

*Entered November 13, 1968*  
*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. 3925  
Order No. R-3601

APPLICATION OF W. E. JEFFERS FOR  
AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER NO. R-3221,  
AS AMENDED, EDDY COUNTY, NEW  
MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on November 13, 1968, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this 26th day of November, 1968, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony presented and the exhibits received at said hearing, 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 applicant, W. E. Jeffers, is the owner and operator of the William E. Jeffers State "B" Well No. 1, located in Unit B of Section 36, Township 17 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Red Lake Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(3) That effective January 1, 1969, Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended, prohibits in that area encompassed by Lea, Eddy, Chaves, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the disposal, subject to minor exceptions, of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, streambed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any

-2-

CASE No. 3925

Order No. R-3601

other place or in any manner which will constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

(4) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.

(5) That the State Engineer has designated, pursuant to Section 65-3-11 (15), N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation, all underground water in the State of New Mexico containing 10,000 parts per million or less of dissolved solids as fresh water supplies to be afforded reasonable protection against contamination; except that said designation does not include any water for which there is no present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use that would be impaired by contamination.

(6) That the applicant seeks an exception to the provisions of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the continued disposal of salt water produced by the aforesaid William E. Jeffers State "B" Well No. 1 in an unlined surface pit located in Unit B of Section 36, Township 17 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(7) That the applicant is presently disposing of approximately 50 barrels of salt water per day produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in the subject pit.

(8) That fresh water supplies as designated by the State Engineer exist in the vicinity of the subject unlined surface pit.

(9) That continued disposal of salt water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in the subject unlined surface pit would constitute an additional threat of contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer existing in the vicinity of said pit.

(10) That the subject application should be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the subject application is hereby denied.

-3-

CASE No. 3925

Order No. R-3601

(2) 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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