	Page 1		
1	STATE OF NEW MEXICO		
2	ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT		
3	OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION		
4			
5	IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED		
6	BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:		
7	CASE NO. 14108 APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR A COMPLIANCE		
8	ORDER AGAINST BUCKEYE DISPOSAL, LLC.		
9	ORIGINAL		
10			
11			
12	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
13	DEDODEDIG EDINGGDIDE OF DEGENING		
14	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS		
15	EXAMINER HEARING		
16			
17	BEFORE: DAVID BROOKS, Legal Examiner TERRY WARNELL, Technical Examiner		
18	ω Θ		
19	April 17, 2008		
20	Santa Fe, New Mexico		
21	This matter came for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID BROOKS, Legal Examiner, and TERRY		
22	WARNELL, Technical Examiner, on April 17, 2008, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department,		
	1220 South St. Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico.		
23 24	REPORTED BY: JOYCE D. CALVERT, P-03		
	Paul Baca Court Reporters 500 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 105		
25	Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102		

		Page 2
1	INDEX	
2 .	Examiner Hearing	
3	CASE NO. 14108	
4		
5	APPEARANCES	3
6	APPLICANT'S WITNESSES:	
7	DANIEL SANCHEZ DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. ALTOMARE	7
8	CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PADILLA	20
9	EXAMINATION BY MR. BROOKS EXAMINATION BY MR. WARNELL	26 27
10	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. ALTOMARE	28
11	APPLICANT'S EXHIBITS A - G	28
12	RESPONDENT'S WITNESSES:	
13	JAMES MILLETT	2.0
14	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. PADILLA CROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. ALTOMARE	29 37
15	EXAMINATION BY MR. BROOKS EXAMINATION BY MR. WARNELL	42 45
16	RESPONDENT'S EXHIBITS 1 - 2	41
17	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	47
18	REFORTER 5 CERTIFICATE	47
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

- 1 MR. BROOKS: We'll call Case No. 14108, Application
- 2 of New Mexico Oil Conservation Division for a Compliance Order
- 3 against Buckeye Disposal, LLC.
- 4 Call for appearances.
- 5 MS. ALTOMARE: Mikal Altomare on behalf of the Oil
- 6 Conservation Division.
- 7 MR. PADILLA: L. Padilla for Buckeye, LLC.
- 8 MR. BROOKS: Witnesses?
- 9 THE WITNESS: Daniel Sanchez of the OCD.
- 10 MR. PADILLA: I have one witness, James Millett.
- MR. BROOKS: Very good. Witnesses, if you have
- 12 business cards, it will be helpful if you would give them to
- 13 the reporter if you have not already done so.
- 14 Will the witnesses please stand to be sworn?
- 15 [Witnesses sworn.]
- 16 MR. BROOKS: Okay. You may proceed, Ms. Altomare.
- 17 MS. ALTOMARE: Thank you, Mr. Examiner. Just
- 18 briefly, to summarize why we're here today, the application
- 19 pretty much lays everything out, basically, just to clarify why
- 20 we're here as opposed to going to District Court for
- 21 enforcement of the ACO non-compliance.
- Because this was an on-going non-compliance issue
- 23 with the one well, coupled with a new violation with a second
- 24 well, in the name of judicial efficiency, I guess, we thought
- 25 it best to bring the action here, try and consolidate and get

- 1 everything done at once, try and get the underlying ACO
- 2 enforced at the same time as getting the new violations
- 3 addressed -- trying to hit two birds with one stone, as it
- 4 were.
- 5 And also, in effect, get a more solid order if and
- 6 when we do need to go to District Court so that they can seek
- 7 enforcement in that venue -- if and when we need to do that.
- The underlying ACO was done for the State AF#1
- 9 because of a violation of continuous inactivity for a period of
- 10 one year plus 90 days. The operator did acknowledge that they
- 11 were in violation of the OCD rules, signed the ACO, agreed to
- 12 bring the well back into compliance by either plugging and
- 13 abandoning it or obtaining a temporary abandonment status
- 14 approval by the OCD by a date certain. That date certain was
- 15 set to be December of 2007. I believe it was December 17th.
- They did not meet that date. And within the ACO,
- 17 there was a penalty structure that was called for if they did
- 18 not meet the terms of the ACO. The penalties have not been
- 19 paid. The well still has not been brought into compliance.
- 20 And in addition to that, another well that they had
- 21 acquired shortly after it had been brought into TA status by
- 22 the previous operator fell out of compliance because the TA
- 23 expired. And that well has not been brought back into TA
- 24 status or plugged and abandoned or brought back on line either.
- In addition to that, both of these wells now fall

- 1 under the new financial assurance requirements requiring
- 2 additional single well bonding because they have been inactive
- 3 for longer than two years and are on state or fee land.
- 4 Because of these on-going violations, we are seeking
- 5 an enforcement, an order mandating compliance. We're not
- 6 seeking any additional penalties in addition to the enforcement
- 7 of the penalty clause of the underlying ACO. What we are
- 8 seeking is that the operator be ordered to plug and abandon
- 9 both wells by a date certain and be ordered to pay the
- 10 penalties that have accrued to date according to the terms of
- 11 the ACO that the operator signed and acknowledged some time
- 12 ago.
- And at this time, we will call Daniel Sanchez.
- MR. BROOKS: Very good. Mr. Padilla, do you wish to
- 15 make an opening statement before we start the witnesses?
- 16 MR. PADILLA: No. I think the evidence will be clear
- 17 enough to support what our point is going to be in this case.
- MR. BROOKS: Very good.
- 19 MS. ALTOMARE: Before I begin with Mr. Sanchez, there
- 20 is a packet of exhibits before you, Mr. Examiner. The first
- 21 two exhibits that you will see are an affidavit of Dorothy
- 22 Phillips as to the financial assurance issue and an affidavit
- 23 of service noting the service that was provided to Buckeye
- 24 Disposal, as well as the service that was attempted on the
- 25 surety for Buckeye Disposal based on the address that was

- 1 provided by the surety. Apparently, that address is no longer
- 2 valid. It was returned to us. There was also publication
- 3 notice that was provided. All of that is laid out within the
- 4 Affidavit of Service and the attached exhibits. The affidavit
- 5 of Dorothy Phillips provides the information regarding the
- 6 violations of the financial assurance requirements as to these
- 7 two wells.
- 8 DANIEL SANCHEZ
- 9 after having been first duly sworn under oath,
- 10 was questioned and testified as follows:
- 11 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 12 BY MS. ALTOMARE:
- Q. Mr. Sanchez, can you state your full name for the
- 14 record, please.
- 15 A. Daniel Sanchez.
- Q. Okay. And by whom are you employed?
- 17 A. The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.
- Q. And how long have you been employed there?
- 19 A. For three and a half years.
- Q. And what is your position with the Oil
- 21 Conservation Division?
- 22 A. I'm the compliance and enforcement manager.
- 23 Q. And what are your job duties as a compliance and
- 24 enforcement manager?
- 25 A. I supervise the four districts throughout the

