1	STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2	OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
3	HEARING DAY 02
4	
5	Agenda No. 11-23
6	
7	
8	Moderated by Dylan Fuge
9	Thursday, November 9, 2023
10	9:01 a.m.
11	
12	
13	Pecos Hall Hearing Room
14	Wendell Chino Building, 1st Floor
15	1220 South Saint Francis Drive
16	Santa Fe, NM 87505
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21	Reported by: James Cogswell
22	JOB NO.: 5531768
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1	APPEARANCES
2	List of Attendees:
3	Dylan Fuge, Commissioner/Chair
4	William Ampomah, Commissioner
5	Greg Bloom, Commissioner
6	Jesse K. Tremaine, Attorney
7	Dana Hardy, Attorney
8	Deana Bennett, Attorney
9	Earl DeBrine, Attorney
10	Daniel Rubin, Attorney
11	Brandon Powell, Deputy Director
12	Phil Goetze, UIC Manager
13	Tom Merrifield, Witness
14	Million Gebremichael, Petroleum Specialist
15	Ochi Achinivu, Chevron
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1		EXHIBITS	
2	NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
3	Exhibit Tab A	Application Case No. 23686	
4		(includes C-108)	/9
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8	Exhibit Tab D	Consolidated Hearing Exhibits	/9
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14	Exhibit 1	Mr. Powell's Education &	
15		Experience	12/12
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17	Exhibit 3	Mr. Gebremichael's CV 121/121	
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20	Exhibit 5 Reference for DMG by Nance,		
21		Bureau of Economic Geology,	
22		University of Texas	31/86
23	Exhibit 6	Cumulative Information	35/86
24	Exhibit 7	Exhibits and Orders Related to	
25		the BOPCO Cases	43/86
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1		EXHIBITS (Cont'd)	
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3	OCD:		
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5	Exhibit 9	Texas Rail Commission Approve	es
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7	Exhibit 10	Seismicity	55/86
8	Exhibit 11	OCD List of Conditions	60/86
9	Exhibit 12	OCD's Proposal	123/132
10	Exhibit 147	Chevron Presentation,	
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12	Exhibit 150	Chevron Presentation,	
13		Label Revised	/9
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	MR. FUGE: Good morning, everyone.
3	Dylan Fuge, Chair of the Oil Conservation Commission
4	calling to order day two of our November 2023 oil
5	conservation commission hearing that was previously
6	noticed with our original notice. I'm going to run
7	through a quick roll call. Commissioner Ampomah?
8	MR. AMPOMAH: Present.
9	MR. FUGE: Commissioner Bloom?
LO	MR. BLOOM: Here.
L1	MR. FUGE: Let the record reflect that
L2	we have a quorum and the whole commission's present,
L3	and we are resuming case number
L4	What's the case number?
L5	MS. BENNETT: 23686 and 23687.
L6	MR. FUGE: We're we are resuming
L7	case numbers 23686 and 23687, the application of
L8	Chevron to construct two salt water disposal wells in
L9	the Delaware mountain group.
20	Where we left off yesterday was OCD was
21	going to begin its the Oil Conservation was going
22	to begin its affirmative testimony, but I understand
23	from counsel for the parties there may be some
24	administrative matters to discuss first, so I will
25	turn it over to Ms. Bennett for the record.

1	MS. BENNETT: Thank you very much.
2	Yesterday we, at the end of the day, we
3	closed our case, but there were two sets of exhibits
4	that I wanted to admit before our case is officially
5	closed. And those two sets of exhibits are fairly
6	ministerial.
7	The first set of exhibits is Tab E,
8	which is the witness resumes. And we walked through
9	the witnesses' qualifications on direct and on the
10	witnesses were accepted as their credentials were
11	accepted as a matter of record.
12	So I'd ask that Tab E, the witness
13	resumes, be admitted into the record.
14	(Exhibit Tab E was received into
15	evidence.)
16	MR. FUGE: Any objection?
17	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: None.
18	MS. HARDY: No.
19	MR. FUGE: Considered amended.
20	MS. BENNETT: Thank you.
21	And the final exhibit packet or tab is
22	Tab F, which are the hearing notices showing that
23	notice of these hearings or these cases as you all may
24	know were originally set for hearing before the Oil
25	Conservation Commission and then they were continued

1	to the Commission.
2	And so the Tab F shows that notice
3	of the hearings were kindly mailed, and that
4	publication was kindly done. And so I would ask the
5	admission oh, and there's also a self-made
6	declaration myself that goes to those facts as well.
7	So I would ask the admission of Tab F, the hearing
8	notices.
9	MR. FUGE: Any objection?
10	MR. BLOOM: No objection. The exhibits
11	are admitted.
12	(Exhibit Tab F was received into
13	evidence.)
14	MS. BENNETT: Thank you. And then I
15	have one more item I'd like to share. Yesterday
16	during the hearing, we were asked to submit revised
17	exhibits two revised exhibits. This exhibit is
18	revised to only show the change in the date.
19	Yeah, I apologize that it's not ideal
20	the way I'm looking at it right now. There we go. So
21	we changed the date. That's the only revision for
22	this exhibit.
23	And then on this exhibit, which was
24	is marked as page 150 of 267. We revised the label as
25	requested by Mr. Ampomah. And so with that, I would

1	ask that these two exhibits be admitted into the
2	record to replace the prior exhibits.
3	MR. FUGE: Any objection?
4	MR. BLOOM: No objection.
5	MR. FUGE: Exhibits are admitted.
6	(OCD Exhibit 147 and Exhibit 150 were
7	received into evidence.)
8	MS. BENNETT: Thank you. And so just a
9	final request that all of the exhibits that we
10	submitted in Tabs A, B, C, D, E, and F and these final
11	two exhibits be admitted into the record for these two
12	cases.
13	MR. FUGE: Any objections?
14	MR. BLOOM: None.
15	MR. FUGE: They're admitted.
16	(Exhibit Tab A through Tab D were
17	admitted into evidence.)
18	MS. BENNETT: Thank you very much.
19	MR. FUGE: Mr. Tremaine?
20	MR. TREMAINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21	The Oil Conservation Division would
22	call our first witness, Mr. Brandon Powell.
23	May I have permission to sharing
24	screen?
25	MR. FUGE: Yes. May I ask the court
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1	reporter to swear in the witness?
2	THE REPORTER: Please raise your right
3	hand.
4	WHEREUPON,
5	BRANDON POWELL,
6	called as a witness and having been first duly sworn
7	to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
8	the truth, was examined and testified as follows:
9	MR. FUGE: All right. The witness may
10	be seated in order to begin.
11	DIRECT EXAMINATION
12	BY MR. TREMAINE:
13	Q Good morning. Could you please state your
14	name for the record?
15	MR. TREMAINE: For those following
16	online, we had a computer get kicked off the network.
17	Bear with us one second. We'll resume in a moment.
18	All right. All right. Just
19	confirming. Court reporter, can you acknowledge you
20	can hear us again?
21	THE REPORTER: I can hear you. The
22	last thing I heard was Mr. Tremaine asking for the
23	witness's name.
24	THE WITNESS: Brandon Powell.
25	MR. TREMAINE: Okay. We're going back
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1	to instructions. Got it.
2	MR. FUGE: Were you able to do you
3	have the swearing in of Mr. Powell?
4	THE REPORTER: I have I have the
5	swearing in of Mr. Powell, if we could resume from
6	there, please.
7	MR. FUGE: Okay. Apologies, Mr.
8	Powell. You may begin your testimony.
9	BY MR. TREMAINE:
10	Q Okay. So Mr. Powell, what is your current
11	position with the Oil Conservation Division?
12	A My current position is the deputy director
13	overseeing environmental and engineering.
14	Q And as the deputy director of the Oil
15	Conservation Division, can you describe your duties
16	in that role?
17	A My current role overseeing the Engineering
18	Bureau, I oversee the UIC Group, the Administrative
19	Permitting Group, and the Inspection Groups, and then
20	also the Engineering Bureau Chief.
21	Q Could you also please provide for the
22	Commission a summary of your education and experience
23	outside of the deputy director role?
24	A As it relates to this case, I've been with
25	the OCD since 2006, so just a little over 17 years. I

1	have overseen their whole engineering well works,
2	those kind of things since 2011. And then since 2020,
3	I've directly overseen the UIC group as the
4	Engineering Bureau Chief and then I was promoted to
5	the deputy director earlier this year.
6	Q Is your education and experience summarized
7	in what's marked as OCD Exhibit 1?
8	(OCD Exhibit 1 was marked for
9	identification.)
10	A It is.
11	Q Is that the document that's on the screen
12	right now?
13	A It is.
14	Q And you prepared that document?
15	A Yes, I did.
16	MR. TREMAINE: I have I would move
17	admission of OCD Exhibit number 1.
18	MR. FUGE: Objection?
19	MS. BENNETT: No objection.
20	MR. FUGE: Admitted.
21	(OCD Exhibit 1 was received into
22	evidence.)
23	MR. TREMAINE: All right.
24	BY MR. TREMAINE:
25	Q And Mr. Powell, I'd like to move into the
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1	substantive portion of your testimony and direct your
2	attention to OCD Exhibit number 4.
3	(OCD Exhibit 4 was marked for
4	identification.)
5	Did you prepare this exhibit?
6	A Yes, I did.
7	Q And could you please briefly summarize
8	MR. FUGE: Mr. Tremaine, are you
9	intending to have Mr. Powell recognized as a technical
10	expert or otherwise?
11	MR. TREMAINE: No, we were fact
12	as a fact witness on history and summary. We have
13	two technical experts coming shortly.
14	MR. FUGE: I just wanted to clarify.
15	Thank you.
16	MR. TREMAINE: Thank you.
17	BY MR. TREMAINE:
18	Q Mr. Powell, could you please briefly
19	describe the Exhibit 4 for the Commission?
20	A So Exhibit number 4 and I'll go through
21	it in its entirety it's intended to be an overview.
22	The DMG injection as it relates to production in the
23	areas in the southeast part of New Mexico.
24	It's a high level overview of production
25	information and practices. It's a culmination of

1	information pulled from OCD information; information
2	from the Bureau of Geology and then from various
3	papers.
4	Q Thank you. So, Mr. Powell, the first page
5	here on Exhibit number 4, which is up on screen, is
6	just the introductory slide. If I could point you to
7	slide number 2. Could you please summarize slide
8	the information that's contained on slide 2?
9	A So slide 2 goes through an overview geology
L O	wise of where the DMG is located and the production
L1	history of the DMG through the different decades; how
L2	the different decades produced the different zones.
L 3	Also, it summarizes that in 2007, there were
L 4	250 productive pools in the DMG, and through 2010 the
L 5	cumulative production is shown at the bottom of the
L6	slide for the DMG as a whole.
L 7	Q Are there any specific areas on this slide
L8	that you would highlight and point out to the
L9	commission as significant in reviewing this case?
20	A So as it relates to this case, when you look
21	at formations on the righthand side, you'll see where
22	the bell in the Cherry Canyon that Chevron's proposing
23	were primarily produced from the our drilling would
24	happen between the '50s and the '80s.
25	The Brushy Canyon, which they are planning

1	on doing a DFIT in but not producing is a formation
2	that has had wells drilled between the '90s and then
3	current.
4	Q and Mr. Powell, we'll move on to slide
5	number three. Could you please describe to the
6	Commission the information that's contained on slide
7	number three?
8	A So slide number three just goes over
9	historical practices as it relates to the DMG. Most
10	of these practices started or happened in the 2010s.
11	And it starts off with pre-2010. Most DMG disposals
12	in the DMG were smaller, centrally located fill base
13	wells.
14	The volumes were significantly smaller than
15	what we're seeing being utilized today. The next two
16	bullets are just summaries of different times
17	significant times in the DMG injection in the area.
18	And then slide number four, BOPCO cases that
19	were significant as far as limiting DMG injection in
20	the area because it showed where wells had crossed
21	over to production and inhibited that production.
22	Part of the at least one of those wells, when I put
23	this slide together were still not had still not
24	recovered.
25	As a result, a growing interest, and issues
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1	in the DMG disposal, NMOGA provided an exclusionary
2	map for restriction DMG injection that correlative
3	rights and reduce drilling complications in the area,
4	and I believe that's the same one that Chevron's
5	already shown. But I'll get to that later in my
6	slides as well.
7	Q Now, in terms of the history and primacy
8	practices that are outlined on this slide, how does
9	your deputy director's position be formed and how is
10	this history form how you reviewed applications for
11	injection in this area, essentially where OCD's
12	overarching concerns?
13	A So OCD's overarching concerns and DMG
14	injection as a whole is centered around correlative
15	rights, ensuring that they're protected, that we're
16	not sacrificing correlative rights for injection
17	intervals for future because correlative rights are
18	one of our primary drivers for protection, so it's
19	just to make sure that those are protected.
20	Q Moving on to the bottom, actually, I can
21	stay on strike that.
22	Moving on to slide number four, Mr. Powell,
23	could you please describe for the commission the
24	information contained on slide number four?
25	A So the map on the left is the NMOGA
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1	identified protectable areas. These are the areas
2	that Chevron has already addressed in their testimony
3	that related to the Avalon potential cross flow and
4	production there.
5	The slide on the right was a map that was
6	put together by the Bureau of Geology, and it shows
7	high potentials for production in the future. If
8	there's high, moderate, and low potentials as shown by
9	the red, the green, and the blue lines around the map
10	to show future potentials in that area as they were
11	determined in 2007.
12	Q And the for, you know, purposes of
13	clarification, is it fair to say that these that
14	the areas depicted on this map are the same as the
15	areas that were described in Chevron's testimony or
16	stated otherwise? There is not an actual dispute
17	about areas on this slide?
18	A There's not a dispute. I don't believe
19	Chevron, shown on my map on the right, but they did
20	show the map on the left.
21	Q Moving on to slide number five. Okay. Mr.
22	Powell, can you please briefly describe the
23	information that's contained on this slide?
24	A So this is the rough overlay that combines
25	the or on the NMOGA map with the potential

1	production map and then it inserts the two Chevron
2	wells in the areas. It shows that both map or
3	wells being proposed by Chevron are outside of that
4	high potential area that was previously identified.
5	And but both inside of the area of the NMOGA
6	Q Right. And for clarification, how is the
7	NMOGA map depicted on this overlay?
8	A So the NMOGA map is in that light blue line
9	that overlays the three lines of the high potential
10	area.
11	Q So from a high level review from OCD's
12	perspective these wells proposed wells are outside
13	of the high potential production DMG zone but within
14	the one protection zone noted or proposed by NMOGA.
15	A That is correct. They're the wells are
16	on the outer boundaries of the Avalon by NMOGA and
17	is outside the high potential by the Bureau of
18	Geology. It the way OCD's looking at them is OCD
19	doesn't support the application nor does it oppose it
20	because of the lack of information that's in the area.
21	That's why the OCD technical witnesses later
22	on will go in depth as far as what we're recommending
23	required for these wells and future wells. Because we
24	see them as an area that we just don't have a whole
25	lot of information. So we need to gather that

1	information.
2	Q Given this background to, you know, the
3	history that you outlined about the development and
4	in the area, any concerns highlighted in your
5	presentation? Does OCD have any recommendations for
6	conditions of approval, appropriate guidelines that
7	you had the commission to approve regarding this and
8	future applications?
9	A So the technical witnesses will dive into
10	the conditions that OCD has is looking for and
11	they're better versed to talk about those conditions
12	themselves, but yes, we see them this area is
13	similar to like a development well for production.
14	It's outside of an area that's known
15	to to be used. So we're looking for conditions
16	that will properly evaluate that area as they develop
17	it
18	Q Okay. And we've heard, you know, in the
19	application there's styling of this project as a
20	pilot. And we've heard some testimony yesterday.
21	From your perspective as the deputy director of OCD,
22	what's the significance of a pilot designation in the
23	context of the salt water as opposed to a well?
24	A I think it's extremely necessary in this
25	area because of the unknown circumstances in the area
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1	to do the proper testing. They can do the proper
2	gather the proper information to see what really we're
3	looking at out there.
4	It's similar to an exploratory well for
5	production where you go out to a well, you drill it,
6	you gather information before you do drill additional
7	wells. So it's really necessary from that
8	perspective.
9	Q So from OCD's perspective it sounds like the
10	styling of this as a this proposal as a pilot
11	project and the inclusion of specific conditions of
12	approval, data gathering, testing, monitoring, am I
13	understanding correctly that you believe that's both
14	appropriate and administratively feasible for OCD?
15	A I do, and I believe it's also necessary to
16	gather the information that can ensure correlative
17	rights too.
18	Q Thank you. The last question, Mr. Powell.
19	We heard yesterday about Chevron's proposed monitoring
20	and notification related to the potential
21	interference. Do you recall that testimony in the
22	exhibit?
23	A I do.
24	Q In your opinion as deputy director, when and
25	how should such notification of potential interference
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1	or actual interference occur to OCD? When should that
2	be provided?
3	A So what I would be looking for from the OCD
4	side is any time there's a potential for interference
5	that at least as a courtesy the operator would be
6	informing the OCD and other regulatory agencies of
7	that potential so we're aware of the situation as they
8	work through their process.
9	Q So it sounds like you would ask that
10	operator to not wait until interference is necessarily
11	confirmed but if there's material information
12	suggesting possible interference wells you would
13	want notification as to the occurrence at that point
14	in time.
15	A That's correct. Because the the reviews
16	and the studies that go along with that can take
17	considerable time and if the OCD and other agencies
18	were informed of they're aware of the process
19	moving through.
20	MR. TREMAINE: Mr. Chair, I'm done with
21	our questions on direct.
22	MR. FUGE: Thank you, Mr. Tremaine.
23	Ms. Bennet, do you have any questions
24	for the witness?
25	MS. BENNETT: Just a couple. Thank
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1	you.
2	CROSS-EXAMINATION
3	BY MS. BENNETT:
4	Q Thanks so much for being here and for the
5	exhibits that you all prepared. It's very helpful, so
6	definitely appreciate it. I just had a couple of
7	questions for you.
8	If we could turn back to page 2 of Exhibit
9	4. On this page you discussed in the 2000s there were
10	some horizontal production in the Brushy Canyon.
11	Have you looked at how close that horizontal
12	production is to the proposed Severitas well or
13	well?
14	A So I have not personally I know Chevron
15	in their proposal looked at all DMG production within
16	a two-mile radius and they didn't discover any in this
17	area.
18	Q Thank you. And you have no reason to doubt
19	the voracity of their review?
20	A No
21	Q Okay.
22	MS. BENNETT: Then if you could turn to
23	the next page I think it was Mr. Tremaine? applied
24	with the one more, please.
25	MR. TREMAINE: This is number 13.
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1	MS. BENNETT: Thank you.
2	BY MS. BENNETT:
3	Q So this slide shows the NMOGA identified
4	protectable area on the left; right?
5	A That is correct. Yeah.
6	Q And it was not intended to be an exclusion
7	zone; was it? It was intended to be a protectable
8	area?
9	A That's correct. To my knowledge, it's a
10	protectable area. I believe our technical examiners
11	will go through it more extensively, but yes.
12	Q Okay. But to your understanding, it was
13	never meant to be a per se prohibition of disposal in
14	that area?
15	A Correct.
16	Q Do you know if BOPCO was acquired by XTO?
17	Do you know that?
18	A Offhand, I didn't do that research.
19	Q Okay. Earlier you mentioned that OCD or the
20	Division is, sort of, taking a wait-and-see approach;
21	or not taking a position one way or the other on these
22	two applications because of the need to gather
23	additional testing information and to evaluate DMG
24	disposal?
25	A Correct.

