

*Entered October 14, 1969*  
*A.H.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. 4222  
Order No. R-3850

APPLICATION OF COASTAL STATES GAS  
PRODUCING COMPANY 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 October 8, 1969,  
at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Elvis A. Utz.

NOW, on this 14th day of October, 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, Coastal States Gas Producing Company,  
seeks the promulgation of special rules and regulations for the  
West Sawyer-San Andres Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, including a  
provision for 80-acre spacing and proration units.

(3) 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 West Sawyer-San Andres Pool.



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(4) 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.

(5) 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 and to determine whether or not the subject pool is in fact an associated reservoir.

(6) That this case should be reopened at an examiner hearing in October, 1970, at which time the operators in the subject pool should be prepared to appear and show cause why the West Sawyer-San Andres Pool should not be developed on 40-acre spacing units.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

That temporary Special Rules and Regulations for the West Sawyer-San Andres Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby promulgated as follows:

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS  
FOR THE  
WEST SAWYER-SAN ANDRES POOL

RULE 1. Each well completed or recompleted in the West Sawyer-San Andres Pool or in the San Andres formation within one mile thereof, and not nearer to or within the limits of another designated San Andres oil pool, shall be spaced, drilled, operated, and produced in accordance with the special rules and regulations hereinafter set forth.

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

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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. The first well drilled on every standard or non-standard unit in the West Sawyer-San Andres Pool shall be drilled in the NW/4 or the SE/4 of a governmental quarter section. All wells shall be located within 200 feet of the center of a governmental quarter-quarter section.

RULE 5. The Secretary-Director may grant an exception to the footage 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, provided the well will be located no nearer than 330 feet to the outer boundary of the unit. 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 2.00 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.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

(1) That the locations of all wells presently drilling to or completed in the West Sawyer-San Andres Pool or in the San Andres 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 November 1, 1969.

(2) That, pursuant to Paragraph A. of Section 65-3-14.5, NMSA 1953, contained in Chapter 271, Laws of 1969, existing wells in the West Sawyer-San Andres Pool shall have dedicated thereto 80 acres in accordance with the foregoing pool rules; or, pursuant to Paragraph C. of said Section 65-3-14.5, existing wells may have non-standard spacing or proration units established by the Commission and dedicated thereto.

Failure to file new Forms C-102 with the Commission dedicating 80 acres to a well or to obtain a non-standard unit approved by the Commission within 60 days from the date of this order shall subject the well to cancellation of allowable. Until said Form C-102 has been filed or until a non-standard unit has been approved, and subject to said 60-day limitation, each well presently drilling to or completed in the West Sawyer-San Andres Pool or in the San Andres formation within one mile thereof shall receive no more than one-half of a standard allowable for the pool.

(3) That this case shall be reopened at an examiner hearing in October, 1970, at which time the operators in the subject pool may appear and show cause why the West Sawyer-San Andres Pool should not be developed on 40-acre spacing units and present evidence as to whether or not the subject pool is in fact an associated reservoir.

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

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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. ARMILJO, Member

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

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