

# BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Case No. <u>10863</u> Exhibit No. <u>7</u>

Submitted by: Yates Petroleum Corporation

Hearing Date: November 4, 1993

# Decline curve analysis predicts oil recovery from horizontal wells

Pralhad N. Mutalik, Sada D. Joshi Joshi Technologies International Inc. Tulsa

or the transient and post-transient decline periods of a horizontal well in a bounded reservoir, an analytical model has been developed that can forecast recoverable reserves. This decline curve method predicts future performance of both new and existing horizontal wells.

The model can also be used to develop horizontal well type curves.

# Concepts

Two key issues in determining horizontal well performance and ultimate recovered reserves are well length and spacing. These issues are especially important in reservoirs where pressure decreases with time.

In a vertical well, the well bore contacts only the reservoir height. But depending on the length drilled, horizontal wells can have much greater exposure to the reservoir.

Over an equal time interval, a long horizontal well can drain a significantly larg-

er reservoir volume than a vertical well. But closely spaced horizontal wells may interfere with each other very rapidly, resulting in lower ultimate reserves per well. Thus, optimizing well length and well spacing is important.

One method for optimizing these factors is by developing the expected production rate-vs.-time performance or production decline curves.

After a well starts production, time is needed for the flow rate to stabilize. The

production before the rate stabilizes is known as "transient" or "flush" production.

Depending upon the—reservoir properties, the transient period may last from a few days to several months. In low permeability reservoirs, the transient time may last for years.

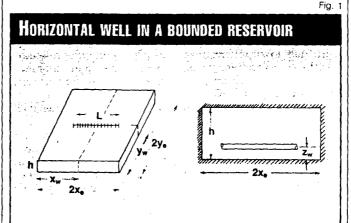
Conventional analytical methods calculate horizontal well productivities primarily for stabilized flow. Steadystate equations are for reservoirs with good pressure support in which pressure remains essentially constant. Pseudosteady-state equations are for reservoirs where pressure decreases with time.

In general, the stabilized productivity calculations based on either steady state or pseudosteady-state methods give lower production rates than observed in the transient flow period.

In low-permeability reservoirs, especially with large well spacing, the transient period may last 1 year or more. Because wells may payout during the transient period alone, investment decisions based on steady-state calculations without considering transient production may miss an opportunity. Therefore, forecasting transient well performance is very important for low-permeability reservoirs.



The transient-flow solution is expressed in terms of dimensionless quantities. Dimensionless numbers are easy to apply and provide simple, general equations



# Some useful definitions

Constant pressure and constant rate solutions

For mathematical treatment, two modes of transient production are usually considered:

Constant pressure and constant rate solutions
For mathematical treatment, two modes of transient production are usually considered.

1. Constant flowing well bore pressure.

2. Constant production rate.

A constant flowing well bore pressure is assumed only for mathematical simplicity. In reality, flowing wellhead pressure is maintained constant and is typical of low productivity wells producing against the constant pressure of a separator. The constant wellhead pressure implies a decline in production rate.

On the other hand, constant rate, production implies that flowing bottom hole and wellhead pressures are declining with time. This is typical of fields where the production level is limited by one of the following factors:

Imited surface handling and processing facilities.

Sales and delivery contracts with fixed delivery levels.

Production at critical rates, due to gaswater coning problems.

Production at critical rates, due to gaswater coning problems.

Production allowables and regulatory constraints.

Transient and peaudostandy-state flow.

When a well is first put on production the pressure transient fravels away from the well owards the well-deninage boundaries. Once the pressure transient has reached all the drainage boundaries, then the average reservoir pressure starts dropping with time. This flow period before the well-sees the drainage boundaries is known as the pseudosteady state flow period.

Time to reach pseudosteady state:

Depletion state is the post transient flow period and is also known as the pseudosteady state flow period.

Time to reach pseudosteady state:

Transient calculations

The constant rate solution for a horizontal well in a closed rectangle has been presented by many researchers.

