

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

6 APPLICATION OF APACHE CORPORATION
7 FOR APPROVAL, RETROACTIVELY, FOR
8 SURFACE COMMINGLING AND AN
9 EXCEPTION TO THE METERING
10 REQUIREMENTS OF DIVISION
11 RULE 19.15.12.10(C) (1) NMAC,
12 LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO. 14944

ORIGINAL

10 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

11 EXAMINER HEARING

12
13 BEFORE: WILLIAM V. JONES, Chief Examiner
14 DAVID K. BROOKS, Legal Examiner

15 January 24, 2013

16 Santa Fe, New Mexico

17
18 This matter came on for hearing before the
19 New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, William V. Jones,
20 Chief Examiner, and David K. Brooks, Legal Examiner, on
21 Thursday, January 24, 2013, at the New Mexico Energy,
22 Minerals and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South
23 St. Francis Drive, Porter Hall, Room 102,
24 Santa Fe, New Mexico.

25 REPORTED BY: Mary C. Hankins, CCR, RPR
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35

1 (8:23 a.m.)

2 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Let's go ahead and
3 call Case 14944, application of Apache Corporation for
4 approval, retroactively, for surface commingling and an
5 exception to the metering requirements of Division Rule
6 19.15.12.10(C)(1) NMAC, Lea County, New Mexico.

7 Call for appearances.

8 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom
9 Kellahin of the Santa Fe law firm of Kellahin and
10 Kellahin. We're in association with Mr. Earl DeBrine,
11 of the Albuquerque law firm of Modrall. Together we're
12 in association to represent Apache in this case. We
13 have two witnesses to be sworn.

14 EXAMINER JONES: Any other appearances?
15 And for the record, we have an objection
16 from the BLM.

17 EXAMINER BROOKS: It's an objection. They
18 didn't appear. They never do.

19 EXAMINER JONES: Any other appearances?
20 Will the witnesses -- two witnesses please
21 stand?

22 And will the court reporter please swear
23 the witnesses?

24 (Ms. Hanson and Mr. Mills sworn.)

25 EXAMINER BROOKS: When we get through with

1 this hearing, I'll convert it into my new rule book
2 (laughter).

3 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

4 MICHELLE HANSON,

5 after having been previously sworn under oath, was
6 questioned and testified as follows:

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. DEBRINE:

9 Q. Can you state your name, please?

10 A. Michelle Hanson.

11 Q. Ms. Hanson, who do you work for?

12 A. Apache Corporation.

13 Q. Could you describe for the Examiner your
14 position and your responsibilities for Apache?

15 A. I am a landman for Apache, and I've worked in
16 the New Mexico area since I became a landman with Apache
17 in 2006.

18 Q. What is your educational background?

19 A. I graduated from Oklahoma State University with
20 a degree in international business in 2003. And I went
21 to work for Apache immediately, and they made me a
22 landman in 2006.

23 Q. How many years has Apache been operating oil
24 and gas wells in New Mexico?

25 A. Since the mid-'90s.

1 Q. Have you ever provided land testimony in years
2 before to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Divison and
3 the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission?

4 A. I have.

5 Q. Was your testimony accepted as an expert in oil
6 and gas management?

7 A. It was.

8 MR. DEBRINE: We would ask that Ms. Hanson
9 be accepted as an expert in oil and gas management.

10 EXAMINER JONES: So qualified.

11 Q. (BY MR. DEBRINE) Ms. Hanson, were you
12 responsible for preparing the application of Apache for
13 the commingling that we're seeking here today?

14 A. I did help, yes.

15 Q. And do you have that in front of you there?

16 A. I do.

17 MR. DEBRINE: Mr. Examiner, we prepared an
18 exhibit book, which consists of Exhibits 1 through 8.
19 Most of these were also exhibits to Apache's
20 application. Since this is not a contested hearing,
21 we'd just ask that they be admitted and accepted into
22 evidence. And we'll just ask the witness to refer to
23 them as we go through the hearing today.

24 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 1 through 8 will
25 be accepted.

1 (Apache Corporation Exhibits Numbers
2 1 through 8 were offered and admitted into
3 evidence.)

4 Q. (BY MR. DEBRINE) What I'd like you to do,
5 Ms. Hanson, is take the Examiner through the application
6 and the exhibits. What is Exhibit 1 in the exhibit
7 book?

8 A. Exhibit 1, if you go ahead -- you both have a
9 book -- is Exhibit A that was attached to the
10 application, and it's a plat of Hawk B-1 lease, which is
11 the lease that we have brought here to seek surface
12 commingling approval.

13 Just to kind of paint you a picture, the
14 Hawk B-1 lease is the yellow acreage, and all the normal
15 wells you see, what we'll refer to as normal wells, are
16 just the well spots on the map.

17 You'll also see some big, large blue
18 circles around some of the wells. These are what we
19 will refer to as leaseline wells.

20 Q. What is the distinction between the two?

21 A. A normal lease well, all of them have common
22 interest ownership, working and revenue. With the
23 leaseline wells, as you can see, they are leaselines.
24 So they share production with the offset leases. We
25 have agreements in place, property well agreements, with

1 the BLM and communication agreements, where applicable,
2 with the State of New Mexico to drain, so from the
3 Hawk B-1 lease and the offset lease.

4 And you will see three of those wells. On
5 the northwest corner of the map, you'll see the Hawk A
6 lease, which is also a federal lease. Three of the
7 wells, three of the blue circles, share between the Hawk
8 B-1 and the Hawk A lease production. You'll see two
9 wells on the right. The northeast corner is the
10 Southland Royalty A Fee Lease. Those two wells share
11 between federal land and fee land. To the south, you
12 have one well that shares between our Hawk B-1 lease and
13 Chevron's state lease.

14 Moving on from that, you also see different
15 colored circles. You have a small red circle on the
16 very left-hand side, the Hawk B-1 55. It's a smaller
17 red circle. That is a nonconsent well. We own this
18 lease, 75 percent, and Chevron owns the other 25
19 percent. We have a JOA in place. They are nonconsent.
20 They have different -- this one is different interests.

21 Then you have the two purple circles. One,
22 the smaller circle, is a normal lease well, but the two
23 purple circles are two Abo wells. The bigger purple
24 circle is a lease line well, and we have the BLM's new
25 communitization agreement for that well in place.

1 You'll see two blue boxes in unit letter K
2 of Section 9. The two batteries -- we have the Hawk B-1
3 battery, as you'll see, has -- or services 32 of the
4 wells, the Grayburg-San Andres wells. The Hawk Federal
5 B-1 services the two Abo wells, if that makes sense.
6 Please ask a question. I'm trying to explain it.

7 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Say it one more
8 time about which goes to which.

9 A. The Hawk B-1 -- because we'll be referring to
10 both of them. And one of them we call Hawk B-1; the
11 other one -- they're both federal, but one is Hawk B-1
12 and one is Hawk Federal B-1. The Hawk B-1 we -- tank
13 battery. There are two 500 oil -- 500-gallon tank
14 batteries. The 32 Grayburg-San Andres wells feed into
15 that, those two tank batteries. On the same location
16 are the other two tank batteries that service the two
17 Abo wells.