1	Q And did you were here, though, when
2	Chevron went through its protocols for the data that
3	it's going to gather and it's monitoring approach?
4	A Yes, I was.
5	Q Did do you have any concerns with the
6	data gathering that Chevron is proposing?
7	A Between the data gathering Chevron's doing
8	and the COAs that OCD is looking at placing, that's
9	why we're not opposing it because we feel it is
10	necessary to gather that information.
11	Q So the Division is on agrees that
12	additional information is necessary to be gathered
13	then as we currently and you see that as one of the
14	goals of Chevron's
15	A Yes, I do.
16	Q Let's see. The other item I wanted to just
17	briefly discuss with you, and this may be something to
18	discuss more with the other Division witnesses but
19	it is about the conditions of approval. As I as we
20	discussed yesterday, Chevron has some further
21	questions or information that they'd like to discuss
22	with the Division about those conditions of approval.
23	Is the Division open to having those types
24	of discussions with the with Chevron?
25	A I think the Division's always open to have
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1	those types of discussions to make sure we get the
2	the best information possible.
3	Q And I think that's all the questions I have.
4	Thank you very much.
5	A Thank you.
6	MR. FUGE: Ms. Hardy, do you have any
7	questions for the witness?
8	MS. HARDY: I do not. Thank you.
9	MR. FUGE: Dr. Ampomah, do you have any
10	questions for the witness?
11	DR. AMPOMAH: yeah, a few. Yeah, so
12	in your slide number two you showed that there are
13	wells during the 2000s in the Brushy Canyon. So is it
14	a concern for you when Chevron proposes to do DFIT in
15	this particular formation?
16	MR. POWELL: I am not because of the
17	area that they're looking at doing it in. There's no
18	We subjust on all There
	current production shown. My estimation, and I have
19	not verified this, would be that those wells in the
19 20	
20	not verified this, would be that those wells in the
	not verified this, would be that those wells in the Brushy Canyon are going to be in those high productive
20 21	not verified this, would be that those wells in the Brushy Canyon are going to be in those high productive areas that were identified in the map that I showed in
20 21 22	not verified this, would be that those wells in the Brushy Canyon are going to be in those high productive areas that were identified in the map that I showed in the later slides.
20 21 22 23	not verified this, would be that those wells in the Brushy Canyon are going to be in those high productive areas that were identified in the map that I showed in the later slides. MR. AMPOMAH: So in your pre-hearing

1	like based on the description let's say going through
2	the process, sounds like you are personally in support
3	of the data gathering.
4	MR. POWELL: We are in support of the
5	data gathering, but for the injection wells themselves
6	in that particular area, there's not enough
7	information for us to support the injection itself.
8	But we do support the data gathering to get to that
9	point.
10	MR. AMPOMAH: So yesterday Chair talked
11	about the Commission working on the milestone to be
12	added to the conditions of approval. Is there
13	something that OCD is also in support of?
14	MR. POWELL: Yes.
15	MR. AMPOMAH: Okay. Thank you.
16	No further questions.
17	MR. FUGE: Mr. Bloom?
18	MR. BLOOM: Mr. Chair, no questions.
19	Thank you.
20	MR. FUGE: Mr. Powell, just one
21	clarification, just to clarify your testimony on
22	Chevron's flow chart that we don't need to pull up
23	about identifying potential interference.
24	Is it your position that you would just
25	like sort of concurrent notification to OCD of
	Page 26

1	potential interference?
2	Do you want OCD involvement throughout
3	the resolution, or do you just want notification and
4	then sort of not engagement and then engagement as
5	Chevron proposes, which is sort of when they can't
6	work it out? What's the OCD's position?
7	MR. POWELL: I think what is initially
8	discovered conferring notification and then any mile
9	stones or or a plan of action as it goes through.
10	I don't see it as being official as far as within
11	certain dates, but I think what the general plan is
12	and what the and then any general milestones as
13	they get through that process.
14	MR. FUGE: So is it fair to say your
15	position is you'd like the OCD to receive notification
16	throughout even though it may not necessarily be a
17	decision maker as it works through?
18	MR. POWELL: That's correct.
19	MR. FUGE: Okay. No further questions.
20	Mr. Tremaine, do you intend to reserve
21	Mr. Powell or are you done with him for
22	presentation?
23	MR. TREMAINE: Mr. Powell's free to
24	go
25	MR. FUGE: Call your next witness.
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1	MR. TREMAINE: All right. Mr. Chair,
2	the I think we can I would call on Mr. Phil
3	Goetze.
4	THE REPORTER: Please raise your right
5	hand.
6	MR. TREMAINE: It's raised.
7	WHEREUPON,
8	PHILLIP GOETZE,
9	called as a witness and having been first duly sworn
10	to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
11	the truth, was examined and testified as follows:
12	THE REPORTER: Thank you.
13	DIRECT EXAMINATION
14	BY MR. TREMAINE:
15	Q Thank you, Mr. Goetze. You may sit down.
16	Good morning, Mr. Goetze. Could you please
17	state your name for the record?
18	A My name is Phillip Goetze. Last name is
19	G-O-E-T-Z-E.
20	Q And Mr. Goetze, what is your current
21	position with the Oil Conservation Division?
22	A I am the UIC manager, underground injection
23	control manager, for the Division.
24	Q Could you please briefly describe your
25	duties as the UIC manager?

A A majority of my duties is to oversee both
the permitting compliance as well as problematic
obligations. These include reporting to the EPA or
grant funding as well as both UIC wells that are
issued with permits under the Oil and Gas Act as well
as the Water Quality Act.
I also serve as the managers overseeing
personnel and doing those details.
Q Could you please provide for the Commission
a summary of your education and experience beyond the
UIC manager role?
A I've probably been with the Division for 11
years now. I was part of the UIC Group from the
beginning, but I also share responsibilities that we
represent some 300 cases, which I issued orders on.
I, prior to that worked for a consulting
firm doing assessments as well as characterization of
waste and going back even farther several prominent
national environmental firms doing underground storage
tank removal waste characterization.
I also performed as a contractor oversight
for EPA to consent order consent agreements. Prior
to that I was with the U.S well, Bureau of Land
Management to Wyoming overseeing oil and gas
operations and lease resolution.

1	That was a job inherited from my job prior
2	to the United States Geological Surveying which I did
3	both coal and oil gas notifications for the state of
4	Wyoming.
5	That was briefly interrupted with a stint
6	with the United States Bureau of Mines doing mapping
7	of wilderness areas and with that prior to that I
8	was a graduate of New Mexico Tech class of '77 with a
9	geology degree.
10	Q Mr. Goetze, is your education and experience
11	summarized in OCD Exhibit number 2 which I'm
12	currently doing a very poor job sharing. Is this your
13	resume or curriculum vitae?
14	(OCD Exhibit 2 was marked for
15	identification.)
16	A Correct.
17	Q Okay. And you prepared this?
18	A I did.
19	Q Okay. And at this have you testified
20	before the Oil Conservation Commission in the past?
21	A Yes in both capacity as a witness for
22	rulemaking as well as a witness in cases before the
23	Commission.
24	Q And have you previously been tendered and
25	accepted as an expert Commission in areas of
	Page 30

1	petroleum engineering and underground injection?
2	A Correct.
3	MR. TREMAINE: At this time, Mr. Chair,
4	I would the admission of OCD Exhibit number 2 and
5	admission of Goetze as an expert in areas of petroleum
6	geology and underground injection.
7	MR. FUGE: Any objection?
8	MS. BENNETT: No.
9	MR. FUGE: The exhibit's submitted and
10	the witness is so recognized.
11	(OCD Exhibit 2 was received into
12	evidence.)
13	BY MR. TREMAINE:
14	Q Mr. Goetze, I'm going to move on to a series
15	of exhibits and walk these through kind of the
16	substance of your testimony now. If I can point you
17	to the screen and OCD to the Exhibit number 5.
18	(OCD Exhibit 5 was marked for
19	identification.)
20	Could you please what is this exhibit?
21	A As far as the typical presentation regarding
22	Delaware Mountain Group, we provide to Commission as
23	well as our examiners a base document that gives the
24	best documentation on what the Delaware Mountain Group
25	is composed of. Literally, this is the reference for
	Page 31

1	DMG written by Nance, Bureau of Economic Geology,
2	University of Texas.
3	We use it a lot and we bas a lot of our
4	interpretations off the information that's given. It
5	also provides a snapshot. Its figures are very
6	representative of what type of environment we're
7	dealing with, especially when we use this interval for
8	injection, which is becoming more apparent that it's
9	going to be a place to go to.
10	So with this we provide both commissioners
11	and our examiners the ability to see details, which I
12	think gives you a better spatial understanding of what
13	we're dealing with.
14	Q All right. Mr. Goetze, this is a reference
15	to a paper so I'm not going to ask you to go through
16	
10	all of it. It's available for the parties in the
17	all of it. It's available for the parties in the information sheet to review in detail.
17	
17 18	information sheet to review in detail.
	information sheet to review in detail. But I'm going to ask you now if you can give
17 18 19	information sheet to review in detail. But I'm going to ask you now if you can give a highlight for the Commission some cases of specific
17 18 19 20	information sheet to review in detail. But I'm going to ask you now if you can give a highlight for the Commission some cases of specific areas of the paper that OCD focuses on in reviewing
17 18 19 20 21	information sheet to review in detail. But I'm going to ask you now if you can give a highlight for the Commission some cases of specific areas of the paper that OCD focuses on in reviewing applications such as the applications in these two
17 18 19 20 21	information sheet to review in detail. But I'm going to ask you now if you can give a highlight for the Commission some cases of specific areas of the paper that OCD focuses on in reviewing applications such as the applications in these two cases.
17 18 19 20 21 22	information sheet to review in detail. But I'm going to ask you now if you can give a highlight for the Commission some cases of specific areas of the paper that OCD focuses on in reviewing applications such as the applications in these two cases. A that I would take you to figure 8,

1	old mapping has been very substantial, the subsurface
2	geology; we have a lot of information.
3	Still the the three formations represent
4	very much a an interrelationship that has been
5	complex for us to keep within our definitions and
6	our permanent guidance. The cherry Bell canyon
7	Cherry and the lower Brushy Canyon. Of the three, the
8	Brushy represents the most diverse as far as
9	channeling and structuring and features.
L O	And of course, this represents also
L1	typically what is now the last prominent play within
L2	the three formations.
L3	The the upper Bell is developed as stated
L 4	before earlier, and with the progress of horizontal
L5	drilling the Brushy Canyon was for a period of time a
L6	very high priority target.
L7	Another figure that I referred to would be a
L8	figure 4. That would be 65, and basically, what
L9	you're looking at is an oversight which goes along
20	with fire representative as far as features that
21	have been mapped and then let no again this is a
22	reference and something for your consideration should
23	you have questions about what we're working with as
24	far as this injection interval.
25	Q Mr. Goetze, I did you hear yesterday the
	Page 33

1	discussion and testimony regarding lineaments and
2	water movement pathways in the geology they were
3	talking about?
4	A Yes.
5	Q Okay. Are these represented and you
6	mentioned there's already represented in these
7	figures that we're discussing?
8	A They contribute to it. But by and large,
9	our our concerns it is the relationship we have
10	historically had Bell Canyon and Cherry Canyon and
11	as preferred injection environments. And we
12	on our efforts trying to keep Brushy isolated. But at
13	the same time historically, this has been difficult
14	with our old methodology of processing permits.
15	All right. So in many aspects we do have to
16	rely on the operator to provide us information. So
17	the water flows. The things that we see tend to be a
18	relationship that we have associated with prior
19	injections and have had issues with in certain
20	locations within the basin.
21	Q Mr. Goetze, in your opinion, what are the
22	necessary takeaways from this paper as OCD's reviewing
23	the applications?
24	A That at this point and I think we've come
25	to this discussion already the more information we
	Page 34

1	have the better we have to understand where injection
2	can occur to be successful; where it can't be.
3	The present system of permitting has not had
4	the level of investigation and therefore the
5	permitting process itself has created its own problems
б	of not successfully preventing waste, which is one of
7	our directives.
8	Q Mr. Goetze, I'd like to direct you to OCD
9	Exhibit number 6. And I believe we'll recognize this
10	exhibit, but virtual connectivity interruption
11	Exhibit 6.
12	(OCD Exhibit 6 was marked for
13	identification.)
14	A Six is a cumulative representation of
15	information that was compiled beginning in 2016/2015.
16	It was an effort to qualify what areas of concern
17	operators had as well as our history of permitting and
18	disposal of Delaware Mountain Group.
19	After 2014, we were seeing increased demands
20	for DMG injection, and we were facilitating that with
21	a very impressive record of permit issues. With it we
22	ended up with several incidences which caused us to
23	have consternation to put it lightly and make us take
24	a step back as to having DMG as an a preferred
25	disposal interval at that time.

1	The NMOGA participated in this. We asked
2	them to see what would be an area that would be
3	especially with the Avalon and Upper Bone Springs and
4	our efforts to get together and come up with an
5	initial assessment resulted in this map.
6	Along with this, I've also added case
7	histories and particular cases where we've had either
8	denial or approval in which the Delaware Mountain
9	Group was brought either before the Division or
10	Commission.
11	Q So Mr. Goetze, I think that you had just
12	testified that there were some areas of concern and
13	that resulting in consternation on the part of OCD
14	UIC permitting. How were those areas depicted on this
15	exhibit?
16	A We have areas outlined in red. These
17	represents areas where we've had reports of
18	interference, either with Bone Springs; or we've had
19	issues with drilling the Delaware Mountain Group or in
20	one case we actually had a well in disposal well
21	flood.
22	Also, it includes and outlines things
23	that things that enhanced the EOR project, which
24	is in the Delaware Mountain Group. So what we're
25	seeing here is is reports and documentation of

1	effects that have been initially related to Delaware
2	Mountain Group injection.
3	Q And are I think you touched on this, but
4	to be specific, are specific protests depicted on
5	this?
6	A Well, we have a case it's the next
7	example I believe it's in there you go
8	getting close to it. In the middle there. That big,
9	long yellow can you magnify?
10	So yeah. So he selected what is going to be
11	the next exhibit.
12	And this would be the BOPCO case versus
13	Mesquite and Chevron and OXY with regards to Delaware
14	Mountain injection.
15	MR. FUGE: Mr. Tremaine, can you have
16	the witness just explain where that is on the map with
17	the circles again?
18	MR. TREMAINE: Yes. That manage my
19	mouse.
20	BY MR. TREMAINE:
21	Q So Mr. Goetze, can you please describe the
22	shape and the location on the exhibit to identify that
23	specific case? As it appears on screen.
24	A It's the application authority for two
25	SWD wells.

1	Q That's central?
2	A Yeah. Correct.
3	Q Central circle?
4	A Yes.
5	Q Okay.
6	A And then the below it and then then
7	circle over there and the cluster of wells.
8	Q So this area in the center here that I'm
9	kind of outlining with my cursor, that's the case in
10	here, the interference issue
11	A Correct.
12	Q And just to reiterate, the other red
13	outline areas are instances of no intentional
14	interference?
15	A Correct.
16	Q Okay. So in summary, you know, what is
17	the what are the necessary takeaways from this
18	information in terms of how OCD is reviewing
19	applications for injection permits in this area?
20	A At this point, this is one of these areas
21	where we have high concerns about the issuance of
22	Delaware Mountain permits without having some strength
23	of information. We've had applications in these
24	areas, and several of our applicants have withdrawn
25	those applications upon request for additional

1 information. 2 We have had applications outside of the 3 delineated area. Those applications have also been withdrawn, but I think the majority of it is that at 4 5 this time, the Division went towards seeing if the --6 virtual connectivity interruption -- and the mass of applications at that time went for the deeper 8 interval, and we did not have as many Delaware 9 Mountain Group applications. However, at that time, during this period, 10 11 the Division did take the opportunity for those 12 operators who had small operations who had existing 13 DMG wells and had to have them reissued that we went 14 ahead and -- and supported that effort. 15 We also have had the issuance of DMG 16 intervals for what are known as slurry [ph] wells 17 associated with surface waste facilities. And we also 18 have had, as the Commission knows, applications for the class 2 acid gas wells, which have preferred DMG 19 20 at this point. 2.1 And we had used that as an option in 22 locations where we do have gas processing facilities 23 when the -- is not available. 2.4 So Mr. Goetze, a few more questions. Tangentially related to this slide, did you observe 25

1	and, you know, listen to the discussion and
2	presentation yesterday by Chevron regarding potential
3	alternative interference pathways?
4	A Yes.
5	Q Is it your understanding after listening to
6	that presentation that injection interference was
7	cannot yet be eliminated as a cause of the
8	interference observed, for instance, in BOPCO cases?
9	A I think BOPCO cases are certainly a classic
10	example of cause and effect and there seems to be
11	little question as to what the source was. But there
12	may be opportunity for many things to contribute to
13	the interference in that we are only beginning to
14	understand and have information to assess what we are
15	observing now.
16	Again, we are deficient in having any type
17	of correlation in some of these cases. We do not know
18	the source.
19	Q So is it fair to say that as the UIC manager
20	you remain current as OCD's concerns remain and you
21	still have to manage the permits in this area to
22	account for potential interference for injection?
23	A Well, we do proceed with caution, knowing
24	that our permits once issued, it is up to the Division
25	to pull them back from hearing. The other thing is
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1	that again, being assigned to the prevention of waste
2	and the protection of correlative rights, we've had
3	issues where in the case with the BOPCO case exceeded
4	the area of review, in which case that means we have
5	violated that obligation.
6	And in the case of BOPCO again, we had a
7	washout of resources. And again, for protection of
8	the resource and prevention of waste was not
9	satisfied, so we tend to have been more conservative
10	in the issuance of permits and Delaware Mountain
11	Group.
12	A Mr. Goetze, well, that being said, will OCD
13	consider and incorporate the alternative information
14	provided by Chevron yesterday?
15	Q The Division is always open to having more
16	qualification the issue. That helps us in our
17	permitting system, and certainly it helps us in our
18	compliance and our obligations. So yes.
19	A And I think do you recall from
20	yesterday's testimony regarding the area impacted by
21	the injection we were talking about seven-mile
22	radius?
23	Q The we're talking about spacing and
24	distancing or or just
25	A It well, what I'm getting at is
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Τ	Q The distance that the DMG can travel is very
2	good. It is something with the right conditions
3	again, would exceed the area of review and again,
4	violate our conditions of our permit.
5	Q Okay. That's what I'm getting at, Mr.
6	Goetze. Do you think that Chevron's two-mile area of
7	review is more prudent than the existing standard half
8	mile area of review often utilized in SWD
9	applications?
10	A Well, again, that would be prudent.
11	The Division has learned from the experience
12	with its acid gas wells and one-mile area of review
13	has been quite significant and worthy in permitting
14	those, and as certain attorneys in this room know,
15	that the Devonian effort that we went through with
16	Division's hearings to establish a one-mile AOR in
17	order to provide better protection as well as allow
18	for resources to be developed or, you know, the
19	reservoir to be efficiently used for disposal when
20	considering the cost of the well.
21	So we always are interested in in trying
22	to provide some sort of management in the sense that
23	the resource will not be swallowed up I want to say
24	with too many permits in the same location.
25	Q So Mr. Goetze, last question is: Is it
	Page 42

