

**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:**

**CASE NO. 13132
ORDER NO. R-12094**

**APPLICATION OF DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, L.P. FOR
COMPULSORY POOLING, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on November 20, 2003 at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 4th day of February, 2004, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner,

FINDS THAT:

- (1) Due public notice has been given, and the Division has jurisdiction of this case and of the subject matter.
- (2) The applicant, Devon Energy Production Company, L.P. ("Applicant"), seeks an order pooling all uncommitted mineral interests in the Morrow formation underlying Lots 1 and 2, the S/2 NE/4 and the SE/4 (E/2 equivalent) of Section 6, Township 23 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, to form a standard 319.49-acre gas spacing and proration unit in the South Carlsbad-Morrow Gas Pool.
- (3) The above-described unit ("the Unit") is to be dedicated to the proposed Joell Well No. 2 to be drilled at a standard gas well location 1330 feet from the North and East lines (Unit G) of Section 6.
- (4) Two or more separately owned tracts are embraced within the Unit, and/or there are royalty interests and/or undivided interests in oil and gas minerals in one or more tracts included in the Unit that are separately owned.

(5) Applicant is an owner of an oil and gas working interest within the Unit. Applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill the Joell Well No. 2 to a common source of supply in the Morrow formation at a standard gas well location within the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 6.

(6) There are interest owners in the proposed Unit that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(7) The applicant presented evidence that demonstrates that:

- (a) the Morrow formation underlying the Unit covers the subsurface interval from approximately 11,366 feet to 11,883 feet;
- (b) the Morrow formation within the E/2 of Section 6 is potentially productive from both the Middle-Morrow zone and the Lower-Morrow zone; and
- (c) the available geologic data suggests that a reasonable operator should test the entire Morrow interval in any well drilled within the E/2 of Section 6.

(8) The Morrow formation underlying the E/2 of Section 6 is divided into three zones, with different sets of ownership in each of these zones. These zones are described as follows:

- (a) 11,366-11,761 feet subsurface, which is 76.402321% of the Morrow interval. This portion of the Morrow formation is subject to an operating agreement entered into in 1970;
- (b) 11,761-11,766 feet subsurface, which is 0.967118% of the Morrow interval. This portion of the Morrow formation is also subject to the above-described operating agreement; and

(c) 11,766-11,883 feet subsurface, which is 22.630561% of the Morrow interval. This portion of the Morrow formation is not subject to the above-described operating agreement.

(9) The operator under the operating agreement is Chaparral Energy, L.L.C. ("Chaparral"). Chaparral however, owns no working or other interest in the Morrow formation underlying the E/2 of Section 6.

(10) Applicant requests pooling of the lower portion of the Morrow formation that is not subject to the operating agreement. The applicant further requests that the Division approve a cost and production allocation between the three Morrow zones that is based upon the footage ratio described in Finding No. (8) above. The applicant further requests that it be named operator of the entire Morrow interval within the E/2 of Section 6.

(11) Chaparral was provided notice in this case, but did not appear at the hearing.

(12) The applicant testified that it is still negotiating with Chaparral the terms by which it will be allowed to drill and operate the proposed Joell Well No. 2. As of the hearing date, no agreement has been reached between these parties.

(13) A number of interest owners in the E/2 of Section 6 have entered into a voluntary agreement apportioning production based upon the percentages set forth in Finding No. (8) above.

(14) The working interest owners in the E/2 of Section 6 have received a demand from royalty owners to develop the acreage.

(15) The applicant's proposed cost and production allocation is fair and reasonable and should be approved.

(16) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, protect correlative rights, prevent waste and afford to the owner of each interest in the Unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense its just and fair share of hydrocarbons, this application should be approved by pooling all uncommitted interests, whatever they may be, in the oil and gas within the Unit.

(17) Applicant should be designated the operator of the subject well and of the Unit.

(18) Any pooled working interest owner who does not pay its share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production its share of reasonable well costs plus an additional 200% thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in drilling the well.

(19) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$6,000.00 per month while drilling and \$600.00 per month while producing, provided that these rates should be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3. of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations.*"

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) Pursuant to the application of Devon Energy Production Company, L.P., all uncommitted interests, whatever they may be, in the oil and gas in the Morrow formation underlying Lots 1 and 2, the S/2 NE/4 and the SE/4 (E/2 equivalent) of Section 6, Township 23 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled to form a standard 319.49-acre gas spacing and proration unit in the South Carlsbad-Morrow Gas Pool. The above-described unit shall be dedicated to the proposed Joell Well No. 2 to be drilled at a standard gas well location 1330 feet from the North and East lines (Unit G) of Section 6.

(2) The operator of the Unit shall commence drilling the proposed well on or before May 1, 2004 and shall thereafter continue drilling the well with due diligence to test the Morrow formation.

(3) In the event the operator does not commence drilling the proposed well on or before May 1, 2004, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no effect, unless the operator obtains a time extension from the Division Director for good cause.

(4) Should the subject well not be drilled and completed within 120 days after commencement thereof, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no further effect, and the unit created by this Order shall terminate unless the operator appears before the Division Director and obtains an extension of time to complete the well for good cause demonstrated by satisfactory evidence.

(5) Upon final plugging and abandonment of the subject well, the pooled unit created by this Order shall terminate, unless this order has been amended to authorize further operations.

(6) Applicant is hereby designated the operator of the subject well and of the Unit.

(7) Well costs and production from the subject well shall be allocated among the three Morrow zones in the following proportions. Within each zone, costs and production shall be allocated based upon each owner's percentage interest ownership.

- (a) Zone A (11,366-11,761 feet subsurface): 76.402321%
- (b) Zone B (11,761-11,766 feet subsurface): 0.967118%
- (c) Zone C (11,766-11,883 feet subsurface): 22.630561%

(8) After pooling, uncommitted working interest owners are referred to as pooled working interest owners. ("Pooled working interest owners" are owners of working interests in the Unit, including unleased mineral interests, who are not parties to an operating agreement governing the Unit.) After the effective date of this order, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner in the Unit an itemized schedule of estimated costs of drilling, completing and equipping the subject well ("well costs").

(9) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished, any pooled working interest owner shall have the right to pay its share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production as hereinafter provided, and any such owner who pays its share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges. Pooled working interest owners who elect not to pay their share of estimated well costs as provided in this paragraph shall thereafter be referred to as "non-consenting working interest owners."

(10) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner (including non-consenting working interest owners) an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the proposed well. If no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division, and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of the schedule, the actual well costs shall be deemed to be the reasonable well costs. If there is an objection to actual well costs within the 45-day period, the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(11) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any pooled working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator its share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator the amount, if any, that the estimated well costs it has paid exceed its share of reasonable well costs.

(12) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (a) the proportionate share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner; and
- (b) as a charge for the risk involved in drilling the well, 200% of the above costs.

(13) The operator shall distribute the costs and charges withheld from production, proportionately, to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(14) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$6,000.00 per month while drilling and \$600.00 per month while producing, provided that these rates shall be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3. of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations.*" The operator is authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to pooled working interest owners.

(15) Except as provided in Ordering Paragraphs (11) and (13) above, all proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in Eddy County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership. The operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of the escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with the escrow agent.

(16) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under this order. Any well costs or charges that are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interests' share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(17) Should all the parties to this compulsory pooling order reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(18) The operator of the well and Unit shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

(19) Jurisdiction of this case is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

Done at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.



SEAL

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Lori Wrotenberg
LORI WROTENBERY
Director