STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

APPLICATION OF DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CASE NO. 20732 COMPANY, L.P. FOR APPROVAL OF A NONSTANDARD SPACING UNIT, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

September 5, 2019

Santa Fe, New Mexico

BEFORE: WILLIAM V. JONES, CHIEF EXAMINER
KATHLEEN MURPHY, TECHNICAL EXAMINER
DYLAN ROSE-COSS, TECHNICAL EXAMINER
DANA Z. DAVID, LEGAL EXAMINER

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, William V. Jones, Chief Examiner; Kathleen Murphy and Dylan Rose-Coss, Technical Examiners; and Dana Z. David, Legal Examiner, on Thursday, September 5, 2019, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Wendell Chino Building, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Porter Hall, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

REPORTED BY: Mary C. Hankins, CCR, RPR
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- 1 (1:28 p.m.)
- 2 EXAMINER JONES: We're going to start with
- 3 number 34 on the docket, which is Case Number 20732,
- 4 application of Devon Energy Production Company, L.P. for
- 5 approval of a nonstandard spacing unit in Lea County,
- 6 New Mexico.
- 7 Call for appearances.
- MR. FELDEWERT: May it please the examiner,
- 9 Michael Feldewert, with the Santa Fe office of Holland &
- 10 Hart, on behalf of the Applicant.
- I have three witnesses here today.
- 12 EXAMINER JONES: Any other appearances in
- 13 this case?
- 14 Will the witnesses please stand and the
- 15 court reporter swear in the witnesses?
- 16 (Mr. Hammond, Mr. Rolfs and Mr. Cope
- 17 sworn.)
- MR. FELDEWERT: Call our first witness.
- JOE HAMMOND,
- 20 after having been first duly sworn under oath, was
- 21 questioned and testified as follows:
- 22 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 23 BY MR. FELDEWERT:
- Q. Would you please state your name, identify by
- whom you're employed and in what capacity?

1 A. Joe Hammond, Devon Energy Production Company,

- 2 L.P., as a landman.
- Q. Mr. Hammond, how long have you been with Devon
- 4 as a landman?
- 5 A. About nine years.
- 6 Q. And have your responsibilities included the
- 7 Permian Basin?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And, Mr. Hammond, have you previously testified
- 10 before this Division as an expert in petroleum land
- 11 matters?
- 12 A. Yes, I have.
- 13 Q. Are you familiar with the application that's
- 14 been filed in this matter?
- 15 A. Yes, I am familiar.
- Q. Are you familiar with the status of the lands
- in the subject area?
- 18 A. Yes, I am.
- 19 MR. FELDEWERT: I would retender Mr.
- 20 Hammond as an expert witness in petroleum land matters.
- 21 EXAMINER JONES: He is so qualified.
- Q. (BY MR. FELDEWERT) Mr. Hammond, I want you to
- turn to what is marked as Devon Exhibit Number 1.
- 24 Identify it, explain the colors and then inform the
- 25 examiners what the company seeks under this application.

- 1 A. This is a proposed nonstandard horizontal
- 2 spacing unit covering all of Section 20 -- excuse me --
- 3 covering the south half of Section 20, all of Section 29
- 4 and all of irregular Section 32, Township 26 South,
- 5 Range 34 East, Lea County, New Mexico.
- 6 Q. And you've got some colors on here that reflect
- 7 the status of the lands?
- 8 A. Yeah. The colors represent -- the green
- 9 represents Federal Lease 114991. The blue represents
- 10 Federal Lease 110840. The orange represents State Lease
- 11 VB-225-4.
- 12 O. Now, when I look at Section 32 down there in
- 13 the orange, that's -- first off, does it belong to the
- 14 State of Texas, border between New Mexico and Texas?
- 15 A. It is. The bottom of part of Section 32
- 16 borders the state of Texas.
- 17 Q. Those lots that we see down there, is that what
- 18 the L stands for?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- Q. Are they different sizes and shapes?
- 21 A. Each lot is not uniform. Each lot is a
- 22 different size and shape.
- Q. Okay. What does the company seek?
- 24 A. We seek to -- we seek this proposal to allow
- 25 commingling of production and consolidation of surface

1 facilities, plus to conform to the larger com agreements

- 2 desired by the BLM and the New Mexico State Land Office.
- Q. Okay. So with respect to the size of your
- 4 nonstandard spacing unit, approximately how many acres
- 5 are we talking about?
- 6 A. It covers 1264.64 acres.
- 7 Q. That'll be exact. Okay.
- 8 Now, do you seek more than one nonstandard
- 9 spacing unit?
- 10 A. Yes. We seek to form two nonstandard
- 11 horizontal spacing units of the same size, 1264.64
- 12 acres, one for the Bone Spring and one for the Wolfcamp.
- 13 Q. And with respect to your development plans,
- 14 what type of zones are you talking about? Oil zones or
- 15 gas zones?
- 16 A. These are both, oil zones primarily.
- 17 Q. So if we were developing this under a standard
- 18 spacing unit, you would have how many spacing units?
- 19 A. Normally, you would have four stand-up roughly
- 20 320-acre spacing units.
- 21 Q. So it would be the east half-east half acreage
- 22 and the west half of the east half and across --
- 23 A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Why is the company -- and you mentioned
- 25 that the company is seeking this application to

- 1 consolidate surface facilities?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. And to conform with a communitization
- 4 agreement?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. Who desires that enlarged communitization
- 7 agreement?
- 8 A. The BLM does. They would prefer one large
- 9 versus four small.
- 10 Q. Why?
- 11 A. The lots at the bottom near -- at the -- at the
- 12 state of Texas border causes each spacing unit to have
- 13 its own separate facilities, metering. So there would
- 14 be four separate trains and four separate production
- 15 batteries versus the one or two that we're asking for
- 16 today.
- 17 Q. So the BLM has informed you that if you develop
- 18 this under standard horizontal spacing units, that you
- 19 would have to increase your surface facilities?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. Is that because you'd have to meter off of each
- 22 spacing unit?
- 23 A. That's correct. And it's all due to the
- 24 nonuniformity of the lots that are up against the Texas
- 25 line.

