

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION ON ITS OWN MOTION TO PERMIT CARROLL AND CORNELL AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY THE CORNELL (FEDERAL LEASE) WELL NO. 9, LOCATED 1650 FEET FROM THE SOUTH LINE AND 330 FEET FROM THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST, NMPM, SAN JUAN COUNTY, SHOULD NOT BE PLUGGED AND ABANDONED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DIVISION-APPROVED PLUGGING PROGRAM.

CASE No. 8654
Order No. R-7995

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:00 a.m. on July 31, 1985, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Gilbert P. Quintana.

NOW, on this 1st day of August, 1985, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) Division Cases Numbers 8653 and 8654 were consolidated for purposes of testimony.

(3) Carroll and Cornell were the last known operator of the Cornell No. 9 well, located 1650 feet from the South line and 330 feet from the West line of Section 12, Township 29 North, Range 12 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.

(4) The Cornell No. 9 well is not covered by a plugging bond on file with the State of New Mexico.

(5) Carroll and Cornell apparently no longer exist as an operator in New Mexico.

(6) Records on file with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division indicate that the Cornell No. 9 well was drilled on

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federal land between 1946 and 1948 as a dry hole, and has never been plugged and abandoned.

(7) There are several domestic water wells within two miles of the Cornell No. 9 well, some of which contain gas and have become unusable.

(8) Testimony indicates that the Cornell No. 9 well apparently has a casing failure which may be contributing to the appearance of gas in nearby water wells.

(9) The current condition of the Cornell No. 9 well is such that a hazardous situation exists, waste may occur, and fresh water resources may be contaminated if the well is not plugged.

(10) In order to prevent waste, protect fresh water resources, and eliminate potential hazards, Carroll and Cornell should be ordered to plug and abandon the Cornell No. 9 well on or before August 15, 1985, in accordance with a plugging program prepared by the Division and introduced as an Exhibit in this case.

(11) If Carroll and Cornell do not plug the Cornell No. 9 well, the Division should plug said well in accordance with NMSA 70-2-38 (1978) relating to the Oil and Gas Reclamation Fund, and seek reimbursement for such costs from Carroll and Cornell or its successors or assigns.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) Carroll and Cornell is hereby ordered to plug and abandon, in accordance with a plugging program prepared by the Division and introduced as an exhibit in this case, the Cornell No. 9 well, located 1650 feet from the South line and 330 feet from the West line of Section 12, Township 29 North, Range 12 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, on or before August 15, 1985.

(2) If Carroll and Cornell do not plug the Cornell No. 9 well in accordance with this order, the Division shall take appropriate steps to have said well plugged in conformity with the provisions of NMSA 70-2-38 (1978) relating to the Oil and Gas Reclamation Fund, and seek reimbursement from Carroll and Cornell or its successors or assigns for all costs incurred.

(3) Jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

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

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OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. L. Stamets", is written over the printed name below.

R. L. STAMETS,
Director

dr/

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