

## NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## EXAMINER HEARING

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICOHearing Date FEBRUARY 18, 1987 Time: 8:15 A.M.

NAME	REPRESENTING	LOCATION
Hugh Ingram	Conoco	Hobbs
Robert B. Burns	Conoco	Hobbs
Paul Hahn	Borpan	Santa Fe
W. Kendrick	Kendall & Assoc.	Albuquerque
W. J. Kellahan	Kellahan Kellahan Anthony	Santa Fe
Robert H. Bell	Harvey & Yates Co.	Albuquerque
Ed Hall	Campbell & Black	SF
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Richard S. Penner	ARCO	Albuquerque
George Mallon	Mallon Oil Co.	Denver
DICK ELLIS	McHUGH	DENVER
CHOD DICKERSON	DICKERSON, Fisk & Vandusen	Albuquerque
Kathy Colbert	YPC	"
Leslie Beatty	YPC	"
Ken Bateman	White Rock Energy & the City	Santa Fe
Perry Pearce	Montgomery & Andrews	Santa Fe
Frank	SLO	Albuquerque
KEVIN M. FITZGERALD	MALLON OIL	DENVER
JOHN ROE	DURAN Production & J.P. McHugh	Albuquerque

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NAME	REPRESENTING	LOCATION
J. Bruce	Hinkle Law Firm	Santa Fe
LES CARNES	FORAN OIL COMPANY	AMARILLO, TX
Richard Fralby	MORISON OIL	FARMINGTON, NM
GEORGE HUBER	ENRON OIL & GAS CO.	MIDLAND TX
Jerry L. Cherryhomes	Enron OIL & GAS CO.	MIDLAND, TEXAS
Graig Duke	Enron OIL & GAS CO.	MIDLAND TEXAS
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AL GREER	BENSON & HONDO-GREER FARMINGTON	
VIRGIL C. STABBS		

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

18 February 1987

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Yates Petroleum Cor-      CASE  
poration for a unit agreement, Lea      9076  
County, New Mexico.

BEFORE: David R. Catanach, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

A P P E A R A N C E S

For the Commission: Jeff Taylor  
Legal Counsel for the Division  
Oil Conservation Division  
State Land Office Bldg.  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

For the Applicant: Chad Dickerson  
Attorney at Law  
DICKERSON, FISK, & VANDIVER  
Seventh & Mahone/Suite E  
Artesia, New Mexico 88210

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the project, which includes a brief history of the project and a description of the objectives.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the methodology used in the study.

3. The third part of the report is a detailed description of the results of the study.

4. The fourth part of the report is a detailed description of the conclusions of the study.

5. The fifth part of the report is a detailed description of the recommendations of the study.

6. The sixth part of the report is a detailed description of the limitations of the study.

7. The seventh part of the report is a detailed description of the future research.

8. The eighth part of the report is a detailed description of the acknowledgments.

9. The ninth part of the report is a detailed description of the references.

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2

## I N D E X

3

4

KATHY COLBERT

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Direct Examination by Mr. Dickerson 3

6

Cross Examination by Mr. Catanach 8

7

8

LESLIE BENTZ

9

Direct Examination by Mr. Dickerson 9

10

Cross Examination by Mr. Catanach 15

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12

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## E X H I B I T S

16

17

Yates Exhibit One, Land Plat 4

18

Yates Exhibit Two, Unit Agreement 5

19

Yates Exhibit Three, Unit Operating Agreement 6

20

Yates Exhibit Four, Letter 8

21

Yates Exhibit Five, Map 10

22

Yates Exhibit Six, Map 11

23

Yates Exhibit Seven Structure Map 12

24

Yates Exhibit Eight, Isochron Map 12

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Yates Exhibit Nine, Cross Section 13



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MR. CATANACH: Call next Case  
Number 9076.

MR. TAYLOR: The application of  
Yates Petroleum Corporation for a unit agreement, Lea Coun-  
ty, New Mexico.

