

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. 13,202

APPLICATION OF KERR-McGEE OIL & GAS)
ONSHORE, L.L.C., FOR AN EXCEPTION TO)
THE SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF)
THE INDIAN BASIN-UPPER PENNSYLVANIAN)
ASSOCIATED POOL AND FOR SIMULTANEOUS)
DEDICATION, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO)

RECEIVED

JAN 22 2004

Oil Conservation Division
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner

January 8th, 2004

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, January 8th, 2004, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

* * *

STEVEN T. BRENNER, CCR
(505) 989-9317

I N D E X

January 8th, 2004
Examiner Hearing
CASE NO. 13,202

	PAGE
EXHIBITS	3
APPEARANCES	3
APPLICANT'S WITNESSES:	
<u>LAURIE McNAMARA</u> (Landman)	
Direct Examination by Mr. Bruce	4
Examination by Examiner Catanach	9
<u>JAMES T. LOWE</u> (Geologist)	
Direct Examination by Mr. Bruce	10
Examination by Examiner Catanach	14
<u>RUSSELL E. WELCH</u> (Engineer)	
Direct Examination by Mr. Bruce	18
Examination by Examiner Catanach	24
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	29

* * *

E X H I B I T S

Applicant's	Identified	Admitted
Exhibit 1	6	9
Exhibit 2	6	9
Exhibit 3	8	9
Exhibit 4	8	9
Exhibit 5	11	14
Exhibit 6	11	14
Exhibit 7	12	14
Exhibit 8	19	24
Exhibit 9	19	24
Exhibit 10	20	24
Exhibit 11	22	24
Exhibit 12	23	24

* * *

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE APPLICANT:

JAMES G. BRUCE
 Attorney at Law
 P.O. Box 1056
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

* * *

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2 9:23 a.m.:

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: All right, at this time I'll
4 call Case Number 13,202, the Application of Kerr-McGee Oil
5 and Gas Onshore, L.L.C., for an exception to the Special
6 Rules and Regulations of the Indian Basin-Upper
7 Pennsylvanian Associated Pool and for simultaneous
8 dedication, Eddy County, New Mexico.

9 Call for appearances.

10 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of Santa Fe,
11 representing the Applicant. I have three witnesses.

12 EXAMINER CATANACH: Additional appearances?

13 None.

14 Okay, will the witnesses please stand to be sworn
15 in?

16 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)

17 LAURIE McNAMARA,
18 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
19 her oath, was examined and testified as follows:

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. BRUCE:

22 Q. Would you please state your name and city of
23 residence for the record?

24 A. Laurie McNamara, Richmond, Texas.

25 Q. Who do you work for and in what capacity?

1 A. Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Onshore, L.L.C., as a
2 landman.

3 Q. Have you previously testified before the
4 Division?

5 A. No, sir, I have not.

6 Q. Would you please summarize your educational and
7 employment background for the Examiner?

8 A. I have a bachelor of science in biology and
9 geology from Hope College, a master of science from
10 Louisiana State University. I've been a practicing landman
11 for 19 years and a Certified Professional Landman for 15.

12 Q. Okay. How long have you worked for Kerr-McGee?

13 A. Over five years.

14 Q. And does your area of responsibility at Kerr-
15 McGee include the southeast portion of New Mexico?

16 A. Yes, sir, it does.

17 Q. And are you familiar with the land matters
18 involved in this case?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd tender Ms. McNamara
21 as an expert petroleum landman.

22 EXAMINER CATANACH: Ms. McNamara is so qualified.

23 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Briefly, what does Kerr-McGee
24 seek in this case?

25 A. We seek permission to drill and produce the Lowe

1 State Well Number 6 in the same quarter section as the
2 existing Lowe State Well Number 5.

3 Q. What pool are these two wells located in?

4 A. The two wells are currently in the Indian Basin-
5 Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Gas Pool.

6 Q. Okay. Would you identify Exhibit 1 for the
7 Examiner?

8 A. Exhibit 1 is a land plat showing the associated
9 pool and the extension to the associated pool that was
10 granted in 2002, in blue.

