CASE 4779: Application of MERRION & BAYLESS FOR A NON-STANDARD PRO-RATION UNIT, SAN JUAN COUNTY.

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- ase Number 17 1 Application Trascripts Small Exhibits ET.C.



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			1	PROCEEDINGS
			2	MR. HATCH: Case 4779, application of Merrion &
	¢. T		3	Bayless for a non-standard proration unit, San Juan County,
			4	New Mexico.
			5	MR. MORRIS: Mr. Examiner, I am not here to repre-
			6	sent the applicant but I am here to represent a party interested
	rmic		7	in the case. I am here on behalf of El Paso Natural Gas
	0000	2 a	8	Company in this case. Mr. J. C. Considine, attorney from El
	s m		9	Paso is also appearing with me.
	eier	1. S. 1	0	MR. HATCH: Are you Mr. Merrion?
	Ĕ ×	1	1	MR. MERRION: I am.
	dearnley, meier & mc cormick	<u> </u>	2	MR. HATCH: Would you please introduce yourself to
	deal	1 00 1	3	the Examiner so the reporter can get it on the record?
			4	MR. MERRION: Mr. Examiner, I am J. Gregory Merrion,
		z⊻ .⊮⊮ 1 	5	independent oil and gas producer in Farmington, New Mexico.
:		a K	6	I am making an appearance on behalf of myself and my partner,
	4. 		7	Robert L. Bayless.
-		E 243-0091 E 457 • AL	8	THE EXAMINER: Mr. Merrion, Mr. Morris has previously
			9	made an appearance in this case for El Paso Natural Gas
:		1092 Ank	io	Company.
-		×	1	(Whereupon, Mr. J. Gregory Merrion was sworn.)
		• ₹ jz	2	MR. HATCH: Mr. Merrion, do you have any exhibits
1.		N N	23	you wish to introduce?
		209 SIN	24	MR. MERRION: Yes, I do.
	•		25	While we are here marking the exhibits, Mr. Examiner,

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I would like to introduce myself. I am J. Gregory Merrion, petroleum engineer by education registered in the State of 2 New Mexico as a professional engineer and have practiced as an 3 independent oil and gas producer in the Farmington area for 4 the last 12 years. I have previously appeared before the อี Commission and have some ability in the field of petroleum б engineering and reservoir engineering. My co-owner, Robert L. 7 Bayless and myself acquired a well, the Carnahan Number 1, 8 which had been based in the Dakota completion by Texas 9 Engineering Transmission Company and it developed a hole in the 10 casing and was scheduled to be plugged and abandoned. We 11 acquired the well and plugged the Dakota thereby terminating 12 the Dakota proration unit communitization agreement. We 13 acquired the lease under the well. It having expired by like 14 production and made a recompletion in the Mesaverde formation 15 in February of this year. I am somewhat embarrassed to find 16 myself getting an unorthodox location after this having been 17 done, but there was a misunderstanding and misinterpretation 18 of the rules on the part of my partner and myself and it was 19 strictly due to oversight on our part. We were of the impres-20 sion that a well located a mile away from producing wells in a 21 field was not, or more than a mile, would not be governed by 22 the field rules in that field. It so happens that one of the 23 proration units in the Flora Vista-Mesaverde field, the edge 24 of the proration unit, comes within a mile of the well that we 25

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have completed. So, we find ourselves having to apply for an unorthodox location or go to 320 acre spacing on the well. I 2 3 have presented two exhibits. I think Exhibit Number 1, which is the Flora Vista-Mesaverde and adjacent Cliffhouse wells and 4 ponotrations in the Flora Visla area has been labeled Exhibit 5 6 1. If I may refer to that, I will describe what I attempt 7 to portray here. The legend depicts gas wells with the 8 conventional symbol and depleted gas wells with the same symbol, 9 a line drawn through and the Cliffhouse dry holes with also 10 the conventional dry hole symbol. I have colored the Flora 11 Vista-Mesaverde wells, both those now producing and those which 12 have produced and have been depleted or cease to produce, in red. I have colored the gas wells which are now producing 13 14 from the Cliffhouse formation or have once produced from the Cliffhouse formation but which are undesignated Mesaverde 15 wells in yellow and I have colored the Carnahan Number 1, which 16 is the well in question, in orange. There are five dry holes 17 listed on the map. There are others in the area, but these 18 are the ones I wish to call attention to because I think they 19 affect our case. You will note that the Carnahan Number 1 20 well is located 7467 feet from the nearest producing well in 21 the Flora Vista-Mesaverde field. 22

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THE EXAMINER: Mr. Merrion, would you please identify
the Carnahan well by the location, section, township and range
MR. MERRION: The Carnahan well is nine-ninety from

BOX 1092 - PHONE 243-0001 + ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 97105 AL BANK BLDG. EAST ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 97105

the south and nine-ninety from the east of Section 35, 30 2 North, 12 West. The Duff "B" 1 of Amoco is located nine-ninety 3 from the south and east of Section 27, Township 30 North, 12 4 West. So, the distance between these two wells is 7,467 feet 5 and that is the nearest distance between the Carnahan well and б the nearest well in the Flora Vista-Mesaverde field. There 7 is a dry hole in between. Actually that well located in the 8 southwest northwest of 35 was the Aztec Hudson Number 3, which 9 is producing from the basin Dakota. The notice of intent to 10 drill scheduled Dakota-Mesaverde dual completion. They 11 encountered a very thin development of what appears to be pay 12 on the log, but did not elect to complete it thereby calling it a Cliffhouse dry hole. It is also pointed out that we are approximately a mile and a half or about 7920 feet due west 14 15 of the nearest well which has produced from this undesignated Mesaverde field. Now, referring to the well in the southeast 16 of the southwest of 31 which is due east of the Carnahan well 17 in the southeast of 35, going further I would like to point 18 out that the well colored in blue in the southwest quarter of 19 20 Section 26 is the Southwest Production or I think they call it the Beta Development Company Palmer "D" 1 which is the 21 22 basin Dakota completion. It is located 300 feet from the Palmer Number 1 drilled by Southwest and now operated by my 23 24 partner and myself and it contains absolutely no pay in the Cliffhouse formation. I would like to point out that the well 25

