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GOVERNOR EDWIN L. MECHEM CHAIRMAN

# State of New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

LAND COMMISSIONER
E. S. JOHNNY WALKER
MEMBER



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

P.O. BOX 67<sup>.</sup> Santa pe

September 4, 1962

Mr. Robert Fox Kellahin & Fox Attorneys at Law Box 1713 Santa Fe, New Mexico

Re: Case No. 2345
Order No. R-2049-A

Applicant:

Continental Oil Company

Dear Sir:

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

Very truly yours,

Letter,

A. L. PORTER, Jr.

Secretary-Director

Carbon copy of order also sent to:

Hobbs OCC \_\_\_\_X

Artesia OCC\_\_\_
Aztec OCC \_\_\_X

OTHER\_\_Mr. William M. Griffith

# OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION SANTA FE, NEW LEXICO

		1 /
		Date 8/30/62
CACE	2345	
CASE	2343	Hearing Date 9am 8/29/42
	My recommendations so-	11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11
	or a	n order in the above numbered cases are as follows:
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### DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1962

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

The following cases will be heard before Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner or A. L. Porter, Jr., as Alternate Examiner:

### CASE 2355:

(Continued)

In the matter of the application of H. L. Brown, Jr. and Clem E. George for establishment of special rules and regulations for the Bluitt-Wolfcamp Gas Pool, Roosevelt County, New Mexico. Case 2355 will be reopened pursuant to Order No. R-2051 to permit the applicant and other interested parties to appear and show cause why the Bluitt-Wolfcamp Gas Pool should not be developed on 160-acre proration units.

### CASE 2345:

(Continued)

In the matter of the application of Continental Oil Company for the establishment of special rules and regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico. Case 2345 will be reopened pursuant to Order No. R-2049 to permit the applicant and other interested parties to appear and show cause why the subject pool should not be developed on 40-acre proration units.

### CASE .2617:

(Continued)

Application of Continental Oil Company for a dual completion, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks permission to complete its Rattlesnake Well No. 140, located in Unit H of Section 11, Township 29 North, Range 19 West, San Juan County, New Mexico, as a dual completion (conventional) in the Organ Rock and Pennsylvanian-Paradox formations in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Field, with the production of oil and gas from the Pennsylvanian-Paradox formation to be through 2 7/8 inch tubing at a depth of 6658 to 6710 feet; applicant proposes to dispose of salt water into the Organ Rock formation at a depth of 4175 to 4320 feet through a parallel string of 2 7/8 inch tubing.

### CASE 2620:

Application of Shell Oil Company for a dual completion, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks permission to complete its Henshaw Deep Unit Well No. 5, located 660 feet from the North and East lines of Section 23; Township 16 South, Range 30 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, as a dual completion (conventional) in the Wolfcamp and Devonian formations.

Docker No. 25-62

### CASE 2621:

Application of Shell Oil Company for approval of a dual completion, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks permission to complete its Middleton Federal "A" Well No. 1, located in Unit H of Section 18, Township 19 South, Range 32 East, Lea County, New Mexico, as a dual completion (tubingless) in such a manner as to produce oil from the Lusk-Strawn Pool and gas from the Morrow formation through parallel strings of 2 7/8-inch casing, cemented in a common well bore. Applicant proposes to run a third string of 2 7/8-inch casing to total depth as a spare casing string.

### CASE 2622:

Application of Cactus Drilling Company for a non-standard gas unit, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the establishment of a 120-acre non-standard gas unit comprising the E/2 NE/4 and NW/4 NE/4 of Section 11, Township 18 South, Range 36 East, Arkansas Junction-Queen Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

### CASE 2623:

Application of W. K. Byrom for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order force pooling all mineral interests in a 160-acre unit comprising the NE/4 of Section 23, Township 18 South, Range 36 East, Arkansas Junction-Queen Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, or, in the alternative, to establish an 80-acre non-standard gas unit comprising the N/2 NE/4 of said Section 23.

### CASE 2624:

Application of El Paso Natural Gas Products Company for a non-standard proration unit and unorthodox location, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the establishment of an 82.07-acre non-standard proration unit comprising the following portions of Section 17, Township 29 North, Range 14 West, Cha Cha-Gallup Oil Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico: that part of the NE/4 SW/4 lying North of the centerline of the San Juan River; the SE/4 NW/4; and that part of the NE/4 NW/4 lying South of the centerline of U. S. Highway 550. Said unit is to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at an unorthodox location 2180 feet from the South line and 1980 feet from the West line of said Section 17.

### CASE 2625:

Application of Sinclair Oil & Gas Company for an order establishing special rules and regulations for the Medicine Rock-Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order establishing special rules and regulations for the Medicine Rock-Devonian Pool Lea County, New Mexico, to include provisions for 80-acre oil proration units therein.

Can 2345



# CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

DENVER 2. COLORADO

A. T. SMITH
GRHERAL ATTORNEY
C. R. HAMPTON
F. E. RADLOFF
W. M. GRIFFITH
G. H. MAYHEREY
C. R. ROBERTS

August 3, 1962

Oil & Gas Conservation Commission State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico

Attention: Mr. Daniel S. Nutter

Dear Mr. Nutter:

Re: Case Nos. 2345 and 2617

This is to confirm our telephone conversation that Continental Oil Company desires to postpone the hearing on the subject cases, which were originally set for August 8, 1962, until some time later in August.

I would appreciate your informing me of the exact date of the second hearing to be scheduled in August.

Very truly yours,

William M. Griffith

WMG: bv

cc: Mr. Jason Kellahin
Attorney at Law
54½ East San Francisco Street
P. O. Box 1713
Santa Fe, New Mexico

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PIONEERING IN PETROLEUM PROGRESS SINCE 187

# PARTLESMAKE PERMISYLMANIAN FOOL SAU JUAN COUNTY, HOW MEXICO

WELL.	COMPLETION DATE	INITIAL PRESSURE SURVEY		CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION TO 7-1-62		
		DATE	PRESSURE	OIL-Abla.	GAS-MCF	WATER-Bbls.
136	12-15-60	12-15-60	1545	51,538	79,27l	128,717
139	1-12-62	1-23-62	1509	<b>28,56</b> 6	lds,336	8,762
THO	2 <del>-1</del> 962	<b>22</b> 8-62	<b>1</b> 545	1,790	يا371 و23	660
141	3-29-62	4-7-62	1468	14,578	21,846	9,981
142	4-23-62	5-4-62	1412	11,269	11,91h	1,268
1143	6-4-62	No EHP to	date	390	194	3,012
1747	6-9-52	6-11-62	1287	1.969	2,713	0
TOTAL				110,100	186,651	152,400

All BHP are at -1350 Datum

## CURRENT PRODUCTION TESTS

WELL.	DATE	<b>EO</b> PD	HVPD	ROBO	
22/		-	MANUAL COM	MCFD	GOR
136	7-24-52	185	265	97	524
139	?≈25 <b>≈</b> 52	188	69	222	1181
<b>л</b> ію 🦠		TSI 3-31-	62		
141	7-17-62	165	21.2	314	1903
1745	7 <del>-9</del> -52	<b>19</b> l <sub>i</sub>	41	8 <b>2</b> 2	4237
<b>3 الم</b>	7-7-62	27	59	14	519
14	7-21-62	34	32	42	1235



# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF MINES
HELIUM ACTIVITY

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, HELIUM OPERATIONS

514 BARFIELD BUILDING AMARILLO, TEXAS

July 18, 1961

Mr. H. D. Haley
District Superintendent
Durango District
Continental Oil Company
P. O. Box 3312
Durango, Colorado

Dear Mr. Haley:

I have your letter of July 14, 1961, requesting Bureau of Mines approval to your application to the State of New Mexico for an 80-acre proration unit in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico, as established by Oil Conservation Commission Order No. R-13, dated March 15, 1950.

Based on our understanding of the reasons given in the application attached to your letter of July 14, this office of the Bureau of Mines has no objection to such an application. It is our understanding that approval of the Bureau of Mines, as a non-operating interest leaseholder, is not necessary to your application, but we have no objection to Continental Oil Company making such application.

Very truly yours,

P. V. Mullins General Manager Helium Operations

BEFORE EXAMINER NUTTER
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
EXHIBIT NO. E
CASE NO. 2345

CASE 2345: Appli. of CONTINENTAL for special rules for the RATTLESNAKE-PENNSYLVANIAN POOL.

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### BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

OF

### THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

APPLICATION OF CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE RATTLESNAKE-PENNSYLVANIAN POOL, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Case No. 2345

APPLICATION OF CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY FOR A DUAL COMPLETION, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Case No. 2617

### ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

Come now Kellahin & Fox, P. O. Box 1713, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and enter their appearance in the above-captioned cases on behalf of Continental Oil Company in association with Mr. William .. Griffith, a member of the Colorado Bar.

GOVERNOR EDWIN L. MECHEM CHAIRMAN

# State of New Mexico il Conservation Commission

LAND COMMISSIONER

E. S. JOHNNY WALKER

MEMBER



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

P. O. BOX 87

August 29, 1961

Mr. Jason Kellahin Kellahin & Fox Box 1713 Santa Fe, New Mexico

Re: Case No. 2345 Order No. R-2049

Applicant:

CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY

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

Carbon copy of order also sent to:

Hobbs OCC \_\_\_\_\_\_

Artesia OCC

Aztec OCC \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER

## BEFORE THE OIL COMSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MEW MEXICO

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

> CASE No. 2345 Order No. R-2049-A

APPLICATION OF CONTINUMENTAL OIL COMPANY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL HULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE RATTLESHAKE-PENNSYLVANIAN POOL, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

### ORDER OF THE CONCUSSION

### BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 o'clock a.m. on August 29, 1962, at Santa Fe, New Maxico, before Daniel S. Mutter, Examiner duly appointed by the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," in accordance with Rule 1214 of the Commission Rules and Regulations.

NOW, on this 4th day of September, 1962, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the application, the evidence adduced, and the recommendations of the Examiner, Daniel S. Nutter, 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 by Order No. R-2049, entered in Case No. 2345 on August 29, 1961, temporary Special Rules and Regulations were promulgated for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool.
- (3) That the evidence presented at the hearing of this case establishes that the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool can be efficiently and economically drained and developed on 80-acre proration units.
- (4) That the evidence establishes that it would be uneconomical to develop the pool on 40-acre proration units due to the high cost of drilling, equipping, and producing the wells.
- (5) That the evidence establishes that continued development of the pool on 80-acre proration units will not cause waste or impair correlative rights.

