

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. 11,212
)
APPLICATION OF CONOCO, INC.)
_____)

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner

RECEIVED

MAR 10 1995

March 2nd, 1995

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Oil Conservation Division

This matter came on for hearing before the Oil Conservation Division on Thursday, March 2nd, 1995, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Porter Hall, 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

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Examiner Hearing
CASE NO. 11,212

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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* * *

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2 11:00 a.m.:

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: All right, we'll call the
4 hearing back to order and call Case 11,212.

5 MR. RAND CARROLL: Application of Conoco, Inc.,
6 for downhole commingling and for an exception to the gas-
7 oil ratio limitation factor established by Division Order
8 Number R-8909, Lea County, New Mexico.

9 EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there appearances in this
10 case?

11 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom Kellahin of
12 the Santa Fe law firm of Kellahin and Kellahin, appearing
13 on behalf of the Applicant, and I have two witnesses to be
14 sworn.

15 EXAMINER CATANACH: Any other appearances?
16 Will the two witnesses please stand and be sworn
17 in?

18 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)

19 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, my two witnesses
20 today, David Nelson is a petroleum geologist, Damian
21 Barrett is a petroleum engineer.

22 Mr. Nelson and Mr. Barrett testified before you
23 as a Hearing Examiner back in January of 1994 concerning
24 this Conoco Warren Blinbry-Tubb waterflood project.

25 As a result of that hearing, you established the

1 procedures for a second expansion area for the project.
2 And I'm going to give you a copy of Exhibit 1 from that
3 January hearing and a copy of the order that was issued by
4 the Division based upon that case. The case is 10,897; the
5 order issued from that case is Order Number R-10,068.

6 And I'm going to begin this morning with having
7 Mr. Nelson give us a quick summary of what justified that
8 order and what Conoco has done since, and then bring you
9 into the issue that we're here to address this morning.

10 So with your permission, I'm going to give you a
11 copy of Exhibit 1 that will -- from the prior case that
12 will outline for you the well configuration, as well as a
13 copy of the prior order.

14 DAVID E. NELSON,

15 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
16 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

19 Q. Mr. Nelson, for the record would you please state
20 your name and occupation?

21 A. My name is David Nelson. I'm a geological
22 advisor employed with Conoco in Midland, Texas.

23 Q. On prior occasions, Mr. Nelson, have you
24 testified and qualified as an expert before this agency in
25 the field of petroleum geology?

1 A. Yes, I have.

2 Q. Your last technical presentation to this Division
3 was when, sir?

4 A. We came in December of 1994, 1994, two months
5 ago.

6 Q. All right. The presentation made to the Examiner
7 back in January of 1994 with regards to the Warren Unit,
8 was that a presentation you were involved in?

9 A. Yes, it was.

10 Q. Since then, have you continued to be involved in
11 the geology with regards to what we've identified as the
12 Warren Unit?

13 A. Yes, I have.

14 Q. And based upon that participation, do you have
15 further geologic conclusions and opinions that are relevant
16 to the Application today?

17 A. Yes.

18 MR. KELLAHIN: We tender Mr. Nelson as an expert
19 petroleum geologist.

20 EXAMINER CATANACH: Mr. Nelson is so qualified.

21 Q. (By Mr. Kellahin) Mr. Nelson, let's start, sir,
22 if you will, with the Exhibit 1 from the prior hearing that
23 was conducted before the Examiner. It was in Case 10,897.

24 And before we get into the details, help us
25 refresh our recollections about the various stages within

1 the Warren Unit boundary.

2 A. The map which you have in front of you from that
3 prior hearing was Exhibit 1, presented in that hearing, and
4 it shows a map of the Warren Unit boundary, a thick bold
5 line surrounding several sections.

6 At that time we were providing information about
7 a proposed waterflood operation within the Warren Unit,
8 focusing on the Blinebry and Tubb formations.

9 In 1991, Conoco came before the Commission
10 seeking to expand the Blinebry waterflood from a pilot
11 project that had been conducted several years earlier, and
12 we call that the first expansion.

13 Q. How would that first expansion area be identified
14 on the Exhibit 1 the Examiner is looking at?

15 A. That's right, on this exhibit the first expansion
16 is shown as the Warren Blinebry-Tubb Oil and Gas Pool in
17 the waterflood area, a label on that map, and that first
18 expansion covered Sections 26 and 27 within Township 20
19 South and Range 38 East.

20 Q. Was the waterflood project conducted within the
21 first expansion area, if you will?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And was that successful?

24 A. The -- May I ask, are you referring to the pilot?

25 Q. The pilot project area, if you will.

1 A. Yes, in the pilot project, only the Blinebry was
2 flooded. This began several years ago, and it occurs in
3 Sections 33 and 34, on the south side, and that could be
4 characterized as a successful waterflood project.

5 And as a result of that success, we wanted to
6 expand the operations in Sections 26 and 27, and we also
7 wanted to include at that time the Tubb with the Blinebry.

8 Q. As a result of the January 20th, 1994, hearing in
9 Case 10,897 and the Division's approval then of that
10 accepted expansion, what did that order provide you the
11 opportunity to do?

12 A. Well, the order which was issued in 1994 allowed
13 Conoco to expand for a second time the Blinebry and Tubb
14 operations into Section 28 and 29. We have since drilled
15 several wells in Section 28 to complete the development of
16 primary production within Section 28.

17 I might add that in addition to the Blinebry-
18 Tubb, we have found that the Drinkard is also a productive
19 reservoir within Section 28.

20 Q. Before you initiated the additional activity that
21 was authorized by the Order from January of 1994, if you'll
22 look at this Exhibit 1, we're still -- have before us,
23 describe for us in Section 28 why no further activity had
24 been undertaken up to that point.

25 A. At that time there were separate pool rules

1 established for the Blinebry, for the Tubb and for the
2 Drinkard within Section 28, and the characteristics of the
3 reservoir and the pool rules under which we were operating
4 limited the development within Section 28.

5 Q. Give us a quick characterization of the rule
6 differences between the Blinebry and the Tubb that made it
7 so difficult, then, to have previously developed those two
8 formations.

9 A. Well, the Tubb pool rules were different from the
10 Blinebry in that the Tubb had, for example, a gas well
11 which would be -- determine whether -- on the basis of the
12 oil gravity. Above 45 degrees gravity in the Tubb would
13 specify that well is a gas well rather than an oil well.
14 It was not based on GOR. And we would have to dedicate 160
15 acres to any gas well within the Tubb.

16 The Blinebry was operating under a different set
17 of pool rules, and so we just could not develop this
18 reservoir for the same formations in the same manner.

19 Q. What did this Examiner do for you in the prior
20 order that resolved that operational limitation, if you
21 will, that discouraged further development?