MR. CATANACH: Are there appear-  
ances in this case?

MR. DICKERSON: Mr. Examiner,  
I'm Chad Dickerson of Artesia, New Mexico, on behalf of the  
applicant, and I have two witnesses.

MR. TAYLOR: Are there other ap-  
pearances in this case?

Will the two witnesses please  
stand and be sworn in at this time?

(Witnesses sworn.)

KATHY COLBERT,  
being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his  
oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DICKERSON:

Q Will you state your name, your occupation,

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the	1
2. various methods of determining the rate of reaction.	2
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100. various methods of determining the rate of reaction.	100



1 and by whom you're employed, please?

2           A           My name is Kathy Colbert.    I'm a landman,  
3 employed by Yates Petroleum Corporation in Artesia, New Mex-  
4 ico.

5           Q           And, Ms. Colbert, have you previously tes-  
6 tified before this Division as a petroleum landman?

7           A           Yes, I have.

8           Q           Are you familiar with the application and  
9 the land situation surrounding the application filed by  
10 Yates in this case?

11          A           Yes, I am.

12                               MR. DICKERSON: Is the witness  
13 considered qualified, Mr. Examiner?

14                               MR. CATANACH: Ms. Colbert is  
15 considered qualified.

16          Q           Will you state the purpose of Yates' ap-  
17 plication in Case 9076?

18          A           Yates Petroleum Corporation wishes to ob-  
19 tain approval of their proposed Moonrise State Unit, which  
20 encompasses 1600 acres of State of New Mexico leases located  
21 in Lea County, in order to effectively explore and develop  
22 the area.

23          Q           Will you refer to what we've submitted as  
24 Yates Exhibit Number One and orient the Examiner with regard  
25 to the location of this proposed unit?

# REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

Presented to the American Medical Association at its annual meeting, Chicago, Ill., May 1, 1919

By the Commission on the Organization of the Medical Profession

CHICAGO  
1919

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1           A           Yes.   Exhibit Number One is a land plat  
2 that outlines the 1600-acre unit.   This unit is located in  
3 Township 18 South, Range 36 East, Lea County.   There are  
4 seven different leases included in this outline.   They are  
5 all State leases, being 100 percent of this proposed unit.

6                   The initial test well is the red dot loca-  
7 tion being 330 from the south, 330 from the west lines of  
8 Section 27.

9           Q           Will you refer to what is marked as Exhi-  
10 bit Number Two and tell us what that instrument is?

11           A           Exhibit Number Two is the unit agreement  
12 upon a standard form for State lands.   The agreement does  
13 designate Yates Petroleum Corporation as operator and covers  
14 such subjects as the unit area, the definition of unitized  
15 substances, and rights and obligations of the opertor and  
16 nonoperators.

17           Q           Will you refer to the exhibits attached to  
18 that proposed unit agreement and describe a little bit more  
19 detail to the Examiner with respect to the ownership of the  
20 various tracts within the unit?

21           A           Yes.   Exhibit B to the unit agreement  
22 lists all the parties and their percentages owned in each of  
23 these seven tracts.

24                   Six of these tracts have been committed to  
25 the unit, being 90 percent of the area.   The only tract

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1 which has not been committed is Tract No. 7, Chevron's HBP  
2 160-acre lease located in the northwest of 27.

3 Q What is Chevron's position as far as join-  
4 der of this unit?

5 A We have talked to them by phone and, of  
6 course, furnished them with all these exhibits, asked them  
7 to join the unit. They have declined.

8 Q So the balance of the working interest  
9 within the unit boundaries are 90 percent is owned or con-  
10 trolled either by Yates or its in-house related corpora-  
11 tions.

12 A That's correct.

13 Q What, Ms. Colbert, is the expiration date  
14 of the earliest leases committed to the unit?

15 A The earliest expiration date is March 1st  
16 of this year. There are three leases out of the seven com-  
17 mitted.