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in the southeast of Section 34 which is the Aztec owned gas 1 2 McGrath Number 1--I am not sure what the status of that well 3 is. I suspect it might be a Dakota producer which has 4 encountered no pay at all in the Cliffhouse formation of the 5 Flora Vista field. I would like to point out that the well 6 in the northwest of Section 36 which is a Texaco encountered 7 what appeared to be no pay at all in the Cliffhouse formation 8 Flora Vista field. I think it is obvious from this map that 9 if there exists dry holes between the Carnahan Number 1 and the Flora Vista-Mesaverde field and we are a long way from produc-10 tion in that field--

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MR. MORRIS: At this time I object to this or any attempt on the part of the applicant to go beyond the scope of this hearing. As I understand the gist of his testimony here, he is trying to say that his well or the southeast quarter of Section 35 is not in the -- or governed by the rules of the Flora Vista-Mesaverde pool and I believe that any attempt to proceed in this hearing on that assumption that this acreage is not governed by those rules is beyond the scope of the hearing.

MR. MERRION: I don't believe I said it was not governed by the rules. That seems to be the question of the hearing which is should it be spaced in accordance with the 23 Flora Vista-Mesaverde field rules or not. We have made 24 application for an unorthodox location because we think 25

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unusual circumstances justify that it should be so considered. MR. MORRIS: All I was pointing out, Mr. Examiner, is if the applicant is saying that his well is separate from the Flora Vista-Mesaverde, he has not filed his application properly and improper notice has been given.

THE EXAMINER: I think you are quite correct in this as the case was advertised, we could not separate this area from the Flora Vista-Mesaverde. However, what Mr. Merrion is saying might have some basis on whether or not a non-standard unit should be approved and we won't stop him from continuing with this, but will take this into account in rendering a decision on this matter.

You may proceed, Mr. Merrion.

MR. MERRION: I would like to point out that the proration unit for the Palmer Number 1 which is the red gas well in the southwest of Section 26 is the entire south half of 26 and because this comes within a mile of the Carnahan Number 1, this presents the problem. I would like to again point out that all the dry holes colored in blue have absolutely no gas pay in the Cliffhouse formation with the possible exception of the Aztec Hudson Number 3 in the northwest corner of Section 35.

I would like to present my second exhibit which is a
pair of isopach maps of the Flora Vista-Mesaverde field which
I made up in 1966. These I think are identified as Exhibit

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Number 2. These were made up for a dual purpose, a study I was making of the Flora Vista field to determine if there was a water drive present and secondly to justify a loan at the bank on the Osborne Number 1 which we operate. This was long perore I anticipated any problem with the Carnahan Number 1. We did not own it at that time, but at that time it was my feeling that the Carnahan Number 1 was not part of the Flora Vista-Mesaverde field. You note I have two isopachs, one of the upper pay sand which is well developed in the Pan-American or the Amoco Duff "B" 1 in the southeast of Section 27 and the Stedje Number 1 in the northwest of 27 and a lower pay sand which finds itself well developed in the Osborne Number 1 of Section 22, southwest guarter. You will note that on the 14 upper pay sand isopach I have added dashed lines indicating 15 a revision of that isopach due to the drilling of the Aztec Hudson Number 3 which took place subsequent to the report. 16 This, as far as I can see, is about the only change in the isopach of the map. I would like to point out that the undesi qnated wells which appear on the prior exhibit in yellow 20 produced from the sand which appears to be correlative with the 21 lower sand and the Carnahan Number 1 appears to have that same 22 sand, the lower sand mainly developed in it. I would like to 23 point out that this map was, as I say, my unbiased opinion of 24 the nature of the description of your reservoir in that Flora Vista made long before this question came up. I would also 25

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like to point out--the question may come up--that I show no pay in Section 23 where Monsanto's N. W. P. Number 1 and the Beta Smith Number 1 are shown on Exhibit Number 1 as completed wells. You will note that in the lower -- isopach only the pay above the transition zone and it was my opinion that those wells in Section 23 had only transitions zoned pay--the wells produced very little gas and have ceased to produce long since I would like to point out that in the original

Flora Vista-Mesaverde spacing hearing it concerned itself at that time of four sections, Section 22, 23, 26 and 27. The testimony was given that it was the opinion that those four sections had pay throughout their entire--underneath the entire floor sections in support of 320 acre spacing. I think that if that spacing hearing was extending itself to Section 35 and were held today that certainly could not be said. I think it is evidenced by the dry holes northwest of 36 and northwest of 35 and the dry hole in the southwest of 26 that there is a very scarcity pay in a large part of Section 35.

