

**KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN**  
**Attorney at Law**

**W. Thomas Kellahin**  
Recognized Specialist in the Area of  
Natural Resources-oil and gas law-  
New Mexico Board of Legal Specialization

P.O. Box 2265  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504  
117 North Guadalupe  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Telephone 505-982-4285  
Facsimile 505-982-2047  
kellahin@earthlink.net

February 15, 2006

**TO: NOTICE OF THE HEARING OF THE FOLLOWING NEW  
MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION CASE:**

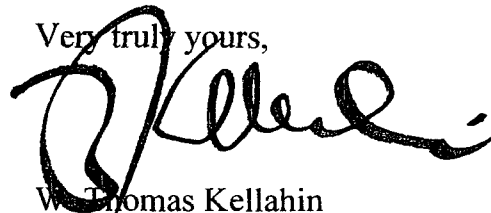
**Re: Application of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas  
Company LP for an exception to the well density  
Requirements of the Special Rules and Regulations  
for the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, Rio Arriba  
County, New Mexico**

On behalf of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP, please find enclosed our application for an exception to the referenced pool rules such that there can be 2 producing wells in the same 40-acre tract within this spacing unit consisting of the W/2 of Section 11, T29N, R7W that has been set for hearing on the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Examiner's docket now scheduled for March 16, 2006. The hearing will be held at the Division hearing room located at 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

As an interest owner who may be affected by this application, we are notifying you of your right to appear at the hearing and participate in this case, including the right to present evidence either in support of or in opposition to the application. Failure to appear at the hearing may preclude you from any involvement in this case at a later date.

Pursuant to the Division's Memorandum 2-90, you are further notified that if you desire to appear in this case, then you are requested to file a Pre-Hearing Statement with the Division not later than 4:00 PM on Friday, March 10, 2006, with a copy delivered to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



W. Thomas Kellahin

**KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN**  
**Attorney at Law**

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February 15, 2006

**HAND DELIVERED**

Mr. Mark Fesmire, P.E., Director  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South Saint Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

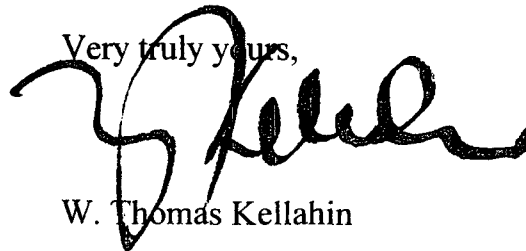
Re: Application of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP  
for an exception to the well density requirements of the  
Special Rules and Regulations for the Blanco-Mesaverde  
Gas Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

W/2 Section 11, T29N, R7W including the simultaneous dedication  
of the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well 57A (Unit Letter F) and the  
San Juan 29-7 Unit Well 57C (Unit Letter F) both located in the  
same 40-acre tract of the spacing unit.

Dear Mr. Fesmire:

On behalf of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP, please  
find enclosed our referenced application which we request be set for  
hearing on the Examiner's docket now scheduled for March 16, 2006. Also  
enclosed is our proposed advertisement of this case for the NMOCD  
docket.

Very truly yours,



W. Thomas Kellahin

cc: Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP  
Attn: Alan Alexander

**CASE\_\_\_\_\_:** Application of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP for an exception to the well density requirements of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool to permit it to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (SE/4NW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 of Section 11, T29N, R7W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 57A (API #30-039-2556700) located 1840 feet FWL and 1850 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 29-7 Well No. 57C (API #30-039-2585700) located 2620 feet FWL and 1545 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section; and

These wells are located approximately 6 miles southeast of the Navajo Dam, New Mexico.

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS COMPANY LP  
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE WELL DENSITY  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BLANCO-MESAVERDE  
GAS POOL, RIO ARriba COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION**

Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP. ("Burlington") by its attorneys, Kellahin & Kellahin, seeks an order for an exception to the well density requirements of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool to permit it to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (SE/4NW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 of Section 11, T29N, R7W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 57A (API #30-039-2556700) located 1840 feet FWL and 1850 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 29-7 Well No. 57C (API #30-039-2585700) located 2620 feet FWL and 1545 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section; and

In support of its application Burlington states:

- (1) Burlington is the current operator of the San Juan 29-7 Unit that includes, among other acreage, the W/2 of Section 11, T29N, R7W, San Juan County, New Mexico.

- (2) This spacing unit currently contains five wells (three standard completions, one pilot horizontal completion and one pressure observation well) completed in the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool as follows:

(a) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 57A (API #30-039-2556700) located 1840 feet FWL and 1850 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 29-7 Well No. 57C (API #30-039-2585700) located 2620 feet FWL and 1545 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section; and

(c) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 57 (API #300390765500) located 1650 feet FSL and 990 feet FWL (Unit L) of this section.