11 Q. And then the Indian Basin Gas Pool is to the west
12 of the associated pool; is this correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Okay. Now, in the blue acreage is -- Can there
15 only be one well per quarter section in the, in the blue --

16 A. Yes, sir, when that acreage was added to the
17 associated pool it was limited to one well per quarter
18 section, to minimize competition with the nonassociated
19 pool to the west.

20 Q. Okay, because the gas pool has a lower gas
21 allowable than the associated pool, I believe?

22 A. I believe that's correct.

23 Q. Okay. What is Exhibit 2, then?

24 A. Exhibit 2 is a smaller-scale land plat showing
25 Section 36, which is our well section, outlined in red, and

1 the offsetting operators to those wells.

2 Q. Okay. Mr. Examiner, although it's not placed on
3 here, the -- What is the well location for the Lowe State
4 Number 6 well, Ms. McNamara?

5 A. The Number 6 will be located in the southwest
6 quarter of Section 36. The calls are 660 feet from the
7 south line and 990 feet from the west line.

8 Q. And then I believe the existing -- The Lowe State
9 Number 5 is an existing well; is that correct?

10 A. Correct, the Number 5 is an existing well, also
11 in the southwest quarter.

12 Q. And do you have the footage on that?

13 A. The calls are 1650 from the south line and 2540
14 from the west.

15 Q. Okay. Now, who are the offset operators to this
16 well?

17 A. Marathon Oil Company; Devon Energy Production
18 Company, L.P.; and Yates Petroleum Company.

19 Q. Okay. And that would include the offset
20 operators not only in the associated pool but in the gas
21 pool as well?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Okay. Have the operators waived objection to
24 your proposed Number 6 well?

25 A. Yes, sir, we've submitted those letters of waiver

1 as an exhibit, Number 3.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Marathon's waiver was conditional. We have also
4 attached the clarification and acceptance by both parties
5 of that conditional waiver.

6 Q. Okay. Briefly what are the terms of that
7 condition on the Marathon waiver?

8 A. That we won't propose an additional well in the
9 northwest quarter of the west half.

10 Q. Okay, so there will be only two wells in that
11 west half section?

12 A. Two wells in the west half, correct.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Unless one of our wells ceases to produce for
15 some reason.

16 Q. Okay. And in addition to complying with Division
17 Rules, were the offsets also notified of the date of this
18 hearing?

19 A. Yes, sir, they were.

20 Q. Okay, and that is marked Exhibit 4?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 4 prepared by you or
23 under your supervision or compiled from company business
24 records?

25 A. Yes, sir, they were.

1 Q. And in your opinion is the granting of this
2 Application in the interests of conservation and the
3 prevention of waste?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the admission
6 of Kerr-McGee Exhibits 1 through 4.

7 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 4 will be
8 admitted.

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

11 Q. The acreage that's shown on Exhibit 1, that's
12 basically all -- the blue and the yellow is all within the
13 associated pool, right?

14 A. Correct, currently it's all in the associated
15 pool.

16 Q. And the gas pool is to the west; is that right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Okay. Are there additional wells in the east
19 half of this section, do you know?

20 A. Yes, sir, there's two producing wells, the Number
21 3 and the Number 4.

22 MR. BRUCE: And data will be presented on those
23 by another witness, Mr. Examiner.

24 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay.

25 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) The waivers that you

1 obtained from Yates and Devon didn't have any conditions on
2 them; is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And those are the only three offset operators to
5 your unit?

6 A. Correct.

7 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, I think that's all I
8 have of this witness.