- 1 Q. I see.
- 2 If I turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 3 Exhibit Number 2, is that an email from a representative
- 4 of the Bureau of Land Management?
- 5 A. It is.
- 6 Q. And it's Christopher Walls, right?
- 7 A. It is.
- 8 Q. And where does he work?
- 9 A. BLM in Carlsbad.
- 10 Q. And you went through this. Does it also
- 11 indicate that he was also copying this email to the BLM
- 12 Santa Fe office?
- 13 A. Yes, he was. He did.
- 14 Q. And after your inquiry about the development in
- 15 here, in the last line, he said, "We would always prefer
- 16 to do" the larger -- "to do bigger CAs"?
- 17 A. Yes. This email reflects the BLM's intention
- 18 and their position to create large CAs when possible.
- 19 Q. Rather than doing individual spacing units with
- 20 additional facilities?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. What's the State Land Office's position? Do
- 23 they likewise prefer enlarged com agreements?
- A. Yes. Yes, they do. And their email is --
- 25 Q. Before we get to that, what was their -- in

1 order for the State Land Office to approve a similar

- 2 enlarged com agreement, did they tell you what you
- 3 needed to get from the Oil Conservation Division?
- 4 A. Yes. They said that the -- that we must
- 5 have -- in order for them to approve a large CA, then
- 6 the -- then the NMOCD must approve the same -- a spacing
- 7 unit of the same size, same number of acres.
- 8 Q. Okay. And if I turn to what has been marked as
- 9 Devon Exhibit Number 3, is that an email from the
- 10 representative of the New Mexico State Land Office?
- 11 A. It is.
- 12 O. And if I look at the bottom of this --
- 13 actually, go to the second page of this exhibit. This
- 14 reflects communication with the State Land Office after
- 15 your communication with Mr. Walls at the BLM?
- 16 A. Yes. They were aware of that.
- 17 Q. Okay. And in response, the representative of
- 18 the State Land Office indicated, at the top of Exhibit
- 19 Number 2, that they would prefer an enlarged com
- 20 agreement?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. But that you'd have to go get an enlarged -- or
- a nonstandard spacing unit from the Oil Conservation
- 24 Division?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That's why you filed your application here?

- 2 A. That is the reason why we filed.
- 3 Q. Do you need to pool this acreage?
- 4 A. We do not need to pool this acreage. All of
- 5 the mineral interest is covered by voluntary agreements,
- 6 which is basically JOAs.
- 7 Q. Okay. So all you need is the relief or the
- 8 approval of the nonstandard spacing unit first in the
- 9 Bone Spring Formation and secondly in the Wolfcamp
- 10 Formation?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 O. If I turn to what's marked as Devon Exhibit
- 13 Number 4, is this a federal com agreement for the Bone
- 14 Spring Formation?
- 15 A. Yes. This is a proposed form of the federal
- 16 com agreement for the Bone Spring.
- 17 Q. And that would be comprised of the same acreage
- 18 then that we see depicted on Exhibit Number 1?
- 19 A. Yes, 1261.64 acres.
- 20 Q. And if I turn to Devon Exhibit 5, is this the
- 21 communitization agreement for the Bone Spring Formation
- 22 for the same acreage that would be used for the
- 23 New Mexico State Land Office?
- 24 A. Yes. This is the state form. The prior one
- 25 was the Fed form.

1 Q. The agencies now require two separate forms?

- 2 A. Yes, they do.
- Q. And now this would be for the Bone Spring.
- 4 Now, if I go to Devon Exhibit Number 6 and
- 5 then flip up to Devon Exhibit Number 7, is that the
- 6 federal com agreement and then the state form for the
- 7 same acreage now for the Wolfcamp?
- 8 A. Yes. Both of these were proposed forms for the
- 9 Wolfcamp Formation, same.
- 10 Q. All four of these forms follow what the federal
- 11 government requires, correct?
- 12 A. Yes, they do.
- 13 O. And all four of these forms follow what the
- 14 State Land Office requires?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. Now, I want you to turn to what's been marked
- 17 as Devon Exhibit Number 8. And would you just briefly
- 18 talk about the company's development plan for this
- 19 acreage -- its initial development plan for its acreage
- in the Wolfcamp?
- 21 A. Yes. This plat shows the initial Wolfcamp
- 22 development in the enlarged spacing unit as we are
- 23 proposing today. There are 12 planned Wolfcamp wells.
- Q. And you show the various well numbers at the
- 25 bottom of the page for these 12 wells?

- 1 A. Yes.
- O. If I flip through the remainder of the exhibit,
- 3 does this provide the examiners with the approved C-102s
- 4 for each of these wells in numerical order?
- 5 A. Yes. Yes, it does. All C-102s are attached.
- 6 Q. And it provides them API numbers for each well,
- 7 along with the pool in which this well has been placed
- 8 by the Division's district office?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 O. If I then turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 11 Exhibit Number 9, is this a similar plat that shows the
- 12 initial development plans for now the Bone Spring
- 13 Formation?
- 14 A. Yes. This is the initial development plan
- 15 which shows four planned Bone Spring wells, and then it
- 16 also shows two existing Bone Spring wells that have
- 17 already been drilled.
- 18 Q. And those are circled here?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And that would be the 1H and 3H?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. And then behind this exhibit are the approved
- 23 C-102s for all six of these wells in numeric order?
- A. Yes, they are.
- Q. Now, with respect to the two wells that have

1 already been drilled there, that would be the west

- 2 half-west half?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- Q. Are they currently dedicated to a com
- 5 **agreement?**
- 6 A. Yes, they are.
- 7 Q. And in your discussions with the BLM and the
- 8 State Land Office, what's going to happen to that com
- 9 agreement once this application is approved?
- 10 A. Yeah. The com agreement -- the existing com
- 11 agreement would be terminated, and those two wells would
- 12 be folded into the proposed existing -- the proposed
- 13 enlarged spacing unit.
- 14 Q. Now, if I turn to Devon Exhibit Number 8, does
- 15 this reflect the current pools that exist underneath the
- 16 acreage that would comprise your proposed nonstandard
- 17 spacing unit?
- 18 A. Yes. This is a listing of the two Bone Spring
- 19 pools and the two Wolfcamp pools that underlie or where
- 20 these wells are currently placed where the -- that are
- 21 within the boundaries of the spacing unit -- proposed
- 22 spacing unit.
- Q. So then if I start at the top of this exhibit,
- 24 you see that we have the Bone Spring and we have one of
- your existing wells; is that correct?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- Q. And the Division placed that in the Upper Bone
- 3 Spring Pool?
- 4 A. That's correct. It's pool code 97892.
- 5 Q. And then all the remaining wells that have been
- 6 approved for a -- by C-102s and placed by the Division's
- 7 district office into a separate pool?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. And towards the bottom of this page, I see --
- 10 those are the 12 proposed wells for the Wolfcamp?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. And the Division's district office has placed
- all of those wells in what they call the Bobcat Draw;
- 14 Upper Wolfcamp Pool?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. But your records also reflect that there is
- another pool, the Lower Wolfcamp Gas Pool, that
- 18 underlies this acreage?
- 19 A. Yes, it does, but there are no wells there.
- 20 Q. Okay. And if I turn to the second page of this
- 21 exhibit, does this provide the Division examiners with a
- 22 schematic that outlines the current boundaries of the
- 23 four pools that underlie this acreage?
- 24 A. That's correct. It kind of mimics the page we
- 25 were talking about before. As an example, the red