-2-CASE No. 2345 Order No. R-2049-A

(6) That the temporary Special Rules and Regulations promulgated for the subject pool by Order No. R-2049 should be made permanent, effective September 1, 1962.

### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- (1) That the temporary Special Rules and Regulations promulgated for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool by Order No. R-2049, entered in Case No. 2345 on August 29, 1961, are hereby made permanent.
  - (2) That this order shall be effective September 1, 1962.
- (3) That the horizontal limits of the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool are defined to include only the SW/4 of Section 1 and the E/2 of Section 2, Township 29 North, Range 19 West, HMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.
- (4) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may does necessary.

DOME at Santa Fe, New Newico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL COMSERVATION COMMISSION

EDWIN L. MECHRM, Chairman

ESWALKER Member

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

# BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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

> CASE No. 2345 Order No. R-2049

APPLICATION OF CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE RATTLESHAKE-PENNSYLVANIAN POOL, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

### ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

### BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 o'clock a.m. on August 9, 1961, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Daniel 8. Rutter, Examiner duly appointed by the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," in accordance with Rule 1214 of the Commission Rules and Regulations.

HOW, on this 29th day of August, 1961, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the application, the evidence adduced, and the recommendations of the Examiner, Daniel S. Mutter, and being fully advised in the premises,

### FIEDS:

- (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 Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool was originally discovered in the year 1929, but was abandoned in the year 1940 due to extremely complex and expensive production problems. Said pool was rediscovered in December, 1960, and it appears that considerable reserves remain to be produced from said pool.
- (3) That the applicant, Continental Oil Company, seeks the establishment of Special Rules and Regulations for said pool, including a prevision establishing 80-acre proration units therein.
- (4) That the evidence available at this time indicates that it will be uneconomical to develop the pool on 40-acre proration units due to the high cost of drilling, equipping, and producing the wells.
- (5) That 80-acre proration units should be established in said pool with an 80-acre proportional factor of 2.77.

-2-CASE No. 2345 Order No. R-2049

- (6) That this case should be reopened in August, 1962, at which time the applicant should be permitted to appear, and, by pressure interference tests or such other tests as may be conducted, show cause why the subject pool should not be developed on 40-acre proration units.
- (7) That the horizontal limits of the subject pool should be redefined to include only the SW/4 of Section 1 and the E/2 of Section 2, Township 29 North, Range 19 West, EMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.

### IT IS TERREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That Temporary Special Rules and Regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool are hereby promulgated as follows, effective September 1, 1961:

# SPECIAL MULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE RATTLESEARS—PRINSYLVANIAN POOL

- <u>MULE 1</u>. Each well completed or recompleted in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool or in the Lower Paradox formation within one mile of the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool shall be spaced, drilled, operated and prorated in accordance with the Special Rules and Regulations hereinafter set forth.
- MULE 2. Bach well completed or recompleted in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool shall be located on a unit containing approximately 80 acres, which consists of any two contiguous quarter-quarter sections of a single governmental quarter section. For purposes of these Rules, a unit consisting of between 79 and 81 surface contiguous acres shall be considered a standard unit.
- MUE 3. Each well projected to or completed in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool shall be located within 150 feet of the center of either quarter-quarter section in the 80-acre unit; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the drilling of a well on each of the quarter-quarter sections in the 80-acre unit.
- MILE 4. For good cause shown, the Secretary-Director may grant an exception to Rule 2 without notice and hearing where an application has been filed in due form, and where the unorthodox size or shape of the tract is due to a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Lands Survey, or where the following facts exist and the following provisions are complied with:
  - (1) The non-standard unit is to consist of a single quarter-quarter section or lot.
  - (2) The non-standard unit consists of not more than 81 acres.

-3-CASE No. 2345 Order No. R-2049

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- (3) The entire non-standard unit may reasonably be presumed to be productive of oil from said pool.
- (4) The applicant presents written consent in the form of waivers from all offset operators.
- (5) In lieu of Paragraph 4 of this Rule, the applicant may furnish proof of the fact that all of the offset operators were notified of his intent to form such non-standard unit. The Secretary-Director may approve the application if, after a period of 30 days, no such operator has entered an objection to the formation of the non-standard unit.
- MULE 5. The District Supervisor shall have authority to approve non-standard oil proration units without notice and hearing and without administrative approval by the Secretary-Director if such unit consists of two lots or tracts comprising less than 79 surface contiguous acres and the non-standard unit is necessitated by a variation in the United States Public Lands Survey.
- MULE 6. The allowable assigned to any non-standard proration unit shall bear the same ratio to a standard allowable in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool as the acreage in the non-standard unit bears to 80 acres.
- RULE 7. Am 80-acre proration unit (79 through 81 acres) in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool shall be assigned an 80-acre proportional factor of 2.77 for allowable purposes, and in the event there is more than one well on an 80-acre provation unit, the operator may produce the allowable assigned to the unit from said wells in any proportion.
- <u>FULE 8.</u> Operators who propose to dedicate 80 acres to a well in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool must file an amended Commission Form C-128 with the Commission or the Astec District Office of the Commission by September 15, 1961, in order that the well may be assigned an 80-acre allowable on the October proration schedule.
- BULE 9. Operators, in order to make communication tests, are hereby permitted to shut-in one of the wells completed in said pool and to transfer its allowable to any other completed well or wells on the same basic lease which are producing from said pool. Provided, however, that such allowable transfer shall be limited to a period not to exceed one year.
- (2) That this case shall be reopened in August, 1962, at which time the applicant may appear and show cause why the subject pool should not be developed on 40-acre proration units.

-4-CASE No. 2345 Order No. R-2049

(3) That the horizontal limits of the Rattlesnahe-Pennsylvanian Poel are hereby redefined to include only the SM/4 of Section 1 and the R/2 of Section 2, Township 29 Worth, Range 19 West, MBPM, San Juan County, New Muxico.

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

> STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL COMBREVATION COMMISSION

ENTH L. MICHEN, Chairman

Estable

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

esx/

# OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

	Date8/11 le1
CASE	2345 Hearing Date 9 am 8/9/61
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	6. That applicant should be prepared to show course of the present data and such at the present who hearing in ling 1866, by present data and such at the state into a may be available, why had should not resent to to
	water into as may be averaged, was

### BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY FOR AN ORDER ESTABLISHING SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE RATTLESNAKE-PENNSYLVANIAN POOL, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AND TO PROVIDE FOR 80-ACRE PRORATION UNITS

CAUSE NO. 345

### APPLICATION

COMES NOW, CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY, a Delaware corporation, before the Oil Conservation Commission of the State of New Mexico and hereby applies for an Order establishing special rules and regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool in San Juan County, New Mexico, and for an Order to provide for 80-acre proration units, and in support of its application states:

- 1. That Continental Oil Company is a Delaware corporation authorized to do and doing business in the State of New Mexico.
- 2. That by Order No. R-13 of the Oil Conservation Commission dated March 15, 1950, the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool was established in San Juan County, New Mexico, covering the following described lands:

### Township 29 North, Range 19 West

Section 1: AllSection 2: All

Section 11: E号 Section 12:

Section 13: All

### Township 30 North, Range 19 West

Section 35: Section 36: SWH

- 3. That Applicant is the owner of certain oil and gas leasehold interests in the above described pool which is set forth on a plat of the area marked Exhibit "A", attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof. Although there have been numerous wells drilled to shallow formations on the above described land, Exhibit "A" only indicates those wells which have penetrated the formations of the Pennsylvanian Age.
- 4. That the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian oil pool contains four formations of the Pennsylvanian Age--the Hermosa, Upper Paradox, Middle Paradox and Lower Paradox. The Lower Paradox is the oil-producing formation. Outside of two shut-in gas wells, 1 and 1G, located in Section 13, Township 29 North, Range 19 West, there have been four oil wells drilled to the Lower Paradox formation. These wells are as follows:

Rattlesnake Well No. 17, which is located in the  $E_2^{\frac{1}{2}}$  of the  $E_2^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , Section 2, Township 29 North, Range 19 West, was completed on June 19, 1929, and with a flow of 760 BOPD and 1300 BWPD. This well encountered the Lower Paradox sands between the depths of 6682' and 6880'. This well is presently plugged and abandoned.

Rattlesnake Well No. 100 located in the  $NE_{4}^{1}$  of Section 2, Township 29 North, Range 19 West, was completed in 1940 with an initial flow of 105 BOPD and 455 BWPD. This well encountered the Lower Paradox sands between the depths of 6650' and 6865'. This well was also plugged and abandoned.

Rattlesnake Well No. 135 located in the  $NW_{+}^{1}$  of Section 1, Township 29 North, Range 19 West, which encountered the Lower Paradox sands between the depths of 6557 and 7062, was a dry hole.

Rattlesnake Well No. 136 drilled and completed in 1960, located in the  $SE_{4}^{1}$  of Section 2, Township 29 North, Range 19 West, encountered the Lower Paradox sands between the depths of 6629' and 6826', and is presently producing 201 BOPD and 905 BWPD.

- 5. That the geological data obtained in the course of drilling said wells including bottom hole pressure and other geological data relating to said lands indicates a single oil pool coming from an apparent common reservoir. The Lower Paradox is highly fractured and there is conclusive evidence that there is excellent reservoir communication.
- 6. That one well could reasonably be expected to adequately and efficiently drain in accordance with good conservation practice all the recoverable oil from the Lower Paradox formation underlying 80 acres.
- 7. That Applicant believes and therefore alleges that the above described land represents an area where it might reasonably be expected that oil production from said common source of supply can be obtained, and that in the interest of conservation and for the prevention of waste; to insure proper and efficient development; and to eliminate the drilling of unnecessary wells, this commission should enter an order providing for 80-acre proration units and an Order establishing special rules and regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool, which rules should generally embody the following:

Rule 1. Each well completed or recompleted in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Oil Pool or in the Lower Paradix formation within one mile of the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Oil Pool shall be spaced, drilled, operated and prorated in accordance with Special Rules and Regulations hereinafter set forth.

Rule 2. Each well completed or recompleted in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Oil Pool shall be located on a unit containing approximately 80 acres, which consists of any two contiguous quarter-quarter sections of a single governmental quarter section. For purposes of these Rules, a unit consisting of between 79 and 81 surface contiguous acres shall be considered a standard unit.

Rule 3. Each well projected to or completed in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Oil Pool shall be located within 150 feet of the center of either quarter-quarter section in the 80-acre unit; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the drilling of a well on each of the quarter-quarter sections in the 80-acre unit.

