

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:

APPLICATION OF KEY ENERGY SERVICES,                      CASE NO. 20583  
LLC FOR A SALTWATER DISPOSAL WELL  
KNOWN AS THE QUEEN LAKE FEDERAL 19  
NO. 1, SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH,  
RANGE 29 EAST, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

August 22, 2019

Santa Fe, New Mexico

BEFORE:   MICHAEL McMILLAN, CHIEF EXAMINER  
          PHILLIP GOETZE, TECHNICAL EXAMINER  
          KATHLEEN MURPHY, TECHNICAL EXAMINER  
          BILL BRANCARD, LEGAL EXAMINER

This matter came on for hearing before the  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, Michael McMillan,  
Chief Examiner; Phillip Goetze and Kathleen Murphy,  
Technical Examiners; and Bill Brancard, Legal Examiner,  
on Thursday, August 22, 2019, at the New Mexico Energy,  
Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Wendell Chino  
Building, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Porter Hall,  
Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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1 (8:27 a.m.)

2 EXAMINER McMILLAN: The next case I'm going  
3 to call is Case Number 20583, application of Key Energy  
4 Services, LLC for a saltwater disposal well known as the  
5 Queen Lake Federal 19 No. 1, Section 19, Township 24  
6 South, Range 29 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.

7 Call for appearances.

8 MR. NANCE: Good morning. Clay Nance for  
9 the Applicant, Key Energy.

10 EXAMINER McMILLAN: You need to sit there  
11 (indicating).

12 MR. NANCE: Okay.

13 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Just give him a second.  
14 Any other appearances?

15 MR. DOMENICI: Pete Domenici for Solaris.

16 MS. BISONG: Susan Miller Bisong on behalf  
17 of NGL.

18 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Any others?

19 MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, Adam Rankin on  
20 behalf of OXY. We have withdrawn our entry of  
21 appearance. So just for the record, I'll make sure that  
22 was received, that we have withdrawn our entry in this  
23 case.

24 EXAMINER GOETZE: What about your --  
25 Mr. Rankin, what are your interested party? Are you



1 making any standing as far as what you have as an  
2 appearance for Delaware Energy?

3 MR. RANKIN: I don't think that was in this  
4 case.

5 EXAMINER GOETZE: Milestone?

6 MR. NANCE: I don't recognize that.

7 EXAMINER GOETZE: It's on the record.

8 MR. RANKIN: Mr. Examiner, I believe that  
9 would be for the Milestone. That's the next one on the  
10 docket.

11 EXAMINER GOETZE: Was that scary?

12 MR. RANKIN: Yeah (laughter).

13 (Laughter.)

14 EXAMINER GOETZE: Scared me, too. I'm  
15 looking at the wrong folder.

16 MR. NANCE: You ready?

17 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Yes.

18 MR. NANCE: Okay. I appreciate that you've  
19 allowed us to speak today. My name is Clay Nance of  
20 Austin, Texas. I represent Key Energy.

21 I have three witnesses to support this  
22 application for a disposal well in Eddy County. We've  
23 done a lot of technical review and research and  
24 investigation, and we believe this well is suitable at  
25 this particular location. And my witnesses are Mike



1 Johnson, an engineer; Mike Eide, a geologist; and Rene  
2 Aqueron, which is a representative of Key Energy.

3 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Okay. If the witnesses  
4 would please stand up and be sworn in at this time.

5 (Mr. Johnson, Mr. Eide and Mr. Aqueron  
6 sworn.)

7 MR. NANCE: Ready for our first witness?

8 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Yeah.

9 MR. NANCE: Okay. Mike Johnson.

10 And I have a set of exhibits for each of my  
11 three witnesses. I brought seven.

12 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Okay. Well, all the  
13 affected parties need them.

14 MR. NANCE: Right. When they all stood up,  
15 I was thinking I wasn't going to have enough.

16 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Then we've got a  
17 problem.

18 MR. NANCE: And, Mr. Examiners and  
19 Mr. Johnson, you should have Exhibits 1 through 7,  
20 marked at the bottom right. Obviously, we'll walk  
21 through them and ask for admission later.

22 WILLIAM M. JOHNSON,  
23 after having been previously sworn under oath, was  
24 questioned and testified as follows:

25



1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. NANCE:

3 Q. Mr. Johnson, would you please state your full  
4 name for the record?

5 A. My name is William Michael Johnson. I go by  
6 Mike.

7 Q. Could you tell the examiners about your  
8 background and experience?

9 A. Yeah. I've got a BS in petroleum engineering  
10 from the University of Texas at Austin. I've got a  
11 Master of Science in engineering from the University of  
12 Texas at Austin.

13 I guess over the last 30 years of my  
14 career, I've spent the bulk of that working on injection  
15 well systems, saltwater disposal, industrial waste,  
16 product storage, and that's been the bulk of my  
17 experience. And we're here today to talk about  
18 saltwater disposal.

19 Q. Do you have experience with injection wells in  
20 southeast New Mexico?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. And do you have experience supporting  
23 applications, filing applications in front of regulatory  
24 jurisdictions such as the OCD?

25 A. I do.



1           Q.    And Exhibit 1 that I've handed to you is  
2 your -- a copy of your resume; is that correct?

3           A.    That's correct.

4           Q.    Is this a true and correct copy of your work  
5 experience and background?

6           A.    It is.

7                   MR. NANCE:  Examiners, I tender  
8 Mr. Johnson as an engineer -- he's an expert in  
9 engineering.

10                   MS. BISONG:  No objection.

11                   MR. DOMENICI:  No objection.

12                   EXAMINER McMILLAN:  So qualified.

13           Q.    (BY MR. NANCE) What were you asked to do in  
14 this matter?

15           A.    I was contacted by Key Energy Services to  
16 assist them in an application to inject saltwater into a  
17 commercial well.

18           Q.    Exhibit 2 in front of you, is that the  
19 application and supporting materials that you submitted?

20           A.    Yes, it is.

21           Q.    Okay.  Could you walk us through Exhibit 2 and  
22 summarize the important points?

23           A.    So we filed the application to the State under  
24 a C-108 form, which was application to inject salt  
25 water.  We went through the instructions that were given



1 by OCD and filed a complete report and a complete  
2 application. We included well information, location  
3 information, geologic information and notification  
4 information.

5 Q. So this project is the re-entry of an existing  
6 wellbore that was plugged in 2013; is that correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. And what is the proposed injection interval?

9 A. The proposed injection interval is in the  
10 Devonian below 14,500 feet.

11 Q. The top of the injection interval is 14,5. And  
12 what is the base?

13 A. Well, the base is to be determined, but we're  
14 asking for 16,000 feet so that we can delineate the base  
15 of the Devonian as well.

16 Q. What is the maximum volumes of daily disposal  
17 that you're applying for?

18 A. 15,000 barrels per day.

19 Q. How about the average volumes?

20 A. 10,000 barrels per day.

21 Q. Okay. How does that rate generally compare to  
22 other operators in southeast New Mexico in terms of  
23 disposal capacity?

24 A. Well, from what I've seen, it appears that -- I  
25 would say that the average commercial saltwater disposal



1 well in that area are asking for higher volumes than  
2 15,000 barrels per day. It looks to be that 20- to  
3 30,000 barrels is typical.

4 **Q. And why did Key Energy and yourself choose this**  
5 **location for the disposal well?**

6 A. Well, I think -- and I don't want to speak for  
7 Key, but from what I understand is that the location is  
8 strategically located in an area that's fixing and  
9 beginning to be developed, and their desire is to enter  
10 into the market in that area and provide disposal  
11 services to their existing clients and potential other  
12 clients.

