

CASE 3452: Application of UNION
OIL COMPANY OF CALIF. for an
unorthodox location, Lea County.

Case Number

3452

Application
Transcripts.

Small Exhibits

ETC.

State of New Mexico
Oil Conservation Commission



P. O. BOX 2088
SANTA FE

OTHER

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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

CASE No. 3452
Order No. R-3114

APPLICATION OF UNION OIL COMPANY
OF CALIFORNIA FOR AN UNORTHODOX
LOCATION, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on September 7, 1966, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 12th day of September, 1966, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

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

(2) That the applicant, Union Oil Company of California, is the operator of the Red Hills Unit Well No. 2 which is presently projected to and drilling to the Wolfcamp formation at an unorthodox location 990 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the East line of Section 5, Township 26 South, Range 33 East, NMPM, Red Hills-Wolfcamp Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, pursuant to authority of the Commission under Order No. R-3073.

(3) That the applicant now seeks an exception to the well location requirements of Rule 104 C II (a) of the Commission Rules and Regulations to also project said Red Hills Unit Well No. 2 to the Pennsylvanian formation at an unorthodox Pennsylvanian location 990 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the East line of Section 5, Township 26 South, Range 33 East, NMPM, Red Hills-Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

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CASE No. 3452

Order No. R-3114

(4) That the additional cost of drilling a single completion well to the Pennsylvanian formation at an orthodox location would be excessively burdensome when compared with the additional cost of a dual completion to the Pennsylvanian formation.

(5) That the applicant proposes to request authority to dually complete said well in the Pennsylvanian and Wolfcamp formations at a later date.

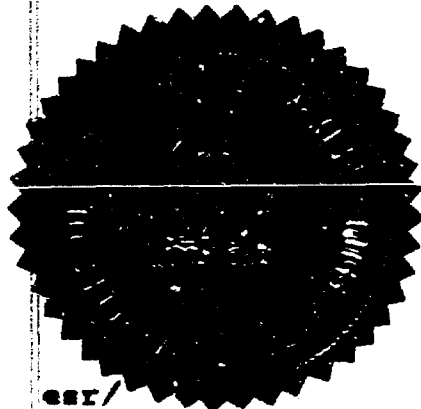
(6) That approval of the subject application will afford the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the gas in the Red Hills-Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, will prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, and otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, Union Oil Company of California, is hereby granted an exception to the well location requirements of Rule 104 C II (a) of the Commission Rules and Regulations to also project its Red Hills Unit Well No. 2 to the Red Hills-Pennsylvanian Gas Pool at an unorthodox location 990 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the East line of Section 5, Township 26 South, Range 33 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

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

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



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Jack M. Campbell
JACK M. CAMPBELL, Chairman

Guyton E. Hays
GUYTON E. HAYS, Member

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

CASE 3451: Application of Ernest A. Hanson for a dual completion, acreage rededication and an administrative procedure for multiple completions, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause seeks authority to complete his Max Gutman Well No. 1 located in Unit M of Section 19, Township 22 South, Range 38 East, Lea County, New Mexico, as an oil-oil dual completion (conventional) for the production of oil from the Blinebry Oil Pool and from an undesignated Granite Wash Pool through parallel strings of tubing. Applicant further seeks rededication to the Blinebry Oil Pool of the SW/4 SW/4 of Section 19, Township 22 South, Range 38 East, for the subject well; this acreage is presently dedicated as a part of a 160-acre standard proration unit in the Blinebry Gas Pool to Gulf Oil Corporation's Max Gutman Well No. 1 located in Unit N of said Section 19. Applicant further seeks the establishment of an administrative procedure for the dedication and rededication of acreage from oil to gas, or from gas to oil, and for the dual completion in any combination as to the San Andres, Paddock, Blinebry Oil, Tubb Oil, Drinkard and Granite Wash formations in the area of the subject well.

CASE 3452: Application of Union Oil Company of California for an unorthodox location, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an exception to Commission Rule 104 to permit the completion in the Pennsylvanian formation of its Red Hills Unit Well No. 2 located at an unorthodox Pennsylvanian location 990 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the East line of Section 5, Township 26 South, Range 33 East, Red Hills Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico. Said well is presently projected and drilling to the Wolfcamp formation by authority of Commission Order No. R-3073.

