

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. 529
ORDER No. R-333

THE APPLICATION OF THE OIL CONSERVATION
COMMISSION ON ITS OWN MOTION FOR AN ORDER
REVISING RULE 401, RULE 402 AND RULE 1121 OF
THE COMMISSION'S RULES AND REGULATIONS
TO PROVIDE FOR GAS WELL TESTING PROCEDURE
APPLICABLE TO GAS WELLS COMPLETED IN SAN
JUAN, RIO ARriba AND McKINLEY COUNTIES, NEW
MEXICO; AND PROVIDING FOR A FORM C-122-A TO
BE USED IN REPORTING THE RESULTS OF SUCH TESTS,
WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 o'clock a.m. April 16, 1953, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission".

NOW, on this 17th day of June, 1953, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony adduced and the exhibits received at said hearing, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) That by reason of the unusual character of the gas-producing formations in the San Juan Basin area of San Juan, Rio Arriba and McKinley Counties, New Mexico, the existing statewide rules and regulations of the Commission in the matter of gas well testing procedure are inapplicable in said San Juan Basin area, and, there is need for the promulgation of special rules governing such testing procedure in the area aforesaid for the prevention of waste and the protection of correlative rights.

(3) That it is essential in view of the necessity for special procedural rules that an appropriate form for reporting such required tests be devised and adopted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

That the following Special Rules and Regulations governing gas well testing in the said San Juan Basin (counties of San Juan, Rio Arriba and McKinley, New Mexico)

be, and the same hereby are promulgated and adopted as an exception to the general statewide rules and regulations of this Commission relating to gas well testing procedures (Rules 401, et seq.):

GAS WELL TESTING RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR
SAN JUAN BASIN AREA

SECTION A. TYPE OF GAS WELL TESTS REQUIRED:

(1) THE INITIAL POTENTIAL TESTS: An "open flow" test and a "shut-in pressure" test shall be made immediately upon completion of each gas well.

(2) ORIGINAL DELIVERABILITY, AND SHUT-IN PRESSURE TESTS:

A deliverability (flow) and a shut-in pressure test shall be made and completed on each gas well within ninety (90) days after the first delivery of gas therefrom into a pipeline, and following a minimum of twenty (20) days continuous production. Report of such tests shall be made to the Commission upon official Form C-122-A, marked "Original", within the month next after such tests are completed.

(3) ANNUAL DELIVERABILITY, AND SHUT-IN PRESSURE TESTS:

Annual deliverability tests and shut-in pressure tests are required to be made during the period from April 1 through October 31 of each year of all producing wells; provided, however, that for new wells the original deliverability and shut-in pressure tests thereof are in lieu of the annual tests for the year in which such well or wells are completed; results of these annual tests are required to be filed with the Commission on Form C-122-A, marked "Annual", within the month next after completion of such tests.

(4) SCHEDULE OF TESTS:

Within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this order and, on or before February 15th of each succeeding year thereafter, the pipeline companies receiving gas from wells to be tested shall, in cooperation with their respective operators, submit a testing schedule for the annual deliverability and shut-in pressure tests for all wells connected to their respective pipeline systems; such test schedules shall be promptly filed with the Commission for approval, and, if approved, the Commission shall furnish each operator, as identified by lists of names and addresses furnished by the respective pipe line companies, with a copy of such schedule as approved by the Commission, or a part thereof pertinent to such operator's wells, immediately, in the first instance and thereafter, on or before March 15th, of each succeeding year. In any case where Original deliverability and shut-in pressure tests for new wells are to serve as the first annual tests, then and in that event the operator shall notify the Commission in writing at least five (5) days before the commencement of the tests.

In event changes for substantial reasons are necessary in the annual test schedule, the Commission shall be notified fifteen (15) days before tests are scheduled to commence

(5) WHO MAY WITNESS TESTS: Any Initial Potential Test, Original or Annual Deliverability, and shut-in pressure test may be witnessed by any or all of the following: a competent representative of the Commission, an offset operator, a representative of the pipe line company taking gas from an offset operator, or a representative of a pipe line company taking gas from the well under test.

Deliverability tests required hereinabove in Paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section shall determine the calculated deliverability of each gas well, which shall be reported to the Commission by converting actual deliverability against existing line pressures to the calculated deliverability at a pressure equal to fifty (50) percent of the shut-in pressure of each well in the manner hereinafter specified below. Such calculated deliverability so determined, and hereinafter so referred to, shall not be considered as the actual deliverability of any well into a gas transportation facility, but shall be used by the Commission as an index to determine the well's ability to produce at assumed line pressures, as compared to other wells in the pool under like conditions.

