

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:

***NOMENCLATURE***  
*CASE NO. 12006*  
*ORDER NO. R-9922-D*

**APPLICATION OF MARATHON OIL COMPANY, YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION, ORYX ENERGY COMPANY, DEVON ENERGY CORPORATION (NEVADA) AND SANTA FE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC. FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE INDIAN BASIN-UPPER PENNSYLVANIAN ASSOCIATED POOL AND THE CONCOMITANT CONTRACTION OF THE INDIAN BASIN-UPPER PENNSYLVANIAN GAS POOL, APPROVAL OF FOUR NON-STANDARD 320-ACRE GAS PRORATION UNITS, AN UNORTHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION, AND APPORTIONMENT OF GAS ALLOWABLES, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on July 9, 1998, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 7th day of December, 1998, the Division Director, having considered the record and the recommendations of the Examiner,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice has been given and the Division has jurisdiction of this case and its subject matter.

(2) The Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool is a prorated gas pool currently governed by the “*General Rules for the Prorated Gas Pools of New Mexico/Special Rules and Regulations for the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool*,” as promulgated by Division Order No. R-8170, as amended, which require standard 640-acre spacing and proration units (“GPU”) with wells to be located no closer than 1650 feet from the outer boundary of the GPU nor closer than 330 feet from any governmental quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary. The current gas allowable for the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool is approximately 6.5 MMCFG per day per GPU.

(3) The Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian (Prorated) Gas Pool currently comprises the following described area in Eddy County, New Mexico:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPM

Section 3:	W/2
Section 4:	All
Sections 8 and 9:	All
Section 10:	W/2
Section 15:	W/2
Sections 16 through 30:	All
Sections 32 through 36:	All

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM

Sections 19 through 21:	All
Sections 28 through 32:	All

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPM

Sections 1 through 5:	All
Sections 8 through 17:	All
Section 21:	N/2
Section 22:	All.

(4) The Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool is currently governed by the “*Special Rules and Regulations for the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool*,” as promulgated by Division Order No. R-9922, as amended, which require standard 320-acre oil and gas spacing units with wells to be located no closer than 660 feet from the outer boundary of the proration unit nor closer than 330 feet from any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary, and with no more than one well per 80-acre tract to be drilled or produced on a standard proration unit. The special depth bracket allowable for the pool is 1,400 barrels of oil per day. The limiting gas-oil ratio for the pool is 7,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil, which results in a casinghead gas allowable of 9.8 MMCFG per day.

(5) The Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool currently comprises the following described area in Eddy County, New Mexico:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM

Section 27:	S/2
Sections 33 and 34:	All

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPPM

Sections 2 through 10: All  
Section 11: N/2  
Sections 16 and 17: All.

(6) The applicants, Marathon Oil Company, Yates Petroleum Corporation, Oryx Energy Company, Devon Energy Corporation (Nevada), and Santa Fe Energy Resources, Inc. seek an order expanding the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico to include:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPPM

Section 36: E/2

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPPM

Sections 20 and 21: All  
Sections 28 through 32: All

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPPM

Section 1: E/2  
Section 12: E/2  
Section 13: E/2

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPPM

Section 18: All

AND THE concomitant contraction of the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool by deleting therefrom:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPPM

Section 36: E/2

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPPM

Sections 20 and 21: All  
Sections 28 through 32: All

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPPM

Section 1: E/2  
Section 12: E/2  
Section 13: E/2.

(7) In conjunction with the proposed adjustment to the boundaries of the two subject pools, the applicants seek to establish the following four 320-acre, more or less, GPU's within the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool within Section 36, Township 21 South, Range 23 East, NMPM, and Sections 1, 12, and 13, Township 22 South, Range 23 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico:

(A) the W/2 of Section 36, comprising 320 acres, which is to be dedicated to the existing Lowe State Gas Com Well No. 1 (**API No. 30-015-10342**), located 1995 feet from the North line and 1712 feet from the West line (Unit F) of Section 36;

(B) the W/2 equivalent of Section 1, comprising 336.57 acres, on which there is currently no well;

(C) the W/2 of Section 12, comprising 320 acres, which is to be dedicated to the existing Smith Federal Gas Com Well No. 2 (**API No. 30-015-26834**) located 2049 feet from the North line and 480 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 12; and

(D) the W/2 of Section 13, comprising 320 acres, which is to be dedicated to the HOC Federal Gas Com Well No. 2 (**API No. 30-015-26939**) located 330 feet from the North and West lines (Unit D) of Section 13.

(8) The proposed acreage and pool rededication results in the Lowe State Gas Com Well No. 1 being only 928 feet from the outer boundary of its newly designated 320-acre gas proration unit. The resulting unorthodox gas well location for this well requires proper authorization pursuant to the appropriate rules and regulations governing the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool.