18 So the Abo, Grayburg and San Andres are not
19 being commingled. The Grayburg and San Andres are being
20 serviced. The Abo is going into separate tank
21 batteries.

22 And we do have a facility diagram. That
23 will be shown later. It's in the back of the book, and
24 Clinton will come up and discuss that.

25 Q. (BY MR. DEBRINE) Could you explain for the

1 Examiner what Apache is seeking through its application
2 today?

3 A. We are seeking retroactive approval to surface
4 commingle the Grayburg and San Andres production from
5 the normal wells and the lease line wells and allocate
6 bimonthly well tests to each of these wells.

7 Q. How did Apache discover the issue with regard
8 for the need to obtain the Division's approval for the
9 commingling of the wells that are subject of the
10 application?

11 A. Apache has grown through the years by
12 acquisition, with several large acquisitions. We did an
13 internal review of all of our leases in Lea County,
14 New Mexico and Eddy County, and we identified those
15 where we've had more than one pool being commingled into
16 a central tank battery. Most of the leases that we
17 identified, that we had those in place, are all -- the
18 interest ownership is all the same. All we need to do
19 is submit and get approval, because the prior operators
20 did not do that.

21 That's kind of the case here. We had a
22 Grayburg and San Andres well being surface commingled
23 when we acquired it from Conoco in 2000, but we just
24 kept doing that. And with this internal review, we
25 noticed that there was nothing in place to be able to do

1 that. And we're looking at all of those leases and
2 coming into compliance.

3 Q. And I think at the outset of the hearing, the
4 Legal Examiner indicated that the BLM had sent a notice
5 with regard to the application. Prior to Apache's
6 investigation, had the BLM ever objected to the method
7 of allocation of production from any of the wells on the
8 Hawk B-1 lease?

9 A. No, they did not. No one has objected. This
10 was our internal review.

11 Q. What does Apache intend to do once the Division
12 approves -- if the Division approves the surface
13 commingling in order to address the concerns that the
14 BLM may have?

15 A. What does the BLM --

16 Q. What does Apache intend to do in order to
17 address the concerns the BLM might have?

18 A. Oh, I'm sorry. The BLM has actually
19 requested -- I've been in contact with them. And a lot
20 of the information that I put in the application is
21 information that they wanted, but they want it on, I
22 guess, their own form. They have requested that
23 information, and we have our departments working on that
24 right now.

25 Q. Were you responsible for determining the

1 ownership of the interest in the wells that are the
2 subject of the application?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you prepare exhibits with regard to the
5 ownership of the different categories of wells that are
6 in the exhibit book?

7 A. I did. And that is exhibit -- I believe it
8 starts with Exhibit B.

9 Q. If you could just go through the list and
10 explain to the Examiner what you did and the
11 different -- what the exhibits consist of.

12 A. Okay. If you will turn to Exhibit B in your
13 book -- and sorry; they go from alphabet to numerical.
14 Exhibit B shows a normal well list, and what we call the
15 normal wells. All of them have identical interests.
16 They're just producing from either the Grayburg or the
17 San Andres. And these are not all the wells, obviously.
18 But there are 25 of them, and we list them here with
19 their location and the current production and what date
20 they started surface commingling.

21 As you can see, the first two wells they
22 were commingling were 1950's vintage, when we
23 acquired -- when we acquired ownership from Conoco.
24 Some of them do have NSLs, which the approved copy of
25 the order is behind it, behind this exhibit. Just keep

1 going.

2 Q. Just explain all the different exhibits
3 consisting of ownership --

4 A. Okay. Sure.

5 And this is Exhibit B to the application.
6 It's already labeled. This is Exhibit B here.

7 Exhibit C is just the ownership for the
8 normal lease wells. Like I said, Apache owns -- Apache
9 really owns 50 percent. They acquired an additional 25
10 from BP, which is now ZPZ. But 75 percent, and Chevron
11 owns the other 25 percent. And the Hawk B-1 lease is
12 all BLM. There is no override in that actual lease, no
13 royalty owners.

14 Exhibit D, which is also Exhibit D of the
15 application, is the lease of our six -- six lease line
16 wells, plus one -- actually, six lease line wells. And
17 it will tell you -- in the Comments area, I put in the
18 date of the cooperative well agreement with the BLM and
19 the BLM federal contract number, which is the number we
20 report production under to the BLM.

21 And it also shows the date that these were
22 first surface commingled and the different working
23 interest owners [sic].

24 It also has, behind it, copies of the
25 NSL -- approved NSL orders, as well as for one of the

1 leaseline wells, which is a leaseline well between
2 federal and state lands. It also has the approved
3 communitization agreement with the state.

4 Moving on to Exhibit E, is the ownership of
5 each of the leaseline wells. The first page will show
6 three of the wells. They all share production between
7 the Hawk A and the Hawk B-1 lease.

8 And if you just scroll back through the
9 pages, you'll come to two more wells. These are the
10 wells that are commingled between the federal and fee
11 lease.

12 And then at the very back is the -- --
13 there is one that shows the ownership and the allocation
14 percentages between the two leases, between the Hawk B-1
15 and the state lease. So each of the owners are set out
16 for the lease in detail. It even lists overriding
17 royalty owners where applicable.

18 Q. Ms. Hanson, you mentioned that there were
19 cooperative well agreements between Apache and the BLM
20 for all the leaseline leases.

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Could you explain for the Examiner how those
23 cooperative well agreements work in terms of the
24 allocation of production from the leaseline wells?

25 A. Okay. When you have a leaseline well, the

1 first step is to get your reservoir engineer to come up
2 with the drainage percentages. We have a set form that
3 the BLM recognized back in 2004, 2007, which those wells
4 were drilled. We used that form. And what it sets out
5 is the drainage percentages between the Hawk B-1 lease
6 and the offset lease. So if your well was -- you know,
7 it would be 60/40, to make it easy, 60 percent Hawk B-1,
8 40 percent the offset lease. And that's what it sets
9 out, and it tells you how to account for that well. You
10 take the Hawk B-1 ownership, and you proportionally
11 reduce it by the allocation percentage.

12 Q. Was it Apache's understanding that by entering
13 in the cooperative well agreements, that that was
14 obtaining the consent of the BLM with regard to the
15 allocation of the commingling production concerning the
16 wells?

17 A. That was our understanding.

18 Q. Has the BLM ever revoked any consent it gave
19 pursuant to those in any of your dealings with them?

20 A. No.

21 Q. So the cooperative well agreements are still in
22 place?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Were you responsible for notifying all the
25 working interest owners that are reflected in Exhibits B

1 through I?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is there an exhibit in the book reflecting the
4 interest that was given to the working interest owners?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that's Exhibit 5?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. What does the notice consist of?

9 A. The notice actually had this letter, plus the
10 entire application for their review.

11 Q. Did you receive any objections or approvals in
12 response to the notice that was --

13 A. I did not receive any objections. I did
14 receive three phone calls from overriding royalty
15 interest owners. Two of them said -- gave support. One
16 actually wrote an e-mail in support of.

17 Q. Is the e-mail support also reflected in the
18 exhibit book?

19 A. It is.

20 Q. Currently, as we stand here today, what is the
21 status of your dealings with the BLM?

22 A. Right now, we are -- they've sent us a
23 request -- an order -- a written order to get them
24 additional information on this lease, which the ladies
25 in the field are putting that information together.

