1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO 1 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT 2 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION 3 IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION 5 DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING: 6 CASE NO. 10685 CASE NO. 10686 APPLICATIONS OF HANSON OPERATING 7 COMPANY 8 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 9 10 **EXAMINER HEARING** BEFORE: Michael E. Stogner, Hearing Examiner 11 12 March 18, 1993 Santa Fe, New Mexico 13 14 15 This matter came on for hearing before the Oil Conservation Division on March 18, 1993, at the 16 Oil Conservation Division Conference Room, State Land 17 Office Building, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New 18 19 Mexico, before Deborah O'Bine, RPR, Certified Court 20 Reporter No. 63, for the State of New Mexico. 21 22 APR | 2 | 1993 23

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

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APPEARANCES 1 2 ROBERT G. STOVALL, ESQ. FOR THE DIVISION: 3 General Counsel Oil Conservation Commission State Land Office Building 4 310 Old Santa Fe Trail 5 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 6 7 FOR THE APPLICANT CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE & AND YATES PETROLEUM SHERIDAN, P.A. P.O. Box 2208 8 CORPORATION: Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 BY: WILLIAM F. CARR, ESQ. 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

EXAMINER STOGNER: Call next case No. 10685.

MR. STOVALL: Application of Hanson
Operating Company for statutory unitization, Eddy
County, New Mexico.

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EXAMINER STOGNER: Call for appearances.

MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is William F. Carr. I'm with the Santa Fe law firm, Campbell, Carr, Berge & Sheridan. I represent Hanson Operating Company, Inc., and I have three witnesses.

At this time, Mr. Examiner, I would request that this case be consolidated for the purpose of hearing with Case No. 10686, which is the waterflood project within the unit area. Separate orders we would request be heard, but the testimony would be overlapping.

EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Carr. Are there any other appearances in 685?

MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, I also need to enter an appearance in the case on behalf of Yates Petroleum Corporation. Yates is in support of the application.

EXAMINER STOGNER: I'm sorry, Yates
Petroleum Corp.?

MR. CARR: Yes, sir.

EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other appearances? 1 At this time I'll case No. 10686. 2 MR. STOVALL: Application of Hanson 3 Operating Company, Inc., for approval of a waterflood 4 project, Eddy County, New Mexico. 5 EXAMINER STOGNER: Other than Mr. Carr 6 7 entering an appearance as far as Hanson and Yates, are there any other appearances in either of these cases? 8 9 Thank you, Mr. Carr. Will the witnesses please stand and be 10 sworn, all three of you? 11 (Witnesses sworn.) 12 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we 13 14 call Ken Hammonds. KENTON A. HAMMONDS, 15 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn 16 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows: 17 EXAMINATION 18 19 BY MR. CARR: Will you state your name for the record, 20 Q. please. 21 22 Α. Yes, sir. Kenton A. Hammonds. 23 Q. By whom are you employed? 24 Hanson Operating Company. Α. 25 Q. And in what capacity?

A. As landman.

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- Q. Have you previously testified before this division?
 - A. No, sir, I have not.
- Q. Could you summarize for Mr. Stogner your educational background?
- A. I have a B.A. from Texas Tech University in government and subsequent education including designation as CPL.
 - Q. When did you receive your degree?
 - A. In 1973.
- Q. Could you briefly review your work experience since that time?
- A. I've served 12 years in the oil and gas industry, and prior to that time as an abstracter.
- Q. Has the work with the oil and gas industry been as a petroleum landman?
 - A. Yes, sir, it has.
- Q. Are you familiar with the applications filed in each of these consolidated cases?
 - A. Yes, sir, I am.
- Q. Are you familiar with the status of the lands involved in the proposed Benson Shugart Waterflood Unit?
- A. Yes, sir.

MR. CARR: We would tender Mr. Hammonds as an expert witness and petroleum landman.

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MR. STOVALL: Before you do, you referred to CPL. We may know what it is, but the record won't. What does it stand for?

THE WITNESS: It's Certified Professional Landman by the American Association of Petroleum Landmen.

MR. STOVALL: Is that a designation that

has to be earned, or what are the requirements for that?

THE WITNESS: It is an eight-hour exam and a limited -- or I think about ten years of experience in landman work in the oil industry.

MR. STOVALL: Thank you.

EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Hammonds is so qualified.

- Q. (BY MR. CARR) Mr. Hammonds, would you briefly state what Hanson seeks with this application?
- A. We seek statutory unitization of our proposed Benson Shugart Waterflood Unit and approval of our proposed waterflood project in that unit.
 - Q. How large is the proposed unit?
 - A. Nine hundred and eleven acres.
- Q. Could you refer to what has been marked for identification as Hanson Exhibit No. 1, and first identify this and review the information on this for

the examiner?

A. Exhibit 1 is our unit area plat. I've colored in yellow the proposed Benson Shugart Waterflood Unit and in blue an additional proposed waterflood that I think the Commission is familiar with, proposed by Yates Petroleum Corporation.

- Q. Are there other waterfloods in this area?
- A. Yes, sir. Previously existing floods in Section 30 to the east as shown on the plat, Southland Royalty has operated a waterflood there for many years. I think in its most extended term of its life. And to the south, B & A Operating operates the Culwin Queen Unit.
- Q. Could you initially review for the examiner the efforts made by Hanson and Yates to develop this area and to study the feasibility of it?
- A. Yes, sir. We began three to four years ago in a joint effort to study the feasibility of a flood in this particular area. In concert, we retained Williamson Petroleum Consultants to study from a feasibility basis the feasibility of the flood itself.

That was completed. Feasibility was highly recommended. And subsequent to that time, it was concluded that the better way to proceed would be to have two concurrent floods, cooperative in nature,

with two separate operators.

