COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE Phone (505) 827-5760 Fax (505) 827-5766

ADMINISTRATION Phone (505) 827-5700 Fax (505) 827-5853

GENERAL COUNSEL Phone (505) 827-5713 Fax (505) 827-4262

PUBLIC AFFAIRS Phone (505) 827-1245 Fax (505) 827-5766



New Mexico State Land Office Commissioner of Public Lands Ray Powell, M.S., D.V.M.

August 29, 2002

Yates Petroleum Corporation 105 South Fourth Street Artesia, New Mexico 88210-2118

Attn: Mr. Robert Bullock

Re: Final Approval

West Echols State Exploratory Unit

Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Bullock:

This office is in receipt of your letters of August 27, 2002 and August 29, 2002, requesting final approval of the West Echols State Exploratory Unit Agreement, Lea County, New Mexico.

Please be advised that the Commissioner of Public Lands has this date granted final approval to the West Echols State Exploratory Unit Agreement, Lea County, New Mexico. The effective date of your agreement is August 29, 2002.

Our approval is given with the understanding that Yates Petroleum Corporation will drill two exploratory wells within the unit boundaries. Within six months from the completion date of the first well, the second well should be commenced and drilled to a sufficient depth to test the Morrow Formation. If the second well is not timely drilled, the unit will be contracted to the pro-ration unit for the initial well.

It is our understanding that all tracts are committed to the unit at this time.

Enclosed are (5) Certificates of Approval.

Your \$660.00 filing fee has been received.

If you have any questions or if we may be of further help, please contact Pete Martinez at (505) 827-5791.

Very truly yours,

RAY POWELL, M.S., D.V.M.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

JAMI BAILEY, Director

Oil, Gas and Minerals Division

(505) 827-5744

RP/JB/pm

pc: Reader File,

OCD-Santa Fe, Attn: Mr. Roy Johnson TRD-Attn: Mr. Valdean Severson RMD-Attn: Ms. Linda Vieira

William Carr

"WE WORK FOR EDUCATION"

COMMERCIAL RESOURCES Phone (505) 827-5724 Fax (505) 827-6157

MINERAL RESOURCES Phone (505) 827-5744 Fax (505) 827-4739

ROYALTY MANAGEMENT Phone (505) 827-5772 Fax (505) 827-4739

SURFACE RESOURCES Phone (505) 827-5793 Fax (505) 827-5711

UNIT NAME: WEST ECHOLS STATE EXPLORATORY UNIT OPERATOR: YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION COUNTY: LEA

TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RAN Section 36: All TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RAN SECTION 1: Lots 1-4, S2 SECTION 2: Lots 1, 2, S2SV SECTIONS 10 THRU 16: All SECTION 23: N2N2 SECTION 24: N2	<u>APPROVALS</u> SLO08-29-2002 OCD08-29-2002	EFFECTIVE 08/29/2002	DATE APPROVED
TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 37 EAST Section 36: All TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 37 EAST SECTION 1: Lots 1-4, S2 SECTION 2: Lots 1, 2, S2SW/4, SE/4 SECTIONS 10 THRU 16: All SECTION 23: N2N2 SECTION 24: N2)2 02	CASE NO. 12911 ORDER NO. R-11823	OCC CASE NO.
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		11,284.24	STATE
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WEST ECHOLS STATE UNIT LEA COUNTY, NM

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Contour Energy E&P, LLC	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	LESSEE OF RECORD
	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	OVERRIDING ROYALTY
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State of New Mexico	State of New Mexico	State of New Mexico	State of New Mexico	State of New Mexico	State of New Mexico	State of New Mexico	State of New Mexico	State of New Mexico			
Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Contour Energy E&P, LLC	Contour Energy E&P, LLC	Contour Energy E&P, LLC	Contour Energy E&P, LLC	Contour Energy E&P, LLC	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation	Yates Petroleum Corporation
None	None	None	None						None	None	None
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TOTAL STATE LANDS		Sec 9: N2	T11S, R38E			Sec 9: S2	T11S, R38E		(* ···)	(All)	Sec 4: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S2	T11S, R38E				Sec 17: W2	T11S, R38E				Sec 17: E2	111S, R38E	i i
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COM MISSIONER'S OFFICE Phone (505) 827-5760 Fax (505) 827-5766

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New Mexico State Land Office Commissioner of Public Lands Ray Powell, M.S., D.V.M.

