Entered April 30, 1974
R.L.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. 5177
Order No. R-4549-B

APPLICATION OF ATLANTIC RICHFIELD
COMPANY FOR THE AMENDMENT OF ORDER
NO. R-4549, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on February 27, 1974, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 30th day of April, 1974, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

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

(2) That the applicant, Atlantic Richfield Company, is the operator of the Empire-Abo Pressure Maintenance Project, Empire-Abo Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico, which project was authorized by Commission Order No. R-4549, and is governed by operating rules included in said order as amended by Order No. R-4549-A.

(3) That the applicant seeks the amendment of said Order No. R-4549, as amended, to include an increase in the maximum project allowable from 40,192 barrels of oil per day to 40,555 barrels of oil per day because of additional lands committed to the unit and participating in the project and to provide that the maximum project allowable of 40,555 barrels of oil per day would be achieved upon injection of "all available residue gas" rather than "70 percent of the produced gas," as now provided in the project rules.

(4) That the applicant further seeks the amendment of Order No. R-4549, as amended, to include a provision for administrative approval for water injection wells and to include a reservoir voidage replacement credit for water injected into the Abo formation within the project area, and to provide for the establishment of a gas injection credit "bank", against which

injection credit could be drawn in order to maintain full allowables during such times that full gas injection cannot be maintained because of injection plant shutdowns or other mechanical problems.

(5) That the increase in maximum allowable for the Empire-Abo Pressure Maintenance Project from 40,192 barrels of oil per day to 40,555 barrels of oil per day is justified inasmuch as the original 40,192 barrels was based on numeric model studies of the reservoir assuming only those tracts actually committed to the unit at the time of the original hearing would participate; that additional tracts have now been committed to the unit and the maximum permissible allowable should therefore be increased accordingly to 40,555 barrels of oil per day.

(6) That the aforesaid maximum allowable should be made available upon injection of 95 percent of all available residue gas rather than upon injection of 70 percent of the produced gas as is presently provided by Rule 3 of the Project Rules as promulgated by Order No. R-4549, as amended by Order No. R-4549-A; that "Available Residue Gas" should be defined as being all gas produced from the unitized formation less plant shrinkage and plant fuel and lease fuel required for operations; that there should be a prohibition against the sale of gas from the project except during emergency situations of temporary nature.

(7) That in addition to the administrative procedure currently in effect pursuant to Order No. R-4549 for approval of the injection of gas into the Abo formation without notice and hearing, an administrative procedure should be adopted whereby approval could be given for the injection of water into said formation within the project area without notice and hearing, provided certain restrictions regarding proximity to non-participating tracts are observed.

(8) That credit should be allowed in the project's Reservoir Voidage Formula for water injected into the reservoir as well as for gas, as now provided.

(9) That in order to allow for the maintenance of full allowables and full production schedules during such times as injection well failures, injection plant shutdowns, and other temporary conditions of unforeseen nature which prevent the injection of 95 percent of all available residue gas, a provision should be made in the project rules for the establishment of a system for the accumulation of gas injection credits which could be applied in the "Additional Allowable" formula contained in Rule 4 of the project rules; that monthly gas injection credits which may be accumulated should be limited to the volume of gas injected which exceeds 95 percent of the residue gas available for injection during any given month; and that the maximum amount of gas injection credits which should be permitted to

accrue to the gas injection credit bank should be equal to 100 percent of the average of the total monthly injection volumes for the previous three months, not including the month being reported.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That Rule 3 of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Empire-Abo Pressure Maintenance Project as promulgated by Order No. R-4549, as amended by Order No. R-4549-A, is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

> "RULE 3. That the maximum daily project allowable shall be an amount of oil which will result in reservoir voidage no greater than the average daily reservoir voidage in the project area for calendar year 1972 (56,513 reservoir barrels) or 33,000 barrels of oil per day, whichever is less, except that when injection of 95 percent of all available residue gas is achieved, the maximum daily project allowable shall be an amount of oil which will result in reservoir voidage no greater than the average daily reservoir voidage in the project area for calendar year 1972 (56,513 reservoir barrels) or 40,555 barrels of oil per day, whichever is less."

(2) That Rule 4 of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Empire-Abo Pressure Maintenance Project is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

> "RULE 4. That upon commencement of gas injection and for as long thereafter as such injection continues, extra allowable in addition to the 33,000 barrels per day described above may be assigned to the project area, provided that such additional allowable shall be based upon the proportion of residue gas available for injection which is actually injected into the unitized formation and shall be computed in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{Additional Allowable in Excess of 33,000 BOPD} = 39.76 \left[2 \left(\frac{\text{MCF gas inj. previous month x 10}}{\text{MCF residue gas available prev. month}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\text{MCF gas inj. previous month x 10}}{\text{MCF residue gas available previous month}} \right) \right]$$

That the maximum additional allowable which may be earned by gas injection shall be 7,555 barrels per day. That this maximum may be earned by the injection of 95 percent of the available residue gas into the unitized formation; that gas volumes in excess of said 95 percent which are injected into the unitized formation shall be credited each month to a gas injection bank account which shall be permitted to accrue such gas injection credits up to 100 percent of the average of the total monthly injection volumes for the three previous months, not including the month being reported; that during such times as injection well failures, injection plant shutdowns, and other temporary conditions of unforeseen nature which prevent the injection of at least 95 percent of the available residue gas, said gas injection bank account may be charged a sufficient volume to add to the actual volume of injection achieved to equal 95 percent of the available residue gas for the month. In the event there are insufficient credits accrued to the gas injection bank account to bring actual injection plus applied credits up to 95 percent of available residue gas, production shall be reduced to 33,000 barrels of oil per day plus the amount which the actual injection plus the accrued credits will actually earn. Production beyond this amount shall be considered over-production and shall be compensated for by underproduction during the following month.

