

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

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

CASE NOS: 20586

APPLICATION OF 3BEAR FIELD SERVICES, LLC
FOR APPROVAL OF A SALT WATER DISPOSAL WELL,
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

JANUARY 23, 2020

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, EXAMINERS FELICIA ORTH, LEONARD LOWE, PHILLIP GOETZE, LEGAL EXAMINER AMES on Thursday, January 23, 2020 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.

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1 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Matter Number 20586.

2 This is 3Bear. Call for appearances, please.

3 MS. CALLAHAN: Candace Callahan with Beaty &
4 Wozniak appearing on behalf of the applicant 3Bear Field
5 Services LLC.

6 MS. ANTILLON: Andrea Antillon on behalf of the
7 State Land Office.

8 MS. BENNETT: Deana Bennett on behalf of NGL
9 Water Solutions Permian LLC.

10 MS. HARDY: Dana Hardy with Santa Fe office of
11 the Hinkle Shanor on behalf of V-F Petroleum.

12 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Okay, thank you.

13 So, Ms. Callahan, this won't be an affidavit
14 matter?

15 MS. CALLAHAN: No, this is with witnesses.

16 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Are there numerous
17 witnesses?

18 MS. CALLAHAN: There are four.

19 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: There are four witnesses.

20 All right. So let me ask a question, all right. Of the
21 other folks, in the event there is another affidavit matter,
22 we would actually take that before we went to one with
23 witnesses.

24 MS. CALLAHAN: Okay.

25 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: So hold on one second.

1 In matter 20596 and 20597, this is Tap Rock. Mr.
2 Bruce, would that be an affidavit matter?

3 MR. BRUCE: Those would be affidavit matters, but
4 again, I'm missing the pooling checklist. If there is going
5 to be four witnesses, rather than continue them, could you
6 move them to the end of the hearing date so that --

7 MS. CALLAHAN: It looks like we are going to run
8 through everything today. They just kind of plan -- so as
9 long as we can get through today, I don't have a problem
10 today.

11 MR. BRUCE: No, no. I'm asking how long.

12 MS. CALLAHAN: About an hour, I'm guessing.

13 MR. BRUCE: If we wait until the end of the day,
14 perhaps I can cure the defect in my affidavit packages in
15 the interim, but --

16 (Pause in proceeding.)

17 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: So Ms. Callahan, I
18 believe we are to you.

19 MS. CALLAHAN: Are we up?

20 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: I think you are up now.
21 Thank you for your patience.

22 MS. CALLAHAN: Oh, of course. Thank you.

23 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: So to orient us again,
24 this is Case Number 20586. We have appearances by Ms.
25 Callahan, with Ms. Antillon, Ms. Bennett and Ms. Hardy.

1 Ms. Callahan?

2 MS. CALLAHAN: I have four witnesses that need to
3 be sworn.

4 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Okay. Where are they?
5 (Witnesses standing.)

6 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: If you would each give
7 your names.

8 MR. SOLOMON: Michael Solomon.

9 MR. JESSEE: Parker Jessee.

10 MS. HOVEY: Ramona Hovey.

11 MR. WHITE: David White.

12 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Okay. If you would raise
13 your right hand. Do you and each of you swear or affirm
14 that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth,
15 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

16 COLLECTIVELY: I do.

17 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Thank you. That was all
18 four of you. Ms. Callahan.

19 MS. CALLAHAN: I would like to call my first
20 witness, Ramona Hovey.

21 RAMONA K. HOVEY

22 (Sworn, testified as follows:)

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. CALLAHAN:

25 Q. Ms. Hovey, would you please state your full name

1 **for the record?**

2 A. Ramona K. Hovey.

3 **Q. Where do you reside?**

4 A. Austin, Texas.

5 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

6 A. I'm a senior petroleum engineer with Lonquist &
7 Company LLC.

8 **Q. What services does Lonquist provide in New**
9 **Mexico?**

10 A. We provide geological, engineering, regulatory
11 support, as well as acid evaluation, due diligence and
12 business development support.

13 **Q. Have you previously testified before the**
14 **Division?**

15 A. Yes.

16 **Q. And were you qualified as an expert petroleum**
17 **engineer?**

18 A. Yes.

19 **Q. Was Lonquist retained by 3Bear Field Services LLC**
20 **for the purposes of preparing the C-108 applications in this**
21 **case?**

22 A. Yes.

23 **Q. Are you familiar with the C-108 application?**

24 A. Yes.

25 **Q. Was the C-108 prepared by you or under your**

1 **direction and supervision?**

2 A. Yes.

3 MS. CALLAHAN: I tender Ms. Hovey as an expert
4 petroleum engineer.

5 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Are there objections?

6 MS. BENNETT: No objection.

7 MS. ANTILLON: No objection.

8 MS. HARDY: No objection.

9 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: She is so recognized.

10 BY MS. CALLAHAN:

11 Q. Ms. Hovey, was this case first filed as an
12 administrative application?

13 A. Yes, it was.

14 Q. And were there objections filed to the
15 administrative application?

16 A. Yes. There were objections by the State Land
17 Office and V-F Petroleum.

18 Q. Since the filing of this case for hearing there
19 have been three parties who have entered their appearance;
20 is that right?

21 A. Yes, that is correct.

22 Q. And they are?

23 A. V-F Petroleum, State Land Office, and NGL.

24 Q. Of those three entries and appearances, do any of
25 them still oppose the application?

1 A. My understanding it's the State Land Office.

2 Q. Do you have an understanding of what the basis of
3 that -- of their opposition?

4 A. My understanding is that they have voiced concern
5 about the proximity of this drill site to the proposed --
6 the proposed well to the state trust land.

7 Q. The surface location; is that right?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. All right. Let's look at Exhibit 1, which is the
10 C-108; is that right?

11 A. Yes, that is.

12 Q. Can you briefly summarize what 3Bear is seeking
13 in this application? Can you find it? It's Exhibit 1.

14 A. This?

15 Q. Did some of it fall out? Some of it did fall out
16 of there. Sorry. Here.

17 A. Yes. So 3Bear in this application is looking for
18 approval for -- to permit a saltwater injection well into
19 the Devonian and Fusselman formation, the Field SWD Devonian
20 Silurian Pool Number 97869.

21 We are looking to inject between an interval of
22 14,400 feet and 15,500 feet, and it would be an open hole
23 completion. Looking for a maximum injection rate of 30,000
24 barrels a day, and looking at average injection pressure of
25 approximately 2,160 psi, and a maximum injection pressure of

1 2,880 psi surface pressure.

2 We are looking to, 3Bear is looking to dispose
3 fluids from oil and gas wells in the area, from various
4 formations, including Yates, Bone Spring, Wolfcamp, Strawn
5 and Morrow.

