1 2	STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION STATE LAND OFFICE BLDG. SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO	
3	7 January 1986	
4	COMMISSION HEARING	
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7	IN THE MATTER OF:	
8	Application of the Oil Conservation CASE Commission on its own motion to res- (8749)	
9	Commission on its own motion to rescind Order No. R-1670, as amended.	
10	Application of Northwest Pipeline Cor- CASE poration to amend Oil Conservation 8792	
11	Division Rule 403, Rule 1100, and Form C-111.	
12		
13	BEFORE: Richard L. Stamets, Chairman	
14	Ed Kelley, Commissioner	
15		
16	TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING	
17		
18	APPEARANCES	
19	For the Division: Jeff Taylor Attorney at Law	
20	Legal Counsel to the Commission State Land Office Bldg.	
21	Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501	
22	For Northwest Pipeline: Paul Cooter Attorney at Law	
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25	Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501	
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MR. STAMETS: The hearing will

3 please come to order.

We'll call first this morning for Case 8749, which was continued from the November 19, 1985, Division hearing.

MR. TAYLOR: The application of the Oil Conservation Commission on its own motion to rescind Order No. R-1670, as amended, to recodify and amend the General Rules and Regulations for the prorated gas pools contained therein and to amend the special gas prorationing rules for the Atoka-Pennsylvanian, Blinebry, Buffalo Valley-Pennsylvanian, Burton Flat-Morrow, Burton Flat-Strawn, South Carlsbad-Morrow, Crosby-Devonian, Eumont, Indian Basin-Morrow, Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian, Jalmat, Justis-Glorieta, Monument McKee-Ellenburger, and Tubb Gas Pools in Lea, Eddy, and Chavez Counties.

MR. STAMETS: Do you have any additional appearances in this case that we did not have in November?

Mr. Cooter?

MR. COOTER: Mr. Stamets, Paul Cooter with the Rodey Law Firm, representing Northwest Pipeline Corporation.

For the purpose of receiving

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   evidence only, I would like to move the consolidation of --
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    call Case, the following case, being Case Number 8792.
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                                 MR. STAMETS: Yes, Mr. Cooter, I
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    believe that that's an appropriate thing.
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                                 Would
                                         you call Case Number
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    8792?
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                                 MR. TAYLOR:
                                              The application of
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    Northwest Pipeline Corporation to amend Oil Conservation
   Division Rule 403, Rule 1100, Rule 1111, and Form C-111.
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                                 MR.
                                      STAMETS:
                                                 Do we have any
    other appearances in either of these cases today?
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                                 Mr. Nance.
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                                 MR. NANCE: Mr. Stamets, on be-
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    half of El Paso Natural Gas Company, my name is John Nance.
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    I'd like to enter my appearance, as well as Mr. H. L. Ken-
    drick on behalf of El Paso Natural Gas.
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                                      STAMETS:
                                 MR.
                                                 Are there other
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    appearances?
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                                 Mr. Chavez.
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                                 MR.
                                      CHAVEZ:
                                                Yes.
                                                        I wish to
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    make an appearance on behalf of the Aztec District Office of
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    the Oil Conservation Division.
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                                 MR. STAMETS: Any other appear-
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    ances in either of these two cases?
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                                 Does anyone desire to go ahead
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1 of Mr. Cooter today? If not, we'll let Mr. 2 Cooter 3 proceed. Will you have any witnesses who were not sworn in the previous case? 5 COOTER: No, sir, we only MR. 7 have one witness, Mr. Warren Curtis, who was sworn before and testified in the November 19th hearing. 8 9 I do have at counsel table with me Dell Draper, in-house counsel for Northwest in Salt Lake 10 11 City. MR. STAMETS: Let the record 12 13 show that Mr. Curtis has already been sworn and qualified at the previous case and is considered the same in Case 8792. Mr. 15 MR. COOTER: Stamets, I have handed to you and to others a revised Attachment A, 16 17 which was included with the notice mailed for this hearing 18 today. 19 The changes that have been made 20 were, first, to correct a mistake on the copies that were 21 submitted to you. 22 the first page, under Rule 23 3(a), in the third line, the word "take" had not been 24 scratched, which should have been, and so in our revised ex-25 hibit we have just eliminated that one word. It should have 1 been eliminated.

