

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
STATE LAND OFFICE BLDG.  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

24 September 1987

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Shell Western E&P, Inc., for pool creation, special pool rules, and contraction of Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard Pools, Lea County, New Mexico, and	CASE 9230
For statutory unitization, Lea County, New Mexico, and	CASE 9231
For a waterflood project, Lea County, New Mexico.	CASE 9232

BEFORE: David R. Catanach, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

A P P E A R A N C E S

For the Division: Jeff Taylor  
Attorney at Law  
Legal Counsel to the Division  
State Land Office Bldg.  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

For the Applicant: W. Perry Pearce  
Attorney at Law  
MONTGOMERY & ANDREWS  
P. O. Box 2307  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

A P P E A R A N C E S

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

For J. R. Cone:

W. Thomas Kellahin  
Attorney at Law  
KELLAHIN, KELLAHIN & AUBREY  
P. O. Box 2265  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

For Kaiser Francis Oil  
Co.:

William F. Carr  
Attorney at Law  
CAMPBELL & BLACK P. A.  
P. O. Box 2208  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

I N D E X

STATEMENT BY MR. PEARCE

8

JOHN GOFORTH

Direct Examination by Mr. Pearce

10

Cross Examination by Mr. Catanach

19

LISA CORDER

Direct Examination by Mr. Pearce

21

Questions by Mr. Lyon

33

Questions by Mr. Lemay

35

Questions by Mr. Lyon

38

Cross Examination by Mr. Catanach

40

Redirect Examination by Mr. Pearce

41

DOUG BURBANK

Direct Examination by Mr. Pearce

42

Cross Examination by Mr. Catanach

68

Questions by Mr. Lyon

72

Questions by Mr. Lemay

76

Recross Examination by Mr. Catanach

78

Redirect Examination by Mr. Pearce

80

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

## E X H I B I T S

Shell Exhibit One, Map	11 ✓
Shell Exhibit Two, Plat	12 ✓
Shell Exhibit Three, Unit Agreement	13 ✓
Shell Exhibit Four, Operating Agreement	15
Shell Exhibit Five, Brochure	16 ✓
Shell Exhibit Six, Ratification Process	16
Shell Exhibit Seven, Summary	17 ✓
Shell Exhibit Eight, Letter	18
Shell Exhibit Nine, Letter	18
Shell Exhibit Ten, Ratifications	18 ✓
Shell Exhibit Eleven, Ratifications	19
Shell Exhibit Twelve, Return Receipts	19
Shell Exhibit Thirteen, Structure Map	23 ✓
Shell Exhibit Fourteen, Type Log	23
Shell Exhibit Fifteen, Cross Section	26
Shell Exhibit Sixteen, Cross Section	26
Shell Exhibit Seventeen, Map	44 ✓
Shell Exhibit Eighteen, Pressure Data	46
Shell Exhibit Nineteen, Alternative	47
Shell Exhibit Twenty, Document	49
Shell Exhibit Twenty-one, Part I Report	49 ✓
Shell Exhibit Twenty-two, Part II Report	49 ✓

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

## E X H I B I T S CONT'D

Shell Exhibit Twenty-three, Parameters	50
Shell Exhibit Twenty-four, Formula	50
Shell Exhibit Twenty-five, Formula	52
Shell Exhibit Twenty-six, AFE Package	53
Shell Exhibit Twenty-seven, Map	56 ✓
Shell Exhibit Twenty-eight, Listing	57
Shell Exhibit Twenty-nine, Listing	57
Shell Exhibit Thirty, Pool Rules	57
Shell Exhibit Thirty-one, C-108	62
Shell Exhibit Thirty-two, Return Receipts	65
Shell Exhibit Thirty-three, Applications	66
Shell Exhibit Thirty-four, Letter	69

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

MR. CATANACH: We'll call this hearing back to order this morning on Docket No. 28-87, and we'll call first case this morning, 9230.

MR. TAYLOR: The application of Shell Western E & P, Inc., for pool creation, special pool rules, and contraction of Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard Pools, Lea County, New Mexico.

MR. CATANACH: Are there appearances in this case?

MR. PEARCE: May it please the Examiner, I am W. Perry Pearce of the Santa Fe law firm of Montgomery & Andrews. I appear in this matter on behalf of Shell Western E & P, Inc., and I have three witnesses who will need to be sworn.

MR. CATANACH: Okay, are there any other appearances?

MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom Kellahin of Santa Fe, New Mexico, appearing on behalf of J. R. Cone.

MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is William F. Carr, with the law firm Campbell & Black, of Santa Fe. We represent Kaiser Francis Oil Company.

We do not intend to call a wit-

1 ness.

2 MR. PEARCE: At this time, Mr.  
3 Examiner, for efficiency and shortening the record to the  
4 extent we can, I would ask that Cases 9231 and 9232 be con-  
5 solidated with this case because there is a great deal of  
6 overlap in the evidence in these three cases.

7 MR. CATANACH: Okay, at this  
8 time we'll call Case 9231.

9 MR. TAYLOR: The application of  
10 Shell Western E & P, Inc., for statutory unitization, Lea  
11 County, New Mexico.

12 MR. CATANACH: And we'll call  
13 Case 9232.

14 MR. TAYLOR: The application of  
15 Shell Western E & P, Inc., for a waterflood project, Lea  
16 County, New Mexico.

17 MR. CARR: May it please the  
18 Examiner, I would request that the record reflect the entry  
19 of our appearance for Kaiser Francis in each of the addi-  
20 tional cases.

21 MR. CATANACH: Thank you, Mr.  
22 Carr.

23 MR. KELLAHIN: And likewise for  
24 me, too, Mr. Examiner.

25 MR. CATANACH: Thank you, Mr.

1 Kellahin.

2 Will the witnesses please stand  
3 and be sworn in?

4

5 (Witnesses sworn.)

6

7 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Examiner, be-  
8 fore we begin, if I may take just a couple of moments and  
9 summarize what we're seeking today and how we intend to pro-  
10 ceed, hopefully that will clarify what we're about.

11 In this matter Shell Western E  
12 & P, Inc. seeks the culmination of a three-year effort to  
13 unitize and waterflood portions of the Blinebry, Tubb, and  
14 Drinkard Pools to greatly enhance recovery of hydrocarbons.

15 The proposed unit area, which  
16 is one of the cases under consideration, is slightly under  
17 5000 acres, contains 31 separate tracts with 41 separate  
18 working interest owners.

19 After study of this project by  
20 a technical committee of working interest owners, we believe  
21 it is reasonable to expect some 15-million barrels of incre-  
22 mental recovery to result from this project.

23 The investment that's going to  
24 be required to recovery this is somewhere in the neighbor-  
25 hood of \$20,000,000.

1                   After this three-year effort to  
2 unitize this area and study it technically for waterflood,  
3 the vast majority of working interest owners have agreed to  
4 the unitization. There are a few small interests outstan-  
5 ding, which is the reason for the statutory unitization case  
6 being brought forward.

7                   We're going to proceed in this  
8 matter this morning with three witnesses.

9                   Mr. John Goforth is a landman  
10 for Shell Western E & P, Inc.. He's discuss the unit agree-  
11 ment, the unit operating agreement, the ratifications of  
12 those instruments which have been received, and will indi-  
13 cate to you that preliminary approval from the BLM and the  
14 State Land Office has been received.

15                   Mrs. Lisa Corder, who is a geo-  
16 logist with Shell Western E & P, Inc., will discuss the  
17 structure under their proposed pool and unit. She'll des-  
18 cribe the unitized interval, and she will indicate the  
19 reasons that she believes these formations are -- the geolo-  
20 gical reasons these formations are suitable for water-flood-  
21 ing.

22                   Finally, Mr. Doug Burbank, a  
23 reservoir engineer for Shell Western, will discuss the his-  
24 tory of the pool, the reasons for trying to create a new  
25 pool in this area. He will also discuss the participation

1 formula that has been agreed to by the vast majority of wor-  
2 king interest owners and royalty interest owners in this  
3 area.

4 He'll discuss the development  
5 of the secondary recovery forecast. He will also present  
6 Division Form C-108, which has been filed in support of the  
7 waterflood application and the injection operations, and  
8 will describe those waterflood operations to you.

9 With that brief introduction,  
10 if I may, Mr. Examiner, I'd like to call at this time Mr.  
11 John Goforth to the witness stand.

12  
13 JOHN GOFORTH,  
14 being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his  
15 oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

16  
17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. PEARCE:

19 Q At this time, sir, for the record would  
20 you please state your name and place of employment?

21 A Okay. My name is John Goforth and I  
22 work for Shell Western E & P, Inc.

23 Q What do you do for Shell Western, Mr.  
24 Goforth?

25 A I'm a landman for Shell Western.

1 Q Have you appeared before the Oil  
2 Conservation Division or Commission previously and had your  
3 credentials made a matter of record?

4 A No, I have not.

5 Q All right. Would you please describe for  
6 us your undergraduate education and work experience?

7 A Okay. I received a Bachelor's degree  
8 from Washington State University in 1981.

9 I started with Shell upon graduation in  
10 June of 1981 and over the past six years I have been invol-  
11 ved with oil and gas leasing, title curative, farmout con-  
12 tract negotiations, as well as sales and acquisitions of  
13 producing properties and unitization.

14 Q And during the course of your work exper-  
15 ience with Shell Western, have you been involved in the pro-  
16 posed Northeast Drinkard unitization effort?

17 A Yes, I have. I was assigned to the  
18 Northeast Drinkard Unit in September of 1985. My primary  
19 responsibility was to identify the working interest owners  
20 as well as the royalty and overriding royalty interest own-  
21 ers, and to prepare the unit agreement and unit operating  
22 agreement for the proposed Northeast Drinkard Unit.

23 Q All right. Mr. Goforth, at this time I'd  
24 like for you to approach what we've marked as Exhibit One  
25 and I've previously taped that up to the wall, and describe

1 what's shown on that exhibit, and I'd also ask you to speak  
2 up a little so the court reporter doesn't have a hard time.

3 A Okay. This is a county map of Lea  
4 County. Highlighted in the various colors are the various  
5 units as well as study areas.

6 In orange here Township 21 South, Range  
7 37 East, is Shell's proposed Northeast Drinkard Unit. As  
8 you can see, there's an Amoco North Drinkard Study Area to  
9 the west and the Chevron Central Drinkard Unit to the south-  
10 west.

11 The unit is located, proposed unit is  
12 located approximately two miles north of the town of Eunice.

13 Q At this time let's look Exhibit Number  
14 Two, which is, I believe, a plat of the proposed unit, and  
15 could you discuss that for us, please.

16 A Okay. This proposed unit again is in  
17 Township 21 South, Range 37 East. We have it divided up  
18 here where it shows Federal, State, and patented lands.

19 As you can see on the plat, Federal lands  
20 amount to roughly 708 acres, which account for 14.12 percent  
21 of the unit.

22 State lands account for 1,669 acres, to  
23 roughly 33.26 percent of the unit, and the remaining  
24 acreage, the patented fee lands, account of 2,640 acres,  
25 which comes ot 52.62 acres.

1                   The circled numbers designate the tracts  
2 within our proposed unit.

3                   Q            Okay, let's turn quickly to what we've  
4 marked as Exhibit Number Three, and would you identify that  
5 for us, please?

6                   A            Exhibit Number Three is the unit agree-  
7 ment to the Northeast Drinkard Unit. In compiling this unit  
8 agreement we determined the ownership of the various tracts  
9 in our proposed unit by searching the federal, state, and  
10 county records.

11                   After identifying the working interest  
12 owners we requested that they supply us division of interest  
13 sheets that would show all working, overriding royalty, and  
14 royalty interest owners with their percentages and addres-  
15 ses.

16                   Q            Okay. Could you turn to the portion of  
17 the unit agreement which describes the proposed unitized  
18 interval for us?

19                   A            Okay, the unitized interval is described  
20 in Section 2 (h) page 5 of the unit agreement.

