

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR  
COMPULSORY POOLING AND APPROVAL  
OF NON-STANDARD SPACING UNIT  
SUBMITTED BY AVANT OPERATING, LLC**

**CASE NO. 23678  
ORDER NO. R-22958**

**ORDER**

The Director of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (“OCD”), having heard this matter through a Hearing Examiner on October 5, 2023, and after considering the testimony, evidence, and recommendation of the Hearing Examiner, issues the following Order.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Avant Operating, LLC (“Operator”) submitted an application (“Application”) to compulsory pool the uncommitted oil and gas interests within the spacing unit (“Unit”) described in Exhibit A.
2. The Application also seeks approval of a Non-Standard horizontal spacing unit for production from all Division-designated pools underlying the Unit.
3. Operator seeks to be designated the operator of the Unit.
4. Operator will dedicate the well(s) described in Exhibit A (“Well(s)”) to the Unit.
5. Operator proposes the supervision and risk charges for the Well(s) described in Exhibit A.
6. Operator identified the owners of uncommitted interests in oil and gas minerals in the Unit and provided evidence that notice was given.
7. Operator identified the owners of interest in the offset oil and gas minerals from the Unit and provided evidence that notice was given.
8. The Application was heard by the Hearing Examiner on the date specified above, during which Operator presented evidence through affidavits in support of the Application. No other party presented evidence at the hearing.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

9. OCD has jurisdiction to issue this Order pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-17.
10. Operator is the owner of an oil and gas working interest within the Unit.

11. Operator satisfied the notice requirements for the Application and the hearing as required by 19.15.4.12 NMAC.
12. Operator has met the notice requirements for approval of non-standard horizontal spacing units in accordance with 19.15.16.15(B)(5) NMAC.
13. OCD satisfied the notice requirements for the hearing as required by 19.15.4.9 NMAC.
14. Operator has the right to drill the Well(s) to a common source of supply at the depth(s) and location(s) in the Unit described in Exhibit A.
15. OCD's rules allow the approval of a non-standard horizontal spacing unit, after notice and opportunity for hearing, "if necessary to prevent waste or protect correlative rights" 19.15.16.15(B)(5)(a) NMAC.
16. While the OCD is authorized to approve a non-standard spacing unit, Rutter & Wilbanks Corp. v. Oil Conservation Comm'n, 1975-NMSC-006, OCD lacks the authority to approve unitization and will disapprove an application if it determines that it is actually unitization. Order R-13554 (May 18, 2012) (disapproving application for a non-standard spacing unit consisting of 16 standard spacing units).
17. Approval of the Non-Standard Spacing Unit promotes effective well spacing and allows the Operator to therefore prevent waste and protect correlative rights.
18. The Unit contains separately owned uncommitted interests in oil and gas minerals.
19. Some of the owners of the uncommitted interests have not agreed to commit their interests to the Unit.
20. The pooling of uncommitted interests in the Unit will prevent waste and protect correlative rights, including the drilling of unnecessary wells.
21. This Order affords to the owner of an uncommitted interest the opportunity to produce his just and equitable share of the oil or gas in the pool.

### **ORDER**

22. The Unit is approved as a non-standard horizontal spacing unit.
23. Operator shall file Forms C-102 reflecting the correct acreage dedicated for each of the Wells.
24. The uncommitted interests in the Unit are pooled as set forth in Exhibit A.
25. The Unit shall be dedicated to the Well(s) set forth in Exhibit A.

