

entered October 6, 1978
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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. 6319
Order No. R-5821

APPLICATION OF BELCO PETROLEUM
CORPORATION FOR AN UNORTHODOX WELL
LOCATION AND COMPULSORY POOLING,
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on September 13, 1978, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this 6th day of October, 1978, 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, Belco Petroleum Corporation, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Wolfcamp formation underlying the N/2 of Section 31, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(3) That the applicant further seeks approval of the unorthodox location of its Mollie Com Well No. 1 located 1150 feet from the North line and 1575 feet from the East line of said Section 31.

(4) That said Mollie Com Well No. 1 is an existing Morrow gas well drilled at an unorthodox location selected to avoid proximity to occupied dwellings and cultivated land.

(5) That the Morrow gas production has become non-commercial and the operator proposes to attempt to recomplete said well in the Wolfcamp formation.

(6) That there are interest owners in the proposed proration unit who have not agreed to pool their interests.

(7) That to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights, and to afford to the owner of each interest in said unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense his just and fair share of the gas in said pool, the subject application should be approved by pooling all mineral interests, whatever they may be, within said unit.

(8) That the applicant should be designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(9) That any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(10) That any non-consenting working interest owner that does not pay his share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production his share of the reasonable well costs plus an additional 200 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the recompletion of the well.

(11) That any non-consenting interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but that actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(12) That following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner that has paid his share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(13) That \$2011.04 per month while performing recompletion operations and \$294.95 per month while producing are hereby fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates), provided that the production rate shall be adjusted on the first day of April of each year following the effective date of this order based on the percentage increase or decrease in the average weekly earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers as shown by "The Index of Average Weekly Earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers" as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; that the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto,

-3-

Case No. 6319
Order No. R-5821

the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(14) That all proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(15) That upon the failure of the operator of said pooled unit to commence recompletion of the well to which said unit is dedicated on or before December 31, 1978, the order pooling said unit should become null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That all mineral interests, whatever they may be, in the Wolfcamp formation underlying the N/2 of Section 31, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled to form a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit to be dedicated to applicant's Mollie Com Well No. 1 located at an unorthodox location, hereby approved, 1150 feet from the North line and 1575 feet from the East line of said Section 31.

PROVIDED HOWEVER, that the operator of said unit shall commence the recompletion of said well on or before the 31st day of December, 1978, and shall thereafter continue the recompletion of said well with due diligence in such a manner as to test the Wolfcamp formation;

PROVIDED FURTHER, that in the event said operator does not commence the recompletion of said well on or before the 31st day of December, 1978, Order (1) of this order shall be null and void and of no effect whatsoever, unless said operator obtains a time extension from the Division for good cause shown.

PROVIDED FURTHER, that should said well not be recompleted or abandoned within 120 days after commencement thereof, said operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Order (1) of this order should not be rescinded.

(2) That Belco Petroleum Corporation is hereby designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(3) That after the effective date of this order and within 30 days prior to commencing recompletion of said well, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner in the subject unit an itemized schedule of estimated well recompletion costs.

(4) That within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well recompletion costs is furnished to him, any non-consenting working interest owner shall have the right to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production, and that any such owner who pays his share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

(5) That the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following recompletion of the well; that if no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of said schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided however, that if there is an objection to actual well costs within said 45-day period the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(6) That within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner that has paid his share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator his pro rata share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator his pro rata share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(7) That the operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

(A) The pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(B) As a charge for the risk involved in the recompletion of the well, 200 percent of the pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(8) That the operator shall distribute said costs and charges withheld from production to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(9) That \$2011.04 per month while performing recompletion operations and \$294.95 per month while producing are hereby fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates), provided that the rate for a producing well shall be adjusted on the first day of April of each year following the effective date of this order; that the adjustment shall be computed by multiplying the rate currently in use by the percentage increase or decrease in the average weekly earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers for the last calendar year compared to the preceding calendar year as shown by "The Index of Average Weekly Earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers" as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the adjusted rate shall be the rates currently in use, plus or minus the computed adjustment; that the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charge attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(10) That any unsevered mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under the terms of this order.

(11) That any well costs or charges which are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interests share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(12) That all proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason shall immediately be placed in escrow in Eddy County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership; that the operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of said escrow agent within 30 days from the date any funds are deposited with such escrow agent.

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

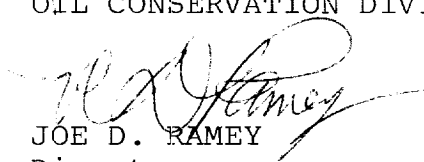
-6-

Case No. 6319

Order No. R-5821

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year herein-
above designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



JOE D. RAMEY
Director

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