CASE 3453: Application of Samedan Oil Corporation for a dual completion, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause seeks approval of the dual completion (conventional) of its U. H. Moore "B" Well No. 1 located in Unit E of Section 25, Township 11 South, Range 32 East, Lea County, New Mexico, to produce oil from the Moore Pennsylvanian and Moore Devonian Pools through parallel strings of tubing.

CASE 3454: Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for pool consolidation and extension, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause seeks the consolidation of Four Mile-San Andres Pool and the Penasco-San Andres Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico, into one pool, and for vertical extension of said pool to include both the San Andres and the Yeso formations.

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 7, 1966

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 Elvis A. Utz, Alternate Examiner:

CASE 3439: (Continued from the August 3, 1966 Examiner Hearing)

In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission on its own motion to permit Scanlon and Shepard and all other interested parties to show cause why the following Scanlon and Shepard wells in Township 20 North, Range 9 West, McKinley County, New Mexico, should not be plugged and abandoned in accordance with a Commission-approved plugging program: Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Lease: Wells Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8, all in Unit P, No. 10 in Unit H, and No. 2 in Unit L, all in Section 21; Well No. 6 in Unit L and Nos. 9 and 12 in Unit M of Section 22 and Nos. 11 and 13 in Unit D of Section 27. Ray Well No. 1 in Unit, C, State Wells Nos. 1 and 2 in Unit A, and State K-1883 No. 1 in Unit B, all in Section 28.

CASE 3440: (Continued from the August 3, 1966 Examiner Hearing)

In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission on its own motion to permit Osborn & Weir, and all interested parties, to show cause why the following Osborn & Weir wells in Township 20 North, Range 9 West, McKinley County, New Mexico, should not be plugged and abandoned in accordance with a Commission-approved plugging program: Scanlon Well No. 17 in Unit P of Section 21 and Nos. 14 and 18 in Unit M of Section 22; Scanlon Ray Wells No. 5 in Unit A and No. 6 in Unit C of Section 28.

CASE 3441: (Continued from the August 3, 1966 Examiner Hearing)

In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission on its own motion to permit LaMar Trucking, Inc., and all interested parties, to show cause why their State Well No. 1 located 495 feet from the North and West lines of Section 28, Township 20 North, Range 9 West, McKinley County, New Mexico, should not be plugged and abandoned in accordance with a Commission-approved plugging program.

CASE 3449: Application of Ray Smith Drilling Company for a unit agreement, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of its Shugart 18-Queen Unit Area comprising 264 acres, more or less, of Federal land in Township 18 South, Ranges 30 and 31 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.

CASE 3450: Application of Ray Smith Drilling Company for a waterflood project, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to institute a waterflood project on its Shugart 18-Queen Unit Area by the injection of water into three wells located in Section 13, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, and Section 18, Township 18 South, Range 31 East, Shugart Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.

KERMIT OIL COMPANY

BOX 1665 MU 4-8780
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701

September 2, 1966

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
State Capitol
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

Kermit Oil Company upholds and supports Union Oil Company of California's application for an exception to Commission Rule 104 to permit the completion in the Pennsylvanian formation of its Red Hills Unit well #2, located at an unorthodox Pennsylvania location, 990' FNL and 1,650' FEL of Section 5, T-26-S, R-33-E, Red Hills Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

Yours truly,

'66 SEP 6 AM 8 12

KERMIT OIL COMPANY


Bill Stapler

BS:lh

*request that we
take notice of request
3152 3153 completion
cases.
R3073 Red Hills Gas Pool
for Pool Record*

Union Oil Company of California
M I D L A N D

P.O. Box 671
500 N. MARINEFIELD
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701

August 4, 1966

AREA CODE 915
~~MIDLAND~~
MU 2-9731

104 C II
Case 3452

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
P. O. Box 2988
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Attention: Mr. A. L. Porter, Jr.
Secretary Director

Gentlemen:

Enclosed are 5 copies of Form C-101, 5 copies of Form C-102, and 5 copies of a waiver from the offset operator in connection with drilling a Pennsylvanian test as an unorthodox location 990' FNL and 1650' FEL of Section 5, T26S, R33E, Lea County, New Mexico. This well is now being drilled as an unorthodox Wolfcamp location approved by OCC Order R-3073.

Union Oil Company of California respectfully requests administrative approval of this unorthodox location for a Pennsylvanian test.

