

Entered December 3, 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. 4261
Order No. R-3890

APPLICATION OF PENNZOIL UNITED, INC.,
FOR SPECIAL POOL RULES AND UNORTHODOX
GAS WELL LOCATION, LEA COUNTY, NEW
MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on November 25, 1969, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Elvis A. Utz.

NOW, on this 3rd day of December, 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, Pennzoil United, Inc., seeks the promulgation of special rules and regulations for the Quail Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, including a provision for 320-acre spacing units.

(3) That the applicant further seeks an exception to the proposed well location requirements for said Quail Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool for its Mescalero Ridge Well No. 1 located 660 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 20, Township 19 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

(4) That in order to prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, to avoid the augmentation of

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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, special rules and regulations providing for 320-acre spacing units should be promulgated for the Quail Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool.

(5) That the special rules and regulations should provide for limited well locations in order to assure orderly development of the pool and protect correlative rights.

(6) That approval of the non-standard location in the subject pool for the aforesaid Mescalero Ridge Well No. 1 will prevent the drilling of unnecessary wells, will afford the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the gas in the subject pool, and will otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

That Special Rules and Regulations for the Quail Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby promulgated as follows:

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE
QUAIL RIDGE-MORROW GAS POOL

RULE 1. Each well completed or recompleted in the Quail Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool or in the Morrow formation within one mile thereof, and not nearer to or within the limits of another designated Morrow gas 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 consisting of approximately 320 acres which shall comprise any two contiguous quarter sections of a single 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 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 and the unorthodox size or shape of the unit is necessitated by a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Land Surveys, or the following facts exist and the following provisions are complied with:

- (a) The non-standard unit consists of quarter quarter sections or lots that are contiguous by a common bordering side.
- (b) The non-standard unit lies wholly within a single governmental section and contains less acreage than a standard unit.
- (c) The applicant presents written consent in the form of waivers from all offset operators and from all operators owning interests in the section in which the non-standard unit is situated and which acreage is not included in said non-standard unit.
- (d) In lieu of paragraph (c) of this rule, the applicant may furnish proof of the fact that all of the aforesaid operators were notified by registered or certified mail of his intent to form such non-standard unit. The Secretary-Director may approve the application if no such operator has entered an objection to the formation of such non-standard unit within 30 days after the Secretary-Director has received the application.

RULE 4. Each well shall be located not closer than 660 feet to the nearest side boundary of the dedicated tract nor closer than 1980 feet to the nearest end boundary nor closer than 330 feet to any quarter-quarter section or subdivision inner boundary.

RULE 5. The Secretary-Director may grant an exception to the 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. 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

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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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

(1) That the Pennzoil United, Inc., Mescalero Ridge Well No. 1, located 660 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 20, Township 19 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Quail Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, is hereby granted an exception to the well location requirements contained herein.

(2) That the operator of the aforesaid Mescalero Ridge Well No. 1 shall file a new Form C-102 outlining thereon the acreage dedicated to said well within 15 days after receipt of this order.

(3) That the locations of all wells presently drilling to or completed in the Quail Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool or in the Morrow 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 December 15, 1969.

(4) That, pursuant to Paragraph A. of Section 65-3-14.5, NMSA 1953, contained in Chapter 271, Laws of 1969, existing wells in the Quail Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool shall have dedicated thereto 320 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 320 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 Quail Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool or in the Morrow formation within one mile thereof shall receive no more than one-half of a standard allowable for the pool.

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(5) 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. ARMIJO, Member


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

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