Rule 4. For good cause shown, the Secretary-Director may grant an exception to Rule 2 without notice and hearing where an application has been filed in due form, and where the unorthodox size or shape of the tract is due to a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Lands Survey, or where the following facts exist and the following provisions are complied with:

- (1) The non-standard unit is to consist of a single quarter-quarter section or lot.
- (2) The non-standard unit consists of not more than 81 acres.
- (3) The entire non-standard unit may reasonably be presumed to be productive of oil from said pool.
- (4) The applicant presents written consent in the form of waivers from all offset operators.
- (5) In lieu of Paragraph 4 of this Rule, the applicant may furnish proof of the fact that all of the offset operators were notified of his intent to form such non-standard unit. The Secretary-Director may approve the application if, after a period of 30 days, no such operator has entered an objection to the formation of the non-standard unit.

Rule 5. The District Supervisor shall have authority to approve non-standard oil proration units without notice and hearing and without administrative approval by the Secretary-Director if such unit consists of two lots or tracts comprising less than 79 surface contiguous acres and the non-standard unit is necessitated by a variation in the United States Public Lands Survey.

Rule 6. The allowable assigned to any non-standard proration unit shall bear the same ratio to a standard allowable in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Oil Pool as the acreage in the non-standard unit bears to 80 acres.

Rule 7. An 80-acre proration unit (79 through 81 acres) in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Oil Pool shall be assigned an 80-acre prorational factor of 2.77 for allowable purposes, and in the event there is more than one well on an 80-acre proration unit, the operator may produce the allowable assigned to the unit from said wells in any proportion.

Rule 8. Operators who propose to dedicate 80 acres to a well in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Oil Pool must file an amended Commission Form C-128 with the Commission or the Aztec District Office of the Commission by the required date in order that the well may be assigned an 80-acre allowable on the following month's proration schedule.

Rule 9. Operators, in order to make communication tests, are hereby permitted to shut-in one of the wells completed in said pool and to transfer its allowable to any other completed well or wells on the same basic lease which are producing from said pool. Provided, however, that such allowable transfer shall be limited to a period not to exceed one year.

WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests that this Application be set down for hearing, that notice thereof be given as required by law, and that thereupon this Commission enter its Order establishing the above requested special rules and regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool in San Juan County, New Mexico, and to provide for 80-acre proration units thereon.

Respectfully submitted, CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY

William M. Griffith

Jason W. Kellahir

BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
August 9, 1961

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF: CASE 2345

DEARNLEY-MEIER REPORTING SERVICE, Inc.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING



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### NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

EXAMINER HEARING - DANIEL S. NUTTER

SANTA FE , NEW MEXICO

### REGISTER

AUGUST 9, 1961 8:30 A.M. HEARING DATE TIME: NAME: REPRESENTING: LOCATION: FARIMIN'STON F.W. EATON, JR. PAN AMERICAN PETR. Confirmate Oil Durango 6/0 H. D. Haley-Denve, Colo Albuguegu, U.M. Surna Errebon Modrall, et al Farmington, n. M. British american Frank Renard Hobby N.M. # Socony Mobil JoC. Gordon Jr. PAN Am FORT WORTH oug Buell Atural To Cualone for Pan = Dullance Roswell Ze, occam. Viete Postw Campbell & Rusell Roswell nm Cell M Carypbell millard, Tex Brown & Cen Ge

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO August 9, 1961

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Continental Oil Company for the establishment of Special Rules and Regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the establishment of Special Rules and Regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool in San Juan County, New Mexico, including a provision establishing 80-acre proration units for said pool.

Case 2345

BEFORE:

Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner

### EXAMINER HEARING

MR. NUTTER: The Hearing will come to order, please.

The first case this morning will be No. 2345.

MR. MORRIS: Application of Continental Oil Company for the establishment of Special Rules and Regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool.

MR. KELLAHIN: Jason Kellahin of Kellahin and Fox appear ing for the Applicant, and I have working with me Mr. William Griffith, a member of the Colorado Bar, who will present the case.

MR. GRIFFITH: We have one witness, and I would like to



have him sworn at this time. And I might say that in the opening statement I would like to present some factual material, so I might be sworn, too.

(Witnesses sworn.)

MR. GRIFFITH: If we can just put some of these Exhibits on the wall and save some time (indicating).

My name is William Griffith, and I would like to give the Commission a little background on this Application in order to help you orientate your thinking: Back in July 7, 1923, the Navajo Indians leased to the S. C. Munos of New York City quite a large lease, which is indicated by a small line on Continental's Exhibit A, this line, that is in most of the area of the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Oil Pool. As a result of the various conveyances, Continental Oil Company, by assignment, on March 22, 1926, acquired a 50 per cent interest in this lease, which we will refer to as the 1923 lease. In 1942, the Navajo Indians leased to Continental Oil Company and the Santa Fe Corporation a lease covering 3,720 acres which included, among others, the following lands which are included within the Oil Pool, not in the 1923 lease, this part of Section 35 the West half of the Southwest Quarter, this part of Section 2, the West half of the West half, and Section 11, the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, and the West half of the Southwest Quarter, and in Section 13, the Southwest Quarter and the West half of the Northwest Quarter; so that this land is included in the 1942 lease,



and except for this piece right here is included in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool, although it is not under lease to Continental Oil Company.

MR. NUTTER: Now, by "this piece right here", you mean the Northeast of the Northwest of 11?

MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, sir. I beg your pardon. This portion is in the 1923 lease, and it's under lease to Continental Oil Company but is not within the Rattlesnake Pool; and this portion is within the Rattlesnake Pool, but not under lease. 1942, Continental Oil Company and the Santa Fe Corporation assigned all of its rights in the 1942 lease to the United States Government, including these lands within the Pennsylvanian Pool. In 1946, Continental Oil Company and the Santa Fe Corporation entered into an agreement whereby they sold to the United States their leasehold rights in the 1923 lease, which is the majority of the area in the Rattlesnake Pool, in all formations below the base of the Hermosa, and one half of the rights above the Hermosa to the base of the Dakota; so from the base of the, merely to the base of the Dakota, the United States Government has a 50 per cent interest in these lands. In exchange, the Government assigned to Continental all of its rights, oil rights above the Hermosa as to the 1942 lease, this land lying outside. In 1952, Continental allowed its rights in the '42 lease to lapse; and so at the present time, this land that is included within the Rattlesnake Pool is unleased, these portions here, just those portions.



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MR. NUTTER: So in effect, you are back to the 1923 lease.

MR. GRIFFITH: Right, sir; but I wanted to point this out to show that part of the land that is in the pool is unleased in the 1923 lease, which the majority is in. The Government owned 50 per cent, and Continental owned 50 per cent. In 1953, the Santa Fe Corporation conveyed to Continental its remaining 50 per cent interest in this lease.

I would like to offer into evidence a letter from P. V. Mullins of the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, and I would like to request this be marked Exhibit E; and this letter is sort of a backhand approval of the Bureau of Mines. It's addressed to Mr. Swarelaly.

"I have your letter of July 14, 1961 requesting Bureau of Mines' approval to your Application to the State of New Mexico for a 80-acre proration unit in the Rattlesnake Pennsylvanian Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico. As established by Oil Conservation Commission Order No. R-13 dated March 15, 1950, based on our understanding of the reason given in the Application attached to your letter of July 14, this Office of the Bureau of Mines has no objection to your Application. It is our understanding that approval of the Bureau of Mines, as a non-operating interest lease holder, is not necessary to your Application. But we have no objection to Continental Oil Company making such an Application."

I would like to offer that in evidence.



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MR. NUTTER: Do I understand correctly, Mr. Griffith, that the Government is, in effect, a 50 per cent working interest owner in this venture?

MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, sir. It's a carried working interest.

MR. NUTTER: A carried working interest.

MR. GRIFFITH: And that is from the base of Hermosa to the base of the Dakota. As you are familiar, we have other oil wells in the Dakota in which they have no interest.

MR. NUTTER: Does this Application cover the base of the Dakota to the base of the Hermosa?

MR. GRIFFITH: No, it just covers the Pennsylvanian edge, the formation therein.

> MR. NUTTER: But it's within those vertical limits? MR. GRIFFITH: Yes. sir.

> > H. D. HALEY,

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

### DIRECT EXAMINATION

### BY MR. GRIFFITH:

- Would you please state your name?
- H. D. Haley.
- And what is your occupation?
- I am a District Superintendent of Production for Continental Oil Company, Durango, Colorado.



Have you ever testified before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission before?

No, sir.

Would you briefly state your educational and practical experience as a Petroleum Engineer?

I graduated in Petroleum Production Engineering from Texas Technological College in Lubbock, Texas: had experience with Pan American Petroleum Corporation for a short time as a Petroleum Engineer. I was two years a Petroleum Engineer at Casper, Wyoming; three years a District Engineer at Glenrock, Wyoming; and I have been District Superintendent of Production at Durango for the past two years in charge of all Continental's operations in Western New Mexico, Arizona, the southern half of Utah, and the southern half of Colorado. At the present time. I have three Petroleum Engineers.

MR. GRIFFITH: I move that the Commission accept this witness' qualifications as an expert witness.

MR. NUTTER: Mr. Haley's qualifications are acceptable. Please proceed.

(By Mr. Griffith) Are you familiar with Continental's Application in this case?

Yes, sir.

What is it that Continental is asking for?

Continental is asking for an order establishing special rules and regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool



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the provision for 80-acre proration units.

- When was the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool established?
- The Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool was established as a nomenclature on March 15. 1950.
  - Was that by Order No. R-13 of this Commission?
  - Yes, sir.
  - Q. What are the formations in this pool?
- Our Order No. R-13 establishes the Pennsylvanian as a formation, Now, the Pennsylvanian is an age; and at this time, I would like to point out that we consider the Pennsylvanian to consist of the Hermosa and Upper Paradox, the Middle Paradox and the Lower Paradox, and in your previous testimony, with the Agreement of 1946, if you notice, specified to the base of the Hermosa. By definition, in the 1946 agreement, which was an Act of Congress they defined the base of the Hermosa as the top of the Mollus shale. Now, in our testimony today we will break that down to the Hermosa, into the Hermosa, and in the lower section of the Hermosa we will call it Paradox, so that we understand that we are not in conflict with the 1946 agreement. In other words, the top of the Mollus shale is the base of the Hermosa by the agreement, or that is the base of the Lower Paradox, as we will refer to it here today.
  - What is the productive formation in this pool?
- Α The Lower Paradox is the non-productive formation in the pool.



