CASE NO.

7607

APPlication,
Transcripts,
Small Exhibits,

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION STATE LAND OFFICE BLDG. SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 9 June 1982

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of El Paso Natural Gas Company for the abolishment of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the expansion of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool in 7607 Rio Arriba, Sandoval, and San Juan Counties, New Mexico.

BEFORE: Richard L. Stamets

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

7 APPEARANCES

For the Oil Conservation Division:

W. Perry Pearce, Esq. Legal Counsel to the Division State Land Office Bldg. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

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For the Applicant:

John F. Nance, Esq. El Paso Natural Gas Company P. O. Box 1492 El Paso, Texas 79978

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| 4 | For Amoco Production Co. | | | | |
| 5 | and Mesa Petroleum: | William F CAMPBELL, | | _ | к р.А. |
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Case 7607.

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MR. STAMETS: We will call at this time

MR. PEARCE: Case 7607 is the application of El Paso Natural Gas Company for the abolishment of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the expansion of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool in Rio Arriba, Sandoval, and San Juan Counties, New Mexico.

MR. NANCE: Mr. Examiner, my name is John Nance. For the purposes of this hearing I am associated with the firm of Montgomery and Andrews.

El Paso has four exhibits which we will be entering. We have three witnesses who need to be sworn.

MR. STAMETS: Are there any other appearances and witnesses today?

MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is William F. Carr, with the law firm Campbell, Byrd, and Black, P. A., of Santa Fe, appearing on behalf of Amoco Production Company and Mesa Petroleum Company.

We do not intend to call a witness.

MR. STAMETS: Any other appearances? I'd like to have the witnesses stand and be sworn at this time, please.

(Witnesses sworn.)

MR. NANCE: For our first witness I'll 3 call Mr. Kendrick.

What we would like to do is have some of Mr. Kendrick's testimony. We will interrupt that testimony to proceed with some geological and reservoir engineering testimony from our other two witnesses and then we will conclude with summary testimony by Mr. Kendrick.

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H. L. KENDRICK

being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. NANCE:

> Mr. Kendrick, would you please state Q. your name and address for the record, please?

Harold L. Kendrick, Box 1492, El Paso, Ā.

20 Texas.

> Could you tell by whom you are employed Q. and in what capacity, please?

> Employed by El Paso Natural Gas Company as a Senior Proration Engineer.

Have you previously appeared as a wit-Q.

| 1 | 7 |
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| 2 | ness before this body? |
| 3 | Q. Yes, sir, I have. |
| 4 | Q. Are you familiar with El Paso's applica |
| 5 | tion in this particular case? |
| 6 | h. Yes, sir, I am. |
| 7 | MR. NANCE: Are the witness' qualifica- |
| 8 | tions acceptable? |
| 9 | MR. STAMETS: They are. |
| 10 | Q Mr. Kendrick, could you tell us what El |
| 11 | Paso is seeking in this application? |
| 12 | A. It is El Paso's opinion that the two |
| 13 | pools in question here today, the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs |
| 14 | Pool and the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool should be com- |
| 15 | bined as a single pool. |
| 16 | Q. Would you please provide the Examiner |
| 17 | with some history of the two pools? |
| 18 | A. Yes, sir. The Blanco-Pictured Cliffs |
| 19 | Pool was established on March the 15th, 1950, Ly Order No. |
| 20 | R-13. This pool contained three sections in the southwest |
| 21 | part of Township 30 North, Range 9 West. |
| 22 | The South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool |
| 23 | was established on May the 20th, 1952, by Order No. R-156. |
| 24 | This pool contained 4-1/2 sections in the northwest part of |

Township 26 North, Range 7 West, and the southwest part of

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2 Township 27 North, Range 7 West.

Thus the acreage of these two pools were located approximately 18 miles from each other at that time. Each pool continued to grow in size until finally, with the signing of Order R-4002, effective September the 1st, 1970, the pools were near enough to each other that the same acreage between the pools could be incorporated into either pool.

now joined along a line in Ranges 7 and 8 West; along and near the township line between Township 28 and 29 North.

That line is approximately eight miles long as a common boundary between the two pools.

Q Mr. Kendrick, do you belive that each pool is a separte source of supply?

A. No, sir, I do not. I believe the two pools represent a single common reservoir.

MR. NANCE: At this time I would like to call Mr. Craney to testify on El Paso's behalf with respect to certain geological information which we are submitting.

DANA L. CRANEY

BEING called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his oath testified as follows, to-wit:

1 2 half years in the San Juan Basin and specialized in Pictured 3 Cliffs and Fruitland development. Are you familiar with what El Paso is 5 seeking in this particular case? Yes, sir, I am. 7 MR. NANCE: Are the witness' qualifica-8 tions acceptable? 9 MR. STAMETS: They are. 10 MR. NANCE: Thank you. 11 Mr. Craney, have you either prepared or 12 been responsible for the preparation of certain exhibits in 13 this case? 14 Yes, sir. 15 Could you describe generally what these 16 exhibits show? 17 Generally these exhibits show -- are 18 three cross sections showing stratigraphic relationships of 19 the Pictured Cliffs sandstones in wells on either side of **2**0 the current boundary between the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs and 21 the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pools. 22 Generally the cross sections will indi-

cate the continuity of the two sandstone depositional units

across the boundary and the absence of any barriers between

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the two pools.

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Q.

Q We would like to refer now to each of the exhibits individually. The first exhibit we would designate El Paso Exhibit Number One, and could vou please describe what appears on that exhibit, Mr. Craney?

A. Yes, sir. I'd like to first refer you to the small index map down at the bottom. The index map shows a northwest/southeast cross section straddling the pool boundaries, which is the heavy dashed line running along the boundary between Townships 29 North and 28 North.

The cross section above is based on a datum, which is the Pictured Cliffs Lewis transition zonc. It is a shale zone. The sandstones are yellow. The coal, just for a reference point, in the -- the lowest Fruitland coal is colored gray above.

The logs are IES. The cross sections were constructed in conjunction with gamma ray density porosity, too, but for the -- for the sake of the presentation just the IES logs are shown.

I would like to add that the gamma ray density data did not show any pool boundary, either, and what it shows is on either side of the pool boundary that the sand-stones are continuous.

I think --

Anything else on this exhibit?

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| 1 | 12 |
| 2 | A. I don't know. I think it would be |
| 3 | obvious. |
| 4 | Q. Okay, could you please refer to what El |
| 5 | Paso has designated Exhibit Number Two. |
| 6 | A. Okay. |
| 7 | Q. And explain that exhibit. |
| 8 | A. Again referring to the index map, you |
| 9 | can see that this cross section is east of the other. The |
| 10 | circle in the middle the gas symbols are Pictured Cliffs |
| 11 | gas wells. The circle indicates a deeper well, a Dakota well |
| 12 | that is not producing, or was not producing in the Pictured |
| 13 | Cliffs at the time this map was made. |
| 14 | Again this cross section shows continuit |
| 15 | of the Pictured Cliffs Reservoir on both sides of the pool |
| 16 | boundary. |
| 17 | Q. Okay, finally would you explain what |
| 18 | appears on the cross section that we have designated El Paso |
| 19 | Exhibit Number Three? |
| 20 | A. Exhibit Number Three shows a northwest/ |
| 21 | southeast cross section on the east side of the pool boundary |
| 22 | It again shows continuity of the sediments along strike and |
| 23 | the reason this cross section is extended so far to the south |

east is that once you go across the pool boundary you go into

an area that is not producing in the Pictured Cliffs sand-

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stone at the present time and just to -- to tie the cross
section into a -- into the South Blanco Pool, I had to extend
it a couple miles down to the southeast.