(d) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. —57B (API #300392563300) surface located 1500 feet FSL and 1660 feet FEL (Unit J) and bottom hole located 475 feet FSL and 2340 feet FWL (Unit N) of this section.

(e) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 300 (API #300392549800) the surface is located 800 feet FSL and 800 feet FWL (Unit M) of this section.

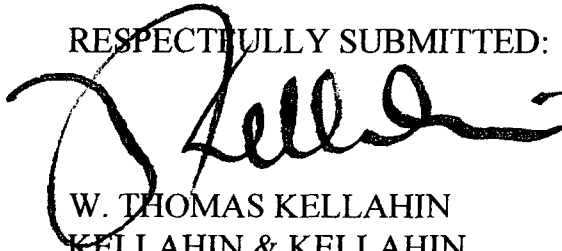
- (3) The Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool is governed by Special Rules and Regulations which provide for 320-acre spacing and proration units on which as many as four wells may be drilled. See Order R-8170, as superseded by Order R-10987-A, effective February 1, 1999 and amended by Order R-10987-A (1), effective December 2, 2002 and Pilot well Order R-10720, effective January 9, 1997. This Special Pool Rules and Regulations provide, among other things, that an infill well shall not be located within the same quarter-quarter section (40-acre tract) and another well.

- (4) On or about June 21, 1998, Burlington completed the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 57C, such that the No. 57A and the No. 57C are both in the same quarter-quarter section and are located at standard distances from the outer boundaries of this GPU.

- (5) Upon becoming aware of its mistake, on February 6, 2006, Burlington shut-in the Well No. 57A that remains shut-in and is not producing from the Mesaverde formation.
- (6) While the total number of producing (excluding the No. 57B Pilot well and the No. 300 Observation well) wells in this Mesaverde gas proration unit ("GPU") is less than what is allowed, the Well No. 57A and Well No. 57C are located in the same quarter-quarter section and therefore are in violation of the density requirements of this Special Pool Rules.
- (7) Burlington therefore requests that the Division enter its order granting an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool approving the location of the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 57A and the Well No. 57C in the same quarter-quarter section and authoring Burlington to simultaneously produce both wells.
- (8) Approval of this application will not impair the correlative rights of any other interest owner in the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool and will afford Burlington the opportunity to utilize the existing wells to produce the reserves from this GPU.
- (9) Approval of this application will be in the best interests of conversations, the prevention of waste and the protection of correlative rights.

WHEREFORE, Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company, LP requests that this application be set for hearing before an Examiner of the Oil Conservation Division on March 16, 2006 and after notice and hearing as required by law, the Division enter its order granting an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool approving the location of the San Juan 29-7 Unit Wells No. 57A and No. 57C in the Mesaverde formation and authorizing Burlington to simultaneously produced both wells.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Thomas Kellahin', is written over the typed name and firm name.

W. THOMAS KELLAHIN  
KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN

P. O. Box 2265  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
(505) 982-4285

**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 BURLINGTON RESOURCES  
OIL & GAS COMPANY LP FOR AN EXCEPTION  
TO THE WELL DENSITY REQUIREMENTS OF  
THE BLANCO-MEASVERDE GAS POOL  
RIO ARriba OR SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

**CASE NO. 13667  
CASE NO. 13668  
CASE NO. 13669  
CASE NO. 13670  
CASE NO. 13671  
CASE NO. 13672  
CASE NO. 13673  
CASE NO. 13674**

**CONSOLIDATED PRE-HEARING STATEMENT**

This consolidated pre-hearing statement is submitted by Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP as required by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.

**APPEARANCES OF THE PARTIES**

**APPLICANT**

Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company  
3535 West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Farmington, NM 87501  
Attn: Alan Alexander  
Phone 505-326-9757

**ATTORNEY**

W. Thomas Kellahin  
P. O. Box 2265  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504  
phone 505-982-4285  
Fax 505-982-2047

**OPPONENT**

**None**

**ATTORNEY**



## STATEMENT OF THE CASES

### APPLICANT:

These eight applications of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP are for an exception to the well density requirements of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool to permit it:

(1) CASE 13667: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (SE/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 16, T30N, R7W, NMPM:

(a) the State Com Well No. 1 (API #30-039-0784700) located 1090 feet FEL and 2040 feet FNL (Unit H) of this section; and

(b) the State Com Well No. 1R (API #30-039-2526200) located 640 feet FEL and 2515 feet FNL (Unit H) of this section; and

(2) CASE 13668: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (SE/4NW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 of Section 11, T29N, R7W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 57A (API #30-039-2556700) located 1840 feet FWL and 1850 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 29-7 Well No. 57C (API #30-039-2585700) located 2620 feet FWL and 1545 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section.

(3) CASE 13669: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (SW/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 19, T27N, R5W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 27-5 Unit Well No. 138 (API #30-039-2046300) located 1600 feet FEL and 1800 feet FNL (Unit G) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit Well No. 50 (API #30-039-0699600) located 1840 feet FEL and 1650 feet FNL (Unit G) of this section.