Equation 5 in the equation box defines the dimensionless pressure for a horizontal well in a closed boundaries producing a presented by many researchers.

Equation 5 in the equation box defines the dimensionless pressure for a horizontal well produced at a constant rate solution, p.b., for a ho

pressure production problem. The real-time solution for the constant-pressure production problem. The real-time solution for the dimension-less rate, qo, was derived by numerically inverting this solution using Stehfest's algorithm. The constant-rate solution, described by Equation 5 in the equation box, was used to derive the Laplace solution, pwo.

two important decline parameters are b and Di. The decline exponent b is determined by the reservoir producing mechanism. Typically, b is 0.3 for solution-gasdrive reservoirs and 0.5 for reservoirs producing by water drive or gravity-drainage.78 The exponential decline solution, b=0, provides the most conservative forecast.

The decline coefficient, Di. represents the initial decline rate at the beginning of the depletion state. As the area drained by a well increases, re/rw becomes larger and the D<sub>i</sub> is reduced (Equation 7).

This indicates that, for a given economic cutoff rate, the well having greater spacing will show a slower decline rate, and hence higher cumulative oil recovery.

### Type curves

Type curves have been used to estimate reservoir parameters such as permeability, drainage area, etc. A number of type curves are available for vertical wells.

# Nomenclature

100	the state of the s
· A = ** /	Well drainage area, acres
B = % ∵	Oil formation factor, res bbl/st-tk bbl
b = _ ~ ~ .	Decline exponent, dimensionless (Exponential decline
	b = 0, hyperbolic decline 0 <b<1, and="" decline?<="" harmonic="" th=""></b<1,>
and the same	(b) = 1) (c) (d) (c) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d
Ć( =	** Total compressibility, psi
•D, ≠	Decline coefficient, days
்¢h ≘ ∵®	Reservoir height, ft
. k =	Permeability, md
k, =	Vertical permeability, md
- kn = 1 %	Horizontal permeability, md
k. = 5-4	Permeability parallel to well bore, md
K = Z	Permeability perpendicular to well bore, md
-1 = x -x V	Horizontal well length, ft
Lo = 1/2	Dimensionless well length
Po =	Dimensionless pressure
* p =	Initial reservoir pressure psi
D =	Well flowing pressure, psi
Q=	Oil production rate, st-tk-b/d
$\mathbf{q}_0 = \mathbf{q}_0$	Dimensionless oil production rate
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J. =	* Well drainage tradius, it * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
	*Well bore radius, it ***********************************
No E	Dimensionless well bore radius
31 ¥ 7 5 7	allime, hr. de Caracia
10 = 2.5	Dimensionless time 2002 2004
loa #	Dimensionless time based on drainage area
. Х.у. ≒.	Half the drainage area dimensions in x and y direction, it
Xw, Yw, Zw #	Distance of horizontal well center from drainage area
1	boundaries, ft
φ =	Reservoir porosity, fraction
u =	Oil viscosity cp
And the second second	

Table 1

# MATHOMELY EDACTIDED DECEDING

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Horizontal perm	eability = 0.7 md 🔧		
Vertical permea	bility = 0.35 md $\approx 3$		
Pottom bole or	pressure = 4,400 psi essure = 2,300 psia	a	- 11 <del>-</del> 01
Oil viscosity = 0.		144.7% Walley	Mary At 1 miles
Formation volun	ne factor = 1.2 res b	bl/st-tk bbl 🐺 🤲	50 - C-13
	bility = 1.2 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> ps		
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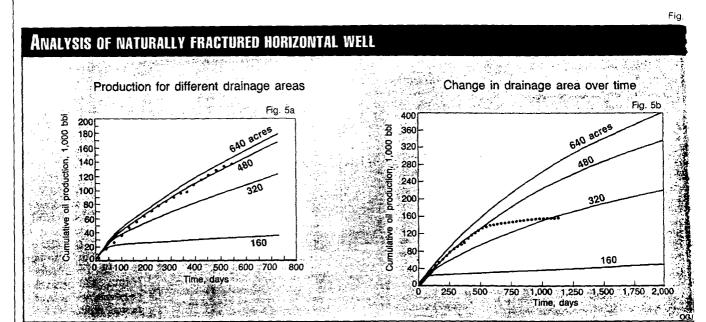
For a constant flowing bottom hole pressure, type curves are essentially plots of dimensionless rate, qD, vs. dimensionless time, t<sub>D</sub>. The analytical model previously described has been used to develop new type curves for a horizontal well located in a closed drainage area.

