

# SALT LAKE

U.S. Pan Amer Little Eddy Unit U.S. LA 7474

# LITTLE EDDY UNIT

R32E R33E

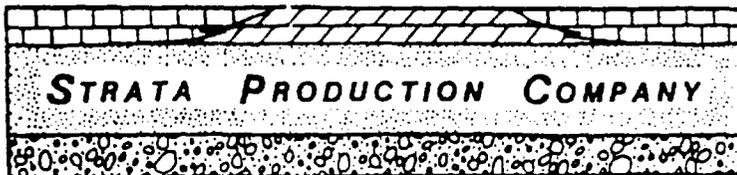
STRATA PRODUCTION COMPANY  
 NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
 CASE #10656  
 MITCHELL ENERGY CORPORATION  
 TOMAHAWK "28" FED. COM #1 WELL

EXHIBIT A



BEFORE EXAMINER STOGNER  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
Strata EXHIBIT NO. 1  
CASE NO. 10656

POST OFFICE DRAWER 1030  
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200 WEST FIRST STREET, ROSWELL PETROLEUM BUILDING, SUITE 700  
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO 88201

January 12, 1993

Via Telefax (915) 682-6439/Hard Copy by Certified Mail

Mitchell Energy Corporation  
1000 Independence Plaza  
400 West Illinois  
Midland, Texas 79701

Attn: Steve Smith

BEFORE EXAMINER STOGNER
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
Strata EXHIBIT NO. 2
CASE NO. 10656

RE: Response to Mitchell  
correspondence dated  
January 7, 1993.

Dear Mr Smith:

I appreciate you clarifying that it is Mitchell's intent to drill the above referenced well at the following location: 1980' FWL & 1650' FNL Section 28 T-20-S, R-33-E NMPM. We continue to be in opposition to a West Half spacing unit and would note that Mitchell's proposed location is orthodoxed for a North Half spacing unit. While we understand that you wish to hold the NW/4 SW/4 of Section 28, as previously discussed, we do not believe that this justifies an unorthodoxed location.

I have not had the opportunity to review your proposed Joint Operating Agreement ("JOA"). However, I do have the following question in regards to item numbered 4) concerning the COPAS overhead rates. What are the COPAS overhead rates in the JOA between Mitchell and "the parties who have already agreed to participate"? If you propose to charge Strata higher overhead rates than you do the other parties, what is your justification for doing so? I note that the Ernest and Young 1991 overhead rate is \$513.00 for producing wells and \$5000.00 for drilling wells.

In addition, I have found numerous omissions, mischaracterizations and misstatements in your "summary of the discussions and correspondence between Strata and Mitchell". It is my practice to keep detailed and accurate notes of my discussions and the following reflects my review of said notes, correspondence and other materials.

- 1). October 26, 1992 0755-0802 hrs. - Telephone conversation  
I returned your telephone call and you informed me that Mitchell intended to drill a Morrow well in the W/2 of Section 28, T-20-S, R-33-E. You stated that said well would probably be located somewhere in the NW/4 of Section 28. You stated that public records indicated that Strata owns Lease #NM-82927 and that the S/2 SW/4 of Section 28 would be included in Mitchell's proposed proration unit. You stated that currently your partners are Santa Fe and Maralo and that you intended to commence operations in early 1993. I advised you that Strata and it's partners would probably not wish to participate but would prefer to either sell or farmout. You requested proposed terms. I told you that I would need to discuss your proposal with my geologic staff and partners and then get back to you.
- 2). October 29, 1992 approximately 0900 hrs.- Telephone conversation.  
I called you and informed you that Strata would recommend to it's partners that we sell the S/2 SW/4 of Section 28 for \$300 per acre delivering a 78% Net Revenue Interest ("NRI") and rights from the base of the Bone Springs (top of the Wolfcamp) to basement. You informed me that you "will consider our proposal and call back when closer to doing something".
- 3). November 18, 1992 0850-0900 hrs. - Telephone conversation.  
I returned your telephone call and you informed me that Mitchell would not accept Strata's proposal as discussed during our 10-29-92 telephone conversation. You said that you believed our proposal to be excessive with regards to the acreage price of \$300 per acre. I responded that the acreage price was consistent with acreage prices being paid in the area during recent state & federal lease sales. You informed me that Mitchell would make a formal farmout request which would include all rights from the surface to basement. I responded that Strata would prefer to keep its rights down through and including the Delaware and Bone Springs formations. I stated the reason we bought the lease was because of the existence of Strata operated wells producing from these intervals located one to one-half miles south. I informed you that we could not see any technical basis for a West Half proration unit. I requested that you reconsider the West Half proration unit and in the alternative form a North Half proration unit thereby eliminating the need to include Strata's lease.