In conclusion, Mr. Examiner, I feel that the Carnahan Number 1 is not connected with the Flora Vista-Mesaverde field. I feel that if we are required to communitize the 320 acre proration unit that our correlative rights will be violated--

MR. MORRIS: Mr. Examiner I renew my objection on 24 25 the basis of the conclusion just stated by the witness that he

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1	bases his application upon the proposition that this well was				
2	not connected with the Flora Vista-Mesaverde field and we				
3	just believe that is beyond the scope of this hearing.				
	MR. EXAMINER: The examiner agrees that it is beyond				
5	the scope of the hearing and we will take that fully into				
6	account in rendering a decision.				
7	MR. MERRION: I do hope that the examiner will				
8	consider my plea that the lack of pay in other portions of				
9	Section 35 is a point in our favor.				
10	MR. EXAMINER: Does that conclude your direct				
11	testimony?				
12	MR. MERRION: Yes, sir.				
13	MR. EXAMINER: Are there questions of the witness?				
14					
15	CROSS EXAMINATION				
16	BY MR. MORRIS:				
17	Q Mr. Merrion, as the Flora Vista-Mesaverde pool is defined				
18	by the orders of the Commission and includes, am I correct,				
19	all of Sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 28?				
20	A I believe that to be true.				
21	Q Referring to the Aztec well in Section 35, I believe you				
22	testified that since that well was not completed in the				
23	Mesaverde, you were calling it a dry hole. Is that your				
24	statement?				
25	A I believe that I stated that the operator called it a dry				

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د	1		hol@ effectively by scheduling it as a Dakota Mesaverde
	2		dual completion to be set five and a half and dual
	3		completed. When they saw the log, they said four and a
	4		half and single completed in the Mesaverde thereby
	5		offoctively calling it and abandoning notice of intent to
×	6		complete in the Mesaverde.
dearnley, meier & mc cormick	7	Q	Have you examined the logs on that well?
	8	- Λ	I have.
, mc	9	Q	Now many feet of sand do you find in the Mesaverde in
	10	*	that well?
me	11	Å	There are many feet of sand throughout the Mesaverde
ley,	12	n	section. I haven't counted them up. I find only five
	13		feet of sand which appears as though it might be gas
de mexico	14		productive in the Cliffhouse formation. I am not sure
	15		that it is. I didn't benefit of sample descriptions or
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2			other information that the operator may have had drilling
	16		
9691 - A	17		the well. I should have thought that if this were good
E 243-6	18		pay that it would have completed even though it were a
е РНОN В Г Об.	19		thinbut they electedthey had the ultimate knowledge
C.* P.O. BOX 1392*PHONE 243-6691*ALBUC	20		and made decision accordingly.
0. BO	21	Q	It is not beyond the realm of possibility that that well
л с с с с с с с с с с с с с с с с с с с	22		could eventually be completed in the Mesaverde, is it?
SIMMS BLOGP	23	A	I agree that that is not beyond the realm of possibility
5 00 S	24		based on what knowledge I have just looking at the log.
	25	Q	Have you made any attempt to form a standard unit that is

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<u>, 3</u>	1		a 320 acre unit in the Flora Vista-Mesaverde under the
	2		Flora Vista-Mesaverde pool rules with respect to your
200 - 200 17 2 [3 17 - 21	3		Carnahan well in the southeast quarter of Section 35?
	4	A	We have had discussions. I don't think we have made any.
	5		1 don't recall having made any positive proposal or any-
。 	6		thing like that. I think we have had some discussions
illi	7		with El Paso and we felt that it was a logical candidate
00 22	8		for an unorthodox location and we thought we would pursue
& III	9		that before making any valid effort or true efforts to
eier	10		communitize the 320.
ш,	11	Q	You said you have had some discussions with El Paso con-
learnley, meier & mc cormick	<u> </u>	·	cerning this?
dea	40 001 13 14 001 14	A	Yes.
	≥× ••	Q	Has El Paso indicated to you that they would join on the
	z. ≥ 15 ⇒ 15 ⇒ z		formation of a 320 acre unit?
		A	Yes, they have.
		Q	If you formed a 320 acre unit, which acreage would you
	481-60 18	-	propose to dedicate to this well?
	1002 PHONE 245-0001 - ALBU OUR 14 - ALBU OUR 17 - ALBU OUR 18 - ALBU OUR 19 - ALBU OUR	А	Well, I would imagine we would see where we could trade
	• X X X 20		the best because I don't thinkwell, let me put it this
	x 0 x 21 v 21 v 21	٠	wayI would say that I don't think that there is any pay
	a. F • Z 22 0 F		in the southwest quarter of Section 35. I think if there
е 1 — С.	1210 FIRS		is any pay in the northeast quarter of Section 35 it would
	415 24		be very, very minor. I think it is very doubtful that
•	25		there is any pay there, so it is a question of which

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)	1		non-productive acreage will you communitize and I guess
		2		it would be which way we could trade the best.
		3	Q	If you formed a 320 acre unit comprising the east half
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	۰ ۲ ۲ ۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰۰ ۲۰۰۰	4		of Section 35, who would be your other interest owners
		5		In the northeast guarter of Saction 35?
-		6	A	Well, I can't tell you for sure. El Paso would be one of
: 		7		them. The acreage has been rather complex. I think it
	COL	8		once belongedpart of it once belonged to Taylor and I
: :	dearniey, meier & mc cormick	9	• *	think Tenneco would be a possible partner. I think Amoco
	61 8 8	10		and possibly Mobil. I am not sure. There is a 40 acre
	mei	11	\$	tract in the northeast northeast and then the other one
	liey,	12		hundred twenty is the single leased, but in answer to
non na statut da s	earr 	13		your question I am not entirely sure, but I think those
	W N N N	14		companies would be involved.
	1 2 2 2 2 3 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3		0	Now, if there is gas in the Mesaverde formation underlying
6	202 0 8 8 8 0	15	Q	the northeast guarter of Section 35, how will the owners
	ALBUQUI	16	<u>17</u>	of interest in the northeast guarter of Section 35
	0 0 1 7	17		recover their fair share of that gas? How will they
1.	E 243-669 E 45 T • A	18	÷	recover that gas if your application is granted in this
	1092 • PHON Ank BLDG.	19		
		20	-	case?
	P.O. BOX	21	А	Well, I assume that they would drill a well and communitize
	• • 7	22		and either get an unorthodox location or a non-standard
an in the second se	SIMMS BLD 1210 FIRST	23		unit for it or communitize the north half of Section 35.
	209 5	24	Q	Now, would the same be true as to the southwest quarter
		25		of Section 35? That would require the drilling of a new

