test in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 18.
- And that's shown by the orange dot on the 10 ο. 11 map?
- And it shows the proposed proration unit Α. consisting of the east half of the southwest 13 quarter. 14
 - Would you refer now to Exhibit Number 3?
- This is a list of the working interest Α. ownership of the east half west half Section 18. Ιt shows Arco Oil and Gas Company with a unleased 18 mineral interest covering an undivided 50 percent 19 interest in the 80-acre tract. Enron Oil and Gas Company with 24.09 percent leasehold interest and a 19.57 percent net revenue interest. The Anschutz Corporation with 17.12 percent leasehold interest, and a 12.84 percent net revenue interest. Southland 25 Royalty Company with a 7.75 percent unleased mineral

interest and a 7.75 percent net revenue interest

Stanford Clinton Jr. with a 1.04 percent working

interest. It's an unleased mineral interest, and

1.04 net revenue interest.

- Q. Of these working interest owners, which ones does Anschutz seek to pool today?
- A. Enron Oil and Gas Company and Stanford Clinton Jr.
- 9 Q. Is there a dispute about the amount of the 10 Enron interest in this 80-acre proration unit?
- A. There is a question about it. Our title opinion reflects them as owning a 24.09 percent interest. Their records reflect approximately 30 percent interest.
- Q. Do you know what that difference is attributable to?
- A. This is probably due to a lease that we have acquired previously owned by Enron that covers the 6.25 percent interest. Their lease expired from nondevelopment. We suspect that records just haven't been updated to reflect this.
- Q. And does Anschutz seek to pool whatever the Enron interest in this unit is?
- 24 A. Yes.

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Q. Have you -- as a professional landman, have

you had contact with Enron and with Stanford Clinton

Jr. in connection with the formation of a voluntary

unit in this area?

- A. Yes, we have. We originally contacted Enron in October of 1989, and we've subsequently contacted them with numerous letters, telephone conversations, proposals, and thus far have not received any commitment from them.
- Q. And does your Exhibit Number 4 reflect the copies of the correspondence that you've had with Enron Oil and Gas Company in connection with the forming of this voluntary unit?
- 13 A. Yes, it does.

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- Q. Exhibit Number 5 is a letter of Stanford
 Clinton Jr. Does that reflect the written
 correspondence you've had with Mr. Clinton about
 dedicating his interest to this unit?
- 18 A. Yes, it does.
- Q. Have you also had telephone conversations with Stanford Clinton Jr.?
- 21 A. I have.
- Q. What have your conversations been with him
 with regard to the possibility of the Anschutz
 Corporation filing a pooling case?
- 25 A. Mr. Clinton had stated that he does desire

to be force pooled.

Mr. Clinton?

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- Q. Did you discuss the possibility of the imposition of a risk factor penalty with
- 5 I did. In fact, he originally said that he 6 told me that he understood the penalty to be 300 percent, and that was what he wanted to do was to be 7 forced pool. We originally offered to lease his 8 interest, he did not want to lease. We extended to him the opportunity to participate, he didn't want 10 to participate. He said he preferred to be forced 11 12 pooled with a 300 percent penalty.
- Q. Have you sent both Enron and Mr. Clinton an AFE for the proposed well?
- 15 A. We have.
- Q. Let me ask you about Southland Royalty for a minute. How does the Anschutz Corporation hold the Southland Royalty interest?
- 19 A. We have that under a farm out agreement.
- Q. And is there an upcoming expiration date on that farm out?
- A. There is. There's a November 16, 1991, spud obligation. This farm out agreement is approaching a year old, it's been extended numerous times, and we're apprehensive about being able to extend it

again.