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MINERAL RESOURCES Phone (505) 827-5744 Fax (505) 827-4739

ROYALTY MANAGEMENT Phone (505) 827-5772 Fax (505) 827-4739

SURFACE RESOURCES Phone (505) 827-5793 Fax (505) 827-5711

August 16, 2002

Yates Petroleum Corporation 105 South Fourth Street Artesia, New Mexico 88210-2118

Attention Mr. Robert Bullock:

Re:

Preliminary Approval

West Echols State Exploratory Unit

Lea, County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Bullock:

This office has received the unexecuted copy of the unit agreement, which you have submitted for the proposed West Echols State Exploratory Unit area, Lea County, New Mexico. This agreement meets the general requirements of the Commissioner of Public Lands, who has this date granted you preliminary approval as to form and content.

Preliminary approval shall not be construed to mean final approval of this agreement in any way and will not extend any short-term leases, until final approval and an effective date have been given.

Preliminary approval is given with the understanding that Yates Petroleum Corporation will drill two exploratory wells within the unit boundaries. Within six months from the completion date of the first well, the second well should be commenced and drilled to a sufficient depth to test the Morrow formation. If the second well is not timely drilled, the unit will be contracted to the pro-ration unit for the initial well.

When submitting your agreement for final approval, please submit the following:

- 1. Application for final approval by the Commissioner setting forth the tracts that have been committed and the tracts that have not been committed.
- 2. Pursuant to Rule 1.045, applications for approval shall contain a statement of facts showing:
 - a. That such agreement will tend to promote the conservation of oil and gas and the better utilization of reservoir energy.
 - b. That under the proposed unit operation, the State of New Mexico will receive its fair share of the recoverable oil and gas in place under its lands in the proposed unit area.
 - c. That each beneficiary institution of the State of New Mexico will receive its fair and equitable share of the recoverable oil and gas under its lands within the unit area.
 - d. That such unit agreement is in other respects for the best interest of the trust.

- 4. All ratifications from the Lessees of Record and Working Interest Owners. All signatures should be acknowledged by a notary and one set must contain original signatures.
- 5. Order of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. Our approval will be conditioned upon subsequent favorable approval by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.
- 6. A copy of the Unit Operating Agreement (if applicable).
- 7. Copies of the NMOCD well records for all wells.

If you have any questions or if we may be of further help, please contact Pete Martinez at (505) 827-5791.

Very truly yours,

RAY POWELL, M.S., D.V.M.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

JAMI BAILEY, Director

Oil, Gas and Minerals Division

(505) 827-5744

RP/JB/pm

cc: OCD-Santa Fe, Attention: Mr. Roy Johnson

William F. Carr

HOLLAND & HART LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DENVER · ASPEN
BOULDER · COLORADO SPRINGS
DENVER TECH CENTER
BILLINGS · BOISE
CHEYENNE · JACKSON HOLE
SALT LAKE CITY · SANTA FE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

P.O. BOX 2208
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-2208
110 NORTH GUADALUPE, SUITE 1
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-6525

TELEPHONE (505) 988-4421 FACSIMILE (505) 983-6043

William F. Carr

wcarr@hollandhart.com

July 23, 2002

HAND-DELIVERED

Lori Wrotenbery, Director Oil Conservation Division New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources 1220 South Saint Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 Case 12911

Re: Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for approval of a Unit Agreement, Lea County, New Mexico.

Dear Ms. Wrotenbery:

Enclosed in triplicate is the Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation in the above-referenced case as well as a copy of the legal advertisement. Yates Petroleum Corporation requests that this matter be placed on the August 22, 2002 Examiner Hearing docket.