22 A. What we presented at that time was a plan for
23 waterflood operations, and those waterflood operations
24 would be conducted in both the Blinebry and in the Tubb.

25 We asked that we change the designation of the

1 Blinebry and the Tubb pools by contracting those pools and
2 assigning them to a combined Blinebry-Tubb pool, which was
3 then designated the Warren Blinebry-Tubb Oil and Gas Pool
4 as a result of Order R-10,068.

5 Q. As a result of those changes, then, let's look at
6 the Exhibit 1 for today's hearing and have you help us
7 understand what additional activity has taken place.

8 A. Well, as a result of obtaining the Order
9 R-10,068, Conoco went ahead and did work associated with
10 the expansion -- a second expansion of the Warren Blinebry-
11 Tubb Pool.

12 We drilled several other wells within Section 28,
13 and we completed the development, or planned to complete
14 the development within Section 28 on a 40-acre spacing.

15 Q. How many additional wells were drilled?

16 A. Ten additional wells have been drilled.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Four other wells are planned in the section.

19 We also have found that the Drinkard is
20 productive within that section, and the Drinkard is dually
21 completed with the Blinebry-Tubb in some of the wells
22 within Section 28.

23 Q. Had the Division not authorized the second
24 expansion into the Blinebry and Tubb activity, then you
25 would not have realized this new potential in the Drinkard?

1 A. That's right, because further drilling would not
2 have been conducted in the section.

3 Q. When we look in Section 28 now and look at
4 Exhibit 1, which is the Exhibit 1 for today's hearing, it's
5 got some color codes.

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Let me have you take that exhibit, and let's
8 describe for the Examiner the color codes.

9 A. Okay. Exhibit 1 for this hearing focuses on the
10 Warren Unit again. The Warren Unit boundaries are outlined
11 in bold blue lines.

12 The color coding within Section 28 and parts of
13 Section 27 show an area in orange where we are proposing
14 that we downhole commingle the Blinebry-Tubb with the
15 Drinkard production.

16 The area in yellow is an area where the wells are
17 dually completed. And we propose to continue to dually
18 complete wells in the Blinebry, Tubb and Drinkard in that
19 area.

20 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, in our prehearing
21 statement we've taken the opportunity to specifically
22 identify and describe and then categorize the group of
23 wells shown for which we would like some relief, and they
24 fall into three groups.

25 There is going to be a group of six wells that

1 are either shut in or temporarily abandoned in the
2 Drinkard. We would seek approval to commingle production
3 in those wellbores so that the Blinebry, Tubb and Drinkard
4 intervals are all commingled.

5 In addition, there will be a group of four wells
6 on the prehearing statement that are currently dual-
7 completed and still producing, and we're seeking
8 permission, then, on those four wells as identified to
9 remove the dual configuration and to further produce them
10 in the future as downhole-commingled wells.

11 And then there will be four new wells, not yet
12 drilled, for which we seek to drill and produce them
13 initially as commingled wells.

14 Q. (By Mr. Kellahin) Mr. Nelson, when we look at
15 the results of the dual-completion effort, what are you
16 seeking to do with those wells that are in the area
17 identified by the gold shading?

18 A. Okay --

19 Q. Tell me what that means.

20 A. -- yeah, the wells that are in the gold or the
21 yellow shading -- or the orange shading -- are wells which
22 at this time are subeconomic for commercial -- for
23 production from the Drinkard when operated as dual
24 wellbores.

25 Q. Within the yellow area those wells are what, sir?

1 A. Within the yellow area, those wells are presently
2 economic to produce as dual wellbores with the Drinkard on
3 one side and the Blinebry-Tubb on the other.

4 Q. Is there a geologic explanation as to why we are
5 seeing wells in the Drinkard in this outer circle, if you
6 will, that are subeconomic in the Drinkard?

7 A. Yes, there's a geological explanation as to why
8 these wells are subeconomic.

9 Q. Okay. Let's turn to that geologic explanation.
10 If you'll direct your attention to what is marked Exhibit
11 Number 2, identify that exhibit for the Examiner.

12 A. Okay, Exhibit Number 2 is a Drinkard structure
13 map. It focuses on the Warren unit again, and this is a
14 structure map drawn on the top of the Drinkard formation.
15 The scale of the map is one inch to 2000 feet. The
16 structural contours are drawn at a contour interval of 25
17 feet.

18 It clearly shows a four-way closed anticline
19 that's contained entirely within the Warren Unit, and that
20 anticline encloses the Drinkard Pool, or the Warren-
21 Drinkard Pool.

22 Q. On Exhibit 2, you have a dotted red line that
23 represents what, sir?

24 A. The dotted red line is cross-section A to A'. It
25 trends northwest to southeast across the structure, and --

1 Q. If you'll keep Exhibit 2 in front of you, and
2 let's turn, then, to that cross-section and have you
3 unfold that cross-section which is marked Exhibit 3.

4 Before we discuss your conclusions, I would like
5 to have you take some care in explaining to us where we're
6 going to find the base of the Blinebry, then the top of the
7 Tubb, the base of the Tubb, and then the top of the
8 Drinkard, so we get these formations in the correct
9 sequence on one of these logs.

10 A. Okay, this cross-section shows a part of the
11 Blinebry formation. It shows the Tubb formation, the
12 Drinkard and a part of the Abo formation.

13 Q. Let's look, if you will, at the first well on the
14 left. It's the Warren Unit 116 well. Starting at the top
15 of the log, take us down and show us what the meaning is
16 every time you change a color.

17 A. Sure. The Blinebry formation has been subdivided
18 by us into four or five different porosity intervals, and
19 we refer to these porosity intervals 1 through 5, starting
20 at the top, and I am showing you just the lower portions of
21 these porosity intervals in the Blinebry, and they are
22 labeled on this cross-section as B3, B4, B5.

23 The intervals are colored in green, and the white
24 bands on the cross-section between those intervals are the
25 nonporous intervals, the tight intervals separating the

1 porosity intervals of the Blinebry.

2 Q. When we get down to the base of the lowest green
3 interval and the corresponding top of the purple interval,
4 there's an identification off to the left of the log that
5 says "Tubb Marker". What are we seeing at that point?

6 A. The Tubb marker shows the contact between the
7 overlying Blinebry formation and the underlying Tubb
8 formation. The Tubb marker is a geologically mappable
9 marker across the Lea County area that designates the top
10 of the Tubb formation.

11 Q. If you go down to the base, then, of the purple
12 area, what's the next marker point identified on the log?

13 A. That's the top of the Drinkard formation, and the
14 Drinkard formation is not color-highlighted across the
15 section. Between the Drinkard and the top of the Abo
16 you'll see I've not placed color, at least in the Warren
17 Unit 116.

