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

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Santa Fe Energy
Operating Partners, L.P. for
directional drilling, Eddy Case 10098
County, New Mexico.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, EXAMINER

STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
September 19, 1990

A P P E A R A N C E S

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FOR THE DIVISION:

ROBERT G. STOVALL
Attorney at Law
Legal Counsel to the Division
State Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

OCD CHIEF ENGINEER:

JIM MORROW
Chief Engineer to the Division
State Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

FOR THE APPLICANT:

JAMES BRUCE, ESQ.
HINKLE, COX, EATON, COFFIELD
and HENSLEY
500 Marquette, N.W. Suite 800
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102-2121

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I N D E X

Page Number

Appearances

2

1. GARY GREEN

Examination by Mr. Bruce

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Examination by the Hearing Examiner

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2. DARRELL ROBERTS

Examination by Mr. Bruce

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Examination by the Hearing Examiner

11

Examination by Mr. Morrow

13

Further Examination by the Hearing Examiner

13

Certificate of Reporter

15

E X H I B I T S

Exhibit No. 1

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Exhibit No. 2

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Exhibit No. 3

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Exhibit No. 4

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Exhibit No. 5

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Exhibit No. 6

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 HEARING EXAMINER: At this time we'll call Case
3 10098.

4 MR. STOVALL: Application of Santa Fe Energy
5 Operating Partners, L.P. for directional drilling, Eddy County,
6 New Mexico.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: Appearances in this case?

8 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, my name is Jim Bruce from
9 the Hinkle law firm in Albuquerque representing the applicant.
10 I have two witnesses to be sworn.

11 HEARING EXAMINER: Any other appearances?

12 Will the witnesses please stand to be sworn in.

13 GARY GREEN,

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

16 EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. BRUCE:

18 Q. Will you please state your name and the city of
19 residence.

20 A. My name is Gary Green. I live in Midland, Texas.

21 Q. Who are you employed by and in what occupation?

22 A. Employed by Santa Fe Energy Company as a landman.

23 Q. And have you previously testified before the OCD as
24 a landman?

25 A. Yes, I have.

1 Q. And are you familiar with the land matters involving
2 Case 10098?

3 A. Yes, I am.

4 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, is the witness acceptable?

5 HEARING EXAMINER: He is.

6 Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) Mr. Green, briefly what does Santa
7 Fe Energy seek in this case?

8 A. Santa Fe seeks approval to directionally drill a
9 well from the north half of Section 9 to the south half of
10 Section 4 all in Township 23 South, Range 31 East, Eddy County,
11 New Mexico.

12 Q. Why does Santa Fe Energy need to directionally drill
13 the well?

14 A. South half of Section 4 is in the pot ash area and
15 we're told by the BLM that we cannot have a surface location in
16 the south half of Section 4. Both the BLM and AMC Pot Ash
17 Company, the pot ash lessee, have approved our surface location
18 in the north half of Section 9.

19 (Thereupon, Exhibit 1 was
20 marked for identification.)

21 Q. Would you refer to Exhibit No. 1 and describe the
22 well location.

23 A. Exhibit No. 1 is the land plat showing the acreage
24 colored in yellow as acreage where Santa Fe is the operator
25 and/or lease owner. It shows a surface location 990 feet from

1 the north line and 1,980 from the west line of Section 9 with
2 the bottomhole location being 990 -- or 900 feet from the --
3 let me get my bearings right here.

4 (Mr. Stovall is no longer present.)

5 Q. Will the bottomhole location be a standard location
6 for the south half of section --

7 A. Yes, bottomhole location will be a standard
8 location.

9 Q. And is this a Morrow test?

10 A. Yes, it is.

11 Q. Okay. Who are the operators or lessees in Sections
12 9 and 4?

13 A. Santa Fe and its partners out in Section 9. Santa
14 Fe and Yates Petroleum on Section 4.

15 Q. And was Yates notified of this case?

16 A. Yes, they were.

17 (Thereupon, Exhibit 2 was
18 marked for identification.)

