1		STATE OF NEW MEXI	co			
2	ENERGY, MIN	ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT				
3	OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO					
4						
5	IN THE MATTER	OF THE HEARING	Docket No.			
6	CALLED BY THE	OIL CONSERVATION	18-24			
7	DIVISION FOR T	THE PURPOSE OF				
8	CONSIDERING:					
9	Case Nos. 2414	11, 24254				
10						
11		HEARING				
12	DATE:	Wednesday, May 29, 2	2024			
13	TIME:	8:30 a.m.				
14	BEFORE:	Gregory A. Chakalian	n, Hearing Examiner			
15	LOCATION:	Pecos Hall, Wendell	Chino Building			
16		1220 South Saint Fra	ncis Drive			
17		Santa Fe, NM 87505				
18	REPORTED BY:	James Cogswell				
19	JOB NO.:	6716488				
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
			Page 1			

1	A P P E A R A N C E S
2	ON BEHALF OF AVANT OPERATING, LLC:
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22	agrankin@hollandhart.com
23	(505)988-4421
2 4	
25	
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	APPEARANCES (Cont'd)
ON B	EHALF OF NORTHERN OIL AND GAS, INC:
	BLAKE C. JONES, ESQUIRE (by videoconference)
	Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
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	Spring, TX 77380
	blake.jones@steptoe-johnson.com
	(281)203-5730
ALSO	PRESENT:
	Dean McClure, Technical Examiner - Oil
	Conservation Division (via videoconference)
	Freya Tschantz, Law Clerk - Oil Conservation
	Division
	Blake Johnson, Witness (via videoconference)
	Lucas Emmett, Witness (via videoconference)
	Drew Chenoweth, Witness (via videoconference)
	Evan Roback, Witness (via videoconference)
	Shelly Albrecht, Witness
	John Harper, Witness
	Shane Kelly, Witness

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1	I N D E X				
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3	VOIR DIRE of Shelly Albrecht				
4	By Mr. Rankin				210
5	OPENING STATEMENT By Mr. Rankin				44
6	OPENING STATEMENT By Ms. Hardy				49
7					
8	WITNESSES:	DX	CX	RDX	RCX
9	BLAKE JOHNSON				
10	By Mr. Rankin	53		107,	
11				120	
12	By Ms. Hardy		68		188
13	By Mr. McClure		76		92,
14					197
15	DREW CHENOWETH				
16	By Mr. Rankin	57		113,	
17				138	
18	By Ms. Hardy		77		195
19	LUCAS EMMETT				
20	By Mr. Rankin	63		114,	
21	By Ms. Hardy		80		
22					
23					
24					
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1	WITNESSES (Cont'd):	DX	CX	RDX	RCX
2	EVAN ROBACK				
3	By Mr. Rankin	65		117,	
4				146,	
5				203	
6	By Ms. Hardy		84		193
7	By Mr. McClure		198		
8	SHELLY ALBRECHT				
9	By Ms. Hardy	205		271	
10	By Mr. Rankin		226		274
11	By Mr. McClure		257		
12	JOHN HARPER				
13	By Ms. Hardy	279			
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1		EXHIBITS	
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3	Apache:		
4	Exhibit A	Self-affirmed Statement of	
5		Blake Johnson, Petroleum	
6		Landman	18/18
7	Exhibit B	Slides Referenced by the	
8		Testifying Witnesses	18/18
9	Exhibit C	Self-affirmed Statement of	
10		Drew Chenoweth, Petroleum	
11		Geologist	18/18
12	Exhibit D	Self-affirmed Statement of	
13		Lucas Emmett, Petroleum	
14		Engineer	18/18
15	Exhibit E	Self-affirmed Statement of	
16		Evan Roback, Petroleum	
17		Engineer	18/18
18	Exhibit F	Notice Affidavit for	
19		Case 24141	18/18
20	Exhibit G	Affidavit of Publication	
21		for Case 24141	18/18
22			
23			
24			
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1		E X H I B I T S (Cont'd)	
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3	Avant:		
4	Exhibit A	Self-Affirmed Statement of	
5		Shelly Albrecht	22/22
6	Exhibit A-1	Resume of Shelly Albrecht	22/22
7	Exhibit A-2	Application and Proposed	
8		Notice of Hearing	22/22
9	Exhibit A-3	Executive Summary of Avant's	
10		Background and Operations	22/22
11	Exhibit A-4	Avant Management Team	22/22
12	Exhibit A-5	Avant Team Highlights	22/22
13	Exhibit A-6	Overview of Avant	
14		Operational Performance	22/22
15	Exhibit A-7	Current Active Horizontal	
16		Rig Count by Operator	22/22
17	Exhibit A-8	Horizontal Wells Drilled in	
18		New Mexico Permian Basin by	
19		Operator Since 2021	22/22
20	Exhibit A-9	General Location Map	22/22
21	Exhibit A-10	C-102s	22/22
22	Exhibit A-11	Division Pooling Factors	22/22
23	Exhibit A-12	Avant Activity Surrounding	
24		Grayling Unit	22/22
25			
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			Page 7

1		E X H I B I T S (Cont'd)	
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3	Avant (Cont'd)	:	
4	Exhibit A-13	Grayling Unit Development	
5		Schedule/Permitting Status	22/22
6	Exhibit A-14	Lease Tract Ownership Map	22/22
7	Exhibit A-15	Lease Tract Map	22/22
8	Exhibit A-16	Lease Tract Well Placement	
9		Map by Bench	22/22
10	Exhibit A-17	Lease Tract Ownership,	
11		Committed Working Interest	
12		Owners	22/22
13	Exhibit A-18	Lease Tract Ownership,	
14		Uncommitted Working Interest	
15		Owners to be Pooled	22/22
16	Exhibit A-19	Overriding Royalty Interest	
17		Owners to be Pooled	22/22
18	Exhibit A-20	Comparison of Surface	
19		Facilities for Standard/	
20		Non-Standard Unit Development	22/22
21	Exhibit A-21	Non-Standard Spacing Unit	
22		Offset Ownership	22/22
23	Exhibit A-22	Time Line on Development of	
24		Grayling Unit	22/22
25			
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1		E X H I B I T S (Cont'd)	
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3	Avant (Cont'd)	:	
4	Exhibit A-23	Summary of Contacts with	
5		Interest Owners	22/22
6	Exhibit A-24	Sample Well Proposal Letter	
7		and Authorizations for	
8		Expenditures	22/22
9	Exhibit A-25	Summary of Avant Contacts	
10		with Apache Corporation	22/22
11	Exhibit A-26	Surface Ownership Information	22/22
12	Exhibit B	Self-Affirmed Statement of	
13		John Harper	23/23
14	Exhibit B-1	Resume of John Harper	23/23
15	Exhibit B-2	Regional Locator Map	23/23
16	Exhibit B-3	Stress Orientation Map	23/23
17	Exhibit B-4	Gun Barrel Development Plan	
18		of Avant Grayling Unit	23/23
19	Exhibit B-5	Gun Barrel Development Plan	
20		of Apache Dustbowl Unit	23/23
21	Exhibit B-6	First Bone Spring	
22		Stratigraphic Cross Section	23/23
23	Exhibit B-7	First Bone Spring Offset	
24		Activity	23/23
25			
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1		E X H I B I T S (Cont'd)	
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3	Avant (Cont'd)	:	
4	Exhibit B-8	First Bone Spring Subsea	
5		Structure Map	23/23
6	Exhibit B-9	First Bone Spring Gross	
7		Isopach and Pay Maps	23/23
8	Exhibit B-10	Second Bone Spring	
9		Stratigraphic Cross Section	23/23
10	Exhibit B-11	Second Bone Spring Offset	
11		Activity	23/23
12	Exhibit B-12	Second Bone Spring Subsea	
13		Structure Map	23/23
14	Exhibit B-13	Second Bone Spring Gross	
15		Isopach and Pay Maps	23/23
16	Exhibit B-14	Third Bone Spring	
17		Stratigraphic Cross Section	23/23
18	Exhibit B-15	Third Bone Spring Offset	
19		Activity	23/23
20	Exhibit B-16	Base of Bone Spring	
21		Subsea Structure Map	23/23
22	Exhibit B-17	Third Bone Spring Gross	
23		Isopach and Pay Maps	23/23
24	Exhibit C	Self-Affirmed Statement	
25		of Shane Kelly	23/23
			Page 10

1		EXHIBITS (Cont'd)	
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3	Avant (Cont'd)	:	
4	Exhibit C-1	Resume of Shane Kelly	23/23
5	Exhibit C-2	Avant Production Results in	
6		Area Surrounding Grayling Uni	t 23/23
7	Exhibit C-3	Comparison of Avant Grayling	
8		Development Plan with Apache	
9		Dustbowl Development Plan	23/23
10	Exhibit C-4	Graph Comparing Avant	
11		Production with Lower Density	
12		Developments in the Area	
13		Surrounding Grayling Unit	23/23
14	Exhibit C-5	Graph Depicting Avant's	
15		Proven Third Bone Spring	
16		Development Recovery	23/23
17	Exhibit C-6	Impact of Frac Hits on	
18		Offset Depletion	23/23
19	Exhibit C-7	Comparison of Avant and	
20		Apache Drilling, Completion	
21		and Facilities Costs	23/23
22	Exhibit C-8	Avant's Experience with	
23		Cutbow Development	23/23
24	Exhibit C-9	Avant's Dedicated Gas	
25		Takeaway	23/23
		F	age 11

1		E X H I B I T S (Cont'd)	
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3	Avant (Cont'd)	:	
4	Exhibit C-10	Avant's Produced Water	
5		Infrastructure	23/23
6	Exhibit C-11	Avant's Oil Takeaway	23/23
7	Exhibit C-12	Two-Mile Type Curve for	
8		First Bone Spring Wells	23/23
9	Exhibit C-13	Avant Cutbow Well Performance	23/23
10	Exhibit C-14	Two-Mile Type Curve for	
11		Second Bone Spring Wells	23/23
12	Exhibit C-15	Two-Mile Type Curve for	
13		Third Bone Spring Wells	23/23
14	Exhibit D	Self-Affirmed Statement of	
15		Dana S. Hardy	23/23
16	Exhibit D-1	Notice Letters to All	
17		Interested Parties	23/23
18	Exhibit D-2	Chart of Notice to All	
19		Interested Parties	23/23
20	Exhibit D-3	Copies of Certified Mail	
21		Receipts and Returns	23/23
22	Exhibit D-4	Affidavit of Publication	
23		for March 5, 2024	23/23
24			
25			
		5	200 10
		P	age 12

1		EXHIBITS (Cont'd)	
2	R E	B U T T A L E X H I B I T S	
3	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
4	Avant Rebuttal	Land:	
5	Exhibit A-27	Avant's Control of Working	
6		Interest Ownership in the Unit	24/24
7	Exhibit A-28	Letter of Support From CXA	
8		Oil & Gas Holdings, LP	24/218
9	Exhibit A-29	Apache's Term Assignment	24/24
10			
11	Avant Rebuttal	Geology:	
12	Exhibit B-18	Summary of Apache's	
13		Inaccurate Depth Argument	24/24
14	Exhibit B-19	Apache's Performance and	
15		Engineering Analysis	
16		Ignores Geology	24/24
17	Exhibit B-20	Avant Compliance with OCD	
18		Filing Requirements	24/24
19	Exhibit B-21	Apache History of Unlawful	
20		Venting and Flaring	24/24
21	Exhibit B-22	Apache Oil and Produced	
22		Water Spill History	24/24
23			
24			
25			
			Page 13

1	R E B U	TTALEXHIBITS (Co	ont'd)
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3	Avant Rebuttal	Reservoir:	
4	Exhibit C-16	Apache's Summary of Activity	7
5		is Inaccurate	24/24
6	Exhibit C-17	Avant Drilling Operations	
7		Minimize Disturbance	24/24
8	Exhibit C-18	Avant Outperforms in	
9		Analogous Rock Quality	24/24
10			
11	Apache Rebutta	l Land:	
12	Exhibit 30	Updated Development	
13		Plan Preparation Timeline	30/30
14	Exhibit 31	Working Interest Control	30/30
15			
16	Apache Rebutta	l Geology:	
17	Exhibit 32	Tight Spacing 1BSS:	
18		Apache v. Avant	30/30
19	Exhibit 33	Tight Spacing 2BSS:	
20		Apache v. Avant	30/30
21	Exhibit 34	Tight Spacing 3BSS:	
22		Apache v. Avant	30/30
23	Exhibit 35	Four-String Capitan	30/30
24			
25			
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1	REBUT	TAL EXHIBITS (Co	nt'd)
2	NO. D	ESCRIPTION	ID/EVD
3	Apache Rebuttal	Petroleum Engineering:	
4	Exhibit 36	Typical Development Well	
5		Spacing Over Time	30/30
6	Exhibit 37	EUR Prediction Using	
7		Limited Production Data	30/30
8	Exhibit 38	Performance Degradation at	
9		Tighter Spacing	30/30
10	Exhibit 39	Golden Tee 3BSS Results	30/30
11	Exhibit 40	Avant's Full Bench	
12		Development Approach	30/30
13			
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PROCEEDINGS
THE HEARING EXAMINER: Good morning.
It is 8:30 on May 29. These are the hearings of the
Oil Conservation Division. We are having a special
hearing today for contested cases number 24141 and
24254.
Entries of appearance, please.
MS. HARDY: Good morning, Mr. Examiner.
Dana Hardy and Jackie McLean with Hinkle Shanor on
behalf of Avant Operating, LLC.
THE HEARING EXAMINER: Good morning.
Mr. Rankin, are you having trouble with
your microphone?
MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, Adam Rankin
appearing on behalf of Apache in this contested case.
THE HEARING EXAMINER: Good morning.
Before we begin, let's deal with any preliminary
matters.
MR. JONES: Good morning, Mr. Examiner.
We also have Blake Jones with Steptoe & Johnson
monitoring the cases on behalf of Northern Oil and
Gas.
THE HEARING EXAMINER: Good morning,
Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones, have you had a chance to review
the exhibits?

1	MR. JONES: Yes.
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Including the
3	rebuttal exhibits?
4	MR. JONES: Yes.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And I know
6	you're monitoring. Does that mean that you don't have
7	any objections to any of the exhibits?
8	MR. JONES: That is correct.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And do
10	you have any of your own exhibits or witnesses?
11	MR. JONES: No, we do not.
12	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Do you
13	reserve the right to cross-examine witnesses?
14	MR. JONES: Yes, please.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Sounds
16	good.
17	So it looks like Apache filed its
18	application first. Is that right, Mr. Rankin?
19	MR. RANKIN: That's correct.
20	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And let's
21	go through your prehearing statement and your
22	exhibits. I have a prehearing statement that has
23	124 pages. Is that correct?
24	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm not
25	exactly sure of the page count. But yeah, I believe
	Page 17

1	it probably is because it includes not only the
2	prehearing statement but the exhibits and testimony
3	for each of Apache's four witnesses.
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Let's see
5	if we can deal with the exhibits and enter them into
6	evidence by stipulation of the parties.
7	Ms. Hardy and Ms. McLean, you're both
8	representing Avant?
9	MS. HARDY: Yes, that's correct.
10	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Have you
11	both had a chance to review Mr. Rankin's exhibits?
12	MS. HARDY: I have reviewed the
13	exhibits, yes.
14	THE HEARING EXAMINER: You have. Are
15	there any objections to admitting any of the exhibits
16	into evidence?
17	MS. HARDY: No, I don't have any
18	objection.
19	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
20	Mr. Rankin, the Division will enter into evidence all
21	of your exhibits.
22	(Apache Exhibit A through Exhibit G
23	were marked for identification and
24	received into evidence.)
25	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I'm looking for
	Page 18

1	an outline of the exhibits. What page is that on?
2	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, if you turn
3	to the prehearing statement and scroll down this is
4	not a separate table of contents, but within the
5	prehearing statement on PDF page 5, there's a list of
6	filed evidence. It includes an outline of what was
7	submitted, including the applications, compulsory
8	pooling checklist, and so forth.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And I see
10	it here, filed evidence, page 5. So we have your
11	application, your compulsory pooling checklists, which
12	are not evidence that were already in the case. And
13	then we have Apache Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.
14	MR. RANKIN: Correct, Mr. Examiner.
15	And with each of those, there are sub-attachments or
16	attachments for each of those exhibits.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Well,
18	they're all exhibits entered into evidence at this
19	point.
20	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, one question
21	or point of clarification. We did file rebuttal
22	exhibits yesterday. I intended to mark them as
23	Exhibit B. They're a continuation of the slides that
24	are referred to by our witnesses.
25	I didn't mark them as Exhibit B. I did
	Page 19
	rage 19

1	mark them as slides in continuation of those numbers.
2	So I'd like to just make that clarification that the
3	intent was to file them as Exhibit B, rebuttal slides.
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: All right. Let
5	me find those. Hold on one second.
6	Okay. On this document, it looks like
7	14 pages?
8	MR. RANKIN: Correct.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. It
10	doesn't it was unclear to me who filed this.
11	There's no attorney signature at the bottom of this.
12	It doesn't even say whose rebuttal exhibits they are.
13	So now that I know they are Apache's
14	MR. RANKIN: I think maybe they do,
15	Mr. Examiner. At the top of our filing, we did state,
16	"Apache's rebuttal exhibits." And I did have a
17	signature block where I signed the document. There's
18	a cover page that goes along with our exhibit
19	documents.
20	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy, did
21	Avant also file rebuttal exhibits?
22	MS. HARDY: We did, Mr. Examiner. So
23	you could be referring to ours.
24	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I think
25	MS. MCLEAN: And it looks like theirs
	Page 20

1	did not make it into the case file. We received a
2	copy after 5 p.m. And I don't think they've been
3	posted to the OCD's website, Apache's exhibit.
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: That's why I
5	can't find it, Mr. Rankin.
6	Freya, is there any way to admit or to
7	accept the filing so that I can see it?
8	MS. TSCHANTZ: I'm doing it now.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
10	Mr. Rankin, apologies. Give us a minute so we can get
11	our act together.
12	MR. RANKIN: No, it took me a little
13	bit last night to get everything organized to file it.
14	So I apologize if it was a little after five.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Before I deal
16	with the rebuttal exhibits for Apache, let's deal with
17	Avant's exhibits.
18	Ms. Hardy, I am going to find your
19	exhibits here.
20	Okay. Ms. Hardy, I think you filed a
21	consolidated prehearing statement?
22	MS. HARDY: That's correct.
23	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. It looks
24	like it's eight pages. So I don't think that's what
25	I'm looking for.

1	MS. HARDY: Right.
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I think I see
3	here a 344-page document?
4	MS. HARDY: That is our exhibit
5	submission, correct.
6	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. It says,
7	"Exhibit Index." I have exhibits A through A-26, B-1
8	through 17, C-1 through 15, and Exhibit D-1 through 4.
9	Are you seeking to have them admitted into evidence at
10	this time?
11	Mr. Rankin, any objection to these
12	exhibits?
13	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, the
14	only I have no objections to their original
15	exhibits. I do have some concerns about an exhibit
16	that was submitted with their rebuttal that I'd like
17	to address.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: So does that
19	mean there's no objection for these exhibits?
20	MR. RANKIN: No objection.
21	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So
22	Ms. Hardy, your exhibits are admitted into evidence.
23	(Avant Exhibit A through Exhibit A-26
24	were marked for identification and
25	received into evidence.)
	Page 22
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1	(Avant Exhibit B through B-17 were
2	marked for identification and received
3	into evidence.)
4	(Avant Exhibit C through C-15 were
5	marked for identification and received
6	into evidence.)
7	(Avant Exhibit D through D-4 were
8	marked for identification and received
9	into evidence.)
10	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let's deal with
11	your rebuttal exhibits because I have those open in
12	front of me.
13	Okay, Mr. Rankin. I see a 14-page
14	document titled Rebuttal Exhibit Index. It has
15	rebuttal land exhibits A-27 through 29, rebuttal
16	geology exhibits B-18 through 22, and reservoir
17	exhibits C-16 through 18. I think you just stated
18	that you have an objection to was it one of them?
19	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, one or parts
20	of one exhibit. It's marked as Exhibit A-28. It's
21	page 3 of the PDF file.
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So
23	besides A-28, do you have an objection to any of the
24	other rebuttal exhibits?
25	MR. RANKIN: I do not.

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1	that at least portions of this exhibit be stricken
2	from the record.
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
4	Ms. Hardy, your response?
5	MS. HARDY: Mr. Examiner, I think it
6	meets the business records exception to the hearsay
7	rule. And in any event, the Division can consider
8	hearsay in these administrative hearings.
9	And our witnesses will be available to
10	answer questions about this document. So I think it's
11	admissible in this administrative proceeding.
12	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Who is
13	the witness that this exhibit would come in under?
14	MS. HARDY: Ms. Shelly Albrecht.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And there
16	is an objection to it based on hearsay and
17	confrontation?
18	MR. RANKIN: Well, actually, I mean, I
19	guess, because it's not criminal context, I guess you
20	couldn't not quite confrontation clause.
21	But nevertheless, our inability to
22	now, if I may just give more explanation for what the
23	basis of the concern is. Looking specifically at the
24	first bullet
25	THE HEARING EXAMINER: At the first
	Page 25

1	what?
2	MR. RANKIN: First bullet on that
3	slide.
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let me get to
5	you said it was what page, 3?
6	MR. RANKIN: Page 3.
7	THE HEARING EXAMINER: First bullet of
8	the slide. What does it start with?
9	MR. RANKIN: CXA signed a JOA with APA.
10	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Oh, that bullet.
11	I see it.
12	MR. RANKIN: Okay. So that statement,
13	if I read it out loud, "CXA signed a JOA with APA
14	after being told APA was the established operator, and
15	CXA would be compulsory pooled if it did not sign
16	APA's JOA."
17	Then the second bullet, "CXA signed the
18	JOA with Avant after understanding APA had not, in
19	fact, been named operator."
20	Those two bullets assert certain
21	statements were made as to this fellow, Mr. Ryan
22	Youngblood, who signed this letter. So I'm unable
23	to apparently this is from Ms. Albrecht.
24	She was told certain things by
25	Mr. Youngblood. And I have no ability to question

1	Mr. Youngblood to understand what his understanding
2	was or what the basis of the conversations were.
3	And so I'm unable to evaluate the
4	veracity of that statement or the understanding that
5	gave rise to these statements. And so I'm unable to
6	question Mr. Youngblood.
7	We don't have an objection to the fact
8	that CXA has submitted this letter to the Division.
9	We understand that CXA has expressed its position in
10	favor of Avant, and that's a fact. And so I'm not
11	looking to exclude the letter itself.
12	But I am looking to exclude the
13	commentary in the testimony around what Mr. Youngblood
14	apparently told or didn't tell Avant's witness.
15	Because I'm unable to evaluate what he did or didn't
16	say or what he understood or didn't understand from
17	his discussions with Apache.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: So, Ms. Hardy,
19	what I'm hearing from Mr. Rankin is not necessarily
20	that there's a hearsay objection or a confrontation
21	clause objection because both of those would be
22	overruled.
23	I think the objection is based on
24	reliability. And he's unable to cross-examine the
25	person who made that statement. Therefore, it's hard

1	for the Division to establish a reliability factor to
2	those statements.
3	And your response?
4	MS. HARDY: I think Ms. Albrecht can
5	answer questions about it. And the Division can
6	consider it for whatever way it decides to give the
7	information.
8	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. That's
9	what we will do.
10	Mr. Rankin, we will allow you as much
11	latitude as you need to establish the reliability of
12	those statements. And then we will accept those
13	statements and give it the weight that we feel it
14	deserves.
15	Is there anything else?
16	MR. RANKIN: No, Mr. Examiner.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So
18	Ms. Hardy, this exhibit has been objected to. What
19	I'll do is I will reserve judgement on it and allow
20	you to establish a foundation, for lack of a better
21	word. The rules of evidence don't control what we do
22	here to the same extent that they do in a courtroom.
23	However, the two touchstones for me are
24	reliability and relevance. So as long as you can show
25	me that, these will be admitted and we will give them

1	whatever weight we think they deserve.
2	So let's see. All of your exhibits are
3	now entered into evidence with the exception of this
4	exhibit.
5	And is this marked? Yes, it's A-28.
6	Okay. It's at the bottom of each page. That's fine.
7	Now, Mr. Rankin, let's deal with your
8	rebuttal exhibits. I still have to find them, so give
9	me one moment.
10	I think I found them. Apache's
11	rebuttal exhibits, I found them. So this looks like a
12	14-page document also. That's interesting. They're
13	both 14 pages.
14	MR. RANKIN: We like to be equitable.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yeah. And it
16	looks to me like we have rebuttal land exhibits,
17	slide 30 and 31. We have geology Exhibits 32 through
18	35. And we have slides 36 through 40, and these are
19	engineering rebuttal exhibits.
20	Ms. Hardy, have you had a chance to
21	review these?
22	MS. HARDY: Yes, I have.
23	THE HEARING EXAMINER: You have. Are
24	there any objections to any of these?
25	MS. HARDY: I do not have any

1	objections.
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
3	Mr. Rankin, all of your exhibits, including your
4	rebuttal exhibits, are hereby entered into evidence.
5	(Apache Rebuttal Land Exhibit 30 and
6	Exhibit 31 were marked for
7	identification and admitted into
8	evidence.)
9	(Apache Rebuttal Geology Exhibit 32
10	through Exhibit 35 were marked for
11	identification and admitted into
12	evidence.)
13	(Apache Rebuttal Petroleum Engineering
14	Exhibit 36 through Exhibit 40 were
15	marked for identification and admitted
16	into evidence.)
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Which party is
18	going to go first?
19	MR. RANKIN: It's been discussed,
20	Mr. Examiner. My proposal will be that, because we
21	filed our application first, we go first.
22	And on that point, Mr. Examiner, since
23	I haven't done too many contested cases with you, I
24	want to just confirm and have input from Avant's
25	counsel about your preference.
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1	My thought would be we would call each
2	of our witnesses, have them adopt their direct
3	testimony, and then we would go directly into our
4	rebuttal, and then make each witness, in turn,
5	available for cross-examination by Counsel and the
6	Division.
7	So I just wanted to make sure that was
8	your understanding as well.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
10	Ms. Hardy?
11	MS. HARDY: And, Mr. Examiner, I don't
12	have any issue with Apache going first. I do have
13	questions for Avant's witnesses on their direct
14	exhibits just because I think it would help them
15	provide illustrative explanation to the Division. So
16	I would like to go through those as well.
17	But I do plan to try to keep it
18	somewhat abbreviated so we're not just reading
19	through, of course, their affidavits.
20	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yeah, that won't
21	happen. I promise.
22	And before I go on, let me also
23	announce that we have Dean McClure as our technical
24	examiner this morning and this afternoon, if
25	necessary.

1	Mr. McClure, have you had a chance to
2	review all the exhibits, including the rebuttal
3	exhibits, from both parties?
4	MR. MCCLURE: With the exception of
5	Apache's rebuttal, I have. Currently reading Apache's
6	rebuttal currently.
7	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. All
8	right. Mr. McClure, is there anything that you want
9	me to address as a preliminary matter before I go into
10	how we're going to proceed?
11	MR. MCCLURE: I was going to say the
12	only possible thing I could think of is just the
13	incorrect pool code on Apache's pooling checklist.
14	But we can deal with it later, or now, depending on
15	what you'd like to do.
16	Okay.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let's deal with
18	the order of testimony and how the witnesses will be
19	presented.
20	So, Mr. Rankin and Ms. Hardy, the way I
21	would prefer to do this is that Mr. Rankin presents
22	witnesses. Each one will be sworn in. We can swear
23	them in as a group.
24	Are they here, Mr. Rankin? They're
25	virtual?

1	MR. RANKIN: Yeah.
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. We'll
3	swear them in as a group. And then each one, in turn,
4	will adopt his exhibits and written testimony under
5	oath, make any corrections if necessary to those
6	documents.
7	And then we can have them stand for
8	cross-examination first by Ms. Hardy, then by
9	Mr. Jones, and then by Mr. McClure as a panel.
10	And of course, if any of the people who
11	are cross-examining want to direct a question to a
12	specific witness, they're more than welcome to.
13	Otherwise, they can just ask the question to the
14	panel, and the panel can select whoever they want to
15	answer.
16	And then we will go to Ms. Hardy's
17	witnesses. We'll do the same thing. Then we'll come
18	back to yours, and we'll do the rebuttal exhibits.
19	And then we'll go back to Ms. Hardy, and we'll do her
20	rebuttal exhibits.
21	Is there any questions about that?
22	MR. RANKIN: No, Mr. Examiner. I think
23	that's fine.
24	THE HEARING EXAMINER: The other thing
25	I'd like to establish is who has the burden of

1	persuasion here. I mean, I think that's important.
2	Now, of course, we are operating under
3	a preponderance of evidence standard. But in a case
4	like this with competing applications, I'm not clear
5	who has the burden of proof.
6	So Mr. Rankin, what's your position?
7	MR. RANKIN: Well, Mr. Examiner, I
8	believe that we each, as an applicant, have our own
9	burden to establish that our application should be
10	approved and the other should be denied.
11	So I think it's sort of a situation
12	where we're in an equal position, where we each have
13	our burden equally.
14	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy?
15	MS. HARDY: I agree with Mr. Rankin.
16	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And I was
17	thinking about it a little bit and trying to come to
18	my own conclusion.
19	Ms. McLean, do you have any opinion?
20	MS. MCLEAN: I don't think it changes.
21	I think it's the same. Everyone presents their
22	position. The Division has the responsibility of
23	weighing all the factors to determine whose is the
24	best and then
25	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I mean, had
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1	Avant not contested Apache's application, it would go
2	through by affidavit. And then it would be up to the
3	Division to approve or deny.
4	In this case, Avant did contest or
5	protest, however you'd like to say it, and filed a
6	competing application.
7	And I think what I'm hearing from the
8	parties is, when all of the evidence is weighed on
9	either side, whoever has a preponderance of evidence
10	to show that their application is better when it comes
11	to preventing waste and protecting correlative rights,
12	then they should win. That's what I'm hearing. Is
13	that correct?
14	MR. RANKIN: That's a fair statement.
15	MS. HARDY: Yes, I agree.
16	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. You
17	agree, okay. All right.
18	And we have a court reporter. Well, I
19	guess he doesn't call himself a court reporter.
20	Mr. James is it Cogswell or Cosgrove with us?
21	THE REPORTER: James Cogswell.
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Cogswell. Thank
23	you. Can you hear everything okay?
24	THE REPORTER: Yes, everything is
25	
	coming through clearly.

1	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. I guess
2	I've been spoiled by having you here in person. And
3	so I wanted to make sure that you were hearing
4	everything.
5	THE REPORTER: Thanks for checking.
6	We're all good.
7	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Very
8	good.
9	Mr. Jones, any comment on what you've
10	heard so far?
11	MR. JONES: No comments. Thank you.
12	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yeah, you're
13	welcome.
14	Okay. Are there any other preliminary
15	matters before Mr. Rankin puts on his case for Avant?
16	MS. HARDY: Mr. Examiner, I just
17	have
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I'm sorry. For
19	Apache.
20	MS. HARDY: I'm sorry. I just have one
21	question. So with respect to presenting our
22	witnesses, since Avant's witnesses are all here in
23	person, how will we handle the panel situation? Or
24	should I go ahead and call one witness at a time? I'm
25	not sure how you would want to do that.

1	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I'd like to
2	swear them all in as a group. How many witnesses do
3	you have?
4	MS. HARDY: We have three.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Three, okay.
6	Would those three witnesses approach the microphone
7	where Ms. Hardy is seated?
8	Okay. So what I'll ask you to do is to
9	raise your right hands.
10	Do you swear or affirm that the
11	testimony you're about to give is the truth, the whole
12	truth, and nothing but the truth under penalty of
13	perjury?
14	MS. ALBRECHT: Yes.
15	MR. HARPER: Yes.
16	MR. KELLY: Yes.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Would you
18	state, starting with you, your name, and spell it, a
19	little closer to the microphone?
20	MS. ALBRECHT: Shelly Albrecht. It's
21	S-H-E-L-L-Y, last name A-L-B-R-E-C-H-T.
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
23	MR. HARPER: It's John Harper, J-O-H-N
24	H-A-R-P-E-R.
25	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Good morning.
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1	MR. KELLY: Shane Kelly, S-H-A-N-E
2	K-E-L-L-Y.
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And have
4	you all testified as experts before the Oil
5	Conservation Division in the past?
6	MS. ALBRECHT: Yes.
7	MR. HARPER: Yes.
8	MR. KELLY: Yes.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And you've been
10	accepted as an expert?
11	MS. ALBRECHT: Yes.
12	MR. HARPER: Yes.
13	MR. KELLY: Yes.
14	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And would
15	each one of you state what field you are an expert in?
16	MR. HARPER: Geology.
17	MR. KELLY: Reservoir engineer.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. You
19	can be seated.
20	Ms. Hardy, we'll call one at a time to
21	sit at the witness booth. And then they'll have to
22	turn on their microphone when the time comes.
23	So is Apache witnesses available to get
24	sworn in?
25	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I believe
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1	they all are. They are all in their office in
2	Houston.
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ah, okay. It
4	looks like we have four witnesses?
5	MR. RANKIN: Four witnesses, yes.
6	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Very good.
7	Excellent. Okay.
8	Could I ask all of you to raise your
9	right hands, please?
10	Do you swear or affirm that the
11	testimony you're about to give is the truth, the whole
12	truth, and nothing but the truth under penalty of
13	perjury?
14	MR. JOHNSON: Yes.
15	MR. EMMETT: Yes.
16	MR. CHENOWETH: Yes.
17	MR. ROBACK: Yes.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Very
19	good. One at a time, would you state and spell your
20	name and tell me what field you are an expert in?
21	MR. JOHNSON: Blake Johnson, B-L-A-K-E
22	J-O-H-N-S-O-N, land.
23	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And have you
24	been qualified as an expert before the Division?
25	MR. JOHNSON: I have.