The cross section above again shows that the sandstones are continuous. They are continuous across the undesignated area, where the Pictured Cliffs is not being produced at this present time, and continuous then to the South Blanco Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool.

I'd like to add that when I had these in work form I went over to the Aztec Oil -- the New Mexico OCD at Aztec to see if they had any data in their files that would contradict this, just to make sure that we weren't overlooking anything, and talked with Jeff and Frank there, and they had no data to contradict it.

Q. What -- could you please summarize then the conclusions that these three exhibits demonstrate to you?

A. Yes, sir. The conclusions these three cross sections have demonstrated is the Pictured Cliffs sandstones in the Blanco Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool are continuous across the pool boundary and are in fact the same sandstones in the South Blanco Pictured Gas Pool; that geologically a pool boundary does not exist between Township 28 and 29, Range 8 West, in the Pictured Cliffs producing formation.

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| 2 | Q. | Is there anything else that you would |
| 3 | like to add to that? | |
| 4 | | MR. NANCE: El Paso would like to submit |
| 5 | Exhibits Number One, | Two, and Three into evidence in this |
| 6 | case. | |
| 7 | | MR. STAMETS: The exhibits will be ad- |
| 8 | mitted. | |
| 9 | A STATE OF THE STA | MR. NANCE: And the witness is ready for |
| 10 | cross examination, i | f any. |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | C | ROSS EXAMINATION |
| 13 | BY MR. STAMETS: | |
| 14 | Q | Mr. Craney, in each case you show the |
| 15 | formation running fro | om one pool to the other. Do you have any |
| 16 | evidence that the gas | s drains across that line? |
| 17 | | Or will there be an engineering witness |
| 18 | who will demonstrate | that? |
| 19 | | MR. NANCE: We do have an engineering |
| 20 | witness. I'm not su | re which one would be in a better position |
| 21 | to address that quest | cion. |
| 22 | | Can you |
| 23 | | I think that you might be best answering |
| 24 | that question. | |
| 25 | | MR. MALDONADO: I'll answer that one. |
| | | |

1 15 2 MR. NANCE: Okay, can we wait till --3 MR. STAMETS: We'll put that off till 4 then. 5 How are these sands laid down in this Q. 6 area? 7 Okay, the --A. 8 Are they laid in there in such a manner Q. 9 that we have a nice, broad, flat, uniform sand body to the 10 north, south, east, west, or is the -- instead are the sands 11 discontinuous? Do they have long axes? If so, what direction 12 does that axis take? 13 Okay, the cross sections are laid out 14 along the axes of the sandstone deposition. The strike of 15 the deposition is northwest to southcast. 16 So if I were looking at this area when 17 it was laid down and I was looking at a sandbar in the area, 18 that sandbar would be stretching from northwest to southeast? 19 Yes, sir. A. 20 Okav. Q. 21 MR. STAMETS: Any other questions of 22 this witness? Mr. Carr? 23 24 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. CARR:

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Mr. Craney, just one question. Are you familiar with other Pictured Cliffs pools in the area that have as they've expanded actually -- now actually join or meet, or is this a unique situation?

A. I'm familiar with some other boundaries between the pools, yes, sir.

Q And there are other situations where pools have actually, as they've been expanded, actually met in the Pictured Cliffs?

Well, I'm not familiar --

Q. Formation?

other pools there's definitely a reason for the boundary. In some of the pools I've seen definitely a reason for the boundary to be there, you know, shaling out or something, that's caused a permeability barrier between two pools.

Q So this situation would be unique, you think, in your experience.

A. I don't know if it's unique or not.

There's just something that will probably be looked into in the future.

Okay.

MR. CARR: Nothing further.

| 1 | 1 | | 1.7 |
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| 2 | 2 MR | . STAMETS: Any other questions | for |
| 3 | this witness? He may be | e excused. | |
| 4 | 4 MR | . NANCE: Our next witness is Mr | • |
| 5 | Maldonado. | | |
| 6 | 5 | | |
| 7 | NESTO | OR MALDONADO | |
| 8 | being called as a witnes | ss and being duly sworn upon his | oath, |
| 9 | testified as follows, to | o-wit: | |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | DII | RECT EXAMINATION | |
| 12 | BY MR. NANCE: | | |
| 13 | Q. Con | ıld you please state your name a | nd |
| 14 | address for the record? | | |
| 15 | A. My | name is Nestor Maldonado. My ad | ddress |
| 16 | is P. O. Box 1492, El Pa | iso. | |
| 17 | Q. By | whom are you employed and in who | at |
| 18 | capacity? | | |
| 19 | A. Oka | ay. I'm employed by El Paso Nat | ural |
| 20 | Gas as a Senior Reservoi | r Engineer. | |
| 21 | Q. Hav | ve you previously testified before | re the |
| 22 | New Mexico Oil Conservat | cion Division or one of its exam | iners? |
| 23 | A. No, | I have not. | |
| 24 | Q. Cot | ild you please state your educat: | ional |
| 25 | background? | | |

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| 2 | A. I graduated from the University of New |
| 3,0 | Mexico in 1974 with a degree in chemical engineering, after |
| 4 | which I went to work for Amoco Production as a production en- |
| 5 | gineer for one year. |
| 6 | After I left Amoco I worked for Conoco |
| 7 | in Hobbs, New Mexico, as a production engineer for two and a |
| 8 | half years. |
| 9 | And after that point I went to work for |
| 10, | El Paso Natural Gas in Farmington, New Mexico, as a production |
| 11 | engineer. I worked in that position for two years, after |
| 12 | which I was a drilling engineer for one year, and after that |
| 13 | point I transferred to El Paso as a reservoir engineer. |
| 14 | Q Okay, so you are in El Paso's main of- |
| 15 | fice? |
| 16 | A. Right, main office. |
| 17 | Ω Are you familiar with what El Paso is |
| 18 | seeking in this application? |
| 19 | A. Yes, I am. |
| 20 | MR. NANCE: Are the witness' qualifica- |
| 21 | tions acceptable? |
| 22 | MR. STAMETS: They are. |
| 23 | Q El Paso has prepared what we would de- |
| 24 | signate Exhibit Number Four, Mr. Maldonado, could you please |
| 25 | explain what is shown on this Exhibit Number Four? |

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| 2 | A. Okay. The Exhibit Number Four is a map |
| 3 | of the area around the present Blanco and South Blanco bounda |
| 4 | and what was plotted on this map are the initial shut-in pres |
| 5 | sures and the date the pressures were taken for the wells in |
| 6 | this area. |
| 7 | Q. Could you explain the significance of th |
| 8 | colors on this map? |
| 9 | A. Okay, the shut-in pressures were color |
| 10 | coded to indicate various ranges of shut-in pressures. |
| 11 | Yellow indicates pressures of 900 psi, |
| 12 | or greater. |
| 13 | The red indicates pressures of 700 to |
| 14 | 900 psia, and blue indicates pressures below 700 psia. |
| 15 | Q Could you explain now what relevance the |
| 16 | shut-in initial shut-in pressures have in this case? |
| 17 | A. The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division |
| 18 | uses pressures to determine what pool a well will be assigned |
| 19 | to, and so we looked at took the initial shut-in pressures |
| 20 | to determine what what they looked like on each side of |
| 21 | the boundary. |
| 22 | Q. And could you tell me what conclusions |
| 23 | you have drawn from the data appearing on this exhibit? |
| 24 | A. If you look up there in the Blanco area |
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some 1980, and '81. Why have you used pressures that span over twenty years as opposed to using some sort of current pressure data?