On the second page something happened to Rule 18 in which there was a proposed change was -- somehow didn't get on, and we just attached that and recopied it.

Those are the only two changes in the attachment that I have handed to you and am handing out to the people in the room. We though it easier just to redo the attachment for you.

WARREN O. CURTIS,

being called as a witness and having been previously sworn upon his oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. COOTER:

Q Mr. Curtis, Mr. Stamets has taken note for the record that you were sworn at the prior hearing on November 19, which was continued to this date and at that time it was requested that you submit to the Commission your specific proposal that you had talked about at the time.

A That's correct.

Q Speak up so the reporter can hear, as well as the people that we have our back to.

Would you identify the -- what has been

marked as Attachment A and explain that to the Commission
and briefly go through what you have endeavored to do?

A Exhibit A is a listing of the rules in which either "gas transporter" or "gas purchaser" appear wherein Northwest Pipeline felt that there needed to be a clarification of that responsibility.

And this exhibit only includes those rules where there is a proposed change. If in fact "gas purchaser" is what Northwest Pipeline feels is correct in the rules no change was made in this session. The rule change does not appear on it, or excuse me, the correct rule does not appear on here.

This attachment lists two definitions and several rule changes.

The first definition of "gas purchaser" is a new definition to the proration rules, as Northwest Pipeline envisions it, and the definition of "gas purchaser" in essence indicates that purchaser is the purchaser of the largest percentage interest of the gas in that gas well, or GPU.

The "gas transporter" definition is a rewrite of the old "gas purchaser" definition and wherever
"purchaser" appeared in that definition it has been replaced
with the words "gas transporter", and defines "gas transporter" as the first taker of gas from that gas well.

In Rule 3(a), where it gave the responsibility to the gas purchaser to nominate the gas, it indicated that purchaser would nominate the amount of gas
which he in good faith desires to take.

Northwest feels that where it is the purchaser who has that responsibility, the word "purchase" should replace the word "take" as to more appropriately indicate the nomination of the gas purchaser.

In Rule 5(b), New Connects Assignment of Allowables, again the word "purchaser" appeared in many places in that rule.

The new connects assignment of allowables requires various forms to be submitted by the buying individual to the Commission.

Because it is a connection concern North-west Pipeline feels that that is in fact the transporter who is doing that and wherever "gas purchaser" appears in Rule 5(b), it should be changed to "transporter" as is reflected in this rule, so that the transporter would be the one who would file the various forms with the Commission.

In Rule 15(a), the C-111 Report has always been defined as the Gas Purchaser's Monthly Report. In actuality, the transporter is the one who files that report.

We propose that the report be changed to Gas Transporter and that the transporter continue to file

that report.

In Rule 15(c) where it speaks not only as to the C-111 but the forms with the State in reporting the days again it refers to the gas purchaser. We propose that that be changed to refer to the gas transporter.

And then again in Rule 18, where it requires a gas well delivery notice, again the purchaser is referred to but the transporter has that information initially and we feel that the transporter is the one who should make that filing.

That covers the changes associated with the general rules for the prorated gas pools of New Mexico.

As was stated previously, due to the fact that some General Rules, General State Rules were to be changed, we have proposed three changes there, also.

In Rule 403 where it speaks of the measurement of natural gas from gas wells, again the transporter is the one who performs that measurement and the required "purchaser" was stricken and we have indicated that "transporter" should have that responsibility.

In Rule 1100, where it speaks of written notices, Form C-111 was defined as the Gas Purchaser's Monthly Report. Again, as we have discussed in the proration rules, it is in fact the transporter who performs that function. We would propose that Form C-111 be amended to indicate the Gas Transporter's Monthly Report.

