

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

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

CASE NO. 9331
Order No. R-8644

APPLICATION OF PHILLIPS PETROLEUM
COMPANY FOR A NON-STANDARD GAS
PRORATION UNIT AND UNORTHODOX GAS
WELL LOCATION, LEA COUNTY, NEW
MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on March 16 and April 13, 1988, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 27th day of April, 1988, 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) The applicant, Phillips Petroleum Company (Phillips), seeks approval for an unorthodox gas well location for its proposed State "22" Well No. 1 to be located 660 feet from the North and West lines (Unit D) of Section 22, Township 17 South, Range 35 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, to test the South Shoe Bar-Atoka Gas Pool and the Morrow formation, said well to be dedicated either to a 160-acre non-standard gas proration and spacing unit consisting of the N/2 SW/4 and W/2 NW/4 of said Section 22, or in the alternative, to an 80-acre non-standard gas proration and spacing unit consisting of the W/2 NW/4 of said Section 22.

(3) The applicant is the leasehold owner of the W/2 NW/4 of said Section 22, and at the time of the hearing, the applicant testified that Phillips had reached a verbal agreement with Amerada Hess to obtain by farmout its acreage consisting of the N/2 SW/4 of said Section 22 contingent upon approval of the subject application by the Division.

(4) At the time of the hearing, the applicant requested that the portion of the case requesting approval of an 80-acre non-standard spacing and proration unit to be dedicated to subject well be dismissed.

(5) Arco Oil & Gas Company (Arco), the leasehold owner of the S/2 SW/4 of said Section 22, appeared at the hearing in opposition to the application.

(6) The evidence in this case indicates that by Administrative Order No. NSP-1470, the Division approved a 240-acre non-standard gas spacing and proration unit consisting of the NE/4 and the E/2 NW/4 of said Section 22, said acreage dedicated to the T. H. McElvain Oil and Gas Properties New Mexico "AC" State Well No. 1 located at an unorthodox gas well location 1980 feet from the North line and 660 feet from the East line (Unit H) of said Section 22, which was completed in the South Shoe Bar-Atoka Gas Pool in January, 1986.

(7) The evidence further indicates that Sun Exploration and Production Company currently operates the South Shoe Bar State Com Well No. 1 located 660 feet from the South line and 2030 feet from the West line of Section 15, Township 17 South, Range 35 East, NMPM, which was completed in the South Shoe Bar-Atoka Gas Pool in December, 1987.

(8) Phillips presented as evidence initial bottomhole pressure data from the two aforementioned wells which indicates that, prior to its completion, the South Shoe Bar State Com Well No. 1 likely experienced drainage from the New Mexico "AC" State Well No. 1 which is located a distance of approximately 3698 feet away.

(9) At the time of the hearing it was determined that Arco has proposed and is willing to contribute its acreage in the SW/4 SW/4 of said Section 22 to the proposed non-standard proration unit.

(10) Arco further proposed that its acreage in the SE/4 SW/4 of said Section 22 could be included in a possible non-standard proration unit consisting of the SE/4 SW/4 and the SE/4 of said Section 22, which could be dedicated to a well drilled in the S/2 of Section 22.

(11) At the time of the hearing, Arco requested that the Division impose a production penalty factor on the subject well, said penalty factor to equal the proportion that the non-standard proration unit bears to a standard proration unit within the pool (160/320) or 0.50.

(12) The evidence supports the applicability of the general rules in that a well in this reservoir will drain at least 320 acres.

(13) Applicant's request will result in waste from the drilling of unnecessary wells.

(14) Applicant failed to address how correlative rights will be protected in an unprorated gas pool with the proposed unorthodox location and non-standard proration unit.

(15) In the absence of evidence on the record demonstrating the need for an exception, the Division should administer a program of uniform well density and well spacing in performing its statutory duty of protecting correlative rights.

(16) The application should be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

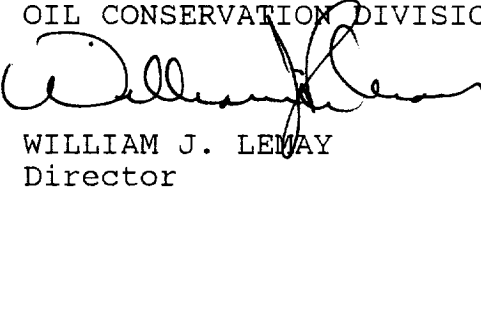
(1) The granting of this application would tend to cause waste and would impair correlative rights and is therefore denied.

CASE NO. 9331
Order No. R-8644
Page -4-

(2) 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Lemay', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.

WILLIAM J. LEMAY
Director

S E A L