21                   Q            Okay, for the record, would you briefly  
22 summarize what that unitized interval is?

23                   A            Well, the unitized interval, according to  
24 the definition here, extends from the upper limit, 75 feet  
25 above the stratigraphic Blinebry marker, to the lower limit,

NORTHEAST DRINKARD UNIT  
TRACT PARTICIPATION FORMULA  
EXAMPLE CALCULATION  
(NUMBERS ROUNDED FOR ILLUSTRATION)

<u>Unitization Parameter</u>	<u>Tract 5</u>	<u>Unit</u>
<u>Oil</u>		
Current Production (6/84-5/85)	20 MBO	272 MBO
Remaining Primary	162 MBO	2,285 MBO
Ultimate Primary	2,322 MBO	29,477 MBO
<u>Gas</u>		
Remaining Primary	6,308 MMCF	71,911 MMCF
Ultimate Primary	34,876 MMCF	481,360 MMCF

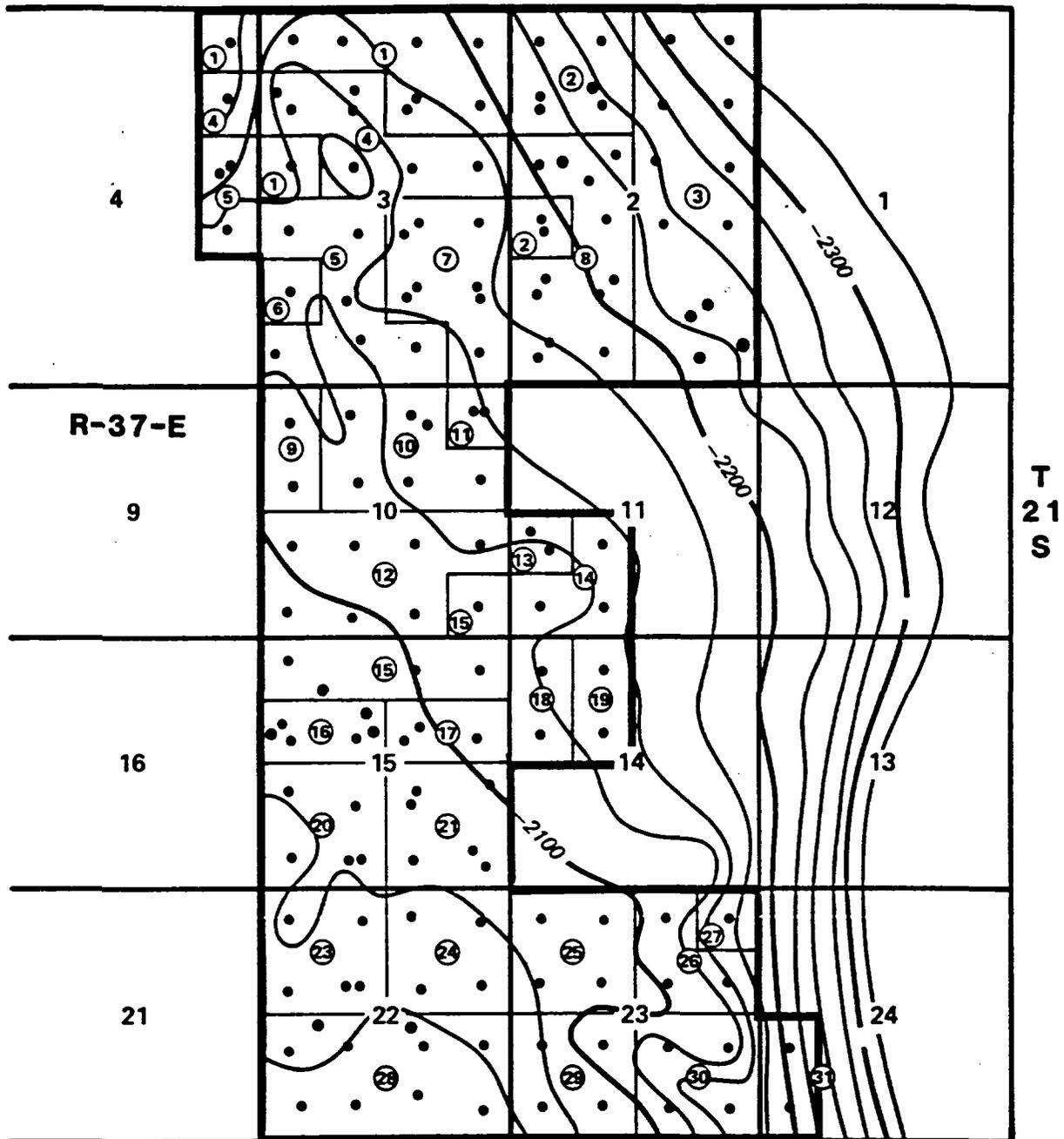
		<u>Tract 5 Unit Participation</u>		
Phase I Oil	=	$0.25 \times \frac{20}{272} + .75 \times \frac{162}{2,285}$	=	7.2%
Phase II Oil	=	$1.00 \times \frac{2,322}{29,477}$	=	7.9%
Phase I Gas	=	$1.00 \times \frac{6,308}{71,911}$	=	8.8%
Phase II Gas	=	$1.00 \times \frac{34,876}{481,360}$	=	7.2%

Northeast Drinkard Unit  
Exhibit Twenty-Five  
Cases 9230  
9231  
9232

NORTHEAST DRINKARD UNIT  
 BOTTOMHOLE PRESSURE HISTORIES  
 BLINEBRY - TUBB - DRINKARD  
 SWEPI LEASES

	Average Bottomhole Pressures, PSI				
Year:	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980
Blinebry	1750	1400	900	600	300
Tubb	1650	1100	850	650	300
Drinkard	1100	900	700	500	300

Northeast Drinkard Unit  
 Exhibit Eighteen  
 Cases 9230  
 9231  
 9232



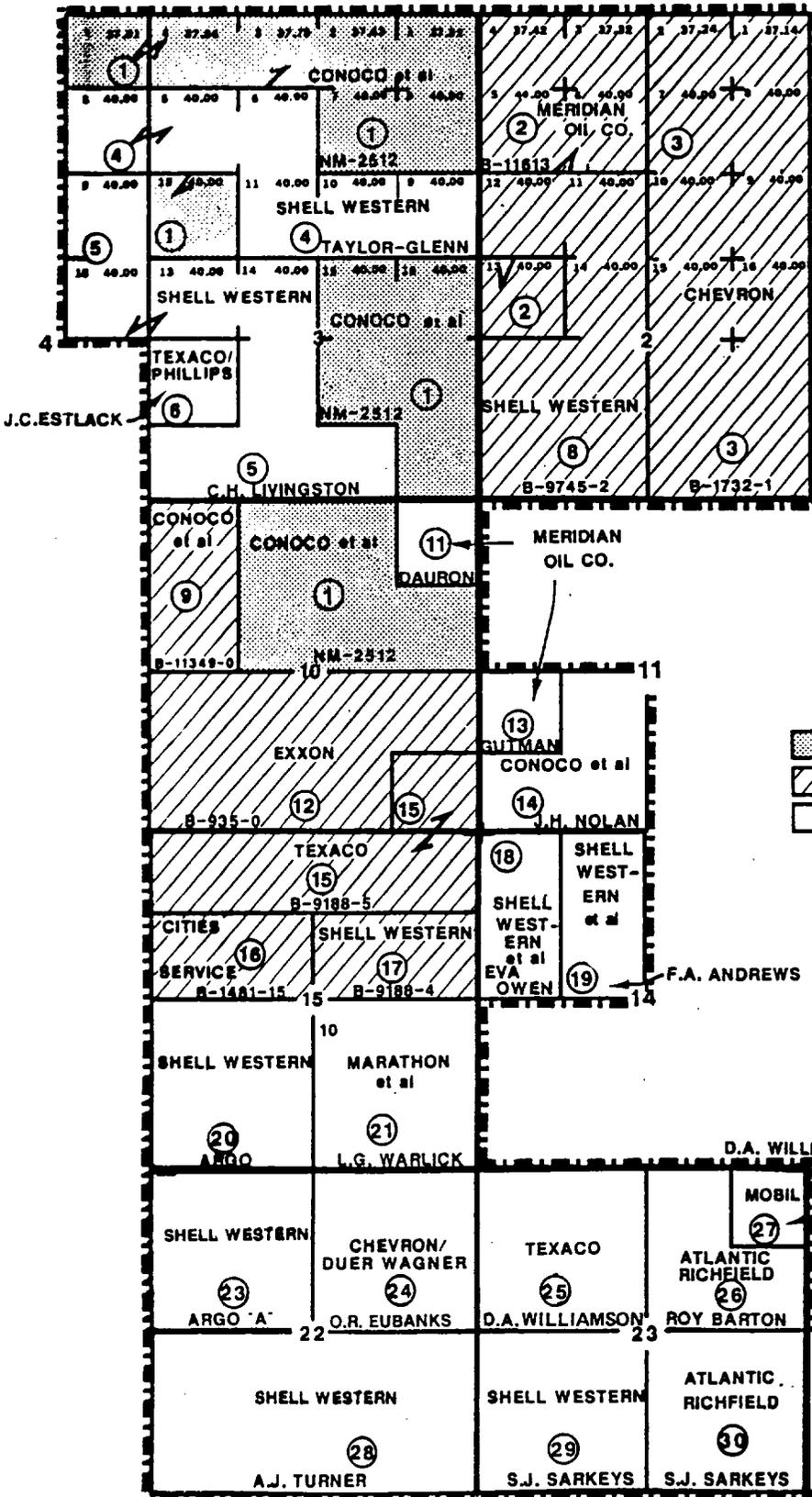
**LEGEND**

- PROPOSED UNITIZED WELLBORE
- Ⓢ TRACT NUMBER

**PROPOSED NORTHEAST DRINKARD UNIT**  
**LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**  
**STRUCTURE ON TOP OF BLINEBRY**  
**CI=25'**  
**EXHIBIT 13**

Northeast Drinkard Unit  
 Exhibit Thirteen  
 Cases 9230  
       9231  
       9232

TOWNSHIP 21S, RANGE 37E, N.M.P.M.



**EXHIBIT "A"**  
**NORTHEAST DRINKARD UNIT**  
**LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**  
 SHELL WESTERN E & P INC., OPERATOR

**LEGEND**

- ④ UNIT TRACT NUMBER
- - - UNIT BOUNDARY

	ACREAGE	PERCENTAGE
FEDERAL LANDS	708.67	14.12
STATE LANDS	1,669.12	33.26
PATENTED (FEE) LANDS	2,640.00	52.62
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,017.79</b>	<b>100%</b>



NOTE: UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE VARIOUS SECTIONS ON THIS MAP CONTAIN 640.00 ACRES.

Northeast Drinkard Unit  
 Exhibit Two  
 Cases 9230  
       9231  
       9232

TOWNSHIP 21S, RANGE 37E, N.M.P.M.

**"WARREN UNIT"  
CONOCO OPERATED**

**AMOCO  
PROPOSED  
NORTH DRINKARD  
UNIT**

**CONOCO  
PROPOSED  
EAST  
BLINEBRY  
UNIT**

**J.R. CONE  
EUBANKS**

**ARCO  
PROPOSED  
UNIT  
(1970's)**

**CENTRAL DRINKARD  
UNIT  
CHEVRON (GULF) OPERATED**

**CITY OF  
EUNICE**

0 ——— 1  
MILES

Northeast Drinkard Unit  
Exhibit Seventeen  
Cases 9230  
9231  
9232

+ W026727A

# CORE DATA SUMMARY

$k \geq 0.1$  md

	<u>BLINEBRY</u>	<u>TUBB</u>	<u>DRINKARD</u>
POROSITY (%)	9.79	8.28	11.00
PERM. (md)	2.45	1.19	2.45
LITHOLOGY	DOLOMITE PACKSTONE	SANDY DOLOMITE	LIMESTONE PACKSTONE GRAINSTONE
PORE TYPES	BP, BC, MO		BP, MO

2VW001107

# UNITIZATION PARAMETERS

## BY TRACT

### FOR OIL AND GAS

\* CURRENT PRODUCTION:

6/1/84 - 5/31/85

\* CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION:

THRU 5/31/85

\* REMAINING PRIMARY RESERVES:

AFTER 5/31/85

\* ULTIMATE PRIMARY RECOVERY

Northeast Drinkard Unit  
Exhibit Twenty-Three  
Cases 9230  
9231  
9232

NORTHEAST DRINKARD UNIT  
TRACT PARTICIPATION FORMULAS

Oil Formulas

Phase I:

$$0.75 \times \frac{\text{Tract Remaining Primary Oil Reserves}}{\text{Unit Remaining Primary Oil Reserves}}$$
$$+ 0.25 \times \frac{\text{Tract Current Oil Production}}{\text{Unit Current Oil Production}}$$

In effect until 2.3 MMBO produced from Unit area after 5/31/85.

Phase II:

*Remaining Reserves*

$$1.00 \times \frac{\text{Tract Ultimate Primary Oil Recovery}}{\text{Unit Ultimate Primary Oil Recovery}}$$

In effect after Phase I Oil.

Gas Formulas

Phase I:

$$1.00 \times \frac{\text{Tract Remaining Primary Gas Reserves}}{\text{Unit Remaining Primary Gas Reserves}}$$

In effect until 71.9 BCF produced from Unit area after 5/31/85.