And then finally in the Rule 1111, Gas
Purchaser's Monthyl Report, we recommend that that be changed to the Gas Transporter's Monthly Report, Form C-111, and
that the transporter do that, file that report.

Q Mr. Curtis, what is the need or desireability to -- or the instances it is important to distinguish between the gas purchaser and the gas transporter?

A In many instances in New Mexico the gas transporter and the gas purchaser are not the same entity. It has made a lot more sense for the nearest transporter to connect the well, whether it be the gas purchaser or not.

We feel that these rules clarify the responsibilities, these propose changes clarify the duties of both the gas transporter and gas purchaser. That is our main concern is that the gas transporter and gas purchaser responsibilities be clarified.

We also feel that there is a concern that a gas purchaser be able to determine the amount of gas that eventually is produced for their account where from time to time the gas transporter has seemed to have more control of that responsibility.

Q In those instances where the gas purchaser and the gas transporter are one and the same, of course the present rules are satisfactory.

A That is correct.

We feel that where the

That concludes the

But where they may differ or be different

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BY MR. STAMETS:

direct presentation.

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Mr. Curtis, if pipelines become open Q access transporters, and direct sales occur between distributor or consumer, and a producer, who will be the purchaser?

CROSS EXAMINATION

entities, various field problems, ease of connection or the

gas transporter and the gas purchaser are two different

this would facilitate the function of these rules and help

MR. COOTER:

like, your proposed changes then would aid conservation.

That is correct.

entities or possibly more than two different entities,

the Commission administer these rules.

That's a good question. We envision it could happen two ways.

First off, as I understand currently under the regulations, if there are two or more entities involved, and those entities decide on one of the entities to be the controller, or for example, you'd file a nomination and decided that amongst three parties that Party A would in fact file the nomination, then the Commission re-

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quests that a letter be on file with them that indicates who will perform that function and then the nomination is filed accordingly.

We could envision one of two things happening in your question.

purchase, a direct sale, then in fact we envision that the purchaser of that gas could file that nomination, but conversely, we also feel that if the purchaser, for various reasons, would prefer to designate a transporter of that gas to file that nomination and take that responsibility, then with an appropriate letter on file with the Commission, we feel that a second entity can assume that responsibility.

Q Is that reflected anywhere in these proposed rules?

A I think it is but I'm not sure. I'd have to take a look and see.

Q It appears as though the original proposal on Rule 3(a) as to nominations sort of addresses that. It talks about the case of split connections, traded gas, or when the producer gathers his own gas, delivers it to another, then the purchasers may mutually agree to authorize one to file the whole nomination.

I presume what you would be talking about would be some language along that line which would, perhaps,

include when a -- when a transporter is acting as an open access pipeline, that any party who would otherwise be designated purchaser may designate the transporter to nominate for its purchases.

A You are correct, Mr. Stamets, that is where it was in the rules and as such the language should be added back in there that would indicate that in the event that more than -- that several parties are involved or that one entity wants to designate another entity as the entity holding that responsibility, that may be done by letter on file.

Again, we would assume that under most circumstances the gas purchaser would continue to hold that responsibility and we feel that appropriate language was created or within these rules that would indicate an appropriate letter would suffice.

We would recommend that.

Q I wonder if we need a little bit more clarification as to the current purchaser? We don't, in this proposed definition it is not indicated what physical anctions take place.

I know if I'm going out to buy an apple who the purchaser is and the seller is, but I'm wondering if perhaps we don't need a little more extensive definition in this case?