You stated that the reason Mitchell intended to form a West Half proration unit was based upon "lease

expiration considerations" specifically the expiration of the NW/4 SW/4 in October, 1993. You went on to say that it was your intent to make a formal farmout request in writing based upon what you considered to be "reasonable terms" and if Strata did not accept then you would "force pool" us. I informed you that due to the lack of technical basis, a point you admitted, Strata would defend itself and it's partners rights during any proceeding including a force pooling hearing.

I recall this conversation vividly because it escalated into a rather contentious conversation as a result of your arrogant attitude.

- 4). Mitchell correspondence dated November 20, 1992  
Correspondence speaks for itself.
- 5). Kellahin and Kellahin correspondence dated December 7, 1992  
Notice of Compulsory Pooling and Unorthodox Gas well Location.
- 6). Strata correspondence dated December 9, 1992.  
Correspondence speaks for itself however please note that Strata's proposal was an effort to accommodate Mitchell and was subject to Strata's partners approval. I also note that in paragraph numbered 4) of your correspondence dated January 7, 1993 you characterize Strata's farmout terms as being "substantially the same terms proposed in Mitchell's letter of November 20, 1992". You may wish to review said correspondence again as one of the most glaring differences is that you proposed that Strata deliver a 78% NRI, Strata proposed a 75% NRI, not a meager difference to a small family owned independent company like Strata.
- 7). December 16, 1992 1206-1216 hrs. - Telephone conversation  
You called my office and I returned your call from my home. I informed you that my wife recently had surgery and I would be working from my home through her recovery and the holidays. You informed me that Mitchell would accept Strata's proposed Farmout terms as contained in Strata's correspondence dated December 9, 1992, with the condition (insisted upon by Mitchell's legal dept) that at payout assuming Strata elected to convert its retained ORRI to the working interest then all of the ORRI must be converted. I reminded you that Strata had numerous partners and that this condition would be difficult because some parties may wish to convert and others may not. You responded that Mitchell's legal department would probably accept a provision which requires each individual to convert

all of their ORRI to WI. I suggested that in order for Mitchell to avoid the administrative burden of approximately fifteen (15) individuals with options to convert to very small working interest, (in some cases less than .5% WI) that Mitchell considering making it's best cash offer. I asked what your experience was in the area and you said that you had recently purchased an interest from Mobil for \$100 per acre and a 75% NRI% You said you would discuss it with management and call me back.

During our previous conversations of November 18, 1992 you took issue with Strata's proposal of \$300.00 per acre. The retained ORRI, the ORRI pooling provision and the depth limitation were not terms to which you stated any objection.

8). December 18, 1992 approximately 1400 hrs. - Telephone conversation.

I returned your call from my home and you informed me that Mitchell would pay Strata \$150 per acre with Strata retaining a 7.5% ORRI proportionately reduced. You said that Mitchell considered the \$150 per acre to be reasonable but with the condition that Strata agree to the retention of a lesser ORRI. I responded that I would recommend your terms to Strata's partners.

9). December 23, 1992 - approximately 1115 hrs - Telephone conversation.

I returned your call from my home and informed you that due to the holidays, I had been unable to contact all of Strata's partners. However, I had contacted the majority of them and they were agreeable to the terms proposed by Mitchell and Strata. You requested that I provide a Letter Agreement and I agreed to provide Strata's form.

10). January 4, 1993 1405-1415 hrs - Telephone conversation.

I called and informed you that I had completed the Letter Agreement and requested your fax number (915-682-6439). I specifically reviewed with you the ORRI pooling provision and you responded that you had failed to remind Mitchell's management of this provision when you presented your recommendation to purchase the Lease. I stated that this was a very important part of the consideration and that absent this condition we did not have a deal. You stated that I should finalize the Letter Agreement and forward same to you. In addition, you requested that you intended for the interval to be delivered to be from the surface to basement. You stated that you believed that you had previously said that you wanted from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation. I responded that I did not recall

your request for surface to the base of the Morrow and had assumed that Strata would deliver all rights. I informed you that the Letter Agreement had been drafted accordingly, thereby delivering all rights. You responded that you appreciated this and would await receipt of Strata's Letter Agreement.