Phase II:

$$1.00 \times \frac{\text{Tract Ultimate Primary Gas Recovery}}{\text{Unit Ultimate Primary Gas Recovery}}$$

In effect after Phase I Gas.

Northeast Drinkard Unit  
Exhibit Twenty-Four  
Cases 9230  
9231  
9232

1 at the top of the Abo formation.

2 As see on the type log from the Shell  
3 Argo, located at 660 feet from the south line, 2310 feet  
4 from the west line, Section 15, Township 21 South, Range 37  
5 East, and is that interval which is correlated to the inter-  
6 val from 5530 feet to 6680 feet below the surface, measured  
7 from the derrick floor.

8 The Blinebry marker has defined by the  
9 New Mexico Oil Conservation Division at a depth of 5,457  
10 feet, elevation 3,380, subsea datum -2077 in Exxon State S  
11 No. 20, located in the southwest quarter of the northwest  
12 quarter of Section 2, Township 22 South, Range 37 East, Lea  
13 County, New Mexico.

14 Q All right, sir, as part of your responsi-  
15 bilities for Shell Western, did you cause copies of this  
16 unit agreement to be provided to working interest, royalty,  
17 and overriding royalty interest owners?

18 A Yes, I did. We sent out the unit agree-  
19 ment to all interested parties, working, overriding royalty,  
20 and royalty, on May 18th, 1987.

21 Q Okay, I notice, sir, that there appear to  
22 be some attachments to that unit agreement. Could you dis-  
23 cuss those for us, please?

24 A Exhibit A is the unit plat that I discus-  
25 sed as Exhibit Two.

- 1 Q That is another -- all right, go ahead.
- 2 A And then Exhibit B-1 is the description  
3 and tract ownership divided up into fee, State and Federal,  
4 or in fee lands.
- 5 Q Okay, B-2?
- 6 A B-2 is the tract ownership, their percen-  
7 tage, the working owners percentage as well as their parti-  
8 cipation factors for Phase 1 oil, Phase 2 oil, gas Phase 1,  
9 and Phase 2 gas.
- 10 Q All right, for location purposes only  
11 could you point us to the portion of the unit agreement  
12 dealing with participation?
- 13 A The tract participation factor is in Sec-  
14 tion 13, page 19 of the unit agreement and will be discussed  
15 at a later time.
- 16 Q Okay, thank you. Let's look now at Exhi-  
17 bit Number Four and would you describe that exhibit for us,  
18 please?
- 19 A Exhibit Four is the unit operating  
20 agreement for the Northeast Drinkard Unit. It is modeled  
21 after the American Petroleum Institute's model form. This  
22 unit operating agreement has been agreed to by the majority  
23 of the working interest owners.
- 24 Q And you were largely responsible for that  
25 effort to secure voluntary participation?

1           A           Yes, I was.

2           Q           All right, sir. Let's look at Exhibit  
3 Number Five to this proceeding, and would you describe what  
4 that is for us, please?

5           A           Exhibit Five is the royalty owner bro-  
6 chure that was sent to the royalty and overriding royalty  
7 owners in the proposed Northeast Drinkard Unit on May 18th,  
8 1987.

9                       The purpose of the brochure was to brief-  
10 ly and concisely inform the royalty and overriding royalty  
11 owners of the purpose of the Northeast Drinkard Unit and the  
12 results from such unitization.

13          Q           Is it fair to say that that provides the  
14 most simply and straightforward explanation of what's going  
15 on out here?

16          A           Yes, it does.

17          Q           Okay, thank you. Let's turn to Exhibit  
18 Number Six, if you would, for us, please.

19          A           Exhibit Number Six is the ratification  
20 process for the working and royalty interest owners by  
21 tract. It gives a summation as to each tract's percentage  
22 ratified by the working and royalty for Tracts 1 through 31.

23          Q           How widely was the package distributed?

24          A           We sent the royalty package to approxi-  
25 mately 320 royalty owners and 40 working interest owners,

1 again on May 18th, 1987.

2 We followed up letters after approximate-  
3 ly a month from the time that we sent out the initial rati-  
4 fications to ascertain if the various royalty and working  
5 interest owners had any questions or problems with ratifying  
6 the unit.

7 After such time we sent these letters we  
8 obtained phone numbers of those royalty owners that we could  
9 not contact by letter for one reason or another, and fol-  
10 lowed up with numerous phone calls to each one that we had  
11 not received ratification from at that time.

12 Q All right, sir. Let's look at Exhibit  
13 Number Seven and am I correct that that is a summary of the  
14 information contained in Exhibit Six?

15 A Yes, it is.

16 Q And what is that information?

17 A It is a tract ratification summary lis-  
18 ting all the tracts and the working and royalty interest  
19 percentages broken down by tracts.

20 Q All right, sir, if I understand correct-  
21 ly, there are two phases to this proposed unit participation  
22 formula. There is also an oil phase and a gas phase in  
23 each. Could you indicate for the record, since we've gotten  
24 some ratifications since we put the paperwork together, our  
25 percentage participation in each of those cases as of this

1 morning?

2           A           Okay. The percentage ratification of the  
3 working interest owners to this date for Phase 1 oil is ap-  
4 proximatley 89.8 for Phase 1 oil.

5                       For Phase 2 oil it is 91.4.

6                       For gas, Phase 1 it's 93.5 and for gas,  
7 Phase 2, it's 92.4.

8                       For the royalty percentages we have ap-  
9 proximately 94 percent for oil, Phase 1; 93.1 for oil, Phase  
10 2; 92.5 for gas, Phase 1; and 91.9 for gas, Phase 2.

11           Q           All right, sir, at this time I'd ask you  
12 to look at what we've marked as Exhibits Eight and Nine to  
13 this proceeding and describe what those exhibits are.

14           A           Exhibit Eight is the preliminary approval  
15 from the State of New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands,  
16 dated May 7th, 1987, signed by Floyd O. Pranda.

17           Q           Okay, and Exhibit Nine?

18           A           Exhibit Nine is a preliminary approval  
19 from the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of  
20 Land Management, dated April 24th, 1987, signed by Joe G.  
21 Lara.

22           Q           Okay. You don't have one in front of you  
23 but can you tell us what Exhibit Number Ten is, which has  
24 been provided to the Examiner for the record in this matter?

25           A           Exhibit Ten are the original executed

1 ratifications from the royalty owners.

2 Q And Exhibit Number Eleven?

3 A Exhibit Number Eleven are the ratifica-  
4 tions for the working interest owners.

5 Q And Exhibit Number Twelve, please.

6 A Exhibit Number Twelve is copies of the  
7 return receipts for the hearing notification, as well as  
8 listing of all the parties that received such notification.

9 Q And as you've testified earlier, you  
10 compiled this list of working interest, royalty, and  
11 overrides, through the process of record search and  
12 contacting leasehold operators, is that correct?

13 A That is correct.

14 Q All right, sir. Do you have anything  
15 further at this time?

16 A No, I don't.

17 MR. PEARCE: I don't have any  
18 further questions, if the Examiner has any at this time. I  
19 expect Mr. Goforth to remain through the day in case some-  
20 thing comes up, but he's ready now if you have questions.

21

22 CROSS EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. CATANACH:

24 Q Mr. Goforth, I'm not sure I understand  
25 your different phases. Would you go into -- explain more on

1 that in detail, please?

2 A What exactly do you mean by different  
3 phases?

4 Q Well, the Phase 1 oil, Phase 2 oil, and  
5 Phase 1 gas.

6 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Examiner, if I  
7 may suggest, the petroleum engineer, our last witness of the  
8 day, we plan for him to go into explaining that formula to  
9 you in some detail, and I simply wanted Mr. Goforth to point  
10 it out. We may be a little more efficient if you can hold  
11 that question for that witness.

12 Q Okay, but you needed agreement for each  
13 of those phases, is that correct?

14 A Yes.

15 MR. PEARCE: By that, Mr. Exa-  
16 miner, I will mean to reflect that the phases are set forth  
17 in the unit agreement so that ratification of the unit  
18 agreement and unit operating agreement by interest owners is  
19 a ratification of those separate phases and the participa-  
20 tion formula contained in the unit agreement. We -- I don't  
21 intend to indicate to you that each person got eight sepa-  
22 rate sets of ratifications to the agreement.

23 MR. CATANACH: I think that's  
24 probably all we have at this time.

25 MR. PEARCE: All right. As

1 I've indicated, Mr. Examiner, we will make Mr. Goforth  
2 available later if other questions come up.

3 MR. CATANACH: Thank you.

4 MR. PEARCE: Thank you, John.

5 At this time I would call Mrs.  
6 Lisa Corder to the stand, please.

7

8 LISA CORDER,

9 being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon her  
10 oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

11

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. PEARCE:

14 Q At this time for the record would you  
15 please state your name and place of employment?

16 A My name is Lisa Corder and I'm an asso-  
17 ciate geological engineer with Shell Western E & P in Hous-  
18 ton.

19 Q Mrs. Corder, have you appeared before the  
20 New Mexico Oil Conservation Division or Commission previous-  
21 ly and had your credentials as a geological engineer made a  
22 matter of record?

23 A No, I have not.

24 Q All right, would you please go through  
25 for us your undergraduate degree and work experience?

1           A           I received a Bachelor of Science degree  
2 in geological engineering from Michigan Tech University in  
3 1985.

4                       Since then I've been employed by Shell  
5 Western in the Western Production and Geological Engineering  
6 Group.

7                       I've been involved in both primary and  
8 development projects, waterfloods, and waterflood optimiza-  
9 tion projects.

10                      Several of the waterflood projects I have  
11 worked on have been in the Upper and Lower Clearfork Forma-  
12 tions in West Texas and those formations are equivalent to  
13 Blinbry and Drinkard in New Mexico.

14           Q           Okay. Could you give us some indication  
15 of your experience with the proposed Northeast Drinkard  
16 unit?

17           A           I was assigned in the Northeast Drinkard  
18 Unit in January, 1987, and since then I hav spent some time  
19 reviewing the past geological work that has been done on the  
20 project, including that work that was done for the Technical  
21 Committee Report and numerous in-house Shell geological  
22 studies.

23                      I have examined two cores from the field  
24 area and I've prepared several of the exhibits to today's  
25 hearing.

1 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Examiner, I  
2 tender Mrs. Corder as an expert in geological engineering.

3 MR. CATANACH: She is so  
4 qualified.

5 Q All right. At this time, Mrs. Corder,  
6 I'd like for you to refer to what we've marked as Exhibit  
7 Number Thirteen to this proceeding and describe what's  
8 reflected on that exhibit for the Examiner and those in  
9 attendance.

10 A This is a structure map of the proposed  
11 unit area.

12 The proposed unit is situated on the  
13 northeast end of a north/northwest south/southeast trending  
14 anticline of the Penrose Skelly trend and parallels the  
15 western edge of the Central Basin Platform.

16 There is approximately 300 feet of  
17 structural relief within the proposed unit area and dips are  
18 generally in the range of 1 to 2 degrees.

19 This particular structure map was drawn  
20 on the top of the Blinebry but both the underlying Tubb and  
21 Drinkard formations more or less mimic the same structure.

22 The structurally highest point within the  
23 field is down to the southwest corner.

24 Q Okay, let's look at what we've marked as  
25 Exhibit Number Fourteen to this proceeding, and could you

1 describe that for us, please?

2           A           This is a type log for the proposed  
3 Northeast Drinkard Unit. This log is taken from the ARGO  
4 No. 8 Well, which is located in Section 15 and it's noted  
5 with the red dot on the county map.

6           Q           Okay, that's a little far off for some  
7 folks. Could you walk over and show us in what part of the  
8 proposed unit the type log is taken from, please?

9           A           The proposed unit is outlined in orange  
10 here, the Argo No. 8 Well, located in Section 15.

11          Q           Could you describe the information  
12 reflected on the type log, please?

13          A           We are proposing to waterflood three  
14 formatins, the Blinebry, the Tubb, and the Drinkard. Those  
15 three formations are equivalent to the Upper Clearfork, the  
16 Tubb, and the Lower Clearfork in West Texas.

17                       The top of the unit is the New Mexico Oil  
18 Conservation Division top of Blinebry, which has been  
19 defined as 75 feet above the Blinebry marker.

20                       The bottom of the unit is the top of the  
21 Abo formation.

22                       The entire interval is 12-to-1300 feet  
23 thick and of that approximately 160 feet is considered pay.  
24 The pay is distributed in thin, porous streaks, interbedded  
25 with dense nonreservoir quality rock.

1           Q           Okay, could you give us some indication  
2 of the thickness of expected productive zones in each of the  
3 Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard formations, please?

4           A           The Blinebry we -- the average is about  
5 72 feet of pay; the Tubb is about 34 feet of pay; and the  
6 Drinkard is about 54 feet of pay.