Yours very truly,

UNION OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

G. W. Coombes
G. W. Coombes
District Operations Superintendent

GWC/JFW:sd

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Bill Stanley - Roswell Office
File

Mr. J. D. Ramey - NMCCC - Hobbs

DOCKET MAILED

Date 8-25-66
R

1966 AUG 12 AM 7 50

U.S. G. C.
1966 AUG 12 AM 7 50

W A I V E R

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Kermit Oil Company has been advised that Union Oil Company of California, as unit operator, has filed a permit to drill Red Hills Unit No. 2 located 1650' FEL and 990' FNL of Section 5, T-26-S, R-33-E, Lea County, New Mexico and Kermit Oil Company waives objection to this non-standard Pennsylvanian Zone location.

KERMIT OIL COMPANY

By: Bill Staples

Date: Aug 4, 1966

Cover 3452

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
UNION OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA FOR)
AN UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATION IN THE)
PENNSYLVANIAN FORMATION IN LEA COUNTY,)
NEW MEXICO.)

Case No. 3452

APPLICATION

COMES NOW Union Oil Company of California and hereby makes application for an unorthodox well location for a well to be drilled to the Pennsylvanian formation in Lea County, New Mexico, and states:

1. That heretofore in Case No. 3158, Order R-3073, dated June 2, 1966, this Commission has established special rules and regulations for the Red Hills-Wolfcamp Gas Pool in Lea County, New Mexico, which Pool covers, among other lands, the lands involved in this Application.
2. That said Order provided, in part, for an exception to the well location requirements of said pool rules to a well to be drilled 990 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the East line of Section 5, Township 26 South, Range 33 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico. That Applicant has been designated as operator of such well, and that drilling operations on such well are currently being conducted.
3. That in order to avoid waste, including economic waste, Applicant proposes not only to explore the Wolfcamp formation but to also drill to and explore the Pennsylvanian formation in the

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Date 8-25-66

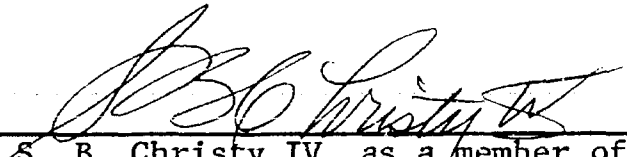
drilling of said well. It is the belief of Applicant that such proposed operations are in the interest of conservation and the prevention of waste, and will not violate the correlative rights of any interested party.

WHEREFORE, Applicant prays that it be granted an exception to Rule 104 of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission Rules and Regulations in order to permit Applicant to drill to and explore the Pennsylvanian formation from the well, aforesaid, presently being drilled.

Respectfully submitted,

UNION OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

By


S. B. Christy IV, as a member of
the firm of Hinkle, Bondurant &
Christy, P. O. Box 10,
Roswell, New Mexico,
Attorneys for the Applicant

cc: Kermit Oil Company

dearnley-meier reporting service, inc.

SPECIALIZING IN: DEPOSITIONS, HEARINGS, STATEMENTS, EXPERT TESTIMONY, DAILY COPY, CONVENTIONS

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BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Santa Fe, New Mexico
September 7, 1966

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:
Application of Union Oil
Company of California for an
unorthodox location, Lea
County, New Mexico

CASE NUMBER
3452

BEFORE:

DANIEL S. NUTTER, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

MR. HATCH: Application of Union Oil Company of California for an unorthodox location, Lea County, New Mexico.

MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, the Union requested to go ahead of us on the next case and we have no objection to your hearing Case 3452 next.

MR. NUTTER: If there is no objection, we will call Case 3452 at this time. We will call Case 3451 later.

MR. HATCH: Application of Union Oil Company of California for an unorthodox location, Lea County, New Mexico.

MR. HENSLEY: Harold L. Hensley, Junior of the firm of Bondurant, Hinkle and Christie, appearing for Union Oil Company of California, and we have one witness.

(Witness sworn.)

MR. HENSLEY: Officially I might state for the record, Mr. Examiner, that in some respects this is a companion case as to Case 3158 and 3159, and we would request that the Examiner take administrative notice of those respective cases for the purpose of this Hearing.

MR. NUTTER: Thank you. We will.

ARTHUR V. LEWIS, JUNIOR

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HENSLEY:

Q
you are employed?
My n

Mexico. I am
in Roswell.

Q Have you been before this Commission?

A I have.

I have.

I have.

the application.

A I am.