- 11). Strata correspondence dated December 30, 1992 faxed to Mitchell Energy 1650 hrs 1-4-93.

Correspondence speaks for itself.

Note that the terms were identical to those proposed in Strata's correspondence dated December 9, 1992 and discussed by telephone as set forth in 8) and 10) above. The additional terms are consistent with industry practice and primarily address title, rental payment responsibility, reassignment and other reasonable requests including the sharing of geologic data.

- 12). Mitchell correspondence dated January 5, 1993.  
Correspondence speaks for itself.

- 13). January 5, 1993 approximately 0900 hrs - Telephone conversations.

I called you and asked why you had sent a Letter Agreement when I had already forwarded one per your request. You said that when you went back to management they informed you that they would not accept the ORRI pooling provision. You went on to say that they felt "blindsided". I responded that it was not my intent to blindside anybody and reminded you that we had discussed the ORRI pooling provision prior to me sending the Letter Agreement. You also stated that Mitchell did not intend to share the geologic information due to the lease expiration of the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 28. I responded that we would be most willing to sign a Confidentiality/Non Compete Agreement in order to alleviate any concern. However, the geologic data was important to us because of our lease position in the area specifically Section 33, T-20-S, R-33-E. You stated that you were instructed to draft the letter as presented and forward same to Strata. I responded that it did not contain the provisions we had previously agreed to. You said that it was Mitchell's position that it accurately reflected our agreement. I advised that I disagreed. You further stated that all previous terms and proposals including those in my 12-9-92 were now null and void. I said I did not know what Strata's partners would want to do. You advised that absent an agreement by the next day (Wednesday January 6, 1993) you would instruct your counsel to reschedule the force pooling hearing until the next

hearing date which you believed would be on or about January 21, 1993.

- 14). Strata correspondence dated January 6, 1993.  
Correspondence speaks for itself, but note that due to the failure of Mitchell to honor our verbal agreement Strata must reconsider all of it's options including participation in the well.
- 15). Mitchell correspondence dated January 7, 1993.  
Correspondence speaks for itself.

In order to clarify Strata's position and in an effort to accommodate Mitchell's desire to drill the Tomahawk "28" Fed Com Well #1 Strata offers, and subject to our partners approval the following:

- 1). Mitchell agrees to purchase all of Strata's right, title, and interest in Federal lease NM-82927 pursuant to the terms and conditions as set forth in Strata's Letter Agreement dated December 30, 1992. In addition, Strata will agree to execute either by amendment or separate agreement a mutually acceptable Confidentiality/Non Compete agreement as it pertains to the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 28.

I am unable to give any indication as to our desire to farmout or participate until I have the opportunity to review the JOA, evaluate your response to my questions concerning the COPAS overhead rates and receive a response from Mitchell to alternative 1. above.

Our proposal to sell expires at 5:00 p.m. Friday January 15, 1993 and is subject to partner approval. If we are unable to resolve this then I will provide you with a list of the leasehold partners and overriding royalty owners so that you can contact those individuals direct. Since you have had notice that these undisclosed owners exist we would ask that you grant another two (2) week continuance and notify these parties of your application. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours very truly,

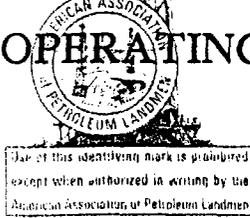
STRATA PRODUCTION COMPANY

  
Mark B. Murphy  
President

cc: Sealy H. Cavin Jr., Esq.  
MBM/mo

A.A.P.L. FORM 610-1982

MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT



OPERATING AGREEMENT

DATED

January 1 , 19 93 ,

OPERATOR MITCHELL ENERGY CORPORATION

CONTRACT AREA W/2 of Section 28, T-20-S, R-33-E

COUNTY ~~OR PARISH~~ OF Lea STATE OF New Mexico

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM  
LANDMEN, 4100 FOSSIL CREEK BLVD.  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76137, APPROVED FORM.  
A.A.P.L. NO. 610 - 1982 REVISED

BEFORE EXAMINER STOCHER
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
<u>Strata</u> EXHIBIT NO. <u>3</u>
CASE NO. <u>10656</u>

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ARTICLE III.  
INTERESTS OF PARTIES

A. Oil and Gas Interests:

If any party owns an oil and gas interest in the Contract Area, that interest shall be treated for all purposes of this agreement and during the term hereof as if it were covered by the form of oil and gas lease attached hereto as Exhibit "B", and the owner thereof shall be deemed to own both the royalty interest reserved in such lease and the interest of the lessee thereunder.