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1		well, correct?
2	A	Yes, if there were any pay there.
3	Q	Now, if the owners of interest in the northeast quarter
4		of Section 35 were required to drill a new well, there i
5		no well that could be recompleted in the same manner as
6		you recompleted your Carnahan; is that correct?
7	A	This is true, but I would like to point out that the
8		owners in the northeast quarter of Section 35 have owned
9		that acreage, I assume, for the last 11 years and have
10	-	been offset by production in a very prolific field and
11		certainly if they intended to drill their acreage, they
12	2	would have made some move prior to this time when the
13		field is more than half depleted.
14	Q	On your Exhibit Number 2, Mr. Merrion, you have shown
15		the isopach of the Flora Vista-Mesaverde and from this
16		exhibit it shows no effective pay for your Carnahan well
17		Is that correct?
18	A	That is true.
19	Q	Now, have you prepared any exhibits to show from what
20		reservoir you believe the Carnahan well will produce and
21		what the structure of that formationwhat you believe
22		the structure of the isopach of that formation is?
23	A	No, I did not. I did state however that I felt the
24	i.	Carnahan produced from a sand which is correlative to
25		the lower sand in the Flora Vista-Mesaverde field. I

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		1		would like to point out that that sand is not present
		2		in the Palmer "D" 1 in the southwest of 26, the dry hole
		3		there. It is not present in the Aztec Hudson Number 3
		4		in the northwest quarter of Section_35. It is not present
		5		in the Texaco State Com N in the northwest quarter of
×	ъ.	6		Section 36 and it is present in all of your undesignated
Ĭ		7		Mesaverde wells to the east as well as the dry hole in the
000		8		southeast quarter of Section 36.
dearnley, meier & mc cormick		9	Q	So your Exhibit Number 2 goes only to show that your well
eier		10		is not in the Flora Vista-Mesaverde pool?
ž Č		11	A	Well, it does two things. It illustrates, in my opinion,
rnie	1 03	12		that there is no pay in the northeast quarter of Section
dea	87108	13		35 nor in the southwest quarter of Section 35.
	EX EX EX EX EX EX EX EX EX EX EX EX EX E	14	Q	In the Flora Vista-Mesaverde; is that right?
	Z∑ .≩ ⊌ ⊎ ⊃ Z	15	A	That's true, yes.
-		16	Q	But it does not show your interpretation as to the forma-
		17		tion in which you believe your Carnahan well is producing
	E 243-6691 E 45 T e A L	18		or the extent of that formation or that pool?
	9 N 10 N 10 N	19	A	That's true. I have not shown that.
	4082 •	20	Q	How much production have you experienced from the Carnahan
	P.O. 80X	21		well since it was recompleted in the Mesaverde?
	• ≪ .; Z	22	А	Through August 1st approximately 30,000,000 feet at the
- -	51MMS BLD(1216 F1AST	23		rate of approximately 336 MCF per day currently.
	209 SIA	24	Q	What was that daily rate again?
		25	А	The last current rate for the last week was 332 for the

PAGE 17 It was 336 MCF per day. month. 1 Mr. Merrion, have you made any computation of effective 2 0 3 permeability in this field? I have not. I do believe that the permeability generally Α 4 5 in the field is very good. 1 don't have any objection to the 320 acre spacing in the field. Originally I think 6 it is generally excellent permeability and good communica 7 tion. 8 MP. MORRIS: That is all I have. 9 THE EXAMINER: Mr. Merrion, if I read the maps 10 correctly the Carnahan well is located within a mile of the 11 boundary of the Flora Vista-Mesaverde pool; is that correct? 12 MR. MERRION: It is. 13 THE EXAMINER: Is it located within a mile of any 14 other Mesaverde pool? 15 MR. MERRION: No, it is not. 16 THE EXAMINER: Your application here is not to 17 remove this well and not to create a new pool for this well 18 but simply for a 160 acre non-standard unit? 19 MR. MERRION: I believe that's true. 20 THE EXAMINER: Are there any other questions of the 21 witness? You may be excused. 22 Any further testimony in this case? 23 MR. MORRIS: Mr. Examiner, we have no evidence to 24 I would like to make a short statement. offer. 25

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THE EXAMINER: Statements are in order. You may proceed.

MR. MORRIS: I would like to call the Examiner's attention to Commission's order number R-2144 entered in casenumber 2445 on December 21st, 1961. This order established the special rules and regulations for the Flora Vista-Mesaverde gas pool. In so doing a finding was made by the Commission and I refer to finding number 4 of the order in recognition that the permeability and drainage characteristics of the Mesaverde formation in this area were probably better than in other Mesayerde formations in the San Juan basin where 320 acre drilling and proration units have been established. I think in view of the production that has been experienced by this Carnahan well, since it has been completed, certainly bears out that finding made in that order that this well is completed in a not only prolific section of the Mesaverde, but in one that is capable and that has good drainage characteristics. We would expect from that that this well is draining certainly in excess of 160 acres. Our position really is quite clear, Mr. Examiner, that we feel that the pool rules in the Flora Vista Mesaverde were established for a purpose just as they are in other pools that are administered by this Commission and that wells that are completed and recompleted within a mile of the pool are governed by the special rules and that was specifically stated in Rule 1 of these special rules and we simply

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209 SIMMS BLDG.e.P.O. BOX 1082.0PHONE 245-06910ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103 1210 First National Bank Bldg. East-albuquerque, new Mexico 87108

