

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

CASE NO. 8489
Order No. R-7847

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION ON ITS OWN MOTION TO PERMIT ANIMAS OIL COMPANY AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY THE JOHN C. SUTTON WELL NO. 1 LOCATED 304 FEET FROM THE NORTH LINE AND 2242 FEET FROM THE WEST LINE (UNIT C) OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, SAN JUAN COUNTY, SHOULD NOT BE PLUGGED AND ABANDONED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DIVISION-APPROVED PLUGGING PROGRAM.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8 a.m. on February 27, 1985, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 12th day of March, 1985, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

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

(2) Division Case Nos. 8485, 8486, 8487, 8488, 8489, and 8490 were consolidated for purposes of testimony.

(3) Animas Oil Company was the last known owner and operator of the John C. Sutton Well No. 1 located in Section 12, Township 29 North, Range 13 West, NMPM, Farmington City Limits, San Juan County, New Mexico.

(4) The records on file with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division show said well to be located 304 feet from the North line and 2242 feet from the West line of said Section 12 and the wellbore was plugged and abandoned in an unknown manner in January, 1931.

(5) The subject well has not been located at the above-described location but is believed to be within said Section 12.

(6) At this time, the subject well is not covered by a plugging bond.

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(7) The current condition of said well could be such that a hazardous situation exists, waste may occur, correlative rights may be violated, and/or fresh waters may be contaminated if action is not taken to properly plug and abandon the well.

(8) Animas Oil Company should be ordered to plug and abandon said John C. Sutton Well No. 1 in accordance with a program approved by the Aztec District Office of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division on or before April 15, 1985, or the well should be returned to active drilling status or placed on production.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) Animas Oil Company is hereby ordered to plug and abandon the John C. Sutton Well No. 1, located in Section 12, Township 29 North, Range 13 West, NMPM, Farmington City Limits, San Juan County, New Mexico, or in the alternative, to return the well to active drilling status or place the well on production on or before April 15, 1985.

(2) Animas Oil Company, prior to plugging and abandoning the above-described well, shall obtain from the Aztec office of the Division, a Division-approved program for said plugging and abandoning, and shall notify said Aztec office of the date and hour said work is to be commenced whereupon the Division may, at its option, witness such work.

(3) Jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION


R. L. STAMETS,
Director

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