

**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. 11772
Order No. R-10810**

**APPLICATION OF RICHARDSON OPERATING
COMPANY FOR DOWNHOLE COMMINGLING
AND AN UNORTHODOX COAL GAS WELL
LOCATION, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on May 15, 1997, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 3rd day of June, 1997, 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, Richardson Operating Company, seeks approval to drill its Bushman "6" Federal Well No. 1 at an unorthodox coal gas well location 1041 feet from the South line and 1136 feet from the East line (Unit P) of Section 6, Township 29 North, Range 14 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.

(3) The applicant further seeks authority to downhole commingle the Pictured Cliffs/Fruitland Sand and Fruitland Coal formations, Twin Mounds Fruitland Sand-Pictured Cliffs and Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pools, within the aforesaid Bushman "6" Federal Well No. 1.

(4) The E/2 and SE/4 of Section 6 are to be dedicated to the subject well, respectively, in the Basin-Fruitland Coal and Twin Mounds Fruitland Sand-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pools, thereby forming standard 320-acre and 160-acre gas spacing and proration units for said pools.

(10) Approval of the proposed unorthodox coal gas well location will afford the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the gas in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, will prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells and will otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

(11) Applicant's evidence further indicates that the proposed downhole commingling is necessary in order to recover marginal reserves within both the Fruitland Sand/Pictured Cliffs and Fruitland Coal formations.

(12) The data currently available indicates that the proposed Bushman "6" Federal Well No. 1 qualifies for downhole commingling pursuant to Division Rule No. 303.C.

(13) The applicant proposes to allocate production from the Bushman "6" Federal Well No. 1 utilizing: a) initial flow rate data from the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool; b) initial flow rate data from the commingled stream; c) calculated decline rate from the Pictured Cliffs/Fruitland Sand formations; d) calculated Pictured Cliffs/Fruitland Sand production rate using the formula $Q_{PC} = Q_{PCi} \cdot e^{-Dt}$, where t is any time in months; e) calculated production rate from the Fruitland Coal formation utilizing total production rate minus calculated Pictured Cliffs/Fruitland Sand production rate.

(14) Applicant's proposed method of allocation is fair, reasonable and should be adopted.

(15) The applicant should consult with the supervisor of the Division's Aztec District Office upon completion and testing of the well in order to properly determine and initialize the allocation method.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The applicant, Richardson Operating Company, is hereby authorized to drill its Bushman "6" Federal Well No. 1 at an unorthodox coal gas well location 1041 feet from the South line and 1136 feet from the East line (Unit P) of Section 6, Township 29 North, Range 14 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.

(2) The applicant is further authorized to downhole commingle the Twin Mounds Fruitland Sand-Pictured Cliffs and Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pools within the aforesaid Bushman "6" Federal Well No. 1.

COUNTY San Juan

POOL Twin Mounds - Pictured Cliffs

Fruitland SAND

TOWNSHIP 29 North

RANGE 14 West

NMPM

6	5	4	3	2	1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	
18	17	16	15	14	13	
19	20	21	22	23	24	
30	29	28	27	26	25	
31	32	33	34	35	36	

Ext: All Secs 5 & 8 (R-5470, 7-1-77) 1/2 Sec 6 (R-7277, 5-5-83)

Extend vertical limits to include Fruitland formation and redesignate

as Twin Mounds Fruitland - Pictured Cliffs Pool. Ext: SE/4 Sec. 6 (R-7495, 4-5-84)

REDESIGNATED (R-8769, 10/17/88)