1	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Excellent.
2	Next?
3	MR. EMMETT: Lucas Emmett, L-U-C-A-S
4	E-M-M-E-T-T, engineering.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And have you
6	been qualified before the Division as an expert?
7	MR. EMMETT: No, sir.
8	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So let
9	me do we have a CV, Mr. Rankin?
10	MR. RANKIN: We do, Mr. Examiner.
11	Mr. Emmett's CV is attached as an exhibit behind
12	what's marked as Exhibit D.
13	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Let's get
14	to that in just a moment.
15	Next, please?
16	MR. CHENOWETH: Drew Chenoweth, D-R-E-W
17	C-H-E-N-O-W-E-T-H, and geology.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And have you
19	been accepted as an expert before the Oil Conservation
20	Division?
21	MR. CHENOWETH: Yes, sir.
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Very
23	good.
24	And finally?
25	MR. ROBACK: Evan Roback, E-V-A-N
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1	R-O-B-A-C-K, reservoir engineering.
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And have you
3	been accepted as an expert in that field before this
4	division?
5	MR. ROBACK: No, sir.
6	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And
7	Mr. Rankin, a CV for him?
8	MR. RANKIN: Yes, Mr. Examiner. It has
9	been attached behind his statement, which is marked as
10	Exhibit E.
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: E. Why don't we
12	deal with those now?
13	And, gentlemen, you can by all means be
14	seated. Thank you.
15	Mr. Rankin, let's deal with Freya,
16	would you mute the microphones except for the ones
17	we're using right now so we don't get feedback?
18	Okay, Mr. Rankin. Let me find your
19	document.
20	First CV is for Mr. Lucas Emmett. It's
21	marked as Exhibit D-1.
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I see that now.
23	You wouldn't happen to have a page of the PDF; would
24	you?
25	MR. RANKIN: I can get there in a
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	rage 41

1	moment.
2	It should be page 97 of the PDF,
3	Mr. Examiner.
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. 97,
5	okay. Give me a moment to review this.
6	Okay. Mr. Emmett is hereby qualified
7	as an expert before the Oil Conservation as a
8	reservoir engineer. That is what you're seeking to
9	have him admitted as; right?
10	MR. RANKIN: Correct, Mr. Examiner.
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And then
12	Exhibit E, what page am I looking for?
13	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Roback's CV is marked
14	as Exhibit E-1, PDF page 105.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: What does PE
16	stand for?
17	MR. RANKIN: Professional engineer.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: What is a
19	professional engineer?
20	MR. RANKIN: It's one who has, I
21	believe, taken a test and has qualified in the state
22	as an engineer qualified to make calculations and do
23	other things that I don't do.
24	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Roback, is
25	there anything you want to add to that?

1	
1	MR. ROBACK: No, that's an accurate
2	assessment.
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Roback, it
4	looks like you also have on your CV that you're a
5	reservoir engineer.
6	MR. ROBACK: Yes, sir. That's correct.
7	THE HEARING EXAMINER: In what field
8	are you seeking to be an expert today?
9	MR. ROBACK: Reservoir engineering.
10	THE HEARING EXAMINER: A reservoir
11	engineer, okay.
12	So, Mr. Rankin, you'll have two
13	reservoir engineers?
14	MR. RANKIN: Yes, Mr. Examiner.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
16	Are there any objections, Ms. Hardy?
17	MS. HARDY: No objection.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Roback, you
19	are admitted as a reservoir engineer expert before the
20	Oil Conservation Division. Thank you.
21	Okay. Mr. Rankin, do you want to
22	proceed?
23	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, yes, please.
24	I don't know if it would be suitable or acceptable to
25	make an opening statement, but it may be helpful, I
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1	think, for the Division and the technical examiners
2	just to have a little bit of context for this
3	contested case.
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: By all means.
5	MR. RANKIN: It was helpful for me to
6	just put it all into context.
7	Mr. Examiner, if it may please the
8	Division, in these contested cases, both applicants
9	seek an order approving a nonstandard 1280-acre, more
10	or less, horizontal spacing unit in the Bone Spring
11	formation in Sections 11 and 14 in Township 19 South,
12	Range 32 East, in Lea County.
13	And they both seek to pool all of the
14	uncommitted interests in that acreage.
15	Apache seeks to initially dedicate its
16	proposed horizontal nonstandard spacing unit to eight
17	wells to be drilled on two well pads in the south
18	half, south half of Section 14 to bottom hole
19	locations in the north in Section 11.
20	There are two main differences between
21	Apache's plan of development and Avant's that you'll
22	hear testimony about today.
23	First, Apache proposes to initially
24	drill a total of eight wells at four wells per section
25	spacing. In contrast, Avant proposes a similar

1	development also from the south to north, but
2	initially, they will drill 18 wells with six well
3	spacing per section in each of three different
4	targets.
5	Apache proposes to target only the
6	First Bone Spring and Second Bone Spring benches
7	initially, saving the Third Bone Spring interval for
8	infill development.
9	In comparison, Avant says they will
10	initially target all the prospective Bone Spring
11	zones, the First Bone Spring, the Second Bone Spring,
12	and the Third Bone Spring, with 18 wells all at once
13	and under the terms and deadlines of a pooling order.
14	So Apache's proposal here is only
15	seeking four wells per section, and that's the spacing
16	pattern that the vast majority of operators have
17	chosen for development in this acreage, and there's a
18	reason for it.
19	It is the most efficient and effective
20	spacing to develop each of the targeted Bone Spring
21	intervals in the area. And actual publicly-available
22	production data confirms it.
23	Rather than rely on actual well
24	production data to make its case, Avant resorts to
25	cherry picking a few offsetting developments as

1	analogues and skews, in our opinion, its early time
2	production results through a nontransparent EU decline
3	curve analysis that relies on production forecasts
4	more than 50 years into the future to arrive at a
5	favorable result.
6	As you'll see from the testimony,
7	Avant's approach is not supported by, in our opinion,
8	good engineering or logic. And there are a few other
9	matters of dispute now that each side raised with
10	respect to the other, ranging from cost to regulatory
11	concerns and issues.
12	Now, while disputed, we believe these
13	issues ultimately align with the Division's factors
14	for assessing competing development in way in favor of
15	Apache.
16	Avant has little document experience in
17	the Delaware Basin to date. They're a new company.
18	The few wells that Avant has drilled underperform when
19	compared to the wells drilled by Apache and most
20	operators in the area.
21	Avant's proposed six-well-per-section
22	development plan is unproven. It's inconsistent with
23	the four-well-per-section pattern adopted by the
24	majority of operators in the area and requires
25	substantially more capital for lower expected

1 recovery. 2 Avant's proposed six-well-per-section development plan will cause considerably more 3 disturbance and over more time in the lesser 4 prairie-chicken restricted area. 5 6 And Avant's proposed 18-well drilling 7 plan does not account, in our opinion, for the severe 8 gas capacity constraints in the area. And it's 9 questionable whether they will be able to contract for 10 its efficient gas takeaway capacity to accommodate all 11 the wells coming online in a short amount of time. 12 In contrast, Apache has a long, proven 13 track record of being a prudent operator and drilling successful wells and meeting and exceeding its gas 14 15 capture requirements in the state. 16 So Avant is going to present some 17 testimony today and evidence that, as a result of some last-minute deals and trades over the last couple 18 19 weeks, they've been able to attain a greater share of 20 the working interest control than Apache. 2.1 And while that may be true, the 22 difference is insignificant. At most, a gap in the 23 working interest control is about 5 percent between 2.4 the two companies, the difference between roughly 25 52 percent for Avant and 47 percent for Apache.

1	The Division's recent precedent makes
2	clear that, when the difference in working interest
3	control is less than 10 percent, it's deemed to be
4	insignificant and not a controlling factor.
5	That means the Division must decide
6	which development plan will most efficiently develop
7	this subject acreage, prevent waste, and protect
8	correlative rights.
9	In our view, Avant cannot clearly
LO	demonstrate with convincing evidence that Apache's
L1	proposed initial development plan will cause waste or
L2	negatively impact correlative rights.
L3	In contrast, Apache's plan is the
L4	transparent choice because it uses we can
L 5	demonstrate through clear, unmanipulated data that its
L6	proposed development will be a better development for
L7	the acreage.
L8	Now, the last point I want to make is
L9	that Apache has a correlative rights issue. Apache
20	has a term assignment for a portion of the federal
21	acreage in this proposed spacing unit that requires
22	Apache to spud and complete wells no later than the
23	end of March of 2025 or it may lose its interest in
24	135 net acres.
25	As a result, Apache should be given

1	control of the development to ensure its drilling is
2	commenced before the expiration of its term assignment
3	so its correlative rights can be protected.
4	Apache has experience in obtaining the
5	necessary federal permits. It's already filed for
6	them as of October. Avant has only recently filed for
7	its federal permits. And as we all know, it takes a
8	long time to get federal permits approved.
9	So Apache has great concerns that Avant
10	will not be in a position to drill these wells in a
11	timely fashion.
12	So with that, Mr. Examiner, we would
13	ask the Division to approve Apache's application,
14	designate Apache as the operator of this acreage, and
15	deny Avant's competing application.
16	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you,
17	Mr. Rankin.
18	Ms. Hardy?
19	MS. HARDY: Thank you, Mr. Examiner.
20	The factors considered by the Division
21	in evaluating competing pooling cases weigh in favor
22	of Avant here.
23	As Mr. Rankin mentioned, Apache and
24	Avant both seek to develop the same acreage, and
25	specifically, the Bone Spring formation underlying

1	that acreage.
2	However, Avant proposes to drill six
3	wells each in the First, Second, and Third Bone Spring
4	formation, which Apache currently only proposes four
5	in the First and Second.
6	So here, Avant's plan and we'll
7	present evidence that it will best prevent waste to
8	protect correlative rights. Avant's
9	six-well-per-section development outperforms other
- 0	lower-density developments in this area.
L1	Apache's development comparisons are
L2	not based on wells in this area drilled in comparable
L3	rock and exclude wells it does operate in this area.
L4	In essence, Apache has cherry picked
L5	the data that it uses in its well comparisons, and as
L6	a result, they are not accurate.
L7	With respect to working interest
-8	control, over 50 percent of the interests are
L9	committed to Avant's unit. Apache's ownership
20	information, including the information they provided
21	in rebuttal, does not reflect Avant's recent
22	acquisitions and agreements, and includes parties who
23	have more recently signed joint operating agreements
24	with Avant.
25	Regarding Apache's term assignment,

1	which expires in March of 2025, Apache initially
2	proposed these wells in 2019, but took no further
3	action until Avant proposed its wells in 2023.
4	So Apache waited years to develop this
5	acreage, and now seeks to do so at the end of the term
6	assignment. So the term assignment does not provide a
7	basis to grant Apache's application.
8	With respect to surface issues,
9	midstream capability is a major issue in this area
10	because it has been severely lacking. Avant will
11	present evidence and testimony that it has agreements
12	and systems in place to address oil, gas, and water
13	takeaway.
14	Because Avant operates other wells in
15	this immediate area, which include the Cutbow wells,
16	it is able to efficiently and effectively address
17	those midstream issues.
18	In contrast, Apache does not have any
19	midstream agreements in place and only has proposals.
20	Apache's lack of those agreements could result in
21	flaring and cost that exceeds its AFEs as well as
22	delays in producing the wells.
23	Avant has made progress on its
24	development, and it has been consistently working
25	toward producing this acreage. It has submitted APDs

1 to the BLM and has worked with the BLM to determine 2. its well pad and tank battery locations. 3 Although Apache claims Avant has compliance issues, Apache fails to mention it recently 4 5 agreed to pay a \$4 million fine for venting and that it has over 120 unresolved spills, most of which have 6 existed for years. 8 Regarding Avant's C-104s which were 9 raised by Apache, Avant has submitted all of those 10 required forms and is providing as evidence its 11 communications with OCD where OCD confirmed that Avant 12 could proceed. 13 Avant will also explain that its midstream services have allowed it to resolve venting 14 15 and flaring concerns. 16 Finally, Avant is an experienced and 17 prudent operator. Avant's management team has many years of experience drilling and operating wells in 18 the Permian Basin, including with Centennial and EOG, 19 20 which are the companies several of its management team came from. 2.1 22 Apache's well count data is inaccurate. Since 2021, Avant has drilled and completed 45 wells 23 2.4 in the Delaware Basin in New Mexico and operates the 25 Cutbow wells in adjacent acreage.

1	Apache has drilled very few wells in
2	New Mexico in the past couple of years and only
3	operates two wells within ten miles of this location,
4	which are the Lusk Federal 34 1H and 2H wells, which
5	Apache has excluded from its hearing exhibits and its
6	well analysis.
7	Avant currently has two rigs running in
8	New Mexico, while Apache has none. So Avant is
9	experienced and ready to develop this acreage and
10	should be authorized to proceed. So we would request
11	that Apache's application be denied and that Avant's
12	application be granted. Thank you.
13	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you,
14	Ms. Hardy.
15	Mr. Rankin, would you like to put on
16	your case in chief?
17	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, yes, we
18	would. Mr. Examiner, at this time, I will call
19	Apache's first witness, Mr. Blake Johnson.
20	DIRECT EXAMINATION
21	BY MR. RANKIN:
22	Q Good morning, Mr. Johnson.
23	A Good morning.
24	Q Mr. Johnson, will you please state your full
25	name?

1	А	Blake Johnson.
2	Q	By whom are you employed and in what
3	capacity?	
4	А	Apache Corporation. I work as a landman.
5	Q	And you previously testified before the
6	Division a	and had your credentials as an expert in
7	petroleum	land matters accepted?
8	А	I have.
9	Q	And you're familiar with the application
10	filed in t	these competing cases?
11	А	Yes, sir.
12	Q	And have you conducted a study of the and
13	you're fam	ailiar with the lands within the proposed
14	spacing ur	nit?
15	А	Yes, sir.
16	Q	Mr. Johnson, have you prepared written
17	testimony	in advance of today's hearing?
18	А	Yes.
19	Q	Was it marked as Exhibit A in the exhibit
20	packet tha	at was filed with the Division?
21	A	Yes, that is correct.
22	Q	Did you also prepare some exhibits in
23	connection	n with your testimony?
24	A	Yes, I did.
25	Q	And those were marked and attached to your
		Page 54

1	affidavit or your sworn statement. Is that correct?
2	A Yes, that is correct.
3	Q In addition to those, your testimony
4	addresses certain slides that were marked as
5	Exhibit B. Is that correct?
6	A Are you referring to the rebuttal slides?
7	Q No, I'm referring to the direct testimony
8	slides that were marked as Exhibit B. I believe your
9	testimony specifically addresses slides one moment.
10	You address slides 1 through 10 in Apache
11	Exhibit B. Is that correct?
12	A Yes, that's correct.
13	Q Mr. Johnson, having submitted this
14	testimony, do you have any corrections or
15	modifications or changes to the testimony that was
16	submitted as part of Exhibit A?
17	A I do not.
18	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, at this
19	time, I would move the admission of Exhibit A and its
20	attachments and slides 1 through 10 of Exhibit B.
21	I guess we've already done that, so I
22	apologize.
23	So with that, Mr. Examiner, I tender
24	Mr. Johnson as a witness and make him available for
25	cross-examination.

1	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I missed it if
2	you asked Mr. Johnson to adopt his written testimony
3	and exhibits under oath. Did you do that?
4	MR. RANKIN: I may not have,
5	Mr. Examiner.
6	BY MR. RANKIN:
7	Q Mr. Johnson, as you sit here today, do you
8	adopt the testimony that you pre-filed under Exhibit A
9	as your testimony today?
LO	A Yes, I do.
L1	Q And as well, you affirm the veracity of the
L2	exhibits and slides that you attached as Exhibits A-1,
L3	A-2, and slides 1 through 10?
L 4	A Yes, I do.
L5	MR. RANKIN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner.
L6	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And, Mr. Rankin,
L7	just so I know where the slides are, would you direct
L8	me to those slides?
L9	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, starting at
20	Exhibit B of the exhibit packet, on page 59, PDF
21	page 59, of the file.
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I'm certainly
23	not singling you out when I make this comment, but it
24	would be very helpful if each page were marked with an
25	exhibit letter and page number or something because,

1	if it's marked once and then I don't know where it
2	ends, it takes a waste of time for me to find it.
3	But I have found page 59 now. And I
4	see that it is marked as Exhibit B. And you're saying
5	this is ten pages long, basically?
6	MR. RANKIN: Yes, Mr. Examiner. So his
7	testimony relates to Slide 1, which is the cover
8	slide. And then you'll see in the bottom right
9	corner, there's a page number. So his testimony
10	refers to Slides 1 through 10 on Exhibit B.
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
12	Okay. Let's do all of your witnesses
13	and get all of their sworn adoptions and corrections
14	in. And then we'll address them as a panel for
15	cross-examination.
16	MR. RANKIN: With that, Mr. Examiner, I
17	would call Apache's next witness, Mr. Drew Chenoweth.
18	It may take a moment. I'm not sure if
19	he's in the same room. But he is.
20	MR. CHENOWETH: Morning.
21	DIRECT EXAMINATION
22	BY MR. RANKIN:
23	Q Good morning. Mr. Chenoweth, can you please
24	state your full name for the record?
25	A Drew Adam Chenoweth.

1	Q And by whom are you employed and in what
2	capacity?
3	A Apache as a geologist.
4	Q And you're familiar with the application
5	that was filed in both of these cases?
6	A I am.
7	Q And have you conducted a study of the
8	geology in the area?
9	A [No audible response.]
10	Q I can't hear you, Mr. Chenoweth.
11	A Yes, sir.
12	Q Thank you. Now, Mr. Chenoweth, you prepared
13	prewritten testimony that was filed in the exhibit
14	packet that we submitted to the Division in advance of
15	this hearing. Is that correct?
16	A That is correct.
17	Q And it was marked as Exhibit let me just
18	double check to make sure. I believe it's Exhibit C.
19	Your testimony was marked as Exhibit C. Is
20	that correct?
21	A Yes, sir.
22	Q And your testimony has attached to it you
23	refer in your testimony to Slides 11 through 18 of
24	Apache Exhibit B. Is that correct?
25	A That is correct.

1	Q Now, Mr. Chenoweth, we wanted to address one
2	thing in advance of admitting your testimony. Do you
3	have any corrections or adjustments to the testimony
4	that you submitted before the Division?
5	A I do. It's on the operator experience. And
6	those numbers are not accurate. I was operating two
7	months ago. And I needed to update them, and I did
8	not. And so I agree with that's number one of
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Hold on one
10	second, sir. Hold on. Can you direct me to a page?
11	MR. RANKIN: Yeah, I'm working on it.
12	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
13	Mr. Chenoweth, hold on one second.
14	BY MR. RANKIN:
15	Q Which slide number is that that you're
16	referring to?
17	A Slide 12.
18	Q Slide 12?
19	A Yes, sir.
20	Q Okay. Thank you. I went right by it.
21	Mr. Chenoweth, I'm going to share my page
22	just so that there's no confusion about what we're
23	addressing.
24	Are you able to see my screen?
25	A Yes, sir.
	Daga 50
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1	Q Is this the slide you're referring to?
2	A Yes, sir.
3	Q Can you just explain for the examiner what
4	corrections and modifications you wanted to point out
5	in this slide?
6	A Okay. Two things. One is the drilled
7	horizontals by Apache. I understand Avant's position,
8	and I think it's fair to compare apples to apples. So
9	we should use the number that they've provided as I
LO	believe it was 84 that they came up with. I agree
L1	with that.
L2	And then on the right, I I didn't do
L3	enough QC in adding their 45 wells. I didn't update
L4	it since 3/26. So I would like to accept their number
L5	of drilled wells. And that's probably will need to
L6	be changed in my written testimony as well because
L7	neither are accurate.
L8	Q So a slide where it refers to in red
L9	underneath APA, which refers to Apache, where it says,
20	"Drilled horizontals," the number should be 84?
21	A Correct.
22	Q And just so it's clear, the number that you
23	put there, 155, that's all wells that were drilled in
24	New Mexico by Apache. Is that right?
25	A The intention it was all horizontals
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1	drilled. The intention was to show our operator
2	experience in New Mexico. But again, apples to
3	apples. We shouldn't include anything that is not
4	directly in the basin.
5	Q And by the basin, you mean Delaware Basin,
6	which is what DB stands for in the exhibit?
7	A Correct, correct.
8	Q Okay. So the change here would be to make
9	the same changes in your testimony, in Exhibit
10	Correct?
11	A Correct.
12	Q Okay.
13	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Rankin, I
14	believe there were two corrections; weren't there?
15	There's the 155 that is now 84. But wasn't there a
16	correction in the other slide as well?
17	MR. RANKIN: Correct, Mr. Examiner.
18	The other correction is under Avant's heading where it
19	says, "Drilled horizontals." I believe it should
20	be
21	BY MR. RANKIN:
22	Q Mr. Chenoweth, you said 47; is that right,
23	or 45?
24	A I was going off of the public data
25	available. I would rather use their number because
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1	mine is always going to be less, based on the spuds
2	reported to the NMOCD. So in an effort to move this
3	along, I'll accept their numbers.
4	The only the only caveat being that I
5	don't accept wells that they didn't drill to their
6	final count.
7	Q I believe that number then, Mr. Chenoweth,
8	should be 45 wells. Is that correct?
9	MS. HARDY: I believe it's 47.
10	BY MR. RANKIN:
11	Q Forty-seven, Mr. Chenoweth. Is that right?
12	A Sure.
13	Q Thank you.
14	THE HEARING EXAMINER: So that the
15	court reporter picks this up correctly, was that a
16	yes, Mr. Chenoweth?
17	MR. CHENOWETH: Yes, sir. Sorry.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. So
19	the corrected number is 47 on the right side instead
20	of 23?
21	MR. CHENOWETH: Correct.
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Thank you
23	for those corrections.
24	MR. CHENOWETH: You're welcome.
25	//
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1	BY MR. RANKIN:
2	Q Any other corrections, Mr. Chenoweth, or
3	changes to your testimony that you submitted?
4	A No, sir.
5	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, at this
6	time, then, I would tender Mr. Chenoweth for
7	cross-examination as a panel when the time comes.
8	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. And
9	your next witness?
10	MR. RANKIN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner.
11	Our next witness is Mr. Lucas Emmett, reservoir
12	engineer.
13	DIRECT EXAMINATION
14	BY MR. RANKIN:
15	Q Mr. Emmett, can you please state your full
16	name for the record?
17	A Lucas Emmett.
18	Q And by whom are you employed and in what
19	capacity?
20	A Apache Corporation as a reservoir engineer.
21	Q And are you familiar with the applications
22	that were filed by each party in these contested
23	cases?
24	A Yes.
25	Q And you're familiar with the lands in the
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1	subject area?
2	A Yes.
3	Q And you conducted a reservoir engineering
4	study?
5	A Yes.
6	Q Mr. Emmett, have you prepared in advance of
7	today's hearing pre-filed written testimony that's
8	been marked as Exhibit D in the Apache exhibit packet
9	that was filed with the Division?
LO	A Yes, sir.
L1	Q And included in that exhibit packet, does
L2	that include your CV resume that was previously just
L3	accepted by the Division?
L4	A Yes.
L5	Q And as part of your testimony, did you also
L6	refer to slides that were submitted by Apache and
L7	marked as Exhibit B, Slides 19 through 22? Is that
L8	correct?
L9	A That's correct.
20	Q Mr. Emmett, do you today adopt your
21	pre-filed written testimony as your sworn testimony
22	today?
23	A Yes, sir.
24	Q Do you have any changes, modifications, or
25	corrections to make?

1	A No.
2	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I would
3	tender Mr. Emmett as a witness in this case and
4	available for cross-examination.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. And
6	your final witness?
7	Final witness, Mr. Examiner, is
8	Mr. Evan Roback, who is a petroleum engineer with
9	Apache.
10	DIRECT EXAMINATION
11	BY MR. RANKIN:
12	Q Mr. Roback, please state your name.
13	A Evan Roback.
14	Q By whom are you employed and in what
15	capacity?
16	A Apache Corporation as a reservoir
17	engineer as an asset reservoir engineer.
18	Q And are you familiar with the applications
19	filed in both of these cases?
20	A Yes, I am.
21	Q And have you conducted an engineering study
22	of the lands at issue?
23	A Yes, I have.
24	Q Have you prepared pre-filed written
25	testimony in preparation for today's hearing?
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1	A Yes, I have.
2	Q Has that been marked as Exhibit E?
3	A That's correct.
4	Q And attached to Exhibit E, did you also
5	include your CV, you resume, that outlines your
6	education and work experience?
7	A Yes.
8	Q And in your testimony, you refer to
9	Slides 23 through 29 of Exhibit B?
10	A That's correct.
11	Q Mr. Roback, do you, as you sit here today,
12	adopt your pre-filed written testimony as your
13	testimony before the Division today?
14	A Yes.
15	Q Do you have any corrections, modifications,
16	or changes, to your written testimony?
17	A No.
18	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, at this
19	time, I would make Mr. Roback available for
20	cross-examination by the Division and opposing
21	counsel.
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you, sir.
23	Okay. So witnesses for Apache, the way
24	this will work is, if a person wants to direct a
25	question to a particular witness, they will.

1	Otherwise, the question will be asked, one of you
2	should select to answer that question, and then come
3	in front of the camera and speak clearly so we can
4	hear you.
5	And I'm actually going to start with
6	Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones, any questions for the panel?
7	MR. JONES: No, Mr. Examiner. Northern
8	does not have any questions for Apache's witnesses.
9	Thank you.
10	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Thank
11	you, Mr. Jones.
12	Ms. Hardy?
13	MS. HARDY: Yes, Mr. Examiner. I do
14	have questions.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And if you want
16	to direct it to a particular witness, just say their
17	name.
18	MS. HARDY: Okay. I think my questions
19	are for Mr. Johnson on land.
20	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Johnson,
21	would you sit in front for us?
22	MR. JOHNSON: I'm here, sir.
23	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
24	//
25	//
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1	CROSS-EXAMINATION
2	BY MS. HARDY:
3	Q Good morning, Mr. Johnson.
4	A Good morning.
5	Q I'd like to look at your Slide Number 5,
6	your development plan preparation time line. Do you
7	have that in front of you, or?
8	A I do.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Hold on,
10	Mr. Johnson.
11	Mr. Rankin, can you put that on the
12	screen for us, Slide Number 5?
13	Thank you.
14	MS. HARDY: Thank you. Yes.
15	BY MS. HARDY:
16	Q Mr. Johnson, the time line begins in August
17	of 2022; correct?
18	A [No audible response.]
19	THE HEARING EXAMINER: A little louder,
20	Mr. Johnson.
21	MR. JOHNSON: That is correct on this
22	slide. This time line does start in 2022.
23	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
24	BY MS. HARDY:
25	Q And it states that Apache began working on
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1	updated plats in September of 2023; correct?
2	A Correct.
3	Q But the C-102s included in your Exhibit A-1
4	are dated May of 2019; aren't they?
5	A Let me look at the C-102s.
6	Let's see here. It looks like that is
7	correct based on the surveyor's markings, the
8	surveyor's certification 5/9/2019.
9	Q Thank you. And Apache had originally
10	proposed its Dust Bowl wells in 2019; isn't that
11	correct?
12	A I believe that to be the case. I did not
13	propose them, but I do believe that we proposed in
14	2019.
15	Q But no pooling application was filed at that
16	time; was it?
17	A No.
18	Q And then Apache reproposed the Dust Bowl
19	wells in September of 2023; correct?
20	A That's correct.
21	Q So there is roughly a four-year lapse
22	between the initial proposal and the current proposal;
23	correct?
24	A Yes.
25	Q With respect to midstream issues, your time
	Dage 69

1	line says that Apache began discussions with midstream
2	companies in late 2023 and now has four proposals;
3	correct?
4	A Correct, the slide says that.
5	Q But Apache does not have signed agreements
6	with those midstream companies; does it?
7	A To my knowledge, no.
8	Q And Apache hasn't identified the midstream
9	companies in this proceeding?
LO	A We have not identified them in this
L1	proceeding. Obviously, we know who they are. But no,
L2	they're not identified.
L3	Q And Apache hasn't provided any evidence in
L4	this proceeding that the midstream companies have
L 5	capacity; has it?
L6	A I don't know about the direct evidence. I
L7	know that we address some slides talking about it.
L8	But I don't know what specific evidence you would want
L9	or would be required.
20	Q And without signed contracts for midstream
21	services, at this time, Apache can't guarantee that
22	its gas will be put on a pipeline and won't be flared;
23	can it?
24	A I don't know if that's an accurate question
25	or statement.

1	Q Well, Apache doesn't have signed contracts
2	right now; right?
3	A To my knowledge, no.
4	Q So it doesn't have guaranteed capacity
5	takeaway for its produced gas; is that fair?
6	A I don't know if that's a fair assessment.
7	Q I'm sorry. Did you say you don't know if
8	that's a fair assessment?
9	A I don't know if that's a fair assessment
10	because I know that companies work with companies all
11	the time. So I don't know I can't I can't say
12	that it
13	Q Thank you. Let's look at your Slide
14	Number 6, consolidated working interest ownership by
15	unit.
16	A Yes, ma'am.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy, would
18	you wait until Slide 6 is on the thank you.
19	BY MS. HARDY:
20	Q Just to be clear for the record, Legion and
21	Double Cabin are Avant-affiliated companies; correct?
22	A I have not looked at the affiliation between
23	the companies. I think it's knowledgeable or
24	there's knowledge out there to indicate that they are
25	affiliated.

1	But I haven't specifically examined any kind
2	of contracts between the companies that would indicate
3	that. But I think it's common knowledge that they are
4	controlled by Avant.
5	Q Thank you. And your chart doesn't reflect
6	that Southwest Royalties and CXA have signed a JOA
7	with Avant; does it?
8	A [No audible response.]
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Johnson, we
10	can't hear you.
11	MR. JOHNSON: The chart does not.
12	BY MS. HARDY:
13	Q Can we look at your Slide Number 7, please,
14	which is the plat? And I'm looking at the table on
15	the upper right regarding the tract 5 ownership. It
16	does not identify the owners in the southeast quarter
17	and west half, west half of Section 14; does it?
18	A Can you repeat the question? I'm sorry.
19	Q Sure. It looks like it doesn't identify the
20	interest owners southeast quarter and the west half,
21	west half of Section 14, which is included in tract 5.
22	A I don't know. I'm trying to distinguish
23	that. Let's see. The you're saying it doesn't
24	include the southeast, southeast?
25	Q Well, it's not listed at the top of that
	Page 72

1	table on the right.
2	A I agree that the southeast, southeast is not
3	listed at the top of the table.
4	Q So does the table not include the ownership
5	information for those tracts?
6	A The table includes the ownership of of
7	what is outlined in tract 5 in the depiction on the
8	picture.
9	Q Okay. Thank you.
LO	MS. HARDY: I think those are all of my
L1	questions.
L2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy, which
L3	picture is he referring to? Because I see several
L4	pictures.
L 5	BY MS. HARDY:
L6	Q I believe, Mr. Johnson, are you referring to
L7	tract 5, the lower left?
L8	A Yes. Yes.
L9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And Ms. Hardy,
20	your question was specifically, if we look at that
21	diagram of that section, which ownership interests
22	were you referring to?
23	MS. HARDY: It looks like,, in the
24	table for tract 5, the table does not list out, or at
25	least it's not included in that heading in the table,
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1	the tracts in the southeast quarter and west half,
2	west half of Section 14.
3	Which, they are shown in the picture as
4	part of tract 5, but those tracts are not listed in
5	the table under tract 5. So I was trying to determine
6	if some of the ownership interests are missing.
7	THE HEARING EXAMINER: So just to
8	clarify what you're asking, in that blue section that
9	we have, tract 5, you're trying to clarify the
10	ownership interests in the southeast quarter of that
11	section?
12	MS. HARDY: Yes, in the west half, west
13	half.
14	THE HEARING EXAMINER: West half of the
15	west half. So okay. So part of tract 5, okay.
16	And what was the answer to that
17	question, Mr. Johnson, about the ownership that she's
18	specifically asking you about?
19	MR. JOHNSON: Now that I'm getting
20	clarification, the ownership represented in the table
21	on the right is reflective of what is in the picture
22	on the left. So the ownership that's listed under
23	tract 5 should match up with the picture on the left.
24	Now, it appears that the header of
25	the of the chart itself is is inaccurate. And
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1	that should've been updated. But the the ownership
2	information should be correct.
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So
4	Mr. Rankin, would you ask your witness to clarify what
5	the correct header should be?
6	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Johnson, if you're
7	looking at Exhibit Slide 7, if you would explain for
8	the record how that chart should read at the top so
9	that we understand how the land description should be
10	correctly interpreted?
11	MR. JOHNSON: I would say that, in
12	Section 14, it should read as the south half of the
13	west half of Section 14. And then I would say that it
14	would be the northwest of the northeast of Section 14.
15	And then it looks like it would be the
16	south it looks like it would be the let's see.
17	What did I include? There's a number of ways you can
18	describe this.
19	I think that the thing to take in
20	mind sorry is that, basically, in tract 5, on
21	the western portion of tract 5 in Section 14, it
22	includes the entire west half of Section 14 minus the
23	northeast of the northeast of Section 14.
24	And then on the west half of the
25	section, it's the west half, west half of Section 14.

1	That would include Section 5 [sic].
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Do you accept
3	that?
4	MR. RANKIN: Yes.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Let's go
6	to cross-examination by our technical examiner,
7	Mr. McClure.
8	CROSS-EXAMINATION
9	BY MR. MCCLURE:
10	Q Mr. Johnson, what you just finished saying,
11	I guess, can you say that one more time? I believe
12	you misspoke. When you described the east half, you
13	actually described it as the west half. So can you
14	please repeat what the tract 5 showed?
15	A Yes. In the east half of Section 14, it
16	should tract 5 will include everything on the east
17	half of Section 14 with the exception of the
18	northeast, northeast quarter of that section. I agree
19	with you, Dean. I'm sorry that I misspoke there.
20	And on the west half, tract 5 would include
21	everything on the west half, west half of Section 14.
22	Q Okay. Thank you, sir.
23	MR. MCCLURE: Mr. Hearing Examiner, did
24	you want me to continue with my questioning? Was
25	Ms. Hardy finished with her questioning, I guess?

1	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes,
2	Mr. McClure. Ms. Hardy is finished cross-examining
3	the panel as a whole. And you can ask any of these
4	witnesses any cross-examination on subjects that they
5	have testified under direct examination.
6	MS. HARDY: Mr. Examiner, apologies. I
7	do have cross questions for other witnesses as well.
8	I was just focusing my first questions for Mr. Johnson
9	on land.
10	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
11	Mr. McClure, I was premature in
12	thinking that Ms. Hardy was finished with her
13	cross-examinations.
14	Ms. Hardy, would you like to continue?
15	MS. HARDY: Sure. If you'd like me to
16	move to the next witness.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: They're a panel,
18	so yeah.
19	MS. HARDY: Okay, a panel. Okay, sure.
20	Okay. I have some questions that I believe I am
21	directing to Mr. Chenoweth on geology.
22	CROSS-EXAMINATION
23	BY MS. HARDY:
24	Q Good morning, Mr. Chenoweth.
25	A Good morning.