- 1 state, the environmental bureau here in Santa Fe, and I oversee
- 2 the compliance and enforcement efforts within the Division.
- 3 Q. Okay. And have you testified before in this
- 4 forum and before the Division?
- 5 A. Yes, I have.
- Q. Have you been qualified as an expert in oil
- 7 conservation in the oil industry and the regulation and
- 8 enforcement management?
- 9 A. Yes.
- MS. ALTOMARE: At this time, I would move to qualify
- 11 Mr. Sanchez as an expert in the oil industry and regulation and
- 12 compliance.
- MR. BROOKS: Any objection?
- MR. PADILLA: No, no, no.
- MR. BROOKS: So qualified.
- Q. (By Ms. Altomare): Mr. Sanchez, have you
- 17 reviewed the well files at issue for the two wells that are
- 18 raised in the application of this case?
- 19 A. Yes, I have.
- Q. Are you familiar with the operator that we are
- 21 discussing today, Buckeye Disposal, LLC?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. I want to show you what has been marked as
- 24 Exhibit C. Do you have that in front of you?
- 25 A. Yes, I do.

- Q. Can you identify that for the record, please?
- 2 A. This is the Agreed Compliance Order between the
- 3 OCD and Buckeye Disposal, LLC.
- 4 Q. Okay. And for the record, that has been
- 5 identified as ACO 183; is that correct?
- A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. And are you familiar with this particular Agreed
- 8 Compliance Order?
- 9 A. Yes, I am.
- 10 Q. And what was the reason for this particular
- 11 Agreed Compliance Order?
- 12 A. For the State AF#1 well, they were out of
- 13 compliance. There was no production or injection reported
- 14 since December of 2003, and the well had neither been plugged
- 15 or temporarily abandoned.
- Q. Okay. I'd like to direct your attention to Page
- 17 2 of the Agreed Compliance Order. At Page 2, what are the key
- 18 conclusions at Paragraphs 2 and 3 that were reached by the Oil
- 19 Conservation Division in the Agreed Compliance Order?
- 20 A. They were that Buckeye violated Rule 201 by
- 21 failing to properly plug and abandon or place on temporary
- 22 abandonment status the State AF#1 well within 90 days of one
- 23 year of continuous activity, and the violation of Rule 201 was
- 24 knowing and willful. Buckeye did not take correct action on
- 25 the State AF#1 well, even after three letters from the OCD

- 1 notifying Buckeye of the violation. Those letters were issued
- 2 in March of '05, June of '05 and July of '06.
- 3 Q. Okay. In the section labeled "Order" of the
- 4 Agreed Compliance Order, can you review for the Hearing
- 5 Examiner what was ordered by the OCD with regard to the
- 6 State AF#1?
- 7 A. Okay. "The OCD assesses, and Buckeye agrees to
- 8 pay, a penalty of \$1,000 for the knowing and willful violation
- 9 of Rule 201 at the State AF#1 well.
- "The \$1,000 penalty shall be paid at the time Buckeye
- 11 executes this order. Payment shall be made by check payable to
- 12 the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.
- "Within 10 days of the date that this order is
- 14 executed, Buckeye shall file a sundry notice indicating its
- intent to produce, plug or temporarily abandon the State AF#1
- 16 well.
- 17 "Within six months of the date this order is
- 18 executed, Buckeye shall take one of the following actions to
- 19 return the State AF#1 well to compliance with Rule 201:
- 20 "A: Return the well to production and file a C --
- 21 155 reporting production;
- 22 "B: Plug the wellbore of the well and file a sundry
- 23 notice reporting the plugging; or
- "C: Place the well on approved temporary abandonment
- 25 status.

- 1 "If Buckeye fails to return the State AF#1 well to
- 2 compliance with Rule 201 within six months of the date this
- 3 order is executed, Buckeye agrees to pay an additional penalty
- 4 of \$1,000 for each full week after the deadline that the well
- 5 remains out of compliance with Rule 201."
- 6 Q. Okay. And Paragraph 6 enumerates a series of
- 7 acknowledgements that the operator indicated by signing this
- 8 document; is that correct?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. And what are those acknowledgements?
- 11 A. "The operator acknowledges the correctness of
- 12 Findings and Conclusions set forth in this order;
- "Agrees to pay the \$1,000 penalty assessed in the
- 14 Order at the time the Order is executed;
- "Agrees to file a sundry notice within 10 days of the
- 16 date this Order is executed stating its intent to produce, plug
- or temporarily abandon the State AF#1;
- 18 "Agrees to return the State AF#1 to compliance with
- 19 Rule 201 within six months of the date this Order is executed;
- 20 "Agrees that if it fails to return the State AF#1 to
- 21 compliance with Rule 201 within six months of the date this
- 22 Order is executed, it will pay an additional penalty of \$1,000
- 23 for each full week after that deadline that the State AF#1
- 24 remains out of compliance with Rule 201;
- 25 "Waives any right, pursuant to the Oil and Gas Act or

- 1 otherwise, to a hearing either prior to or subsequent to the
- 2 entry of this order or to an appeal from this Order;
- 3 "Agrees that the order may be enforced by OCD or Oil
- 4 Conservation Commission Order, by suit or otherwise, to the
- 5 same extent and with the same effect as a final Order of the
- 6 OCD or Oil Conservation Commission entered after notice and
- 7 hearing in accordance with all terms and provisions of the Oil
- 8 and Gas Act."
- 9 Q. And what are the dates of execution by the
- 10 representative of Buckeye and by the director of the Oil
- 11 Conservation Division?
- 12 A. Buckeye signed on -- I believe it's May 20th
- of '07, and that was by Peter Bergstein. And the commissioner,
- 14 Mark Fesmire, Executive Director, signed off on June 1st, 2007.
- Q. Okay. So based on Paragraph 4 calling for six
- 16 months of the date of the order -- "within six months of the
- 17 date of the order, Buckeye shall take one of the following
- 18 actions to return the State AF#1 well to compliance, " -- six
- 19 months from June 1st, what would have been the deadline for
- 20 Buckeye to have returned the well to compliance?
- 21 A. December 1st.
- 22 Q. To your knowledge, did Buckeye return the well to
- 23 compliance using one of the methods that was enumerated in the
- 24 ACO?
- A. No, they didn't.

