ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION 1 STATE LAND OFFICE BLDG. SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 2 27 April 1988 3 EXAMINER HEARING 5 6 IN THE MATTER OF: 7 Application of Primary Fuels, Inc., CASE for compulsory pooling, Lea County, 9361 8 New Mexico. 9 10 11 BEFORE: Michael E. Stogner, Examiner 12 13 14 TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING 15 16 17 APPEARANCES 18 19 For the Division: Charles E. Roybal Attorney at Law 20 Legal Counsel to the Division State Land Office Bldg. 21 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 22 For the Applicant: Scott Hall 23 Attorney at Law CAMPBELL & BLACK P.A. 24 P. O. Box 2208

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-2208

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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1
                                 MR.
                                      STOGNER: Call next Case
2
   Xumber 9361.
3
                                 MR. ROYBAL: Case 9361.
                                                          Appli-
   cation of Primary Fuels, Inc., for compulsory pooling, Lea
5
   County, New Mexico.
7
                                 MR.
                                      STOGNER: Call for appear-
   ances.
9
                                 MR.
                                      HALL: Mr. Examiner, Scott
   Hall from the Campbell & Black law firm, Santa Fe, on behalf
10
   of the applicant, Primary Fuels, Inc.
11
                                 MR. STOGNER:
                                                 Are there
                                                             any
12
   other appearances in this matter?
13
                                 How many witnesses?
14
                                              We have three wit-
                                 MR.
                                      HALL:
15
   nesses to be sworn.
16
                                 MR.
                                      STOGNER: Will they please
17
   rise at this time and be sworn.
18
19
20
                         (Witnesses sworn.)
21
22
                           KENNETH GRAY,
    being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his
23
    oath, testified as follows, to-wit:
24
25
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DIRECT EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. HALL:

Please state your name.

Kenneth Gray. 5

0 Mr. Gray, where do you live and by whom are you employed?

A I live in Midland, Texas, and I'm employed by Primary Fuels.

All right, Mr. Gray, have you previously testified before the Division or one of its examiners and had your credentials accepted of record?

> I have not. Α

Why don't you give the hearing exminer a brief summary of your educational background and work experience?

A I have a Master's degree in economics. I've been a landman employed in Midland for fourteen years, approximately. I've worked for Gulf, Texas Oil & Gas, Anderson Petroleum, self-employed, and I'm presently employed by Primary Fuels.

Have you worked in New Mexico before?

Yes. A

24 0 Are you familiar with the application and the subject well in this case? 25

22

23

unknown.

```
Α
                      Yes.
1
                                MR.
                                    HALL:
                                                 Examiner, are
2
                                            Mr.
   the witness' credentials acceptable?
3
                                MR. STOGNER: They are.
            Q
                       Mr.
                             Gray, would you please briefly
5
   explain what it is tha Primary seeks in this case?
6
                       We're seeking to pool -- the pooling of
7
            Α
   uncommitted interests for the drilling of this well.
8
                                   Would you identify the well
9
            Q
                      All right.
   and its location?
10
                      Okay.
                              The well is Primary Fuels Harvard
11
       1. It's located 1980 from the west and 330 from the
12
13
   south, Section 31, 18 South, 39 East, with the unit being
   the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter 40-acre
14
   tract.
15
            Q
                      All right.
                                   Let's look at Exhibit Number
16
   One. If you would explain that to the Examiner, please.
17
18
                       Okay.
                               Exhibit Number One is a plat
   prepared by Midland Map. On it it has the ownership in a
19
    40-acre tract, listed at the top with Primary Fuels having
20
```

And then it has our proposed well as previously indicated, and then it has the present wells

approximately 76 percent, and it has the notices of all

parties with the exception of John Bayz, whose address is

```
producing from the Foster San Andres Field, being three
1
  wells, one operated by Anadarko, one by Texas American, and
2
  one by Martindale.
```

Will the proposed well be drilled at a standard location?

Yes, it will.

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

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18

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24

25

All right. Mr. Q Gray, what is the percentage of interest voluntarily committed to this well at present?