B. Interests of Parties in Costs and Production:

Unless changed by other provisions, all costs and liabilities incurred in operations under this agreement shall be borne and paid, and all equipment and materials acquired in operations on the Contract Area shall be owned, by the parties as their interests are set forth in Exhibit "A". In the same manner, the parties shall also own all production of oil and gas from the Contract Area subject to the payment of royalties to the extent of the royalties for each lease\* which shall be borne as hereinafter set forth.  
**\*as provided on Exhibit "A"**

Regardless of which party has contributed the lease(s) and/or oil and gas interest(s) hereto on which royalty is due and payable, each party entitled to receive a share of production of oil and gas from the Contract Area shall bear and shall pay or deliver, or cause to be paid or delivered, to the extent of its interest in such production, the royalty amount stipulated hereinabove and shall hold the other parties free from any liability therefor. No party shall ever be responsible, however, on a price basis higher than the price received by such party, to any other party's lessor or royalty owner, and if any such other party's lessor or royalty owner should demand and receive settlement on a higher price basis, the party contributing the affected lease shall bear the additional royalty burden attributable to such higher price.

Nothing contained in this Article III.B. shall be deemed an assignment or cross-assignment of interests covered hereby.

C. Excess Royalties, Overriding Royalties and Other Payments:

Unless changed by other provisions, if the interest of any party in any lease covered hereby is subject to any royalty, overriding royalty, production payment or other burden on production in excess of the amount stipulated in Article III.B., such party so burdened shall assume and alone bear all such excess obligations and shall indemnify and hold the other parties hereto harmless from any and all claims and demands for payment asserted by owners of such excess burden.

D. Subsequently Created Interests:

If any party should hereafter create an overriding royalty, production payment or other burden payable out of production attributable to its working interest hereunder, or if <sup>any</sup> such burden existed prior to this agreement and is not <sup>of record or</sup> set forth in Exhibit "A", or ~~is not disclosed in writing to all other parties prior to the execution of this agreement by independent contractors who are duly licensed and accepted obligations of practice~~ (any such interest being hereinafter referred to as "subsequently created interest" irrespective of the timing of its creation and the party out of whose working interest the subsequently created interest is derived being hereinafter referred to as "burdened party"), and:

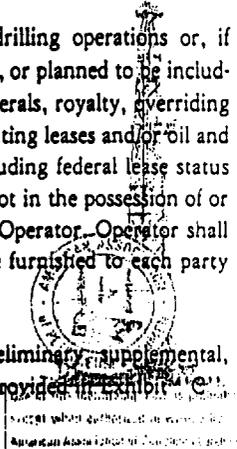
1. If the burdened party is required under this agreement to assign or relinquish to any other party, or parties, all or a portion of its working interest and/or the production attributable thereto, said other party, or parties, shall receive said assignment and/or production free and clear of said subsequently created interest and the burdened party shall indemnify and save said other party, or parties, harmless from any and all claims and demands for payment asserted by owners of the subsequently created interest; and,
2. If the burdened party fails to pay, when due, its share of expenses chargeable hereunder, all provisions of Article VII.B. shall be enforceable against the subsequently created interest in the same manner as they are enforceable against the working interest of the burdened party.

ARTICLE IV.  
TITLES

A. Title Examination:

Title examination shall be made on the drillsite of any proposed well prior to commencement of drilling operations or, if the Drilling Parties so request, title examination shall be made on the leases and/or oil and gas interests included, or planned to be included, in the drilling unit around such well. The opinion will include the ownership of the working interest, minerals, royalty, overriding royalty and production payments under the applicable leases. At the time a well is proposed, each party contributing leases and/or oil and gas interests to the drillsite, or to be included in such drilling unit, shall furnish to Operator all abstracts (including federal lease status reports), title opinions, title papers and curative material in its possession free of charge. All such information not in the possession of or made available to Operator by the parties, but necessary for the examination of the title, shall be obtained by Operator. Operator shall cause title to be examined by attorneys on its staff or by outside attorneys. Copies of all title opinions shall be furnished to each party hereto. The cost incurred by Operator in this title program shall be borne as follows:

Option No. 1: Costs incurred by Operator in procuring abstracts and title examination (including preliminary, supplemental, shut-in gas royalty opinions and division order title opinions) shall be a part of the administrative overhead as provided in Exhibit "C" and shall not be a direct charge, whether performed by Operator's staff attorneys or by outside attorneys.