### Q Would you describe the Lower Paradox formation?

A It can best be described as a gray-white dense limestone with considerable inclusions of shale and anhydrite. The porosity will vary from one to 12 per cent. The average porosity from the interval is 2.4 per cent. Core analysis indicates that this is very highly fractured; also occasions zones from 8 to 12 feet of thickness of buggy reef-type limestone that contains porosity as high as one to 14 per cent of the permeability will vary from one to 1,000 millidarcies depending on the extent of the fracture system. A very comprehensive fracture system provides most of the permeability for the formation. The average thickness of the formation is about 200 feet.

Q We have exhibits here today which would better illustrate these formations?

A Yes, sir.

Q Attached to the walls, Exhibits B and C, copies of which have been given to the Commission, and I will ask you, briefly, what are Exhibits B and C.

A Exhibit B is a cross-section that has been taken from electric logs, or sample logs that run from Rattlesnake 135 in the Northeast Northeast of Section 1 to the Rattlesnake Northeast No. 17 in the Northeast Southeast of Section 2, to Rattlesnake No. 136 in the Northwest of the Southeast of Section 2. This is Exhibit B.

Exhibit C is a cross-section that was prepared, running



from Rattlesnake No. 100 in the Northwest Northeast of Section 2, to Rattlesnake No. 17 in the Northeast Southeast of Section 2, to Rattlesnake No. 136 in the Northwest Southeast of Section 2. This is Exhibit C.

- Were these Exhibits prepared by you?
- These Exhibits were prepared by me. Α
- Q By referring to Exhibits B and C, would you please continue to describe this formation, the Lower Paradox formation.
- If you will note, Exhibit B starts here at Rattlesnake No. 136. The top of the Lower Paradox is at 6629. The base of the Lower Paradox is at 6826. The total thickness is 198 feet. This was prepared from the indexed electric log of Well No. 136. If you will note on the electric log, it consists mainly of limestones with interbedded shales. There is a very definite shale marker at top of the Lower Paradox, which is present in all the wells, which we believe separates the Lower Paradox from the Middle Paradox. The base of the Lower Paradox is the top of the Mollus shale which is a well-known marker throughout the Four Corners Region.

Rattlesnake No. 17, there is no electric log available. However, there is a detail sample log which we have correlated with Well No. 136. We have picked the top of the Lower Paradox, there, at the base of a dark gray clay shale and a dense limestone at 6881. We were able to identify the Mollus at 680. The total thickness in this well was 198 feet in the Lower Paradox.



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Rattlesnake No. 985, we have an index shale. We have picked the top of the Lower Paradox at 6854, the base of the Lower Paradox at 7062. If you will note, there is a considerable structure change inasmuch as 135 is drilled off on the nose of the structure.

Exhibit C is a cross-section that runs from 101 to 17 to 136, to show the relationship along the structure from a different direction. 136, the top of the Lower Paradox, as we have previously testified, is 6629, the base is at 6826. In No. 17, the base is 6880.

In addition, we have an electric log from Well No. 100 which shows the top of the Lower Paradox using our shale marker at 6650, and the base to be at 6865.

Now, using these markers, and noting the similarity in the logs, we feel confident that in all of these wells this interval, as one reservoir, is the same type of rock and is in communication, which I will later try to show through testimony.

Q How do you arrive at the location of the oil-water contact?

A In Rattlesnake No. 136 we took a detail core analysis of some 400 feet of Paradox. We arrived at a datum of -1500 as being the approximate oil-water contact on the reservoir. This was determined by the fact that below that point there were absolutely no oil saturations on any of the cores. If you will note on the cross-section, we have used a base datum of -1400 to adjust our cross-section for vertical elevation. 100 feet below there is



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where we believe the approximate oil-water contact to exist in the reservoir.

- Did you also use drilling data from other wells?
- At the same time, in going through Rattlesnake No. 17, which was a table tool hole, they had an excessive water flow at the same datum points which indicated that the water table was at that point in that well. We found the water table at -1500.
  - Would you describe the structure of this field?
- Geologically, Rattlesnake structure is a large anticlinal.
- Before you refer to that Exhibit, a copy of Exhibit D Q has been placed on it. We will pass out a copy of Exhibit D to each member of the Commission.

Was this Exhibit D prepared by you?

- Exhibit D was prepared by me.
- Would you go ahead and describe what Exhibit D is, and what does it show?
- I might say that the Rattlesnake structure is a large anticlinal as shown on Exhibit D. Exhibit D is a structure map of the Pennsylvanian on the north end of the Rattlesnake structure that applies to the Pennsylvanian Pool as described in Order No. R-13. Now, this structure map, was contoured on the top of the Mollus shale. This may appear a little backward because normally you contour on the map. But, if you study the geology of the structure, you will find evidence of considerable thinning across



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the structure, and by using the top of the Paradox you will get really a misleading structure map that doesn't show you the true relationship of the structure. So, we have found it much better for all practical purposes to use the top of the Mollus as our structural base when we study the geology of the structure.

MR. NUTTER: This is below the oil-water contact, over it: is it not?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, and, on the map you will notice at -1700, we have labeled as oil-water contact. Now, I previously testified that -1500 was the oil-water contact. However, when you consider that the Lower Paradox is 200 feet in thickness, it's evident that when you reach the -1700 contour on the top of the Molus formation, the base of the Paradox, there can be no further oil production beyond that limit; that below the 1700 contour we would not expect commercial oil production from the Lower Paradox. That might be a little misleading. I wanted to bring that out.

(By Mr. Griffith) Now, in order to give the Commission a complete picture, could you give a brief history of this field in relation to your various wells thereon, that No. 17, first.

This field has a long and varied history which, I think, is rather unique, and I think it will point out a lot of things, here, that probably haven't been apparent before, and will help you in your decision here.

The first well to be drilled as a deep well at Rattlesnake was No. 17, which is located 25,047 feet from the north line



860 feet from the east line of Section 2, Township 29 North, Range 19 West. This well was drilled on June 7, was completed on June 17, 1929. It had an initial flowing potential of 760 barrels of oil per day, and 1300 barrels of water per day. The TD of the well at that particular time was 6,790, however, was a cable tool hole, and the casing had been set at 6,501 feet, some 277 feet above the bottom of the hole. Due to the fact that the well was making a lot of water, they ran tubing with an open hole packer in the well, and set an open packer at 6770, and thus produced the interval from 6770 to 6790.

Now, if we will refer back to Exhibit B, you will note the interval from 6770 to 6790 is well within the so-called Lower Paradox, which we are discussing as one reservoir. The well produced a cumulative of 355,937 barrels of oil, and approximately one million barrels of water between 1929 and 1932. In 1932, the well quit flowing, and in those days, pumping units at 6700 weren't considered practical, and the price of oil was practically nothing, so they abandoned the well.

The next well to be drilled was Well No. 24. well is located approximately in the Northwest Southeast of Section 1, Township 29 North, Range 19 West, as shown on Exhibit D. This well was completed for an initial flow of approximately 500 barrels of oil per day and 25 barrels of water per day. However, it was drilled to a total depth of 7,370 feet in the Mississippian. The water production frightened the operator at



the time, and they decided to try to plug the well back with cement. In the process of plugging the well, they cemented tubing in the hole and plugged the well back to 6613. Now, this, according to our records, could possibly put this well above the socalled Lower Paradox, and for this reason we have not included it on the cross-section, because the information about this is so vague, got this out of an annual report of the Company, that I don't really have too much faith in it, and I hesitate very strongly to offer this as evidence that this is part of this one reservoir. But, if you think it should be mentioned and brought out to give what information we do have on it so it may be available to you --

- Well No. 24 is indicated on Exhibit A and Exhibit D, but was not indicated on the exhibit attached to Continental's Application; is that correct?
  - That is correct, sir.
  - Okay.

We have added since, and we will give you what information we have on it.

This well produced until 1940, production, 132,254 barrels of oil, and approximately 300,000 barrels of water. Incidentally, my water figures are not very accurate because in those days they just didn't keep records of water production; but we do know the water cut was when we approximated this. In 1940, there was a high fluid level in the well. The Company



decided to run a Rita pump in the well. They lost it, it stuck in the casing. They spent \$50,000.00 trying to fish it out, and never recovered it, and subsequently abandoned the well. So, it was P and A in 1940.

The third well to be drilled was No. 100, which is located in the Northwest of the Northeast of Section 2, Township 2 North, Range 19 West. This well was drilled through the Mollus shale, 7-inch casing was set, and the wall was perforated from 6705 to 6722 and, I refer you to Exhibit C, and if you will note, the 6705 to 6722 is in the so-called Lower Paradox zone. Therefore, production from this well was from the Lower Paradox Reservoir. The well had a large amount of water after it was acidized, and a Rita pump was installed. The well produced approximately 104 barrels of water per day and 304 barrels of oil per day, and 396 barrels of water per day. They brought this pump to No. 100, and they produced approximately 4,000 barrels of oil out of No. 100, but decided to try the pump over in Well No. 24. Subsequently, they lost the pump in No. 24, and after an expensive fishing job, management didn't feel like buying another Rita pump for No. 100. At that time, we were trucking our oil to Salt Lake City and got a dollar a barrel for it. So, that well was P and A in 1940. And, this is the last production of the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool up and until the present time. This stopped production from the pool until 1958 when Rattlesnake No. 135 was developed. This well --



Q Pardon mc. Before you get into No. 135, in order to follow this chronologically, would you talk about the wells down in Section 13, 1-G.

A Yes, I will. Rattlesnake No. 1-G, which is located in the Northeast of the Southeast of Section 13, was drilled in 1940 as a Pennsylvanian test.

- Q Now, you are pointing --
- A Pardon me, 1-G.
- Q 1-G is in the lower Southeast Quarter, there.
- A May I make the location? Rattlesnake No. 1-G, which is located in the Southeast Southeast of Section 13, was drilled in 1960. The purpose of this well was to test the Mississippian formation at this location. In the process of drilling, the Lower Paradox was drilled. Gas shows were noted on the gas logger. However, a good gas well was completed in the Mississippian, and the well was completed as a helium well in the Mississippian. This well was subsequently sold to the United States Government as a helium well under the 1946 contract, as mentioned by Mr. Griffith.

Rattlesnake No. 1 was drilled, also, as a helium one about the same time to further define the limits of helium production in the area. It also had shows of gas in the Lower Paradox when it drilled through the formation, and the logs of these wells can be correlated with the wells. So, the reservoir is contiguous across most of the field.

Q Now, would you explain Well No. 135?



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Well No. 135 was drilled in 1958 as a Wildcat. was some thought that within the Lower Paradox there were possibly stones which would pinch out, up dip on the structure. The Lower Paradox was found to be essentially the same as the Lower Paradox in No. 17, and 100 was below the oil-water contact, and tested 100 per cent water. So, the well was P and A.