At the present time Primary Fuels has 76 percent that is committed, approximately.

All right. If you would, refer back to Exhibit One and explain which of the interest owners and are not committed.

The first one after Primary Fuels is M. Α Brad Bennett, Inc.. At the present time he is not commit-In talking with him, chances are that he will ted. with us; however, at this time he has not committed.

Horton Brothers, has returned an which indicates they will participate but at this time they have not committed, since we do not have a signed operating agreement.

And Anadarko, being the next party, not committed as of this date. We have reason to believe they will, but they have not.

And the last party, being John Bayz, we have made a diligent attempt to find him and have been unable to do so; therefor, his interest, which is in fee, is presently uncommitted.

Q All right. Let's look at Exhibit Two.

If you would explain what that is to the Examiner, please.

A Exhibit Two is -- are letters to the parties involved. Of course, that would exclude John Bayz, since we cold not locate him.

The first letters out to the parties are dated on March the 3rd, 1988, wherin we ask them to participate with us. As an alternative they could farm out to us. We did send them an AFE at that time.

And a later letter on April the 19th, we provided each party with a copy of our proposed joint operating agreement.

Q All right, what efforts have you made to locate John Bayz?

A We have -- the only thing we've been able to find of record on John Bayz is an affidavit signed by his half brother, who has no -- does not know of his whereabouts. We've asked a private investigator to see if he could find him for a couple days, and we were unsuccessful.

Q All right. Let me show you what's been marked Exhibit Three. Is Exhibit Three an affidavit executed

```
1
       you by which you directed your counsel to provide notice
2
   of this hearing to the affected interest owners?
3
            A
                       Yes, it is.
            Q
                       All right.
                                   Mr. Gray, have you made an
5
   estiamte of overhead and administrative costs while drilling
6
   this well and also while producing this well if it's a suc-
7
   cessful well?
8
                       Yes, sir.
            Α
9
            Q
                       What are those costs?
10
            Α
                        We have a drilling well rate of 4500 and
11
   a producing well rate of 450.
12
                        All right, and are those costs in
13
   with what's being charged in the area by other operators?
14
            A
                       Yes, sir.
15
            0
                       Do you recommend that those costs be in-
16
   corporated into any order that results from this hearing?
17
            Α
                       Yes, sir.
18
                        And does Primary Fuels seek to be desig-
19
   nated operator of the proposed well?
20
                       Yes, they do.
21
            0
                       Were Exhibits One through Three prepared
22
   by you or at your direction?
23
            Α
                       Yes, sir.
24
                       Mr. Gray, in your opinion will granting
25
        application be in the best interests of conservation,
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them earlier, also.

1 first started, what the gist of the conversations were? 2 Would you like me to address each party, 3 is that --Did you call them? Did you try to get 5 hold of them all about the same time --A Yes, sir. 7 0 -- on the telephone? Pretty much. Α 9 Q About when was your first communication? 10 Well, with Brad Bennett, he would --11 would have probably been earlier, oh, probably early Febru-12 ary or mid-February, guessing, but he had leased some inter-13 in there that we thought were still available and when 14 approached the fee owners we found out that Brad Bennett had 15 leased them the week before and that's when our initial con-16 tact was made with him, and he, at the time, he said he de-17 finitely wanted to participate with us, and he still 18 cates that but he's -- but he has not signed an AFE or sent 19 back an operating agreement yet. 20 Okay, how about Anadarko? Did you have a 21 telephone conversation with any of their people? 22 Yes, I have. In fact, they've been very A 23 cooperative. I have my title opinion drill site is an up-24 date from Anadarko's opinions, so I had communicated with

		12	
1	Q	Can you do you remember when, roughly?	
2	A	Probably about February, mid-February.	
3	Q	And who did you talk to with Anadarko?	
4	A	I talked to Mike Goode and Wayne Wheelis,	
5	both.		
6	Q	Okay, Mike Goode?	
7	A	Yeah. Mike Goode is the head landman for	
8	Anadarko and Wayne		
9	Q	How do you spell his last name?	
10	A	It's G-O-O-D-E.	
11	Q	Okay, and the other person?	
12	A	Wayne Wheelis. That's the party the	
13	person who the letter is addressed to, I believe.		
14	Q	Have you talked to any of these parties	
15	today?		
16	A	Those two individuals today, no, I have	
17	not.		
18	Q	Have you talked to anybody from Anadarko	
19	today?		
20	A	Yes.	
21	Q	Let's see, I've got a letter here from	
22	Roy Barton		
23	A	Yes.	
24	Q	That you included in Exhibit Two.	
25	A	Yes.	