- 1 Q. Did they make the 10-day deadline for filing the
- 2 sundry from the June 1st signature of the director?
- A. No, they didn't.
- Q. Okay. I'd like to direct your attention to
- 5 Exhibit E. At this point, can you identify this document for
- 6 the record?
- 7 A. This was the letter sent out on June 1st, 2007,
- 8 along with the signed Agreed Compliance Order acknowledging the
- 9 receipt of the signed order by Buckeye and the receipt of
- 10 \$1,000 penalty and given the details of the Agreed Compliance
- 11 Order issues.
- 12 Q. Okay. And this letter actually does specify the
- 13 dates of June 1st and December 1st for the deadlines for
- 14 Buckeye?
- 15 A. Yes, it does.
- 16 Q. So it actually calculates the deadlines for the
- 17 operator?
- 18 A. Yes, it did.
- 19 Q. And you were copied on this letter; is that
- 20 right?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. Just to back up, I'm going to show you Exhibit D.
- 23 Can you identify this document for the record, please?
- 24 A. Exhibit D is the well list for Buckeye Disposal
- 25 LLC, and it shows the four wells that they operate at this

- 1 time.
- Q. Okay. And how is this list generated?
- 3 A. These are the wells reported by the operator to
- 4 the OCD.
- 5 Q. And this is the list that is generated by the
- 6 OCD's online system; is that correct?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- Q. And it's a public record available publicly
- 9 online; is that correct?
- 10 A. Yes, it is.
- 11 Q. And it's kept in the ordinary course of the
- 12 business by the OCD?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. By your calculations, how many full weeks have
- 15 elapsed since the December 1st deadline passed for bringing the
- 16 well into compliance according to the ACO?
- 17 A. 19.
- 18 Q. So according to your calculations, how much --
- 19 what is the total amount of penalty at this time that has
- 20 accrued based on the penalty structure that is included in the
- 21 ACO?
- A. \$19,000.
- 23 Q. So to your knowledge, has Buckeye made any
- 24 payment or any effort to remit any amount of the payment of the
- 25 penalty from the ACO?

- 1 A. No, not at this time.
- 2 O. Okay. What is the status of the AF#1?
- A. It is still out of compliance with Rule 201.
- 4 Q. They filed an intent to plug the abandon in
- 5 January; is that right?
- A. That's right.
- 7 Q. To your knowledge, has any additional work been
- 8 done at the site beyond filing that sundry in January?
- 9 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 10 Q. What are you asking for with regard to the
- 11 violation and non-compliance with the ACO 183 at the
- 12 State AF#1?
- 13 A. We're asking that the Hearing Examiner enforce
- 14 the penalty provision of the ACO 183 by a date certain -- we're
- 15 looking at within a few weeks of the issuance of the order --
- 16 stating that -- we're asking just for the \$19,000. We're not
- 17 asking that the penalty be taken beyond today's date.
- 18 We're also asking that the well be plugged and
- 19 abandoned by May 30th of 2008. And if they still fail to come
- 20 into compliance by meeting these obligations, that the Hearing
- 21 Examiner order that OCD allow to plug the well and forfeit
- 22 Buckeye's financial surety.
- Q. Okay. Mr. Sanchez, with regard to the other
- 24 portion of the application, I'd like to direct your attention
- 25 to Exhibit No. F.

- 1 A. Okay.
- Q. Can you identify this document for the record,
- 3 please?
- A. This is a Change of Operator form from Penroc Oil
- 5 Corporation to Buckeye Disposal. This was enacted in November
- of 2003, and this changeover is for the State AF#1, the State
- 7 AF#2 and the State AF#3 to Buckeye.
- Q. Okay. So according to this, Buckeye acquired
- 9 both the State AF#1 and State AF#2 in November of 2003?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Is that right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. So go ahead and look at Exhibit G, if you would.
- 14 A. Okay.
- 15 Q. What is this document?
- A. This is a form C-103. This was submitted by
- 17 Penroc Oil Corporation, and it was able to put the State AF#2
- 18 well on temporary abandonment status until October 17th, 2007.
- 19 Q. Okay. What is the date of the temporary
- 20 abandonment approval?
- 21 A. October 18th, 2002.
- 22 Q. So the State AF#2 was put on temporary
- 23 abandonment status approximately a year prior to the transfer
- 24 to Buckeye; is that right?
- 25 A. That's correct.

- Q. So when Buckeye acquired the State AF#2, it was
- 2 currently in temporary abandonment status?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Are you familiar with Rule 101.B?
- 5 A. Yes, I am.
- Q. And what does that rule require?
- 7 A. Any state or fee well that has been inactive or
- 8 on temporary abandonment status for more than two years, as of
- 9 January 1st of 2008, is required to submit financial assurance,
- 10 individual well bonds on those wells.
- 11 Q. Okay. I'm going to go ahead and direct your
- 12 attention to -- if you could look at the affidavit of Dorothy
- 13 Phillips, which is Exhibit A.
- A. Uh-huh.
- 15 Q. If you could look at Exhibit B to her affidavit.
- 16 According to this document, the State AF#2 was at one point an
- 17 active, producing well; is that right?
- A. That's right.
- 19 Q. And this document is dated 1989; is that right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. And it has been on temporary abandonment
- 22 status since at least 2002; is that correct?
- 23 A. Up until 2007.
- Q. Okay. And what is the current status of the
- 25 State AF#2 well?

- A. It is currently in violation of Rule 101.B and
- 2 Rule 201.
- Q. What is the current status of the temporary
- 4 abandonment status for the State AF#2?
- 5 A. It is no longer on temporary abandonment status.
- Q. It expired on October 17th?
- 7 A. Yes, 2007.
- Q. What is the obligation of an operator with regard
- 9 to temporary abandonment status when they obtain -- when the
- 10 well is -- when they operate a well that is under an approved
- 11 temporary abandonment status with regard to an upcoming
- 12 expiration?
- A. Prior to that expiration, the TA, they are either
- 14 to file paperwork to get the well back on TA status, get it
- 15 producing again, or plug and abandon the well.
- Q. Okay. So by failing to do that, the State AF#2
- 17 well is in violation of both Rule 101.B and Rule 201, which is
- 18 the rule calling for -- the same rule that the State AF#1 well
- 19 was in violation that we discussed earlier?
- 20 A. That's right.
- 21 Q. Okay. What are -- and just to reiterate, to your
- 22 knowledge, is the State AF#1 still in violation of Rule 201,
- 23 which requires plugging and abandonment, return to activity, or
- 24 TA status after a period of continuous inactivity of one year
- 25 plus 90 days?

