

Entered March 16, 1980
JMR

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. 6806
Order No. R-6279

APPLICATION OF WESTALL, MASK AND
JENNINGS FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER
NO. R-3221, AS AMENDED, EDDY COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on February 13, 1980, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 11th day of March, 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, Westall, Mask and Jennings, is the owner and operator of several leases in Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 34, Township 18 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Shugart Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(3) That Order (3) of Division Order No. R-3221, as amended, prohibits in that area encompassed by Lea, Eddy, Chaves, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the disposal, subject to minor exceptions, of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, streambed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any other place or in any manner which would constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

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(4) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.

(5) That the State Engineer has designated, pursuant to Section 65-3-11 (15), N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation, all underground water in the State of New Mexico containing 10,000 parts per million or less of dissolved solids as fresh water supplies to be afforded reasonable protection against contamination; except that said designation does not include any water for which there is no present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use that would be impaired by contamination.

(6) That the applicant seeks as an exception to the provisions of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the disposal of salt water produced by applicant's wells on the above-described leases in unlined surface pits located on said leases.

(7) That the wells on the aforesaid leases produce approximately 100 barrels of water per day.

(8) That the applicant is currently gathering said water and trucking it to an underground injection site at considerable cost.

(9) That there appears to be no shallow fresh water in the vicinity of the subject leases for which a present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use is or will be made that would be impaired by contamination from the proposed disposal pits.

(10) That to prevent the economic loss caused by gathering and trucking the water produced on applicant's leases, authority to dispose of produced water in unlined surface pits on said leases should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, Westall, Mask and Jennings, is hereby granted an exception to Order (3) of Division Order No. R-3221, as amended, to dispose of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, from its Keohane Federal and Hinkle Federal Leases, located in Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 34, Township 18 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Shugart Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico, in unlined surface pits on said leases.

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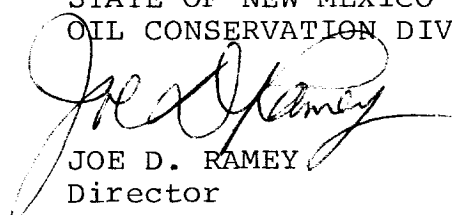
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(2) That the Director of the Division may by administrative order rescind such authority whenever it reasonably appears to the Director that such rescission would serve to protect fresh water supplies from contamination.

(3) 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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