In the case of horizontal

wells, for a given value of rwD and L/2xe, different type curves have to be generated for each value of LD. Fig. 2a shows a typical horizontal well type curve for  $L_D=3$ .

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If LD is large, i.e., for very long wells or for very thin zones, the effect of reservoir height on dimensionless curve declines. Thus, for very large L<sub>D</sub> such as L<sub>D</sub>>20,



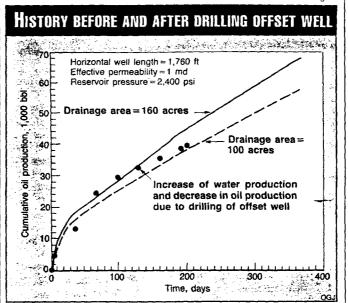
The analytical solution in the depletion period represents an exponential decline (b=0) of well flow rates. This is simply because the analytical solution in a closely bounded drainage volume assumes that the total compressibility of the rock and fluids is the only mechanism that provides pressure support to the reservoir.

In practice, during the decline phase, in addition to pressure support from total compressibility of the system, the reservoir may get additional pressure support that depends upon the reservoir mechanism. For example, in a solution-gasdrive reservoir, the gas released from the oil could provide extra pressure support. Similarly, a large gas cap or aquifer can also provide pressure support.

Thus, during the depletion phase, this extra pressure support will slow a well's production rate decline over time more than the decline shown in Fig. 2b. These factors can be accounted for by using Arps and Fetkovich decline curves<sup>78</sup> for the depletion-phase calculations.

### **Forecasts**

Similar to vertical wells, type curves developed for horizontal wells can estimate reservoir parameters by overlaying, on the type



curve, log-log plots of the horizontal well's historical production.

Estimated values include reservoir permeability, drainage area, and a back calculation of an effective horizontal well length. From this effective length, a producing well length can be calculated.

The producing length can be different than the drilled length. This difference could be due to either geological or mechanical factors.

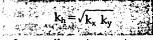
Well rate can also be estimated from type curves by using the reservoir and well parameters, and q<sub>D</sub> and t<sub>D</sub>. The example box shows the

details for estimating the performance from a 2,400-ft long horizontal well in a 130-ft thick reservoir. The example provides a 10-year forecast obtained from the type curve for  $L_D=3$  (Fig. 2a). A horizontal well's rate-vs.-time forecast is plotted in Fig. 3.

### **Areal anisotropy**

The previous example assumes uniform areal permeability, i.e.  $k_x = k_y$ . This may not be true in naturally fractured reservoirs, where the permeability along the fracture trend is larger than the direction perpendicular to the fractures. In such cases,

the effective horizontal permeability,  $k_h$ , is calculated as:



In areally anisotropic reservoirs, the horizontal wells should be drilled perpendictular to the high-permeability direction, i.e., parallel to the low-permeability direction. Assuming the expected drainage along the x direction is  $2x_e$  (Fig. 2a) and the well is drilled along the low-permeability x direction, the expected drainage along the y direction,  $2y_e$ , will be:

 $2y_e = \sqrt{(k_s/k_s)} \times 2x_e$ 

In general,  $k_x$  is very difficult to estimate. One possible method to obtain  $k_y/k_x$  is from interference tests on the wells. Typically, only average values of  $k_y/k_x$  for a given portion of the field can be estimated.