1	fair to say then that provided the uncertainty in the
2	information that we've been discussing during this
3	hearing that it would be OCD recommendation to
4	utilize to consider or that the Commission
5	consider utilizing a two-mile area of review for
6	future similar DMG applications?
7	A It would be worthy of consideration, yes.
8	Q All right on to 7 virtual
9	connectivity interruption referenced so far. Could
10	you please summarize for the Commission the content of
11	Exhibit 7?
12	(OCD Exhibit 7 was marked for
13	identification.)
14	A I think this was this was provided as
15	the the worst case scenario. At this time,
16	Division was issuing permits, we were looking at
17	and there's a singular event; very myopic in this
18	instance we had a cluster of Delaware Mountain Group
19	wells that were approved.
20	Two of them were already in place and
21	performing quite well. A fifth well was there had
22	been plugged and abandoned. Two new wells were
23	approved. And the two new wells, of course, were
24	reentries of older wells, and with the approval of all
25	these wells in this area, we received notice from

1	BOPCO that they had been had issues with wells at
2	the Poker Lake unit in the northeast corner of it.
3	At first, they attributed it to injection;
4	and then they finally progressed to filing cases in
5	both the private operator of the two new wells as well
6	as the existing operators of the two wells that were
7	there prior to the Lasands [ph] case. It was a
8	Mesquite and and Chevron and OXY.
9	Q So, Mr. Goetze, isn't the just to wrap
10	that up, that you're saying that Exhibit 7 contains
11	the exhibits and orders related to the BOPCO cases
12	we were referencing?
13	A Correct.
14	Q Okay.
15	A It's a snapshot of of what happened.
16	Q And I believe you were about to refer to
17	the to the next exhibit, which is page 97.
18	A So the picture in thefirst period just
19	shows you the wells that were inactive three
20	horizontal and the location of the four wells and one
21	plugged and abandoned well all DMG injection wells.
22	Q And in order and for clarification
23	purposes, these are the same wells in terms of the
24	Mesquite injection wells and BOPCO wells, which were
25	discussed in Chevron's testimony yesterday?
	Page 44
	rage is

A They were referenced, yes.
Q Okay. And kind of skipping ahead, Mr.
Goetze, what were the results of these cases?
A The results of these cases the two
Mesquite wells, these were an operator which purely
was focused upon disposal. They had no rental
interest. The other two wells, one owned by OXY; one
by Chevron, supported their field operations.
And so their operation, their well remained
intact, they provided information, extensive studies,
including follow-up tests, Hall's plots and as well
as wellbore information, which supported the
proposition by them that both their wells were not a
contributing factor to the situation that BOPCO had in
their horizontal the non-operator or the commercial
disposal company, settled and came to an agreement
with BOPCO which resulted in revocation of their
permits and eventually the plugging of their wells.
Q So in summary, certain of the injection
wells remained in use and received injection while
certain other wells were their injections was
revoked?
A Correct.
Q And are there any kind of salient
differences between those wells you have and the
Page 45

Commission?

2.

2.1

2.4

A I believe the -- the cross section is the next figure in -- it has the location of the cross section and the notation. And then that's the cross section. Again, noting to the Commissioners, the -- both the Chevron and OXY role completed with the intent of disposal with case and purpose intervals and kept them up in the Bell and Cherry Canyon.

The Mesquite wells were approved with open-hole section. They were not selected for location. They were just the opportunity to take on plugged well reentered and get a permit for. So at this time, we did specify that there would be a plug back in one well.

Though the paperwork said it was done, the final order for this well was a request to wireline -- to demonstrate there was plug in there, but that was not done.

That's a discussion for another day about wells that are under Federal authority versus State authority. But it does demonstrate a reason why we're saying we don't want the open hole; we want the cased interval.

I think it represents a better management process and controls if you do have issues then

1	briefed casing not only allows for better monitoring,
2	but also it also encourages if you want to do
3	testing. One of the things we do like to see is
4	injection surveys.
5	I know a lot of the pushback we get from
6	operators in open-holes I'm going to do Downhole
7	with casing that that goes away. There should be
8	no reason why.
9	Q So is it fair to say that is largely the
LO	basis for OCD's recommendation that the injection
L1	wells would be completely cased in cement and
L2	injection through progressions?
L3	A Correct. Correct.
L 4	Q Okay. Is there anything else that you'd
L5	like to highlight in Exhibit 7 for the Commissioners
L6	here today?
L7	A We do have one more exhibit that was
L8	Exhibit 18 by BOPCO. Again, showing BOBCO went in and
L9	brought in their information, which they had developed
20	for placement of their horizontal wells realize
21	that at $2014/2015$, this was very rare information.
22	So they did formation micro bridging brought
23	in and showed that we had an existing fracture system
24	that no one is aware of through our permitting process
25	for the SWDs we did not entail such requirements.

1	Such information was truly oriented towards
2	production. And the reason why BOPCO oriented its
3	wells as it did within the Poker Lake unit or the
4	Brushy.
5	So again, the effort by the producer to
6	bring out more detailed information that gave us a
7	greater understanding of why these wells and these
8	cluster of wells were able to reach so far and
9	having
10	Q Okay. In your just at a higher level,
11	and you've referenced some of this, but I just want to
12	clarify your thinking. You know, in your professional
13	opinion as a UIC manager and applicable more so
14	generally to DMG injection applications, you know,
15	what are the lessons learned from the BOPCO cases?
16	A Well that the we have learned some
17	lessons, but as we move forward in DMG, I think the
18	requirements for better information for better
19	qualifying when necessary. Our old practices will not
20	stand.
21	I think, if we're going to be protective of
22	resources especially, we need an effort to have the
23	permitting process include the operator with greater
24	degree of information prior to the need to have
25	approval. Especially if we're doing it in

1	Q I'm going to direct you now to OCD Exhibit
2	number 8.
3	(OCD Exhibit 8 was marked for
4	identification.)
5	Mr. Goetze, what is OCD Exhibit number 8?
6	A OCD Exhibit number 8 was a presentation
7	given on behalf of NMOGA's director at that time
8	regarding evaluations that had been done on the
9	Delaware Mountain Group, and especially in compiling
10	information.
11	This was our first effort to have a snapshot
12	of what we thought were concerns with DMG. One of the
13	issues that we've had both in the injection and
14	testing layer through the test and the request for
15	injection pressure increases has been a recognition
16	that a fair amount of DMG in this area has a low
17	formation parting structure.
18	As noted before, the Division in its
19	agreement with the EPA under its primacy with the EPA
20	awards a 0.2 PSI per foot calculating gradient for the
21	surface maximum surface pressure. This is based
22	upon information from the folks who submitted the
23	original primacy demonstration, and it's served us
24	well.
25	Anything above that, you must prove
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1	typically it's been with step rate test where the
2	formation parting pressure is. And with that, we will
3	approve a increase in the pressure with a safety
4	margin gradient. The information obtained in looking
5	at what was an historically old step rate test as well
6	as production information that would be a fact
7	worth done in Brushy done in Cherry.
8	That what we see that it was considerably
9	advantageous for us to pay particular attention we
10	get request to go anything above 0.2. And so it
11	doesn't mean we haven't had areas that showed good
12	quality and an increase in pressure with no problems,
13	but again, we were faced with this fact that we're
14	seeing irregular or inconsistent issues with our own
15	step rate test and with it the approval of pressure
16	increases, which resulted in formations being fracked
17	as a result of injection.
18	So in some cases, and in the case of the
19	BOPCO, we actually approved a pressure that was not
20	pressure representative of the formation. In those
21	cases, my interpretation was a a fracking
22	representative of the confining layer that was being
23	fractured.
24	So our own process and our concerns were

So our own process and our concerns were being brought to us that some operators were seeing

25

1	an an interference in Avalon shale, and some of
2	this is being attributed to the fact that we did allow
3	for pressure increases increases that were above
4	the formation range.
5	Q So Mr. Goetze, I think you provided a us
6	a summary of this. Is there any specific areas as
7	seen in Exhibit number 8 that you can highlight for
8	the Commissioners here?
9	A Well, there was well, I would the Road
10	Hills West frac grain I believe that's slide 131
11	Again, showing you the trend that we were close to the
12	0.2 PSI. So it's not that we're not aware of it and
13	we do have enough information. The other factor gets
14	to be yes, it's it's that information has to be
15	specific to the area that we're actually looking
16	injection.
17	This this concept of regional application
18	seems to fall apart, and this is what we've been doing
19	previously, that if we had an SRT in one area, we were
20	extending it in many cases arbitrarily to another well
21	in the same interval.
22	So other than that, basically, this
23	information is there for the review, and it pointed
24	out the concerns of the industry at that time in both
25	Avalon and some Brushy communication DMG wells.

1	Q So Mr. Goetze, is it fair to say that then
2	this paper you highlight and it's was attributed to
3	OCD's review and concerns about permeated pressure and
4	specifically that 0.2 PSI?
5	A That's
6	Q And isn't it also fair to say that another
7	takeaway is that those injection wells in the DMG need
8	to be assessed and permitted based on more detailed
9	local geographical information geological
LO	information?
L1	A That's correct. And and again, this
L2	resulted in 2016 and 2017; 2018 with a workshop with
L3	operators to discuss this matter. And at that point,
L 4	again, the Division was looking at the as an
L 5	alternative. And so we still discussed Delaware
L6	Mountain Group, but there was seemed to be a loss
L7	of interest at that point.
L8	Q Okay. Mr. Goetze and direct you to OCD
L9	Exhibit number 9.
20	(OCD Exhibit 9 was marked for
21	identification.)
22	Could you please describe for the Commission
23	what Exhibit 9 is?
24	A Yeah, number 9 in this is brought out by
25	Chevron yesterday, is just a highlight to the
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1	Commission that the Texas Rail Commission, which has
2	the authority for a 0.5 PSI approved grading at
3	to determine maximum surface injection pressure has
4	mandated that Delaware wells within the seismic
5	response areas that they have that they're cutting
6	that to 0.25.
7	And it's it's a discussion that I've had
8	with their folks. They felt that it would be best in
9	their interests to at least go in that direction. So
10	we're seeing now in the Texas sized similar interest
11	in DMG and how to manage injection pressure down
12	there.
13	Again, I would highlight that it's in the
14	seismic response area, and to that point, Texas was
15	also approved larger capacity wells in DMG, but they
16	do not have the constraints that we do.
17	Q How does this inform OCD's history of
18	injection pressure and do in New Mexico?
19	A Well, it supports that our current 0.2 PSI
20	is a good place to start.
21	Q Okay.
22	A So with that, if you want to go up and above
23	then the opportunity to test and provide us
24	information that is accurate and provide us with
25	something that we can put in permit and feel confident

1	with and ensure that the injection is confined within
2	the injection interval.
3	Q And what are the you just referenced
4	mechanisms that might be necessary to support larger
5	than a 0.2 PSI. Just at a summary level, what would
6	those mechanisms be? Like a step rate test? Or
7	A Well, I mean, a step rate test is a classic.
8	DFITs? We've had DFITs. It's been used in horizontal
9	ER projects where we've had concern injection
10	pressure and people are working on where sections
11	with two horizontal wells in Bone Springs.
12	DFITs have been used in there to demonstrate
13	to us that we're actually getting a proper injection,
14	and it is beneficial; and we're not fracking. So
15	other information, the whole was used by both
16	Chevron and OXY to defend themselves in the BOPCO
17	case.
18	Fallout tests have been used to demonstrate
19	to keep flow radial flow demonstration. So there
20	is a variety of information available.
21	Q And is it we're going to get there in a
22	little bit, but is it true that the SRTs are
23	referenced in the Hall's plots are included in OCD's
24	recommendation for
25	A That's correct.
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1	Q And after the discussion we had yesterday,
2	the testimony we've heard, and your consideration,
3	would you support the inclusion of DFITs as one of the
4	requirements for these wells?
5	A I would think they'd be a vital tool.
6	Q All right, Mr. Goetze. I'm going to move on
7	to OCD Exhibit number 10.
8	(OCD Exhibit 10 was marked for
9	identification.)
10	My computer stops on me now. This
11	exhibit paper so I'm going to leave it here and
12	ask you to describe for the Commission, you know,
13	what is this paper and what is it about?
14	A Basically, it it correlates to what is
15	already considered by Chevron. This paper does
16	highlight the effort to seismicity from our
17	understanding down that the reason I brought this
18	to the attention of the Commission is that the figure
19	2 again getting a snapshot of understanding.
20	We have less concern with regards to
21	seismicity issues with the current understanding of
22	relationships.
23	At the same time, we also note that we'd had
24	several operators highlight to us that they'd come
25	across faulting and traction system as demonstrated by

1	the BOPCO case that there is information out there
2	which needs to be considered when we're doing
3	injection Delaware Mountain Group that may impact how
4	the flow is around that well.
5	Currently we do not request or get that
6	information, but I think this is going to be an
7	ongoing process where we're going to see more
8	information come forward.
9	Hopefully, in doing so, we can modify the
10	permit to satisfy those conditions and make sure that
11	we don't have waste, or we have flow correlative
12	rights.
13	Q Mr. Goetze, if you could check the screen,
14	is this
15	A That's the one.
16	Q That's the
17	A That's the one. The bottom cross section.
18	Q Okay.
19	A That would be B.
20	Q And so as I if I'm understanding you
21	correctly, is it accurate to say that the OCD's
22	concern is either fracture or faults; did I get that?
23	A Both. Both of them can get treated; both
24	can again, we want to have a good radial flow out
25	from the well. We don't want to find something and
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1	not and suddenly take off. So that becomes the
2	management processes is that we do have best
3	quantification and the permit conditions that make
4	that injection live long and does not interfere with
5	correlative rights.
6	Q And did I hear you correctly that the for
7	a standard SWD application OCD does not necessarily
8	get information that would depict those faults or
9	fractures?
L O	A That's correct.
L1	Q And what sort of information could
L2	applicants such as Chevron provide to the OCD
L3	generally to provide the appropriate degree of
L 4	confidence in identification of fractures or faults in
L 5	this area?
L6	A Well, besides what we've already listed in
L7	our exhibit, a lot of the operators in these areas
L8	didn't have information regarding production wells,
L9	would it?
20	I think being able to look to the historical
21	record and see if they have information in the DMG if
22	it's an application if they have something in that
23	area, this would provide us with a better picture and
24	certainly a better model as to the effects of any type
25	of fracture or faulting system in the area.

1	And if we do have a good demonstration of no
2	issues then we can certainly issue a permit with less
3	restrictions and certainly a greater efficiency.
4	Q Okay. In review of, you know, Chevron's
5	applications in this particular case, it sounds like
6	from your testimony discussing certain things that
7	Chevron may have provided in this application.
8	Are there any areas, you know, such as we've
9	just talked about where it would be beneficial for
10	Chevron to provide additional information?
11	A Well, at this point in time a list is fairly
12	complete and exceeds what we had originally thought
13	so. But the caveat to that is that this why we're
14	asking? And we think of it as a pilot project. Is it
15	going to be necessary for this for every operator
16	inside of the Avalon area?
17	Is it going to be part of our standard
18	operating procedure? What gives us the greatest
19	information and decision making? And what can we
20	approve administratively and what do we need to go to
21	hearing for?
22	So I think beneficial for both the operator
23	as well as our obligations under the statute, this is
24	something that we'll need to have in the future if
25	we're going to utilize Delaware Mountain for expansion
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1 of disposal. 2 Mr. Goetze, you just brought up the pilot 0 3 project concept here and I'm hoping you can give, you know, your perspective to the Commission in the 4 5 context of a salt water disposal well. 6 If there's anything to add to your previous 7 testimony, what is the significance of this pilot 8 project? 9 Α That's a trick question. It is not uncommon for the Division to go to 10 11 the Commission or its own Division examples to 12 establish a record, and in this case, we've had a 13 limited DMG injection. And so we know our shortcomings; but at the same time, if we're going to 14 15 move forward with DMG injection, the opportunity to 16 put into record at least some quantification that we 17 can use in our permitting process without going to the -- gives us the opportunity to move forward and 18 utilize this as a quide. 19 20 And I think that's the most important thing. 2.1 Once we've established a pattern that gives us a level 22 of confidence that we're protecting correlative rights 23

that our AORs are being met as far as notification as well as issues of how big the plume can be or how far it goes.

2.4

25

1	The pilot project at least lays out a
2	pathway and it also allows us the opportunity to make
3	changes. If we find something better; if we find even
4	a more accurate process or if we need we've got a
5	problem, for instance, in a certain area, that we can
6	come back to the Commission or Division and say the
7	protest or say we just don't want injection
8	necessarily because we have problems.
9	Q Is it fair to say that there are certain
10	factual patterns in context where OCD might consider
11	approval like administrative commissions but there are
12	other fact patterns which UIC may need to come
13	before the Commission
14	A I am sure there will be situations where we
15	will have a a request for the industry that will
16	come back to the Commission or Division to make a case
17	either and typically, it's either to get more
18	information or in the case of opposition to having
19	that permit issued.
20	Q I think this is a good time to segue into
21	the OCD Exhibit number 11.
22	(OCD Exhibit 11 was marked for
23	identification.)
24	Mr. Goetze, is it accurate to say that this
25	is a list of conditions or guidelines that OCD would
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1	be proposing in the event of an administrative DMG SWD
2	approval?
3	A Correct.
4	Q Okay. So with that as the premise, it would
5	also be accurate to say that applications such as
6	Chevron's applications that apart from certain of
7	these conditions, such as location of an injection
8	well within that proposed Avalon protection zone.
9	And that's one of the primary reasons why
10	this case OCD feels should be correctly before the
11	Commission?
12	A Correct. The concern was that it's in an
13	area that we've had very poor experience in and in had
14	at this point not necessarily had a prohibition on,
15	but necessarily felt uncertain as to how the
16	permitting process should proceed.
17	Q So based on that and the constraints you
18	previously opined, is it your opinion that, you know,
19	additional on Exhibit 11 in a second but the
20	overarchingly because of the factual context here OCD
21	feels it's appropriate to require additional
22	information, additional conditions and guidelines,
23	correlative to what's currently being required for,
24	for instance, a Devonian injection well?
25	A Yes. I have been we need to take it
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1	farther. Our slurry wells in the Delaware Mountain
2	Group, we asked for more information for those, and we
3	approved more testing with those. And with the
4	Devonian wells, the information, including induced
5	seismicity assessment and to the extreme, the acid gas
6	wells. We were looking at long term injection
7	that's something that's hazardous.
8	So what we have tried to do is now provide
9	at least a a base level of information for the
L O	applicant that they know about our and submitting a
L1	C-108.
L2	Q All right. Mr. Goetze, I'd like to, kind
L3	of, walk through in a little more detail it seems
L 4	like, you know, Exhibit 11 is really the substance of
L 5	OCD's request that in these cases and, kind of, how
L6	it plans.
L7	So if I could highlight to you direct you
L8	to, you know, one criteria selection. If we could
L9	briefly walk through and maybe identify the kind of,
20	the basis for each of these requirements for the
21	Commission to review.
22	So I think we've already talked about this
23	in some detail, so 1A if we're talking about Avalon
24	production, is it fair to say that is simply an
25	identification that, you know, given the information

