

*Entered July 1, 1969  
A.S.P.*

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. 4156  
Order No. R-3784

APPLICATION OF JACK L. McCLELLAN  
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER NO. R-  
3221, AS AMENDED, CHAVES COUNTY,  
NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on June 25, 1969,  
at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Elvis A. Utz.

NOW, on this 7th day of July, 1969, 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, Jack L. McClellan, is the owner and  
operator of certain wells located in the SE/4 of Section 13 and  
in the NE/4 of Section 24, Township 15 South, Range 29 East, NMPM,  
Sulimar-Queen Pool, Chaves County, New Mexico.

(3) That Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as  
amended, prohibits in that area encompassed by Lea, Eddy, Chaves,  
and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the disposal, subject to  
minor exceptions, of water produced in conjunction with the  
production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground,  
or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, streambed, or  
arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any other place or in any

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manner which would constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

(4) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.

(5) That the State Engineer has designated, pursuant to Section 65-3-11 (15), N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation, all underground water in the State of New Mexico containing 10,000 parts per million or less of dissolved solids as fresh water supplies to be afforded reasonable protection against contamination; except that said designation does not include any water for which there is no present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use that would be impaired by contamination.

(6) That the applicant seeks an exception to the provisions of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the disposal of salt water, produced by applicant's wells located in the SE/4 of Section 13 and in the NE/4 of Section 24, Township 15 South, Range 29 East, NMPM, Sulimar-Queen Pool, Chaves County, New Mexico, in three unlined surface pits located in Unit P of said Section 13 and in Units A and H of said Section 24.

(7) That the subject wells presently produce approximately 100 barrels of water per day.

(8) That there appears to be no shallow fresh water in the vicinity of the subject leases for which a present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use is or will be made that would be impaired by contamination from the subject pits.

(9) That the applicant should be permitted to dispose of salt water produced by wells located in said quarter-quarter sections in the three aforesaid unlined surface pits.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, Jack L. McClellan, is hereby granted an exception to Order No. R-3221, as amended, to dispose of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both,

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by his wells located in the SE/4 of Section 13 and the NE/4 of Section 24, Township 15 South, Range 29 East, NMPM, Sulimar-Queen Pool, Chaves County, New Mexico, in three unlined surface pits located in Unit P of said Section 13, and in Units A and H of said Section 24.

(2) That the Commission may by administrative order rescind such authority whenever it reasonably appears to the Commission that such rescission would serve to protect fresh water supplies from contamination.

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

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

  
DAVID F. CARGO, Chairman

  
ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member

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

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