- 1 outline is the Upper Bone Spring Pool, 97982, where
- 2 there is one existing well. The blue outline, which
- 3 covers the entire proposed spacing unit, has one
- 4 existing well and four proposed wells in, again, the
- 5 Bradley; Bone Spring Pool. The orange outline is the
- 6 outline for the Bobcat Draw; Wolfcamp Pool where we have
- 7 12 wells proposed, planned. And, again -- and then the
- 8 green outline toward the top is where there are no
- 9 wells -- is an existing gas pool, but there are no wells
- 10 in it.
- 11 Q. Now, when you spoke with the BLM and the State
- 12 Land Office, did they -- despite these number of pools,
- did they inform you how many com agreements they would
- 14 want for each formation?
- 15 A. Yes. Well, they would prefer to have one com
- 16 agreement for each formation, one for the Bone Spring
- 17 and one for the Wolfcamp.
- 18 Q. And not one for each pool?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 MR. FELDEWERT: And, Mr. Examiner, I'm
- 21 going to interject right here. I was looking to see if
- 22 the State Land Office representative was here. I've
- 23 been in touch with her. But I can tell you I had
- 24 discussions with Niranjan [sic] over at the State Land
- 25 Office, and she indicated to me that the State Land

1 Office would only require one com agreement for the Bone

- 2 Spring and one com agreement for the Wolfcamp, but then
- 3 internally, with PUNs, they would be able to handle
- 4 production from the different pools.
- 5 EXAMINER JONES: Right.
- 6 MR. FELDEWERT: Okay?
- 7 Q. (BY MR. FELDEWERT) Now, since Devon is asking
- 8 for approval of a nonstandard horizontal spacing unit,
- 9 has the company provided notice of this hearing to the
- 10 affected parties in the tracts that adjoin your proposed
- 11 units?
- 12 A. Yes, we have. We provided notice to operators
- and lessees of all sections surrounding the unit.
- 14 Q. And if I turn to --
- 15 A. -- except to Texas.
- 16 Q. I'm sorry.
- 17 If I turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 18 Exhibit Number 11, does this provide a schematic showing
- 19 the operators and lessees in the adjoining tracts?
- 20 A. It does.
- Q. So aside from notifying these companies, did
- 22 Devon also include in the notice of this hearing the BLM
- 23 and New Mexico State Land Office?
- A. Yes. We did provide notice.
- Q. Now, you mentioned that the working interest

1 owners in this acreage are already under a JOA?

- 2 A. Yes, they are.
- Q. Are there overriding royalty interest owners?
- 4 A. There are overriding within the unit. Yes.
- 5 Q. Did the company also provide notice of this
- 6 hearing to the affected overriding royalty interest
- 7 owners?
- 8 A. Yes, we did, to all of them.
- 9 Q. Has anyone out of the offsetting lessees or
- 10 operators, the BLM or the State Land Office or any of
- 11 these overriding royalty interest owners, has anybody
- 12 objected to this application?
- 13 A. They have not.
- 14 O. If I turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 15 Exhibit Number 12, is this an affidavit prepared by my
- office with the attached letter providing notice of this
- 17 hearing to all of these affected parties that we just
- 18 discussed?
- 19 A. Yes, it is.
- 20 Q. And if I turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 21 Exhibit Number 13, is this an Affidavit of Publication
- 22 in the local newspaper comprising the affected parties
- 23 of this hearing?
- A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Mr. Hammond, will -- if this application is

1 approved, will this -- will it allow the companies to

- efficiently and effectively develop the Bone Spring and
- 3 the Wolfcamp Formations underlying this acreage?
- 4 A. Yes, it will.
- 5 Q. Were Devon Exhibits 1 through 11 prepared by
- 6 you or compiled under your direction and supervision?
- 7 A. Yes, they were.
- MR. FELDEWERT: Mr. Examiner, I would move
- 9 the admission into evidence of Devon Exhibits 1 through
- 10 13, which includes my Notice of Affidavit and the
- 11 Affidavit of Publication.
- 12 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 1 through 13 are
- 13 admitted.
- 14 (Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.
- 15 Exhibit Numbers 1 through 13 are offered
- and admitted into evidence.)
- MR. FELDEWERT: That concludes my
- 18 examination of this witness.
- 19 EXAMINER JONES: Kathleen?
- 20 EXAMINER MURPHY: No questions.
- 21 EXAMINER COSS: No questions.
- 22 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 23 BY EXAMINER JONES:
- 24 Q. The land office and the BLM basically are okay
- 25 with a signed com agreement that covers the whole --

1 Bone Spring and a signed agreement that covers the whole

- Wolfcamp; is that right? But internally they would
- 3 split out, based on PUNs, based on the pool depths; is
- 4 that correct?
- 5 A. Yes. They would -- that's what they've
- 6 indicated they would agree to.
- 7 Q. Kind of like the old com agreements that used
- 8 to cover all of the Pennsylvanian. And so you'd have
- 9 the Morrow, and then the same com agreement would work
- 10 for the Atoka after they moved up; is that correct?
- 11 A. Yeah. We would have to have different com
- 12 agreements, yeah, one for the Bone Spring and one for
- 13 the Wolfcamp, if I understand your question.
- 14 Q. Yeah. The state of the com agreement now, are
- 15 they already -- you said that now they're requiring
- 16 different language in the com agreements?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Which language is different?
- 19 A. I believe both forms are very, very similar.
- 20 One form -- I believe the BLM has removed the -- or
- 21 maybe I've got them vice versa. The BLM has removed the
- 22 reference to the State Land Office.
- Q. Oh, they did?
- A. Yes. Or maybe I've got it swapped. I can't
- 25 remember.