ARTICLE IV  
continued

1  Option No. 2: Costs incurred by Operator in procuring abstracts and fees paid outside attorneys for title examination  
2 (including preliminary, supplemental, shut-in gas royalty opinions and division order title opinions) shall be borne by the Drilling Parties  
3 in the proportion that the interest of each Drilling Party bears to the total interest of all Drilling Parties as such interests appear in Ex-  
4 hibit "A". Operator shall make no charge for services rendered by its staff attorneys or other personnel in the performance of the above  
5 functions.  
6

7 Each party shall be responsible for securing curative matter and pooling amendments or agreements required in connection  
8 with leases or oil and gas interests contributed by such party. Operator shall be responsible for the preparation and recording of pooling  
9 designations or declarations as well as the conduct of hearings before governmental agencies for the securing of spacing or pooling orders.  
10 This shall not prevent any party from appearing on its own behalf at any such hearing.  
11

12 No well shall be drilled on the Contract Area until after (1) the title to the drillsite or drilling unit has been examined as above  
13 provided, and (2) the title has been approved by the examining attorney or title has been accepted by all of the parties who are to par-  
14 ticipate in the drilling of the well.  
15

16 **B. Loss of Title:**

17  
18 ~~1. Failure of Title: Should any oil and gas interest or lease, or interest therein, be lost through failure of title, which loss results in a~~  
19 ~~reduction of interest from that shown on Exhibit "A", the party contributing the affected lease or interest shall have ninety (90) days~~  
20 ~~from final determination of title failure to acquire a new lease or other instrument curing the entirety of the title failure, which acquisi-~~  
21 ~~tion will not be subject to Article VIII.B., and failing to do so, this agreement, nevertheless, shall continue in force as to all remaining oil~~  
22 ~~and gas leases and interests; and,~~

23 ~~(a) The party whose oil and gas lease or interest is affected by the title failure shall bear alone the entire loss and it shall not be~~  
24 ~~entitled to recover from Operator or the other parties any development or operating costs which it may have theretofore paid or incurred,~~  
25 ~~but there shall be no additional liability on its part to the other parties hereto by reason of such title failure;~~

26 ~~(b) There shall be no retroactive adjustment of expenses incurred or revenues received from the operation of the interest which has~~  
27 ~~been lost, but the interests of the parties shall be revised on an acreage basis, as of the time it is determined finally that title failure has oc-~~  
28 ~~curred, so that the interest of the party whose lease or interest is affected by the title failure will thereafter be reduced in the Contract~~  
29 ~~Area by the amount of the interest lost;~~

30 ~~(c) If the proportionate interest of the other parties hereto in any producing well theretofore drilled on the Contract Area is~~  
31 ~~increased by reason of the title failure, the party whose title has failed shall receive the proceeds attributable to the increase in such in-~~  
32 ~~terest (less costs and burdens attributable thereto) until it has been reimbursed for unrecovered costs paid by it in connection with such~~  
33 ~~well;~~

34 ~~(d) Should any person not a party to this agreement, who is determined to be the owner of any interest in the title which has~~  
35 ~~failed, pay in any manner any part of the cost of operation, development, or equipment, such amount shall be paid to the party or parties~~  
36 ~~who bore the costs which are so refunded;~~

37 ~~(e) Any liability to account to a third party for prior production of oil and gas which arises by reason of title failure shall be~~  
38 ~~borne by the party or parties whose title failed in the same proportions in which they shared in such prior production; and,~~

39 ~~(f) No charge shall be made to the joint account for legal expenses, fees or salaries, in connection with the defense of the interest~~  
40 ~~claimed by any party hereto, it being the intention of the parties hereto that each shall defend title to its interest and bear all expenses in~~  
41 ~~connection therewith.~~

