



NSL-4955(SA)

# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**BILL RICHARDSON**  
Governor

March 26, 2004

Joanna Prukop  
Cabinet Secretary  
Acting Director  
Oil Conservation Division

**Apache Corporation**  
c/o **James Bruce**  
P. O. Box 1056  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

*Administrative Order NSL-4955-A (SD)*

Dear Mr. Bruce:

Reference is made to the following: (i) your application (*administrative application reference No. pMES0-408553292*) dated February 5, 2004 filed on behalf of the operator, Apache Corporation ("Apache"); (ii) your e-mail on Monday morning, February 23, 2004; (iii) our telephone conversation late Monday afternoon, February 23, 2004; (iv) Ms. Cindy McGee's e-mail with attachments on Tuesday, February 24, 2004 to supplement this application; (v) our e-mail correspondence on Wednesday, February 25, 2004; (vi) your e-mail on Tuesday morning March 23, 2004 checking on the status of Apache's remaining applications in this area; and (vii) the Division's records in Santa Fe, including the files on Division Administrative Orders NSL-4955 (SD) and NSL-4959 (SD): all concerning Apache Corporation's request for an unorthodox "infill" oil well location within an existing standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit comprising the SE/4 SE/4 (Unit P) of Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Penrose Skelly (Grayburg) Pool (50350), Lea County, New Mexico.

**The Division Finds That:**

(1) All of Section 9 is within the Penrose Skelly (Grayburg) Pool; an oil pool governed under Division Rule 104.B (1), which provides for 40-acre oil spacing and proration units and requires wells be located no closer than 330 feet to the outer boundary of such unit.

(2) The 958.25-acre area in Lea County, New Mexico comprising the SW/4 NE/4 and NW/4 SW/4 of Section 13, Township 20 South, Range 37 East, NMPM; Lot 1 of Section 30, Township 20 South, Range 38 East, NMPM; and Lots 3 and 6 of Section 4, the NE/4 SE/4 and S/2 SE/4 of Section 6; the E/2 SW/4 and SE/4 of Section 8; and the E/2 NW/4 and S/2 of Section 9, all in Township 21 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, is a single federal lease (Hawk "B-1") issued by the U. S. Bureau of Land Management (U. S. government lease No. NM-90161) with common ownership in which: (i) Apache, Chevron U.S.A., Inc. ("Chevron"), and BP America Production Company ("BP") each own undivided operating rights; and (ii) Apache is the leasehold operator.

(3) This 40-acre Grayburg unit is currently simultaneously dedicated to Apache's Hawk "B-1" Well No. 27 (API No. 30-025-35806) located at a standard oil well location 830 feet from the South line and 900 feet from the East line of Section 9.

(4) By Division Administrative Order NSL-4955 (SD), dated October 31, 2003, Apache was granted authorization to drill its Hawk "B-1" Well No. 36 (API No. 30-025-36530) at an unorthodox infill oil well location 1310 feet from the South and East lines of Section 9 and to simultaneously dedicate this well to the subject 40-acre Grayburg unit.

(5) Apache now seeks to drill its Hawk "B-1" Well No. 35 at an unorthodox infill oil well location within this 40-acre Grayburg unit 160 feet from the South line and 1310 feet from the East line of Section 9.

(6) The NE/4 of Section 16, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico is a single state lease (Harry Leonard NCT-E) issued by the New Mexico State Land Office (State Lease No. B-1732-1) with common ownership in which Chevron is the lessee of record and leasehold operator. The two-affected standard 40-acre Grayburg oil spacing and proration units operated by Chevron to the south that Apache's proposed Hawk "B-1" Well No. 35 is encroaching are:

(a) the NE/4 NE/4 (Unit A) of Section 16 which is currently dedicated to Chevron's Harry Leonard NCT-E Well No. 6 (API No. 30-025-25198), located at a standard oil well location 330 feet from the North line and 600 feet from the East line of Section; and

(b) the NW/4 NE/4 (Unit B) of Section 16 which is currently dedicated to Chevron's Harry Leonard NCT-E Well No. 3 (API No. 30-025-06622), located at a standard oil well location 660 feet from the North line and 1980 feet from the East line of Section 16.

(7) This request is based on geologic and engineering reasons in that this location is approximately equidistance to other offsetting Penrose Skelly (Grayburg) oil producers within the immediate area.

(8) Apache, BP, Chevron, the New Mexico State Land Office, and the U. S. Bureau of Land Management have entered into a "cooperative lease/well agreement" providing for the allocation of proceeds of Penrose Skelly (Grayburg) oil production from Apache's proposed Hawk "B-1" Well No. 35 in the following manner:

(a) 56.56% to be attributed to the subject Hawk "B-1" federal lease (U. S. government lease No. NM-90161); and

(b) 43.44% attributed to Chevron's Harry Leonard NCT-E state lease (State lease No. B-1732-1).

(9) This allocation formula for the proceeds from Apache's proposed Hawk "B-1" Well No. 35 serves to benefit all mineral interests within the Penrose Skelly (Grayburg) Pool to be impacted by this well's drainage.

(10) Approval of this application is in the best interest of conservation, will serve to prevent waste, protects correlative rights, exhibits sound engineering practices, and allows for the recovery of additional reserves that might not otherwise be produced.

**It Is Therefore Ordered That:**

(1) Pursuant to Division Rule 104.F (2), of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division's ("Division") Rules and Regulations, the administrative application of Apache Corporation (Apache") (*administrative application reference No. pMES0-408553292*) for its proposed Hawk "B-1" Well No. 35 to be drilled at an unorthodox infill oil well location 160 feet from the South line and 1310 feet from the East line (Unit P) of Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, and completed in the Penrose Skelly (Grayburg) Pool (50350), is hereby approved.

(2) For the Division's production reporting, prorationing, and well spacing purposes, Grayburg oil production from the above-described Hawk "B-1" Well No. 35 is to be simultaneously dedicated, with the following two wells, to the SE/4 SE/4 (Unit P) of Section 9, being a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit in the Penrose Skelly (Grayburg) Pool:

(a) Apache's existing Hawk "B-1" Well No. 27 (API No. 30-025-35806) located at a standard oil well location 830 feet from the South line and 900 feet from the East line of Section 9; and

(b) Apache's proposed Hawk "B-1" Well No. 36 (API No. 30-025-36530) to be located at an unorthodox infill oil well location [approved by Division Administrative Order NSL-4955 (SD), dated October 31, 2003] 1310 feet from the South and East lines of Section 9.

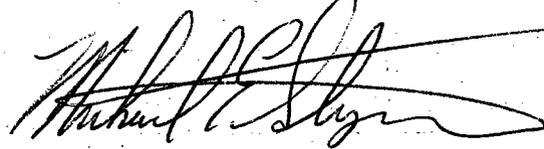
(3) The distribution of proceeds from Penrose Skelly (Grayburg) oil production from Apache's proposed Hawk "B-1" Well No. 35 are to be allocated in the following manner:

(a) 56.56% attributed to the subject Hawk "B-1" federal lease (U. S. government lease No. NM-90161); and

(b) 43.44% attributed to Chevron's Harry Leonard NCT-E state lease (State lease No. B-1732-1).

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



MICHAEL E. STOGNER  
Engineer/Hearing Officer

MS/mes

cc: New Mexico Oil Conservation Division - Hobbs  
New Mexico State Land Office - Santa Fe  
U. S. Bureau of Land Management - Roswell  
U. S. Bureau of Land Management - Carlsbad  
File: NSL-4955.(SD)