1	A We would be willing to give that a shot
2	and would appreciate your help and any suggestions you have.
3	Q I'm thinking along the lines of some in-
4	dication that there is a sale that takes place at some point
5	and there is an exchange of value with that sale.
6	One of the things I should point out now
7	is that this Case 8792 did miss getting advertised in the
8	Portales paper, problem in the mail, and so it will have to
9	be readvertised and brought up again. There may not need to
10	be any testimony but it will have to brought up again at the
11	Division's hearing which is now scheduled for February the
12	26th, so perhaps we'd have an opportunity to circulate for
13	additional comment, any proposed change of purchaser defini-
14	tion and to clarify the roles of the nominator in Rule 3(a).
15	In the case of open access transporta-
16	tion, how is the Division going to know who the purchasers
17	are?
18	A That's a good question. I'm not quite
19	sure I have an answer for it right now, Mr. Stamets, but I
20	would envision that some type of communication in a direct
21	access sale you would need to be made to the Commission.
22	Q Will transporters know who the purchasers
23	are under direct access?
24	A I would think that they would.
25	Q Would it be possible for the pipelines to

1 -- or transporters to advise the Division of the purchasers by pool? 2 That -- that very definitely could hap-3 Α 4 pen. I would think that we would need to get the purchaser involved somewhere in that notification, also. 5 6 So to complete the loop on all this, per-0 7 haps what we need is a rule which would provide that each transporter in a pool shall advise the Division of the 8 name 9 and address of any purchaser purchasing gas from said pool utilizing transporter's facilities. Wordy, but I think it 10 conveys the idea. 11 Chavez has something he's going Mr. 12 add later in the day that might bring the committee back to 13 take one more look at this thing and perhaps they'd have a 14 15 chance to address both of these issues, as well. 16 MR. STAMETS: Are there other 17 questions of Mr. Curtis? 18 Mr. Nance. 19 20 CROSS EXAMINATION 21 BY MR. NANCE: 22 Curtis, just one question with re-Q Mr. 23 spect to the definition of gas purchaser where there are

Q Mr. Curtis, just one question with respect to the definition of gas purchaser where there are more than -- or where there is more than one purchaser, this rule would presume that there is a majority purchaser or at

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least a purchaser with a larger share than any other 1 Where there is actually a 50/50 split purchaser. 2 purchase of gas from the well, can you address that situation with this rule or what other course do you have? And, of course, that does exist. What we A would recommend is that if in fact it is an even split, that 6 one of two things occur. The cleanest, I feel, would be to 7 have the entity that has a 50 percent interest, if in fact 8 there is an entity that is a transporter also, that that 9 transporter assume that responsibility, and not only the 10 transporter but an even 50 percent interest in that. 11 The alternative to that would be for the 12 two entities involved agree as to who would have the respon-13 sibility. 14 MR. STAMETS: Are there other 15 questions of Mr. Curtis? 16 He may be excused. 17 you have anything further, 18 Mr. Cooter? 19 COOTER: Nothing further, MR. 20

21 Mr. Stamets.

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MR. STAMETS: Does anyone else at this point have anything that they wish to say or testify

to in either of the two cases before us at this time?

MR. KENDRICK: We would like to

1 hear Frank.

MR. STAMETS: Okay. Mr. Chavez,

3 I believe you've got some things you would like to express

from the Division staff.

Why don't you swear Mr. Chavez?

(Mr. Chavez sworn.)

MR. CHAVEZ: Mr. Chairman, I am Frank Chavez, District Supervisor of the Aztec Office of the Oil Conservation Division.

In this case so far there has been a presentation by the Proration Committee which defines an AD factor in the definitions of proposed proration rules and also proposed a Rule No. 5 under Non-marginal Gas Proration Units for assigning allowables.

Very recently it was brought to my attention that the use of the AD factor as defined in the proposed rules, and as used in the past, does not allow for equitable assignments of allowables to proration units which are other, which have an H factor other than one.

Exhibit One, which you have before you, on the first page we have found that the sum of
the allowables assigned to 160-acre proration units is not
the same as the allowable given to a 320-acre proration unit

1 which has the same total deliverability.

On that first page I show what

the current and proposed formula is for assigning a monthly

allowable for a well, which is the acreage factor times the

acreage allocation factor for this one, plus the acreage

factor times the deliverability times the AD factor, which

is F2.