13 **Q. Based on your examination and review, do you**  
14 **believe there is any oil and gas production in the**  
15 **Devonian Formation?**

16 A. No, I don't.

17 **Q. Okay. Do you know the approximate depth of the**  
18 **USDW?**

19 A. It's approximately 500 feet. I think it's  
20 defined as the top of the salt.

21 **Q. Okay. And we have a geologist to discuss that**  
22 **today?**

23 A. We do.

24 **Q. Okay. Let's move forward with Exhibit 2.**  
25 **There are a few maps with radius on them. What are**



1     **these?**

2           A.     So we have a half-mile radius and a one-mile  
3     radius drawn around the subject well, and within those  
4     radii, we've identified the existing penetrations, be  
5     they oil and gas or saltwater disposal, but we didn't  
6     see any saltwater disposal there.

7           **Q.     Within the one-mile radius of the Key Energy**  
8     **proposed well, did you locate any wellbores that**  
9     **penetrated the top of the injection interval?**

10          A.     No.

11          **Q.     Why is this important?**

12          A.     Well, it's important because the presence of  
13     artificial penetrations into the top of the injection  
14     zone could be a conduit for fluid migration out of the  
15     injection zone at some future time due to injection.

16          **Q.     Do you believe there are any potential conduits**  
17     **at this location?**

18          A.     No.

19          **Q.     You also have in Exhibit 2 a document that is**  
20     **entitled "Current Wellbore Diagram," and behind that in**  
21     **color is a proposed wellbore diagram. Could you discuss**  
22     **that with the examiners, please?**

23          A.     So the well is a current plugged-and-abandoned  
24     location. What we're proposing to do is re-enter the  
25     P&A'd well, drill out the plugs, evaluate the casing and



1 cement behind pipe and then to set a whipstock and then  
2 directionally drill a sidetrack recompletion borehole  
3 and run new casing and then perform the completion into  
4 the Devonian as proposed.

5 Q. Okay. And when you say sidetrack the well, in  
6 what direction do you plan on sidetracking the well?

7 A. Well, we can -- we can directionally drill in  
8 any direction, but what we can do is we can make a  
9 strategic decision to put it in any direction that we  
10 want towards or away from a potential observation point.  
11 So in this case, if someone has an -- an interested  
12 party has a well that may be close by, we can orient the  
13 sidetrack wellbore in the opposite direction to put  
14 distance between boreholes.

15 Q. In your opinion, do you believe the  
16 configuration of the proposed wellbore would be  
17 protective of the USDW?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. In your opinion, do you believe the proposed  
20 configuration would be protective of oil-and-gas-  
21 producing formations?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you believe the injected fluids would be  
24 confined to the injection interval?

25 A. Yes.



1           Q.    Okay.  And after the wellbore configurations,  
2   there is a geology study, and Mr. Eide's here to speak  
3   to that, correct?

4           A.    Yes.

5           Q.    Okay.  And on the last page of Exhibit 2 is a  
6   list of parties.  Does that list entail who you notified  
7   for this application?

8           A.    Yes, it does.

9           Q.    Okay.  And you have the operators and the  
10   lessees within a half-mile of record -- half-mile  
11   radius, correct?

12          A.    Yes.

13          Q.    Okay.  And you have the landowner, the BLM,  
14   correct?

15          A.    That's correct.

16          Q.    Is there any indication that the BLM is opposed  
17   to this application?

18          A.    Not at this point.

19          Q.    Let's move on to Exhibit 3.  What is Exhibit 3?

20          A.    So Exhibit 3 was a request by OCD staff to  
21   provide some additional information to support the  
22   application, and so we provided that information.  And  
23   then during that period, I believe, is when the first  
24   notice of protest was received, and so there was no more  
25   contact with technical staff regarding the application.



1 But this -- this email was our response to that request  
2 for additional information.

3 Q. The first attachment on Exhibit 3 is a  
4 newspaper notice, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And was that published in the Loving newspaper  
7 in Eddy County?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you have some more documents, including the  
10 geologic study, which that's just a reiteration of what  
11 was provided in Exhibit 2?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And then there are some responses by Mike Eide,  
14 geologist, which he can discuss in a second. And then  
15 there is a well log, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. You mentioned that a protest was filed,  
18 and so the case was forwarded to the examiners for  
19 hearing. Who was that protest?

20 A. It's my understanding that it's NGL Permian.

21 Q. Okay. Was there any description in NGL's  
22 protest email as to what their concerns were?

23 A. No. I don't believe I ever have saw the  
24 context of their protest.

25 Q. Okay. Do you know whether or not NGL is a



1 competitor in the disposal well business?

2 A. I understand that they are.

3 Q. Okay. What about OXY?

4 A. So OXY filed a notice to appear before the  
5 original hearing date, and then it's my understanding  
6 that OXY and Key have worked that out, and it's now been  
7 dismissed.

8 Q. And Exhibit 4 is the withdrawal appearance,  
9 correct, filed in this case?

10 A. Yes, it is.

11 Q. Okay. And Solaris has filed a notice of  
12 appearance in this case, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did Solaris file a notice of appearance prior  
15 to the first scheduled hearing date?

16 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

17 Q. When did they file the notice of appearance?

18 A. Well, I saw the notice last week.

19 Q. Okay. Let's flip through Exhibits 5 and 6.

20 MR. NANCE: And, Examiners, those are my  
21 documents that I wanted to get into the record. It's an  
22 application of hearing with the parties served, as well  
23 as a hearing application, in Exhibit 6, the same  
24 application that was served upon Solaris, with a  
25 supplemental certificate of service. I just wanted to



1 make sure that was of record.

2 Q. (BY MR. NANCE) So tell me about Solaris' nearby  
3 proposed operations.

4 A. So from what I understand is they have a  
5 permitted, undrilled location approximately a half a  
6 mile from the subject well and that -- I presume that  
7 their concern -- part of their concern is with the  
8 impacts of Key Energy Services' well at their well  
9 location.

10 Q. Okay. And being undrilled, obviously the well  
11 is not operational in the disposal of liquids, correct?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Okay. So if a well is undrilled, that means it  
14 is not a wellbore that penetrates the injection interval  
15 at this point, correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Okay. And did you prepare anything for today's  
18 hearing to address any concerns they may have at that  
19 Solaris location?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. Okay. What is that?

22 A. So we had visited back and forth about  
23 potential impact from Key Energy Services' injection at  
24 any point in the injection interval, and the only -- the  
25 only method I can come up with from a physical



1     standpoint is pressure interference between wellbores.  
2     So I did some calculations to determine what the  
3     pressure influence from Key Energy's wellbore would be  
4     at certain distances away, and in this case, I used the  
5     distance to the Solaris permit location.

6           **Q.     And your calculations are shown in Exhibit 7,**  
7     **correct?**

8           A.     Yes.

9           **Q.     Okay. Did you follow industry standards?**

10          A.     Yes. What I did is I used methodology that has  
11     been presented -- that I've done before to EPA Region 6,  
12     for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and  
13     the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in those  
14     cases that require pressure front calculations. So I  
15     just employed the same method here, thinking that it's  
16     appropriate to do so.

17          **Q.     And what are your findings?**

18          A.     Well, my findings are that assuming maximum  
19     injection rates for continuous periods over time, you  
20     can see in the tables that the pressure buildup due to  
21     the wellbore from Key Energy Services is pretty small.

22          **Q.     Okay. And in terms of any kind of effect, what**  
23     **does that tell you?**

24          A.     It tells me that this is not much effect at  
25     all.



1 Q. On the Solaris permitted location?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. In the event they drill and complete and  
4 dispose of fluids there, correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And the Berry -- excuse me. The Solaris well  
7 is permitted for what daily volume?

8 A. I think it's 30,000 barrels per day.

9 Q. Okay. And Key Energy is proposing 15,000  
10 barrels per day, correct?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. So Solaris is permitted for double the disposal  
13 volumes. Does that influence your findings?

14 A. Well, I didn't -- I didn't do the calculation  
15 assuming that Solaris was injecting into their own well.  
16 I can tell you that when they do inject into their own  
17 well, the influence from their own injection activities  
18 will overwhelm what we can see from the Key Energy  
19 Services injection activities.