- 1 MR. FELDEWERT: I think that's right.
- THE WITNESS: So each entity, one federal
- 3 entity and one state entity, now requires a separate CA
- 4 versus before, we could do them -- this has been a few
- 5 months ago. Before, we could get away -- we could do
- 6 them all in one, or we could get both to sign the same
- 7 one.
- 8 Q. (BY EXAMINER JONES) So it's not a catch-22 deal
- 9 anymore. Just do one and do the other.
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. Really it is -- you've got to still get both;
- 12 is that correct?
- 13 A. Yeah, we do. And, of course, we've talked to
- 14 them. We know -- we understand that they will sign
- 15 these once the order is -- is issued by the NMOCD.
- 16 Q. So it looks like the part of the real driving
- force is this one federal quarter-quarter; is that
- 18 correct? I mean, you've got one federal quarter-quarter
- 19 that --
- 20 A. No. The real driving force are the lots at the
- 21 bottom.
- 22 Q. Oh, at the bottom.
- 23 A. At the bottom. The BLM -- the BLM -- without
- 24 this order, the BLM would require four separate stand-up
- 25 units because they could not comingle these four

1 together at any time -- at any time because of the

- 2 nonuniformity of the lots at the bottom.
- 3 Q. Huh.
- 4 A. I think it's called a royalty factor that they
- 5 get into that I can't explain. But just the slight
- 6 difference in the lots is what's causing this. If these
- 7 lots were all the same, we wouldn't be here today.
- 8 Q. Okay. That's interesting.
- 9 It seems like you could have gone for two
- 10 separate stand-up spacing units here based on the new
- 11 horizontal well rule or overlapping, actually, spacing
- 12 units -- three overlapping spacing units based on the
- 13 horizontal well rule.
- 14 A. Well, would we be able to commingle? That's
- 15 the question. I still don't think we would be able to,
- 16 because here, the BLM will be able to gauge, meter the
- 17 production in the right ratio because everything is
- 18 under this one unit.
- 19 Q. Yeah. They're afraid too much might be going
- 20 to the State Land Office or something.
- 21 A. That is most likely the issue. And we're
- 22 talking a few tenths of acres here.
- 23 **O.** Yeah.
- 24 Okay. So basically you noticed everybody,
- and you did newspaper notice because you don't have

- 1 return receipts from some of them yet?
- 2 MR. FELDEWERT: Yeah. We had some
- 3 overriding royalty interest owners, and sometimes
- 4 that's -- they don't pick up their envelopes or --
- 5 EXAMINER JONES: Yeah.
- 6 Q. (BY EXAMINER JONES) The JOA, is that two
- 7 separate JOAs, or is it brand-new JOAs, or are they
- 8 existing from previous years?
- 9 A. There is a brand-new JOA that Devon has signed,
- 10 along with two other working interest owners, plus there
- is a larger -- there is a previous JOA that just Devon
- 12 and Chevron are parties to that covers this acreage and
- other acreage in the same township. But between the
- 14 two, all parties are covered.
- 15 Q. They're covered.
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. All cost interests have signed the JOAs?
- 18 A. Yes. Yeah. I have signatures from everybody.
- 19 Q. The pools are a problem, but I guess that'll be
- 20 the next witness.
- 21 So these com agreements, are they completed
- 22 **yet?**
- 23 A. No. These are draft forms --
- Q. These are drafts.
- 25 A. -- to be submitted when -- well, when this

1 hearing is approved, immediately, and we have plans to

- 2 start drilling probably towards the end of this year.
- 3 Q. Okay. Okay.
- 4 EXAMINER JONES: Anybody else have any
- 5 questions?
- 6 EXAMINER DAVID: I have no questions.
- 7 Q. (BY EXAMINER JONES) That state lease is a --
- 8 that's one assignment -- assignment number four for the
- 9 whole section there, I guess.
- 10 A. It's an irregular section. Yeah.
- 11 Q. So who owns the -- who is the record title
- 12 owner for the state lease?
- 13 A. I've got to go back. For the most part, it's
- 14 Devon -- well, it's Devon and Chevron.
- 15 Q. So Devon and Chevron own title to the leases --
- 16 old leases?
- 17 A. We do. And then there are two other smaller
- 18 working interest owners that own in that one little
- 19 40-acre tract that you may have mentioned earlier. But
- 20 the rest of the unit is owned 62 -- well, the entire
- 21 unit is owned 62 percent Devon, 37 percent Chevron, and
- 22 then the two smaller interests own like .4 percent each.
- Q. Okay. And they're listed somewhere in here?
- 24 A. Well, they're -- it would be under -- Number 11
- 25 is -- Exhibit 11 is where I've named them. They aren't

1 where they own. It's just -- those are people within

- 2 the unit.
- Q. Okay. Thanks very much.
- 4 MR. FELDEWERT: Call our next witness.
- 5 SPENCER ROLFS,
- 6 after having been previously sworn under oath, was
- 7 questioned and testified as follows:
- 8 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 9 BY MR. FELDEWERT:
- 10 Q. Would you state your name, identify by whom
- 11 you're employed and in what capacity?
- 12 A. My name is Spencer Rolfs. I work for Devon
- 13 Energy, and I'm a geologist.
- 14 Q. And how long have you been a geologist with
- 15 **Devon?**
- 16 A. Four years.
- 17 Q. Have your responsibilities included the Permian
- 18 Basin?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. Have you, Mr. Rolfs, previously testified
- 21 before this Division as an expert in petroleum geology?
- 22 A. I have not.
- Q. Would you please outline your educational
- 24 background?
- 25 A. I have a bachelor's degree in geology from

1 California State University, Fresno, and a master's in

- 2 geology from Colorado School of Mines.
- 3 Q. When did you get your master's?
- 4 A. 2015.
- 5 Q. And since your master's, you've been working
- 6 with Devon?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. And are you familiar then with the application
- 9 that's been filed in this case?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And have you conducted a geologic study of the
- 12 lands that are the subject of this application?
- 13 A. Yes.
- MR. FELDEWERT: I would tender Mr. Rolfs as
- 15 an expert in petroleum geology.
- 16 EXAMINER JONES: He is qualified as an
- 17 expert in petroleum geology.
- 18 Q. (BY MR. FELDEWERT) What are the target zones
- 19 for the initial development under the standard --
- 20 nonstandard horizontal spacing unit?
- 21 A. The Wolfcamp and the Bone Spring Formations.
- Q. Okay. And if we got more specific, what
- 23 portion of the Wolfcamp?
- A. The Wolfcamp, it would be the Upper Wolfcamp
- 25 portion, and for the Bone Spring, it would be the Lower

- 1 3rd Bone Spring Sand.
- 2 Q. That would be for the additional planned wells?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. If I turn to, then, what's been marked as Devon
- 5 Exhibit 14, is this a structure map that you have
- 6 created for the Wolfcamp Formation?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And you've been kind enough to depict --
- 9 highlight the nonstandard unit area in yellow?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. What's the arrows there?
- 12 A. The arrows are the proposed Wolfcamp-only
- 13 wells.
- 14 Q. That would be the 12 wells?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. And how did you create the structure map?
- 17 A. The data that I used is shown in the map in the
- 18 red. This is subsea TVD depths surrounding wells.
- 19 Q. And did you -- I know Mr. McMillan has moved on
- 20 to the State Land Office or is about to, but did you use
- 21 **25-foot contours?**
- 22 A. Yes, I did.
- Q. What did you observe about the structure across
- 24 this area?
- 25 A. These wells are going to be drilled north to

1 south on strike, the updip direction towards the west.