A. Well, the initial pressure is the base for the determination of field extent, and the spacing is 160 acres, so theoretically, a well in 1957, if it had a pressure of 1000 pounds or 1050 pounds, if a well is drilled next to it, it should not have been drained and it should also have the initial reservoir pressure regardless of when it was drilled, theoretically.

And in a lot of cases, if you'll look, the later wells will have as high a pressure as some of the wells that were drilled in the fifties.

Q. So what you're saying is that theoretically, and then obviously, actually, we're not getting drainage significantly over a 160 acres in this area.

Does that mean that we're not getting any drainage across this magic line separating these two fields?

A Well, I mean it's the same there as it is here, down in the South Blanco or in the Blanco.

In some cases you do get, you know, drainage between two wells but it depends on the -- on the individual wells or a characteristic of sands between two

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(Thereupon a recess was taken.)

dered as one pool and be produced and prorated according to

the existing rules and regulations of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division for the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool.

Q. And what name would you propose for the new combined pool?

wells in the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and approximately 718 wells in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool. In an effort to save in the amount of paper work to be processed,

I would recommend that the surviving name be the one from the pool with the most wells, which would be the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool.

This would also avoid the need for amending the special pool rules for the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs

Pool simply to accommodate a name change for the pool; or, stated another way, this would eliminate the necessity of having to write special pool rules for a newly named pool to accommodate the same results for the same wells.

Q. Okay, you are recommending that the surviving pool be prorated. Is this necessary?

At the present time El Paso Natural Gas
Company predicts its demand for gas from the San Juan Basin
in the coming months will be somewhat lower than the present
demand. If this forecast is true, then El Paso will be
taking less gas. With proration rules in effect as specified

for the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool all wells could be produced in an equitable manner.

Q. Do you have in mind a date as to when this could be affected?

A. As far as El Paso is concerned, July the 1st, 1982, would be satisfactory; however, I would recommend that the effective date be worked out with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division and other pipelines and producers so that this might be implemented at the earliest possible, practical date.

Q In this connection would El Paso be able and willing to provide the Oil Conservation Division with any assistance in gathering information for this purpose?

A. Yes, we would try to assist them in any way that we could to get this implemented.

Q. Mr. Kendrick, do you have any specific suggestions as to how proration should be implemented?

A. Yes, I have a few suggestions. One would be that a name should be devised so that each well transferred from the South Blanco -- pardon me, that each well transferred from the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool to the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool to the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool would become prorated without the issuance of a supplement for each individual well.

The second thing is that all new wells

from the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool would be brought into
the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool with a zero status, effective -- on the effective date of this order.

This means that none of the transferred wells would come into the pool as either over produced or under produced.

or in accordance with Rule 7-A of Order R-1670-K, each pipeline would be required to present a new nomination for the first month of operation as a newly enlarged pool to indicate their projected takes from the pool. This, of course, would be continued as necessary.

Fourth item would be with these nomination figures an attempt would be made by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division with whatever assistance can be provided by any pipeline company, whether it be El Paso or others, or any operator, to classify each well as a marginal well or as a non-marginal well in the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool. And this attempt at classification should be done using whatever production history is available to make a proper classification.

To elaborate on that point just a little.

I'm saying that we can look at production history from these
wells only for the purpose of establishing a classification

as marginal or non-marginal, certainly not bringing production history into a status situation or a standing of over or under produced for those wells as they enter the pool.

This --

MR. STAMETS: Excuse me, Mr. Kendrick, did you indicate that all the transporters in the area should participate in doing this, or is this something you expect to do or something you expect the Division to do?

Division to make this classification, but in accordance with other rules and regulations of the Division, certain classifications can be done in various manners by the Secretary of the Division and by presenting data necessary to show the classification by any operator or other interested party.

So what I'm saying is, whatever cooperation can be mustered to aid the Oil Conservation Division in making these classifications, it should all be put together in one effort to carry forward to implement this program.

MR. STAMETS: Thank you.

A This classification is necessary to cause the total allowable from the pool to be assigned to wells in a manner that will permit the demand for gas to be met. In other words, the allowable to be produced must be assigned to the wells that will produce the allowable necessary to meet

or non-marginal be made with the full understanding that the Division Director has the authority to reclassify any well at any time. The well's production data, deliverability data, or other evidence as to the well's producing ability, justifies such reclassification, as set forth in Order R-1670, Rule 16-B, and that any operator or other interested person who can present data to the Division showing that a well is improperly classified can cause that classification to be changed similarly to Rule 16-A of Order R-1670.

And one further item that is, I propose that some system be devised to transfer a well automatically or by rubber stamp from the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool to the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool without the necessity of each operator refiling C-104 forms for each individual well. Hopefully, a system could be worked out between the Division, the operators, and the pipeline companies to eliminate excessive paper work.

Mr. Kendrick, do you believe the proposal that El Paso has set out will be in the best interest of all producers and pipeline companies involved and will aid in the protection of correlative rights and prevention of waste?

A. Yes, I do.

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|----|---|
| 2 | Q I'd like to ask you if you could elabora |
| 3 | just a little bit on what information El Paso has available |
| 4 | to it that would enable us to assist the the Division in |
| 5 | implementing this program? |
| 6 | A. All right. El Paso has in some of its |
| 7 | computer records the production of each well in the San Juan |
| 8 | Basin; thereby, we may be able to furnish to the Commission, |
| 9 | if they desire to have the data, the past year's production |
| 10 | from each individual well that is at least a year old, or |
| 11 | whatever production data is available. This might aid in |
| 12 | making classification assignments to the wells as either mar- |
| 13 | ginal or non-marginal. |
| 14 | Q Do you have anything further in this cas |
| 15 | Mr. Kendrick? |
| 16 | A. No, sir. |
| 17 | MR. NANCE: The witness is tendered for |
| 18 | any questions. |
| 19 | |
| 20 | CROSS EXAMINATION |
| 21 | BY MR. STAMETS: |
| 22 | Q Mr. Kendrick, why is it necessary to |
| 23 | combine these two pools? |
| 24 | A. That might be answered in another ques- |
| 25 | tion. Is it necessary to keep the two pools separated? An- |

 other answer might be --

Q. When you've got a good thing, don't mess around with it; if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Those make a good idea, too; however, the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool is the largest producing pool in the San Juan Basin that is not prorated, and by the fact that it does join the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool that is a prorated pool, and secondly, from the evidence that we have presented today, we do not believe there to be a boundary between the two pools, then the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool could be incorporated in the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and be prorated according to the rules of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool.

MR. NANCE: May I ask him a clarifying question here, also?

MR. STAMETS: Yes.

MR. NANCE: Does El Paso feel that the proposal that it's making is the most expeditious way of accomplishing proration for what is currently considered the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool?