1	Q I'd like to look at your Slide Number 13.
2	Okay. And you've reviewed Avant's exhibits;
3	correct?
4	A Yes, ma'am.
5	Q And those exhibits, Avant's exhibits, show
6	that the target intervals for the first Bone Spring
7	wells are in the First Bone Spring rather than the
8	Avalon carbonates; correct?
9	A Yes, ma'am. The the exhibits reflect
10	that.
11	Q And TVDs can sometimes very between a well
12	proposal and drilling once an operator has additional
13	information, is that correct, within a reasonable
14	range?
15	A It can, but there is a drilling window. And
16	if you exit that window, you have to sundry the plan.
17	So yes, within that window, which is 100 feet.
18	Q Thank you.
19	A So these are around 100 foot 150 foot
20	off, at least.
21	Q So that would require, in your experience, a
22	sundry?
23	A Correct.
24	Q Okay. And actually, I'll look at
25	paragraph 10 of your affidavit. Turn to that.

1	A Page 10 of my affidavit.
2	Q Paragraph 10.
3	A Oh, paragraph 10. Sorry.
4	Q Yes.
5	A Yes, ma'am.
6	Q And that paragraph notes that the surface
7	hole locations and bottom hole locations differed
8	between Avant's well proposal and pooling application;
9	correct?
10	A Yes, ma'am.
11	Q But you agree it's appropriate to develop
12	this acreage using a stand-up orientation; correct?
13	A Yes, ma'am.
14	Q And your testimony and exhibits don't
15	provide any data to show that swapping the surface
16	hole location and bottom hole locations impacts the
17	productivity of the wells; correct?
18	A That is correct. That should be no problem.
19	Q Okay. Thank you.
20	A You're welcome.
21	MS. HARDY: Okay. Those are my
22	questions for Mr. Chenoweth.
23	Would you like me to move to my next?
24	Okay. I have some questions for, I
25	believe, Mr. Emmett.

1	CROSS-EXAMINATION
2	BY MS. HARDY:
3	Q Mr. Emmett, can you hear me?
4	A Yes, ma'am.
5	Q Okay. Thank you. We were getting some
6	background noise there.
7	Okay. Can we look at your Slide Number 20,
8	please? And the heading is Typical Development Well
9	Spacing.
10	This slide does not show a correlation
11	between spacing and well performance; does it?
12	A No, ma'am.
13	Q And just generally speaking, a lack of
14	midstream services can influence spacing patterns;
15	can't it?
16	A I don't think that is the primary
17	drive driver for spacing.
18	Q But if midstream services aren't available,
19	an operator may drill fewer wells; correct?
20	A [No audible response.]
21	Q Did you answer? I didn't hear your answer
22	if you did.
23	A Apologies. I said, "Correct."
24	Q Okay. And other issues can impact spacing
25	as well, right, such as land ownership, capital,
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1	budget, things like that?
2	A Yes, ma'am. Other things can influence
3	spacing.
4	Q Thank you. Can we look at your Slide 21,
5	please, on historical well performance?
6	A This side doesn't address whether the wells
7	were drilled in the same formations; does it?
8	A It pools in all wells in the Bone Springs,
9	First, Second, and Third, combined, yes.
LO	Q And it doesn't address whether the wells
L1	were drilled in comparable rock; does it?
L2	A It looks at New Mexico unilaterally in the
L3	Delaware Basin, so.
L 4	Q And I see at the bottom left of the slide
L5	that the information was filtered for First, Second,
L6	and Third Bone Spring wells drilled after January 1 of
L7	2015. Is that correct?
L8	A Yes, ma'am.
L9	Q And it looks like the Angry Angus wells are
20	included there on the map on the lower left?
21	A Yes, ma'am.
22	Q Those aren't Bone Spring wells; are they?
23	A I just went off what Enverus had listed as
24	the landing zone. So that is what they were in in
25	the source when I pulled it on March 5th.

1	Q And you didn't review OCD's filings on the
2	well files to show what formation they're drilled in?
3	A I personally did not, no.
4	Q All of the Apache wells identified in the
5	exhibit are further away from this proposed acreage
6	that Avant's Cutbow wells. Is that correct?
7	A [No audible response.]
8	Q Sorry. I couldn't hear you.
9	A Yes, ma'am.
10	Q And Apache actually does operate two
11	horizontal Bone Spring wells in Section 34,
12	Township 19 South, Range 32 East; doesn't it?
13	A I believe you're referring to the Lusk 34
14	wells. And we do. I don't know their exact township
15	off the top of my head. But you're correct.
16	Q And those wells are closer to this area than
17	the other Apache wells included in your exhibit;
18	aren't they?
19	A Yes, ma'am. They are. But they're much
20	older than what we would deem as to be a modern
21	completion, which is why we excluded them from this
22	analysis.
23	Q So this exhibit excludes Apache wells
24	located closer to the Dust Bowl and Grayling acreage
25	and includes Apache wells that are further away;

1	correct?
2	A Based upon vintage, yes.
3	Q Let's look at your Slide 22, Dust Bowl
4	Projected Total Recovery. In this analysis, you're
5	taking wells across the entire New Mexico Delaware and
6	using average 9-to-12-month cumulative production
7	volumes to forecast volumes for Dust Bowl and
8	Grayling; correct?
9	A Yes, to or to compare relative
10	performance between Apache and Avant.
11	Q And you don't provide any analysis here as
12	to whether Apache's wells were drilled in comparable
13	rock; do you?
14	A No. Again, it is taking all of the wells in
15	New Mexico Delaware Basin.
16	Q And the closest Apache wells identified on
17	the exhibit are more than 10 miles away from this Dust
18	Bowl and Grayling acreage. Is that correct?
19	A Yes, ma'am.
20	MS. HARDY: Okay. Those are all my
21	questions for Mr. Emmett on the direct.
22	I do have some questions for
23	Mr. Roback.
24	//
25	//
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1 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2. BY MS. HARDY: Good morning, Mr. Roback. Can you hear me? 0 Yes, I can. 4 Α 5 Okay. I'd like to look at your Slide 23 on 6 total AFE costs and economics. Regarding cost, Apache does not have signed contracts in place for oil, gas, 8 or water takeaway; correct? 9 Α As far as I'm aware, correct. As a result, Apache's AFEs could increase if 10 11 Apache is required to build a pipeline connection to 12 third-party midstream companies for oil, water, and 13 gas takeaway. Is that correct? 14 Α I don't know that. 15 And you don't know, if those cost increases 16 were to occur, whether they would be significant? 17 I don't know that. Α 18 Regarding the production projections, the 0 19 exhibit does not provide any information regarding the 20 underlying wells; does it? 2.1 The underlying wells in Slide 23, the 22 numbers will match -- I'm sorry -- Slide 22. The 23 numbers will match with Slide 22. 2.4 And this slide here doesn't address their 0 location; does it? 25

1	A Landing zone location or geographic
2	location?
3	Q Either.
4	A It does address landing zone, the First
5	Bone, Second Bone Spring target formation.
6	Q Okay. And can you speak up? I'm having a
7	little bit of trouble hearing you, so.
8	A Yes. I can restate that.
9	Q Yes, please.
10	A Geographic it does have landing zone on
11	the left, on the bottom chart. It it says, "First
12	and Second"
13	Q We're still having trouble hearing you. I
14	don't know we weren't having trouble with the other
15	witnesses, so I'm not sure. I heard you, but it's
16	difficult to hear you.
17	MR. RANKIN: Yeah, for some reason,
18	Mr. Roback, your microphone doesn't seem to be picking
19	up as well now all of a sudden.
20	MR. ROBACK: Apologies. Nothing has
21	changed.
22	BY MS. HARDY:
23	Q It was better for a minute.
24	A Yeah, nothing has changed.
25	MR. RANKIN: Maybe, Mr. Roback, just
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1	ensure that you're as close as you can be to the mic.
2	And maybe just speak up a little louder.
3	MR. ROBACK: I will do my best.
4	BY MS. HARDY:
5	Q And this slide doesn't address whether the
6	wells were drilled in comparable rock; correct?
7	A Correct.
8	Q And Apache has only drilled the Lusk 34
9	Federal 1H and 2H wells within 10 miles of this
10	location; correct?
11	A Correct.
12	Q With respect to the costs, this exhibit just
13	shows capital cost as a function of year one
14	production. Is that correct?
15	A That's not correct. Okay. They are full
16	AFE costs for finding and developing these wells.
17	They do not incorporate operational costs down the
18	road.
19	Q Okay. That was going to be one of my
20	questions. Because these wells will certainly produce
21	for well, they would be expected to produce for
22	something like 30 to 40 years; correct?
23	A Correct.
24	Q Let's look at your Slide Number 24, the
25	drilling comparison, 24. This slide doesn't provide
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1	any information regarding when the wells at issue were
2	drilled; does it?
3	A I'm not sure I understand your question.
4	Q Well, the slide doesn't include any
5	information regarding the dates or the years when
6	these wells were drilled; does it?
7	A If you look back, previous Apache
8	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Hold on a
9	second. Mr. Roback, we really can't hear you. And
10	the court reporter has to be able to get everything
11	you say accurately. So why don't you take some time,
12	restart your computer.
13	Let's take a five-minute break while
14	you do that. It is 9:54 a.m. Let's come back on the
15	record at 10 a.m. Thank you.
16	(Off the record.)
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: It is 10 a.m. on
18	May 29, nineteen 2024. We're back on the record.
19	MS. TSCHANTZ: Back in the 1900s.
20	THE HEARING EXAMINER: It's my birthday
21	today, and so I was going to say the date I was born.
22	So that's why I just stopped.
23	Okay. Let's proceed. Ms. Hardy?
24	MS. HARDY: Thank you.
25	//
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1	BY MS. HARDY:
2	Q Mr. Roback, we were talking about your Slide
3	Number 24. And I was trying to determine exactly what
4	data this is based on.
5	So I think you had said before we took the
6	break that it wasn't based on a look-back?
7	A That's correct.
8	Q Okay. So can you tell me what it is based
9	on? What information did you use to derive these spud
LO	to TD days?
L1	A The the exhibit, with the asterisk,
L2	states that it was assuming similar performance based
L3	on days based on Avant AFE days.
L4	Q And okay. So this is based entirely on AFE
L5	days?
L6	A Correct.
L7	Q Okay. And those are estimates; right?
L8	A Yes.
L9	Q Okay. Let's look at your Slide 25.
20	MS. HARDY: Mr. Rankin, can you show us
21	Slide 25?
22	Thank you.
23	BY MS. HARDY:
24	Q Is the graph on the left supposed to show
25	the lateral feet fracked per day?
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1	A Can you restate that question just so I'm
2	clear?
3	Q Yes. Is the graph on the left intended to
4	show the lateral feet fracked per day?
5	A Well, the Y axis is lateral feet, lateral
6	length, feet, per day by frac fleet, which is the
7	different bars on the graph.
8	Q And this graph shows that, for 2021, Avant's
9	efficiency was actually slightly higher than Apache's;
10	correct?
11	A That is what the chart says.
12	Q And Apache's efficiency declined between
13	2020 and 2021; correct?
14	A That is what the chart says.
15	Q And there's no data for Apache in 2022; is
16	there?
17	A That is what the chat says.
18	Q And is that because Apache did not frac any
19	wells in 2022?
20	A That is correct.
21	Q And for 2023 well, I guess this would
22	apply to all of the years there's no indication as
23	to the location of the wells that were being fracked;
24	is there?
25	A Not on this exhibit.
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1	Q And the exhibit doesn't show whether they
2	were drilled in comparable rock; does it?
3	A Not on this exhibit, no.
4	Q And it doesn't show the formation; does it?
5	A No.
6	Q And it doesn't show the frac design, such as
7	the fluid and sand volumes; does it?
8	A On this slide, no.
9	Q Can we look at your Slide Number 27, please?
10	And this relates to gas waste flaring.
11	Have you reviewed Avant's rebuttal slides?
12	A I have.
13	Q And the United States Department of Justice
14	and the New Mexico Environment Department sued Apache
15	in federal court for unlawful air emissions; correct?
16	A This is a sensitive legal matter, and I have
17	no comment.
18	Q And this is based on public information.
19	A Are you asking if this slide is public
20	information?
21	Q No, I'm asking about the information
22	regarding the Department of Justice and New Mexico
23	Environment Department lawsuit.
24	A This is a sensitive legal matter, and I have
25	no comment.

1	Q Okay. So you're aware, aren't you, that
2	Apache agreed to settle that case for \$4 million?
3	A I have no comment.
4	Q Okay. And your slide doesn't mention
5	anything about that lawsuit or the settlement; does
6	it?
7	A Not on this slide.
8	Q And your slide doesn't address whether Avant
9	has reduced flaring in 2023 or 2024; does it?
10	A The chart on the right shows flaring by
11	quarter.
12	Q So actually, Avant's flaring has been
13	reduced. You're looking at 2023 quarter one and then
14	first quarter 2024; right?
15	A I would if we are comparing two single
16	data points on here, first quarter 2023 versus first
17	quarter 2024, it has decreased.
18	Q Let's look at your Slide 28, Surface
19	Infrastructure and Gas Takeaway.
20	So Apache doesn't actually have contracts in
21	place for gas takeaway; does it?
22	A Correct.
23	Q So at this point, you don't know the exact
24	cost for gas takeaway; do you?
25	A I don't have that information.

1	Q And at this point, you don't know whether
2	limitations on midstream services may delay
3	production; do you?
4	A I don't know the answer to that.
5	MS. HARDY: Those are all of my
6	questions for Apache's witnesses on their direct
7	testimony and slides.
8	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you,
9	Ms. Hardy.
10	Okay. Mr. McClure, what questions do
11	you have for this panel?
12	MR. MCCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Hearing
13	Examiner. I believe this question is like or this
14	line of questioning is likely for Mr. Johnson.
15	MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I'm ready.
16	RECROSS-EXAMINATION
17	BY MR. MCCLURE:
18	Q Yes, sir. In Apache's communications with
19	Avant, were several different trades proposed?
20	A To my knowledge, yes.
21	Q Do you believe those or to your
22	knowledge, are you familiar with them, I guess?
23	A I'm familiar that there were discussions
24	being had, that there were multiple different counter
25	parties at both Apache and Avant.

1	Q Okay. To your knowledge, were those trades
2	equitable?
3	A I think that's in the eye of the beholder.
4	I think trades could be determined as equitable or not
5	equitable by various people in different ways.
6	Q In Apache's opinion, were they equitable?
7	A I don't know specifically which trade you're
8	talking about. But if it's a trade that we proposed,
9	then we think it was equitable. If we if we did
10	not accept a trade from Avant, then that probably
11	would mean that it's not equitable to us.
12	Q Seeing if I have the page referenced in my
13	notes anywhere here.
14	Okay. I'm specifically looking in Avant's
15	exhibits, page 125 and 126 of 344.
16	A I'm looking for it. I what is it
17	labeled?
18	Q I believe Mr. Rankin is bringing it up.
19	It's labeled at the top of the slide Summary of Avant
20	Contact With Apache, one of two.
21	MR. MCCLURE: It should be page 125,
22	Mr. Rankin.
23	MR. JOHNSON: I see it.
24	BY MR. MCCLURE:
25	Q Are you familiar with these specific with
	Page 93

1	this specific lines communication?
2	A I reviewed the lines of communication.
3	Obviously, I didn't have I didn't not all of
4	this was me. There was a previous landman that worked
5	this. But I'm aware of the of the communication
6	between the companies, yes.
7	Q And are you unsure as to whether Apache felt
8	that these trade proposals were equitable or not?
9	A I did not review every single trade, so I
10	can't determine what was decided as equitable or not
11	equitable.
12	Q Okay. I guess, to your knowledge, then, do
13	you believe that Apache negotiated with Avant in good
14	faith?
15	A Can you repeat the question?
16	Q Do you believe that Apache had good faith
17	negotiations with Avant?
18	A Yes, absolutely.
19	Q Okay. Thank you, sir. Okay, sir. On
20	page 18 of 124 on Apache's exhibit
21	MR. MCCLURE: This will be page 18 of
22	Apache's, Mr. Rankin.
23	BY MR. MCCLURE:
24	Q I believe it's your your affidavit,
25	Mr. Johnson?

1	A Yes, sir.
2	Q On paragraph 9 of that page, reference is
3	made to Apache's anticipation that they'll develop
4	other potentially productive intervals in the Bone
5	Spring and Wolfcamp formations. Do you see where I'm
6	referring to?
7	A In the testimony, in Slide or I
8	mean sorry in paragraph 9?
9	Q Yes, that's correct.
10	A Yes, I see that we made that statement.
11	Yes.
12	Q Specifically to the Bone Spring, which other
13	potentially productive interval were you referring to?
14	A I am not a reservoir engineer, nor am I a
15	geologist. But our team specifically, I believe, is
16	referring to the Third Bone Spring.
17	Q Okay. Now, this also references if it's
18	potentially productive. What would Apache consider to
19	be potentially productive?
20	A That's a line of questioning probably more
21	suited for our geologist or our our engineers.
22	However, I will say and make the statement
23	that I think that we know that the Bone Spring is
24	productive, and we plan on moving forward with
25	development of the Third Bone Spring. This could've

1 been worded a little bit better. 2 Okay. So just to confirm, even though 0 3 Apache is not included it in its compulsory pooling application, Apache does intend to develop the Third 4 5 Bone Spring at a later date. Is that correct? Yes, we are actively working on getting well 6 7 proposals sent out for the Third Bone Spring 8 formation. That's something that we're working on 9 right now. 10 Again, as you'll hear from our testimony 11 from our technical witnesses, in the reservoir 12 engineering side specifically, one of the reasons we 13 did not propose the Third Bone is because you can have a smaller facility, which reduces the one capital 14 15 commitment for the project and also reduces the 16 footprint on a surface level for that facility if you 17 develop in stages. And then also, it helps with gas constraints. 18 19 So then, Apache's plan will be to wait for 20 the Bone Spring One and Bone Spring Two wells to decline in their production before developing the Bone 2.1 22 Spring -- the Third Bone Spring. Is that correct? 23 Again, I'm not a production engineer. I'm Α 2.4 not an engineer. But I would -- I -- that is the plan that I -- as I know it, that you need production to 25 Page 96

1	come off in order to utilize that that facility and
2	not have to overbuild or build two separate
3	facilities. So you wait for the production to come
4	down as you indicated.
5	Q Okay. Thank you, sir.
6	A Yes, sir.
7	Q Mr. Johnson, if I may direct your attention
8	to page 64 of 124. That's the slide with consolidated
9	working interest ownership by oh, yeah, Mr. Rankin
10	has it there for you.
11	A Yes, sir.
12	Q This slide, it was either produced by you or
13	under your direct supervision. Is that correct?
14	A Yes.
15	Q I guess, how were these persons and their
16	percentages derived?
17	A We had a title opinion that was rendered for
18	Apache Corporation. So they're derived based on that
19	title opinion. That title opinion was recent.
20	Q Now, in this slide, there's several working
21	interest owners which are all bundled together, Wadi,
22	Red Bird, Minoco. I'm likely mispronouncing some of
23	those.
24	A Sure.
25	Q Why were they bundled together instead of
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1	separated?
2	A Yeah, so there's a there's a title issue
3	with those partners that one of our previous landmen
4	was working on on this. And the nature of that title
5	issue basically requires those parties to stipulate
6	what their interest is.
7	So we know that the working interest is
8	combined 4.6875 percent. And we have assumptions of
9	what we think the working interest should be. But we
10	need those parties to stipulate what the interest is
11	because of the fact that we believe there's a title
12	dispute there amongst those parties.
13	And we do know that some of the parties have
14	executed the stipulation. I believe that it's Minoco
15	1980 III Oil and Gas that either is a defunct entity
16	or we can't find the principal. So the stipulation is
17	hard to kind of secure at this point in time.
18	Q Now, of the interest that is in this 4.6875,
19	that includes Southwest Royalties, Incorporated. Is
20	that correct?
21	A That's correct.
22	Q And has Southwest Royalties, Incorporated
23	signed a JOA with Apache?
24	A They did.
25	Q To your understanding, how much working
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1	interest does Apache control of this unit?
2	A To my understanding I have a rebuttal
3	slide that speaks to this a little bit. But as I put
4	this together, we were unaware of the fact that CXA
5	had signed a JOA with with Avant, nor did we know
6	that they sent a letter of, you know, support for
7	Avant.
8	So at the time that I put this together, I
9	thought that we had 51.96 percent of of working
LO	interest control or support for Apache.
L1	It was just last night that we found out
L2	about the letter from CXA. I still don't think that
L3	changes the fact that they did execute our JOA. And I
L4	think that Mr. Rankin made it clear that the facts of
L5	the matter surrounding the, you know, negotiations
L6	that were in dispute.
L7	Q So to your current understanding, do you
L8	believe that CXA has signed a joint operating
L9	agreement with both Apache and Avant then?
20	A I do.
21	Q Okay. Of the working interest percentages
22	that's on this table we're looking at here, Slide 6,
23	do you believe these percentages to be accurate?
24	A Yes. I would also like to point, I know
25	Avant has indicated that, for example, they have
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1	acquired some of these parties. Obviously, we saw
2	that last night from the exhibits that they sent over.
3	I checked Enverus on their courthouse data
4	to see if any of these assignments have been recorded.
5	And I cannot see anything of record as such. I
6	believe that the working interest would be correct
7	based on that fact.
8	Q Okay. Thank you, sir. May I direct your
9	attention to, on the Avant exhibit, page 54 of 344.
LO	A Yes, I see it.
L1	Q Now, just to look at one specifically, CXA
L2	Oil & Gas Holding, L.P., do you see where they have
L3	listed that they own 6.3762 percent working interest?
L 4	A Yes.
L5	Q Now, this is a different working interest to
L6	what you believe is correct. Is that correct?
L7	A Yes.
L8	Q Does it surprise you to see this percentage
L9	that Avant is asserting CXA holds?
20	A No, it doesn't. I've looked at title for
21	the past ten years. And usually, when you get a title
22	opinion back or an ownership report, in our case, a
23	title opinion I'm not exactly where sure where
24	Avant's numbers come from but there are differences
25	of opinion when examining title.

1	And so you do see small, subtle differences
2	between working interests from time to time. And
3	that's usually sorted out during the the drilling
4	process and division order process. So I'm not
5	surprised to see it. Also, I think that the the
6	numbers are close.
7	Q Okay. So what do you contribute I mean,
8	you kind of, sort of answered this but just to get
9	it directly, what do you contribute the difference in
10	working interest to do between Apache and Avant?
11	A Are you talking about CXA specifically,
12	or I'm not sure I understand the question.
13	Q Let me broaden, I guess. I guess, does it
14	appear to you, looking at Apache or excuse
15	me Avant's exhibit here, does it seem to you that
16	all of the working interest is slightly different
17	between all of the persons?
18	A I haven't compared them specifically. I
19	don't have them pulled up side by side. But it does
20	appear there are slight differences, which I'm not
21	surprised.
22	Q Okay. What do you contribute those
23	differences to?
24	A Usually, it's running title and difference
25	in of opinion when an attorney or a

1	broker again, I don't know what who put together
2	Avant's exhibits or or I guess I should say title,
3	was. But the the difference I'm attributing to
4	that is a difference of opinion between title
5	examiners.
6	Q Okay. Thank you, sir. Now, just a bit ago,
7	you referenced that, during the drilling process,
8	these percentages would be ironed out, paraphrasing.
9	That, obviously, has not happened yet. Is that
LO	correct?
L1	A No, we have not drilled the wells.
L2	And and what I mean by that is the fact that you
L3	send out division orders, they parties execute
L4	division orders as they participate in wells, and if
L5	there are disputes that arise, typically, they they
L6	come up during that time.
L7	And each party, you know, works out
L8	what what the difference is. And if there's we
L9	usually go to a party and say, "Hey, we believe you
20	have this much, and here's why, and here's the chain
21	of title, and here's the attorney that rendered that
22	opinion."
23	And if there's any differences there, we
24	work it out. And that's a standard procedure, kind
25	of, with any company.

1	Q And these disagreements would be between
2	Apache and these individual persons. Is that correct?
3	A I don't know that I would even call it a
4	disagreement. I would just say that we had a title
5	opinion put together. We showed it a difference. And
6	if there was a difference in what they believed that
7	they own, we would work it out with them.
8	And we would either convince them that our
9	opinion is correct and our title opinion is correct
10	or, if they could provide evidence to to the
11	contrary that would adjust those working interest
12	numbers, we would obviously accurately reflect that.
13	Q Okay. Thank you, sir. Now, within Avant's
14	rebuttal exhibits, they are asserting that Avant
15	controls 52 percent of this unit. Do you disagree
16	with that or do you agree with that?
17	A I would disagree with that because
18	you you can't control what you don't have of record
19	yet. And so I I don't know the nature of the
20	contract that they have with some of these parties
21	that they claim to have acquired on their rebuttal
22	slide that we saw last night.
23	But again, if it's not of record and no
24	party can see that, then I don't know. And so what I
25	can tell you, though, is that sometimes when you're
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1	negotiating an exchange agreement or a closing
2	agreement or a trade, maybe you have a due diligence
3	period baked in there and there's a title defect or
4	something of that nature.
5	And so a lot of times in my experience, you
6	know, trades fall apart. And so I don't think that
7	you can accurately say that you control a specific
8	working interest unless you have that document
9	reported.
10	Again, I checked the records. I have not
11	seen any of these new documents or new agreements or
12	new assignments from Avant or from other companies
13	to Avant that they are claiming. So I don't think
14	that is that is a correct a correct summation of
15	their total controlled working interest.
16	Q What percentage do you believe Avant
17	controls?
18	A I I have the statement on on my slide.
19	But twenty I believe it was 26 percent, which was
20	what was of record.
21	Again, I can't I can't clarify who has
22	signed a private agreement, like a JOA for example,
23	because you're not recording that at this time. So
24	I I don't know that.
25	And then also, at the same time, like, I
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1	did I did not see the CXA portion. So at this
2	point, I would say that I would take Avant's interest
3	that we have on Slide let me get to my slides.
4	MR. JOHNSON: If we could pull up
5	Apache's consolidated working interest slide? Yeah,
6	thank you.
7	I would say that Avant
8	specifically we've established that Northern,
9	Legion, and Avant are kind of controlled by the same
10	entity, so I I would say those, Avant, Northern,
11	and Double Cabin Minerals added together.
12	I would also say now that CXA because
13	they have sent the letter that we have seen. I think
14	that they control them as well. I believe that that
15	adds up to roughly 30, 31 percent.
16	I don't have a calculator in front of
17	me, so I'm just a landman. So adding 24.399738
18	plus 1.61221 plus .087, 5.57, it's difficult. But
19	yeah. I'll try to get a calculator if you want.
20	BY MR. MCCLURE:
21	Q No, no. That's fine. I was just trying to
22	have a basis for no, you're good.
23	To your understanding, can a person with
24	working interest sign two different JOAs? Like in
25	this case, could CXA sign a JOA with Apache as well as

1	with Avant?
2	A Let me state it this way, obviously, the
3	physical capability of signing a JOA, yes, that
4	occurred.
5	From a legality standpoint, I'm not a
6	lawyer. I'm not going to profess to be a lawyer. So
7	I do not understand how contractually that would work.
8	Q Okay. Thank you, sir.
9	MR. MCCLURE: Mr. Hearing Examiner, do
10	you want me to address the incorrect pool in Apache's
11	exhibits now?
12	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Thank
13	you.
14	MR. MCCLURE: Okay. Mr. Johnson or
15	Mr. Rankin, whoever needs to take care of it
16	MR. JOHNSON: I can take care of it.
17	BY MR. MCCLURE:
18	Q Okay. Thank you, Mr. Johnson. On your
19	pooling checklist let me get down to that page.
20	Page 13 of 124, there's reference to a Triste Draw
21	Bone Spring 96603. Do you see where I'm referencing?
22	A I do.
23	Q Okay. The correct pool to include there
24	would be the Lusk Bone Spring East. The pool code is
25	41442.

1	Essentially, what we'll need is we'll need
2	this pool pooling checklist to be corrected to have
3	that pool on it as well as new C-102s submitted with
4	that pool included on those instead of the currently
5	listed pool.
6	A Sure. We can get that done.
7	Q Okay. Thank you, sir.
8	MR. MCCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Hearing
9	Examiner. I have no more questions at this time for
10	Apache's witnesses.
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you,
12	Mr. McClure.
13	Mr. Rankin, redirect?
14	MR. RANKIN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner.
15	I'll start with Mr. Johnson.
16	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
17	BY MR. RANKIN:
18	Q Mr. Johnson, I'm going to pull up your time
19	line here as soon as I get to it. I believe it's
20	A It's down.
21	Q Sorry.
22	A No problem.
23	Q Okay. Thank you. Avant's counsel asked you
24	about this time line and pointed out in the testimony
25	that there was a gap between 2019 and the current
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1	present time when Apache resumed efforts to develop
2	this acreage.
3	What happened between 2019 and 2023 in world
4	affairs that affected Apache's ability to develop this
5	acreage?
6	A I would say that COVID-19 had a substantial
7	impact on the oil and gas industry.
8	Q And specifically with respect to this
9	acreage, how did it affect Apache's ability to develop
10	this acreage under its term assignment?
11	A Amongst us and other operators, a lot of
12	companies laid down rigs. It wasn't economic to
13	develop anything at that time. I think we were not
14	unique in the fact that we were not drilling during
15	this time.
16	Q So as a consequence of COVID-19 and world
17	economics, Apache didn't pursue its development,
18	didn't believe it was prudent to develop this
19	development at that time?
20	A It's hard to say when oil and gas goes
21	negative. But yeah, no, we did not.
22	Q But that's changed, and Apache is pursuing
23	this acreage at this time, obviously?
24	A Yes.
25	Q In fact, didn't Apache nominate two of the
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1	federal leases that are included in this acreage?
2	A That is correct.
3	Q In order for Apache to be able to
4	develop or anybody to be able to develop this
5	acreage? Is that correct?
6	A Sure. Every tract has to be leased. There
7	were two unleased tracts. We nominated those.
8	Q And we'll touch on that more in your
9	rebuttal.
10	But now, another topic that Ms. Hardy
11	questioned you on was about midstream companies and
12	whether or not Apache has a contract or any agreements
13	in place.
14	In this slide here, you note that late last
15	year, you began discussions with midstream companies,
16	and you've got four proposals in hand.
17	Can you explain just a little bit about how
18	this works with Apache? What are those proposals, and
19	does Apache generally enter into agreements before
20	you've got operatorship in hand for acreage?
21	No. Divist to give you some selections
	A No. First, to give you some color and
22	clarity on our process, we have a dedicated midstream
22 23	
	clarity on our process, we have a dedicated midstream

1	I've spoken with them about this
2	specifically. And it is our standard operating
3	procedure to have conversations with all these
4	additional all all the companies that we need
5	to to have our gas, water takeaway handled.
6	But we do not execute the agreement until
7	we until we know we're going to be operator. And
8	there are various reasons for that.
9	Q So the four proposals you've got back, those
LO	are based on Apache's estimates for its production
L1	volumes for the initial eight wells it's proposing.
L2	Is that correct?
L3	A I didn't put them together, but yes, I would
L4	assume that would be correct.
L5	Q I think I want to just briefly address the
L6	good faith negotiations between Apache and Avant.
L7	I think Mr. McClure did a good job of kind
L8	of drawing out your view that, you know, you believe
L9	that the proposals you put forward to Avant were
20	equitable and fair, and if you didn't accept their
21	counter-proposals, it was because you didn't believe
22	they were equitable and fair.
23	And that's essentially the nature of
24	negotiations between parties. Is that your
25	understanding, or you agree with that statement?

1	A I would agree with that statement.
2	It's it's the nature of that in everyday life. We
3	go to a store and exchange goods and services.
4	And it's the same thing goes for an oil
5	and gas negotiation. And if we don't agree, then
6	that's just a difference of opinion.
7	Q Mr. McClure asked you a couple questions
8	about some of these interest owners on your
9	consolidated working interest ownership chart. I just
10	want to kind of make sure I understood what your
11	position is.
12	Mr. McClure elicited testimony from you that
13	Southwest Royalties, as you understood, had signed a
14	JOA both with Apache and with Avant; correct?
15	A I know they have signed one with Apache.
16	And Avant told us on their rebuttal slides last night
17	that they've executed one with them. So that's what I
18	believe to be accurate.
19	Q And in light of that, is it your opinion
20	that Southwest Royalties and its interests should be
21	deemed neutral as between the parties, given that
22	they've indicated that they've signed JOAs as to both
23	parties? Or what's your position on how the Division
24	should look at that?
25	A I think at this point in time, they signed a
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1	JOA with Apache; they signed one with Avant. They
2	would rather have the provisions or be governed by the
3	provisions of the JOAs for either party rather than be
4	force pooled. So they made decisions to execute both.
5	And then obviously, whoever is ordered
6	operatorship, the most likely, the other party's
7	JOA would lapse due to inactivity. So they probably
8	executed both.
9	Q And on that same topic, as to what we
LO	learned late last night, that Northern may have
L1	entered into some sort of trade agreement, Northern
L2	Oil & Gas that I'm highlighting here entered into some
L3	sort of trade agreement with Avant.
L 4	You haven't seen anything filed of record.
L5	You haven't seen an agreement. You don't know whether
L6	it's been executed. You don't know whether there's
L7	any conditions or other requirements that need to be
L8	completed for it to be final. Is that right?
L9	A That's correct.
20	Q And so your opinion, I think I just want
21	to make sure I understood is that, unless and until
22	that's done, and unless the actual agreement is filed
23	of record with the County and recorded, that you're
24	unable to determine, you know, what Northern's
25	position is in this case?

1	A That's correct. And I'll just say that,
2	again, there are a lot of different factors that go
3	into that. And so I cannot determine until something
4	is of record what a negotiation looks like between
5	another company or if an agreement will make it to the
6	finish line or if a trade will make it to the finish
7	line.
8	Just like with any transaction about
9	earlier, until the actual transaction is completed,
LO	there are a lot of unknowns and variables as to if
L1	that will close.
L2	So I think representing working interest as
L3	owned and controlled by a party without having it
L4	recorded is difficult to to address.
L5	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I have no
L6	further questions of Mr. Johnson, so I'll move on to
L7	my next redirect, and that will be towards
L8	Mr. Chenoweth, I believe.
L9	MR. JOHNSON: I'll pass this to Drew so
20	he can hear.
21	MR. CHENOWETH: Okay. I'm ready.
22	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
23	BY MR. RANKIN:
24	Q Good morning, Mr. Chenoweth.
25	A Good morning.