1	currently before the Division, OCD and UIC in
2	particular are don't have adequate information to
3	administratively approve injection wells within that
4	Avalon protected area.
5	A We don't have sufficient information to have
6	a level of confidence to issue a permit that we feel
7	will be be direct as far as protection of
8	correlative rights as well as keeping the injection
9	interval, you know, confining layers correct.
10	Q Okay. And then in terms of the 1B this
11	probably speaks for itself, but OCD is not going to
12	administratively approve location for wells that
13	previously been denied. And that's going to apply to
14	either OCD or OCC hearings?
15	A Yeah. Pretty much. In well, the
16	majority of them are OCD. I mean, yeah, Division
17	hearings. Commission hearings are very rare. I know
18	I think there's only two or three cases. But I think
19	the vast majority of it is Division hearings. So if
20	the Commission wishes to include Commission hearings,
21	mostly it's about Division, and most of that is about
22	the use of old wells for reentry of injection.
23	Q So in the instance where there's a well
24	closed for an SWD image and it's rejected, any future
25	application for that location would have to come

1	before the Commission?
2	A we'll leave that up to the Commission,
3	but this should go to hearing. Other provision.
4	Q Okay. And if you could speak a little bit
5	to 1C here, the exclusion locations that have
6	demonstrated water flows interference.
7	A I think it's just the practicality. If
8	you're looking at putting a well in an area where
9	we've got somebody already reporting issues but I
LO	think it just why go down that road again? So is
L1	there a debate about the the little circles? Yeah,
L2	there is.
L3	But in general, you've already got existing
L 4	injection in there already, so chances are that you're
L5	going to get additional injection DMG in that area is
L6	low anyways.
L7	Q Could you now kind of, explain OCD's
L8	thinking with 1D's uniform distance between DMG wells?
L9	A Well, the BOPCO case showed us that putting
20	them too close to each other was a good synergistic
21	effect. We've also seen similar issues with the DMG
22	wells on the Texas side, where they are clustered
23	right up to the state line as well as as many as
24	four in the section.
25	So with that in mind, the balancing act
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1	of of starting off with distance and using that as
2	a way to make sure that whatever the operator chooses
3	for the injection DMG that we're going to have a
4	successful well. We're going to have a reservoir
5	that's going to last for a while. We don't even have
6	this synergistic effect.
7	We proposed a model. It may be greater; it
8	may be less. But I think that's one of those things
9	that the Chevron experience will show us, as well as
10	some of the other information that we're gathering
11	from other operators who are proposing Delaware
12	Mountain Group injection.
13	Q Is this a recognition of concerns about the
14	impact of injection areas and beyond in the DMG
15	expanding beyond the standard area of review for SWDs?
16	A Right now, we have a standard 1.5 mile
17	for for anything outside of the nonacid gas.
18	This is our primacy agreement. There is concern and
19	if we get in the middle of an argument about whose
20	well it is, spacing with the wells gives a greater
21	ability to at least to concede or at least have a
22	management decision as to how these wells should
23	Q And based on the testimony we heard
24	yesterday and our discussion today, and the area of
25	impact spread by Chevron's presentation, would OCD

1	support expanding this to two miles such as the area
2	of review utilized by Chevron?
3	A We always wanted to look at the greater
4	distance between wells.
5	Q Can you briefly explain to the Commission
6	the purpose of three miles of gas processing?
7	A This was our best estimation. The acid gas
8	wells, as you all are aware, have had difficulties
9	with deeper injection DMG for earlier days to
10	Devonian. As information is developed, again, these
11	gas processing facilities are are located land
12	locked investments. They are critical to production.
13	And the operators of the gas processing
14	facilities have utilized injection means to alleviate
15	their flaring issues. The opportunity for over a life
16	of a plant to have several wells as the reservoir gets
17	filled up and being available for them to utilize the
18	same DMG interval, we we kind of would like to
19	have that buffer and that ability for the gas
20	processing facilities to be able to have some window
21	of of opportunity.
22	Otherwise, we will end up with this conflict
23	of disposal.
24	Q So essentially OCD is attempting to limit or
25	eliminate the overlap of free water injected zones
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1 with acid gas injected. 2 Α Correct. We have this already in one of the Commission hearings, but we don't honestly -- salt 3 water disposal well in proximity to an AGI well and 4 5 the concerns that will affect the plumes and the 6 relationships especially in the model with the gas -so -- you can't hold back a permit. It's better to 8 start up front and say, "We're not interested in 9 permitting this area." 10 Moving on to paragraph two, "Criteria for 11 selection of injection and interval, " what's the 12 purpose for the exclusion of -- limestone from DMGs --13 Α The -- position for the interval which receives -- in this case -- for clarification, we 14 15 don't include a confining layer -- so Lamar will be --16 and Castile will be the confining layer. Therefore, 17 anything below the Lamar would be considered injection. 18 19 Are there any concerns or necessary 20 corrections that OCD would point out in Chevron's C-108 related to the Lamar limestone? 2.1 22 It seemed to be included in the permit Α Yes. and the advertisement, so when you advertise this --23 2.4 this is what goes out to the public, therefore we're saying you can inject into the Lamar. I don't believe 25 Page 67

1	this is Chevron's intent, and I think this is more of
2	an administrative correction
3	Q Okay. So for the record, OCD is not in
4	support of a C-108 application that can be read to
5	form an injection into the Lamar limestone?
6	A No. Not as as well as we've not
7	permit injection into the Woodford. We use it as a
8	confining layer, so it's not part of the injection
9	Q But Mr. Goetze, with that clarification, did
LO	I understand correctly that you believe that this
L1	could be corrected through administratively
L2	communication with Chevron?
L3	A Correct.
L4	Q And this later instance?
L 5	A I believe if if we have a discussion
L6	with them and get more clarification, that this could
L7	be done with just a correct well bore diagram. Under
L8	the UIC rules, expansion of an injection interval
L9	requires notification, but since we're contracting it,
20	the area's already covered. So it'd just be a
21	correction to meet the technical requirements.
22	Q All right. So moving on to the lower Brushy
23	Canyon, if I could summarize, is it accurate to say
24	that there's a similar OCD has a similar concern
25	related to the lower Brushy Canyon?

1	A Correct. The application center goes down
2	to top of Bone Springs. And so again, we would ask
3	Chevron to provide us with a a confining layer
4	Raise your hand.
5	DR. AMPOMAH: I'm paying attention.
6	THE WITNESS: That the lower
7	description, the lower confining layer, be better
8	qualified modified the permit to again, give that
9	bottom injection the way it stands now is that the
10	we would be improving everything from the bottom of
11	the Castile to the top of the Bone Springs, which is
12	not not real.
13	BY MR. TREMAINE:
14	Q So with that clarification for the record,
15	again, that similar to Lamar limestone issue the
16	top confining layer this is something that you used
17	correct administratively?
18	A That's correct.
19	Q All right. And could you just briefly speak
20	to 2C, the area of review and how that specifically
21	applies for the DMG applications?
22	A Again, what we're trying to do is in our
23	discussion exhibits before the fact that there'd
24	be information available, again, the operator being
25	one that already has or has access to information,

1	which may be relevant. DMG to fact or false that the
2	operator provide that information and give us an
3	assessment.
4	At this point, we still go through the realm
5	of doing some sort of seismic response or seismic
6	evaluation. At this time, the current information was
7	seen as not a concern, but we still go through the
8	process of of demonstrating the zero and therefore,
9	would take the risk element out the from that
10	process.
11	Q All right. Just moving onto paragraph
12	three. Could you please clarify the purpose in 3A
13	"Distinguishing new well construction from existing
14	well construction?"
15	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Objection.
16	THE WITNESS: The greatest problems
17	we've had with old Delaware Mountain Group disposal
18	wells historically and then go in and old wells.
19	And so we inherit the problems of the old wells,
20	especially for things that were done in the '80s and
21	'70s down the Pennsylvania.
22	Drilling out plugs and then the old
23	casing was a very popular economic approach. Since
24	then, we've had several attempts for Cisco Canyon to
25	reenter, only to have dismal failure in wells plugged
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1 with the -- with the top surface casing not even being 2. able to be cleaned out. So current events and historical would 3 say we'd start with something clean. Let's find a 4 5 location. So I think also offers the operator the 6 ability to -- to select -- well surface location that's better suitable for their operation as well as 8 what they have subsurface as far as geologic 9 information. Mr. Goetze, can old wells or -- calling 10 11 converted production well -- can those old wells be 12 tested as effectively as a newly constructed well? 13 There are limitations, and certainly you can Α do a variety of logs, but if historical records --14 15 again, sharing well information with the federal 16 folks -- a lot of times we have a lot of gaps. 17 When we do the review, especially for an application without that information, we really can't 18 make an accurate assessment, even following with 19 20 integrity logs, these sort of things, it -- it just doesn't -- you -- you're really throwing money down 2.1 22 the hole and starting with something clean is much 23 more beneficial. 2.4 Moving on to paragraph 3B, why does OCD want to limit the outside dimensions for injection tubing 25

1	to 5.5 inches?
2	A Currently this has been our most
3	successful been proposed to go to seven been
4	proposed to go to nine inches but following the
5	Devonian case before Commission find that five,
6	five and a half at this point is is pretty
7	standard. If we wish to go above that, then let's go
8	to a hearing.
9	Q We've had a discussion about 3C yesterday.
10	Could you please summarize for the Commission the
11	purpose of 3C really what's the distinction between
12	frack jobs and acid jobs that are considered?
13	A Well, I the world of well stimulation has
14	many terms. And so all these wells are going to be
15	vertical wells. You do have people talking about
16	horizontal wells, but we'll worry about that that
17	some other day. But with the well completion, there
18	is a certain amount of well we have that has to be
19	done.
20	And so the use of of an acid and
21	pressurized and pushed out through the well into
22	formation is an accepted practice and we don't feel
23	that it it really takes away or diminish the
24	quality of the reservoir. The concern we have at that

point is that your pressure for the acid job doesn't

25

1	compromise the well integrity, the cement job. That
2	sort of thing.
3	And then it is a standard practice, so what
4	we're trying to avoid and we've had this issue that
5	some people have gone ahead and actually have
6	fractured the maintain the fracture systems was
7	dramatically changes the characteristics of the
8	reservoir. So with the injection as well as the
9	injection pressure. And later testing becomes
LO	questionable at best.
L1	Q So based on the information you have the OCD
L2	the, you know, acid jobs such as are considered in
L3	the Chevron application, those are not likely to
L4	propagate fractures in the
L5	A That's correct.
L6	Q All right. I want to move on to paragraph
L7	four, "Additional testing and monitoring" you're
L8	talking about this we could run through. Is it
L9	fair to say that the recommended cement bottom here at
20	4A is in addition to a typical cement bottom
21	requirement?
22	A Correct.
23	Q Okay. And what's the purpose for that?
24	A To have a good record. If there's
25	questions, we've had issues with even surface casing
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1	not being properly installed. Then down the road we
2	will have complete records and certainly no questions
3	about the accuracy of the cement work on the well.
4	Q Okay. And Mr. Goetze, what's intended or
5	required under 4B lots
6	A Again, historically, the disposal wells,
7	many of the operators who come in and just put them in
8	do not conduct any type of walk. And so with our
9	request for higher information, certainly the log
10	suites would be beneficial and of course with that
11	also is the requirement that they be submitted to us.
12	So probably have to push on the log
13	issues, but by and large which has some Downhole
14	information. So as a minimum for other operators.
15	Q But the common theme for this hearing that
16	work as needed for the DMG?
17	A Correct. For permitting issues, yes.
18	Q We're going to talk about SRTs in more
19	detail in a minute, but if you could very briefly
20	summarize the, you know, the need or purpose behind
21	the 4C "Step rate testing for injections?"
22	A Yeah, I think this has been one of those
23	things that historically recommendations from other
24	operators is that the step rate test be done with
25	initial well conditions with initial reservoir.

1	We historically only had request or a need
2	for a step rate test after the well has built up
3	pressure and you're reaching that 0.2 PSI grade. And
4	so what started off knowing where we have a
5	formation and pressure, especially in light of DMG
6	having the opportunity for a low formation pressure
7	that this information be available and and that
8	way, the operation of the well, both the operator and
9	the regulatory group knows what direction we're
10	heading.
11	Q All right. And is it we've discussed
12	this, but just to clarify, it would paragraph four
13	here be the appropriate place to collude the
14	requirement for a DFIT test?
15	A Yeah any any additional testing would
16	be considered under this category, certainly.
17	Q Could you briefly speak to 4D? This
18	requirement to obtain a static bottomhole pressure
19	A Well, this may become the grail of
20	information, both in the the Devonian cases as well
21	as we used to get bottom hole pressures for the gas
22	wells and and production wells. We have since lost
23	that interest or need.
24	I think this is going to be helpful in
25	regards to issuing scenarios I understand the

1	opportunity for increased injections, so again, bottom
2	hole pressure information is critical. You can see
3	this very, very good tool, and the best way to get it
4	is by saying put it in the permit and give it to us.
5	Q Could you please briefly speak to the need
6	in 4E for public seismic monitoring station?
7	A I think this is an opportunity in Texas.
8	What I did in 2018, where phase in of Delaware
9	Mountain Group, they broke it into three volume,
10	10,000 barrels per day; 20,000; 30,000 barrels a day.
11	It was noted that for the 30,000 barrel per day
12	were requested to put in a seismic station for that
13	well.
14	Seeing how we are in an area that is
15	overlain by a variety of rays as well as multiple
16	injection intervals, I think it is best for the
17	Division to move forward at least fill in the gaps as
18	the state seismologist sees needed as well as provide
19	public information that can help assist us in better
20	managing.
21	Should there be an issue in seismicity, and
22	it may not be related to Delaware Mountain Group, at
23	least we have a location where we can get a better
24	picture of what the source is.
25	Q Mr. Goetze, can you please speak briefly to
	Page 76

1	4F, the reasoning for establishing the existing DMG
2	disposals wells as operational wells?
3	A We have we have had inquiries from
4	operators to take existing Delaware Mountain Group
5	wells, disposal wells and convert them to observation
6	wells. We are putting down bottom pressure bonds
7	or transducers to actually have information.
8	Most of it is being done in an effort to
9	better assess the impacts, not only to, well,
10	primarily, in some cases drilling if there's
11	problems with that but also resource protection.
12	So the opportunity to take existing Delaware
13	Mountain Group wells and convert them to observation
14	wells is a is a golden opportunity, but at the same
15	time, we will have to modify our our rules since
16	this would take this well out of the beneficial use,
17	probably created in an active well situation; that
18	sort of thing.
19	So we would probably seek administratively
20	the opportunity for operators to convert a disposal
21	well and turn it into an observation well and still
22	maintain bonding and keep it all active well, yes
23	Q Mr. Goetze, in terms of Exhibit 11 overall,
24	I just want to clarify in questions. You know,
25	inclusive of any modifications to this document that
	Page 77

1	are formed by this hearing, this is is it true to
2	say that this is what OCD would intend to utilize to
3	guideline for administrative approvals, assuming the
4	pilot project went forth successfully?
5	A Correct.
6	Q But also to clarify, you know, variations
7	from this administrative approval guideline document
8	could be approved by this Commission in future cases?
9	A Yes, I think that's one of the benefits to
10	the pilot project. If we find a tool in there that's
11	very beneficial, let us go ahead and utilize it as
12	part of the administrative process and therefore
13	remove the necessity for hearing. And again, the
14	management.
15	Q And again, but the guidelines that are laid
16	out here in Exhibit 11, is it true that these are
17	intended chiefly to assist the OCD in acquiring data
18	that may be necessary to assess both permitting
19	conditions, but future protected of observed
20	interference?
21	A Well, it both the permitting process and
22	the compliance process. We are required under EPA to
23	review the permits every five years and see if the
24	conditions have been met. And otherwise, there may be
25	an operator who will come forth and say that we do

have a situation.

2.1

2.4

This is one of the things that was brought up in the Chevron process. Well, if it's such, we are going to be participating because it's the injection authority of the OCD under the Oil and Gas Act, which would come into question.

Q And Mr. Goetze, in your opinion, are -- you know, we covered the fact that these guidelines are specific to the Delaware Mountain Group, and they are frankly beyond what might be required in -- other salt water disposal permits.

So is it your testimony today that these additional conditions are warranted due to the concerns that have been highlighted overall in this hearing, regarding a lack of data regarding features in the Delaware Mountain Group concerns for correlative rights?

A Yes. And I'll add to that the DMGs become again a focus for disposal and with it, the necessity to -- qualify. And realize that Chevron's not the only applicant and not the only type of applicant. We will have big streams who will be looking at investing large amounts of infrastructure as well as well structure to accommodate other operators who no longer carry their own disposal.

