

**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. 14958  
ORDER NO. R-13687**

**APPLICATION OF MEWBOURNE OIL COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A  
NON-STANDARD OIL SPACING AND PRORATION UNIT AND  
COMPULSORY POOLING, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

**ORDER OF THE DIVISION**

**BY THE DIVISION:**

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on February 21, 2013, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard I. Ezeanyim.

NOW, on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner,

**FINDS THAT:**

(1) Due public notice has been given, and the Division has jurisdiction of this case and of the subject matter.

(2) Mewbourne Oil Company ("Applicant" or "Mewbourne"), seeks approval of a non-standard 158.31-acre, more or less, oil spacing and proration unit and project area ("the Unit") in the Bone Spring formation, Santo Nino-Bone Spring Pool (**54600**), consisting of Lot 1, the NE/4 NW/4, and the N/2 NE/4 (the N/2 N/2 equivalent) of Section 30, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, NMPM, in Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant further seeks an order pooling all uncommitted interests in the Bone Spring formation underlying the N/2 N/2 equivalent of Section 30, to form a non-standard 158.31-acre oil spacing and proration unit.

(3) The proposed Unit is to be dedicated to Mewbourne's Bradley 30 Federal Com Well No. 4H (**API No. 30-015-40934**), to be horizontally drilled from a surface location in Lot 1, and a terminus in the NE/4 NE/4 of Section 30. The completed interval for the well will be entirely within all applicable setbacks from the outer boundaries of the N/2 N/2 equivalent of Section 30.

(4) Notice of the proposed 158.31-acre, more or less, non-standard oil spacing and proration unit was provided to all surrounding affected parties within the Bone Spring formation.

(5) Notice of this compulsory pooling application was provided to all interest owners.

(6) The spacing in the Santo Nino-Bone Spring Pool is governed by Division Order No. R-8546 in Case No. 9253 issued on November 17, 1987, and made permanent by Division Order No. R-8546-A, and amended by Division Order No. R-8546-B. These Orders provide for standard units containing 80 acres, more or less, consisting of the N/2, S/2, W/2 or the E/2 of a governmental quarter section, with oil wells to be located at least 330 feet from the unit outer boundaries. The Unit consists of four adjacent quarter-quarter sections.

(7) Applicant appeared at the hearing through counsel and presented the following testimony:

- (a) this area is suitable for development by horizontal drilling;
- (b) all quarter-quarter sections to be included in the Unit are expected to be productive in the Bone Spring formation, so that formation of the Unit as requested will not impair correlative rights; and
- (c) the geology in the area suggests that drilling in the E-W or W-E direction will allow Mewbourne to strike the most productive zones of the Bone Spring formation.

(8) No other party appeared at the hearing to oppose this application.

**The Division concludes as follows:**

(9) Approval of the proposed non-standard unit will enable Applicant to drill a horizontal well that will efficiently produce the reserves underlying the Unit, thereby preventing waste, and will not impair correlative rights.

(10) Two or more separately owned tracts are embraced within the Units, and/or there are royalty interests and/or undivided interests in oil and gas minerals in one or more tracts included in the Units that are separately owned.

(11) Applicant is an owner of an oil and gas working interest within the Units. Applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill the proposed well to a common source of supply within the Units at the proposed location.

(12) There are interest owners in the Units that have not agreed to pool their interests. There are un-located owners in the Units, and accordingly provision should be

made to escrow funds for the account of such owners.

(13) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, protect correlative rights, prevent waste and afford to the owner of each interest in the Units the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense its just and fair share of hydrocarbons, this application should be approved by pooling all uncommitted interests, whatever they may be, in the oil and gas within the Unit.

(14) Mewbourne Oil Company should be designated the operator of the proposed well and of the Units.

(15) Any pooled working interest owner who does not pay its share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production its share of reasonable well costs, plus an additional 200% thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in drilling the well.

(16) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$7,500 per month while drilling and \$750 per month while producing, provided that these rates should be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3. of the COPAS form titled "Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations."

