

**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 TO CONSIDER:**

**CASE NO. 15991
ORDER NO. R-14757**

**APPLICATION OF MEWBOURNE OIL COMPANY FOR COMPULSORY
POOLING, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on March 8, 2018 at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Michael A. McMillan.

NOW, on this 28th day of June 2018, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner,

FINDS THAT:

- (1) Due public notice has been given, and the Division has jurisdiction of this case and of the subject matter.
- (2) Mewbourne Oil Company ("Mewbourne" or "Applicant"), seeks an order pooling all uncommitted interests within a standard 320-acre gas spacing unit ("the Unit") in the Wolfcamp formation, Purple Sage; Wolfcamp (Gas) Pool (Pool Code 98220) comprised of the S/2 of Section 32, Township 23 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- (3) The Unit will be dedicated to two horizontal wells; the Zeppelin 32 W0LI State Com Well No.1H and the Zeppelin 32 W2LI State Com Well No.2H (the "subject wells"). The completed intervals of the subject wells will be at orthodox locations.
- (4) The Zeppelin 32 W0LI State Com Well No.1H (API No. 30-015-44560) will be drilled from a surface location, 2030 feet from the South line and 205 feet from the West line (Unit L), to a terminus, 2310 feet from the South line and 330 feet from the East line (Unit L) of Section 32, Township 23 South, Range 28 East.

(5) The Zeppelin 32 W2LI State Com Well No.2H (API No. 30-015-43165) has been drilled from a surface location, 1980 feet from the South line and 205 feet from the West line (Unit L), to a terminus, 2310 feet from the South line and 331 feet from the East line (Unit I), both in Section 32, Township 23 South, Range 28 East.

(6) The subject wells are within the Purple Sage; Wolfcamp (Gas) Pool (Pool code 98220), which is governed by statewide Rule 19.15.15.10.B NMAC which provides for 320-acre gas spacing unit, and by special pool rules established by Division Order No. R-14262 which allows wells to be located no closer than 330 feet from the unit outer boundary. The Unit consists of two adjacent quarter sections within a governmental section.

(7) Applicant appeared at the hearing through counsel and presented evidence to the effect that:

- (a) the Wolfcamp formation in this area is suitable for development by horizontal drilling;
- (b) the proposed orientation of the horizontal wells from west to east is appropriate for the Unit;
- (c) Applicant stated the Zeppelin 32 W0LI State Com Well No.1H has been spud;
- (d) Applicant stated the Zeppelin 32 W2LI State Com Well No.2H has been drilled, but not completed;
- (e) notice by certified mail was provided to all uncommitted interest owners in the proposed Unit whose interests were evidenced by a conveyance instrument, either of record or known to Applicant when the Application was filed, and to heirs known to Applicant of deceased persons who appear as owners in such instruments; and
- (f) those potentially affected parties whose whereabouts could not be ascertained were noticed by publication as provided in Rule 19.15.4.12.B NMAC.

(8) No other party appeared at the hearing, or otherwise opposed the granting of this application.

The Division concludes that:

(9) Two or more separately owned tracts are embraced within the Unit, and/or there are royalty interests and/or undivided interests in oil and gas minerals in one or more tracts included in the Unit that are separately owned.

(10) Applicant is an owner of an oil and gas working interest within the Unit. Applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill the proposed wells to a common source of supply within the Unit at the proposed locations.

(11) There are interest owners in the Unit that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(12) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, protect correlative rights, prevent waste and afford to the owner of each interest in the Unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense its just and fair share of hydrocarbons, this application should be approved by pooling all uncommitted interests, whatever they may be, in the oil and gas in the Wolfcamp formation within the Unit.

(13) Mewbourne Oil Company should be designated the operator of the proposed wells and of the Unit.

(14) To ensure protection of correlative rights, any pooled working interest owner whose address is known should be notified and have an opportunity to protest before the Division grants any extension of the time provided herein for commencing drilling.

(15) Infill wells within the Unit should be subject to Division Rules 19.15.13.9 NMAC through 19.15.13.10 NMAC and to the terms and conditions of this order.

(16) Any pooled working interest owner who does not pay its share of estimated well costs for any well in advance should have withheld from production its share of reasonable well costs of such well plus an additional 200% thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in drilling the well.

(17) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$8,000 per month, per well, while drilling and \$800 per month, per well, while producing, provided that these rates should be adjusted annually pursuant to the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations*."

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) Pursuant to the application of Mewbourne Oil Company, all uncommitted interests, whatever they may be, in the oil and gas in the Wolfcamp formation underlying a standard 320-acre gas spacing unit ("the Unit") in the Wolfcamp formation, Purple Sage; Wolfcamp (Gas) Pool (Pool Code 98230) comprised of the S /2 of Section 32, Township 23 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, in Eddy County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled.