26. Operator is designated as operator of the Unit and the Well(s).
27. If the location of a well will be unorthodox under the spacing rules in effect at the time of completion, Operator shall obtain the OCD's approval for a non-standard location in accordance with 19.15.16.15(C) NMAC.
28. The Operator shall commence drilling the Well(s) within one year after the date of this Order, and complete each Well no later than one (1) year after the commencement of drilling the Well.
29. This Order shall terminate automatically if Operator fails to comply with Paragraph 28 unless Operator obtains an extension by amending this Order for good cause shown.
30. The infill well requirements in 19.15.13.9 NMAC through 19.15.13.12 NMAC shall be applicable.
31. Operator shall submit each owner of an uncommitted working interest in the pool ("Pooled Working Interest") an itemized schedule of estimated costs to drill, complete, and equip the well ("Estimated Well Costs").
32. No later than thirty (30) days after Operator submits the Estimated Well Costs, the owner of a Pooled Working Interest shall elect whether to pay its share of the Estimated Well Costs or its share of the actual costs to drill, complete and equip the well ("Actual Well Costs") out of production from the well. An owner of a Pooled Working Interest who elects to pay its share of the Estimated Well Costs shall render payment to Operator no later than thirty (30) days after the expiration of the election period, and shall be liable for operating costs, but not risk charges, for the well. An owner of a Pooled Working Interest who fails to pay its share of the Estimated Well Costs or who elects to pay its share of the Actual Well Costs out of production from the well shall be considered to be a "Non-Consenting Pooled Working Interest."
33. No later than one hundred eighty (180) days after Operator submits a Form C-105 for a well, Operator shall submit to each owner of a Pooled Working Interest an itemized schedule of the Actual Well Costs. The Actual Well Costs shall be considered to be the Reasonable Well Costs unless an owner of a Pooled Working Interest files a written objection no later than forty-five (45) days after receipt of the schedule. If an owner of a Pooled Working Interest files a timely written objection, OCD shall determine the Reasonable Well Costs after public notice and hearing.
34. No later than sixty (60) days after the expiration of the period to file a written objection to the Actual Well Costs or OCD's order determining the Reasonable Well Costs, whichever is later, each owner of a Pooled Working Interest who paid its share of the Estimated Well Costs shall pay to Operator its share of the

Reasonable Well Costs that exceed the Estimated Well Costs, or Operator shall pay to each owner of a Pooled Working Interest who paid its share of the Estimated Well Costs its share of the Estimated Well Costs that exceed the Reasonable Well Costs.

35. The reasonable charges for supervision to drill and produce a well (“Supervision Charges”) shall not exceed the rates specified in Exhibit A, provided however that the rates shall be adjusted annually pursuant to the COPAS form entitled “Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations.”
36. No later than within ninety (90) days after Operator submits a Form C-105 for a well, Operator shall submit to each owner of a Pooled Working Interest an itemized schedule of the reasonable charges for operating and maintaining the well (“Operating Charges”), provided however that Operating Charges shall not include the Reasonable Well Costs or Supervision Charges. The Operating Charges shall be considered final unless an owner of a Pooled Working Interest files a written objection no later than forty-five (45) days after receipt of the schedule. If an owner of a Pooled Working Interest files a timely written objection, OCD shall determine the Operating Charges after public notice and hearing.
37. Operator may withhold the following costs and charges from the share of production due to each owner of a Pooled Working Interest who paid its share of the Estimated Well Costs: (a) the proportionate share of the Supervision Charges; and (b) the proportionate share of the Operating Charges.
38. Operator may withhold the following costs and charges from the share of production due to each owner of a Non-Consenting Pooled Working Interest: (a) the proportionate share of the Reasonable Well Costs; (b) the proportionate share of the Supervision and Operating Charges; and (c) the percentage of the Reasonable Well Costs specified as the charge for risk described in Exhibit A.
39. Operator shall distribute a proportionate share of the costs and charges withheld pursuant to paragraph 38 to each Pooled Working Interest that paid its share of the Estimated Well Costs.
40. Each year on the anniversary of this Order, and no later than ninety (90) days after each payout, Operator shall provide to each owner of a Non-Consenting Pooled Working Interest a schedule of the revenue attributable to a well and the Supervision and Operating Costs charged against that revenue.
41. Any cost or charge that is paid out of production shall be withheld only from the share due to an owner of a Pooled Working Interest. No cost or charge shall be withheld from the share due to an owner of a royalty interests. For the purpose of this Order, an unleased mineral interest shall consist of a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest.

42. Except as provided above, Operator shall hold the revenue attributable to a well that is not disbursed for any reason for the account of the person(s) entitled to the revenue as provided in the Oil and Gas Proceeds Payment Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 70-10-1 *et seq.*, and relinquish such revenue as provided in the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 7-8A-1 *et seq.*
43. The Unit shall terminate if (a) the owners of all Pooled Working Interests reach a voluntary agreement; or (b) the well(s) drilled on the Unit are plugged and abandoned in accordance with the applicable rules. Operator shall inform OCD no later than thirty (30) days after such occurrence.
44. OCD retains jurisdiction of this matter for the entry of such orders as may be deemed necessary.