Q Will you state briefly what the subject application for California seeks by the subject application, in order to avoid any misunderstanding, to explore Pennsylvanian formation in the North L

A Will you state whether or not the Union Oil Company seeks, in order to explore Pennsylvanian formation at a location 990 feet from the North Line of Section 5, Township 26 North, Range 12 East, New Mexico.

The drilling operations are currently being conducted at a

depth of 13,573 feet.

Q With reference to Case 3158, heretofore the Commission, by Order R3073, established special rules and regulations for the Red Hills Wolfcamp gas pool in Lea County, is that correct?

A This is correct.

Q And the designated pool includes the land upon which the Red Hills Unit Well Number 2 is located?

A This is correct.

Q In connection with the previous hearings, I believe Exhibit 1 is a plat which reflects this Unit Area?

A Exhibit 1 was submitted as a previous exhibit, in Cases 3158 and 3159 dated 11-24-64, to which I have added the location of Red Hills Unit Well Number 2 and outlined in red and drilling block that is involved in participation in Red Hills Number 2.

Q As a matter of fact, Mr. Lewis, the subject well location being 990 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the East line of Section 5, Township 26 South, Range 33 East was granted an exception to Rule 104 only as an unorthodox nonstandard Wolfcamp location, is that correct?

A This is correct.

Q And by the subject application, you also seek exception to Rule 104 as an unorthodox Pennsylvanian location?

A This is correct.

Q Do I understand it, then, that your intentions are to dually complete the subject well in the Wolfcamp and Pennsylvanian zones?

A Union will attempt a dual completion in the Wolfcamp and Pennsylvanian zones and will then request 640 spacing for the Pennsylvanian with rules similar to those for the Wolfcamp.

Q If the Commission grants the application and commercial production is obtained in the Pennsylvanian zone, what are your intentions with respect to a Pennsylvanian proration unit?

A We will request a 640 Pennsylvanian proration unit.

Q Section 5 is marked on the plat upon which this Red Hills Unit Well Number 2 is located and all contiguous sections to the drilling location within the Unit Area designated by the Red Hills Unit?

A Yes, it is.

Q And is the Red Hills Unit Agreement applicable to all formations and to all depths?

A It is applicable to all formations and all depths.

Q Are there any mineral owners in Section 5 where the subject well is located, or in any contiguous section whose interests have not been committed to the Red Hills Unit?

A Yes, there are.

Q What provisions have been made to protect the correlative rights of these noncommitted mineral owners?

A These noncommitted mineral owners are Messrs. Schuman and Yaeger, et al., whose interest is being operated by Kermit Oil Company. On June 1st, 1966, Union Oil Company, Schuman-Yaeger, et al., and Kermit mutually agreed to drill a Wolfcamp to test the Pennsylvanian 990 from the North and 1650 feet from the East of Section 5, Township 26 South, Range 33 East, and Schuman-Yaeger et al., and Kermit further agreed to support Union in an application for 640 acres spacing units for these zones. The well is, in fact, being drilled on the mineral interest of these parties at its present location 990 from the North and 1650 feet from the East of Section 5.

Q Other than the noncommitted interest to which you have made reference, are all other offset mineral owners participants in the Red Hills Unit.

A Yes, they are.

Q What is the status of Red Hills Number 2?

A It is presently drilling as of 8:00 o'clock this morning at a depth of 13,573 feet in the Wolfcamp formation.

Q In your application you have stated that the proposed exception to Rule 104 for an unorthodox Pennsylvanian location will prevent waste, including economic waste, promote

conservation, and will not in any way violate the correlative rights of any interested owner, is that right?

A This is correct.

Q Are you prepared at this time to explain this conclusion in more detail for the Examiner?

A The reason for drilling to the Pennsylvanian at this time in the Red Hills Well Number 2, presently in progress, is to determine if, in fact, Pennsylvanian zones aren't able to sustain production sufficient to warrant further development in the Red Hills Unit Area.

The Pennsylvanian zone, part of a dual completion in Red Hills Number 1, dualled with the Wolfcamp, produced for eighteen days before production ceased, due to mechanical plugging; the bottom hole pressures in the Wolfcamp zones of this well are still excessively high to permit safely entering the well, killing the Wolfcamp, and completing a completion in the Pennsylvanian. We would attempt to test this by deepening Number 2 to determine more about the Pennsylvanian reservoir, and see if it is capable of maintaining sustained production.