1	Q I believe Ms. Hardy was asking you about
2	your Slide 21. And I'll move over to that slide so we
3	can kind of discuss it together.
4	She was asking you specifically about the
5	fact that you filtered the data that is represented on
6	this exhibit. Do you recall that questioning?
7	A No. That wasn't directed toward me.
8	Q Oh, it wasn't?
9	A No, sir.
10	Q It was not.
11	A I believe that was Mr. Emmett.
12	Q You're right. I apologize.
13	A That's okay.
14	Q Well, you're off the hook for that one,
15	then.
16	Mr. Chenoweth, I called you back to the
17	stand for no good reason. I apologize.
18	A Well, thank you. I'll see you in a bit.
19	Would you like me to get Luke?
20	Q I would, please.
21	A Thank you.
22	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
23	BY MR. RANKIN:
24	Q Mr. Emmett, I apologize. I was trying to
25	ask Mr. Chenoweth a question that should've been
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1	directed to you.
2	A No problem.
3	Q Looking at Exhibit 21 that I have up on the
4	screen, are you able to see that?
5	A Yes, sir.
6	Q Do you recall the questioning from Ms. Hardy
7	on this slide asking you about whether and why you
8	filtered the data that's represented on this slide?
9	A I believe so. But if we could repeat it,
10	just for
11	Q Do you recall I believe the testimony
12	that you gave was, she asked whether or not you had
13	filtered the data, and you indicated that you had, and
14	it was filtered as of January 1, 2015. Is that
15	correct?
16	A That is correct.
17	Q And I'm not sure I want to make sure the
18	record is clear. But can you explain why it is that
19	you set that date as a filter date for your assessment
20	or review of the information as presented on the
21	slide?
22	A Yes. I mean, Apache, along with a lot of
23	other oil companies will exclude older vintage
24	wellbores. As the understanding of the Delaware Basin
25	has grown greatly with time, we deem anything before

1	2015 essentially as almost noncomparable as the
2	technology has advanced so much since then.
3	Q So the decision to filter based on that 2015
4	date was not necessarily an arbitrary decision, but it
5	was based on an industry understanding of what is
6	deemed to be a more modern completion technique. Is
7	that right?
8	A Correct.
9	Q Okay. On the same slide, Mr. Emmett,
10	Ms. Hardy asked you about the distances from the Dust
11	Bowl proposed spacing unit for some of these wells
12	that Apache reviewed. Do you recall that line of
13	questioning?
14	A Yes, sir.
15	Q Now, do you recall in Avant's testimony that
16	they also looked at some of their offsetting
17	developments, including the Golden Tee?
18	A Yes, sir. I believe they focused primarily
19	on the Golden Tee development in particular, which is
20	the furthest away, as the crow flies.
21	Q What's the distance to the Golden Tee?
22	A I don't have that exact figure. I believe
23	it's over 25 miles.
24	MR. RANKIN: Let's see. That's, I
25	think, all the questions I have for you, Mr. Emmett.
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1	Will you please see if Mr. Roback is
2	nearby?
3	MR. EMMETT: Yes, sir. Thank you.
4	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
5	BY MR. RANKIN:
6	Q Mr. Roback, how are you?
7	A I'm well.
8	Q Good. Mr. Roback, just a couple of
9	questions that I want to make sure I understand your
10	testimony on.
11	Looking at Slide 25, I believe you indicated
12	that one thing I want to understand, because it's
13	not clear from the slide, is the data that you pulled
14	to generate these values, are they only with respect
15	to Apache's operations in New Mexico?
16	A They are. This is entirely New Mexico data.
17	Q So the fact that there's no completions
18	listed in 2022 is not indicative of the fact that
19	Apache didn't complete any wells in '22. It just
20	didn't complete any wells in New Mexico. Is that
21	right?
22	A That's correct. We fluctuate our
23	completions team where they're needed at the time. It
24	just so happened in 2022 we focused in Texas. And we
25	came back in '23.

1	Q And of course, if Apache were to prevail on
2	this case, one of those rigs would be dedicated to the
3	Dust Bowl area; correct?
4	A It would. Again, schedules change. At the
5	same time, it was our we've been given directive
6	from management that we are to drill these wells as
7	soon as possible, as early as October, pending the
8	results.
9	Q When you say the results, you mean the
10	results of this contested hearing?
11	A Yes, sir.
12	MR. RANKIN: Okay. I have no further
13	questions of Mr. Roback, Mr. Examiner, and I have no
14	further redirect of these witnesses.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy, do
16	you have any cross-examination based on the redirect?
17	MS. HARDY: I do not, Mr. Examiner.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. McClure, do
19	you have any cross-examination based on the redirect?
20	MR. MCCLURE: I do not, Mr. Hearing
21	Examiner.
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: All right.
23	Mr. Rankin, let's deal with your rebuttal case.
24	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I'd like to
25	call our first witness on rebuttal, Mr. Blake Johnson.

1	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Please proceed.
2	FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION
3	BY MR. RANKIN:
4	Q Mr. Johnson, you have reviewed Avant's land
5	testimony that was submitted in anticipation of this
6	hearing today?
7	A Yes, I have.
8	I'm getting connected. Can you hear me?
9	Q Yes.
10	A Thank you.
11	Q Let's see, Mr. Johnson. You prepared some
12	rebuttal slides in response to Avant's direct
13	testimony and exhibits?
14	A Yes, that's correct.
15	Q And they were marked as Exhibit Slides 30
16	and 31, is that correct, under Exhibit B?
17	A Yes, that's correct.
18	Q Looking at what's marked as Apache Rebuttal
19	Slide 30 under Exhibit B, will you just review for the
20	examiners what this rebuttal slide shows and how it's
21	been updated from the original time frame slide that
22	you filed with exhibits?
23	A Sure. I think that there was more clarity
24	that needed to be addressed versus what we had
25	originally put on the slide.

1	Avant has indicated that they are the first
2	movers on everything and that Apache is only
3	reactionary in nature. I put this together because
4	that's simply not true.
5	Now, while I will admit that that Avant
6	did, in fact, propose wells before Apache, everything
7	that Apache has done recently is in order to get this
8	ready to drill.
9	So when you look at this, you can say, okay,
10	well, who was the party that nominated the leases
11	first? Well, that was Apache. Who applied to APDs
12	and drilling permits first? That's Apache.
13	And we know that Avant's earliest permit
14	based on the slides that they submitted, they applied
15	on their earliest permit in February of 2024, with
16	some of those permits being as late as April of 2024.
17	Lastly, you can look at the fact that Apache
18	has also filed for compulsory pooling, as evidenced by
19	the fact that we're going first today, and Avant filed
20	for pooling after Apache.
21	So I think that there was some indication
22	from Avant or some direction from Avant to to try
23	to state that Apache has has been reactionary only
24	to Avant. But the evidence points to the contrary.
25	Q On that point, Mr. Johnson, can you explain
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1	why it is that Apache was motivated to take all the
2	steps that it did in the first instance, including
3	nominating the federal leases, issuing the well
4	proposals, submitting the APDs, for filing with the
5	BLM, filing, in the first instance, the pooling
6	application in this case?
7	Can you explain why it is that Apache is so
8	strongly motivated to ensure that it has the ability
9	to control the drilling and development of this
10	acreage?
11	A One, I think the the fact of the matter
12	is we we like this acreage and we want to drill
13	this acreage, and we like our development plan better
14	than Avant's.
15	The other I think has been brought out
16	multiple times is the fact that Apache does have
17	acreage that expires in here via a term assignment.
18	And so in order to make sure that we perpetuate that
19	term assignment.
20	We have gone through all the proper steps to
21	make sure that we get our APDs in place so that we can
22	spud the wells and then have the compulsory pooling
23	hearing so that we can determine who the operator is.
24	And then we can spud the wells based on the OCD orders
25	coming out.

1	So everything that we've done is not only
2	because simply, you know, we want to drill the wells,
3	we like the rock, we like the area, but also, we do
4	have a term assignment that does expire.
5	Q And just so it's all clear, starting back in
6	August '22, Apache initiated efforts to ensure that it
7	was going to be able to meet that drilling deadline.
8	Is that correct?
9	A That's correct because you cannot drill
10	through an unleased tract of BLM acreage, so you have
11	to nominate that, which we did.
12	I'd like to point out, too, we bid on it.
13	Now, Avant did secure the lease. But we were
14	motivated to to nominate it and move forward with
15	drilling.
16	Q Now, I'm going to move to this next slide.
17	And I think you can just address, you know, the intent
18	behind this slide, which was to rebut the original
19	exhibits that Avant had submitted.
20	I think you addressed, to some extent, much
21	of this on your questioning with Mr. McClure. But I
22	think it would make sense at this point just to give a
23	recap of your understanding of the current state of
24	the working interest and working interest control in
25	the acreage.

1	A Sure. So what we tried to do here was go
2	off of of title, what's of record title, based on,
3	you know, what Avant represented that they controlled
4	and what Apache represented that it controlled, and
5	just take a look at it.
6	And again, I did address this with
7	Mr. McClure, but Avant had represented originally on
8	their slides and again, the the numbers and the
9	columns on the left under the Avant portion of this
10	slide are directly represented of what Avant slide
11	showed.
12	So they said in their not rebuttal
13	exhibits, but their original exhibits I don't know
14	how you describe that but that they that they
15	owned 38.62 percent working interest.
16	So if I take Avant's 38.62 percent working
17	interest and I subtract it by Avant's [sic] working
18	interest, as I know it, 38.62 minus 15.71, then they
19	would only have 22.91 percent.
20	Now, that's according to their title. Now,
21	the only reason I had to use Northern's number of
22	15.71 is because they did not break out what
23	Northern or what they believe Northern to have.
24	So while I think that Northern had a little
25	bit higher working interest, based on their title, and

1	then subtracting Northern's working interest, you get
2	to 22.91 percent.
3	So the next bullet point shows, you know,
4	Avant is representing that they have 15.71 percent
5	more control based on the fact that they claim to have
6	acquired Northern. But I don't see that that's
7	recorded.
8	And we, again, address the fact or
9	address the whole reasoning behind that statement with
10	Mr. McClure.
11	So again, if you sum this up, Avant Avant
12	represented in their slides that they controlled
13	49.78 percent.
14	And then what I did at the bottom to kind of
15	sum up what I thought they actually controlled and
16	this was, again, prior to the evidence that they
17	submitted in their rebuttal slides I took the
18	actual working interest that I thought they owned
19	based on the described above and then added the
20	parties that they had claimed to have executed the
21	JOA, based on their original exhibits.
22	So that was 27.48 percent. Again, it's
23	notated there, but Avant working interest plus the
24	parties executing an Avant-only JOA. And I made a
25	notation about CXA and South Royalties, as I knew it

1	before I received Avant's rebuttal slides.
2	And then further, if you look on the on
3	the right, you can see Apache's working interest as we
4	represent it based on our title with 46.01 percent.
5	Avant had represented Apache to own
6	48.85 percent.
7	MR. JOHNSON: I'd like to point out,
8	Mr. McClure, these are one of those small differences,
9	as we talked about, that would be sorted out, you
10	know, as we move forward. It's it's standard.
11	So the fact that they're within, you
12	know, a percent or 2 percent is it's pretty close.
13	And then so I just took our total of
14	what Apache's working interest was, as I know it,
15	46 percent, plus a party that signed Apache's only
16	JOA, which was Roy Guinnup, I believe. And that came
17	up with 46.31 percent, again, excluding any party that
18	had signed both JOAs.
19	So as I know it, or as I knew it at the
20	time before I saw Avant's rebuttal slides, Apache
21	controls 46.1 percent, and Avant would control
22	27.48 percent. The difference of that is 18.83
23	percent.
24	And just to to highlight, if there's
25	a JOA out there that I can't see that somebody

1	executed on behalf of you know, or or for Avant,
2	I I don't know what the totals could be.
3	And then also, if nothing is of record
4	and nothing is filed in the County Courthouse, I would
5	have no way to go off anything different than what I
6	could publicly find.
7	BY MR. RANKIN:
8	Q And Mr. Johnson, on that point, I mean, we
9	haven't been provided any executed documents or
L O	agreements. So we wouldn't be able to independently
L1	ascertain whether those deals have been completed or
L2	executed; correct?
L3	A Correct.
L4	Q Now, as to CXA, you referred to Avant's
L5	rebuttal exhibits, and you saw that CXA had submitted
L6	a letter of support favoring Avant's development plan?
L7	A I did see that, yes.
L8	Q And you have no basis to dispute that, at
L9	this point, that CXA is supporting Avant over Apache;
20	correct?
21	A Correct.
22	Q Now, in addition to these rebuttal exhibits
23	that you have prepared, do you have some additional
24	testimony you'd like to provide in response to some of
25	Avant's slides that they prepared for this hearing?

1	A I do.
2	Q I'm going to do my best to navigate. I'm
3	not an expert, but I will try very hard.
4	I'm going to direct your attention first to
5	Avant's slides, Exhibits A-3, and I'm going to ask you
6	to address Exhibits A-3 through A-6. And just explain
7	what your response is to Avant's assertions about its
8	expertise and experience.
9	A Yeah. When I look at this, Apache did not
LO	provide an executive summary. And so what I want to
L1	just point out is the fact that, you know, they put
L2	this together to kind of establish credibility in the
L3	area.
L 4	They've only been around for a couple years.
L5	I don't know about a couple, I should say.
L6	They they haven't been around as long as Apache.
L7	But what I'd like to point out is the fact that, if
L8	they're indicating that Apache isn't a proven operator
L9	or isn't an established company, I mean, obviously,
20	Apache has been around for 70 years.
21	From an experience standpoint, if we
22	multiplied all of Apache's experience, it would vastly
23	trump any Avant experience. And we've drilled wells
24	all all over the world.
25	And I thought somebody said something.

1	I'd just like to point out that, just within
2	the the four parties that are testifying today,
3	there's 36 years' experience. So we've got a lot of
4	experience here.
5	We are not only supported by the four of us,
6	but as kind of indicated by some of the testimony we
7	put together, you know, an entire organization,
8	corporation with tons of experience all over the
9	world.
10	Q Moving to Apache's Slide A-7
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Rankin,
12	Apache's slide?
13	MR. RANKIN: I'm sorry. Avant's slide.
14	Thank you. Good catch, Mr. Hearing
15	Examiner. You're paying attention. That's good.
16	BY MR. RANKIN:
17	Q Mr. Johnson, looking at Avant's Slide A-7,
18	it appears to indicate that Apache has zero rigs in
19	New Mexico. It shows that Apache has zero rigs in New
20	Mexico. And it, I think, is just based on current
21	active rigs. So Apache shows here as zero rigs. Is
22	that correct?
23	A That's correct. There are no rigs currently
24	running in New Mexico.
25	Q How many rigs is Apache currently running in
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1	the Permian Basin, including Texas?
2	A Ten.
3	Q Ten. Tell me, if you would, what's Apache
4	practice for how it manages its rigs between Texas and
5	New Mexico, within the Permian Basin and the Delaware
6	Basin in particular?
7	A Yeah, so we move rigs in and out of states
8	and in and out of basins all the time within the
9	Permian Basin. So we take time to put together wells
LO	and units to drill, and then we come in and we drill,
L1	you know, a variety of wells at at any given time.
L2	And so I think everybody knows that one of
L3	the reasons we're sitting here today is the fact that
L4	it does take time to put these units together.
L5	And so we we move rigs to to available
L6	locations, and we move them in and out of different
L7	areas within the Permian Basin.
L8	Q So I want to understand. If you would,
L9	Mr. Johnson, what are Apache's plans for developing
20	and drilling in New Mexico going forward for this year
21	and into the, you know, next year or so? What does
22	Apache plan to do in terms of drilling?
23	A Yeah, so right now, we have planned
24	developments at a Ghost Rider development and our
25	Camacho development.

1	Again, that and then I believe that the
2	plan would be to and Dust Bowl, I should say, as
3	obviously, we're talking about Dust Bowl. So our
4	Camacho, our Ghost Rider, our Dust Dust Bowl
5	developments.
6	And I believe the we're bringing in at
7	least two, potentially three rigs into New Mexico this
8	year.
9	Q So you've got wells on your rig schedule,
10	and you intend to have drilling campaigns in the
11	Delaware Basin and New Mexico starting this year?
12	A That's correct.
13	Q You talked a little bit about why Apache
14	wanted to be able to control the development in this
15	acreage in light of its term assignment.
16	And I'd like for you to just talk a little
17	bit more about that, in particular with respect to the
18	information that Avant put forward on this slide here,
19	marked Exhibit A-12.
20	If you would, just explain why, when you
21	reviewed this exhibit, it causes you concern, given
22	your sensitive timing around the development and the
23	deadlines under your term assignment in the Dust Bowl
24	acreage?
25	A Yeah. So the first thing I'll do is start
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1	off by saying that, you know, with a term assignment,
2	by the nature of a term assignment, the way that it
3	works is, if you don't perpetuate the term of the term
4	assignment, then it just goes back to the party that
5	assigned it to you.
6	And so because of the fact that that term
7	assignment wasn't with Avant, you know, one could
8	argue that Avant has no interest or reason to care
9	about our term assignment expiring or being
10	perpetuated or not.
11	It doesn't do them any good one way or
12	another because it doesn't go back to them. So they
13	don't care if, you know, they perpetuate it and the
14	acreage stays with Apache or if they don't perpetuate
15	it and it goes back to the company that we did the
16	term assignment with.
17	So right there, they don't have a vested
18	interest in the term assignment. So it doesn't
19	behoove them to to get out and and drill or
20	perpetuate this term assignment at all.
21	So that's why we're so concerned about
22	controlling our own destiny. Because we will be out
23	there drilling and making sure that we perpetuate our
24	term assignment and secure our acreage.

That being said, I have also got some

25

1	concerns based on this slide, Exhibit A-12 that they
2	put together. You know, Avant is making the claim
3	that, oh, we're going to come out here and we really
4	want to drill this Dust Bowl development.
5	But they've also stated that they've got
6	86 active permits, according to this slide. And if
7	they have 86 active permits in this slide, I would
8	think that they could potentially go to another
9	location before this.
10	And if you have 86 active permits, it's
11	going to be difficult for them to juggle all of those
12	permits and all of those locations.
13	So if I'm looking at this and I'm saying,
14	okay, one, they have to I mean, I know that they've
15	acknowledged that we have a term assignment, but they
16	have to, you know, honor it and perpetuate it.
17	I've I've got some serious concern
18	thinking that that's going to happen. One, they have
19	no reason to because it doesn't interest them.
20	And then two, they've got all this other
21	activity out here. It would be very easy to for
22	them to, you know, move to a different development,
23	not get enough rigs in time.
24	I mean, they can state all day long that
25	they are going to get here and perpetuate our term

1	assignment, but again, they have no vested interest in
2	wanting to do that. They can make that claim, but I
3	have a serious concern that that will happen.
4	Q Mr. Johnson, in contrast, you mentioned that
5	Apache is looking at three different drilling
6	campaigns or three areas that it's going to focus its
7	drilling campaigns on in New Mexico, and with two,
8	maybe three rigs. Is that correct?
9	A Yes.
10	Q And the primary interest or the
11	principle the word is escaping me. But the
12	paramount interest or focus would be on the Dust Bowl,
13	perpetuating the term assignment under the Dust Bowl
14	and drilling the Dust Bowl acreage if Apache were to
15	be awarded operatorship?
16	A Are you asking if that would be the
17	priority? I'm sorry. Can you repeat the question?
18	Q "Priority" is the word I was looking for.
19	Thank you.
20	Would Dust Bowl be the priority if Apache
21	were awarded operatorship to initiate drilling?
22	A We have prioritized all of these
23	developments. But Dust Bowl is is one that we want
24	to slide up on our rig schedule if if we are
25	granted operatorship. So all these are priority, but

1	Dust Bowl is is a high priority, if not the highest
2	priority.
3	Q And Mr. Johnson, I think the other thing I
4	wanted you to explain to me, you know, if you concerns
5	about the fact that Avant has one rig listed here and
6	86 active permits?
7	A Yeah, I I think I hit on that. I mean,
8	if you've got 86 active permits, and we know that
9	those permits expire, and you've got pooling orders
LO	that expire, and everything else, I mean, how can you
L1	possibly perpetuate 86 permits with one rig? It's
L2	impossible.
L3	They make the claim and assertion that we
L4	don't have rigs. Well, if they really have
L5	86 permits, and then they also make the claim that we
L6	let a permit expire, I mean, they're going to have a
L7	lot of permits expire, and they're going to have
L8	compulsory pooling orders expire.
L9	And so they're going to have to move their
20	one rig, according to this slide, around based on that
21	fact.
22	Q Mr. Johnson, is there any other additional
23	testimony that you'd like to offer in rebuttal to
24	Avant's land exhibits or testimony that I didn't
25	elicit from you?

1	A Can you scroll down to the next slide?
2	I would like to make a comment on Slide 12,
3	that we do have concerns with when they filed for
4	their permits. I know we briefly talked about this.
5	But I'd also just like to point out the fact that,
6	again, Apache filed for its permits and APDs in
7	October in order to ensure that we were able to get to
8	this development and drill it.
9	BLM permits take a long time to get. And so
LO	based on these dates, February, May or sorry
L1	March, February, and April of 2024, they submitted
L2	these permits well after Apache.
L3	And if they really had plans on getting out
L 4	here quickly and drilling, I just ask the question of
L5	why file for permits so much later, and why file for
L6	compulsory pooling so much later than when you
L7	actually proposed to drill the wells?
L8	So I think this just hits on the testimony
L9	of the slide above. We're concerned with their
20	ability to get out here and drill these wells.
21	Q Mr. Johnson, in your experience, how long
22	does it take for operators to get APDs approved from
23	the BLM at this time?
24	A I think that's a very there's a very wide
25	range. It could we've heard it can take up to a

1	year
2	Q I'm sorry. What was that?
3	
3	A I said, "If not longer."
4	Q Now, in contrast, did Apache file all eight
5	of its APDs at the same time?
6	A Correct.
7	Q And that was, you said, in October. Is that
8	correct?
9	A That's correct.
LO	Q And on this exhibit here, you'll see, at the
L1	bottom, there's a bullet that says, "The Grayling APDs
L2	are on a, quote, high-priority list, end quote."
L3	Are you familiar with any high-priority list
L4	that the BLM maintains for pending APDs?
L5	A I am not.
L6	Q Have you had okay, so you're not aware of
L7	any fast-track system over there that would allow you
L8	to get your APDs head of the line?
L9	A I'm not aware of anything. I know that we
20	have regulatory departments that handle that. But no,
21	I'm not aware of anything.
22	Q Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Anything else that
23	you'd like to address that I didn't elicit from you on
24	rebuttal?
25	A That's all.

1	Q Thank you.
2	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I have no
3	further questions of Mr. Johnson, and tender him for
4	further examination by counsel and the Division.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let's finish
6	with your rebuttal case in full, and then we'll turn
7	it over to cross-examination.
8	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, the next
9	witness I'd like to call up for rebuttal purposes is
LO	Mr. Chenoweth.
L1	MR. CHENOWETH: Okay. I'm ready.
L2	FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION
L3	BY MR. RANKIN:
L4	Q Mr. Chenoweth, this time, we actually want
L5	you there.
L6	You prepared some rebuttal slides in
L7	response to the testimony and exhibits that were
L8	prepared by Avant in their direct case. Is that
L9	correct?
20	A That's correct.
21	Q Now, Mr. Chenoweth, I'll ask you to go ahead
22	and review each of these slides. I believe the slides
23	you prepared and you can confirm for me are
24	marked as Rebuttal Slides 32, 33, 34, and then 35. Is
25	that correct?

1	A That's correct.
2	Q So let's start with 32. If you would,
3	Mr. Chenoweth, just review what information is on this
4	slide, what it shows, and then what your conclusions
5	are based on the information provided.
6	A Okay. So starting on the left, I've got a
7	subsea TVD structure map of the Second Bone Spring
8	carbonate. And I've got our acreage or the
9	contested acreage for Dust Bowl or Grayling. I've got
10	Cutbow, Ghost Rider, and Golden Tee. And I included
11	mainly Cutbow and Golden Tee on these because they
12	were referenced in their exhibits.
13	And I just I wanted to show that they're
14	not actually developing these at the same time, all
15	six at the same time, and they're not actually
16	developing them at six-by spacing, which is what they
17	claimed in their exhibits.
18	So if you look at the Cutbow section,
19	I I've only got those three on the east in the
20	NMOCD as spud. But I included the other two.
21	But essentially, they did six-by spacing on
22	the east side in '23, and then they came back in '24
23	and did five-by spacing, kind of a staggered five-by.
24	And then if you look at Golden Tee, same
25	thing. They developed the section in in two parts.
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1 So it's kind of a skewed five-by spacing. 2 So for example, if I was going to get a 3 non-op proposal from another company, and if there were already three wells at the Golden Tee, and they 4 5 were proposing the 301 and 302, we probably wouldn't 6 participate because the 302 is definitely going to have degradation due to the 304 parent well. 8 And so if they were to drill all of them at 9 once, it probably wouldn't be an issue. But that's 10 not what they've shown in these two developments. 11 So then if you go to the next slide, same 12 thing. Golden Tee, staggered five-by spacing, not 13 six-by. And then I've included our Ghost Rider where 14 15 we did a wine rack eight-by spacing. And we did that 16 all at once. So all of our developments we drill all 17 at once. We never drill them half and half. On the Cutbow, I couldn't find any -- any 18 19 information, really. I -- I assume that they're 20 drilling those two right now. And I can't say that they're not going to drill the other half. I assume 2.1 22 they'll continue across the acreage. 23 But mainly, the Golden Tee was the example 2.4 here. 25 If you keep going down. Okay.

1	Oh, sorry. Go ahead.
2	Q Yeah, just a quick question on this one.
3	Can you determine, based on the Division's records,
4	publicly-available information, whether those two
5	wells in Avant's Cutbow here in the Second Bone
6	Spring they've been drilled, but can you determine
7	whether they've been completed and are producing at
8	this point?
9	A Sorry. I couldn't tell as of 5/24. They
10	were just blank.
11	Q And just to be clear oh, sorry. Go
12	ahead.
13	A I was just going to say, I I know that
14	they're drilling a lot of wells. And even if they
15	submit things on time, they can take time to get
16	through the system, so.
17	Q Yeah. And then, based on your ability to
18	review the publicly-available information, you didn't
19	see anything showing up on the east half of that
20	Second Bone Spring acreage?
21	A No. I only saw those three listed. So they
22	may continue drilling them, but they may end up doing
23	the west half first, and then doing the east half at a
24	later time. But I can't really assert that.
25	Q Now, next slide, Slide 34, what does this
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1 show? 2 This one is the Third Bone and then the XY sands. And it shows what we did at Ghost Rider, 3 which is XY and A sand. And then it shows what we 4 5 plan to do at Dust Bowl, which is stagger Third Bone 6 and XY. It also shows what they plan to do at Dust 8 Honestly, had they submitted things in the Bowl. 9 manner that they showed in their exhibits, it would've 10 been perfect. I think we're targeting the exact same 11 stuff. 12 And the only problems I had was, out of 13 everything, it seems like the Avant Golden Tee Third Bone wells were the only development where they 14 15 developed them all at once. I think there was only a 16 three-month period from start to finish of, you know, 17 spud from the first to the sixth. 18 At Cutbow, they waited a year in between. 19 And they didn't -- they didn't get the XY. It looks 20 decently thick over there. So I put a question mark. 2.1 But I think Evan will talk more about what can happen if you don't development this section all 22 23 So that's about it for this one. at once. 2.4 On that point, Mr. Chenoweth, I mean, you're aware that the exhibits that Avant and the testimony 25

1	Avant put forward are claiming that it's very
2	important to them to develop all their benches at one
3	time; correct?
4	A Right, correct.
5	Q But the point of these slides is to show
6	that, to date and Avant is a fairly new company
7	that they haven't yet done that but for one example;
8	correct?
9	A Correct. And secondly, that they're not
10	true six-bys; they're five-bys with the exception of
11	that Golden Tee.
12	Q Do you have an understanding, or do you have
13	a guess or not a guess, but do you have an
14	understanding for why Avant may have only drilled five
15	wells for some of those benches?
16	A I mean, all I can do is, you know, make a
17	guess.
18	Q I'm not asking you to guess.
19	A Yeah. I don't want to
20	Q I'm not going to ask you to guess. Very
21	good.
22	Now, the next slide you prepared is on a
23	slightly different topic.
24	A Correct. So
25	Q Before you jump into it, though,
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1	Mr. Chenoweth, if you would just give us a little
2	because, other than the written testimony, we haven't
3	yet had the opportunity to understand why this is even
4	an issue or potentially an issue, given the sequencing
5	here.
6	So if you would, just give us a little bit
7	of a background. Explain what this is all about.
8	What is four-string casing, and why do we even have a
9	slide that you're going to address about it?
10	A So the creation of this slide was to
11	potentially address some confusion that we had.
12	In in their testimony and their exhibits, they
13	referenced four-string casing design.
14	And we weren't sure if they were going to
15	propose four-string casing design on these wells.
16	They did submit three-string designs in their AFEs.
17	But they did reference four-string design.
18	So we weren't sure was it just to show
19	that they're good at four-string, but they're going to
20	do three?
21	Anyway, so I I wanted to make sure that
22	everyone is aware this is outside of the required
23	four-string casing AOI. And then I'm also including a
24	note from the BLM indicating that.
25	So we plan to move forward with three-string

1	on this.
2	Q And so just so I'm clear, Apache back in
3	June communicated with the BLM to confirm whether the
4	proposed acreage here is within BLM's area where
5	four-string casing is required?
6	A Correct.
7	Q And the response back from the BLM was that,
8	no, four-string casing is not required in this
9	acreage?
10	A That's correct.
11	Q Okay. And now, as I mentioned, we don't yet
12	have testimony from Avant to confirm whether they
13	intend to proceed with four-string casing or not.
14	A Right.
15	Q But as you indicated, the well proposals and
16	the AFEs that were submitted and that are of record
17	both provide an intention to develop with three-string
18	casing and provide cost for three-string casing?
19	A Correct. Obviously, if they do switch to
20	four-string, they're going to be a lot more expensive,
21	both per well and by development.
22	Q Anything further, Mr. Chenoweth, on this
23	exhibit?
24	A No, sir.
25	Q Before I let you go, Mr. Chenoweth, is there
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1	anything additional that you would like to address or
2	respond to in Avant's geology testimony and exhibits
3	that you haven't already addressed on rebuttal?
4	A No. I like the slides. I think they were
5	great.
6	MR. RANKIN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner.
7	Mr. Chenoweth, nothing further.
8	Mr. Chenoweth can be excused.
9	MR. CHENOWETH: Okay. Thank you.
L O	FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION
L1	BY MR. RANKIN:
L2	Q Good morning, Mr. Roback. Welcome back to
L3	the stand.
L4	A Thank you.
L 5	Q Mr. Roback, you have reviewed the exhibits
L6	and testimony relating to the engineering that Avant
L7	submitted to the Division and its pre-file testimony?
L8	A I have.
L9	Q And have you, in response, prepared some
20	rebuttal slides and testimony addressing that
21	testimony and those exhibits?
22	A Yes.
23	Q And those were filed late yesterday, and
24	it's provided to Counsel and marked as Rebuttal Slides
25	36, 37, 38, 39, and 40. Is that correct?

1	A That is correct.
2	Q Mr. Roback, I'm going to ask you to address
3	each one of these in turn. And depending on what you
4	cover, I may elicit some additional testimony from you
5	before moving on.
6	So looking at Exhibit Slide Number 36, if
7	you would, just explain what this slide shows and what
8	you included or added to this slide and what your
9	conclusions are, based on the information.
LO	A Absolutely. The the additions to the
L1	slide are outlined in red. So it's the center chart
L2	as well as some of the verbiage down below.
L3	The importance here on the center chart is
L4	to show what I would consider to be a standard
L 5	development procedure by many operators over a certain
L6	AOI. You can see when we start off and sorry. The
L7	numbers are a little bit small.
L8	But in early time yeah, maybe if we zoom
L9	in. In early time, in 2015, 2016, 2017, we're many
20	operators were looking at, you know, either a standard
21	four-by development or standalone wells.
22	You can see all of the data points here
23	which show well sections by year for all wells within
24	this AOI.
25	And and we start off trying to

1	understanding the rock. With time so now we're
2	looking more in the 2018, 2019, 2020 time frame we
3	start to step out of our comfort zone. We test
4	tighter and tighter spacings to see what the rock can
5	support.
6	And we you can see that there are a
7	number of operators who tested six-by and eight-by
8	spacing in this time frame.
9	The next logical step for any operator in an
10	area is to then analyze those results and make
11	adjustments to your development program. And you can
12	see that happening in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Almost
13	everyone in this area has four-by spacing as their
14	development plan.
15	The one exception to that is what Avant
16	has drilled in their Cutbow. You can see those are,
17	since 2021, some of the only wells actually, since
18	end of 2020, almost, some of the only wells that have
19	been drilled other than four-by spacing or standalone
20	wells.
21	So the purpose of showing this is that the
22	proposed Avant development is not carrying along with
23	the trend that we see in this area. We are not
24	continuously getting tighter spacing as we learn more,
25	that they are, in fact, going against the grain.