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- Q. And so on Exhibit 1, the acreage shaded in blue is the Creek AL leased waterflood that is currently being proposed by Yates?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. And then the unit area that we're talking about here today is the acreage shaded in yellow on Exhibit No. 1?
 - A. That's correct, sir.
- Q. Let's go to Exhibit No. 2, and I'd ask you to first just identify this.
- A. Exhibit No. 2 is the Unit Agreement that has been -- it's a boilerplate Unit Agreement that's been approved and recommended for our use by the BLM.
- Q. What is the character of the lands in the unit area?
- A. It is composed of both federal and fee acreage. There's no state acreage involved.
 - Q. How much of the acreage is federal?
 - A. 95, approximately 95 percent.
 - Q. And then you have how much fee?
 - A. We have a 40-acre tract that is fee.
- Q. Does this agreement provide for waterflood operations?
 - A. Yes, sir, it does.

- Q. And it sets out the participation for each of the parties?
 - A. Yes, sir.

- Q. Does it provide for the periodic filings of plans and development?
 - A. Yes, it does.
- Q. Will those plans be filed with the Oil Conservation Division at the time they're filed with other agencies?
 - A. Yes, sir, they will.
- Q. Let's refer to Exhibit B to the Unit Agreement, and I'd ask you to identify that, and then referring to that, advise the examiner of the efforts made by Hanson to obtain voluntary joinder in this project.
- A. Exhibit B, the last page of Exhibit B sums up the unit percentage participation interest on a tract-by-tract basis.
 - Q. That's the last page of Exhibit No. 2?
- A. Yes, sir, Exhibit B to that Unit
 Agreement. We have, through certified mail, contacted
 every economic interest in the unit and informed them
 of the proposal. We have 92 percent in hand approval.
- Q. Which of the working interest owners shown on the last page of Exhibit No. 2 have not voluntarily committed to this unit?

A. There are -- the first one would be Grover N. Shrader, the second one appearing on that last page. Mr. Shrader recently has elected to sell his interest to Hanson Operating Company.

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- Q. Those agreements are not in hand though?
- A. Those agreements are not in hand.

 Conversation yesterday indicated they're in the mail or deposited for collection with his bank. We're handling it through a site draft.

The Loffland Group is composed of three separate entities appearing on the exhibit. The first interest, Barbara Loffland Middleton, and the second to the last two entries at the bottom of the page, the Margaret R. Loffland Trust and Tom R. Loffland.

Summed together, their unit interest would be 2.29 percent. There has been a recent death in the family, and things were in disarray. They haven't elected to join. We think they will. We're being patient and waiting on them.

The only entity that we expect will not voluntarily join is Hilo, H-I-L-O, Development, and that's the one interest that we don't expect to voluntarily join, comprising 2.7 percent unit working interest.

Q. So if you are able to obtain voluntary joinder from the Shrader and the Loffland interest,

how much of the unit working interest ownership will be voluntarily committed to this effort?

- A. Approximately 97.3 percent.
- Q. Let's go to what has been marked as Exhibit No. 3, and I'd ask you to identify that, please.
- A. Exhibit No. 3 is a standard form Unit Operating Agreement.
- Q. Does it provide for a penalty if a party does not voluntarily pay his share of the unit expenses?
- A. Yes, sir, it does. Article 11.5 provides for a cost plus 200 percent penalty regarding a participating party who defaults.
- Q. And this is otherwise basically a standard Unit Operating Agreement?
- A. Yes, sir, it is.

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- Q. It just generally defines the rights and obligations of the parties?
 - A. Yes, sir, it does.
- Q. And you will have 97 percent of the working interest owners you believe voluntarily committed to this contract?
 - A. Yes, sir, we do.
- Q. Has Hanson reviewed the proposed unit with the Bureau of Land Management?

A. We have.

- Q. Would you identify in that regard what has been marked as Hanson Exhibit No. 4?
- A. Hanson Exhibit No. 4 is the preliminary approval letter that has been issued to us by the BLM in Roswell.
- Q. Did the BLM in fact suggest that the name be changed to the Benson Shugart Waterflood Unit?
 - A. Yes, sir, they did.
- Q. And did they propose any recommendations to the boundary of the unit?
- A. They did. They had us eliminate a 40-acre tract in Section 35, being described as the southeast of the northeast, which we had initially proposed to be included which is now excluded.
- Q. With the preliminary approval from the Bureau of Land Management, that would give you the approval of 95 percent of the royalty interest; is that right?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Now, as to the remaining 40-acre tract, has that royalty interest been voluntarily committed to the unit plan of development?
- A. 50 percent of that royalty interest is in hand, and the outstanding 50 percent, a gentleman we

have spoken with yesterday, he was unaware that he needed to do anything in regard to the unit; and so I advised him what he needed to do, and it's in the mail he advised us.

- Q. So you anticipate you'll have 100 percent of the royalty interest participating in this unit?
 - A. Yes, sir, we do.

- Q. What is the status of the overriding royalty interest in the unit area?
- A. There is a total of 4.8 percent overriding royalty interest, 4.4 percent is committed, and .37 percent is uncommitted.
- Q. In your opinion, Mr. Hammonds, have you attempted to, in good faith, identify all interest owners in the unit area and obtain their voluntary joinder?
 - A. Yes, sir, we have.
- Q. Has notice of this hearing been provided to all working interest owners and all royalty interest owners in the proposed unit area?
 - A. Yes, sir, it has.
- Q. Could you identify what has been marked as Hanson Exhibit No. 5?
- A. Exhibit No. 5 is an Affidavit confirming notice that application has been given in accordance

with the OCD rules and regulations.