- 1 A. Yes. It's in violation of Rule 201.
- Q. With regard to 101.B, is the State AF#2 in
- 3 violation of that, in that it has been inactive for a period of
- 4 two years?
- 5 A. Yes, it is.
- 6 Q. What are you asking for with regard to the
- 7 violations of 201 and 101.B for the State AF#1 and the
- 8 State AF#2?
- A. An official determination that both wells are out
- 10 of compliance with Rules 101.B and Rule 201, an order requiring
- 11 the operator to post the required single well financial
- 12 assurances for both wells by a date certain and until such time
- 13 as the wells have been plugged and abandoned and released,
- 14 order the operator to plug and abandon both of the wells by a
- 15 date certain. We're looking at May 30th of 2008 for that.
- 16 An imposition of a penalty for \$19,000 for the
- 17 original ACO 183. Also, within a couple weeks, two weeks of
- 18 the issuance of the order and if the operator fails to plug and
- 19 abandon the wells per the order, declaring the wells abandoned
- 20 will allow the OCD to forfeit the applicable financial
- 21 assurance to plug the wells.
- Q. Is the OCD asking for any additional penalty
- 23 imposition specifically for these violations?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. And are you asking just for, specifically, for

- 1 enforcement action?
- 2 A. Just enforcement action and the original penalty
- 3 for ACO 183.
- 4 Q. And just for clarification, is there a
- 5 distinction between plugging and abandonment and the actual
- 6 release of a site?
- 7 A. Yes. After the well has been plugged and
- 8 abandoned, the operator has a year to actually clean up the
- 9 site and get it released.
- 10 Q. And the bond under Rule 101.B must remain in
- 11 place until such time as the site is released; is that right?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- MS. ALTOMARE: That's all the questions I have. Pass
- 14 the witness.
- MR. BROOKS: Mr. Padilla?
- 16 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. PADILLA:
- 18 Q. Mr. Sanchez, the application with regard to
- 19 violation of Rule 101 states on Page 9 that they asked for
- 20 determining that the subject wells are not in compliance with
- 21 the 19.15.4.101 NMAC. What is that rule?
- 22 A. 101 -- Rule 101 is the financial assurance rule.
- 23 I don't know if that's the exact name for it -- that's what we
- 24 refer to it as -- and indicates that any well, state or fee,
- 25 that has been inactive for a period of more than two years

- 1 requires single well bonding.
- 2 Q. The citation in the application for this rule is
- 3 19.15.4.101 NMAC. Is there such a rule?
- A. I'll ask my attorney. I don't have that in front
- 5 of me.
- 6 MS. ALTOMARE: I'm sorry. What page are you at?
- 7 MR. PADILLA: 9 of 12, at the bottom of the page.
- 8 MS. ALTOMARE: Is that the only place where it's
- 9 cited?
- 10 MR. PADILLA: I'm not sure.
- 11 MR. BROOKS: It's correctly cited in the notice,
- 12 apparently.
- MS. ALTOMARE: It may just be a clerical error.
- MR. PADILLA: It's cited on the following page at the
- 15 top of the page.
- 16 MS. ALTOMARE: Oh, it's -- yeah. That was just
- 17 apparently a clerical error because the rest of the document
- 18 has it correctly typed.
- MR. PADILLA: Well, in the plea hearing statement, I
- 20 find that citation as well.
- MS. ALTOMARE: In the substantive portion of the
- 22 document for violation of OCD Rule 101.B where the actual
- 23 portion of the document discussing that violation is fully
- 24 articulated and flushed out beginning on Page 4, it is cited as
- 25 19.15.3.101.B.

- 1 MR. PADILLA: So let me ask the witness which is
- 2 correct. The incorrect citation or the portion citing the
- 3 substantive portion?
- 4 MS. ALTOMARE: I think you're asking for legal
- 5 conclusions. I'm not sure --
- 6 MR. PADILLA: If he knows. I'm not asking for a
- 7 legal conclusion. He's testifying here as an expert in
- 8 compliance.
- 9 A. I didn't review that part of the opening
- 10 statement. So I really can't say at this point.
- 11 Q. (By Mr. Padilla): Mr. Sanchez, what is OCD's
- 12 criteria for knowing and willful violation under these rules
- 13 that you've been discussing today?
- A. In this case, when an operator has been notified
- 15 of a violation, and we've received no response to that
- 16 notification, and it's backed up again -- it really doesn't
- 17 need to be backed up more than that one time as long as they've
- 18 been notified -- then they are aware that they have violated a
- 19 rule. That is knowing and willful. That's what I would
- 20 consider knowing and willful.
- 21 Q. And that's a purely subjective determination that
- 22 the OCD makes; is that right?
- A. I don't believe that's really subjective. It's a
- 24 very fair and accurate way of determining knowing and willful.
- Q. Does the OCD look at any mitigating factors in

- 1 regard to that application of that standard?
- 2 A. Yes, we do.
- Q. What kind of mitigating factors do you look at?
- 4 A. There have been times where a letter has gone
- 5 out, and there has been no response. We'll contact the
- 6 operator and determine that they may not have received a
- 7 letter, in which case we won't go after them. We'll continue
- 8 to work with them. So that's a mitigating factor, I would
- 9 think.
- 10 Q. Are there any other mitigating factors that you
- 11 would consider?
- 12 A. That would have to be on a case-by-case basis,
- 13 but I am sure there are others.
- Q. What you're telling me, then, is that the OCD
- 15 doesn't consider mitigating factors, right?
- 16 A. Yes, we do.
- 17 Q. In this case, are there any environmental
- 18 concerns that you know of?
- 19 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 20 Q. Would lack of environmental factors or concerns
- 21 be a mitigating concern as far as the OCD?
- 22 A. It could be, yes.
- Q. What reports have you received from the field
- 24 office concerning the AF#1 well?
- 25 A. No specific reports that I can recall at this

