STATE OF NEW MEXICO 1 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT 2 3 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION 4 IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION 5 DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING: CASE NO. 10949 6 7 APPLICATION OF SAMEDAN OIL CORPORATION 8 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 9 EXAMINER HEARING 10 BEFORE: Michael E. Stogner, Hearing Examiner 11 March 31, 1994 12 13 Santa Fe, New Mexico 14 This matter came on for hearing before the 15 Oil Conservation Division on March 31, 1994, at 16 17 Morgan Hall, State Land Office Building, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Deborah 18 O'Bine, RPR, Certified Court Reporter No. 63, for the 19 State of New Mexico. 20 21 ORIGINAL 22 APR 27 1994 23 24



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EXAMINER STOGNER: At this time, I'll call 1 2 Case No. 10949, which is the application of Samedan 3 Oil Corporation for compulsory pooling and an unorthodox oil well location, Lea County, New 4 Mexico. 5 At this time, I'll call for appearances. 6 7 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law firm 8 9 Campbell, Carr, Berge & Sheridan. I represent Samedan Oil Corporation in this case, and I have two 10 11 witnesses. EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other appearances? 12 Will the witnesses please stand at this 13 time to be sworn? 14 (Witnesses sworn.) 15 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we 16 would call David D. Smith. 17 DAVID D. SMITH, 18 the witness herein, after having been first duly 19 20 sworn upon his oath, was examined and testified as 21 follows: EXAMINATION 22 BY MR. CARR: 23 Would you state your full name for the 24 Q.

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record, please.

- A. My full name is David Dennis Smith.
- Q. And where do you reside?
- A. I reside in Houston, Texas -- Spring, Texas, at this point.
 - Q. A suburb of Houston?
 - A. Correct.

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- Q. By whom are you employed?
- A. I'm employed by Samedan Oil Corporation.
- Q. What is your current capacity or title with Samedan?
- A. I'm the senior-most landman with the company at this point.
- Q. Mr. Smith, have you previously testified before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division?
- 15 A. No I have not.
 - Q. Could you summarize for Mr. Stogner your educational background and then briefly review your work experience?
 - A. Yes. I graduated from high school in
 Lions Township in Lions Township High School in La
 Grange, Illinois. I attended Arizona State
 University. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science
 Degree in Business Administration. Following
 college, I went to work for Amoco Production
 Company. I worked approximately three years in their

production department. I switched over to their land department in 1978. In late 1979, I went to work for Samedan Oil Corporation, and I'm in my 15th year with Samedan at this point.

- Q. How long have you actually been working as a petroleum landman?
 - A. Sixteen years.
- Q. Are you familiar with the application filed in this case on behalf of Samedan?
- 10 A. Yes, I am.

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- Q. Are you familiar with the subject area?
- 12 A. Yes, I am.
 - Q. Are you also a registered petroleum landman?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
 - MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, at this time I would tender David D. Smith as an expert witness in petroleum land matters.
- EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Smith is so qualified.
 - Q. (BY MR. CARR) Could you briefly summarize what Samedan seeks with this application?
 - A. Samedan is seeking to obtain an order for compulsory pooling of all interests underlying the northeast of the northwest quarter of Section 26,

Township 23 South, Range 37 East, Lea County, New Mexico, and the approval of an unorthodox well location situated 1,050 feet from the north line and 1,650 feet from the west line of Section 26. Plus we are requesting a risk penalty of cost plus 200 percent.

- Q. What is the name of the proposed well?
- A. The name of the proposed well is the Hunt No. 1.
- Q. What is the standard spacing for wells to the proposed depth in this area? 40 acres?
- A. This is 40 acres. It does not follow under any field rules.
- Q. In effect, the location you're proposing
 is 60 feet too close to the south line of the 40-acre
 tract; is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.

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- Q. Have you prepared certain exhibits for presentation here today?
 - A. Yes, I have.
- Q. Could you refer to what has been marked Samedan Oil Corporation Exhibit No. 1, identify that, and then review the information on this exhibit for the examiner.
 - A. Exhibit 1 depicts a Midland Map Company

base map on a scale of 1 inch = 2,000 feet, which shows in the center Section 26 of Township 23 South, Range 37 East.