6 **Q. Where is this well going to be located?**

7 A. This well is in Section 2, Township 22 South,
8 Range 34 East.

9 **Q. That's in Lea County?**

10 A. Yes, that is in Lea County.

11 **Q. Do you have a footage location for it?**

12 A. Yes. We are 351 feet from the north line, 215
13 feet from the west line.

14 **Q. And what is that productive zone in the one mile
15 area of review above the Devonian?**

16 A. There are producing wells in the Yates, Bone
17 Spring, Wolfcamp, Strawn and Morrow formation.

18 **Q. Is there any producers, oil or gas, down below
19 the Devonian?**

20 A. No.

21 **Q. And will this be a new well?**

22 A. This will be a new well, yes.

23 **Q. Okay. Let's look at Page 19. Is this a map of
24 the existing wells within a two-mile radius of the proposed
25 well?**

1 Q. Yes, it is. And if you look at the back of
2 Exhibit 1, there are a large version of the two-mile area of
3 review and the listing of the wells.

4 How many existing wells are within the two-mile
5 radius of the proposed well?

6 A. Within two miles we determined there are 92
7 active wells, one is that is temporarily abandoned, 39
8 that's been plugged, and 64 wells that have been permitted
9 but not yet drilled .

10 Q. How many existing wells within the one-mile
11 radius?

12 A. In one mile there are 11 active, one was
13 temporarily abandoned, four that have been plugged, and six
14 that have permitted but not yet drilled.

15 Q. And then on Page 20 of the Exhibit 1, is this a
16 list of the existing wells within a one-mile radius?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How many existing disposal wells are within this
19 one-mile radius?

20 A. There is one saltwater disposal well, the State
21 AAA001.

22 Q. And who operates that?

23 A. Marathon.

24 Q. Okay. Does it dispose into the target zone for
25 this well?

1 A. No, it does not. It disposes into the Yates
2 formation.

3 Q. So do any of the wells within the one- or
4 two-mile radius penetrate the Devonian?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Is it your understanding that there are concerns
7 about the proposed wells that have been -- I'm sorry, V-F
8 no longer opposes this.

9 What is the surface ownership within the one-mile
10 area of review.

11 A. Merchant Livestock owns the surface in Section 2,
12 the property on which the Grama State Number 2 is proposed.

13 Q. Does the state own all the minerals underlying
14 the four sections of minerals in the area of review?

15 A. Yes, that is correct.

16 Q. If we look at Page 21 of Exhibit 1, what does
17 this tell us. If you can find it.

18 A. So this shows that there are a number of
19 horizontal wells in the area, and the operators, most of the
20 leaseholds are owned by Chisholm Energy, Marathon Oil
21 Permian, Mewbourne Oil Company and Centennial Resources
22 Production. And then as well there is a sliver on the east
23 side of the area of review that is owned by Centennial and
24 V-F Petroleum.

25 Q. Let's look at water issues next. What will the

1 **source of the water to be injected into the Grama SWD be?**

2 A. It will be produced water from the local area.

3 **Q. Do you have any reviews of water quality of**
4 **those?**

5 A. Yes, I have.

6 **Q. Can this be found at Page 24 of the C-108?**

7 A. That is correct.

8 **Q. And what kind of water quality are we looking at?**

9 A. It is salty. It's got total dissolved solids
10 that range from 8800 milligrams per liter up to over 300,000
11 milligrams per liter.

12 **Q. Did you identify any compatibility issues with**
13 **the Devonian?**

14 A. The disposal interval is not productive in this
15 area so there were no water samples available from the
16 Devonian and the surrounding area.

17 **Q. Are there any water wells within the one-mile**
18 **radius of the proposed well?**

19 A. There are four now. There was originally at the
20 time of the application there was only one water well, but
21 three more have been permitted, and some -- we have had some
22 with three more.

23 **Q. Summaries, you weren't able to get any more**
24 **information than that?**

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. That's on Page 25?

2 A. The original well was. We did the other search
3 and that they did not produce.

4 Q. And to what depth was that water well drilled?

5 A. 109 feet.

6 Q. Did you obtain a chemical analysis from this
7 fresh water well?

8 A. Yes, we did. Cardinal Laboratories provided an
9 analysis of the water from this well.

10 Q. That's found at Pages 36 -- starting at Page 36
11 of the C-108?

12 A. Actually it starts on Page 27.

13 Q. 26?

14 A. Or Page 27.

15 Q. 27, okay. And then Page 18 of the C-108, can you
16 explain this exhibit?

17 A. Yes. We are proposing to set the surface casing
18 just below the Rustler to protect the fresh water zones that
19 occur in those zones that will be set with 20-inch casing at
20 a depth of 1750 feet and will be cemented to surface. There
21 will be an intermediate string of 13 3/8s inch casing set at
22 a depth of 5,660 feet, and that is to ensure we have
23 protected the Capitan Reef. Again, that will be fully
24 cemented to surface. We will be running a diversion tool, a
25 DV tool at 3700 feet to ensure we have sufficient cement

1 across the entire zone.

2 There will be a production line -- production
3 casing set at a depth of 11,175 feet. It will be 9 5/8 inch
4 casing, again cemented to surface. And finally a liner will
5 be set from a depth of 10,950 feet to 14,400 feet, this will
6 be a 9 -- or 7 and 5/8 inch casing cemented fully behind the
7 liner.

8 And then finally, as we said, there would be an
9 open hole completion to a total depth of 15,500 feet, and
10 they will be installing 5.5 inch tubing at a depth of 14,350
11 feet.

12 **Q. Thank you. Are you confident that you had enough**
13 **data available for you to determine accurately the casing**
14 **depth and cement tops and bottoms?**

15 A. There was sufficient well control to determine
16 the geological zones in the area, and then this design is
17 very compatible with offset saltwater disposal wells in the
18 area.

19 **Q. What is the average and maximum daily rate of**
20 **volume to be injected?**

21 A. We are looking for -- we expect an average of
22 20,000 barrels a day and looking for -- 25,000 a day.

23 **Q. 25,000 per maximum; is that right?**

24 A. That is correct, yes.

25 **Q. Okay. And the maximum pressure you said before?**

1 A. Is the 2,880, which is a .2 psi per foot
2 gradient.

3 Q. Okay. Do you see any need to reassess the higher
4 injection pressure in the future?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Will the well design protect producing zones from
7 this area?

8 A. Yes. With the cement designs and the multiple
9 strings, we believe that the producing zones will be
10 adequately protected.

11 Q. As will the water zones?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Does the C-108 include an affirmative
14 statement regarding there being no evidence of open faults
15 or any other hydrologic between the disposal zone and any
16 underground source of drinking water?

17 A. Yes. I believe Mr. Steve Poe provided the
18 affirmative statement.

19 Q. Is that found at Page 17 of the C-108?

20 A. Yes, it is.

21 Q. And let's see. Did you provide the proof of
22 notice that we find beginning at Page 37?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And was Exhibit 1 prepared by you or at
25 your direction?

1 Q. Nice to see you again. So a moment ago you
2 mentioned that you were under the impression it was only the
3 State Land Office that was protesting the application.

4 And for the record, NGL does have concerns and is
5 taking the opportunity to review the materials now and
6 reserves this right to have further discussions with the
7 Division or with OCD, just for the record.