```
Is -- now he agreed, is that correct?
            Q
1
            A
                      Yes.
                             He returned an AFE, signed it and
2
   returned it,
                  and I have every reason to believe that, of
3
   course, he will participate with us as a result of that let-
   ter, but we still don't have a signed operating agreement.
5
   I -- I would believe that's probably a formality, but we
   haven't solved that problem yet.
7
                      We have no reason to believe that he
8
   won't sign our agreement.
9
            Q
                       Oh, you just haven't gotten anything
10
   written form him yet.
11
                      Well, we're only talking April 19th, you
12
   know, is when it went out.
13
            0
                      Okay.
14
            Α
                      So.
15
                       But that's the reason whenever you
16
   76 percent has been committed --
17
                       That's -- that's primaries, yes.
18
                      What was Mr. Bayz last known address?
19
            Q
                        It was with his parents in -- I have it
20
   -- it was in the State of Maryland.
21
            Q
                        And that's where you instituted your
22
   search with your private investigator?
23
24
             Α
                       Yes, sir.
25
             Q
                       What was his last known address?
                                                          I mean
```

```
14
1
   how -- how long ago was that his address?
2
                       It was -- it was that in 1967.
3
                       So that's the last known place that he
   was known.
5
                       Yes.
                               That was actually the address of
6
   his father in 1967.
7
                                 MR. STOGNER: I have no further
8
    questions of Mr. Gray.
9
                                 Are there any other questions
10
    of this witness?
11
                                 MR. HALL: No, sir.
12
                                 MR.
                                      STOGNER: He may be ex-
13
    cused.
14
                                 We'll admit Exhibits One,
                                                             Two
15
    and Three into evidence at this time.
16
17
                           FREY N.
                                   RAD,
18
    being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his
19
    oath, testified as follows, to-wit:
20
21
                         DIRECT EXAMINATION
22
    BY MR. HALL:
23
                      For the record, state your name.
             Q
24
             Α
                       My name is Frey Rad.
25
                       And, Mr. Rad, where do you live and by
             Q
```

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whom are you employed?

A I live in Midland, Texas; employed by Primary Fuels, Inc.

Q Have you previously testified before the Division or one of its examiners and had your credentials accepted?

A Yes.

Q And are you familiar with the application in this case and the subject well?

A Yes.

MR. HALL: Are the witness' credentials acceptable, Mr. Examiner?

A Mr. Rad's qualifications are so accepted.

MR. HALL: Thank you.

Q Mr. Rad, let's look at what's been marked as Exhibit Four. If you would identify that and explain that to the Examiner, please.

pared by the Drilling Department of the Primary Fuels, reflecting the cost for drilling a 4550 foot San Andres completion at the location previously described by Mr. Gray. This AFE reflects a total cost of dry hole costs in the amount of \$96,978 and a total completion cost of \$76,321; equipment and leasehold facilities to handle the production in the cost of \$68,425; for a total AFE to drill and com-

plete and equip this well for \$241,724.