And, what is the next and last well in the field?

The last well to be drilled is Well No. 136, which is the key well in our testimony here today. This well was drilled in 1960. It was completed in December of 1960. It was drilled to a TD of 6853 into the Mollus shale. Three-inch casing was set, and we covered approximately 400 feet of the Paradox with cement. The well was perforated originally from 6726 to 6750. Now, the purpose of these perforations were that this was the closest point which we could correlate from the production to meet the open hole packer in No. 17. The well produced approximately 68 barrels of oil per day and 498 barrels of water per day over a four-months, period from this set of perforations. then perforated this zone from 6681 to 6691, which is a high porosity zone, and pushes a BJ central lift pump, which is equivalent to the old-type Rita pump. The well now has an average production, or has been tested at a rate of 201 barrels of oil per day and 905 barrels of water per day from both zones. We are currently producing our allowable of 124 barrels of oil per day, and cumulative production on July the 31st was 10,178 barrels of



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oil, 46,129 barrels of water.

- In your opinion, is this a single-oil pool with a common source of supply?
  - A Yes, sir.
  - And what is the basis of that opinion?
- No. 1; the oil that has been obtained in Rattlesnake No. 117, at 136, is 40-gravity oil. And by gravity and chemical composition, the oil is the same type of oil. No. 2; is the bottom hole pressure: Recently, all of these wells have had bottom hole pressures in the range of 16 to 1800 pounds per square inch. No. 3; the gas-oil ratio as reported in No. 100 was 1800 cubic feet per barrel of oil. The gas-oil ratio as determined from Rattlesnake No. 136 is 1861 cubic feet per barrel.
- In your opinion, is there communication between the Lower Paradox formation?
  - Yes, sir; there is.
  - And what is the basis of that opinion?
- First of all, we had extensive core analysis from Rattlesnake No. 136 and Rattlesnake No. 135. These core analyses indicate that this limestone is very, very likely fractured both vertically and horizontally. Permeability range is as high as 1,000 millicarcies in various places throughout the reservoir. At no place did we find in our analysis where there wasn't some evidence, some type of fracture. The main thing that leads me to believe the communication, is a study of the history of the bottom



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hole pressure of the field. I think we can definitely show interference.

Rattlesnake No. 17, as I testified, was completed for initial flowing potential of some 700 barrels of oil per day, and 700 barrels of oil was taken, and 1300 barrels of water per day. In order for this well to flow that large a volume of fluid, it would have had to have a gradient of better than four tenths, since this is salt water. Now, tests of the Upper Paradox have indicated bottom hole pressure in excess of around 3,000, so the original bottom hole pressure was probably in the neighborhood of 3,000 pounds per square inch as indicated by this well's flowing. Now, after the production of one million barrels of water and 355 barrels of oil, Rattlesnake No. 17 stopped flowing, which would indicate that the bottom hole pressure, of course, had dropped, probably to the neighborhood of 2,000 or 2,100 pounds.

In 1940, when Rattlesnake No. 100 was drilled, the fluid level was reported at approximately 3,000 feet from the surface, or was actually measured by wire line. This would indicate a bottom hole pressure, considering the normal salt of salt water, and oil that this well produced, and estimated bottom hole pressure of 1,800 pounds per square inch. Using that for a datum, we find that this well has a pressure of 1,800.

Now, if there had not been communication between No. 17 and 100, we would have expected to find 3,000 pounds of bottom hole pressure in this well; but since this well was partially

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drained, it's logical to assume the bottom hole pressure in No. 17.

When Rattlesnake No. 136 was drilled in 1960 -- now, this is, incidentally, would be 28 years after the abandonment of this well, here, a drill stem test shows the initial shut in pressure in Rattlesnake No. 136 to be 1,960 pounds. We had a flow pressure of 1,760 pounds. This was on November 7, 1960. We ran a bottom hole survey test the 15th, and our 24-hour shut in pressure after we have produced from 1700 barrels of oil and 1,000 barrels of water, was found to be 1,629 pounds per square inch. On July 31, we shut the well in four 72 hours, and ran a fluid level, and we have estimated pressure of 1,750 pounds per square inch. So, there is an assumption, and I think we can logically deduct that No. 136 has been drained by previous production from No. 17; that No. 100, No. 17, No. 136, all have approximately the same bottom hole pressures, which would indicate communication in the reservoir.

Q You indicated a bottom hole pressure of 136 as remaining relatively constant. How do you explain that?

A In my opinion, this reservoir probably originally produced by fluid exchange — Incidentally, this well is pumping, and it's very difficult to get a good fluid analysis from a pumping well, so we have to make quite a few assumptions. And we think, originally, the reservoir produced by fluid exchange, but probably very early in the life of the well it reached the



bubbling point and the solution gas started moving the gas in, because we know that the gas-oil ratio is 4,600 pounds per square inch which, I think, is -- Therefore, it produced on until the pressure remained 1,800 pounds between 1,800 and 1,900. At this time, I believe there was a limited water drive, probably from the northeast, that has taken over and maintained the pressure at this rate. And my basis for deduction of this limited water. drive is that after producing 55 barrels of oil and 10,000 barrels of water from No. 136, we have had no change in bottom hole pressure, at least appreciable change. So, the field is probably operating now with a limited water drive which will probably maintain the reservoir pressure at 1,800 pounds. And with the extensive fracture system which we have, it's probably very easy for this pressure to be maintained.

What is the importance of this limited water drive to this Application?

Well, we think that the limited water drive will give us a very high recovery factor and will eventually allow us to drain 80 acres.

So in your opinion, one well could adequately drain 80 acres?

A Yes, sir.

What is your estimate, and I emphasize the word "estimate", of the reserves of Rattlesnake?

Gentlemen, this is frankly an estimate: In the first



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place, I know of no practical way in which you can actually estimate porosity in a fractured type reservoir. It becomes a real technical deal. So, we are going to give you what we consider to be our best estimate here today, and I think it is reasonable. It has been partially maintained by previous history in the field. We do not have, due to this water drive, you don't have a figure that you can actually predict what your recovery is going to be. So, what we did is took the core analysis and did the best job we could do with it. The 200 feet of Lower Paradox in Rattlesnake No. 136 has a porosity that varies from 1 per cent to a total of as high as 14 per cent. However, the average porosity is 2.4 per cent for the entire interval. Now, this may seem rather low for a limestone reservoir. However, we do have this extensive fracture system, but we just assume an average porosity for this 200 feet of thickness of 2.4 per cent. We assumed an IWS of approximately 40 per cent in the well because of the great amount of water present. We do think we will get good recovery due to the fact we have this limited water drive which may run as high as 30 per cent. We have taken an average water table of -1500 datums throughout the field, and we come up with a net pay of approximately 160 feet. If we take, oh, we have a formation volume factor of approximately one half. Now, that is based on our current gas-oil ratio, and that is about where we think it will be. And in going through simple reservoir calculations, using those particular factors, we have come up with a recovery figure



of approximately 2,680 barrels per acre. This 40-acre spacing, you can recover 107,000 barrels of oil using these fractures. With 80-acre spacing, you would recover 214,000 barrels of oil.

What would be the economic factors with those estimates?

Well, the location of Rattlesnake is in an area that is not very close to Shiprock, there, but we do not have a pipeline connection. The present price of the crude is \$2.75 per barrel. It costs us 36 cents a barrel to truck this crude to the Horseshoe Gallup to the pipeline. The rate is 34 cents a barrel. The overriding royalty is 12 cents a barrel, and a conservative lifting cost is 16 cents per barrel. Now, this is not really true. Any type of submergible pump, the electricity pumps go sky high. You can figure you are pulling that pump once a year and getting a \$1,000.00 bill on it. However, we don't have production figures at this time. The 16 cents we are operating in the field for, but when you deduct all these factors, this leaves \$1.77 a barrel net on your oil. If our calculations are right, \$1.77 times -- would allow us to recover \$189,000.00. And yet, it costs \$180,000.00 to drill and equip one of these wells. So, we feel very strongly that it would not be economical to develop this field on 40 acres.

On the other hand, we do feel that with 80 acres we do have a chance to make a fair run on our money, and it appears to us that, well, we would be in a position to possibly develop the field were we to develop on 80 acres.



Q With the granting of this Application, do you feel it would be in the best interests of conservation for the State of New Mexico?

A I personally feel very strongly that it would, and I would just like to just briefly include a few remarks.

Rattlesnake is one of the oldest fields in New Mexico. Originally it was the Dakota Field, and we instituted a program years ago in the Dakota and recovered several million barrels of oil. We tried a water flood which was non-successful. The Dakota production is now down to 7 barrels a day. We have lost money in the field for the last five years. And in my opinion, this is the last hope for Rattlesnake. If this does not prove to be economical, that field will probably have to be plugged and abandoned. Now, these wells are expensive. We have had to buy -for example, on No. 136 power is not available to run the pump. Well, it's available from the Navajo REA at 36 cents a kilowatt, it would cost me, approximately. So, I have installed a generating set that cost \$30,000.00 to furnish the power for the well. The BJ central lift pump, its cost, \$22,000.00. So based on the fact that there is a water flow in the sand at 4,200 feet, that makes your mud bill excessive, which we run 4,200 feet of 8 5/8 intermediate casing, which raises the cost of drilling our well. Based on all of these extensive factors, it's very expensive to develop this reservoir, and we do ask that the Commission consider this in considering our request for an 80-acre proration unit.



Do you feel the rules and regulations set forth in Continental's Application would be adequate to govern this field?

Yes, sir; I do.

Just one last point: In Continental's Application, where we refer to Well No. 135, you have quoted that the base of the Lower Paradox sands was 6,654 feet; is that correct?

No, sir. That should be 6,854.

Q 6,854.

MR. GRIFFITH: Does the Commission have any questions of this witness?

> MR. NUTTER: Are there any questions of Mr. Haley? MR. MORRIS: Yes, sir.

(By Mr. Morris) Mr. Haley, as I understand it, you are proposing the rules as set forth in your Application as they stand in your Application.

Yes, sir.

Now, are you proposing that these rules be made permanent at this time, or are you requesting a one-year temporary order?

I feel strongly, in my opinion, that we have very good evidence of communication out there, and that there is one reservoir. We would like to have them permanent. However, if the Commission feels that the evidence is not sufficient, we would certainly appreciate a temporary order.

What further development do you plan in this area during the next year, Mr. Haley?



