

Entered March 14, 1969
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. 4053
Order No. R-3707

APPLICATION OF EL PASO PRODUCTS
COMPANY FOR SPECIAL POOL RULES,
SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on February 26, 1969, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Elvis A. Utz.

NOW, on this 14th day of March, 1969, 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 applicant, El Paso Products Company, seeks the promulgation of special rules and regulations for the Gallegos-Gallup Oil Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico, including provisions for the classification of oil and gas wells, 80-acre spacing for oil wells, and 320-acre spacing for gas wells.

(3) That while said Gallegos-Gallup Oil Pool is presently classified as an oil pool, the evidence adduced indicates that it is in fact an "associated" reservoir.

(4) That the reservoir characteristics of the subject pool indicate that the gas area can be efficiently and economically drained and developed on 320-acre spacing, and that the oil area can be efficiently and economically drained and developed on 80-acre spacing.

-2-

CASE No. 4053

Order No. R-3707

(5) That the reservoir characteristics of the subject pool presently available justify the definition of a gas well as a well producing with a gas-liquid ratio of 30,000 or more cubic feet of gas per barrel of liquid hydrocarbons.

(6) That special rules and regulations providing for 320-acre gas well spacing and 80-acre oil well spacing should be promulgated for the subject pool in order to prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, prevent reduced recovery which might result from the drilling of too few wells, and otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That Special Rules and Regulations for the Gallegos-Gallup Oil Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico, are hereby promulgated as follows, effective May 1, 1969:

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE
GALLEGOS-GALLUP OIL POOL

RULE 1. Each well completed or recompleted in the Gallup formation within the boundary of the Gallegos-Gallup Oil Pool or within one mile thereof, and not nearer to nor within the boundaries of another designated Gallup pool, shall be drilled, spaced, and produced in accordance with the Special Rules and Regulations hereinafter set forth.

RULE 2. (a) Each gas well shall be located on a tract consisting of approximately 320 acres which may reasonably be presumed to be productive of gas from said pool, and which shall comprise any two contiguous quarter sections of a governmental section, being a legal subdivision (half section) of the United States Public Land Surveys. For purposes of these rules, a unit consisting of between 316 and 324 contiguous surface acres shall be considered a standard gas unit.

RULE 2. (b)

1. The District Supervisor shall have the authority to approve a non-standard unit as an exception to Rule 2 (a) without notice and hearing when the unorthodox size or shape of the unit

-3-

CASE No. 4053

Order No. R-3707

is necessitated by a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Land Surveys and the non-standard unit is not less than 75% nor more than 125% of a standard unit.

2. The District Supervisor may approve the non-standard unit by:

(a) Accepting a plat showing the proposed non-standard unit and the acreage to be dedicated to the non-standard unit, and

(b) Assigning an allowable to the non-standard unit.

3. The Secretary-Director of the Commission shall have authority to grant an exception to Rule 2 (a) without notice and hearing where an application has been filed in due form and when the unorthodox size or shape of the tract is due to a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Land Surveys and the non-standard unit is less than 75% or more than 125% of a standard unit, or where the following facts exist and the following provisions are complied with:

(a) The proposed non-standard proration unit consists of less acreage than a standard proration unit;

(b) The non-standard gas proration unit consists of contiguous quarter-quarter sections and/or lots;

(c) The non-standard gas proration unit lies wholly within a single governmental section;

(d) The entire non-standard gas proration unit may reasonably be presumed to be productive of gas from the designated gas pool;

(e) The applicant presents written consent in the form of waivers from:

(1) All operators owning interests outside the non-standard gas proration unit but in the same section in which any part of the non-standard gas proration unit is situated, and

(2) All operators owning interests in acreage offsetting the non-standard gas proration unit.

(f) In lieu of subparagraph (e) of this rule, the applicant may furnish proof of the fact that said offset operators

-4-

CASE No. 4053

Order No. R-3707

were notified by registered mail of his intent to form such non-standard gas proration unit. (This notification to offset operators should consist of the same information that is furnished to the Commission). The Secretary-Director of the Commission may approve the application if, after a period of 30 days following the mailing of said notice, no operator has made objection to formation of such non-standard gas proration unit.

RULE 2. (c) The allowable assigned to any such non-standard gas proration unit shall bear the same ratio to a standard allowable in said pool as the acreage in the unit bears to 320 acres.

RULE 3. (a) Each oil well shall be located on a unit containing approximately 80 acres, which may reasonably be presumed to be productive of oil from said pool, and which consists of the N/2, S/2, E/2, or W/2 of a governmental quarter section. For purposes of these rules, a unit consisting of between 79 and 81 contiguous surface acres shall be considered a standard unit. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the drilling of an oil well on each of the quarter-quarter sections in the 80-acre unit.