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**



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**DYLAN M FUGE**  
**DIRECTOR**  
DMF/hat

**Date:** 11/15/2023

## Exhibit A

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<b>COMPULSORY POOLING APPLICATION CHECKLIST</b>	
<b>ALL INFORMATION IN THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUPPORTED BY SIGNED AFFIDAVITS</b>	
<b>Case: 23678</b>	<b>APPLICANT'S RESPONSE</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>October 5, 2023</b>
Applicant	<b>Avant Operating, LLC</b>
Designated Operator & OGRID (affiliation if applicable)	<b>330396</b>
Applicant's Counsel:	Modrall, Sperling, Roel, Harris & Sisk, P.A.
Case Title:	Application of Avant Operating, LLC for Approval of Non-Standard Unit and Compulsory Pooling, Lea County, New Mexico.
Entries of Appearance/Intervenors:	EOG Resources, Inc. XTO Energy, Inc.
Well Family	Sandra Jean
<b>Formation/Pool</b>	
Formation Name(s) or Vertical Extent:	Bone Spring
Primary Product (Oil or Gas):	Oil
Pooling this vertical extent:	Bone Spring
Pool Name and Pool Code:	Teas; Bone Spring, Pool (Code 58960)
Well Location Setback Rules:	Statewide Rules
<b>Spacing Unit</b>	
Type (Horizontal/Vertical)	Horizontal
Size (Acres)	640-acres
Building Blocks:	40-acres
Orientation:	North/South
Description: TRS/County	Section 23, Township 20 South, Range 33 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County
Standard Horizontal Well Spacing Unit (Y/N), If No, describe <u>and</u> is approval of non-standard unit requested in this application?	No. Approval of non-standard unit is being requested.
<b>Other Situations</b>	
Depth Severance: Y/N. If yes, description	No.
Proximity Tracts: If yes, description	Yes. The completed interval for the Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #302H; Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #502H, Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #602H; Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #304H, Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #505H; and the Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #605H wells are expected to be less than 330 feet from the adjoining tracts, thereby allowing for the inclusion of the proximity tracts within the proposed spacing unit.
Proximity Defining Well: if yes, description	Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #302; #502H; #602H; #304H; #505H; #605H; and #303H
Applicant's Ownership in Each Tract	Exhibit B.3
<b>Well(s)</b>	
Name & API (if assigned), surface and bottom hole location, footages, completion target, orientation, completion status (standard or non-standard)	Add wells as needed

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OCD Examiner Hearing 10-05-23  
No. 23678

**Exhibit A**

Well #11: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #305H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 360' FSL & 1137' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 530' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: First Bone Spring (Approx. 9,500' TVD)
Well #12: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #504H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 1848' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 2178' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Second Bone Spring (Approx. 10,400' TVD)
Well #13: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #505H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 1788' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 1254' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Second Bone Spring (Approx. 10,400' TVD)
Well #14: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #506H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 1147' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 330' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Second Bone Spring (Approx. 10,400' TVD)
Well #15: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #604H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 1868' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 2178' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Third Bone Spring (Approx. 11,350' TVD)
Well #16: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #605H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 1768' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 1254' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Third Bone Spring (Approx. 11,350' TVD)
Well #17: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #606H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 1127' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 330' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Third Bone Spring (Approx. 11,350' TVD)
Horizontal Well First and Last Take Points	Exhibit B.2
Completion Target (Formation, TVD and MD)	Exhibit B.5
<b>AFE Capex and Operating Costs</b>	
Drilling Supervision/Month \$	\$10,000
Production Supervision/Month \$	\$1,000
Justification for Supervision Costs	See Exhibit B, Para 29; see Exhibit B.6 (AFEs)
Requested Risk Charge	200%
<b>Notice of Hearing</b>	
Proposed Notice of Hearing	See Exhibit B.8
Proof of Mailed Notice of Hearing (20 days before hearing)	See Exhibit B.8
Proof of Published Notice of Hearing (10 days before hearing)	See Exhibit B.8
<b>Ownership Determination</b>	
Land Ownership Schematic of the Spacing Unit	OCD Examiner Hearing 10-05-23 See Exhibit B.3

