

Entered June 30, 1980  
JLR

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 6871  
Order No. R-5693-A

APPLICATION OF BASS ENTERPRISES  
PRODUCTION COMPANY TO AMEND ORDER  
NO. R-5693, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on April 23, 1980, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this 30th day of June, 1980, the Division Director, 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 Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the applicant, Bass Enterprises Production Company, seeks to amend Order No. R-5693 to remove the restriction as to the time limit in which salt water may be disposed into Big Eddy Unit Well No. 56 located in Unit G of Section 35, Township 21 South, Range 28 East.
- (3) That in its Order No. R-5693 the Division made the following findings relative to one of the applicant's producing wells located within one-half mile of the subject salt water disposal well:
  - "(8) That the applicant's Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 located in Unit J of said Section 35 is located within one-half mile of the proposed injection well and is not cemented opposite the disposal zone.

"(9) That said Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 could serve as an avenue of escape for injected waters from the disposal zone to other zones.

"(10) That to prevent said migration of injected waters into zones other than the disposal zone the applicant should periodically monitor the 8 5/8-inch x 5 1/2-inch casing annulus for detection of injected fluid and, upon such detection, immediately cease injection or repair said Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41.

"(11) That in no event should injection into said well continue for a period in excess of two years unless said Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 shall have been cemented across the injection zone."

(4) That the applicant has conducted numerous tests on said Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 none of which indicated any movement of water up-hole or down-hole nor significant pressure in the 8 5/8-inch x 5 1/2-inch casing-casing annulus.

(5) That the producing zone in said Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 could be damaged and production irretrievably lost during workover operations required to accomplish the proposed corrective cementing opposite said disposal interval.

(6) That said irretrievable loss of production, in the absence of any demonstration of fluid movement opposite the disposal interval, is unnecessary waste and should be avoided.

(7) That the requirement for the recementing of applicant's Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 should be indefinitely suspended pending tests demonstrating fluid movement behind the casing opposite the disposal zone or recompletion of the well in a new zone.

(8) That the applicant should continue to conduct the periodic well tests set out in said Order No. R-5693 as well as annual temperature and noise log surveys across the disposal interval in said Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41.

(9) That the applicant should notify the supervisor of the Division's district office at Artesia of the date and time of such annual tests in order that the Division, at its option, may witness such tests.

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(10) That copies of the annual temperature and noise surveys should be filed with the Division not later than 30 days following completion of the tests.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That that provision of Order (1) of Division Order No. R-5693 entered April 11, 1978, requiring the cementing of the Bass Enterprises Production Company Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 located in Unit J of Section 35, Township 21 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, opposite the disposal interval authorized by said Order No. R-5693, is hereby suspended indefinitely.

(2) That the operator of said Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 shall continue to conduct the periodic well tests set out in said Order No. R-5693 and shall further conduct an annual temperature and noise log survey across the disposal interval.

(3) That the operator shall notify the supervisor of the Division's district office at Artesia of the date and time of such annual tests in order that the Division, at its option, may witness such tests.

(4) Copies of the annual temperature and noise surveys shall be filed with the Division not later than 30 days following completion of the tests.

(5) That should any of the tests required under provisions of this Order or Order No. R-5693 demonstrate fluid movement behind the casing opposite the disposal interval or should said Big Eddy Unit Well No. 41 be worked over or recompleted the operator thereof shall proceed immediately to properly cement said casing below and across said zone.

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

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

  
JOE D. RAMEY  
Director

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