A. Yes, I think it is, by virtue of more than one pipeline being in existance in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool. There are at least three pipelines involved. El Paso knows or has a very strong interpretation that our

demand from the San Juan Basin will be restricted enough this summer we will be having to curtail production from all wells, or from all pools of the San Juan Basin, and possibly other pipelines may have the same problem.

ration in non-prorated pools. Our type of pipeline proration might not be the same as another pipeline company's proration and we feel that if the State had rules for proration that they would be equitable for all the pipelines and for all of the operators.

Now let me see if I understand this.

What you're saying is that El Paso thinks that perhaps its demand might be down this summer; they don't know that it will, is that right?

Well, a crystal ball is only so good that we are making our nominations reduced through this summer, through these summer months, very definitely.

Q. Then you're also concerned about other transporters in the area and their demands, is that correct?

A We do not know their problems or their demands, but we know what ours will be, and just making a correlation, if theirs are similar to ours, then curtailment will exist on all pipelines this summer. If they're not the same as ours, well, we're happy for them.

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Q. But we haven't heard anything from them so we don't know about the other transporters.

A. I do not know.

Q And, thus, I don't know, since it's not in the record.

Now, I still feel that what we have is -is maybe, and possibly, and perhaps, identifying El Paso's
demand this summer. I haven't heard anything here that says
El Paso's demand will be down 17 percent this summer.

demand will be down this summer, and I am not at this time presenting you with the nomination figures for the various months that they will be down, and we have notified operators of wells connected to our system that our takes will be reduced.

Q. Can you tell me what bad is going to happen if these pools aren't consolidated?

A. If correlative rights become violated because of one pipeline taking differently from another pipeline, or one pipeline taking differently from one operator than another operator on that same pipeline, then we do have a problem.

Q So we don't know anything about any other pipeline and we don't have any firm figures for El Paso, so

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what we have it total speculation based on little or no evidence in that case.

MR. NANCE: Can you give the Examiner an idea, at least an approximation of El Paso's takes from the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool in relation to the takes of other pipeline companies from that pool?

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And why El Paso's anticipated takes have an impact on that pool?

A. I believe in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs

Pool El Paso is connected to approximately 600 wells out of

slightly over 700 wells. Not knowing the other pipelines'

takes and percentagewise, but El Paso has been taking greater

than 85 percent of the gas available to it.

Our takes are then reduced this summer to 75 percent of the gas available to it as a first point in reduced takes. We do not know if the takes will be below that. The average for the year will be above 75 percent of the gas available to it, but the summer months are right now being cut to 75 percent.

MR. NANCE: So it's El Paso's position that proration rules are required for the -- what is now the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool in order to equitably treat the reduced production that El Paso will be receiving, and it is not critical to El Paso -- it is not as critical to El Paso

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that it be brought in as part of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool, or be kept separate, the important thing is the proration rules, is that correct?

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A. I believe that would be correct.

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MR. NANCE: And it is El Paso's position

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that bringing it in as part of the South Blanco-Pictured

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Cliffs Pool is a reasonable way of interpreting the pool and

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that it would be the most expeditious way of implementing

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proration rules for the pool, is that correct?

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A. Yes, sir, in my opinion.

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Would El Paso be able to take ratably 0.

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from its connections in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs without

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proration?

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El Paso has always tried to take ratably

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between all wells connected to the system and would have no

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reason to venture away from that policy.

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So you're here trying to protect the

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correlative rights of the operators of leases you're not con-

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nected to.

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nected to us that we are still protecting their correlative rights in the takes that would be made from their wells ac-

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cording to the rules of prorationing for that pool.

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Mr. Kendrick, do you have any information

And assure the operators that are con-

35 1 on the other pipelines in the area, what percentage of the gas 2 available to them that they're taking? 3 No, sir, I do not. They might be taking 90 percent of what Q. 5 is available to them, is that correct? 6 I don't know. 7 A. Or it might be 50 percent. × It could be any figure as far as I know. 9 So, again, based on the testimony, we 10 Q. don't know if El Paso is protecting those operators or not 11 in this case, since we have no way of gauging takes from those 12 leases versus the leases that El Paso's connected to. 13 There are production records available 14 for each of the wells in this non-prorated pool through the 15 New Mexico Engineering Committee Report that would give that 16 17 data as to how much gas is being produced by each pipeline. 18 I do not have it tabulated. I believe you indicated El Paso would 19 Q. furnish the Division with certain data on wells to assist in 20 any work we might do relative to determining the marginal or 21 non-marginal status of certain wells. Now, is that informa-22 tion on El Paso connections only or would that be for all 23 wells in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool?

As I understand it, in some of our data

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banks we do have the production for every well in the San Juan Basin, regardless of pipeline connection.

MR. STAMETS: Are there other questions of this witness? Mr. Nutter.

QUESTIONS BY MR. NUTTER:

Mr. Kendrick, in the absence of proration, if a pipeline has to curtail production from a well, is there any assurance that well would ever be able to make it up again, in the absence of proration?

Would you state that again, please?

Q Okay, I'll put it another way. Does the practical effect of prorationing result in -- I should say, does the practical effect of curtailing production under prorationing result in the accumulation of under production which can be made up when the market gets better, and in the absence of prorationing is this effect lost?

A. It may be lost in the absence of prorationing.

Q Because there's no obligation to any pipeline to make up curtailment if there is no prorationing, is there?

A. That is correct, other than what their contract stipulations might be with each individual operator.

1 2 Uh-huh, and you don't have to whatever the contract calls for. 3 Yes, sir. A. And that's 80 percent of the deliver-5 ability, or something like that, usually, isn't it? 6 Or whatever figure, yes, sir. So if you're taking 85 percent now, you 8 are taking more than the contract price -- obligation, but 9 if you're going to curtail to 75 percent you'd be taking less 10 than the contract. 11 That's possible. 12 A. So the 5 percent from 85 percent down to 13 80 is -- you're not obligated to ever take that, then. 14 That would be true under the conditions 15 A. 16 as you stated. 17 Without proration. Q. 18 Yes, sir. 19 But if the wells were prorated and accumulated under production there would be some sort of an 20 21 obligation to take the under production that's accumulated. 22 That is correct. 23 Or it would be cancelled, then you check 24 with the producer. 25 Yes, sir.

Now, at the beginning of your testimony,
Mr. Kendrick, you said the Commission could consult with the
producers and the pipelines to see how this would be implemented. I'd like for you to tell me how we're going to implement consultation with the producers and the pipelines.

A. I'll tell you --

Q. As of the date of this hearing.

My thoughts might be that such a directive might be written, or an open order of invitation, that we plan to prorate a pool. We would like to have your assistance in gathering data for this pool; the acreage factors for all your wells or the acreage factors for wells connected to your system; whatever data that you can furnish to help make your data base complete in order to establish that as soon as possible so that proration could be implemented as soon as possible.

Now, when you mentioned that El Paso would furnish us with production histories on the wells in the pool, which would assist us in making a determination as to whether the well should be classified as marginal or non-marginal, we have to have a figure to put that production history up against, and that is a predicted allowable.

A That is correct.

Q How are we going to arrive at the pre-

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dicted allowable? Would we have to wait for the nominations to come in and then work from that?

Yes, it has to be worked with nominations and at the same time the pipeline companies could be asked to submit those nominations so you would have that to work with.