Tract List (including lease numbers and owners)	See Exhibit B.3
If approval of Non-Standard Spacing Unit is requested, Tract List (including lease numbers and owners) of Tracts subject to notice requirements.	Exhibit B.3 and Exhibit B.7
Pooled Parties (including ownership type)	See Exhibit B.3
Unlocatable Parties to be Pooled	N/A
Ownership Depth Severance (including percentage above & below)	N/A
<b>Joinder</b>	
Sample Copy of Proposal Letter	See Exhibit B.5
List of Interest Owners (ie Exhibit A of JOA)	See Exhibit B.3
Chronology of Contact with Non-Joined Working Interests	See Exhibit B.4
Overhead Rates In Proposal Letter	See Exhibit B.5
Cost Estimate to Drill and Complete	See Exhibit B.6
Cost Estimate to Equip Well	See Exhibit B.6
Cost Estimate for Production Facilities	See Exhibit B.6
<b>Geology</b>	
Summary (including special considerations)	Exhibit C
Spacing Unit Schematic	Exhibit C.1
Gunbarrel/Lateral Trajectory Schematic	Exhibit C.2
Well Orientation (with rationale)	See Exhibit C, Paragraph 18
Target Formation	Exhibit C.5 to C.10
HSU Cross Section	Exhibit C.5 to C.10
Depth Severance Discussion	N/A
<b>Forms, Figures and Tables</b>	
C-102	Exhibit B.2
Tracts	Exhibit B.3
Summary of Interests, Unit Recapitulation (Tracts)	Exhibit B.3
General Location Map (including basin)	Exhibit C.1
Well Bore Location Map	Exhibit C.2
Structure Contour Map - Subsea Depth	Exhibit C.3
Cross Section Location Map (including wells)	Exhibit C.4
Cross Section (including Landing Zone)	Exhibit C.5 to C.10
<b>Additional Information</b>	
Special Provisions/Stipulations	<p>With respect to XTO Energy, Inc.'s (XTO) interests only: "Commence Drilling" under this Order shall mean the actual drilling or re-entry of a well with a drilling rig capable of drilling to total depth. Avant will not submit to XTO E the Estimated Well Costs for any well authorized by this Order until no sooner than 30 days of spudding of the well, and XTO shall have 30-days after receipt of the Estimated Well Costs for a particular well to elect to participate in that well. In the event XTO elects to participate under this Order in any well, XTO will not be required to pay its share of Estimated Wells Costs and Avant will instead submit joint interest billings to XTO as</p> <p>OCD Examination operations take place. No. 23678</p>

<b>CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the information provided in this checklist is complete and accurate.</b>	
<b>Printed Name</b> (Attorney or Party Representative):	Deana M. Bennett
<b>Signed Name</b> (Attorney or Party Representative):	/s/ Deana M. Bennett
<b>Date:</b>	10/3/2023

Well #1: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #301H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 360' FSL & 742' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 530' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: First Bone Spring (Approx. 9,500' TVD)
Well #2: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #302H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 360' FSL & 802' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 1584' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: First Bone Spring (Approx. 9,500' TVD)
Well #3: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #501H	API (Not yet assigned) <b>SHL:</b> 200' FSL & 732' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E <b>BHL:</b> 100' FNL & 330' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Second Bone Spring (Approx. 10,400' TVD)
Well #4: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #502H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 792' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 1254' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Second Bone Spring (Approx. 10,400' TVD)
Well #5: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #503H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 2077' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 2178' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Second Bone Spring (Approx. 10,400' TVD)
Well #6: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #601H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 712' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 330' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Third Bone Spring (Approx. 11,350' TVD)
Well #7: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #602H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 812' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 1254' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Third Bone Spring (Approx. 11,350' TVD)
Well #8: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #603H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 200' FSL & 2057' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 2178' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: Third Bone Spring (Approx. 11,350' TVD)
Well #9: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #303H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 360' FSL & 2067' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 2640' FEL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: First Bone Spring (Approx. 9,500' TVD)
Well #10: Sandra Jean 23 Fed Com #304H	API (Not yet assigned) SHL: 360' FSL & 1197' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E BHL: 100' FNL & 1584' FWL Section 23, T20S, R33E Completion Target: First Bone Spring (Approx. 9,500' TVD)