7           Q           You indicated that you had examined two  
8 cores in this area. Could you briefly relate for us what  
9 that core examination revealed?

10          A           I'll go through each one of the forma-  
11 tions separately, starting with the Blinebry.

12                    The Blinebry is approximately 450 feet  
13 thick and core examination revealed it consists of a tan to  
14 gray colored dolomite with various amounts of nodular re-  
15 placement and pore filling anhydrite. The reservoir rock  
16 consists of a grain-supported packstone. We have six cores  
17 within the study area from which we have core data avail-  
18 able. For those samples with a permeability greater than  
19 average permeability was 2.45 millidarcies.

20          Q           Okay.

21          A           The Tubb formation is approximately 400  
22 feet thick. There is no core available for examination but  
23 a 1971 ARCO report described the Tubb as a gray, fine-  
24 grained, silty sandstone interbedded with brown, finely  
25 sucrosic, sandy dolomite.

1                   Cuttings from a recently drilled Shell  
2 well confirm that same lithology.

3                   We have three wells within the study area  
4 from which we have core data available. For those samples  
5 with a permeability greater than .1 millidarcy, the average  
6 porosity was 8.28 percent and the average permeability was  
7 1.19 millidarcies.

8                   Q            Okay, and moving town to the Drinkard,  
9 could you describe that for us, please?

10                  A            The Drinkard is approximately 300 feet  
11 thick. Based on core examination it is a tan to dark gray  
12 limestone and dolomite. Core filling and replacement anhy-  
13 drite are most common in the limestone and nodular anhydrite  
14 is most common in the dolomite.

15                  The reservoir rock consists of a skeletal  
16 lime grainstone and lime packstone and a little bit of dolo-  
17 mitic packstone.

18                  We have one core with core data available  
19 within the study area. Those samples that had a permeabil-  
20 ity greater than .1 millidarcy, the average porosity was 11  
21 percent and the average permeability was 2.45 millidarcies.

22                  Q            At this time let's take a moment and hang  
23 what we've marked as Exhibit Number Fifteen on the wall.

24                  A            Could you describe first of all what's  
25 reflected on Exhibit Fifteen?

1           A           Exhibit Fifteen is cross section A-A',  
2 which is an east/west cross section . It takes in every  
3 well along the east/west line noted on the index map.

4                   Exhibit Number Sixteen is cross section  
5 B-B', which takes approximately every other well along the  
6 north/south line noted on the index map.

7                   Both of these are structural cross sec-  
8 tions. They've been hung of datum of -1800 feet and the  
9 horizontal scales for the two cross sections are different  
10 but they're both noted down in the righthand corner.

11           Q           All right, what's the primry type of log  
12 reflected on these cross sections?

13           A           Resistivity, SP logs have been the pri-  
14 mary correlation tools throughout the history of the field  
15 and this is the type of log that we've included on the cross  
16 section. We do have one neutron log on the cross section.  
17 It's the Conoco Hawk.

18                   Both the neutron and the resistivity logs  
19 are useful tools to determine or distinguish reservoir rock  
20 from non-reservoir rock.

21                   Those low porosity dense zones correspond  
22 with high resistivities and the higher porosity reservoir  
23 rock -- reservoir quality rock correspond to the low resis-  
24 tivities.

25                   Both the Blinebry and the Drinkard have

1 historically been broken up into five cycles based on the  
2 log response, and the cycles are most important in the  
3 Blinebry and the most pronounced.

4                               Now go through each one of the forma-  
5 tions?

6               Q               Would you please?

7               A               The log correlations of the Blinebry re-  
8 veal five cycles of porous reservoir quality rock interbed-  
9 ded with zones of dense highly resistant rock.

10                              We have core data available from five  
11 wells within the proposed unit area and the core data cor-  
12 responds well with those -- both the resistivity and neutron  
13 log response. Those zones that are -- have high porosity  
14 correspond with low resistivity and vice versa.

15                              I'll point out the five cycles that we  
16 see. This is porosity zone one, two, three, four, and five.

17               Q               If you could just take a moment on one of  
18 the logs on that well and indicate the depths that you're  
19 indicating the five cycles occurring, the record's not going  
20 to be able to tell otherwise.

21               A               Okay. In the Cities Service State S No.  
22 5 Well, Zone 1 for this -- for practicality starts with the  
23 New Mexico Oil Conservation Division top of Blinebry, go  
24 through a porosity zone into a dense zone and ends at about  
25 5670 total depth.

1 Porosity 2 starts at that depth, goes  
2 down to approximately 5730 where it ends up in a dense zone.

3 Porosity 3 starts at that depth and goes  
4 down to approximately 5850.

5 Porosity 4 starts, goes into a dense zone  
6 and ends at about 5950.

7 Then you pick up the Porosity 5 zone  
8 which ends at the top of the Tubb formation and which is  
9 about 6000 feet.

10 Q Okay, thank you.

11 A If we go through and describe the type of  
12 production we have from each one of these zones, Zone 1 is  
13 primarily gas productive.

14 Zone 2 produces gas and 65 degree API  
15 gravity condensate.

16 Zones 3, 4, and 5 produce 38 to 40 degree  
17 API gravity oil and associated gas.

18 Available core data along with log corre-  
19 lation in the zones indicates that there's a fairly contin-  
20 uous dense zone that exists between Zones 2 and 3. This  
21 dense zone is anywhere from 20 to 40 feet thick and should  
22 act as a permeability barrier preventing any vertical com-  
23 munication between the oil zones and the gas zones.

24 And there are similar dense zones separ-  
25 ating the other cycles, as well, but the only one that I've

1 highlighted on the cross section is that between Zones 2 and  
2 3.

3 We're planning on flooding Zones 3, 4,  
4 and 5 and producing gas reserves from Zones 1 and 2 through  
5 separate wellbores.

6 Log correlations in the five zones from  
7 porous reservoir quality rock and interbedded dense zones  
8 can be carried easily throughout the field. For this reason  
9 we feel that that supports the potential of the Blinebry as  
10 a floodable unit.

11 Q Anything else on the Blinebry?

12 A That's just about it.

13 Q Let's move down to the Tubb and would you  
14 discuss what's reflected on the exhibit with regard to the  
15 Tubb?

16 A Both oil and gas are productive, are  
17 produced from the Tubb but there does not appear to be  
18 common gas/oil contact across the entire field. We've seen  
19 oil production from as high as -2750 and gas as low as -  
20 3050.

21 A production surveillance study  
22 identified only two areas of the field as oil productive.  
23 Those were the north half of Section 10 and all of Section  
24 2. The rest of the field is primarily gas bearing with a  
25 few scattered oil wells.

1                   The location of those oil and gas pro-  
2 ductive areas do not correspond with the structure map. Or-  
3 iginal API gravities of liquid hydrocarbon production in  
4 those areas that are oil productive average 38 degrees API  
5 gravity. All those areas that are gas productive average 51  
6 degrees.

7                   Based on log correlations the oil and gas  
8 productive areas cannot be differentiated from one another,  
9 nevertheless, all of the production information that we have  
10 indicates that the pay intervals within the Tubb must be ex-  
11 tremely discontinuous. We are only planning on flooding  
12 those areas that have been identified as oil bearing.

13                   As a final note on the Tubb, there ob-  
14 viously must be vertical separation between the bottom zones  
15 of the Blinebry and the Tubb itself for Tubb gas to have re-  
16 mained within that formation over geologic time.

17                   At the bottom of porosity Zone 1, poros-  
18 ity Zone 5 in the Blinebry, there is another tight streak.  
19 That, in combination with the fact that the Tubb formation  
20 is a silty formation, probably combined to form the perme-  
21 ability barrier separating those two formations.

22                   Q           All right, anything else with regard to  
23 the Tubb in these exhibits?

24                   A           No.

25                   Q           Let's look at the Drinkard, please.

1           A           The Drinkard has historically been broken  
2 up into five cycles, also; however the cycles are less  
3 pronounced and the bottom four cycles are much thinner than  
4 they are in the Blinebry.

5                       Zone 1 is two to three times thicker than  
6 the other cycles. The top three-quarters of Zone 1 is  
7 primarily non-reservoir quality dolomite. We have core data  
8 available on this interval and both the porosity and the  
9 permeability are very low. This is the zone I've  
10 highlighted on this cross section. Because of this we feel  
11 that this a good permeability barrier between the Drinkard  
12 zone and the Tubb formation, and it's easily carried across  
13 the entire field.

14                      The bottom of Zones 1 -- of Zone 1 and  
15 Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5 are relatively thin and they consist of  
16 thin, porous streaks of limestone and interbedded dense  
17 zones of limestone and a few zones of porous dolomite.

18                      Based on the description in the Drinkard  
19 formation in the Central Drinkard Unit, it appears as though  
20 the lithology in both those areas are similar. Gross log  
21 correlation in the Drinkard is fairly continuous from well  
22 to well and we feel that all these observations support the  
23 potential of the Drinkard as a floodable unit.

24                      Q           All right, let's go back and just  
25 summarize a couple points, if we may, Mrs. Corder.

1                   You've indicated that in the Blinebry and  
2 Tubb you have separate oil and gas zones, is that correct?

3                   A            Right.

4                   Q            You've also indicated to us that because  
5 of interbedding you do not expect any waterflooding within  
6 the oil zones in those two formations to affect gas produc-  
7 tion from other portions of those formations, is that cor-  
8 rect?

9                   A            Correct.

10                  Q            And I believe you indicated that the pro-  
11 posal for operation of this unit is to have separate well-  
12 bores for gas wells and oil wells, is that correct?

13                  A            Correct. Just in summary I wanted to  
14 note that in addition to the success of the Central Drinkard  
15 Unit there are numerous successful waterfloods on the Cen-  
16 tral Basin Platform in West Texas in the Upper and Lower  
17 Clearfork formations, which are equivalent to the Blinebry  
18 and Drinkard.

19                  Q            Okay, anything further at this time?

20                  A            No.

21                               MR. PEARCE: I have nothing  
22 further of this witness at this time, Mr. Examiner.

23

24 QUESTIONS BY MR. LYON:

25                  Q            Victor Lyon, Chief Engineer for the OCD.

1 Ms. Corder, you've use a couple of terms  
2 that I haven't heard before. I'm not exactly a newcomer to  
3 the business, but could you further define for me what's a  
4 packstone and what's a grainstone?

5 A Well, the grainstone is just a grain sup-  
6 ported rock.

7 The packstone is also grain supported but  
8 it has more matrix.

9 So they're both grain supported rock, as  
10 opposed to like a mudstone or a waxstone.

11 Q Is this something that we generally char-  
12 acterize as a sandstone?

13 A Well, we use it a lot in carbonate rocks.  
14 I have not worked that much in sandstones, since the whole  
15 time that I've been in West -- working for Shell in the wes-  
16 tern division it's all been carbonates.

17 Q Do you consider a packstone or a grain-  
18 stone to be reservoir quality rock?

19 A They can -- you can have pore filling  
20 grainstones. We've got anhydrite throughout most of the  
21 formations. Some of the packstones and grainstones, they're  
22 called packstones and grainstones because they are grain  
23 supported, but they may have pore filling anhydrite.

24 Where we see pay, we see grainstones and  
25 packstones and various amounts of pore filling anhydrite.

1                   But that's where we see the pay. It's in  
2 the marine intervals and are primarily dolomite or in the  
3 Blinebry there are dolomite and packstones, and in the  
4 Drinkard there are dolomite and limestone grainstones and  
5 packstones.

6                   Q           I'm not sure that I understand any better  
7 than I did.

8                   A           Well, we've always used that terminology  
9 for as long as I've been working for Shell.

10                  Q           Well, Shell does have some different  
11 terms.

12                               I think that's all.

13

14 QUESTIONS BY MR. LEMAY:

15                  Q           Ms. Corder, Bill Lemay, Director of OCD.

16                               You studied the Texas fields as well as  
17 New Mexico fields and correlated your cross sections from  
18 Texas into New Mexico?

19                  A           No. I'm just -- just stating that there  
20 are successful waterfloods in Texas in equivalent forma-  
21 tions.

22                  Q           How about the zoning of the Blinebry and  
23 zoning of the Drinkard formations? Can you make those five  
24 zonations (sic) in Texas in the Upper and Lower Clearfork as  
25 well as here in New Mexico?

1           A           All of the formations that I have worked  
2 on in Texas you cannot do that. The porous streaks cannot  
3 be carried across the entire field is what we're seeing  
4 here. Now, the logs that we're using are just resistivity  
5 logs. We don't have any type of neutron logs over the en-  
6 tire field, but the fact that our core data appears to cor-  
7 respond with the resistivity log response, we feel that  
8 those low porosity -- or those low resistivity zones do cor-  
9 respond with pay and they can be carried easily across the  
10 field.