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

(1) A non-standard 158.31-acre, more or less, oil spacing and proration unit and project area ("the Unit") is hereby established in the Bone Spring formation, Santo Nino-Bone Spring Pool (54600), consisting of Lot 1, the NE/4 NW/4, and the N/2 NE/4 (the N/2 N/2 equivalent) of Section 30, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, NMPM, in Eddy County, New Mexico.

(2) Pursuant to the application of Mewbourne Oil Company, all uncommitted interests in the Bone Spring formation underlying the N/2 N/2 equivalent of Section 30 to form a non-standard 158.31-acre oil spacing and proration unit, are hereby pooled.

(3) The proposed Unit shall be dedicated to Mewbourne's Bradley 30 Federal Com Well No. 4H (API No. 30-015-40934), to be horizontally drilled from a surface location in Lot 1, to a terminus in the NE/4 NE/4 of Section 30. The completed interval for the well will be entirely within all applicable setbacks from the outer boundaries of the N/2 N/2 equivalent of Section 30.

(4) The operator of the Unit shall commence drilling the proposed well on or before March 30, 2014, and shall thereafter continue drilling the well with due diligence to test the Delaware formation.

(5) In the event the operator does not commence drilling the proposed well on or before March 30, 2014, Ordering Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be of no effect, unless

the operator obtains a time extension from the Division Director for good cause demonstrated by satisfactory evidence.

(6) Should the proposed well not be drilled and completed within 120 days after commencement thereof, then Ordering Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be of no further effect, and the unit and project area created by this order shall terminate, unless operator appears before the Division Director and obtains an extension of the time for completion of the proposed well for good cause shown by satisfactory evidence. If the proposed well is not completed in all of the quarter-quarter sections included in the proposed unit within 120 days after commencement of drilling, then the operator shall apply to the Division for an amendment to this Order to contract the 158.31-acre non-standard Unit so that it includes only those quarter-quarter sections in which the well is completed.

(7) Upon final plugging and abandonment of the proposed well and any other well drilled on the Unit pursuant to Division Rule 19.15.13.9 NMAC, the pooled units created by this Order shall terminate, unless this order has been amended to authorize further operations.

(8) Mewbourne Oil Company is hereby designated the operator of the well and of the Unit.

(9) After pooling, uncommitted working interest owners are referred to as pooled working interest owners. ("Pooled working interest owners" are owners of working interests in the Unit, including unleased mineral interests, who are not parties to an operating agreement governing the Unit.) After the effective date of this order, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner in the Unit an itemized schedule of estimated costs of drilling, completing and equipping the proposed well ("well costs").

(10) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished, any pooled working interest owner shall have the right to pay its share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production as hereinafter provided, and any such owner who pays its share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges. Pooled working interest owners who elect not to pay their share of estimated well costs as provided in this paragraph shall thereafter be referred to as "non-consenting working interest owners."

(11) The operator shall furnish the Santa Fe office of the Division and each known pooled working interest owner (including non-consenting working interest owners) an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the proposed well. If no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division, and the Division has not objected, within 45 days following receipt of the schedule, the actual well costs shall be deemed to be the reasonable well costs. If there is an objection to actual well costs within the 45-day period, the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(12) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any pooled working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator its share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator the amount, if any, that the estimated well costs it has paid exceed its share of reasonable well costs.

(13) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (a) the proportionate share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner; and
- (b) as a charge for the risk involved in drilling the well, 200% of the above costs.

(14) The operator shall distribute the costs and charges withheld from production, proportionately, to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(15) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$7,500 per month while drilling and \$750 per month while producing, provided that these rates shall be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3. of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations*." The operator is authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to pooled working interest owners.

(16) Except as provided in Paragraphs (13) and (15) above, all proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in Eddy County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership. The operator shall notify the Division (Attention: Records Clerk) of the name and address of the escrow agent not later than one year from the date of issuance of this Order.

(17) Should all the parties to this compulsory pooling order reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(18) The operator of the well and Unit shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

(19) As to all interests in Federal Oil and Gas Leases, the compulsory provisions of this order are subject to the approval of the United States Bureau of Land Management.

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

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.



SEAL

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Handwritten signature of Jami Bailey in cursive script.

JAMI BAILEY  
Director