Samedan's acreage position is colored in yellow. Our 40-acre proration unit is colored with red. Across the acreage position is a hachured black and white line which reflects and represents proprietary seismic data. And the pink circle is the proposed location which falls on the proprietary seismic data.

- Q. You're familiar with the status of the ownership in this area?
 - A. Yes, I am.

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- Q. And the ownership as reflected on this portion of the Midland Map Company map is correct?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. The reason for the unorthodox location is to place the well on the seismic line shown on this exhibit?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. What is the primary objective in this well?
- A. We are targeting the Ellenburger at 11,000 feet.
 - Q. Could you identify what has been marked

Samedan Exhibit No. 2, please.

- A. Exhibit No. 2 is a list of owners under the -- actually, it's owners under the entire east half, northwest quarter. It's common title even though we are just identifying 40 acres of it, but it reflects committed working interest owners that are participating in the drilling of the well, it reflects two uncommitted owners, and then the royalty interest owners who are leased.
- Q. Do you happen to know the percentage ownership at least of the uncommitted owners in this tract?
- A. Yes, I do. Geodyne Nominee Corporation, which, incidentally, has just been acquired by Samson Resources owns 2/7's of the minerals. Expressed in a decimal manner, it is a .2857142 or 28.57 percent of the minerals.

Elma May Hunt Nichols owns 3/224's or decimally a .0133928, expressed as a percentage as 1.33928 percent.

- Q. These are the only two interest owners that have not been voluntarily committed to the development of this tract in this proposed well; is that correct?
 - A. That is true.

- Q. So what percentage of the acreage is voluntarily committed to this project?
- A. Right now we have voluntary commitments of 70.0893 percent.
- Q. Let's move to Exhibit No. 3. Could you identify that, please.
- A. Exhibit No. 3 is Samedan's AFE, as you would call it, for the drilling of the Hunt No. 1.
- Q. Mr. Smith, there is an error on this AFE, isn't there?
 - A. That is correct.
 - O. What is that?

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- A. The error is the proposed TD. That is the Fusselman, which is what we mapped our structure on. The proposed TD should be 11,000 feet.
- Q. The totals on this exhibit, both dry hole and for a completed well, do those reflect drilling a well to the 11,000-foot depth?
- A. Yes, they do.
 - Q. What are those totals?
- A. Those totals of \$359,400 to casing point and a total producer cost of \$590,400.
 - Q. Have these costs been accepted by the other operators who have voluntarily agreed to participate in this well?

- A. Yes, they have. Both Yates Petroleum and Roy G. Barton have executed this AFE.
- Q. At this time we have just the interest of Geodyne or Samson and Elma May Hunt Nichols outstanding; is that right?
 - A. That is correct.

- Q. Could you first address the efforts that have been made to obtain the voluntary joinder of the Geodyne interest and review that for Mr. Stogner?
- A. Yes. If you will look at Exhibit 4, we initially approached Geodyne in August of 1992, making an offer for an oil and gas lease. There's a lot of correspondence that's gone back and forth, but along about August of 1993, we again recontacted them. They asked for an AFE, which we, at that point, sent to them.

On December 10th of 1993, we sent them a well proposal or, as an alternative, a request for a short-term oil and gas lease with a fairly substantial royalty.

Along with that December correspondence, we sent them a plat.

Our next contact with them was in February, at which point they requested -- we had several verbal contacts with them, and we've been

talking with them almost daily at this point, but we ended up sending them a Joint Operating Agreement. At that point they came back and wanted to see our proprietary seismic data. Yates Petroleum said no, we're not going to let you see that. There's a February 15th letter from Samson to Yates requesting a right to see that data.

- Q. This data is actually owned 50-50 by you and Yates Petroleum; is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.
 - Q. All right.

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A. And we could not show them the data.

Then there's a letter on March 3rd where we agreed finally that we would let them come into our office and review the data insofar as it affected their minerals. We ended up sending them a Joint Operating Agreement, and they did agree that they would either join or farm out.

There's a letter here dated March 4th where they agreed that they could be at our offices on the 11th or 12th of March, but they ended up not showing up.

We sent them a confidentiality agreement on March 10, which again showed the prospect area and the seismic line that we would show them. We sent

them an operating agreement for their execution on March 24th.