11                       We haven't gone through and tried to cor-  
12 relate individual porosity stringers by any means, but the  
13 whole packages can be carried across the field.

14           Q           Is there a shaley component through the  
15 carbonate so that some of the low resistivities might be re-  
16 flecting a shale content to the rock?

17           A           The core that I examined, we had discrete  
18 shale streaks but they were generally in the -- anywhere  
19 from a few inches up to six inches. You have mudstones  
20 that may have a little bit of shale in them but we don't see  
21 those showing up at low resistivity. I think the fact that  
22 they're usually packed around areas that are dense dolomite  
23 prohibits that resistivity from coming down on the logs that  
24 we've seen.

25                       And we've broken it up into discrete

1 packages, as porosity and dense.

2 Q Are these predominantly on log analysis  
3 or as tied to the cores that you have.

4 A Tied to the core that we have.

5 Q Your examination has shown that these  
6 zones, as you've zoned them, are -- operate independent or  
7 only where you have the colored in dense streaks? In other  
8 words, the vertical communication that we're trying to find  
9 out if it exists or not, may or not be -- may or may not be  
10 present in these various zones or how do you -- how do you  
11 do the vertical communication within the Blinebry?

12 A Okay. Within the Blinebry I view it as  
13 five independent zones of porosity. We see the most contin-  
14 uous tight streaks at the top of the whole interval, those  
15 -- that's between Zones 1 and 2 and Zones 2 and 3. In some  
16 areas of the field, based on resistivity log response, when  
17 you get down to Zones 4 and 5, you don't have as high a re-  
18 sistivity break between those formations but all of the core  
19 data that we have shows very low porosity and permeability  
20 between all five of the zones.

21 We've got core data available on one well  
22 throughout the whole interval down to Zone 5, and we see  
23 those tight streaks all the way through.

24 So it's not just between 2 and 3. We've  
25 seen it between 1 and 2, 3 and 4, and 4 and 5 on core data,

1 and we're carrying that across the entire field based on re-  
2 sistivity log response.

3 Q When you measured the permeability did  
4 you measure vertical or horizontal permeability?

5 A The ones that I quoted are horizontal  
6 permeabilities. I assume that we've measured vertical per-  
7 meabilities. I don't know on how many of the ones we have.  
8 I just have the summaries. I've reviewed the summaries of  
9 the technical committee report, put in the report, and the  
10 curves that they've generated and the averages that they've  
11 generated.

12 Q Thank you.

13 MR. LYON: May I ask one more  
14 question?

15 MR. CATANACH: Yes, sir.

16

17 QUESTIONS BY MR. LYON:

18 Q You may have stated this and I may have  
19 missed it, but what do you consider to be the separation be-  
20 tween the Blinebry -- bottom of the Blinebry and the top of  
21 the Tubb?

22 A Okay, there is, on the resistivity log  
23 response, there is a tight streak at the top of the Tubb.  
24 Some places in the field you cannot see it as predominantly  
25 as you do in other areas. That, in combination with the

1 silty nature of the Tubb and the fact that we do have gas  
2 zones within the Tubb, we feel that there must be separation  
3 between the Tubb and the Blinebry for gas to remain in that  
4 formation over geologic time.

5 Q You're saying, as I understand it, that  
6 even though you can't see a discrete separation in there,  
7 the fact that the two fluids are in there as they are indi-  
8 cates that there is a complete separation.

9 A We see a dense zone, as you can see it on  
10 some of these logs here, but then on this log you don't see  
11 a tight zone, but again, now, we're comparing our resistiv-  
12 ity with some sort of porosity reading, and that, and just  
13 combination with the lithology of the Tubb, that's enough,  
14 and the fact that we've got gas with the oil, we have separ-  
15 ation between the two.

16 Q And you did say that the bottom three  
17 zones of the Blinebry are oil productive and the -- I be-  
18 lieve you said that the gas occurrence in the Tubb is not --  
19 you're unable to correlate the -- as to zones, whether the  
20 content of the porous interval would be oil or gas.

21 A That's right.

22 Q So there probably is some horizontal sep-  
23 aration in there.

24 A That's -- that's what we think and that's  
25 why we're only going to be waterflooding those areas that

1 are oil productive. Those are the only two areas within the  
2 field.

3 We think there's horizontal separation  
4 because of the fact that the oil production has been seen as  
5 high as -2750 and gas production as low as -3050. There's  
6 got to be some sort of horizontal separation.

7

8 CROSS EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. CATANACH:

10 Q Can you define the two oil bearing Tubb  
11 zones that you intend to flood, or the areas?

12 A Define the areas?

13 Q Yeah, just --

14 A The north half of Section 10 and Section  
15 2.

16 Q Does Shell intend to use the Argo No. 8  
17 Well as a type log for the -- for defining the vertical  
18 limits of the --

19 A Yes.

20 Q Your separation between Zones 2 and 3 in  
21 the Blinebry, is that continuous across the field?

22 A We've got core data in five wells and  
23 we've correlated that to resistivity log response and you  
24 can carry that tight zone across the entire field. Some  
25 areas it's, you know, quite a bit higher resistivity than it

1 it is in other places but we're correlating that with poro-  
2 sity and since resistivity doesn't read porosity, it's just  
3 kind of a qualitative measurement.

4 But all of the core data that we have of  
5 the five wells show a 20 to 40 feet thick dense zone between  
6 those two formations, or between those two zones.

7 Q Did you encounter any clear gas-bearing  
8 zones in the Drinkard?

9 A No.

10 Q That's all I have.

11 MR. CATANACH: Are there any  
12 other questions of this witness?

13 MR. PEARCE: If I may briefly.

14  
15 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. PEARCE:

17 Q Mrs. Corder, you've presented evidence  
18 and testimony relating to Exhibits Thirteen, Fourteen, Fif-  
19 teen, and Sixteen. Were those exhibits prepared under your  
20 direction and supervision or compiled under that direction  
21 and supervision?

22 A Yes.

23 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Examiner, at  
24 this time I would move the admission of Shell Western Exhi-  
25 bits One through Sixteen.

1 MR. CATANACH: Exhibits One  
2 through Sixteen will be admitted as evidence.

3 MR. PEARCE: Thank you.

4  
5 DOUG BURBANK,  
6 being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his  
7 oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

8  
9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. PEARCE:

11 Q All right, sir, at this time for the re-  
12 cord would you please state your name and place of employ-  
13 ment?

14 A My name is Doug Burbank. I'm a reservoir  
15 engineer employed by Shell Western. My primary areas of re-  
16 sponsibility are West Texas and New Mexico.

17 Q Okay, Mr. Burbank, have you appeared be-  
18 fore the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division and had your  
19 credetials as a reservoir engineer accepted and made a mat-  
20 ter of record?

21 A No, sir, I have not.

22 Q All right, sir, at this time I'd ask for  
23 you to go through your education beginning at undergraduate  
24 degree and your work experience, please.

25 A I graduated from Iowa State University in

1 1981. That same year I began work for Shell in Houston.

2 My first three and a half years I spent  
3 as a production engineer working on Shell's Denver Unit CO2  
4 Project and the next two and a half years I worked as a re-  
5 servoir engineer in various assignments in West Texas and  
6 New Mexico.

7 Q All right, sir, and how long have you  
8 worked on the area we're discussing today?

9 A I've been assigned to the Northeast Drin-  
10 kard Unit fo the past year and have coordinated the activi-  
11 ties between various groups within Shell.

12 Q And are you familiar with the request  
13 that Shell Western is making at the hearing today for pool  
14 creation, statutory unitization, and waterflood permission?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Examiner, at  
17 this time I would tender the witness as an expert in petro-  
18 leum reservoir engineering.

19 MR. CATANACH: He is so quali-  
20 fied.

21 Q All right. Mr. Burbank, at this time I'd  
22 like for you to go through a little of the history of the  
23 area under dicussion today for us.

24 A Okay. The field was discovered in 1944  
25 with the drilling of the Gulf Vivian No. 1, as indicated on

1 Exhibit One.

2 Most of the drilling activity occurred  
3 between 1948 and 1958 when the field was drilled to 40-acre  
4 spacing.

5 Commingling of the Blinebry, Tubb, and  
6 Drinkard began in the mid-seventies and has continued to  
7 present.

8 The cumulative production in our unit  
9 area from the Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard formations, has  
10 been about 27-million barrels of oil and a little over 400  
11 BCF of gas.

12 The current production from the unit area  
13 is about 550 barrels of oil a day and 16-million cubic feet  
14 of gas a day.

15 The -- we estimate that the field has  
16 produced about 90 percent of the primary production. There  
17 has been no significant infill drilling in the last twenty  
18 years; therefore we feel that the well spacing has been  
19 adequate to recover the primary production in our unit area.

20 Q All right, sir, at this time I'd refer  
21 you to what we've marked as Exhibit Number Seventeen to this  
22 proceeding and would you discuss that exhibit for the  
23 Examiner and those in attendance?

24 A Exhibit Seventeen summarizes the activity  
25 in the area, both past and present.

1                   Our proposed unit area is indicated in  
2 the green shaded area. I'd like to point out that there is  
3 a tract in the southeast corner of the unit, Tract 31, --

4                   Q           Let's for simplicity refer back to what I  
5 believe we marked as Exhibit Number Two to this proceeding,  
6 and that indicates the tract we're discussing at Tract 31.

7                   A           Tract 31, when the unitization  
8 proceedings with the working interest owners was started,  
9 was owned by Mobil. It has since been purchased by Bison  
10 Petroleum. Bison Petroleum has recently indicated to us  
11 that they do not want to include Tract 31 in the unit and  
12 Shell is agreeable to that.

13                  Q           Do you -- we'll cover some more of this  
14 later, but do you believe that Tract 31 can be excluded from  
15 the proposed unitization without substantially affecting the  
16 operations of the unit as you plan them?

17                  A           Yes

18                  Q           All right. Are there other tracts owned  
19 now by Bison Petroleum which they have ratified into the  
20 unit?

21                  A           Yes. Tract 27, as indicated on Exhibit  
22 Two, is also owned by Bison Petroleum and they have agreed  
23 to leave that tract in the unit and we've agreed to unitize  
24 that tract.

25                  Q           All right, sir.

1           A           Now if I continue with my discussion of  
2 Exhibit Seventeen, there's a dotted outline on there of an  
3 ARCO proposed unit that was begun in the 1970's, an area  
4 which received orders but -- but was never unitized.

5                       There is one -- two existing waterflood  
6 areas indicated on the map, the Central Drinkard Unit to the  
7 southwest, and the Warren Unit indicated to the north.

8                       The Central Drinkard Unit, which I will  
9 discuss a little bit later, was used as an analog for  
10 predicting the secondary recovery from the proposed  
11 Northeast Drinkard Unit.

12                      To the west Amoco has a proposed North  
13 Drinkard Unit and they are proceeding as we are to try to  
14 unitize the Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard formations.

15                      To the east is a Conoco proposed East  
16 Blinebry Unit that is paralleling our efforts but has since  
17 been delayed or put on the back shelf.

18           Q           Anything else with regard to Exhibit  
19 Seventeen?

20           A           No.

21           Q           All right, let's move to Exhibit Number  
22 Eighteen and could you describe for us the information  
23 reflected on that exhibit?

24           A           Okay. About four years ago Shell began  
25 an in-house study of the secondary recovery potential in

1 this unit area and the first thing that Shell looked at was  
2 the pressures in the Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard.

3                   And, as you can see from Exhibit  
4 Eighteen, the pressures in the Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard  
5 on the SWEPI leases in the early 1960's, there was a  
6 significant difference in pressure but due to the coming-  
7 ling in the mid-seventies the pressure within those three  
8 zones has equalized.

9                   So we believe that this constitutes, the  
10 three zones, Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard, constitute a com-  
11 mon source of supply of oil and gas.

12                  Q           Okay, you mentioned that approximately  
13 four years ago SWEPI began to look at alternatives in that  
14 area. Could you now refer to Exhibit Number Nineteen and  
15 discuss some of the alternatives that were considered?

16                  A           Shell, in considering the waterflood po-  
17 tential of these three zones looked at different alterna-  
18 tives to waterflooding the Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard  
19 zones.

20                               Alternative one, shown on Exhibit Nine-  
21 teen, was to build a common water injection plant and have  
22 common injectors for the Blinebry and Drinkard formations  
23 but to unitize the two formations separately.

24                               That would have required drilling an ad-  
25 ditional 52 wells and required duplicate production facili-

1 ties to separate the Blinebry and Drinkard oil production,  
2 and we indicate that the profit before Federal income tax is  
3 a negative \$20,000,000 for that alternative.