8 I have a few questions about your -- about the
9 C-108. First, how many applications or C-108s have you
10 prepared for 3Bear?

11 A. I can't give an exact number off the top of my
12 head, but we have done a number for 3Bear, probably 10 to
13 15.

14 Q. Do you know how many disposal wells 3Bear is
15 operating in New Mexico?

16 A. I do not.

17 Q. Okay. Do you know if 3Bear is proposing any kind
18 of backup system for this well if it were to go out?

19 A. I believe that there is a representative from
20 3Bear who will be able to testify to that. I do not.

21 Q. Okay. So on Page 1 of your materials, of the
22 materials, that's the cover page to the C-108; is that
23 right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that was prepared on May 21, 2019?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. A moment ago we were looking at the AOR map. Did
3 you update those AOR maps in advance of the hearing today?

4 A. Yes, we did.

5 Q. Where are those updated maps?

6 A. Page 19, and then the the larger version in the
7 back, that is the updated AOR map for the wells. We did
8 take a look at the leaseholds, but there was no significant
9 change, so we did not update those in the package.

10 Q. So in other words, Page 19 is a new page? It
11 wasn't in the original C-108?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And same with Page 20?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. When you updated the AOR map, did that change the
16 parties to whom notice was or to whom notice was required?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So even though there were new -- even though
19 there were changes to the AOR, there were no additional
20 parties required for notice?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. A moment ago you testified there was only one SWD
23 that penetrates or in this area of review?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Is that on Page 20?

1 A. Yes, which would be difficult to see. It was in
2 the, in the back. I should have left this -- you can see
3 it better in the one-mile area of review list, in the back
4 of Exhibit 1, that's the large one, that State AA.

5 MS. CALLAHAN: In the very back of Exhibit 1
6 folded up. So it's larger and easier to read.

7 A. That first -- that well is listed as the first
8 line item.

9 **Q. So that's the only SWD that you found in the one-**
10 **mile area of review?**

11 A. Yes.

12 **Q. Did you look at whether there are any proposed**
13 **SWDs within the one-mile area of review?**

14 A. As much as I was able to find, I did not see any.

15 **Q. So you didn't see any proposed SWDs within the**
16 **one-mile area of review?**

17 A. I did not.

18 **Q. On Page 4 -- and maybe this is corrected by a**
19 **later exhibit in your materials -- so Page 4 does not have a**
20 **wellbore diagram. It's blank for the wellbore schematic; is**
21 **that corrected by Page 67?**

22 A. Page 18.

23 **Q. Page 18. Is there a difference between Page 18**
24 **and Page 67?**

25 A. No.

1 Q. Okay. A minute ago you were talking about the
2 affirmative statements of Mr. Steven Poe. Do you know Steve
3 Poe?

4 A. Not personally.

5 Q. Do you know if he has ever testified before the
6 Division?

7 A. I do not know that, no.

8 Q. Is there anything in the materials that you have
9 seen that includes his qualifications?

10 A. Not that I have.

11 Q. Do you know if he -- it appears he works for
12 Chisholm Operating LLC. Do you know the relationship
13 between Chisholm and 3Bear?

14 A. I know that they have an association, but I think
15 the representative from 3Bear could better describe that
16 relationship.

17 Q. As far as you know, is this the only affirmative
18 statement that you prepared or that was provided with the
19 C-108?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And Mr. Poe isn't here today to be --

22 MS. CALLAHAN: Our geologist is here, and he can
23 speak to the question.

24 MS. BENNETT: But Mr. Poe isn't here?

25 MS. CALLAHAN: No, he isn't.

1 BY MS. BENNETT:

2 Q. Okay. A moment ago you mentioned that there were
3 three other wells that you found, fresh water wells?

4 A. Water right summaries. We did find yesterday in
5 a search three new ones, but there was no data that
6 indicated they have yet been drilled.

7 Q. Okay. Is that information in your materials?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Those are all the questions I have. Thank you.

10 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Hardy, anything?

11 MS. HARDY: No, thank you.

12 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Mr. Goetze?

13 EXAMINER GOETZE: Welcome back, I guess.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

15 EXAMINER GOETZE: Did you prepare the well
16 diagram?

17 THE WITNESS: An engineer under my direction
18 prepared that.

19 EXAMINER GOETZE: I have some concerns. First of
20 all, we have -- how I was raised was just a surface,
21 non-engineered casing, usually conduit with concrete around
22 it. So number one would probably be your surface casing
23 landing in the Rustler.

24 Then we have the Number 2. Number 2 goes both
25 through the Salado and the Reef together. Since you will be

1 going through the Salado, I assume it would be extremely
2 heavy brine drilling fluid to keep it from caving and
3 washing out. At the same time you are going to be bouncing
4 into something that is extremely low TDS even though
5 drilling through pure salt.

6 This is going to have to change. It's going to
7 have to either redesign this to isolate Salado. It's not
8 good. That's going to make for a mess. I will give you
9 further information with regards to whether we can combine
10 it with the Delaware Mountain Group.

11 We have in this area concerns. It is still
12 considered an underground source of drinking water until
13 such time that someone wishes to come forth and make it an
14 exemption, but we don't want the Reef and Salado to be
15 mixing.

16 And, to this end, I have been in contact with
17 Enstor. And Enstor are the folks who hold the gas storage
18 facility next door. It is one of two in New Mexico.

19 The other one being at Washington Ranch. Because
20 the well design has proposed a liner, and we have had issues
21 with liners, that if this well were to go forward, we will
22 give you notice now that you will be running casing to
23 surface. There will be no liner hung. There will be a
24 completed, full pipe such that if we have issues down the
25 road we can see them, plus it gives us a better sense of how

1 that well is completed.

2 And if such, if this application does go forward
3 with a permit, the Division will probably also require, as a
4 result of our conversation, put Enstor at a higher frequency
5 of MIT because of the fact that, having worked in the gas
6 field in Kansas on similar projects on larger scales, as
7 best as engineers are, but their calculations, the rocks
8 sometimes give us a different answer.

9 And if you are going to have something in such
10 close proximity to a gas storage facility, it would be
11 prudent to design the well to make sure we don't have
12 monitoring issues with well completion issues over Salado.
13 With that -- so we did a one-mile review and one-mile
14 notice?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

16 MS. CALLAHAN: Yes, that's correct.

17 EXAMINER GOETZE: That's all I have as far as
18 comments and questions. Thank you.

19 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Thank you. Ms. Callahan,
20 any follow-up?

21 MS. CALLAHAN: Yes. I just wanted to point out
22 that NGL is not an affected party, although they may have
23 concerns, they are not an affected party. I didn't realize
24 that. I think that's it.

25 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: All right. Thank you

1 very much, Ms. Hovey.

2 MS. CALLAHAN: I would like to call Parker Jessee
3 at this time.

4 MS. MURPHY: Wait. Wait. Wait. Where's the --
5 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: This? (Indicating
6 remote.)