1	And some of the other slides will
2	demonstrate why that is not what Apache would do, and
3	that is not what we would recommend.
4	Q So just so it's clear, Mr. Roback, the data
5	points on this scatter chart here reflect the well
6	spacing density on a section basis of all the wells in
7	this dark map inset to the right. Is that correct?
8	A That is correct.
9	Q Okay. So when you refer to the area of
10	interest, that's everything within this inset map
11	area?
12	A Correct.
13	Q Okay. Now, what does this next slide show?
14	If you would, just explain what all these numbers mean
15	and what your conclusions are based on them.
16	A Absolutely. In Avant's prepared material,
17	they have shown a practice of providing deterministic
18	EURs, which mean EURs with no uncertainty captured in
19	there from wells that produce less than one year.
20	This is shown in Exhibits C-3, C-4, C-5, and I would
21	suspect others.
22	The reason this is important to note is
23	because this study here, which is not an abnormal
24	study this is not something that is is
25	groundbreaking. It was gathered other the last four

1 days after receiving material from Avant. 2 But this study shows how, at different time 3 steps, the error can change in your ability to predict EUR from period to production. 4 5 So what we're seeing here, the equation on the top is percent EUR change between two different 6 time stamps. That's TK minus T24. TK would be 8 T-step, the far left column. T24 would be 24 months. 9 So what we're essentially doing here is attempting to calculate the EUR at a certain T-step 10 11 and then attempting to calculate the EUR at T24, which 12 is two years. 13 We then calculate the difference, the percent difference between those two values at a 14 15 certain T-step and at T24 and see what sort of error 16 we would see at that time. 17 So for example, outlined in red here, when we take T-step six, which would be after six months of 18 19 production, attempting to calculate the EUR after six 20 months of production in this case can show a range of 2.1 errors, whether you're using the three, you know, 22 classical decline curve methods. 23 It can range anywhere from 64 to 78 percent. I mean, that is a significant number. That's at time 2.4 step six. 25

1	Of course, the underlying assumption here is
2	that, as you get more production, you are more
3	accurate in your EUR determination. And that's why
4	T24 is used. It's a more accurate determination of
5	where your EUR is going to be.
6	The reason we looked at this is because I
7	have serious concerns about the numbers that Avant
8	kind of portrays throughout their prepared remarks and
9	how they arrived at those numbers.
LO	We will talk about specific slides later.
L1	But they have a habit of using wells with less than
L2	one year of production and giving you, the examiner,
L3	and anyone looking at this material a feel that they
L4	know exactly what's going to happen with these wells.
L5	In reality, look at the difference in T-step
L6	between 6 months and even 12 months. You go from 65
L7	to 80 percent error down to 15 or 20 percent error. I
L8	know for a fact that a number of their wells have been
L9	producing for about nine months.
20	And, obviously, this isn't a linear change
21	between those steps. So I would say it's my
22	estimation that they have at least 40 to 50 percent
23	error in the EUR numbers that they are calculating off
24	of that data.
25	Q Mr. Roback, in contrast, I mean, the

1	exhibits that Apache put forward, did they use EUR, or
2	what data did Apache use when it was doing its
3	comparisons?
4	A When Apache pooled together our information,
5	we made a discrete effort to use only public,
6	verifiable data. You can take anything that comes
7	from our slides, look it up the same exact way, and
8	get the same exact answer.
9	The problem with using EURs in general is
10	that you have interpretation bias on there. You can
11	make wells look however you want them to make when
12	they've only been producing for a short period of
13	time. We have an exhibit that we will talk about
14	that that demonstrates that fact.
15	When Apache decided to use only
16	publicly-verifiable data, that's production
17	months that's why we showed 9-month cume, 12-month
18	cume and don't try to forecast out, we take out
19	biases in data.
20	Obviously, we any engineer is going to
21	get any different result. But the purpose of this
22	slide is to show that trying to calculate EURs from
23	wells that have been producing nine months is highly
24	inaccurate. And that has not been demonstrated in any
25	of their slides.

1	Q Let's move on to your next slide here,
2	Rebuttal Slide 38. If you would work your way through
3	the information on this slide, explain what it is and
4	what conclusions you've come to based on what you're
5	showing here.
6	A Absolutely. Avant shows in multiple
7	different ways with varying degrees of support that
8	drilling at six-by spacing in a certain development
9	they will experience no per-well deterioration
10	compared to four-by spacing.
11	This is shown in all of the exhibits you see
12	here, C-3 all the way through C-15, the ones that I've
13	numbered.
14	Similarly, Avant has used wells that are
15	loose spacing, call it standalone and two-by wells, as
16	reasonable analogues for their six-by proposed
17	development. That's shown in Exhibit C-12, 14, and
18	15.
19	And there's a significant error in using
20	this. There's a significant issue in making this
21	determination.
22	I again, in four days, I pulled three
23	different studies those are shown on the left,
24	center, and right that all point to the same
25	direction.

1	These are all academic studies performed in
2	the Permian Basin. And all of them show that, as you
3	increase the number of wells in a section, the EUR per
4	well decreases.
5	This is a stated fact that any reservoir
6	engineer would agree with it. And it's not
7	incorporated into any of Avant's slides or numbers.
8	So we'll step through these individually.
9	And I'm happy to provide more detail if I move too
LO	fast on any of them.
L1	But the left study shows that it's well
L2	density N, or subscript N. At four-by spacing, you
L3	see a relative EUR factor of around .9, .95. That's
L4	compared to three-by spacing. So a slight
L5	degradation, but not major.
L6	And then as you get all the way down to
L7	six-by spacing, you're down at .6, .7. You know,
L8	that's hard to determine for sure. But there is clear
L9	degradation on your per-well performance when you
20	increase your density down to six-by spacing.
21	The center here shows a different study with
22	the same conclusion. This shows on the top that, as
23	your well count increases from four-by to six-by, that
24	the average EUR per well in this study decreased from
25	around 750 MBO to 300 MBO. That is a significant

1 decrease in per-well EUR in this study. 2 The same study showed something differently. It showed -- this was a study done specifically in the 3 Second Bone Spring. The bottom -- the chart right 4 5 below this shows that, by spacing, not necessarily by well count -- but four-by spacing is around 1300-foot 6 spacing. 8 I want to make sure I said that correctly. 9 Four-by spacing is 1300-foot spacing. Six-by spacing is 900-foot spacing. 10 11 So again, you can see here that, as you move 12 from four-by -- six-by spacing, which is you're 13 showing right now, up to four-by spacing, there is a 14 clear difference in per-well performance. There is a 15 clear degradation as you decrease from four-by to 16 six-by. 17 And then I -- I don't think it's necessary 18 to continue to beat this point over and over again. But this is a third study, again, performed in the 19 20 Permian Basin. And this shows oil EUR per well based on -- based on a benchmark of two-by spacing. 21 22 And again, you can see, as you down-space, even moving from two-by to three-by, you still see 23 24 degradation. 25 But again, look at the difference between

1	four-by and six-by and extrapolate out as far as you'd
2	like to some of the tighter spacings. You will
3	always, as a whole, see degradation as you put more
4	wells in a section.
5	Q What's your next slide here, Slide 39? What
6	does this show?
7	A So this this slide is a reference to the
8	first rebuttal, technically the second rebuttal slide,
9	where we talk about making calculations on on data
10	from short time periods.
11	The screen grab that you see here on the,
12	kind of, center left comes directly from Avant
13	Exhibit C-4. What they've tried to show here is
14	they're using their Golden Tee development again,
15	this is this is a development that that they put
16	together that's a pretty far distance away from Dust
17	Bowl.
18	But what they tried to show in this exhibit
19	is that the performance of Golden Tee, which is in the
20	Third Bone Spring, which is drilled at six-by spacing
21	and it's drilled at six-by spacing, how that
22	compares to two offset analogues actually three
23	offset analogues; apologies to the north, so the
24	Winnebago, the Gordita, and the Eric Cartman.
25	And in their exhibit, without any further

1	information, what you would do is you would look at
2	the Golden Tee average, six wells per section, and
3	you'd follow the grain line all the way to 700-plus
4	months, which is correct me if I'm wrong I
5	believe that's over 50 years.
6	And you say, wow, those those green wells
7	have produced a really good amount. Those are you
8	know, the other developments here are going to be able
9	to multiply this number by five 'cause it's five wells
10	per section.
11	The green curve here is going to be able to
12	multiply their results by six 'cause it's six wells
13	per section. Hence, you know, the the Golden Tee
14	development is going to have a higher EUR for the
15	entire section. What
16	Q Mr. Roback, sorry to interject. Just to be
17	clear, I think you were talking about the Golden Tee
18	being green wells on the curve. But I want to make
19	sure
20	A Oh, I apologize.
21	Q You agree it's the dark blue one; correct?
22	A That's correct. That's my mistake. It's
23	the dark blue. You can see it actually it's the
24	second highest EUR at time stamp 700 just below the
25	green ones. Thank you for the clarification.

1	So so what what we want to show is
2	that, when you look at actual data this is
3	verifiable, public information that that anybody
4	can look up for the performance of these wells that
5	the sorry that the Golden Tee wells have been
6	producing for nine months. That's what shows in
7	Enverus.
8	That time stamp, if we're looking at Avant's
9	Exhibit C-4, occurs at the red line. And it is
10	intentionally extremely close to the Y axis here. You
11	cannot make any sort of determination on how these
12	wells have performed relative to their analogues,
13	based on the image that Avant has shown.
14	And as such, they can decline their wells
15	however they see appropriate to fit whatever story
16	they want to portray.
17	What actually happens you can see this on
18	the right two is that, on a full development
19	perspective this is all wells producing in
20	development they are not producing more oil than
21	their three offset analogues.
22	That, again, is the blue line that
23	terminates at the vertical red line. That's how much
24	data we have.
25	Out of two of the three analogues, they are

1	coming in on par, you know, slightly below some of
2	those analogues.
3	On the bottom here, this is when you can
4	look at their performance per well. So again, this is
5	full development divided by the number of wells.
6	The the reason that that dark blue line
7	has shifted down is because, even though Avant
8	has even though Avant has six wells compared to
9	five, they are not producing more. And so on a
LO	per-well basis, they are seeing below-average results,
L1	based on these analogues.
L2	And so that I'm clear, I've I've stressed
L3	consistency in data and making sure that everything is
L4	verifiable. The three analogues are 10,000 feet
L5	lateral length. The Golden Tees are 7500 foot lateral
L6	length. So these have been adjusted to to account
L7	for difference in lateral length.
L8	But but the the culminating point here
L9	is that their production on the top, on a full
20	development basis, shows no difference from what
21	the from what the green or the orange line show.
22	In fact, they're below the green.
23	What they've done is actually take their
24	bottom chart here if I'm reading this correctly,
25	they've taken they've taken the bottom chart that

1	you can see, which is production per well, and they
2	have extrapolated that out to make the blue well
3	perform better than the orange well and on par with
4	the green well.
5	And I think that that is a serious
6	miscalculation. And I think that it's intentional
7	that they forecast out to 700 months because then you,
8	the examiner, and everyone else are unable to see what
9	their per-well production is looking like. No one is
LO	going to be able to look at this blue line, the dark
L1	blue line on the bottom right and say, I know for sure
L2	that it will produce more than the orange or green.
L3	And I think it's a serious miscalculation.
L 4	And I think that it it invalidates anything they're
L5	trying to prove with this Exhibit C-4 on why their
L6	six-by spacing is superior to five-by spacing.
L7	Q Looking at your Slide Number 40, Mr. Roback,
L8	what does this show? And if you would just explain
L9	the data and information and how it supports your
20	conclusion that Apache's development plan should be
21	approved and Avant's should be rejected?
22	A Yes, sir. So Avant has stated multiple
23	times that developing in a single band in a single
24	bench simultaneously is the best approach for
25	development.

1	Apache, as operators, we don't disagree with
2	that statement. Every time, you know, we try to
3	develop acreage, we try to develop the entire bench at
4	the same time concurrently.
5	And the reason we do that can clearly be
6	shown here. So this is production, again, public
7	production from the Cutbow development in the Third
8	Bone Spring sand, on the right here, to be clear.
9	You can see that they had three wells come
LO	online in April of 2023. That's the purple, blue, and
L1	teal lines. They have their IPs.
L2	And then what happens is that three more
L3	wells come online afterwards. That's the I'm going
L 4	to call that the magenta, red, and then line green
L5	lines. Those come online in October.
L6	As a result, their first three wells that
L7	they drilled produce at a lower rate afterwards. This
L8	is classically known as a frac hit. This is a severe
L9	example of a frac hit.
20	They not only affected you know, the only
21	well that it looks like they didn't affect would be
22	the 601 or that's a tough number to read. I think
23	it's the 601. I could be wrong on that. It's the
24	purple line.
25	The purple line recovers, but the other two
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1	do not recover. And that means that these wells are
2	draining from the same reserves. They've they've
3	developed it incorrectly.
4	This is a serious misstep in their
5	development. They are saying multiple times that they
6	want to drill they want to develop everything
7	concurrently. And Cutbow, right next to it, they did
8	not develop it correctly. They hurt themselves. They
9	frac hit themselves in the method that they developed
10	their wells.
11	Now, part of why this is important to look
12	at is the the chart on the left with a lot of time
13	stamps.
14	I'm going to try to walk through this
14 15	I'm going to try to walk through this clearly so that you can understand the time of
15	clearly so that you can understand the time of
15 16	clearly so that you can understand the time of development for what Avant has done in their Cutbow
15 16 17	clearly so that you can understand the time of development for what Avant has done in their Cutbow development, which they've referenced multiple times,
15 16 17 18	clearly so that you can understand the time of development for what Avant has done in their Cutbow development, which they've referenced multiple times, based on its proximity to Dust Bowl, and and try to
15 16 17 18	clearly so that you can understand the time of development for what Avant has done in their Cutbow development, which they've referenced multiple times, based on its proximity to Dust Bowl, and and try to explain what has happened here and try to
15 16 17 18 19	clearly so that you can understand the time of development for what Avant has done in their Cutbow development, which they've referenced multiple times, based on its proximity to Dust Bowl, and and try to explain what has happened here and try to differentiate actions from words.
15 16 17 18 19 20	clearly so that you can understand the time of development for what Avant has done in their Cutbow development, which they've referenced multiple times, based on its proximity to Dust Bowl, and and try to explain what has happened here and try to differentiate actions from words. Someone saying that they want to develop
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	clearly so that you can understand the time of development for what Avant has done in their Cutbow development, which they've referenced multiple times, based on its proximity to Dust Bowl, and and try to explain what has happened here and try to differentiate actions from words. Someone saying that they want to develop everything concurrently is great, but are they
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	clearly so that you can understand the time of development for what Avant has done in their Cutbow development, which they've referenced multiple times, based on its proximity to Dust Bowl, and and try to explain what has happened here and try to differentiate actions from words. Someone saying that they want to develop everything concurrently is great, but are they actually doing that as a company?

1 came online March 2023. That's development phase one. 2 And then, like I indicated, again, they came online in -- or they brought wells online, this says 3 September 26th. I mentioned October. It's very 4 5 They brought online the second three set of 6 wells and -- and hit them -- hit -- frac hit their development one. That's indicated on the right. 8 And so, you know, I -- you know, I would 9 think that you would try to learn from what occurred here and make adjustments moving forward. 10 Those frac 11 hits would've occurred in September of 2023. 12 Two months later, they came back and made the conscious decision to drill three First Bone 13 14 Spring wells and bring those wells online. 15 They had the results from this frac hit. 16 They saw their wells get hit. They saw the 17 deterioration in -- in performance, and they said, "That's okay. We'll deal with it." 18 19 So they drilled three wells here and brought 20 them online February of 2024 and then subsequently 21 started drilling their next round of development, 22 which is two wells in the First Bone Spring and two wells in the Second Bone Spring as -- as we expect, 23 based on the data we see. 2.4 25 So that's two important parts that are tough Page 163

1	to understand unless you look at them all together.
2	And I have two points to make based on that.
3	First, when they bring online the 301 and
4	302, they're going to frac hit themselves again. They
5	developed the Third Bone Spring incorrectly, and
6	they've done it again in the First Bone Spring.
7	What what the error what what I
8	would expect is that they have decreased the number of
9	wells in the First Bone Spring from six down to five
10	because of this serious mishap in their development
11	strategy.
12	So they can keep saying they want to drill
13	six wells at a time. They, in 2024, have not done
14	that in a well in in a development right next to
15	it.
16	So not only are they going to frac hit
17	themselves in the First Bone Spring again, but they
18	also had to release a well. That would be the 303.
19	And we know that it probably wasn't drilled because
20	there's no logical reason why you would number your
21	wells 301, 302, skip the 303, and then hit 4, 5, 6.
22	And then the final point here is that they
23	appear to be doing the same exact thing in the Second
24	Bone Spring.
25	So to say that we've learned our lesson and

1	we we are going to improve, you know, again, the
2	Second Bone Spring was only has two wells drilled
3	in a full development. When they come back and
4	continue to develop the Second Bone Spring, they are
5	going to frac hit themselves again.
6	So we the the lesson has not been
7	learned from the Third Bone Spring. And you know,
8	I I would question why the lesson hadn't been
9	learned in the first place.
10	With all of the experience and and
11	everything that they've shown in some of their
12	exhibits this is not a novel activity that happens
13	when you develop benches in different phases.
14	Q Mr. Roback, in addition to preparing
15	specific slides to respond to Avant's testimony and
16	exhibits, have you also prepared some comments and
17	testimony to respond directly to some of Avant's
18	exhibits that were presented initially in this case?
19	A Yes, sir. I have.
20	Q Let's
21	MR. RANKIN: Yes?
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: How is that
23	rebuttal testimony? The original exhibits, how is
24	that rebuttal?
25	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, it's
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1	rebuttal because we did not anticipate what their
2	testimony was going to be. So we were unable to
3	address it initially. So in other words, we have to
4	respond to it only through rebuttal.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Let's
6	take a five-minute break before we get into that.
7	It is 11:51 a.m. Let's come back at
8	11:56 a.m. Thank you.
9	(Off the record.)
10	THE HEARING EXAMINER: for Apache.
11	MR. RANKIN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner.
12	BY MR. RANKIN:
13	Q Mr. Roback, are you with us?
14	A Yes, I am.
15	Q Mr. Roback, we left off, you just had just
16	completed providing some testimony on rebuttal slides
17	that you had prepared for today's hearing in response
18	to Avant's exhibits and testimony.
19	Now, in addition to rebuttal slides, you
20	also have some testimony to respond directly to the
21	exhibits and testimony that Avant had submitted;
22	correct?
23	A That's correct.
24	Q I'm going to guide you through this. And
25	I'm going to start with it's going to take me a
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1	moment. I apologize because yeah, there we go.
2	I have these in parts. But looking at
3	what's been marked as Avant Exhibit C-2 on the exhibit
4	packet and I'm sorry, I do not have the page number
5	on PDF.
6	Maybe Ms. Hardy cand direct us to what
7	exactly the PDF page is. But I have these PDFs in
8	parts because they were large, so I can't tell you
9	what the total PDF page is.
10	MR. RANKIN: Do you know what it is?
11	BY MR. RANKIN:
12	Q When she gets to it, she'll let us know.
13	So okay, I appreciate it.
14	Mr. Roback, looking at this exhibit that I
15	have up on the page, would you please explain to us
16	what your response is to the information that Avant is
17	using here to support its development proposal?
18	A Absolutely. I believe the purpose of this
19	is to show the difference in performance as
20	characterized by IP24 between some of their
21	developments and some of the other developments.
22	Now, IP24 as I understand it would be
23	the it is a metric used to determine peak rate,
24	essentially.
25	You know, the the problem with I24 is

Τ	that, a) it's defined by a lot of different companies
2	in many different ways. It can be the first 24 hours
3	of production. It can be the first 24 hours of
4	production after you put on an artificial lift. It
5	can be the maximum 24 hours of production. And that's
6	not clear here.
7	And secondly is that IP24 isn't really used
8	anywhere in the industry to show difference in
9	performance. I already showed a rebuttal exhibit
L O	earlier that short periods of production are not
11	indicative of long-term EUR, and long-term EUR being
12	the ultimate goal for any oil company.
13	To use a miniscule tiny piece of data that,
L 4	you know, occurs over 24 hours as a as a type of
15	proxy for operational prowess I think is I think is
L6	inaccurate.
L7	And and secondly, again, this is a point
L8	that I've hit on a couple of times so far. We as
L9	Apache and any third party looking at this has
20	absolutely no way to verify any of these numbers.
21	These numbers are they're not publicly
22	stated anywhere. And it's something that, you know,
23	we have we don't have the ability to cross-check.
24	SO I can't comment on their validity.
25	Q Mr. Roback, to your knowledge, is IP24 a
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1	metric that is commonly used today in the industry for
2	evaluating or comparing wells or development projects?
3	A I think back, you know, five-plus years ago
4	when, you know, companies would show these every now
5	and then. It's great for the investment community
6	because they see 6700 barrels, and they say, wow, that
7	well must be fantastic.
8	I think that for what we are talking about
9	today, which is EUR per section, they are null and
10	void and and aren't aren't directed at, you
11	know, understanding what an EUR for a development is
12	going to look like.
13	Q Moving on, I'm going to have you address, if
14	you would, Mr. Roback, your comments and you
15	touched on this to some extent in your rebuttal slide,
16	this particular slide, but if you have anything
17	additional to say, I want to make sure you have the
18	opportunity to say it.
19	So looking at Avant Slide C-4, do you have
20	any additional comments on this slide?
21	A I wouldn't I wouldn't say anything
22	significant. I think it's great that we're showing it
23	now compared to our rebuttal slide.
24	And consider the message that I kind of
25	brought forth last time, which is that, when you only

1	look at this slide, I think that showing that the dark
2	blue Golden Tee wells as some of the top producers is
3	simply inaccurate, based on the actual data that has
4	been verified by public sources.
5	Q Next slide here is Avant Exhibit C-5. It
6	looks similar. If you would just review your comments
7	and response to the information that Avant put forward
8	here.
9	A Absolutely. So in this slide, Avant makes
_0	the statement that Earthstone's development is at four
L1	wells per section in higher-quality rock. Actually,
L2	in the map to the right, they show four wells as being
L3	drilled in this location.
L4	When when we went to cross-check this
L5	information, four wells could not be found in this
L6	development.
L7	I think that what happened is that there
L8	was my memory is a little bit foggy here, but I
L9	believe there was two wells in this section that was
20	then adjusted and multiplied in order to, you know,
21	provide a curve that shows four-well section.
22	That would not be the preferred methodology
23	for trying to benchmark what four-by production is
24	actually going to look like.
25	In fact, in some of the geology exhibits

that Avant has shown, there are many more true four-by
developments in the area that could've been used as
analogues.
So handpicking the Anaconda development
to to try to show how the Cutbow wells are
performing relative to that, I think, is a serious,
you know, miscalculation in terms of its validity.
And this also points back to, again, my
my second rebuttal slide, which is that the you
know, the the Avant Third Bone wells have not been
producing for a significant amount of time.
And to put this this curve on there with
no sort of risk or or estimation on how things, you
know, could change in the future, I think, is in poor
practice and and is and that risk should be
quantified and shown to the the viewing bodies.
Q When you say viewing bodies, you mean the
Division examiners?
A Yes, sir.
Q Next slide I think that we had marked for
you to discuss directly, Mr. Roback, is this
Exhibit C-13. If you would, explain what this shows
and your response to it and concerns about whether and
how this supports Avant's position and proposed
development.

1	A Absolutely. So what this is attempting to
2	show is the difference in performance between some of
3	their wells that have recently come online that's
4	the Cutbow 304, 305, 306 and how its performance
5	compares to the Diamondback wells, which are shown
6	here. Off the top of my head oh, 2019 is what that
7	shows in the slide.
8	You know, I think one one concern that I
9	have with this slide is, first and foremost, comparing
10	daily data to monthly data. You can see on the daily
11	data side that, for their Cutbow 306, which is the
12	lightest green, that shoots up immediately to
13	900 barrels a day.
14	The problem with pulling monthly data is
15	the monthly data being the orange and blue curves
16	is that, if these wells come come online late in
17	the month, say with five days left in the month, then
18	that amount of production that has occurred is divided
19	by the full month.
20	And so it can it will push out what the
21	IP looks like in in monthly data, especially
22	compared to daily data.
23	So I think that, you know, standard practice
24	is to adjust these the the monthly curves to the
25	left to account for, you know, the basically the

frequency of the data that you have at hand. 1 2 The -- the second point that I have when -when looking at this is that it looks like they are 3 using monthly data, likely public monthly data. I was 4 5 unable to find what the lifting method is for these wells. They note that they have an ESP installed in 6 these wells. 8 If these offset wells, for example, are gas 9 lift, this would be an apples to oranges comparison to try to compare two wells in their early production on 10 11 two different artificial lifts. 12 So that's something that was no made clear 13 and something that I don't -- I don't know how 14 comparable these two examples are. 15 And then the final point, and possibly the 16 most important point, is that a statement is made here 17 that says, "Avant wells continuing to climb on ESP expected to IP in line with offset wells, if not 18 higher." 19 20 That is simply a statement that can -- you 2.1 know, cannot be made with any sort of verifiable 22 source. At any point in time, these wells that are already on ESP could flatten and start to decline away 23 2.4 from the trend they are saying they are going to get 25 to.

1	You know, I think that that is that is a
2	point of conjecture and something that, you know,
3	can't be confirmed.
4	And I you know, as a as someone who
5	read this slide, I wanted to make it clear to the
6	examiners here that that is that would be something
7	that I would question pretty significantly, especially
8	because, in order to reach that top curve, they're
9	going to have to add 400 barrels a day to their
10	best-performing well, or thereabouts I mean,
11	it's it's a rough estimate which is a
12	significant production increase.
13	So think about that dark green that dark
14	black line continuing to increase for another 50 days,
15	so a month and a half, if not longer, in order to
16	reach that peak. I think that's that's difficult
17	to explain. It's difficult to justify.
18	Q Next, I want you to talk, if you would
19	walk us through Slides I'm going to go back one
20	slide to C-12.
21	And I'm going to ask you to address I
22	think you can address C-12 by itself, but I think you
23	can also, at the same time, address Slides
24	Exhibits C-14 and C-15 because I think your points are
25	going to be the same.

1	So if you would, let us know what your
2	response is to this slide and I think let us know if
3	the same assessment applies to C-14 and C-15 as well.
4	A Yes, sir. So there are like like you
5	said, there are three exhibits here, C-12, C-14, and
6	C-15 that have generated type curves by landing zone
7	for the they're basically the backbone, the the
8	understanding of some of the final numbers that we'll
9	talk to and the calculation of those numbers.
LO	And the the reason we kind of stepped
L1	through these these exhibits in in a different
L2	order than what they were provided as is because it's
L3	crucial to understand the underlying assumptions in
L4	these type curves that are presented to you.
L5	You know, there are there are concerns
L6	that we have about the data that's been brought
L7	forward in these type curves and how how valid they
L8	are.
L9	So my first point is going to be the
20	selection of analogues here.
21	Actually, if you wouldn't mind, can you move
22	forward to C-14? They're all the same. I'm happy to
23	look for through them in detail. But I think C-14
24	illustrates it better.
25	On the top right here, you can see the
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1	analogue selection that was used in order to generate
2	a six-by type curve.
3	So again, I I'm not going to, you know,
4	belittle this point, but yeah, that that's
5	great.
6	So what is being used here is a combination
7	of many different types of spacings. You know, using
8	the six-by spacings at the bottom, that's fantastic.
9	Using standalone two-by spacing wells, as
10	you can see in the center and the right artificially
11	increases the amount of you know, standalone wells,
12	as I showed in one of my rebuttal exhibits, are going
13	to produce better than wells in six-by spacing.
14	So including a list of standalone wells in
15	your analogue set will will artificially increase
16	what you expect a six-by well to do.
17	Would you mind zooming back out, please?
18	And so the selection of analogues is is
19	not advisable here. You know, the the standard way
20	to approach this, the correct way to approach this
21	would be to select wells as analogous as possible.
22	In this instance, because there aren't a lot
23	of six-by wells in fact, you know, there are very
24	few, as shown on one of the earlier exhibits using
25	four-by wells and putting on some sort of degradation

1	factor that you expect for well-to-well interference
2	when you down-space to six-by. So that has not been
3	done here.
4	Point two dates or or references one
5	of the earlier rebuttal slides, which is that there
6	are likely wells in this population that are that
7	have been producing for a short period of time. With
8	that, you have no way of understanding what the
9	long-term EUR is going to look like for those wells.
10	And so for putting a deterministic EUR on
11	wells producing for a short period of time, the
12	ultimate EUR is going to be an inaccurate statement.
13	And then the final point, I believe, unless
14	there's any other questions on this, is going to be
15	math. It's pretty straightforward math, actually.
16	So while I wholeheartedly disagree with
17	their oil EUR number of 900,000 barrels for for
18	this type curve, what they have done in their math is
19	take 900,000 barrels and multiply it by four. And
20	that's what Apache recovers for four-by spacing
21	development.
22	They have also taken 900,000 barrels,
23	multiply it by six, and now you get 5.4 million
24	barrels on the reserves comparison.
25	So you know, they take this number

1	and and it's stated that, you know, their our
2	that the waste is 1.8 million barrels. That has poor
3	calculations going into it. It has poor input data.
4	And it has a fundamental misrepresentation for how
5	wells interact with each other when you down-space.
6	There is no way, shape, or form that you can
7	take a four-by spacing development and a six-by
8	spacing development and put the same exact type curves
9	on the both of them.
LO	I would be absolutely shocked if a company
L1	used that for their internal documentation for how to,
L2	you know, predict the recovery of a specific
L3	development.
L4	Q Mr. Roback, following this same approach in
L5	this analysis that Avant put forward, I mean, I think
L6	I could come back and say, well, why not do a set of
L7	six? Let's try seven or eight. Wouldn't I get a
L8	bigger number then, seven-well or eight-well spacing?
L9	A Using their logic, you absolutely would.
20	You would you know, developing an eight-by spacing,
21	take 900,000 barrels, multiply it by eight. Bam, we
22	have 7.2 million barrels in that in that you
23	know, by that logic.
24	So I think that their logic is flawed. And
25	I think that they've misrepresented how much they

1	actually expect to recover from these wells for all
2	the reasons just mentioned.
3	Q And I guess, is it your view that, if that
4	were the case, if it were simply a mathematical linear
5	relationship and there were no degradation, we would
6	see a lot more seven, eight, nine-by wells in this
7	acreage?
8	A Oh, absolutely. I mean, if you if you
9	look, again, at how the spacings in this general AOI
10	has evolved with time, it makes total sense.
11	You every company wants to drill as many wells as
12	they can economically and in the form or fashion that
13	best fits their company.
14	And people have tried that. You can see the
1 F	six-by wells or even eight-by wells on this map here.
15	
16	And it's been attempted. And everyone has seen those
	And it's been attempted. And everyone has seen those results and said, I'm actually going to back off.
16	_
16 17	results and said, I'm actually going to back off.
16 17 18	results and said, I'm actually going to back off. Four-by spacing is the best way to produce or to
16 17 18 19	results and said, I'm actually going to back off. Four-by spacing is the best way to produce or to prevent waste.
16 17 18 19 20	results and said, I'm actually going to back off. Four-by spacing is the best way to produce or to prevent waste. Q So your assessment and approach the
16 17 18 19 20	results and said, I'm actually going to back off. Four-by spacing is the best way to produce or to prevent waste. Q So your assessment and approach the walkthrough you did here applies to both C-12 and C-15
16 17 18 19 20 21	results and said, I'm actually going to back off. Four-by spacing is the best way to produce or to prevent waste. Q So your assessment and approach the walkthrough you did here applies to both C-12 and C-15 as well?
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	results and said, I'm actually going to back off. Four-by spacing is the best way to produce or to prevent waste. Q So your assessment and approach the walkthrough you did here applies to both C-12 and C-15 as well? A Yes. All three of them used the same

serious concerns with the validity -- validity of. 1 2 Let's look at -- I think we're going to go 0 back here again to C-3. If you would, review this 3 exhibit and explain to us your concerns about what 4 5 this exhibit shows and your response. 6 I think this exhibit was put together to put 7 a big flashy number on a slide and draw your attention 8 to over 100 percent uplift in total reserves with full 9 unit development across the Bone Spring. 10 But again, the reason that we went through 11 the prepared slides in the order that we did was to 12 explain the underlying assumptions and the underlying miscalculations in these numbers. 13 So again, what -- what has been done for 14 15 this slide comes from the slides I just talked about, 16 C-12, 14, and 15. And they've taken that number and 17 kind of -- kind of added it together. So they make their development look 18 19 significantly better at 9.9 million barrels. 20 make ours look significantly worse at 6.6 million 2.1 barrels. 22 I don't see the justification for these 23 numbers. And I don't think that -- I -- I don't think 24 they're real. I think that they are numbers that any -- you know, an engineer could look at and, you 25 Page 180

1 know, disagree with them wholeheartedly. 2 And then, again, this has been mentioned 3 multiple times, but Apache has every intention to develop the Third Bone Spring. So just because, you 4 5 know, that -- that it hasn't been included does not 6 mean it will not be developed. And it is not part of -- you know, of -- it 8 should not be included in that 14.9 number. I think 9 you can't -- you can't compare a three-bench 10 development with a two-bench development with any sort 11 of -- with -- with any sort of accuracy there. 12 Yeah, and just on that point, just to be 13 clear, Apache does intend to develop the Third Bone 14 Spring, just not initially under a pooling order; 15 correct? 16 Α That is correct. 17 But it would intend to drill these as infill 0 18 wells subsequent to the initial eight wells under a pooling order? 19 20 Α That is correct. And just so I'm clear and so the examiners 2.1 0 22 are clear, your understanding of where this 6.6 figure 23 came from is by adding the first and second bone 2.4 spring values that they calculated here, times the 25 number of wells?