18 Q And when does Yates propose to commence  
19 its drilling operations?

20 A We propose to spud next week, prior to the  
21 first.

22 Q And you request that the Division give us  
23 expedited approval, if possible, of this unit agreement?

24 A If possible, yes.

25 Q Refer to Exhibit Number Three and tell the

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2. Theoretical Framework	2
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1 Examiner what that is.

2 A Exhibit Three is the proposed unit oper-  
3 ating agreement, which is on an AAPL Form 610, 1977. It  
4 does cover areas such as acquisition and maintenance of  
5 leases and expenditures and liabilities of the participating  
6 parties.

7 There is an accounting procedure attached  
8 to govern the joint operations.

9 The Exhibit A to this agreement again  
10 lists all the parties and their percentages, not only under  
11 the unit, but under the initial test well.

12 Since only 90 percent of the unit acreage  
13 will be participating in the initial test well, it shows  
14 that the four participating companies will pay for this  
15 well.

16 Q And there is no depth restriction for the  
17 lands proposed to be unitized.

18 A None.

19 Q There is also a provision, isn't there,  
20 Ms. Colbert, for subsequent joinder in the event Chevron  
21 should later decide that it desires to join the unit?

22 A This is correct.

23 Q That's contained in Exhibit Number Two,  
24 the State unit agreement?

25 A Yes, the unit agreement.





1           Q           Refer to what we have submitted as Exhibit  
2 Number Four and tell us what that is.

3           A           Exhibit Number Four is a letter from the  
4 Commissioner of Public Lands, dated January 28th, 1987,  
5 which grants preliminary approval for the proposed Moonrise  
6 State Unit as previously outlined.

7           Q           And there were no requested changes or  
8 problems that the office of the Commissioner had with the  
9 proposed unit?

10          A           Not as to the unit or its form.

11          Q           Were Exhibits One through Four either pre-  
12 pared by you or compiled by you or under your direction and  
13 supervision?

14          A           Yes.

15                           MR. DICKERSON: Mr. Examiner,  
16 at this time move admission of Yates Exhibits One through  
17 Four and I have no further questions of this witness.

18                           MR. CATANACH: Exhibits One  
19 through Four will be admitted into evidence.

20

21                           CROSS EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. CATANACH:

23          Q           Ms. Colbert, when was Chevron contacted  
24 and invited to join the unit?

25          A           They were contacted by phone approximately

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1 the middle of January.

2 Immediately after that they were furnished  
3 all copies of the unit agreement, the proposed geology sum-  
4 mary, and notification that there would be a hearing set for  
5 this month.

6 They have not responded in writing, simply  
7 by telephone.

8 MR. DICKERSON: Let me point  
9 out, Mr. Examiner, that Chevron's N Lease, as testified, is  
10 held by production from wells on other lands and Chevron's  
11 interest will in no way be adversely affected by the  
12 approval of this unit and Chevron does, in fact, under the  
13 terms of the unit agreement at any time subsequent have the  
14 right to join the unit, if they should change their mind and  
15 elect to do so.

16 MR. CATANACH: Any time after?

17 MR. DICKERSON: Yes, sir.  
18 Section 2 of the unit agreement submitted as Exhibi Two.

19 MR. CATANACH: I have no  
20 further questions of the witness. She may be excused.

21

22 LESLIE BENTZ,

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

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DICKERSON:

Q Will you state your name, by whom you're employed, and your occupation, please?

A Yes. My name is Leslie Bentz. I'm a geologist employed by Yates Petroleum Corporation, Artesia, New Mexico.

Q Ms. Bentz, have you previously testified before this Division or one of its examiners and had your credentials accepted as a matter of record?

A Yes, I have.

Q Are you familiar with the geological basis for the boundaries of the proposed Moonrise State Unit?

A I am.

Q What is the primary objective that Yates seeks to test in the formation of this unit?

A The primary objective of the test well within the unit is to test the Leonardian Lower Bone Spring and Wolfcamp age bottom flow deposits.