4 We also looked at another alternative  
5 that would be to unitize the Blinebry formation and put in  
6 injection facilities, production facilities just for the  
7 Blinebry formation, and use all the existing wells for  
8 Blinebry use and the profit before Federal income tax is  
9 approximately a negative \$10,000,000 because you do not have  
10 the -- you lose the secondary reserves associated with the  
11 Drinkard formation in that alternative.

12 Alternative three was to use the existing  
13 wells to flood the Drinkard formation and that alternative  
14 nets a negative \$35,000,000 profit and again you would lose  
15 the secondary potential in the Blinebry formation.

16 So Shell concluded that the optimum unit  
17 interval would be to include the Blinebry, Tubb, and  
18 Drinkard formations into one common injection interval.

19 Q All right, once you reached that initial  
20 conclusion, what steps did Shell Western take?

21 A Shell then called a working interest  
22 owners meeting of the owners in the unit area and that was  
23 in October of 1984.

24 Q Let's look at Exhibit Twenty and describe  
25 that for us, please.

1           A           Shortly after the first working interest  
2 owners meeting was called they formulated a technical com-  
3 mittee charge which is shown on Exhibit Twenty, and that  
4 charge included defining an optimum unit area, to define an  
5 optimum unit vertical interval, to develop unitization para-  
6 meters to be used for a participation formula, and to deve-  
7 lop a water flood plan that included an oil recovery fore-  
8 cast investment, and economic evaluation.

9           Q           All right, sir, you set in the charge, or  
10 someone did, what's the next step in the story?

11                    Let's look at Twenty-one and Twenty-two,  
12 please.

13           A           Okay. The charge was fulfilled with the  
14 acceptance by the working interest owners of the technical  
15 committee reports.

16                    Exhibit Twenty-one is Part I of the tech-  
17 nical report, called Unit Area Vertical Interval to be uni-  
18 tized and Unitizatio Parameters by Tract for the Proposed  
19 Blinebry-Drinkard Unit, Lea County, New Mexico.

20                    And Part I fulfilled the first three  
21 charges as defined on Exhibit Twenty, and Part II is the  
22 Waterflood Plan and Economics for the Proposed Blinebry-  
23 Drinkard Unit, Lea County, New Mexico, and that fulfilled  
24 the final item for the technical committee charge.

25           Q           All right, sir, at this time could you

1 discuss for us the unitization parameters, please, and I'd  
2 refer you to Exhibit Number Twenty-three.

3           A           As I mentioned in Part I of the technical  
4 committee report unitization parameters were tabulated for  
5 each tract in the unit area and those unitization parameters  
6 are for oil and gas, the current production from June of '84  
7 to May of '85, the cumulative production through May of  
8 1985, the remaining primary reserves after may of 1985, and  
9 the ultimate primary recovery.

10           Q           Would you describe for us how those unit-  
11 ization parameters were utilized?

12           A           The unitization parameters were used to  
13 formulate a participation formula to be used in the unit  
14 area and in early 1987 several working interest owners meet-  
15 ings were called to negotiate our participation formula, adn  
16 the working interest owners felt that a 2-phase formula and  
17 the 2-phase formula -- 2-phase formula for oil and 2-phase  
18 formula for gas should be used, and Exhibit Twenty-Four de-  
19 tails those participation formulas that were developed by  
20 the working interest owners.

21                       I'll go through each of the phases and  
22 what each of the formulas mean.

23                       The Phase 1 oil formula was developed by  
24 the working interest owners to try to reflect their remain-  
25 ing primary oil production share of the unit and also to

1 maintain their current income, so the participation formula  
2 in Phase I oil was agreed to be 25 percent of each tract's  
3 share of current oil production plus 75 percent of each  
4 tract's share of remaining primary oil reserves, and that  
5 formula is in effect until the remaining primary oil  
6 reserves are produced from the unit area after May of 1985,  
7 and that amounts to about 2.3-million barrels of oil.

8 Now after 2.3-million barrels of oil had  
9 been produced from the unit area, then Phase II oil would go  
10 into effect and this Phase II formula was developed to try  
11 to reflect equal tract share of secondary recoverable --  
12 secondary recovery potential in the area.

13 Now, I won't go into -- I'll go a little  
14 later into how the secondary recovery forecast was developed  
15 and the analog used, but I'll say right now that the sec-  
16 ondary recovery potential is a ratio with the ultimate primary  
17 production from each -- from the unit area, and therefore  
18 the Phase II oil was based 100 percent on each tract's share  
19 of ultimate primary production.

20 Now, the gas phase I formula, the working  
21 interest owners wanted to insure that they would get their  
22 share of the remaining primary gas reserves, and therefore  
23 the Phase I formula was based on 100 percent of each tract's  
24 share of remaining primary gas reserves and the technical  
25 committee estimated that approximately 72 BCF remained of

1 primary gas reserves; therefore the Phase I gas formula will  
2 be in effect until 72 BCF have been produced from the unit  
3 area after May of 1985.

4 Now, in case we underestimated the gas  
5 reserves available from the unit area there was a Phase II  
6 formula that would be in effect after the Phase I gas formu-  
7 la, and that is based on 100 percent of a tract's share of  
8 ultimate primary gas production.

9 Now, if you refer to Exhibit Twenty-five,  
10 this will more concisely how the participation formula  
11 works. I've indicated on the top the unitization parameters  
12 from Tract 5 for oil and gas, the current production of the  
13 remaining primary, and ultimate primary oil for Tract 5 and  
14 for the unit, and the remaining primary and ultimate primary  
15 gas for Tract 5 and for the unit.

16 The Phase I oil participation is 25 per-  
17 cent of that tract's share of current production, which is  
18 20,000 barrels over 272,000 barrels plus 75 percent of that  
19 tract's share of remaining primary, which is 162 over 2285.

20 Adding those two fractions together,  
21 Tract 5's unit participation is 7.2 percent.

22 Q And that participation factor will be in  
23 effect until 2.3-million barrels have been produced from the  
24 unit area.

25 The Phase II oil formula is 100 percent

1 of that tract's share of ultimate primary and that equates  
2 to 7.9 percent, so that will be in effect after the Phase I  
3 oil.

4 Phase I gas is that tract's share of re-  
5 maining primary, 8.8 percent, and Phase II gas is that  
6 tract's share of ultimate primary gas recovery, 7.2 percent.

7 Q All right, Mr. Burbank, besides, I sup-  
8 pose, keeping a number of accountants very busy for the next  
9 number of years as a result of this formula, do you believe  
10 -- it is your petroleum engineering opinion that this for-  
11 mula is a fair and equitable basis to distribute proceeds  
12 from production in this unit and has it been agreed to by  
13 the vast majority of working interest, royalty interest own-  
14 ers and overriding royalty interest owners in the unit area?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Thank you. All right, sir, let's turn to  
17 what we've marked as Exhibit Number Twenty-six, please, and  
18 would you describe what that is?

19 A Okay, Exhibit Twenty-six we refer to as  
20 the AFE package and this package was sent to all working in-  
21 terest owners along with the unit agreement and unit operat-  
22 ing agreement.

23 And in this package it details the in-  
24 vestment required for the unitization. It details the fut-  
25 ure operating costs associated with the unit. It gives a

1 remaining primary forecast and a predicted secondary recov-  
2 ery forecast for the unit, and it also gives the facilities  
3 diagrams for flow lines and production lines for the unit  
4 area.

5 Q Could we take a moment and look at the  
6 production forecast contained in that exhibit, please.

7 A Okay, there's two production forecasts  
8 contained in Exhibit Twenty-six.

9 Q Excuse me, if I may, just a moment.

10 MR. PEARCE: For the Examiner,  
11 those are graphical representations perhaps 2/3rds of the  
12 way back into the package.

13 A The first graph is a graph of the remain-  
14 ing primary oil production from the unit area and the tech-  
15 nical committee predicts that the remaining primary oil pro-  
16 duction for May of '85 to depletion is approximately 2.3-  
17 million barrels.

18 And adding that to the cumulative oil  
19 production through May of '85, gives an ultimate primary oil  
20 production of a little over 29-million barrels of oil.

21 Now the next page is the secondary recov-  
22 ery forecast developed by the technical committee and I will  
23 go into more detail on how this was formulated.

24 The technical committee used the Central  
25 Drinkard Unit as an analog for predicting their secondary

1 oil recovery potential.

2                   The Central Drinkard Unit, I'll point  
3 out, is located to the southwest of our proposed unit area  
4 on Exhibit One.

5                   Q           Do you recall how long that unit's been  
6 in operation?

7                   A           The Central Drinkard Unit started water-  
8 flooding in the mid-sixties so they have over twenty years  
9 of waterflooding experience.

10                   They predict that they will recover a  
11 volume of secondary oil equal to half of their predicted  
12 primary production, so you have a secondary to primary ratio  
13 of 0.5, and that is what the Northeast Drinkard technical  
14 committee used to estimate the production, secondary produc-  
15 tion from the unit area, so from the first graph I showed  
16 you, 29.4-million barrels of primary production times 0.5,  
17 we estimate that the ultimate secondary oil production will  
18 be 14.7-million barrels from our unit.

19                   Q           Let's look at the first couple of pages  
20 of the AFE and would you indicate the expected investment  
21 costs of this project, please.

22                   A           Okay, the initial investment associated  
23 with the Northeast Drinkard Unit is approximately \$18.6-mil-  
24 lion.

25                   The -- there's a summary of economics

1 shown on the third page, which shows the initial investment  
2 of \$18.7-million, an ultimate investment of \$24-million and  
3 a -- which yields a profit of 174 percent.

4 Q Okay, let's turn now to what we've marked  
5 as Exhibit Number Twenty-seven to this proceeding and could  
6 you describe that, please, for the Examiner and those in at-  
7 tendance?

8 A Exhibit Twenty-seven is the proposed  
9 flood plan for the Northeast Drinkard Unit. Indicated on  
10 here by blue circles are water source wells. We plan on us-  
11 ing San Andres water for our injection needs at the Drink-  
12 ard, Northeast Drinkard Unit.

13 The yellow circles are gas wells which  
14 are interspersed throughout the unit. There are twenty gas  
15 wells.

16 The red circles are oil wells and the  
17 blue triangles are our water injection wells.

18 The flood pattern is a 5-spot injection  
19 pattern and I'd like to point out a couple of areas on this  
20 flood map where we plan to co-op' with bordering units.  
21 Around the southwest side of Section 14 we have three injec-  
22 tion wells along the unit boundary, which we plan on co-op-  
23 ing with the J. R. Cone lease, and not shown on this map but  
24 on the north border Wells 109 and 114, we plan on converting  
25 to injectors and co-oping with the Warren Unit to the north

1 of our unit.

2 Q All right, sir, anything further on Exhi-  
3 bit Twenty-seven?

4 A No. I'd like to introduce Exhibits Twen-  
5 ty-eight and Twenty-nine, which are listings of the proposed  
6 gas wells and the proposed injection wells in our unit area.

7 It gives the current well and lease name,  
8 the future unit well designation and a location of those  
9 particular wells.

10 Q Okay. And those are the dots reflected  
11 on Exhibit Twenty-seven, is that correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q All right. Thank you. Now, sir, if you  
14 would, let's turn to what we've marked as Exhibit Number  
15 Thirty and could you describe that exhibit for the Examiner  
16 and those in attendance?

17 A Okay. In order to include the Blinebry,  
18 Tubb, and Drinkard into our unitized interval, we had to de-  
19 velop some special rules and regulations for the now named  
20 North Eunice Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool, so we  
21 combined the three existing pools into a new North Eunice  
22 Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool and I'd like to go  
23 through some of these particular pool rules.

24 I'll start with Rule No. 3, which says,  
25 that the acreage may be simultaneously dedicated to a gas

1 well and an oil well in the North Eunice Blinebry-Tubb-  
2 Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool, thereby receiving separate oil  
3 and gas allowables.

4 Q All right, let me interrupt for a moment.  
5 When Mrs. Corder was on the stand I asked if the oil and the  
6 gas wells would be separate wellbores. Will that occur?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And on that basis do you believe that  
9 simultaneous dedication of acreage within a pool will not in  
10 effect simultaneously deplete the same zones in that pro-  
11 posed pool?

12 That was awful.

13 A I'm not sure I understand the question.

14 Q I'm not sure I do, Mr. Burbank. Let me  
15 try again, please.

16 Do you believe that a gas well in the  
17 proposed pool with 160 acres dedicated will deplete the same  
18 zones within the pool that are being depleted by oil wells  
19 on the same 160 acres?

20 A No.

21 Q Thank you, sir. On that basis do you be-  
22 lieve that it is sound engineering principle to allow simul-  
23 taneous dedication of acreage within the proposed North  
24 Eunice Blinebry-Tubb and Drinkard Oil Pool to oil wells and  
25 gas wells at the same time?