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- Q. And then what is Exhibit No. 6?
- A. Exhibit No. 6 are photocopies of the two certified letters that we mailed informing all the economic interest owners in the unit of the hearing before the OCD.
- Q. As to the statutory unitization in the case, you've notified all owners in the unit area; correct?
 - A. Yes, sir, we have.
- Q. Who has been notified of the waterflood application?
 - A. The same, the same people.
- Q. Have you notified all leasehold operators within a half mile of an injection well?
 - A. Yes, sir, we have.
- Q. Have you notified the owner of the surface of every tract on which an injection will be located?
 - A. We have.
- Q. Were Exhibit 1 through 6 prepared by you?
 - A. Yes, sir, they were.
 - MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we would move the admission of Hanson Exhibits 1 through 6.
 - EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 1 through 6

16 will be admitted into evidence at this time. 1 (BY MR. CARR) Mr. Hammonds, will Hanson 2 0. also call engineering and geological witnesses to 3 present the technical aspects of this case? 4 Yes, sir. 5 Α. MR. CARR: That concludes my examination of 6 Mr. Hammonds. 7 8 EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Carr. 9 Mr. Stovall? EXAMINATION 10 BY MR. STOVALL: 11 First, Mr. Carr, Mr. Hammonds, is it Q. 12 13 correct to state that the people who have received notice are those whose names appear on the exhibits, 14 Exhibit 6? 15 16 Α. Yes, sir. We've attached the mailing list. 17 Q. Would you mind attaching that to --18 modifying the affidavit and attaching that to the affidavit to show --19 20 Α. Certainly. MR. CARR: We'll do that. 21 (BY MR. STOVALL) I notice there is a Gas 22 Q.

Balancing Agreement as part of the Unit Operating

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Agreement?

Α.

Yes, sir.

- Q. Are you familiar with that Gas Balancing Agreement?
 - A. I am.

- Q. What provision does it make, or is it an issue with respect to royalty owners, payment of sales? Do they receive their share regardless of who is selling the gas?
- A. I'm familiar with it, but I can't answer that question at this point. We would have to get into the agreement and look. We felt -- we don't anticipate gas production. We felt it prudent to attach one in anticipation of the possibility.

MR. STOVALL: Okay. I think that's all I have

EXAMINATION

BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

- Q. Just for the record, referring to Exhibit No. 1, you mentioned that the BLM had you exclude a 40-acre tract. What is that 40-acre tract?
- A. It is located in Section 35. There's a 40-acre tract that sticks down on the south end that used to include the southeast-northeast contiguous on the south side of that 40-acre tract, and it was excluded at THE BLM request.
 - Q. And that is the only exclusion that has

been made? 1 That is correct. Α. 2 And you're seeking also the 200 percent 3 Q. nonjoinder clause; is that correct? 4 Yes, sir. 5 Α. EXAMINER STOGNER: I have no other 6 questions of Mr. Hammonds at this time. 7 MR. STOVALL: Let me just, one thing on the 8 200 percent, the statute provides for actual 9 forfeiture of the interest is permissible. If I read 10 the agreement correctly, you're not actually seeking a 11 forfeiture of the interest but rather a lien on the 12 13 proceeds of production? THE WITNESS: That's correct. 14 15 EXAMINER STOGNER: Anything else of this witness? 16 MR. CARR: Nothing further on Direct. 17 EXAMINER STOGNER: He may be excused at 18 this time. 19 20 THE WITNESS: Thank you. MR. CARR: At this time we call Gary 21 Fitzsimmons. 22 23 GARY FITZSIMMONS, the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn 24 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows: 25

EXAMINATION 1 BY MR. CARR: 2 Would you state your full name for the Q. 3 record, please. 4 5 Α. Gary Fitzsimmons. By whom are you employed? 6 Q. Hanson Operating. 7 Α. And in what capacity? 8 Q. 9 Chief geologist. Α. Have you previously testified before this 10 0. Division? 11 Yes, I have. Α. 12 At the time of that testimony, were your Q. 13 credentials as a geologist accepted and made a matter 14 of record? 15 Α. Yes, they were. 16 Are you familiar with the applications 17 Q. filed in these cases on behalf of Hanson? 18 19 Α. Yes, I am. Have you made a geological study of the 20 Q. 21 portions of the formations which are involved in this 22 case? 23 Α. Yes, I have.

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acceptable?

MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications

EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Fitzsimmons is so qualified.

- Q. (BY MR. CARR) Have you prepared certain exhibits for presentation here today?
 - A. Yes, I have.

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- Q. Before we do that, could you just identify the formations we're attempting to unitize in this project?
- A. The specific formations that will be flooded include the Seven Rivers, the Queen, and the Grayburg. The overall formations included in the pool designation by the OCD include the Yates, also.
- Q. Let's go to what has been marked Hanson Exhibit No. 7, and I'd ask you to identify and review that for the examiner.
- A. This is a log of the Ginsberg Federal No.

 13. This is the well that we use to define the zones
 that we're going to be flooding.
- Q. Do you want to point out those zones for us?
- A. If you refer to the log, the Seven Rivers zone, which we have designated as the Seven Rivers C zone, is located from 2410 to 2440.
 - The Queen zone that we're going to flood is a Penrose sand, which we refer to as the third Penrose

sand, which is located from 3100 to 3112.

And the Grayburg zone that we plan to flood, we designate the third Grayburg sand which is located 3383 to 94.