1	So they are gathering at the gate to see
2	what comes out of this. And we'll come away with
3	applications and I will further emphasize this with
4	the Devonian. See in 2018, we had 45 applications
5	and we had over 553 applications.
6	Q So is it fair to say, Mr. Goetze, that
7	the
8	MR. FUGE: Keep going.
9	BY MR. TREMAINE:
10	Q Is it fair to say that the content of
11	Exhibit 11 is going to be critical for the OCD moving
12	forward in terms of establishing a floor for
13	acceptable permit application in the Delaware Mountain
14	Group?
15	A Right.
16	Q And you just testified to the kind of, one
17	of the primary drivers here and I think we heard some
18	testimony to this effect yesterday of the need for
19	previous water disposal in the southeast.
20	Is there any other information you'd like to
21	advise the Commission to, kind of, put it the scope
22	of that need in context? Like, what's the scale
23	that we're talking about here? Potential scale of the
24	Delaware Mountain Group injection?
25	A Well, you there it'll be expansive,
	Page 80

1	and it'll be exponential. My concern is that
2	Chevron's attempt to qualify and modify will have to
3	be continuous so it or in in cooperation with a
4	demand that will come up for Delaware Mountain Group
5	disposal.
6	The historical amount of application by some
7	operators to have four wells in one section has
8	already been laid out back in 2018/2019. And so this
9	will be this will be a big alternative to Devonian
10	and with it, the concern that we do at least get a
11	handle on it so that we do manage it properly.
12	We still will have Devonian. We still will
13	have Cisco. We still will have Avalon. We still will
14	have other areas, but the greater basin with the
15	Wolfcamp play and with the Bone Springs play. The
16	capacity need is there, and this is at that point.
17	One of the alternatives that's been offered.
18	Q Mr. Goetze, do you recall I want to
19	address this question of, like, maximum injection
20	volume versus pressure. Do you recall that question
21	yesterday from Commissioner Ampomah?
22	A No.
23	Q You do not? Okay. Well, then I have
24	strike that then.
25	I'll let him raise that with you do it
	Page 81

1 better than I will. 2 Okay. So --3 Α Well, I mean, there is a relationship for volume and pressure. They're related. And so the 4 5 concern that I quess the question was in the permit with the -- the amount -- and this has been probably a 6 more historical aspect of permitting process, tendency 8 is I would see applications for 50,000 barrels a day 9 for every well that ever came in. And it's not realistic. 10 11 We understand. We have been trying, 12 especially for the Devonian wells, to finite this to 13 make it more accurate, especially when we ask them to look at how far over a 30-year life, how far that 14 15 fluid would move out. And where these wells would 16 interfere with each other. I think for the DMG, we're 17 going to be faced with that same issue. 18 Some people will lay out an area, and we'll 19 probably be realistic about what kind of volumes they can put in. My ten years with OCD -- if you get a 20 10,000 barrel a day, it's very good. We do have some 21 to achieve 20,000, but by and large, that's the room 22 we work in in order to protect correlative rights and 23 not have a fraction. 2.4 25 Again, Texas does not worry about

1	correlative rights and with it the the ability to
2	do 30,000 barrels a day with nine-inch casing, it's
3	it's a reality.
4	Q As proposed by, you know, these terms that
5	are laid out in Exhibit 11, and the existing
6	injection pressure set by OCD, will the limitation in
7	the casing diameter and the pressure effectively limit
8	the injection volume?
9	A I think it'll be beneficial for us at this
10	point to work with what we know. And so we've had
11	success with this in the San Andres, which has its own
12	issues. But if we were trying to go bigger, I think
13	we need to take a step back, and that has to go
14	through a hearing process.
15	Q And I think the last question, Mr. Goetze,
16	what well, a couple questions I have. What if
17	approved if these applications are approved, what
18	will be the approved term of injection authority for
19	these faults?
20	Q Oh, apparently in 19 19 2020, we
21	reworked our permits. Our former UIC permits that we
22	issued were poor structured and did not incorporate
23	many of the rules that we have from the EPA.
24	The current permanent template includes a
25	lot of the mandatory language that we avoided, and
	Page 83

1	with it, we added a 20-year limit to the permit and at
2	that point and prior to that was until either you
3	exceeded the formation parting pressure or the well
4	fell apart.
5	Q Given all the facts presented in this
6	hearing, would you recommend to the Commission any
7	modification either to that term of injection
8	authority or a term of monitoring and reporting or
9	reconsideration of the permit?
10	A What a round of discussion this morning.
11	I think the term of the 20-year permit is
12	good but require reporting a frequency. I think
13	and this will be on Chevron is that every two years
14	we get some sort of summary report because we're going
15	to be using this for guidance. We're going to be
16	using this to develop our own criteria.
17	So I there's no real reason to if the
18	permit is bad, the well is bad it's 40, 50; 30 years.
19	It doesn't matter. But as far as investment, the 20
20	year represents a good business investment and then
21	condition of approval we require more higher frequency
22	of reporting.
23	Q So if the OCD if the Commission adopted a
24	two-year reporting rate requirement, reporting that to
25	the oil reporting certain information back to the

1	Oil Conservation Division, what would be what would
2	your recommendation be for the mechanism for OCD to
3	act on if necessary, on that report?
4	A Well, I mean well, there is the the
5	sitting down negotiating with the operator. The final
6	ultimatum would be go to hearing. I think working
7	with the operator, making a presentation to the
8	director since it was an order signed by the director
9	as an alternative to hearing, it's more practical and
10	certainly more frugal with regards to staff and
11	management funds.
12	Q So ultimately the Division recommends that
13	this reporting and monitoring be delivered to the Oil
14	Conservation Division and that could ultimately if
15	necessary be elevated to the Commission?
16	A Yes.
17	MR. TREMAINE: And with that, Mr.
18	Chair, I am done with the direct examination. Thank
19	you.
20	MR. FUGE: Thank you.
21	Ms. Bennett?
22	MS. BENNETT: Thank you.
23	Thank you, Mr. Goetze. Thanks for all
24	that information. I appreciate the opportunity to be
25	here with you
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1	MR. BLOOM: Mr. Chair, can I ask for a
2	ten-minute break before we begin
3	MS. BENNETT: All right.
4	MR. FUGE: All right. We will do a
5	ten-minute break. We will resume at 11:10
6	otherwise going.
7	(Off the record.)
8	MR. FUGE: Time to come back, everyone.
9	I'll actually give Commissioner Bloom one second to
10	return, but we will go ahead and get started
11	momentarily. Just a moment for those online.
12	Mr. Tremaine, while we're waiting for
13	Commissioner Bloom to return, we do have a quorum. I
14	understand there's an administrative matter we need to
15	take care of before cross?
16	MR. TREMAINE: Yes, similar to the
17	matter earlier I had intended to move admission of
18	Exhibits 5 through 11 prior to releasing Mr. Goetze,
19	but unfortunately, I have ended direct, so I would
20	move now admission of OCD Exhibits by point of order.
21	MR. FUGE: Any objection?
22	MS. BENNETT: No
23	MR. FUGE: Those exhibits are accepted.
24	(OCD Exhibit 5 through Exhibit 11 were
25	received into evidence.)
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1	MR. FUGE: Ms. Bennett?
2	MS. BENNETT: Thank you.
3	CROSS-EXAMINATION
4	BY MS. BENNETT:
5	Q And thanks again for being here and for all
6	that whole work that the Division did in preparing for
7	the hearings today as well as the meeting with
8	Chevron. So we appreciate it.
9	Just a few follow-up questions. It sounds
10	like the Division and Chevron are aligned on the need
11	for additional data in this area; is that an accurate
12	statement?
13	A I think it's reliable to say that for the
14	permitting process in general we need more
15	information.
16	Q And as I was sitting here, it sounded a
17	little sort of like a catch 22 or a chicken and egg
18	situation where the Division would like additional
19	data, but the additional data needs to come from the
20	ground up? Information due to the differences in the
21	complexity of the geology and things that you were
22	mentioning earlier.
23	A Historically this has been our function.
24	The operators provide us with the information since we
25	cannot collect it and therefore provide us with the

1	basis for making a decision. So this is not uncommon.
2	Q And in your testimony, or actually, one of
3	the you noted that there was a benefit of the pilot
4	project was or a benefit of the pilot project is
5	this data gathering opportunity?
6	A Yes. It was always where we may have an
7	operator come forward and invest time and effort to
8	better qualify and quantify making the process
9	Q Would you were here yesterday when the
10	Chevron's witnesses were testifying; is that right?
11	A Correct.
12	Q And do you recall testimony that one of the
13	reasons that Chevron picked these two wells for the
14	pilot project is the difference in geology between
15	the two wells?
16	A Yes.
17	Q Do you view that in your opinion as a
18	benefit of the pilot project having local area
19	information to be cited?
20	A Well, I look at it as a process that we can
21	copy with other locations within the DMG. The fact
22	that they chose two different types of areas would
23	indicate to me that in an effort to expand this
24	process and expand disposal, they selected two good
25	locations that they felt they had good information on
	Page 88

1	as well as the potential for more disposal on the same
2	areas. So I guess it choosing two different types
3	of examples was good.
4	Q And one of the other bits of information or
5	testimony that we talked about yesterday was the fact
6	that Chevron has operated self-control over both the
7	SWDs and their oil producing wells, which seems like
8	an additional benefit to the pilot project. Do you
9	have an opinion on that?
LO	A The only thing I would say to that is yes,
L1	that is beneficial for Chevron in its position. But
L2	again, our application will be to other operators who
L3	have absolutely no deduction history, that the
L4	midstream are not that. And so what we can take
L5	from this and provide as a criteria for those who are
L6	barely in the market for disposal is it's beneficial.
L7	Q So would you say that Chevron's role has
L8	been sort of managing both SWDs and the producers will
L9	then give the Division additional information? It can
20	deploy when faced with applications from operators who
21	aren't the situated?
22	A We can try and see. Again, the relationship
23	of having an operator whose vested interest has
24	continued the production is much different from an
25	operator whose barely metering water going down.

1	Q Earlier in your testimony you discussed the
2	0.2 pressure limitation and it's your understanding
3	that's what Chevron is proposing here?
4	A We may have opportunities. The first
5	most prominent end role we have is pressure limit. So
6	yes, pressure equals so
7	Q So the fact that Chevron is proposing 0.2
8	PSI but is consistent with the OCD's requirements; is
9	that right?
10	A every permit that we admitted
11	administratively approved under our primacy is at 0.2
12	PSI for
13	Q Earlier today, you were asked about DFIT.
14	And you indicated that it would could be beneficial
15	for the OCD to consider including that as a test in
16	the administrative application checklist?
17	A Correct.
18	Q Are you familiar with DFIT tests yourself?
19	A Yes.
20	Q Is it your understanding that a DFIT test
21	injects less a minimal amount of water for the
22	test?
23	A It is a different test, and it does provide
24	a better accuracy as far as the formation so no, we
25	have no concerns. Is it substitutable? I mean, can
	Page 90

1	you replace an SRT with it? That's something we can
2	discuss, but definitely having seen it and the
3	enhanced recovery side we're confident in its results.
4	Q Great. And the Division doesn't see any
5	concerns with the DFIT test in and of itself?
6	A Well, no. Just as long as we do it right.
7	Q Thank you.
8	One thing that you mentioned in your
9	testimony is the need for a complete and robust
10	application. Application materials. And when you
11	were speaking, you mentioned that Chevron has met a
12	lot of the OCD's expectations for applications and in
13	some cases, exceeded that.
14	Is that a fair refresher of what you said
15	earlier today?
16	A I think Chevron does provide accurate and
17	and good application.
18	Q And Chevron you heard earlier or
19	yesterday that Chevron is supporting industry
20	collaboration in this process, which would be
21	beneficial in my view for the Division. But how do
22	you view that?
23	A I have no opinion on that.
24	Q How about do you have an opinion on
25	whether industry collaboration with the OCD is
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1	beneficial?
2	A Well, we always every process we've
3	gone we have gone to industry to get at least a
4	snapshot and a position and the opportunity for
5	additional means to identify problems and resolve
6	them. So no, that's we've always had that.
7	Q You also mentioned that having a pilot
8	project is not uncommon to establish a record and to
9	establish a path forward for the Division and the
10	Commission?
11	A Right.
12	Q And that the what learnings from the
13	pilot project can then be benefit the OCD and the
14	Commission by providing I guess like stepping stones,
15	providing sort of or information that you can then
16	incorporate the Division can incorporate for
17	guidance as it moves forward?
18	A Not only that, but the foundation for
19	the I mean, we do have this debate about policy and
20	practice. Yes, we don't, yes, we do. And we use the
21	Commission's findings as a means to show this vocation
22	for either a requirement for information or some sort
23	of testing or monitoring as part of the permitting
24	process that we may have moved administratively to the

judge.

25

1	Q That would I found the discussion of
2	Exhibit 11 to be particularly helpful because that is
3	a checklist for administrative applications. Was that
4	the intent of it, Exhibit 11? Is that a fair
5	statement to
6	A It was a fair statement to provide a
7	basement level of what we're looking for in DMG.
8	Q Earlier in your testimony you mentioned that
9	the Division's goal is or not goal, but desire is
10	to have good wells with long injectivity lifespan. Is
11	that fair?
12	A we look at utilizing the resources of
13	space we will have a real authority. The permit
14	does have to comply with the statute. We do it so we
15	get better results as far as using resources, so it
16	it goes hand in hand.
17	Q Would you agree that based on testimony that
18	you've seen from Chevron yesterday and their exhibits
19	that Chevron is also dedicated to having successful
20	wells?
21	A We never said they weren't.
22	Q No, no. I'm not I'm not trying to attack
23	you. I'm just
24	A No, I the effort by Chevron is admirable,
25	and they are putting together something in support of
	Page 93

their operation what I'd expect out of a business that
wants to move forward and and continue with
expansion of their operation. So yes.
Q Great.
A Is this a Chevron commercial?
A Well if we were
MS. HARDY sponsoring by the
way
BY MS. BENNETT:
Q I think that might be it. I guess in
conclusion, it seems to me that the one of the take
aways from today and yesterday is that there's been an
evolution in thinking, not just with operators but
also with the Division given the need for additional
disposal options; is that how the Division is looking
into it as well?
A Well, no, I we knew this was coming, so
the realize the push the Devonian that's identified
in '83 in our primacy. The concern and use of the San
Andres was also identified in '83. We've gone to
other locations in other horizons.
Devonian has its place and does not
adequately meet support which is necessary for
disposal. I think this breather we've had with the
Delaware Mountain Group is not only reflective of our

1	change in how things are done, especially when we were
2	issuing permits with the smallest amount of
3	information.
4	I think also it represents a big change in
5	the industry too with the horizontal drilling and
6	what's coming out of the that. So to meet that need,
7	we knew we were coming back to the Delaware Mountain
8	Group. We just needed to know how to do it without us
9	sacrificing our demands under our statute.
10	That's the thing about it, we may have
11	agreement between operators on how to do something,
12	but it does not take us out of the prevention of waste
13	and the protection of correlative rights waste
14	waste.
15	Q Thank you. Those are all the questions I
16	had.
17	MR. FUGE: Ms. Hardy, do you have any
18	questions?
19	MS. HARDY: I do have a few.
20	CROSS-EXAMINATION
21	BY MS. HARDY:
22	Q Hello, Mr. Goetze.
23	A Hello.
24	Q A few questions for you.
25	A Thank you.
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Q Regarding OCD Exhibit 11. This is the
conditions. On paragraph 1A, is it correct that a
hearing will be required for applications to inject
into the DMG within the NMOGA RA?
A At this point, that is how we would probably
handle this. Since administratively, we do not have
resolution. We would like to go back to NMOGA and
there is an effort to review the map as it was
originally presented. So this is an ongoing thing.
But I think we need a little bit of a
breathing room if we're going to do it
administratively; that we have things in place where
we know we have concerns for compromise and of
resources. So yes, it leads to a hearing process.
Q Regarding paragraph 2B, is OCD
distinguishing between the upper and lower Brushy
Canyon?
A I think that has to be handled on a case by
case basis, but yes, if I reference with the of
the Brushy as much as you can. And with that using
the Brushy, the upper Brushy as a sort of a safety
zone and it's very much excluding what has
historically been production, which is the lower
Brushy.
Q One of Mewbourne recommendations which I had
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1	mentioned in my opening statement is for OCD to work
2	with the NMOGA DMG Disposal Capacity Reexamination
3	Work Group to create a DMG type log as dry cross
4	sections to ensure consistent DMG layer picks across
5	the basin. Is that something OCD would consider?
6	A We would consider, and the we also have
7	plans to work with the Bureau of Geology the Bureau
8	of Geology, we currently have a task agreement with
9	them that they assisted us in the Delaware Mountain
10	I mean the Devonian projects. We were also looking to
11	them to assist us in Delaware Mountain Group.
12	Q Mewbourne has also recommended that OCD
13	consider the requirement to perform a new step rate
14	test any time the tubing diameter of the well is
15	upgraded or if additional DMG preparations are added
16	below the current disposal purview interval.
17	Sorry. It's been a long day.
18	Is this something else that you would
19	consider including in Exhibit 11?
20	A Currently our step rate tests are
21	conditional, meaning that if you change move the
22	packer; you change the tubing size; or if you've added
23	a corporation whole configuration's different from
24	the original test, then you have to run another test.
25	So we would that through.

Q There seems to be a misconception in the
industry that it's being banned all new DMG SWD
permits after the creation of the NMOGA map to the
Exhibit G.
Can you confirm for the record that OCD
never approved rules to ban those new DMG SWD permits?
A No, we did not. Many of the applicants when
asked to provide additional information withdrew their
applications. So and in some cases the companies
dissolved before the permitting so
Q Regarding OCD Exhibit 8, we're looking at
pages 12 and 13.
A Yep.
MR. FUGE: Mr. Tremaine, can you bring
up that exhibit?
MR. TREMAINE: Yes.
BY MS. HARDY:
Q Those pages appear to address a more
similar case to that made by Chevron at page 121 in
their exhibits. And I can actually show that to you.
That would be
MR. FUGE: because I
BY MS. HARDY:
Q Do you know about the this is the
A Yes, I have
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1	Q Chevron Exhibit? Okay.
2	Chevron attributed interference between two
3	DMG SWD wells and an Avalon producer to lineaments for
4	faults. Are you familiar with those two SWD wells
5	that are shown on Chevron's exhibit page 21?
6	A See down there near the Papa Squirrels. No,
7	I I probably know where they are, but but I
8	have not looked at them in detail.
9	Q Okay. And what is your opinion regarding
LO	whether DMG SWD wells be enhanced to find presence
L1	of faults or lineaments?
L2	A This is something that weighs heavily with
L3	regards to the characteristics of the the
L4	reservoir, yes. Again, I've had actual water floats
L5	north of the Avalon and canyon area where canyon
L6	area where Delaware Mountain Group injections from SWD
L7	wells has been observed by water flow a mile away.
L8	So it was indicated by the operator that
L9	there was a fracture but it was never disclosed
20	until the additional of new new injection models.
21	So yeah, it it is a heavy item to consider and of
22	course, the ability to get that information is
23	critical. Will we get it? Again, that we don't know.
24	Q And could the potential of that relationship
25	be used as a monitoring tool for potentially

1	problematic wells in the future as more wells are
2	drilled?
3	A Yes. It would be and again, I think this
4	is the Division moving from its well by well approval
5	process, that if we do have an operator in an area
6	that we become more familiar with it. Certainly we
7	would have less hesitation if we knew more about it
8	but if we find concerns find issues that it does
9	impact other wells in the area, then we would
10	certainly look towards saying that this is not a
11	confirmed area for DMG injection.
12	Q Those are all of my questions. Thank you
13	very much.
14	A You're welcome.
15	MR. FUGE: Dr. Ampomah?
16	DR. AMPOMAH: now I feel a little
17	yeah. So thanks so much for your testimony because
18	you've clarified a lot of things. At least for me, but
19	I do have a couple of questions.
20	Now, with regards to this pilot
21	project, does OCD understand the time line for this
22	pilot project?
23	MR. GOETZE: We have in the past put
24	the limitations on the pilot project in the sense we
25	would say in so many years, we'll keep this in place.
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1	This Commission reporting back Commission, but we'd
2	still go ahead and issue our standard permit, but at
3	that point, we would release the requirements for
4	Commission hearing and maybe do something more aligned
5	than just a summary to the Commission.
6	So there there are opportunities
7	with the Commission to lay out and amend they would
8	have to come back and report to you as well as us.
9	And then at that point, decision by Commission is no
LO	longer needed and we can move on with something else.
L1	My recommendation to use our UIC
L2	template allows us to incorporate a lot of the
L3	necessary recording information and the condition for
L4	inspection, changes to the permit, these sort of
L5	things that are customary for all our class 2 wells
L6	disposal wells.
L7	Unlike the acid gas wells, where we
L8	have that long document with the the order and the
L9	conditions in that order, we could do the same thing
20	of combining our our existing template along with
21	the direction from the Commission to have a
22	reappearance and present the results of the
23	investigation.
24	MR. AMPOMAH: So with that information,
25	because I didn't get it all information through the

1	presentations throughout then I will seethe
2	Commission, are you going to work with the Commission
3	to come up with that?
4	MR. GOETZE: What we would be asking
5	the Commission to do is sanction and say this is a
6	good process and the Division should follow it.
7	With this is why we have the acid gas wells coming.
8	Because we were member the same amount of
9	information requirement to work for an early disposal
10	well.
11	And it was quite clear it was not
12	sufficient with regards to how these wells and in
13	actual their longevity and what they inject. And so
14	we, kind of, based upon that approach that for now the
15	Delaware Mountain Group if we're going to ask the
16	conditions on permit we'd ask the Commission to say
17	yeah, these are good.
18	And and presenting in the case of
19	Chevron coming and providing the summary board or
20	results and we would be again, the same and give our
21	opinions on those results on a two year case or every
22	two years for ten years or what that we would be
23	able to have you at some point save level confidence
24	in what we have in place is good, and the only time we
25	come back to visit you is if we got a problem and we

1	see that we're not really sufficiently adequately
2	buying resources.
3	Otherwise, we run into this problem of
4	we can ask for things, but legally, we are bounded by
5	what's already in our New Mexico administrative code.
6	And so our concerns are we don't want to put every
7	single thing because that limits us. The
8	requirements for casing designs and things like that
9	are are done through approval of API standards
10	and industry understood.
11	And same thing is true with this. When
12	we do our acid gas, we usually have the redundant
13	wells administratively, though we use the guidance
14	that was given to us in that original order that also
15	applies to that administratively approved second
16	realm.
17	So our concept was to go forward with
18	Commission and say what are we going to ask for in the
19	Delaware Mountain Group and what can we bend forward
20	and say someone comes in and wants just
21	administratively approval, these are the things we can
22	do. And we don't get a lawyer saying no, you can't do
23	that.
24	MR. AMPOMAH: So first condition
25	approval, is it one that's been approval?