Areally, the estimated  $k_y/k_x$  could range from 1 for a uniform homogeneous reservoir to close to 80 to 100 in some naturally fractured reservoirs. However, in places along the horizontal well length, the value of  $k_y/k_x$  could be several hundred and can be difficult to estimate.

At least from the production and economic point of view, the concept of effective horizontal permeability,

drilling appears to play a dominant role in the reduction of well drainage area, thereby reducing the ultimate recovered reserves per well.

# History match

A field history match and forecast were made for a horizontal well drilled in the Austin Chalk formation in Texas. To model this dual porosity system, the concept of effective permeability was used to develop the well production forecasts.

For horizontal Well X, history matching the early time production performace estimated an effective permeability of about 1 md. The match was based on 160 acre spacing,

However, after about 10 months of production, an offset operator drilled Well Y increasing the water cut and decreasing oil production from Well X. This resulted in a reduction in the drainage area of the well.

Fig. 6 shows the history match before and after the offset well. The offset well decreased the drainage area of Well X to 100 acres from 160 acres, and therefore decreased the well's recoverable oil reserves.

Thus the model provides a good starting point to evaluate horizontal well potential in naturally fractured formations. The use of effective permeability for developing the forecasts provides reasonable answers.

### Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our colleagues Wenzhong Ding, Kevin Hall, W.B. Lumpkin and Susan Lacy and Mustafa Onur, assistant professor, Istanbul Technical University for their assistance in developing and testing the model.

# References

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- zontal Well and Drainhole Technology," Paper No. SPE 1686. SPE Annual Technical Confe ence, Dallas, 1987, and revise version SPE Rocky Mountain R gional Meeting, Casper, Wyo May 1988.

# **Nelson-Farrar** Cost Indexes

# Refinery construction (1946 Basis)

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These indexes are published in the first issue of each month. They are compiled by Gerald L. Farrar, Journal Contributing Editor.

Indexes of selected individual items of equipment and materials are also published on the Costimating page in the first issue of the months of January, April, July, and October.

### BEFORE THE

### OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION FOR A HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING PILOT PROJECT AND SPECIAL OPERATING RULES THEREFOR, CHAVES COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO. 10863

**AFFIDAVIT** 

STATE OF NEW MEXICO	)
	) ss
COUNTY OF SANTA FE	ĺ

William F. Carr, attorney in fact and authorized representative of Yates Petroleum Corporation, the Applicant herein, being first duly sworn, upon oath, states that in accordance with the notice provisions of Rule 1207 of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division the Applicant has attempted to find the correct addresses of all interested persons entitled to receive notice of this application and that notice has been given at the addresses shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto as provided in Rule 1207.

William F. Carr

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 3rd day of November, 1993.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

# EXHIBIT A

Strata Production Company 648 Petroleum Building Roswell, NM 88201

Murphy Operating Corporation Box 2648 Roswell, NM 88202-2648

Yates Energy 105 South Fourth Street Artesia, NM 88210

Kerr-McGee Corporation Post Office Box 11050 Midland, TX 79702

AFFIDAVIT, Page 2

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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

# BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Case No10	863 Exhibit No. 8
Submitted by:	ates Petroleum Corporation
Hearing Date:	November 4, 1993

# & SHERIDAN, P.A.

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October 13, 1993

# CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Strata Production Company 648 Petroleum Building Roswell, NM 88201

Re:

Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for a Horizontal Directional Drilling Pilot Project and Special Operating Rules, Chaves County, New Mexico

# Gentlemen:

This letter is to advise you that Yates Petroleum Corporation has filed the enclosed application with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division seeking approval to horizontally drill a well in Section 36, Township 7 South, Range 31 East, N.M.P.M., in the Tomahawk-San Andres Pool.

This application has been set for hearing before an Examiner of the Oil Conservation Division on November 4, 1993. You are not required to attend this hearing, but as an owner of an interest that may be affected by this application, you may appear at the hearing and present testimony. Failure to appear at that time and become a party of record will preclude you from challenging the matter at a later date.