SECTION B. PROCEDURES FOR TESTS:

The several known gas producing formations of the San Juan Basin represent a variety of testing situations, and each is treated separately.

I. MESAVERDE FORMATION:

(1) INITIAL POTENTIAL TEST: The initial potential test in the Mesa-verde Formation shall be made after a minimum shut-in time of seven (7) days. The shut-in pressure will be measured by the use of a dead-weight gauge. The open flow shall be determined by a pitot tube measurement after unrestricted flowing of the gas to the air for a period of three (3) hours; the flow nipple shall be at least eight (8) diameters long. The pitot tube shall be constructed of either one-fourth (1/4) inch or one-eighth (1/8) inch pipe (nominal diameter). Standard tables (Reid's) will be provided by the Commission, on request.

This test shall be reported on regular Commission Form C-104, or U. S. G. S. Form 9-330, dependent on the land ownership status upon which the well is located.

The following data is required to be reported immediately to the Commission:

- (a) The open flow in MCF per day, calculated by the use of Reid's Tables.
- (b) The shut-in well head casing and tubing pressure, psig.

- (c) The actual length of time well is shut-in before test.

(2) ORIGINAL DELIVERABILITY AND SHUT-IN PRESSURE TESTS:

The procedure and method for the original deliverability and shut-in pressure tests is hereinbelow described under annual deliverability tests, etc.

(3) THE ANNUAL DELIVERABILITY AND SHUT-IN PRESSURE TESTS:

(a) These tests shall be taken by unrestrictedly producing the well into the pipe line. The daily flowing rate shall be determined from an average of seven (7) consecutive producing days, following a minimum of twenty (20) consecutive days continuous production. All such production during the twenty (20) day conditioning period plus the seven (7) day deliverability test period shall be at working well head pressures not in excess of seventy-five (75) per cent of the previous annual seven (7) day shut-in pressure of such well if such previous annual shut-in pressure information is available; otherwise, the seven (7) day initial potential shut-in pressure of such well shall be used.

The working well head pressure (P_w) of any well under test shall be determined to be the seven (7) day average tubing pressure if the well is flowing through the casing; or the seven (7) day average casing pressure if the well is flowing through the tubing.

To obtain the shut-in pressure of a well under test the well shall be shut-in immediately after the seven (7) day deliverability test for the full period of seven (7) consecutive days. Such shut-in pressure shall be measured within the next succeeding twenty-four (24) hours following the seven (7) day shut-in period aforesaid.

All well-head pressures as well as the flowing meter pressure tests which are to be taken at the end of the seven (7) day deliverability test period, as required hereinabove shall be taken with a dead-weight gauge.

Orifice meter charts shall be used to obtain the average differential and flowing meter pressures, which pressures are to be used for calculating the average seven (7) day deliverability volume of flow by using the Basic Orifice Meter Formula $Q_h = C' \sqrt{h_w p_f}$. Orifice meter charts shall be changed, and so arranged as to reflect upon a single chart the flow data of gas from each well for the full seven day deliverability test period. Corrections shall be made for pressure base, measured flowing temperature, specific gravity and supercompressibility (superexpansibility); provided however, that if the specific gravity of gas from any well under test is not available, then and in that event an estimated specific gravity may be assumed therefor, based upon that of gas from nearby wells, the specific gravity of which has been actually determined by measurement.

The basic orifice flow factor (flow coefficient), pressure base factor, flowing temperature factor, and specific gravity factor shall be determined

by the use of the respective tables published in "Gas Measurement Committee Report No. 2" (revised, 1948) of the American Gas Association, New York 17, New York. The tables for the aforementioned factors and the method of computation of gas volumes through orifice flow meters contained in the aforesaid Report No. 2, are hereby approved.

Correction shall be made for supercompressibility (deviation from Boyle's law) for flowing meter pressures in excess of 100 psig. by the use of Simplified Supercompressibility Tables, compiled from C.N.G.A. Bulletins TS-402 and TS-461, published by John P. Squiers Company, Dallas, Texas; or California Natural Gasoline Association, Los Angeles, California, Bulletin TS-402 for flowing meter pressures from 100 to 500 psig. and bulletin TS-461, *ibid.*, for flowing meter pressures in excess of 500 psig.