1	MR. GOETZE: We can include that and
2	whatever wants to
3	MR. AMPOMAH: So in terms of the
4	condition that this is going to establish in support
5	the pilot project, is there some guidance of the
6	Commission asking
7	MR. GOETZE: I we could
8	historically have been able to tell the lawyers
9	but I think what I would like to do is is go
10	through the UIC permit, add the conditions of
11	approval, and slap them on the back of an order, which
12	we do already.
13	And that Commission order gives the
14	guidance of coming back and saying all this permit we
15	put together, come back in two years, and give us the
16	results of this, and the Division will fill up and
17	will fill up and we'll find out what's working what's
18	not working.
19	At that point, you could say come back
20	in another two years, but my concern is that again.
21	As soon as word's out that Chevron has a pilot
22	project, you folks are going to be busy. And I don't
23	think that's what we want to do.
24	I think what we want to do is get it
25	into a process that even at Division hearing level we

1	can say look at the Commission decision, and this is
2	what we want or as administratively permit comes into
3	us in the office. We find all this information and
4	we're comfortable enough to issue a permit for what
5	they're asking for.
6	MR. AMPOMAH: Thank you. Okay. Let's
7	talk a little bit about the 0.2 and then also the
8	so Chevron had, you know, they presented out the
9	analysis. For my opinion, it's I'm trying to
10	relate that to let's say the current location which
11	I some feel issues with that.
12	But based on your testimony, you say
13	that you are mostly interested in the 0.2 more like
14	the pressure so are you saying that you feel
15	comfortable with Chevron 20,000 for one well and
16	then 15,000 for one well?
17	MR. GOETZE: At this point, the
18	individual permits will be based on pressure at the
19	individual well. The 0.2 is are administratively
20	approved. So that's the the administrative
21	limitation that we're placing on it.
22	Now, the opportunity of a step rate
23	test in front of that will give us a greater level of
24	understanding of what the formation or DFIT of what
25	conditions in the reservoir are. We normally look at

1	that absolute volume injection as a best estimate and
2	not necessarily a permit condition, but under our
3	rules currently, the pressure maximum surface
4	injection pressures what decides the volume going
5	down.
6	MR. AMPOMAH: So the Commission doesn't
7	need to worry about
8	MR. GOETZE: I I think what we tend
9	to see is that it's the best guess for the situation
10	because we don't know what they're going to encounter
11	downhole, certainly not all drillers are good.
12	MR. AMPOMAH: So you talked about
13	there are some few fractures that based on previous
14	statements DMG now, but if you look at the
15	Exhibit 11. I don't see any tool that you have in
16	there, and so number four, for example number
17	four in terms of the testing and monitoring
18	procedures.
19	I know Chevron is going to be
20	definitely we're going to use that to prove that there
21	are no fractures here and there.
22	So is the OCD going to consider if
23	fractures is a problem would the let's say the
24	two, like combine two also together
25	MR. GOETZE: We would certainly adopt

1	that with any. No problems.
2	MR. AMPOMAH: Okay.
3	MR. GOETZE: But again, our position's
4	that we have industry and with regards to operators
5	such as Chevron or Mewbourne, they're willing to make
6	the investment. Our problem will be willing to those
7	in applicants who will not be interested in that
8	type of thing.
9	And so if the Commission sees that
10	we the more information we have, certainly the
11	better we're able to characterize and make a decision.
12	MR. AMPOMAH: So that is something the
13	Commission can also add to?
14	MR. GOETZE: Yes, you may add you
15	may add as many things as you wish.
16	MR. AMPOMAH: You made mention of
17	let's say once we approve this application there's
18	going to be a volume of applications coming through?
19	MR. GOETZE: Correct.
20	MR. AMPOMAH: Now, I'm sure the same
21	thing applies to the AGI wells where instead of
22	approving they're applications coming through. And
23	then there you so I'm a little bit concerned
24	about let's say presenting these complex
25	projects and then a lot of different projects coming

1	through without really thinking about what take
2	into consideration the cost and operations, you know,
3	to help us to more or less look into the future.
4	So is this something that the OCD's
5	looking at
6	MR. GOETZE: So that's why we're
7	probably going to have to solicit outside sources.
8	For instance, you've heard of scissors and their
9	support of the seismic issues and putting together a
10	cooperative. I don't imagine us being that good to be
11	modelers and experts in that. So yes, we will have to
12	seek a support mechanism in that sense.
13	MR. AMPOMAH: Well, so you do have
14	their support somewhere somehow because you do have
15	so you normally use you use Bureau of Geology for
16	most of your work. Why not use PRC for some of
17	the work, because that's what we do?
18	MR. GOETZE: Yeah. No, no. I
19	there's a variety of sources and and what we
20	would do is probably look for something in the
21	educational system, whether we'll say U&M. But, you
22	know, things along
23	But yes, we we have and I this
24	is something we've lost over the years. We used to
25	use the Bureau for more information, especially in the

1	earlier years of what asked about. We only have
2	recently returned, especially when we saw the
3	information coming in the Devonian block. For us to
4	know if the permitted hole was really what was
5	being injected into, we had to have a third party.
6	In this case, the group at the Bureau
7	come in and map for us what is truly being seen on the
8	logs. And therefore, our side for the compliance
9	issue saying, yes, they are completed in that interval
10	is satisfied. And also, because we had very limited
11	information, again, going to a third party to compile
12	that information and using it as a basis for our
13	decisions is going to be critical.
14	We do the same with seismic. We're not
15	seismologists, and certainly we required industry's
16	input is important, and we relied upon them to give us
17	their information and understanding modeling
18	complex. So it's not just going to be us in the back
19	room looking at bottles and saying yes or no. It'll
20	be in a relationship, kind of.
21	But again, this brings us to the other
22	consideration. If I have an application from a ma and
23	pa operation, then we're going to see this thing of
24	well, you're denying us the business and I don't see
25	that being much of an issue but I do see that we're

1	going to have to have more cooperation and better
2	understanding, especially with modeling coming in.
3	But we're going to need some assistance.
4	MR. AMPOMAH: You make mention about
5	the way Chevron presented the application in such a
6	way that the Lamar and then also the lower formation
7	is a little bit of a problem.
8	But I want a clarification though
9	because it shouldn't the system must be a
10	storage complex where they have to clarify where they
11	are when they choose. And I think that is what they
12	did. So I was a little bit confused. So if you could
13	clarify that?
14	MR. GOETZE: Under the UIC rules, what
15	you're asking for is an interval for injection
16	into so realistically, it would be from the
17	base say for reasons of discussions, the base of
18	the Lamar to some sort of permeable barrier that they
19	identify in the upper Brushy. The confining layers
20	are not included in the injection interval.
21	And so when we write that permit, we
22	say that that's the injection interval, and then we
23	have a rule that says if it gets out and we say it has
24	to stay in that injection interval. Once it gets out
25	of it, then you're in violation of that permit

1	condition and then we have to revisit.
2	So our compliance is that okay, you're
3	inside that interval, fine. But if in certain cases I
4	had a well that was in the southeast DMG, it went down
5	the top of the Brushy. We ran a Spinner on it. And
6	99 percent of the fluid was going in the bog 50 feet
7	of a a 700-foot well. So we know where it's going
8	below what was permitted.
9	And then we have to revisit those
10	people and say either this permit's got to go, or you
11	got to show us you're not impacting the end, outside
12	of your confining layer.
13	MR. AMPOMAH: Okay. I think I'll end
14	here. Thank you.
15	MR. FUGE: Mr. Bloom?
16	MR. BLOOM: Better have a few more in
17	you, Dr. Ampomah.
18	DR. AMPOMAH: I want to talk to me.
19	So I
20	MR. BLOOM: Thank you, Mr. Goetze, for
21	your testimony today. I'm not quite sure where to
22	begin here, but let's at least go to Exhibit 11 2C.
23	The criteria for selection of injection interval.
24	We see here application should include
25	a review of the AOR. Assessment for evidence of

1	natural fracture systems or faults. I'm not familiar
2	with the D-108.
3	Is there a specified distance or radius
4	of the AOR or is that something that you negotiate
5	with the applicant, Mr. Goetze?
6	MR. GOETZE: Under our primacy
7	agreement, all states all states have to declare
8	there's there's two ways of doing it. Either it's
9	a static distance area of review or there's a formula.
10	And remembering that UIC rules are five states,
11	whatever fits your program best is what's selected.
12	The Division chose to go with a
13	stagnant one half mile radius if we do. And it has
14	been successful up until now. One of the reasons we
15	had gone to hearings was that the Devonian wells is
16	because of the fact we felt that it was going to
17	exceed that one half mile. It had been, shall we say
18	through usage used as a type of spacing.
19	Typically what happens is that if
20	someone has an SWD within that one-half mile radius,
21	it it ends up being in a protested application. So
22	it has been a matter of convenience to exclude any
23	other disposal actions that are in the same interval
24	in that half mile AOR.
25	MR. BLOOM: I'm going to jump around a

little bit. The OCD in its pre-hearing statement said
that, "OCD neither supports nor opposes the
applications. Current knowledge of DMG for the
selected locations or require any UIC permits to
incorporate the additional conditions provided in
Exhibit 11."
Mr. Goetze, are you comfortable with
the two-mile AOR here?
MR. GOETZE: We'll take as much
distance as we can get. I think it's frugal. Will it
stand? We'll find out. I mean, that's one of the
reasons of doing the testing. It may be in some areas
if you want to want to utilize the Delaware
Mountain Group in that area, that that will be a
necessity.
But there may be areas where the rock
But there may be areas where the rock and the formation again, looking at the Nance paper
and the formation again, looking at the Nance paper
and the formation again, looking at the Nance paper and the uniqueness of the deposition, there might be
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and the formation again, looking at the Nance paper and the uniqueness of the deposition, there might be areas where closer is is practical and acceptable if the information supports that. MR. BLOOM: Thank you. Dr. Ampomah
and the formation again, looking at the Nance paper and the uniqueness of the deposition, there might be areas where closer is is practical and acceptable if the information supports that. MR. BLOOM: Thank you. Dr. Ampomah asked a little bit about where this sort of where

1 think about how we deal with the case in front of us. 2 In the long term, do you see a special 3 C-108 application for the DMG or how does that -- how do you envision that? 4 5 MR. GOETZE: No, I see a change in the 108 entirely if we're going to do disposal. I think 6 the fact that we have something that dates back to 8 2000 and -- does not represent current status of 9 necessity for disposal and making sure that it happens 10 right, we've always asked -- we've always in my 11 requirements. But we are seeing the demand that we 12 know more about it in order for us to issue a permit 13 than --14 MR. BLOOM: I believe I reviewed 15 With all the materials that -- were everything. 16 presented to us and I'm trying to reflect on what 17 we've heard since yesterday. It feels like a long 18 time ago that we began. 19 I'm a little unclear how we wind this 20 up today or where we go, and I don't know if you can speak to that or, you know, some combination of maybe 2.1 22 OCD and Chevron speaking to this or if our chair would have thoughts, but are we looking for an order here at 23 2.4 the end or an instruction to the OCD to evaluate? I don't know if you have any thoughts on this. We're 25

1 asking the right person, so --2 MR. GOETZE: I think you can go either 3 I think giving us direction to approve what they provided and do it through a permit that the director 4 5 signs on behalf of the Commission is a possibility. We would use our standard template plus whatever you 6 put into the conditions of the order and then 8 stipulate, you know -- years going back, talk to us. 9 MR. BLOOM: Okay. MR. GOETZE: And tell us how it's 10 11 working. I think that's practical. And I think also 12 gives us the opportunity to -- if we're going to 13 again, do administratively, that gives us the 14 opportunity to figure out what the language should 15 look like. 16 Does that mean we have to provide you 17 an example of what we're going to issue? That would 18 be up to you. If you want to see what the final order 19 looks like, and the -- tell us to write one and -- and 20 take whatever they want put in and whatever we want to 21 put in. I think we can negotiate something and then provide a -- a result. 22 23 MR. BLOOM: Would OCD be okay if we asked it if Chevron and OCD came back with the first 2.4 25 year of operations and asked for a report?

1	MR. GOETZE: Oh, sure. I mean, if you
2	want to increase the frequency, the better it is for
3	us.
4	MR. BLOOM: And perhaps do you every
5	couple years after that it looks good?
6	MR. GOETZE: Because again, remember,
7	you're going to be giving us the guidance that we will
8	take, walk out, and put it in another permit. So
9	leave it forewarned that permits are at the gate. The
10	better and faster and the more consistent we have it
11	up front, certainly we'll be in a better position.
12	Especially since you folks are going to be involved,
13	you'll be able to see that information also.
14	MR. BLOOM: That's what I was thinking
15	about. Okay. I appreciate that thought. I don't
16	believe I have any further questions.
17	MR. GOETZE: And we've not forget
18	mister
19	MR. BLOOM: Be happy that he's
20	listening in today. So thank you.
21	No further questions at this time.
22	Thank you.
23	MR. FUGE: I have no additional
24	questions for the witness, and we're covered. So
25	unless there's redirect, Mr. Goetze, you're excused.

1	DR. AMPOMAH: I have one more.
2	MR. FUGE: Oh. You didn't get up
3	that no. Mr. Goetze
4	DR. AMPOMAH: identifying this one.
5	So Chevron showed a plot of how much water is actually
6	being produced, you know, compared to how much is
7	actually injected in the vesicle. That is really an
8	alarming plot because it sounds like you have a lot of
9	water than we more or less can send to Texas.
10	So what is the OCD really doing about
11	this?
12	MR. GOETZE: Well, now you're getting
13	into state politics.
14	MR. AMPOMAH: Oh, no
15	MR. GOETZE: I mean, this is one of the
16	problems of considering the Permian Basin is between
17	two states with two sets of rules that are different.
18	So limitations that we have, for instance, we have the
19	waste isolation pilot project. Having injected around
20	there with Delaware Mountain Group, we we finally
21	got away from it because Department of Energy doesn't
22	want to see it.
23	The ongoing consideration that yes, a
24	lot of the operators are sending water to Texas
25	because of the fact the DMG injection is quite

favorable to them because they are not restricted by correlative rights. They're not restricted by what we had as limitations on injection structure.

2.1

And so there will be at some point and already has been in the Texas legislature to put a surcharge on water coming from New Mexico in the hopes that it stays here. So yes, there will be a -- a push for shallow injection and it will be coming to our doorstep fast because that is growing.

That distance between disposal and what is out there and needs to be disposed of the capacity versus what's being produced is still expanding. But then again, this is where we're looking at multiple development. And Devonian has its issues, and it does have limitations. And this is one of the papers that was done by Dr. Scanlon with the Bureau of Economic Geology is that OCD is going to have to look at this as a whole basin issue.

And so the operators cooperating, or they are willing to cooperate and work together to have multiple sources of disposal. So I mean, there are areas of looking at breaking up this disposal and still meeting the capacity, but the biggest problem gets to be is that historically, we've all learned of the same location at the same time.

1	And as a result we can look at the
2	problems. And to point out that this is not the only
3	issue here. And with we have a methane. We
4	have a decent seismicity up there and all that water's
5	coming from Colorado. So we share a lot.
6	MR. AMPOMAH: Thank you. Thank you,
7	sir. Okay.
8	MR. FUGE: You are now excused. Yes.
9	MR. GOETZE: Thank you.
10	MR. FUGE: Mr. Tremaine, do you have
11	another witness?
12	MR. TREMAINE: We do. OCD would call
13	Million Gebremichael.
14	MR. FUGE: And I would just state,
15	unless there are objections here, Mr. Gebremichael has
16	appeared before the Commission this year accepted as
17	an expert in other things.
18	Unless there are concerns about his
19	qualifications or you are offering him for a different
20	purpose than he was previously qualified, propose that
21	we just allow him to testify without a customary, kind
22	of, background introduction, if parties are
23	comfortable.
24	MS. BENNETT: We would be comfortable
25	with that. Thank you.

1	MR. TREMAINE: Yeah.
2	MR. FUGE: Mr. Gebremichael may I
3	ask the court reporter to swear the witness in?
4	THE REPORTER: Please raise your right
5	hand.
6	WHEREUPON,
7	MILLION GEBREMICHAEL,
8	called as a witness and having been first duly sworn
9	to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
10	the truth, was examined and testified as follows:
11	MR. FUGE: Please have a seat, sir.
12	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
13	DIRECT EXAMINATION
14	BY MR. TREMAINE:
15	Q Good morning almost afternoon now, Mr.
16	Gebremichael.
17	A I see that.
18	Q Could you please state your name for the
19	record?
20	A Yeah. My name is Million Gebremichael.
21	Q What is your current position with Oil
22	Conservation Division?
23	A Well, I'm a petroleum specialist advanced
24	with OCD for the Underground Injection Control
25	Group.