1 They are reviewing the policy of commingling -- when I
2 say commingle, the lease commingling -- between the
3 federal and nonfederal lands, which is what they had
4 approved in the cooperative well agreement. But that is
5 now policy that they're reviewing, and I don't know what
6 they're going to do.

7 Q. And Apache understands that once the Division
8 acts, it'll then deal with the BLM people --

9 A. Absolutely.

10 Q. -- and obtain consent from the BLM?

11 A. Absolutely.

12 Q. Do you believe that the granting of Apache's
13 application will prevent waste and promote the
14 conservation of minerals and resources?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What do you anticipate the benefits from the
17 approval of the commingling will be?

18 A. Well, Clint will go into detail of it, but we
19 have -- some of the leaseline wells, if you are to meter
20 and not allocate by well test, we have an additional
21 cost that goes into that, an operating cost, plus an
22 additional up-front expenditure. And three of those
23 wells might end up having to be plugged. They're
24 marginal producers as it is, and if we had to set
25 metering facilities, then that will be most likely

1 plugged.

2 Q. Could you just summarize for the Examiner what
3 Apache is asking the Division to do?

4 A. For the -- like I said, there is Grayburg and
5 San Andres, and then there is Abo. We would like
6 approval, retroactively, to surface commingle the
7 different pools, the Grayburg and San Andres, for the 32
8 Hawk B-1 wells. That includes the leaseline wells, and
9 allocate by well test.

10 And for the Abo, we would also like to
11 request, for future wells being added, to be able to
12 surface commingle Grayburg-San Andres and allocate by
13 well test.

14 On the Abo wells, right now they're both
15 being metered, but we would like to -- we need surface
16 commingle requests for that as well, because we have a
17 leaseline well, and we'd like to ask for future approval
18 if we can add more Abo wells to allocate by well test.

19 Q. What is the procedure Apache's currently
20 employing in order to test and accurately account for
21 the production for the wells on the Hawk B-1 list?

22 A. As far as the monthly well tests?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. The process of it?

25 Q. Sure.

1 A. Well, each well is tested at least once a
2 month, and that well test is then recorded and reported.
3 And we use that monthly well test to allocate. And I
4 will say, even though we are surface commingling and
5 allocating by well test, the six lease-line wells and the
6 nonconsent wells in our system, they are separated.
7 They are accounted for completely separately. They have
8 their own interest, in accordance with the cooperative
9 well agreement. They're not all in one. So we do
10 account for them separately.

11 Q. No further questions.

12 EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Kellahin?

13 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir.

14 CROSS-EXAMINATION

15 BY EXAMINER JONES:

16 Q. Wow. So how far back do you want us to go on
17 this? What date?

18 A. Well, like I said, we had the two wells that we
19 acquired from Conoco. One was Grayburg, and the other
20 was San Andres. They were drilled in the '50s. They
21 never had anything in place, and that's what we -- we
22 looked back and didn't see anything in place. Well, we
23 probably need to get something. This was back in -- we
24 would like to go back to 2002. Those were the first
25 ones we drilled and continued to do what Conoco had

1 done, and surface commingled. So the wells -- the
2 lease-line wells were drilled in '04, and then we had a
3 couple in '07, and then the latest one is 2010, I
4 believe.

5 Q. Did Chevron get involved with you on this?

6 A. Uh-huh. They signed the cooperative well
7 agreement. All the working interest owners signed the
8 communitization agreement, which was Chevron, Apache,
9 and BP, at that time.

10 Q. What about Chevron getting involved with this
11 proceeding here, or did they give you any feedback or
12 advice or legal advice?

13 A. No. And they got a copy of it. I wanted to
14 give them a call to see, you know, if they had had any
15 issues. Like I said, we did an internal review. They
16 may not have reviewed, you know. I can't imagine they
17 have approval in place.

18 Q. In their OBO operations.

19 A. I don't know. I don't know. Maybe they do.
20 But it's easy to overlook when you acquire company after
21 company in these large acquisitions. We've been going
22 back through and trying to see what we do have in place
23 and what we don't have in place.

24 Q. Those cooperative agreements -- lease-line
25 agreements, do they include specifically saying they can

1 use well tests?

2 A. No, not specifically. In Exhibit 6, there is
3 an actual copy of one, and if you -- they all read the
4 same, so if you want to go to page 5, number eight,
5 "Measurement." It's very vague.

6 Q. Okay. Kind of leaves it up to what's most
7 optimal in the fields?

8 A. Uh-huh. It says: "The method used shall be
9 checked for accuracy at least once a month." And it
10 says: "Gas separated from such oil shall be metered or
11 determined from well test before delivery ...," but
12 that's gas. As to oil, it really is vague, and we just
13 did what we've been doing.

14 Q. Okay. So Apache started here in 2000; is that
15 correct --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- the Hawk B-1 lease?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You said something about you owned 50 percent
20 before that?

21 A. We owned 50 percent at that time, when we
22 acquired operatorship. Then we acquired -- recently, we
23 acquired BP's interest, and that's ZPZ Delaware, a
24 wholly owned subsidiary of Apache. So, in essence,
25 Apache owns that additional 25 percent, giving us 75

1 percent in the lease.

2 Q. And so that by -- by that action, you became
3 the operator?

4 A. We became operator in 2000 by acquiring
5 Conoco's interest at 50 percent. We were operating 50
6 percent back then.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Sorry for the confusion.

9 Q. So these nonconsent wells, is that handled by
10 some sort of agreement with them?

11 A. JOA, Joint Operating Agreement.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So those people have been noticed of this?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. But before that, were they aware of -- do you
17 know if they were aware of what kind of testing method
18 was used?

19 A. It was Chevron that went nonconsent in that one
20 well; yeah, they know.

21 Q. So the whole lease is being used well test; is
22 that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Or is there any separation of wells that are
25 continuously metered as a group versus the other wells?

1 A. No. Clint's going to get into that. I hope
2 he'll go into great detail. I'm sorry. I can
3 understand --

4 Q. And your limits on future expansion, you
5 wanted, in your application, to -- you had listed -- I
6 want to make sure the criteria is correct on what you
7 want for additional wells that are added or additional
8 pools that are completed.

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. You want it to be confined to the Hawk B-1
11 lease, first of all?

12 A. Yes. Yes. Absolutely.

13 Q. And then there are a lot of pools out here,
14 that I saw, but you're saying it's just --

15 A. Just Grayburg-San Andres. Our Blinebry test
16 and production on this lease is unitized into the west
17 Blinebry-Drinkard unit. So just Grayburg-San Andres and
18 Abo. And the Abo has gone into a tank battery, so it's
19 not really being commingled with the Grayburg-San
20 Andres.

21 Q. So the Abo is separate?

22 A. Yes. Just Grayburg and San Andres are
23 commingled into the --

24 Q. So you always intend to hold the Abo separate?

25 A. Yes. But we would like more wells to be able

1 to add to the -- whether it's Grayburg or San Andres.