7 MS. MURPHY: Yes.

8 PARKER JESSEE

9 (Sworn, testified as follows:)

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MS. CALLAHAN:

12 Q. Good morning.

13 A. Good morning.

14 Q. Mr. Jessee, please state your full name for the
15 record.

16 A. Parker Jessee.

17 Q. And where do you reside?

18 A. Houston, Texas.

19 Q. And by whom are you employed and in what
20 capacity?

21 A. I'm a geologist for Lonquist.

22 Q. All right. And I guess we have already heard
23 what Lonquist does in New Mexico, so I won't ask you to
24 repeat it. Have you previously testified before the
25 Division?

1 A. Yes, I have.

2 Q. Were you qualified as an expert geologist?

3 A. Yes, I was.

4 Q. Are you familiar with the C-108 application filed
5 in this case?

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 Q. Have you reviewed the geologic analysis found in
8 the C-108?

9 A. Yes, I have.

10 Q. Have you also prepared a separate geologic
11 analysis on the proposed location?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. And you have prepared geologic exhibits
14 reflecting your analysis in support of this application,
15 have you not?

16 A. Yes, I have.

17 MS. CALLAHAN: Okay. I tender Mr. Jessee as an
18 expert petroleum geologist.

19 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Any objection?

20 MS. BENNETT: No objection.

21 MS. ANTILLON: No objection.

22 MS. HARDY: No objection.

23 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: He is so recognized.

24 BY MS. CALLAHAN:

25 Q. In this case the proposed well is to inject into

1 **the Silurian-Devonian Formation; is that right?**

2 A. Yes.

3 **Q. Can you look at Exhibit 5 and can you let us**
4 **know what you can tell us about this?**

5 A. Exhibit 5 is a regional structure map of the top
6 of Devonian. General dip is you are dipping -- going updip
7 to northeast, dipping down into the southwest.

8 **Q. All right. Is this, in your opinion, does this**
9 **structure map give a good depiction of where the 3Bear well**
10 **will encounter the Devonian?**

11 A. Yes, I do, through the offset wells. There
12 weren't a lot of Devonian penetrators, but what I was able
13 to do was get more penetrators and assumed thicknesses to
14 get the depth of the Devonian.

15 So a lot of these are estimated tops, but we do
16 have some Devonian tops, along with Chisholm provided a 3-D
17 map of the top of the Devonian of their interpretation,
18 which I also overlaid and used to coincide with my
19 subsurface tops.

20 **Q. And if we look at Exhibits 6 and 7, the cross-**
21 **sections, what can you tell us about the porosity and**
22 **permeability of the Devonian?**

23 A. From these cross-sections you can see the
24 stratigraphy in the area. As we all know, the Devonian is
25 rather tight from a log perspective, but most of your

1 porosity is coming from secondary porosity and micro
2 fractures in Karst terrain. And from the log analysis of
3 the few Devonian penetrators in the area, they look to be
4 similar to industry standards of what offset SWDs in the
5 area are looking like and hopefully will yield similar
6 injection rates.

7 Q. And what is the upper confining formation?

8 A. The Woodford Shale.

9 Q. And the lower confining formation?

10 A. The Montoya and Simpson.

11 Q. Are you satisfied that these confining formations
12 will keep the injection fluids within the disposal interval?

13 A. Yes, I do.

14 Q. Okay. In your opinion, is the Devonian in the
15 area surrounding the proposed saltwater disposal well
16 location suitable for saltwater disposal?

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 Q. In your analysis you presented in your exhibits,
19 is that consistent with the geological analysis that's found
20 in the C-108?

21 A. Yes, it is.

22 Q. Does the -- and you're aware of the affirmative
23 statement in the C-108 regarding there being no evidence of
24 open faults or any other hydrologic connection between the
25 disposal zone or any other source of ground drinking water?

1 A. Yes, I am.

2 Q. Mr. Poe did this that you can find on Page 17,
3 and based on your geologic review, can you confirm this
4 affirmative statement is accurate?

5 A. Yes, it is.

6 Q. All right. In your opinion is the granting of
7 this application in the interest of conservation, prevention
8 of waste and protection of correlative rights?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were Exhibits 6 through 8 prepared by you or
11 under your supervision?

12 A. Yes. Or 5 through 7.

13 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: 5 through 7.

14 Q. I'm sorry, 5 through 7?

15 A. Yes.

16 MS. CALLAHAN: I would like to tender Exhibits 5
17 through 7.

18 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Any objection?

19 MS. BENNETT: No objection.

20 MS. ANTILLON: No objection.

21 MS. HARDY: No objection.

22 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: 5 through 7 are admitted.
23 (Exhibits 5 through 7 admitted.)

24 MS. CALLAHAN: I have no further questions.

25 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Antillon, do you have

1 any questions?

2 MS. ANTILLON: No questions.

3 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Bennett?

4 MS. BENNETT: No questions.

5 MS. HARDY: No questions.

6 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Mr. Goetze?

7 EXAMINER GOETZE: I have no questions for this
8 witness.

9 EXAMINER LOWE: I don't have any questions.

10 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Thank you very much, Ms.
11 Callahan and Mr. Jessee.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

13 MS. CALLAHAN: I would like to call Mr. David
14 White at this time.

15 DAVID ALLEN WHITE

16 (Sworn, testified as follows:)

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. CALLAHAN:

19 Q. Mr. White, please state your full name for the
20 record.

21 A. David Allen white.

22 Q. And where do you reside?

23 A. I reside in Albuquerque.

24 Q. And by whom are you employed and in what
25 capacity?

1 A. I'm a geologist and project manager for Geolex
2 Incorporated.

3 **Q. What services does Geolex provide New Mexico?**

4 A. Geolex provides geological consulting services,
5 and we specialize, or a large portion of our business is
6 specialty in providing support for design and permitting and
7 regulatory support, compliance support for acid gas
8 injection wells and saltwater disposal wells.

9 **Q. And have you previously testified before the**
10 **Division?**

11 A. I have not testified before at a Division
12 Examiner Hearing. However, I have testified in front of the
13 Oil Conservation Commission hearing.

14 **Q. And because you haven't testified before the**
15 **Division, did we provide your curriculum vitae?**

16 A. Yes.

17 **Q. Is that reflected as Exhibit 8, I believe?**

18 A. It is.

19 **Q. All right. And you were previously qualified as**
20 **an expert geologist before the Conservation Commission?**

21 A. Yes.

22 **Q. And are you familiar with the C-108 application**
23 **filed in this case?**

24 A. I am.

25 **Q. Have you prepared a seismic survey review and**

1 **analysis relating to induced seismicity for this?**

2 A. I have.

3 MS. CALLAHAN: I tender Mr. White as an expert
4 petroleum geologist.

5 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Objections?

6 MS. BENNETT: No objection.

7 MS. ANTILLON: No objection.

8 MS. HARDY: No objection.

9 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: He is so recognized.

