

**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. 13662  
ORDER NO. R-12595**

**APPLICATION OF SYNERGY OPERATING, LLC FOR COMPULSORY  
POOLING, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

**ORDER OF THE DIVISION**

**BY THE DIVISION:**

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on March 30 and June 22, 2006, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2006, 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 its subject matter.

(2) The applicant, Synergy Operating, LLC ("applicant"), seeks an order pooling all uncommitted mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Pictured Cliffs formation underlying the following-described acreage in Section 6, Township 29 North, Range 13 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico in the following manner:

Lots 2-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, S/2 NW/4 NE/4 NE/4, S/2 SW/4 NE/4 NE/4, S/2 NE/4 and the SE/4 NW/4 (N/2 equivalent) to form a non-standard 248.11-acre gas spacing and proration unit for all formations and/or pools spaced on 320 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool;

Lots 2, 8, 9, 11-13, S/2 NW/4 NE/4 NE/4, S/2 SW/4 NE/4 NE/4, and the S/2 NE/4 (NE/4 equivalent) to form a

standard 159.82-acre spacing and proration unit for all formations and/or pools spaced on 160 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include, but are not necessarily limited to the Undesignated West Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool; and

Lots 3-5 and the SE/4 NW/4 (NW/4 equivalent) to form a non-standard 88.29-acre spacing and proration unit for all formations and/or pools spaced on 160 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include but are not necessarily limited to the Undesignated West Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool.

(3) The above-described spacing and proration units (the "Units") are to be dedicated as follows:

within the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, the N/2 equivalent of Section 6 is to be dedicated to the applicant's proposed Madrid 29-13-6 Well No. 111 to be drilled at a standard well location within the NE/4 equivalent of Section 6, and to the Madrid 29-13-6 Well No. 112 to be drilled at a standard well location within the NW/4 equivalent of Section 6;

within the West Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool, or in any other pool spaced on 160 acres, the NE/4 equivalent of Section 6 is to be dedicated to the Madrid 29-13-6 Well No. 111; and

within the West Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool, or in any other pool spaced on 160 acres, the NW/4 equivalent of Section 6 is to be dedicated to the Madrid 29-13-6 Well No. 112.

(4) 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.

(5) Applicant is an owner of an oil and gas working interest within the Units. Applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill its Madrid 29-13-6 Wells No. 111 and 112 at standard well locations within the N/2 equivalent of Section 6 to test the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool and the Pictured Cliffs formation.

(6) There are interest owners in the proposed Units that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(7) 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 Units.

(8) The applicant should be designated the operator of the subject wells and of the Units.

(9) 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 wells.

(10) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$5,000.00 per month while drilling and \$500.00 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) Pursuant to the application of Synergy Operating, LLC, all uncommitted mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Pictured Cliffs formation underlying the following-described acreage in Section 6, Township 29 North, Range 13 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled in the following manner:

Lots 2-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, S/2 NW/4 NE/4 NE/4, S/2 SW/4 NE/4 NE/4, S/2 NE/4 and the SE/4 NW/4 (N/2 equivalent) to form a non-standard 248.11-acre gas spacing and proration unit for all formations and/or pools spaced on 320 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool;

Lots 2, 8, 9, 11-13, S/2 NW/4 NE/4 NE/4, S/2 SW/4 NE/4 NE/4, and the S/2 NE/4 (NE/4 equivalent) to form a standard 159.82-acre spacing and proration unit for all formations and/or pools spaced on 160 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include, but are not necessarily limited to the Undesignated West Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool; and

Lots 3-5 and the SE/4 NW/4 (NW/4 equivalent) to form a non-standard 88.29-acre spacing and proration unit for all formations and/or pools spaced on 160 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include, but are not

necessarily limited to the Undesignated West Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool.

(2) The above-described spacing and proration Units shall be dedicated as follows:

within the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, the N/2 equivalent of Section 6 shall be dedicated to the applicant's proposed Madrid 29-13-6 Well No. 111 to be drilled at a standard well location within the NE/4 equivalent of Section 6, and to the Madrid 29-13-6 Well No. 112 to be drilled at a standard well location within the NW/4 equivalent of Section 6;

within the West Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool, or in any other pool spaced on 160 acres, the NE/4 equivalent of Section 6 shall be dedicated to the Madrid 29-13-6 Well No. 111; and

within the West Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool, or in any other pool spaced on 160 acres, the NW/4 equivalent of Section 6 shall be dedicated to the Madrid 29-13-6 Well No. 112.

(3) The operator of the Units shall commence drilling the proposed wells on or before October 15, 2006, and shall thereafter continue drilling the wells with due diligence to test the Pictured Cliffs formation.

(4) In the event the operator does not commence drilling the proposed wells on or before October 15, 2006, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no effect, unless the operator obtains a time extension from the Division Director for good cause.

(5) Should the subject wells not be drilled and completed within 120 days after commencement thereof, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no further effect, and the Units created by this Order shall terminate unless the operator appears before the Division Director and obtains an extension of time to drill and complete the wells for good cause demonstrated by satisfactory evidence.

(6) Upon final plugging and abandonment of the subject wells, the pooled Units created by this Order shall terminate, unless this order has been amended to authorize further operations,

(7) Synergy Operating, LLC is hereby designated the operator of the subject wells and of the Units.

(8) 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 Units, including ~~unleased~~ mineral interests, who are not parties to an operating agreement governing the Units.) After the effective date of this order, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner in the Units an itemized schedule of estimated costs of drilling, completing and equipping the subject wells ("well costs").

(9) 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."

(10) The operator shall furnish 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 wells. 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.

(11) 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.

(12) 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 wells, 200% of the above costs.

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

(14) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$5,000.00 per month while drilling and \$500.00 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 wells, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to pooled working interest owners.

(15) Except as provided in Ordering Paragraphs (12) and (14) above, all proceeds from production from the wells that are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in San Juan County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership. The operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of the escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with the escrow agent.

(16) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under this order. Any well costs or charges that are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interests' share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(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.

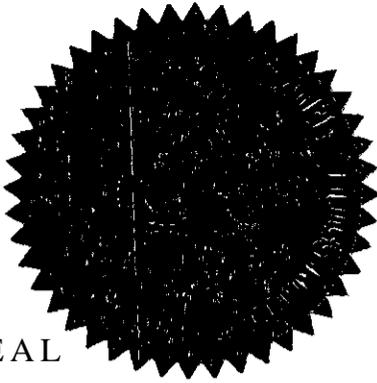
(18) The operator of the wells and Units shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

(19) Prior to producing the Madrid 29-13-6 Wells No. 111 and 112 within the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, the applicant shall obtain approval of the non-standard 248.11-acre gas spacing and proration unit, comprising the N/2 equivalent of Section 6, from the Aztec District Office of the Division.

(20) Prior to producing the Madrid 29-13-6 Well No. 112 within the West Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool, or in any other pool spaced on 160 acres, the applicant shall obtain approval of the non-standard 88.29-acre spacing and proration unit, comprising the NW/4 equivalent of Section 6, from the Santa Fe Office of the Division.

(21) 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.



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STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

MARK E. FESMIRE, PE  
Director