Parties appearing in cases have been requested by the Division (Memorandum 2-90) to file a Prehearing Statement substantially in the form prescribed by the Division. Prehearing statements should be filed by 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the Friday before a scheduled hearing.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM F. CARR

ATTORNEY FOR YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION

WFC:mlh



Strata Production Company 648 Petroleum Building Roswell, NM 88201

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Very truly yours,

WILLIAM F. CARR

ATTORNEY FOR YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION

WFC:mlh



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Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE DELIVERED.	
Registered Insured Certified COD Express Mail Return Receipt for Merchandise	Murphy Operating Corporation Box 2648 Roswell, NM 88202-2648
4. Article Number P 176 017 084 Type of Service:	3. Article Addressed to:
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# CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE & SHERIDAN, P.A.

MICHAEL B CAMPBELL
WILLIAM F CARR
BRADFORD C. BERGE
MARK F. SHERIDAN
WILLIAM P. SLATTERY

PATRICIA A. MATTHEWS
MICHAEL H. FELDEWERT
DAVID B. LAWRENZ
TANYA M. TRUJILLO
JACK M. CAMPBELL

OF COUNSEL

JEFFERSON PLACE
SUITE I - 110 NORTH GUADALUPE
POST OFFICE BOX 2208

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-2208

TELEPHONE: (505) 988-4421

TELECOPIER: (505) 983-6043

October 13, 1993

# CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Yates Energy 105 South Fourth Street Artesia, NM 88210

Re:

Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for a Horizontal Directional Drilling Pilot Project and Special Operating Rules, Chaves County, New Mexico

### Gentlemen:

This letter is to advise you that Yates Petroleum Corporation has filed the enclosed application with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division seeking approval to horizontally drill a well in Section 36, Township 7 South, Range 31 East, N.M.P.M., in the Tomahawk-San Andres Pool.

This application has been set for hearing before an Examiner of the Oil Conservation Division on November 4, 1993. You are not required to attend this hearing, but as an owner of an interest that may be affected by this application, you may appear at the hearing and present testimony. Failure to appear at that time and become a party of record will preclude you from challenging the matter at a later date.

Parties appearing in cases have been requested by the Division (Memorandum 2-90) to file a Prehearing Statement substantially in the form prescribed by the Division. Prehearing statements should be filed by 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the Friday before a scheduled hearing.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM F. CARR

ATTORNEY FOR YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION

WFC:mlh



Yates Energy 105 South Fourth Street Artesia, NM 88210

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Restrict 5 DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT insured
COD
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for Merchandise 280

Complete items 1 and 2 when additional services are

# CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE 8 SHERIDAN, P.A.

LAWYERS

MICHAEL B. CAMPBELL
WILLIAM F. CARR
BRADFORD C BERGE
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WILLIAM P. SLATTERY

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POST OFFICE BOX 2208

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-2208
TELEPHONE (505) 988-4421
TELECOPIER (505) 983-6043

October 13, 1993

# CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Kerr-McGee Corporation Post Office Box 11050 Midland, TX 79702

Re: Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for a Horizontal Directional

Drilling Pilot Project and Special Operating Rules, Chaves County, New

Mexico

### Gentlemen:

This letter is to advise you that Yates Petroleum Corporation has filed the enclosed application with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division seeking approval to horizontally drill a well in Section 36, Township 7 South, Range 31 East, N.M.P.M., in the Tomahawk-San Andres Pool.

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Very truly yours,

WILLIAM F. CARR

ATTORNEY FOR YATES PETRÔLEUM CORPORATION

WFC:mlh



Kerr-McGee Corporation Post Office Box 11050 Midland, TX 79702

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Ī	Certified Fee	
	Special Delivery Fee	
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ne 1	Beturn Receipt Snowing to Winom Oute, and Addresses a Address	
ر (0	TOTAL Pistage & Fees	\$
PS Form <b>3800</b> , June 1991	Postmark or vate  Octobse 13	, 1993

SENDER: Complete Items 1 and 2 when additional services are desired, and complete Items 3 and 4.

Put your address in the "RETURN TO" Space on the reverse side. Failure to do this PMM prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name and the person delivered to reditional services in requested.

In the date of delivery, For additional services are evallable. Consult positional services are evallable. Consult positional services and addresses address.

Retromage of Services:

Kerr-McGee Corporation

Post Office Box 11050

Midland, TX 79702

Angeletered Corporation

Post Office Box 11050

Midland, TX 79702

Angeletered Corporation

Signature - Address

Signature - Address

Signature - Address

Signature - Address

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\*\*Date of Delivery\*\*

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\*\*Addresses (ONLY if Strom 3811, Mar. 1988 \*\* U.S.a.p.o. 1988-212-885 DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT

# CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE 8 SHERIDAN, P.A.

LAWYERS

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SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-2208
TELEPHONE: (505) 988-4421

TELECOPIER: (505) 983-6043

October 13, 1993

# CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

PFDCO

(Petroleum Development Corporation) 9720 B Candelaria, NE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

Re: Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for a Horizontal Directional Drilling Pilot Project and Special Operating Rules, Chaves County, New

Mexico

### Gentlemen:

This letter is to advise you that Yates Petroleum Corporation has filed the enclosed application with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division seeking approval to horizontally drill a well in Section 36, Township 7 South, Range 31 East, N.M.P.M., in the Tomahawk-San Andres Pool.

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Very truly yours,

WILLIAM F. CARR

ATTORNEY FOR YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION

WFC:mlh



**PEDCO** (Petroleum Development Corporation) 9720 B Candelaria, NE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

F	ostage	\$
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	Restricted Delivery Fee	
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-865 DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT	PS Form 3811, Mar. 1988/ + U.S.Q.P.O. 1988-212-865
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	* Tariffel
	8. Signature - Agent
8. Addressee's Address (ONLY if requested and fee paid)	5. Signature — Address X
Always obtain signature of addresses or agent and DATE DELIVERED.	Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
Express Mail S Return Receipt for Merchandise	(Petroleum Development Corporation) 9720 B Candelaria, NE
ä	PEDCO
4. Article Number P 176 017 087	3. Article Addressed to:
drass. 2.  Restricted Delivery (Extra charge)	1. Show to whom delivered, date, and addressee's a (Extra charge)
se side. Failure to do this will prevent this rovide you the name of the person delivered reprices are available. Consult postmaster and	Put your address in the "RETURN TO" Space on the reverse side. Failure to do this will prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name of the person delivered to and the date of cellvery. For additional fees the following services are evallable. Consult postmaster for fees and thack boxfees for additional service(s) requested.
services are desired, and complete items	<ul> <li>SENDER: Complete items 1 and 2 when additional services are desired, and complete items 3 and 4.</li> </ul>



# PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

9720-B CANDELARIA, NE ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87112 TELEPHONE (505) 293-4044

October 26, 1993

Yates Petroleum Corporation 105 South 4th Artesia, NM 88210

### Gentlemen:

In reference to Yates Petroleum Corporation's application before the Oil Conservation Division, New Mexico Department of Energy, for a horizontal directional drilling pilot project area, <u>Case No. 10863</u>, SW/4 of Section 36, T7S, R31E, Chaves County, New Mexico, Petroleum Development Corporation (Pedco) fully supports this application.

Pedco is the operator of the offset leases to the East, Northeast, West and Northwest to this 160 acre project area.

Pedco will also support a 4x80 barrel per day allowable for the 160 acre project area, which may be produced from any or all of the four existing wells and the Loveless LO State No. 9.

Sincerely,

J.C. Johnson President

JCJ:kc

BEFORE	EXAMINER CATANACH	
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION		
YATES	EXHIBIT NO. 9	
CASE NO.	10843	