

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

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

CASE NO. 11628  
ORDER NO. R-10696

APPLICATION OF BURLINGTON RESOURCES  
OIL & GAS COMPANY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A DOWNHOLE COMMINGLING "REFERENCE  
CASE" FOR ITS SAN JUAN 28-6 UNIT PURSUANT  
TO DIVISION RULE 303.E. AND THE ADOPTION  
OF SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES THEREFOR,  
SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO..

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on October 17 and November 7, 1996, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiners David R. Catanach and Michael E. Stogner, respectively.

NOW, on this 12th day of November, 1996, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

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

(2) The applicant, Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company (Burlington), pursuant to the provisions of Division Rule 303.E., seeks to establish a downhole commingling "reference case" to provide exceptions for (a) marginal economic criteria, (b) pressure criteria, (c) allocation formulas and (d) modification of notification rules on a unit-wide basis for downhole commingling of Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland Coal and Pictured Cliffs gas production within existing or future drilled wells within the San Juan 28-6 Unit, San Juan County, New Mexico.

(3) Division Rule No. 303.E., amended by Order No. R-10470-A, currently states:

- c) establish a "reference case" whereby the Division utilizes the data presented in the immediate case to endorse or approve certain methods of allocating production whereby the applicant need not submit additional data or justification when proposing a certain method of allocating production on Form C-107-A's subsequently filed for wells within the San Juan 28-6 Unit; and,
- d) establish a "reference case" or an administrative procedure for authorizing the downhole commingling of existing or future drilled wells within the San Juan 28-6 Unit without additional notice to each affected interest owner as required by Division Rule No. 303.D.

(7) In support of its request to except marginal economic criteria, the applicant presented geologic and engineering evidence and testimony which indicates that within the San Juan 28-6 Unit:

- a) the structure and thickness of the Dakota and Pictured Cliffs formations are very consistent;
- b) the average recoverable Dakota and Pictured Cliffs gas reserves underlying an undeveloped drill block are approximately 449 MMCFG and 186 MMCFG, respectively;
- c) the average initial producing rate for a newly drilled or recompleted Dakota and Pictured Cliffs gas well is approximately 254 MCFGD and 216 MCFGD, respectively; and,
- d) the estimated ultimate gas recoveries and initial producing rates from the Dakota and Pictured Cliffs formations are insufficient to justify drilling stand alone wells and/or dually completed wells to recover such gas reserves.

(8) The evidence and testimony presented by the applicant indicates that the Dakota and Pictured Cliffs formations within the San Juan 28-6 Unit should be properly classified as "marginal".

(9) In support of its request to except pressure criteria within the Dakota and Pictured Cliffs formations within the San Juan 28-6 Unit, the applicant presented engineering evidence and testimony which indicates that:

- c) providing notice to each interest owner within the San Juan 28-6 Unit of subsequent downhole comminglings is unnecessary and is an excessive burden on the applicant;
- d) the downhole commingling of wells within the San Juan 28-6 Unit Area will benefit working, royalty, and overriding royalty interest owners. In addition, the downhole commingling of wells within the San Juan 28-6 Unit should not violate the correlative rights of any interest owner;
- e) no interest owner appeared at the hearing in opposition to the establishment of a "reference case" or administrative procedure for notice.

(14) An administrative procedure should be established within the San Juan 28-6 Unit for obtaining approval for subsequent downhole commingled wells without notice to Unit interest owners, provided however that, all other provisions contained within Division Rule No. 303.C. are complied with.

(15) Approval of the proposed "reference cases" for marginal economic criteria, pressure criteria, allocation formulas and notice will lessen the burden on the applicant insofar as providing the data required pursuant to Division Rule No. 303.D. and Form C-107-A, will provide the applicant a streamlined method for obtaining downhole commingling approvals within the San Juan 28-6 Unit, and will not violate correlative rights.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

(1) The application of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company to establish a "reference case" for (a) marginal economic criteria, (b) pressure criteria, (c) allocation formulas and (d) modification of notification rules on a unit-wide basis for downhole commingling of Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland Coal and Pictured Cliffs gas production within existing or future drilled wells within the San Juan 28-6 Unit, San Juan County, New Mexico, is hereby approved.