18 Q. All right, just below, if you continue on the
19 log, there's going to be a line that's -- a black line
20 running horizontal across the entire length of the cross-
21 section. What does that represent?

22 A. That represents the structural datum for this
23 cross-section. That is drawn at an elevation of minus 3250
24 feet subsea vertical depth, and it represents an
25 established oil-water contact within the Drinkard

1 reservoir. We'll also refer to that as a water transition
2 zone.

3 Q. If you go with me to the next log to the right,
4 it's the Warren Unit 94 well?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Go down to the datum point, which is the base of
7 the lowest green-shaded area, and what does that show in
8 that well?

9 A. Well, now, in the Warren Unit 94 I'm introducing
10 another green pattern to the cross section, and I'm
11 beginning to show you the development of the main pay
12 within the Drinkard formation.

13 To help you see that, I've shown log curves on
14 the cross-section. The log curves which have yellow
15 highlighting to them show porosity development. The main
16 pay of the Drinkard is where we have porosity that exceeds
17 six percent, and that main Drinkard pay, where it occurs
18 above the datum of 3250 subsea, is our hydrocarbon
19 reservoir.

20 Q. Below the datum point, that porosity indication
21 on this log is in the water portion or at least in that
22 portion of the reservoir that has significant water cut to
23 it?

24 A. That's correct. Below 3250 subsea vertical
25 depth, we enter the water transition zone, and we have done

1 tests within the reservoir where we have isolated
2 perforations below that zone, and we get high water cuts.

3 Q. When we look, later on, to see the wells for
4 which you're seeking approval for downhole commingling,
5 will that group of wells include the Warren Unit 94 well
6 that we're looking at now?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. And why geologically, then, would the 94 well
9 fall within the group of wells for which downhole
10 commingling is justified?

11 A. The Warren Unit 94 well is one which is beginning
12 to drop off the structure, and we move into a thinner
13 development of the pay column, such that our oil rates, oil
14 and gas rates, are much lower as we move offstructure, and
15 that net pay development of the Drinkard is thinner.

16 Q. Okay, let's continue to the right, then, and
17 contrast the 94 well with the 108, which is a well in the
18 inner portion of the structural high and is to continue to
19 be produced as a dually completed well.

20 A. That's correct, the Warren Unit 108, we move
21 upstructure onto the anticline. It's located near the
22 culmination of the anticline. The pay column is well
23 developed at that location.

24 These wells can be dually completed with the
25 Blinebry and Tubb, and we can conduct those operations

1 economically.

2 I would add that the 95, adjacent to it, is
3 similar in that aspect.

4 Q. All right. Now, let's continue after the 95 to
5 the 97 and look at a well, 97 --

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. -- which falls back into the category of a group
8 of wells for which you're seeking to obtain downhole
9 commingling approval.

10 A. The Warren Unit 97 is now moving off onto the
11 southeast flank of the four-way closed anticline. The
12 development of the main pay in the Drinkard is now thinner,
13 and the well tests which I've written below the Warren Unit
14 97 well show that we had low oil rates and high water cuts.
15 It shows initial production, pumping six barrels of oil a
16 day, 23 MCF of gas, and 194 barrels of water.

17 You can see also that we have some of our
18 perforations into that water transition in the Warren Unit
19 97, and that may account for some of the high water.

20 The main point is that as we move off the
21 structure, that main pay development is thinner and doesn't
22 support the economic production when it's dually completed
23 with the Blinebry and Tubb.

24 And it's important to emphasize that the Drinkard
25 is a reservoir that's of less importance to the total

1 reserve picture on the lease than the Blinebry and Tubb,
2 which we have a long-term plan for waterflood operations.

3 Q. When you look at the log porosity on the 97 well,
4 the highest point of porosity values in the Drinkard are
5 falling below that oil transition -- that oil-water
6 transition interval, are they not?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Let me have you turn to the next display, Exhibit
9 4, and have you put all this together for us.

10 A. Exhibit 4 combines the map which I presented to
11 you as Exhibit 1, showing the areas that we would like to
12 commingle production, along with the structure contours
13 from Exhibit 2, and the trend of the cross-section A-A',
14 which is Exhibit 3.

15 You can now see that the wells which lie in the
16 orange-colored area are in structurally low positions where
17 the pay is thin, it's not as well developed as it is higher
18 on the structure.

19 The area that is shown as yellow highlighting is
20 the crest of the anticline, and those wells have a
21 sufficient pay column to support economic production as
22 dual-completed wells.

23 Structure is not entirely the story; there is
24 some variation in the quality of pay in terms of its
25 porosity and its permeability. But generally there's a

1 good correlation between structure and the pay development
2 from this reservoir.

3 Q. Let's look at the timing of how you recover the
4 available hydrocarbons out of the Drinkard in relation to
5 the sequencing of how you're exploiting the Blinebry-Tubb,
6 which is your principal hydrocarbon-recovery reservoir in
7 the unit area.

8 A. Well, the Blinebry-Tubb is our principal
9 reservoir. It is presently under primary production with a
10 long-term plan for waterflood operations in that pool.

11 Right now, these wells are being drilled
12 primarily to access the Blinebry and Tubb, to recover the
13 primary production from that, and then moved into the
14 secondary recovery in the future. We are presently
15 estimating that that conversion will begin in about the
16 year 2007.

17 So between this point in time and the point in
18 time in the future that we convert to waterflood
19 operations, we have the opportunity to recover the Drinkard
20 reserves.

21 Q. Why do you lose the opportunity to recover the
22 Drinkard reserves after the year 2007?

23 A. Well, at that time the wells will be converted to
24 inject -- on an injector and producer basis. We'll lose
25 the opportunity to recover the reserves in those wells that

1 we convert.

2 Also, there will be continual production from the
3 crestal area, and that possibly will draw down the
4 reservoir pressure.

5 So we'll leave a significant amount of reserves
6 behind in these fringe wells if we do not at this time
7 commingle the production with the Blinebry and the Tubb.

8 Q. What's the forecasted or projected total life of
9 the waterflood operation in the Blinebry and Tubb?

10 A. Well, I am not familiar with how far into the
11 future that will go, but if I could defer that question to
12 Mr. Barrett, I think he will best answer that.

13 Q. Summarize for us, then, geologically why we're
14 seeing this group of -- I guess it's ten existing wells,
15 and the locations for the four new wells --

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. -- within this circle, to not be able to sustain
18 themselves as dually completed wells.

19 A. Okay. Well, the ten existing wells -- Would you
20 like me to identify those on the map for the Examiner?

21 Q. Yes, sir, I think that would be helpful.

22 A. The ten existing wells, if I were to start in
23 Unit A of Section 28, Warren Unit 98; and moving to Unit B,
24 Warren Unit 10, Warren Unit 114; move to Unit E, Warren
25 Unit 115, Warren Unit 94; skipping down to unit -- O, is

1 it? in Warren Unit 113.

