CASE 5221: Application of BLACK RIVER FOR UNORTHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION & NON-STANDARD PRO. UNIT

CASE 110.

Application,

Transcripts,

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BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION Santa Fe, New Mexico April 25, 1974

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Black River Corporation for an unorthodox gas well location and a nonstandard proration unit, Eddy County, New Mexico.

CASE NO. 5221

BEFORE: Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

APPEARA CES

For the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission:

William Carr, Esq.
Legal Counsel for the
Commission
State Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico

For the Applicant:

Paul Eaton, Esq.
Hinkle, Bondurant, Cox and
Eaton
Hinkle Building
Roswell, New Mexico

CASE 5221 Page...... 2.....

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PAGE

TOMMY PHIPPS
Direct Examination by Mr. Eaton

Applicant's Exhibits Nos. 1, 2 & 3

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EXHIBITS

Offered & Admitted Marked

Page.....3

MR. NUTTER: Case 5221.

MR. CARR: Case No. 5221, Application of Black River Corporation for an unorthodox gas well location and a non-standard proration unit, Eddy County, New Mexico.

MR. EATON: Paul Eaton with the firm of Hinkle, Bondurant, Cox and Eaton, representing the Applicant. We have one witness.

TOMMY PHIPPS

called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. EATON:

- Q Would you please state your name and residence?
- A Tommy Phipps, P-H-I-P-F-S, Midland, Texas.
- Q By whom are you employed, Mr. Phipps?
- A I am Executive Vice President of Black River Corporation.
- Q Have you testified before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission in the past?
 - A No, sir.
 - Q Where did you go to school, Mr. Phipps?
- A I have a Bachelor's degree in economics from Southwestern State College, Oklahoma.

THE NYE REPORTING SERVICE STATE-WIDE DEPOSITION NOTARIES 225 JOHNSON STREET SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501 TEL. (505) 982-0386

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Q When did you obtain that degree?

A 1959.

Q Since that time what has been your working experience?

A I became a C.P.A. in 1960 and worked as a partner in a C.P.A. firm in Midland until 1967. In 1967 I became operations manager for an independent oil operator in Midland.

Q Who was that?

A William B. Blakemore, II.

Q Have you continued to be operations manager for Mr. Blakemore?

A Yes, sir, until this time. We work primarily in oil and gas operations, ranching operations, real estate investments. I am an officer and director in several corporations covering manufacturing, research and development, real estate, ranching, oil and gas operations.

During the past five years I have been associated with Black River Corporation, Natural Gas Exploration Corporation and Hydrocarbon Exploration Corporation in executive capacities, primarily operating in Eddy and Culberson Counties. Eddy County, New Mexico and Culberson County, Texas.

Page..... 5.....

Q Are you in charge of all activities of all of the firms?

- A Yes, sir. I directly supervise the administration and the consultants we hire for field operations.
- Q What does Black River Corporation seek by its Application to this Commission?

A We seek approval of an unorthodox location for B.R. 4 Federal No. 3 Well located 1986 feet from the north line and 330 feet from the east line of Section 4, Township 26 South, Range 24 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, and also, we are requesting approval of non-standard gas proration unit covering or comprising the northeast quarter of said Section 4 totalling 201.34 acres.

- Q Mr. Phipps, in your testimony, would you be referring to an exhibit which has been marked for identification as Exhibit No. 1?
- A Yes, sir. Exhibit No. 1 is a land ownership map covering the leaseholdings in the immediate area of the discovery well. Attached to it is a surveyor's plat showing the location of the well and also a surveyor's plat which is a combination of work by the General Land Office and John W. West Engineering Company.
- Q The lands covered in the yellow are what lands, sir?

Page...... 6...

A It covers the proposed proration unit which is the northeast quarter of said Section 4. The well in question is designated by a red arrow with an asterisk, and the asterisk referring to the bottom of the exhibit which describes the main location of the well.

Q Would you give the Commission the history on this well in question?