10 BY MS. CALLAHAN:

11 Q. So we just stated you prepared seismic risk
12 analysis for this proposed well. For your analysis did you
13 update the data available at the time of the initial
14 preparation of this C-108?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. Is Exhibit 9 a copy of the PowerPoint that you
17 have prepared for your presentation?

18 A. It is.

19 Q. Okay. Can you run us through this --

20 A. Absolutely.

21 Q. -- exhibit, please.

22 A. The Geolex was hired by 3Bear Energy to address
23 or provide an induced seismicity risk assessment that covers
24 the area of the proposed Grama State SWD Well, and go ahead
25 and start here.

1 The evaluation was comprised of two main
2 components. The first being an initial review of the area
3 to identify subsurface features that have the potential for
4 induced seismic events. And this was done in cooperation
5 with Chisholm Energy to evaluate 3-D seismic covering the
6 area.

7 And then once those initial findings were
8 identified, those initial structures were identified, we
9 utilized the sub-center for induced and triggered seismicity
10 fault slip potential model to estimate the -- or to generate
11 an estimation of the potential for induced seismicity based
12 on the structures we identified present in the area, as well
13 as the proposed and active SWDs operating in the Devonian in
14 the area.

15 So this is, on this first slide -- and I
16 apologize, I forgot a pointer -- but in the first slide we
17 see a time structure map of the Woodford that is a result of
18 that initial review of 3-D seismic data covering the area,
19 and we see -- and I'm sorry, I'm going to stand up -- we
20 see, as a result of that review, we see two large faults
21 located to the west of the proposed well, as well as a few
22 smaller features to the northeast, a small -- small
23 potential fault with minimal offsets.

24 The structure to the west are more significant
25 offsets and represents the structures of most concern in the

1 area. And those structures identified west of the proposed
2 well are about a mile and a half, mile -- 1.6 miles from the
3 proposed site.

4 Here is another look at the structures we
5 identified, noting that those two Devonian faults, Faults
6 Number 1 and 2, exhibited greater than 1000 feet
7 displacement and really caught our eye as being potentially
8 problematic based on our initial observation and drove us to
9 incorporate those into the modeling simulation.

10 But all five of these structures were
11 incorporated into the model simulation, and as well as, as I
12 stated before, we, in our initial generation of this report,
13 as well as prior to this hearing, we identified all
14 injection wells proposed and active that would be operating
15 in the area of our proposed well.

16 So in order -- and the next slide we kind of --
17 I'm moving to show, show how the model actually evaluates an
18 injection scenario. And the first thing that the model is
19 going to do is it's going to evaluate the structures that
20 you have input into -- or it's going to consider the
21 orientation and the attitudes and the length and such of the
22 structures that you have put into the simulation, and it's
23 going to calculate what types of pressure increases are
24 going to be necessary to induce slip along those features.

25 And what I'm showing in the first slide is the

1 model prediction of those conditions necessary to induce
2 slip. To accurately characterize the non-linear nature of
3 these features, the faults were broken up into 15 fault
4 segments so that they are more accurately represented in the
5 model.

6 And then the next thing the model does, it's
7 going to evaluate the impact of injection in the area, and
8 as shown in this map by the green labeled points are all of
9 the injection wells that are operating in the Devonian in
10 the area.

11 **Q. For the record we are looking at Page 6 of**
12 **Exhibit 9?**

13 A. Oh, yes, I'm sorry. And the first thing to note
14 despite the popularity of the Devonian for injection is that
15 proposed well actually fits in a very favorable area being
16 pretty well isolated from operation or at least secluded a
17 bit from areas that are much more strongly populated with
18 Devonian injection.

19 The closest of those Devonian is the Ojo Chiso
20 SWD that's approximately 3.3 miles to the south of our
21 proposed location. The additional groups of SWD typically
22 lie between about six to ten miles away or greater.

23 Also shown to the south we have -- there is --
24 I'm sorry, it's labeled by its API number, but the nearest
25 Devonian production in the area that -- that we have seen

1 with the API3002536359. In the area of the proposed well --
2 and I'm going to jump back just a little bit.

3 **Q. Now we are looking at Page 3?**

4 A. Yes, Page 3 of the exhibit. There was one
5 Devonian well drilled and completed about 1.6 miles west of
6 the proposed site that tested wet and was not commercially
7 productive.

8 Okay. Turning back to Page 6, once again I will
9 just reiterate that the nearest production that we see,
10 according to NMOCD records, is approximately six miles south
11 of the proposed location.

12 So now the next thing the model considers or in
13 this portion where the model is considering injection into
14 the target reservoir, I have shown in this table the
15 eight-well injection scenario that was incorporated into the
16 model.

17 The model was run for a period of at least 30
18 years. However, if you look at the model details you will
19 see that some of those wells are not just proposed or
20 permitted, but they have been operating for several years as
21 far back as 2013.

22 So the model was run an additional time duration
23 to be able to characterize the impact that those wells have
24 already imparted on the target reservoir.

25 **Q. And this has been discussing what's on Page 7**

1 of --

2 A. Yes. Yes.

3 Q. And in order to, you know, anyone who has worked
4 with a model understands very heavily that it is -- or
5 understands that it is heavily dependent on what you put
6 into it.

7 So with the objective of ensuring that operation
8 of our proposed well will not result in induced seismic
9 events, we chose for the model to incorporate the injection
10 rate, or the injection rates for these wells to be modeled
11 would be representative of their maximum anticipated volumes
12 as reported in their C-108s, which, if you were to look at
13 their actual reported injection volumes is often -- the
14 actual injected volumes is often significantly less than
15 what they are planning. So we think this offers a
16 conservative estimate to give us confidence that we will not
17 contribute to any detrimental events or --

18 Q. Seismic events?

19 A. Yes. So this is, in these two figures, Figures 4
20 and 5.

21 Q. On Page 8?

22 A. On Page 8 we see the results of those modeling
23 simulations from an injection perspective. Figure 4 on the
24 left shows the resultant pressure from or resultant pressure
25 conditions that are expected at the end of the model's

1 injection period, so essentially at year 2050.

2 And we see in roughly the center of the figure
3 labeled as Well Number 1, that is the proposed 3Bear well,
4 and these results confirm our initial observation that the
5 proposed location is more or less isolated from the
6 effective other injection wells. There are some finer
7 effects that are felt, but in general it seems like this
8 location is -- is in a good location for avoiding
9 compounding effects of multiple injection wells.

10 Additionally, I show the models' estimation of
11 the pressure solution for each well showing that, you know,
12 once you -- once you get a distance away from the wells,
13 such as, you know, four kilometers away from the wellbore,
14 the effects that each well is imparting on the reservoir in
15 terms of pressure drops off pretty quickly.

16 The final step the model is going to take is it's
17 going to take all of your inputs on structures present in
18 the area and your injection volumes, and it's going to
19 probabilistically determine the potential for induced
20 seismicity along each feature you have included in the
21 model.

22 **Q. Now we are looking at Page 9; is that right?**

23 **A. Yes.**

24 **Q. And based on this scenario, the injection wells**
25 **that were included in the simulations and faults that were**

1 identified and included in the simulation, the model
2 predicts zero probability along all features included for
3 induced seismic events in response to injection.

