

Entered January 18, 1967
A.L.P.

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION
COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE No. 3513
Order No. R-3179

APPLICATION OF MIDWEST OIL CORPORATION
FOR SPECIAL POOL RULES, LEA COUNTY, NEW
MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on January 4, 1967, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 18th day of January, 1967, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

- (1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool was created and defined by Order No. R-3166, with horizontal limits comprising the NW/4 of Section 20, Township 9 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, and vertical limits comprising the Bough "C" zone of the Pennsylvanian formation.
- (3) That the applicant, Midwest Oil Corporation, seeks the promulgation of special rules and regulations for the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool, including a provision for 160-acre proration units.
- (4) That the evidence fails to establish that one well in the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool can efficiently and economically drain and develop 160 acres, or that 160-acre spacing units, even on a temporary basis, would be in the interest of conservation.

-2-

CASE No. 3513

Order No. R-3179

(5) That the applicant's request for 160-acre spacing units should be denied.

(6) That in order to prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, to avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, to prevent reduced recovery which might result from the drilling of too few wells, and to otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights, temporary special rules and regulations providing for 80-acre spacing units should be promulgated for the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool.

(7) That the temporary special rules and regulations should provide for limited well locations in order to assure orderly development of the pool and protect correlative rights.

(8) That the temporary special rules and regulations should be established for a one-year period in order to allow the operators in the subject pool to gather reservoir information to establish the area that can be efficiently and economically drained and developed by one well.

(9) That this case should be reopened at an examiner hearing in January, 1968, at which time the operators in the subject pool should be prepared to appear and show cause why the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool should not be developed on 40-acre spacing units.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the request of the applicant, Midwest Oil Corporation, for 160-acre spacing units in the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool is hereby denied.

(2) That temporary Special Rules and Regulations for the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby promulgated as follows:

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE
VADA-PENNSYLVANIAN POOL

RULE 1. Each well completed or recompleted in the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool or in the Bough "C" zone of the Pennsylvanian formation within one mile thereof, and not nearer to or within the limits of another designated Pennsylvanian oil pool, shall be spaced, drilled, operated, and produced in accordance with the Special Rules and Regulations hereinafter set forth.

-3-

CASE No. 3513

Order No. R-3179

RULE 2. Each well shall be located on a standard unit containing 80 acres, more or less, consisting of the N/2, S/2, E/2, or W/2 of a governmental quarter section; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the drilling of a well on each of the quarter-quarter sections in the unit.

RULE 3. The Secretary-Director of the Commission may grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 2 without notice and hearing when an application has been filed for a non-standard unit comprising a governmental quarter-quarter section or lot or the unorthodox size or shape of the tract is due to a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Land Surveys. All operators offsetting the proposed non-standard unit shall be notified of the application by registered or certified mail, and the application shall state that such notice has been furnished. The Secretary-Director may approve the application upon receipt of written waivers from all offset operators or if no offset operator has entered an objection to the formation of the non-standard unit within 30 days after the Secretary-Director has received the application.

RULE 4. Each well shall be located within 150 feet of the center of a governmental quarter-quarter section or lot.

RULE 5. The Secretary-Director may grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 4 without notice and hearing when an application has been filed for an unorthodox location necessitated by topographical conditions or the recompletion of a well previously drilled to another horizon. All operators offsetting the proposed location shall be notified of the application by registered or certified mail, and the application shall state that such notice has been furnished. The Secretary-Director may approve the application upon receipt of written waivers from all operators offsetting the proposed location or if no objection to the unorthodox location has been entered within 20 days after the Secretary-Director has received the application.

RULE 6. A standard proration unit (79 through 81 acres) shall be assigned an 80-acre proportional factor of 4.77 for allowable purposes, and in the event there is more than one well on an 80-acre proration unit, the operator may produce the allowable assigned to the unit from the wells on the unit in any proportion.

The allowable assigned to a non-standard proration unit shall bear the same ratio to a standard allowable as the acreage in such non-standard unit bears to 80 acres.

-4-

CASE No. 3513
Order No. R-3179

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

(1) That the locations of all wells presently drilling to or completed in the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool or in the Bough "C" zone of the Pennsylvanian formation within one mile thereof are hereby approved; that the operator of any well having an unorthodox location shall notify the Hobbs District Office of the Commission in writing of the name and location of the well on or before February 1, 1967.


(2) That each well presently drilling to or completed in the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool or in the Bough "C" zone of the Pennsylvanian formation within one mile thereof shall receive a 40-acre allowable until a Form C-102 dedicating 80 acres to the well has been filed with the Commission.


(3) That this case shall be reopened at an examiner hearing in January, 1968, at which time the operators in the subject pool may appear and show cause why the Vada-Pennsylvanian Pool should not be developed on 40-acre spacing units.

(4) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION


DAVID F. CARGO, Chairman


GUYTON B. HAYS, Member


A. L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

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