1	A Correct.
2	Q So for Apache, it would be 3 million in the
3	First Bone Spring, plus 3.6 in the Second Bone Spring,
4	which gets them to 6.6 in Exhibit C-3; right?
5	A That's correct. And that is again, that
6	is a number not provided by Apache. Obviously, that
7	is not a number that Apache would accept.
8	And again, this is a this is
9	something this is a number that Avant has placed
10	upon Apache to make it look worse based on
11	their you know, based on their logic, based on
12	their math that that we disagree with.
13	Q But again, I guess, the bigger problem you
14	have would be with how they calculated their 9.9 value
15	for a two-bench development because that, as you
16	explained, I believe, doesn't account for well-to-well
17	degradation in a higher-density development, six-by
18	development; correct?
19	A Yeah. I I have problem with the with
20	the selection of analogues and the and and
21	not and not selecting true analogues. I have
22	problem with not accounting for degradation. I have
23	problems with forecasting EURs for wells that haven't
24	produced significant amounts of time.
25	I have problems, really, throughout the
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1	entire process. And it all dates back to some of the
2	early rebuttal slides, which show that that, from
3	an academic perspective, you can't make any of those
4	assumptions, that they are all they are all
5	assumptions that have likely been weighted in the
6	favor of Avant in their own slides to help their case.
7	Q Mr. Roback, I think we may have addressed
8	all of the specific slides. Do you have any closing
9	responses in rebuttal to any of the approaches or
10	exhibits or testimony in Avant's direct that I didn't
11	elicit from you directly?
12	A The the thing I want to mention here is
13	that everything we kind of talked about to this point
14	is from the academic standpoint.
15	I mean, you know, the academics would agree
16	that you cannot forecast short you know, short
17	production wells to a far out date in 50-plus years.
18	Academics would agree that you will have per-well
19	degradation at tighter spacings.
20	And those are aspects that Avant will you
21	know, has attempted to to prove with with flawed
22	metrics and with handpicked analogues that fit their
23	case.
24	So I disagree with that. I disagree with
25	the calculations that they used. And mostly, I

1	disagree with this slide because I think it's it's
2	simplified, it's easy to get hung up on, and it
3	completely, you know, forgets the assumptions that
4	they've baked into these numbers.
5	But will all that being said, you know, part
6	of the reason that Apache used verifiable data that
7	can pulled from any person that has an interest in
8	this is that there's no biases involved.
9	I mean, there you know, you look at
LO	you look at the data and you you have a set of
L1	of conclusions that can be drawn.
L2	Sure, they can be slightly different. But
L3	we're not talking about forecasting an EUR off of a
L 4	well that's producing over nine months. I can promise
L5	you the difference in in that is going to vary
L6	drastically.
L 7	And if, for example, Apache were trying to
L8	forecast wells to prove our point, Avant were trying
L9	to forecast their wells to prove their own point, we
20	would get massively, massively different numbers. And
21	that's something that we weren't comfortable including
22	in this in this presentation.
23	And secondly, you know, all of the
24	information that Apache has pulled together on our own
25	slides shows how Apache's performance compares to

1	Avant's performance.
2	It shows how Apache's performance compares
3	to a wide set of analogues. And it shows how
4	Apache or how Avant's performance performs to a
5	wide set of analogues.
6	What you've seen in here is that Avant
7	compares themselves to handpicked analogues, analogues
8	that are nearby or analogues that you know, that
9	make themselves look good.
10	And we showed that on one of our rebuttal
11	slides, that, when you look at the actual data,
12	they're on a per-well basis, they're performing
13	under two of the analogues they wanted it to be shown
14	that they are overperforming.
15	And so that's the entire reason why Apache
16	is comparing themselves to a wide set of analogues and
17	the reason we want to show we have shown that
18	Apache performs better to the analogues in our area.
19	And we've also shown that Avant performs poorly to the
20	section of or to the analogues in our area around
21	the Dust Bowl acreage.
22	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, at this
23	time, I have no further rebuttal witnesses.
24	And I don't know if Ms. Hardy would
25	prefer a lunch break before she dives into her cross.

1	But I'm happy to accommodate a lunch break at this
2	point.
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Well, I don't
4	know if Ms. Hardy does or not, but I do.
5	It's 12:22 p.m. And we're going to
6	take a break for lunch.
7	How much time do the parties need for a
8	lunch? Ms. Hardy?
9	MS. HARDY: I think if we could come
10	back at 1:30?
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Or come back at
12	1:15.
13	MS. HARDY: 1:15, okay. Thank you.
14	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. Because I
15	do want to wrap this up today. You have your
16	witnesses who are here.
17	MS. HARDY: Yes, I do. Yes.
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And after we
19	come back, you will be given cross-examination time
20	for the rebuttal testimony specifically. So will
21	Mr. McClure.
22	And then I suspect that will wrap up
23	your rebuttal case, Mr. Rankin?
24	MR. RANKIN: It will, Mr. Examiner.
25	And hopefully, you know, I was accomplish much of what
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1	I might otherwise have to do through cross, having
2	presented rebuttal.
3	So I may be able to hopefully
4	streamline some of the cross-examination; I'll do my
5	best, of Avant's witnesses, once they're presented.
6	THE HEARING EXAMINER: All right. And
7	when we come back, Ms. Hardy, what I'm going to ask
8	you to do, when you present your case in chief, why
9	don't we present your witnesses one at a time.
10	They can adopt their direct and their
11	rebuttal exhibits, make any corrections. And then we
12	can have each one stand for cross-examination
13	individually because they're going to be here at the
14	witness podium. Is that acceptable?
15	MS. HARDY: Yes, it is. Thank you.
16	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So I'll
17	see everyone at 1:15. Thank you.
18	(Off the record.)
19	THE HEARING EXAMINER: All right. It
20	is 1:15 p.m. on May 29, 2024. We are here to hear the
21	contested case between Avant and Apache.
22	Apache has put on its rebuttal
23	witnesses and concluded its rebuttal case, with the
24	exception of any redirect after cross-examination of
25	its rebuttal witnesses.

1	And we turn now to Ms. Hardy.
2	Mr. Cogswell, are we on the record?
3	THE REPORTER: We are on the record.
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: All right.
5	Thank you, sir.
6	Ms. Hardy, you have the floor to
7	cross-examine the witnesses as a panel or
8	individually.
9	MS. HARDY: Thank you. And I do have
10	questions for them I think I can direct individually.
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Of course.
12	MS. HARDY: So I can start, perhaps,
13	with Mr. Johnson, if he is
14	MR. JOHNSON: I'm here, Ms. Hardy.
15	MS. HARDY: Are you there? Okay. I
16	guess I'm just looking at a different screen. I
17	can't
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Freya, can we
19	have Mr. Johnson on the screen, please?
20	Thank you.
21	RECROSS-EXAMINATION
22	BY MS. HARDY:
23	Q Okay. Mr. Johnson, I have some questions
24	about your rebuttal exhibits.
25	A Okay.
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	1490 100

1	Q Okay. So if we can look at your rebuttal
2	slide I believe it's your development plan time
3	line, Rebuttal Slide 30.
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Rebuttal Slide
5	what?
6	MS. HARDY: 30, Rebuttal Slide 30.
7	THE HEARING EXAMINER: 30, thank you.
8	MS. HARDY: Mr. Rankin, do you
9	have is it up there?
10	MR. RANKIN: It's small.
11	MS. HARDY: It's small. Okay. Got it.
12	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Freya, can you
13	make the Adam Rankin larger so we can see it? Thank
14	you.
15	MS. HARDY: Thank you.
16	BY MS. HARDY:
17	Q Mr. Johnson, so this slide doesn't include
18	the fact that Avant proposed its wells three months
19	before Apache; correct?
20	A It does not have when they proposed the
21	wells.
22	Q Okay. And with respect to your testimony on
23	the ownership interest
24	MS. HARDY: And if we can look at
25	Rebuttal Slide 31, that might be helpful.

1	BY MS. HARDY:
2	Q You've mentioned that Avant's ownership
3	information shows several agreements that have been
4	entered into recently. And isn't it true that there
5	are commonly delays in recording documents and county
6	records?
7	A I wouldn't say that it's commonplace
8	anymore. You can record a document online today.
9	Q There can be delays on what's shown publicly
LO	between when documents are filed when they're publicly
L1	available. Isn't that true?
L2	A That's not my experience. Usually, when you
L3	record something, it's pretty quick.
L4	Q Okay. And in this case, regarding those
L5	agreements and transactions, we have Ms. Albrecht's
L6	sworn testimony that they have occurred; correct?
L7	A I I don't know if I understand the
L8	question.
L9	Q Well, have you reviewed Avant's testimony
20	and exhibits?
21	A Yes.
22	Q And Ms. Albrecht has stated under oath that
23	those agreements have been entered into; correct?
24	A They're they're pending.
25	Q I'm sorry?

1	A I think her slide says that they're pending.
2	So you can you can have an agreement that
3	has been, in your reference, entered into but is still
4	pending.
5	Q Okay. And with respect to Northern's
6	interest that you've mentioned, Northern is a party
7	represented by counsel in this case; correct?
8	A I believe that that's the case, yes.
9	Q Okay. You had commented earlier on Avant's
10	Exhibit A-2.
11	MS. HARDY: Mr. Rankin, do you have
12	that?
13	THE HEARING EXAMINER: While Mr. Rankin
14	finds Avant's
15	Mr. Johnson: Yes, the executive
16	summary.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Excuse me.
18	Excuse me. Hold on a second.
19	While Mr. Rankin finds Avant's
20	Exhibit A-2, I want to say thank you to him. It was
21	not a job that he had signed up for, but it certainly
22	has helped this hearing that he has been able to put
23	all the exhibits from both parties on the screen. So
24	thank you, sir.
25	MS. HARDY: Thank you, Mr. Rankin.
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1	I'll be happy to do this for Avant's exhibits. I'll
2	trade you.
3	MR. RANKIN: You said 8?
4	MS. HARDY: A-12. Okay. That's it.
5	Thank you.
6	BY MS. HARDY:
7	Q And I think you had referenced Avant's
8	active permits in this area. Do you recall giving
9	testimony about that?
10	A I do.
11	Q Okay. And these are all active permits
12	within ten miles of this acreage; correct?
13	A I'm using the numbers that Avant provided
14	based on the slides that were presented.
15	Q And it states there
16	A So the it states that, yes.
17	Q Okay. And did you see Avant's testimony
18	that it has two rigs running in New Mexico and plans
19	to add another one?
20	A I did.
21	Q With respect to BLM permitting, isn't it
22	true that the APDs will not be approved until either
23	party has a pooling order? Isn't that correct?
24	A I don't know if that's correct or not.
25	Q And although you've testified Apache has
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1	concerns about the term assignment, Apache waited
2	until January of 2024 to file its pooling application;
3	correct?
4	A We filed our pooling application in January
5	of 2024, yes.
6	Q And the term assignment expires in 2025;
7	right?
8	A Correct.
9	MS. HARDY: Okay. Those are all of my
10	questions for Mr. Johnson.
11	I have a couple of questions for
12	Mr. Roback and a couple for Mr. Chenoweth. I don't
13	know who wants to go first.
14	I can question Mr. Roback first.
15	MR. JOHNSON: I'll get Evan.
16	RECROSS-EXAMINATION
17	BY MS. HARDY:
18	Q Can you hear me?
19	A Yes, I can.
20	Q Okay. Thank you. I wanted to look at your
21	Slide 36, which I believe is one of your rebuttal
22	slides.
23	Okay. So if you were to move this map a
24	couple of miles east, it would include other wells in
25	the Bone Spring that have spacing greater than four
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1	wells per section. Isn't that true?
2	A I don't know that to be true.
3	Q Now, if you look at Slide C-3, Avant's
4	Slide C-3, when you were talking about this slide
5	earlier, you stated that Apache also intends to drill
6	Third Bone Spring wells; correct?
7	A Correct.
8	Q As infill wells?
9	A Can can I make a point of clarification?
10	Q Sure.
11	A Classically, infill wells would mean in
12	between other wells. I wouldn't technically use the
13	term "infill." I would use the term "subsequent
14	develop." "Infill" usually means you're drilling in
15	between two wells within the same bench.
16	Q Okay. You stated that Apache intends to
17	drill Third Bone Spring wells subsequently to these
18	wells; correct?
19	A Correct.
20	Q Okay. But those wells are not included in
21	Apache's application; are they?
22	A I didn't generate the application.
23	Q And they haven't been proposed yet; correct?
24	A I didn't generate the proposal.
25	Q Okay. You've had a lot of criticism today
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1	of Avant's type curves. Do you recall that testimony
2	before we broke?
3	A I do.
4	Q You haven't generated any type curves in
5	this case that you filed; have you?
6	A We have not provided type curves.
7	MS. HARDY: Thank you.
8	Those are all of my questions for
9	Mr. Roback.
10	I have a few for Mr. Chenoweth.
11	RECROSS-EXAMINATION
12	BY MS. HARDY:
13	Q Hello, Mr. Chenoweth.
14	A Hello.
15	Q I'd like to look at your Rebuttal Slide 32.
16	In here, you've included the Ghost Rider wells,
17	correct, as a comparison?
18	A That's correct.
19	Q And those wells are about 27 miles away from
20	this acreage; correct?
21	A That is correct.
22	Q And then if we can look at Slide 33, please?
23	That slide also includes the Ghost Rider wells that
24	are about 27 miles away; correct?
25	A I've included the Golden Tee and the Ghost
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1	Rider as a similar distance away from the Cutbow. And
2	they're at a similar SSTVD. That's why I did so.
3	It's the best way to look at a lot of the wells that
4	were talked about in Avant's exhibits.
5	Q And Apache's Black & Tan wells are actually
6	closer to this acreage, aren't they, than Ghost Rider?
7	A What are you talking in Second Bone
8	Spring?
9	Q Yes.
10	A We don't have Second Bone Spring at Black &
11	Tan.
12	Q Then in the Third
13	A We do have Third Bone Spring in there. Yes,
14	ma'am.
15	Q Okay. And that's on Slide 34?
16	A Correct.
17	Q Okay. So there, you've included Ghost Rider
18	but not Black & Tan?
19	A Correct.
20	Q Okay. With respect to your Rebuttal
21	Slide 35, which is the casing discussion that you had
22	earlier, don't Avant's well proposals and AFEs include
23	three-string casing?
24	A They do.
25	Q Okay. Thank you.
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1	A You're welcome.
2	MS. HARDY: Then those are all my
3	questions.
4	MR. CHENOWETH: Okay. Thank you.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you,
6	Ms. Hardy.
7	Mr. Jones, do you have any questions
8	for these witnesses on rebuttal?
9	MR. JONES: Northern does not have any
10	questions at this time. Thank you.
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
12	Mr. McClure?
13	MR. MCCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Hearing
14	Examiner.
15	I have a quick question for
16	Mr. Johnson.
17	FURTHER RECROSS-EXAMINATION
18	BY MR. MCCLURE:
19	Q Oh, there you are.
20	A Yes, sir.
21	Q If I may direct your attention to page 5 of
22	14 of Apache's rebuttal exhibits. I believe it's
23	labeled oh, I guess it's Slide 31, if you see it
24	down there.
25	Is it correct that this 46.31 percent was
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1	derived by subtracting Southwest and CXA's working
2	interest from the 52 percent from Apache's normal
3	exhibits?
4	A Apache's normal exhibit showed that Apache
5	had 46.01 percent working interest. The number
6	46.31 percent working interest that you're talking
7	about is taking Apache's working interest, 46.31, plus
8	I believe it's Roy Guinnup's working interest.
9	So to your question, yes it took out CXA and
10	Southwest Royalty. It has effectively neutralized
11	them because they signed a JOA with Avant as well as
12	Apache.
13	Q Okay. Thank you. Yeah, that was exactly
14	I guess you answered what my next question was going
15	to be.
16	MR. MCCLURE: Yeah, actually, yeah,
17	thank you, Mr. Johnson. That was short and quick.
18	I do have some questions for
19	Mr. Roback.
20	MR. JOHNSON: Sure, I'll grab him.
21	MR. MCCLURE: Thank you, sir.
22	MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.
23	CROSS-EXAMINATION
24	BY MR. MCCLURE:
25	Q Mr. Roback, if I can direct your attention
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1	to page 12 of 14 of Apache's rebuttal exhibits. It
2	looks like Slide 38.
3	Oh, yeah. There we go.
4	On your left-hand graph there or let me
5	back up.
6	The paper from which this was derived, is it
7	applicable to the Bone Spring formation in the Permian
8	Basin here?
9	A Yes, sir. I would I would say so.
10	Actually, a number of the authors that worked on that
11	paper are current employees or past employees of
12	Apache. This study was done in the Permian Basin.
13	And my assessment, as a reservoir engineer,
14	is that, if you are using a reservoir with similar
15	fluid properties, that a broad statement about the
16	well-to-well interaction within a reservoir similar to
17	that is applicable across reservoirs.
18	So some of these studies occurred in the
19	Wolfcamp, for example. That does not mean that they
20	are not applicable to the Bone Spring.
21	Q Okay. Thank you, sir. On the left-hand
22	graph that's on this slide that Mr. Rankin has
23	displayed here, can you describe for me what the
24	different SR numbers would be depicting here?
25	A I believe I believe the different SR

1	numbers are shown as, essentially, tiers of recovery.
2	I'm not sure what the acronym SR refers to.
3	But it it kind of it it breaks down the
4	recovery on on different levels is how I've
5	interpreted it.
6	Q Okay. I guess, overall in this graph, is it
7	trying to tell us what the next well being drilled,
8	what it's relative estimated ultimate recovery is? Am
9	I do I have the right interpretation of this graph?
10	A I don't know that I would classify it as the
11	next well per se. I I would interpret it on a full
12	developmental basis.
13	This was, again, conducted over a very large
14	area, so they had a large population. And so it is
15	depicting the relative EUR per well at different
16	spacings, not necessarily, like, a parent-child
17	relationship, but concurrent development between wells
18	and how their, you know, stimulated rock volume might
19	overlap and therefore degrade the results.
20	Q Okay. So is this kind of depicting similar
21	information to what that middle graph is showing,
22	then?
23	A Yes, sir. It is.
24	Q Now, am I understanding that middle graph
25	correctly where what what it's stating is, if there
	Page 200

1	was four wells drilled, each well would average
2	approximately 750 million barrels, I'm assuming, or
3	750,000 barrels, perhaps?
4	A Correct, correct. That that is my
5	interpretation of the data as well.
6	Q So then, is this suggesting that each well,
7	if six was drilled, each well would only produce
8	approximately 300,000 barrels?
9	A In the data set that they examined, yes.
LO	Q So is this suggesting that drilling six
L1	wells would lead to less ultimate recovery than
L2	drilling four wells?
L3	A I would say that there's variation in the
L4	data set. But this is showing a general trend.
L5	That that's not a for sure conclusion, but it is a
L6	conclusion that they drew on the deterioration by
L7	well.
L8	Q So I guess, just to confirm, is your
L9	understanding from this graph that, if four wells were
20	drilled, the ultimate recovery between those four
21	wells would be approximately 3 million barrels?
22	A Based on this data, I believe your math is
23	correct.
24	Q And based off the same data, if six wells
25	were drilled, the ultimate recovery would only be
	Page 201

Τ	1.8 million from all six wells?
2	A Based on the data, I believe your math is
3	correct.
4	Q I guess, do you believe that, at any point,
5	the well or well deterioration effect would cause
6	the production to go negative overall then as you add
7	additional wells?
8	A No, sir. I don't. And kind of like I
9	discussed, the review of pulling these together was
LO	done in a short period of time. The intent here was
L1	more to show that the general industry agrees in
L2	degradation at higher spacings.
L3	Of course, we can look into that data in
L 4	more detail if it's something that piques your
L5	interest.
L6	Q Do you think it's do you think a
L 7	possibility for why this data is such is because of
L8	different rock quality and reservoir qualities leading
L9	to the lesser overall production?
20	A It's always difficult to boil down
21	performance into a single variable. It's it's well
22	known that many variables factor into the productivity
23	of a well.
24	So you know, the the ability of a paper
25	to correct for variability in rock and and operator
	Page 202

1	and and many other properties, you know, is
2	something that wasn't looked at for this paper
3	specifically.
4	But I I do see your point here.
5	MR. MCCLURE: Okay. Thank you, sir. I
6	believe that's all that's all my questions. Thank
7	you, sir.
8	Thank you, Mr. Hearing Examiner.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you,
10	Mr. McClure.
11	Mr. Rankin, do you have any redirect on
12	those specific questions?
13	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I do, just a
14	quick one. Since Mr. Roback is up, I'll ask him.
15	FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION
16	BY MR. RANKIN:
17	Q Mr. Roback, you were asked by counsel for
18	Avant whether or not Apache had prepared its own type
19	curves for this case. Do you recall that question?
20	A Correct.
21	Q And you answered you had not. And I'm
22	wondering if you would explain why you chose not to
23	prepare type curves for your analysis.
24	A Well, I think that what we've demonstrated
25	in some of our prepared material is that type curves
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	1496 203

1	include inherent bias, that an engineer can take a
2	single set of data, especially data that has only
3	data from a short period of time of production, and
4	make the final number look however you'd like it to
5	look.
6	We didn't see that as the best opportunity
7	to demonstrate Apache's strength as an operator. We
8	instead opted to show real production data that could
9	be verified.
10	And that's the inherent concern with using
11	type curves and and forecasting EURs, is that they
12	can't be verified. And we we don't know what
13	assumptions are behind them.
14	Traditionally, a company will have their own
15	sets of rules and regulations that they follow for how
16	to make those how to make those EUR determinations.
17	I we we have no idea of knowing where they're
18	at. And and they can be hidden.
19	MR. RANKIN: Thank you, Mr. Roback. No
20	further questions.
21	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy, do
22	you have a cross-examination on that point?
23	MS. HARDY: No, I don't. Thank you.
24	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
25	Mr. Rankin, does that conclude your case?

1	MR. RANKIN: It does, Mr. Examiner.
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
3	Ms. Hardy?
4	MS. HARDY: Mr. Examiner, we would call
5	our first witness, which is Ms. Shelly Albrecht.
6	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And I'll remind
7	all your witnesses they are under oath.
8	DIRECT EXAMINATION
9	BY MS. HARDY:
10	Q Good afternoon, Ms. Albrecht.
11	A No, not yet.
12	Q Ms. Albrecht, your testimony and exhibits
13	have been previously admitted into evidence, other
14	than one of those. But I just wanted you to affirm
15	that your testimony is still true and correct?
16	A That's correct.
17	Q And do you have any corrections to make to
18	your exhibits?
19	A I do. I have one clarification to make.
20	And that is on I believe it's the seven factors. I
21	think it's
22	Q I can share my screen here.
23	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Albrecht,
24	would you speak more clearly into the microphone?
25	MS. ALBRECHT: Yes.
	David 005

1	It's on our seven factors slide, which
2	can be found on Exhibit A-11.
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And is there a
4	page number?
5	MS. ALBRECHT: It is page 48 of 344 of
6	the OCD numbering.
7	So the point of clarification here is
8	on the second risk factor, which is risk. We have
9	stated here that APA hasn't drilled a well within a
10	ten-mile radius of our Grayling unit.
11	And I just want to say a caveat to that
12	is that we want to say within the past ten years.
13	Those Lusk 34 wells that were also admitted or
14	omitted from Apache's exhibits were drilled just
15	outside of that ten-year window.
16	BY MS. HARDY:
17	Q Did you have any other corrections to your
18	exhibits?
19	A [No audible response.]
20	Q And Ms. Albrecht, I'd like to go through
21	with you
22	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy,
23	before you go through anything, would you ask your
24	witness to adopt under oath all of her exhibits,
25	including her rebuttal, if there were any?

1	MS. HARDY: Sure.
2	BY MS. HARDY:
3	Q Ms. Albrecht, do you adopt under oath today
4	your testimony exhibits and rebuttal exhibits?
5	A Yes.
6	Q Thank you. And I had a couple questions for
7	you. I wanted to go through your rebuttal exhibits.
8	And I can pull those up.
9	So the first one has been marked as
10	Avant's it's Exhibit A-27. And did you prepare
11	that exhibit?
12	A Yes, I did.
13	Q Okay. And can you tell us what that exhibit
14	shows?
15	A So essentially, this is just a roll-up of
16	the entire ownership and committed interests that are
17	attributed to Avant.
18	And in pulling this table together, again,
19	there were which was mentioned several times
20	several times in past testimony there were some
21	discrepancies on the interests and the title that
22	Apache had versus Avant's title.
23	So as Apache did, I used their figures
24	they used ours to clarify how the interests roll
25	up.

1	Q And is it your testimony here today that
2	these interests are correct to the best of
3	your ability?
4	A Yes.
5	Q And did you hear Mr. Johnson testify earlier
6	about the fact that he wasn't abbey to locate
7	publicly-filed copies of these documents?
8	A I did hear that.
9	Q And can you respond to that?
10	A Yes. The the documents that we have
11	signed here this month that they haven't accounted for
12	were, indeed, filed of record. There is oftentimes a
13	delay in the posting online. That's very common. We
14	experience that quite a bit.
15	Q So the JOAs listed here for example, you
16	have Wadi, Red Bird, Southwest Royalties those have
17	been submitted to the county records, they just
18	haven't been posted?
19	A Not the JOAs. Sorry. To clarify, just the
20	transactions where we acquired interest.
21	Q And with respect to CXA and Southwest
22	Royalties, is it your understanding that they signed
23	JOAs with both parties?
24	A Yes, that appears to be the case.
25	Q But if we look at your next rebuttal slide,
	Page 208

1	which I will pull up, Slide A-28
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And Ms. Hardy,
3	this one has not been admitted into evidence yet.
4	MS. HARDY: Correct.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Do you want to
6	provide some foundation for this?
7	MS. HARDY: Yes, I will.
8	BY MS. HARDY:
9	Q Ms. Albrecht, can you explain how you
10	developed this information?
11	A Absolutely. So when we got the original
12	Apache exhibits last week, we reached out to CXA
13	because they had signed a JOA with us. And we asked
14	them to clarify whether or not they had, indeed,
15	signed a JOA with Apache.
16	Their response over email which we're
17	happy to submit as additional evidence to the
18	record was they did because they thought that,
19	otherwise, they would get pooled if they didn't sign
20	the Apache operating agreement.
21	However, they said, "Does that preclude us
22	from supporting Avant? Hope not." That was the a
23	paraphrased version of the email.
24	Q And based on those communications with CXA,
25	did they provide to you this letter that's included

1	on
2	A Indeed. After we responded and said, "Well,
3	a letter of support to clarify that you oppose Apache
4	operating and support us, if that is your position,
5	would be helpful to present to the NMOCD to clearly
6	and unequivocally show that you support Avant's
7	development plans over Apache's." Which they quickly
8	did.
9	MS. HARDY: Mr. Examiner, I would move
10	the admission of this exhibit since it hasn't been
11	addressed yet.
12	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Do you want to
13	voir dire the witness?
14	MR. RANKIN: Yes, Mr. Examiner. I just
15	have a quick question.
16	EXAMINATION
17	BY MR. RANKIN:
18	Q Ms. Albrecht, how are you today?
19	A Great.
20	Q Sorry that you didn't have enough time to
21	have a real lunch.
22	On the question about your discussion or
23	correspondence with CXA, the CXA representative, you
24	mentioned that you got an email from them in which
25	they explained that they signed the JOA with Apache
	Page 210

1	because they were under the impression that, if they
2	didn't, that they would be subject to a pooling order;
3	correct?
4	A Correct.
5	Q Now, in your bullet on this exhibit on the
6	top left, it's a slightly different representation of
7	what happened because you say here that they were told
8	that Apache was the established operator. And is that
9	something that was communicated in the email?
10	A I believe that could be easily surmised from
11	what the email stated, yes.
12	Q I guess my concern is that, the way this
13	bullet is written and Apache's concern is it sounds
14	like there was a misrepresentation from Apache to CXA.
15	And that's a concern I have, is that I can't
16	examine Mr. Youngblood, and I don't have that email,
17	so I cannot determine what he said in the email and
18	whether he indicated that he believed he was misled or
19	if he just had an understanding that, if he didn't
20	sign the JOA, that he would be pooled. Do you see my
21	concern about that?
22	A My recollection is the email said that they
23	would be operator, and they needed to sign the JOA to
24	not be pooled.
25	MR. RANKIN: Okay. I guess, since I
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1	don't have that email, my concern is mostly on that
2	first bullet, Mr. Examiner.
3	And I would ask, because I don't have
4	that email and I can't examine Mr. Youngblood and I
5	don't understand the nature of the discussion or his
6	understanding that I would ask that that first bullet
7	be stricken from the exhibit.
8	THE HEARING EXAMINER: So what's the
9	legal basis for the objection?
LO	MR. RANKIN: Well, technically, it's
L1	hearsay. The statement here is offered for the truth
L2	of the matter asserted, which is that they signed the
L3	JOA because they understood that, originally, because
L4	Apache was the operator, and that was the only reason
L5	for them to sign it.
L6	So that's being offered for the truth
L7	of the matter asserted. And that's hearsay. And for
L8	that reason, because I cannot ascertain the basis for
L9	that statement, I think it needs to be stricken from
20	the record.
21	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I don't think
22	I'll come to you in just a moment, Ms. Hardy.
23	So this is a statement made by this
24	witness. Is that correct?
25	MS. ALBRECHT: Correct.

1	THE HEARING EXAMINER: You're making
2	this statement here? You're summarizing something
3	MS. ALBRECHT: I'm summarizing the
4	email. And that's my statement.
5	If we need to strike it, I think the
6	exhibit still
7	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Hold on a
8	second. I haven't said anything yet.
9	So this witness states CXA signed a JOA
10	with APA after being told APA was the established
11	operator. So the after being told APA was the
12	established operator and CXA would be compulsory
13	pooled if it did not sign APA's JOA, that's the part
14	of the sentence that you're objecting to. Okay. I
15	understand that.
16	Ms. Hardy, is there and I'm not
17	saying that I would rule in favor of this objection
18	just based on hearsay. But is there a simple way to
19	reformulate that sentence so that it is your witness's
20	statement and does not include this hearsay from this
21	other person?
22	MS. HARDY: I think so. I think I
23	could ask Ms. Albrecht if it's her understanding.
24	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
25	//

1	BY MS. HARDY:
2	Q Is it your understanding, Ms. Albrecht, that
3	CXA signed a JOA with Apache after being told that
4	Apache was the established operator and CXA would be
5	compulsory pooled if it did not sign?
6	A Yes.
7	MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I object to
8	that. It's the same issue. I think she's close. But
9	I have the same concern because it's about what the
LO	out-of-court person is saying that I have a concern
L1	about.
L2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I understand
L3	your objection. But as you know, hearsay is
L 4	admissible at an administrative hearing. And it is up
L5	to myself and Mr. McClure to give it the weight that
L6	we deem it has.
L 7	And the question now is, the
L8	understanding I realize that it brings in her
L9	understanding of an out-of-forum statement. However,
20	this, I believe, is would you answer the question,
21	please?
22	Ms. Albrecht: Can you restate the
23	question, please?
24	BY MS. HARDY:
25	Q Yes. Ms. Albrecht, is it your understanding
	Page 214

1	that CXA signed the JOA with Apache after being told
2	that Apache was the established operator and CXA would
3	be compulsory pooled if they did not sign?
4	A Yes.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Now,
6	Ms. Hardy, would you be willing to resubmit this
7	exhibit with that as the bullet point?
8	MS. HARDY: Sure.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And I note your
10	objection. Did you want to say something else?
11	MR. RANKIN: I would, Mr. Examiner. I
12	think I just want to make this on the record. And I
13	think there's another solution I'm going to offer
14	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let's hear it.
15	MR. RANKIN: Okay. The concern from
16	Apache is that they're a publicly-traded company and
17	now there's something on the record potentially
18	indicating that somebody said something that was not
19	true.
20	So my offer here would be to say,
21	rather than to take out "being told," would be to say,
22	"CXA signed a JOA with APA based on the understanding
23	that APA was the established operator." That
24	eliminates the hearsay concern.
25	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Is there
	Page 215

1	an objection to that?
2	MS. HARDY: That's fine.
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So would
4	you state it again? And would you take notes because
5	we need a cover letter and an amended exhibit packet
6	with this bullet point there?
7	MR. RANKIN: I would strike, "After
8	being told," and I would replace it with, "Based on
9	the understanding." And I think that would satisfy my
10	concerns about
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Wouldn't it be,
12	"Based on my understanding," since this is an exhibit
13	by a witness?
14	MR. RANKIN: No. I think she's trying
15	to say it was based on this Joel [sic] Yougblood's
16	understanding.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Is that correct?
18	MS. ALBRECHT: Yes, that's correct.
19	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Good. I
20	think that clarifies it.
21	Ms. Hardy, do you understand how to
22	change this?
23	MS. HARDY: Yes, I do. Yes.
24	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And is that
25	acceptable? Is that the truth?

1	MS. ALBRECHT: That's acceptable, yes.
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And it is the
3	truth?
4	MS. ALBRECHT: Yes, it's the truth.
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy, you
6	were conducting direct?
7	MS. HARDY: Yes, thank you.
8	BY MS. HARDY:
9	Q Ms. Albrecht, so actually, well, the part of
10	the exhibit that's really more important is the actual
11	letter of support. Do you agree?
12	A I agree.
13	Q Okay. And what the gist of that letter?
14	A Well, the the letter first offers their
15	support to us as operator.
16	And then I think one of the most important
17	parts of this letter is the last sentence of the first
18	paragraph that says, "CXA opposes Apache Corporation
19	being named operator because Apache's proposed
20	development plans would result in waste, are
21	inefficient, and Apache has not run a rig in Lea
22	County in several years."
23	Q So that was CXA's concern as stated in the
24	letter?
25	A Correct.
	Page 217

1	Q Okay.
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And Mr. Rankin,
3	let me close the loop on that objection.
4	So ultimately, even though I originally
5	did not rule in your favor, I ruled in your favor, and
6	we have a clarification of that bullet point. So I
7	sustain the objection. But I think we have found a
8	way around it.
9	MS. HARDY: So just to clarify for the
10	record, Exhibit A-28 as amended is admitted into the
11	record?
12	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I'm glad you
13	brought that up. Yes. Exhibit A-28 is admitted into
14	the record. Thank you.
15	(Avant Rebuttal Land Exhibit A-28 was
16	received into evidence.)
17	MS. HARDY: Thank you.
18	BY MS. HARDY:
19	Q And let me go back for a minute to your
20	chart that I've got here up on the screen. With
21	respect to Northern Oil & Gas, there's been discussion
22	today of that interest because it seems to be around a
23	15 percent interest or a little more, almost
24	16 percent.
25	And is it correct that Avant has an
	Page 218

1	agreement in place with Northern Oil & Gas?
2	A That is correct.
3	Q And so it's correctly attributed here to
4	Avant's interest in the unit?
5	A That is correct.
6	Q Thank you. Is there anything else on that
7	slide that you wanted to address?
8	A Let's see. I guess I would just add that
9	Avant has a long history of dealing with Northern. We
10	have successfully closed several transactions with
11	them. And we've partnered with them on several
12	projects. So we have no anticipation that there are
13	any issues.
14	And furthermore, their counsel is on the
15	call here today, and I'm sure would chime in with any
16	objection to being represented on the slide as they
17	are.
18	Q And Ms. Albrecht, let me pull up your third
19	rebuttal exhibit. That is Exhibit A-29. Can you
20	please explain what that exhibit shows and why you
21	submitted it?
22	A Sure. So this is another rendition of the
23	time line of events, primarily circling around
24	proposals and to get here today.
25	Wanted the the difference here in the
	Page 219

1 rebuttal slide is we wanted to address the term 2 assignment that Apache has with Marathon. This term assignment, which is highlighted 3 in the red box, was signed all the way back in March 4 5 of 2020. So by March of 2025, next year, they will 6 have had five years to satisfy this term assignment. 7 You can -- there was testimony that, you 8 know, we all experienced the pandemic that led to a 9 gap in this time line on Apache's part. However, in other testimony, they provided they did touch on the 10 11 fact that they were developing properties in Texas 12 during that time. 13 So I think it's just -- it's very clear that they have been complacent when it comes to developing 14 15 this unit. And they had opportunities to satisfy the 16 term assignment. And -- and in any event, Avant plans to 17 drill it before the term assignment expires, pending 18 approvals of the pooling order here and permits. 19 20 And let's talk about the permits. And I can actually pull up your original slide on the permits 2.1 22 because I think that this information was referenced by Apache's witnesses earlier today. And I am looking 23 24 at your Exhibit A-13. 25 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy, can Page 220

1	
1	you speak up?
2	MS. HARDY: Sure.
3	BY MS. HARDY:
4	Q I'm looking at your Exhibit A-13. And you
5	have a statement there that the Grayling APDs are on a
6	high-priority list.
7	A Yes.
8	Q Can you explain that, please?
9	A Well, the BLM does maintain, contrary to
L O	testimony by Apache, a priority list. It helps them
L1	to balance the volume of permit requests that they get
L2	filed.
L3	So right now, they know that this is on the
L4	high-priority for all the permits that have been filed
L5	for Avant. And we have regular check-ins weekly with
L6	them to maintain that those priorities.
L7	Q And what is the expected date for the
L8	permits should Avant be awarded operatorship?
L9	A I believe it's end of this year, however,
20	likely sooner. We're seeing that we can get permits
21	on the high-priority list turned around in six to
22	seven months.
23	Q And does Avant plan to expeditiously drill
24	these wells once it has its approved permits?
25	A Indeed, yes.