When supercompressibility (superexpansibility) correction is made for a gas containing either nitrogen, carbon dioxide or hydrogen sulfide in excess of 2 per cent. The pseudocritical pressure and temperature properties of such gas shall be corrected by the use of Table V of the above mentioned TS-402 for pressure 100-500 psig and TS-461 for pressures in excess of 500 psig.

Deliverability pressure, as used herein for Mesaverde production, is an arbitrary pressure applied to each well and used in the process of comparing the abilities of wells in this formation to produce against a back pressure equal to fifty (50) per cent, of the seven (7) day shut-in pressure of the respective individual wells, but in no case to exceed a maximum of 500 psia.

The "deliverability" of gas at the "deliverability pressure" of any well under test shall be calculated from the test data derived from the tests hereinabove required by use of the back-pressure formula:

$$Q = C \left(P_c^2 - P_w^2 \right)^n$$

Using point seventy-five (.75) for the exponent "n" by the following formula:

$$D = Q \frac{\left[\left(P_c^2 - P_d^2 \right) \right]^n}{\left[\left(P_c^2 - P_w^2 \right) \right]^n}$$

WHERE:

- D = Deliverability at the deliverability pressure, (P_d) MCF/da. (at Standard Condition of 15.025 psia and 60°F)
- Q = Daily flow rate in MCF/da. at wellhead pressure (P_w)
- P_c = Shut in casing (or tubing) wellhead pressure, psia.

- P_d = Deliverability pressure; half of the individual well 7-day shut-in pressure, P_c , psia, not to exceed 500 psia.
- P_w = Average wellhead working pressure, as determined from 7-day flow period, psia (casing pressure if flowing through the tubing, or tubing pressure if flowing through the casing).
- n = Average pool slope of back pressure curve (0.75 for Mesa-verde wells).

(b) In the event it is impossible to measure accurately the pressure of the static column of gas due to packer or bridges in the well bore, then the working wellhead pressure, P_w , shall be determined by adding the calculated pressure drop due to friction in the flowing column of gas to the actual flowing wellhead pressure. The method of determining the loss of pressure due to friction shall be specified on the test data sheet, C-122-A.

(c) Any test hereinabove provided for, except initial potential test, will be considered unacceptable if the average flow rate for the final 7 day deliverability test is 25 per cent in excess of any consecutive 7-day average of the preceding three weeks. A "deliverability test" not meeting this requirement shall be retested.

(d) The original and annual deliverability and shut-in pressure tests as required hereinabove shall be reported upon Commission Form C-122-A and filed with the Commission as provided hereinabove.

(e) All charts relative to original or annual deliverability tests shall be identified by the words "Test Chart No. 1" (2, 3, 4, etc.), and any or all charts or photostats thereof shall be made available to the Commission upon its request.

II. PICTURED CLIFFS FORMATION:

(1) INITIAL POTENTIAL TEST: Same as prescribed for Mesaverde formation; see Section B, subsection I, Mesaverde formation hereinabove. Paragraph 1.

(2) ORIGINAL DELIVERABILITY AND SHUT-IN PRESSURE TEST:
The same as provided in paragraph 3, next below.

(3) ANNUAL DELIVERABILITY AND SHUT-IN PRESSURE TEST:

In all respects the deliverability and shut-in pressure tests of wells in the Pictured Cliffs formation shall be made in conformity with the procedures set out in Section B, Subsection I, paragraph 3, (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) of the Mesaverde formation procedures, except that in paragraph (a) thereof, the back pressure formula, the exponent " n " shall have the value of point eighty-five (.85),

and the deliverability pressure (P_d) shall be one half ($1/2$) of the individual well pressure - P_c , psia, but not in excess of 250 psia.

III. FRUITLAND FORMATION:

(1) All initial potential, original and annual deliverability and shut-in pressure tests of gas wells producing from the Fruitland formation shall be identical in all respects to those requirements and procedures hereinabove set out and required for the Pictured Cliffs formation (Section B Subsection II, paragraphs 1-2 and 3).