1	MR. TREMAINE: I'm going to stip here
2	noting the Commission's acceptance of Mr. Gebremichael
3	as an expert in the areas of petroleum engineering and
4	underground injection and move the Exhibit OCD number
5	3, which is the curriculum vitae of Mr. Gebremichael.
6	(OCD Exhibit 3 was marked for
7	identification.)
8	DR. AMPOMAH: Yes.
9	MR. FUGE: Any objections?
10	MS. BENNETT: No.
11	MR. FUGE: Admitted.
12	(OCD Exhibit 3 was received into
13	evidence.)
14	BY MR. TREMAINE:
15	Q All right. Skipping over education and
16	experience.
17	Mr. Gebremichael, could you please provide a
18	brief summary of your testimony today?
19	A My testimony today would be focusing on
20	Exhibit 12 and then also Exhibit 11, item number 4.
21	I'll explain more and answer any questions
22	in regard to the conditions of approvals that were
23	made in regard to the well testing, like the step rate
24	test, which is commonly known as SRT or follow-up test
25	in order to determine the right maximum allowable

1	surface injection pressure.
2	Also, once injection also monitoring a
3	well in order to make sure that the inject state or
4	the fluid injected space was in the intended zone, so
5	they don't infringe upon the correlative rights.
6	Q Okay. Mr. Gebremichael, have you reviewed
7	the applications submitted by Chevron is the case
8	today?
9	A Yes.
10	Q And when you review applications for
11	disposal wells, in general, what are you reviewing
12	for?
13	A Generally, what I review is the
14	administrative completeness of the application and
15	then we'd do a technical review of geological and an
16	engineering standards to ensure protection of the
17	correlative rights, prevention of waste, and the
18	protect prevent protecting the environment.
19	Q And you mentioned OCD Exhibits 11 and OCD
20	Exhibit 12 talked about momentarily.
21	Are you familiar with and participate in the
22	recommendations included in those exhibits?
23	A Yes.
24	Q And at a summary level, is it your
25	professional opinion that you support these conditions

1	of approval and that they're necessary for the
2	protection of correlative rights and prevention of
3	waste?
4	A Yes.
5	Q Specifically, I'd like to direct you to
6	Exhibit number 12, which is up on the screen right
7	now.
8	(OCD Exhibit 12 was marked for
9	identification.)
10	Does this Exhibit show OCD's proposal for
11	separate test deadlines?
12	A Yes, it does.
13	Q And why doesn't OCD require a permittee to
14	conduct
15	MR. FUGE: Mr. Tremaine, sorry for the
16	interruption. Can you have the witness or the
17	witness clarify is this was this guidance developed
18	specifically in response to this application or is
19	this a standard guidance provided for these types of
20	tests by OCD?
21	THE WITNESS: This is standard guidance
22	for all the SWD wells.
23	MR. FUGE: Okay.
24	MR. TREMAINE: Thank you.
25	BY MR. TREMAINE:

1	Q Mr. Gebremichael, why in general
2	application, when do SRT tests occur for SWDs?
3	A Well, generally OCD requires an SRT when
4	the well already commenced injection after building up
5	some kind of pressure it would apply for what we call
6	IPR, increase for injection pressure increase. Then
7	we would require them to conduct an SRT.
8	And then based on the result of the SRT,
9	whatever that pressure pressure gradient that we
10	got with some some application of some safety
11	factors and that would allow them, and we would award
12	them with the new maximum allotment service
13	injection pressure.
14	Q Okay. So then to clarify on chair's
15	questions, this is this guidance is a general
16	applicability and generally speaking SRTs are required
17	by OCD after the injection's commenced and when
18	certain changes are made to the well?
19	A Exactly.
20	Q Okay. In this specific case, is it true
21	that OCD is recommending commencement of an SRT test
22	prior to commencement of injection?
23	A Yes.
24	Q Okay. So while this Exhibit 12 is generally
25	applicable, OCD is recommending based on the facts of
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1	this case that SRTs are required prior to commencement
2	of injection. So it's an additional requirement to
3	beyond what's discussed
4	A That's true.
5	Q Okay. Thank you for that clarification.
6	So why specifically does OCD recommend
7	requiring Chevron to conduct an SRT on the injection
8	interval formation prior to commencing injection?
9	A Well, the reason is given the historical
10	occurrence of infringements or impairing of
11	correlative rights in the DMG zone. OCD believes that
12	having conducting SRT prior to commencement of
13	injection would give us a good picture.
14	And the the pressure and then with our
15	conditional some safety factors. So we have a good
16	start that we are applying the right maximum allowable
17	surface injection pressure that would contribute to,
18	you know, protecting correlative rights.
19	Q Can you explain to the Commission how you
20	referenced this in a general level previously, but
21	how the information that's gathered from a separate
22	test is used to set or change permitted injection
23	pressure?
24	A Yes. So generally speaking, OCD
25	administratively, we award operators or permittees the

1	0.2 PSI gradient. But in this case, a DMG, like I
2	stated before, even the heterogeneity nature of
3	the or the complexity nature of the reservoir and
4	the past occurrence of infringement of correlative
5	rights, having that prior knowledge would, you know,
6	would would contribute to or assigning that
7	pressure in full increments injection would help us to
8	assign okay, this is what your maximum allowable
9	pressure is going to be with an application of safety
10	factor.
11	When we talk about safety factor, can be 5

When we talk about safety factor, can be 5 percent; it could be 10 percent, based, you know, what kind of tubing size they're using; what type of tubing length they're using; or the ability of the reservoir based on those, you know, kind of, friction loss involved. We can award the -- the right maximum allowable pressure and then in that case, that makes us confident that, you know, the correlative right is, you know, protected.

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Also, from Chevron's presentation, I learn that DFIT, or in other places they call it a mini frac test. Collaborating both the SRT test result, the mini frac test result, that would put us in a good position to assign the right maximum allowable surface injection pressure.

1	Q So despite the fact that administratively,
2	OCD would typically approve a 0.2 PSI injection
3	criteria and apart from that based on SRT.
4	Because of the issues that have been
5	identified and history of interference and the
6	heterogeneity of the injection zone, in this case, is
7	it true that OCD would be getting that information up
8	front and then would reassess that maximum injection
9	pressure based on that test?
10	A That's true.
11	Q One moment.
12	A yeah.
13	Q Mr. Gebremichael, we jumped into my
14	questions here, so I just want to make sure. I think
15	we've covered everything. Is there anything that is
16	pertinent to the step rate test and the guidelines as
17	applied to these cases that you think that the
18	Commission needs to know?
19	A Yes. For purposes to choose subject wells,
20	we're moving injection in both Bell and Cherry
21	Canyons. They're injecting both sample casings in
22	those formations. When we see the SRT plot, we would
23	see an early deflection point. The reason is because
24	they are testing them both at the same time.
25	I mean, some may inject maybe just

1	Bell formation or Cherry formation, but lately we've
2	been seeing that the permits are coming for both. In
3	that case, OCD recommends to put testing plots
4	separating those two formations and then testing them
5	separately. In that case, we have two separate
6	fracture gradients.
7	And then either one we're going to go with
8	the weakest link, you know, the lowest fracture
9	gradient will cover the surface injection pressure for
L O	both formations. In this case, probably that's
L1	what application that I want to bring to
L2	attention to the Commission.
L3	Q Okay. I want to we have Exhibit 12 up
L4	here as a standard in front of us, that I want to
L5	refer back to OCD Exhibit number 11.
L6	A Exhibit 12, yeah.
L7	Q And on the second page of that, which is
L8	page 158. I specifically asked you about this Hall's
L9	plot?
20	A Yes.
21	Q Can you explain the basis of what
22	information OCD is looking for with this Hall plot and
23	how does that, you know, relate with the information
24	that we are discussing with the SRTs and the other
25	tests?

1 Well, you do pulse -- is one of the Yes. 2 engineering tools that can utilize to have an early warning of the -- if the injecting is, you know, if 3 there's any indication flowing out of the intended 4 5 stone. So with this, what I -- the early warning I say is in the past -- when you have the infringement 6 you see it on the offsetting while an increase in 8 water gap.

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By that time, the reservoir's coverage is destroyed, compromised. Exactly. But with this one, what we require, like Chevron maybe future applicants is this -- the Hall's plot is very easy to construct. And then once you go to construct it, even with the -- and others there's a light there that's coming in -- and once it's constructed, it could be automatically tell you, you know, any deviation from the, you know, there are all three, four lengths in the hall's plug, but I'm going focus, you know, the one that depicts the outer zone injection and then when we see that, and then they could inform OCD, and then we could take appropriate measures.

It could be curtailment of correct action.

And then it could even be product shedding of the well. So we believe that having a good Hall's plot will help us determine any early -- before

1 infringement of correlative rights. 2 So the -- in summary, the purpose of the SRT 0 3 requirement prior to -- injection is to further OCD's knowledge of formation -- pressure and go get max 4 5 injection PSI; yes? 6 Α Yes. And the purpose of the Hall's plot is to 8 help identify any issues or to isolate issues between 9 the two different -- injection zones? No -- it -- you know, the Hall's plot 10 11 is applied, even if we need water -- so the Hall's 12 plot is basically -- is going to tell us this, you 13 know, the entire injection zone. If we have any deviation, you know, leaving out of this intended 14 15 zone, it's going to tell us. 16 But what I have seen is more even empirical 17 data is a Chevron has provided -- modeling; right and 18 that would even give us how, you know, the injector is 19 migrating over time, you know. We can collaborate all 20 those things to come up. The main goal is -- here is, you know, to 2.1 22 tame it before it compromises the reservoir. Because once, you know, you see an increase in water path, 23 24 right? Okay. Maybe that old crater is not happy with 25 that. But as far as protecting west the reservoir is

1	already compromised. So this is an early warning or
2	early detection tools.
3	Q Okay.
4	A Yeah.
5	Q Whatever. That was my takeaway here was
6	that in combinations should that the accommodation of
7	monitoring and testing and reporting that Chevron's
8	proposed along with the OCD's requirement for the SRT
9	tests injection and Hall's plot, together will be
10	in a position where you can identify or may be able to
11	identify potential impacts to the resource prior to
12	the
13	A Exactly.
14	Q And last question, Mr. Gebremichael: In
15	your opinion, are the conditions in SRT proposals
16	in OCD Exhibits 11 to 12 necessary to prevent waste
17	and protect correlative rights?
18	A Yes.
19	MR. TREMAINE: No further questions.
20	MR. FUGE: The exhibits we introduced
21	before we
22	MR. TREMAINE: Yes. If I could add
23	well, Chair, could I please move to the admission of
24	Exhibit 12?
25	MR. FUGE: Any objection?
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1	MS. BENNETT: No.
2	MR. FUGE: Accepted.
3	(OCD Exhibit 12 was received into
4	evidence.)
5	MR. FUGE: Ms. Bennett, the witness is
6	yours for cross.
7	MS. BENNETT: Thank you.
8	CROSS-EXAMINATION
9	BY MS. BENNETT:
10	Q Nice to meet you.
11	A Same here.
12	Q I just had a couple of quick questions. As
13	you might have heard from my earlier questioning
14	yesterday, Chevron does have some questions or desire
15	to collaborate with the Division on this step rate
16	test methodology.
17	And in particular, it sounds like to me from
18	your testimony just now that there is some flexibility
19	there, especially with respect to the pre-injection or
20	prior to SRT that you're envisioning prior to
21	commencement of injection.
22	Did I hear that correctly, that there's
23	some
24	A Flexibility
25	Q Well, what Chevron's goal would be is to be
	Page 132

1	able to submit an SRT plan to the Division for both
2	wells.
3	A Yes.
4	Q And then work collaboratively with the
5	Division to ensure that that plan meets your
6	requirements but also allows for the unique
7	circumstances that we're faced with today.
8	A That's true.
9	Q Okay. I think that's the only question I
10	have. Thank you.
11	A Thank you, Ms. Bennett.
12	Q Thank you.
13	A You're very welcome.
14	MR. BLOOM: Ms. Hardy, do you have any
15	questions?
16	MS. HARDY: Yeah, just a couple.
17	THE WITNESS: Okay.
18	CROSS-EXAMINATION
19	BY MS. HARDY:
20	Q Hello, Mr. Gebremichael.
21	A Hello.
22	Q I just have a couple of questions for you.
23	A Absolutely.
24	Q Can you please clarify what criteria you
25	were going to use to determine whether a five percent
	Page 133

1 or ten percent safety factor will be a applied to the 2 step rate test results? 3 Α Well, like I mentioned earlier, it depends, you know, how much of the friction --4 5 pressure friction losses; right? So if there's a huge 6 friction loss, you know, number one it makes it down to the -- to the bottom. Then we tend to compensate 8 for that friction loss. 9 I -- instead of going ten percent, maybe go 10 five percent of, you know, that safety factor. Also, 11 the permeability also plays a role here; right? 12 When -- when you have very tight mobility from a --13 you will want the friction to be higher than the -the, you know, the tubing friction. In that case, we 14 15 see the whole picture, you know, working with a five 16 percent or a ten percent, yeah. 17 Because our goal is at the end of the days, 18 how much of pressure is impacting that rock. 19 what we -- where our concern was at times. As far as 20 the optimization of the injections, that is the role of the production or injection engineer, making sure 2.1 22 to register frictions. 23 Thank you. One more question. Can you Q 24 please clarify if an operator is planning in Bell Canyon, Cherry Canyon estimate to completion and 25

1	decides not to perform a combined layers step rate
2	test, but decides to perform individual layer DFITs,
3	what DFIT parting pressure are you going to utilize to
4	determine the max injection?
5	A Injection. That's a very good question.
6	See, as we go along with the DMG, the more data we
7	gather and then our goal is at one point to
8	establish a regional fracture gradient for the DMG.
9	So do we use SRT, or do we use the mini frac test?
10	In my opinion, the mini frac test is more
11	reliable, but at this time, though, what we're going
12	to do is collaborate both compare and contrast. And
13	then from a Division perspective all go with the most
14	one.
15	MS. HARDY: I'm just going to hold my
16	questions. Thank you very much.
17	MR. FUGE: Dr. Ampomah?
18	DR. AMPOMAH: Yeah, thank you so much
19	for the testimony. A couple clarifications though.
20	So I also had a question on the safety factor.
21	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: Yes.
22	MR. AMPOMAH: Okay. So I do know that
23	normally EPA will say ten percent safety factor. So
24	do you know anywhere where they've been flexible on
25	the safety factor? Some examples?

1	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: Well, I'm comparing
2	to other jurisdictions, you know, they they apply
3	five percent and ten percent, but you're right, ten
4	percent has been the usual one. But if you have a
5	huge frictional loss, it should be left to the
6	discretion of the OCD yes. Yes. And then, for
7	instance, in this case, they are using a 5.5 inch
8	tubing in tandem with that permeability for a
9	0.03
10	MR. AMPOMAH: Yeah.
11	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: Yeah. There's
12	something in there. So in that case, we expect that,
13	you know, applying that ten percent is is a safe
14	way to go.
15	MR. AMPOMAH: Okay.
16	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: Yeah.
17	MR. AMPOMAH: Okay. So let's clarify a
18	little bit. You know, so yesterday there was a
19	distinction between DFIT and fracs, and I
20	remember from Chevron was saying that, you know,
21	the higher in DFIT compared to mini frac. So in
22	your Exhibit number 4
23	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: The second point
24	sorry, it's is there a difference between mini frac
25	and DFIT?

1	MR. AMPOMAH: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah.
2	MR. FUGE: probably
3	DR. AMPOMAH: Yeah.
4	MR. FUGE: allowed
5	THE WITNESS: Yes.
6	DR. AMPOMAH: Yeah.
7	MR. FUGE: the witness has sworn.
8	You were sworn in yesterday, so obligations yes,
9	please come up.
10	WHEREUPON,
11	TOM MERRIFIELD,
12	called as a witness and having been previously sworn
13	to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
14	the truth, was examined and testified as follows:
15	MR. MERRIFIELD: Normally mini frac
16	virtual connectivity interruption
17	THE REPORTER: witness come to the
18	mic, please.
19	MR. FUGE: Can you come to the mic,
20	please?
21	MR. MERRIFIELD: Can you hear me now?
22	THE REPORTER: Yes.
23	MR. FUGE: down
24	THE REPORTER: Thank you.
25	MR. MERRIFIELD: Normally a mini frac
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1	is run open hole with an NDT tool or an RDT tool and
2	so a a gauge against the the actual
3	reservoir.
4	MR. GEBREMICHAEL: Okay.
5	MR. MERRIFIELD: And and so one of
6	the challenges under that situation is is it is
7	more economical. It's faster. But the reliability
8	or or the chance of getting good data and no
9	leakage up against the reservoir is less. Now, it
10	tells you at the same time of day who gives its
11	injection test.
12	Usually it manages its its over a
13	little bit longer interval than that with a DFIT
14	'cause a DFIT is really through one preparation for
15	the casing. But the reason why we wanted to go with
16	DFITs, still it's an injection test. It wasn't that
17	if we run it, we have a 95 percent chance of getting
18	good data.
19	With the mini frac, our experience with
20	our SWDs it's down around 40 percent. And if we're
21	going to spend the time and effort, we we don't
22	want we want to make sure we get good data.
23	MR. GEBREMICHAEL: No. That's great.
24	MR. MERRIFIELD: And and that's
25	that's the reason why we're

1	MR. GEBREMICHAEL: Yeah. The only
2	question I have on this one is given the your
3	intervals are long; right? The top and then the
4	bottom perforation is around 4,000 feet; is that
5	right? And there's two wells?
6	MR. MERRIFIELD: It's it's a
7	little and this is Severitas.
8	MR. GEBREMICHAEL: And Severitas is
9	around 3,000 something? And then and Papa Squirrel
L O	is around 4,000. So the only concern that I have is
L1	such a long interval when you are you confident
L2	right now with the DFIT?
L3	MR. MERRIFIELD: We're we're going
L4	to take some purpose what what I think the OCD
L 5	and and the Commission are kind of struggling with
L6	right now is is, you know, how are we actually
L7	going to use the DFITs?
L8	MR. GEBREMICHAEL: Well, I'm not sure.
L9	DR. AMPOMAH: You know, because I have
20	a concern about using the mini frac so I just want
21	to clarify whether mini frac so meaning, DFIT or
22	let's say either you can use either of them?
23	MR. MERRIFIELD: You can use either one
24	and and all we're saying is we want to know the
25	DFIT. We prefer to go with the DFIT

1	MR. AMPOMAH: Yeah. And
2	MR. MERRIFIELD: Because of the
3	reliability the chance of success of gaining good
4	data is higher.
5	MR. AMPOMAH: I brought that out
6	because, let's say the way it is read it's more like
7	you for mini frac. Now, what about Commission
8	doesn't allow you to perform mini fracs? You know, so
9	then you have no choice but to go for DFIT. All
10	right. So
11	A Right. And and we basically, you know,
12	have opted to to not even attempt an mini frac.
13	Q Okay.
14	A We're we're wanting specifically when
15	we say DFIT, we mean DFIT.
16	MR. GEBREMICHAEL: Yeah. So I do have
17	a concern with this presented to us now. So
18	even OCD my want to look at it
19	MR. FUGE: Mr. Tremaine?
20	MR. TREMAINE: I just want to make a
21	point. I just want to make sure that during we're one
22	the record Mr. Chair, and so if you wanted or if
23	you wanted the Commissioners want to ask witnesses
24	questions, I have no objection to that whatsoever.
25	I do ask to limit discussion between
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1	witnesses just for clarity of the record. And Mr.
2	Gebremichael can answer questions directly back to the
3	Commission.
4	I just want to make sure that we had
5	it. We're very clear and people. The
6	Commissioners' questions would be appropriate, and I
7	think OCD is very willing to consider revision
8	of general this is information for the
9	Commission.
10	This is a order for a general
11	application, and I think the feedback on DFIT versus
12	mini frac's something that OCD's definitely interested
13	in and I know Mr. Gebremichael will respond to that.
14	DR. AMPOMAH: Okay. So I have a
15	question. I thought that the step rate test is going
16	to be done. That's all, let's say you think or
17	let's say is going to be done entirely? So I don't
18	know how the Chevron application is because
19	MR. GEBREMICHAEL: Well, we we
20	the they haven't specified that yet.
21	DR. AMPOMAH: Well then let's talk
22	about that.
23	MR. GEBREMICHAEL: Yes. That's why
24	I I mentioned it in the past, some operators, they
25	did step rate test for both; right? Well, we have

1	seen that step rate graph, the pressure versus rate is
2	you you get an early deflection and then a second
3	deflection. So probably, still we are in the data
4	gathering mode; right?
5	And then this is our
6	recommendation. If you tested them separately, you
7	get two deflection points separate graphs. And then
8	the lowest one is going to dictate or govern what the
9	maximum surface injection pressure is going to be.
10	DR. AMPOMAH: So just to be clear,
11	then, OCD is going to insist I want to say more
12	like discuss whether greater that you referred them to
13	doing a separate test?
14	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: Separate.
15	MR. AMPOMAH: Separate.
16	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: Yes.
17	MR. FUGE: Commissioner Ampomah, I
18	think I would clarify here. That may be something for
19	us to provide guidance on in response to the
20	application. I'm just we can discuss in
21	deliberations, but I think there are some questions
22	here about how we
23	DR. AMPOMAH: Yeah, I have one. It's
24	more like because the way you present that, I
25	thought that was the application, but