- 2 Q. Do you observe any faults or any pinch-outs or
- 3 any geologic impediments that would prevent this acreage
- 4 from being efficiently and effectively developed by
- 5 horizontal wells?
- 6 A. There are none. No.
- 7 Q. Did you create a cross section for the
- 8 Wolfcamp?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 O. If I turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 11 Exhibit Number 15, does this identify the wells that you
- 12 utilized for your cross section?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. Two of those are within the proposed
- 15 nonstandard spacing unit?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Why did you choose these particular wells?
- 18 A. These are the best representation to show
- 19 lateral continuity.
- Q. Did you have good logs?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 O. Full suite?
- 23 A. Full suite.
- 24 Q. If I turn to what has been marked as Devon
- 25 Exhibit Number 16, is this the stratigraphic cross

1 section that corresponds A to A prime with the wells

- 2 shown on the prior exhibit?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. How have you identified the initial target zone
- 5 for those initial 12 wells?
- 6 A. The red diamonds indicate our Upper Wolfcamp
- 7 targets for the first 12 wells.
- 8 Q. And when you look at this, what do you observe
- 9 about the continuity of the targeted zones as you move
- 10 across this area?
- 11 A. The net pay stays consistent throughout this
- 12 acreage. The porosity stays the same, and lateral
- 13 thickness remains the same.
- 14 Q. Will the proposed nonstandard horizontal
- 15 spacing unit allow Devon to efficiently and effectively
- 16 develop the Wolfcamp Formation underlying this acreage?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Now, the other target zones are in the Bone
- 19 Spring Formation; is that correct?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. And you have some existing wells and some
- 22 planned wells?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. What are the existing wells?
- 25 A. The existing wells, it's an Upper Bone Spring

1 well. That's one. That's the 1H. And the lower of the

- 2 two is the 2nd Bone Spring Sand well, which is the 3H.
- Q. And where are your -- what's the target for
- 4 your four additional proposed wells?
- 5 A. They will be in the lowest portion of the Bone
- 6 Spring and the 3rd Bone Spring Sand.
- 7 Q. And if I start there and turn to Devon Exhibit
- 8 17, is this a structure map you've created for the 3rd
- 9 Bone Spring sandstones?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. How did you develop this? What's it hung on?
- 12 A. It's similar data points as used before using
- 13 surrounding wells in subsea TVD depths hung on the base
- 14 of the Bone Spring -- 3rd Bone Spring Sand.
- 15 Q. Now, I see some dashed lines and some solid
- 16 lines. What do they represent?
- 17 A. So in this map, I've highlighted the two
- 18 existing wells in the solid lines, which is the green
- 19 and the blue on the furthest west portion of this
- 20 acreage, and the proposed wells are the dotted lines
- 21 filling in the rest of the acreage.
- Q. And when you look at the structure of the 3rd
- 23 Bone Spring sandstone, what do you observe about that
- 24 structure?
- 25 A. Similar to the Wolfcamp, we are drilling north

1 to south on strike, the updip direction towards the

- 2 west.
- 3 Q. See any faults or pinch-outs or any geologic
- 4 impediments that prevent this zone from being developed
- 5 with horizontal wells?
- 6 A. There are not.
- Q. And you created two additional structure maps?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Similarly put together?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. If I turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 12 Exhibit Number 18, what does this one relate to?
- 13 A. This is the top of the Bone Spring unit. So
- 14 this would be a representation of the Avalon or the
- 15 Leonard Shale top.
- 16 Q. Okay. And, likewise, do you see any faults or
- pinch-outs or other geologic impediments to developing
- 18 this target zone with horizontal wells?
- 19 A. I do not.
- 20 Q. If I then turn to Devon Exhibit 19, is this a
- 21 structure map for the other interval in which a well has
- 22 currently been completed?
- 23 A. Correct.
- Q. And this was likewise created with similar
- 25 data?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And do you see any faults or pinch-outs or
- 3 geologic impediments for this particular zone?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Did you create a cross section for the Bone
- 6 Spring Formation?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. If I turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 9 Exhibit Number 20, does this identify the wells that you
- 10 unitized?
- 11 A. Yes. These are the same three wells as used in
- 12 the Wolfcamp cross section.
- 13 Q. And if I turn to Exhibit 21, is this your
- 14 stratigraphic cross section?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. And how have you identified the target zones?
- 17 A. Similar as the previous stratigraphic cross
- 18 section, the diamonds represent our different landing
- 19 intervals. The two existing wells are the uppermost
- 20 diamond and the middle diamond, and our proposed landing
- 21 is the bottom.
- 22 Q. And what did you learn about the continuity of
- 23 these target zones as you move across this area in the
- 24 Bone Spring?
- 25 A. We have similar lateral continuity throughout

1 the acreage. Porosity stays the same, and net pay stays

- 2 the same.
- Q. Mr. Rolfs, in your opinion, will the approval
- 4 of this application allow Devon to efficiently and
- 5 effectively develop the Bone Spring Formation underlying
- 6 this acreage?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And in your opinion, will the granting of this
- 9 application be in the best interest of conservation, the
- 10 prevention of waste and the protection of correlative
- 11 rights?
- 12 A. I do.
- MR. FELDEWERT: Mr. Examiner, I would move
- 14 the admission into evidence of Devon Exhibits 14 through
- 15 21.
- 16 EXAMINER JONES: 14 through 21 are
- 17 admitted.
- 18 (Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.
- 19 Exhibit Numbers 14 through 21 are offered
- and admitted into evidence.)
- 21 MR. FELDEWERT: And that concludes my
- 22 examination of this witness.
- 23 EXAMINER JONES: Kathleen?