The appropriate drilling costs were determined for me by our Drilling Department in Midland, Texas and furnished as a part of our normal business in trying to determine the best method of testing the Pennsylvanian at a location in Section 5. We have determined that a completed Wolfcamp Well

at a location 990 from the North and 1650 from the East of Section 5 Township 26 South, Range 33 West will cost us \$637,350 completed. In order to deepen this well to the Pennsylvanian and make a dual completion in Wolfcamp and Pennsylvanian zones it will cost us an additional \$137,900.

To drill and complete a single Pennsylvanian well or a single completion in the Pennsylvanian would cost \$724,250 which is over half a million dollars more than the cost to deepen the present well, Red Hills Number 2, at its present location, to test and complete in the Pennsylvanian.

Q With respect to the correlative rights of interested parties involved, the agreement to which you made reference earlier in your testimony between Union Oil as operator and these noncommitted mineral owners was, in fact, entered into for the purpose of protecting the correlative rights of these nonmineral owners in Section 5, is that right?

A This is correct. It was entered into in order to protect the correlative rights of the owners in Section 5 against the Wolfcamp Well completed in Section 32 of Township 25 South, Range 33 East; and for similar reasons we wish to deepen this Red Hills Number 2 Well from the Wolfcamp to the Pennsylvanian to provide protection for correlative rights in the Pennsylvanian zones as well as the Wolfcamp. It is our intention, when we are safely able, to re-enter Red Hills

Number 1 in the Pennsylvanian zone and attempt recompletion.

Q The re-entry in the Red Hill Well Number 1 would, in fact, insure that the correlative rights of the owners in Section 32 had been protected by the location of the Red Hills Union Number 2 Well?

A This is correct.

Q In summary of your testimony, Mr. Lewis, is it your opinion that the granting of the subject application will prevent waste, promote conservation and not in any way violate any correlative rights of any interested owner?

A This is correct.

MR. HENSLEY: Mr. Examiner, at this time we would offer into the record of this case Exhibit 1, which also appears as Exhibit 1 in Case Numbers 3158 and 3159.

MR. NUTTER: Exhibit 1 Case 3452 will be admitted in evidence.

(Whereupon, Exhibit 1 was admitted in evidence.)

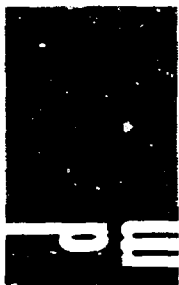
MR. HENSLEY: We have no further questions on direct from this witness.

MR. NUTTER: Are there any questions of the witness? I didn't get your name.

A Arthur V. Lewis.

MR. NUTTER: Is that L-e-w--

A L-e-w-i-s.



CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. NUTTER:

Q Mr. Lewis, what was the cost for a single completion in the Pennsylvanian that you gave?

A A single completion?

Q I mean in the Wolfcamp.

A \$637,350. This includes the drilling costs and the completion costs.

Q So your estimated cost of a dual --

A \$775,250 for dual Wolfcamp and Pennsylvania against \$724, 250 for a single Pennsylvania.

Q Now, all of Section 5 is currently dedicated to the well as far as the Wolfcamp is concerned?

A Yes, sir.

Q What would you propose to dedicate to the Pennsylvanian side of the dual completion pending any special pool rights?

A We would dedicate the north half and apply for special pool rules to dedicate all of Section 5.

Q Under existing rules you would have 320 acres which would be the north half?

A Yes, sir.

Q The Red Hills Number 1 has been approved as a dual completion in the Wolfcamp and the Pennsylvanian, has it not?

dearnley-meier reporting service, inc.

SPECIALIZING IN: DEPOSITIONS, HEARINGS, STATEMENTS, EXPERT TESTIMONY, DAILY COPY, CONVENTIONS

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PAGE

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A Yes, sir.

Q So this is a dual completion within one mile and would be eligible for administrative approval?

A Yes, sir.

MR. NUTTER: Are there any further questions of Mr. Lewis? He may be excused.

(Witness excused.)

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

MR. HENSLEY: We have nothing further.

MR. NUTTER: Does anyone have any other statements or anything to offer in Case 3452? We will take the case under advisement.

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SPECIALIZING IN: DEPOSITIONS, HEARINGS, STATEMENTS, EXPERT TESTIMONY, DAILY COPY, CONVENTIONS

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO) ss

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.

Ada Dearnley
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

June 19, 1967

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the *Ex parte* hearing, Case No. *3452*
heard on *9/7*, 19*66*

Robert J. ...
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission