

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CONSIDERING:

Case No. 10868
Order No. R-10023

APPLICATION OF KINLAW OIL CORPORATION FOR A HIGH ANGLE/HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING PILOT PROJECT, SPECIAL OPERATING RULES THEREFOR, AND AN UNORTHODOX OIL WELL LOCATION, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on November 18, 1993, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 23rd day of November, 1993, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) The applicant, Kinlaw Oil Corporation ("Kinlaw") seeks authority to initiate a high angle/horizontal directional drilling pilot project located on a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit ("Project Area") comprised of the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 2, Township 15 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Denton-Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant further seeks the adoption of special operating provisions and rules within said Project Area, including the designation of a target window such that the horizontal or production portion of the wellbore can be no closer than 330 feet to the outer boundary of the project area.

(3) Kinlaw intends to utilize its Mexico "F" Well No. 2, located at a standard (surface) oil well location 1980 feet from the North and East lines (Unit G) of said Section 2, by kicking off from the vertical within the Devonian formation at a depth of approximately 12,019 feet, utilize existing and proven technology to drill a short-radius

curve, continue to drill horizontally within the Devonian formation in a northeasterly direction a distance of approximately 650 feet, and produce the Devonian formation throughout the entire horizontal interval.

(4) The proposed horizontal well would be located within the boundaries of the Denton-Devonian Pool and, as such, would be subject to general rules and regulations for oil pools which require 40-acre spacing and proration units with wells to be located no closer than 330 feet from the outer boundary of the unit.

(5) The applicant presented evidence that indicates the producing interval in the well would be located a minimum distance of 330 feet from the outer boundary of the proration unit, which meet the off-set requirements for oil wells as stated above, and as such, would not encroach upon offsetting proration units, thereby protecting correlative rights.

(6) The portion of this application seeking approval for an "unorthodox location" is unnecessary and should therefore be dismissed.

(7) Testimony by the applicant further indicated that this type of well completion should result in the recovery of a substantially greater amount of oil than would normally be recovered by a conventional well completion, thereby preventing waste.

(8) No offset operator or other interested party appeared at the hearing in opposition to this application.

(9) In the interest of conservation, prevention of waste, and protection of correlative rights, the application of Kinlaw Oil Corporation for a horizontal directional drilling project should be approved provided however, that

- (a) the wellbore remain confined to the assigned target window; and,
- (b) the applicant should be required to conduct a directional survey on the well during the drilling of or after the completion of drilling operations and submit to both the Hobbs and Santa Fe offices of the Division a copy of said directional survey.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The application of Kinlaw Oil Corporation for a high angle/horizontal directional drilling pilot project comprising the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 2, Township 15 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Denton-Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for said pool is hereby approved.

(2) The applicant is further authorized to utilize its Mexico "F" Well No. 2, located at a standard (surface) oil well location 1980 feet from the North and East lines (Unit G) of said Section 2, by kicking off from the vertical within the Devonian formation at a depth of approximately 12,019 feet, drill a short-radius curve, continue to drill horizontally within the Devonian formation in a northeasterly direction a distance of approximately 650 feet, and produce the Devonian formation throughout the entire horizontal interval.

(3) The displacement of the subject wellbore shall be limited to a target window such that the horizontal or production portion of the wellbore shall be no closer than the standard allowed 330 feet distance to the outer boundary of the 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit (project area).

(4) The portion of the subject application for approval of an "unorthodox location" is hereby dismissed.

(5) The geographic location of the kick-off point for the proposed horizontal well shall be determined prior to directional drilling operations. Also, the operator shall conduct a directional survey on the lateral portion of the wellbore during or after completion of drilling operations.

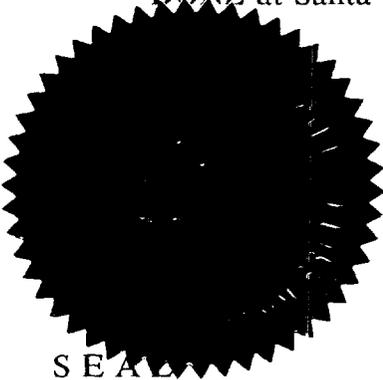
(6) The applicant shall notify the supervisor of the Hobbs District Office of the Division of the date and time of conductance of any directional surveys in order that the same may be witnessed.

(7) The applicant shall submit copies of all directional surveys conducted on the subject well to both the Hobbs and Santa Fe offices of the Division.

(8) Jurisdiction of this cause is hereby retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

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DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Handwritten signature of William J. LeMay

WILLIAM J. LeMAY
Director

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