- Q. Mr. Fitzsimmons, let's go now to Exhibit No. 8. Would you identify this for the examiner?
- A. Exhibit No. 8 is a Seven Rivers structure map.
 - Q. Would you review this, please.
- A. It shows that the regional dip is to the southeast. It also contains the boundary of the Seven Rivers Reservoir that we're planning on flooding. And it also contains the cross-section line A-A', which shows the specific zone that we're going to flood.
- Q. Let's move to Exhibit No. 9, your structure map on the Mid-Grayburg and now review that?
- A. This is a Middle Grayburg structure map that represents the Queen and Grayburg structure. Again, it shows the same southeast dip. Also included on the map is the boundary of the reservoir that we plan to flood in the Queen and Grayburg.

And also contained is the cross-section B-B', which shows those specific zones.

Q. If we look at Exhibits 7 and 8 together, it appears that the floodable portion of the Seven Rivers

and the floodable portion of the Mid-Grayburg really do not overlap; is that correct?

- A. Yes -- you mean Exhibits 8 and 9?
- Q. Yes.

- A. Yes. We found, my interpretation is that there is no overlap between the reservoirs found in the Queen-Grayburg and the Seven Rivers Reservoir.
- Q. Okay, Mr. Fitzsimmons, let's go now and look at the northern boundary of this unit as shown on Exhibit No. 9.
 - A. Okay.
- Q. Could you review how you anticipate the flood in the Mid-Grayburg to affect this portion of this pool?
- A. Okay. The eastern -- the northeast portion of Section 25, as Ken mentioned earlier, there's a flood that was put in effect in Section 19-30. And it's been -- in my study, I found that the two wells in the east half of the northeast of Section 25 received a flood response from an injection well located in the northwest quarter of Section 30, designated No. 7 on the map, and it's my understanding that these wells are producing significant water at this time.

In our wells located in the west half of

the northeast of Section 25, that would be the No. 3 and No. 4 well, we have yet to experience any of that flood response. So it's my opinion that that flood front that emanated from the No. 7 well has not reached our wells, and that we have area there that needs to be flooded.

The western part of the northern half is Yates acreage, and they're going to go into a cooperative flood with us. So the whole area essentially will be flooded with two cooperative floods.

- Q. Let's now go to Hanson Exhibit No. 10. Would you identify and review that?
- A. This is the cross-section that designates that the specific zone we plan to flood in the Seven Rivers. We've elected to flood this particular zone based on what we have determined from our production histories. And we've determined that the preponderance of the oil did come from this particular zone in the Seven Rivers.
- Q. Would you now go to your Exhibit 11, the cross-section in the Queen-Grayburg and review that?
- A. This, again, is a cross-section -- this particular cross-section designates the two zones that we're going to flood in the Queen-Grayburg. Again,

these zones were chosen because they provided the preponderance of oil in the Queen-Grayburg producing interval.

- Q. Mr. Fitzsimmons, why is Hanson including both of these zones in one waterflood project?
- A. Because, to be consistent with the OCD rules, the pool rules, we needed to include both.
- Q. Let's go now to Hanson Exhibit No. 12. Would you identify and review that?
- A. This is a production map of production in the area. When we determined our unit boundaries, we selected production to be the primary factor on which we determined the boundaries because, number one, the field was in -- it's the last phases of primary production, and a good well should represent good reservoir, and a poor well should represent a poor reservoir.

In addition, it's an old area with old logs, and I found the logs not to be a diagnostic determination of permeabilities.

- Q. So in view of the quality of the logs available to you, was production, in your opinion, the most accurate tool to utilize in setting the boundaries?
 - A. Yes, sir, I think it is.

- Q. So that's how the overall boundary was set for this production. And then the northern boundary is just the lease line with Yates lease?
 - A. Right.

- Q. Let's move to Exhibit No. 12. Identify and review that.
- A. Now, this is essentially a composite map that pools all the previous information together. It shows how we --
- MR. STOVALL: Let me interrupt you just a second. I think that's 13. Twelve is your production map?
- MR. CARR: I'm sorry, that's correct, this is 13.

THE WITNESS: And it just pulls all the information together. It shows the production of the specific wells. It outlines the permeability limits as determined by the production response. It shows the Queen-Grayburg area that we plan to flood, the Seven Rivers area that we plan to flood, and the Queen-Grayburg area that has already experienced flood.

Q. (BY MR. CARR) In your opinion, can the portions of the pool which are included in the proposed waterflood be efficiently and effectively

operated under the proposed unit plan of development?

- A. I believe so.
- Q. You believe these formations can be effectively developed with the proposed cooperative waterflood?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And these, in fact, are the same formations that were involved in the Meridian or Southland flood off to the east?
 - A. In the Queen-Grayburg, yes.
 - Q. Were Exhibits 7 through 13 prepared by you?
 - A. Yes, they were.
- MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we would move the admission of Hanson Exhibits 7 through 13.
- EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 7 through 13 will be admitted into evidence.
- MR. CARR: That concludes my direct examination of Mr. Fitzsimmons.

EXAMINATION

BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

Q. Mr. Fitzsimmons, when I look at your B-B' prime cross-section down in the third Grayburg sand as you're designating, I show a color variation. What are you trying to indicate at this point?

A. This color variation, I'm using green to represent oil production. I'm using blue to represent water. If you refer to the structure map, you'll see that the right portion of the cross-section was in a downdip location, and we have never established economic production out of those zones.

- Q. Well, are you saying that's watered down or
- A. I'm just saying that there's probably an oil-water contact between the two wells, and that's what the transition represents.
- Q. But you're not trying to pinpoint where that oil-water contact is?
 - A. No. I can just only approximate it.
- Q. Is it your understanding the waterfloods or the wells which will be utilized, are they going to be specifically perforated to allow injection into these three small intervals that you're talking about, or do you visualize an overall open hole, multiple perforation that extends beyond the little orange and the green markings on your cross-section?
- A. Initially, it's our intention to be very specific on where we perforate because we want to have control over the response so we can properly assess the success of the flood.

