



Ray Powell, M.S., D.V.M.
COMMISSIONER

State of New Mexico
Commissioner of Public Lands

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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August 23, 2011

Apache Corporation
303 Veterans Airpark Ln. Suite 3000
Midland, TX 79705-9909

Attention: Ms. Michelle Hanson

Re: Preliminary Approval
West Tatum State Exploratory Unit Agreement
Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Ms. Hanson:

This office has received the unexecuted copy of the unit agreement which you have submitted for the proposed West Tatum State Exploratory Unit area, Lea County, New Mexico. This agreement meets the general requirements of the Commissioner of Public Lands, who has this date granted you preliminary approval as to form and content.

Preliminary approval shall not be construed to mean final approval of this agreement in any way and will not extend any short-term leases, until final approval and an effective date have been given.

When submitting your agreement for final approval, please submit the following:

1. Application for final approval by the Commissioner setting forth the tracts that have been committed and the tracts that have not been committed.
2. Pursuant to Rule 19.2.100.51, applications for approval shall contain a statement of facts showing:
 - a. That such agreement will tend to promote the conservation of oil and gas and the better utilization of reservoir energy.
 - b. That under the proposed unit operation, the State of New Mexico will receive its fair share of the recoverable oil and gas in place under its lands in the proposed unit area.
 - c. That each beneficiary institution of the State of New Mexico will receive its fair and equitable share of the recoverable oil and gas under its lands within the unit area.
 - d. That such unit agreement is in other respects for the best interest of the trust.
3. All ratifications from the Lessees of Record and Working Interest Owners. All signatures should be acknowledged by a notary and one set must contain original signatures.

Oil Conservation Division

Case No. 3

Exhibit No. 3

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4. Order of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. Our approval will be conditioned upon subsequent favorable approval by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.
5. Please submit two copies of the Unit Agreement.
6. A copy of the Unit Operating Agreement (if applicable).
7. Copies of all the well records for the initial unit well
8. Please date the Unit Agreement.

The filing fee for a unit agreement is \$30.00 for every section or partial section thereof. Please submit a \$210.00 filing fee.

If you have any questions or if we may be of further help, please contact Pete Martinez at (505) 827-5791.

Very truly yours,

RAY POWELL, M.S., D.V.M.
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

BY: 
LARRY J. ROYBAL, Director
Oil, Gas and Minerals Division
RP/LR/pm

pc: Reader File.
NMOCD Attn: Mr. Ed Martin