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- Q. The next exhibit is number 6, which is an operating agreement. Has this operating agreement been submitted to Arco under the terms of your letter agreement?
- A. This operating agreement is an attachment to our Arco letter agreement.
- Q. And have Mr. Clinton and Enron been supplied with the same operating agreement?
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. Let me have you refer to the operating
 agreement. In that document, you and Arco have come
 to an agreement on the amount of overhead costs with
 well drilling and producing; is that correct?
- 15 A. That is correct.
- 16 Q. What page is that on?
- 17 A. That is page four of Exhibit C.
- Q. And what are those amounts?
- A. A drilling well rate of \$5,850, and
- 20 producing well rate of \$585.
- Q. The Anschutz Corporation seeks to be named as operator of this well; is that correct?
- 23 A. That is correct.
- Q. And in your professional opinion, are the overhead rates, well drilling and producing, in line

with rates charged by other operators in the field?

Yes, they are. Α.

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- And has Arco executed this operating 0. agreement?
- Arco has not executed the operating Α. agreement. They've executed the letter agreement, which is attached, and they have agreed to the 8 operating agreement.
- Okay. Let me refer you now to Exhibit 9 10 Number 7, Mr. Whitsitt, which is an AFE for the well. Are you familiar with that, sir? 11
- 12 Α. Yes, I am.
- And in your opinion, is that a fair and 13 0. reasonable AFE for a well to be completed at 12,000 14 15 feet?
- That is a fair and reasonable AFE. 16
- 17 This AFE has been provided to Clinton and 0. 18 to Enron; is that right?
- 19 Α. Yes.
- 20 It has also been provided to Arco? Q.
- 21 That's correct. Α.
- Mr. Witsitt,, were Exhibits 2 and 3 either 22 Q. prepared by you or prepared under your direction? 23
- 24 Yes, they were. A.
- 25 And in your opinion, will granting the Q.

Anschutz Corporation's application for compulsory pooling protect correlative rights, prevent waste and promote conservation?

Α. Yes, they will.

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MISS AUBREY: Mr. Examiner, that's all that we have of Mr. Whitsitt at this time.

MR. STOGNER: Thank you, Miss Aubrey.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. STOGNER: Mr. Whitsitt, referring to your operating agreement, page four, showing an overhead charge. How are the two figures derived?

- Α. They were actually suggested by Arco Oil and Gas. Arco prepared the operating agreement and 13 furnished it to us attached to our letter agreement. 14 Those overhead rates were suggested by Arco.
- 16 Does Anschutz operate some other wells Q. within this pool or field area? 17
- Α. We do not. 18
- 19 Has Anschutz been an interest owner in any 20 properties out there where somebody else has been an 21 operator?
- 22 Α. We have not.
- 23 Q. Is this your first venture in this area?
- First venture in this area. We have 24
- 25 drilled previously in New Mexico.

- How do these rates in the Anschutz 0. 2 Corporation overall, throughout the country, how do they stand up to some of the others that you have seen for wells of this similar depth?
 - They are in the ballpark.

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- 6 Q. Are you familiar with the Ernst Young 7 overhead?
- 8 Yes, I am. I believe that this is Α. approximately the same interest shown for that depth 10 well in the Ernest Young survey.
- 11 And as I understand it, I'm referring now Q. to Exhibit Number 3, Arco has assigned a letter of 13 intent essentially?
- That's correct. Well, it's not a letter of 14 Α. Arco has signed a letter agreeing to either 15 participate or farm out to us in this well subject 16 to reviewing some confidential information that 18 Anschutz possesses.
- And they're not a party of this particular 19 20 hearing today?
- 21 No, they're not. Α.
- 22 Okay. And Southland Royalty has signed a Q. farm out? 23
- 24 That's correct. Α.
- When did Anschutz first contact Mr. Clinton 25 0.

about obtaining his interest?