19 Q. And is the notice letter and the certified return
20 receipt submitted as Exhibit No. 2?

21 A. Yes, they are.

22 Q. In your opinion is this case in the interest of
23 conservation and prevention of waste?

24 A. Yes, it is.

25 Q. And were Exhibits 1 and 2 prepared by you or under

1 your direction?

2 A. Yes, they were.

3 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move the admission of
4 Exhibits 1 and 2.

5 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 1 and 2 will be admitted
6 as evidence.

7 EXAMINATION

8 BY THE HEARING EXAMINER:

9 Q. Mr. Green, was this PG Federal 4 well No. 1 the
10 subject of a pooling case recently?

11 A. Yes, sir, it was.

12 Q. Have you received an order in that case?

13 A. I believe the order was signed this morning.

14 Q. Now I believe your testimony was that the surface
15 location was 990, but the ad shows 900 feet from the north
16 line.

17 A. Yes, it is 900.

18 Q. Correct, it is 900 feet?

19 A. 900 from the north line.

20 Q. And 1,980 feet from the west line?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. That has been approved by the BLM?

23 A. No, we have not got our drilling order approved. We
24 have been talking to the BLM and the AMC. They have told us
25 that would be accepted.

1 Q. That will be acceptable?

2 A. That will be acceptable, but we have not got our
3 approval.

4 Q. Okay. You said that Santa Fe and Yates together own
5 the acreage colored in yellow on Exhibit 1.

6 A. Santa Fe and Yates own the acreage in Section 3, 4,
7 and 5. Yates does not own acreage in Section 9 --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- 10 or 8.

10 HEARING EXAMINER: I believe that's all I have. The
11 witness may be excused.

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

15 EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. BRUCE:

17 Q. Would you please state your name for the record.

18 A. My name is Darrell Roberts.

19 Q. And where do you reside?

20 A. In Midland, Texas.

21 Q. And who are you employed by and in what capacity?

22 A. Santa Fe Energy Resources as a senior drilling
23 engineer.

24 Q. Have you previously testified before the OCD as an
25 engineer?

1 A. Yes, I have.

2 Q. And are you familiar with the engineering matters
3 related to Case 10098?

4 A. Yes, I am.

5 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, is the witness acceptable?

6 HEARING EXAMINER: He is.

7 (Thereupon, Exhibit 3 was
8 marked for identification.)

9 Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) Would you please refer to Exhibit
10 No. 3 and briefly describe its contents for the Examiner.

11 A. Okay. This is a survey plat showing the surface
12 location in Section 9, which is 990 from the north and 1,980
13 from the west. And the bottomhole location at 660 from the
14 south line and 1,980 from the west line, which would give us a
15 total displacement of 1,560 feet. And this is to avoid the
16 pot ash.

17 Q. Okay. And would you please move on to Exhibit No. 4
18 and outline the drilling procedure.

19 A. Okay. This is a generalized drilling procedure. It
20 states that we would be setting surface at 600 feet,
21 intermediate casing at 4,150. And at that point we would be
22 drilling an eight and three-quarter hole to a depth of 6,000
23 feet. At that point we plan to deviate the wellbore to a north
24 direction. And I'll go through the remaining of this
25 procedure. It's covered in further documents. It's submitted

1 as a matter of record.

2 (Thereupon, Exhibits 5 and 6
3 were marked for identification.)

4 Q. Okay. Would you please refer -- why don't we refer
5 to Exhibits 5 and 6 together.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. And outline the remaining procedure of the well.

8 A. Exhibit 5 is just a tabulation of the wellbore and
9 the directional plan as we propose giving the true vertical
10 depths and the vertical sections and inclinations of the
11 wellbore.

12 It is better depicted on Exhibit No. 6, which shows
13 that we'll be making a motor run around 6,000 feet and kicking
14 the wellbore to the north, and inclination of five to six
15 degrees. And then making a deflection assembly run to a point
16 of inclination of 20 degrees. At that point we will run
17 another assembly that will hold the inclination at 20 degrees
18 and further deviate the wellbore to a point of around 10,000
19 feet, which the deviation, the vertical section would be around
20 1,200 feet.

