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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SANTA FE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC. FOR COMPULSORY POOLING, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO CASE NO. 11294

#### **MOTION TO DISMISS**

Comes now PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY ("Phillips"), by its attorneys, Kellahin and Kellahin, enters its appearance in this case as an interested party in opposition to the Applicant and moves the Division to dismiss this case because the Applicant, Santa Fe Energy Resources, Inc., has violated Section 70-2-17(C) NMSA (1978) by instituting an application for compulsory pooling for a spacing unit one-half of which is already committed to another spacing unit and by filing said application prior to proposing the well;

#### And in Support States:

- (1) On February 3, 1995, Santa Fe Energy Resources, Inc. ("Santa Fe") requested a term assignment of Phillips Petroleum Company's ("Phillips") interest in 480 acres in parts of Sections 21 and 27, T21S, R33E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.
- (2) On March 28, 1995, Phillips responded it was not interested in assigning its 480-acre interest to Santa Fe.

- (3) On April 28, 1995, Santa Fe proposed the voluntary formation of a five (5) section exploratory unit including Phillips' 480-acres with the initial unit well to be drilled on Phillips' acreage in the SW/4 of Section 27. See Exhibit "A".
- (4) However, at no time prior to May 9, 1995, did Santa Fe propose the formation of a single 320-acre gas spacing unit consisting of the W/2 Section 27 for a well **other** than as part of the five section exploratory unit or as part of a 480-acre assignment or farmout deal.
- (5) On Tuesday, May 9, 1995, counsel for Santa Fe filed a Compulsory Pooling Application with the Division seeking to pool the W/2 of Section 27 as a 320-acre Morrow formation gas spacing unit in which Santa Fe controls 25% (the N/2NW/4) and Phillips controls the remaining 75% See Exhibit "B" attached.
- (6) On Thursday, May 11, 1995, Santa Fe sent a letter to Phillips which is referenced "Abe Exploratory Unit" and in which Santa Fe again proposed the voluntary five section exploration unit or the inclusion of Phillips' interest as part of a multiple well program.
- (7) On that same day, May 11, 1995, Santa Fe also sent notice to Phillips that Santa Fe had filed with the Division a compulsory pooling application for the W/2 of Section 27, T21S, R33E, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.
- (8) The W/2 spacing unit for Section 27, for which Santa Fe seeks to have the Division issue a compulsory pooling order, is not available for pooling because the SW/4 of Section 27 has already been consolidated on a 100% voluntarily basis and dedicated to a S/2 spacing unit for the drilling of Phillips' Phillips State Well No. 1 in Unit (N). See Exhibit "C" attached.

Phillips Petroleum Company Motion to Dismiss Case 11294 Page 3

WHEREFORE Phillips Petroleum Company requests that the

Division Hearing Examiner grant this motion and dismiss Oil Conservation

Division Case 11294 because:

- (a) The New Mexico "Statutory Unitization Act" (Section 70-7-1 through 70-7-21 NMSA (1978) is available only for secondary recovery and pressure maintenance projects and cannot be used for exploratory units;
- (b) Section 70-2-17 NMSA (1978) is applicable only for those instances in which a spacing unit is available and the parties in that spacing unit cannot agree to pool their interests;
- (c) In this case, the S/2 of Section 27 is already committed on a voluntarily basis for a well and therefore SW/4 cannot be made the subject of a W/2 compulsory pool case without violating the provisions of Section 70-2-17 NMSA (1978);
- (d) Santa Fe filed its Compulsory Pooling Application prior to properly proposing the subject well as part of a single spacing unit; and
- (e) Contrary to the custom and practice before the Division and in violation of Section 70-2-17 (c) NMSA (1978), Santa Fe has instituted compulsory action against Phillips seeking to form a spacing unit which cannot be approved by compulsory

W. Thomas Kellahin Kellahin & Kellahin P. O. Box 2265

pooling

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

(505) 982-4285

Reese B. Copeland, Esq. Phillips Petroleum Company 4001 Penbrook, Suite 216 Odessa, Texas 79762-5972 Phillips Petroleum Company Motion to Dismiss Case 11294 Page 4

#### **VERIFICATION**

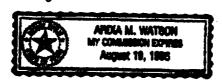
State of Texas	)
	)ss.
County of Midland	)

Comes now James S. Welin, being first duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and states: That he is the Petroleum Land Manager for Phillips Petroleum Company, Odessa, Texas, that he has read the foregoing pleadings and know the contents thereof, and that the same is true and correct of this own knowledge, information and belief.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me by James S. Welin, who personally appeared before me this Atlay of May, 1995.

My Commission Expires: <u>Qua. 19.1296</u>

Scal



#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this pleading was transmitted by facsimile to counsel for applicant this 26th day of May, 1995

W. Thomas Kellahin

## Exhibit "A"

## Santa Fe Energy Resources, Inc.

### ABE UNIT

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## CAMPBELL, CARR & BERCE, P.A.

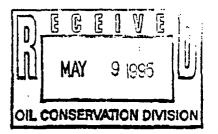
MICHAEL B. CAMPBELL WILLIAM F. CARR BRADFORD C. BERGE

MICHAEL H. PSGDEWERT TANYA M. TRUJILGO TANNIS G. FOX

JACK M. CAMPBELL OF COUNSEL

May 9, 1995

JEFFEHSON PLACE
SUITE : - (10 NORTH GUADALURE
POST OFFICE BOX 2208
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-2208
TELECOPIER: (505) 988-442



11294

#### HAND-DELIVERED

William J. LeMay, Director
Oil Conservation Division
New Mexico Department of Energy,
Minerals and Natural Resources
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Application of Santa Fe Energy Resources, Inc., for Compulsory Pooling, Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. LeMay:

Enclosed in triplicate is the Application of Santa Fe Energy Resources, Inc., in the above-referenced case as well as a copy of a legal advertisement. Santa Fe Energy Resources, Inc. respectfully requests that this matter be placed on the docket for the June 1, 1995 Examiner hearings.

Very truly yours,

TANYA M. TRUJILLO

Enclosures

cc:

Jim Bruce

Danita R. Walker

EXHIBIT

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PO Box 1500, Shakes, AM 98341-1500 District II PO Drumer DD, Artesia, NSC 60211-0719 District IXX 1000 Rie District PO ===

# **OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Revised February 10, 199 Instructions on bac. Submit to Appropriate District Offic:

State Lease - 6 Copie. Fee Lease - 5 Copie:

## MENDED REPORT

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DISTRICT I P.O. Box 1980, Bobbs. NM 68240 State of New Mexico

Revised February 10, 1994 Instruction on back

Submit to Appropriate District Office
State Lease - 4 Copies
Fee Lease - 3 Copies

DISTRICT II P.O. Drawer DD, Artasia, NM 58210

DISTRICT III

### OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

P.O. Box 2088

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

MENDED REPORT

DISTRICT IV

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