24

25

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

- 2 BY EXAMINER MURPHY:
- Q. I would just like to commend you on your
- 4 readability of the cross section.
- 5 A. Thank you.
- 6 Q. And I don't have any other questions.
- 7 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 8 BY EXAMINER COSS:
- 9 Q. I don't have any questions except other than:
- 10 In this area, is north to south the preferred direction,
- 11 or if you could go east to west, would that be --
- 12 A. So with the orientation of stress in this
- 13 field, it's ideal to drill north to south or south to
- 14 north. Ideally, you want to be against the stress so
- 15 your frac has a better chance to break more rock.
- 16 Q. Thanks.
- 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 18 BY EXAMINER JONES:
- 19 Q. So if that's true, then you're actually
- draining a good ways out from your well, right?
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. So you could almost have 80-acre spacing units
- 23 or 160-acre spacing units.
- 24 A. We believe this analysis represents the best
- 25 approach to this acreage.

1 Q. I guess before I forget, the Lower Wolfcamp, is

- 2 that gas in this area? Is it productive? Is it
- 3 prospective for the future?
- 4 A. So the lower target we're planning on looking
- 5 at in the next few years, but it is gassier. So for
- 6 now, the Upper Wolfcamp seems like the best option to
- 7 pursue first before we would target gassier reservoir.
- 8 Q. Okay. You're not proposing wells in it right
- 9 now?
- 10 A. Not right now.
- 11 Q. So you don't have -- you're not asking for a
- 12 spacing unit that includes the Lower Wolfcamp?
- 13 A. Correct. We are not. No.
- 14 Q. Just the Upper Wolfcamp.
- 15 And as far as the Bone Spring goes, it's
- 16 the old -- the whole Bone Spring or -- you know, I
- 17 noticed that you put one of the wells in the Lower Bone
- 18 Spring. You could have that switched, but -- I didn't
- 19 ask the land person if there is any interest -- division
- 20 of vertical interest in the Bone Spring. I assume there
- 21 is not. But are you asking for the whole Bone Spring
- 22 basically or just whatever spacing unit is defined?
- 23 A. I believe it's for the whole Bone Spring. Yes.
- Q. Yeah. So basically you would prefer that Paul
- 25 Kautz changed -- assigns all the wells to a Bone Spring

- 1 pool and not an Upper or Lower Bone Spring pool?
- MR. FELDEWERT: Well, we're not going to
- 3 tell Paul Kautz what to do. But, you know, the State
- 4 Land Office has indicated that a communitization
- 5 agreement covering the Bone Spring Formation will work
- 6 and that they can deal with the pools by PUNs.
- 7 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.
- 8 MR. FELDEWERT: So I don't think it's an
- 9 issue.
- But to answer your question, yes. In order
- 11 to accommodate their current and future development
- 12 plans, the nonstandard horizontal spacing unit would
- 13 need to cover the entire Bone Spring.
- 14 EXAMINER JONES: Yeah. If there is not --
- 15 if the whole Bone Spring is prospective and ownership is
- 16 not an issue vertically, that could be -- the well
- 17 that's assigned to the lower could be changed to just a
- 18 Bone Spring pool.
- 19 MR. FELDEWERT: Yeah. And I can state that
- 20 there is no difference in ownership within the Bone
- 21 Spring or the Wolfcamp.
- Q. (BY EXAMINER JONES) Okay. The location of your
- 23 wells that you're planning, how close -- do you have an
- 24 idea about the density of -- well density you're looking
- 25 at, the spacing in between wells -- the lateral spacing?

1 A. I don't know off the top of my head other than

- 2 16 wells per section is what we've got proposed. So --
- Q. 16 wells per section. That means you're
- 4 getting closer than the 330. So the 330 would hamper
- 5 you. If you did have four -- or even two vertical
- 6 stand-up spacing units, the setbacks would hamper your
- 7 development; is that correct?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Should I defer this to the next witness,
- 10 that question?
- 11 Q. The question basically is how far apart you're
- 12 going to space your wells and whether -- whether this --
- 13 whether this unit is basically needed not only for
- 14 surface commingling, but it's needed because of well
- density so you can space your wells out because your
- 16 preferred stress direction is east-west -- I mean your
- 17 actual realized maximum horizontal stress direction is
- 18 east-west.
- 19 A. Uh-huh.
- 20 Q. And if it's a dominant stress direction, maybe
- 21 your wells -- your fracs will go east-west, and your
- 22 wells will drain east-west quite a bit. So there are
- 23 several reasonings we can use here. You plan on
- 24 drilling a lot of wells, so --
- 25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. But you're going for different benches in the

- 2 Bone Spring. So I'm not sure exactly. Maybe the
- 3 engineer can talk more about that.
- 4 MR. FELDEWERT: (Indicating.)
- 5 Q. (BY EXAMINER JONES) But as far as it
- 6 geologically goes, is the Leonard still good, or the
- 7 Avalon looks good?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. What would you drill in? If you only had one
- well to drill there, what would be the well you'd drill?
- 11 A. Upper Wolfcamp.
- 12 Q. Okay. Oh, so the Wolfcamp is better than the
- 13 Bone Spring?
- 14 A. I think me, personally, yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Is it pretty gassy?
- 16 A. It's oil strong, so we've got a lot more oil in
- 17 this area, in the Wolfcamp -- in the Upper Wolfcamp.
- 18 Q. What's the lithology compared to the Bone
- 19 Spring?
- 20 A. So we're dealing with a silty shale package
- 21 with interfingering carbonates. The Bone Spring is a
- 22 sand. So it's going to have a higher pressure in the
- 23 Wolfcamp than it would in the Bone Spring.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Okay. And why drill from the north to south?

- 2 Is that because it's a preferred place to put your
- 3 surface facilities?
- 4 A. I believe the two existing Bone Spring wells
- 5 already have a facilities unit from north to south that
- 6 works.
- Q. Okay. So geologically there's -- you're
- 8 drilling along strike and your dip is to the west?
- 9 A. To the west. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. So does that mean you're on the eastern side of
- 11 the basin a little bit?
- 12 A. We're in the deepest portion of the basin, and
- it starts to shallow as you go to the west. So --
- 14 uh-huh.
- 15 EXAMINER JONES: Can you think of anything
- 16 else?
- 17 RECROSS EXAMINATION
- 18 BY EXAMINER COSS:
- 19 Q. Well, maybe a pop quiz. I should know this.
- 20 Are the carbonates your transgressive systems track or
- 21 which systems track?
- 22 A. So the carbonates come with transgression.
- 23 Regression, you're going to get a lot more erosion, and
- 24 you can get your shale depositions.
- 25 Q. So that's the regression?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. That's the one you're talking about?
- 3 A. Yeah. It's a fan-based complex. You target
- 4 usually the distal fan fringe for these kind of hybrid
- 5 reservoirs.
- 6 Q. And it looks like they're continuous; is it
- 7 not?
- 8 A. Yeah. They're miles wide. So miles on miles,
- 9 tens of miles. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- MR. FELDEWERT: We'll call our next
- 12 witness.
- 13 CHRISTOPHER COPE,
- 14 after having been previously sworn under oath, was
- 15 questioned and testified as follows:
- 16 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. FELDEWERT:
- 18 Q. Would you please state your name, identify by
- whom you're employed and in what capacity?
- 20 A. My name is Christopher Cope. I'm a reservoir
- 21 engineer at Devon Energy.
- 22 Q. And how long have you been a reservoir engineer
- 23 with Devon?
- A. Five-and-a-half years.
- 25 Q. Have your responsibilities included the Permian