RULE 3. (b) For good cause shown, the Secretary-Director may grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 3 (a) without notice and hearing when an application has been filed in due form, and where the unorthodox size or shape of the tract is due to a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Land Surveys, or where the following facts exist and the following provisions are complied with:

- (1) The non-standard unit is to consist of a quarter-quarter section or lot.
- (2) The non-standard unit consists of not more than 81 acres.
- (3) The entire non-standard unit may reasonably be presumed to be productive of oil from said pool.
- (4) The applicant presents written consent in the form of waivers from all offset operators.
- (5) In lieu of paragraph (4) of this rule, the applicant may furnish proof of the fact that all of the offset operators were notified by registered or

-5-

CASE No. 4053

Order No. R-3707

certified mail of his intent to form such non-standard unit. The Secretary-Director may approve the application if, after a period of 30 days, no operator has entered an objection to the formation of such non-standard unit.

RULE 3. (c) The District Supervisor shall have authority to approve non-standard oil proration units without notice and hearing and without administrative approval by the Secretary-Director if such unit consists of two contiguous quarter-quarter sections or lots comprising less than 79 acres lying within a governmental quarter section and the non-standard unit is necessitated by a variation in the United States Public Land Surveys.

RULE 3. (d) The allowable assigned to any such non-standard oil proration unit shall bear the same ratio to a standard allowable in said pool as the acreage in the unit bears to 80 acres.

RULE 4. (a) Each well, oil or gas, shall be located no nearer than 790 feet to any quarter section line and each such well shall be located no nearer than 330 feet to a governmental quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary line. Any well drilled to and producing from the Gallegos-Gallup Oil Pool prior to the effective date of this order at a location conforming to the well location requirements in effect at the time the well was drilled shall be considered to be located in conformance with this rule.

RULE 4. (b) The Secretary-Director shall have authority to grant an exception to Rule 4 (a) without notice and hearing when the application has been filed in due form and the Secretary-Director determines that good cause exists for granting such exception. However, such an unorthodox location, if approved, may necessitate an allowable adjustment.

Applicants shall furnish all offset operators and all operators within the section in which the subject well is located a copy of the application to the Commission, and the applicant shall include with his application a list of the names and addresses of all such operators together with a stipulation that proper notice has been given said operators at the addresses listed. The Secretary-Director of the Commission shall wait at least 20 days before approving any such unorthodox location, and only in the absence of objection from an offset operator may such application be approved.

RULE 5. A well shall be classified as a gas well if it has a gas-liquid ratio of 30,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of liquid hydrocarbons, or more. A well shall be classified as an oil well if it has a gas-liquid ratio of less than 30,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of liquid hydrocarbons. The simultaneous dedication of any acreage to both an oil well and a gas well is strictly prohibited.

RULE 6. The gas-liquid ratio limitation shall be 2,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of liquid hydrocarbons produced.

RULE 7. An oil well which has 80 acres dedicated to it shall be permitted to produce an amount of gas determined by multiplying the top unit oil allowable for said pool by the limiting gas-liquid ratio for the pool, (2,000). In the event there is more than one oil well on an 80-acre oil proration unit, the operator may produce the allowable assigned to the 80-acre unit from said wells in any proportion.

A gas well shall be permitted to produce that amount of gas obtained by multiplying the top unit oil allowable for the pool by 2,000 and by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of acres dedicated to the particular gas well and the denominator of which is 80. In the event there is more than one gas well on a 320-acre gas proration unit, the operator may produce the amount of gas assigned to the unit from said wells in any proportion.

RULE 8. The operator of each newly completed well shall cause a gas-liquid ratio test to be taken on said well upon recovery of all load oil from the well, provided however, that in no event shall the test be commenced later than 30 days from the date of first production unless the well is connected to a gas-gathering facility and is producing under a temporary gas allowable assigned in accordance with Rule 11. Provided further, that any well which is shut-in shall be exempted from the aforesaid gas-liquid ratio test requirement so long as it remains shut-in. The initial gas-liquid ratio test shall be taken in the manner prescribed by Rule 9. If the gas-liquid ratio is 30,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of liquid hydrocarbons, or more, the operator shall not produce the well until beneficial use can be made of the gas.

No gas shall be flared or vented from any well classified as an oil well more than 60 days after the well begins to produce. Any operator that desires to obtain an exception to

the foregoing provisions for a well classified as an oil well shall submit to the Secretary-Director of the Commission an application for such exception with a statement setting forth the facts and circumstances justifying it. The Secretary-Director is hereby authorized to grant such an exception if he determines that the granting of it is reasonably necessary. If the Secretary-Director declines to grant administrative approval of the requested exception, the matter shall be set for hearing if the operator so requests.