2 Also there -- in Section 27, Warren Unit 9 is in
3 Unit E; and Warren Unit 26, I believe that's Unit M; in
4 Section 34, Unit D is Warren Unit 97; and Section 33, Unit
5 A, Warren Unit 99.

6 I believe that's the ten wells which lie in the
7 fringe area. Those are the existing wells. Four of these
8 wells are presently dual completions.

9 Q. If it doesn't have a black line through the well
10 symbol, then it is still a current producer?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. All right. Identify for us, then, the four
13 locations.

14 A. Okay, the four locations that are presently in a
15 dual configuration are the Warren Unit 114 in Unit C of
16 Section 28, Warren Unit 94, Warren Unit 115 -- that's in
17 Unit E -- and Warren Unit 113 in Unit O.

18 Now, those wells are presently dually completed,
19 and our practice had been to try and dual-complete these
20 with the Blinebry and Tubb, but we have learned from our
21 testing throughout the year that these are not going to be
22 economic in the Drinkard.

23 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, that concludes my
24 examination of Mr. Nelson.

25 We move the introduction of his Exhibits 1

1 through 4.

2 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 4 will be
3 admitted as evidence.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

6 Q. Let me see if I get this straight, Mr. Nelson.
7 Ten wells in the orange- or gold-colored area, existing
8 wells, four of those are currently dually completed, the
9 remaining six are currently just Blinebry-Tubb producers?

10 A. Yeah, they are at least shut in, in the Drinkard.

11 Q. Were they dual completions?

12 A. We attempted some dual completions in some of
13 those wells at one time and then had to plug those out.

14 Mr. Barrett will have an exhibit that shows when
15 those wells were shut -- were plugged out of the Drinkard,
16 or shut in temporarily.

17 Q. With this Application you're seeking approval to
18 downhole commingle all ten of those wells in the Blinebry,
19 Tubb and Drinkard?

20 MR. KELLAHIN: Plus approval to drill four new
21 ones.

22 EXAMINER CATANACH: I'm getting to that.

23 MR. KELLAHIN: Right.

24 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) Where are your four new
25 wells going to be?

1 A. Okay, the four new wells, I have open circles on
2 those wells. The four new wells are Warren Unit 116 in
3 Letter Unit D.

4 Q. D of what section?

5 A. Section 28.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Warren Unit 117.

8 Q. And where is that it at?

9 A. Unit L, Section 28.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Warren Unit 118 unit M.

12 Q. Got it.

13 A. And Warren Unit 119, Unit N.

14 Q. What is that one in Unit D? Is that 113?

15 A. That is 116.

16 Q. 116. Okay, so that's basically it. You're
17 looking at 14 wells.

18 The area within -- The area that's colored
19 yellow, those are current dual completions; you're not
20 seeking any kind of relief in that area?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. Okay. Within Section 27, your Warren Units 9 and
23 26, is that area currently under waterflood operation?

24 A. Yes, that area is part of our first expansion,
25 and that is under waterflood.

1 Q. And you want to -- You're seeking approval to
2 commingle Drinkard with the waterflooded Blinebry and Tubb
3 formations?

4 A. Yes, in the two wells, in Warren Unit 9 and in
5 Warren Unit 26, in that section, 27.

6 Q. Does that same hold true for the wells in
7 Sections 33 and 34?

8 A. Yes, it does.

9 Q. Within the colored area on your map, the yellow
10 and the gold, that's going to be the only area that the
11 Drinkard is going to be developed in this unit?

12 A. Within the colored area, the gold-colored area,
13 that is the present area that we at this time envision
14 developing the Drinkard.

15 We -- You know, we've learned that as you move
16 offstructure, the Drinkard becomes a poor reservoir.
17 That's information we probably did not know at the time of
18 the first hearing, at the hearing that we had in January,
19 1994. And at that time we were addressing just the
20 Blinebry and Tubb, so the Drinkard was not part of the plan
21 at that time.

22 Q. Okay. Now, within Section 28, we're still
23 talking about -- Are the Blinebry and Tubb still separated
24 in that section?

25 A. No, they have been combined into one pool, and

1 that was the effect of the hearing and the order coming
2 from the hearing of January, 1994.

3 Q. Okay. So the Warren Blinebry-Tubb Pool does
4 extend into Section 28?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay, and it also covers 33, 34 and 27?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Okay. My understanding that this -- this is
9 still -- in Section 28, this is all under primary
10 production and will be until approximately the year 2007?

11 A. That's correct. The year 2007 is an estimate
12 which Mr. Barrett will provide some testimony related to
13 that projection.

14 Q. Okay. Does this also -- this area of primary
15 development, this also includes Sections 21 and 20 and 29?
16 Is that kind of one and the same?

17 A. As you move into Section 27 you move off to the
18 north end of the structure, and it goes into a deep
19 structural low.

20 There are wells in Section 21, in the Blinebry
21 and Tubb, but not in the Drinkard.

22 And there are wells also in Section 20 and in 29,
23 producing from the Blinebry and Tubb.

24 Q. Were all of these wells kind of drilled at the
25 same time, the wells in 28, 29 and 20?

1 Q. And based upon those duties, you now have
2 opinions and conclusions about how to optimize the
3 remaining recoverable production out of the Drinkard pool
4 within the area described in this Application?

5 A. Yes, I do.

6 MR. KELLAHIN: We tender Mr. Barrett as an expert
7 reservoir engineer.

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

9 Q. (By Mr. Kellahin) Before we talk about the
10 specifics, let me have you help us identify the issues.

11 From the engineering aspect, are you familiar
12 with the Division's administrative rules for downhole
13 commingling?

14 A. Yes, I am.

15 Q. Identify for us the issues within that
16 administrative procedures that preclude this Application
17 from being processed administratively.

18 A. Okay, this -- For this depth bracket allowable
19 that we're talking here, the downhole commingling rules are
20 40 barrels a day of oil, the lower of the two pools' GOR,
21 and 80 barrels of water per day. And right now --

22 Q. When we look at the commingled oil production,
23 are there combinations of commingled production that would
24 exceed 40 barrels a day?

25 A. Yes, there are.

1 Q. All right, and you've addressed that issue in
2 looking at the engineering aspects?

3 A. Yes, I have.

4 Q. When we look at the water volume, your maximum
5 water volume is 80 barrels of water a day?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And you have perhaps one example that exceeds
8 that?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And in terms of a gas-oil ratio, your maximum
11 gas-oil ratio is 8000 to 1?

12 A. For the Drinkard Pool, that's right.

13 Q. For the Drinkard, and that would translate and be
14 the limit on the commingled stream unless the Examiner
15 waives that limit?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. All right. Having examined all three of those
18 issues, do you have any engineering concerns about
19 accepting each of these wells from any of those three
20 limits?