IV. THE DAKOTA FORMATION: All tests of Dakota wells shall be in conformity with requirements and procedures provided hereinabove for the Mesa-verde formation, except as follows:

(1) BARKER DOME - DAKOTA: (Storage Area)

(a) INITIAL POTENTIAL TEST: An average "pool slope", based upon bottom hole conditions, shall be established by the Commission after consideration of data to be provided by the operators; these data shall be based upon tests taken in conformity with the conventional back pressure method, indicated in Commission Rule 401. This "slope" shall be applied to each well in the Barker Dome-Dakota Area, arbitrarily, as if such slope were the actual performance back pressure slope of each such well, in the following manner:

This back pressure slope so established shall be plotted through a point predetermined by one stabilized flow rate at a working well head pressure not in excess of seventy-five (75) per cent of the seven (7) day shut-in pressure of such well.

The flowing volumes (Q) shall be corrected for pressure base, measured flowing temperature, specific gravity and supercompressibility, by the use of methods of calculation and tables hereinabove referred to and approved in Section B, Subsection 3, paragraph (a) Mesaverde procedures).

A seven (7) day shut-in pressure test shall be made for each well in the Barker Dome-Dakota Area, provided however, that where the shut-in period exceeds seven days such fact shall be reported to the Commission.

The values of the seven (7) day shut-in pressure (P_c) and the working well head pressure (P_w) shall be corrected to bottom hole conditions.

A schedule of tests shall be prepared by the transporter and approved by the Commission, and reports of such tests duly filed with the Commission, on form C-122, being the regular statewide form.

(b) ANNUAL POTENTIAL TEST: This test shall be made of all wells producing from the Barker Dome-Dakota storage area by obtaining seven

(7) day shut-in pressures of all Dakota wells, converting the same to bottom hole pressures (P_f), computing the squares of such bottom hole pressures, (P_f^2), and applying the same to the original average "pool slope" to obtain an adjusted open flow. If so desired as an alternate method an adjusted open flow may be computed from the following equation:

$$O_{f_2} = O_{f_1} \left[\frac{(P_{f_2})^2}{(P_{f_1})^2} \right]^n$$

WHERE:

O_{f_2} = Adjusted absolute open flow.

O_{f_1} = Original absolute open flow.

P_{f_2} = New bottom hole shut-in (psia).

P_{f_1} = Old bottom hole shut-in (psia).

n = Slope of back pressure curve.

Tests of all wells in the Barker Dome-Dakota storage area shall be made during the period of April 1 through October 31 of each year and reports made to the Commission within the next succeeding month after test is made.

V. PENNSYLVANIAN FORMATION :

All tests of wells producing from the Pennsylvanian formation of the San Juan Basin Area shall be as follows:

(1) INITIAL POTENTIAL TEST: Immediately after completion of each new well an absolute open flow shall be determined by the conventional back-pressure method indicated by Rule 401 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

Seven day shut-in pressures will be used in all cases, and, if for any reason the shut-in period exceeds seven days, then, the actual shut-in time shall be reported.

(2) ANNUAL POTENTIAL TEST: This test shall be made of all wells producing from the Pennsylvanian formation of the San Juan Basin area, and such tests shall conform in all respects with the procedure set out next above under initial potential test or in the alternative, by obtaining a seven day shut-in pressure

of each well and converting the same to bottom hole pressure (P_f). The square of the bottom hole pressure (P_f^2) will be computed and applied to the original back pressure curve and an adjusted absolute open flow will be obtained.

If shut-in pressure time is in excess of seven (7) days, then the actual shut-in time shall be reported.

There is no objection to the use of an adjusted absolute open flow calculated from the equation as set out hereinabove under Dakota formation, Section B, Subsection IV, paragraph 1 - subparagraph b.

All tests hereunder shall be made during the period from April 1 through October 31 of each year, and reported to the Commission upon regular Form C-122 during the month succeeding the month in which the tests are made.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

1. That Form C-122-A entitled "Gas Well Test Data Sheet, San Juan Basin", a copy of which is attached hereto for reference, be, and the same hereby is approved in open form subject to minor modifications as experience may indicate and without notice and hearing, and the same shall be used only for the area indicated, excepting therefrom only the Barker Dome-Dakota storage area, and the Pennsylvanian formation, all within the said San Juan Basin. This order modifies Rule 1121 of the Rules and Regulations of the Commission only to the extent of requiring reports upon Form C-122. These forms are hereby adopted for use in the San Juan Basin Area, with exceptions noted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

That other formations in the San Juan Basin Area which may in the future be found to be productive will be provided with testing programs on the basis of formation characteristics.

DONE at Santa Fe, the day and year hereinabove mentioned.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Edwin L. Mechem, Chairman

E. S. Walker, Member

R. R. Spurrier, Secretary

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