20 Q. Does that further assure you that the Key well  
21 will have no adverse impact on the Solaris well?

22 A. It does.

23 Q. Is there anything else you'd like to add in  
24 terms of Exhibit 7?

25 A. I think that's it.



1           Q.    Okay.  And just to summarize, do you believe  
2   this Key Energy application is protective of the USDW?

3           A.    Yes, I do.

4           Q.    Is it protective of oil and gas formations in  
5   this area?

6           A.    Yes.

7           Q.    Is it your opinion that the Devonian is the  
8   preferred zone of disposal in this area?

9           A.    Yes.

10          Q.    So you're using the disposal zone that others  
11   use and is predominantly used in this area?

12          A.    That's correct.

13          Q.    Do you believe fluids will be confined to the  
14   disposal zone?

15          A.    Yes.

16          Q.    Okay.  And you stated earlier that you do not  
17   see any potential conduits for the migration of fluids  
18   from the disposal zone into the USDW, correct?

19          A.    That's correct.

20          Q.    Okay.  Do you believe Key has satisfied the  
21   OCD's permitting regulations?

22          A.    I do.

23          Q.    Okay.  Do you believe Key's disposal well  
24   application is in the interest of conservation and the  
25   prevention of waste?



1           A.     I do.

2                   MR. NANCE:   Examiners, at this time I'd  
3     like to move for admission of Exhibits 1 through 7.

4                   MR. DOMENICI:   No objection.

5                   MS. BISONG:   No objection.

6                   EXAMINER McMILLAN:   So Exhibits 1 through  
7     7?

8                   MR. NANCE:   Yes, sir.

9                   EXAMINER McMILLAN:   Okay.   Exhibits 1  
10    through 7 may now be accepted as part of the record.

11                   (Key Energy Services, LLC Exhibit Numbers  
12    1 through 7 are offered and admitted into  
13    evidence.)

14                   EXAMINER McMILLAN:   Cross?

15                   MS. BISONG:   I don't have any questions.

16                               CROSS-EXAMINATION

17    BY MR. DOMENICI:

18           **Q.    Mr. Johnson, during the preparation of this**  
19    **application, were you or any of your staff aware of**  
20    **Solaris' permit?**

21           A.     Not until after we had submitted.

22           **Q.    When did you become aware of that permit?**

23           A.     I became aware of Solaris' permit -- I believe  
24    it was in June -- June.

25           **Q.    June of this year.**



1                   And other than the last page -- excuse  
2   me -- the last page, do you depict that well location on  
3   any of the radius circles that identify different  
4   activities? So is that well depicted on any of your  
5   maps?

6           A.    Which well?

7           Q.    Solaris' Berry 1 well?

8           A.    No, it's not.

9           Q.    Why not?

10          A.    It wasn't a well of record on the records that  
11   I had reviewed at the time that I prepared the  
12   application.

13          Q.    You're aware the permit was issued in March of  
14   this year?

15          A.    I am now. Yes.

16          Q.    And how does the injection zone compare between  
17   the Berry well and what you are proposing?

18          A.    In terms of depth or --

19          Q.    Depth -- is it the same depth?

20          A.    I assume it is.

21          Q.    Is it the same length, injection interval?

22          A.    I'm not sure. You'll have to ask the geologist  
23   that question, but I presume that the thickness of the  
24   injection zone is pretty -- is pretty consistent  
25   throughout the area of review.



1           Q.    Okay.  At this time you don't know what the  
2   injection interval will be, if I understand correctly?

3           A.    Well, I know what it's going to be as far as  
4   the permit goes.  Yes.  There will be an open-hole  
5   section -- or excuse me -- a perforated liner section  
6   between 14,500 and 16,000 feet.

7           Q.    So I thought you testified you were waiting to  
8   drill to see exactly where the injection interval would  
9   be.

10          A.    That's correct.  We'll identify the top of the  
11   bottom of the Devonian.  And from the geologic study we  
12   did, that's where we've decided that we're going to --  
13   that we're going to drill the well.

14          Q.    And looking at your Exhibit 7, you indicated  
15   this was a method you've used in other -- for other  
16   regulators, essentially; is that correct?

17          A.    Yes.  That's correct.

18          Q.    Have you ever presented this to the New Mexico  
19   OCD?

20          A.    I have not.

21          Q.    Have you -- have you -- is there a model that  
22   goes behind this?  Did you use a model?

23          A.    Yes.  It's a public information model, but the  
24   methodology used in the equations that are presented  
25   there are -- they're general methods used in hydraulics



1 and hydrology through porous media.

2 Q. And you said that Solaris' injection will  
3 overwhelm any impact of Key Energy, if I have your  
4 testimony correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. What do you mean by that?

7 A. So the injection-pressure buildup at the point  
8 of injection must be higher than it is anywhere else.  
9 And so if I'm injecting half a mile from Key's well at  
10 30,000 barrels per day, I didn't calculate what that  
11 would be at the Solaris well, but it's going to be  
12 significantly higher, because the way the pressure front  
13 moves is as you move out radially, the pressure falls  
14 off. You can see, for example, at the end of one year,  
15 we've got a pressure buildup at the Solaris location  
16 from Key Energy of 30 psi. That pressure is at a  
17 distance of injection of a half a mile away. So if  
18 Solaris is injecting 30,000 barrels a day at that point  
19 of injection, the pressure at that point will be  
20 significantly higher.

21 Q. And what will that create as far as the ability  
22 for Solaris to inject at that location?

23 A. I think it won't have any impact on Solaris at  
24 all.

25 Q. And is there a particular direction of pressure



1     that you used or did you use --

2           A.     It's a radial pressure buildup assuming that  
3     the injection zone is laterally extensive.  So the --  
4     with the injection well being the center and then the  
5     radius in any direction away from the well is what this  
6     pressure calculation represents.

7           Q.     Was there any data you used to use that -- make  
8     that determination?

9           A.     Yes.

10          Q.     What data?

11          A.     I used a thickness of the injection zone.  I  
12     used porosity of the injection zone, and I used the  
13     permeability of the injection zone.

14          Q.     So let me restate the question.  Was there any  
15     data you used to support your assumption that it would  
16     disperse essentially equally from Key Energy's well?

17          A.     Looking at the geologic mapping in the area  
18     that was -- that it was laterally extensive in every  
19     direction is what I assumed was going to be a radial  
20     response.

21          Q.     Is that reflected in Exhibit 7?

22          A.     Yes.

23          Q.     Is that, not your conclusion, but what geologic  
24     data you looked at to come to this determination?

25          A.     The model that was used in Exhibit 7 is a



1    general model.  Then you input specifics based on what  
2    your geologic review are to feed that model to get the  
3    results that you get.  So the modeling methodology  
4    itself works for more than just this case.

5           Q.    Do you know if there is a formula used by OCD  
6    to permit or disallow disposal wells within a particular  
7    distance of each other?

8           A.    I'm not aware of one.

9           Q.    That's all I have.  Thank you.

10                   EXAMINER McMILLAN:  Go ahead, Mr. Goetze.

11                               CROSS-EXAMINATION

12   BY EXAMINER GOETZE:

13           Q.    Good morning.

14                   The first item:  When you make an  
15   application, wellbore diagram, I see that we are missing  
16   a plug that was put at top when the well was P&A'd,  
17   2013.  I'd ask you to review the well file in a little  
18   bit more detail in the future.

19                   As far as the C-108 application, I have  
20   here -- I'll put this to you.  As to the item regarding  
21   an affirmation statement, I see there is a reference to  
22   a DS -- DS -- I mean, what we're after is an affirmation  
23   from an individual qualified, and usually we include  
24   that in the C-108.  So there's been testimony given  
25   here, but we would ask that it be put into writing and



1     **also provided.**

2                   MR. NANCE:  Yes, sir.  We have that as an  
3     exhibit for my geologist.

4                   EXAMINER GOETZE:  Okay.  But it's not in  
5     this package?

6                   MR. NANCE:  It's not in the C-108 package,  
7     but it's in our hearing exhibits.  And I can tell you  
8     that -- I mean, maybe you can testify as to your  
9     communication with our geologist in terms of what your  
10    parameters are.