2 Q. But not Abo?

3 A. Or Abo into that tank, if it's different
4 interests. Plus, right now, the Number 69 and Number 70
5 wells are just -- are the only two Abo wells we have on
6 this lease. The normal lease well has the same interest
7 as all the other normal wells. Then you have a
8 leaseline well or metering that leaseline well
9 separately. Because of the internal review, we wanted
10 to meter that at this point, because right now we don't
11 have surface commingle in place --

12 Q. Oh, okay.

13 A. -- for the Grayburg-San Andres.

14 Q. You've got temporary facilities or whatever?

15 A. Right. Right. Apparently it's two pools, the
16 Grayburg-San Andres. You can't commingle unless you
17 have a surface commingle in place. You can't commingle
18 more than one pool unless you have a surface commingle
19 in place. And since the 1950s, apparently Conoco was
20 doing that, and we continued.

21 Q. Now, does the allocation of the leaseline
22 wells -- you said it was a reservoir calculation. It
23 wasn't a land spacing unit?

24 A. No.

25 Q. So a percentage issue?

1 A. No, it was not.

2 Q. And you guys have an electronic list of these
3 32 wells somewhere that you could send --

4 A. Absolutely.

5 Q. -- through your attorney, maybe, to us --

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. -- that would have all the specs, like APIs and
8 producing pools and things like that?

9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. DEBRINE:

11 Q. Ms. Hanson, when the -- when the NSL approval
12 to obtain -- when was the Division apprised of the
13 allocation percentages in those NSL agreements?

14 A. The nonstandard location, I do not believe,
15 have the allocations on them.

16 Q. The percentage should be assigned?

17 A. The percentages. I don't believe so in the
18 NSLs.

19 Q. I thought they did.

20 A. In the communitization agreements --

21 Q. If you wouldn't mind looking through that to
22 see whether that's the case or not.

23 A. Sure.

24 Yeah, I've done several of these. Usually
25 the -- like, if it's a cooperative well agreement, it

1 would be in here. If it's a communitization agreement,
2 state acreage is involved, it would be in there.

3 Oh, okay. These are -- they're not in
4 every one of them. These are ones if they -- if they
5 reference back to a -- this is a state well, actually.
6 That's why it's in here. This is a communitization
7 agreement between the state and the federal government.

8 Q. So if you look through the administrative words
9 concerning the nonstandard location, if there was, for
10 instance, a state well, then the allocation was set
11 forth in the order?

12 A. In the NSL and in the communitization
13 agreement. Because when I get a cooperative well
14 agreement for the BLM, that's the only form that they
15 would recognize. The state did not recognize that form,
16 so we would have to do a separate one for the
17 communitization agreement for the state. They had the
18 same allocations in both.

19 RE CROSS EXAMINATION

20 BY EXAMINER JONES:

21 Q. If you add wells or pools or wells with the Abo
22 or Grayburg-San Andres in the feature, you wouldn't have
23 anybody else to notify anyway, would you, if you get
24 this agreement, that the people that are in place now
25 are fixed and they would be notified if additional wells

1 were added? The additional wells wouldn't have separate
2 ownership; is that correct?

3 A. Right. Right. Well, if there are lease line
4 wells, then they would be notified.

5 Q. Say that again.

6 A. If there are lease line wells, then they would
7 be notified. If it's -- if it's a future lease line
8 well.

9 Q. Or a non --

10 A. Or a nonconsent well, yeah, which would only be
11 Chevron.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. There are a lot of other pools out here, but
15 you're not going for them, and you're not asking for
16 that at this time?

17 A. Not at this time. Huh-uh. We will -- well,
18 Blinebry-Drinkard is unitized. The Abo is going into
19 its own tanks. If we do have another -- we would like
20 approval to surface commingle another zone, but I
21 wouldn't see what zone that would be right now.

22 Q. But you're asking that we specify in the order
23 that the Abo would still remain separately metered?

24 A. Yes. It's going into a different --

25 Q. And it continuously will be in the future?

1 A. We would -- if we'd add, we would like to be
2 able to allocate by well test. If we continue to meter
3 each well that we have -- right now, we're metering both
4 the normal lease well and the leaseline well, until we
5 know how this comes out.

6 Q. Oh, I see.

7 A. We would like to be able to allocate by well
8 test, if we are able to, if you approve it.

9 Q. And I'm asked if you've been -- it's definitely
10 been at least by well test. Is that what you guys found
11 out?

12 A. Yes. Yes.

13 EXAMINER JONES: David, do you have any
14 questions?

15 CROSS-EXAMINATION

16 BY EXAMINER BROOKS:

17 Q. Just the status of your dealings with the BLM.
18 You said they requested additional information?

19 A. About the lease and production.

20 Q. Yeah. They have not, then, given you any
21 indication of what their -- what their attitude really
22 is toward this?

23 A. They have told me that the different
24 cooperative well agreements allow for the commingling
25 between federal and nonfederal lands, and their new --

1 at least in their structural memo -- I don't know if
2 it's withdrawn or still there, but it says you cannot do
3 that. So I do not know at this point what they're going
4 to say.

5 Q. Yeah. That was my understanding, that they are
6 saying: No more commingling between --

7 A. So I don't know. Are they going to plug these
8 wells? I don't know.

9 MR. DEBRINE: Yeah. Mr. Examiner, I think
10 it's fair to say that the BLM's commingling policy is
11 still uncertain. They came out with an IM that,
12 essentially, will prohibit commingling federal
13 production with any other production. That IM expired
14 by its own terms last -- this last year, in September, I
15 believe. And there was a meeting between industry
16 groups and the BLM, and they agreed that they would not
17 implement that IM. They're going to propose some
18 commingling provisions in the revisions to Onshore Order
19 Number 3, which they anticipate will come out sometime
20 in 2013. And depending on whether you're talking to
21 Carlsbad or Farmington, you're going to get a different
22 answer on what the commingling issue is.

23 So we're hopeful that we can -- that we can
24 sit down with the BLM and demonstrate that it's in
25 everyone's interest to continue these -- these wells, to

1 continue production. It's going to maximize federal
2 royalties, and everybody will benefit. And we'll obtain
3 that approval once the Division acts.

4 Q. (BY EXAMINER BROOKS) Other than their general
5 compensation to commingling federal or nonfederal
6 minerals, have they articulated any particular concerns
7 with relation to this property that you're aware?

8 A. Okay. The fact that we're commingling between
9 federal and nonfederal --

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. -- and not setting individual meter
12 facilities --

13 Q. Right.

14 A. -- for each well.

15 MR. DEBRINE: There's been no question
16 raised with regard to the volumes that have been
17 accounted for or the accuracy of the method at this
18 point.

19 EXAMINER BROOKS: Thank you.

20 RECROSS EXAMINATION

21 BY EXAMINER JONES:

22 Q. I think, by rule, the state approval is
23 contingent on the BLM approval. The only controversy
24 with the BLM is the leaseline wells. Is there some
25 language you would like us to put in there, that

1 internal -- the "normal wells" or -- we have to put that
2 language in anyway, but we could -- instead of a veto
3 totally of the whole thing, is what I'm saying.

4 A. I was going to say, certainly we need approval
5 for the normal wells as well.

6 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, our intent was
7 to ask your permission to submit a draft order for you,
8 and we would address that very question.