- Q. With that, let's look at the matrix between the third Penrose sand and the third Grayburg sand. What do I find in there?
 - A. You're referring to lithologies?
 - Q. Yes, please.

- A. It's primarily carbonates with some sand stringer, too, out. We think that there's adequate separation between the two zones that we won't have any communication. And our experience in producing the field, we have had additional perforations throughout those zones. And we found that as we add zones, we didn't have significant increase in production, and we feel that there's just no communication between the two zones.
- Q. Do I actually see a sand lens or a different porosity in your three proposal intervals, or what kind of a -- in your opinion, what kind of a permeability factor do I have between those what I assume to be porosity zones?
- A. Well, that is very difficult for me to determine, not having adequate logs and only being dependent on production, and, in many cases, with multiple zones being perforated through time, I have no way of backing out the actual permeabilities.
 - Q. Let's refer back to those logs that you

were discussing. What type of whole logs are you referring to? What do we see?

- A. Generally, they were old neutron logs.
- Q. Ran back in what era?

- A. That is a late '50's, early '60's field.
- Q. And that's when these logs were performed?
- A. Um-hm, except for the Ute Federal No. 1 and the Pueblo which were recent logs, but the Ute was essentially wet, and the Pueblo -- or the Ute, we never established production, and the Pueblo has been a very poor producer. So I don't think that they will represent for any of the zones that we plan to flood.
- Q. Where did you obtain records or copies of these old logs?
- A. Hanson Operating established -- drilled the initial wells. So they're in our well files, and the other wells I picked up at the Permian Association and researching in the OCD in Artesia.
- Q. Have you been in communication or contact with our geologist in the Artesia District Office, Mr. Mark Ashley?
 - A. No, I haven't.

EXAMINER STOGNER: I have no other questions of this witness at this time, Mr. Carr.

MR. STOVALL: I do have one, Mr. Examiner.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. STOVALL:

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- Q. You indicated, as far as geologically speaking, the Seven Rivers and the Queen Grayburg are really separate, in a separate reservoir from the --
- A. They're a separate formation. Actually, each formation has a series of separate reservoirs within it, too.
- Q. Right. This may be getting into the engineer's area, but is there some efficiency to be gained also in addition to the fact that they happen to be in the same pool under OCD nomenclatures, is there efficiency to be gained by operating this as a single unit?
- A. I think Ray is going to answer those questions because he's in charge of -- oversees the operations and how they will develop.
- Q. When you did the -- figured the unit participation, I assume that each area got credit for what it had in it?
- A. Yes, it did. Participation was determined by the Williamson report and accepted by all participants.
 - MR. STOVALL: That's all I have.
 - EXAMINER STOGNER: I have no other

1 questions of Mr. Fitzsimmons. Mr. Carr? 2 RAY WILLIS, 3 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn 4 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows: 5 EXAMINATION 6 BY MR. CARR: 7 Would you state your name for the record, 8 9 please. Ray Willis. 10 Α. By whom are you employed? 11 Q. Hanson Operating Company. 12 Α. In what capacity? 13 Q. Vice-president. Α. 14 What are your responsibilities as 15 Q. Vice-president of Hanson? 16 I'm responsible for the supervision 17 Α. involving the engineering work and the overall 18 operation of the company. 19 Do you also in that position -- are you in 20 Q. 21 charge of retaining and working with outside consulting services? 22 23 Α. Yes, I do. Have you previously testified before this 24 Division? 25

A. I have.

- Q. How long have you been employed by Hanson?
- A. Thirty-seven years.
- Q. Are you a member of any professional associations?
- A. I'm an associate member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and I'm a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.
- Q. Are you familiar with the application filed in this case?
 - A. Yes, I am.
 - O. In each of the cases?
 - A. Yes, I am.
- Q. Can you explain how it was that you and Yates decided to have a joint engineering study made of this area?
- A. This was an area that had been jointly operated by Hanson and Yates from day one. We have reached a time when production is very marginal. We have been in contact with Yates over the last five years regarding a flood. The last three years has been intensive. We got together with Theresa Sloan, David Benoit, decided to hire an outside consultant firm. Our in-house engineering departments on both companies decided it was a very good prospect, and we

should go forward with it.

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- Q. Was the study and the work done developing this prospect done at your request and under your supervision?
 - A. Yes, it was.
- Q. Were you responsible for providing raw data and information to Williamson to support the study?
 - A. I did.

MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications acceptable?

EXAMINER STOGNER: They are.

- Q. (BY MR. CARR) Are you familiar with the New Mexico Statutory Unitization Act?
 - A. Yes, somewhat.
- Q. Have you prepared certain exhibits for presentation in this case?
 - A. I have.
- Q. Let's just identify what has been marked as Hanson Operating Company Exhibit No. 14.
- A. This is the feasibility study for a proposed waterflood in the Shugart Field, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- Q. Is this the study that Williamson prepared for you and Yates?
 - A. That is correct.

- Q. Let's move to Exhibit 15, and I'd ask you to identify this and review it for the examiner.
- A. Exhibit 15 is a well status map. It shows the outline of the unit that we are proposing. It shows our waterflood station, the producing wells, and it shows proposed water injection wells, which will be the No. 17 Ute Federal, Pueblo Federal, and three additional wells to be drilled.
- Q. What does Hanson estimate to be the capital cost of these additional facilities that are going to be required for this project?
 - A. We anticipate \$1-1/2 million.
- Q. What do you estimate the total project cost actually to be?
 - A. \$2-1/2 million.