11                  EXAMINER GOETZE:  That's fine.  Again, it  
12    is an affirmation statement.

13                  MR. NANCE:  Okay.

14                  EXAMINER GOETZE:  On every EPA application,  
15    they ask for that, whether it's a Phase 1 or a discharge  
16    plan, an affirmation statement.  So for clarity in the  
17    future, include one by someone qualified to make that  
18    statement.

19                  MR. NANCE:  Okay.  Yes, sir.

20                  **Q.    (BY EXAMINER GOETZE) Now to visit the well.**

21    **This well was drilled in '82, plugged and abandoned, and**  
22    **its history.  What would be your estimate as to how many**  
23    **perforations are in this well?**

24                  A.    Well, looking at the diagram that I reviewed in  
25    the records, there are multiple sets of perforations,



1     probably a half dozen.

2           Q.     And it takes us all the way from Ramsey down to  
3     almost the top of the Wolfcamp -- well, the Bone Spring.  
4     So I've got perfs all the way down 3rd Bone Spring, and  
5     you are proposing to sidetrack this beginning -- where  
6     is your window going to be?

7           A.     Approximately 10,800 feet.

8           Q.     So where does that put us in the geologic  
9     section? That puts us in the Wolfcamp?

10          A.     That puts us in Wolfcamp.

11          Q.     So if you're sidetracking your proposed liner  
12     from Wolfcamp through the Penn series to top of  
13     Devonian, correct?

14          A.     Yes.

15          Q.     Any ideas as to the quality of this well once  
16     you have drilled out all these plugs with as many perfs  
17     that have been put into it as to its ability to pass an  
18     MIT?

19          A.     Well, the plan is once the well has been  
20     re-entered and the plugs have been drilled out, we're  
21     going to confirm the mechanical integrity condition of  
22     the well, the cement behind the pipe and the casing as  
23     well. And then we will perform pressure-integrity  
24     testing of the casing, and depending on what we find  
25     there, we'll decide what, if any, remedial actions are



1 needed, which would include all the way up to possibly  
2 running a full-length liner in the eventual borehole.

3 Q. Well, okay. So if we're going to be pulling up  
4 all the way to surface, this does change the  
5 configuration and your ability to inject, doesn't it, as  
6 far as tubing sizing?

7 A. Yes. If we find that the -- that the condition  
8 of the casing above our kickoff point needs to have a  
9 liner put in the way, then we'll have to revisit that.

10 Q. Okay. Just one other item -- oh, no. That's  
11 it for me. Thank you very much.

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION

13 BY EXAMINER MURPHY:

14 Q. The Solaris well that's the Berry, that's not  
15 drilled but it's permitted; is that right?

16 A. That's my understanding.

17 Q. And you didn't see the permit until June, or  
18 you didn't know that it was there until June?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Okay. No further questions.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY EXAMINER McMILLAN:

23 Q. Okay. So you agree to a pressure testing,  
24 right?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. After you clean out the plugs?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Will you -- would you be willing to run the  
4 pressure tests and meet with the Artesia District Office  
5 to go over the results?

6 A. Certainly.

7 Q. Will you also be willing to run a pressure --  
8 excuse me -- a casing integrity log and meet with  
9 Artesia to go over the results?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And the next thing is you had requested  
12 a 4-1/2-inch tubing?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Well, that -- you can't get an overshot in  
15 there. So the maximum you're going to get is 2-7/8.

16 A. So can't get an overshot in which section?

17 Q. Yeah. Through your liner.

18 A. If we run 4-1/2 flush joint --

19 Q. No. You still can't -- you're going to get --  
20 the maximum that the OCD will allow is 2-7/8.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. And the other thing is if you're going to cut a  
23 window, we're going to require you to run casing and  
24 circulate the cement to surface.

25 A. Okay.



1           Q.    And we're also going to require you, when you  
2   do that, to run a cement bond log. Do you have any  
3   problems with that?

4           A.    No, I don't.

5           Q.    And the question I'm also getting is: You said  
6   you're going to cut the window at 10,8, but when you  
7   look at the wellbore diagram, you've got a plug from  
8   10,8 to 10,6. So how are you going to do that?

9           A.    Are we looking at the proposed?

10          Q.    Yes.

11          A.    Okay. So I'm seeing my whipstock at 10,8.

12          Q.    Okay. But look at the -- okay. But the  
13   problem is that plug runs from 10,8 to 10,6.

14          A.    I'm sorry? I don't -- I don't understand what  
15   plug you're referring to.

16          Q.    Okay. My question is how are -- so to me it  
17   appears you're more than likely going to cut a window at  
18   10,5.

19          A.    Well, I think that it's not going to be any  
20   deeper than 10,800 feet. If we have a plug there, then  
21   we can dress that plug off to whatever depth we want to  
22   set our whipstock.

23          Q.    And then I guess on your calculations, I'm not  
24   clear. You don't show the effects of Solaris' well in  
25   there.



1           A.    No, I don't.

2           **Q.    Why?**

3           A.    What I wanted to find out was what is the  
4    impact that Key has at that observation point, and I  
5    didn't consider anything from that operator as far as  
6    their contribution to -- to injection.

7           **Q.    But then you did say that it would affect Key,**  
8    **right?**

9           A.    It could possibly, but I -- I haven't run that  
10   calculation.

11          **Q.    Why didn't you run that calculation?**

12          A.    Well, I just didn't -- I just didn't do it. I  
13   wanted to see what the impact that Key had at Solaris.  
14   There's -- I don't know what Solaris' intentions are at  
15   this point except they have a permitted location there.

16          **Q.    They have an approved location.**

17                    So at what point do you believe you'll see  
18   interference? I mean, you really have -- actually, let  
19   me rephrase the question. We have -- based on these  
20   calculations, we really have no idea how Solaris will  
21   affect your operations?

22          A.    Not to this point.

23          **Q.    No. I mean, you need to have those values --**  
24   **if you're going to -- you're going to have to submit an**  
25   **exhibit that shows the Solaris impact.**



1           A.    Okay.  Can that be submitted when we get into  
2   the permit review process, if we get to that point, or  
3   is that something that needs to be --

4           **Q.    No.  It has to -- this is at hearing.  You're**  
5   **going to have to send it to the OCD and send it to the**  
6   **affected parties.**

7           A.    Okay.

8                   MR. NANCE:  We can do that as a late-filed  
9   exhibit?

10                   EXAMINER McMILLAN:  That's fine, as long as  
11   all the affected parties get correct notice.

12                   MR. NANCE:  Okay.

13                   EXAMINER BRANCARD:  Mr. Examiner, I just  
14   have one question.

15                               CROSS-EXAMINATION

16   BY EXAMINER BRANCARD:

17           **Q.    I often get confused in these hearings when you**  
18   **start using fancy words.  And so I thought you used the**  
19   **word "sidetrack," and I thought you said that because**  
20   **you're sidetracking the well, you can sidetrack it any**  
21   **direction.**

22           A.    Well, it depends on how we orient the  
23   whipstock.  When we cut the window, we can orient that  
24   whipstock in any direction 360 degrees.

25           **Q.    So we don't really know where your bottom hole**



1     **is going to be?**

2           A.     Well, when we have the well planned, we will  
3     know where it's going to be. In this case, based on  
4     what we've seen from Solaris, we're going to orient that  
5     direction away from the Solaris well. We're talking  
6     maybe a 200-foot displacement.