The well was spudded as a wildcat oil well, 2/28/73 and it was drilled to a total depth of 1514 feet. It was originally completed April 1st of '73 with perforations at 1340 to 41 feet, two perforations per foot. It was treated with 500 gallons of acid, 2000 gallons of Delaware Oil and 3000 pounds of sand. It was tested for several weeks thereafter. It flowed back some of the treating oil and then it started flowing water and gas with the gas increasing but not to a point where we felt comfortable with it. So we suspended testing from that point in time for a re-evaluation of the project. After re-evaluating the project, we recompleted the well up-hole at -- well, first, we set a bridge plug at 1338 feet above the lower perforations. We perforated 1331 to 1335 feet. We treated once again with 500 gallons of acid and we flushed it with 119 barrels of Delaware

Page......7....

water. We then fraced it on 9/4/73 with another 500 gallons of acid and 10,000 gallons of Delaware oil and 9600 pounds of sand. We commenced testing once again and we tested it for many weeks. We recovered some of the frac oil back. The gas started increasing. We did produce some water. The water decreased. The gas continued to increase to the point where we thought we had a viable gas well.

The well was worked with for several more weeks and months trying to clean it up. We flushed frac sand out of it twice and finally got it cleaned up in early 1974 and four-point tested it March 21st, 1974 with a calculated absolute open flow of 1,067,000 cubic feet per day.

Q The drilling of this well, was that your initial attempt to obtain Delaware oil?

A No, sir. It was our third Delaware oil test. The other two tests which were in 40-acre spacing units directly to the east of the subject location, those two wells also were inconclusive. After we drilled a Morrow well just to the west of this location, the logs indicated that we had a much better chance of a completion at this location.

Page......8

- Q As a Delaware --
- A (Interrupting) As a Delaware oil well. We tested it, of course, and were not able to complete it as an oil well, but we were able to complete it as a gas well.
 - Q About how much money was spent on this well?
- A We've got approximately \$50,000 invested in this well.
- Q If your Application were not approved and it became necessary to drill a Delaware gas well at a standard orthodox location, about what would be the cost of that well?
- A We could redrill it through the well head for approximately \$40,000 or \$45,000.
- Q Who are the off-set owners to these lands, Mr. Phipps?
- A The off-set owners primarily are -- well, the off-set owners in Section 3 to the west --
 - Q (Interrupting) Do you mean to the east?
- A To the east. Excuse me. City Service Oil
 Company owns 50 percent working interest. Black River
 Corporation 25 percent and Arapahoe Gas Limited whom
 we represent as agent owns 25 percent. The same holds
 true for Section 34 to the northeast and directly to the

Page 8 - A

north in Section 33, the next Township.

Q But there are no off-set owners other than City Service or Arapahoe or Black River, are there?

A) No, sir. Michael P. Grace owns the northwest quarter of Section 4.

- Q Are City Service and Arapahoe aware of your Application?
- A Yes, sir. I contacted Gene Motter with City Service and he said they had no objections.
- Q Now, the non-standard unit is approximately how many acres more than 160 acres?
- A Approximately 41.34 acres. This is caused primarily by the Township being one of the southernmost Townships in the State of New Mexico and through surveyors' expediency a group of the sections turned out to be oversized, this being one of them.
- Q At this point in time and sed on what information you do have, is it the opinion of your Company that this will effectively and efficiently drain that 201 acres?

A Yes, sir.

MR. EATON: I have no further questions.

MR. NUTTER: Mr. Phipps, how much oil did the well make when it was completed as an oil well or tested

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as an oil well?

THE WITNESS: As I recall, Mr. Nutter, we discovered approximately 140 barrels.

MR. NUTTER: That's all the oil it ever made?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. I don't think we recovered any new oil.

MR. NUTTER: I mean as an oil well; not as a gas well?

THE WITNESS: We did not recover any new oil that we know of, sir.

MR. NUTTER: Okay.

THE WITNESS: There was an erroneous report turned in by one of our consultants indicating that we had recovered oil, but that was frac oil.

MR. NUTTER: Are there any other questions of Mr. Phipps? You may be excused.

(Witness dismissed.)

MR. EATON: We offer Applicants Exhibits into

MR. NUTTER: Black River's Exhibits Nos. 1 through 3 will be admitted in evidence.

(Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibits Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were marked for identification and

CASE 5221

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MR. NUTTER: Does anyone else have anything else they wish to offer in Case No. 5221?

We will take the case under advisement.