- 1 Basin?
- 2 A. They have.
- Q. Mr. Cope, have you previously had the
- 4 opportunity to testify before the Division as an expert
- 5 in petroleum engineering?
- 6 A. I have not.
- Q. Please outline your educational background.
- 8 A. I have a bachelor's of science in petroleum
- 9 engineering, 2004, from the University of Oklahoma,
- 10 master's in science in civil engineering, 2012,
- 11 University of Oklahoma, and a master's of business
- 12 administration from the University of Oklahoma, 2019.
- 13 Q. What's been your work history since you
- 14 received your master's in 2012?
- 15 A. I worked for SandRidge Energy for nine months
- 16 as a completions engineer, six months as a reservoir
- 17 engineer, and then started at Devon Energy from that
- 18 point on.
- 19 Q. Okay. And are you a member of any professional
- 20 affiliations or associations?
- 21 A. I'm a member of the Society of Petroleum
- 22 Engineers, Oklahoma City Chapter, and I'm a registered
- 23 professional engineer.
- 24 Q. And where are you a registered professional
- 25 **engineer?**

- 1 A. In the state of Oklahoma.
- 2 O. Since when?
- 3 A. Since December of 2014.
- 4 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the application
- 5 filed in this matter?
- 6 A. I am.
- 7 Q. And are you familiar with the facilities?
- 8 A. I am.
- 9 Q. And, in fact, did you -- were you involved in
- 10 designing or putting together the parameters and
- 11 locations of these facilities?
- 12 A. I provided volume forecasts and the layout of
- 13 the facilities. I did not design the facilities.
- MR. FELDEWERT: I would tender Mr. Cope as
- 15 an expert in petroleum engineering and
- 16 petroleum facilities.
- 17 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. He's so qualified.
- 18 Q. (BY MR. FELDEWERT) Mr. Cope, if this acreage
- 19 was developed using standard horizontal spacing units,
- 20 what surface facilities would be required?
- 21 A. We would drill off of four separate well pads,
- 22 and we would produce off of two -- four, rather,
- 23 separate facilities.
- Q. When you say facilities, what type of
- 25 facilities?

- 1 A. Surface production facilities.
- O. Okay. If I turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 3 Exhibit 22, is this a schematic that you put together
- 4 and prepared of what would be required from a facility
- 5 perspective if you develop these on standard four oil
- 6 horizontal spacing units?
- 7 A. Yes, it is.
- 8 Q. If this application is approved and a
- 9 nonstandard horizontal spacing unit is allowed to match
- 10 the communized area, can the company eliminate some of
- 11 the surface facilities shown on this exhibit?
- 12 A. It can.
- 13 Q. And what would you be able to eliminate?
- A. We'd be able to eliminate at least two separate
- 15 surface facilities.
- 16 Q. Why would you still need two separate tank
- 17 batteries? Why not just one?
- 18 A. Based on our current designs, we would -- for
- 19 the 16 wells, we would require two separate surface
- 20 facilities.
- 21 O. Is that because of the volume?
- 22 A. Correct.
- Q. If I turn to what's been marked as Devon
- 24 Exhibit 23, is this a depiction of the facility
- 25 configuration that you would be able to utilize if this

- 1 application is approved?
- 2 A. It is.
- 3 Q. How much acreage is normally disturbed when you
- 4 have to put in a central tank battery?
- 5 A. Six acres per surface facility.
- 6 Q. So if you cut down from four central tank
- 7 batteries to two, how many acres will that save you?
- 8 A. 12.
- 9 Q. Is there also a cost savings to the operator
- 10 here, Devon?
- 11 A. There is.
- 12 Q. And have you calculated what that cost savings
- 13 will be if you were able to cut in half the amount of
- 14 the central tank batteries you would otherwise be
- 15 required?
- 16 A. I have.
- 17 Q. How much is that?
- 18 A. \$4.7 million.
- 19 Q. Does this type of cost savings make this
- 20 project more competitive with other drilling projects?
- 21 A. It does.
- 22 O. Does it have other benefits in terms of cost
- 23 savings?
- 24 A. It would lower the operating cost long-term for
- 25 the duration of the life of the wells.

1 Q. Okay. If I turn to what's been marked as Devon

- 2 Exhibit 24, is this a spreadsheet that you've put
- 3 together identifying both the acreage that you can save,
- 4 as well as the cost savings?
- 5 A. It is, using information from the facilities
- 6 engineer.
- 7 Q. Do you want to walk through this real quick?
- 8 A. I will.
- 9 In scenario one, we have four CTBs. That's
- 10 four wells on four different pads. Our design -- volume
- 11 design for each of those CTBs would be 10,000 barrels of
- 12 oil per day. Our CTB cost total would be
- 13 \$16 million. Flowline cost would be \$1.4 million. Gas
- 14 lift cost, 800,000, for an average per-well cost of
- 15 \$1.1, approximate, million per well for a total of
- 16 \$18.2 million, and with a surface disturbance of 24
- 17 acres total for the CTBs.
- 18 For the two-CTB scenario, that would be two
- 19 surface facilities, or CTBs, with eight wells each.
- 20 Those would each be designed for 20,000 barrels of oil
- 21 per day. CTB costs would be \$10.4 million. Flowline
- 22 costs would be \$2.3 million. Gas lift, 800,000, for an
- 23 average cost of \$850,000 per well and a total of \$13.5
- 24 million, and disturbing only 12 acres for the
- 25 facilities.