1           A           Yes.

2           Q           All right. Thank you, sir. Now let's  
3 look, if we could, to proposed Rule No. 4.

4           A           Rule No. 4 states that any acreage with-  
5 in the North Eunice Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool  
6 shall not be assigned to a gas well proration unit if the  
7 acreage is located within 1,320 feet of the North Eunice  
8 Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Pool boundary, and 2) such acreage is  
9 not contiguous to offset non-unit gas proration unit.

10          Q           Okay, looking back, if you would, please,  
11 to Exhibit Number Twenty-seven, do you find yellow spots in-  
12 dicating proposed gas wells which do not meet the conditions  
13 set forth in proposed Rule No. 4?

14          A           Yes, there are three gas wells shown on  
15 Exhibit Twenty-seven that do not meet the new pool rules and  
16 those particular wells are Wells 409, 510, and 201.

17          Q           409 is a well in Tract 11. 510 is a well  
18 in Tract 13. What was the other number? 201, and that's a  
19 well reflected as being in Tract Number 5. Is it Shell  
20 Western's proposal to return during a subsequent hearing to  
21 seek exception to these proposed pool rules and allow others  
22 to present their opinions with regard to that matter?

23          A           Yes.

24          Q           Okay. Anything further on proposed Rule  
25 No. 4, Mr. Burbank?

1 A No.

2 Q All right, let's look, if you would  
3 please, at proposed Rule No. 5.

4 A Proposed Rule No. 5 reads, any well with-  
5 in the North Eunice Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool  
6 designated as a gas well shall be subject to the gas prora-  
7 tion rules set forth in Commission Order No. R-8170, as  
8 amended for the Blinebry Oil and Gas Pool or Tubb Oil and  
9 Gas Pool, or both, as appropriate.

10 In effect what that states is that the  
11 gas produced from our unit gas wells will be prorated under  
12 the existing proration rules in the Blinebry and Tubb Oil  
13 and Gas Pools.

14 Q All right, sir, let's look at proposed  
15 Rule No. 7 at this time.

16 A The proposed Rule No. 7 reads, the limit-  
17 ing gas/oil ratio for oil wells in the North Eunice Bline-  
18 bry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool shall be 6000 cubic feet  
19 of gas per barrel of oil.

20 Q And 6000-to-1 is the current gas/oil  
21 ratio for the -- one of the three current pools, is that  
22 correct?

23 A Yes, the Drinkard --

24 Q All right, sir.

25 A -- Pool.

1           A           There are two wells within the unit area  
2 that when this rule becomes effective will produce more gas  
3 than they are now because they are limited under current  
4 Blinebry and Tubb gas/oil ratios of 4000 and 2000. Those  
5 particular wells are the Exxon New Mexico State V No. 3 and  
6 the Shell Western State Section 15 No. 1.

7                       With the introduction of a higher gas/oil  
8 ratio in the unit, we estimate that the gas production will  
9 increase by only 27 MCF a day by raising the casinghead gas  
10 production limit from these two wells.

11           Q           Let's look now, if we could, please, sir,  
12 at proposed Rule No. 8.

13           A           Rule No. 8 states that commingling in the  
14 wellbore of production from oil zones and gas zones in the  
15 North Eunice Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool is pro-  
16 hibited.

17                       And, finally, Rule No. 9 states that the  
18 gas volumes from our unit gas wells will be reported in the  
19 current Blinebry and Tubb oil and gas proration schedules.

20           Q           And has Shell Western discussed these re-  
21 porting requirements with the Division staff members respon-  
22 sible for natural gas prorationing?

23           A           Yes.

24           Q           Okay. Anything else with regard to Exhi-  
25 bit Number Thirty, the proposed special pool rules?

1           A           No.

2           Q           All right, sir, let's look, if we could,  
3 please, at Exhibit Number Thirty-one to this proceeding and  
4 if you could describe that exhibit for the Examiner and  
5 those in attendance.

6           A           Okay. Exhibit Number Thirty-one is a C-  
7 108, which is the Application for Authorization to Inject,  
8 and if I may, I'll just walk through this package and  
9 describe what we've included in here.

10                    The first several pages are a listing of  
11 the proposed injection wells in the unit and on there  
12 describes the location of those wells; the casing and depth;  
13 the sacks of cement used to cement the casing; the top of  
14 cement in each of the -- on the production strings; and our  
15 proposed tubing and packer assembly used for injection  
16 purposes.

17                    Now along with that table the next set of  
18 papers in this packet are schematics of those particular  
19 injection wells, and the data on that first section is  
20 repeated on all of these schematic diagrams.

21                    The next section describes some of the  
22 data required on the C-108 form.

23                    Our proposed average injection rate is  
24 approximately 1350 barrels of water per day per well. The  
25 maximum injection rate will be approximately 2000 barrels

1 per day.

2 We propose a closed injection system.  
3 The average injection pressure will be 1000 psi and the  
4 maximum injection pressure will be approximately 1200 psi,  
5 not to exceed the .2 psi per foot to top perforations  
6 limitation.

7 The source water that we plan on using  
8 comes from the San Andres formation and the analysis is  
9 attached later on but why don't I continue by describing  
10 this map that we have included in this package.

11 The map has highlighted our unit area in  
12 yellow and a blue is the area of review as required by the  
13 C-108 form.

14 Q Just for clarification, how did you  
15 arrive at the area of review?

16 A The area of review requires a one-half  
17 mile radius around each injection well and rather than  
18 drawing a circle around each injection well, we decided to  
19 take a -- a quarter mile distance around the proposed unit  
20 area as the area of review.

21 And because all of our injection wells  
22 are located two locations inside of our unit, that quarter  
23 mile around the unit area fulfills the requirement of a half  
24 mile within our injection .

25 Now, for those wells in the area of

1 review we have tabulated all of the locations, names, and  
2 completion schematics of those wells with the top of the  
3 cement of the production string indicated.

4 I'd like to point out that of those wells  
5 in the area of review there are two wells where the top of  
6 cement is below our proposed injection interval. Those two  
7 wells are the Chevron Eubank No. 8 and the Meridian Doron  
8 No. 3.

9 The Meridian Doron No. 3 is located in  
10 Section 10 and the Chevron Eubank No. 8 is located in  
11 Section 22.

12 We plan on contacting these operators and  
13 insuring that there is cement across their injection  
14 interval prior to commencing with injection in that area.

15 Following the table of wells in the area  
16 of review we have included schematics of all the plugged and  
17 abandoned wells in our -- in our unit area, and reviewing  
18 all the schematis we have insured safe protection of  
19 the injection water in these wells.

20 Following the schematics of the plugged  
21 wells we have attached a water analysis of the San Andres  
22 source water we plan on using plus an analysis of the  
23 Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard waters and our chemical  
24 engineers have indicated that the source water is compatible  
25 with our produced water.

1                   Also in the unit area we have taken water  
2 samples from fresh water sources in the area. We searched  
3 the State Engineer's Office for sources of fresh water and  
4 the only sources of fresh water in the area were surface  
5 alluvium deposits and we have attached three samples from  
6 throughout the unit of that fresh water.

7                   Q           Mr. Burbank, obviously an extensive  
8 amount of work has gone into the preparation of the C-108  
9 and attachments. In conducting the study relative to this  
10 matter the geologic and engineering data indicated in that  
11 exhibit, have you found any evidence of open faults or other  
12 hydrologic connection between the proposed injection zone  
13 and any underground source of drinking water?

14                  A           No.

15                  Q           Okay. I would ask you now, sir, to refer  
16 to what we've marked as Exhibit Number Thirty-two to this  
17 proceeding, and tell the Examiner and those in attendance  
18 what's reflected on that exhibit?

19                  A           Exhibit Thirty-two is the certified re-  
20 turn receipts from sending out the C-108 form to all surface  
21 owners and offset operators.

22                               That was sent out on September 8th.

23                  Q           All right, sir. In summary, sir, I would  
24 ask you to refer please to what we've marked as Exhibit Num-  
25 ber Thirty-three to this proceeding and describe --

1           A           This --

2           Q           Go ahead.

3           A           Exhibit   Thirty-three    are    three  
4 applications.   9230, the contractino of exisitng pools,  
5 creation of new pool.   9231, statutory unitization.   And  
6 9232, the waterflood.

7                       9230 is summarize in order to accomplish  
8 this pool creation it will be necessary to contract the pre-  
9 sent boundaries of the Blinebry Oil and gas Pool, Tubb Oil  
10 and Gas Pool, and Drinkard Pool by eliminating from those  
11 pools the acreage to be included within the North Eunice  
12 Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool.

13                      The Applicant prays that the Division en-  
14 ter its order creating a new pool named the North Eunice  
15 Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool, contracting the  
16 present boundaries of the Blinebry Oil and Gas Pool, the  
17 Tubb Oil and Gas Pool, and the Drinkard Pool, to allow ac-  
18 reage presently in those pools to be included within the  
19 North Eunice Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool, desig-  
20 nating certain wells as gas wells and adopting the special  
21 pool rules attached hereto as Exhibit A as the rules govern-  
22 ing the North Eunice Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas  
23 Pool, all for the purpose of prevention waste of natural re-  
24 sources and protecting the correlative rights of interest  
25 owners within the area of the proposed North Eunice Bline

1 bry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool.

2 Case 9231 states that the approval of the  
3 statutory unitization of the Northeast Drinkard Unit is in  
4 the best interests of conservation, the prevention of waste,  
5 and protection of correlatiave rights; wherefor, Shell Wes-  
6 tern respectfully requests that the application be set for  
7 hearing before the Division Examiner on September 24th,  
8 1987, and after notice and hearing as required by law and  
9 the rules of the Division, the Division enter its order  
10 granting this application.

11 Q All right, sir, and the final application  
12 was the application reflected as Exhibit Number Thirty-one  
13 to this proceeding and what is being sought in that applica-  
14 tion, the C-108?

15 A The application calls for authorization  
16 to inject and conduct a secondary recovery operation.

17 Q All right, sir. After studying this pro-  
18 ject and devoting substantial amounts of time and energy to  
19 this project, have you formed the professional petroleum re-  
20 servoir engineering opinion that approval of these three ap-  
21 plications is in the best interest of conservation of natur-  
22 al resources, the prevention of waste of natural resources,  
23 and the protection of the correlative rights of various in-  
24 terest owners within this area?

25 A Yes.

1           Q           Thank you, sir. Do you have anything  
2 further at this time?

3           A           No.

4                       MR. PEARCE: I have nothing  
5 further of the witness at this time, Mr. Examiner. I would  
6 move the admission of Shell Western Exhibits Seventeen  
7 through Thirty-three at this time.

8                       MR. CATANACH: Exhibits Seven-  
9 teen through Thirty-three will be admitted into evidence.

10                      There's quite a lot of informa-  
11 tion, Mr. Pearce. Why don't you give us fifteen, twenty  
12 minutes to get our thoughts together.

13                      MR. PEARCE: Good.

14                      MR. CATANACH: We'll take about  
15 a fifteen, twenty minute break.

16  
17                      (Thereupon a recess was taken.)

18  
19                      MR. CATANACH: I guess we'll  
20 call this hearing back to order at this time.

21  
22                      CROSS EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. CATANACH:

24                      Q           I only have a few questions. Mr.  
25 Burbank, do you know why Tract 31 was not included or why

1 Bison didn't want to included in the unit?

2 A No, I'm not familiar with why they didn't  
3 want to be in it.

4 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Examiner, if  
5 it's at assistance at this time let me mark something as Ex-  
6 hibit Number Thirty-four to this proceeding and I may need  
7 to get it in by recalling Mr. Goforth.

8 It's a copy of the letter which  
9 we received from Bison requesting that that tract be ex-  
10 cluded, and for those who did not receive copies, the con-  
11 cluding sentence of that brief letter is, this tract is on  
12 the edge of the productive limits and is not likely to pro-  
13 duce any economic secondary production.

14 I have not made an independent  
15 investigation to determine whether or not Shell Western  
16 agrees with that analysis, but that certainly was the posi-  
17 tion of Bison and on that basis and since, as the witness  
18 testified, he did not believe he affected the operations of  
19 the unit, we agreed to exclude that acreage.

20 MR. CATANACH: Okay.

21 Q Mr. Burbank, do you have a time frame on  
22 when you think Phase II oil and gas are going to go into  
23 effect?

24 A Yes. If you'll refer ot Exhibit Twenty-  
25 Six, which is an AFE package, turn to the first table, wich

1 is the fifth page, we estimate that Phase II oil  
2 participation will begin in mid-1993.