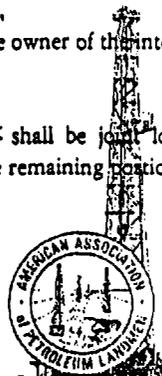
42  
43 ~~2. Loss by Non-Payment or Erroneous Payment of Amount Due: If, through mistake or oversight, any rental, shut-in well~~  
44 ~~payment, minimum royalty or royalty payment, is not paid or is erroneously paid, and as a result a lease or interest therein terminates,~~  
45 ~~there shall be no monetary liability against the party who failed to make such payment. Unless the party who failed to make the required~~  
46 ~~payment secures a new lease covering the same interest within ninety (90) days from the discovery of the failure to make proper payment,~~  
47 ~~which acquisition will not be subject to Article VIII.B., the interests of the parties shall be revised on an acreage basis, effective as of the~~  
48 ~~date of termination of the lease involved, and the party who failed to make proper payment will no longer be credited with an interest in~~  
49 ~~the Contract Area on account of ownership of the lease or interest which has terminated. In the event the party who failed to make the~~  
50 ~~required payment shall not have been fully reimbursed, at the time of the loss, from the proceeds of the sale of oil and gas attributable to~~  
51 ~~the lost interest, calculated on an acreage basis, for the development and operating costs theretofore paid on account of such interest, it~~  
52 ~~shall be reimbursed for unrecovered actual costs theretofore paid by it (but not for its share of the cost of any dry hole previously drilled~~  
53 ~~or wells previously abandoned) from so much of the following as is necessary to effect reimbursement:~~

54 ~~(a) Proceeds of oil and gas, less operating expenses, theretofore accrued to the credit of the lost interest, on an acreage basis,~~  
55 ~~up to the amount of unrecovered costs;~~

56 ~~(b) Proceeds, less operating expenses, thereafter accrued attributable to the lost interest on an acreage basis, of that portion of~~  
57 ~~oil and gas thereafter produced and marketed (excluding production from any wells thereafter drilled) which, in the absence of such lease~~  
58 ~~termination, would be attributable to the lost interest on an acreage basis, up to the amount of unrecovered costs, the proceeds of said~~  
59 ~~portion of the oil and gas to be contributed by the other parties in proportion to their respective interests; and,~~

60 ~~(c) Any monies, up to the amount of unrecovered costs, that may be paid by any party who is, or becomes, the owner of the interest~~  
61 ~~lost, for the privilege of participating in the Contract Area or becoming a party to this agreement.~~

62  
63 3. Other Losses: All losses incurred, ~~which are not covered by Article IV.B.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70,~~ shall be joint losses  
64 and shall be borne by all parties in proportion to their interests. There shall be no readjustment of interests in the remaining portion of  
65 the Contract Area.  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70



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American Association of Petroleum Landmen

ARTICLE V.  
OPERATOR

A. Designation and Responsibilities of Operator:

Mitchell Energy Corporation shall be the Operator of the Contract Area, and shall conduct and direct and have full control of all operations on the Contract Area as permitted and required by, and within the limits of this agreement. It shall conduct all such operations in a good and workmanlike manner, but it shall have no liability as Operator to the other parties\* for losses sustained or liabilities incurred,\*\* except such as may result from gross negligence or willful misconduct.

\* , their officers, employees, and/or agents  
\*\*whether or not due to negligence of Operator

B. Resignation or Removal of Operator and Selection of Successor:

1. Resignation or Removal of Operator: Operator may resign at any time by giving written notice thereof to Non-Operators. If Operator terminates its legal existence, no longer owns an interest hereunder in the Contract Area, or is no longer capable of serving as Operator, Operator shall be deemed to have resigned without any action by Non-Operators, except the selection of a successor. Operator may be removed if ~~it fails to carry out its duties hereunder, or becomes insolvent, bankrupt or is placed in receivership, by the affirmative vote of two (2) or more Non-Operators owning a majority interest based on ownership as shown on Exhibit "A" remaining after excluding the voting interest of Operator.~~ <sup>there is a finding by a court of competent jurisdiction that it has failed or refused to carry out its duties hereunder, or becomes insolvent, bankrupt or is placed in receivership, by the affirmative vote of the party or parties</sup> Such resignation or removal shall not become effective until 7:00 o'clock A.M. on the first day of the calendar month following the expiration of ninety (90) days after the giving of notice of resignation by Operator or action by the Non-Operators to remove Operator, unless a successor Operator has been selected and assumes the duties of Operator at an earlier date. Operator, after effective date of resignation or removal, shall be bound by the terms hereof as a Non-Operator. A change of a corporate name or structure of Operator or transfer of Operator's interest to any single subsidiary, parent or successor corporation shall not be the basis for removal of Operator.

2. Selection of Successor Operator: Upon the resignation or removal of Operator, a successor Operator shall be selected by the parties. The successor Operator shall be selected from the parties owning an interest in the Contract Area at the time such successor Operator is selected. The successor Operator shall be selected by the affirmative vote of ~~two (2) or more parties~~ <sup>the party or parties</sup> owning a majority interest based on ownership as shown on Exhibit "A"; provided, however, if an Operator which has been removed fails to vote or votes only to succeed itself, the successor Operator shall be selected by the affirmative vote of ~~two (2) or more parties~~ <sup>the party or parties</sup> owning a majority interest based on ownership as shown on Exhibit "A" remaining after excluding the voting interest of the Operator that was removed.