- 1 time.
- Q. In bringing this application, did the OCD simply
- 3 consider the lack of response by the operator with regard to
- 4 the compliance order?
- 5 A. The lack of response was the reason we entered
- 6 into the Agreed Compliance Order. We felt that if we did get
- 7 into an Agreed Compliance Order and laid down the basis for our
- 8 issues, that the operator would work with us, and we could
- 9 resolve those issues.
- 10 Q. With respect to the AF#2 well, did you do
- 11 anything in terms of notifying the operator that you were
- 12 bringing this action today?
- 13 A. Just through the application itself.
- Q. So no warning letter to start off with?
- 15 A. No. The operator should have been well aware
- 16 that they were on temporary abandonment status up to that point
- 17 and that that well would have been falling off. It's up to
- 18 them to keep track of those wells.
- 19 Q. What is the practice of the OCD prior to bringing
- 20 an application for enforcement with regard to a well such as
- 21 the AF#2 well?
- 22 A. It's really on a case-by-case basis. It really
- 23 depends on the operator and what we're looking for. So there's
- 24 not one answer for each case.
- Q. Ordinarily, is a warning letter sent before you

- 1 bring an application for temporary abandoned status?
- 2 A. Once again, that really depends on whether
- 3 there's a specific well we're looking at at that time. If
- 4 there is something else that we -- like in this case, we had
- 5 the action on the AF#1 under the Agreed Compliance Order. And
- 6 when that was ignored, we brought in the AF#2, because that
- one, too, was out of the compliance. So a letter wouldn't have
- 8 gone out in that case.
- 9 Q. If it had just been the AF#2 well, would this
- 10 letter have gone out first?
- 11 A. Probably no action would have been taken on that
- 12 unless there was a request for certain issues. They would have
- 13 eventually fallen under -- or they are under Rule 40 in being
- 14 out of the compliance.
- 15 If they had requested allowables or a permit for
- 16 another well or something like that, then we would have let
- 17 them know that there was an issue and would have given them
- 18 time to resolve that issue.
- 19 Q. In this case, nothing was sent about the AF#2 in
- 20 order to resolve the issue of expiration of temporary
- 21 abandonment status?
- 22 A. Like I said before, it's not up to us to inform
- 23 an operator when their TA are coming due. It's their
- 24 responsibility to maintain those and keep up on them.
- Q. Well, how is that you bring enforcement action

- 1 with respect to a well such as the AF#2?
- 2 A. For that reason, that there was another one that
- 3 was on the list that we felt that we needed to deal with. And
- 4 it had been on TA status for five years coming up to 2007, and
- 5 it remained under that status which brought it under
- 6 Rule 101.B. So there was an issue of additional financial
- 7 assurances that we were trying to take care of. And if you
- 8 look at the application again, we're not asking for penalties
- 9 on the AF#1. We're asking that they come into compliance.
- 10 Q. And you're doing the same with respect to the
- 11 bonding requirements, right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. You're not asking for any penalties on that?
- 14 A. No. Just that they come into compliance with the
- 15 rule.
- MR. PADILLA: That's all I have.
- MR. BROOKS: Very good. Thank you.
- 18 EXAMINATION
- 19 BY MR. BROOKS:
- Q. When you were speaking of what you were asking
- 21 for with respect to these two wells, you said that you asked
- 22 for an order that they be plugged.
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. In most of these compliance cases where we have
- 25 inactive wells, the order reads that they are to be brought

- 1 into compliance, which could be plugging and approved temporary
- 2 abandonment or restoration of production. Are you specifically
- 3 asking in this case that the wells be plugged?
- A. For the length of time that they have been
- 5 inactive, we felt that the operator wasn't going to get them
- 6 back into compliance by putting them back into production or
- 7 injection. Temporary abandonment status for any length of time
- 8 after this just doesn't seem to make sense after it's been
- 9 sitting there for six years inactive, and the other well would
- 10 have been plugged based on the Agreed Compliance Order 183
- 11 anyway.
- 12 Q. Okay. Did the Agreed Compliance Order
- 13 specifically say it was to be plugged versus being restored to
- 14 compliance?
- 15 A. I believe it did.
- 16 Q. It seems to me it says -- in Paragraph 4 at the
- 17 top of Page 3, it appears to say that it can be brought into
- 18 compliance by any means provided.
- 19 MS. ALTOMARE: They filed an intent to P&A. I think
- 20 that's what happened.
- 21 MR. BROOKS: Okay. I think that's the only questions
- 22 I have. Terry?
- 23 EXAMINATION
- 24 BY MR. WARNELL:
- Q. Have either one of these wells, #1 or #2, ever

- 1 produced under this operator?
- A. As far as I know, not under this operator.
- Q. And you're asking that both wells be plugged by
- 4 May 30th of this year?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 MR. WARNELL: I have no other questions.
- 7 MR. BROOKS: Any follow-up, Ms. Altomare?
- 8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 9 BY MS. ALTOMARE:
- 10 Q. Just for clarification, the last time that the
- 11 OCD made efforts to send warning letters to work with this
- 12 operator prior to the issuance of the ACO 183, how responsive
- was the operator?
- A. We got no response.
- MS. ALTOMARE: That's all I have.
- MR. BROOKS: Very good. The witness may stand down.
- 17 Does that conclude your presentation?
- MS. ALTOMARE: It does.
- 19 MR. BROOKS: Do you want to offer the exhibits in
- 20 evidence?
- MS. ALTOMARE: Yes, thank you. I'd like to move
- 22 Exhibits A through G into evidence, please.
- MR. BROOKS: Any objection?
- MR. PADILLA: No.
- MR. BROOKS: Exhibits A through G are admitted.

PAUL BACA PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTERS

- 1 the project manager for them.
- Q. Where are you located?
- 3 A. Lubbock, Texas.
- Q. And tell us a little bit about -- you're not here
- 5 testifying as an expert witness of any sort, right?
- A. No, sir.
- 7 Q. You're here as a project manager responding to
- 8 this application. Right?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. All right. Tell us a little bit about your --
- 11 about Buckeye's disposal operations in New Mexico.
- 12 A. We acquired Buckeye Disposal several years ago,
- 13 and it is a saltwater disposal for a large area in Buckeye, New
- 14 Mexico, a large area of production there.
- Q. When did you take over your specific duties?
- A. My specific duties were handed to me on or about
- 17 February the 1st.
- 18 Q. And what were your instructions when you took
- 19 over?
- A. My instructions were to look after all disposals
- 21 and all compliance, everything into compliance with the State
- 22 of New Mexico.
- 23 Q. Can you tell us -- would you be more specific
- 24 with respect to the AF#1 and the AF#2 wells?
- 25 A. The AF#1 and the AF#2, we learned in late