3 And we do not expect Phase II gas  
4 participation to ever be in effect. The reason for that is  
5 we feel we will recover the remaining primary gas but we  
6 will not get any incremental gas production and Phase I is  
7 in effect until primary gas production is depleted.

8 Q Do you have any knowledge of -- of any of  
9 your interest owners who -- who have had any problems with  
10 your allocation formulas?

11 A No.

12 Q No one has sent any opposition to those?

13 A No.

14 Q Were those contained in the unit  
15 agreement?

16 A Yes.

17 Q You said you had -- you were planning to  
18 co-op with Conoco, I believe, and Cone, two parts of the  
19 waterflood. Do you already have agreements in place with  
20 those two parties

21 A No, we do not. We plan on pursuing those  
22 after unitization.

23 Q Okay, probably before you start  
24 waterflooding (not clearly understood)?

25 A Yes.

1           Q           Referring to your Exhibit Thirty-one,  
2 the Form C-108, looking at your offset wells or wells within  
3 the area of review, I notice that you have cement tops and  
4 some are listed as temperature survey tops.

5           A           Uh-huh.

6           Q           Did you -- how did you determine the  
7 other cement tops on these wells?

8           A           The cement tops were calculated using a  
9 25 percent loss and that was based on data available from  
10 the temperature surveys.

11          Q           All right, you further stated that the  
12 only fresh water in the area that you have found was in the  
13 surface alluvium. Do you have any depths that that fresh  
14 water is encountered in here?

15          A           I don't have any available with me, but  
16 it is, I believe all of the water is less than 150 feet  
17 deep.

18          Q           Does the fresh water, as far as you know,  
19 extend throughout the field?

20          A           From a map of all of the wells that were  
21 -- had been drilled for fresh water in the unit area, most  
22 of the unit area probably has some surface alluvium water  
23 under it. But it was very difficult to find wells that were  
24 active from those records, so we -- we attempted to get as  
25 many fresh water samples as we could in the area.

1 Q Okay, and your proposed waterflood  
2 operations will protect that fresh water in that area.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay.

5

6 QUESTIONS BY MR. LYON:

7 Q Mr. Burbank, referring to Exhibit Nine-  
8 teen, I guess that is Exhibit Nineteen, is --

9 MR. PEARCE: It may take us  
10 just a moment, please, Mr. Examiner -- I'm sorry, Mr. Lyon.

11 All right.

12 Q Can you explain why you state in the al-  
13 ternatives two and three that you would have lost primary of  
14 secondary (unclear) recovery reserves in the case of alter-  
15 native two and lost Blinebry and Tubb reserves in alterna-  
16 tive three?

17 A Those alternatives were looking at just  
18 separate zone floods, so alternative two was -- we use all  
19 the existing wells to flood the Blinebry and we don't flood  
20 the Drinkard, and if we just try to flood the Blinebry, we  
21 don't make any money. We have a negative profit. There-  
22 fore, you can conclude that if you had to drill another 50  
23 wells plus in order to try to develop the Drinkard, that  
24 definitely would not be profitable.

25 So when you just look at the alternative

1 of flooding the Blinebry and that's not profitable, the  
2 Drinkard will not be profitable either, and therefore you  
3 would not pursue secondary recovery operations.

4 Q But you're not -- are you saying that  
5 flooding one zone precludes any flooding of the other zones?

6 A Economically.

7 Q Are you looking at just a given time  
8 period or you're saying that if you elect to flood one zone  
9 individually, that you could never flood the other ones.

10 A Okay, within a given time frame the  
11 economics currently are not attractive to go after the  
12 secondary reserves in the Drinkard. I guess that's what  
13 we're trying to say there.

14 Q Okay. Now, in Exhibits Twenty-four and  
15 Twenty-five, you have separate phases for oil and gas. Now,  
16 under which one of those does casinghead gas come?

17 A It goes under gas, Phase I.

18 Q It comes under gas, so you're not dealing  
19 strictly with the gas wells as such in that parameter.

20 A Right.

21 Q If you don't ever expect to enter into  
22 Phase II in the gas phase, why do you have it?

23 A It was -- it was developed so that in  
24 case our estimates were low the working interest owners  
25 would have another phase based on their ultimate primary gas

1 production.

2                   So it was just used in case our estimates  
3 are low, and instead of based on just what is left, if we  
4 underestimated we want the Phase II to be based on their  
5 total that has been produced from each tract.

6                   MR. PEARCE: I think the analogy  
7 may be a belt and suspenders.

8                   Q           I have a little problem with some of your  
9 nomenclature in your applications, right there on 9230. You  
10 refer to all of these things as lots and in the regular sec-  
11 tions they're actually quarter quarter sections, and so you  
12 don't have lots within Sections 10, 15, 22, and 23, and lots  
13 that you refer to by letters are our designation of prora-  
14 tion units (not clearly understood).

15                   I just wanted to nitpick a little.

16                   MR. PEARCE: We'll be happy to  
17 clean that up, Mr. Examiner.

18                   In addition, I would point out  
19 that on the application in Case 9230 what's designated as  
20 Lots L and M, Section 24, I believe is Tract 31, which is  
21 not under consideration at this time.

22                   So there are two things we need  
23 to clean up on that.

24                   Q           Mr. Burbank, have you looked at all the  
25 wells in the unit area?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay, have you looked at the wells imme-  
3 diately surrounding the unit area?

4 A Yes.

5 Q I wonder if it would be -- if you would  
6 be willing to supply us with a map that shows the acreage  
7 dedication in the Tubb and Blinebry Pools around the peri-  
8 meter of the unit so that we can -- can see what acreage is  
9 eligible to be assiend to the wells, to the gas wells.

10 A That can be done.

11 Q And if you want a cutoff date, say, ef-  
12 fective as of the hearing date, because I know those things  
13 change from time to time.

14 Are you familiar with your well which on  
15 Exhibit Twenty-Seven is designated as Well 204?

16 A 204? Yes.

17 Q Did you look a the history on that well?

18 A I don't recall what it is, no.

19 Q I wondered if you could tell me what  
20 zones it was -- it was open in, and what its production his-  
21 tory might have been.

22 A I don't -- I don't have that data with  
23 me, no.

24 Q Well, it's been awhile since I've looked  
25 at that well but I wondered if the history on that well is

1 consistent with the representation that the top two zones of  
2 the Blinebry are gas and that the rest of them are oil.

3 A I don't know. We can investigate that.

4 Q Okay, I wish you would. I believe that's  
5 all I have. Thank you.

6

7 QUESTIONS BY MR. LEMAY:

8 Q Mr. Burbank, you've indicated, I think,  
9 that -- that there was common source here, implying that  
10 there was communication between all zones, at least that's  
11 the way I interpreted your statement of common source.

12 Do you believe that's mechanical communi-  
13 cation or do you believe that there is communication within  
14 these reservoirs throughout the interval you want to flood?

15 A I think there is communication only in  
16 the wellbores from commingling and not, not any fracture  
17 connection or anything, any such connection as that.

18 Q So you would adhere to the theory of your  
19 geologist, that these are horizontally segregated zones --

20 A Yes.

21 Q -- by virtue of tight streaks and they  
22 are not communicated?

23 A Yes.

24 Q How about the water, is there water being  
25 produced from these various zones?

1           A           Yes.

2           Q           Which ones?

3           A           Well, we have water samples from all  
4 three zones that we've included in our C-108 application.

5           Q           Is this down dip water? It's not an  
6 active water drive, it's gas solution, I take it.

7           A           No, it's not an active water drive.

8           Q           And do both the Blinebry and the Drinkard  
9 zones produce water mainly in the down dip wells, that's  
10 produced in conjunction with the oil?

11          A           I don't know where the water is produced  
12 but it's very minimal in the unit area.

13          Q           Minimum amounts of water being --

14          A           Amounts of water, yes.

15          Q           Can you give me a range at all?

16          A           I don't know.

17          Q           Do you know if the Ogallala carries water  
18 in this area? Fresh water?

19          A           No, it does not.

20          Q           It's not present in here (unclear)?

21                    Oh, it's below the cap, okay. You're off  
22 the cap here?

23          A           Yes.

24

25

## REXCROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. CATANACH:

Q Mr. Burbank, in your proposed set of rules, pool rules for the North Eunice Blinebry-Tubb-Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool, referring to Rule 5, where it says the District Supervisor shall have authority to classify any well in the pool as a gas well or an oil well, do you have any recommendations -- recommended criteria that we could use to classify a gas well or an oil well?

A We had planned on submitting a list of wells to the Division that we wanted classified as gas wells, and those particular wells in our unit area would only be completed in the gas zones in the Blinebry and Tubb wells, but we had proposed any sort of GOR, no.

Q So the gas wells that you have listed as of now, are those the ones that you intend to keep as gas wells and you don't intend to complete any more gas wells?

A Well, at this time the initial plan is to complete those twenty wells as gas wells and I can't predict in the future what we will want to do but of those twenty wells, as I mentioned before, there's three are exceptions to these particular pool rules and we will come back to the Division for exceptions in those cases.

Q Okay, and as I understand it, all your

1 producing wells will be open in all three zones?

2                   They won't be separated by packers? Is  
3 that correct?

4           A           No, not in the production wells.

5           Q           Okay, your injection wells will be --  
6 some of them will be segregated by packers, is that right?

7           A           We plan to separate injection in the  
8 Blinebry and Trubb and Drinkard zones with packers and the  
9 plan at this time is to use downhole flow regulators to  
10 regulate the flow of water into each zone.

11          Q           And how do you intend to distribute the  
12 flow into each of the zones?

13          A           We'll probably base it on the Phi-H of  
14 each well as to how much water goes into each -- to each  
15 injection zone.

16          Q           Okay, of the gas wells you have listed,  
17 are those -- are the majority of those already completed and  
18 producing from the gas zone?

19          A           No.

20          Q           How do you intend or propose to complete  
21 these gas wells?

22          A           We plan to go in and cement squeeze all  
23 the perforations and to go back in and re-perforate in the  
24 gas zones and produce from the Tubb and/or Blinebry, we'll  
25 have gas production.

1 Q On your application you're seeking sort  
2 of a blanket approval to downhole commingle the two gas  
3 zones.

4 A I guess we hadn't considered a comming-  
5 ling application at this time.

6 Q Okay would Shell be willing to -- to fol-  
7 low standard procedure and file applications for each of  
8 these gas wells when they're completed?

9 A Yes.

10 MR. CATANACH: Does anyone else  
11 have any questions of this witness?

12 MR. PEARCE: I have one follow-  
13 up if there are not others. Excuse me just a moment.

14

15 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. PEARCE:

17 Q One follow-up question, Mr. Burbank. is  
18 the unit operator willing to provide the Division and the  
19 Hobbs District Office with annualized production numbers al-  
20 located to the Blinebry, Tubb, and Drinkard reservoirs for  
21 historically record keeping purposes in this matter?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay.

24 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Examiner, I --  
25 at this time I'm inclined not to try to get Exhibit -- what

1 I marked as Exhibit Thirty-four into the record. That's the  
2 Bison letter. If you would like us to bring on another wit-  
3 ness and demonstrate that that came from our records and was  
4 duly received, we'll do that, but --

5 MR. CATANACH: You don't want  
6 to enter it into the record?

7 MR. PEARCE: I don't think it's  
8 important. We'll be happy to do it if you would like it as  
9 an exhibit to this proceeding.

10 MR. CATANACH: That's fine. We  
11 don't need to enter that, Mr. Pearce.

12 MR. PEARCE: All right. With  
13 that, Mr. Examiner, I have nothing further of this witness.

14 MR. CATANACH: The witness may  
15 be excused.

16 MR. PEARCE: All right. In  
17 conclusion, Mr. Examiner, I would like to hand you at this  
18 time two sets of proposed orders in this matter. One is a  
19 proposed order creating the North Eunice Blinebry-Tubb-  
20 Drinkard Oil and Gas Pool, contracting the present Blinebry  
21 Oil and Gas Pool, Tubb Oil and Gas Pool, and the Drinkard  
22 Pool, and establishing special pool rules for the new pool.

23 One is a statutory unitization  
24 order for the Northeast Drinkard Unit and finally, an order  
25 approving a waterflood project within this area.

1 MR. CATNACH: You must have  
2 known I was going to ask you for these.

3 MR. PEARCE: And for the  
4 record, the lot designation problem has been resolved by  
5 numbering four lots in Section 4 by the numbers rather than  
6 letters and the property description substitutes quarter  
7 quarter section descriptions for the letter number -- letter  
8 designated lots down in the application.

9 MR. CATANACH: Okay. Is there  
10 anything further in any of these cases, Case 9230, 9231, or  
11 9232?

12 If not, they will be taken  
13 under advisement.

14

15 (Hearing concluded.)

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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 CSR

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ heard by me on \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division