21 A. No, I don't.

22 Q. In addition, the fourth one is that while you're
23 in a unit area, you will have federal unit participating
24 areas that at least conceptually may have different
25 percentages or interests that would preclude this from

1 being commingled because of different ownership?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. All right. As part of the presentation today,
4 have you gone through the effort of providing the Examiner
5 with all the specific details on completion histories,
6 production curves, proposed allocation formulas, the C-116s
7 for all these wells?

8 A. Yes, I have.

9 Q. Let's look, then, at Exhibit Number 5.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. When we look at Exhibit 5, help us understand how
12 you have organized the information.

13 A. All right, Exhibit 5 is current productivity
14 tests from the separate Drinkard formation, as well as the
15 Blinebry-Tubb formation. Those are highlighted in green at
16 the top, with Drinkard being on the left-hand side,
17 Blinebry-Tubb being on the right-hand side.

18 On the far left the first column is the well
19 number, all these wells that we are discussing about
20 downhole commingling.

21 The next column is oil in barrels of oil per day.

22 The next column, gas in MCF per day.

23 The next, GOR.

24 The next, water in barrels of water per day.

25 And then for the Drinkard alone we have shut-in

1 dates for the six wells that have been abandoned because of
2 their uneconomic viability in the Drinkard as a dual.

3 Then moving -- continuing to move right, the next
4 column is oil for the Blinebry-Tubb in barrels of oil per
5 day, gas in MCF per day, GOR and water in barrels of water
6 per day.

7 Q. When we divide your exhibit and look only at the
8 Blinebry-Tubb, we are then looking at production that is
9 continuing to be economic production?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. In terms of commingling, then, the portion of the
12 commingling Application that deals with the uneconomic
13 reservoir is the Drinkard side?

14 A. That's correct.

15 A. Is there anything that you can do from an
16 operational aspect to add additional productivity to any of
17 the wells within the Drinkard column?

18 A. We have done whatever we could so far.

19 Q. So when we look at the various individual well
20 test rates, we're looking at production on a daily basis?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And this represents the capacity of these wells
23 to produce hydrocarbons out of the Drinkard?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. On the Examiner's display, there are some

1 corrections made with a pasteover?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Why was the change made?

4 A. The change was made because these wells that we
5 currently have on line in the Drinkard as a dual are
6 steadily dropping. And we had two wells in particular, the
7 113 and 115. These are our newer wells, they've been on
8 line just a short period of time, and their decline is a
9 little steeper than the other wells, and therefore their
10 rate has dropped --

11 Q. All right.

12 A. -- since this was reported.

13 Q. Well 113 and Well 115, those reported rates
14 represent what point in time? Is that a February, 1995,
15 date?

16 A. One is January. The 113 is January, and the 115
17 is February.

18 Q. All right. For those wells that now have a shut-
19 in date, what does that represent?

20 A. That shut-in date on those wells is when we had
21 them in a dual situation before, but at that point in
22 time -- and there's a variety of dates there -- it was no
23 longer economic to produce that well at that dual rate
24 because of the operational costs that were incurred.

25 Q. So the production levels for the shut-in wells

1 correspond to the shut-in date?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And if there is not a shut-in date, that test
4 information is of what period?

5 A. January of 1995.

6 Q. Okay. Based upon your studies of the Drinkard
7 reservoir, what kind of reservoir are we dealing with?

8 A. We're dealing with a solution gas drive
9 reservoir, much the same as the Blinebry-Tubb.

10 Q. Do you see any evidence or indication that you
11 can improve total hydrocarbon withdrawals from the Drinkard
12 by reducing the rate?

13 A. Restate that for me.

14 Q. Yes, sir. My question is whether the Drinkard is
15 rate-sensitive?

16 A. No, it's not.

17 Q. So if we reduce the rate of withdrawal to keep
18 within a gas-oil ratio, whatever that number is, it's not
19 going to add total reservoir recovery from that pool?

20 A. No, it's not.

21 Q. All right. Do you concur with Mr. Nelson's
22 timing argument about now's the time to get the remaining
23 Drinkard, because if we don't do it now, by the year 2007
24 we've lost the chance?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And you've quantified that for us later on, have
2 you not?

3 A. Yes, I have.

4 Q. When we look at Exhibit Number 5, are each and
5 every one of these wells uneconomic to continue as dual
6 wells?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. All right, sir. Let's turn now to Exhibit Number
9 6. Identify that display for us.

10 A. This display is economics run on just the
11 Drinkard wells, with the different configurations that we
12 currently have, or would move to.

13 Under the first situation with "Dual" written
14 there, we have -- I used a rate of six barrels of oil per
15 day, 240 MCF a day. It gives us a net present value, which
16 is negative, of \$13,000 and a zero-percent rate of return.
17 So it's clear that that is not economic for us to continue
18 with a well like that.

19 Then we move to the next one, downhole
20 commingling a new well. This is again at a rate of six
21 barrels of oil per day, 240 MCF a day. This is the worst-
22 case downhole commingling rate that we would have, and it
23 is a positive net present value of \$51,000 and a 90-percent
24 rate of return. So it is economic for us to downhole
25 commingle even the worst Drinkard production.

1 Then the next one is shut-in well, and by that
2 I'm meaning shut-in, bringing it back on as a downhole-
3 commingle candidate. Its rate, its, again, worst-case rate
4 of six barrels of oil per day and 28 MCF a day gives us a
5 positive net present value of \$15,000 and an 86 percent
6 rate of return.

7 Q. When we look at the economics, what capital cost
8 are you attributing to the profitability under this
9 example?

10 A. For the dual well, the capital cost, which
11 primarily involves just additional equipment, is \$236,000.

12 Q. Describe for us the kind of equipment involved,
13 then, between the dual and the downhole commingling.

14 A. Right. With the dual you need an extra pumping
15 unit, you need a vent string for the gas, you need extra
16 string of tubing, you need an extra string of rods, you
17 need an extra pump, an extra flow line and a different
18 wellhead. We also need bigger casing. And then there's
19 labor associated with all that as well.

20 Q. In addition to those capital costs, what on an
21 annual basis are the operating costs in excess of what you
22 would have to operate a downhole-commingled well?

23 A. The extra operating costs are approximately
24 \$40,000 a year. A single downhole commingle -- or a
25 single-well or a downhole-commingle well is basically \$5000

1 a year.

2 The dual well is \$45,000 a year, an incremental
3 of \$40,000 a year, and that's because of all the
4 operational problems we have with communication problems
5 between the packers, having to pull both wells, extra
6 workover time and associated items there.

7 Q. Let's look at your best-case economics and go
8 back to Exhibit 5 and look at the varying rates of
9 remaining productivity for your wells on the Drinkard side
10 of the production.