9 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. DEBRINE: And we're asking you to
11 approve whatever the maximum your jurisdiction allows
12 you to do, recognizing that there is also the contingent
13 on the BLM approval on some aspect of it.

14 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

15 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hanson.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

17 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, at this time
18 we'll call Mr. Clinton Mills.

19 CLINTON MILLS,

20 after having been previously sworn under oath, was
21 questioned and testified as follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

24 Q. Mr. Mills, for the record, sir, would you
25 please state your name?

1 A. Clinton Mills.

2 Q. And where are you employed?

3 A. Apache Corporation.

4 Q. And where do you reside?

5 A. I work in the Eunice, New Mexico office.

6 Q. What is your general job description,
7 Mr. Mills?

8 A. I'm the district production manager over the
9 state of New Mexico. I have all the production
10 operations. The only activity that I'm not over would
11 be the drilling activities.

12 Q. When we talk about the Hawk B-1 batteries, both
13 the federal and the other one that's captioned Hawk B-1,
14 are those facilities that fall within your area of
15 responsibility?

16 A. Yes, they are.

17 Q. How long have you been responsible for that
18 facility?

19 A. In my current role, I've been responsible for
20 that facility for three years. I've been working this
21 area off and on for about eight years.

22 Q. As part of your preparation for this hearing,
23 have you reviewed the exhibit book that has been
24 presented to the Division and to the Examiner?

25 A. Yes, I have.

1 Q. Insofar as there are technical components to
2 the application, is your presentation today the most
3 accurate and current representation of your data?

4 A. Yes, it is.

5 Q. Now, there will be some changes between the
6 application, Exhibit A, that was filed, and Exhibit K
7 that you and I are about to talk about?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. In the facility itself, is there day-to-day
10 staffing of that facility so that you have a way to
11 obtain information from people on the ground?

12 A. Yes. The facility is automated. In addition
13 to the automation, there is a pumper that goes by that
14 facility every day, rain or shine. There's also a
15 measurement group that is responsible for ensuring all
16 the meters on that facility are accurate. There is a
17 mechanic that is called in to assist the pumper if there
18 are any mechanical issues that the pumper can't address
19 himself.

20 Q. When we discuss the population of wells, what's
21 the total population of wells we're talking about?

22 A. For the Grayburg-San Andres facility, there are
23 32 wells. For the Abo facility, there are two wells.

24 Q. Do you have displays in the book that will
25 illustrate the configuration of the facilities?

1 A. Yes, we do.

2 Q. If you'll turn to Exhibit Tab J. When we start
3 with Exhibit Tab J and the rest of the documentation,
4 are these exhibits that either you have reviewed or that
5 were directly prepared by you?

6 A. Yes, they are.

7 MR. KELLAHIN: We tender Mr. Mills as an
8 expert witness.

9 EXAMINER JONES: So qualified.

10 Q. (BY MR. KELLAHIN) Mr. Mills, behind Exhibit Tab
11 J, there is a facility summary. I don't want you to
12 read the summary.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. But have you examined this summary, and is it
15 correct?

16 A. Yes, I have, and it is correct.

17 Q. Once we've talked about the diagrams
18 themselves, the Examiner can go back and look at the
19 narrative, and between the two documents, then,
20 reconstruct what you're about to talk about?

21 A. Yes, he can.

22 Q. If you'll turn past that summary then, there is
23 a series of displays. There are two single pages, each
24 slightly different, and then there is a separator tab,
25 and then there is a larger pictorial. What does the

1 larger pictorial represent?

2 A. The larger pictorial is the way the --

3 Q. It's a foldout map; is it not?

4 A. Yes, it's a foldout, the larger one here. It's
5 a technical diagram of how the facility looks from air,
6 but trying to explain it off this diagram would take us
7 most of the afternoon probably.

8 What's really going on here is, there are
9 two completely separate facilities. The only thing that
10 they share is the water tanks, and, of course, we just
11 store the water right before we dispose of it. So
12 that's why we added, for lack of a better word, the
13 cartoon diagrams, to explain what's going on here.

14 Q. Let's go back and do that explanation. Let's
15 start with the first cartoon in the book.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Let's make sure we understand which one we're
18 looking at.

19 A. The first one says, at the tope there, "Abo,"
20 which would be the Hawk B-1 federal battery. This
21 facility just handles the production from two wells.
22 It's the Hawk B-1 69 and 70.

23 To walk you through the facility very
24 basically, the wells are coming in at the left side into
25 a header system. The wells are separated, and they each

1 go into their own test vessel. From that test vessel --
2 the test vessels are actually a three-phase separator.
3 We're breaking the gas off, which goes through a gas
4 scrubber, and then it's sold. The gas from each of the
5 two wells was commingled at the gas scrubber. Prior to
6 that, they're each metered separately. The water goes
7 to the water tanks for disposal. It's also metered
8 separately. The oil goes to the heater and then on to
9 the oil tanks.

10 So the production from these two wells is
11 kept separate until after it's all metered, all three
12 phrases.

13 Q. When we look at this battery on the ground,
14 where is it in relation to the second battery?

15 A. It's in with it, for lack of better words.
16 This was an older facility that was retrograded a couple
17 of different times. And they sit on top of each other.

18 Q. When we look at this population of -- what was
19 it? 34 wells?

20 A. 32 wells.

21 Q. 32 wells. What is the average approximate
22 daily producing ranges for these wells?

23 A. They produce anywhere from one barrel a day up
24 to 40 barrels a day.

25 Q. Have you examined the production curves of

1 these wells?

2 A. Yes, I have.

3 Q. Are we seeing similar decline curves for all of
4 this production?

5 A. Yes, they're very similar.

6 Q. And in order to sustain the ability to continue
7 to produce what I would characterize as marginal wells,
8 do you need the flexibility to do this monthly metering
9 procedure that you're seeking approval for?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. In what circumstances would you suggest that
12 you must have an individual meter for each of the wells?

13 A. In what circumstances?

14 Q. Yeah. What circumstances would cause you to
15 believe that you would need an individual meter?

16 A. And we're still referring to the Abo facility,
17 correct?

18 Q. Yes, sir.

19 A. If we were to drill a new well that was --
20 say it made 500 barrels a day. This facility can't
21 handle it. Neither one of these facilities can. So if
22 we were to come into a situation like that or have an
23 ESP well that produced a high volume of water, we would
24 set it up at a separate facility to make sure that it
25 was metered separately.

1 Because if you bring a high volume into
2 here (indicating), it will turn the vessels upside down.
3 Meaning that you'll end up with water in your oil and
4 oil in your water, and we just can't handle that. But
5 as long as the production rates are similar, the
6 allocation method is accurate.

7 Q. Approximately where are we in the life of the
8 producing life of these wells?

9 A. On the Abo facility, these are relatively new
10 wells.

11 Q. Do you foresee any opportunity that you would
12 have to redesign or abandon this facility in terms of
13 how you're using it if you add additional wells?

14 A. We could outgrow it. I don't foresee that
15 happening any time soon. I believe we can handle
16 several other wells with this one facility.