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- Q. Since that time, have you been in verbal communication with them?
- A. Yes. We spoke with them just about every day, and what they were trying to do was sign the Joint Operating Agreement and fax it to us prior to the hearing.
 - Q. But you have not received that?
- A. I have no knowledge of whether we have received it or not.
- Q. At this point in time, you still sort of are in a position with an agreement to agree; is that right?
- A. Right. They have agreed, but we just haven't seen the paperwork.
- Q. When those documents are received, will Samedan advise the Division that agreement has been reached with Geodyne, and they would no longer be subject to this hearing?
 - A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. What about the interest of Elma May Hunt Nichols? What is the status of that?
- A. Elma May Hunt Nichols owns a 1.33928 percent interest under this acreage. We have tried

at length to locate her and have been unsuccessful. The last place we know of her whereabouts was in Dallas, Texas, as of late 1985.

Our oil and gas brokers that we have utilized have searched extensively. They've even gone so far as to locate her address by virtue of other minerals she owns that were under a onceproducing well. We tracked her down to Dallas. When we called the residence at that address, they said they had no knowledge of her.

We checked the Tarrant County probate records and could not find any probate information on her. The only thing at this point we have not done is gone door-to-door on that street, knocked on doors and asking if anyone knows what happened to her.

- Q. Do you intend to do that?
- A. We do intend to do that.
- Q. But at this point in time, you have been unable to locate Elma May Hunt Nichols?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. Is Exhibit No. 4 a copy of letters that confirm the testimony you've just given concerning your efforts to locate and obtain voluntary joinder of the interest owners in this tract?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Is Exhibit No. 5 an affidavit with attached letters and return receipts confirming that notice of this hearing has been provided in accordance with the Oil Conservation Division?
 - A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. And there's a returned letter in there showing that we've attempted to notify the Nichols' interest?
 - A. Correct.

- Q. Could you identify what has been marked Samedan Exhibit 6?
- A. Yes. Exhibit 6 is a map of this portion of Lea County, New Mexico, that we have attempted to identify the nearest Ellenburger production to our location.

The blue circles indicate former

Ellenburger producers that are now inactive. Section

26 lies just east of the center of this map. The

blue circles there represent the old Teague Field,

which is now depleted.

Down to the southeast of the map is the State Line Field which has one active well depicted by the dark circle.

Q. That is the only active Ellenburger well in the area?

A. Correct.

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- Q. Is this distance from existing production the basis for Samedan's belief that this is a high-risk venture?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. What penalty does Samedan seek be assessed against nonconsenting interest owners?
 - A. We seek cost plus 200 percent.
- Q. You are attempting to place the well, as you previously indicated, on the seismic line; is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. Will a geologic witness review that data for Mr. Stogner?
- 15 A. Yes.
 - Q. Does Samedan believe they have a chance of a well drilled at this location would not be a commercial success?
 - A. There is that probability.
 - Q. Have you made an estimate of the overhead and administrative cost while drilling this well and also while producing this well if in fact it is successful?
- A. Yes. Our Joint Operating Agreement
 exhibit reflects a drilling well rate of \$5,146 and a

producing well rate of \$502.

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- Q. These are the figures that have been agreed to by Yates and Barton?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. How do they compare to the Ernst & Young figures?
- A. Those are the current Ernst & Young figures for a well of this depth in this area.
- Q. Do you recommend that these figures be incorporated into the order that results from this hearing?
 - A. Yes, I do.
- Q. Does Samedan request to be designated operator of the well?
 - A. Yes, that is correct.
- Q. In your opinion, will approval of this application and the drilling of this well be in the best interest of conservation, the prevention of waste, and the protection of correlative rights?
 - A. Yes, it will.
- Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 6 either prepared by you or compiled at your direction?
 - A. Yes, they were.
- MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we move the admission of Samedan Exhibits 1 through 6.

EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 1 through 6 will be admitted into evidence at this time.

MR. CARR: That concludes my direct examination of Mr. Smith.