I see. Normally nominations come in at Q. the beginning of the proration period for a period of twelve I suppose preliminary nominations would be for the months. remaining months in the current proration period, be it six months, five months, or whatever would be left, or eight months, before the expiration of the current period, and then supplemental nominations each month after that. Would that be --

Well, supplemental nominations are coming A. in monthly now.

> Right. Q.

It would not be beyond reason for me to understand the Commission to say, look, you have new figures for the now South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool, so the total deliverability tied to each pipeline is far different to when you gave us your preliminary nominations, give us a new set of preliminary nominations for this pool for the remainder of this proration year.

For the remainder of the proration period.

Yes, sir. And then, of course, your

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supplemental nominations coming in monthly to help keep us closer to the actual expected withdrawals from each pool to continue.

And you would recommend that all the wells that are in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs would come into the south Blanco-Pictured Cliffs with a zero status.

A. Absolutely.

Q. Okay.

MR. NUTTER: That's all.

MR. STAMETS: Mr. Carr?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARR:

Mr. Kendrick, as I understand it, the purpose of the hearing and the purpose of the application is to extend prorationing to the South Blanco -- to the area now included in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool, is that right?

A. Yes, sir.

And the purpose -- and the reason for this is to deal with a problem that results from reduced demand.

A. Yes, sir.

Now, if your proposal couldn't be imple-

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mented until the end of the summer, due to problems just getting the wells classified, and all, would it accomplish its purpose for El Paso?

It may not accomplish as much of the purpose that we would be -- that we are setting out for today, as it would be if it were initiated today. Our hope would be for the more equitable take from each operator off of each well, that this be implemented as soon as possible.

Now if I understand your answer, it is that even if it doesn't meet the short term problem for this summer, that you think it might address problems later on.

> A. Yes, sir, it might.

How many wells are there in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool that would be affected? Do you have an approximate number?

Do you mean how many would be marginal, A. how many would be non ---

No, I mean how many wells would, because of this application, become subject to prorationing?

Approximately 718, or the total number of wells within that pool today.

And that's how many would have to be reviewed and determinations made as to whether or not they're marginal or not?

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| 2 | А, | Yes, sir. | | | |
| 3 | Q. | Now I don't pretend to understa | nd pro- | | |
| 4 | rationing, but is i | t not possible that the short ter | m problem | | |
| 5 | could be handled simply by adjusting the nominations? | | | | |
| , 6 | A, | There are no nominations for no | n-prorate | | |
| 7 | pools. | | | | |
| 8 | Q. | And so by adjusting the nominat | ions, | | |
| 9 | you're only affecting the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool. | | | | |
| 10 | A. | The South Blanco-Pictured Cliff | s Pool | | |
| 11 | being one pool that | 's under question today, yes, sir | | | |
| 12 | Q. | Are there other Pictured Cliffs | pools in | | |
| 13 | the basin that are not prorated? | | | | |
| 14 | A. | Yes, sir, there are. | | | |
| 15 | Q. | Does El Paso purchase from some | of those | | |
| 16 | А. | Yes, sir. | | | |
| 17 | Q . | If this application is importan | t to pro- | | |
| 18 | tect correlative rights, why shouldn't all Pictured Cliffs | | | | |
| 19 | wells in the basin be subject to prorationing? | | | | |
| 20 | A. | I believe there were four other | Pictured | | |
| 21 | Cliffs Pools in the | San Juan Basin that were prorated | d at one | | |
| 22 | time, being the West Kutz, Fulcher Kutz, Ballard, and Aztec, | | | | |
| 23 | Pictured Cliffs pools that were prorated and proration was | | | | |
| 24 | eliminated in those pools at a time when the takes were high | | | | |
| 25 | and it was felt tha | t proration was not serving any go | ood in | | |

those areas.

Also, those areas are very low producers.

As I mentioned earlier, the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool is the largest producing pool in the San Juan Basin that is not prorated; largest in total gas available per day.

Q Well, when you say these other areas are low producers, are you talking about the area? You're not talking about individual wells?

A. I'm talking about both the wells are small producers and the total amount of gas from the pool is a small volume.

Q Do you think that instituting a prorationing in these other Pictured Cliffs pools would tend to protect correlative rights of operators in those pools?

A. I do not feel that it is necessary at this time in those other pools.

Now, what effect would your proposal have on the takes from wells that are now in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool? If your proposal is accepted by the Commission, will the takes from those wells be affected?

A. The takes will be affected from all wells in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool.

The takes by El Paso Natural Gas from all wells in the San Juan Basin will be affected this summer.

Q Will the institution -- or the imposition of -- or whatever the term is -- instituting of prorationing in the, what is now the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool result in lower takes from the wells in that area than would result if the area was not prorated?

A. You said in the South Blanco --

Q. I'm talking about the Blanco-Pictured
Cliffs Pool area, and if that area is now prorated, will the
takes be reduced as compared to what they would be absent prorationing?

If El Paso took 100 percent of -- or was connected to all of the wells in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool, possibly the need for a State-administered prevation formula would not be necessary, because El Paso would try to take equitably from each well.

But with different pipelines existing in the pool, we do not know what the other pipelines will be doing while we are taking at a reduced rate.

Now, if we look in this Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool at the wells that will be affected by institution of -- of prorationing --

Yes, sir.

Q -- and we look just at the El Paso wells, the wells that are selling to El Paso, will the fact that

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| 2 | the wells are being prorated reduce the takes from those | | | | |
| 3 | wells? | | | | |
| 4 | A. We would have to consider the nomina- | | | | |
| 5 | tions of each pipeline company, the percentage that they're | | | | |
| 6 | taking from the pool, each pipeline company, and by El Paso | | | | |
| 7 | taking a greater percentage from the pool, the other pipeline | | | | |
| 8 | companies takes or nominations would have less effect on the | | | | |
| 9 | proration from those wells than would El Paso's takes. So | | | | |
| 10 | what El Paso does in this case may have a greater effect than | | | | |
| 11 | what any other one does. | | | | |
| 12 | It is very possible for wells connected | | | | |
| 13 | to El Paso's system the takes would be the same under pro- | | | | |
| 14 | ration or without proration. | | | | |
| 15 | Q. And is it possible that under proration | | | | |
| 16 | the takes would be reduced? | | | | |
| 17 | A. Not any more than without proration. In | | | | |
| 18 | fact, we may have some lost takes by not having proration. | | | | |
| 19 | Q. So it's your testimony that the that | | | | |
| 20 | prorating wells connected to the El Paso system in the Blanco | | | | |
| 21 | Pictured Cliffs Pool will not reduce the takes from those | | | | |
| 22 | wells. | | | | |
| 23 | MR. NANCE: May I ask a clarifying ques- | | | | |
| 24 | tion, Mr. Carr? | | | | |

Would you say that it would not reduce

the takes on a total pool basis, although it might vary the takes on an individual well-by-well basis, having prorationing in effect as opposed to not having proration in effect?

A. Now I can't answer that this way.

MR. NANCE: Sorry.

A. If El Paso is going to take a figure of 100, that is what we intend to take and that's what we will take. Now how that 100 is arrived at on a per well basis may be different under proration or if not under proration, due to

influence of other pipelines.

Q.

a figure of 100, we would try to set up our system to reduce the total available to us to a figure of 100. Without proration we will not become under produced with some wells, as Mr. Nutter outlined before, so we might not have any under production to make up. So that production might eventually, say, be lost, not to be made up.

Does that answer the question?