- 2 Let's see the exhibit. Well, it's a letter Α. date June 3, 1991. I had talked with Mr. Clinton 3 previous to that; offered to buy an oil and gas 5 lease from him. He told me he did not want to lease. I suggested he might want to participate in 6 7 the well, he did not want to participate. I told 8 him I would go ahead and send him an oil and gas lease for his consideration. This letter covered 10 that oil and gas lease. We -- I'm sorry -- this is 11 not the right letter. The August -- that's right. June 3, 1991 was the first letter. The second letter, August 14, 1991, I sent him the operating 13 agreement and AFE, and later talked to him on August 14 the 28th, and he said, "I still prefer to be force pooled." 16
- Q. In your testimony it sounds like

 Mr. Clinton was aware of the procedures; was a

 practicing oil and gas man?
- A. He seemed to be well aware of them. I
 believe that he has been forced pooled in the past,
 and seemed to think it was a pretty good program.
 He likes your way of doing business
- MR. STOGNER: I have no other questions of Mr. Whitsitt at this time. Are there any other

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questions of this witness?
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          MISS AUBREY: I have no questions.
          MR. STOGNER: Mr. Whitsitt, you may be
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  excused.
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          MR. STOVALL: Did we actually admit the
  exhibits?
 6
          MISS AUBREY: I'll move 2 and 3.
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          MR. STOGNER: At this time 2 and 7 will be
 8
  admitted into evidence.
10
                     (Anschutz Exhibits 2 and 7 were
11
                    admitted in evidence.)
12
          MR. STOGNER: Miss Aubrey, before I forget, on
13 Exhibit 1, would you provide a copy of notice which
  you used? We only have the cards. I'd like a copy
  of the actual notice that went with those cards.
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          MISS AUBREY: Certainly.
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          MR. STOGNER: And that will be a supplement to
18 Number 1, correct?
                         PAUL MARKO
19
20 the Witness herein, being previously sworn, was
   examined and testified as follows:
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
22
23
  BY MISS AUBREY:
            Would you state your name, please?
24
       Α.
25
            Paul Marko.
       Α.
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- Q. Mr. Marko, how are you employed?
- A. As a petroleum geologist with the Anschutz Corporation. I've been employed there approximately six years as of last month.
- Q. Have you testified previously before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division?
 - A. No, I haven't.

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- Q. Would you review your professional degrees
 and your professional experience -- work experience
 for the Examiner, please?
- A. I have an MS in geology in 1965. I've been employed as a petroleum geologist for 25 years, since 1966.
- Q. And you've worked for Anschutz?
- 15 A. For six years.
- Q. Is the area which is the subject of today's application within your area of control at Anschutz?
- 18 A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Are you familiar with Anschutz's application as filed in this matter?
- 21 A. Yes, I am.
- MISS AUBREY: Mr. Stogner, I tender Mr. Marko
 as an expert petroleum geologist.
- MR. STOGNER: Mr. Marko is so qualified.
- Q. (By Miss Aubrey) Mr. Marko, you've prepared

three exhibits for consideration by the examiner today; is that correct?

A. That's correct.

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- Q. Which bears Exhibits Number 8, 9 and 10.

 Would you refer first to Exhibit Number 8, which is
 a structure map, and discuss the importance of
 structure in production in the Devonian field in
 this area?
- A. We have a proposed location here, as noted in Section 7, the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 18, which is a development that will be an extension, the development will, which extend the field limits to the east one location, and this is a structural -- this is a structural reservoir controlled by structure.
- Q. Is there other production in the Devonian east of your proposed location in this area?
- A. There is no production within several miles.
- Q. Okay. Your map shows other wells producing 21 from the Devonian; is that correct?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- Q. Are all the wells that are spotted on 24 Exhibit 8, in fact, Devonian producers?
 - A. They are all Devonian producing or plugged.

- Q. So the development in this area has been to the west of your location; is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. Okay. In your opinion, Mr. Marco, is structure controlling in the Devonian?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Will your proposed location be higher or lower than the other producers that you've shown on the map?
- A. We have it shown as possibly 100 feet low, but to the nearest producer directly offset to the west, but hopefully some 100 feet above the low approved oil.
- Q. Okay. What is the depth of the low approved oil in this area?
- 16 A. We have it estimated at a subsea of 8520.
- Q. And is that based on production from other wells?
- A. That would be based on the perforations in other wells in the field.
- Q. Anschutz does not operate any of the other wells in the field; is that correct?
- A. No, they don't.
- Q. Have you reviewed producing data logs for the other wells in this field in order to create

your exhibits?