7           **Q.     Okay. 200 foot from?**

8           A.     From vertical.

9                     It's considered a classic S curve. You  
10    exit the wellbore, you build some angle, and then you  
11    let it drop back to vertical. The point being is that  
12    you want it to get away from the old wellbore so it  
13    doesn't collide. But we don't have a target at some --  
14    at some distance far away from the wellbore. It's just  
15    enough to get us away from the old to the original  
16    wellbore.

17                    EXAMINER GOETZE: May I?

18                    RE CROSS EXAMINATION

19    BY EXAMINER GOETZE:

20           **Q.     Mr. Brancard does raise a question with regard**  
21    **to notice, and that's why I forgot. Surface location is**  
22    **what your notice was done on. Whenever you end up with**  
23    **a bottom-hole location, you're going to have to have a**  
24    **verification that your notice at surface covers the same**  
25    **affected parties. We do this with all. Whether it's a**



1 horizontal injector or a directional, that circle, if  
2 the information within that circle is the same for  
3 bottom hole, then you've satisfied. If not, you-all  
4 will have to proceed with notice, and you'll be back  
5 here. So it may behoove you to think what direction you  
6 want to go in. And typically we do get a filing of the  
7 C-102, and that gives us the ability to say that your  
8 notification has been done properly.

9 That's it for me.

10 EXAMINER McMILLAN: We've got to have a  
11 five-minute conversation in the hallway.

12 MR. DOMENICI: Can I follow up on your  
13 questions? Would that be okay?

14 RECROSS EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. DOMENICI:

16 Q. Which direction is the Berry 1 well?

17 A. From the Key well, I believe it's to the  
18 northeast.

19 Q. And based on your testimony, it sounds like you  
20 haven't reviewed that approved permit; is that correct?

21 A. I have not.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 EXAMINER McMILLAN: We're going to take a  
24 five-minute break.

25 (Recess, 9:06 a.m. to 9:14 a.m.)



1 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Call this hearing back  
2 to order.

3 Proceed.

4 MR. NANCE: Is that all the questions you  
5 have of this witness?

6 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Yeah.

7 MR. NANCE: Okay. Thank you.

8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. NANCE:

10 Q. Before you leave, is there anything you'd like  
11 to offer in response to questions?

12 A. No. I think we've pretty well covered it.  
13 If it's possible to visit afterwards to  
14 talk about the calculations that you discussed.

15 EXAMINER McMILLAN: You've got to do it  
16 with all the affected parties. We told you what we  
17 want.

18 THE WITNESS: All right.

19 MR. NANCE: Nothing further from this  
20 witness. Thank you.

21 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Thank you.

22 MR. NANCE: My next witness is Mike Eide.

23 MICHAEL G. EIDE,  
24 after having been previously sworn under oath, was  
25 questioned and testified as follows:



1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. NANCE:

3 Q. Mr. Eide, I've handed you documents I've marked  
4 as Exhibit 8 through 13.

5 MR. NANCE: And, Examiners, Exhibit Number  
6 9, just so you know, is in a packet. It's a foldout  
7 cross section of logs. We'll get to that.

8 Q. (BY MR. NANCE) Mr. Eide, please state your name  
9 for the record.

10 A. My name is Michael Eide.

11 Q. What is your background and experience?

12 A. I have 26 years of experience in the injection  
13 well business. I have a bachelor's degree and a  
14 master's degree in geology. I've been working, like I  
15 said, 26 years in the injection well business. I've  
16 worked in, you know, permitting, siting studies,  
17 installation for the EPA, TCEQ. I've worked in Texas,  
18 Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, California, Ohio,  
19 Illinois, Colorado. So it's kind of what I've been  
20 doing for the last 26 years.

21 Q. Okay. And is Exhibit 8 your resume?

22 A. It is.

23 Q. Is that a true and accurate representation of  
24 your work experience and qualifications?

25 A. It is.



1                   MR. NANCE: Examiners, I move to tender  
2   Mr. Eide as a geology expert.

3                   MR. DOMENICI: No objection.

4                   MS. BISONG: No objection.

5                   EXAMINER McMILLAN: So qualified.

6           **Q. (BY MR. NANCE) Mr. Eide, what were you asked to**  
7   **do for Key in this matter?**

8           A. I was asked by Key to provide the geological  
9   section for the C -- the application. I don't have that  
10   in front of me.

11          **Q. Does that require a study of logs and regional**  
12   **resources and anything you can get your hands on,**  
13   **correct, to determine the geology?**

14          A. Correct, and answer the questions in the OCD  
15   application.

16          **Q. Does that also include investigating hydrology?**

17          A. Hydrology is a component of it.

18          **Q. Okay. And let's move on to your exhibits.**

19   **First let me ask: There is a geology study in the**  
20   **application that Mr. Johnson testified in terms of an**  
21   **exhibit. Are those geologic studies your work?**

22          A. Yes.

23          **Q. So you adopt that work as true and correct to**  
24   **the best of your knowledge?**

25          A. I do.



1           Q.    Okay.  Let's move on to Exhibit 9.  Would you  
2   please tell the examiners the importance of Exhibit 9?

3           A.    Well, Exhibit 9 is a cross section, and it's  
4   constructed using four wells.  The A, B and D wells are  
5   offset wells, and the star represents the location of  
6   the Key Energy well.  Obviously, we have a -- we have a  
7   log for the Key Energy well, but it doesn't extend down  
8   to the Devonian.  There's not a lot of data out in this  
9   area that extends down to the Siluro-Devonian, so we had  
10   to kind of extend our cross section out a pretty good.  
11   Distance.  And if you look on the map on the bottom, you  
12   can see the distances between the wells, and that's  
13   indicated between the logs that's shown, too.  So  
14   they're, you know, four, five miles apart, in some  
15   cases, two or three.  But I think it gives you a good  
16   idea that the -- we believe the injection strata is  
17   there at our site based on correlation.  We believe the  
18   confining strata is there at our site based on  
19   correlation, and we believe it's laterally continuous  
20   and present.  And I've also shown on the bottom with the  
21   use of dash lines where we believe, based on regional  
22   information and regional studies, where the basement  
23   would be and where the underlying confining strata of  
24   the Upper Ordovician would be.  It's kind of a  
25   cumbersome cross section.



1                   And at the top, you can note it's got the  
2   USDW indicated. We believe that's going to be  
3   associated with the top of the Permian evaporites. All  
4   the production in this area historically has associated  
5   with the Delaware Mountain Group, but pending production  
6   is probably going to be associated with the Bone Spring  
7   Formation and the Wolfcamp. And there's been some  
8   messing around in the Pennsylvanian, but I don't believe  
9   it's been real productive in this area. So this is kind  
10  of a geology picture in a nutshell.

11           **Q.    Okay. Let's talk about the USDW for a second.**  
12 **Could you further describe that on the cross section?**

13           A.    Okay. Well, the base of the USDW is obviously  
14  the base of the usable water -- usable quality water  
15  having less than 10,000 milligrams per liter. There are  
16  some water wells out there in the area, but they're  
17  usually associated with very shallow deposits of the  
18  Pecos Valley alluvium and then some of the Upper Permian  
19  red beds. Once you get to top of the salt, the USDW is  
20  pretty much done. It's going to be very high salinity  
21  water.

22           **Q.    Okay. Is it your opinion that the USDW is at**  
23 **shallower depths or above the Salado Formation?**

24           A.    Yes.

25           **Q.    Is the Capitan zone present here?**



1           A.     No.

2           **Q.     Let's work our way down to the injection**  
3 **interval. That's below the actively producing oil and**  
4 **gas zones; is that correct?**

5           A.     Based on the research done from the OCD  
6 information.

7           **Q.     What is your description of the strata**  
8 **separating the oil and gas productive zones from the top**  
9 **of the injection interval?**

10          A.     The Woodford Shale is a shale formation -- a  
11 dark-colored shale formation. It's probably a couple  
12 hundred feet thick. It's laterally continuous and would  
13 make a good confining zone. It does not appear to be  
14 affected by any structure in this area as in a fault.