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Page	.11

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) SS
COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

I, RICHARD L. NYE, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached Transcript of Hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission was reported by me, and the same is a true and correct record of the said proceedings, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

COURT REPORTER

the Examiner hearing of Case No. 22/
heard by me on 1974
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission



OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO P. O. BOX 2088 - SANTA FE 87501

April 30, 1974

I. R. TRUJILLO CHAIRMAN LAND COMMISSIONER

LAND COMMISSIONER ALEX J. ARMIJO MEMBER

STATE GEOLOGIST
A. L. PORTER, JR.
SECRETARY 4 DIRECTOR

	Re:	CASE NO	5221
Mr. Paul Baton		ORDER NO	R-4776
Hinkle, Bondurant, Cox & Eaton Attorneys at Law		Applicant:	
Post Office Box 10 Roswell, New Mexico 88201	-	Black Rive	r Corporation
KORMSTT' MAM WEXTCO ODYOT		2	

Dear Sir:

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

Very truly yours,

A. L. PORTER, Jr. Secretary-Director

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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:

> CASE NO. 5221 Order No. R-4776

APPLICATION OF BLACK RIVER CORPORATION FOR AN UNORTHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION AND NON-STANDARD PROPATION UNIT, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on April 25, 1974, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 30th day of April, 1974, 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, Black River Corporation, seeks approval of an unorthodox gas well location for its BR 4 Federal Well No. 3 located 1986 feet from the North line and 330 feet from the East line of Section 4, Township 26 South, Range 24 East, NMPM, in an undesignated Delaware gas pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- (3) That the applicant further seeks to dedicate the above-described well to a 201.34-acre non-standard gas proration unit comprising the NE/4 of said Section 4.
- (4) That the entire NE/4 of said Section 4 may reasonably be presumed productive of gas from the Delaware formation.
- (5) That said well was projected and originally completed as a Delaware oil well at an orthodox location for such a well.
- (6) That no offset operator objected to the proposed unorthodox location.
- (7) That approval of the subject application will afford the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable

-2-CASE NO. 5221 Order No. R-4776

share of the gas in the subject pool, will prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, and will otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- (1) That an unorthodox gas well location for the Delaware formation is hereby approved for applicant's BR 4 Federal Well No. 3 located 1986 feet from the North line and 330 feet from the East line of Section 4, Township 26 South, Range 24 East, NMPM, undesignated Delaware gas pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- (2) That the above-described well shall be dedicated to a 201.34-acre non-standard gas proration unit comprising the NE/4 of said Section 4.
- (3) 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 herein-above designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

I. R. TRUJILLO, Chairman

ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member

A. L. PORTER, JR., Member & Secretary

SEAL

BLACK RIVER CORPORATION

620 COMMERCIAL BANK TOWER MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701

March 26, 1974

OIL CONSERVATION COMM

Mr. Dan Nutter, Chief Engineer New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission P.O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

> Re: Black River Corporation BR 4 Federal Well No. 3 Section 4: T-26-S, R-24-E, Eddy County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Nutter:

915 682-7354

The above referenced well was projected as an oil well and spaced 1986' from north line and 330' from east line in Section 4; T-26-S, R-24-E, Eddy County, New Mexico. This well did not prove out as an oil well and was therefore recompleted as a gas well.

As this location does not conform to the standard for gas wells, we respectfully request a hearing before the commission in order that approval for the non-standard location may be obtained.

If additional information is needed, please advise.

Very truly yours,

BLACK RIVER CORPORATION

Province Souclers Ronnie Sowders Treasurér

RS/am

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(Case 5221 continued from Page 1)

said well having been projected as an oil well at a standard location for Delaware oil wells. Applicant further seeks approval of a 201.34-acre non-standard gas provation unit for said well comprising the NE/4 of said Section 4.

- CASE 5222: Application of Amoco Production Company for a unit agreement, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above styled cause, seeks approval of the Pavo Mesa Unit Area comprising 2,560 acres, more or less, of State and Federal lands in Township 16 South, Range 28 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- CASE 5223: Application of Continental Oil Company for a 320-acre non-standard gas proration unit, simultaneous dedication of acreage, and reinstatement of cancelled underproduction, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for a 320-acre non-standard gas proration unit comprising the N/2 of Section 17, Township 24 South, Range 37 East, Jalmat Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, to be simultaneously dedicated to its Jack B-17 Wells Nos. 3 and 4 located 990 feet from the North and East lines and 990 feet from the North line and 1980 feet from the West line, respectively, of said Section 17. Applicant further seeks the reinstatement of the underproduction which was cancelled November 1, 1973, when the aforesaid proration unit was reclassified to marginal status.
- CASE 5224: Application of Phillips Petroleum Company for a dual completion, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the dual completion (conventional) of its James "E" Well No. 1 located in Unit G of Section 11, Township 22 South, Range 30 East, Cabin Lake Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to produce gas from the Strawn and Morrow formations through parallel strings of tubing.
- CASE 5225: Application of Fluid Power Pump Company, Petro Lewis Corporation, and Partnership Properties Company for compulsory pooling, Sandoval County, New Mexico. Applicants, in the above-styled cause, seek an order pooling all mineral interests in the Media-Entrada Oil Pool underlying the NW/4 of Section 22, Township 19 North, Range 3 West, Sandoval County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to the Fluid Power Pump Company Well No. 5 located in Unit C of said Section 22.
- CASE 5226: Application of Inexco Oil Company for pool creation and special pool rules, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the creation of a new Morrow gas pool for its Fasken El Paso Federal Well No. 1 located in the SW/4 NW/4 of Section 3, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, and the promulgation of special pool rules therefor, including a provision for 640-acre spacing units for Sections 7 through 12, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, and the adoption of 480-acre non-standard spacing units comprising either the N/2 or S/2 of Sections 1 through 6, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, and Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 27 East.

