

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 9807  
ORDER NO. R-9046

APPLICATION OF ANADARKO PETROLEUM  
CORPORATION FOR COMPULSORY POOLING,  
DIRECTIONAL DRILLING AND AN UNORTHODOX  
OIL WELL LOCATION, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on November 1, 1989, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Victor T. Lyon.

NOW, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1989, 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) The applicant, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Strawn formation, underlying the SE/4 NW/4 (Unit F) of Section 33, Township 16 South, Range 38 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.
- (3) The applicant has the right to drill a well and proposes to directionally drill a well from a non-standard surface location 2440 feet from the North line and 2230 feet from the West line of said Section 33, to the Strawn formation at a true vertical depth of approximately 11,700 feet within a 125-foot radius of an unorthodox oil well location 2060 feet from the North line and 2500 feet from the West line of said Section 33.
- (4) There are interest owners in the proposed proration unit who have not agreed to pool their interests.

Case No. 9807  
Order No. R-9046  
Page No. 2

(5) The proposed well is a wildcat projected to the Strawn formation, reservoirs which are typically small and difficult to find. The proposed location was selected from data obtained by eight seismic lines run through the immediate area.

(6) The Division is normally tolerant of unorthodox locations for wildcat wells when ownership is common between the drillsite and adjacent tracts, but this encroachment is excessive.

(7) The SE/4 NW/4 (drillsite) and the SW/4 NE/4 (crowded tract) of Section 33 are both under lease to applicant but are not commonly owned as to mineral interests, and both leases expire, respectively, in April and May, 1990.

(8) A well completed at the eastern edge of the proposed target area would be only fifteen feet from the common lease line which is also common to the NE/4 and NW/4 of the section.

(9) A surface location at the proposed bottomhole location would interfere with irrigated crop land and mitigation costs would be greater than the estimated incremental costs of the directional drilling.

(10) The proposed target should be modified to a 125-foot radius semi-circle west of the proposed bottomhole location and a penalty on the well's allowable should be imposed proportional to the distance the well is moved from a standard location.

(11) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights, to prevent waste and to afford to the owner of each interest in said unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense his just and fair share of the oil in any pool resulting from this order, the subject application should be approved by pooling all mineral interests, whatever they may be, within said unit.

(12) The applicant should be designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(13) Any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(14) Any non-consenting working interest owner who does not pay his share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production his share of reasonable well costs plus an additional 200 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(15) Any non-consenting interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

Case No. 9807  
Order No. R-9046  
Page No. 3

(16) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(17) \$5500.00 per month while drilling and \$500.00 per month while producing should be fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating the subject well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(18) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(19) Upon the failure of the operator of said pooled unit to commence drilling of the well to which said unit is dedicated on or before February 1, 1990, the order pooling said unit should become null and void and of no further effect whatsoever.

(20) Should all the parties to this force-pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order should thereafter be of no further effect.

(21) The operator of the well and unit should notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order.

(22) Should the well result in a producing oil well, the operator should propose pool rules and other measures designed to prevent waste and protect correlative rights in the reservoir.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All mineral interests, whatever they may be, in the Strawn formation, underlying the SE/4 NW/4 (Unit F) of Section 33, Township 16 South, Range 38 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled to form a 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit to be dedicated to a well to be directionally drilled at a non-standard surface location 2440 feet from the North line and 2230 feet from the West line of said Section 33, to the Strawn formation at a true vertical depth of approximately 11,700 feet within a 125-foot radius semi-circle west of an unorthodox oil well location 2060 feet from the North line and 2500 feet from the West line of said Section 33.

Case No. 9807  
Order No. R-9046  
Page No. 4

PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT, the operator of said unit shall commence the drilling of said well on or before the 1st day of February, 1990, and shall thereafter continue the drilling of said well with due diligence to a depth sufficient to test the Strawn formation.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, in the event said operator does not commence the drilling of said well on or before the 1st day of February, 1990, Ordering Paragraph No. (1) of this order shall be null and void and of no effect whatsoever, unless said operator obtains a time extension from the Division for good cause shown.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, should said well not be drilled to completion, or abandonment, within 120 days after commencement thereof, said operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Ordering Paragraph No. (1) of this order should not be rescinded.

(2) Anadarko Petroleum Corporation is hereby designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(3) After the effective date of this order and within 90 days prior to commencing said well, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner in the subject unit an itemized schedule of estimated well costs.

(4) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him, any non-consenting working interest owner shall have the right to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production, and any such owner who pays his share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

(5) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the well; if no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of said schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided however, if there is an objection to actual well costs within said 45-day period the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(6) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator his pro rata share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator his pro rata share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

Case No. 9807  
Order No. R-9046  
Page No. 5

(7) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (A) The pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him; and
- (B) As a charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well, 200 percent of the pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(8) The operator shall distribute said costs and charges withheld from production to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(9) \$5500.00 per month while drilling and \$500.00 per month while producing are hereby fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(10) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths ( $7/8$ ) working interest and a one-eighth ( $1/8$ ) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under the terms of this order.

(11) Any well costs or charges which are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interest's share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(12) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in Lea County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership; the operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of said escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with said escrow agent.

(13) Should all the parties to this force-pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

Case No. 9807  
 Order No. R-9046  
 Page No. 6

(14) The operator of the well and unit shall notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order.

(15) Operator shall run a continuous or multi-shot directional survey of the well so as to determine the bottomhole location and file same with the Hobbs and Santa Fe offices of the Division.

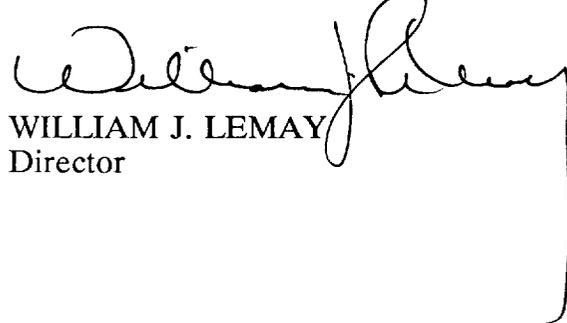
(16) Should the well be completed as a producing oil well, the well shall receive an allowable of 365 barrels of oil per day, as provided in Statewide Rule 505 for a period of seven days. Thereafter, the well shall have a penalized allowable based on the depth bracket allowable mentioned above multiplied by the ratio that the distance of the bottomhole perforations from the nearest unit boundary bears to 330 feet.

(17) Within 90 days after completion of the well as an oil well or gas well applicant shall file application for appropriate special pool rules or propose other appropriate measures designed to prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

(18) 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



WILLIAM J. LEMAY  
 Director

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