Q Now, were these cost figures on Exhibit Four compiled by you or at your direction?

A I was involved in the preparation of these numbers, yes.

Q All right. Are the costs in line with what's being charged in the area --

A Yes --

Q -- by other operators?

A -- they're very much competitive.

Q All right. Would you explain, what has Primary's experience been in drilling wells in New Mexico?

A Well, we have had, as far as Primary Fuels direct involvement in New Mexico has been somewhat limited. We are very active in Texas. We're trying to get into New Mexico. The people that are employed by Primary Fuels, like myself, I have worked in Hobbs for the past six years and I've been involved in a lot of operations

Currently Primary Fuels is developing a Delaware Sand and some Morrow Sand south of Carlsbad. We have a very active development, drilling program there; specifically speaking, in areas where this well is being drilled, this would be our first well.

Q All right, is Primary seeking a risk penalty to be assessed against the nonconsenting working inter-

est owners? 1 Yes, we are. Α 2 And what is that risk penalty? 3 We -- we are recommending and seeking the 200 percent penalty for this well. 5 Now, upon what do you base that 200 per-6 cent penalty recommendation? 7 Α Well, there's quite a bit of risk from a 8 geological and also reservoir in this well. We are offset-9 ting an Anadarko well that is producing more than 700 barrel 10 of water per day when it's only making about 65 to 70 barrel 11 of oil per day. 12 So we could easily from a geological 13 standpoint of view be down structure from that well and have 14 a dry -- have a dry hole or a well that only would make 100 15 percent water. 16 So there's quite a bit of risk involved. 17 0 So there is a chance that you could drill 18 a commercially unsuccessfully well? 19 Yes, but there is also a 50 percent 20 chance that we would have a commercial well, yes. 21 All right. In your opinion, Mr. 22 Rad, will the granting of this application be in the best inter-23 ests of conservation, the prevention of waste, and protec-24

tion of correlative rights?

Α Yes. 1 Q And was Exhibit Four prepared by you or 2 at your direction? 3 Yes. MR. HALL: We'd move the intro-5 duction and we have nothing further of this witness. 6 MR. STOGNER: Exhibit Four will 7 be admitted into evidence at this time. 9 CROSS EXAMINATION 10 BY MR. STOGNER: 11 0 Mr. Rad, I'm looking at Item number 23, 12 Miscellaneous costs and contingencies. 13 Α Yes, sir. 14 Q Am I reading that right, .15 percent or 15 should that be 15 percent? Α I think that's 15 percent, yes, sir. 17 Q Now it was 20 percent but it has been 18 marked out to go with 15. 19 Well, the 20 percent, this is, you know, 20 this is a 4500 foot well, you know. If it -- if it was 21 deeper, around 10,000 to 15,000 we normally use 20 percent. 22 This is shallower than some of the deeper wells and we feel 23 that 15 percent contingency would be ample. 24 25 Q Maybe you're not the person I need to ask

this, but what -- do you know what the closest producing San 1 Andres well is from your proposed well? I cannot give you the exact measurement 3 but that would be Anadarko Well, the closest to us, and the next witness, who will cover the geological portion of this 5 testimony would -- would show that on his maps and that would clearly show where the well is. Q Okay. Α It would be hard to see on the map that 9 you have at this point. 10 MR. STOGNER: I have no further 11 questions of Mr. Rad at this time. 12 Are there any other questions 13 of this witness? 14 15 MR. HALL: No, sir. MR. STOGNER: He may be ex-16 cused. 17 18 19 DEAN BOUNDY, being called as a witness and being duy sworn upon his oath, 20 testified as follows, to-wit: 21 22 DIRECT EXAMINATION 23 24 BY MR. HALL: 25 For the record please state your name.