Let me ask a question this way, Mr. Ken-

drick.

Let me ask you a hypothetical question.

If I owned every well in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool,

and the pool was prorated pursuant to your plan, would the

gas that I sold El Paso, the volume be reduced with prorationing

We're going to take an amount from the

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| 2 | pool. | | | | |
| 3 | Q. | Uh-huh. | | | |
| 4 | A. | Just how it's allocated between wells | | | |
| 5 | yes, so we're having to reduce total takes, so some wells wil | | | | |
| 6 | be cut maybe more than others. | | | | |
| 7 | Q. | I see. | | | |
| 8 | 1 | MR. CARR: I have no further questions. | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | RECROSS EXAMINATION | | | |
| 11 | BY MR. STAMETS: | | | | |
| 12 | Q. 1 | Mr. Kendrick, Mr. Nutter was talking | | | |
| 13 | about contracts a little while ago. Were those contracts to | | | | |
| 14 | your knowledge voluntary arms-length agreements? | | | | |
| 15 | A. 3 | I am not qualified to answer that. | | | |
| 16 | Q. F | All right. How many non-marginal wells | | | |
| 17 | are there in the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool? | | | | |
| 18 | A. I | Let me look in a schedule. This is the | | | |
| 19 | May, 1982, State of New Mexico Energy and Minerals Department | | | | |
| 20 | Oil Conservation Division, San Juan Basin Gas Proration | | | | |
| 21 | Schedule. For South E | slanco there are 1424 marginal wells, | | | |
| 22 | 183 non-marginal. | | | | |
| 23 | Q C | Can you give me a figure, Mr. Kendrick, | | | |
| 24 | that would represent w | what you think would be a reasonable in- | | | |
| 25 | crease in the number of | of non-marginal wells in South Blanco | | | |

resulting from El Paso's decreased demand and the resultant fact being that more wells then would be producing a non-marginal allowable?

A. I cannot give you that figure at this time. It's determined by the total nominations, or could be determined by total nominations, total takes, and well reclassification. It is very possible that reclassification could happen decreasing the number of marginal wells and increasing the number of non-marginal wells.

With reduced takes that would be what you would expect to happen.

Q. To your knowledge, is there any reason to think that the number of non-marginal wells in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool, at least as a percentage, would be significantly different from the wells in the South Blanco?

A. Roughly, the figures I have looked at would indicate that possibly the wells in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool are generally better producers than the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs, and thus they may have a higher percentage of non-marginal wells compared to marginal wells, for that group of 700f wells.

Mr. Kendrick, the proration period for prorated gas pools in the state begins on April 1. Perhaps that would be a nice date to begin prorating any pool that's

going to require as much work as this thing is going to require.

What would the effect be of an order granting the relief El Paso is seeking but making April 1, 1983, the effective date?

As far as near term predictions of gas to be produced through El Paso's pipeline, we feel the greatest need is in the immediate future and hopefully, some recovery toward the time that -- of April of 1983, to where that our takes have recovered somewhat from the lower takes that we will experience this summer.

Q. Do you mean to say that by April 1, 1983, you may be back with the situation that you were in last year?

A. Pipelines seemingly follow a feast or famine situation. One day you may not have enough gas; another day you may have far too much gas for your market requirements, and the market is semi-unstable, if you please, and what predictions are available for 1983, I don't know.

What's the life expectancy of these pools?

A. I can't answer that. Forever.

Q Does El Paso anticipate these pools will be supplying gas to their system in the next 20 years?

A. If you please, I'll answer it this way.

The first pool of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool was esta-

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blished around an area that had a well called the Godey No. 1 that I believe was drilled in 1928, and if memory serves me correctly, that well has now been plugged, but not many years ago.

So the pool life might be several years.

Q. Is it possible that El Paso is proposing the Division rush into something that really doesn't need to be done? We're looking at recovery inside of nine months, and maybe a pool life of twenty years or more?

We don't feel that you're being pushed to rush into something that we do not feel needs to be done. We feel that it's in everyone's interest to instigate this proration this way.

El Paso is aware, certainly, of the expense of proration, the great deal of work that goes into it, and time that is generated on the computer and by Division personnel and company personnel keeping up with what's going on in prorationing. It certainly seems as though that should be given some weight in this proposal, especially if we're looking at something that has solved itself in nine months.

We don't know that it will be absolutely solved in nine months.

MR. STAMETS: Any other questions of the witness? He may be excused.

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Does anyone have anything further that they wish to offer in this case?

If there is nothing further, then, the case will be taken under advisement, and the hearing is adjourned.

(Hearing concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, SALLY W. BOYD, C.S.R., DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that the said transcript is a full, true, and correct record of the hearing, prepared by me to the best of my ability.

July W. Boyd COR

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 7607. 19<u>82</u>.

> luni , Examiner

Oil Conservation Division



STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

July 19, 1982

POST OFFICE BOX 2088 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501 (505) 827-2434

| | Re: orney Company | CASE NO. 7607 ORDER NO. 8-7029 | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| El Paso, Texas 799 | 78 | Applicant: | |
| Dear Sir: | | <u>El Paso Nati</u> | ıral Gas Compan |
| Enclosed herewith a Division order rece | | | |
| Yours very truly, JOE D. RAMEY Director | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| JDR/fd | | | |
| Copy of order also | sent to: | | |
| Hobbs OCD X Artesia OCD X Aztec OCD X | | | |

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

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

CASE NO. 7607 Order No. R-7029

APPLICATION OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE BLANCO-PICTURED CLIFFS POOL AND THE EXPANSION OF THE SOUTH BLANCO-PICTURED CLIFFS POOL IN RIO ARRIBA, SANDOVAL AND SAN JUAN COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on June 9, 1982, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this 19th day of July, 1982, the Division Director, 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 Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the applicant, El Paso Natural Gas Company, seeks the abolishment of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the expansion of the horizontal limits of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool to include the abolished acreage in Rio Arriba, Sandoval and San Juan Counties, New Mexico. Also to be considered is the appropriate method for institution of gas prorationing for wells effected by the change in pool designation (consolidation).
- (3) That said pools are joined by a common boundary eight miles long.
- (4) That geologically, the two pools are very similar and indistinguishable along their common boundary.
- (5) That the engineering evidence presented at the hearing did not demonstrate any drainage across pool boundaries but in fact tended to show that such drainage was not occurring.

-2-Case No. 7607 Order No. R-7029

- That no evidence was presented to demonstrate that waste would occur if said pools were not consolidated.
- (7) That evidence was presented attempting to demonstrate that consolidation of the pools was necessary to protect correlative rights but that such evidence was insufficient.
- That the evidence presented did show that the proposed pool consolidation would impose additional administrative burdens on operators in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the Division without discernible benefit.
- That as insufficient evidence was presented to demonstrate any prevention of waste, protection of correlative rights, or any other benefit which might accrue as a result of granting the application in this case, the application should be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- That the application of El Paso Natural Gas Company for abolishment of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the extension of the horizontal limits of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool to include the abolished acreage, all in Rio Arriba, Sandoval, and San Juan Counties, New Mexico, is hereby denied.
- That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

JOE D. RAMEY, Director

Dockets Nos.19 -82 and 20 82 are tentatively set for June 23 and July 7, 1982. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 22 days in advance of hearing date.