9 JAMES THOMAS LOWE,
10 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
11 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. BRUCE:

14 Q. Would you please state your name for the record?

15 A. James Thomas Lowe.

16 Q. Where do you reside?

17 A. In Houston, Texas.

18 Q. And who do you work for?

19 A. Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Onshore, L.L.C.

20 Q. What's your job with Kerr-McGee?

21 A. I am the development geologist in charge of the
22 Indian Basin field.

23 Q. Have you previously testified before the
24 Division?

25 A. Yes, sir, I have.

1 Q. And were your credentials as an expert petroleum
2 geologist accepted as a matter of record?

3 A. Yes, they have.

4 Q. And are you familiar with the geology involved in
5 this application?

6 A. Yes, sir, I am.

7 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender Mr. Lowe as an
8 expert petroleum geologist.

9 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

10 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Mr. Lowe, could you -- Let's run
11 through your exhibits. Could you first identify your
12 Exhibit 5 and discuss its contents for the Examiner?

13 A. Yes, sir, Exhibit 5 is a structural contour map
14 on the top of the Pennsylvanian-Cisco dolomite. The
15 section of interest for Kerr-McGee's Lowe State Number 6 is
16 outlined in red, Section 36. The map is contoured on a 25-
17 foot contour interval -- I'm sorry, a 50-foot contour
18 interval -- and it shows that the proposed location for the
19 Lowe State 6 is in a structurally favorable position on our
20 lease.

21 Q. Okay. Why don't you move on to your Exhibit 6
22 and discuss the dolomite geology in a little more detail?

23 A. Exhibit 6 is a gross Cisco dolomite isopach.
24 Again, the contours are contoured on the top of the
25 dolomite to the base of the dolomite. It shows at our

1 proposed location that we'll have approximately 475 feet of
2 gross dolomite thickness, and as far as the interpretation
3 in this section, it appears that it is in a favorable
4 stratigraphic position to encounter hydrocarbons.

5 Q. Looking at this map, is the dolomite fairly thick
6 on your Section 36 --

7 A. Yes, sir --

8 Q. -- as compared to the offsets?

9 A. -- it is very thick, as surrounding -- from
10 surrounding offset wells and offset sections.

11 Q. And again, just the thickness alone would
12 indicate a favorable geologic position?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Finally, what is your Exhibit 7?

15 A. Exhibit 7 is a stratigraphic cross-section
16 through the wells in the western half of Section 36 and to
17 our proposed location. And the datum is the top of the
18 Cisco/Canyon dolomite, and the baseline showing the bottom
19 of the stratigraphic interval of that dolomite is defined
20 by a change in electric log character and sample
21 description showing the dolomite below that line goes to a
22 nonporous limestone, nonproducing facies.

23 The other thing that's noticed in here, that the
24 well proposal will be very close to the Lowe State Gas
25 Community Number 2, which is now temporarily abandoned.

1 Q. Now, looking at that Number 2 well, first of all,
2 Kerr-McGee does not intend to produce that well, does it?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. And also, was that only perforated and produced
5 at the very top of the dolomite?

6 A. Yes, sir, originally the well, the Lowe State
7 Number 2, was perforated only 16 feet in the upper portion
8 of the dolomite, and I believe the reason it was only
9 perforated there was because they were afraid of high water
10 production below --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- in the earlier days of this field.

13 Q. Okay. And since then, there have been advances
14 in producing water out of this --

15 A. Yes, sir, other wells on this cross-section show
16 that there are perforations that are producing quite far
17 below that interval.

18 Q. Okay, and have produced substantial quantities of
19 water?

20 A. Yes, sir, we can have the water now that
21 initially we were not able to.

22 Q. What is the size of the wellbore on the Number 2
23 well? Do you recall, or does --

24 A. I would defer that to --

25 Q. -- to the engineer?

1 A. -- to the engineer.

2 Q. Okay. In your opinion, from a geologic
3 standpoint, is the Number 6 well -- the proposed Number 6
4 well -- at a favorable geologic location where it looks, at
5 least geologically, that you will obtain sufficient
6 reserves to make the well economic?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And were Exhibits 5 through 7 prepared by you or
9 under your supervision?