1 Q. So now when I look at that savings line that

- 2 you have here --
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. -- that's not \$4,700, right?
- 5 A. No, sir. That's \$4.7 million.
- 6 Q. And your surface disturbance acreage that you
- 7 see there is 12?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. Going along the lines of what Examiner Jones
- 10 asked, does the creation of this nonstandard horizontal
- 11 spacing unit to match the communitized areas, does that
- 12 also provide the company with more flexibility in
- 13 locating and spacing their wells?
- 14 A. It does.
- 15 Q. It allows you to be more creative in
- 16 efficiently and effectively locating those wells?
- 17 A. That is correct.
- 18 Q. For example, are you able to -- because this
- 19 would be an owner of common ownership, are you able to
- 20 eliminate setbacks?
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- 22 Q. You don't have to worry about spacing wells
- 23 based on setbacks but rather based on the reservoir?
- 24 A. That is correct.
- 25 Q. In your opinion, would approval of this

1 application be in the best interest of conservation, the

- 2 prevention of waste and the protection of correlative
- 3 rights?
- 4 A. It will.
- 5 Q. Were Devon Exhibits 22, 23 and 24 prepared by
- 6 you or compiled under your direction and supervision?
- 7 A. They were.
- MR. FELDEWERT: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the
- 9 admission into evidence of Devon Exhibits 22 through 24.
- 10 EXAMINER JONES: 22, 23, and 24 are
- 11 admitted.
- 12 (Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.
- Exhibit Numbers 22, 23 and 24 are offered
- and admitted into evidence.)
- 15 MR. FELDEWERT: And that concludes my
- 16 examination of this witness.
- 17 EXAMINER JONES: Kathleen?
- 18 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 19 BY EXAMINER MURPHY:
- 20 Q. So the setbacks are waived because of the
- 21 common ownership?
- 22 MR. FELDEWERT: So in other words, under
- the horizontal well rules, we'd have an area of common
- 24 ownership. Setbacks would only apply to the outer
- 25 boundary.

1 EXAMINER MURPHY: Go ahead. Say what you

- 2 were going to say.
- 3 MR. FELDEWERT: I'm sorry.
- 4 So the setbacks, then, would only apply to
- 5 the outer boundary of the area of the common ownership.
- 6 EXAMINER MURPHY: Okay. No questions.
- 7 EXAMINER COSS: No questions.
- 8 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 9 BY EXAMINER JONES:
- 10 Q. Do you share the opinion that the stress
- 11 direction is east-west --
- 12 A. I do.
- 13 Q. -- primary stress direction?
- 14 Do you have anything besides empirical
- 15 knowledge of that, or has there been any -- any image
- 16 logs or sonic -- or oriented array sonics or anything
- 17 to --
- 18 A. I know for certain image logs.
- 19 Q. Okay. Processed image logs --
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. -- that show wellbore breakout of the east-west
- 22 direction?
- 23 A. I know that the image logs indicate east-west
- 24 maximum stress orientation.
- 25 Q. Okay. And a strong preference for that; is

- 1 that correct?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. So your -- your induced hydraulic fractures
- 4 will probably definitely go east-west?
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. So how far do you think the wells will drain?
- 7 A. I don't know.
- 8 Q. How close will you put the closest well to the
- 9 outer boundary of the spacing unit?
- 10 A. I don't know what the exact allowances are. I
- 11 believe it's around 330 feet, but I would need to
- 12 discuss that with land.
- 13 Q. Yeah, unless you get a nonstandard location
- 14 exception.
- 15 A. Uh-huh.
- 16 Q. There was notice apparently to everybody
- 17 surrounding this proposed unit.
- 18 What about preferred well density in the
- 19 different benches?
- 20 A. We're proposing -- we've permitted 12 wells per
- 21 section, and we plan to drill 12 wells per section in
- the Wolfcamp and four in the 3rd Bone Spring.
- Q. Okay. So your spacing between wells will be
- 24 pretty close then?
- 25 A. On plane would be 660 between each well, and

1 then -- but you're going to have four different

- 2 horizons.
- Q. Okay. But one horizon in the Wolfcamp; is that
- 4 correct? Just one Upper Wolfcamp -- if you looked at a
- 5 gun-barrel look at this, which is really handy to have
- 6 those, your same level in the Wolfcamp, how many wells
- 7 would you space across one --
- 8 A. We're still -- we're still solidifying the
- 9 plan, but it would be a staggered pattern.
- 10 Q. Okay. Okay. Is part of the problem with the
- 11 surface commingling getting approval to surface
- 12 commingle from the BLM? Is that true?
- 13 A. That's my understanding.
- 14 Q. Okay. But you supply the volumes or the rates
- 15 to the facilities designers to design the separators; is
- 16 that correct?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. So you're predicting how much the wells will
- 19 make at any given point in time?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. And -- because getting the surface commingle
- 22 approved through OCD would not be an issue?
- 23 A. That's my understanding.
- 24 O. Okay.
- 25 EXAMINER JONES: Well, any other questions?

- 1 EXAMINER DAVID: Not from me.
- 2 EXAMINER JONES: Is that it for the case?
- 3 MR. FELDEWERT: That's it. You hit the
- 4 nail on the head. That's why we're here.
- 5 EXAMINER JONES: Can you give us a proposed
- 6 order?
- 7 MR. FELDEWERT: I certainly can.
- 8 EXAMINER JONES: Because we've had a little
- 9 issue on these, since the horizontal well rule, from
- 10 Mr. Brancard. So another way we've approached it is to
- 11 carve out the area and make a pool with a bigger spacing
- 12 unit size. So --
- MR. FELDEWERT: Yeah. I saw that. I'm not
- 14 sure --
- 15 EXAMINER JONES: I know it's ungainly.
- Well, thanks very much.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 18 EXAMINER MURPHY: Could you give us another
- 19 copy of the C-102s.
- 20 EXAMINER JONES: Case Number 20732 will be
- 21 taken under advisement.
- MR. FELDEWERT: Thank you.
- 23 (Case Number 20732 concludes, 2:23 p.m.)

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- 1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
- 2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

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- 4 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER
- 5 I, MARY C. HANKINS, Certified Court
- 6 Reporter, New Mexico Certified Court Reporter No. 20,
- 7 and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify
- 8 that I reported the foregoing proceedings in
- 9 stenographic shorthand and that the foregoing pages are
- 10 a true and correct transcript of those proceedings that
- 11 were reduced to printed form by me to the best of my
- 12 ability.
- I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Reporter's
- 14 Record of the proceedings truly and accurately reflects
- 15 the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.
- I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
- 17 employed by nor related to any of the parties or
- 18 attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in
- 19 the final disposition of this case.
- 20 DATED THIS 1st day of October 2019.

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- MARY C. HANKINS, CCR, RPR
 Certified Court Reporter
- Certified Court Reporter
 New Mexico CCR No. 20
- Date of CCR Expiration: 12/31/2019
- Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters

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