- Q. If this is a successful flood, how much additional oil production do you expect to obtain from the project?
- A. We can expect -- we expect to recover one and a half million barrels of oil.
- Q. Do you have a unit performance curve that is included within the Williamson study?
- A. Yes, it is. There is a performance curve just in front of the tab listed as Tables. It is a performance curve prepared by Williamson &

Associates. It indicates within one and a half to two years, we would be producing approximately 500 barrels of oil per day and then tailing off to economic limits over about 14 years.

- Q. This graph would also include the Yates tract production forecast, would it not?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. About how much of the production that is depicted on that graph would be attributed to the Yates lease?
 - A. 29 percent.

- Q. What would be the value of the estimated total value of the additional production that you hope to obtain from this waterflood?
- A. We hope that it will have a value of \$30 million.
- Q. And in setting this figure, what price for the oil did you utilize?
- A. We used \$20 per barrel for the life of the project.
- Q. Did you factor anything in for gas production from the unit?
- A. We don't think gas will be a significant factor in these calculations. We will be producing so much water, the oil is coming back. Most of the gas

which is produced will be used on lease for lease purposes and treating oil, etc.

- Q. If Hanson and the other interest owners in the unit area are required to advance costs for a party who has not voluntarily committed to this project, do you believe it is appropriate for the 200 percent risk penalty set forth in the unit documents to apply to that interest?
 - A. Yes, I do.

- Q. If the current unsigned tracts, and here I'm talking primarily about the Hilo interest, if it isn't voluntarily contributed to the unit plan, what impact would it have on the project?
- A. It would have a big impact on the project if it was removed. We think that is a good recovery well on -- two of the wells would be good for recovery. And if not unitized, we think the unit would fail.
- Q. Is unitized management necessary, in your opinion, to effectively recover the oil in the unit area?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. And do you believe that the waterflood which you're proposing based on your engineering and geological studies of this area, would the waterflood

be a feasible project?

A. Yes.

- Q. What generally is the basis for the participation formula in the Unit Agreement?
- A. We based it on primary production. The allocations went back to each individual well and each individual well's percentage of production as to the whole unit.
- Q. Could you review for the examiner what has been marked Hanson Exhibit No. 16?
- A. No. 16 is a participation formula that we have prepared that lists the wells operated by Hanson. There are some wells at the time this was prepared operated by Siete Oil & Gas Corp. that is now operated by Hanson. We had the Yates Petroleum wells in the overall picture. This came from the Williamson report.

We remove the Yates wells from it, run the factors up to 100 percent, and then the next table down there has the conversion of the tract group as to participation factors as is today.

Q. Does this allocation formula, in your opinion, allocate production to the separately owned tracts in the proposed unit on a fair, reasonable, and equitable basis?

- A. Yes, it does.
- Q. Does Hanson seek authority from the Division to commit additional wells to injection by administrative procedures?
 - A. Yes, we do.
 - Q. Avoiding the necessity of further hearing?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. In fact, you've already discussed an additional well with Yates, and that is in the at least discussion stage; is that not correct?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. Whereabouts would that well be located?
- A. Somewhere in the northeast of Section 25. We have not come to a firm conclusion as to the exact location of it, but it would be somewhere between wells No. 3 and 4, Ginsberg, on Hanson's acreage, and wells No. 3 and 8 on Yates Creek AL acreage.
- Q. And if you start seeing a response to your injection, then that would be a possible additional injection well?
- A. That is a possible addition. We would prefer to wait until such time as we see results from the injection on our part and Yates part to conclude those negotiations.
 - Q. In your opinion, will granting this

application for statutory unitization be in the best interest of conservation, the prevention of waste, and the protection of correlative rights?

A. Yes, it will.

- Q. Could you now refer to what has been marked as Hanson Exhibit No. 17 and identify that, please.
- A. That is a completed Form C-108 with attachments.
- Q. And this is a new project, not an expansion of an existing project; correct?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. Could you refer to pages 13 through 18 of this exhibit and just identify for the examiner what those are.
- A. Those are proposed injection wells, which

 13 is Pueblo Federal, 14 is Ute Federal. These two

 wells are in existence. They are newly drilled

 wells. The Ginsberg Federal 17 is to be a new drilled

 well. Page 16 is Ginsberg Federal No. 18. And page

 17 is Ginsberg Federal No. 19.
 - Q. What is shown on page --
- A. Page 18 is the Keinath Federal proposed injection well.
- Q. On each of these plats, have you drawn a circle with a half-mile radius to show the area of

review for each of the proposed injection wells?

A. That is correct.

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- Q. What is shown on pages 19 through 25 of this exhibit?
- A. That's tabular data on all the wells within the area of review which penetrate the injection zone.
- Q. And this sets forth the information required by OCD Form C-108?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. Would you identify for the examiner what is contained on pages 26 through 29 of this exhibit?
- A. That is a wellbore sketch showing the size, location of all plugs on plugged wells, showing the casing strings that have been left in the well.
- Q. Do you have a separate schematic for each plugged and abandoned well within any of the areas of review for any injection well?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. In your opinion, are the wells satisfactorily plugged to assure that these wellbores do not become a vehicle for the migration of injected water?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. On pages 6 through 11 of this exhibit there's some schematic drawings. Could you identify

those, please.

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- A. Six through 11 is proposed injection wells, showing the present and proposed completions.
 - Q. That's for each injection well?
 - A. For each injection well, that's correct.
- Q. And the injection intervals have been defined previously by Mr. Fitzsimmons; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. What is the source of the water you propose to inject in this project?
- A. It will be water from the Penrose-Middle Grayburg-Seven Rivers from water supply wells identified on page 3, paragraph 4, of Exhibit 17.
- Q. So basically you're going to be reinjecting water into the producing formations?
- A. That is correct, and we will use produced water as the wells produce the water back, also.
- Q. Do you intend to use fresh water as make-up water?
 - A. No.
 - Q. What volumes are you proposing to inject?
- A. We propose on an initial injection rate of 600 barrels of water per day for the Middle Grayburg, Penrose injectors. For the Seven Rivers, we propose

100 to 250 barrels of water per day per well.