15          **Q.     Do you believe that confining zone also**  
16 **protects the USDW at this location?**

17          A.     Yes, along with a thick section of overlying  
18 strata, including the Permian evaporites.

19          **Q.     Okay. And then let's discuss, please, the**  
20 **confining layers below the base of the injection**  
21 **interval.**

22          A.     Those are Upper Ordovician strata. You've got  
23 the Montoya Formation and the Simpson Group. The  
24 Montoya would be a carbonate zone, but I've seen  
25 references to it being a very low-porosity zone. The



1 Simpson Group is carbonates and clastics, so -- it's  
2 sand and shale as well. It contains a high percentage,  
3 I believe, of fine-grain clastics. So they should  
4 provide good confinement below the injection zone.

5 Q. Okay. Do you believe this confining layer  
6 protects the Ellenburger Formation?

7 A. I believe it does provide a good layer of  
8 protection.

9 Q. Okay. And just to make sure -- you may have  
10 already testified to this -- do you believe there is any  
11 oil and gas production in the Devonian Formation at this  
12 location or the immediate vicinity?

13 A. No, I do not.

14 Q. Okay. Let's move forward with Exhibit 10,  
15 which is described as "Water Wells In Site Vicinity"  
16 map. What's the importance of this exhibit?

17 A. Well, research was done, you know, in  
18 accordance with the application into locating water  
19 wells in the site vicinity. So we've got a one-mile  
20 radius. There are no water wells within a half-mile,  
21 and the map shows that there are a couple of documented  
22 wells out there that are noted as water wells. They're  
23 very shallow, usually associated with the Pecos Valley  
24 alluvium, less than 300 feet deep.

25 If you look on the northwest quadrant of



1     that one-mile radius, there are a couple of wells  
2     identified there. And according to that database are,  
3     quote, "water wells," but I believe what they were were  
4     oil and gas wells that were samples -- water samples.  
5     So they show up in a database. I don't believe they  
6     were actually water wells. You can see one of them was  
7     2,700 feet deep. They're both 2,700 feet deep. So they  
8     were probably Delaware Mountain Group wells that they  
9     just pulled a sample and then included them in their  
10    database. So they're not producing water wells.

11           **Q.     Those two wells you just mentioned are plugged**  
12    **and abandoned, correct?**

13           A.     Yes.

14           **Q.     Anything else on Exhibit 10?**

15           A.     No.

16           **Q.     Okay. Let's moved forward to Exhibit 11. What**  
17    **is the relevance of this exhibit?**

18           A.     This is a depth-to-basement map. I believe as  
19    part of our initial application, there were some  
20    follow-up questions that the OCD had. One of them was  
21    where's the depth to basement? What is the separation  
22    between the Ellenburger? So this map was prepared for  
23    that second round of questions that OCD had before the  
24    protests were made. This a regional map. The source of  
25    the information is shown on the bottom of it. And based



1 on the information presented, it looks like the depth to  
2 basement is approximately 17,000 feet.

3 **Q. Okay. How is that important in terms of your**  
4 **injection interval?**

5 A. Well, I'm not specifically sure why they wanted  
6 to know what the depth to basement was, but I assume it  
7 had something to do with this rush to information about  
8 induced seismicity.

9 **Q. Okay.**

10 A. So we've documented it for them, and this does  
11 show basement faulting as well.

12 **Q. Okay. So let's move forward to Exhibit 12.**  
13 **Does this discuss seismicity?**

14 A. Yes. That was also part of that second round  
15 of information requested. And this is a search of the  
16 USGS earthquake catalog dating back to, I believe, 1973.  
17 And two events are documented. We've got a radius on  
18 there, which would be about 100 square miles, which is  
19 typically what we do in Texas these days, 100-square-  
20 mile radius. And we've got two events in the whole  
21 record, and we've got a good range of -- a good period  
22 in between them. The first event was 1974, and the  
23 second one was 2012. And they were both -- looked to be  
24 qualified as pretty low-magnitude events.

25 **Q. So is it your opinion today that there is no**



1     **historic seismicity within the radius shown on your**  
2     **Exhibit 12?**

3             A.     Correct.

4             **Q.     Is there any faulting in this same area?**

5             A.     Based on the information we looked at, there is  
6     no structure -- significant structures documented in  
7     this area.

8             **Q.     Based on your research, do you have any**  
9     **concerns with induced seismicity at this location?**

10            A.     I do not.

11            **Q.     Finally, Exhibit 13 is what?**

12            A.     That's a geologic affirmation statement we are  
13    looking to submit now.

14            **Q.     Okay. A few questions in conclusion. Do you**  
15    **believe the proposed disposal zone is suitable for the**  
16    **injection operation of Key?**

17            A.     I do.

18            **Q.     Do you believe disposal into this Devonian**  
19    **Formation is protective of the USDW and the oil and gas**  
20    **formation?**

21            A.     I do.

22            **Q.     Do you believe fluids will be confined to the**  
23    **disposal zone?**

24            A.     I do.

25            **Q.     Do you believe the disposal well application**



1     **proposed by Key is in the interest of conservation and**  
2     **the prevention of waste?**

3             A.     I do.

4                     MR. NANCE:   Examiners, I move for admission  
5     of Exhibits 8 through 13.

6                     MR. DOMENICI:   No objection.

7                     MS. BISONG:   No objection.

8                     EXAMINER McMILLAN:   Exhibits 8 through 13  
9     may now be accepted as part of the record.

10                    (Key Energy Services, LLC Exhibit Numbers 8  
11                    through 13 are offered and admitted into  
12                    evidence.)

13                    MR. NANCE:   And I pass the witness.

14                                   CROSS-EXAMINATION

15     BY MR. DOMENICI:

16             Q.     **Sir, can you get your geology report in front**  
17     **of you? It's part of Exhibit 1 from --**

18             A.     Yes.   I don't have those previous exhibits.  
19                     Okay.

20             Q.     **So you made some porosity calculations in your**  
21     **geology report, correct?**

22             A.     Those aren't calculations.   Those are taken  
23     from literature -- recent literature.

24             Q.     **And that's on -- that would be on the second**  
25     **page of your report?**



1           A.    Yes, sir.

2           Q.    And from the literature, your report indicates  
3   porosity is expected to range from 3 to 15 percent?

4           A.    That's correct.

5           Q.    Is that your testimony today?

6           A.    Yes.

7           Q.    Did you review Exhibit 7 in front of you?  It's  
8   in that --

9                       MR. NANCE:  It's the pressure --

10          Q.    (BY MR. DOMENICI) Next page.

11          A.    Okay.

12          Q.    Did you review that?

13          A.    I did.

14          Q.    Did you participate in the creation of that?

15          A.    I did.

16          Q.    What did you do on this?

17          A.    I provided the thickness information, which is  
18   taken from the cross section, based on correlation.

19          Q.    Okay.

20          A.    I had input on the porosity.  And what we did  
21   is we took kind of a mid-number in that range.

22          Q.    Okay.

23          A.    And that pretty much covers my contribution.

24          Q.    Okay.  Now, did you run analysis with the  
25   maximum porosity of 15 percent?



1           A.    I did not.

2           Q.    Did you -- do you do pressure analysis as part  
3 of your long career?

4           A.    I do not.  Usually that's an engineer that  
5 provides that information.  I provide geological  
6 information.

7           Q.    Did you look at Solaris' Berry 1 approved well  
8 permit?

9           A.    I did not.

10          Q.    Do you know where that well is -- that approved  
11 well location is?

12          A.    Yes.

13          Q.    Do you know the maximum distance from that well  
14 that the sidetrack arrangement of the drilling can  
15 create?

16          A.    Based on the testimony earlier, it looks like  
17 it'll probably be about another couple hundred feet  
18 beyond what is shown on this calculation.  This  
19 calculation was from the OCD website measurement tool of  
20 the surface locations of both.