(9) On behalf of the applicants, Marathon Oil Company presented geologic, petroleum engineering, and oil and gas mineral ownership and land evidence, which demonstrates that this application should be granted and which is summarized as follows:

(A) In the Indian Basin area, the Upper Pennsylvanian interval contains multiple compartmentalized reservoirs, which are productive of oil, gas and water from several dolomitized horizons from the top of the Cisco formation to

the base of the Canyon formation.

(B) The Cisco/Canyon formations within the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, including the extension area, and the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool were originally developed with flowing gas wells on 640-acre gas spacing such that, once the gas wells stopped flowing as a result of water encroachment, the wells were abandoned.

(C) The Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool attained its maximum extension in the 1970s and, since then, water encroachment has advanced from east to west slowly watering out the flowing gas wells. Currently, flowing gas production occurs west of a structural contour line at minus 3300 feet subsea elevation.

(D) In 1992, Yates Petroleum Corporation reentered and recompleted the Hickory "ALV" Federal Well No 1 (**API No. 30-015-10566**), located 1650 feet from the North and West lines (Unit F) of Section 17, Township 22 South, Range 24 East, NMPM. Using the same high capacity pumps used in the nearby South Dagger Draw-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool, Yates was able to achieve rates of 400 BOPD, 500 MCFGPD and 1200 BWPD in a former Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool well which had previously been depleted. Thereafter the Division entered Order No. R-9922 and created the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool.

(E) The Cisco/Canyon formations within the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool and the extension area are in a structural feature separated from the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool by a structural saddle at the top of the Cisco at a subsea elevation of minus 3500 feet. New wells located within 320-acre spacing units in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool and the extension area are now producing or have the potential to produce oil and gas that was not previously recovered when this area was originally developed as part of the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool.

(F) Current oil and gas production from the Cisco/Canyon formations in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool and the extension area required extensive formation "de-watering." Hydrocarbons are mobilized by continuous movement of large volumes of water with artificial lift.

(G) Pressure data demonstrates that:

(i) the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool, with a pressure on average of 1600 psi, is not in pressure communication with the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, which has a current pressure on average of 500 psi; and

(ii) wells in the extension area of Township 21 South, Range 24 East, NMPM, have a pressure related to the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool.

(H) Production data demonstrates that:

(i) there are no flowing gas wells in the extension area; and

(ii) old flowing gas wells in the extension area were abandoned when they watered out and new wells are attaining oil and gas production by using high capacity pumps.

(I) The division of Section 36, Township 21 South, Range 23 East, NMPM and Sections 1, 12, and 13, Township 22 South, Range 23 East, NMPM (the transition area) into non-standard 320-acre, more or less, gas proration and spacing units will provide an equitable "buffer" between the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool and the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool because:

(i) wells have been located or can be located such that drainage by wells in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool can be met with counter drainage from wells located or to be located on the eastern side of each of the four 320-acre, more or less, non-standard gas spacing and proration units in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool provided that wells located on the eastern side of these units can be no closer than 660 feet from the eastern boundary, which is also the setback requirement for wells in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool; and

(ii) wells located in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool will not suffer unfair competition from wells located or to be located in these four, non-standard gas proration units because allowables will be apportioned based upon the gas proration system adopted for the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool.

(J) The granting of this application should not impair the correlative rights:

(i) of any working interest owner within any of the existing 640-acre GPUs because there are voluntary joint operating agreements requiring that all those owners continue to share in production and pay costs from the new 320-acre spacing units on the same proportional basis as in the original 640-acre unit;

(ii) of any overriding royalty interest owner or the federal royalty under a federal oil and gas lease within any of the existing 640-

acre GPUs because there are federal communitization agreements requiring that all those owners continue to share in production from the new 320-acre spacing units on the same proportional basis as in the original 640-acre unit;

(iii) under Section 32, Township 21 South, Range 24 East, NMPM, which consists of two 320-acre State of New Mexico leases and is operated by Marathon Oil Company, because there are no overriding royalty owners and the State Land Office desires that the communitization agreement for the existing 640-acre proration unit terminate and be replaced by two 320-acre proration units co-extensive with the two State leases; and,

(iv) under Section 36, Township 21 South, Range 23 East, NMPM, which consists of two State of New Mexico leases and is operated by ORYX Energy Company, because there are no overriding royalty owners and the State Land Office desires that the existing 640-acre communitization agreement terminate and be replaced by two 320-acre communitization agreements.

(10) The evidence and testimony presented at the hearing further indicate that:

(A) The Cisco/Canyon formations within the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool and the extension area are a single structural feature such that wells located in this area should be subject to the same special rules and regulations.

(B) Geologic and petroleum engineering evidence demonstrate that substantial volumes of oil and gas, which otherwise would not be produced, can be economically recovered from the extension area if that area is subject to the



current rules applicable to the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool, thereby preventing waste.