PAGE 19 see no justification that has been presented by the applicant 1 2 here today for a non-standard unit comprising 160 acres. It will be to the obvious disadvantage of the owners 3 4 of interests in either the northeast quarter of Section 35 or 5 in the southwest quarter of Section 35 that otherwise would 6 be entitled to share in this production and that would be 7 entitled to share in the production that has already been 8 realized from this well. We would respectfully request that 9 the Commission enter its order denying this application. There 10 is no reason why the applicant cannot proceed to form a stan-11 dard unit under the special rules and regulations of this pool and therefore he, as a matter of law, will not be dis-12 advantaged by being required to abide by the pool rules that 13 are in effect and that do cover this acreage. Thank you. 14 THE EXAMINER: Are there other statements in the 15 case? 16 MR. McGRATH: P. T. McGrath, U. S. G. S. I am from 17 New Mexico. There is 120 acres of federal land in the northeast 18 section of Section 35 which we feel could be being drained 19 and we would like to object to the issuance of this order. We 20 want to have the east half of Section 35 dedicated to this 21 22 well. THE EXAMINER: Other statements? 23 The case will be taken under advisement. 24

CHARTIONAL BOX 1092. PHONE 243-6661. ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 57103 ABT NATIONAL BANK BLDG. EAST 0ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 57103



PAGE 21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO 1) ss. : 2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO) 4 3 I, MARCIA J. HUGHES, Court Reporter, do hereby certify 4 that the above and foregoing pages are a true and correct 5 transcript of the proceedings had before the New Mexico Oil б Conservation Commission on Wednesday, August 23, 1972. dearnley, meier & mc cormick m. J. Augher 7 8 9 10 11 12 NEW MEXICO 87103 MEXICO 87108 13 14 15 0 16 17 18 19 1092 + P 20 N N N N XOG NATIONAL 21 SIMMS BLDG. P.O. 22 do oreay 1 1216 FIRST 4779 23 72 24 502 Lichard ter de OIL Conception fre 25

on Earnahan #1 well for Deylin -don't want to face sool - equity problems Want J sool -dida if 300% 1144 201% for 50%0 waviers from could send other operators and could allow temporary production temp: 160 anomaber Lanoming could get temp.

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION P. O. BOX 2088 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

May 7, 1973

Mr. Robert L. Bayless Petroleum Club Plaza Building P. O. Box 1541 Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Dear Mr. Bayless:

Before the Oil Commission can consider your request to produce your Carnahan No. 1 Well, we must have an exact date as to when your communitization agreement will be signed.

Sincerely, vierian of. There

WILLIAM F. CARR Special Assistant Attorney General Oil Conservation Commission

WFC/dr

Robert L. Bayless PETROLEUM CLUB PLAZA BUILDING P. O. BOX 1541 FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401 OII. ONSERVATION COMM. Santa Fo

May 4, 1973

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission P. O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Attn: William Carr

Re: Carnahan #1

Dear Sir:

In August of 1972, under case 4779 we requested 160 spacing for the above well. It was the Commission's ruling that 320 acres was needed and we have proceeded to communitize the E 1/2 of Section 35. We have verbally acquired this acreage from the various parties, however, the communitization agreement is not ready.

The SE 1/4 is a fee lease, the well is located on it and to perpetuate the lease we would like permission to commence production with the understanding we will dedicate the 320 acres to the well.

Yours very truly, MERRION & BAYLESS

Rol Bayless

RLB/eah



OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO P. O. BOX 2088 - SANTA FE 87501 GOVERNOR BRUCE KING CHAIRMAN

LAND COMMISSIONER ALEX J. ARMIJO MEMBER

STATE GEOLOGIST A. L. PORTER, JR. SECRETARY -- DIRECTOR

September 6, 1972

Re:

Mr. Gregory J. Merrion Merrion & Bayless Petroleum Club Plaza Building Post Office Box 1541 Farmington, New Moxico 87401

8:	Case No	4779		
	Order No.	R-4384		
	Applicant:			
	Merrion &	Bayless		

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are two copies of the above-referenced Commission order recently entered in the subject case.

Very truly yours, Tartin's A. 7 . A C

A. L. PORTER, Jr. Secretary-Director

ALP/ir

Copy of order also sent to:

Hobbs OCC × Artesia OCC

Aztec OCC x

Other Mr. Richard Morris

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

> CASE NO. 4779 Order No. R-4384

APPLICATION OF MERRION & BAYLESS FOR A NON-STANDARD PRORATION UNIT, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on August 23, 1972, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this 6th day of September, 1972, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) That the applicant, Merrion & Bayless, seek approval of a 160-acre non-standard gas spacing unit comprising the SE/4 of Section 35, Township 30 North, Range 12 West, NMPM, within one mile of the Flora Vista-Mesaverde pool, to be dedicated to its Carnahan Well No. 1, located in Unit P of said Section 35.

(3) That the applicant has made no attempt to communitize with the offset operator to form a standard gas spacing unit.

(4) That said offset operator objects to the proposed nonstandard spacing unit.

(5) That in order to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells and to protect correlative rights, the application for a 160-acre non-standard gas spacing unit should be denied without prejudice to the right of either the applicant or any other owner of mineral interests in the E/2 or S/2 of said Section 35 to bring a case before the Commission for the compulsory pooling of all mineral interests in the Mesaverde formation underlying said quarter section. -2-CASE NO. 4779 Order No. R-4384

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the application of Merrion & Bayless for a 160-acre non-standard gas proration unit comprising the SE/4 of Section 35, Township 29 North, Range 12 West, NMPM, to be dedicated to their Carnahan Well No. 1 in Unit P of said Section 35, within one mile of the Flora Vista-Mesaverde Pool, is hereby denied without prejudice to the right of either the applicant or any owner of mineral interests in the E/2 or S/2 of the above-described Section 35 to bring a case before the Commission for the compulsory pooling of all mineral interests in the Mesaverde formation underlying the half section proposed to be pooled.