DOCKET: COMMISSION HEARING - WEDNESDAY - JUNE 2, 1982
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION - 9 A.M.
MORGAN HALL, STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

CASE 7522: (DE MOVO - Continued from May 17, 1982, Commission Hearing)

Application of Santa Fe Exploration Co. for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of an unorthodox location 660 feet from the Northand West lines of Section 14, Township 20 South, Range 25 East, Permo-Penn, Strawn, Atoka and Morrow formations, the N/2 of said Section 14 to be dedicated to the well.

Upon application of Chama Petroleum Company, this case will be heard De Novo pursuant to the provisions of Rule 1220.

CASE 7521: (DE NOVO)

Application of William B. Barnhill for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of an unorthodox location 660 feet from the South and West lines of Section 35, Township 19 South, Pange 25 East, Permo-Penn, Strawn, Atoka and Morrow formations, the S/2 of said Section 35 to be dedicated to the well.

Upon application of Chama Petroleum Company and William B. Barnhill, this case will be heard De Novo pursuant to the provisions of Rule 1220.

Docket No. 17-82

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - JUNE 9, 1982

9 A.M. MORGAN HALL, 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:

Application of Barber Oil Inc. for an Exception to Rule 705-A Eddy County, New Mexico.

Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an exception to the provisions of Rule 705-A of the Division Rules and Regulations to permit 37 temporarily abandoned injection wells in its Russell Pool waterflood project to remain inactive for a period of up to three years without the required cament or bridge plugs being installed therein to isolat, the injection zone.

CASE 7600: Application of Gulf Oil Corporation for salt water disposal, Lea County, New Mexico.

Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to dispose of produced salt water into the Seven Rivers and Queen formations in the perforated interval from 3338 feet to 3448 feet in its Arnott-Ramsay (NCT-B) Well No. 4 located in Unit D of Section 32, Township 25 South, Range 37 East, Langlie Mattix Pool.

CASE 7548: (Continued from April 14, 1982, Examiner Hearing)

Application of Tahoe Oil & Cattle Co. for salt water disposal, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to dispose of produced salt water into the San Andres formation in the perforated interval from 4932 feet to 4992 feet in its Schwalbe Well No. 1, located in Unit P of Section 21, Township 9 South, Range 37 East, West Sawyer-San Andres Pool.

CASE 7601: Application of Claude Walker for an oil treating plant permit, Lea County, New Mexico.

Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority for the construction and operation of an oil treating plant for the purpose of treating and reclaiming sediment oil at its salt water disposal site in the NE/4 NE/4 of Section 11, Township 10 South, Range 35 East.

- CASE 7602: Application of Riqueza, Inc. for an oil treating plant permit, Eddy County, New Mexico.

 Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority for the construction and operation of an oil treating plant for the purpose of treating and reclaiming sediment oil in the NE/4 of Section 26, Township 22 South, Range 29 East.
- CASE 7603: Application of Riqueza, Inc. for an exception to Order No. R-3221, Eddy County, New Mexico.

 Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an exception to Order No. R-3221 to permit the commercial disposal of produced brine into an unlined surface pit located neck its proposed oil treating plant in the NE/4 of Section 26, Township 22 South, Range 29 East.
- CASE 7512: (Continued from May 26, 1982, Examiner Hearing)

Application of S & J Oil Company for special pool rules. McKinley County, New Mexico.
Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the promotytion of special pool rules for the Seven
Lakes-Menafee Oil Pool to provide for wells to be located not nearer than 25 feet to the quarter-quarter
section line nor nearer than 165 feet to lands owned by an offset operator.

- CASE 7604: Application of Rio Pecos Corporation for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico.

 Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Pennsylvanian formation underlying the W/2 of Section 2, Township 19 South, Range 32 East, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location thereon. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the wall and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.
- CASE 7605: Application of Yates Petroleum Comporation for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico.

 Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the top of the Wolfcamp formation through the uppermost 100 feet of the Mississippian Chester Limestone underlying the W/2 of Section 35, Township 19 South, Range 24 East, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location thereon. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.
- CASE 7606: Application of MTS Limited Partnership Company for compulsory pooling, Chaves County, New Mexico.

 Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface through the base of the Abo formation underlying the NW/4 of Section 5, Township 7 South, Range 26 East, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location thereon. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.
- CASE 7592: (Continued from May 26, 1982, Examiner Hearing)

Application of OXOCO for compulsory pooling, San Juan County, New Mexico.

Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Mesa Verde formation underlying the E/2 of Section 20, Township 32 North, Range 8 West, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location thereon. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.

CASE 7586: (Continued and Readvertised)

Application of Standard Resources Corp. for designation of a tight formation, Chaves and Eddy Counties, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the designation of the Abo-Wolfcamp formation underlying all or portions of Township 15 South, Ranges 23 through 25 East, Township 19 South, Range 20 East, and Township 20 South, Range 20 East, all in Chaves County; in Eddy County: Township 16 South, Ranges 23 through 26 East, Township 17 South, Ranges 21, 23, 24, and 25 East, and Township 18 South, Ranges 21, 23, 24 and 25 East, Township 19 South, Ranges 21, 23 and 24 East, and Township 20 South, Ranges 21, 23 and 24 East, containing 460,800 acres, more or less, as a tight formation pursuant to Section 107 of the Natural Gas Policy Act and 18 CFR Section 271, 701-705.

3 of 6 EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - JUNE 9, 1982

Docket No. 17-82

CASE 7607: Application of El Faso Natural Gas Company for the abolishment of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the expansion of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool in Rio Arriba, Sandoval and San Juan Counties, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the abolishment of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the expansion of the horizontal limits of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool to include the abolished acreage.

> Also to be considered will be the appropriate method for institution of gas prorationing for wells effected by the change in pool designation.

CASE 7608:

Application of Tenneco Oil Company for designation of a tight formation, San Juan County, New Mexico. Pursuant to Section 107 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 and 18 CFR Section 271. 701-705, applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the designation as a tight formation of the Dakota Producing Interval underlying the following described lands:

All of:

Sections 1 thru 6, Township 29 North, Range 8 West;

Sections 1 and 2, Township 29 North, Range 9 West;

Sactions 1 thru 18 and Section 24, Township 30 North, Range 16 West;

Sections 7 thru 9, 16 thru 21 and 25 thru 36, Township 32 North, Range 7 West;

All sections, Township 32 North, Range 8 West; and

All sections, Township 32 North, Range 9 West;

All of Township 30 North, Range & West except Sections 3 thru 5 and Section 35;

All of Township 30 North, Range 9 West except Sections 31 thru 34;

All of Township 31 North, Range 8 West except Section 32; and

All of Township 31 North, Range 9 West except Sections 27 and 28

containing 149,760 acres, more or less.

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CASE 7609: In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Division on its own motion for an order creating and extending certain pools in Chaves, Eddy, and Lea Counties, New Mexico.