(C) Making the extension area part of the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool will afford the opportunity to increase the de-watering process in the reservoir and improve recovery efficiencies for both oil and gas.

(D) The adoption of the four 320-acre, more or less, non-standard gas proration and spacing units will establish a temporary "buffer" or transition area between the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool and the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool, which at this time will establish equity and protect correlative rights.

(11) The applicants are all of the operators of wells in the extension area and they have met and unanimously agreed upon this application.

(12) In accordance with Division notification rules, notification of this application and request for hearing has been sent to the owners within the proposed expansion area and to the offset operators to each non-standard gas proration and spacing unit and no objections have been received by either the Division or Marathon Oil Company, which sent out these notices.

(13) In order to prevent waste, to prevent the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights and provide for a more orderly development of the Cisco/Canyon formations, it is necessary to do the following:

(A) contract the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool and expand the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool as described in Finding Paragraph No. 6;

(B) approve the four non-standard 320-acre, more or less, GPU's within the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool as described in Finding Paragraph No. 7; and,

(C) approve an unorthodox gas well location for the Lowe State Gas Com Well No. 1 located 1995 feet from the North line and 1712 feet from the West line (Unit K) of said Section

36.

(14) Marathon Oil Company, Santa Fe Energy Resources, Inc. and ORYX Energy Corporation were present at the hearing and Marathon Oil Company, on behalf of the applicants, provided technical land, geologic and engineering testimony concerning the reservoir and, these pools.

(15) No other operator and/or interest owner appeared at the hearing in opposition to the application.

(16) Approval of the applicant's request will allow the interest owners the opportunity to economically recover their share of the oil and gas in the subject pools, will not reduce ultimate recovery from the subject pools, and will not violate correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, as heretofore classified, defined, and described, is hereby contracted by the deletion of the following described area:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPM

Section 36: E/2

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM

Sections 20 and 21: All

Sections 28 through 32: All

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPM

Section 1: E/2

Section 12: E/2

Section 13: E/2.

(2) Concomitantly, the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, as heretofore classified, defined, and described, is hereby extended to include therein the following described area:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPM

Section 36: E/2

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM

Sections 20 and 21: All  
Sections 28 through 32: All

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, NMPM

Section 1: E/2  
Section 12: E/2  
Section 13: E/2.

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM

Section 18: All.

(3) The following four 320-acre, more or less, GPU's within the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool within Section 36, Township 21 South, Range 23 East, and Sections 1, 12, and 13, Township 22 South, Range 23 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, are hereby approved:

(A) the W/2 of Section 36, comprising 320 acres, which is to be dedicated to the existing Lowe State Gas Com Well No. 1 (**API No. 30-015-10342**), located at an unorthodox gas well location for the 320-acre GPU, 1995 feet from the North line and 1712 feet from the West line (Unit F) of Section 36;

(B) the W/2 of Section 1, comprising 336.57 acres, on which there is currently no well;

(C) the W/2 of Section 12, comprising 320 acres, which is to be dedicated to the existing Smith Federal Gas Com Well No. 2 (**API No. 30-015-26834**) located 2049 feet from the North and 480 feet from the West lines (Unit E) of Section 12; and,

(D) the W/2 of Section 13, comprising 320 acres, which is to be dedicated to the HOC Federal Gas Com Well No. 2 (**API No. 30-015-26939**) located 330 feet from the North line and 330 feet from the West line (Unit D) of Section 13.

(4) Any future well located in any of these four non-standard gas proration and spacing units no closer than 660 feet to the eastern boundary of the unit shall be considered

to be at a standard location.

(5) The apportionment of gas allowables for the four non-standard GPU's shall be accomplished by applying a 0.5 acreage factor to each of the non-standard GPU's.

(6) An unorthodox gas well location for the following well in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, which became unorthodox as a result of the change in pool boundary, is hereby approved: Lowe State Gas Com Well No. 1 located 1995 feet from the North line and 1712 feet from the West line and of Section 36, Township 21 South, Range 23 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(7) The locations of all wells presently drilling to or completed in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool within this expansion area are hereby approved; the operator of any well having an unorthodox location shall notify the Artesia District Office of the Division in writing of the name and location of the well within thirty days from the date of this order.

(8) Pursuant to Paragraph A of Section 70-2-18, NMSA (1978), contained in Chapter 271, Laws of 1969, existing wells in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool within this expansion area shall have dedicated thereto 320 acres; or, pursuant to Paragraph C of Section 70-2-18, existing wells may have non-standard spacing or proration units established by the Division and dedicated thereto.

(9) Failure to file new Forms C-102 with the Division dedicating 320 acres to a well or to obtain a non-standard unit approved by the Division within 60 days from the date of this order shall subject the well to being shut-in.

(10) Jurisdiction of this case 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 cursive script, reading "Lori Wrotenbery".

LORI WROTENBERY  
Director