- Q. So we've got different volumes per interval, and these are figures per injection well?
 - A. That's correct.

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- Q. What would be the maximum daily rate you would anticipate?
- A. The Penrose-Middle Grayburg we anticipate 1000 barrels of water per day maximum. For the Seven Rivers, 300 barrels per day.
 - Q. These would be per well figures again?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. Is this going to be a closed system?
 - A. It will be a closed system.
- Q. Do you anticipate injection by gravity or under pressure?
 - A. It will be under pressure.
- Q. What is the maximum injection pressure you propose to utilize?
- A. Our maximum of 2,000 pounds per square inch per each zone.
- Q. Would this exceed a pressure limitation of .2 pounds per foot of depth to the top?
 - A. Yes, it would.
- Q. Would you recommend that higher pressures be established after Division witness separate tests

on each of the zones in which you plan to increase pressure over that .2 pound pressure limit?

A. Yes, I would.

- Q. Could you identify pages 30 through 45 of Exhibit 17?
- A. Those are water analysis on the injection fluid that we have taken from various wells in the area.
 - Q. Are there fresh water zones in this area?
- A. Yes, there are fresh water zones in the area. However, it's only occasional water that will be found in the Red Beds at about -- at less than 275 feet based on data from the State Engineer's Office.
- Q. Are there any fresh water wells within one mile of any of these proposed injection wells?
- A. Yes, there is. There is one well situated in the southeast quarter, northwest quarter, southeast quarter of Section 26, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, which is known as the Snyder Ranch well shown on the plat on page 46.
 - Q. And from what interval is it producing?
- A. It's producing from the Red Beds at less than 275 feet.
- Q. On page 47 of Exhibit No. 17, is there a water analysis of the water from this Snyder Ranch

well?

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- A. Yes, there is.
- Q. Are the logs of existing wells in the unit area which are going to be converted to injection on file with this Division?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And, Mr. Willis, have you examined the available engineering and geologic data on the area involved in this application?
 - A. Yes, I have.
- Q. As a result of that examination, have you found any evidence of open faults or other hydrologic connections between the injection interval and any underground source of drinking water?
 - A. I have found none.
- Q. In your opinion, will granting of this application be in the best interest of conservation, the prevention of waste, the protection of correlative rights?
 - A. Yes, it would.
- Q. What is Hanson's anticipated date for the commencement of injection?
- A. Sixty to 90 days from date of approval by the Commission.
 - Q. If this application is approved, you would

expect to increase the amount of crude oil ultimately recovered from the reservoir, would you not?

A. Yes, sir.

- Q. Has this project area been depleted to such an extent that it is now appropriate to apply the enhanced recovery techniques that you are proposing here today?
- A. Yes, it is. These wells are down to less than 2-1/2 barrels per day per well and less than 1

 Mcf of gas in daily production for the average of the wells.
- Q. Based on your experience in the area, is the proposed project both economically and technically feasible?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. This application is not being prematurely filed, is it?
 - A. We're late in the life of the reservoir.
- Q. Do you believe that if you were to effectively waterflood this unit, that it is appropriate that this program be implemented as soon as possible?
 - A. Yes, I do.
- Q. Were Exhibits 14 through 17 either prepared by you or compiled under your direction?

A. Yes, they were.

MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we would move the admission of Hanson Operating Company's Exhibits 14 through 17.

EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 14 through 17 will be admitted into evidence.

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

EXAMINATION

BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

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- Q. Mr. Willis, in looking at your C-108, Exhibit 17, your list of all wells within a half-mile radius, I assume that's what this is; correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. What is the topmost perforation that you anticipate to be injecting here?
 - A. The topmost perforation?
 - Q. In any of the wells or on average?
- A. It would be -- let me look through here and get it. 2469.
 - Q. Do you anticipate it to vary much between injection wells?
 - A. Not too much. 2469 to 2487, for the most part on the Seven Rivers. Penrose will be in the 3100 range. Middle Grayburg 3390, 3460.

	Q.	In	looking	through	this	listing	of we	ells, I
see	some	that	really 1	olatantl	y stan	d out a	nd son	me that
are	some	what o	questiona	able as	far as	the to	p of o	cements
on t	he p	roduct	cion cas:	ing. On	e in p	articul	ar on	page
25,	the	Creek	AL No.	11, I sh	ow top	of cem	ent a	t
3252	. I	s it m	ny under	standing	that	injecti	on int	terval
is n	ot c	emente	ed through	ghout th	at par	ticular	well	?

- A. Creek AL 11 is in an area that we do not believe the water from the Seven Rivers will encroach upon. However, we would be most happy to work with the Oil Commission to ascertain that it does not.
- Q. And if there are some others in there subsequent to the hearing today that this Division feels should be checked out in the method in which you suggested, working with our Artesia District Office, to either substantiate that the adequate cement is across there or perhaps the injection water is not a danger?
 - A. Yes, we definitely will.

EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. STOVALL:

Q. You heard the question I asked your geologist, I've forgotten his name, regarding the operation of this as a single unit and the efficiency of it?

- A. It would be much more efficient to operate as a single unit. We'll have a single plant for operations, and it will be much more efficient handled in that manner.
- Q. And you are requesting certification as a secondary recovery unit for EOR tax credit purposes under state law; is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.