(2) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.



SEAL

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

BRUCE KING, Chairman

ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member

itu, A. L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

dr/



Mr. A. L. Porter, Jr. Secretary - Director New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission P. O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, <u>New Mexico</u> 87501

> Re: Non-Standard Proration Unit Carnahan Well No. 1 Kutz Field Section 35, T30N, R12W San Juan County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Porter:

Tenneco Oil Company objects to the above named proposed 160 acre non-standard unit. It is our opinion that the Carnahan well, and all other Mesaverde wells in the area, should be completed on 320 acre spacing as are the wells in Sections 25, 26, and 27 to the north. We believe that this policy should remain in effect until there is evidence that a separate pool has been tapped.

Very truly yours,

TENNECO OIL COMPANY

Wills R. A. Williford/

District Production Manager

LPS mw



W. C. Blackburn Division Manager Production Department



Western Hemisphere Petroleum Eivision Continental Oil Company 152 North Durbin Pacific Western Life Building Casper, Wyoming 82601 (307) 234-7311

June 28, 1972

Mr. A. L. Porter, Jr. Secretary-Director New Mexico 011 Conservation Commission P. O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Mexico -87501

Dear Mr. Porter:

Non-Standard Proration Unit J. Gregory Merrion and Robert L. Bayless Carnahan Well No. 1 - Kutz Field Sec. 35, T30N, R12W San Juan County, New Mexico File: J0-986.511.N2-J0

Continental Oil Company received a letter by registered mail dated June 9, 1972, signed by Robert L. Bayless notifying us that they had requested a non-standard 160 acre unit for the above well, recently recompleted as a producing well in the Mesa Verde formation.

Continental Qil Company objects to the 160 acre non-standard unit as we believe the Mesa Verde wells in the area should be completed on 320 acre spacing. Prior to the recompletion of Carnahan Well No. 1, the well was completed as a 320 acre spaced Dakota well. We believe the 320 acre spacing unit should include the E_2^{1} of Section 35 or the S_2^{1} of Section 35. Our maps indicate that other Mesa Verde wells drilled in Sections 25, 26, and 27, immediately north of Section 35, are drilled on 320 acre spacing.

If the Commission approves the non-standard 160 acre unit for Carnahan Well No. 1, we believe the entire Section 35, T30N, R12 West should be spaced on 160 acre spacing. In this manner other owners in the section will be in position to communitize their Mesa Verde rights and protect themselves from drainage.

Very truly yours,

the second s

Charles in Tan for

er cc: L. A. Johnson - Denver

R. A. Williford - Tenneco Oil Company

Robert L. Bayless



Continental Oil Company

Pacific Western Life Building Caspern Wyoming 82601

152 North Durbin

(307) 236

W. C. Blackburn Division Manager Production Department

July 19, 1972

Mr. A. L. Porter Secretary-Director New Mexico Cil Conservation Commission P. O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Porter:

Non-Standard Proration Unit Case No. 4779 - Kutz Area San Juan County, New Mexico File: JO-986.511.N2-JO

Continental Oil Company will not have a representative present at the July 26, 1972 hearing on Case No. 4779 due to vacations and other required travel by Continental personnel. However, we wish to enter the following objection in Case No. 4779:

A well was drilled on the W₂ of Section 35, T30N, R12W, with the well scheduled to be dually completed in the Mesa Verde and Dakota formations. To date, the Mesa Verde formation has not been perforated in the well but both the Dakota and Mesa Verde formations are subject to a Communitization Agreement and an Operating Agreement. If the SE¼ of Section 35 is a non-standard 160 proration unit, this would leave the NE¼ of Section 35 subject to being drilled on 160 acre well spacing. The economics of drilling new "grass roots" Mesa Verde wells in the area would prevent the working interest owners in the NE¼ of Section 35 from drilling a profitable well. We recommend the Commission deny the Merrion and Bayless application and keep the E½ of Section 35 spaced on one well per 320 acres for the Mesa Verde formation. Continental Oil Company, and we believe other owners in the NE¼ of Section 35, T30N, R12W, would be agreeable to communitizing the E½ of Section 35.

Very truly yours,

Im Blackburn.

er

cc: El Paso Natural Gas Company - Attention: Charles Higgins Tenneco Oil Company - Attention: R. A. Williford Merrion & Bayless - Farmington, N. Mex.

DOCKEY MANUS 8-11-72 (hait

2 5 1972 CONSERVATION COMM. Santa Fe

Western Hemisphere Petroleum Division



ROBERT L. BAYLESS PETROLEUM CLUB PLAZA BUILDING P. O. BOX 1541 FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401

July 18, 1972

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission P. O. Box 871 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Attn: George M. Hatch

Re: Case 4779

Dear Sir:

Please consider this a confirmation of our verbal request to continue the above case until August 23, 1972. We have notified the parties of interests of this change.

Yours truly, MERRION AND BAYLESS

Robert L. Bayless

۴,

RLB/car Encl. Copy of letter to interest owners.



July 18, 1972

Continental Oil Company 152 North Durbin Pacific Western Life Building Casper, Wyoming 82601

Tenneco Oil Company Suite 1200 Lincoln Tower Building Denver, Colorado 80203

> Re: New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission Case 4779 Carnahan Spacing Section 35-T30N-R12W

Gentlemen:

This hearing was originally set for July 26 and we have requested and have received approval for continuation until August 23, and you are hereby so advised.

ROBERT L. BAYLESS PETROLEUM CLUB PLAZA BUILOIND P. O. BOX 1541

FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401

Yours truly, MERRION AND BAYLESS

Robert L. Bayless

RLB/car

cc: Mr. George Hatch Oil Conservation Commission Santa Fe, New Mexico

(Case 4775 continued)

Applicant further seeks to extend the vertical limits of the Blinebry Pool down to the top of the Tubb Pool.