1	Q And I see there in your slide a discussion
2	of the number of rigs. Is that still correct?
3	A That is correct. We're currently running
4	two rigs with plans to pick up a third this fall.
5	Q And having those rigs running in New Mexico
6	would enable Avant to proceed with developing this
7	acreage shortly after it has the permits. Is that
8	correct?
9	A Yes. Those rigs, one is running in Eddy
10	County right now. It will shift over to Lea. And
11	soon, we'll have three rigs in Lea County, is the
12	plan.
13	Q And then Ms. Albrecht, I wanted to talk with
14	you about Apache's rebuttal slides. I'm looking right
15	now. I've pulled up their Slide 30. Do you have any
16	comments or response to that slide?
17	A Slide 30 on rebuttal?
18	Q Yes.
19	A I think I'm missing
20	Q I think they're in the back of Apache's
21	binder.
22	A I think this one is missing.
23	Got it.
24	Q Do you have their Slide 30?
25	A Yes.
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1	Q Okay. And did you have any comments or
2	response to the information they'd added on that slide
3	to the development time line?
4	A I don't believe so. I just no, I don't
5	believe I do.
6	Q And then I'm pulling up their working
7	interest rebuttal slide, which is the next slide.
8	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Is there a
9	question, Ms. Hardy?
10	MS. HARDY: Yes.
11	BY MS. HARDY:
12	Q Do you agree with what Apache has
13	represented there?
14	A I do not.
15	Q And can you explain why?
16	A Well, the biggest thing is they're not
17	crediting us with the Northern interest, which we've
18	said or which I've said today we have an agreement
19	with Northern to acquire via a trade all of their
20	interest in these lands.
21	I mean, the other the other discrepancy
22	is they've washed or neutralized both CXA and
23	Southwest Royalties. And I can see that perspective
24	with Southwest Royalties.
25	But given the very clear letter of intent
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1	that we received from CXA, I don't think it's fair for
2	them to consider that a neutralized interest. It
3	should be credited to Avant.
4	Q And when you consider the CXA interest and
5	the Northern interest, what is Avant's controlled
6	percentage for this acreage?
7	A Fifty-two percent, or a little bit over
8	that.
9	Q And Ms. Albrecht, did you have anything that
LO	you wanted to add about Apache's original or initial
L1	land exhibits that you haven't addressed?
L2	A I I would like to comment on the
L3	communication log that they provided. I'm trying to
L4	get to that.
L 5	It looks like it's their Slide 9 of
L6	Exhibit B.
L7	Q Okay. I got it.
L8	A You'll note that the communication with
L9	Avant on this slide at the bottom right has two
20	bullets. This is a huge disparity.
21	On the communication log that we've
22	provided, that captures multiple attempts to work a
23	trade agreement with them that were unsuccessful.
24	The way that played out is we would propose
25	something, and it almost always got returned with

1	something that was inequitable or just dead on arrival
2	with them.
3	And then lastly, the big difference is, in
4	the spirit of compromise, we reached out to Apache,
5	and this is captured on our communication exhibit.
6	Q I believe it's A-25.
7	A On the second page of that summary of
8	contacts
9	Q I'm trying to get there.
10	A A-25, which is OCD page 126 out of 344.
11	In April, anticipating that this might end
12	up in a contested case and both companies and the New
13	Mexico Oil Conservation Division would be expending a
14	lot of resources to hear us out today, we attempted to
15	come to an agreement where we would split this unit,
16	maybe east half, west half, so that we could move
17	forward without a protested hearing. And that was
18	immediately declined.
19	MS. HARDY: Ms. Albrecht, I think those
20	are all of my questions for now. Thank you.
21	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Is this witness
22	available for cross-examination?
23	MS. HARDY: Yes.
24	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Rankin,
25	we'll start with you. And Mr. Rankin, if you're going
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1	to cross-examine on an exhibit, would you let
2	Ms. Hardy know so she can bring it up on the screen
3	for us?
4	MR. RANKIN: I will. I appreciate
5	that.
6	CROSS-EXAMINATION
7	BY MR. RANKIN:
8	Q Ms. Albrecht, you testified that, to the
9	best of your knowledge or understanding, the working
10	interest percentages that Apache represented for
11	Northern were true and accurate on a unit-wide basis?
12	A Our title shows discrepancies across all of
13	the interests that Apache represented. So I don't
14	confirm that their title figures are correct and
15	accurate.
16	Q Okay. I misunderstood. I thought when you
17	were talking about Apache's rebuttal exhibit that you
18	were saying the I'm sorry.
19	It was your exhibit. I guess it was. Okay.
20	And your rebuttal exhibit showed that you
21	were adopting Apache's title figures; correct?
22	A No. For ease of understanding of how the
23	figures would shake out assuming Apache's numbers, we
24	just wanted to provide an alternative view. We had
25	already presented our case showing what our ownership

1	figures were where we didn't bundle any interests.
2	And so in a rebuttal exhibit, it made sense
3	to see it through a different lens, which would be,
4	you know, looking at it from Apache's title figures.
5	Both result in the majority interests going to Avant.
6	Q So on Avant Rebuttal Exhibit A-27, I thought
7	I understand you to say that, in response to
8	Ms. Hardy's question, that you agreed that the title
9	figures represented on the exhibit were true and
10	accurate to the best of your understanding. Is that
11	not the case?
12	A They are true and accurate in that they're
13	what Apache advertised.
14	Q So my next question then is, because Avant
15	didn't provide it in its title plats or information in
16	its exhibits, what was the percentage interest for
17	Northern Oil & Gas that your title showed on a
18	unit-wide basis?
19	A It was just under 10 10 percent.
20	Q So if I were to use Avant's interests for
21	Northern did Northern disagree with that in your
22	discussions with them prior to the trade?
23	A We have an agreement that, regardless of how
24	that title is sorted out, we will trade equal acres.
25	It's we have the flexibility to do that with our

1	position around the area.
2	Q So that trade is still subject to final
3	determination of what the interest is going to be. Is
4	that true?
5	A I would say it's subject to a final
6	understanding. I've gone through the title with our
7	title attorney. She's provided multiple opinions
8	trying to reverse engineer into Apache's numbers. And
9	we keep finding that their numbers are not correct.
10	So it will be just a clarification exercise
11	with Northern. Again, we have a strong working
12	relationship with them and don't see this being any
13	sort of roadblock.
14	Q So you think your title attorney's numbers
15	were more correct than Apache's. So if I were to use
16	your numbers, which is more like 10 percent for
17	Northern, then Avant would be under 50 percent working
18	interest on a unit basis; correct?
19	A With CXA and Northern, even with our
20	figures, we would land higher.
21	Q I'm sorry. Say that last part?
22	A Even with Northern and CXA on Avant's
23	figures, we still land higher than Apache.
24	Q I understand. That wasn't my question. My
25	question was, if you were to use your figures for
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1	Northern, which is closer to 10 percent, then you
2	would fall under 50 percent working interest; correct?
3	A Yes.
4	Q What does Avant's work title show for CXA
5	Oil & Gas Holdings for its working interest on a
6	unit-wide basis?
7	A If you look at Exhibit A-17 it's NMOCD
8	page 54 out of 344 we show CXA Oil & Gas Holdings
9	with 6.3762 percent. They're the the last line on
LO	that table.
L1	Q Now, on the agreement with Northern, you
L2	testified that it's been filed of record, and it's now
L3	subject to, I guess, sort of final determination of
L 4	what the actual interests are; correct?
L5	A The transactions that we've closed are filed
L6	of record. This Northern agreement is not yet filed
L7	of record. Point of clarification.
L8	Q Oh, okay. I'm sorry. What was filed of
L9	record, then?
20	A All of the transactions that we have
21	captured that I captured in Rebuttal Exhibit A-27.
22	And you'll see a column that has the status of each of
23	those. So I can run through them individually if
24	you'd like.
25	Q Well, I guess, for now, I'm mostly

1	interested in Northern. So Northern, it says,
2	"Trading to Avant entities, agreement signed 5/24,"
3	correct?
4	A Correct.
5	Q Just out of curiosity, when was it fully
6	executed?
7	A The exact day?
8	Q Yeah. I'm just kind of curious, if you
9	know.
10	A I don't recall the exact day. It was
11	Q No problem.
12	A here in here in May.
13	Q It's been a busy week. Now, on Northern's,
14	it has not yet been filed of record. Is there a
15	reason it hasn't been filed of record?
16	A Well, it hasn't I mean, we are waiting to
17	exchange assignments once we when they got
18	different title figures from Apache we would've
19	done a quick a quick deal here, but whenever
20	they're seeing differences from Apache, it warranted
21	ferreting out what those differences are.
22	There oftentimes with title, there are
23	agreements that are off record that we may not be
24	privy to. So we need to fully explore that.
25	Q I'm sorry. I guess I misunderstood because
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1	I thought I understanding that maybe that agreement,
2	the trade with Northern, had closed and it was
3	complete. But it's not closed yet. Is that correct?
4	A Not yet. But it's it's under agreement
5	right now.
6	Q Okay. So is there a due diligence period
7	remaining under that agreement?
8	A It's it's a customary due diligence
9	period.
10	Q So there's no set time frame or deadline
11	under that due diligence?
12	A Not yet established.
13	Q Okay. But because you've done deals with
14	Northern in the past, you guys work well together and
15	you're comfortable having that exchange to make sure
16	you're comfortable with the terms of the agreement.
17	Is that fair to say?
18	A Yes, absolutely.
19	Q Okay. As part of the agreement, are there
20	any subsequent conditions that would affect the
21	closing of the deal?
22	A No.
23	Q Any other conditions that require either
24	Avant or Northern to perfect in order to close the
25	deal?

1	A Not I'm not a title or legal an
2	attorney, so I I don't know that I'm suited to
3	answer that question.
4	Q But the main issue is that, between Northern
5	and Avant, there remains some title issues to sort
6	out, and that's what's holding up resolution of that
7	agreement right now. Is that right?
8	A Yes.
9	Q Okay. And so it's unclear how long that
10	will take or when that will be complete?
11	A I don't anticipate it taking long. We
12	can there are ways we can work around it.
13	Q Okay. But as of today, as we sit here, that
14	15.7 percent interest, or 10 percent, depending on how
15	you calculate it, is still pending closure of that
16	agreement; correct?
17	A It's committed to an agreement.
18	Q It's committed to agreement, but it hasn't
19	been closed yet; correct?
20	A It has not yet been closed.
21	Q Okay. So it's under contract, so to speak;
22	correct?
23	A It's under agreement, yes.
24	Q Okay. Very good. Ms. Albrecht, you were
25	talking about the term assignment at issue here for
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1	Apache. And you made the point
2	MR. RANKIN: Maybe if Ms. Hardy
3	would and I'm happy to share too because I drive it
4	around. But Ms. Hardy, if you wouldn't mind pulling
5	up Exhibit A-29, which is the rebuttal time line?
6	MS. HARDY: A-29?
7	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I think he means
8	Apache.
9	MR. RANKIN: Apache. Sorry.
10	MS. HARDY: Apache's
11	MR. RANKIN: No, no. I meant Avant. I
12	didn't say it, but I mean Avant. Avant A-29.
13	MS. HARDY: A-29 Avant.
14	MR. RANKIN: Yeah, which is
15	Ms. Albrecht's updated time line.
16	BY MR. RANKIN:
17	Q You made the point, Ms. Albrecht, when
18	MS. HARDY: Hang on. Sorry.
19	MR. RANKIN: That's okay. It's page 4
20	of that. There you go. We're getting there.
21	MS. HARDY: There we go.
22	MR. RANKIN: It's really fun to drive
23	the exhibits
24	MS. HARDY: Yes. I'm sorry,
25	Mr. Rankin. Thank you.
	Do era 122
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1	MR. RANKIN: come on, get there.
2	BY MR. RANKIN:
3	Q In this time line, you pointed out,
4	Ms. Albrecht, that the term assignment that Apache
5	owns was entered into in 2020, so they've had five
6	years to develop that acreage; correct?
7	A Almost five years, yes.
8	Q Almost five years. Now, we pointed out in
9	testimony, you know, that there was this thing called
10	COVID that shut down a lot of activity. And you made
11	the point in your rebuttal testimony that Apache was
12	drilling in 2022 in Texas; correct?
13	A I believe in the slide that Mr. Roback
14	presented called Completion Comparison, there were
15	bars that had activity even in 2019, 2020. I don't
16	have that slide in front of me, but there was activity
17	that piqued my interest that was during that time
18	period.
19	Q So part of the problem, I guess, though,
20	Ms. Albrecht, was that there were two federal leases
21	that canceled, correct, during that period of time?
22	A They expired. However, there are slots in
23	this 1280 development area that could've been drilled
24	to satisfy this without passing through those expired
25	tracts.

1	Q So I'll talk about that in a moment. Well,
2	I guess I'll go ahead well, let me see. I'm trying
3	to get my thoughts here.
4	So those federal leases expired. And so if
5	you wanted to drill the entire section, and it's a
6	two-mile well, as a 1280, then you would need to
7	nominate those federal leases again; correct?
8	A Yes.
9	Q Okay. And Apache did that back in the
10	summer of 2022; correct?
11	A Yes.
12	Q So it was just slightly over not quite
13	halfway through the term assignment period when they
14	reinitiated the process of getting that development
15	started by renominating those those federal leases
16	that had expired; correct?
17	A Yes.
18	Q And now that brings us to this point today.
19	There's a lot of stuff to do between the time you get
20	a lease nominated, get it leased, to putting a packet
21	together. And that's now taken us more than, what
22	two-plus years to get to that point today; correct?
23	A Yeah, which is equivalent to almost the life
24	of our company.
25	Q It takes a while. Now, you made the point
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1	that it would've been possible, I guess, to drill
2	half, you know, to avoid those federal leases so that
3	you can nevertheless develop some of the acreage
4	potentially to hold that term assignment.
5	But Avant's position, as I understand, has
6	been that it's a better outcome to drill each bench as
7	a full section; correct?
8	A Indeed, yes.
9	Q Yeah. And is it your understanding that
10	Apache takes the same position?
11	A Yes, I believe so.
12	Q So Apache's preference, as you understand
13	it, would be to go ahead and develop this acreage on a
14	full-section basis, each bench; agree?
15	A Yes. Both parties agree that's optimal.
16	Q Okay. So on the BLM APD side
17	MR. RANKIN: Ms. Hardy, if you would go
18	to the slide that has the permits filed, 17, maybe.
19	MS. HARDY: The Avant slide?
20	MR. RANKIN: Yeah. No, not 17.
21	MS. HARDY: Here it is, this one.
22	MR. RANKIN: Yeah. What is that slide?
23	MS. HARDY: A-13.
24	MR. RANKIN: A-13, okay. Thank you.
25	//
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1	BY MR. RANKIN:
2	Q Now, this slide has a list of all 18 of the
3	wells that Avant would propose to drill; correct?
4	A Yes.
5	Q And it shows the date that Avant submitted
6	each APD for approval with the BLM; correct?
7	A Yes.
8	Q And the earliest that were filed were in
9	February of '24. Is that right?
LO	A Correct.
L1	Q And the most recent were only just back in
L2	April of '24; correct?
L3	A Correct.
L4	Q Now, on that time line, the and I'll just
L5	recite to you, and you maybe can see it if you have it
L6	in front of you.
L7	But Avant won the federal lease sale in May
L8	of 2023; agree?
L9	A Agreed.
20	Q And then Avant begins proposing its Grayling
21	wells in June of 2023; correct?
22	A Correct.
23	Q Now, on that time line, it states that Avant
24	proposed these as a 1280 nonstandard spacing unit.
25	But is that actually what you proposed?

1	A I believe that it was it had the wells.
2	I don't know that it captured the specific language
3	around it being a 1280-acre spacing unit.
4	Q Do you recall I think it was actually
5	and I'll get to this later but basically, didn't
6	Avant propose an east half development and a west half
7	development separately?
8	A I recall there there being language
9	around the JOA on that proposal letter, but not in
10	terms of that being the set unit.
11	Obviously, whenever these things get
12	proposed, you don't yet know what the NMOCD will
13	approve. And so that you want to maintain some
14	flexibility there just because you want to they
15	need to fit with the plans that get approved.
16	Q I may address that when we get to the well
17	proposals.
18	But the point here, I guess, is that Avant
19	was in a hurry and proposed its wells even before the
20	BLM issued the leases the next month in July; correct?
21	A That may be correct.
22	Q Yeah. Well, at least according to your time
23	line.
24	A I'd need to pull up our proposals.
25	Q Yeah. And this is the Exhibit A-29
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1	A Correct. We had we had won the tracts,
2	though. So I don't understand how that's relevant.
3	Q Well, I guess, so the time line here is that
4	you guys won the lease; as soon as you won the lease,
5	you issued your well proposals, even before the leases
6	were issued, and that's back in June of 2023.
7	But then it wasn't until February of '24
8	that you first filed APDs for this acreage; correct?
9	A Correct.
10	Q Okay. Did you know about Apache's term
11	assignment when you acquired those federal leases and
12	issued the well proposals?
13	A I personally did not.
14	Q Okay. When did you become aware of Apache's
15	term assignment?
16	A Later when we were working through title.
17	'Cause there's a lot going on behind the scenes in
18	this time line with title being run. We were closing
19	deals October, November, December.
20	There there's a lot of behind-the-scenes
21	not captured here to bring this together.
22	Q Sure. So sitting here today, you're not
23	sure exactly when you personally first became aware of
24	Apache's term assignment?
25	A I would say as we were getting closer to
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1	after we had filed our initial application. Sometime
2	between then and now, whenever we were really digging
3	into the title here.
4	Q And you filed your applications in February?
5	A That sounds right.
6	Q Okay. So sometime after February, you
7	became aware of Apache's term assignment?
8	A Me personally. I have landmen who do a lot
9	of this work who were probably aware of it before me.
10	Q Okay. Are you aware of anybody at Avant who
11	was aware of the term assignment before you? Was that
12	something that the company had awareness of prior to
13	your awareness?
14	A I would have to ask them when exactly they
15	knew about it.
16	Q Yeah, understand. Okay. So I guess my
17	question is, so while Avant was in a hurry to issue
18	its well proposals even before the leases were issued,
19	it waited let's see, June, July, August,
20	September five or six months before it started
21	filing its APDs.
22	Is there a reason that Avant didn't file all
23	of its APDs at one time?
24	A That's a little bit outside of my
25	wheelhouse. I don't file the permits. So I'm sure

1	there's an explanation that I'm not equipped to
2	provide.
3	Q And now, your understanding of the timing
4	for BLM's approval here, is that based on your direct
5	communication with the BLM in terms of when they
6	expect to approve those APDs?
7	A Not my direct communication, but based on
8	our we have a director of regulatory that
9	communicates these kinds of things out to the team on
10	a regular basis. So I'm aware of it through here
11	communication.
12	Q So the expectation based on that
13	understanding is that these permits would be approved
14	hopefully, potentially by the end of this year;
15	correct?
16	A I would say at the latest. Again, we've
17	seen, on average, permits that on our high-priority
18	list getting turned around in six to seven months.
19	Q Okay. Well, that was one of my next
20	questions. You mentioned six to seven months based on
21	wells that are on the high-priority list. Avant has
22	had actual experience with federal permits being
23	approved in that time frame?
24	A Yes.
25	Q And then Ms. Hardy asked you whether Avant
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1	would be prepared to expeditiously drill its wells.
2	Are these wells on a rig schedule at this time?
3	A Yes.
4	Q What's the date of that?
5	A I mean, we have our anticipated spuds here.
6	But it's all subject to a pooling order and permit
7	approvals. We're
8	Q What is
9	A It's on Slide the one you were just
10	referencing that has the time line of submittals.
11	Q A-13?
12	A Indeed, yes.
13	MS. HARDY: I need to get there.
14	MS. ALBRECHT: Second-to-last column on
15	A-13, which is page 50 of 344.
16	MS. HARDY: Fifty, thank you. I'm not
17	as good at driving this as Mr. Rankin.
18	BY MR. RANKIN:
19	Q On that Slide A-13, the earliest spud date
20	here is the 600 series wells. Are those the Third
21	Bone Spring?
22	A Correct.
23	Q Okay. And you've got them slotted here.
24	Are these on your rig schedule, subject to all
25	approvals, for February '25? Is that right?

1	A Yes.
2	Q In terms of sequencing, what would Avant's
3	plans be after drilling those six wells? Would it
4	complete them all at one time right after drilling
5	them?
6	A This is probably a question for our
7	engineer. But yes, I believe so.
8	Q I mean, your understanding
9	A Just in terms of batches and the different
LO	benches?
L1	Q Yeah.
L2	A Typically yes, we'll drill the batch,
L3	complete them, and then move up hole through the
L 4	shallower benches.
L5	Q So the plan would be to drill the Third Bone
L6	Spring wells first, and before drilling any other
L7	wells, would be to complete them. Is that your
L8	understanding?
L9	A I believe so. That is a question for Shane,
20	though.
21	Q Okay. I will ask Shane. Now he knows I'm
22	going to ask him.
23	On the ownership issue, do you agree that
24	Southwest Royalties, because it has signed a JOA with
25	both parties and has not indicated a preference one or

1	the other, that it should be treated as neutral as
2	between the two parties?
3	A That seems reasonable. It's a very small
4	interest, so I don't think it really moves the needle
5	either way.
6	Q On the term assignment, you became aware, I
7	guess, personally sometime after February. Do you
8	have a copy of that term assignment? Have you
9	reviewed the conditions and terms of that term
10	assignment yourself?
11	A Yes. It's public record.
12	Q Yeah. So you have an understanding of what
13	the requirements are, then, for Apache to maintain and
14	hold that interest?
15	A It's somewhat irrelevant to Avant, but I've
16	read it, yes.
17	Q Well, I think we agree that it is irrelevant
18	to Avant. And I think that's Apache's concern, is
19	that Avant doesn't care too much about what happens to
20	Apache's interest. And they're, for that reason, I
21	think, motivated to be the operator here.
22	In your statement that you submitted, in
23	paragraph 17, you state that Avant has a frac crew
24	currently on site in the Cutbow unit. Is that still
25	the case?

1	A I believe so. Shane can confirm. But yes,
2	I believe so.
3	Q Do you happen to know what interval they're
4	completing right now?
5	A I believe it's the Second Bone First
6	Bone. It came to me.
7	Q I'll ask Shane when he gets up. No problem.
8	Is Shane also the right person to ask about
9	midstream capacity issues and how that relates to
10	Cutbow development in the Grayling?
11	A Yes.
12	Q Okay. On the Northern agreement, you
13	mentioned that you've entered into a number of
14	different agreements with Northern over time,
15	different types of trades. Have any of those deals
16	ever not gone to completion or followed through with
17	Northern?
18	A No.
19	Q How many, to your knowledge, have you
20	completed with Northern?
21	A Say at least ten.
22	Q Ten, okay.
23	A That's an estimation.
24	Q And the agreement with Northern, is it a
25	trade? Is that right?

1	A That's correct.
2	Q Okay. Is it a straight acreage trade?
3	A Correct.
4	Q Just making sure I think I covered a lot
5	of what I want to cover. You see, I had a lot of
6	questions. But I'm just making sure I got everything
7	covered.
8	I do want to talk about the well proposals,
9	though.
10	MR. RANKIN: Maybe, if Ms. Hardy
11	wouldn't mind bringing up the well proposals, Exhibit
12	A-24?
13	If you would just scroll up?
14	BY MR. RANKIN:
15	Q So this was dated September 1st. And now,
16	you didn't prepare these well proposals; did you?
17	A I did not.
18	Q Okay. But if I flip through first of
19	all, I just want to make the point, I guess, that the
20	TVDs for each of the benches here are I think we
21	discussed this already through separate testimony.
22	But the proposals here don't align with your exhibits
23	as you understand them. Is that correct?
24	A Yes. And that's been addressed. You're
25	correct.

1	Q Right. Now, the third page of the well
2	proposal identifies that it will be subject to a
3	contract area of the west half and then a separate
4	contract area subject to the east half.
5	Now, since the well proposals went out,
6	Avant has decided to develop this acreage as a 1280
7	instead of as separate west half and east half
8	developments. Is that correct?
9	A Yes.
10	Q Okay.
11	MR. RANKIN: Ms. Hardy, if you would
12	flip through the next few pages until you get to the
13	first page of the AFE.
14	BY MR. RANKIN:
15	Q Ms. Albrecht, I'll just note that the front
16	page of the AFE that I reviewed, it doesn't identify
17	the footages for the location of the well or any of
18	the laterals. Is that correct?
19	In other words, if I'm looking at that front
20	page, I don't know where any of these wells are going
21	to be located. I know the depths. I know the
22	section. But I don't have any footages; correct?
23	A It looks like it was omitted.
24	Q Okay. And if I go to the front page of the
25	AFE for this well each well has a separate AFE
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1	cover page like this; correct?
2	A Yes.
3	Q And when I look at the top, it identifies a
4	surface hole location and a bottom hole location at
5	the front page of the AFE, and it gives sections and
6	townships.
7	But as to the surface hole location and the
8	bottom hole location, I don't have footages for any of
9	these wells. Is that right?
10	A That looks right. And we have no
11	questions
12	Q Okay. And the Division generally requires
13	proposals to include exact footages as part of a valid
14	well proposal. Is that your understanding?
15	MS. HARDY: I'm going to object to the
16	extent that calls for a legal conclusion.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I didn't hear
18	the basis for the objection.
19	MS. HARDY: Calls for a legal
20	conclusion.
21	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Rankin?
22	BY MR. RANKIN:
23	Q Ms. Albrecht, do you have an understanding
24	of what the Division's requirements are for valid well
25	proposals?

1	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Rankin?
2	MR. RANKIN: Yeah?
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I don't see how
4	that addresses the objection.
5	MR. RANKIN: Okay. I guess I was
6	rephrasing.
7	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Oh, I didn't
8	understand.
9	MR. RANKIN: I'm sorry. Sorry.
10	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So I
11	sustain the objection.
12	Would you like to rephrase the
13	question?
14	BY MR. RANKIN:
15	Q Ms. Albrecht, do you have an understanding
16	for what the Division requires for valid well
17	proposals?
18	A Yes. I don't have the rules committed to
19	memory to recite right now, but yes.
20	Q And is it your understanding that the
21	Division requires exact footages for well proposals?
22	MS. HARDY: It
23	MR. RANKIN: I'm just asking what her
24	understanding is.
25	//
	D 040
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1	BY MR. RANKIN:
2	Q Do you have an understanding of what the
3	Division's requirements are for well proposals?
4	A Generally, yes. I don't I can't say
5	specifically what the footage requirements are in the
6	well proposals. But we acted in good faith when we
7	sent these out.
8	Q Now, I guess, I can go through, but I think
9	each one of these is missing the footages for each of
LO	the wells. So an operator who receives this well
L1	proposal wouldn't be able to discern where these wells
L2	are proposed to be located, their first take point,
L3	last take point, the surface location, the bottom hole
L4	location; agree?
L5	I know there's 18 of them. Did you go
L6	through them?
L 7	A [No audible response.]
L8	Q Did you answer my question? I couldn't hear
L9	if you did. I'm sorry. I think I asked
20	A I said I agreed.
21	Q Yeah, you did agree? Okay. I couldn't
22	hear. I'm sorry. I didn't mean I'm sorry.
23	Now, looking at the main text in the top of
24	each of these AFEs, it states that the well is
25	proposed to be a three-string casing design.
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1	I mean, I can ask I'm not sure if you're
2	the right person, but maybe you know. If you don't
3	know, that's fine. But is it Avant's intent to drill
4	these as three-string casing wells?
5	A Yes. They're outside of the Capitan and the
6	Potash boundary where that's required.
7	Q Thank you. On the timing let's see.
8	MR. RANKIN: I guess, Ms. Hardy, if you
9	would sorry, I don't have the exact slide here
10	A-22, Ms. Hardy, if you wouldn't mind?
11	MS. HARDY: A-22?
12	MR. RANKIN: Yeah.
13	MS. HARDY: Which exhibit is that,
14	Mr. Rankin?
15	MR. RANKIN: Oh, it's Avant A-22. It's
16	the direct testimony.
17	MS. HARDY: A-22 is Ms. Albrecht's
18	testimony?
19	MR. RANKIN: I think so. A-22 is the
20	original time line of events. I'm not sure what page
21	that is.
22	PDF page 64. It should be the first
23	one.
24	MS. HARDY: Got it.
25	MR. RANKIN: Sorry.
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	13.50 201

1	MS. HARDY: It's okay. No problem.
2	There we go.
3	BY MR. RANKIN:
4	Q So I'll draw your attention to that first
5	bullet underneath the time line where it says that
6	Apache has been reactionary to Avant as it relates to
7	well proposals and development timing.
8	So I'm just going to walk through a moment
9	just to kind of understand the basis for that
10	statement.
11	So first of all, there are two federal
12	leases that expired during COVID, as we've
13	established. And then no one drilled any wells in the
14	acreage from late 2019 to early 2021, okay.
15	Now, your time line here does not include
16	the fact that Apache nominated the federal leases in
17	August of '22, but you agree that's the case; right?
18	A I agree that's the case. Nominating leases
19	is not unique to one company.
20	Q No, not at all. But it's necessary in order
21	to make the lease available to be leased; correct?
22	A Correct. Multiple companies will nominate
23	open fed tracts. They get nominated several times.
24	Q Did Avant nominate the leases?
25	A I don't recall. Typically, we do or we have
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1	partner companies that do it in coordination with us.
2	Q But you don't know whether you nominated
3	these specific leases?
4	A It's irrelevant. We knew it would get
5	nominated because anything that's open fed in New
6	Mexico gets nominated many times over.
7	Q Okay. Then Avant did propose your Grayling
8	wells in this acreage in June '23 before even the BLM
9	leases were issued; correct?
10	A Correct.
11	Q Okay. Now, in the well proposal that we
12	reviewed, the wells were initially proposed to be
13	drilled from north to south. Is that correct?
14	A Yes.
15	Q And now you're proposing to drill them from
16	south to north?
17	A Correct.
18	Q And Avant did not file its pooling
19	application until after Apache first proposed a
20	1280 unit and filed its pooling application; correct?
21	A We proposed before Apache.
22	Q I guess my question was, Avant did not file
23	its pooling application until after Apache filed its
24	pooling application for a 1280 unit; correct?
25	A Correct.
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1	Q Okay. Now, the pooling application that
2	Avant filed departed from its well proposal by seeking
3	a full 1280 unit as opposed to a west half and east
4	half development; correct?
5	A see that as a departure. A JOA could be
6	set up on halves, and you still could pool a full 1280
7	unit.
8	MS. HARDY: Can you speak up,
9	Ms. Albrecht, a little?
10	MS. ALBRECHT: Oh, sorry.
11	MS. HARDY: Thank you.
12	MS. ALBRECHT: I don't see it a
13	departure from the well proposals.
14	BY MR. RANKIN:
15	Q Well, I mean, isn't it important to Avant in
16	terms of development to drill full benches across full
17	sections? That's better for proposal; correct?
18	A It is, yes.
19	Q Okay. So it's important to an operator
20	who's receiving a well proposal whether it's a 1280
21	proposal or a west half or east half proposal only;
22	agree?
23	A Yes.
24	Q Okay. And so when Avant filed its pooling
25	application, it's changed its approach from being west
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1	half and an east half to a 1280 after Apache filed its
2	application for a 1280; agree?
3	A I wouldn't say we changed it. We were
4	working multiple paths. Our the optimal plans
5	would be a 1280, but in communication with Apache, we
6	kind of foresaw that as an option to avoid conflict.
7	So it was an option that was entertained by Avant.
8	Q I guess, if I'm a third-party operator and I
9	see a well proposal come in for a west half and an
10	east half development, that's a different proposal
11	than for a full 1280 development.
12	A You're referring to the JOA language. In
13	the proposals, that doesn't say that the spacing unit
14	is a 1280.
15	Q Well, very good. That's fine. And then you
16	also changed in your application to drill from the
17	south to the north rather than from the north to the
18	south; right?
19	A Yes. And that was due to discovery of dune
20	sand lizard dune sage lizard habitat that caused us
21	to flip our locations from the north to to the
22	south after our BLM on-sites and getting approval from
23	the BLM on locations that would work for our
24	development.
25	Q And then the depths that Avant initially
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1	proposed for each of the two benches were changed in
2	the application and the exhibits now to match what
3	Apache had proposed; agree?
4	A The footage question has come up several
5	times. I thought we were going to defer this to
6	Shane.
7	Q Okay. I can ask Mr. Kelly.
8	So I guess my point is, though,
9	Ms. Albrecht, that your assertion that Apache has been
10	reactionary to Avant, I'm not sure I quite follow that
11	assertion, where it appears, at least as often, that
12	Avant has responded to Apache's proposals and Apache's
13	approach through this time line.
14	A Well, the reason that we highlight that is
15	because this private contract that is between Marathon
16	and Apache seems to be a guiding force for Apache.
17	That was signed way back in 2020. Well proposals went
18	out in '19. You have this big gap in activity.
19	You take a look at the activity of Avant on
20	that same time line. And it's it's very sequential
21	in a tighter time frame.
22	Once we proposed the wells like I said
23	before, there's a lot going on behind the scenes.
24	We're doing on-sites. We're running title.
25	We're we're doing we're closing acquisitions.