- CASE 5227: Application of Morris R. Antwell for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Pennsylvanian formation underlying Lots 9 through 16 of Section 4, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, to form a standard 320-acre gas proration unit to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location for said unit. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of such costs, as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision. Also to be considered is the designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.
- CASE 5228: Application of David Rasken for the creation of two pools and a dual completion, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the creation of a Strawn gas pool and a Morrow gas pool for his El Paso 3 Federal Well No. 1 located 2724 feet from the North line and 2870 feet from the East line of Section 3, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant further seeks approval for the dual completion of said well to produce gas from the Strawn and Morrow formations through parallel strings of tubing.
- CASE 5207: (Continued from the April 10, 1974, Examiner Hearing)

Application of Craig Folson for a non-standard proration unit and compulsory pooling, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests underlying a non-standard oil proration unit comprising the SW/4 NE/4 SE/4, NE/4 SE/4, NW/4 SE/4 SE/4, NE/4 SW/4 SE/4, and the SE/4 NW/4 SE/4 of Section 12, Township 13 South, Range 31 East, Caprock-Queen-Pool, Chaves County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at an unorthodox location 1340 feet from the South line and 1300 feet from the East line of said Section 12, said location having been previously been approved by Order No. R-4756. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of such costs, as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision. Also to be considered is the designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.

CASE 5208: (Continued from the April 10, 1974, Examiner Hearing)

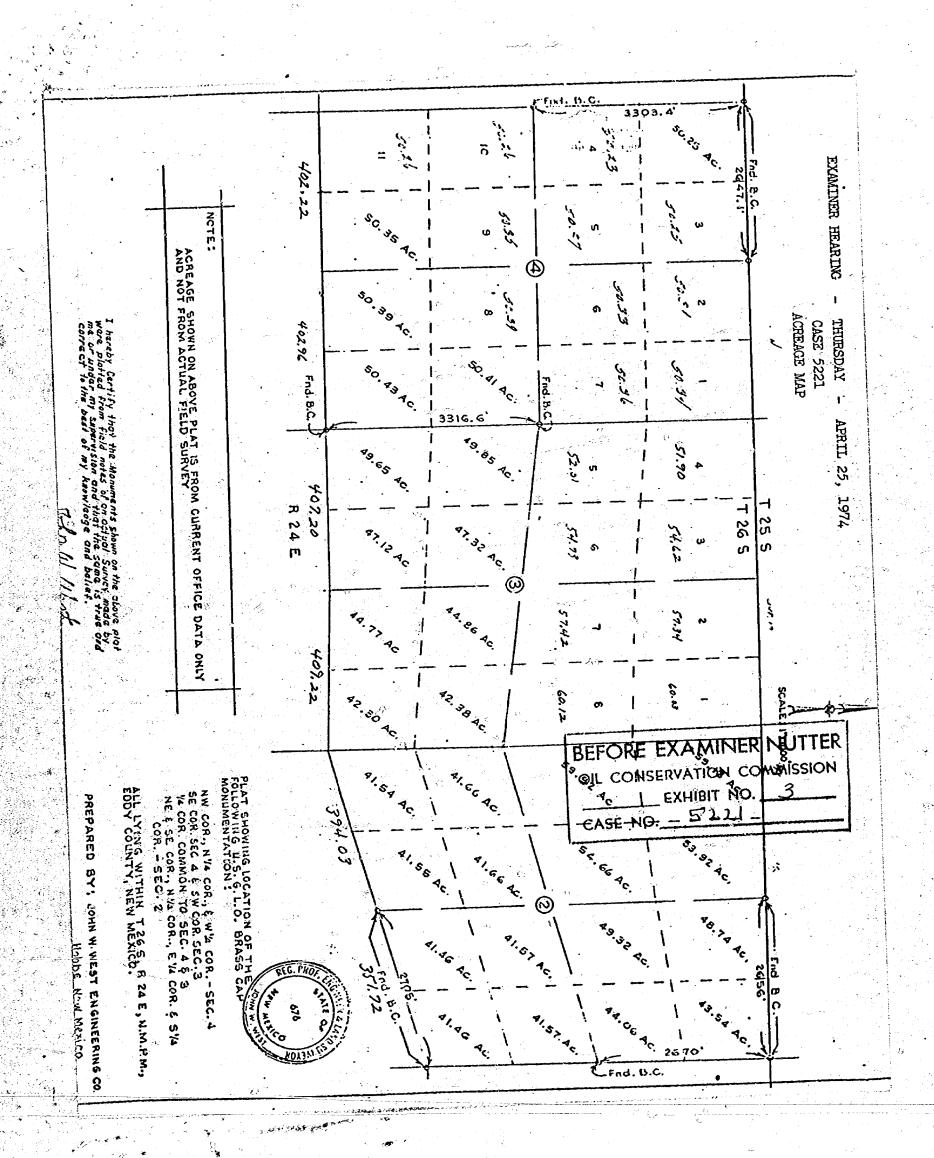
Application of S. P. Yates for an exception to Order No. R-3221, as amended, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks, as an exception to Order No. R-3221, as amended, authority to dispose of produced salt water in an unlined surface pit on its Federal LC 065598 lease in the SW/4 SW/4 of Section 4, and the NE/4 of Section 5, Township 17 South, Range 30 East, Square Lake Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.