10 A. Yes, sir, they have.

11 Q. In your opinion, is the granting of this
12 Application in the interests of conservation and the
13 prevention of waste?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the admission
16 of Exhibits 5, 6 and 7.

17 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 5, 6 and 7 will be
18 admitted.

19 EXAMINATION

20 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

21 Q. So Mr. Lowe, the southwest quarter of Section 36
22 would be structurally higher in the Cisco than the
23 northwest quarter; is that right?

24 A. That is correct, as shown by the numbers on the
25 control points by the wells and also by the contour lines.

1 Q. Is that important in this reservoir?

2 A. Yes, sir, it is. To be as high as possible is
3 better, obviously, than low as possible, just to keep the
4 gases high, although we will expect to have a lot of
5 associated water, but we are able to get rid of the water
6 with our now -- production systems. This will not be
7 water-free by any means.

8 Q. The Lowe State 2, the Lowe State 2, that
9 previously produced from this pool; is that --

10 A. Yes, sir, the Lowe State 2 produced from the pool
11 in 1986, and then in 1991 those perforations were abandoned
12 in the dolomite and the well was moved down through
13 perforations, I believe, in the Morrow.

14 Q. Do you know why that occurred?

15 A. I do not, other than I assume that the amount of
16 water, perhaps, in the initial production was too high.

17 Q. Okay. The well in the northwest quarter, the
18 Lowe State 1, can you give me a story on that well?

19 A. Yes, sir, the Lowe State 1 was drilled in 1995 --
20 I'm sorry, in 1964, and it has produced to the present,
21 from 1964 on to the present, and it's accumulated
22 approximately 16.89 BCF, 144,000 barrels of oil and some
23 797,000 barrels of water.

24 That well is presently shut in, I believe, to
25 mechanical problems. I would defer that to the engineer's

1 testimony for why. But it is our understanding that that
2 well will not be on production.

3 Q. Okay, that well was completed in the Permo-Penn?

4 A. Yes, sir, it was from 1964 to right now, and it's
5 presently not producing.

6 Q. Do you know when that was abandoned or when that
7 quit producing?

8 A. Again, I would have to defer to the engineering
9 testimony. I believe he has that information.

10 Q. That's a Kerr-McGee well?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Again, you don't know why the Lowe State Number 1
13 is not producing or has been abandoned; is that right?

14 A. It has not been abandoned, it's still -- It's
15 still operating, but right now we have it shut in, and I
16 believe the engineer will give testimony as to why.

17 Q. Okay. Certainly the reservoir up in the --
18 obviously the reservoir up in the northwest quarter is
19 productive from this reservoir, right?

20 A. That is correct. But we feel that the southwest
21 quarter -- Because of the low cumulative production from
22 the Lowe State Number 2, we believe that there are more
23 hydrocarbons available to be obtained in the southwest
24 quarter, vice the northwest quarter. And I believe the
25 engineer will have testimony to that fact also.

1 Q. How long has the Number 5 well been producing?

2 A. The Number 5 well is producing since 1964, and
3 it's presently shut in, but --

4 MR. BRUCE: The Number 5 well.

5 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, the Number 5 well.

6 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) Yeah.

7 A. The Number 5 well is actively producing today.
8 It has started producing from 1999.

9 Q. Do you know what the cum numbers on that --

10 A. Yes, the cum number for the Lowe State Number 5
11 to present is 6.56 BCF, 18,874 barrels of oil, and 901,695
12 barrels of water.

13 And again, these numbers are shown on my cross-
14 section.

15 Q. How do you determine what the best location for
16 the Number 6 well would be in that southwest quarter? Is
17 that a combination of thickness and structure?

18 A. Combination of thickness, structure, and the fact
19 that the Number 2, since it has not produced all that much
20 because of mechanical problems, we believe that that is
21 where the best potential for reserves can be found on this
22 lease. So it's a matter of -- more so, probably, of
23 nonproducing ability of the Number 2 well.