17 Q. Well, let's look at the second diagram, and
18 take us through this second cartoon. This is the one
19 that doesn't have the word "federal" associated with it,
20 although it's a federal property?

21 A. Yes, sir. Again, the only thing that you see
22 on this diagram that was on the previous diagram is the
23 water tanks, which are the tanks in the middle.

24 What's going on here is, you've got 32
25 wells coming in. They're all coming in in the top,

1 right corner. That's a large header system. At that
2 header system, there will be two wells that will be
3 diverted into the two test separators. And those test
4 separators are three-phase separators as well. So oil,
5 water and gas is then metered off of those two wells.

6 From there, those test separators dump the
7 oil into the heater, the gas into the gas scrubber and
8 the water into the water tanks. Eventually, the oil
9 ends up in the oil tanks, and then this flows through a
10 LACT unit. The gas, of course, ends up going through a
11 sales skid, and it's sold to Targa. Now, that's what
12 happens with the two wells that are being tested.

13 Now, the other 30 wells are dumped directly
14 into the free water knockout, where the gas is pulled
15 off the oil and water. Some of the water's pulled off,
16 and then the rest of the oil goes to the heater. So
17 that production is commingled from there, all the way
18 through the facility.

19 And then just your basic -- as far as how
20 the heaters fire, it's pulling gas off of the gas
21 scrubber. This facility is fired year round. We make
22 enough volume of water here and the paraffin content's
23 high enough that we've got to keep the oil hot enough to
24 achieve [sic] separation.

25 Q. Based upon your experience with your current

1 position and your review of the documents of your
2 company for periods of time that were before you were
3 responsible, is there any indication that there were
4 problems associated with the reliability of your
5 measuring system?

6 A. No, sir, not at this facility.

7 Q. On a daily basis, if there was some kind of
8 problem, what kind of problem would occur that would
9 affect your ability to accurately meter and allocate the
10 production?

11 A. Problems that you can have with test vessels,
12 you can have dumps that freeze open or freeze closed.
13 And when that happens, you can, as I said before, send
14 water down the oil line, oil down the water line.
15 Meters can get trash in them and plug up. The way that
16 we monitor this, the pumper's reviewing this facility
17 every day, and he's swabbing wells in and out of test
18 every day. And if he gets air in his test -- meaning,
19 the well has been making five barrels for the last six
20 months, and, all of a sudden, it's saying it's making no
21 oil whatsoever, just making up water, he'll know
22 immediately he's got a problem with this facility.

23 The meters themselves, we have a
24 measurement group, both gas measurement and oil and
25 liquids measurements, and they're tasked with proving

1 these meters; meaning, testing them to make sure that
2 they're accurate. The meters on both of these
3 facilities are proved or tested anywhere from monthly to
4 yearly.

5 Q. Are there any reports that you're aware of that
6 cause you concern about the accuracy or the reliability
7 of the calibration of the meters?

8 A. No, sir. Speaking of the calibration, if we
9 have a meter, either oil or liquids -- excuse me -- gas
10 or liquids, that we're having to prove all the time,
11 we'll replace it. It's too laborious for our people to
12 have to prove them monthly. Now, on your custody
13 meters, those are proved anywhere from monthly to
14 quarterly.

15 Q. Let's turn now, Mr. Mills, to the tab that's
16 marked Exhibit 7. If you'll turn in the book to tab 7,
17 there is a summary here; is there not?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Describe for the Examiner what you're trying to
20 convey with this information.

21 A. This is our testing allocation method. And
22 when I say allocation, I mean allocating the total
23 volume of oil and gas sold for the month back to the
24 individual wells. What we're doing here is, throughout
25 the month, wells are swabbed in and out of test, and

1 then those tests are entered into the system. In any
2 one month, a well could have anywhere from one test to
3 three or four tests, depending on what's going on.

4 Once those tests are in the system, we'll
5 compare the sum of all those tests versus the total
6 volume of oil sold, and they should be very close. If
7 they're not very close, then we'll go back and
8 recalibrate our meters. But what we're using those
9 tests for is to establish percentages each month of what
10 each well made, and that's how we're allocating the
11 ownership of hydrocarbons back to each well.

12 Q. Let's turn now to Exhibit K.

13 Before we talk about the pieces of Exhibit
14 K, you've represented on this page a Conclusion Summary
15 with regards to the production from the facility -- or
16 for the wells in the facility, the project?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. What are your ultimate conclusions about the
19 project if you are now required to put individual meters
20 on each of the wells?

21 A. The basic conclusion, before we go through the
22 details, is, I'm going to have to plug three wells. And
23 those wells are Numbers 35, 37 and 55. The reason we
24 would have to plug them is because they're marginal
25 wells, and they can't sustain the cost of testing them

1 separately.

2 When everyone refers to metering wells
3 individually, it's not just a meter. I mean, we have to
4 set a whole test vessel to get those three flows to
5 separate, which is the test vessels in the diagram. So
6 to set -- we would either set four-by-ten vessels or
7 three-by-twelves. To set those, get them in, with all
8 the meters, we're looking at roughly \$40,000 per well.
9 In addition to that, up-front capital costs, we're
10 looking at \$2,000 a year to maintain that equipment and
11 to ensure that those meters are accurate.

12 Q. Let's go through the details of how you got to
13 that conclusion.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. Are they set forth on the first page of the
16 printed material after Exhibit Letter K? Is that the
17 summary?

18 A. Yeah, the first page there with the yellow
19 stripes down it, right behind the first one.

20 Q. Describe for us the method that you got to your
21 conclusions.

22 A. Okay. These are economic runs for the seven
23 wells in question. And the first set of the reserves,
24 M PV (12), that's what we have now. That's based off
25 the current declines and graphs, which those are

1 included in here as well. The second set is with the
2 additional \$40,000 per well, plus the \$2,000 operating
3 expense.

4 When you compare one set to the other,
5 that's how you get your conclusions on the first page.
6 Basically, we're knocking the net present value down by
7 \$200,000, and we're costing reserves.

8 Q. So if we look at this page and we find the
9 horizontal black line just below the words "individual
10 separation" -- do you see that on the printed sheet, the
11 summary sheet?

12 A. Oh, I'm in the wrong book.

13 Q. Come back. You see the black line?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Below that, it says "a loss."

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. That loss is represented in oil, gas, NGLs and
18 dollars and life of the project?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Those are your ultimate conclusions about the
21 effect of what happens if you were to put meters on all
22 of these wells?

23 A. It is, but the thing that this leaves out is
24 that three of the wells now become uneconomic. We
25 wanted to put it in here this way just to show an

1 apples-to-apples comparison, but in reality, we're most
2 likely going to have to plug three wells. And if you
3 refer to that little spreadsheet with the yellow lines
4 down it --

5 Q. Well, let's do that now. If you'll turn the
6 page, there is the spreadsheet you're looking at, and
7 it's got the two yellow lines, vertical lines, on it.
8 When you talk about it, what are you representing here?

9 A. What I'm referring to is the three wells that
10 have the lowest production, which would be the 35, the
11 37 and 55.

12 Q. Let's come back and identify these. These are
13 what we call the non-normal wells, or are these the
14 leaseline wells?