C. Employees:

The number of employees used by Operator in conducting operations hereunder, their selection, and the hours of labor and the compensation for services performed shall be determined by Operator, and all such employees shall be the employees of Operator.

D. Drilling Contracts:

All wells drilled on the Contract Area shall be drilled on a competitive contract basis at the usual rates prevailing in the area. If it so desires, Operator may employ its own tools and equipment in the drilling of wells, but its charges therefor shall not exceed the prevailing rates in the area ~~and the rate of risk charges shall be agreed upon by the parties preceding the drilling operations~~ and such work shall be performed by Operator under the same terms and conditions as are customary and usual in the area in independent contractors who are doing work of a similar nature.

ARTICLE VI.  
DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Initial Well:

On or before the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, Operator shall commence the drilling of a well for oil and gas at the following location:

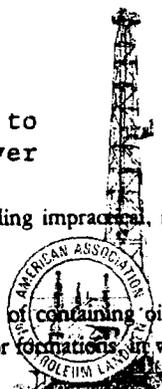
1,980 feet FWL and 1,650 feet FNL of Section 28,  
T-20-S, R-33-E, Lea County, New Mexico

and shall thereafter continue the drilling of the well with due diligence to

approximately 14,300 feet or a depth sufficient to test and evaluate the Morrow formation, whichever is the lesser depth

unless granite or other practically impenetrable substance or condition in the hole, which renders further drilling impractical, is encountered at a lesser depth, or unless all parties agree to complete or abandon the well at a lesser depth.

Operator shall make reasonable tests of all formations encountered during drilling which give indication of containing oil and gas in quantities sufficient to test, unless this agreement shall be limited in its application to a specific formation or formations, in which event Operator shall be required to test only the formation or formations to which this agreement may apply.



**ARTICLE VI**  
continued

If, in Operator's judgment, the well will not produce oil or gas in paying quantities, and it wishes to plug and abandon the well as a dry hole, the provisions of Article VI.E.1. shall thereafter apply.

**B. Subsequent Operations:**

1. **Proposed Operations:** Should any party hereto desire to drill any well on the Contract Area other than the well provided for in Article VI.A., or to rework, deepen or plug back a dry hole drilled at the joint expense of all parties or a well jointly owned by all the parties and not then producing in paying quantities, the party desiring to drill, rework, deepen or plug back such a well shall give the other parties written notice of the proposed operation, specifying the work to be performed, the location, proposed depth, objective formation and the estimated cost of the operation. The parties receiving such a notice shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice within which to notify the party wishing to do the work whether they elect to participate in the cost of the proposed operation. If a drilling rig is on location, notice of a proposal to rework, plug back or drill deeper may be given by telephone and the response shall reach within forty-eight (48) hours, ~~exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays~~. Failure of a party receiving such notice to reply within the period above fixed shall constitute an election by that party not to participate in the cost of the proposed operation. Any notice or response given by telephone shall be promptly confirmed in writing. Operator shall use its best efforts to provide Non-Operators 24 hours advance notice of any work to be conducted on Saturday, Sunday & Legal Holidays.

If all parties elect to participate in such a proposed operation, Operator shall, within ninety (90) days after expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as promptly as possible after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case may be), actually commence the proposed operation and complete it with due diligence at the risk and expense of all parties hereto; provided, however, said commencement date may be extended upon written notice of same by Operator to the other parties, for a period of up to thirty (30) additional days if, in the sole opinion of Operator, such additional time is reasonably necessary to obtain permits from governmental authorities, surface rights (including rights-of-way) or appropriate drilling equipment, or to complete title examination or curative matter required for title approval or acceptance. Notwithstanding the force majeure provisions of Article XI, if the actual operation has not been commenced within the time provided (including any extension thereof as specifically permitted herein) and if any party hereto still desires to conduct said operation, written notice proposing same must be resubmitted to the other parties in accordance with the provisions hereof as if no prior proposal had been made.

