

*Entered June 10, 1969*  
*W.S.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. 4146  
Order No. R-3778

APPLICATION OF V. S. WELCH 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 June 4, 1969,  
at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 10th day of June, 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, V. S. Welch, is the operator of a  
lease comprising the NE/4 of Section 28, Township 18 South, Range  
31 East, NMPM, Shugart Field, 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

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other place or in any manner which would 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 disposal of salt water, produced by applicant's wells completed or to be completed in said quarter section, in unlined surface pits on said lease.

(7) That wells presently completed on the subject lease produce approximately 84 barrels of water per day.

(8) That there appears to be no shallow fresh water wells within a radius of four miles of the subject lease.

(9) That there appears to be no shallow fresh water in the vicinity of the subject unlined pits for which a present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use is or will be made that would be impaired by contamination.

(10) That the applicant should be permitted to dispose of salt water produced by wells completed or to be completed on the subject lease in unlined surface pits located on said lease.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, V. S. Welch, is hereby granted an exception to Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended,

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to dispose of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, by his wells completed or to be completed in the NE/4 of Section 28, Township 18 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Shugart Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, in unlined surface pits located in said quarter section until further order of the Commission.

(2) That the Commission may by administrative order rescind such authority whenever it reasonably appears to the Commission that such rescission would serve to protect fresh water supplies from contamination.

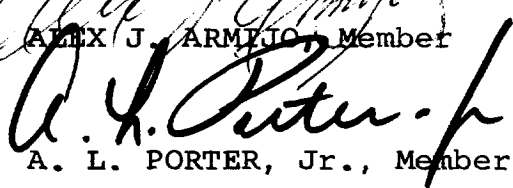
(3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

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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