4 And if we look at the model's predicted -- or the
5 model's estimated pressure increase required to induce slip
6 versus the model's prediction of what types of pressure
7 increases, we will actually see, they are significantly
8 lower and don't come close to what the model estimates it
9 being required to induce slip, and as well as assigns fault
10 slip potential possibilities of zero in agreement with that.

11 So just to summarize, based on the operating
12 conditions and the injection wells currently present and
13 operating or proposed and approved permitted, under these
14 conditions, it -- there is -- there doesn't appear to be
15 concern that operation of the Grama State SWD will result in
16 any induced seismic events.

17 Q. Thank you for that. And then to conclude, in
18 your opinion will the granting of 3Bear's application
19 promote the interest of conservation and prevention of
20 waste?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were Exhibits 8 and 9 prepared by you or at your
23 direction?

24 A. Yes, they were.

25 MS. CALLAHAN: I would like to tender Exhibits 8

1 and 9 into the record.

2 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Any objection?

3 MS. BENNETT: No objection.

4 MS. ANTILLON: No objection.

5 MS. HARDY: No objection.

6 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Exhibits 8 and 9 are
7 admitted.

8 (Exhibits 8 and 9 admitted.)

9 MS. CALLAHAN: I have no other questions for this
10 witness.

11 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Thank you. Ms. Antillon,
12 do you have questions?

13 MS. ANTILLON: No questions.

14 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Bennett?

15 MS. BENNETT: Thank you.

16 CROSS-EXAMINATION

17 BY MS. BENNETT:

18 Q. Good morning, still. Thanks for being here. I
19 have a few questions for you. When you first started
20 talking with or speaking with Ms. Callahan earlier, she
21 asked you a question about whether you updated materials
22 from what was prepared or presented in the C-108, or
23 something along those lines. I'm definitely paraphrasing
24 the question, but I was wondering if you were involved in
25 preparation of the C-108, did you assist Lonquist in

1 preparing the C-108?

2 A. No. We were -- Geolex was hired to evaluate this
3 induced seismicity assessment.

4 Q. When was 3Bear -- I'm sorry, when was Geolex
5 retained by 3Bear to prepare the seismic study?

6 A. This is an estimate, but I believe in May 2019.

7 Q. And was Geolex contacted to prepare a reservoir
8 engineering study, by any chance?

9 A. No.

10 Q. So there -- as far as you have been here this
11 morning listening to the testimony, have you heard any
12 testimony about a reservoir engineering study that was done
13 to support this application?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. On Page 5 of your PowerPoint, you list the
16 different segments that you assign to each fault.

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. And I understand that's an, you know, an accepted
19 way to make sure you do have some quality control over the
20 input.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. But I didn't see anything in your materials that
23 correlates the segment number to the faults themselves. Is
24 there anything -- like which segment is Segment Number 1 on
25 Page 4, for example?

1 A. Oh, I'm sorry, yes, that was in the instance of,
2 of not having a complicated map, but so for all segments,
3 for example, Fault 1 is made up of 5 segments. Segments
4 would always start at the top and work their way to the
5 base. So in all instances, even 5, whatever the upper
6 segment is would be the first in that sequence.

7 **Q. So like Fault 2, the northern most part of the**
8 **Fault 2 would be Segment 5?**

9 A. Yes.

10 **Q. Okay.**

11 A. In the interest of clean figures, it was not
12 shown.

13 **Q. Okay. On Page 6 you talked about the proposed**
14 **Grama State Well which we see in the middle of the slide,**
15 **and then you talked about some other wells, SWDs?**

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 **Q. When you did your modeling, did you include**
18 **active and proposed wells, proposed SWDs other than the**
19 **Grama State Well?**

20 A. Yes, everything that was reflected in NMOCD's
21 records. If an application had been submitted and it was
22 not something that was available in NMOCD's records, then I
23 would not have found it.

24 **Q. When you research NMOCD's records, was that in**
25 **May when you were retained or in advance of the hearing**

1 today?

2 A. It was done when we were initially retained, and
3 it was also done two days ago.

4 Q. Okay. And so this, the eight wells that you
5 included on Page 7 in your model, those are the proposed
6 Grama State Wells and then the active or proposed wells that
7 you were able to find on the NMOCD website?

8 A. Yes. So -- so they are -- the model is limited
9 to a total evaluation of eight injection wells. So they are
10 the seven closest wells to the proposed site, and those
11 listed as a start year of 2020 are typically those proposed.

12 Q. So are you saying that SD model is limited to
13 eight injection wells, that in fact the program only allows
14 you to input eight wells?

15 A. I believe so.

16 Q. On Number 5 on Page 7, you have an asterisk
17 besides 10,000, but there is no explanation of what that
18 asterisk means. What is that asterisk for?

19 A. So that asterisk is identifying -- I'm sorry, I
20 should have footnoted this, but at the time of resurveying
21 which injection wells a couple of days ago are operating in
22 the area, this injection well, I could not at the time
23 access the NMOCD records to identify their reported or their
24 requested maximum volume, so I made an estimation on that
25 based on their -- I could see their reported injection

1 volumes.

2 So let me show you here. So, for instance, the
3 Rio -- shown on this is Rio Blanco 4 Federal Number 3, I
4 estimated they would have a model or a maximum injection
5 rate of 10,000 barrels per day. Their actual reported
6 volumes to the NMOCD and on the NMOCD website equates to
7 2,942 barrels per day. So it was an estimation due to not
8 being able to access the NMOCD C-108, but it's reflective of
9 what they are actually reporting they're injecting.

10 **Q. So for setting Number 5 aside and Number 1 aside,**
11 **on the rest that you have listed there on Page 7, those, the**
12 **maximum or the model injection rate is the maximum that the**
13 **operator was requesting under the C-108?**

14 A. Yes.

15 **Q. And as shown in this table, in the red text I**
16 **have shown for each well that is in operation, I have**
17 **included what they are actually reporting there in what they**
18 **are injecting. So in all cases -- and this highlights one**
19 **of the reasons that we choose to use the maximum potential**
20 **injection volume to provide a conservative estimate is**
21 **because oftentimes, very frequently they are actually**
22 **injecting much less volume than they intend to or expect to.**

23 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: You are looking at Page
24 11 now of your PowerPoint, not 7?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes. But I believe 7 included

1 the -- is nearly identical, minus the addition of the actual
2 rates.

3 BY MS. BENNETT:

4 Q. I'm looking at Page 11. You note that the
5 Okeanos SWD 1 already reported 13,000, even though it only
6 came on line in 2020.

7 A. I would assume that 2020 is just a typo. I can
8 certainly verify that in just a -- very quickly, if needed.

9 Q. That's all the questions I have. Thank you.

10 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Hardy?

11 MS. HARDY: No questions.

12 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Mr. Goetze?