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- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have an opinion, Mr. Marco, as to whether or not in this area the oil reserves vary widely from location to location?
- 6 I think that is shown on our Exhibit Number 10. The answer to the question is yes. 7 The 8 Exhibit Number 10 shows the production current to -or through December of 1990, and we will be offsetting a well that has produced 388,000 10 11 barrels. The well directly offset to the south of 12 that well has produced 88,000 barrels. The well 13 directly north of that well has produced 99,000 barrels. So there's a four-to-one variance, at 14 least in that immediate location. 15
 - Q. And in looking at Exhibit Number 10 in the southeast of the southeast of 13, there are two producing wells?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- Q. Can you draw any conclusions about the reserves that have been produced by those two wells given their completion dates?
- A. That's about a three to one difference too.

 The well in the extreme south, or the southeast of

 the southeast of 13 has produced 1.3 million

barrels, and the well directly offset to the west

has produced 458,000 barrels. Both good wells, but

certainly a difference in the recovery for

approximately the same date of completion.

- Q. What estimate is being used by Anschutz Corporation as an average number of barrels of oil that this proposed well will produce?
 - A. 300,000 barrels.

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- 9 Q. Are you basing that on an average of 10 production in the area?
- A. That is approximately the average of the light field; average per well for the field.
- Q. Let me have you refer now to Exhibit

 Number 9. Can you review that exhibit for the

 Examiner and tell me how it was created?
- A. That is an isopach of the net pay. I will say it is more of a gross pay, I expect, but it's based on the structural top of the Devonian reservoir to the depth of the low approved oil at 8520, so it's an isopach of total interval from low approved oil to the top of the reservoir.
- Q. And based on your geological evaluation of this prospect, what is the risk penalty factor that you're asking the Division to impose in this case?
 - A. 300 percent.

- Q. In your opinion, can you sort of summarize for the examiner how your geological conclusions justify the imposition of that risk penalty factor?
- A. Well, Number one, I think it's an extension well. We will be drilling and extending. If successful, we will be extending the field probably to the farthest location. It will be the farthest location east of the present field. We are going -- it's a structural prospect. We are going off structure, and we hope to have at least 50 feet of interval in the well, but we are -- it's just the risk on a field extension.
 - Q. Mr. Marko, have you -- we earlier introduced Exhibit 7, which is the AFE for this well. Have you reviewed that, sir?
- 16 A. Yes.

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- Q. And in your opinion, is that a fair and reasonable AFE for a 12,000-foot Devonian well?
- A. I think it's current as probably the middle of August of this year. I think that's a good number.
- Q. And do you believe that is a fair price to charge the other working interest owners for completion of this well?
 - A. I believe so.

Okay. Do have you any other comments you'd 1 Q. like to make about Exhibits 8, 9 and 10 this 2 3 morning? I don't believe so. 4 5 MISS AUBREY: Mr. Examiner, I offer 6 Exhibits 8, 9 and 10. MR. STOGNER: Exhibits 8, 9 and 10 will be 7 admitted into evidence at this time. 8 (Anschutz Exhibits 8, 9 and 10 9 were admitted in evidence.) 10 11 (By Miss Aubrey) Mr. Marko, will granting 0. 12 the Anschutz's application in this matter protect correlative rights, prevent waste, and promote 13 14 conservation? Yes, I believe so. 15 Α. MISS AUBREY: I have no more questions at this 16 17 time. EXAMINATION 18 19 BY MR. STOGNER: 20 Q. Mr. Marko, let me make sure I have what you propose for your risk penalty factor. You said 300 22 percent? 23 Α. Uh-huh. 24 Are you proposing a pay back plus 200

25 percent when you describe that as being 300 percent?