1	So there's a lot not reflected here.
2	But you just look at the on an
3	apples-to-apples comparison of well proposals and
4	filings, you can see ours is much more condensed.
5	Once we got interest in the unit, we we got to work
6	to get it drill-ready.
7	Q That was possible once the federal lease was
8	nominated and leased; correct?
9	A We we had paid for the lease when we had
10	proposed the wells.
11	Q Yeah. In other words, though, I mean, once
12	those federal leases were released and it was possible
13	to go ahead and plan for development?
14	A Sure, yes.
15	MR. RANKIN: I think, Mr. Examiner,
16	that's all my questions for Ms. Albrecht.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. McClure?
18	MR. MCCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Hearing
19	Examiner.
20	CROSS-EXAMINATION
21	BY MR. MCCLURE:
22	Q Ms. Albrecht, let me squared up in the
23	exhibit.
24	If I may direct your attention to page 15 of
25	344, Avant's exhibits. This is paragraph 30 of your
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1 affidavit, I believe. 2. Α Okay. Within this paragraph, you state that it's your opinion that Apache failed to meaningfully engage 4 5 with Avant and that that demonstrates a lack of good faith negotiation. Can you please provide more 6 details regarding that? 8 I would say the detail there is that we were Α 9 the ones that were consistently proposing ideas to come to a resolution. And they were never one to 10 11 initiate any solution suggestions. It was simply 12 shutting down our ideas or sending us trade proposals 13 that were not equitable. 14 Adding to that, if I may, you know, 15 splitting a 1280-acre unit would not be optimal for 16 either side. I think both parties would prefer to 17 develop the full two sections. 18 But as a concession and, again, in the spirit of compromise, we proposed splitting it down 19 20 the middle so that each operator could have operatorship over a given 640, stand-up 640. And they 2.1 22 also declined to entertain that. 23 Thank you. And Ms. Albrecht, if I can draw Q 2.4 your attention to page 54 of 344 of Avant's exhibits. This is the lease tract ownership slide. 25

1	A Okay.
2	Q Was this slide, in addition to the next
3	slide that has the uncommitted owners, either produced
4	by yourself or under your supervision?
5	A Yes.
6	Q How were the persons and their percentages
7	in these two tables derived?
8	A Based on title. We we initially had
9	broker title, and then we confirmed it with a title
10	opinion from our title attorney.
11	Q Do you believe these persons and percentages
12	to be accurate?
13	A The only exception I would note is that we
14	had rolled Rock Products into our interest on Slide 22
15	because, at the time, they had committed to selling
16	their interest.
17	Later, it was discussed, which is reflected
18	in the rebuttal slides, that they preferred to sign an
19	operating agreement with us. And we were happy to
20	accommodate either way. So that that's the path we
21	will be moving forward with them.
22	Q Now, you reference an Ellipsis Oil and Gas,
23	Incorporated. Is it your understanding that this is
24	the same person that Apache is referencing as Westlawn
25	Fortuna, Incorporated?
25	

1	A Yes, that's correct. They neglected to note
2	that Westlawn Fortuna had a name change filed with the
3	SEC or Secretary of State, not SEC changing the
4	name from Westlawn Fortuna, Inc. to Ellipsis Oil and
5	Gas, Inc., which is now the correct entity.
6	Q Earlier, you heard testimony from Apache
7	stating that the paraphrasing that the
8	percentages the difference in percentages between
9	Apache and Avant is normal. Is that your
10	understanding as well?
11	A It happens often. You can have different
12	interpretations of title, especially in New Mexico
13	where the title can be old and you can have deviations
14	from the federal records and the county records in
15	what's filed.
16	So yes, that's somewhat customary to have
17	differences in opinions from attorneys on how the
18	the title should be set out.
19	Q Would it by typical for that percentage to
20	vary by as much as 5 percent?
21	A Sure, it can happen, especially, Dean, if
22	you run into situations where there are off-record
23	agreements. There may be one party that's
24	knowledgeable to those off-record agreements, and the
25	other party is not.

1	Q Thank you. Earlier, Apache referenced a
2	dispute between the or let me backtrack.
3	The the percentages that Avant has listed
4	for Wadi, Red Bird, Minoco, Roy, and McKay or let
5	me backtrack on McKay you're confident of the
6	percentages that you have listed here. Is that
7	correct?
8	A Well, we acquired the McKay interest. And
9	he had been in communication with Apache. And on that
10	interest, he said well, what he had provided us
11	appeared to align with what Apache had.
12	Why they rolled up the others, I'm not sure.
13	But we do feel confident that they they can be
14	broken out.
15	I know in Mr. Johnson's testimony, he
16	referenced a stipulation that they had circulated. I
17	did see a copy of that through Mr. McKay. And it was
18	not signed by all the parties, so it didn't seem like
19	it was a binding stipulation, not that it had any
20	impact that we could see to the way we set out title.
21	Q Okay. Thank you. If I can draw your
22	attention to Avant's rebuttal exhibits, page 3 of 14.
23	This is the CXA letter.
24	Is it your understanding that CXA has has
25	signed a joint operating agreement with both Apache

1	and Avant?
2	A I haven't seen anything to verify that they
3	signed with Apache. But based on the communication
4	with CXA, that does seem like a valid situation that
5	they signed with both.
6	Q Now, is it your is it your understanding
7	that, once a JOA is signed, that a working interest
8	owner can withdraw from that JOA?
9	A I think that's a question for a title
L O	attorney, not suited for me.
L1	Q To your understanding, did did CXA seem
L2	to indicate to you that they wished to withdraw from
L3	the JOA that they signed with Apache?
L 4	A Yes. I mean, that's that could only be
L5	surmised from the communication where they said,
L6	"Hopefully this isn't a problem," and they followed up
L7	with a letter of support to us.
L8	Those weren't their exact words, but
L9	they they wanted to make clear that they supported
20	Avant by following up with this letter of support.
21	Q Were their exact was the entirety of
22	their exact words on the subject included in this
23	email that's in this exhibit?
24	A No. There were phone conversations that
25	were had with my landman, Tiffany Sarantinos, and
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1	Mr. Youngblood that I wasn't a part of.
2	Q To your understanding, was there ever any
3	indication that Mr. Youngblood and CXA CXA was
4	going to be in communications with Apache in regards
5	to that JOA?
6	A Can you repeat the question, please?
7	Q To your understanding, was there any any
8	indication from CXA that they were going to discuss
9	their JOA with Apache?
10	A That they signed with Avant?
11	Q The JOA that they had signed that they
12	signed with Apache.
13	Do you want me to re-ask my question?
14	A Well, if I'm understanding, you're saying,
15	was CXA going to discuss the JOA that they signed with
16	Apache with them after their signed the JOA with
17	Apache?
18	Q Let me rephrase my question. After this
19	communication that Avant had with CXA and CXA signed
20	the JOA with Avant, did CXA give Avant any indication
21	that they would have further communication with Apache
22	in regards to the JOA they had signed with Apache?
23	A I'm not sure.
24	Q Okay. Thank you. Let me draw your
25	attention to the next slide up, page 2 of 14 of
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1	Avant's rebuttal exhibits.
2	There's reference to the agreement between
3	Avant and Northern Oil & Gas, Incorporated here. Is
4	there currently a written agreement in regards to
5	this?
6	A There's a written agreement, yes, signed by
7	the parties.
8	Q Based upon your earlier response to
9	Mr. Rankin, would it be fair to say that Northern Oil
10	& Gas, Incorporated's working interest does not, as of
11	the date of this hearing, actually belong to Avant?
12	A Yes, that's probably correct.
13	Q Would it be fair to say that Northern Oil &
14	Gas, Incorporated's working interest is somewhere
15	between 10 and 16 percent, somewhere in that order of
16	magnitude?
17	A Yes.
18	Q As of now, what let me backtrack.
19	Has Northern Oil & Gas, Incorporated signed
20	a JOA in regards to this area?
21	A No because they plan to trade out of it.
22	Q To your understanding, what percent what
23	percent of the working interest does Avant currently
24	control in this proposed unit?
25	A Based on our title?
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1	Q Yes, based on your title.
2	A It's it is somewhere around just under
3	50 percent.
4	Sorry, owner committed.
5	Q No, excuse me. I stated controlled. I
6	guess maybe a better terminology would be committed, I
7	guess. That should be
8	A Okay. So what's on our Exhibit A-17
9	captures that interest at 49 point almost 8 percent as
10	committed.
11	You if you want to back out the Southwest
12	Royalties because you consider that neutralized, you
13	know, that could drop it to 49 we'll call it 49.5
14	and change.
15	Q Now, have has any of the deals and JOAs
16	signed as referenced in Avant's rebuttal exhibits,
17	does that affect the percentage on this Exhibit A-17?
18	A No. The only thing that has changed, which
19	I noted earlier, is Rock Products. We had previously
20	planned to acquire them. We had an agreement to
21	acquire.
22	And then they requested to sign a JOA
23	instead. And so we've since broken that interest out
24	to reflect it under JOA versus in our title interest.
25	It's very small.

1	Q In regards to committed working interests,
2	though, does that cause this percentage to change?
3	A No.
4	Q If I may direct you to page 64 of 124 in
5	Apache's exhibit.
6	A Okay.
7	Q Apache references a committed working
8	interest of 51.96 percent. Do you agree with this
9	value?
10	A No. It's also difficult to judge what's
11	going on with the interests that are rolled up as the
12	4.6875 percent.
13	Q And Ms. Albrecht, if I can direct your I
14	apologize for going back and forth between exhibits.
15	But if I can direct your attention to Avant's exhibit,
16	page 65 of 344.
17	A Okay.
18	Q The fifth bullet point down references
19	communications with uncommitted working interest
20	owners. Do you see that?
21	A You said the fifth bullet down?
22	Q Yes, the fifth bullet down. Yes, ma'am.
23	A Uh-huh.
24	Q It references a chart on the following
25	slide. Am I missing that chart, or is it later in the
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1	exhibit packet?
2	MS. HARDY: Mr. McClure, I can probably
3	clarify that. I believe that that refers to the chart
4	that you were just discussing. We had reordered the
5	exhibits to match the affidavit testimony. So I think
6	that's the
7	MR. MCCLURE: Which page is that,
8	Ms. Hardy?
9	MS. HARDY: Well, it's Avant
10	Exhibit A-18 and 17. I think it was referring to the
11	two charts on the committed interest owners and
12	uncommitted.
13	MS. ALBRECHT: We had a general time
14	line of communication that must not have with other
15	parties outside of Apache.
16	BY MR. MCCLURE:
17	Q Yeah, reviewing what Ms. Hardy had directed
18	me to, I'm not seeing a summary of communications
19	here, I guess. Do you believe maybe it's not
20	included, Ms. Albrecht, then?
21	A I do.
22	Q To your understanding, did Avant proceed in
23	good faith negotiations with all the uncommitted
24	working interest owners?
25	A Yes.

1	Q Okay. Thank you. We will we will also
2	need that exhibit submitted, by the way.
3	MR. MCCLURE: Okay. Thank you. I
4	believe I have no additional questions for
5	Ms. Albrecht at this time.
6	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
7	Mr. McClure, what exhibit do we need?
8	MR. MCCLURE: Well, it's referenced in
9	Exhibit A-23. I guess I do not I don't know what
10	the exhibit number would be for it, though. It's
11	their it's their summary of contacts with their
12	uncommitted working interest owners.
13	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And are you
14	asking Avant to amend an exhibit, or are you asking
15	them to submit a new exhibit?
16	MR. MCCLURE: Well, conceivably, it
17	would be an amendment to their overall Exhibit A to
18	include the missing slide. But I guess I could also
19	see where maybe it would be a new exhibit since it's
20	not included here.
21	THE HEARING EXAMINER: All right.
22	Thank you, Mr. McClure. We'll work it out.
23	Ms. Hardy, how do you want to address
24	that?
25	MS. HARDY: I think I could submit it
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	5 = -5

1	as a second page of Exhibit A-23, which I think is
2	what was intended.
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: A second page of
4	A-23.
5	MS. HARDY: Yes.
6	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Any objections,
7	Mr. Rankin?
8	MR. RANKIN: I haven't seen it yet, but
9	I doubt I will.
10	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So
11	Ms. Hardy, what will be on the second page of A-23?
12	MS. HARDY: I believe it would be a
13	chart of contacts with the uncommitted working
14	interest owners.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And Mr. McClure,
16	is that what you're looking for?
17	MR. MCCLURE: Yes, sir, Mr. Hearing
18	Examiner, exactly so.
19	THE HEARING EXAMINER: All right. So
20	that's the second amendment to your exhibit packet
21	that I understand. Is that correct?
22	MS. HARDY: That's correct.
23	THE HEARING EXAMINER: All right. So
24	we have A-28, which is going to be amended as we
25	discussed earlier. I'm not going to go back over
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1	that. And we have A-23, which is going to have a
2	second page.
3	And I'll ask you at the end of the
4	hearing, probably tomorrow I'm gathering at this
5	point, this is not going to end today.
6	And I think we need to talk about this.
7	I presume that you're going to want to do redirect for
8	this witness on the cross-examination questions.
9	I know you have two other witnesses
10	from Denver. But we're not going to be able to get to
11	all of it today. So I think we need to decide how
12	we're going to proceed after you do your redirect.
13	So why don't you do that? We can all
14	think in the meantime. And we'll talk about it after
15	you're done.
16	MS. HARDY: Okay.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: So please
18	proceed.
19	MS. HARDY: Thank you.
20	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And Mr. Jones, I
21	suspect that you'll interrupt if you have a question
22	for a witness. I'm not going to keep asking you.
23	MR. JONES: Yeah, that works for us.
24	Thank you.
25	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Thank
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1	you, Mr. Jones.
2	Ms. Hardy?
3	MS. HARDY: Okay. Thank you.
4	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
5	BY MS. HARDY:
6	Q Ms. Albrecht, Mr. Rankin questioned you
7	earlier and expressed concern about whether Avant is
8	motivated to drill these wells because it doesn't have
9	a term assignment that Apache has. Do you recall
10	those questions?
11	A I do.
12	Q Okay. And is it Avant's intent to drill
13	these wells in accordance with the time lines that are
14	set out in your hearing exhibits, and specifically
15	your Exhibit A-13, which includes the spud dates for
16	the wells?
17	A Yes.
18	Q And are the spud dates for those wells,
19	assuming you receive operatorship, do they meet the
20	term assignment deadline of March 25th that Apache is
21	concerned about?
22	A To clarify, I think it's March 31st on their
23	term assignment.
24	But yes, we would endeavor to drill those as
25	soon as possible. What's reflected in the time line

1	is the latest.
2	Q Okay. And with respect to the term
3	assignment, Apache certainly could've pooled its
4	acreage earlier; couldn't it have?
5	A Correct.
6	Q And it could've accepted a trade from Avant?
7	A Yes.
8	Q It also could've drilled in part of the
9	acreage where the leases weren't expired. Is that
10	correct?
11	A Correct.
12	Q Mr. Rankin asked you a number of questions
13	about the well proposals and AFEs. Do you remember
14	those questions?
15	A I do.
16	Q And he pointed out several pieces of
17	information that he identified as not being included
18	in the well proposals.
19	A Yes.
20	Q As reflected on your slide that sets out
21	your negotiations with Apache and I believe that
22	that's A-25 did Avant have extensive discussions
23	and negotiations and proposals that it made to Apache?
24	A Absolutely, yes.
25	Q And during those discussions, did Apache
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1	ever indicate that it did not have sufficient
2	information to evaluate Avant's proposal?
3	A That was never communicated, no.
4	Q And if Apache had indicated that it needed
5	more information, would Avant have provided it to
6	Apache?
7	A Absolutely, yes.
8	Q And based on your discussions with Apache,
9	was it your understanding that they felt they had
10	sufficient information to evaluate?
11	A Yes.
12	Q With respect to some of the questions about
13	Northern's interest and whether it's owned by Avant,
14	let me ask you this, based on the agreement between
15	and Northern, do you believe Northern's interest is
16	committed to Avant's unit?
17	A Yes.
18	MS. HARDY: Those are all of my
19	questions. Thank you.
20	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Rankin, any
21	cross-examination on those specific questions?
22	MR. RANKIN: Just one point,
23	Mr. Examiner.
24	//
25	//

1 RECROSS-EXAMINATION 2. BY MR. RANKIN: Ms. Albrecht, Ms. Hardy asked you about 3 0 whether or not the spud dates would satisfy the 4 5 conditions of the term assignment. Do you recall the 6 testimony you just gave in response to that question? Α Uh-huh. Now, you also told me that you have a copy 8 0 9 of the term assignment and you've reviewed it; 10 correct? 11 Uh-huh. Α 12 Are you aware that the term assignment O 13 requires not only that a well be spud and drilled, but that the last well drilled commence production? 14 15 sorry. Not commence production, that the last well 16 drilled be completed within 30 days of drilling? 17 If I recall, the definition of "completed" meant to read TD of drilling. 18 19 That's your understanding based on your 0 20 review of that TA? 2.1 Α I believe so. 22 So based on that understanding, do you 23 believe that Avant will satisfy the terms of the TA by 2.4 drilling to the total depth for each of the wells 25 identified on its exhibit showing the spud dates?

1	A We're going to drill these wells as soon as
2	we have the authority to do so. So I unless there
3	were some holdup that we would experience from this
4	pooling order delay, I don't I don't foresee us not
5	being able to drill sooner than the dates that were
6	listed on our exhibit and fully satisfying the terms
7	of that term assignment.
8	Q Okay.
9	A Again, I don't have the term assignment in
10	front of me. I'm going off of memory. And it's
11	that's my understanding. Because I did look at the
12	what constituted satisfaction of that. And I remember
13	it kicked into, like, a CDC period.
14	Q When you say a CDC period, what do you mean
15	by that?
16	A Continuous development.
17	Q Continuous drilling what was it?
18	A Yeah, it was a continuous development
19	clause.
20	Q Clause, yeah.
21	A So completion the the time between the
22	completion and abandonment of one well and when you
23	have to commence operations on the the next well.
24	MR. RANKIN: Thank you. No further
25	questions.

1	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. McClure?
2	MR. MCCLURE: No further questions,
3	Mr. Hearing Examiner.
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
5	Ms. Hardy, this witness may be excused.
6	You have two other witnesses. Is that
7	right?
8	MS. HARDY: That's correct.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: And now, do you
10	expect that your witnesses will stay the night in
11	Santa Fe tonight and be available in person tomorrow
12	morning, or do you not?
13	MS. HARDY: I believe they are
14	scheduled to leave this evening. But I can consult
15	with them regarding a plan.
16	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I don't have a
17	problem with their appearing virtually, obviously.
18	Apache's witnesses appeared virtually.
19	Why don't we get each one on the stand,
20	get them to adopt, make any corrections they need to
21	while they're here in person.
22	And then we'll handle the continuance
23	of this. What time tomorrow morning are the parties
24	prepared to counsel will be here. Witnesses will
25	be virtual. What time tomorrow do counsel agree to be
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1	here in the morning?
2	MS. HARDY: Can I just confer with my
3	witnesses very quickly?
4	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Sure. I want to
5	take a break. I'll be back in five minutes.
6	It is 3:29. I'll be back at 3:35.
7	Thank you.
8	(Off the record.)
9	MS. HARDY: So they can be here in the
10	morning.
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: We have about
12	half an hour left for today. How do you want to use
13	that time?
14	MS. HARDY: I'm fine to put them on, or
15	at least one of them on.
16	And actually, maybe if we're going to
17	stop in 30 minutes, then maybe we should just start
18	tomorrow morning.
19	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Well, I don't
20	know how long we're going to go tomorrow. And I'd
21	like to make use of the time. So we have about
22	25 minutes left before I'd like to quit at four
23	o'clock. Unless there's a really good reason not to.
24	MS. HARDY: I think that if we're going
25	to stop at four, we can just start tomorrow at 8:30.

1	I mean, I think it might make sense to have them just
2	start fresh tomorrow.
3	Or I could have Mister you know, my
4	geology witness verify his testimony. But I don't
5	know that it makes sense to have them address
6	substantive issues if we're starting tomorrow and we
7	only have 30 minutes, 25 minutes.
8	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. McClure, how
9	do you want to proceed?
LO	MR. MCCLURE: I have no preference in
L1	the matter, Mr. Hearing Examiner.
L2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy,
L3	normally, I would acquiesce to just starting fresh
L4	tomorrow with the two witnesses. But by the way this
L5	hearing has gone so far, I don't know how long it's
L6	going to take tomorrow. And I'd like to make use of
L7	the time.
L8	I still have a good half an hour in me
L9	that I can concentrate. So why don't you call your
20	next witness?
21	MS. HARDY: Sure. Our next witness is
22	Mr. John Harper.
23	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Harper, I'll
24	remind you you're under oath.
25	//

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION 2. BY MS. HARDY: 3 Good afternoon, Mr. Harper. 0 Good afternoon. 4 Α 5 Your testimony and exhibits have been 6 admitted into evidence in this matter. And that is Avant Exhibit B and subparts B-1 through B-17. 8 your testimony and the accompanying exhibits still true and correct, and do you verify them today under 9 oath? 10 11 Α Yes. And then we had also submitted rebuttal 12 13 exhibits. And let me just pull those up. And the rebuttal exhibits that you have 14 15 sponsored are Exhibits B-19 through B-22. Are those 16 rebuttal exhibits true and correct, and you verify 17 them? 18 I believe I also included B-18, summary of Α 19 APA's inaccurate depth argument. 2.0 0 Yes, yes. 21 Yes, B-18 through B-22 responding, yes. Α 22 Okay. And let me share my screen here. 0 23 Mr. Harper, I wanted to go through first 24 with you your rebuttal exhibits since those weren't 25 addressed, obviously, in your direct testimony.

1	So can you please look at and I'm pulling
2	up
3	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Ms. Hardy?
4	MS. HARDY: Yes?
5	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Could you ask
6	your witness if he will adopt his exhibits under oath?
7	BY MS. HARDY:
8	Q Will you adopt your exhibits under oath?
9	A Yes.
10	Q Yes, thank you. If we look at Exhibit B-18,
11	that exhibit deals with Apache's depth argument. Do
12	you have anything to add, or do you feel like that's
13	been sufficiently addressed today?
14	A I I do feel like it's been sufficiently
15	addressed. Just want to reiterate that, you know, if
16	there were questions or concerns about the TVD depth
17	in proposals, no communication, to my knowledge, was
18	brought to our attention to ask for clarification.
19	I also want to show that it is very common
20	that the TVD depths do vary across the basin. You
21	know, we don't have an infinite amount of data points
22	to know exactly where the target interval is going to
23	be. So we best-guess scenario.
24	And we use, just, an example from Apache
25	themselves to show that their permitted TVD depth was

1	211 feet below their actual or sorry above their
2	actual landing depth.
3	So it is obvious and commonplace that, you
4	know, TVDs are an estimate.
5	Q And do you adjust them as you're preparing
6	to drill and drilling based on the best information
7	that you have?
8	A Yes, ma'am. We prepare those as as we
9	are drilling the wells themselves.
10	Q Okay. Then let's look at the next rebuttal
11	exhibit, which is B-19. Can you please explain what
12	you're trying to show on that exhibit and what points
13	you are rebutting provided by Apache?
14	A This is in contrast to what Apache brought
15	up referencing their Salt Fork, in this case, 3BS
16	wells versus Avant's 3BS wells.
17	You can see the second log from left to
18	right labeled number two as the type log from the Salt
19	Fork area versus the third log from the left
20	sorry as the Cutbow type log.
21	Going down to the bottom of the screen,
22	seeing the Third Bone Spring sand, which is like for
23	like in terms of the horizontal targets were drilled
24	in.
25	Based on the overall porosity and reservoir

1	quality indicators, the Salt Fork wells that Apache
2	reference are in far thicker, far better reservoir
3	quality than Cutbow's Third Bone Spring sand wells.
4	So making that analogue is not applicable in this case
5	given that the Salt Fork wells are in much better rock
6	than ours.
7	Q And let me just find the Apache exhibit that
8	you were referring to. Do you happen to know which
9	Apache exhibit that is?
10	A I do not. But I here we go. No, those
11	are rebuttals.
12	It's their Apache page 19. But I don't have
13	the PDF.
14	Q Of their original exhibits; correct?
15	A Correct.
16	Q Yes.
17	THE HEARING EXAMINER: It's easier when
18	you know the page number just to put it in to where
19	MS. HARDY: Up here?
20	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Up there, yes.
21	It's much faster. You can get to where you want to go
22	very quickly.
23	MS. HARDY: Thank you. That's very
24	helpful to know.
25	

1	BY MS. HARDY:
2	Q I think we've got the wrong page number.
3	Well, it's their slide. I believe it's Slide 19. Is
4	that right?
5	A In the bottom right-hand corner, it just
6	says, yeah, page 19. It's historical well
7	performance.
8	Keep going. Keep going. Black map on the
9	right. It's left.
L O	Q This one?
L1	A Nineteen. Keep going.
L2	Q Okay. So in this slide, they're comparing
L3	Cutbow to their Salt Fork wells?
L4	A Correct. And they state that their Salt
L5	Fork wells greatly outperforms Avant's Cutbow wells.
L6	Q And so in your exhibit, you're providing the
L 7	type log that shows the Salt Fork wells were drilled
L8	in very different rock?
L9	A Correct.
20	Q And so is it your testimony that they are
21	not an appropriate analogue for comparison?
22	A That is correct.
23	Q Okay. And what else are you intending to
24	show with this exhibit?
25	A This just kind of goes over the First,
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1	Second, and Third Bone Spring sands across Apache's
2	acreage position and well references versus Avant's as
3	well, just to show that there is high variability in
4	depth, thicknesses, reservoir quality.
5	So making assumptions basin-wide or
6	county-wide or, you know, not specific to the area is
7	very dangerous as the geology changes significantly
8	and should be treated as such.
9	Q And in Apache's comparisons in their
10	exhibits, do they generally or frequently refer to the
11	entire basin or the larger geographic area?
12	A Generally generally, yes, a larger
13	geographic area than what I think is geologically
14	applicable.
15	Q And then can you explain what you were
16	showing on Avant Exhibit B-19?
17	A Yeah. B-20?
18	Q Yes. Sorry.
19	A B-20 is a rebuttal slide that we put
20	together in response to Apache's Slide 26. We can
21	look at it later.
22	But basically, this slide shows every single
23	well that Apache referenced on their Slide 26
24	showing or indicating that we were out of
25	compliance with the NMOCD by not having approved

1	C-104s and also that, you know, Avant has 30 well
2	completions producing without said C-104s, even though
3	in a previous slide, they stated that they we've
4	only produced or drilled 13 wells.
5	So regardless of the well count completions,
6	this slide was meant to show that, yes, these are the
7	exact same wells that Apache referenced seen here, but
8	here here are our submittal dates of all the
9	C-104 RTs that were submitted that they did not
10	reference or show as well as the C-104 NWs as well to
11	show that we are in compliance regardless of their
12	statements.
13	The next two slides reference communications
14	with the OCD as well regarding the C-104s.
15	Q In those communications, did OCD advise
16	Avant that they were authorized to proceed because
17	there was a backlog of approval on the C-104s?
18	A Yes, ma'am.
19	Q Okay. And then Apache had raised the issue
20	in their direct slides of Avant flaring. And so can
21	you tell me what this slide discusses?
22	A Sure. Yes, this is a rebuttal slide, a
23	screenshot of an article that the Department of
24	Justice put together in February of this year showing
25	Apache's poor stance on flaring and venting, so much

1	so, it outlines the \$4 million fine as well as an
2	addition five and a half million dollars for future
3	preventative measures to address said issue.
4	So this is just going to show that, yes, you
5	know, Avant has had gas flaring issues that we have
6	addressed since this statement, but Apache has not,
7	you know in terms when it comes to terms of gas
8	flaring and venting in New Mexico.
9	Q And is the document shown on the right side
10	of the slide well, is it your understanding that
11	that's a public record?
12	A Yes, it is.
13	Q And where did you obtain it?
14	A I Googled it and acquired it from the
15	Department of Justice website.
16	Q And it's labeled at the top A Press Release
17	From the US Department of Justice?
18	A Yes, ma'am.
19	Q And did Apache mention that settlement and
20	lawsuit in any of its slides?
21	A Absolutely not. They would not talk about
22	it.
23	Q And then let's look at your next slide,
24	which is Exhibit B-22. Can you explain what you are
25	showing here?

1	A This is public data on Apache's total spills
2	dating back to 1999. This was just to further show
3	that Apache is not a prudent steward of the lands in
4	New Mexico, not only on the air, but also on the
5	ground, showing that they have had 441 reported
6	spills, even dating back to this '94.
7	128 of those are still active to this date.
8	This is inclusive of crude oil spills as well as
9	produced water.
10	Q I think those are all of your rebuttal
11	slides.
12	A Yes, ma'am.
13	Q And let's look at Apache's rebuttal slides.
14	And I'm looking at their Slide 32.
15	A Yes, ma'am.
16	Q Do you have that?
17	A Yes, ma'am.
18	Q Okay. Can you provide a response to what
19	they are showing on that slide?
20	A It seems that this is a slide on the First
21	Bone Spring sandstone, which is Avant's Grayling 300
22	series. They show a cross section going from the Dust
23	Bowl unit to Cutbow all the way down to Ghost Rider
24	and then Golden Tee.
25	The map on the left is a structure map. It
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1 looks like it's on the top of the Second Bone Spring 2 carbonate, which is below the First Bone Spring sand. 3 The type log or the cross sections show the -- what looks to be the gamma-ray log and a 4 5 resistivity log. It shows some spacing assumptions for what they plan to do at Dust Bowl, what we plan to 6 do at Grayling, what we've done at Cutbow, Golden Tee, 8 and then what they've done at Ghost Rider. 9 One thing that I will note -- two things that I want to make on record of this slide is, in the 10 11 bottom left-hand corner underneath the structure map, 12 it says, "Apache developed Ghost Rider at four wells 13 per spacing. Apache will develop their Dust Bowl unit 14 at four wells per spacing due to similar thickness and 15 target quality." 16 I -- I disagree wholeheartedly on the target 17 quality correlation between their Dust Bowl unit and their Ghost Rider unit. 18 Their Ghost Rider unit is roughly 1300 feet 19 20 deeper, higher pressure, and significantly higher porosity, which they don't show on any of these logs, 21 22 which is a reservoir quality indicator. 23 So making the comparison that the Dust Bowl 2.4 and Ghost Rider have similar target quality, in my opinion, is inaccurate. 25

1	I'd also like to show that the Avant Cutbow
2	six-well spacing, it's we we did do six-well
3	spacing on the east half, and we'll and we're
4	pleased with the results on those spacings.
5	At one point in time or at the same
6	development, we will drill six wells for spacing in
7	the First, Second, and Third as well.
8	Q And is Cutbow the closest development to
9	this proposed development in this case?
10	A It is. I would also like to note that
11	Apache, for whatever reason, left out Avant's Speyside
12	unit that is in between the Golden Tee and Ghost
13	Rider, so much closer to Cutbow than the Golden Tee or
14	Ghost Rider.
15	In our Speyside unit, we drill the 301 and
16	302H spaced endzone at 660 spacing, which is eight
17	wells per section. And we're extremely pleased with
18	those results.
19	Q Is it your testimony that the results you've
20	seen at Cutbow and at Speyside would be more similar
21	to the results you expect at Grayling than the other
22	analogues Apache has listed here?
23	A Absolutely.
24	Q And let's look at Apache's Slide 33 on
25	rebuttal. Do you have comments, or would you like to
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1	respond to this?
2	A Not at this time.
3	Q It similarly includes the Ghost Rider unit
4	27 miles away.
5	A Correct, yes. It has the same same type
6	log, same general showing in terms of data. I don't
7	have any great comments on this slide.
8	Q And what about Slide 34, which is the Third
9	Bone Spring spacing?
10	A The only thing that I will note is that we
11	also did two Third Bone Spring sand wells at our
12	Speyside unit, which is, again, closer to Cutbow than
13	the Golden Tee or Ghost Rider is.
14	Those two Third Bone Spring sand wells are
15	also spaced at 660 or eight wells per section. And we
16	are pleased with those results as well.
17	Q So this slide has the same issues as the
18	first slide?
19	A First one.
20	Q And did you have anything to address on this
21	four-string casing slide?
22	A Only that it was a little confusing as to
23	the addition of this slide. Our well proposals and
24	AFEs that were sent out in September say and show both
25	three-string designs for our Grayling development. So

1	I'm not sure why the four-string rebuttal slide was
2	needed.
3	Q And this one, I believe, will be addressed
4	by Mister
5	A Mr. Kelly, yes.
6	Q Yeah, Mr. Kelly. Okay. And then with
7	respect to Apache's initial slides, were there
8	specific slides that you wanted to point out that you
9	disagreed with or had concerns about?
10	A None on the geology side that I don't think
11	we've already addressed.
12	Q That we addressed in our rebuttal?
13	A Yes, ma'am.
14	,
	MS. HARDY: Okay. Thank you. Those
15	are all of my questions, Mr. Harper, for now.
16	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And so
17	you're done with your direct and your rebuttal case
18	with this witness. And we will begin tomorrow morning
19	with cross-examination by Mr. Rankin and then
20	Mr. McClure.
21	So did you say 8:30?
22	MS. HARDY: That would be great.
23	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Does that work
24	for your witnesses, 8:30? Okay.
25	Mr. Rankin, does that work for you?
	D 001
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1	MR. RANKIN: It works for me.
2	THE HEARING EXAMINER: 8:30, okay.
3	Because the doors open here at eight o'clock. You
4	can't get in before that.
5	Mr. McClure, are you okay with 8:30 for
6	tomorrow?
7	MR. MCCLURE: Yes, sir, Mr. Hearing
8	Examiner. That works for me.
9	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
10	Mr. Cogsgrove [sic], 8:30 is good for you?
11	Thank you, sir.
12	And Mr. Jones?
13	MR. JONES: Yeah, 8:30 works for us.
14	Thank you.
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: All right. Then
16	we will go off the record now. It is 3:56 p.m. on May
17	29, 2024. And we will come back tomorrow and
18	continue. Thank you.
19	(Whereupon, at 3:56 p.m., the
20	proceeding was concluded.)
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
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1 CERTIFICATE 2 I, JAMES COGSWELL, the officer before whom 3 the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing 4 5 proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and 6 thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of 8 9 said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the 10 best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am 11 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any 12 of the parties to the action in which this was taken; 13 and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties 14 15 hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the 16 outcome of this action. 17 18 JAMES COGSWELL Notary Public in and for the 19 20 State of New Mexico 2.1 22 23 2.4 2.5

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