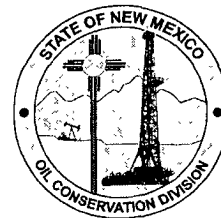


New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Bill Richardson
Governor

Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary
Reese Fullerton
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Mark Fesmire
Division Director
Oil Conservation Division



May 9, 2008

MAY 27 2008
OCD-ARTESIA

Mr. James Bruce
P.O. Box 1056
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Administrative Order NSL-5820

Re: Apache Corporation
West Indian Basin Unit Well No. 6
API No. 30-015-36574
Unit E, Section 17-21S-23E
Eddy County

Dear Mr. Bruce:

Reference is made to the following:

(a) your application (**administrative application reference No. pKVR08-08539398**) submitted to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (the Division) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on behalf of Apache Corporation (Apache) on March 25, 2008, and

(b) the Division's records pertinent to this request.

Apache has requested to drill the above-referenced well at an unorthodox location in the Upper Pennsylvanian formation, 1925 feet from the North line and 760 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 17, Township 21 South, Range 23 East, in Eddy County, New Mexico. All of Section 17 will be dedicated to this well in order to form a standard 640-acre spacing unit in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool (79040). Spacing in this pool is governed by the Special Rules and Regulations for the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, as established by Order R-2440, issued in Case No. 2749 on February 28, 1963, which provide for 640-acre units with wells to be located at least 1650 feet from a unit outer boundary, and at least 330 feet from a quarter or quarter-quarter section line. This location is less than 1650 feet from the western unit boundary.

Your application on behalf of Apache has been duly filed under the provisions of Division Rules 104.F and 1210.A(2).



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It is our understanding that this location is being requested because Apache's geologic interpretation indicates that the well can tap into stranded reserves located on the margins of existing spacing units that cannot be effectively drained by wells at standard locations.

It is also understood that you have given due notice of this application to all operators or owners who are "affected persons," as defined in Rule 1210.A(2), in all adjoining units towards which the proposed bottom-hole location encroaches.

Pursuant to the authority conferred by Division Rule 104.F(2), the above-described unorthodox location is hereby approved.

This approval is subject to your being in compliance with all other applicable Division rules, including, but not limited to Division Rule 40.

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

Sincerely,



Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.
Director

MEF/db

cc: New Mexico Oil Conservation Division - Artesia
United States Bureau of Land Management - Carlsbad