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MEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION WELL LOCATION AND ACREAGE DEDICATION PLAT

Porm C-102 Supersedes C-128 Utlective 1-1-65

BLACK RIVER CORPORATION BR 4 FEDERAL 26 SOUTH 24 EAST EDDY Actual Footage Location of Well: Ground Level Elev. 1. Outline the acreage dedicated to the subject well by colored pencil or hachure marks on the plat below. 2. If more than one lease is dedicated to the well, outline each and identify the ownership thereof (both as to working interest and royalty). 3. If more than one tease of different ownership is dedicated to the well, have the interests of all owners been consolidated by communitization, unitization, force-pooling, etc? If answer is "yes," type of consolidation If answer is "no." list the owners and tract descriptions which have actually been consolidated. Use reverse side of this form if necessary.). No allowable will be assigned to the well until all interests have been consolidated (by communitization, unitization, forced-pooling, or otherwise) or until a non-standard unit, eliminating such interests, has been approved by the Commis-CERTIFICATION I hereby certify that the information conlained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. 201.34 NSERVATION COMMISSION LOCATION IS 0.4' HIGHER THAN BLACK RIVER CORP. BR 4 No. 1 LOCATED IN SECTION 4. I hereby certify that the well location shown on this plat was plotted from field notes of actual surveys made by me ar inder my supervision, and that the same is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. FEBRUARY 14, 1973 Registered Frolessional Engineer



BLACK RIVER CORPORATION

620 COMMERCIAL BANK TOWER MIDLAND, TEXAB 79701

915 682-7354

March 26, 1974

OIL CONSERVATION COMM Care 5-22/

Mr. Dan S. Nutter, Chief Engineer New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re:

Black River Corporation's BR 4 Federal Well No. 3 Unit H, Sec. 4: T-26-S, R-24-E Eddy County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Nutter:

Black River Corporation originally drilled the above referenced well as an oil well with a forty (40) acre proration unit anticipated, however, this well did not produce as an oil well and was then recompleted as a gas well. The total depth of this well is 1414' and the productive formation is the Delaware. Section four (4) that the above referenced well is located in is oversized and contains 805.18 acres, more or less. A xerox copy of the acreage plat as prepared by John West Engineering Company is enclosed as a supplement.

With the above facts as presented we respectfully request that administrative approval be granted that the entire NE/4, of Section 4, T-26-S, R-24-E, Eddy County, New Mexico which includes a total of 201.34 acres, more or less, be designated as a non-standard gas proration unit.

Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

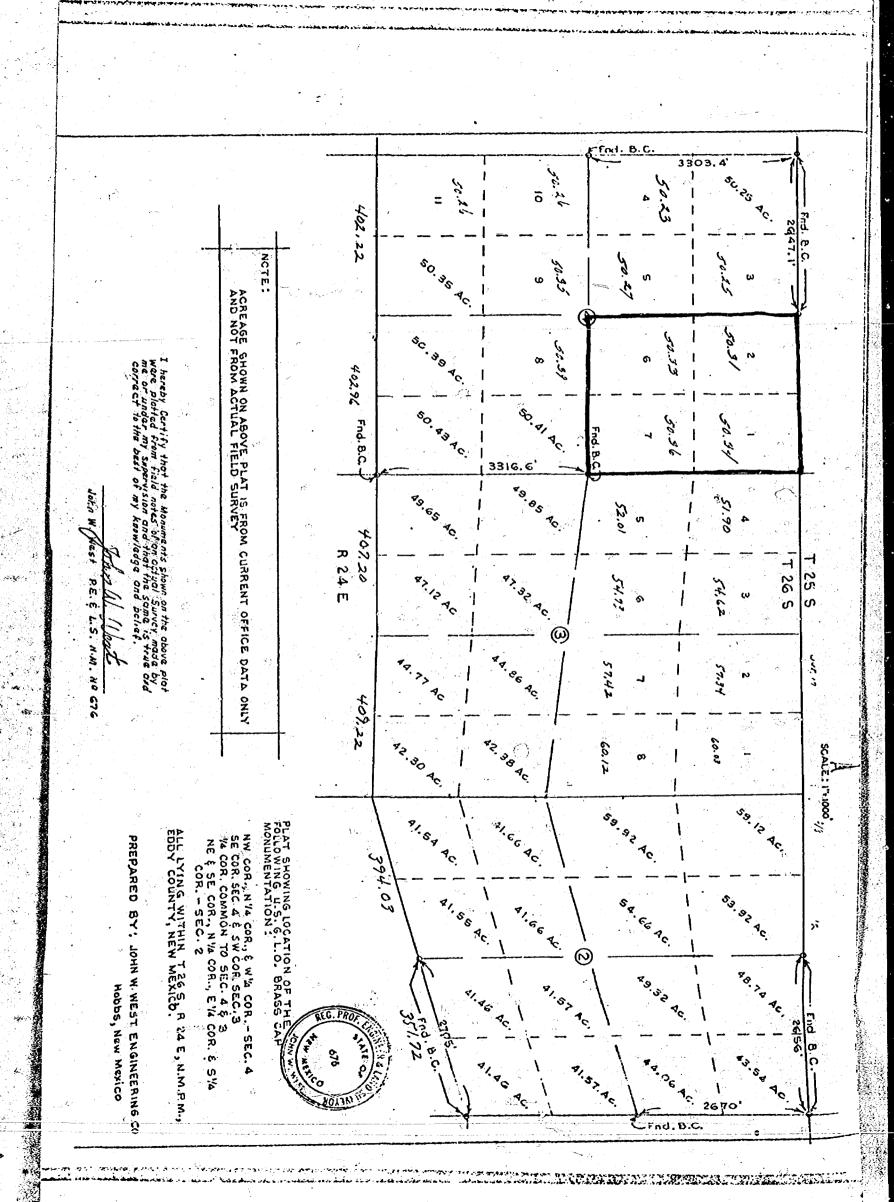
BLACK RIVER CORPORATION

Ronnie Sowders Treasurer

RS/am enclosure

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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:

CASE NO. 5221

Order No. R- 4776

APPLICATION OF BLACK RIVER CORPORATION FOR AN UNORTHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION AND NON-STANDARD PROPATION UNIT, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

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ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on April 25 , 194 at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner ______.

NOW, on this day of April , 194, 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.

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Said Lection 4 man reachaster of gas

above-described well to a 201.34-acre non-standard gas proration unit comprising the NE/4 of said Section 4.

Land well was projected and originally completed and original

- (5) That no offset operator objected to the proposed unorthodox location.
- the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the gas in the subject pool, will prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, and will otherwise prevent waste/and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- (1) That an unorthodox gas well location for the Delaware formation is hereby approved for the BR 4 Federal Well No. 3 located 1986 feet from the North line and 330 feet from the East line of Section 4, Township 26 South, Range 24 East, NMPM, undesignated Delaware Gas Fool, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- (2) That the above-described well shall be dedicated to a 201.34-acre non-standard gas proration unit comprising the NE/4 of said Section 4.
- (3) 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 herein-