Q Please refer to what we have submitted as Yates Exhibit Number Five and tell the Examiner what you show on that map.

A Exhibit Five shows the location of the proposed unit with respect to the Lower Leonardian Delaware



1 Basin and immediately adjacent to the western edge of the  
2 Central Basin Platform.

3 The last major uplift of the Central Basin  
4 Platform occurred during the Wolfcamp. Shallow water car-  
5 bonates deposited during the Wolfcamp were completely eroded  
6 from this positive area.

7 It was in this manner that a large amount  
8 of shelf generated carbonates were introduced into the Dela-  
9 ware Basin. Hydrocarbon production from debris flows has  
10 been established on the eastern side of the Central Basin  
11 Platform and production is expected on the western side.

12 Subsidence of this platform during Abo,  
13 Lower Leonardian, time, resulted in establishment of a  
14 fringing reef along the shelf margin.

15 A major drop in sea level exposed the reef  
16 to subaerial influences. Large blocks of the reef material  
17 were carried into the basin through submarine canyons. Hy-  
18 drocarbon production from allochthonous blocks of shelf mar-  
19 gin carbonates in otherwise basinal deposits has been proli-  
20 fic in Lea County.

21 Q Refer to what we have submitted as Exhibit  
22 Number Six and tell us what that is.

23 A Exhibit Six illustrates the location of the  
24 proposed unit in relationship to areas of Lower Leonardian,  
25 Abo and Bone Spring, production, and Wolfcamp production.





1 The blue color denotes Abo reef production. Bone Spring  
2 production is marked in red, and Wolfcamp production is  
3 colored green.

4 Q So the closest production to the proposed  
5 unit area from these formations is approximately two miles  
6 away?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Refer to Exhibit Number Seven and tell us  
9 what you show by that map.

10 A Exhibit Seven is a structure map con-  
11 toured on top of the Third Bone Spring Sand. The scale is  
12 one equals 2000 feet. The contour interval is 100 feet.

13 The location of the seismic lines are  
14 marked by red shot points. The proposed location and TD are  
15 so noted.

16 This map shows the proposed unit to be on  
17 a structural high. The proposed drill site is located with-  
18 in the area of maximum structural closure. The steep dip on  
19 the eastern edge of the unit delineates the western edge of  
20 the Central Basin Platform.

21 Q Okay, refer us to Exhibit Number Eight  
22 and tell us what that is.

23 A Exhibit Eight is an Isochron map of the  
24 Third Bone Spring to Strawn interval. The scale is one  
25 equals 2000 feet. The contour interval is one millisecond.



1           The seismic record indicates an anomalous  
2 stratigraphic thickening of this interval. The seismic re-  
3 flections within this interval are somewhat erratic but in-  
4 dications of westward prograding inclined bedding can be  
5 found.

6           This suggests the accumulation of eroded  
7 shelf and shelf margin material deposited at the basin edge.  
8 The draping of overlying sediments caused by differential  
9 compaction also indicates that the accumulation is a carbon-  
10 ate.

11           The justification for the unit outline is  
12 the closure of the time interval point .160. The proposed  
13 well site will penetrate the section at its thickest and a  
14 total depth of 10,600 feet will test both the lower Leonard  
15 Bone Spring and the Wolfcamp intervals.

16           Q           Refer to Exhibit Number Nine and tell the  
17 examiner what you show by that instrument.

18           A           Exhibit Number Nine is a west to east  
19 structural cross section. This cross section shows the  
20 stratigraphic relationship between the Delaware Basin and  
21 the Central Basin Platform.

22           Faulting is present through the Wolf-  
23 camp, which indicates the last significant movement occurred  
24 during this period.

25           The Gulf Lea ACF State No. 1 illustrates

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase by 1.5 billion (United Nations, 1994). The United Nations also predicts that the number of people aged 65 and older will increase by 1 billion in the next 20 years (United Nations, 1994). The United Nations predicts that the number of people aged 65 and older will increase by 1 billion in the next 20 years (United Nations, 1994).