```
Dean Boundy.
            A
1
                       Mr. Boundy, where do you live and by whom
             Q
2
   are you employed?
3
                       Midland, Texas. Primary Fuels, Incorpor-
             A
   ated.
5
                       All right. Have you previously testified
   before the Division?
7
             Α
                       Yes, I have.
                       And are you familiar with the application
             Q
9
   in this case and the subject well?
10
             Α
                       Yes.
11
                                 MR.
                                      HALL:
                                              Mr.
                                                   Examiner, are
12
    the witness' credentials acceptable?
13
                                 MR.
                                      STOGNER: Mr. Boundy is so
14
   qualified.
15
                       Mr. Boundy, let me ask you, as well, what
16
    is the basis for Primary's recommendation that a 200 percent
17
   risk penalty be imposed against the nonconsenting working
18
    interest owners?
19
                               Geologically, our proposed loca-
                       Okay.
20
    tion here appears to have considerable risk and in order to
21
    show this risk I have prepared two separate maps using the
22
    exact same control information for all the wells that are
23
24
    shown on the map.
                       And the first one, Exhibit Number Five,
25
```

| '

is what I would call the optimistic interpretation.

On it you can see where the Primary Fuels Harvard No. I location is located immediately west of the Anadarko producing well and that location, according to this interpretation, would be approximately 20 feet structurally high to the Anadarko well and the location would be located on the east flank of the -- of a closed anticline, and if this interpretation is correct, being up dip from the Anadarko well, we would anticipate that we would get a well that would be equal to or better than their well.

Q All right. Let's look at Exhibit Six and explain what that shows.

the, all of the same wellsite control points only this is what I would call the conservation interpretation, and on it the way it's drawn, the Anadarko well is located very near the crest of the anticline that controls the production and as you move westward from their well towards the proposed Harvard No. I location, you're going to be going down dip about 20 feet, and if this true and you actually go down dip 20 feet, that would make that well, then be structurally on alignment with additional wells, which have resulted in 100 percent water production and been dry holes.

And at this juncture, without any seismic information or anything else to further define which inter-

23

25

22 1 pretation is going to be correct, we have no way of knowing how it's going to end up. Hopefully, we think it's going to be the optimistic way but it could very well be that we'd end up 5 being down dip and we'd have a dry hole. Q Okay. Based upon the known geologic data 7 that you've had a chance to examine, do you believe that there is a significant chance that the well will be drilled as a noncommercial producer -- a noncommercial well? 10 A Yes, there is. There is a strong chance, 11 uh-huh. 12 All right. Do you have anything further 13 to add? 14 No, I don't believe so. A 15 Q Okay. Mr. Boundy, in your opinion will 16 the granting of Primary's application be in the best inter-17 est of conservation, the prevention of waste, and protection of correlative rights? 19 Α Yes, sir. 20 And were Exhibits Five and Six prepared 21 by you or at your direction?

Yes, uh-huh.

MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, we'd move the admission of Exhibits Five and Six and that concludes our direct of this witness.