21          Q.    Do you know one way or another if it could be  
22 greater than 200 feet if that were the choice of -- of  
23 Key or if that was a mandate of OCD?

24          A.    Theoretically, I suppose it could be greater  
25 than that.



1           Q.    How much greater?

2           A.    That, I can't tell you.

3           Q.    And you would agree that the pressure from  
4   Solaris' well would affect the activities in the Key  
5   well?

6           A.    Potentially.  Until you have actual data from  
7   reservoir testing, I would hesitate to say that.

8           Q.    So without data, you don't know how much the  
9   two wells will affect each other, correct?

10          A.    Correct.

11          Q.    And do you agree there is no calculation that's  
12   been done to see the impact of the two wells on each  
13   other?

14          A.    Not at this point, to my knowledge.

15          Q.    That's all I have.

16                   MS. BISONG:  I have no questions.

17                   EXAMINER GOETZE:  Thank you, Mr. Nance, for  
18   providing the affirmation statement.

19                   MR. NANCE:  Yes, sir.

20                   EXAMINER GOETZE:  That satisfies that.

21                               CROSS-EXAMINATION

22   BY EXAMINER GOETZE:

23          Q.    The only other question I have for you is have  
24   you proposed any type of logging program or sampling  
25   program to Key with regards to the reservoir once the



1     **well has been drilled?**

2           A.     I have not done that personally, but I think  
3     that is in the works. I think the engineering and the  
4     well-drilling program will certainly address that.

5           **Q.     So there is something being considered at this**  
6     **time --**

7           A.     Certainly.

8           **Q.     -- that's not been finalized?**

9                   EXAMINER GOETZE: I have no further  
10    questions for this witness.

11                               CROSS-EXAMINATION

12    BY EXAMINER McMILLAN:

13           **Q.     Okay. How thick do you think the Montoya will**  
14     **be?**

15           A.     I think it'll probably be about 325 feet thick  
16     based on regional information submitted at the second  
17     round of OCD questions.

18           **Q.     And how about the Simpson?**

19           A.     Again, about 325 feet thick.

20           **Q.     And you're going to provide a mud log?**

21           A.     I believe that's probably part of the --

22           **Q.     Yeah. It will be.**

23           A.     Yeah.

24                   EXAMINER McMILLAN: Go ahead.

25                   EXAMINER MURPHY: I don't have any



1 questions.

2 EXAMINER BRANCARD: No questions.

3 EXAMINER McMILLAN: I don't believe I have  
4 any more questions.

5 EXAMINER GOETZE: We're done with this  
6 witness. Bring up the next one.

7 MR. NANCE: All right. Our next witness is  
8 Rene Aqueron. The good news is we only have one exhibit  
9 for this witness. He's our last witness.

10 RENE AQUERON,  
11 after having been previously sworn under oath, was  
12 questioned and testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. NANCE:

15 Q. Could you state your full name for the record?

16 A. My name is Rene Aqueron.

17 Q. I mispronounced it. I'm sorry.

18 What is your position with Key Energy?

19 A. I am a project manager with our fluid  
20 management services division.

21 Q. And what are your responsibilities?

22 A. So I mainly focus my efforts on saltwater  
23 disposal sites, you know, anything saltwater disposal  
24 related from surface to injection.

25 Q. Okay. And Key Energy is a publicly traded



1     **corporation, correct?**

2           A.     Yes, sir.

3           **Q.     Okay. With operations, in terms of disposal,**  
4     **in Texas and southeast New Mexico, correct?**

5           A.     Yes, sir.

6           **Q.     Okay. And so obviously Key operates wells**  
7     **existing and active disposal wells that are regulated by**  
8     **the OCD, correct?**

9           A.     We do.

10          **Q.     Okay. Why did Key Energy select the location**  
11     **for this proposed disposal well that we're discussing**  
12     **today?**

13          A.     So just that, location. It's off McDonald  
14     Road, the main road. It's well accessible. We have a  
15     lot of customers that we currently serve that have  
16     active permits in that area, and we believe in, you  
17     know, serving our customers and being there for them.  
18     So that was -- that was the reason behind that.

19          **Q.     Why is roadway access important?**

20          A.     So the site would be -- we plan on doing  
21     pipeline, a lot of work, but trucking water to the  
22     facility might also be an option. So that's why, you  
23     know, roadway accessibility is important.

24          **Q.     What is the significance of this exhibit?**

25          A.     So this exhibit shows active permits in this



1 9-by-15 -- or by-16 -- I'm sorry -- 9-by-16 area. So we  
2 have 325 active permits at the time that we submitted  
3 our -- our application.

4 **Q. Are those drilling permits or -- yeah. Are**  
5 **they primarily for horizontal oil and gas wells?**

6 A. I believe so. A lot of them do look  
7 horizontal.

8 **Q. And the graph up at the top of your Exhibit 14**  
9 **represents some, if not all, of Key Energy's customers?**

10 A. A lot of our customers from OXY, Marathon,  
11 Matador, Devon, Chevron.

12 **Q. Okay. Do you believe that the oil and gas**  
13 **industry has a need for Key Energy's disposal well at**  
14 **that specific location?**

15 A. Absolutely.

16 **Q. Why?**

17 A. Like I mentioned before, to serve our  
18 customers. You know, we believe that not all the wells  
19 in the area will be able to meet the demand of saltwater  
20 disposal in that general region based off a lot of the  
21 active permits that are in that area. So based off of  
22 that alone, I believe we're needed.

23 **Q. Do you see any slow-down in oil and gas**  
24 **activity in this area?**

25 A. I do not.



1           Q.    Okay.  What are the benefits of piping water  
2   from your customers' well pads to your disposal well?

3           A.    First and foremost, it's to eliminate trucking,  
4   you know, and ease on the roads, you know, environmental  
5   impact, things of that nature.

6           Q.    I think you may have already testified.  Let me  
7   ask again, though.  Is it your testimony today that the  
8   existing and active disposal wells in this area are not  
9   sufficient, in your opinion, to accommodate all the  
10   water being produced on a daily basis for disposal?

11          A.    In my opinion, yes, sir.

12          Q.    Is the disposal well at this location vital to  
13   Key Energy's operations?

14          A.    It is.

15          Q.    Do you believe this disposal well at this  
16   location is in the interest of conservation and the  
17   prevention of waste?

18          A.    Absolutely.

19          Q.    Is there anything else you'd like to add to  
20   your testimony today?

21          A.    No.  I think we pretty much covered it.

22                   MR. NANCE:  Okay.  Examiners, I'd move the  
23   admission of Exhibit 14.

24                   MR. DOMENICI:  No objection.

25                   MS. BISONG:  No objection.



1                   EXAMINER McMILLAN: Exhibit 14 may now be  
2     accepted as part of the record.

3                   (Key Energy Services, LLC Exhibit Number 14  
4                   is offered and admitted into evidence.)

5                   MR. NANCE: I pass the witness.

6                   CROSS-EXAMINATION

7     BY MR. DOMENICI:

8           Q.     Mr. -- is it Aqueron?

9           A.     Yes, sir.

10          Q.     You were involved in selecting the location of  
11     the well that we're talking about today?

12          A.     Uh-huh.

13          Q.     Correct?

14          A.     Yes, sir.

15          Q.     When did you become aware that Solaris had a  
16     permitted disposal well within a half mile of this  
17     location?

18          A.     It was after we submitted our permit. I  
19     believe it was sometime in June.

20          Q.     Now, do you typically locate within a half mile  
21     of an active disposal well?

22          A.     Our other wells?

23          Q.     Yes.

24          A.     No, sir.

25          Q.     Why not?



1           A.    I mean, no reason behind it.  There just tends  
2   to be no -- no active wells around ours within a half a  
3   mile.

4           Q.    Do you -- are you concerned when someone  
5   proposes a well within -- a disposal well within a half  
6   mile of one of your existing wells?

