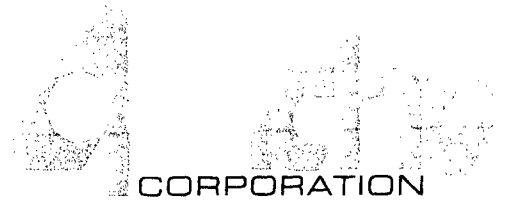


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April 11, 2005

ROYALTY AND OVERRIDING ROYALTY INTEREST OWNERS
(See Attached Address List)

RE: East Blinebry-Drinkard Unit
Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, & 14, T21S, R37E, Lea County, NM

On March 22, 2005, Apache Corporation (Apache) mailed out a Unit Agreement and Unit Operating Agreement along with Ratification and Joinder of Unit Agreement and Unit Operating Agreement covering Apache's proposal to unitize the Blinebry, Tubb and Drinkard formations in Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, and 14 (totaling 2,080.00 acres) in T21S, R37E to perform secondary recovery operations through waterflooding of the Blinebry/Tubb/Drinkard reservoirs. As an active operator in this area, Apache Corporation will be the Operator of this Unit since Apache operates approximately 69% of the wells included within the boundaries of the proposed unit. To date Apache has not received the Ratification and Joinder document nor have we had any communication from you with regard to the material mailed out earlier to you.

Please be advised, since Apache has received preliminary approval from the Bureau of Land Management (majority mineral and royalty owner) and has the required 75% working interest and royalty interest owner approval for Apache's proposed waterflood unit, Apache will be proceeding to get on the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division's (NMOCD) hearing docket for a May 19, 2005 hearing. As a royalty or overriding royalty interest owner who elects not to sign and return the Ratification and Joinder to said East Blinebry-Drinkard Unit prior to the NMOCD hearing date, your interest will be considered forced pooled into the waterflood unit once the NMOCD approves the Unit and the order has been written.

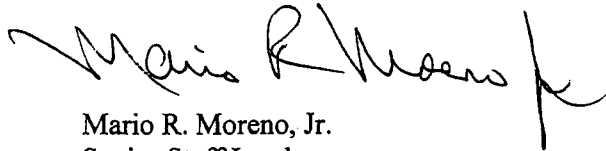
Should you have any questions pertaining to Apache's proposed project, please feel free to contact Larry Phillips (432) 682-9162, Michelle Hanson (918) 491-4838, or Mario Moreno at (918) 491-4963 for any Land questions or Kevin Mayes (Reservoir Engineer) at (918) 491-4972 for any Technical questions, or our toll free number is (800) 558-8572, otherwise please execute one (1) original signature page to the Ratification and Joinder to the Unit and Unit Operating Agreements, have each properly notarized, and return same to the undersigned in the enclosed self-addressed envelope which was previously provided for your convenience as soon as reasonably possible.

BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
Case No. Exhibit No. — 9
Submitted By:
Apache Corporation
Hearing Date: June 16, 2005

Page 2 – East Blinebry-Drinkard Unit

Thank you for your attention in this matter and we look forward to your support in facilitating the implementation of this project.

APACHE CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario R. Moreno, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mario R. Moreno, Jr.
Senior Staff Landman

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