15 A. They're leaseline wells, and then --

16 Q. Plus the nonconsent?

17 A. Plus the nonconsent wells.

18 Q. So this is the population of wells, excluding
19 the nonconsent, for which the BLM has some concern?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now, describe for us what you've got here.

22 A. This is where the conclusions on the previous
23 page came from. Do you want me to talk about plugging
24 the three wells?

25 Q. Yes, sir.

1 A. If we have to put this cost on these marginal
2 wells -- there are three of them that we'll probably
3 plug, rather than have to spend the money. If you add
4 up the hydrocarbons associated with these three wells
5 and the net present value, you're looking at 20,000
6 barrels of oil, 196,000,000 cubic feet and then an
7 additional \$532,000 net present value that will be lost
8 just because these wells can't afford the additional
9 expense.

10 Q. Is it your expert opinion that we will leave
11 hydrocarbons unrecovered in the reservoir if this
12 application is not approved?

13 A. Yes, it is.

14 Q. Will we extend the life of these producing
15 wells and recover hydrocarbons that you would not
16 otherwise recover if it is approved?

17 A. That is my conclusion, yes.

18 Q. Will the approval of this application adversely
19 affect any of the owners or their share?

20 A. No, it will not.

21 Q. Are you satisfied that this method of
22 allocation and metering is fair, reasonable and
23 accurate?

24 A. I'm satisfied it's fair, reasonable and
25 accurate, much more satisfied over the alternative.

1 Q. Let's turn to the next package of information.
2 We're still in the same set of exhibits. There is a
3 series of production plots?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. You have a series of plots. These refer, then,
6 to the same wells that are tabulated on the page before?

7 A. Yes. These are the same seven wells, referred
8 to as lease line wells, and the one nonconsent well.

9 Q. When we look at this tabulation -- this is the
10 color tabulation of production, and the first one we
11 have here is the Hawk B-1 Number 33. Is that what you
12 have?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. What is plotted on this display?

15 A. This is basically the production plot since we
16 drilled this well in 2004. You've got a gas forecast
17 and an oil forecast basically predicting this well's
18 performance throughout its life.

19 Q. Have you calculated the percentage of decline
20 on this wellbore?

21 A. Yes. This particular well is at 14 percent
22 decline. The range for this lease is between 8 percent
23 and 16 percent. So this is a very typical graph for
24 this lease.

25 Q. Have you examined all of the production decline

1 curves for all the wells in the project?

2 A. Yes, I have.

3 Q. Do they have production profiles such as we're
4 representing here by the Hawk B-1 33 well?

5 A. Yes, they do.

6 Q. Are we in the life of these wells in such a way
7 that you would not be doing work-overs or something to
8 change the character of the producing rates of these
9 wells?

10 A. Yes. Throughout the life of the well, we might
11 want to do an acid job or a restimulation or something
12 like that.

13 Q. Is there any of that process that would
14 substantially alter the accuracy of the methods of
15 calculation for the distribution of the production and
16 revenues?

17 A. Not substantially alter, no. What we found
18 with these wells is, when we do a restimulation, we'll
19 get a good bump in production for two to five months,
20 and then it drops right back to the same decline. The
21 only way you can really change the decline on it is to
22 move to another zone.

23 Q. When you look at the production plot,
24 there's -- periodically, there may be a day or so in
25 which the lines drop down to zero?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. What is happening during those periods of time?

3 A. This particular lease is around the town of
4 Eunice, and the gas plants in that area are around 60
5 years old, and they're also maxed out. So from time to
6 time, we have to shut in the whole lease. So in return,
7 you get a couple of low days of production. And when
8 all the wells shut in, they do build up some gas
9 pressure, so when we kick them on, they do flush up a
10 little bit. So this erratic production you see through
11 2011 and 2012 is all due to gas plant shutoffs.

12 Q. Is there anything about that activity that will
13 change your opinion about the reliability and the
14 accuracy of your monthly distribution and testing?

15 A. No, there is not.

16 Q. Behind Exhibit Tab Number 8, if you will,
17 Mr. Mills, there is a series of written paragraphs. One
18 is captioned "Cost Reduction." The next one says
19 "Marginal Production." The last one says "Prevention of
20 Waste," and then finally, "Future Wells." Have you
21 examined each of those pages and their paragraphs?

22 A. Yes, I have.

23 Q. Do they accurately represent your conclusions
24 and beliefs?

25 A. Yes, they do.

1 Q. Let's spend a moment and talk about what you
2 intend by this concept of future wells being approved in
3 the project. It may be helpful to go back to the
4 original layout of the project, which is the foldout
5 plat at the beginning of the book. Do you have one of
6 those, Mr. Mills? Is this the large foldout?

7 A. I've got one.

8 Q. When you look at the large foldout, Mr. Mills,
9 do you currently have a well in this population for each
10 of the 40-acre spacing units?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. So the opportunity for future wells are wells
13 that would increase the density within the spacing unit?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Describe for us what you intend to do by the
16 adding of those wells to each of these two batteries?

17 A. If we were to drill an Abo well, which is the
18 facility that only has the two wells, it would be nice
19 to be able to test the three wells with the two test
20 vessels and then allocate based off of those
21 percentages.

22 If we drilled the Grayburg-San Andres
23 wells, we would bring them into the Grayburg-San Andres
24 facility where we already have the 32 wells, and we
25 would like to test and allocate as well.

1 With new wells, the production tends to be
2 higher and more erratic; meaning that they have a much
3 steeper decline. So when we do drill new wells, we make
4 sure to test them more frequently. We put them in test
5 for 10 to 12 days straight, and then we'll go back and
6 test them every week to make sure we know what that well
7 is doing.

8 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, that concludes
9 my examination of Mr. Mills.

10 EXAMINER JONES: Mr. DeBrine, do you have
11 any questions?

12 MR. DEBRINE: No, Mr. Examiner.

13 CROSS-EXAMINATION

14 BY EXAMINER JONES:

15 Q. Is there a gas well on this lease, Hawk B-1.
16 Is that a gas well?

17 A. Let me see. Most recent well test I have is
18 six barrels of oil and 85 gas. So we've got it
19 classified as an oil well.

20 MS. HANSON: It is an oil well.

21 A. Oh, okay. It just showed up differently due to
22 the mapping software.

23 Q. (BY EXAMINER JONES) And why now is there a --
24 there is a Hawk Federal B-1 battery and a Hawk B-1
25 battery?

1 A. That's to keep the Abo production separate from
2 the Grayburg-San Andres.

3 Q. Which one is Abo?

4 A. The federal, which would be the one on the
5 west.

6 Q. Does your pumper keep his papers of the tests
7 and come in and reconcile, or does your automation
8 system handle all that?

9 A. This lease, we're currently doing it the old
10 way, which means he pulls the test daily and manually
11 enters them into the computer in the office daily.

12 As far as to reconcile the tests to make
13 sure they make sense, the pumpers review their own
14 tests, typically, weekly. The foremen also review them
15 monthly, and I review them monthly as well.

16 Q. What sort of percentage do you normally get out
17 here between your -- if you add up all your tests versus
18 your total lease production --

19 A. You mean for a typical well?

20 Q. For the -- for the whole thing. If you add up
21 all your tests -- like if you take a month period or so
22 and add up all your tests versus your lease production,
23 what -- what do you think?