7           A.    I -- I would.

8           Q.    And if I understand it, the only analysis that  
9   Key has done is presented on the last page -- or on  
10   Exhibit 7 that we've talked about?

11          A.    Correct.

12          Q.    And I didn't ask.  Do you know when that was  
13   done?

14          A.    No, sir, I don't.

15          Q.    Within the last 20 days?

16          A.    Yes.

17          Q.    And just to be clear, there's been different  
18   testimony.  I think the documents may be stated  
19   differently.  This permit is for 10,000 barrels per day  
20   average and a maximum of 15,000?

21          A.    Correct.

22          Q.    And you haven't, as the -- let me make sure I  
23   have your title.  As the project manager for fluid  
24   management services for Key Energy, you haven't -- you  
25   or anyone under you haven't evaluated the effect



1     Solaris' approved injection will have on this well,  
2     correct?

3             A.     Not currently.

4             Q.     That's all I have.

5                     EXAMINER GOETZE:   I have no questions for  
6     this witness.

7                             CROSS-EXAMINATION

8     BY EXAMINER McMILLAN:

9             Q.     The only thing I would say is I'm looking at  
10    your map legend and you included a saltwater disposal  
11    well company in there.   So keep that in mind.

12            A.     Yes, sir.

13                   EXAMINER McMILLAN:   Go ahead.   Do you have  
14    anything?

15                   EXAMINER MURPHY:    I don't have any  
16    questions.

17                   EXAMINER BRANCARD:   (Indicating.)

18                   EXAMINER McMILLAN:   Okay.   Is that the  
19    final witness?

20                   MR. NANCE:   Yes, sir.

21                   MR. DOMENICI:   No witnesses.

22                   MS. BISONG:   No witnesses.

23                   EXAMINER GOETZE:   No witnesses.   No  
24    witnesses.

25                   Okay.   Continued?



1 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Yeah. This case  
2 clearly has to be continued.

3 Now, let's get some -- first thing -- this  
4 is pretty simple. When we go back to Exhibit 1, let's  
5 get clarification on the wellbore diagram. This is the  
6 easy thing. Now, you said 10,8, but that wasn't very  
7 clear based on looking at the well files. So you need  
8 to take a look at that.

9 The next thing, you're going to have to do  
10 calculations that shows the effect of the Solaris well,  
11 and you're going -- and you're going to have to submit  
12 it to the affected parties. How quickly can you perform  
13 that?

14 MR. JOHNSON: I would say just in a matter  
15 of days I could have that done.

16 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Okay. So do you  
17 think -- do you believe -- could you have it to the  
18 affected parties by September the 7th?

19 Would that work?

20 MR. DOMENICI: Yes. That's fine.

21 MS. BISONG: Yes.

22 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Okay. And then this  
23 case is obviously going to have to be continued to the  
24 September hearing.

25 EXAMINER GOETZE: September 19th?



1 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Yeah, to the September  
2 19th hearing.

3 And then what's going to be expected is  
4 you're going to have to come back and justify your work  
5 because our -- the concern I'm getting out of this is  
6 what's going to be the effect of Solaris, because --  
7 does the possibility exist because you're going to get  
8 pressure interface, and what's going to happen to the  
9 fluid migrations.

10 The next thing I'm getting is you stated  
11 that you guys are probably going to whipstock away from  
12 the Solaris well, right?

13 MR. NANCE: That's correct.

14 EXAMINER McMILLAN: You didn't say we're  
15 definitively going to do that because you're not going  
16 to know until you clean out the wellbore, correct?

17 MR. JOHNSON: Correct.

18 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Okay. And then the  
19 question -- I want to make sure. If you go 200 feet,  
20 how is that going to affect notice? You will prepare a  
21 statement for a 200-foot or a 250-foot circle around the  
22 well stating that there's -- notice has not been  
23 changed.

24 Anything else?

25 EXAMINER GOETZE: Well, if it is such that



1   you are talking about doing something downhole with  
2   regard to logs and sampling, a proposed -- knowing that  
3   you're going to be doing a mud log because we require  
4   that, just to lay aside the fact this is a federal well,  
5   we would like you to go ahead and give us what you would  
6   indicate what you will be taking as a geophysical log or  
7   a reservoir sampling so that we have a handle on what  
8   real characteristics are there. So with that in mind,  
9   put something together simplistic, as well as realistic  
10   as to what you would use to keep this well alive through  
11   its operation. Okay?

12                   MR. NANCE: For presentation at the next  
13   hearing?

14                   EXAMINER GOETZE: With the submittal of an  
15   exhibit so the other parties can see.

16                   MR. NANCE: Did you get that, Bill?

17                   MR. JOHNSON: (Indicating.)

18                   MR. NANCE: Can we go back to Number 1?  
19   You referenced Exhibit 1 and the wellbore configuration.  
20   I didn't really catch what you're looking for.

21                   EXAMINER McMILLAN: Okay. I want  
22   you -- I want you guys -- what I want is let's make sure  
23   that you actually look at the well file, because when I  
24   looked at the well file, I was getting -- I got the plug  
25   at 10,6, and you're saying you're going to fish it



1 through 10,8. I want verification that you actually  
2 looked at the well file. And as Phil noted, you missed  
3 quite a bit because you didn't note plugging operations  
4 and the perforations there. So you will look at the  
5 well file.

6 EXAMINER GOETZE: Let's get us a wellbore  
7 diagram --

8 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Yeah, a wellbore  
9 diagram.

10 EXAMINER GOETZE: -- a real representation.  
11 That shallow perf was put in at 600 feet or so, so we're  
12 claiming mechanical integrity on this shallow well  
13 inside and how that impacts surface casing. It's nice  
14 to see it, nice to know in your evaluation because this  
15 may lead to having more problems at the surface.  
16 Because if you run MIT on this thing and it doesn't go  
17 anywhere or you do a pressure test, all of a sudden this  
18 changes our dynamics as to what the permit is, and it  
19 also changes what we request out of you as far as  
20 design. So knowing where perfs are and the fact that  
21 this has a long history of use and re-perf and squeezing  
22 and retrieving uphole to develop other zones shallower  
23 gives this well, shall I say, a notorious history.

24 So we admire the effort of Key to re-enter  
25 it, but at the same time, we look at these Devonian



1 wells as being something we want to have for a long  
2 time, and we don't want to monitor them. We already  
3 have too many wells drilled fresh that already have  
4 monitoring issues or have failed MITs outright. So the  
5 Division is concerned re-entry adds more of a risk that  
6 we would like to characterize and confine at the front  
7 end of a project, not five years down the road when I've  
8 to send somebody out every day to take a look whether  
9 that well is leaking. So that's our take.

10 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. NANCE: All right. Thank you.

12 EXAMINER McMILLAN: So Case Number 20583  
13 shall be continued to September 19th with the additional  
14 requirements to the affected parties.

15 MR. NANCE: Yes, sir.

16 (Case Number 20583 concludes, 9:48 a.m.)

17 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Let's take a ten-minute  
18 break.

19 (Recess, 9:49 a.m. to 10:02 a.m.)

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25



1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

3

4 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

5 I, MARY C. HANKINS, Certified Court  
6 Reporter, New Mexico Certified Court Reporter No. 20,  
7 and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify  
8 that I reported the foregoing proceedings in  
9 stenographic shorthand and that the foregoing pages are  
10 a true and correct transcript of those proceedings that  
11 were reduced to printed form by me to the best of my  
12 ability.

13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Reporter's  
14 Record of the proceedings truly and accurately reflects  
15 the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.

16 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither  
17 employed by nor related to any of the parties or  
18 attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in  
19 the final disposition of this case.

20 DATED THIS 13th day of September 2019.

21

22

23 MARY C. HANKINS, CCR, RPR  
24 Certified Court Reporter  
New Mexico CCR No. 20  
Date of CCR Expiration: 12/31/2019  
Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters

25