What I have done under that is I have shown this equation broken down with two 160-acre proration units and how those allowables — the sum of those allowables do not equal the allowable assigned to a proration unit which has 320 acres. And that is pretty much self-explanatory.

On the second page I have taken examples of allowables allocated to two wells, taken actual wells from the proration schedules.

I have taken a John E. Schalk Schalk Gulf No. 2 Well and a Union Texas Petroleum Corporation McCroden A No. 3 Well.

They have deliverabilities of 90 MCF per day and 111 MCF per day, respectively, in the Blanco Mesaverde Pool.

Below that again I restate the allowable calculation formula and I show what the December acreage allocation factor and AD -- I'm sorry the deliverability allocation factor are for the -- for the month of

December.

In the first equation I calculate the allowable for the John E. Schalk Well, which is 50 percent, or .5 times the F sub l figure, and then I use the acreage factor of .5 and there's an error on the exhibit, if you will put times 90 in that exhibit -- in that equation there, it will come out correct.

Times the F sub 2 factor, that gives me a monthly allocation for December for the John E. Schalk Well of 2,654 MCF.

Below I've calculated in the same manner the allowable for the Union Texas Well, which turns out to be 2,867 MCF.

The sum of those allowables if 5,522, if it's rounded out, MCF for the month of December.

If these two wells were on the same 320-acre drill tract, or proration unit, the sum of the deliverabilities would be 201 MCF and below that I've calculated what the allowable would be for that 320-acre proration unit, which is 7,559 MCF, which indicates that it can be seen either of two ways: One, that the Schalk and Union Texas Well are not prorated enough gas or that the combination of the allowables, I'm sorry, the deliverabilities in a 320-acre proration unit assigns too much gas.

I, after working out the mathe-

matics, it appears that the present system of adding deliverability and using the formula assigns too much allowable to those 320-acre drill tracts.

I would make a recommendation to the Commission that at this time they not accept the present definition of A times D for the AD factor as presented in the proposed proration rules, nor accept the portion of Rule 5 which describes the manner in which AD would be used to calculate an allowable until such time as the Proration Committee would meet again and would come up with a proposal either to include it in the order or to not be included in the order and just be used as the proration formula to calculate these allowables.

MR. STAMETS: Have you looked at the original proposed rules --

MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, I have.

MR. STAMETS: -- to see where

18 these changes would have to be made?

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MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, Mr. Chairman,
the changes would have to be made under Rule 1, under the
definition of AD factor.

MR. STAMETS: For example, in that rule what change would occur?

MR. CHAVEZ: Well, if it could not be accepted as it is used now because the AD factor

which would be used for a 160-acre drill tract would be incorrect. No, that's not exactly what I mean to say. Excuse me.

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The AD factor, when used for 160-acre drill tracts and then used again for a 320-acre drill tract, does not give the proportionate allowable. is not a correct definition of what needs to be used to calculate an allowable as it is defined.

STAMETS: MR. Well, gather from your -- what you've said this morning that you really don't feel qualified at this time, having just discovered this, to go through and say how to either one of these proposed rules should be corrected.

MR. CHAVEZ: That's correct. recommend that the committees meet once again and specifically for the purpose of reviewing these allocation equations the definition and the procedure defined in the and proposed rules.

Do you have any-MR. STAMETS: thing further you wish to say this morning?

MR. CHAVEZ: Only I'd like to make a statement concerning the proposal made by Mr. Kendrick as to proposing percentage allowables.

The Aztec Office is opposed to the allowable issuance system proposed by Mr. Kendrick. 25

The prospective allowable under
that plan would be misleading to the operators and has little value to the operator or to the Oil Conservation Division.

The extra burden of putting out two gas proration schedules and attempting to anticipate what the permit final allowables would be two months hence is unnecessary.

That concludes my objection.

MR. STAMETS: Are there other

11 | questions of Mr. Chavez?

MR. NANCE: One question and let me make sure I ask it phrased correctly.