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If the No. 136 sustains production for the next 90 days. I have budgeted a development well to be drilled on a 80acre location south of this well in an effort to go up structure, and we will possibly drill a well in November. We have budgeted 8 wells for 1962, but these are contingent upon 80-acre spacing, because without the additional allowable, our payout is very, very marginal. When you consider what we have paid for the interest on our money, and everything, we need it bad. I cannot promise this development if this well should not hold up. If the water cut should increase and our production fall off, why, naturally we would not invest that sum of money, but this is our present plan, and I am optimistic, myself, that if I can go ahead with it --

Well, if you drill these 8 wells, or any number of additional wells, you should have better and more conclusive information at the end of a year.

We could run communication tests, and if the Commission does give us a temporary order, I would appreciate a transfer of allowables so we could run the communication tests, if you so desire.

MR. CRIFFITH: This is included in the proposed rules. THE WITNESS: In the proposed rules. I think those are essential for us to test the field.

(By Mr. Morris) Now, in your proposed rules, Mr. Haley, your well location requirements are made quite flexible, providing



for a well to be drilled in either Quarter Quarter Section of your 80-acre dedication to --

- Yes, sir.
- Why are you proposing the flexible rather than the rigid well location requirements?

Due to this open acreage, we asked for this land to be put up for sale three years ago, and last time I talked to the Navajos, it may be 10 years before it goes up for sale. And due to this open acreage, the way this is checkerboarded in here, it would be impossible to communitize with that open acreage. Maybe I am wrong, but I don't believe you could communitize this open acreage unless you communitize the Indian. So, we thought it would be better to leave it open until we juggle our 80-acres, and go ahead and drill. And that is the only reason I had. The terrain is not really much of a problem. There is a large cliff that runs generally down diagonally in here that might cause a few locations to be moved, for terrain; but due to this open acreage, we felt that we shouldn't be hampered in our development.

- What dedication would you make to the existing wells if 80-acre propration units were established?
  - We would dedicate them as 80-acre wells.
- Well, could you point to the individual wells and give me some idea?
- Well, at this time, Rattlesnake No. 136, located in the Northeast Southeast of Section 2, is the only producing well.



From the Paradox, we would dedicate that well as to these rules. Rattlesnake's No. 1 and 1-G do have casing in them, completed in Mississippian, but are completed as helium wells and are owned by the Government. We have no rights on the base of the Mollus shale. Therefore, those wells could not be dedicated. However, we do have operating rights to take those wells, and in this case, we may ask their permission to plug this well back to the Paradox; and this well could be dedicated as an 80-acre well, also.

- Q (By Mr. Morris) Now, is there any possibility of dually completing the wells in this area?
  - A Yes, sir.
- Q That would considerably enhance your economic situation, wouldn't it?
- A No, sir. The one zone that is possibly built for dual completion is a gas zone, which is the Upper Paradox, and it tests at a rate of about 250,000 MCF per day, and the nearest gas pipeline is 12 miles away. And at this time, we have no hopes of actually getting a gas connection out there unless we can develop our Paradox oil and perhaps produce enough gas with our gas production. But at this time, I would consider it to be non-commercial. In other words, 250 MCF in a depth of 260 feet, it would appear to be commercial production.
- Q You don't feel that it would help your economic picture enough to make 40-acre units?



A No, sir. In fact, you want that gas normally on larger spacing units than 80 acres. Most of our gas is produced normally on 320.

Q Yes; but it might if you had a successful gas venture there and could dually complete your wells, it would mostly make — help the picture on 40-acre proration units in the Rattlesnake Pennsylvanian.

I wouldn't deny that it could help, but I don't think there would be enough incentive there to want to, to cause to drill 40 acres. There would be added a few dollars. This particular zone only has a thickness of 8 or 10 feet, and reserve wise, it's very small. The second thing -- May I say in answer to your question -- Due to this vertical factor system, I feel very strongly that we are going to have water nearly everywhere on the field. You can't help but have that water with this sensitive fracture system; and a big share of this field will probably be produced with submergible pumps. Now, we have to run 7-inch casing to use the submergible pump, and it would be physically impossible to dually complete a well even with 7-inch casing with a submergible pump. So, it's very, very highly unlikely that as long as we have a submergible pump that we would ever consider dual completion. In order to run dual completion, and at 6,700 feet, that comes fantastic in cost. So, if I may change my statement a little bit, here, I would say that dual completion, at least on those wells where we have a submergible



pump, and if there is any water present, it's almost a cinch, and will be produced.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you, Mr. Haley.

- Q (By Mr. Nutter) Mr. Haley, there hasn't been a well drilled in here yet that produced without water, has there?
  - A No, sir; there hasn't.
- Q Now, as I understand it, the No. 135 was 100 per cent. water when drilled?
- A Yes, sir. The core analysis tests 100 per cent water, and the drill stem tests.
- Q The No. 17 came in for a good potential and produced 155 barrels of oil and a million barrels of water and was finally plugged and abandoned?
  - A Yes, sir.
- Q The No. 24 produced 132,000 barrels of oil, and then ran into trouble running a Rita pump?
  - A Yes, sir.
- Q Is there any possibility, in your opinion, of sidetracking this pump or in any way completing the well to produce again?
- A I think, sir, in our 80-acre development plan, if we go ahead with our development we will probably re-drill the well.
  - Q What do you mean by "re-drill the well"?
- A Between it and on our proper location. You will note that the thing is right on a section line.
  - Q You think there are still some reserves there in that



area?

A Yes, sir. In that budget program, we look at a narrow water-oil band of approximately one or two locations wide running in this general area, here.

Q Now, do you think there is any possibility of putting No. 100 back on production?

A Yes, sir. No. 100 was plugged and abandoned and then completed as a water well, and used as a water supply well, and it's very far down on the north end of the structure. We could possibly drill another well on an 80, in that 80, say, at a different location. And, I felt we will try and drain that area. However, I would anticipate it will go to water pretty fast if you will note the position of it, I may be wrong. Incidentally, we think there may be a gas cap up here, since these wells tested gas, and we are setting on a narrow oil ring between a water cap and a gas cap.

Q Now, your 136 is presently producing rather large volumes of water, but you still have both of those sets of perforations open?

A Yes, sir.

Q Is there any feasibility of squeezing the lower perforations and making a water free production in the upper set?

A We DST'd the water set of perforations, and this drill stem test was taken from 6665. Let's go back over and refer to the log here, 6665, that would be approximately 40 feet below



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the top of the Lower Paradox, as shown on Exhibit B, down to -- at that time, the hole had a TD of 6715, which is above the lower set of perforations. And that drill stem test recovered 520 feet of oil and 3,700 feet of water. Based on that drill stem test, Mr. Nutter, I would feel that we would probably cone the water of both sets of fractures probably in contact. Also, No. 24 was theoretically plugged right up to the top of the Lower Paradox, and it produced water, too.

- Q Only one well is producing at the present time, the
  - A Yes, sir; the 136.
- Q Now, in the No. 1 and the 1-G, way down in the south end, there, on the drill stem tests, was any oil encountered?
- A There was no drill stem test of the well. All we have is geological samples which indicated a gas cap. And they had a primitive type of gas log in 1940 on this well which showed real high hydrocarbons, and we had several good porosity places in the drilling time, which we correlate with this zone and correlates with our porosity; and on that basis we feel there was gas. At no time was there any oil recovery. When they were drilling the second Paradox, our driller's reports indicate that the mud was, and I will admit it's a mighty thin story that it would be gas production from those wells, but they did not see any oil in the samples that wanted testing, and I think they did a real good job. These were Government geologists, and they had



three of them sitting on this well continually. If there was anything there, they missed it, but if you assume gas cap as you assume your high gas oil ratio, it's reasonable to assume that there would be high gas production in the Lower Paradox.

- Now as I understand it, you estimate that the original bottom hole pressure in the reservoir was approximately 3,000 pounds.
  - Yes, sir.
- And the No. 100, you estimated at a bottom hole pressure of 1,800 pounds in the 1940?
- That is based, sir, upon a fluid pressure of 3,000 feet from the surface. Now, we have to assume a water-oil It could be as high as 2,000. contact.
  - In December of 1960, you measured the bottom hole --Q
  - That is a 24-hour shut in.
  - A 24-hour shut in.
  - That is at a datum of 6,800 in depth.
  - Which is right in the pay; isn't it?
  - Yes, sir.
- Q And then you had a more recent bottom hole pressure in 1961?
- A On July 31st of this year we shut the well in for 72 hours. After a 72-hour shut in, we shot a field level or an acoustical well standard and found the fluid level at 2,780 feet from the surface, which, using our bottom hole pressure bomb for



gradient, gives us a bottom hole pressure of 759 pounds. That is an estimate, sir, but I think it's reasonable within a hundred pounds.

- Q Now, had the well produced when you took this 629 pound pressure in December?
- A It produced approximately 402 barrels of oil at that time. 402 to 500 barrels of oil. Pardon me, sir, but it also. produced in the neighborhood of approximately 6,000 barrels of water, too.
  - Q What is the present gas-oil ratio on this?
- A 1,861 cubic foot per barrel. We had a reported gas-oil ratio of 1,800 on Rattlesnake No. 100. They measured the gas when that well was produced with a Rita pump.
- Q Has any fluid analysis been run on the production here?
- A No. We certainly haven't. We started to, and due to the fact it's a pumping well, and a Rita pump, and the large volume of the fluid, we had to get the fluid on our research lab.
- Q You do feel that the pressure has dropped below the bubble upon the reservoir?
- A I think so. Of course, under my supervision at White Mesa, which is Paradox production, also; and we have had some over at Cable Mesa, and out there. The bubble point in gas-oil ratio is 700 cubic foot per barrel. This seems rather high to me,



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but considering the fact there is a gas cap up there, it may not be. But. I feel it's below the bubble point because this Rita pump acts real strange. You can actually pump the water off and start producing gas; and a well will start flowing due to the fact there is so much gas coming out of it, so I mean, we are about the bubble point, or at least in the neighborhood of it, and we just have this limited drive. Now, I could put a pump in there for 2,000 barrels a day, but this is strictly a hypothesis on my part. Without a fluid analysis, I could never prove that. At least, there has been no change in the gas-oil ratio since 1940, or has been no change since we have started producing the 136. We have checked it very carefully every month, and we have no change in our amounts of gas on our gas-oil ratio.

- Now, I didn't get your trucking charge that you are paying, there.
  - A 36 cents.
- You stated you had a 34 cent royalty and a 12 cents overriding royalty to pay.
  - Yes, sir.
- Your \$1.77 net value of the oil is the net value to the entire working interest, including the Government's carrying working interest.
- That's right. This is a little bad. That is a good point. You see, we put up all the cash and out of our own pockets for which we pay interest, and then if and when the well is paid



off, we will share in the profits up to 50 per cent.