RULE 9. Gas-liquid ratio tests shall be taken on all wells in the pool, and on all wells producing from the Gallup formation within one mile of the boundaries of the pool which are not within another designated Gallup pool, during the month of April, 1969, and annually thereafter. An initial gas-liquid ratio test taken after April 1, 1969, shall suffice as the first annual test. Tests shall be 24-hour tests, being the final 24 hours of a 72-hour period during which the well shall be produced at a constant normal rate of production. Results of such tests shall be filed on Commission Form C-116 on or before the 10th day of the following month. At least 72 hours prior to commencement of any such gas-liquid ratio tests, each operator shall file with the Aztec office of the Commission a test schedule for its wells, specifying the time each of its wells is to be tested. Copies of the test schedule shall also be furnished to all offset operators.

Special tests shall also be taken at the request of the Secretary-Director and may also be taken at the option of the operator. Such special tests shall be taken in accordance with the procedures outlined hereinabove, including notification to the Commission and offset operators.

RULE 10. An initial shut-in pressure test shall be taken on each gas well and shall be reported to the Commission on Form C-125.

RULE 11. Any well completed after the effective date of this order shall receive an allowable only upon receipt by the Commission's Aztec office of Commission Forms C-104 and C-116, all properly executed. The District Supervisor of the Commission's Aztec office is hereby authorized to assign a temporary gas allowable to wells connected to a gas transportation facility during the recovery of load oil, which allowable shall not exceed the number of cubic feet of gas obtained by multiplying the daily top unit allowable for the pool by 2,000.

-8-

CASE No. 4053

Order No. R-3707

RULE 12. The initial gas proration period shall be from 7 o'clock a.m. on May 1, 1969, to 7 o'clock a.m. on February 1, 1970. Subsequently, the dates 7 o'clock a.m. February the first and 7 o'clock a.m. August the first shall be known as balancing dates, and the periods of time bounded by these dates shall be known as the gas proration periods for the Gallegos-Gallup Oil Pool.

RULE 13. Any gas well which has an underproduced status as of the end of a gas proration period shall be allowed to carry such underproduction forward into the next gas proration period and may produce such underproduction in addition to the allowable assigned during such succeeding period. Any allowable carried forward into a gas proration period and remaining unproduced at the end of such gas proration period shall be cancelled.

RULE 14. Production during any one month of a gas proration period in excess of the allowable assigned to a well for such month shall be applied against the underproduction carried into such period in determining the amount of allowable, if any, to be cancelled.

RULE 15. Any well which has an overproduced status as of the end of a gas proration period shall carry such overproduction forward into the next gas proration period, provided that such overproduction shall be compensated for during such succeeding period. Any well which has not compensated for the overproduction carried into a gas proration period by the end of such proration period shall be shut-in until such overproduction is compensated for. If, at any time, a well is overproduced an amount equalling three times its current monthly allowable, it shall be shut-in during that month and each succeeding month until the well is overproduced less than three times its current monthly allowable.

RULE 16. The allowable assigned to a well during any one month of a gas proration period in excess of the production for the same month shall be applied against the overproduction carried into such period in determining the amount of overproduction, if any, which has not been compensated for.

RULE 17. The Commission may allow overproduction to be compensated for at a lesser rate than would be the case if the well were completely shut-in upon a showing after notice and hearing that complete shut-in of the well would result in material damage to the well and/or reservoir.

-9-

CASE No. 4053

Order No. R-3707

RULE 18. The monthly gas production from each gas well shall be metered separately and the gas production therefrom shall be reported to the Commission on Form C-115 so as to reach the Commission on or before the 24th day of the month next succeeding the month in which the gas was produced. The operator shall show on such report what disposition has been made of the produced gas.

RULE 19. Each purchaser or taker of gas shall submit a report to the Commission on or before the 15th day of the month next succeeding the month in which the gas was purchased or taken. Such report shall be filed on Form C-111 with the wells being listed in approximately the same order as they are listed on the oil proration schedule.

RULE 20. Failure to comply with any provision of this order or the rules contained herein shall result in the immediate cancellation of allowable assigned to the affected well. No further allowable shall be assigned until all rules and regulations have been complied with. The District Supervisor shall notify the operator of the well and the purchaser in writing of the date of allowable cancellation and the reason therefor.

RULE 21. All transporters or users of gas shall file gas well-connection notices with the Commission as soon as possible after the date of connection.

RULE 22. Allowables to wells whose classification has changed from oil to gas or from gas to oil as the result of a gas-liquid ratio test shall commence on the first day of the month following the month in which such test was reported, provided that a plat (Form C-102) showing the acreage dedicated to the well and the location of all wells on the dedicated acreage have been filed.

(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


ALEX J. ARMILLO, Member


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

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