- 1 December of the non-compliance issue. And that was part of the
- 2 reason for my hiring in December. And I was told to work with
- 3 the OCD and bring them into compliance, as well as work with
- 4 Ernie -- or not Ernie, but Eddy C. as to the feasibility of
- 5 bringing one of those into production as an injection well.
- 6 Q. Have you retained Eddy C. as a consultant?
- 7 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir. I've been working with him
- 8 for a couple of months now.
- 9 Q. What is Mr. C. doing?
- 10 A. Mr. C. is looking into the feasibility of
- 11 bringing the State AF#2 into -- as an injection well to relieve
- 12 some pressure off of our State AF#3. We are currently about
- 13 ready to run a casing log on that. That was our next --
- Q. What's the proximity of the AF#1, the AF#2, and
- 15 the AF#3?
- 16 A. They are all within a quarter mile of each other
- in a triangular pattern.
- 18 Q. Have you had any kind of personnel issues at
- 19 Buckeye?
- 20 A. Yes, we've had some. Over the last three --
- 21 about the last three years, we've had some major personnel
- 22 issues in our Hobbs office.
- Q. More recently, have you had personnel issues with
- 24 your manager in the Hobbs office?
- A. Oh, yes. Mr. Tom Brume and Brian Meredith, both

- of which when several of these compliance orders came down,
- 2 were given the full authority to execute, and did not take care
- 3 of plugging and abandoning it or putting it into production or
- 4 whatever they deemed feasibly necessary for Buckeye.
- Q. What kind of changes has Buckeye made with regard
- 6 to coming into compliance?
- 7 A. Beginning last -- early last -- in 2006 and 2007,
- 8 we began a complete turnover of our management there. Tom
- 9 Brume --
- 10 MS. ALTOMARE: I'm going to object to this if he
- 11 doesn't have personal knowledge of this. He just started in
- 12 February.
- 13 THE WITNESS: I have the records.
- MR. BROOKS: I'm sorry. Counselor should respond to
- 15 the objection, but I'm going to overrule it. I will accept the
- 16 testimony for what it is, and Counsel can explore his knowledge
- 17 of these matters on Cross. Continue.
- 18 Q. (Mr. Padilla): Let me ask you: Have you done an
- 19 investigation as to -- to familiarize yourself with the --
- 20 A. Yes, I have.
- 21 Q. -- personnel issues and why you are --
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. -- in your position? You know that, right?
- 24 A. Yes, sir. I have done --
- Q. And you have personal knowledge of what has

- 1 happened before and currently, right?
- 2 A. Yes, sir: Yes, sir.
- Q. All right. So what are you trying to get done
- 4 out there now?
- 5 A. We have installed new management beginning last
- 6 July and August, Larry Parker and Jim Sara. Right now, we are
- 7 trying -- with Jim, he's a daily pumper who looks after the
- 8 facility. And right now, we'd like to bring State AF#1 into
- 9 plug and abandonment status and to bring the State AF#2,
- 10 pending Eddy C.'s recommendations, either to use it as an
- 11 injection or plug and abandon if it's not going to be feasible.
- 12 Q. You heard Mr. Sanchez testify here about the
- deadline of May 30th, 2008, for plugging and abandoning those
- 14 two wells. Let's start out with the AF#1, and let me hand you
- 15 what we have marked as Exhibit No. 1.
- And I'll have you identify that first.
- 17 A. It's a C-103 that we just recently filed to plug
- 18 and abandon the State AF#1.
- 19 Q. How long -- was that C-103 in response to this
- 20 application, or had you already planned to plug and abandon
- 21 that well?
- 22 A. We had planned to plug and abandon it. The C-103
- 23 was filed immediately following this application, but it had
- 24 been discussed with -- consulting with Eddy C. and consulting
- 25 with Larry Parker to bring it into compliance.

- 1 Q. Have you done anything to that well to guarantee
- 2 that there would be no environmental concerns?
- A. Larry Parker, prior to my being fully responsible
- 4 for the bringing all these into compliance, took the initiative
- 5 to set a cast-iron bridge plug. This was done in early
- 6 February.
- 7 Q. And as far as you know, what effect would the
- 8 setting of that bridge plug have?
- 9 A. Reassure that there wasn't any environmental
- 10 problem or causing any problems with the casing or anything
- 11 to --
- MR. BROOKS: Excuse me. I missed something. Are you
- 13 talking about the #1 or the #2?
- 14 THE WITNESS: State AF#1.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay. Continue.
- Q. (By Mr. Padilla): How about the #2?
- 17 A. No work has been done on the #2 at this time.
- 18 Q. But you're testing the well to see whether or
- 19 not --
- 20 A. Oh, yes, yes, we are setting up to run a
- 21 casing log on it to determine the casing and to determine the
- 22 feasibility of turning it into an injection well.
- 23 Q. The testimony we've heard from Mr. Sanchez seems
- 24 to indicate that Buckeye just doesn't take care of its
- 25 operations. Do you have a comment about that?

- A. Yeah. Our facilities are daily checked on by Jim
- 2 Sara. He was hired last July. He's constantly monitoring the
- 3 pressures as well as -- there's a lot to go on with the
- 4 disposal; it's not just a normal production well, as many of
- 5 you all are aware -- a lot of environmental tank levels that
- 6 need to be monitored. And on a daily basis, he's assuring that
- 7 there's no problems with any of that or any environmental
- 8 concerns for the facility, as well as the day-to-day operation
- 9 to relieve -- to keep some of these higher producing saltwater
- 10 wells in that area in operation.
- 11 Q. Would conversion of the AF#2, the saltwater
- 12 disposal well, help in preventing early retirement of wells out
- 13 there?
- A. Yes, sir. With the rising cost of diesel -- and
- 15 some of these higher producing saltwater wells -- with only one
- 16 well, we are filling up now almost on a daily basis. And it is
- 17 causing the saltwater to be trucked several more miles down the
- 18 road at a greater expense to the operator.
- 19 Q. Let me talk about or ask you about knowing and
- 20 willing violation of the rules. To your knowledge, has there
- 21 been some total disregard of the rules, of OCD rules?
- 22 A. No, sir. No, sir. Both Tom Brume and Brian
- 23 Meredith, as well, were given the full authority to execute
- 24 these.
- Q. Let me ask you, before your personnel changes,

- 1 was there any disregard even then, as far as you know?
- A. No, sir. No, sir. And no, sir, not at all. And
- 3 I did go back and look at even our fine history on this. And
- 4 we have executed any fines or anything immediately upon notice.
- 5 Q. What is Exhibit No. 2?
- A. Exhibit No. 2 would be a copy of a cancelled
- 7 check from last May. That was executed immediately following
- 8 the receivement of that order, without delay.
- 9 Q. You weren't delinquent in paying that penalty?
- 10 A. No, sir.
- 11 Q. Now, who was supposed to file these sundry
- 12 notices, the 103s and that kind of thing?
- 13 A. In 2007, that would have been left up to Walter.
- 14 Q. Is that the person that was discharged?
- 15 A. That was the person that was discharged in July
- 16 of last year.
- Q. For failing to --
- 18 A. For failing to do multiple things, including --
- 19 we did not know of this non-filing of the sundry notice, but he
- 20 was -- I did review his records, and he was discharged from our
- 21 corporation for lack -- basically lack of doing his job.
- 22 Q. But still there weren't any environmental hazards
- 23 out there?
- A. No. No environmental hazards at all.
- MR. PADILLA: That's all I have.

