

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:**

**REOPENED**  
**CASE NO. 13158**  
**ORDER NO. R-12057-A**

**APPLICATION OF MEWBOURNE OIL COMPANY FOR 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 January 22, 2004, at Santa Fe, New Mexico before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004, 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) By Order No. R-12057, issued in Case No. 13158 on November 25, 2003, the Division granted the application of Mewbourne Oil Company (herein referred either as "Mewbourne" or "Applicant") for the compulsory pooling of all uncommitted mineral interests, whatever they may be, from the top of the Cisco formation to the base of the Morrow formation underlying Lots 3 and 4, the E/2 SW/4, and the SE/4 (S/2 equivalent) of Section 30, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, to form a standard 314.60-acre lay-down deep gas spacing unit for any and all formations or pools developed on 320-acre spacing pursuant to Division Rule 104.C(2), which presently include, but are not necessarily limited to the Undesignated Northeast Happy Valley-Strawn Gas Pool (78075), Undesignated La Huerta-Strawn Gas Pool (79720), Undesignated Carlsbad Springs-Strawn Gas Pool (74020), Undesignated La Huerta-Atoka Gas Pool (79700), Undesignated Crozier Bluff-Atoka Gas Pool (75730), and Burton Flat-Morrow Gas Pool (73280).

(3) This pooled unit was to be dedicated to Mewbourne's La Huerta "30" Fee Com. Well No. 1 (API No. 30-015-33003) to be directionally drilled from a surface location 2114 feet from the South line and 2464 feet from the East line (Unit J) of Section 29, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, to a standard **bottomhole** deep gas well location pursuant to Division Rule 104.C (2) (a) within the SE/4 SE/4 (Unit P) of Section 30.

(4) Division Order No. R-12057 further: (i) required Mewbourne, as operator of the **subject** unit, to commence drilling this well on or before March 1, 2004; and (ii) provided that a risk penalty of 200 percent be assessed against all uncommitted mineral interest owners in this unit for the risk involved in drilling the well.

(5) On November 9, 2003 Applicant commenced drilling the La Huerta "30" Fee Com. Well No. 1. Mechanical problems were encountered at a depth of 1,551 feet and the well was plugged and abandoned on November 16, 2003.

(6) At this time Mewbourne proposes to move the surface location to a point 823 feet from the South line and 945 feet from the East line (Unit P) of Section 19, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, designate this new well the La Huerta "30" Fee Com. Well No. 1-Y (API No. 30-015-33183), and directionally drill to a targeted bottomhole location at the base of the Morrow formation 700 feet from the South and East lines (Unit P) of Section 30, being a standard deep gas well location, pursuant to Division Rule 104.C (2) (a), within the same **314.60-acre** unit described above. Directional drilling in this area is necessary due to the close proximity to the City of Carlsbad.

(7) Applicant further seeks to pool all uncommitted mineral interests underlying the same **314.60-acre** deep gas unit within the same vertical limits as previously pooled by Division Order No. R-12057 [see Finding Paragraph No. (2) **above**].

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

(9) There are certain mineral interest owners within the proposed **314.60-acre** unit that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(10) No party affected by this application appeared at the hearing or **objected** to this application.

(11) 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 mineral interests, whatever they may be, within this unit.

(12) Applicant should be designated the operator of the **subject** well and of the unit.

(13) Pursuant to Division Rule 35.A, 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 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the proposed La Huerta "30" Fee Com. Well No. 1-Y.

(14) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$ 6,000.00 per month while drilling and \$ 600.00 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.*" The operator should be 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 each pooled working interest.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) Pursuant to the application of Mewbourne Oil Company ("Applicant"), all uncommitted mineral interests, whatever they may be, from the top of the Cisco formation to the base of the Morrow formation underlying Lots 3 and 4, the E/2 SW/4, and the SE/4 (S/2 equivalent) of Section 30, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled to form a standard **314.60-acre** lay-down deep gas spacing unit for any and all formations or pools developed on 320-acre spacing pursuant to Division Rule 104.C (2), which presently include, but are not necessarily limited to the Undesignated **Happy Valley-Strawn Gas Pool** (78075), Undesignated **La Huerta-Strawn Gas Pool** (79720), Undesignated **Carlsbad Springs-Strawn Gas Pool** (74020), Undesignated **La Huerta-Atoka Gas Pool** (79700), Undesignated **Crazier Bluff-Atoka Gas Pool** (75730), and **Burton Flat-Morrow Gas Pool** (73280).

(2) This unit shall be dedicated to the Applicant's proposed La Huerta "30" Fee Com. Well No. 1-Y (API No. 30-015-33183) to be directionally drilled to the base of the Morrow formation from a surface location 823 feet from the South line and 945 feet from the East line (Unit P) of Section 19, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, to a targeted standard bottomhole deep gas well location, pursuant to Division Rule 104.C (2) (a), within the above-described 314.60-acre unit 700 feet from the South and East lines (Unit P) of Section 30.

(3) Applicant is hereby designated the operator of the proposed well and of this unit.

(4) The operator of this unit shall commence drilling the proposed well on or before June 15, 2004, and shall thereafter continue drilling the well with due diligence to a depth sufficient to test the Morrow formation.

(5) In the event the operator does not commence drilling the proposed well on or before June 15, 2004, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no effect, unless the operator obtains a time extension from the Division Director for good cause.

(6) Should the proposed well not be drilled and completed within 120 days after commencement thereof, the operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Ordering Paragraph (1) should not be rescinded.

(7) Upon final plugging and abandonment of the proposed well, the force-pooled unit created by this Order shall terminate, unless this Order has been amended to authorize further operations.

(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 unit, including **unleased** mineral interests, who are not parties to an operating agreement governing this 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 well costs of drilling, completing, and equipping the proposed well ("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 each non-consenting working interest owner) 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.

(11) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, **any pooled** working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated well 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 that it has paid exceeds 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 well, 200 percent of the above costs (see Division Rule 35.A).

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

(14) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$ 6,000.00 per month while drilling and \$ 600.00 per month while producing, provided that this rate shall be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3 of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations.*" The operator is hereby 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 each pooled working interest owner.

(15) Except as provided in Ordering Paragraphs (12) and (14) 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 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, that portion of this order authorizing compulsory pooling shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(18) The operator of the above-described 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) 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.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

*Lori Wrotenberg*  
LORI WROTENBERY  
Director