24 Q. Did you also try and maximize your distance from
25 the Number 5 well?

1 A. Yes, sir, we wanted to stay close to the Number 2
2 because the closer you get to the 5, the more you influence
3 its drainage.

4 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, I believe that's all I
5 have.

6 RUSSELL E. WELCH,
7 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
8 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. BRUCE:

11 Q. Would you please state your name and city of
12 residence?

13 A. Russell Eugene Welch, Houston, Texas.

14 Q. Who do you work for and in what capacity?

15 A. Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Onshore, L.L.C.

16 Q. And what is your job with Kerr-McGee?

17 A. I'm a reservoir engineer.

18 Q. Have you previously testified before the
19 Division?

20 A. No, sir, I haven't.

21 Q. Would you summarize your educational and
22 employment background for the Examiner?

23 A. I have a bachelor of science degree from the
24 University of Missouri at Rolla, and I have approximately
25 29 years of experience.

1 Q. How long have you worked for Kerr-McGee?

2 A. Approximately four years.

3 Q. And does your area of responsibility at Kerr-
4 McGee include southeast New Mexico?

5 A. Yes, sir, it does.

6 Q. And are you familiar with the reservoir
7 engineering matters pertaining to this Application?

8 A. Yes, I am.

9 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd tender Mr. Welch as
10 an expert reservoir engineer.

11 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

12 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Mr. Welch, could you identify
13 your first exhibit, Number 8, and just basically again
14 summarize what Kerr-McGee seeks in this matter?

15 A. Right, we're looking to drill the proposed Lowe
16 State Gas Number 6 well, approximately 660 feet from the
17 south line and 990 feet from the west line in Section 36,
18 Township 21 South, Range 23 East.

19 Q. Could you discuss the basis for your request for
20 this well and identify Exhibit 9?

21 A. Previously we've had two wells producing on the
22 west half of Section 36. We have lost the Number 1 well
23 due to mechanical problems. The Number 2 well has been
24 TA'd for quite some time and hasn't been producing from the
25 Cisco-Penn. And we would like to add a second well in that

1 western half near the Lowe State Gas Com Number 2.

2 Q. Now, you mentioned the Number 1 well. That's the
3 well in the northwest quarter?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Okay, and then the Number 2 well is the one in
6 the southwest of the southwest?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Okay, why don't you discuss production from the
9 wells? And the Hearing Examiner asked a prior witness
10 about production from the entire section. Is that shown on
11 your Exhibit 10?

12 A. Exhibit 10 is a daily well test production for
13 the three active wells that are in Section 36, as well as
14 the Lowe 1, which is currently shut in. The Lowe State
15 Number 1, I believe, was shut in last June or July of
16 last -- 2003, due to mechanical problems. We've tried to
17 work that well over and have not been successful with the
18 pump. We use submersible pumps. This well is cased with
19 5-1/2-inch casing, and we're not able to do the type of
20 completion that we normally do in Indian Basin field, in 7-
21 inch casing.

22 Q. At this point there's no plans to restart
23 production on the Number 1?

24 A. No, I think it's probably uneconomic to spend
25 more money on this one.

1 Q. Okay. Then you also have the Lowe State Number
2 5. That is the other well in the southwest quarter, is it
3 not?

4 A. That's correct. It, as of January the 5th, was
5 making 3854 MCF of gas per day and about 282 barrels of
6 water per day, 30 barrels of oil per day.

7 Q. And then the other wells, the Number 4 and Number
8 3, are they in the east half?

9 A. They are in the east half, yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay. What are their approximate producing rates
11 in gas?

12 A. The Number 4 was making 1.8 million in gas and
13 1949 barrels of water per day, 64 barrels of oil per day on
14 June 5th -- I mean, excuse me, January the 5th of this
15 year.

16 And the Lowe Number 3 was making 8.7 million a
17 day and 511 barrels of water per day and 106 barrels of oil
18 per day.