24 A. With the Abo facility, there are only two
25 wells. One makes slightly more than the other, so the

1 allocation is going to be something around 60 percent to
2 one well, 40 percent to the other well.

3 With the Grayburg-San Andres facility,
4 there are 32 wells, making anywhere from 1 barrel to 40
5 barrels. So they're going to get anywhere from 1/32nd,
6 all the way up to 20 percent or something.

7 Q. Okay. But if you -- in other words, how
8 accurate is it to add up all the well tests versus
9 measuring the total lease production? Are you getting
10 the 95-percent level or --

11 A. We tend to be in the 95 to 110 percent.

12 Q. Okay. Okay. Sounds good.

13 A. And that's the way we try to balance it.

14 Q. Okay. Do you have pumping units on these
15 wells?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Do you have load cells on them and --

18 A. Load cells, Sam controllers. The guys go by
19 and have the units draw cards every day, make sure
20 they're pumping efficiently.

21 Q. So basically your automation system -- it won't
22 read the test meter, but it'll read the -- obviously,
23 the sales meters and stuff?

24 A. Yes. Yes. And the facilities themselves are
25 automated, high-level alarms, low-level alarms. So

1 anything that goes on, the pumper will get a -- he'll
2 get a phone call first and then a text on his cell
3 phone.

4 Q. Well, can you control it from the office? Can
5 you watch everything happening from the office?

6 A. You can watch all the tank levels, the meters,
7 the tests to see what's going on. Currently on this
8 facility, we cannot look at each pumping unit from the
9 office.

10 Q. And are these two Abo wells -- are they done on
11 commingle with Grayburg-San Andres?

12 A. No, they are not.

13 Q. So there are 32 GSA, and there are two Abo?

14 A. So 34 total.

15 Q. 34 total.

16 And none of the wells are done on
17 commingle?

18 A. Between the Grayburg and the San Andres.

19 Q. Well, between -- between any pools, none of
20 these wells, you're talking about?

21 A. No. The Grayburg-San Andres --

22 MS. HANSON: Two of those, Grayburg-San
23 Andres.

24 A. Yeah. There are two Grayburg-San Andres that
25 are now commingled, but not with the Abo.

1 Q. (BY EXAMINER JONES) Two separate pools, though.
2 So they're commingled with two separate pools -- at
3 least two separate pools?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Well, that'll come in on your document that you
6 send in; hopefully that'll be on there.

7 MS. HANSON: Yes, sir.

8 Q. (BY EXAMINER JONES) And the types of meters
9 that you use nowadays?

10 A. We've got mostly two-inch meters, some of them
11 are three-inch. We've got Orifice total flows. We've
12 also got -- that's for the gas, Orifice total flows.
13 And then for the liquids, we've got turbines that are
14 also total flows. And I have brands if you want them.

15 Q. No, that's all right.

16 A. They're industry standards.

17 Q. Okay. But paraffin issues?

18 A. Those are things that we watch for. We don't
19 really have much problem on this facility. We've got a
20 very good chemical man that keeps an eye on all our
21 stuff for us, and we really haven't had any issues at
22 the facility.

23 Q. What is your oil gravity and gas gravity?

24 A. I don't have that off the top of my head. We
25 can provide that.

1 Q. But the difference between your -- there is --
2 besides paraffin, there is a big difference between oil
3 and water and gravity. So your separators work
4 accurately --

5 A. Yes, they do.

6 Q. -- pretty accurately?

7 A. Yes, they do.

8 Q. And the gas, has that got a lot of inerts in
9 it, like HCS?

10 A. It is a sour facility, and we do do gas
11 sampling typically every two months to see if the
12 composition is changing.

13 Q. But you sell it as-is, right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. You don't break down any gas?

16 A. No. All we do is run it through a scrubber to
17 pull any liquids out of there so that the gas company
18 doesn't get mad at us.

19 Q. And the sales point for the oil here, is
20 that -- is a LACT unit on the battery?

21 A. There is a LACT unit on the Grayburg-San Andres
22 facility. The Abo facility is trucked. And the gas
23 sales points are right there at the facility as well,
24 and, of course, they're separate, and they go to
25 Southern Union and Targa.

1 Q. We have to specify those in our permits we
2 write, so --

3 The cost of putting the separator on
4 there -- I know you've got your intangibles, but as far
5 as your -- you couldn't transfer old separators from
6 another lease like do a material transfer?

7 A. If we had them, we would.

8 Q. Oh.

9 A. We're actively drilling. We've got six rigs
10 running in the state of New Mexico. So I've strapped
11 together every piece of old equipment I could find, and
12 now we're waiting on fabrication shops.

13 Q. So you have to buy, basically, new stuff?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And pay for putting it in and -- as far as
16 charging it off, you would charge it to the wells that
17 are --

18 A. The individual wells.

19 Q. That are taking it?

20 A. Yeah. We would do it with an AFE for each,
21 individual well, and then it would be billed out
22 according to the ownership, however diversified that is.

23 Q. So those lease line agreements are probably
24 different cost centers?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So they would be billed -- the owners would be
2 billed?

3 A. Totally separate.

4 Q. And you think the BLM's -- what they would
5 prefer, obviously, is continuous metering --

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. -- between the diversely groups of wells?

8 A. Yeah. They would prefer us to set individual
9 vessels on all seven of these, I'm sure, but we can't
10 afford to do that on three of them.

11 Q. So there are seven different leaselines?

12 A. That's correct.

13 EXAMINER JONES: I don't have any more
14 questions.

15 EXAMINER BROOKS: I don't believe I have
16 any questions.

17 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Any other?

18 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Catanach [sic], that
19 concludes our presentation.

20 (Laughter.)

21 EXAMINER BROOKS: We'll take that into
22 consideration.

23 MR. KELLAHIN: He didn't remind me that we
24 had filed a memorandum, that was filed on Tuesday. I
25 will get you copies of that. Mr. DeBrine had drafted

1 the memo that dealt specifically with our position
2 concerning the BLM, to give it to you as our research
3 and conclusions, if you desire to consider it. If
4 you'll give us permission, we will send you a draft
5 order that we believe complies with what you can do and
6 what we're asking that you do do.

7 And we're here to stand for questions.

8 EXAMINER JONES: Thanks a lot, Mr. Mills.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

10 EXAMINER JONES: With that, we'll take Case
11 14944 under advisement.

12 EXAMINER BROOKS: Yeah. By the way, it is
13 14944, not 14994.

14 (Case Number 14944 conclude, 9:35 a.m.)

15 EXAMINER JONES: Let's take a two-minute
16 recess.

17 (Recess, 9:35 a.m.)

18

19

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21

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. _____,
heard by me on _____.

22

_____, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division

23

24

25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO

1 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

2

3 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

4 I, MARY C. HANKINS, New Mexico Certified

5 Court Reporter No. 20, and Registered Professional

6 Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported the

7 foregoing proceedings in stenographic shorthand and that

8 the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of

9 those proceedings that were reduced to printed form by

10 me to the best of my ability.

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12 Record of the proceedings truly and accurately reflects

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14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither

15 employed by nor related to any of the parties or

16 attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in

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