For the purpose of these rules, "Available Residue Gas" shall be defined as being all gas produced from the unitized formation less plant shrinkage, plant fuel, and lease fuel required for operation of the lease.

No raw gas nor plant residue gas attributable to the project shall be sold or otherwise disposed of by any means other than injection into the unitized formation except during emergency situations of temporary nature."

(3) That Rule 5 of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Empire-Abo Pressure Maintenance Project is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

> "RULE 5. That all calculations of reservoir voidage shall be made in accordance with the formula set forth in Attachment "A" to this order entitled "EMPIRE-ABO UNIT AREA-Reservoir Voidage Formula - Gas and Water Injection Credit" utilizing the reservoir and fluid data set forth in Attachment "B" to this order entitled EMPIRE-ABO UNIT AREA - Table of Fluid Properties."

(4) That Rule 14 of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Empire-Abo Pressure Maintenance Project is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"RULE 14. The Secretary-Director of the Commission is hereby authorized to approve such additional producing wells and gas injection and water injection wells at orthodox and unorthodox locations within the boundaries of the ARCO Empire-Abo Unit Area as may be necessary to complete an efficient production and injection pattern, provided said wells are drilled no closer than 660 feet to the outer boundary of said unit nor closer than 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section or subdivision inner boundary and provided that no well shall be approved for gas or water injection when such well is located closer than 1650 feet to a tract which is not committed to the unit and on which is located a well producing from the same common source of supply. To obtain such approval, the project operator shall file proper application with the Commission, which application, if it seeks authorization to convert additional wells to injection or to drill additional production or injection wells shall include the following:

(1) A plat identifying the lands committed to the unit agreement and those lands not committed to said agreement, and showing the location of the proposed well, all wells within the unit area, and offset operators.

(2) A schematic drawing of the proposed well which fully describes the casing, tubing, perforated interval, and depth.

(3) A letter stating that all offset operators to the proposed well have been furnished a complete copy of the application and the date of notification.

The Secretary-Director may approve the proposed well if, within 20 days after receiving the application, no objection to the proposal is received. The Secretary-Director may grant immediate approval, provided waivers of objection are received from all offset operators."

(5) 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

I. R. TRUJILLO, Chairman

ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member

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

S E A L

dr/

EMPIRE ABO UNIT AREA

Reservoir Voidage Formula - Gas and Water Injection Credit

Equation 1: $$Vrvb = Qo \left[Bo + (Rpn - Rs)\, Bg \right] + \left[Qwp - (Qwe + Qwi) \right] Bw$$

Where:

Vrvb = Reservoir voidage, bbls. per day
Qo = Oil Production rate, Stock tank bbls. per day
Bo = Oil formation volume factor (1), reservoir volumetric bbls/stock tank bbl.
Rpn = Net producing gas-oil ratio, MCF/S.T.B.O.

$$Rpn = Rp \left(1.0 - \frac{Gi}{Gp}\right)$$

Where:

Rp = producing gas-oil ratio, MCF/BO
Gi = daily volume of gas injected, MCF/Day
Gp = daily volume of gas produced, MCF/Day

Rs = Solution gas-oil ratio (2), MCF/STBO
Bg = Gas formation volume factor (3), RVB/MCF
Qwp = Water production rate, S.T.B.W./Day
Qwe = Aquifer water influx rate, S.T.B.W./Day, determined from reservoir numeric model runs to be 1950 BWPD
Qwi = Daily volume of water injected, S.T.B.W./Day
Bw = Water formation volume factor, RVBW/STBW, use 1.0

(1), (2), (3): These values calculated from Table of Fluid Properties, Attachment "B".

EMPIRE ABO UNIT AREA

Table of Fluid Properties

P_{base} = 15.025 psia P_{bp} = 2231 psia T_{res} = 109° F (569° R)

P_r (PSIA)	BO (RVBO/STBO)	Bg RVB/MCF	Rs (MCF/BBL)	Z
15.025	1.000	194.696	0	1.0
100	1.125	28.229	.180	.965
200	1.163	13.749	.235	.940
300	1.193	8.970	.290	.920
400	1.218	6.692	.345	.915
500	1.244	5.236	.395	.895
600	1.263	4.276	.445	.877
700	1.285	3.644	.495	.872
800	1.304	3.108	.540	.850
900	1.325	2.746	.585	.845
1000	1.344	2.437	.625	.833
1100	1.364	2.178	.675	.819
1200	1.384	1.962	.725	.805
1300	1.404	1.790	.775	.795
1400	1.425	1.649	.825	.789
1500	1.445	1.516	.875	.777
1600	1.465	1.404	.925	.768
1700	1.485	1.304	.975	.758
1800	1.505	1.220	1.025	.751
1900	1.525	1.147	1.075	.745
2000	1.548	1.053	1.125	.720
2100	1.573	1.000	1.175	.718
2200	1.597	.953	1.225	.717
2231	1.606	.939	1.250	.716

P_r = Reservoir average pressure at datum -2264' subsea, lbs/in^2 absolute.

B_o = Oil formation volume factor, reservoir volumetric bbls/stock tank bbl.

B_g = Gas formation volume factor, reservoir volumetric bbls/thousand std. cu. ft.

R_s = Solution Gas/Oil Ratio, Thousand std. cu. ft/stock tank bbls. oil.

Z = Gas Compressibility Factor.

Attachment "B" Order No. R-4549-B