Mr. Chavez, I may need help still in phrasing this question correctly to get the clarification that we're looking for, but do you in fact feel that it is wrong for the deliverabilities of infill wells to be added to deliverability of their original well in the same proration unit, or do you feel that it would be better to -- to recalculate these and consistent with the new method that you're proposing?

MR. CHAVEZ: I haven't proposed a new method as of yet, but I, to answer your first question, yes, adding the deliverability is inappropriate because in the equation, what we do is we add extra acreage

1 factors when we do that.

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NANCE: MR. We don't have example here in front of us specifically demonstrates that 3 that's the case but there is at least a potential difference of opinion as to how that would work. 5

MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Ι think there would be several mathematical approaches that could be taken to come up with an equitable allowable assignment.

One, for example, could be assigning each well within a 320 an allowable based on an acreage factor of .5 and then adding those proration units to be produced from either well in any proportion.

That's one alternative and I'm sure there are others. That method would be exactly what I used in my second page of Exhibit One, where I added the allowables and recalculated each of these wells on 160's.

MR. STAMETS: Is your general conclusion here that the -- that this portion of the rules, if we are somehow to amend them, would need to be readvertised, if this needs to be taken up, for example, following additional meetings?

MR. CHAVEZ: don't know whether it would need to be readvertised. I think that was covered in the original advertising but I think it should be re-taken up by the Committee, very definitely, because we are creating a situation under this calculation where the operators of these smaller drill tracts are not receiving an allowable equal to what has been defined as a just and equitable share of gas from the pool.

MR. NANCE: Would you recommend at all that any sort of retroactive adjustment be made, if there is a change in the formula?

MR. CHAVEZ: That would be difficult. I would think the Commission should look at that.

It would be difficult administratively, I know, just from my familiarization with the system, to go back and elect a time to make adjustments.

We have the opportunity, however, with a new rule to start, at least to start fresh on a
new date, April 1st, of doing it, and that would be appropriate. And should an operator feel that their rights have
been violated and I guess that would come to hearing, but to
this date nobody had found this error and we were all -- all
the operators were treated just as fairly or unfairly at
that time.

MR. NANCE: Do you see the example you talked about is a situation where the acreage factor is less than one and a possible penalty that is suffered in a situation like that, do you see a corresponding windfall to a well that has an acreage factor greater than

one?

MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, the same error exists that a well that has an acreage factor greater
than one would be receiving under our method more allowable
than what the other well would be receiving.

MR. NANCE: I don't have any further questions.

What we would do at this point is concur with the need to have the matter re-examined by the Committee in the hopes of having the problem identified and a solution proposed prior to the April 1st proration period.

MR. STAMETS: Given the amount of time we've got in this hearing today, it may be possible to reconvene the Committee, deal with all of these matters, circulate it to the Division's mailing list to determine whether or not there's going to be any objection and then handle these cases very simply at the February hearing.

It seems as though everything we've talked about here today is something that'w well within the call of the advertisements of these two cases.

If no one of the general populace objects, I think we can go ahead based on the evidence we have at this point plus a final committee report.

Let's go off the record for a

1 minute. 2 (Thereupon a discussion was had 3 off the record.) 4 5 6 MR. STAMETS: While we were off 7 the record the Chairman of the Committee to study the remaining issues related to amending the gas prorationing 8 rules has been appointed, Mr. H. L. Kendrick of El Paso Natural Gas Company, and we will be continuing these two cases 10 until the February 26th Commission Hearing, and would hope 11 to have a Committee report relatively soon so we can circu-12 late this to our mailing list before that time. 13 14 Does anyone have anything else 15 they wish to add at this time in these two cases? 16 If not, the cases will then be 17 continued, and let me say I certainly hope that one more time will do it. 19 MR. KENDRICK: I'm with you. 20 21 (Hearing concluded.) 22 23 24 25

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CERTIFICATE

I, SALLY W. BOYD, C.S.R., DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Conservation Division (Commission) was reported by me; that the said transcript is a full, true, and correct record of the hearing, prepared by me to the best of my ability.

Sally W. Boyd Core