11 Do each and every one of the proposed commingled
12 wells fall below the point at which they are continuing to
13 be profitable as dually completed wells?

14 A. Yes, they do.

15 Q. You've got two variables: You've got an oil and
16 a gas variable. But can you give us a sort of a benchmark
17 to say, once I get my oil and gas rates below a certain
18 benchmark, then it is no longer profitable for us to
19 continue to produce it as a dual well?

20 A. Yes, I can. Basically break-even economics,
21 we're at 22 barrels of oil per day and 123 MCF a day. That
22 basically gave us almost zero net present value, and a rate
23 of return of nine percent, which is not economic to do.
24 That's a break-even point.

25 And with that, the oil is valued much higher than

1 the gas, and so therefore there's nothing that's even close
2 to that 22 barrels of oil per day.

3 Q. Let's turn to another issue. If you'll turn to
4 Exhibit 7, have you been able to quantify the additional
5 reserves that you would not otherwise recover in the
6 absence of the downhole commingling?

7 A. Yes, I have.

8 Q. And that's what we're seeing on Exhibit 7?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Identify the display for us and describe for us
11 what you've done.

12 A. Okay, these are additional reserves beyond the
13 economic limit through downhole commingling.

14 Starting with the Drinkard on the left-hand
15 side -- I gave the Blinebry-Tubb on the right-hand side --
16 these are -- on the Drinkard reserves I've got the well
17 number on the far left, oil in MBO, gas in MMCF.

18 With these, I chose a point best in time that
19 would allow us to recover the Drinkard reserves, plus that
20 which does not hamper the start date of our waterflood, and
21 that -- my best estimate right now is the year 2007.

22 With this, I ran decline curves on both oil and
23 gas for each well, here, and that's where these reserves
24 came from.

25 Q. What's your cumulative total of additional

1 reserves added to your recovery, if this Application is
2 approved?

3 A. If this is approved, we will add an additional
4 231 MBO and 2.8 BCF of gas, just from the Drinkard alone.

5 Q. And in the absence of approval, the Drinkard will
6 have to be abandoned, and these are recoverable reserves
7 that would not be produced now or in the future?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Okay. Let's go to Exhibit Number 8, if you will,
10 and let's address another topic.

11 One of the issues for the Examiner to authorize
12 your request to exceed the gas-oil ratio limitation that's
13 built into the Drinkard rule of 8000 to 1, and you
14 described for me earlier your conclusion that the Drinkard
15 was a solution gas drive reservoir.

16 What is the purpose of Exhibit Number 8?

17 A. Exhibit Number 8 is an offsetting well, Britt B
18 10. It's in the Tubb formation. And what this is --
19 Overall, this is an example of a typical solution gas drive
20 reservoir.

21 Q. All right, we're seeing this pulled out of the
22 Monument-Tubb?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And how far away is that?

25 A. That's about two miles to the west.

1 Q. What is the relevance of looking at the
2 characteristics of production out of the Britt B 10 well
3 from a different pool?

4 A. The relevance here is, there was a lot of data
5 taken on this Britt B 10 Number well that helps prove the
6 solution gas drive dropping below the bubble point and how
7 that affects the reservoir.

8 It's a -- There was a lot of data taken here that
9 we have a record of, that we can show this case, and it's
10 similar to ours.

11 Q. All right. If your challenge as a reservoir
12 engineer, then, is to find a blueprint of what a classic
13 solution gas drive reservoir well would do, is this it?

14 A. This is it.

15 Q. Describe for us without a great deal of detail
16 the kinds of things that caused you to believe that this
17 was significant data resulting in the classic signature of
18 a solution gas drive reservoir.

19 A. Okay. In the top portion of the graph, you've
20 got oil rate in black, gas rate in red. Those are daily
21 rates of barrels and MCF.

22 The next one down, you've got a red curve showing
23 gas-oil ratio.

24 And then at the bottom you have bottomhole
25 pressure. With this, we actually took pressures at varying

1 points in time right after this well was discovered, and
2 those pressures went up and to the point where we also had
3 PVT data that gave a bubble-point pressure of 2370 p.s.i.

4 The bottomhole pressures were taken up to that
5 point. At that point where the arrow is, you see the GOR
6 increase dramatically here. That's where we dropped the
7 reservoir pressure to that point. At that time the GOR
8 increased significantly there, giving testimony to the
9 solution gas drive reservoir.

10 Q. As a reservoir engineer, can you conclude, then,
11 in a solution gas drive reservoir that we can withdraw
12 production from that reservoir without regard to the gas-
13 oil ratio?

14 A. Yes, I can.

15 Q. All right. Show us, then, how you've made this
16 comparison to what you've seen from the performance of a
17 well within the Application area.

18 A. Okay. Moving to Exhibit Number 9, this is the
19 Warren Unit Drinkard production, and it's again very
20 similar, but I don't have the pressure data here to add to
21 this exhibit.

22 But we are showing the -- There are three wells
23 included in here that were the discovery wells. They start
24 out in the early Fifties. The solution gas, the GOR, was
25 very low at that point in time.

1 Once we reached the bubble-point pressure, the
2 GOR took off, increasing just like it did in our Britt B 10
3 example.

4 Q. Do you see any indication of a gas-cap problem?

5 A. No, I don't.

6 Q. Any need to curtail gas withdrawals from this
7 reservoir?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. Turn now to Exhibit 10. Exhibit 10 again
10 has some corrections due to the updated production data
11 from wells 113 and 115?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. All right. Describe for us what's the purpose of
14 Exhibit 10.

15 A. The purpose of Exhibit 10 is to just show the
16 combined tests that we expect once we -- the current
17 productivity tests that's just added the Blinebry Tubb and
18 the Drinkard flow streams together.

19 Again, the well on the left, barrels of oil per
20 day. Next, gas in MCF per day, barrels of water per day,
21 and then the GOR.

22 Q. What's your maximum depth bracket oil allowable
23 for this production?

24 A. In separate pools, the maximum -- well, separate
25 just for the Drinkard is 142 barrels a day with an 8000

1 GOR.

2 For the Blinebry-Tubb at this point, since we're
3 in the waterflood area, we have unlimited allowable.

4 Q. As we look at the spreadsheet and find the oil
5 column, under the administrative commingling rules you'd be
6 limited to a combined oil rate not in excess of 40 barrels
7 of oil a day?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And you're going to have a few of these wells
10 that exceed that?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Any reason to limit the approval to only those
13 wells that don't exceed the 40-barrel-of-oil-a-day limit?

14 A. I don't see any reason for that.

15 Q. The gas column here, you've got perhaps one well
16 that would exceed the limit of the 8000-to-1 GOR?

17 A. That's -- Currently, yes.

18 Q. And that would be the 114?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Any problem with letting this well exceed that
21 GOR?