- 1 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Ms. Altomare?
- 2 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MS. ALTOMARE:
- 4 Q. Mr. Millett, how long have you worked in the oil
- 5 and gas industry?
- 6 A. Off and on for the last five years.
- 7 Q. Okay. And where did you work before taking up
- 8 with Buckeye?
- 9 A. I worked with Texland Petroleum. I have worked
- 10 with both Peter Bergstein and his drilling division. I worked
- on the rigs, drilling there for several summers.
- 12 Q. Okay. Is that how you came to work with Buckeye,
- 13 in particular?
- A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. What, specifically, were you hired to do when he
- 16 hired you to work with Buckeye?
- 17 A. I was hired to bring all of our disposals and to
- 18 look after all of our disposals as far as day-to-day
- 19 operations, as well as compliance.
- Q. Okay. So you were hired to take a look at all
- 21 the disposals in New Mexico?
- A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. Including the State AF#2?
- A. Yes, including the State AF#2.
- Q. And you all were looking at that specifically for

- 1 reactivating it.
- A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. Why wasn't the temporary abandonment expiration
- 4 addressed?
- 5 A. Our files had not been kept very well, and that
- 6 was one thing we did not realize was in expiration until
- 7 receiving the application.
- Q. Okay. You said that you were aware back in
- 9 December -- or Buckeye became aware back in December that there
- 10 were some compliance issues that were coming. And that was
- 11 part of the reason for your hire.
- 12 A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. If you were aware, or Buckeye was aware, back in
- 14 December of compliance issues, what action did Buckeye take to
- 15 initiate contact with OCD to start diffusing that situation?
- 16 A. I'm not aware of exact actions. Larry Parker did
- 17 begin to take immediate action, and -- because he was not aware
- 18 of State AF#2 being in compliance. He was aware of State AF#1
- 19 not being compliant. And that was part of the cast-iron bridge
- 20 plug. He was not -- did not know very much on how to do it,
- 21 but he knew setting a cast-iron bridge plug would assure there
- 22 would not be an environmental problem.
- 23 Q. Was any contact initiated, though, with OCD about
- 24 the ACO violation, the non-compliance?
- 25 A. I don't know. I do not know.

- 1 Q. Okay. You said you did a full review of all of
- 2 the records, and it's your position that Buckeye had never done
- 3 any kind of knowing and willful violation of non-compliance of
- 4 any nature?
- 5 A. Correct.
- Q. Why, then, were all of the letters disregarded
- 7 that were sent prior to the ACO being entered into?
- A. They were received by Mr. Bergstein. I did meet
- 9 with him on this issue. They were received by him, and with
- 10 the constant turnover of management, it seemed just to slip
- 11 through the cracks. He authorizes his managers to take care of
- 12 things. And he would receive them, take care of the fines,
- 13 take care of anything and request that they be executed, and
- 14 they were not executed.
- 15 Q. You do understand that, as a company, as an
- 16 employee for the company, that the company is responsible
- 17 ultimately for the behavior of the employees?
- 18 A. Yes, ma'am. We are aware of that.
- 19 Q. Okay. What about the financial assurance issues?
- 20 The OCD has sent out multiple letters to all operators
- 21 informing them of the financial assume obligation changes. Why
- 22 has Buckeye been nonresponsive with those changes?
- A. I'm not sure what happened to the letters prior
- 24 to my hire date. I did receive a letter, and I have spoken
- 25 with Dorothy Phillips, and she's directed me to the website,

- 1 and that is ongoing currently right now of bringing both of
- 2 them into financial compliance.
- Q. Okay. Are you the person, then, that is
- 4 responsible for doing that as well as --
- 5 A. I'm the person who is responsible for making sure
- 6 it is executed.
- 7 Q. Prior to you, who was responsible for that?
- A. There was no assigned person.
- 9 Q. Okay. So you can't speak to why, prior to all of
- 10 this, financial obligations were completely disregarded?
- 11 A. I have found no reason or no knowledge of why
- 12 they were completely disregarded.
- Q. And you can't speak to why, other than paying the
- 14 \$1,000, the ACO obligations that were imposed by the ACO 183
- 15 were disregarded?
- 16 A. I have become aware of those obligations, and
- 17 literally within weeks of me becoming aware of those
- 18 obligations, the application was ordered, which was
- 19 basically -- told us to hold on on doing anything.
- 20 Q. But again, you weren't there when the ACO was
- 21 executed? You didn't take part in that process?
- 22 A. No, ma'am.
- 23 Q. You are aware, though, that Peter did --
- 24 Mr. Bergstein did not delegate that duty? He actually signed
- 25 the ACO himself?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. And he participated in that process?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. Has he spoken to you about why he didn't
- 5 personally see that through to the end?
- A. Mr. Bergstein is a very busy individual, and he
- 7 executed this as well as turned it over to his management
- 8 staff, and he puts a lot of trust in his management staff, and
- 9 over the last year he has realized that that was very negligent
- 10 on his part, but he has taken care of that by correcting it
- 11 with some proper individuals.
- Q. Okay. The State AF#2 was acquired back in 2003,
- 13 and Buckeye has never done anything to it since acquiring it;
- 14 is that right?
- 15 A. That is correct.
- Q. So it's basically just been sitting out there
- 17 since its acquisition?
- A. Yes, ma'am.
- MS. ALTOMARE: Okay. I think that's all I have.
- 20 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Padilla, did you want to tender your
- 21 exhibits?
- MR. PADILLA: Yes, I do. I offer Exhibits 1 and 2.
- MR. BROOKS: Any objection?
- MS. ALTOMARE: No objection.
- MR. BROOKS: Respondent's Exhibits 1 and 2 are