(4) CASE 13670: to permit it to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (NW/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 30, T27N, R4W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 21 (API #30-039-0693700) located 1800 feet FEL and 850 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 53 (API #30-039-201500) located 1460 feet FEL and 900 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section.

(5) CASE 13671: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (NE/4NW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 of Section 33, T29N, R7W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 97B (API #30-039-2586100) located 2135 feet FWL and 1195 feet FNL (Unit C) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 29-7 Well No. 114M (API #30-039-2242500) located 1530 feet FWL and 790 feet FNL (Unit C) of this section.

(6) CASE 13672: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde/Dakota Commingled gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (NE/4SW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 equivalent of Irregular Section 31, T28N, R6W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 28-6 Unit Well No. 210 (API #30-039-2084100) located 1190 feet FWL and 1850 feet FSL (Unit K) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 28-6 Well No. 210P (API #30-039-2945800) located 2015 feet FWL and 1845 feet FSL (Unit K) of this section.

(7) CASE 13673: to permit it to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (SW/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 5, T27N, R5W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 27-5 Unit Well No. 61 (API #30-039-0719100) located 1850 feet FEL and 1700 feet FNL (Unit G) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 27-5 Well No. 78 (API #30-039-0719400) located 1460 feet FEL and 1460 feet FNL (Unit G) of this section.

(8) CASE 13674: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (SE/4SW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 of Section 15, T32N, R7W, NMPM:

(a) the Allison Unit Well No. 16 (API #30-045-11385) located 1800 feet FWL and 890 feet FSL (Unit N) of this section; and

(b) the Allison Unit Well No. 16R (API #30-045-28986) located 2335 feet FWL and 995 feet FSL (Unit N) of this section.

## **PROPOSED EVIDENCE**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Banco-Mesaverde Gas Pool Rules (R-10987-A, effective December 2, 2002) among other things allows a well density of (4) wells within a standard 320-acre gas spacing unit ("GPU") provided that no more than two wells be located within either quarter section in a GPU.

Burlington recently became aware that it had recompleted Mesaverde gas well in an existing 320-acre spacing unit (GPU) such that two (2) gas wells had been drilled or recompleted in the same 40-acre tracts of an existing 320-acre GPU.

Burlington conducted a review of 1027 completions and discovered that it operates eight (8) GPUs in which are two (2) within the same 40-acre tract and therefore are not in compliance with Rules for this pool.

**Burlington has voluntarily "shut-in" wells in these GPUs in order to be in compliance pending a hearing before the Division on these cases.**

### **PRECEDENT AND CRITERIA**

In a recent case, the Division established a "precedent" by approving an application for BP America is Case 13483, Order R-12385, dated July 8, 2005 authorizing two gas wells to simultaneously produce in the same quarter-quarter of an existing GPU.

The criteria adopted by the Division in the BP America's case are:

(1) the wells in the same 40-acre tract are at "standard" locations in relations to the outer boundaries of the 320-acre GPU and do not encroached upon any surrounding spacing units,

(2) both wells are "low-productivity" wells. In the BP case the wells were not capable of producing more than 150 mcfpd at the existing line pressures.

(3) The two well do not appear to interfere with each other. (While BP introduced production decline curves, BP did not introduce actual "interference calculation to support its contention).

(4) The two well appeared to produce "unique" reserves. (BP did not introduce actual data to support its contention).

(5) BP had no plans to produced more and the maximum of four (4) Mesaverde gas wells in its GPU

(6) There was no objections or opposition.

#### **BURLINGTON'S PROPOSED REFINED CRITERIA:**

Burlington will propose that the Division use actual reservoir petroleum engineering interference calculations rather than the less reliable "low-productivity" wellbore standard. See Item (2) above.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

Burlington will present evidence that demonstrates that these 8 cases meet the appropriate criteria and should be granted exceptions form the Rules for this pool as requested, and doing so, will testify and present evidence that includes:

- (1) History of "offending" wells, including reasons for these mistakes
- (2) New Burlington procedures to avoid future non-compliance wellbores
- (3) Information on encroachment
- (4) Total well density for the GPU
- (5) Production data, including initial and current production rates for the wells
- (6) Interference data between wells
- (7) Incremental reserves being produced
- (8) Plats of offsetting owners
- (9) Cost to plug and abandon offending well and redrill.

**APPLICANT**

**WITNESSES**

**EST. TIME**

**EST. EXHIBITS**

**L. Tom Loveland (PE)**

**1-1.5 hour**

**many**

**Alan Alexander (landman)**

**20-30 min.**

**many**

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

**Burlington request to consolidate these 8 cases for purposes of hearing.**

**KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN**

**W. Thomas Kellahin**