CREATE a new pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Middle Bell Canyon production and designated as the Brushy Draw-Middle Bell Canyon Gas Pool. The discovery well is the J. C. Williamson EP-USA Well No. 2 located in Unit O of Section 26, Township 26 South, Range 29 East, NMPM. Said Pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 26 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, NMPM Section 26: SE/4

(b) CREATE a new pool in Lea County, New Mexico, classified as an oil pool for Bone Spring production and designated as the Legg-Bone Spring Pool. The discovery well is the Amoco Production Company State LT Well No. 1 located in Unit K of Section 32, Township 21 South, Range 33 East, NMPM. Said Pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, NMPM Section 32: SW/4

(c) CREATE a new pool in Chaves County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Atoka production and designated as the White Ranch-Atoka Gas Pool. The discovery well is the Depco, Inc. White Ranch Unit Well No. 1 located in Unit F of Section 8, Township 13 South, Range 30 East, NMPM. Said Pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, NMPM Section 8: W/2

(d) EXTEND the Austin-Mississippian Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, NNPM Section 5: N/2 and SW/4

(e) EXTEND the Baum-Upper Pennsylvanian Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

> TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, MANGE 33 EAST, NMPH Section 18: NE/4

(f) EXTEND the Burton Flat-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Maxico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, NMFM Section 8: S/?

(g) EXTEND the East Burton Flat-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, NMPM Section 6: S/2

(h) EXTEND the Cedar Lake-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST, NMFM Section 34: N/2 Section 35: N/2

(i) EXTEND the Crooked Creek-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM Section 3: S/2 Section 10: N/2

(j) EXTEND the EK Yates-Seven Rivers-Queen Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, NMPM Section 9: SW/4

(k) EXTEND the Elkins-San Andres Pool in Chaves County, New Mexico, to include therein:

> TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, NMPM Section 22: S/2 NW/4

(1) EXTEND the Empire-Pennsylvanian Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, NMPM Section 20: N/2

(m) EXTEND the East Grama Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, NMPM Section 31: S/2

(n) EXTEND the Hoag Tank-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, NMPM Section 34: N/2

(o) EXTEND the House-Drinkard Pool in Les County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, HMTM Section 35: SE/4

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, NMPM Section 2: NE/4

Page 5 of 6 EARMING - WEDNESDAY - JUNE 9, 1982

EXAMINER HEARING WEDNESDAY JUNE (

(p) EXTEND the South Karnitz Atoka-Morrow Gas Fool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 16 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, NMPM Section 19: S/2

(q) EXTEND the EastLaRica-Morrow Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, NMPM Section 35: \$/2

(r) EXTEND the North Loving-Atoka Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, NMPM Section 5: All

(s) EXTEND the North Loving-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, MANGE 28 EAST, NMPM Section 6: S/2

(t) EXTEND the Maljamar-Atoka Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 16 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, NMPM Section 28: E/2

(u) EXTEND the South Salt Lake-Morrow Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico to includa therein;

> TOWNSHIP 21 SOUTH, RANGE 32 EAST, NMPM Section 6: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

(v) EXTEND the Sand Hills Grayburg-San Andres Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 39 EAST, NEPM Section 31: SE/4

(w) EXTZND the Shugart-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, NMPM Section 4: N/2

(x) EXTEND the Tom-Tom San Andres Pool in Chaves County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, NMPM Section 35: NE/4

(y) EXTEND the Travis-Opper Pennsylvanian Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, NMPM Section 13: N/2 NW/4

(z) EXTEND the North Turkey Track-Morrow Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH, RANGE 28 EAST, NMPM Section 27: E/2

Page 6 of 6 EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - JUNE 9, 1982

Docket 17-82

(aa) EXTEND the White City-Pennsylvanian Gas Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 25 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, NMPM Section 13: All

(bb) EXTEND the North Young-Rone Spring Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, to include therein:

TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH, RANGE 32 EAST, NMPM Section 4: SE/4
Section 11: W/2

Docket No. 18-82

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - THURSDAY- JUNE 17, 1982

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

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

- ALLOWABLE: (1) Consideration of the allowable production of gas for July, 1982, from fifteen prorated pools in Lea, Eddy, and Chaves Counties, New Mexico.
 - (2) Consideration of the allowable production of gas for July, 1982, from four prorated pools in San Juan, Ric Arriba, and Sandoval Counties, New Mexico.

MONTGOMERY & ANDREWS PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

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KOBERT P. WORCESTER
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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

June 8, 1982

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REPLY TO SANTA FE OFFICE

New Mexico Energy and Minerals Department Oil Conservation Division Land Office Building 87503 Santa Fe, New Mexico

> Application of El Paso Natural Gas Company for the abolishment of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the expansion of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool in Rio Arriba, Sandoval and San Juan Counties, New Mexico; NMOCD Case No. 7607

Gentlemen:

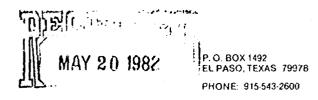
Please be advised that John Nance of the office of General Counsel of El Paso Natural Gas Company, El Paso, Texas, is associated with our firm for the presentation of evidence and argument in the above-referenced case.

Very truly yours,

Gary R. Kilpatric

Jory & Kilpubric

GRK:cs 7652-82-4 E Paso NATURAL GAS



May 17, 1982

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

Care 7607

Attention: Mr. Joe D. Ramey, Division Director

Dear Mr. Ramey:

In accordance with Rule 1203 of the Oil Conservation Division's Rules on Procedure, El Paso Natural Gas Company respectfully requests a hearing be set before an examiner of the Oil Conservation Division to consider the abolition of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool in Rio Arriba and San Juan Counties and to expand the horizontal limits of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool of Rio Arriba, Sandoval, and San Juan Counties to include that area deleted from the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool. All rules and regulations presently governing the drilling, producing, and prorating of wells in the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pools would remain as the rules governing the drilling, producing, and prorating of wells in the newly expanded South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool.

If you have any questions regarding this application, please contact me.

H. L. Kendrick Staff Engineer

Very truly yours,

nun

Not

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

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

CASE NO. 7607

Order No. R-

Ms.

APPLICATION OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS
COMPANY FOR THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE
BLANCO-PICTURED CLIFFS POOL AND THE
EXPANSION OF THE SOUTH BLANCO-PICTURED
CLIFFS POOL IN RIO ARRIBA, SANDOVAL AND
SAN JUAN COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO.

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on June 9, 1982, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

NOW, on this _____day of July, 1982, the Division Director, 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 Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the applicant, El Paso Matural Gas Company, seeks the abolishment of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the expansion of the horizontal limits of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool to include the abolished acreage in Rio Arriba, Sandoval and San Juan Counties, New Mexico. Also to be considered is the appropriate method for institution of gas prorationing for wells effected by the change in pool designation (consolidation).
- (3) That said pools are joined by a common boundary eight miles long.
- (4) That geologically, the two pools are very similar and indistinguishable along their common boundary.
- (5) That the engineering evidence presented did not demonstrate any drainage across pool boundaries. but in det truded to show that such drainage was not occuring.
- (6) That no evidence was presented to demonstrate that waste would occur if said pools were not consolidated.
- that consolidation of the pools was necessary to protect

 by the such coidence correlative rights was insufficient.
- (8) That the evidence did show that the proposed pool consolidation would impose additional administrative burdens on operators in the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool, gas transporters operating in such pool, and the Division without benefit.

(9) That insufficient evidence was presented to demonstrate any prevention of waste, protection of correlative rights, or any other benefit which might accrue as a result of granting the application in this case,

(10) That the application should be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- (1) That the application of El Paso Natural Gas Company for abolishment of the Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the extension of the horizontal limits of the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool to include the abolished acreage, all in Rio Arriba, Sandoval, and San Juan Counties. New Mexico, is hereby denied.
- (2) That jurisdiction or this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

JOE D. RAMEY,
Director

THAN COUNTY NEW MEXICO

5/28/82