Very truly yours,

William F. Carr

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Robert Bullock

Yates Petroleum Corporation 105 South Fourth Street Artesia, New Mexico 88210

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

APPLICATION OF YATES PETROLEUM **CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL** OF A UNIT AGREEMENT, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO. /29/1

APPLICATION

YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION ("Yates"), through its undersigned attorneys, hereby makes application for an order approving its West Echols State Exploratory Unit and in support of this application states:

1. That the proposed Unit consists of 11,284.24 acres, more or less, of State of New Mexico lands, situated in Lea County, New Mexico. The horizontal limits of said unit are described as follows:

Township 10 South, Range 37 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 36: All

Township 11 South, Range 37 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 1: All

Section 2: Lots 1 and 2, S/2 SW/4, SE/4

Sections 10 through 16: All

Section 23: N/2 N/2

Section 24: N/2

Township 11 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 4: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, S/2 (All)

Section 5: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, S/2 (All)

Section 6: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, S/2 (All)

Sections 7 through 9: All

Sections 17: All

Section 18: W/2

Section 19: N/2

Section 20: All

2. The Unit Agreement has been approved by a sufficient percentage of the

interest owners within the proposed Unit Area to provide effective control of unit operations.

3. The Applicant, Yates Petroleum Corporation, is designated as Unit Operator in

said Unit Agreement and all oil and gas in the all formations are unitized.

4. The proposed Unit Area covers all, or substantially all, of the geological

structures or anomaly involved.

5. Said Unit Agreement and the unitized operation and management of the Unit

Area will be in the interest of conservation and the prevention of waste, and that it will

protect the correlative rights of all parties concerned.

WHEREFORE, Yates Petroleum Corporation requests that this application be set for

hearing before an Examiner of the Oil Conservation Division on August 22, 2002, that notice

be given as required by law and the rules of the Division, and that the West Echols State

Exploratory Unit be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

HOLLAND & HART LLP

William **F**. Carr

ATTORNEYS FOR YATES PETROLEUM

CORPORATION

CASE NO. 12911: Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for approval of a Unit Agreement, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval of the West Echols State Exploratory Unit for an area comprising 11,284.24 acres of State of New Mexico lands located in Section 36 of Township 10 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23,and 24 of Township 11 South, Range 37 East, NMPM and Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of Township 11 South, Range 38 East, NMPM which is located approximately 10 miles northeast of Tatum, New Mexico.

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

APPLICATION OF YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A UNIT AGREEMENT, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO. /29// (2)

APPLICATION

YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION ("Yates"), through its undersigned attorneys, hereby makes application for an order approving its West Echols State Exploratory
Unit and in support of this application states:

1. That the proposed Unit consists of 11,284.24 acres, more or less, of State of New Mexico lands, situated in Lea County, New Mexico. The horizontal limits of said unit are described as follows:

Township 10 South, Range 37 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 36: All

Township 11 South, Range 37 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 1: All

Section 2: Lots 1 and 2, S/2 SW/4, SE/4

Sections 10 through 16: All

Section 23: N/2 N/2

Section 24: N/2

Township 11 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 4: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, S/2 (All)

Section 5: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, S/2 (All)

Section 6: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, S/2 (All)

Sections 7 through 9: All

Sections 17: All

Section 18: W/2

Section 19: N/2

Section 20: All

2. The Unit Agreement has been approved by a sufficient percentage of the

interest owners within the proposed Unit Area to provide effective control of unit operations.

3. The Applicant, Yates Petroleum Corporation, is designated as Unit Operator in

said Unit Agreement and all oil and gas in the all formations are unitized.

4. The proposed Unit Area covers all, or substantially all, of the geological

structures or anomaly involved.

5. Said Unit Agreement and the unitized operation and management of the Unit

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be given as required by law and the rules of the Division, and that the West Echols State

Exploratory Unit be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

HOLLAND & HART LLP

William **F**. Carr

ATTORNEYS FOR YATES PETROLEUM

CORPORATION

CASE NO. 129/1 : Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for approval of a Unit Agreement, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval of the West Echols State Exploratory Unit for an area comprising 11,284.24 acres of State of New Mexico lands located in Section 36 of Township 10 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23,and 24 of Township 11 South, Range 37 East, NMPM and Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of Township 11 South, Range 38 East, NMPM which is located approximately 10 miles northeast of Tatum, New Mexico.