19 Q. What is the approximate vintage of the Number 3
20 and 4 wells? When were they drilled, roughly?

21 A. The Number 3 well, I believe, was spud -- came on
22 line in 1998, and to date it has produced about 13.5 BCF of
23 gas.

24 The Number 4 well was in 1999, and it's produced
25 about 3.6 BCF of gas.

1 Q. Is that shown on your Exhibit 11?

2 A. Actually on 12 and 11, yes.

3 Q. Okay. Now, in looking at Exhibit 11, which has
4 the cumulative production figures, getting back to some of
5 the Examiner's questions, because the Number 1 well has
6 produced almost 17 BCF in the northwest quarter, at this
7 point, anyway, do you wish to -- is it more -- does it seem
8 more favorable to drill in the southwest quarter than the
9 northwest quarter?

10 A. It does at this time. We looked at redrilling
11 this well, the Number 1 well, and a location to the
12 northwest of it would put us in a bit of an unfavorable
13 position geologically and structurally.

14 If we went to the southeast of that location, we
15 have problems with surface facilities, roads and that type
16 of thing. We would have to actually drill in a -- I guess
17 an unorthodox type of position to redrill that well, and
18 that would put us closer to the Number 5, which was not
19 desirable.

20 Q. Okay. Now again, drilling close to the Number 2
21 well, it's already been proved productive nearby, of
22 course?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And I think Mr. Lowe said that that well had only
25 been completed in the very top of the Cisco/Canyon. When

1 you drill the Number 6 well, you would not just complete it
2 at the top of the Cisco/Canyon, would you?

3 A. No, we wouldn't. There's probably at least 200
4 feet additional that we would consider perforating and
5 completing in. That particular well location has projected
6 something like 450-plus feet of gross dolomite at that
7 location to work with.

8 Q. Okay. Anything else on Exhibit 11, Mr. Welch?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. Move on to your Exhibit 12. What is this
11 intended to indicate?

12 A. Exhibit 12 just summarizes the cum gas production
13 from each of the eight sections surrounding our Section 36,
14 which has so far cum'd 42.4 BCF of gas. The red numbers,
15 the numbers in red, are the quarter-section cums.

16 And this is just an informational exhibit to show
17 that even though we have very thick gross interval and
18 reservoir that, you know, our production is somewhat in
19 line with the offsets and, if anything, we might be in
20 jeopardy of being able to continue to produce as much as we
21 should on the western half if only have one well.

22 Q. Okay. Now, there are some sections that haven't
23 produced much yet. To a certain extent does that reflect
24 some of these are newer wells in those sections?

25 A. Yes, some of them -- some of the lower cums are

1 reflected by newer wells, and then there's also some that
2 just reflect poorer geology.

3 Q. Yeah. For instance, in Section 30, Mr. Welch, if
4 you'd refer back to Exhibit 1, there is apparently no
5 dolomite in the west half of Section 30; is that correct?

6 A. Right, that's correct.

7 Q. So all things considered, do you believe that
8 your proposed well location will be spotted in a reasonable
9 location where you could recover additional reserves from
10 your section?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. Were Exhibits 8 through 12 prepared by you or
13 under your supervision?

14 A. Yes, they were.

15 Q. And in your opinion is the granting of this
16 Application in the interests of conservation and the
17 prevention of waste?

18 A. Yes, it is.

19 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the admission
20 of Exhibits 8 through 12.

21 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 8 through 12 will be
22 admitted.

23 EXAMINATION

24 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

25 Q. Mr. Welch, is it your opinion that the Number 6

1 well will recover gas that will not be recovered by the
2 Number 5 well?

3 A. Yes, it is. It's difficult to say under the
4 current operation that we have, by moving large amounts of
5 water, but it's my belief that it will.

6 Q. But you can't -- it would be difficult to come up
7 with any numbers for that kind of thing?

8 A. It's difficult in this field because of the vugs
9 and fractures, as well as the matrix porosity of really
10 determining, you know, the gas in place and how much each
11 well will recover. You can do so to a degree with decline
12 curve analysis and some P/Z information.