Also to be considered by the Commission on its own motion will be amendment of the special rules and regulations to require that intermediate or low-pressure gas be charged against a wall's allowable; elimination of the requirement to conduct bottom-hole pressure, gas-oil ratio, and gas-liquid tests; and to require that all gas production be reported on Form C-111.

CASE 4778:

Application of David Fasken for a dual completion and amendment of Order No. R-4297, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks amendment of Order No. R-4297, to permit the dual completion (conventional) of his Arco "9" Morrison Well No. 1 located in Unit B of Section 9, Township 19 South, Range 25 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to produce gas from an undesignated Cisco gas pool through the casing-tubing annulus and gas from the Boyd-Morrow Gas Pool through tubing.

<u>CASE 4779</u>:

Application of Merrion & Bayless for a non-standard proration unit, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of a 160-acre non-standard gas proration unit comprising the SE/4 of Section 35, Township 30 North, Range 12 West, within one mile of Flora Vista-Mesaverde Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to its Carnahan Well No. 1 located in Unit P of said Section 35.

CASE 4739:

(Continued from the June 28, 1972, Examiner Hearing)

Application of Texas Pacific 011 Company for rededication of acreage, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to dedicate the 160-acre non-standard gas proration unit in the Jalmat Gas Pool comprising the NW/4 of Section 1, Township 23 South, Range 36 East, Lea County, New Mexico, simultaneously to its Emery King "NW" Wells Nos. 1 and 4 located, respectively, in Units E and F of said Section 1 and to produce the allowable for the unit from either well in any proportion.

CASE 4783:

Application of Texas Pacific 011 Company, Inc., for three non-standard proration units and rededication of acreage, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the establishment of the following-described non-standard gas proration units in Township 23 South, Range 36 East, Jalmat Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico:

 A 480-acre unit comprising the NE/4 NW/4, and SW/4 of Section 11, to be dedicated to its State "A" A/1 Wells Nos. 16, 29, and 34;

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING-- WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 23, 1972

9 A.M. - OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM, STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING - SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The following cases will be heard before Richard L. Stamets, Examiner, or Daniel S. Nutter, Alternate Examiner:

CASE 4775: (Continued from the July 26, 1972 Examiner Hearing)

Application of Continental Oil Company for amendment of special pool rules, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks amendment of the special rules and regulations governing the Blinebry Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, to provide for annual bottomhole pressure, gas-oil ratio, and gas-liquid tests in the pool. Applicant further seeks the designation of oil areas and gas areas in the pool with allowables within each area equalized on a per-scre basis and total withdrawals from the gas area to be volumetrically equivalent to the total withdrawals from the oil area.

Applicant further seeks to extend the vertical limits of the Blinebry Pool down to the top of the Tubb Pool.

Also to be considered by the Commission on its own motion will be amendment of the special rules and regulations to require that intermediate- or low-pressure gas be charged against a well's allowable; elimination of the requirement to conduct bottom-hole pressure, gasoil ratio, and gas-liquid tests; and to require that all gas production be reported on Form C-111.

CASE 4779: (Continued from the July 26, 1972, Examiner Hearing)

Application of Merrion & Bayless for a non-standard proration unit, Sam Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of a 160-acre non-standard gas proration unit comprising the SE/4 of Section 35, Township 30 North, Range 12 West, within one mile of Flora Vista-Mesaverde Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to its Carnshan Well No. 1 located in Unit P of said Section 35.

CASE 4798: In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission on its own motion to consider revision of Rule JOL E of the Commission Rules and Regulations to provide for unrestricted allowables for waterflood projects and to eliminate the necessity of response for administrative approval of additional injection wells.

<u>CASE 4799</u>:

In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission on its own motion to amend Rule 306 of the Commission Rules and Regulations to incorporate therein the provisions of Order No. R-4070 which regulate the flaring or venting of casinghead gas.






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ROBERT L. BAYLESS PETROLEUM GLUB PLAZA BUILDING P. D. BOX 1841 FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401

June 9, 1972 OIL CONSERVATION COMM Santa Fe

By: Registered Mail

10

To: Lease Owners of Record in Section 35 and NE 1/4 of Section 2; T29N-R12W and SW 1/4 Section 36, T30N-R12W

Carnahan #1; Section 35; Re: T30N-R12W; San Juan County, New Mexico Non-Standard 160 Acre Unit

Lease Owners:

We have completed the above described well in the Mesa Verde Formation. Completion Report being enclosed, and have requested a non-standard 160 acre unit for the well.

Regulations of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission require that we notify you of our intention to form the non-standard 160 acre unit.

Yours very truly, L. Gregory Merrion and Robert L. Bayless

Robert Bayless

RLB/eah Encl: Completion Report Sent to: Tenneco Oil Co. 1200 Lincoln Tower Bldg. Denver, Colorado 80203

> Texaco, Inc. P.O. Box 2100 Denver, Colorado 80201

Amoco Production Co. Security Life Bldg. Denver, Colorado 80202

Continental Oil Co. 1755 Glenarm Pl. Denver, Colorado 80202

Aztec Oil & Gas Co. 2000 First National Bank Bldg. Dallas, Texas 75202

Mobil Oil Corporation P. 0. Box 633 Midland, Texas 79701

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OIL. CONSERVATION COMMISSION P. O. BOX 2088 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

- 54 (g. 2) 5 (g. 2)

