

Entered September 27, 1972
A.L.D.

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. 4826
Order No. R-4407

APPLICATION OF HANAGAN PETROLEUM
CORPORATION FOR POOL CREATION,
SPECIAL POOL RULES, AND AN UNORTHODOX
LOCATION, EDDY COUNTY, NEW
MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on September 13, 1972, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 27th day of September, 1972, 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, Hanagan Petroleum Corporation, seeks the creation of a new gas pool for Strawn production in Eddy County, New Mexico, the promulgation of special rules and regulations governing said pool, including a provision for 640-acre spacing units. Applicant further seeks approval of an unorthodox location for its Catclaw Draw Unit Well No. 3, located 920 feet from the North line and 920 feet from the West line of Section 36, Township 21 South, Range 25 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(3) That the above-described well, having its top perforations in the Strawn formation at 9,544 feet, has discovered a separate common source of supply which should be designated the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool; that the vertical limits of said pool should be the Strawn formation and that the horizontal limits of said pool should be all of said Section 36.

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

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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 640-acre spacing units should be promulgated for the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool.

(5) 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.

(6) That special rules and regulations should be established for a temporary period to expire one year from the date that a pipeline connection is first obtained for a well in the pool; that during this temporary period all operators in the subject pool should gather all available information relative to drainage and recoverable reserves.

(7) That this case should be reopened at an examiner hearing one year from the date that a pipeline connection is first obtained for a well in the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool, at which time the operators in the subject pool should appear and show cause why the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool should not be developed on 320-acre spacing units.

(8) That the first operator to obtain a pipeline connection for a well in the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool should notify the Commission in writing of such fact, and that the Commission should thereupon issue a supplemental order designating an exact date for reopening this case.

(9) That Administrative Order No. NSL-552 approved, for topographical reasons, the completion of the above-described well at an unorthodox location in the Catclaw Draw-Morrow Gas Pool.

(10) That approval of the unorthodox location for the subject well in the Strawn formation will prevent waste and will not violate correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That a new pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Strawn production, is hereby created and designated the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool, with vertical limits comprising the Strawn formation and horizontal limits comprising the following-described area:

EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST, NMPM
Section 36: All

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(2) That temporary Special Rules and Regulations for the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico, are hereby promulgated as follows:

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE
CATCLAW DRAW-STRAWN GAS POOL

RULE 1. Each well completed or recompleted in the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool or in the Strawn formation within one mile thereof, and not nearer to or within the limits of another designated Strawn 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 containing 640 acres, more or less, consisting of a governmental section.

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 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 no nearer than 1650 feet to the outer boundary of the Section and no nearer than 330 feet to any governmental quarter-quarter section line.

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 proration 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 operators offsetting the proration unit 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 locations of all wells presently drilling to or completed in the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool or in the Strawn formation within one mile thereof are hereby approved; that the operator of any well having an unorthodox location shall notify the Artesia District Office of the Commission in writing of the name and location of the well on or before October 15, 1972.

(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 Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool shall have dedicated thereto 640 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 640 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 Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool or in the Strawn 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 one year from the date that a pipeline connection is first obtained for a well in the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool, at which time the operators in the subject pool may appear and show cause why the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool should not be developed on 320-acre spacing units.

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(4) That the first operator to obtain a pipeline connection for a well in the Catclaw Draw-Strawn Gas Pool shall notify the Commission in writing of such fact, and that the Commission will thereupon issue a supplemental order designating an exact date for reopening this case.

(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


BRUCE KING, Chairman


ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member


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

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