- 1 admitted.
- 2 EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MR. BROOKS:
- Q. On the #1, do you plan to plug that?
- A. Yes, sir. We do plan to plug that. I will say
- 6 that the May 30th date is a little bit of a time crunch to
- 7 coordinate it with the OCD and with rigs and everything. I
- 8 would ask for a little more time there.
- 9 Q. On the #2, I wasn't clear. What exactly is your
- 10 plan on that?
- 11 A. The plan on that is to run a casing log, and that
- 12 is to determine, you know, the quality of it and to determine
- 13 the feasibility of turning it into an injection well.
- Q. Okay. And if you determine that it's not
- 15 feasible, would you plug that well?
- 16 A. Yes. Yeah, we will plug that well and abandon it
- 17 and continue just from where we are.
- Q. And you don't view it as having any potential for
- 19 return to production?
- 20 A. No, sir.
- Q. And are you aware that to be an injection well,
- 22 you would have to file an application --
- 23 A. Oh, yes.
- Q. -- C-108 with the Division?
- 25 A. Yes, sir. And that is what Eddy C. is involved

- 1 with us for.
- Q. Very good. Now, this Exhibit 2 that you tendered
- 3 into evidence, a check for \$21,000 -- let's see.
- 4 MR. BROOKS: Does someone have an extra copy of
- 5 Division Exhibit C that they could provide to the witness?
- 6 MS. ALTOMARE: It's actually memorialized in Division
- 7 Exhibit E, the letter that was sent out that we have received
- 8 the check, so we don't contest that they paid it.
- 9 MR. BROOKS: Do you have a copy of it? Can I use
- 10 your copy?
- 11 MS. ALTOMARE: Here's Exhibit C. I found it.
- MR. BROOKS: Will you give it to the witness, please?
- Q. (By Mr. Brooks): If you look on Page 3 --
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. -- item B there, under 6B it says, "Agrees to pay
- 16 \$1,000 penalty assessed in the order at the time the order is
- 17 executed."
- 18 Now, would that be the \$1,000 that corresponds to the
- 19 check?

- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. Okay. Then if you look down on item E, "Agrees
- 22 that if it fails to return the State AF#1 to compliance within
- 23 six months of the date this order is executed, it will pay an
- 24 additional \$1,000 for each full week that the deadline for
- 25 State AF#1 remains out of compliance."

- 1 Did you pay any of those additional payments provided
- 2 in that?
- A. No. We have not paid any additional payments to
- 4 date.
- Q. Do you disagree with the Division's statement
- 6 that the additional payments that have accrued amount to
- 7 \$19,000?
- A. I do not agree on that.
- 9 Q. You do not?
- 10 A. According to this requirement, I do think that is
- 11 a little high at this time, and it's going to be economically
- 12 infeasible to us.
- Q. But do you agree that that's the amount that's
- 14 under the terms of this agreement?
- 15 A. Under the terms of this agreement.
- 16 Q. And if you'll look over on Page 4 of that -- I
- 17 can't read that signature. I can't read even the printed name
- 18 on there. Do you know the individual whose signature appears
- 19 on Page 4?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. What is his name?
- 22 A. Peter Bergstein.
- Q. And is he authorized to sign for Buckeye Disposal
- 24 LLC?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

- 1 MR. BROOKS: That's all I have.
- 2 EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MR. WARNELL:
- Q. Mr. Millett, a couple of questions just to help
- 5 clarify something. You mentioned on well #2, making it into an
- 6 injection well and then again a disposal well. Do you
- 7 differentiate between those two?
- 8 A. No, sir. Same thing.
- 9 Q. And then your casing log that you're hoping --
- 10 anticipating on running on well #2, what exactly -- what type
- 11 of casing log are you going to run?
- 12 A. Eddy C. has not informed me completely on what he
- 13 wants to run there. He just wants to see because it has been
- 14 in temporary abandonment status. It has been sitting there,
- 15 and we have no knowledge of it.
- 16 Q. Do you have any idea how long it takes to get a
- 17 service company set up to run a casing log?
- 18 A. He felt that we could do that from the date we
- 19 decided to, within a week or two.
- Q. And the #2 well was acquired in '03, and nothing
- 21 has been done to it?
- 22 A. No, sir.
- Q. Why is it that you now are thinking about running
- 24 the casing log after all that time?
- A. It has been thought about. Our company, for the

- 1 last year, there has been an increase in saltwater from these
- 2 production wells in that area. Over the last year, our
- 3 facility has seen an increase. We have been filling up on
- 4 almost a daily basis now.
- 5 MR. WARNELL: Thank you. I have no other questions.
- 6 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Anything further, Mr. Padilla?
- 7 MR. PADILLA: Nothing further.
- 8 MR. BROOKS: The witness may step down. Do you have
- 9 anything further, Ms. Altomare?
- 10 MS. ALTOMARE: Just if you want me to summarize what
- 11 it is that we are asking for.
- MR. BROOKS: I think you've been over it.
- MS. ALTOMARE: If you're clear on it --
- MR. BROOKS: I feel confident, and if I have any --
- 15 if there's any confusion, I'll have the transcript to go by.
- 16 Mr. Padilla, do you have anything further?
- 17 MR. PADILLA: Nothing, other than our standard
- 18 argument against civil penalties and the OCD's authority to
- 19 assess penalties, but you know my argument on that.
- MR. BROOKS: Yes. And we anticipate a ruling from
- 21 the Supreme Court, but I'm not sure we anticipate it before
- 22 this order will be made.
- Okay. If there's nothing further, then
- 24 Case No. 14108 will be taken under advisement.
- [Hearing concluded.] hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 14/09

Oil Conservation Division

heard by me on Olbr

Examiner

	Page 48
1	STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
2	COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)
3	T TOVOT D CATANDON W ' D ' '
4	I, JOYCE D. CALVERT, a New Mexico Provisional Reporter, working under the direction and direct supervision of
5	Paul Baca, New Mexico CCR License Number 112, hereby certify that I reported the attached proceedings; that pages numbered
6	1-46 inclusive, are a true and correct transcript of my stenographic notes. On the date I reported these proceedings,
7	I was the holder of Provisional License Number P-03. Dated at Albuquerque, New Mexico, 17th day of
8	April, 2008.
9	Jam. Callent
10	- John Carros
11	Joyce D. Calvert Provisional License #P-03
12	License Expires: 7/31/08
13	
14	$O_{c} \cap O_{c} \cap O_{c}$
15	- Yard Gall
16	Paul Baca, RPR
17	Certified Court Reporter #112 License Expires: 12/31/08
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	