22 A. Not at all.

23 Q. Then the water column, the water limit is 80
24 barrels of water a day?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And you've got one well that exceeds that?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Is there a water component attached to the 97
4 well that needs to be worried about?

5 A. That would be addressed if we get this --
6 whenever we go back in, even though that well is shut in,
7 when we go back in on that well, we will attempt to squeeze
8 off that water production.

9 Q. Okay. Let's have you identify for us Exhibit
10 Number 11.

11 A. Exhibit Number 11 is basically just the reservoir
12 pressures from a common datum of minus 2850 subsea depth,
13 for the two reservoirs in question, and this is just to
14 show that there's not a problem with one being 50 percent
15 higher than the other.

16 Q. All right. You've stayed within that guideline
17 of the commingling rule?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. All right, sir. Exhibit Number 12, identify and
20 describe that.

21 A. This again is just the -- what the Application
22 asks for on the gravity, mixing of the oil to assure that
23 there is no value lost from the mixing of two gravities.
24 These gravities are very similar anyway, and with the
25 calculations here there's virtually no change.

1 Q. All right, sir. Turn now to Exhibit 13.
2 Identify and describe that.

3 A. This is a water analysis compatibility test for
4 the Blinebry-Tubb water on the left and the Drinkard water
5 on the right. And again, the waters are fairly similar.

6 And then down below there's a mixed water
7 analysis telling you, you know, different proportions that
8 you'd mixed these waters, and with that there is not any
9 significant problems with mixing these waters.

10 Q. Do you know, Mr. Barrett, whether or not we're
11 dealing with a project area that's totally within a federal
12 unit?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Have you or other representatives of Conoco
15 informed the Bureau of Land Management about this proposed
16 commingling Application?

17 A. Yes, we have.

18 Q. And what if any information or correspondence
19 have you received from the Bureau of Land Management in
20 response to your Application?

21 A. We've received the letter which is labeled
22 Exhibit Number 14, showing that they have -- the BLM has no
23 objection to our proposal to downhole commingle these
24 wells.

25 Q. All right, sir. If the Examiner agrees with your

1 engineering conclusions about the feasibility and the
2 appropriateness of commingling, do you have an allocation
3 formula --

4 A. Yes, I do.

5 Q. -- to propose?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 Q. Is the allocation formula you're about to propose
8 consistent for all the wells in terms of method?

9 A. Yes, it is.

10 Q. Let's look at Exhibit 15 through 24 and have you
11 tell me what those represent.

12 A. Okay. The 15 Exhibit would be an example that
13 all of them are based on. This is the Warren Unit Number
14 9.

15 Q. 15 through 24 are individual formulas for each of
16 the wells?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And they're all done the same way?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Let's take 15, then, as the example to discuss
21 and have you describe for me your method.

22 A. Okay. On the Warren Unit Number 9, here, you
23 have again the year column on the left, Blinebry-Tubb
24 production in barrels of oil per day in the next column,
25 Drinkard production in barrels of oil per day in the next

1 column.

2 Then you have the combined total in the next
3 column of the Blinebry-Tubb and the Drinkard. And then
4 next, you've got percent Blinebry-Tubb and percent Drinkard
5 for those respective years.

6 This information was based upon decline-curve
7 analysis for the gas and the oil. What we just looked at
8 in the top portion of this page was the oil, down below is
9 the gas portion. And they were both done the same for all
10 of these wells.

11 Q. If you were to share personally in receiving
12 production, would you be satisfied with receiving
13 production based upon an allocation formula like this?

14 A. Yes, I would.

15 Q. Do you believe it's a fair and accurate means by
16 way of apportioning commingled production so that the
17 owners in each participating area receive their fair and
18 appropriate share of that production?

19 A. Yes, I would.

20 Q. Identify for us what is contained in Exhibit 25.

21 A. Exhibit 25 are the C-116s for all of these wells,
22 showing the gas-oil ratio tests, and it's basically using
23 the same numbers that we've shown on our previous exhibit
24 with the current productivity tests.

25 Q. All right, sir, and Exhibit 26, identify 26 for

1 us.

2 A. Exhibit Number 26 are the Blinebry-Tubb oil and
3 gas production curves that I discussed earlier that were
4 used to come up with the allocation formulas.

5 Q. All right, sir, and Exhibit 27 is what?

6 A. Exhibit 27 are the same oil and gas production
7 curves that were used to come up with the Drinkard
8 allocation formula, portion of the formula.

9 Q. All right. We've got some new information for
10 production information for Wells 113 and 115. Has that
11 information been incorporated into the allocation sheets
12 for those wells?

13 A. Yes, it has.

14 Q. On the allocation formulas?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Have we amended the --

17 MR. HOOVER: No.

18 Q. (By Mr. Kellahin) We haven't yet?

19 A. Oh, no, I'm sorry --

20 Q. All right.

21 A. -- I'm sorry, I didn't understand your question.
22 No, they haven't.

23 Q. All right. For Well 115, if we look at Exhibit
24 24, this allocation formula needs to be changed, right?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Because you've got new test data --

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. -- that's going to change the allocation?

4 A. That's correct.

5 MR. KELLAHIN: All right. Mr. Examiner, we will
6 submit to you, sir, following the hearing, with your
7 permission, the new allocation formulas as substitute
8 exhibits for Exhibit 24, and then for Exhibit 22.

9 And with those corrections, then, the allocation
10 formulas will be consistent with the latest available
11 production information prior to commingling.

12 Q. (By Mr. Kellahin) Exhibit 25 is what, sir? It's
13 a C-116, that's our --

14 A. Yeah, we just went over that.

15 Q. All right. I think we're ready for Exhibit 28,
16 then.

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Identify for the record what Exhibit 28 is.

19 A. Exhibit 28 is the completion histories and
20 wellbore diagrams for the recent completions on the 113,
21 114 and 115.

22 Q. All that information is information that would
23 otherwise be required for an administrative application?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And you've simply tabulated it and spent the

1 effort to provide it for the Examiner for his review?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. The final exhibit, would you identify that for
4 us?

5 A. Yeah, this is the Warren Unit interest owners, a
6 list of the interest owners and their interests, and it
7 also includes the registered mail receipts that -- showing
8 that they were sent to all of these working interest
9 owners.

10 Q. So any working interest owner, whether it's in
11 the Drinkard or an interest ownership in the Blinebry-Tubb,
12 would be on this notification list?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. In addition, if you'll turn to page 3 of the
15 list, there is an offset operator, apparently only one,
16 Exxon?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And they received notification because they're an
19 offset operator?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Are you aware of any of the interest owners or
22 the offset operator registering any objection to approval
23 of the Application?