13 EXAMINER GOETZE: Glad to see you down at our
14 level. Two questions.

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

16 EXAMINER GOETZE: So the 3-D seismic was provided
17 by Chisholm for your --

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, we reviewed with Chisholm.

19 EXAMINER GOETZE: With Chisholm, so essentially
20 it's proprietary, so -- it's accuracy --

21 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

22 EXAMINER GOETZE: Very good. The two faults that
23 were identified, any indications as to a vertical -- their
24 vertical limits? Do they go --

25 THE WITNESS: The two western-most faults extend

1 up into the Atoka, I believe, however, I would need to
2 confirm that, but I believe.

3 EXAMINER GOETZE: They do come up through the
4 Devonian and extend farther?

5 THE WITNESS: I believe so.

6 EXAMINER GOETZE: And is their depth known?

7 THE WITNESS: I don't -- I'm not --

8 EXAMINER GOETZE: That's fine. Don't put
9 yourself out if you don't know.

10 With regards to Ms. Bennett's comment, when you
11 ran the model, did you save your parameters as to how you
12 broke up your segments and describe each of these runs on
13 the FSP model as far as how you entered it?

14 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

15 EXAMINER GOETZE: Could you make at least that,
16 those parameters available?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes. So all the -- I'm sorry, so
18 I'm in the habit of bringing more slides for discussion
19 points than I am --

20 EXAMINER GOETZE: We are cheaper down here. It's
21 not commission, so --

22 THE WITNESS: So on Slide Number 10, I have all
23 the input parameters.

24 EXAMINER GOETZE: Do you have the screen saved as
25 to how the -- to see what the segments were?

1 THE WITNESS: I do. I have the model simulation
2 as it is represented in this presentation.

3 EXAMINER GOETZE: Could you provide a copy of
4 that?

5 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

6 EXAMINER GOETZE: For a part of the record
7 through your attorney?

8 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

9 EXAMINER GOETZE: We will make it available for
10 us, as well as anybody who has appeared here.

11 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

12 EXAMINER GOETZE: Other than that, no more
13 further questions.

14 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Thank you. Mr. Lowe?

15 EXAMINER LOWE: I have one question. I believe
16 you said on Page 6 you indicated there is a well that is wet
17 or is producing on the west area. Is there an API number
18 that's stated?

19 THE WITNESS: No. So in this map I'm just
20 showing Devonian injection, as well as the nearest producing
21 well. I -- the well that was wet, and I'm sorry I did not
22 include the API number, additionally I can find that in a
23 few minutes given some internet, but this well is about 1.6
24 miles or so west of the proposed site along these that
25 tested wet.

1 EXAMINER LOWE: And what kind of well is that, do
2 you know?

3 THE WITNESS: I think it was completed in the
4 Devonian.

5 EXAMINER LOWE: Would you happen to know who owns
6 that well?

7 THE WITNESS: Not off the top of my head.

8 EXAMINER LOWE: Okay. So what was the well in
9 Page 6 that indicated -- is that the nearest Devonian
10 production well?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes. The red icon shows a Devonian
12 gas well that is active. It's amazing, I brought their
13 production numbers, but I don't have the well name on it.
14 But, yes, that is the nearest Devonian active injection
15 well. It was or it is operated by Devon Energy.

16 I'm unsure -- actually, I'm pretty sure it's --
17 yes, I remember now. The well name is Rio Blanco 32 or 33
18 Federal Number 1. The well to the north of it, the Rio
19 Blanco Federal Number 32, was also completed in the Devonian
20 and was hoping to be a productive well. However, it
21 produced, I believe, 2.1 BCF and then was watered out and
22 converted to an SWD.

23 EXAMINER LOWE: Okay.

24 THE WITNESS: The active well, the active
25 Devonian well over its lifetime, and this might be an

1 estimation of its number, but it's not an exact number, but
2 it produced approximately 8.1 BCF, with 6.5 BCF of that
3 production occurring between 2004 and 2006, and then
4 production declining down to 823,000 cubic feet in the most
5 recent year.

6 EXAMINER LOWE: Okay. Thank you for that.
7 That's all I have.

8 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: All right. Any
9 follow-up, Ms. Callahan?

10 MS. CALLAHAN: No, I don't have anything.

11 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: All right. Is there any
12 reason not to excuse this witness?

13 (No response.)

14 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: No? Thank you very much.
15 Ms. Callahan, we have been going a little more than two than
16 two hours. Can we take a short break before your next
17 witness?

18 MS. CALLAHAN: Of course.

19 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Let's take ten minutes.

20 (Recess taken.)

21 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Let's go back on the
22 record and let Ms. Callahan finish her case.

23 MS. CALLAHAN: Apologize for keeping everybody so
24 long. Before I call my last witness, I would like to,
25 before I forget, point out that Exhibit 2 is a copy of the

1 notice letter for this hearing, along with the return
2 receipt cards, and the very last page of that exhibit you
3 will see a listing of the names of the people to whom we
4 sent notice and indicated their receipt and everybody was
5 served and actually received notice.

6 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: So are you offering
7 Exhibit 2?

8 MS. CALLAHAN: I am offering Exhibit 2 into the
9 record. And then Exhibit 3, which is an affidavit of
10 publication, I would like to offer Exhibit 3 into the
11 record. And then Exhibit 4 is my affidavit of notice, I
12 would also like to offer that into the record.

13 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: All right. Any
14 objections to Exhibits 2, 3 or 4?

15 MS. BENNETT: No.

16 MS. ANTILLON: No objection.

17 MS. HARDY: No objection.

18 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Exhibits 2, 3 and 4
19 admitted.

20 (Exhibits 2, 3 and 4 admitted.)

21 MS. CALLAHAN: Thank you. And then I would like
22 to call my last witness, Mr. Mike Solomon.

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MIKE SOLOMON

(Sworn, testified as follows:)

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. CALLAHAN:

Q. Good morning.

A. Good morning.

Q. Will you please state your full name for the record?

A. Michael Solomon.

Q. Where do you reside?

A. 3Bear Energy.

Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

A. I reside in Denver, Colorado, employed by 3Bear Energy as a VP of engineering operations.

Q. Okay. And how long have you been employed by 3Bear?

A. Been with 3Bear for about two and a half years.

Q. What are your responsibilities at 3Bear Energy?

A. I'm responsible for managing the engineering, construction and operations groups at 3Bear.

Q. Does your area of responsibility for 3Bear include the Permian Basin?

A. It does.

Q. In New Mexico?

A. In New Mexico.

1 Q. Okay. And are you familiar with the C-108 filed
2 by 3Bear in this case?

3 A. Yes, I am.

4 Q. Okay. And although you are not an engineer --
5 although you are an engineer, you are not here to testify as
6 an expert; you are here as a fact witness. Is that true?

7 A. That's correct. We are relying on the expert
8 testimony of previous witnesses.

9 Q. In your position as senior VP of engineering and
10 operations of 3Bear, you are familiar with the operations of
11 3Bear in the Permian Basin of New Mexico?