- Q. Are you familiar with that process?
- A. Not 100 percent. I have went through some of it.
- Q. I think the critical part, the part that you need to be concerned with, this is a new project, so you won't have a problem with that part of the qualification. As a secondary project, you have a five-year period from the date that we certify it as an EOR project to obtain a positive production response.

Your testimony was, you anticipate getting this project up and running and actually start injection within 90 days of approval?

- A. Immediately.
- Q. And looking at, what is it, the Williamson study, it looks like you anticipate getting a response within, oh, two to three years at the most; is that

correct?

- A. We think that would be the outside that we will get good response. I think, personally, we will see it much quicker than that.
- Q. Sometimes in the case of waterfloods, we'll not issue the certification until the operator is ready to commence injection. It sounds to me in this case -- the reason for that is to simply make sure you've got five years of real injection to get the response. It sounds to me in this case like we can go ahead and issue the certificate about the time we issue the order, and that that time is not going to be a critical factor in the operation of this flood; is that correct?
- A. No, that will not be a critical factor. We are ready to proceed. We are in the waiting time.

 The applications are filed for the drilling of additional wells. We're ready to go.
- Q. Do you also understand that in getting the positive production response, you not only have to get the response, but you have to apply to us for a certification of that response within the five-year time period?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And I am assuming you're considering the

entire unit area as the project area for the purpose of this waterflood?

A. Yes, we are.

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- Q. So that should be the area that's certified?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. I advise you that at the time that you get a positive production response, that we will look at the area that is actually responding, and that that area may be reduced for purposes of a tax credit.

 Even though maybe you will be allowed to continue to operate in that area, our certification of the entire area as a project does not assure that that will be certified as the area entitled to the tax credit based upon the filing cf your production response?
 - A. I understand.
 - Q. Did that make sense?
 - A. Yes, it did.

MR. STOVALL: Oh, good. Nothing further.

FURTHER EXAMINATION

- 21 BY MR. STOGNER:
 - Q. In referring to your Exhibit No. 15, that's the plat showing the injection wells, there are three conversions, if I read your application right. That's the Ute Federal 1, Pueblo Federal 1, and the No. 17

Ginsberg; is that correct?

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- A. Those are existing wells, yes.
- Q. Again, are those fairly new drills?
- A. The Ute and Pueblo were drilled within the last three years. The No. 17 I would guess six years old, off the top of my head. We will run integrity tests on all of those, ascertain that we are in complete compliance with all the OCD regulations, federal regulations, prior to any injection of water.
- Q. But you do have some older wells out there but not plans for conversion; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. So with the oldest one being six years old, the steel is probably in better shape out there than most wells?
 - A. We think it will be very efficient.
- Q. And the tubing is to be 2-3/8's plastic coated?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. No fresh water, is that correct, no fresh water to be utilized?
- A. We do not intend to use fresh water, that is correct.
 - Q. What will the source water again be?
 - A. The source water will come from two or

three existing wells.

- Q. When you say existing wells, what production are they from?
- A. Seven Rivers-Queen-Grayburg wells that have watered out, making an extreme amount of water, on page 3, paragraph 4 of 17. The Lanning Federal No. 4, shut in, and the Lanning Federal No. 3 are shut in.
 - Q. Three and 4, Lanning?
 - A. That is correct.
 - Q. And that's in Section 25, aren't they?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Both -- it appears to be -- and they show up on your Exhibit No. 15. I show them to be in the east half of the southeast quarter; is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.
 - Q. Those are your source water wells?
- A. That's where we're at at this stage. We have another well that has good possibilities. In the event those two do not produce enough water, our No. 16 Ginsberg, which is situated in the southwest of the southeast of 25, that well flowed tremendous amounts of brown water when we drilled it, and we could use it, if it's necessary. However, in initial stage, we prefer to use that as a recovery well.
 - Q. One last item on your calculations used to

show your top of cement on the wells within a halfmile radius, is that formula that you utilized included in the packet of exhibits today?

A. The ---

- Q. In your completion information, you show the top of cement behind the production strings in several instances, and that was performed by calculation. Were those your calculations?
 - A. Yes, they were our calculations.
- Q. Is that formula that you utilized in calculating those tops included in here, in the packet today?
- A. I don't think there's a formula included.

 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, I think we could

 supply it. I've looked at the exhibit as well. I

 don't believe the formula is set out there.

EXAMINER STOGNER: That's what I'm getting it. If it's not included, if you could provide me that calculation method, I would appreciate it.

I don't have anything further at this time.

Any other questions of Mr. Willis?

MR. CARR: No further questions.

EXAMINER STOGNER: He may be excused.

Any other questions of Mr. Hammonds, Mr.

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SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-9262
(505) 984-2244

1	Fitzsimmons?
2	MR. CARR: No further questions.
3	EXAMINER STOGNER: Nothing here.
4	Do you have anything further, Mr. Carr?
5	MR. CARR: Nothing further, Mr. Examiner.
6	EXAMINER STOGNER: Does anybody else have
7	anything further in consolidated cases Nos. 10685 and
8	10686? If not, then these cases will be taken under
9	advisement.
10	Let's take a 20 minute recess.
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16	I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in
17	the Examiner hearing of Case Nos: 18685 x 10686 heard by me on 8 Mauh 1993
18	The trans. Examiner
19	Oil Conservation Division
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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COUNTY OF SANTA FE

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I, Deborah O'Bine, Certified Shorthand
Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that I
caused my notes to be transcribed under my personal
supervision, and that the foregoing transcript is a
true and accurate record of the proceedings of said
hearing.

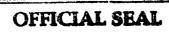
) ss.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL, March 30, 1993.

eborah (Bine DEBORAH O'BINE

CCR No. 63



DEBORAH O'BINE

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE (# NEW MEXICO

My Commission Expires Dept 19, 1994