```
MR. STOGNER: Exhibits Five and
1
   Six will be admitted at this time.
2
3
                        CROSS EXAMINATION
   BY MR. STOGNER:
5
            Q
                      Mr. Boundy, what's that box in the middle
   of your map?
7
            Α
                       That's our -- these maps are maps that we
   have prepared not only for this hearing but for -- for in-
   ternal use, and that box is our proposed working interest
10
   unit for the people that we bring into this prospect with
11
   us.
12
                       So that doesn't really have any bearing.
13
            Q
                      Right, it has nothing to do with this nor
14
   does that cross section line --
15
            Q
                       Okay.
16
                       -- that wanders across there.
            Α
17
                     Let's talk about that Anadarko well to --
18
            Α
                       Uh-huh.
19
                        -- to the east of there.
20
                                                  How long has
   that been producing?
21
            Α
                        I believe that well was completed in
22
    1984.
            It started off as a well that was originally making
23
   something like 18 barrels of oil a day and a lot of water
24
25
   and very little gas, and -- but it's one of these instances
```

where as you continue to produce something it gets better instead of worse and as they have continued to produce that well, and they've periodically gone in and done things to increase the pump size and one thing and another, and they have the production up right now to where -- I checked with them just before we came to the hearing here, and during the month of March, which -- during which time the production was limited to 22 days, that well produced 1500 barrels of oil, 18,300,000 cubic feet of gas, and approximately 20,000 barrels of water.

Q Now all the wells that is north of here about 3/4 of a mile or a mile --

A Uh-huh.

Q -- is that the old East Hobbs San Andres
Pool?

A Yes, sir, uh-huh.

Q Are there -- there's a few producing wells still in the southern portion of this pool, is that correct?

A Yes, that is correct.

Q How old is that pool, do you know?

A On the map it shows that 1951 was the discovery date.

Q Okay.

A It says East Hobbs Field there in 1951.

Q '51, okay.

A Uh-huh. The field is in its latter stages of depletion but it's been a great field. The wells in there average -- well, I've got it up here at the top, they average 200,000 barrels of oil per well.

Q Now are you showing any kind of connection between that pool and your particular well or the --

A I doubt that there's any connection because you see that Pan American Goode No. 1 Well, which would be located in the south half of Section 31?

O Uh-huh.

A That well is a dry hole at a subsea datum of -859, and it looks like that well defines a structural saddle that probably separates the production from these two areas, but there has to be some degree, though, of communication between the two areas because when Anadarko drilled their well, they ran the drill stem test across the San Andres and -- and they had pressures in that that were, as I recall, 4-or-500 pounds, and which is considerably less than what virgin pressure for the area would have been.

Q Now the closest well to the west is the one it appears that's in Section 36; looks like it's right in the middle of -- of a section.

A Yes, sir.

Q Was that a San Andres test, also?

A Yes, it was a San Andres. Well, they'd actually drilled the well down deeper and looked at the Blinebry and some other zones, but they ended up coming back up the hole and making a completion attempt in the San Andres.

They put a pump on the well and and they pump tested it for about a 20-day period. At the end of that time it was pumping 50 barrels of water a day with a trace of oil.

Q Did it look like that this was an off-shoot of the San Andres formation, that play, or --

A Well, with that small amount of oil, you can't -- you -- there's two ways to look at it. If you -- if you go off the optimistic interpretation you can say, well, that well's right out at the edge of this anticline and that small amount of oil that they were recovering was oil that was located at or near the -- right at the oil/water contact.

But on the other hand, when you get into an area like this and you've had all the oil that's migrated through this area, for instance, from this area on up to the — to the Hobbs Field immediately to the west, it's not uncommon to get small amounts of oil that will be trapped in — in some portion of a tighter part of the rock, and when you start producing it you get a little bit of oil back but

```
27
1
   it's never anything that really amounts to something.
2
                                 MR. STOGNER: I have no further
   questions of this witness.
                                 Are there any other questions
5
   of Mr. Boundy?
6
                                 MR. HALL: We have nothing fur-
7
   ther.
                                 MR.
                                      STOGNER:
                                                 The witness may
   be excused.
10
                                 Mr. Hall, I have a couple more
11
   questions of Mr. Gray.
12
                                 Will you recall him?
13
                                 MR. HALL: Yes.
14
15
                       KENNETH GRAY RECALLED,
16
   and remaining under oath, testified as follows, to-wit:
17
18
                        RECROSS EXAMINATION
   BY MR. STOGNER:
20
                        Mr. Gray, you're requesting overhead
21
   charges of 4500 and 450, is that correct?
22
             Α
                       Yes, sir.
23
                       Has Primary Fuels, have they been a wor-
    king interest in any of the other Anadarko wells or any
25
    other wells in this particular area?
```

'84 operating agreement. They have the rate of 430 producing well rate in their agreement dated in 1984, and I checked with other people that I am familiar with, Texas Oil & Gas, for example, who operates numerous wells all over. They have, in 1987, 4000 feet, zero to 4, they had a 4300 and 430, and for over 4000 they had 5850 and 585.

I guess I personally feel very comfortable with those numbers because of the other people that I know that operate in the Permian Basin for those wells.

Q Has this been an issue with any of the parties that you have been dealing with?

A Not to this point, no, it has not.

MR. STOGNER: Okay, I have no further questions of Mr. Gray.

Are there any other questions of this witness or any of the other witnesses?

Mr. Hall, do you have anything

18 further in this case?

MR. HALL: No, sir.

MR. STOGNER: Case Number 9361

will be taken under advisement.

(Hearing concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

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

Souly W. Boyd CAR

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 236/ neard by me on 27 Min

Oil Conservation Division

. Examinal