(2) The Unit will be dedicated to two horizontal wells: the Zeppelin 32 WOLI State Com Well No.1H and the Zeppelin 32 W2LI State Com Well No.2H (the "subject wells"). The completed interval of the subject wells will be at orthodox locations.

(3) The Zeppelin 32 W0LI State Com Well No.1H (API No. 30-015-44560) drilled from a surface location, 2030 feet from the South line and 205 feet from the West line (Unit L), to a terminus, 2310 feet from the South line and 330 feet from the East line (Unit I) of Section 32, Township 23 South, Range 28 East.

(4) The Zeppelin 32 W2LI State Com Well No.2H (API No. 30-025-44439) drilled from a surface location, 1980 feet from the South line and 205 feet from the West line (Unit L), to a terminus, 2310 feet from the South line and 331 feet from the East line (Unit I) of Section 32, Township 23 South, Range 28 East.

(5) Unless at least one of the subject wells is completed within 180 days after commencement of the first such well, then Ordering Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be of no further effect, and the unit and project area created by this order shall terminate, unless operator appears before the Division Director and obtains an extension of the time for completion of the subject wells for good cause shown by satisfactory evidence.

(6) Upon final plugging and abandonment of both subject wells and any other well drilled on the Unit pursuant to Division Rule 19.15.13.9 NMAC, the pooled unit created by this order shall terminate unless this order has been amended to authorize further operations.

(7) Mewbourne Oil Company (OGRID 14744) is hereby designated the operator of the wells and of the Unit.

(8) After pooling, uncommitted working interest owners are referred to as pooled working interest owners. ("Pooled working interest owners" are owners of working interests in the Unit, including unleased mineral interests, who are not parties to an operating agreement governing the Unit.) After the effective date of this order, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner in the Unit separate itemized schedules of estimated costs of drilling, completing and equipping each proposed well ("well costs").

(9) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs for each well is furnished, any pooled working interest owner shall have the right to pay its share of estimated well costs for such well to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production as hereinafter provided, and any such owner who pays its share of estimated well costs for either well as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges to the extent computed based on costs of such well. Pooled working interest owners who elect not to pay their share of estimated well costs as provided in this paragraph for either well shall thereafter be referred to as "non-consenting working interest owners" with respect to any well for which they so elect.

(10) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner (including non-consenting working interest owners) an itemized schedule of actual well costs for each proposed well within 90 days following completion of such well. If no objection to the actual well costs for any well is received by the Division, and

the Division has not objected, within 45 days following receipt of the schedule for such well, the actual well costs shall be deemed to be the reasonable well costs. If there is an objection to actual well costs within the 45-day period, the Division will determine reasonable well costs for such well after public notice and hearing.

(11) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs for any well, any pooled working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated costs of such well in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator its share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator the amount, if any, that the estimated well costs it has paid for such well exceed its share of reasonable well costs.

(12) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from each non-consenting working interest owner's share of production from each well:

- (a) the proportionate share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner; and
- (b) as a charge for the risk involved in drilling the well, 200% of the above costs.

(13) The operator shall distribute the costs and charges withheld from production, proportionately, to the parties who advanced the well costs for such well.

(14) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$8,000 per month, per well, while drilling and \$800 per month, per well, while producing, provided that these rates shall be adjusted annually pursuant to the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations*." The operator is authorized to withhold from production from each well the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating of such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to pooled working interest owners.

(15) Except as provided in the foregoing paragraphs, all proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason shall be held for the account of the person or persons entitled thereto pursuant to the Oil and Gas Proceeds Payment Act (NMSA 1978 Sections 70-10-1 through 70-10-6, as amended). If not disbursed, such proceeds shall be turned over to the appropriate authority as and when required by the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act (NMSA 1978 Sections 7-8A-1 through 70-8A-31, as amended).

(16) During the cost recovery period, the operator shall furnish to the Division and to each known non-consenting pooled working interest owner, annually, and within 90 days after payout occurs, a schedule of all revenues attributable to each proposed well, and all charges for supervision and operating costs charged against such revenues. Operating

costs shall include all reasonable costs actually incurred for the maintenance and operation of the well, except for "well costs" reported pursuant to Ordering Paragraph (13), that are properly chargeable to the joint account pursuant to COPAS procedures. If no objection to the operating costs is received by the Division, and the Division has not objected, within 45 days following receipt of any schedule, the costs shall be deemed to be the reasonable operating costs. If there is an objection to the accuracy or reasonableness of operating costs reported within the 45-day period, the Division will determine reasonable operating costs after public notice and hearing.

(17) 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 this order. Any costs that are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interests' share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(18) Should all the parties to this compulsory pooling order reach voluntary agreement after entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(19) The operator of the wells and Unit shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of any party subject to the compulsory pooling provisions of this order.

(20) Jurisdiction of this case 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**

Heather Riley

**HEATHER RILEY
Director**