21 At that point we will run a drop assembly, whether
22 that will allow the wellbore to drop at one degree per hundred,
23 and bring the wellbore back to vertical at approximately 12,000
24 feet. And at that point we'll be running seven-inch casing,
25 seven-inch secondary intermediate casing. And from that point

1 we will drill the well vertically into the Morrow section at a
2 depth of 15,000 feet.

3 Q. And will Santa Fe Energy comply with all
4 requirements of Rule 111?

5 A. Yes, we will.

6 Q. In your opinion would the granting of this
7 application be in the interest of conservation and prevention
8 of waste?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. And were Exhibits 3 through 6 prepared by you or
11 under your direction?

12 A. Yes, they were.

13 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move the admission of
14 Exhibits 3 through 6.

15 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 3 through 6 will be
16 admitted as evidence.

17 (Mr. Stovall is now present.)

18 EXAMINATION

19 BY THE HEARING EXAMINER:

20 Q. Mr. Roberts, has Santa Fe drilled directional wells
21 in this area?

22 A. No, they haven't. This will be the first one.

23 Q. How confident are you that you can get to the
24 proposed bottomhole location?

25 A. Well, there is offset wells that have been drilled

1 this same manner. Santa Fe was not the operator, but we feel
2 real confident that we can. We can steer the wellbore, it's a
3 common practice, that will allow us to direct the wellbore
4 where we desire.

5 Q. What type of surveys or pools do you run while
6 drilling or after you finish drilling to ensure the -- to
7 determine the location?

8 A. Before we make our motor run we run a gyro surveys
9 that will take surveys at hundred foot intervals. Then while
10 we're directionally drilling we'll be running a steering tool
11 that allows us to monitor the inclination out so the azimuth of
12 the wellbore -- and if the wellbore is not going in the
13 direction we desire then we can make motor runs to correct and
14 direct the wellbore in a northerly direction.

15 Okay. I'd like to point out on, I guess this is
16 Exhibit 1, there is Section 7 and then also in Section 6 to the
17 west of our proposed location, Bass Enterprises has drilled two
18 directional wells through the Morrow. And this, both of these
19 were drilled to avoid the pot ash.

20 Q. I see. Do you run a directional survey prior to
21 kicking off?

22 A. Yes, we do. We do that to know where we are or
23 where the wellbore is. And then we can direct the bit in a
24 direction from that point. So we'll have the entire wellbore
25 survey both, azimuth and inclination.

1 Q. The special casing provisions in this area, do you
2 know if those have been fully complied with or been approved?

3 A. Yes. Santa Fe has drilled two vertical wells in
4 this area, so we're in full compliance with all that.

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. MORROW:

7 Q. Would that still be a regular location if you were
8 150 foot off in the south direction?

9 A. I don't think so. No, I don't think so. You know,
10 it's going to be a lay down, and the closest we can be to the
11 south line is 660 feet.

12 Q. I understood when you target you gave yourself that
13 much room.

14 A. Yeah. We were asking for a tolerance of 150-foot
15 radius to allow us to hit that target.

16 The primary reason for that is just the fact that
17 it's not an exacting science and this allows us some tolerance
18 to be able to hit the target.

19 FURTHER EXAMINATION

20 BY THE HEARING EXAMINER:

21 Q. Now your target is 1,980 from the west, 660 from the
22 south?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. That's the target. Now you want - - you are asking
25 for 150 tolerance?

1 A. Right.

2 Q. Which would put the well at an unorthodox bottomhole
3 location.

4 A. (Witness nodding head.)

5 Q. If you in fact go south of the 660.

6 A. That's true.

7 HEARING EXAMINER: It might be wise to point out at
8 this time that if you in fact bottom at an unorthodox location
9 you may be required to come back in for approval.

10 MR. BRUCE: We understand that, Mr. Examiner.

11 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.

12 I have no further questions. Any other questions?

13 The witness may be excused.

14 Anything further in this case?

15 MR. BRUCE: No, sir.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: If not, Case 10098 will be taken
17 under advisement.

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I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 10098
heard by me on September 19, 1980.

David R. Citard, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division