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1 that in this vicinity on the western edge of the Central  
2 Basin Platform Wolfcampian through Mississippian sediments  
3 have been stripped away.

4 The L & B State "J" No. 1-33, located on  
5 the western edge of the unit, has a thicker than normal sec-  
6 tion of Wolfcamp and Lower Bone Spring, Abo equivalent, age  
7 sediments. The substantiates the seismic anomaly in this  
8 interval that justified the formation of the unit.

9 A well drilled at the proposed location  
10 should penetrate a thicker section of Lower Bone Spring and  
11 Wolfcamp detrital at a structurally advantageous position.

12 Q And from your study of this data have you  
13 formed a conclusion as to the propriety of the proposed unit  
14 boundaries?

15 A Yes, I have. Evaluation of extant sub-  
16 surface and seismic data indicates that the proposed Moon-  
17 rise State Unit is justified.

18 Q Ms. Bentz, in your opinion will the ap-  
19 proval of this proposed Moonrise State Unit be in the inter-  
20 est of conservation, the prevention of waste, and the pro-  
21 tection of correlative rights?

22 A Yes, it will.

23 Q Were Exhibits Five through Nine compiled  
24 by you or under your direction and supervision?

25 A Yes, they were.



1 MR. DICKERSON: Mr. Examiner,  
2 move admission of Yates Exhibits Five through Nine and I  
3 have no further questions of this witness.

4 MR. CATANACH: Exhibits Five  
5 through Nine will be admitted into evidence.

6 What was your last name? I'm  
7 sorry.

8 MS. BENTZ: Bentz.

9 MR. CATANACH: Bentz.

10 MS. BENTZ: B-E-N-T-Z.

11

12 CROSS EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. CATANACH:

14 Q How would you justify the unit bound-  
15 aries again?

16 A It's by the closure of the time interval

17 MR. DICKERSON; This is reflec-  
18 ted on your Exhibit Number Eight?

19 A Yes, it is.

20 MR. DICKERSON: Why don't you  
21 describe in a little more detail how you relate that time --

22 A Okay.

23 MR. DICKERSON: -- interval to  
24 the boundaries of this unit?

25 A Basically this is a stratigraphic cross





1 section. The structure you see is formed from a strati-  
2 graphic thickening of this interval.

3 I feel that the L & B State No. 1 is just  
4 outside a much thicker area where there we 'll probably get  
5 a thicker accumulation of detrital and we will be structur-  
6 ally high to that, but I think that the .160 shows where we  
7 are getting the real build-up that is above regional.

8 Q The secondary objective in the well would  
9 be the Bone Spring, is that correct?

10 A Actually, I feel like that both the Bone  
11 Spring and Wolfcamp would have to be considered primary ob-  
12 jectives.

13 Q Are there any other formations that  
14 you've looked at that may be productive in this area?

15 A There could be some production from  
16 younger horizons in the Bone Spring due to the drape over  
17 this structure.

18 There is also San Andres production in  
19 the area.

20 MR. DICKERSON: The proposed  
21 unit form, Mr. Examiner, unitizes all horizons under the  
22 unit boundary.

23 Q That proposed well would be at a standard  
24 location for -- for 40-acre proration units, is that cor-  
25 rect?

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1                   A                   That's correct.

2                                   MR.   CATANACH:    I    have   no  
3 further questions of the witness.  She may be excused.

4                                   Is  there anything further in  
5 Case 9076?

6                                   If not,  it will be taken under  
7 advisement.

8

9                                   (Hearing concluded.)

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SALLY W. BOYD, C.S.R., DO HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Conservation Division (Commission) was reported by me; that the said transcript is a full, true, and correct record of this portion of the hearing, prepared by me to the best of my ability.

Sally W. Boyd CSR

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 9076, heard by me on February 18, 1987.

David R. Catonah, Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division