EXAMINATION

BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

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- Q. Mr. Smith, on Exhibit No. 3, you stated that there was a correction that needs to be done, and that should be Fusselman down to 11,000 feet as the proposed TD; is that correct?
- A. No. Actually, these are the figures for an Ellenburger objective. The only error here was the proposed TD in the upper right-hand portion of the document. That should be 11,000 feet.
 - Q. Oh, everything else is correct?
 - A. Everything else is correct.
- Q. I'm sorry, I misunderstood. I'd changed that to Fusselman. So it should remain Ellenburger?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And only the TD should go down to 11,000.
- As far as Miss Hunt's interest, when did you first start searching for her address and trying to notify her?
- A. Well, we performed our initial lease takeoff, mineral takeoff, at about mid-1992, and we

instructed our brokers at that time to offer oil and gas leases. So our search started at that time. We intensified our search once we got closer to wanting to cause some drilling activity.

- Q. So you essentially started at the same time that you began looking -- I'm sorry -- to begin your negotiations with Geodyne?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Overhead charges, if I wrote them down correctly, was \$5,146 for drilling and \$502 for producing?
 - A. Yes, that is correct.

EXAMINER STOGNER: I don't believe I have any other questions of this witness at this time, Mr. Carr.

MR. CARR: Thank you, Mr. Stogner.

At this time we would call Robert

Thornton.

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ROBERT THORNTON,

the witness herein, after having been first duly
sworn upon his oath, was examined and testified as
follows:

EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. CARR:

Q. Would you state your name for the record,

1 please. Robert Thornton. 2 Α. 3 Q. Where do you reside? Midland, Texas. Α. 5 By whom are you employed? Q. 6 By Thornton Operating Corporation. Α. 7 And in this case, for whom are you Q. working? 8 Samedan Oil Corporation. 9 Α. What is your capacity in this case? 10 Q. 11 Α. I am a geologist, petroleum engineer. Have you previously testified before this 12 0. Division? 13 Α. It's been many years ago. 14 Yes. I'm not 15 exactly sure what the date was. Could you summarize for Mr. Stogner your 16 educational background and then briefly review your 17 18 work experience? Okay. In 1971, I graduated with a B.A. in 19 Α. 20 economics from the University of Texas. Then in 1979, also from the University of Texas, I graduated 21 with a Bachelor of Science in petroleum engineering, 22 and I was one course short of a geophysics degree. 23 24 Subsequent to that, I went to work with

Houston Oil & Minerals as a geologist for a one-year

period of time. And then subsequent to that I've been, during the entire period, I've been an independent geologist and operator, working in New Mexico.

- Q. Are you familiar with the application of Samedan in this case?
 - A. Yes, I am.
- Q. Are you generally familiar with the area surrounding the proposed well?
- A. Yes, I am.

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MR. CARR: We would tender Mr. Thornton as an expert witness in petroleum geology and engineering.

EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Thornton is so qualified.

- Q. (BY MR. CARR) Mr. Thornton, have you an exhibit to present here today?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Is that what has been marked Samedan Exhibit No. 7?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. What is this?
- A. What this is is an interpretation map.

 They're 2-D seismic line that they have. The seismic lines are marked on the map from the interpretation

-- this is basically a geologic map inferred from the data from those two seismic lines.

- Q. Have you had an opportunity to review this exhibit?
 - A. Yes, I have.
- Q. And other geological information on the area?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. In your opinion, is this a reasonable geologic interpretation of the Ellenburger formation in the subject area?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. There is a circle with a well symbol on it. What is that?
- A. That is the proposed location for the Hunt No. 1, Samedan Oil Corporation, Hunt No. 1 Well.
 - O. That well is located on the seismic line?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Based on your experience in the area, with the amount of data that is available on the Ellenburger under this tract, why would you place the well at this unorthodox location?
- A. Well, from the data that we have, the best location is located on the seismic line.
 - Q. If you move away from that actual seismic

line, what happens to the risk involved?

A. Well, it goes up substantially.

Regardless of how thorough the interpretation is on any seismic data, there's always the risk once you start getting off the line that produces uncertainty.

The only data points you have are right along the line, and you draw the best inferences that you can from that data, but positions of faults and things like that can move slightly, once you start getting off the lines.