24 A. No, I'm not.

25 MR. KELLAHIN: That concludes my examination of

1 Mr. Barrett.

2 We move the introduction of his Exhibits, which
3 are Exhibits 5 through 29.

4 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 5 through 29 will be
5 admitted as evidence.

6 EXAMINATION

7 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

8 Q. Mr. Barrett, to your knowledge are there any
9 overriding royalty interest owners in this unit?

10 A. Yes, there are.

11 Q. Did you notify the overriding royalty interest
12 owners?

13 MR. KELLAHIN: Yes, sir --

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 MR. KELLAHIN: -- if you'll look at the first
16 page of 29, there will be a caption that will tell you the
17 type.

18 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) Okay, and it's all
19 federal royalty, it's all federal lands within the unit?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. Do you in fact know that the participating
22 areas within this unit are not the same?

23 A. Yeah, that's correct.

24 Q. Okay, so there could be some difference in
25 ownership between some of these zones?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. Mr. Barrett, your proposed allocation formulas
3 with respect to the wells that are in Sections 27, 33 and
4 34, those being the waterflood wells, did you address those
5 in a special manner?

6 A. No, I addressed those in the same manner that I
7 did all of the others. And part of the reason for that is,
8 right now we see no reason to do otherwise, currently.

9 Q. Have you -- In those wells have you seen a
10 response to waterflood operations?

11 A. No, we haven't.

12 Q. Do you expect to?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So the production volumes should change in those
15 wells?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you take that into account when doing the
18 allocation formula?

19 A. No, I didn't.

20 One thing to add with that, though, for -- In
21 Section 27, our expansion has not -- We haven't completed
22 our expansion there, so there will be a delay in that
23 response, meaning we have not taken all of our injectors
24 all the way over to Section 28.

25 Q. Mr. Barrett, do you know where the -- Let me ask

1 you this: Is this the Warren-Drinkard Pool we're dealing
2 with in Section 28?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Does it extend beyond Section 28?

5 A. Yes, it does. It extends down in Section 33,
6 just like we have marked in gold or orange, whichever, and
7 also the 40-acre unit letter D in Section 34.

8 Q. As far as you know, there is no Drinkard
9 production from this pool outside of the Warren unit?

10 A. There was earlier on, there as a Mobil well, and
11 I think it discontinued production in the late Fifties.

12 Q. Do you know or do you have an opinion as to
13 whether there's any potential for Drinkard production
14 outside the unit from the Warren-Drinkard Pool?

15 A. Not from what we've seen. With that oil-water
16 contact at minus 3250, you run out of productive interval
17 very quickly.

18 Q. So basically if you're allowed to produce at a
19 higher GOR in Section 28, you're not really having an
20 effect on the correlative rights of any other operator at
21 the present time?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And you don't think that that will be an issue?

24 A. No, I don't.

25 Q. Mr. Barrett, I believe you -- You stated an

1 opinion that production at a higher GOR in Section 28 is
2 not going to reduce the ultimate oil recovery from the
3 reservoir?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. What do you base that on?

6 A. Based on reservoir analysis of solution gas drive
7 reservoirs, it just -- From just the way they operate, it's
8 not a gas cap or a gas drive with that, and therefore
9 withdrawing it any quicker does not hurt the recovery of
10 that reservoir.

11 Q. You didn't run any kind of simulations, or have
12 you had any experience with running any kind of simulations
13 on these type of reservoirs?

14 A. Not on this particular reservoir. I have done it
15 on another one that we've got under waterflood.

16 Q. And what did that show you?

17 A. It showed me there shouldn't be any problem.

18 Q. You're not going to get reduced oil recovery?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. I missed -- I believe you said that you were
21 going to try and shut off some water on one of these wells?

22 A. Yes, it was Well Number 97. That was one where
23 we perforated below that oil-water contact, and it makes
24 102 barrels of water per day -- or it did, its last test
25 did in early 1994.

1 And with that, if we did get approval to downhole
2 commingle that, once we went back in there we would attempt
3 to squeeze off that extra water production.

4 Q. Do you have any idea what kind of producing rates
5 you will encounter in the four wells that you will drill?

6 A. Yes, I do. I feel that as Mr. Nelson stated
7 earlier, that structure is significant. And from what
8 we've seen, based on our lower-structure wells, I think
9 they'll be very similar. I think the -- as I proposed in
10 the economics, the six barrels a day and a couple hundred
11 MCF are going to be very typical rates.

12 Q. That's combined rates?

13 A. No, I'm sorry, not combined. That would be just
14 from the Drinkard alone.

15 Q. From the Drinkard.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What kind of rates do you anticipate from the
18 Blinebry-Tubb?

19 A. Blinebry Tubb has been real good with these newer
20 wells. There is the potential of right at the start 50 to
21 70 barrels a day and 500 to 700 MCF, and these are just
22 rough numbers.

23 I feel that they probably would be above an
24 administrative downhole commingled rate.

25 Q. But these would still be uneconomic as far as

1 dual completions would be concerned?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Mr. Barrett, what would be the -- at the time
4 when waterflood operations are commenced in Section 28,
5 what would be Conoco's plan to deal with the Drinkard?
6 Would that just be abandoned at that time?

7 A. Yes, it would.

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: I think that's all I have.

9 MR. KELLAHIN: That concludes our presentation.

10 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, you're going to
11 supplement the record, Mr. Kellahin, with some
12 additional --

13 MR. KELLAHIN: Yes, sir, there's two allocation
14 formulas that need to be replaced, and with your permission
15 we'll do that.

16 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay.

17 MR. KELLAHIN: I am not aware of anything else we
18 would submit. If there's things that you would like us to
19 do, we would certainly be happy to do it.

20 EXAMINER CATANACH: Yes, there is, Mr. Kellahin.

21 MR. KELLAHIN: Yes, sir, well, give us your list.

22 EXAMINER CATANACH: Since we are on such severe
23 time constraints on these orders, I would appreciate a
24 rough draft --

25 MR. KELLAHIN: Smooth rough or rough rough?

1 EXAMINER CATANACH: -- within ten days. We'll
2 put time constraints on you guys too.

3 MR. KELLAHIN: Would you like rough rough or do
4 you want smooth rough?

5 EXAMINER CATANACH: Smooth rough.

6 MR. KELLAHIN: Smooth rough. We can do that.

7 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. There being nothing
8 further in this case, Case 10,897 will be taken under
9 advisement.

10 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
11 12:18 p.m.)

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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.

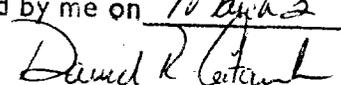
I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL March 6th, 1995.


 STEVEN T. BRENNER
 CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 1998

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 11212, heard by me on March 1995.


 David R. Gentry, Examiner
 Oil Conservation Division

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