- Α. Yes. The recovery cost of the 100 percent plus a 200 percent penalty.
- Okay. So that would -- pursuant to our Q. statute -- the way it is described in its wording in there is pay back plus 200 percent?
 - Α. I believe that's correct, yes.

MR. STOGNER: I don't have any questions.

MR. STOVALL: I go technical on this one.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. STOVALL: 10

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- 11 A lot of Devonian formations in their area ο. 12 or water drive; is this one?
- We believe it is. 13 Α.
- Do you have any idea what the oil-water 14 Q. 15 contact is at this point? Is that 8520 what you're 16 using?
- The 8520 is the low approved oil on Α. 18 perforation. Both wells came in making both oil and water, and perforated at the various depths. It was 20 very difficult to come up with something we felt 21 comfortable with as an oil-water contact. It was just based at -- the perforations used in this 23 were -- the wells used made both oil and water, and
- 25 the lowest depth used, the lowest perforation

24 it was just the lowest perforations made by well,

operation is the best I can explain.

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- What you're saying, you really haven't Q. established a clear oil-water contact at this point?
- I don't feel comfortable with an oil-water Α. contact in this field as a set fixed number.
- ο. Is this lake a lot of Devonian formation? It would appear that you've got a couple million barrel wells on top of structure. Are they draining the reservoirs, theoretically?
- There's also a very good well, which is one 10 Α. of the very lowest wells. It only has 30 net feet 11 12 of pay above -- and that is the well we've mentioned 13 in the southeast quarter of Section 13. It is one of the better wells in the field. 14 It made 1.3 15 million barrels, and it is one of the structurally 16 lowest. It's the Hamon Number 2.
 - Q. Any concern that there may have been some drainage off of your proposed location. may have been produced in part, at least?
- Possibly we're hoping, because it is an --Α. excuse me -- a water drive reservoir, that we can still recover our estimated 300,000 barrels because 23 this field has had a range of development -- it was 24 developed in the early '50s and '60s, and then 25 development continued. In fact, there's some wells

1	that have been completed as recently as 1986 and
2	1989, and they came out pretty strong. The last
3	well was completed in 1989; potential for 270
4	flowing, 270 barrels a day. That well is located in
5	Section 13 in the northwest of the southeast
6	quarter, right under the right above the word
7	Holloway there.
8	MR. STOVALL: I don't have any other
9	questions.
10	MR. STOGNER: Are there any other questions of
11	Mr. Marko?
12	MISS AUBREY: I have no other questions.
13	MR. STOGNER: Mr. Marko, you may be excused.
14	You have anything further, Miss Aubrey?
15	MISS AUBREY: Nothing further.
16	MR. STOGNER: Does anybody else have anything
17	further in Case Number 10380? If not, this case
18	will be taken under advisement.
19	(The foregoing case was concluded at the
20	approximate hour of 9:00 a.m.)
21	I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
22	a complete record on No. 10330
23	heard by the on a day.
24	Oil Conservation Division
2 5	Oli Consei vone

STATE OF NEW MEXICO 1 ss. COUNTY OF BERNALILLO 3 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE 4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings were taken by me, that I was then 5 and there a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary 6 Public in and for the County of Bernalillo, State 7 of New Mexico, and by virtue thereof, authorized to 8 9 administer an oath; that the witness before 10 testifying was duly sworn to testify to the whole truth and nothing but the truth; that the 111 questions propounded by counsel and the answers of 12 the witness thereto were taken down by me, and that 13 the foregoing pages of typewritten matter contain a 14 15 true and accurate transcript as requested by counsel 16 of the proceedings and testimony had and adduced upon the taking of said deposition, all to the best 17 of my skill and ability. 18 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not related to 19 nor employed by any of the parties hereto, and have 20 21 no interest in the outcome hereof. 22 DATED at Bernalillo, New Mexico, this day 23 November 14, 1991. 24 My commission expires

CCR No.

Notary Public

3008

April 24, 1994