13 Basically what I've seen in Section 36 is that I
14 think there's something like probably 60 BCF of gas in
15 place. 42 of that has been recovered so far, and we think
16 maybe 53 or so is possible as an ultimate, given maybe four
17 wells.

18 Q. Is there still some potential for the recovery of
19 additional gas in the northwest quarter of this section?

20 A. There possibly is. It's a matter of economics
21 and where we can place a well in a -- It's also an area
22 that has a high cum with thinning geologic parameters to
23 the northwest, so it does have concern to us about the
24 economic viability of being able to drill one in that
25 quarter section.

1 Q. The ultimate recovery from the southwest quarter,
2 do you think that's going to be comparable to the
3 northwest?

4 A. Probably won't be as much. I'm thinking that
5 maybe in the 12-BCF range would be something that will be
6 more reasonable for that. The well in the northwest
7 quarter, it was the first well drilled, and of course it
8 has produced the longest. So I doubt that we can catch up
9 to that type of cum, but...

10 Q. Now, these are all classified as gas wells,
11 right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And the Number 5 well is producing how much
14 currently?

15 A. 3854 MCF per day was the January 5th, '04, rate
16 reported, along with 282 barrels of water and 30 barrels of
17 oil and condensate.

18 Q. Are there any allowable problems that you guys
19 are going to run up against, drilling another well?

20 A. I don't believe so. I believe the allowable for
21 the west half is at 9.7 million a day. I'm not sure about
22 that, but --

23 MR. BRUCE: I believe it's 9.8 million a day.

24 THE WITNESS: 9.8.

25 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) The offset operators

1 don't appear to be concerned about this. Apparently there
2 are wells in each of the offset tracts that are currently
3 producing, that protect that acreage; is that your
4 understanding?

5 A. Yes, to the west Marathon's wells, the Federal 3
6 and 4, are both producing a little over 2 million a day,
7 from the last records I saw. And then Yates -- The ANG
8 Federal -- the Zingaro ANG Federal Number 4, I believe, is
9 producing about 1.7 million a day.

10 I think we would expect something around 2
11 million for this Number 6 location.

12 Q. What has happened with the Number 1 well? It's
13 just pump problems?

14 A. The Number 1 well has 5-1/2-inch casing. Our
15 modern completions -- and I'm not an operations engineer,
16 but the modern completions require 7-inch casing with a
17 submersible pump in order to put a shroud over the pump and
18 set it below the perfs, to keep fluid over and keep it
19 cooled.

20 We're not able to do that with this well. We
21 have to set it above, and it has given us scaling and
22 operational problems, from what I understand.

23 We just went through a very expensive workover
24 attempt last year on this, well over \$200,000, and it
25 didn't work very well, didn't last long. So we, I don't

1 think, have much luck of -- or much of a chance of getting
2 that to operate efficiently from now on.

3 Q. Do you know what's going to be done with that
4 wellbore?

5 A. I suspect that we will be abandoning if we get --
6 drill a new one here.

7 Q. Plugged?

8 A. Plug it, yeah.

9 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, I think that's all I
10 have, Mr. Bruce.

11 MR. BRUCE: I have nothing further in this
12 matter.

13 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. There being nothing
14 further in this case, Case 13,202 will be taken under
15 advisement.

16 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
17 9:58 a.m.)

18 * * *

19
20 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
21 a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 13202
heard by me on January 8, 2004.
22 David J. Catanach, Examiner
23 Oil Conservation Division
24
25

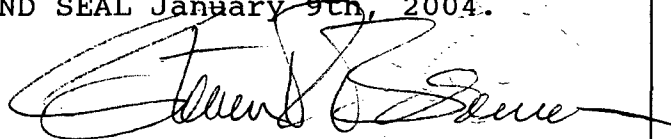
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL January 9th, 2004.



STEVEN T. BRENNER
CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 16th, 2006