June 15, 1972

Mr. Robert L. Bayless P. U. Box 1541 Farmington, New Mexico 87401 Re: Non-standard 160-acre gas proration unit comprising S/4 of Section 35, Township 30 North, Range 12 West, San Juan County, New Mexico Dear Mr. Bayless: Your letter of June 8, 1972, stated that, among other documents, a copy of your letter to off-setting lease owners and a copy of the well completion report were enclosed. As those two documents were not enclosed, please forward them to this office. Very truly yours, GEORGE M. HATCH Attorney GMH/dr

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ROBERT L. BAYLESS (1) PETROLEUM CLUB PLATA BUILDING P. D. BOXIE AI JUN 1 3 1972 FARMINGTON, NEW VIENCE B7401 Oll. CONSERVATION COMM. Santa Fe

June 8, 1972

011 Conservation Commission State of New Mexico P. O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Attn: George Hatch

Re: Carnahan Unit #1 Non-Standard Pro-Ration Unit

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of our letter to off-setting lease owners on the above described well, along with a plot showing these lease owners, copy of completion report and a copy of Registered Mail Receipts.

We trust the above will enable you to administratively issue the nonstandard pro-ration unit, assuming there are no protesters.

Yours truly,

MERRION & BAYLESS

 \swarrow Robert L. Bayless

RLB/car Encls. Carnahan Unit #1 Correspondence



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OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION P. O. BOX 2088 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

June 5, 1972

Mr. Robert L. Bayless Petroleum Club Plaza Building P. O. Box 1541 Farmington, New Mexico 87401

> Re: Non-standard 160-acre gas proration unit comprising S/4 of Section 35, Township 30 North, Range 12 West, San Juan County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Bayless:

Please forward to this office a plat showing the names of all operators owning interests in the abovedescribed Section 35 and all operators owning interests offsetting the above-described quarter section.

You must also furnish this office proof of the fact that all of the aforesaid operators were notified by registered mail of your intent to form the non-standard unit.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE M. HATCH Attorney

GMH/dr



Willing on Vinta merande ROBERT L. BAYLESS PETROLEUM CLUB PLAZA BUILDING P. D. BOX 1541 FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401

June 1, 1972

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission P.O. Box-871-Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Attn: A. L. Porter

Re: Carnahan #1-Section 35 T-30N, R-12W-San Juan County, New Mexico

Dear Sir:

We recently obtained a lease on the above described 160 acres, which land contained a well bore penetrating the Dakota formation. Because of mechanic problems we were forced to abandon the well bore below the Mesa Verde interval and squeezed the lower zones off by cementing.

We then completed in the Cliff House formation and enclosed are copies of the regulatory reports.

We request administrative approval of 160 acre spacing of this well. We have contacted the other acreage holders in the NE 1/4 section with no response, and we do not wish to force-pool the acreage. Please advise if you have questions.

Yours truly,

MERRION & BAYLESS

Robert L. Bayeess

RLB/car Encls. Copies of reports

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ROBERT L. BAYLESS

PETROLEUM GLUB PLAZA BUILDING P. D. BDX 1541 FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401

June 9, 1972



By: Registered Mail

To: Lease Owners of Record in Section 35 and NE 1/4 of Section 2; T29N-P12W and SW 1/4 Section 36, T30N-R12W

Re: Carnahan #1; Section 35; T30N-R12W; San Juan County, New Mexico Non-Standard 160 Acre Unit

Lease Owners:

We have completed the above described well in the Mesa Verde Formation, Completion Report being enclosed, and have requested a non-standard 160 acre unit for the well.

Regulations of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission require that we notify you of our intention to form the non-standard 160 acre unit.

Yours very truly, L. Gregory Merrion and Robert L. Bayless

Robert L. Bayless

RLB/eah Encl: Completion Report Sent to: Tenneco al Co. 1200 Lincoln Tower Bldg. Denver, Colorado 80203

> Texaco, Inc. P.O. Box 2100 Denver, Colorado 80201

Amoco Production Co. Security Life Bldg. Denver, Colorado 80202 Continental Oil Co. 1755 Glenarm Pl. Denver, Colorado 80202

Aztec Oil & Gas Co. 2000 First National Bank Bldg. Dallas, Texas 75202

Mobil Oil Corporation P. O. Box 633 Midland, Texas 79701

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BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

APPLICATION OF MERRION & BAYLESS FOR A NON-STANDARD PRORATION UNIT, SAN JUAN

4779 CASE NO. Order No.

Current

COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on August 23, 19⁷² at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner <u>Richard L. Stamets</u>.

NOW, on this day of <u>Autoust</u>, 1972, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) That the applicant, Merrion & Bayless, seek approval

of a 160-acre non-standard gas spacing unit comprising the

SE/4 of Section 35, Township 30 North, Range 12 West, NMPM, Junior Flora Vista-Mesaverde pool, to be dedicated to its Carnahan Well

No. 1, located in Unit P of said Section 35.

-2-CASE NO 4779 Order No. R-

and 060 feet from the West line of said Section 8.

(3) That the applicant has made no attempt to communitize with the offset operator to form a standard gas spacing unit.

(4) That said offset operator objects to the proposed non-standard spacing unit.

(5) That in order to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells and to protect correlative rights, the application for a
10 The acre non-standard gas spacing unit should be denied without prejudice to the right of either the applicant or any other owner of maneral interests in the the other of said Section and the section of all mineral interests in the undesignated for Andres gas of all mineral interests in the undesignated for Andres gas and the underlying said quarter section.

pr an excessive numper or wells, and will otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative right IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the application of Merrica & for a 160 acre non-standord Bay less muit comprising the gus prorution of Section 35, Township 29 North SE/4 Bunge 12 West, NMPM Vo be dedice rnahay Well No.1 Klankel Understynted - 10 ra preju dice without by denied pplica , n Vi, nueral scribed be for e 3710 con pulsory In teres Vs D Fatome Visit esquei underly ing half. section be pooled.