- Q. This well is 60 feet from a standard location. Do you believe that by moving back to the standard location or, in fact, to any standard location on this 40 that the risk of a successful well would be substantially increased?
- A. Yes, of an unsuccessful well, yes, would be increased.
- Q. Do you concur with the statements made by Mr. Smith that, because of the distance from any existing Ellenburger production, that a risk penalty of 200 percent would be appropriate?
- A. That seems reasonable for the depth of this well and the fact that you're so far from a producing field.

- 24 1 Q. Do you have anything further to add to 2 your testimony? 3 No, sir. Α. ο. Have you reviewed Exhibit No. 7? 5 Α. Yes, sir. 6 In your opinion, is it an accurate interpretation of the Ellenburger under the subject 7 area? 8 9 Α. It's a reasonable interpretation. 10 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we 11 would move the admission of Samedan Exhibit No. 7. EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibit No. 7 will be 12 admitted into evidence. 13 14 MR. CARR: That concludes my examination of this witness. 15 16 EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER STOGNER: 17 18 Mr. Thornton, I show this to be a Q. Fusselman structure map, but yet you're going after 19 20 the Ellenburger. Could you explain to me the relationship? 21 22 The Ellenburger is below the Fusselman.
 - CUMBRE COURT REPORTING
 P.O. Box 9262
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 85704-9262
 (505) 984-2244 FAX: 984-2092

We could present maps on every horizon that we have

in the area, but the Fusselman is also an objective.

The Ellenburger is just the deepest objective that

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we're drilling to. It's a lot easier to map the

Fusselman with seismic data as the data, and

basically what we're hoping is that we have our

Fusselman structure here, and that is to drill the

Fusselman; that's the potential reservoir. And then

we're hoping not to fumble on the way down to the

Ellenburger is basically what it amounts to.

- Q. I show a number of plugged and abandoned wells in the same section or around the area. I'm assuming those are plugged and abandoned wells?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Were those also shallow or too shallow to have penetrated this depth?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. To be used for any geological purposes?
- A. Yes. Basically, the field, the nearest field of Ellenburger wells is the Teague Field, which is to the west approximately three quarters of a mile. On Exhibit 7, they would be these wells that are west of the Fault A on our structure map.

This structure over to the west is higher, and you have a field that consists of ten wells over there in the Teague Field in the Ellenburger. And then our field is actually, we're anticipating it to be approximately 1,300 feet lower than that field but

on a structural high. 1 2 Q. Due to the faulting in which you're showing? 3 In other words, this Fault A is Α. Yes. upthrown to the west and downthrown to the east. 5 EXAMINER STOGNER: I have a question for 6 7 you, Mr. Smith. As far as the unorthodox portion of this application, you're moving essentially closer to 8 the proration unit line to the south, but that 9 exploration unit to the south is part of the same 10 lease? 11 MR. SMITH: Yes, it is, identical mineral 12 13 ownership. EXAMINER STOGNER: Now, the lease to the 14 west is still owned by Samedan or controlled by 15 Samedan? 16 MR. SMITH: Yes, it is. It's a separate 17 ownership, and we are in a legal location in a 18 westward direction. 19 20 EXAMINER STOGNER: I show that on your Exhibit No. 1. That's also a federal lease; is that 21 correct? 22 MR. SMITH: That is correct. 23 24 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other questions of

this witness?

MR. CARR: No, sir. 1 EXAMINER STOGNER: He may be excused. 2 MR. CARR: That's all we have in this 3 case, Mr. Stogner. 4 5 **EXAMINER STOGNER:** Does anybody else have 6 anything further in Case 10949? Then this case will 7 be taken under advisement. 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 I do hereby ce diff that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in 18 the Examiner hearing of Case No. 10949. heard by may on 3/6 March 19 1994 . 20 , Examiner Off Conservation Division 21 22 23 24 25

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO SS. 5 COUNTY OF SANTA FE I, Deborah O'Bine, Certified Shorthand 6 Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that I 7 caused my notes to be transcribed under my personal 8 supervision, and that the foregoing transcript is a 9 10 true and accurate record of the proceedings of said hearing. 11 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative 12 or employee of any of the parties or attorneys 13 14 involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter. 15 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL, April 11, 1994. 16 17 18 DEBORAH O'BINE 19 CCR No. 63 OFFICIAL SEAL 20 Deborah O'Bine NOTARY PUBLIC 21 22 23 24