12 A. Yes, I am.

13 Q. And all the matters today involve a single
14 application for a saltwater disposal well. Can you briefly
15 summarize what other operations and services 3Bear
16 provides in southeast New Mexico?

17 A. In addition to salt water, to disposing of salt
18 water, we do a lot of recycled water, so we treat waters and
19 we have multiple producers that reuse water from our system
20 of both treated and produced for frac operations.

21 We also have a pretty substantial gas gathering
22 system, a processing plant in Lea County, about 30 miles
23 southwest of Hobbs, and a substantial crude gathering system
24 and oil terminal. We have 120,000 barrels of storage right
25 now.

1 **Q. So 3Bear is primarily a midstream company**
2 **providing pipeline and gathering system?**

3 A. That's correct.

4 **Q. And gas pipe?**

5 A. Yes.

6 **Q. And let's see. Are there other saltwater**
7 **disposal wells in the area of the proposed well capable of**
8 **servicing the producers seeking 3Bear's services?**

9 A. Yes. Our footprint covers about a dozen
10 townships, so there is additional wells obviously in that
11 area, some of them are full, some aren't.

12 I think generally, and we feel pretty strongly
13 there is not adequate disposal capacity in that area right
14 now, so there is definitely a need for additional wells.

15 **Q. So the drilling of this well would provide**
16 **economic benefit?**

17 A. That's correct.

18 **Q. In terms of royalties to the state and --**

19 A. That's correct. You know, a lot of producers
20 right now in that area are forced to truck their water to
21 disposals that are farther away, which drives up their
22 operating expenses. In some cases I believe that water is
23 trucked to Texas in some cases.

24 **Q. All right. Let's look at Exhibit 10. Are these**
25 **support letters that you have received?**

1 A. Yeah. We received a couple of support letters
2 from some producers. Some were unsolicited. Frankly we
3 have contracts with a lot of producers in the area, probably
4 over a dozen, and they are relying on us to be able to get
5 these wells drilled in this area so they can then go in, and
6 you know, drill wells and have an economic solution for
7 water.

8 Q. Okay. Thank you. So just summarizing, you think
9 this application is in the interest of --

10 A. Absolutely. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Prevention of waste and protection of
12 correlative rights?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay.

15 MS. CALLAHAN: I have no further questions of
16 this witness.

17 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: All right, thank you.
18 Ms. Antillon?

19 MS. ANTILLON: No questions.

20 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Bennett?

21 MS. BENNETT: I just have a couple of questions.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. BENNETT:

24 Q. A minute ago you testified that there is a
25 capacity for this well because there is a need for saltwater

1 **disposal wells in the area.**

2 **How would this well be supplied with produced**
3 **water, from pipelines or trucking?**

4 A. Pipeline. So we receive -- 100 percent of water
5 that we receive are via pipes.

6 **Q. Do you have pipeline infrastructure, the**
7 **right-of-way to build the pipeline to get to this well?**

8 A. I believe we do. It's possible -- so we have,
9 we have over 100 miles of water pipe in the ground right now
10 in this area. It's networked to a couple of our disposals.
11 The majority of the pipe to get to this well is on fee land.
12 I believe there is a small section of state. I'm positive
13 we've applied for it. I would have to double check if we
14 received that grant or not.

15 **Q. Thanks.**

16 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Hardy?

17 MS. HARDY: No questions.

18 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Are there any objections
19 to the admission of Exhibit 10?

20 MS. ANTILLON: No objection.

21 MS. BENNETT: No objection.

22 MS. HARDY: No objection.

23 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Exhibit 10 is admitted.

24 (Exhibit 10 admitted.)

25 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Mr. Goetze, do you have

1 questions?

2 EXAMINER GOETZE: Just one comment. If an order
3 is issued for this well approving its injection authority,
4 as a representative of 3Bear, would you be opposed to having
5 a clause in there which would require you to notify Enstor
6 of critical milestones at the well, namely, if you were
7 going to go in and do a workover, that you would be
8 supplying the Division a sundry notice, that you would
9 provide to them a copy of that sundry notice so that they
10 are aware of what's happening at the well?

11 THE WITNESS: So the same thing that would
12 trigger sundry to the state would also trigger notification
13 to Enstor.

14 EXAMINER GOETZE: So they would have knowledge of
15 what's going on at the well?

16 THE WITNESS: I would be open to that.

17 EXAMINER GOETZE: No other questions or comments.

18 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Thank you. Mr. Lowe?

19 EXAMINER LOWE: Processing plant, what kind of
20 processing plant.

21 THE WITNESS: It's cryo. It's a 60 million a day
22 cryo and fed by three compressor stations in Lea County.

23 EXAMINER LOWE: And does 3Bear have any other
24 wells in the vicinity, in that area?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. So in that particular

1 area we have three operating saltwater disposals right now,
2 and we have two disposals in Eddy County.

3 EXAMINER LOWE: Okay.

4 THE WITNESS: Five total.

5 EXAMINER LOWE: Thank you.

6 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Mr. Ames, any questions?

7 MR. AMES: No, Your Honor.

8 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Callahan, any
9 follow-up?

10 MS. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry?

11 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Do you have any
12 follow-up?

13 MS. CALLAHAN: No, I do not.

14 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: All right. Thank you
15 very much. Mr. Solomon is excused.

16 Ms. Callahan, anything further?

17 MS. CALLAHAN: No, there is nothing further. I'm
18 done.

19 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Is there anything further
20 from any of the others who entered appearances? Ms.
21 Antillon?

22 MS. ANTILLON: Just on behalf of the State Land
23 Office, I want to make a comment on the record that we are
24 reviewing this application, and we do have concerns with
25 this saltwater disposal well due to its close proximity to

1 state trust land.

2 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Bennett?

3 MS. BENNETT: I would also just ask that any
4 exhibits that you are, supplemental exhibits, like the
5 wellbore design be submitted to the other parties in this
6 case as well with an opportunity to review and comment as
7 appropriate.

8 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Ms. Callahan, would you
9 be sure to do that?

10 MS. CALLAHAN: I can offer her a copy of exhibits
11 that we supply, but I don't know about comments. I mean, I
12 don't know whether she'll want to make comments -- I don't
13 plan another hearing, so I don't know at what point she
14 would make comments.

15 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: All right. Ms. Hardy?

16 MS. HARDY: Nothing.

17 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: Anything further? All
18 right? Anything from the table?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 HEARING EXAMINER ORTH: No? All right, thank you
21 very much. We will take it under advisement.

22 MS. CALLAHAN: Yes, thank you.

23 (Case 20586 taken under advisement.)

24 (Adjourned.)

25

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, IRENE DELGADO, New Mexico Certified Court Reporter, CCR 253, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings in stenographic shorthand and that the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of those proceedings that were reduced to printed form by me to the best of my ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Reporter's Record of the proceedings truly and accurately reflects the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by nor related to any of the parties of attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in the final disposition of this case.

Dated this 23rd day of January 2020.

Irene Delgado, NMCCR 253
License Expires: 12-31-20