- Q Whether you have oil or helium?
- A If it's helium, they take the well over. The operating agreement calls for them to operate the well if there is helium if this well tested eight hundredths of one per cent helium, so the Bureau of Mines has now classified this as non-commercial, as helium.
- Q So there is no immediate possibility of the well being converted to helium production?
  - A No, sir.

MR. NUTTER: Are there any further questions of Mr. Haley? You may be excused.

MR. GRIFFITH: Continental would like to move for the admission of Exhibits A, B, C. D, and E.

MR. NUTTER: Continental Oil Company's Exhibits A through

E. Does that include the letter, Mr. Griffith?

MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, sir.

MR. NUTTER: They are received in evidence.

(Whereupon Petitioner's Exhibits A, B, C. D, and E, received in evidence.)

MR. GRIFFITH: The only other factor we should bring up, and it's our contention it doesn't affect this Application, is that there is a lawsuit at the present time between the Navajo Indians, at the present time, and the United States Government in the United States Court of Claims concerning the helium rights



under the 1924 and '42 lease for failure to pay a shut in royalty. And, we don't feel that this will affect any operations of the base of the Hermosa, but we would just like to bring that out.

MR. NUTTER: Mr. Griffith, actually these two wells down in the south end, the 1 and the 1-G, are not completed in the same vertical limits for which you are requesting the 80acre spacing, are they?

MR. GRIFFITH: No. sir.

MR. NUTTER: And all your production in the Lower Paradox is up here in Section 2; is that correct?

MR. GRIFFITH: That is correct.

MR. NUTTER: Are you aware of the policy of the Commission in establishing pool limits to more or less limit the area of the pool to the proven acreage, rather than extend it for several miles in one direction or the other.

MR. GRIFFITH: No, sir.

MR. NUTTER: In 1959, this pool was set out as being several miles long --

MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, sir.

MR. NUTTER: --but particularly, if I can testify to this, particularly when special rules are being established, the limits of the pool are usually held in rather close conformity to the proven acreage.

MR. GRIFFITH: I wasn't aware that the Commission would do that, as we just assumed that the same delineated pool as set



forth in 1959 would be to carry it forward, and that is why we made our Application on those limits as defined by the Commission.

MR. NUTTER: I might also point out, however, that where special pool rules are established for a pool given limits, that those pool rules prepared for one mile outside of those pool limits.

MR. GRIFFITH: Yes, sir; we included that in our Application.

MR. NUTTER: Do you have anything further, Mr. Griffith?

MR. GRIFFITH: No, sir.

MR. NUTTER: Does anybody have anything to offer in Case 2345?

MR. ANDERSON: John Anderson, Geological Survey. We have no objection to the proposed 80-acre spacing. We can make no commitment to the proposed rules because we haven't seen them.

MR. MORRIS: Mr. Griffith, they are approximately the same as the Cha Cha Gallup Pool Rules, are they not?

MR. GRIFFITH: That is correct. We based our proposed rules on those in effect in the Cha Cha Field, and I, will be glad to show you a copy of our Application.

MR. ANDERSON: I would like to see it.

MR. NUTTER: Does anyone else have anything to offer? We will take the case under advisement.

(Whereupon hearing of Case 2345 was concluded.)



# DEARNLEY-MEIER REPORTING SERVICE,

STATE OF NEW MEXICO .) COUNTY OF BERNALILLO )

I, MICHAEL P. HALL, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached transcript of Proceedings before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, is a true and correct record to the best of my knowledge, skill, and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed my hand and notary seal this 9th day of August, 1961.

Court Reporter-Notary

My Commission expires:

June 20, 1965

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No.

Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



PHONE 325-1:62

BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Santa Fe, New Mexico
August 29, 1962

### EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

The application of Continental Oil Company for the establishment of special rules and regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico. Case 2345 will be reopened pursuant to Order No. R-2049 to permit the applicant and other interested parties to appear and show cause why the subject pool should not be developed on 40-acre proration units.

CASE 2345 (Continued)

BEFORE: Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner

### TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING:

MR. NUTTER: We call Case 2345.

MR. DURRETT: Case 2345: The application of Continental Oil Company for the establishment of special rules and regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico.

MR. FOX: My name is Robert Fox, Kellahin and Fox, Santa Fe, New Mexico. I would like to enter an appearance for our firm as well as Mr. Griffith, a member of the Colorado Bar.

MR. GRIFFITH: We have one witness, M. A. MacLennan, to be sworn.

(Witness sworn.)



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MR. GRIFFITH: My name is William Griffith and I'm appearing for Continental Oil Company. I might state that this case came up for hearing before the Commission on August 9th, 1961. At that time the Commission granted special Field rules and regulations to be effective for one year, temporary rules, and we're now seeking to make these rules permanent for 80-acre proration spacing. In order to save the Commission's time, I would like to move that the pertinent information developed in the first hearing, particularly that relating to the history of the then producing wells, No. 17, 24, 100, 135, 136, the productive formations and the characteristics of the sand all be incorporated into this hearing.

MR. NUTTER: The record in Case 2345's original hearing last August will be incorporated in the record of this case.

MR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.

M. A. MacLENNAN

called as a witness, having been first duly sworn on oath, testified as follows:

### DIRECT EXAMINATION

### BY MR. GRIFFITH:

- Would you please state your name and occupation?
- M. A. MacLennan. I'm presently Staff Engineer in the Billings Division Office, Billings, Montana.

MR. NUTTER: How do you spell MacLennan?

Α M-a-c-L-e-n-n-a-n.



MR. NUTTER: Thank you.

(By Mr. Griffith) What was your position before your Q transfer to Billings, Montana?

The past two and a half years I have been District Engineer in the Durango District Office, Durango, Colorado.

Have you ever testified before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission before as a petroleum engineer?

Yes, I have.

MR. GRIFFITH: I would like to move that the qualifications of Mr. MacLennan as an expert witness in the field of petroleum engineering be accepted.

MR. NUTTER: Mr. MacLennan's qualifications are accepted.

MR. GRIFFITH: I would like to offer 1-A for identification.

> (Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibit No. 1-A marked for identification.)

Q (By Mr. Griffith) Mr. MacLennan, was Exhibit 1-A prepared by you or under your supervision?

Α Yes, it was.

Q What does Exhibit 1-A purport to show?

Exhibit 1-A is a contour map contoured on top of the Rattlesnake zone of the Lower Paradox formation of the Pennsylvanian in the Rattlesnake Field in San Juan County, New Mexico. Also shown on the map are all wells which have been drilled to



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the Pennsylvanian in the Rattlesnake Pool, and also two Government wells which were drilled to the Mississippian Formation.

- Q What is the yellow line on the map?
- A The yellow line is an outline of the Continental acreage in the Rattlesnake Pool.
- Q Would you please give the Commission the subsequent development of this Field since our last hearing on August 9th, 1961?
- A At the time of the hearing one year ago, there had been a total of four wells drilled and completed in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool. These wells were No. 17, 24, 100, 135, and Rattlesnake 136. All these wells, with the exception of 136, were plugged and abandoned in approximately 1943. Since that time, one year ago, we have drilled a total of eight additional wells. These wells are Rattlesnake No. 139, 141, 142, 143, 140, 144, 145, 146, and Kern County Well No. 1 in Section 19.
- Q The exhibit indicates that 145 and 146 are not completed. Could you give us the status on those wells?
- A At the time this exhibit was prepared, Rattlesnake
  Wells No. 145 and 146 were in the process of being completed.
  Since that time, Well No. 146 has been completed in the Rattlesnake
  Formation of the Pennsylvanian, and Rattlesnake 145 is presently
  in the process of being completed in an upper zone above the
  Rattlesnake zone in which the other wells are now completed. The
  Kern County Well is presently T.S.I.

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Are all these wells currently producing?

All of the wells with the exception of Rattlesnake 140, which is shut in as an observation well for reservoir pressure information.

0 You have accumulated production data on these wells?

Yes, I do.

MR. GRIFFITH: Would you mark this Exhibit 1-B for identification?

> (Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibit No. 1-B marked for identification.)

(By Mr. Griffith) Was this exhibit prepared by you or under your supervision?

Yes, it was.

What does this exhibit purport to show?

Exhibit 1-B is a tabulation of the pertinent data on Wells No. 136 through 144, showing the completion date, initial bottomhole pressure surveys, cumulative production through 7-1-62, and current production tests.

You have production data on Well No. 146?

Rattlesnake 146 was completed on 8-16-62 for an initial potential of 20 barrels of oil per day, 210 barrels of water a day, and a producing GOR of 500. To date we have not run a bottom hole survey on this well.

Rattlesnake 145, as I said, is presently in the process of being completed.



In Paragraph 6 of the Commission's Order No. R-2049, we were asked to conduct pressure interference tests. Were such tests conducted?

Yes, they were.

Q Do you have an exhibit showing the results of such tests?

Yes, I do.

MR. GRIFFITH: Could we have this marked as Exhibit 1-C for identification?

> (Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibit No. 1-C marked for identification.)

(By Mr. Griffith) Was Exhibit 1-C prepared by you or under your supervision?

Yes, it was.

Would you explain to the Commission what the Exhibit I-C shows?

Exhibit 1-C is a tabulation of the pressure measurements obtained on the Rattlesnake Well No. 140 and also a graphic representation of these points. The well was initially shut in on March 31, 1962 due to high producing GOR. Following that, administrative approval was requested and obtained to transfer the allowable from Rattlesnake 140 and use the well as a pressure observation well to conduct communication tests. The actual communication test was started on 5-4-1962, and at that time Rattlesnake Wells No. 136, 139, 141, and 142 were all shut in, and 140 had been shut



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in since 3-31-62. Bottomhole pressure measurements were obtained on Wells 142 and 140 at this time. Then those tour wells were returned to producing status and produced at tairly stable rates throughout the rest or the test. As you will notice, during the period of approximately 1,000 hours to 1200 hours shut-in time, there are some erratic points on the plot. This was due primarily to installation of hydraulic lift equipment in the offsetting producing wells, and revision of a central tank battery amounting to a considerable down time and erratic production rates in the offset wells during this period.

In your opinion, does the intermation on this exhibit show that there is a definite pressure communication in this field?

Yes, it does. The well is still shut in, and as can be seen from the initial point on 4-7-62, the static bottomhole pressure at that time was 1447 pounds; and on 7-23-62, the last point we have, the measured bottomhole pressure in the observation well is 1263 psi. This continuous pressure decline is due to the production and fluid withdrawal from the offsetting producing wells which are drilled on 80-acre locations.