1	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: No. No.
2	MR. AMPOMAH: So
3	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: No. Like like I
4	said, you know, each well is due to the
5	heterogeneity of the reservoir; right? You have to
6	take it case by case. In this case, what I have seen
7	is the both the Bell and Cherry, they are the
8	injection zones; right? And then they are so by
9	doing that, we it will help us testing them
10	separately to determine the right maximum allowable
11	surface injection pressure.
12	MR. AMPOMAH: I have a last question.
13	So you made reference to Chevron's RTA analysis that
14	they did when it was showing that the, we can see the
15	movement of the of the injected water.
16	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: The model?
17	MR. AMPOMAH: Yeah, the model. Do you
18	feel that Virginia's model is adequate, you know,
19	fully understand the movement of the water?
20	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: It's no, I'm not
21	in the position to say. You know, I'm I'm not an
22	expert in hydrology modeling, but it's a fact. You
23	can calibrate, you know, with the other data that you
24	have; the SRT, Hall's plot and then this model and
25	then it tells us the, you know, the path of the

1	injected, you know, so that's how I
2	MR. AMPOMAH: So it could still be
3	adequate data
4	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: Yes.
5	MR. AMPOMAH: and the other data
6	MR. GEBRMICHAEL: Yes. Yes.
7	MR. AMPOMAH: Okay. Thank you.
8	MR. FUGE: Mr. Bloom?
9	MR. BLOOM: No questions. Thank you
10	for your testimony.
11	MR. FUGE: No questions for me either.
12	Any redirect? The witness is excused.
13	Mr. Tremaine, do you have any more
14	witnesses?
15	MR. TREMAINE: No further witnesses.
16	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
17	MR. FUGE: I think we'll allow for some
18	brief closing remarks from the parties, starting with
19	Chevron, OCD, and then counsel for Mewbourne if you
20	have any closing comments?
21	MS. BENNETT: Thank you. I just have a
22	few closing comments and then a potential item
23	coordinate with Mr. Tremaine. Chevron and I both
24	appreciate the Commission's time and the
25	thoughtfulness that went into this hearing. I
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	raye III

1	personally feel like we have discussed a number of
2	very important issues with the Commissioners and with
3	the OCD witnesses and also with the Mewbourne
4	questions.
5	So really appreciate the Commission's
6	time and also the willingness to sort of put us on a
7	trailing docket that worked out well for everyone I
8	think. So definitely appreciate your coordination and
9	collaboration on these hearings and the thoughtful
10	questions that were asked.
11	My takeaway from the different sessions
12	that we've had is that everyone is on everyone
13	acknowledges the need for disposal options in New
14	Mexico, and those I don't want to do that, but a
15	slogan from a couple of administrations ago about all
16	of the above. And that's what I feel like we're
17	talking about here today, is that this DMG disposal is
18	an important component of the all of the above
19	disposal options that are available to the Division
20	and available to New Mexico and available to
21	operators.
22	And the evidence that Chevron put on
23	today, as well as the evidence from the OCD, reflects
24	that DMG disposal can be done in a way that protects
25	correlative rights and prevents waste and that's also

1	protective of underground sources of drinking water.
2	And so the evidence today and yesterday I believe
3	in it shows the viability of these type of
4	projects.
5	And when you combine that with
6	Chevron's diligence and its desire to do data
7	collection and its desire to be transparent with that
8	data collection, it seems like a win-win for the
9	Division, for the Commission, for New Mexico in
10	addition to Chevron of course.
11	But it allows the ability of Chevron to
12	manage the producers and the disposal wells here I
13	think is key for the pilot project, as is the notion
14	of selecting two different wells for the pilot project
15	with different geology and different interim,
16	different porosity, and different characteristics that
17	Chevron is committed to reviewing, monitoring, and
18	then providing the data to the Division and to other
19	stake holders.
20	So again, we really appreciate the
21	Commission's time. I understand Commissioner Bloom's
22	question about next steps, and I would like to
23	coordinate with Mr. Tremaine and Ms. Hardy on next
24	steps that might be helpful for the Commission,
25	including as Mr. Goetze suggested, submitting an order

1	or a proposed form of order that the parties work on
2	together for the Commission's review.
3	But of course that's something that I
4	would leave to the Commission to decide whether that
5	would be helpful and then also to coordinate with
6	other members of other counsel and other parties here
7	about the process to move that forward.
8	I do know that the Commission has a
9	very busy schedule coming up between the legislative
10	session and then the PFAS rulemaking. And we
11	Chevron appreciates the time that we were able to
12	spend today. And so it's hopeful that there isn't a
13	huge lapse of time between now and the time that we
14	can get some perhaps some further guidance from the
15	Commission.
16	And so we're just recommending that
17	I am here committing my full efforts to whatever I can
18	do on Chevron's behalf to move this forward. Thank
19	you very much.
20	MR. FUGE: Thank you.
21	Mr. Tremaine?
22	MR. TREMAINE: Mr. Chair,
23	Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity. You
24	know, I think the hearing kind of made it clear and
25	OCD has expressed really, kind of, three overriding
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1	concerns here. There's a recognition that there's a
2	truly significant need for additional disposal; OCD
3	recognizes that.
4	The water disposal is plots.
5	There's also quite a bit of uncertainty related to
6	certain aspects of the geological information that's
7	necessary for OCD approval. And that drives OCD's
8	request or, you know, determination that additional
9	information is necessary in terms of the applications,
10	whether they're before this Commission or whether
11	they're approved administratively.
12	And that DMG disposal, despite the
13	assurances and everything that we've heard here in
14	this hearing, does represent a potentially significant
15	potential for interference if something goes wrong.
16	So those safeguards are truly necessary. I think that
17	I'd like to address a couple items on Exhibit 11. We
18	talked about that for a bit.
19	And I want to clarify for the
20	Commission that, you know, Exhibit 11 as an internal
21	administrative review document that these
22	conditions, they're not set in stone, first of all.
23	But as a snapshot in time, this is what the Division
24	feels is necessary and appropriate given OCD's
25	existing authority and the fact pattern surrounding

1	information available regarding the Delaware Mountain
2	Group generally.
3	So I there's been a lot of
4	discussion about what needs to be approved by the
5	Commission and what is being performed by the
6	Division. I think that's appropriate and entirely
7	respectful, but I think it's necessary to push a
8	little farther and say that the recommendations that
9	are put forth in OCD Exhibits 11 and 12, I think I
10	want to make clear for the record that those are
11	appropriate under existing authorities; right?
12	This isn't these cases before the
13	Commission require this particular type of approval,
14	so this is not a new set of requirements that OCD's
15	presenting to the Commission.
16	These are as I said earlier, you
17	know, appropriate and consistent with OCD's
18	generalized authority and testing authorities under
19	both statute and rule. So these are general plans
20	that are provided for information. In terms of what
21	the Division does with those in this case, I think it
22	is not strictly necessary that the Commission adopt
23	those as a general guideline.
24	I think that ask specifically is
25	that the Commission adopt those as a floor specific to

1	cases 23686 and 7. And so while they're provided as
2	general information, they're adopted specific to the
3	facts of these cases, along with the other specific
4	modifications that we've discussed above and beyond
5	what's contained in those exhibits.
6	So I just wanted to clarify that what
7	we're doing here, what the ask is ultimately. And I
8	do share I think there's been a lot of good
9	discussion back and forth prior to this hearing and
10	during this hearing about what's appropriate and it
11	seems that the updates are close. There's some
12	details to hammer out. Some clarifications about SRTs
13	and reasons, et cetera.
14	And I think that, you know, despite
14 15	And I think that, you know, despite what I said, obviously this Commission has authority
15	what I said, obviously this Commission has authority
15 16	what I said, obviously this Commission has authority to modify those based on the information provided.
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15 16 17 18 19	what I said, obviously this Commission has authority to modify those based on the information provided. But it seems like it would be the best most efficient course of action if parties work together on a proposed order and if there was something that needed to be modified in that then the Commission could
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	what I said, obviously this Commission has authority to modify those based on the information provided. But it seems like it would be the best most efficient course of action if parties work together on a proposed order and if there was something that needed to be modified in that then the Commission could certainly do so.
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	what I said, obviously this Commission has authority to modify those based on the information provided. But it seems like it would be the best most efficient course of action if parties work together on a proposed order and if there was something that needed to be modified in that then the Commission could certainly do so. MR. FUGE: Ms. Hardy?
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	what I said, obviously this Commission has authority to modify those based on the information provided. But it seems like it would be the best most efficient course of action if parties work together on a proposed order and if there was something that needed to be modified in that then the Commission could certainly do so. MR. FUGE: Ms. Hardy? Thank you, Mr. Tremaine.

1	and hearing all of the testimony, and giving
2	thoughtful consideration to these issues that have
3	potentially serious implications.
4	Mewbourne, again, does not oppose
5	Chevron's applications as long as appropriate
6	conditions are opposed on the injection and
7	appropriate monitoring occurs to ensure protection of
8	correlative rights. And in that regard, we support
9	OCD's proposed conditions on this on these permits.
10	So thank you very much.
11	MR. FUGE: Thank you.
12	Thank you, everyone. That was a very
13	informative presentation. Unless my fellow
14	Commissioners feel it's necessary, I think we can just
15	deliberate in public?
16	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Yes.
17	MR. FUGE: And I might kick off with
18	some observations and then turn it over to my
19	Commissioners. I 100 percent agree with the
20	statements that, you know, managing produced water is
21	an ongoing challenge and something we need to look at
22	and optionality's important, at least from where I
23	sit.
24	I'm not sure DMG disposal is the
25	panacea that fixes it all. I still think you're going

to truly going to need all of the above, which
includes some deep disposal. And certainly the
remarks of, sort of, written concluding remarks that,
sort of, Chevron put in the record, just reacting
to it, yeah, deep as well as it was contributing to
seismicity but also an ongoing discussion that doesn't
attribute to seismicity everywhere.
And so there are some other questions.
I really do think it's a component. We do have a I
think we need to be careful. We do have correlative

I really do think it's a component. We do have a -- I think we need to be careful. We do have correlative rights. So looking across the border into Texas is not a great model for us because we do have an obligation to protect correlative rights and prevent waste. So I think it's appropriate that we, sort of, take these steps carefully.

2.1

But I think that's why it's important to begin looking at a pilot project at the edge of the exclusion zone. I would say, at least in my observation, yeah, the evidence offered in the record maybe doesn't go so far as to say that disposal can be done in the Avalon exclusion zone writ large, but I think Chevron has demonstrated today that their proposed disposal at the two wells, at least from where I'm sitting, can be done within the portion of the Avalon exclusion zone that Chevron's operating in.

1	And I say, sort of, approaching this
2	with caution may be more of a message to others who
3	might be looking to pursue this. You know, we're
4	going to do this deliberately. Or, I think we should
5	be doing this deliberately.
6	I think we should be providing guidance
7	to OCD that enable to do factions of it
8	administratively on salt water most salt water
9	disposal wells don't actually come to the Commission
LO	because a lot of them are handled administratively or
L1	at Division hearings. But I think it's incumbent upon
L2	the Commission to provide some guidance about how
L3	that's done and, sort of, you know, what the pieces
L4	are like.
	are like. And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow
L4	
L4 L5	And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow
L4 L5 L6	And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow Commissioner, Dr. Ampomah, asked some questions about
L4 L5 L6 L7	And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow Commissioner, Dr. Ampomah, asked some questions about water and the water delta and water graph. And
L4 L5 L6 L7	And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow Commissioner, Dr. Ampomah, asked some questions about water and the water delta and water graph. And unfortunately, we to ourselves. The state in its
L4 L5 L6 L7 L8	And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow Commissioner, Dr. Ampomah, asked some questions about water and the water delta and water graph. And unfortunately, we to ourselves. The state in its wisdom decided they're getting better data on produced
L4 L5 L6 L7 L8 L9	And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow Commissioner, Dr. Ampomah, asked some questions about water and the water delta and water graph. And unfortunately, we to ourselves. The state in its wisdom decided they're getting better data on produced water, where it goes, goings, and other pieces. We
L4 L5 L6 L7 L8 L9	And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow Commissioner, Dr. Ampomah, asked some questions about water and the water delta and water graph. And unfortunately, we to ourselves. The state in its wisdom decided they're getting better data on produced water, where it goes, goings, and other pieces. We know.
L4 L5 L6 L7 L8 L9 20	And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow Commissioner, Dr. Ampomah, asked some questions about water and the water delta and water graph. And unfortunately, we to ourselves. The state in its wisdom decided they're getting better data on produced water, where it goes, goings, and other pieces. We know. I'll state for the record to the extent
L4 L5 L6 L7 L8 L9 20 21	And I guess I'd lastly say my fellow Commissioner, Dr. Ampomah, asked some questions about water and the water delta and water graph. And unfortunately, we to ourselves. The state in its wisdom decided they're getting better data on produced water, where it goes, goings, and other pieces. We know. I'll state for the record to the extent the Texas Rail Commission watches this, they take

1	currently, except until real recently, has been a lot
2	of good data on it.
3	So New Mexico, we've got a good handle
4	on the problem and, sort of, what are the pieces. I
5	think that's why it's incumbent upon us to begin
6	thinking about ways to address it.
7	And I guess my last thoughts here. I
8	think in the back-and-forth Dr. Ampomah also asked,
9	you know, what are we deciding on; what are the
10	pieces? I think there are two things: I think
11	offering some observations, and I'm not sure it's a
12	blessing or an approval on OCD's Exhibit 11, which is,
13	sort of, the standard rules of the road thinking
14	about administratively is important, at least
15	providing some we're comfortable with this list.
16	I'm not sure we're there based on the
17	questions and, sort of, feedback. And then I think
18	there are the specific applications before us. And I
19	guess I'd close with this: At some level, this
20	strikes as an application that can be permitted using
21	OCD standard templates and we're talking about special
22	conditions that are attached to it.
23	Aspects of Exhibit 11 don't exactly
24	trace over onto that permit because, well, for
25	example, we are in the Avalon exclusion zone. But I
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1	think where we are at least where I am is, if
2	this case gets continued, and I'm willing to continue
3	it shortly for the parties to come together and put
4	together an order using OCD's established templates
5	that has appropriate special conditions in it and
6	write up the testimony that we receive, at least on my
7	end, I would flag and this is maybe something
8	specific I'm going to pull up the exhibit numbers.
9	Bear with me one second. I had them and then I
10	flipped to another.
11	Does Chevron happen to know the
12	exhibits where they showed the maximum rate and the
13	volumes and it was, like, different colors and years
14	out? Do you know the page number? Oh, yeah. I found
15	it. One, in putting those together, at least from
16	where the Chair sits, I think at the sort of,
17	injection rate, the maximum injection rate, I believe
18	that's the condition in our standard permit template.
19	I see for Papa Squirrel the modeling
20	does show it's theoretically maybe gets up to 20,000,
21	so that's something there. The Severitas is, sort of,
22	notably below the 15,000, so I'm thinking about how
23	your developing a permit for that well, maybe, sort
24	of, align it a little better with your modeling.
25	I'm sensitive to the testimony of Mr.

1	Goetze that we'd authorized his daily limits that
2	would never, ever, ever be reached but, sort of,
3	theoretically as you're, you know, managing
4	reservoirs. It's a question.
5	But put it on the parties to come back
6	with, sort of, an order package that follows our
7	that follows the OCD's standard permit template is an
8	order issued by the Commission with special conditions
9	that I think track the testimony and feedback here. I
LO	think that's one element.
L1	I would also encourage at the same
L2	time, because I heard from the OCD that you are
L3	looking for at least some Commission guidance in other
L4	pieces, that Exhibit 11, those elements that are
L5	appropriate for the specific cases Chevron's had been
L6	incorporated in, but that there'd also be an updated
L7	Exhibit 11 that reflects some of the feedback and
L8	questions you've heard.
L9	Again, not clear that it's a sort of
20	generalized guidance document, but that is something
21	that, at least from where I'm sitting, the Commission
22	needs to approve. But it is something we could
23	provide some guidance on. And I think as submitted,
24	there were certainly some feedback from my fellow
25	Commissioners that I think should be incorporate

1	before we opine on it. So those are my observations.
2	Commission Bloom?
3	MR. BLOOM: Sure. Thank you, Mr.
4	Chair. Yes, I would agree that as we're here, we're
5	here to protect correlative rights, prevent waste,
6	and, you know, also protecting and helping the
7	environment. All that includes proper water
8	management.
9	And I see the parties working together
10	to prepare for the OCC a draft order that includes
11	what we heard the past two days from Chevron and the
12	OCD and using OCD's Exhibits 11 and 12 to inform a
13	draft order in these two cases. Thank you all for
14	your time and presentation. Appreciate it.
15	DR. AMPOMAH: Okay.
16	MR. FUGE: Mr. Ampomah?
17	DR. AMPOMAH: Yeah, Chair, sounds like
18	you summarized the small detail, you know, in terms of
19	what we've had two days and then also the next
20	steps. And I do appreciate the Chevron this was
21	really comprehensive presentation, you know, I do
22	appreciate that compared this to what some of the
23	presentation I've seen this is really
24	comprehensive.
25	So I do appreciate that. And I do also
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support that the parties should come together, work on
the order with the conditions for the Commission's
approval or Commission review. And I'm sure we've
made mention of quite a number of issues. And we
looked the take that into consideration in drafting
the order. Thank you.
MR. FUGE: So I suppose, hearing that
discussion, I would propose we move to continue this
case to the next scheduled meeting, for the parties to
make an attempt to provide an order and the
independently an updated Exhibit 11.
Obviously, like all things moving on
the docket, things can adjust based on how those
discussions are going, but I think being sensitive to
the need to start developing some of these disposal
options of continuance to the next meeting is an
appropriate step.
So if I can get a second on a motion to
continue this case to the next meeting for preparation
or presentation to the Commission of the draft order
and an updated Exhibit 11?
MS. HARDY: Yes.
MR. BLOOM: I second.
MR. FUGE: Dr. Ampomah, how do you

1	certainly be a reply.
2	MR. FUGE: Okay.
3	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then so far
4	we have we joined in the motion on the pleadings.
5	MR. FUGE: Okay.
6	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: As to whether we
7	will have to go line by line and admit or deny the
8	allegations in that 500 paragraph complaint remains to
9	be seen.
10	MR. FUGE: Okay.
11	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I will have a
12	decision from the Court based on the briefing schedule
13	probably early next year.
14	MR. FUGE: Sounds good.
15	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's all.
16	MR. FUGE: Thank you.
17	Any other items of business? If not, I
18	call this meeting adjourned. Thank you very much.
19	Glad everyone was able to join us in Pecos Hall. Even
20	though we're not quite there from the check, it was
21	great to see you all. Have a good day.
22	MS. BENNETT: Thank you.
23	(Whereupon, the meeting concluded at
24	12:46 p.m.)
25	

1 CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITION OFFICER 2 I, JAMES COGSWELL, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby 3 certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing 4 5 proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; 6 that the proceedings were recorded by me and 7 thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of 8 9 said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the 10 best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any 11 of the parties to the action in which this was taken; 12 13 and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of 14 any counsel or attorney employed by the parties 15 hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action. 16 17 18 19 JAMES COGSWELL 2.0 Notary Public in and for the State of New Mexico 21 22 23 24 25

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