- Q Which did you say were the producing wells during this interference test, 136, 139, 141, and 142?
  - Α Yes, sir.
- Was there any correlation between the shut-in pressure on Well No. 140 and the initial bottomhole pressures on the new



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wells that were drilled?

A Yes, there was, primarily on the Rattlesnake Well No. 142, which was completed on 4-23-62 just prior to starting the communication test. Initial bottomhole pressure obtained on 142 was 1412 pounds. The bottomhole pressure recorded in the shut-in Well No. 140 was 1419 pounds at that time. This indicates that production from the other offset wells had affected the area in Well No. 142.

Q How does the bottomhole pressure of Well 145 fit into this picture?

A Rattlesnake No. 145 was initially drilled, as were the others, to the Rattlesnake zone of the Lower Paradox; however, on a DST of this zone, the bottomhole pressure, initial shut-in pressure of approximately 3,000 pounds was obtained, indicating that the well is in a separate reservoir from the older wells in the field. To date, we do not have enough information to substantiate a fault or a barrier between the 143 and 145, but with the rapid pressure decline and this extreme difference in bottomhole pressure it's, we definitely feel there's some type of barrier between these wells. Also in the Kern County Well No. 1, a bottomhole pressure survey of this well run on 6-8-62 after a 37-hour shut-in was 3412 pounds. So we definitely feel there's a barrier of some type separating the north portion of the structure from the south end of the field.

Q Have you made any studies on the reserves, based on an

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> BUGUERGUE, N. M. Hone 243-6691

80-acre proration unit and 40-acre proration unit?

- Yes, we have.
- 0 What are the results of these?
- Based on the reservoir data we have to date, for an average 80-acre location, we are looking at a recovery of 2,288 barrels per acre. Therefore, the reserves for 40-acre proration unit would be 91,520 barrels reserves; for an 80-acre proration unit would be 183,040 barrels.
  - How about the cost involved?
- To date, our average cost to drill and equip a well in the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool is approximately \$134,000.00. The current price we receive for the crude is \$2.75 per barrel. The rate is twelve and a half or thirty-four cents, and the average lifting cost is sixty-nine cents a barrel. This provides us with a net revenue of \$1.72 a barrel.

Using the reserves for a 40-acre proration unit of 91,520 barrels, this would allow us to recover only \$57,414 over an estimated eight-year life for an investment of \$134,000.00. This is not very attractive economically, based on the discounting money.

- Then in your opinion it would not be economically Q feasible to develop on a 40-acre proration unit?
  - Α That is correct.
- Q Based on your pressure communication test, do you feel that the pool can be efficiently drained and developed on the

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basis of an 80-acre proration unit?

A Yes, I do.

Q At the last hearing, the Commission adopted temporary field orders. Would you recommend that the temporary orders be made permanent orders for this field?

A Yes.

MR. GRIFFITH: This is all the questions we have of this witness.

MR. NUTTER: Does anyone have any questions of Mr. MacLennan?

### CROSS EXAMINATION

### BY MR. NUTTER:

Q The drilling of the 145 and the Kern County Well to the south would evidently change the picture somewhat as far as this structure or feature here is concerned?

A That's correct. At the time this exhibit was prepared, 145 was still in the process of being drilled, and we have gone back and re-checked our seismicinformation on this, and there's no evidence of any faulting in this area. However, with that eight to ten foot porosity zone in there, it wouldn't have to have too great a fault to cause a barrier between the two highs on the structure.

Q But your main reservoir is producing now at a bottomhole pressure of somewhere near 1200 to 1300 pounds, and you are getting 3,000 in the wells to the south?

BANTA FE, N. M.

LBUQUEROUE, N. M. HONE 243-6691 A Yes, sir.

Q Do you contemplate any additional drilling in the area?

A Our present plans are that we've contacted the Bureau of Mines; they own the Government No. 1 Well and the Navajo 1-G Well in Section 13, and we've approached them for buying back the 1-G Well which has casing, and this was originally completed in the Mississippian Formation. There are some cement plugs in the well. It's been abandoned for quite some time, temporarily abandoned, and if we can obtain this well, make satisfactory arrangements for it, we plan to go in and test the Lower Paradox section of the Pennsylvanian in this well. Based on the information we obtain from that, we'll go from there on a drilling program on this south end.

Q Well, now, you call the producing zone that the wells are making oil the Rattlesnake Zone?

A Yes.

Q What did you actually recover in the Rattlesnake Zone of the 145?

A Just salt water.

Q Just water?

A Yes.

Q What zone is it being recompleted in?

A We've broken that Lower Paradox section into three zones, the lowermost porosity zone we've called the Rattlesnake Zone, which is the main productive interval in this one. The



next zone immediately above that is the Hogback Zone, which is producing over in the Hogback Field; and then the uppermost porosity development we've labelled the Table Mesa Zone, which is our main producing zone in the Table Mesa Field. We're coming back up the hole in this 145 and testing these various zones, the Hogback Zone and also this Table Mesa Zone.

Does it appear that one of those two is going to be productive in the well?

So far we thought that the Hogback would possibly be gas productive, but with a very small amount of gas, and we're presently completing it in the very top zone today and pump testing it. So far, it doesn't look too promising. We are recovering mainly salt water with a slight trace of oil so far.

Q In your opinion, what is the reservoir drive for this field?

Originally we thought there was an active water drive. Α but due to the rapid decline of pressure, we feel it's primarily fluid expansion solution gas drive.

Q I thought that you had believed at one time that it was a water drive.

Yes, we had, based on the information we had from the old wells.

MR. NUTTER: Any further questions?

MR. DURRETT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. DURRETT:

Mr. MacLennan, is it your opinion that development of this pool, continued development on 80-acre proration units will not cause waste?

Yes.

And is it also your opinion that continued development Q on 80-acre units will not impair correlative rights?

Yes, that is true.

MR. NUTTER: Any further questions?

MR. GRIFFITH: Just a minute. We have one more exhibit for your information that we would like to have entered in here. Would you mark this Exhibit 1-D?

> (Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibit No. 1-D marked for identification.)

### REDIRECT EXAMINATION

### BY MR. GRIFFITH:

Q Was Exhibit 1-D prepared by you or under your supervision?

Yes, it was. Α

Will you briefly explain to the Commission what Exhibit 1-D purports to show?

Exhibit 1-D is a cross section of the gamma ray neutron logs from Wells 136, 139, 141, 142, and 143, as shown on the map at the bottom of the exhibit. It's primarily a correlation of the porosity zones within the Lower Paradox Formation, and I would like to make one correction. I earlier testified that the Hogback Zone



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was immediately above the Rattlesnake Zone. Actually, we call it the lower zone of the Rattlesnake. Immediately above that, the Table Mesa, and the top of that is the Hogback Zone.

### RECROSS EXAMINATION

### BY MR. NUTTER:

Well, now, Mr. MacLennan, what is the Table Mesa? Is it limited to the part that you've colored purple on this exhibit?

No, the tops are shown in those broken lines all across the exhibit, but the main limestone development is the part that's colored in purple there.

Actually, then, most of these wells, if the casing shoe Q is indicated by the standard symbol, most of these wells are completed in the Rattlesnake and Table Mesa both, then?

The majority of them are. However, some of them we have since run a 4-1/2 inch OD liner from the bottom of the 7-inch to total depth in an attempt to further evaluate these various zones, and on the basis of what we have there, all of our production has been coming from the lower Rattlesnake Zone in this Field, and we have gotten no production from the Table Mesa Zone.

Q One other thing I wanted to ask you. Mr. MacLennan. Can you tell me offhand the acreage dedication to the No. 144?

I would have to check our records, but I believe 144 is a standard north-south dedication.

Q It would be the East Half of the Southwest then?

Yes. Α



Α No, I would have to check. Let me check here just a 144 is a standard north-south. However, I believe 146 is second. the one that we dedicated east-west. This yellow outline here shows all of Continental's acreage; however, there was the old lease which is a 12-1/2 percent royalty, and then the new leases we obtained are 16-2/3rds royalty. There was a break, this is right along the lease line, and we ran the 146 location east-west to remain on the one lease.

- I think I recall that. How about 143, do you know how the acreage dedication is to that well?
  - Yes. 143 is the standard north-south 80 acres.
  - Q That would be the West Half of the Southeast?
  - West Halt of the Southeast.

MR. NUTTER: Any further questions of Mr. MacLennan? He may be excused.

(Witness excused.)

MR. GRIFFITH: I would like to move the admission of Exhibits 1-A, B, C and D.

MR. NUTTER: Continental's Exhibits 1-A, B, C, and D will be entered in this case.

> (Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibits Nos. 1-A, 1-B, 1-C, 1-D entered in evidence.)

MR. NUTTER: Anything further, Mr. Griffith?

MR. GRIFFITH: Just this: Although this is outside the



scope of the hearing. I would like to ask the Commission to consider extending this field, in the recent light of the development of the new wells.

MR. NUTTER: Does anyone have anything they wish to ofter in Case 2345? We'll take the case under advisement.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

I, ADA DEARNLEY, Notary Public in and for the County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached transcript of proceedings was reported by me in stenotype and that the same was reduced to typewritten transcript under my personal supervision and contains a true and correct record of said proceedings, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

WITNESS my Hand and Seal this 8th day of October, 1962, in the City of Albuquerque, County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico.

My Commission Expires:

June 19, 1963.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Englainer hearing of Case No. 23/5 heard by me

. Examiner New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Santa Fe, New Mexico
August 8, 1962

### EXAMINER HEARING

### IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Continental Oil Company for the establishment of special rules and regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico. Case 2345 will be reopened pursuant to Order No. R-2049.to permit the applicant and other interested parties to appear and show cause why the subject pool should not be developed on 40-acre proration units.

CASE NO. 2345

BEFORE: Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner

### TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MR. NUTTER: We will call next case, 2345.

MR. FLINT: In the matter of the application of Continental Oil Company for the establishment of special rules and regulations for the Rattlesnake-Pennsylvanian Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico.

Mr. Examiner, the applicant in this case has requested that the case be continued until the August 29th hearing.

MR. NUTTER: Case number 2345 will be continued to August 29th at the same place.

BUQUEROUE, N. HONE 243.669



DEARNLEY-MEIER REPORTING SERVICE, Inc.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO 38. COUNTY OF BERNALILLO )

I, ADA DEARNLEY, Notary Public in and for the County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached transcript of hearing was reported by me in stenotype and that the same was reduced to typewritten transcript under my personal supervision and contains a true and correct record of said proceedings, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

Commission Expires:

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceeding ... Examiner. New Mexico Cil Conservation Commission