2. **Operations by Less than All Parties:** If any party receiving such notice as provided in Article VI.B.1. or VII.D.1. (Option No. 2) elects not to participate in the proposed operation, then, in order to be entitled to the benefits of this Article, the party or parties giving the notice and such other parties as shall elect to participate in the operation shall, within ninety (90) days after the expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as promptly as possible after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case may be) actually commence the proposed operation and complete it with due diligence. Operator shall perform all work for the account of the Consenting Parties; provided, however, if no drilling rig or other equipment is on location, and if Operator is a Non-Consenting Party, the Consenting Parties shall either: (a) request Operator to perform the work required by such proposed operation for the account of the Consenting Parties, or (b) designate one (1) of the Consenting Parties as Operator to perform such work. Consenting Parties, when conducting operations on the Contract Area pursuant to this Article VI.B.2., shall comply with all terms and conditions of this agreement. See Article XV-A for modification to this Article VI.B.2.

If less than all parties approve any proposed operation, the proposing party, immediately after the expiration of the applicable notice period, shall advise the Consenting Parties of the total interest of the parties approving such operation and its recommendation as to whether the Consenting Parties should proceed with the operation as proposed. Each Consenting Party, within forty-eight (48) hours ~~(exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays)~~ after receipt of such notice, shall advise the proposing party of its desire to (a) limit participation to such party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" or (b) carry its proportionate part of Non-Consenting Parties' interests, and failure to advise the proposing party shall be deemed an election under (a). In the event a drilling rig is on location, the time permitted for such a response shall not exceed a total of forty-eight (48) hours (inclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays). The proposing party, at its election, may withdraw such proposal if there is insufficient participation and shall promptly notify all parties of such decision.

The entire cost and risk of conducting such operations shall be borne by the Consenting Parties in the proportions they have elected to bear same under the terms of the preceding paragraph. Consenting Parties shall keep the leasehold estates involved in such operations free and clear of all liens and encumbrances of every kind created by or arising from the operations of the Consenting Parties. If such an operation results in a dry hole, the Consenting Parties shall plug and abandon the well and restore the surface location at their sole cost, risk and expense. If any well drilled, reworked, deepened or plugged back under the provisions of this Article results in a producer of oil and/or gas in paying quantities, the Consenting Parties shall complete and equip the well to produce at their sole cost and risk,



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ARTICLE VI  
continued

1 and the well shall then be turned over to Operator and shall be operated by it at the expense and for the account of the Consenting Parties. Upon commencement of operations for the drilling, reworking, deepening or plugging back of any such well by Consenting Parties  
2 in accordance with the provisions of this Article, each Non-Consenting Party shall be deemed to have relinquished to Consenting Parties,  
3 and the Consenting Parties shall own and be entitled to receive, in proportion to their respective interests, all of such Non-Consenting  
4 Party's interest in the well and share of production therefrom until the proceeds of the sale of such share, calculated at the well, or  
5 market value thereof if such share is not sold, (after deducting production taxes, excise taxes, royalty, overriding royalty and other in-  
6 terests not excepted by Article III.D. payable out of or measured by the production from such well accruing with respect to such interest  
7 until it reverts) shall equal the total of the following:  
8

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11  
12 (a) 100% of each such Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of any newly acquired surface equipment beyond the wellhead  
13 connections (including, but not limited to, stock tanks, separators, treaters, pumping equipment and piping), plus 100% of each such  
14 Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of operation of the well commencing with first production and continuing until each such Non-  
15 Consenting Party's relinquished interest shall revert to it under other provisions of this Article, it being agreed that each Non-  
16 Consenting Party's share of such costs and equipment will be that interest which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting  
17 Party had it participated in the well from the beginning of the operations; and  
18

19  
20  
21 (b) 300 % of that portion of the costs and expenses of drilling, reworking, deepening, plugging back, testing and completing,  
22 after deducting any cash contributions received under Article VIII.C., and 300 % of that portion of the cost of newly acquired equip-  
23 ment in the well (to and including the wellhead connections), which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party if it had  
24 participated therein.  
25

26  
27  
28 An election not to participate in the drilling or the deepening of a well shall be deemed an election not to participate in any re-  
29 working or plugging back operation proposed in such a well, or portion thereof, to which the initial Non-Consent election applied that is  
30 conducted at any time prior to full recovery by the Consenting Parties of the Non-Consenting Party's recoupment account. Any such  
31 reworking or plugging back operation conducted during the recoupment period shall be deemed part of the cost of operation of said well  
32 and there shall be added to the sums to be recouped by the Consenting Parties one hundred percent (100%) of that portion of the costs of  
33 the reworking or plugging back operation which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party had it participated therein. If  
34 such a reworking or plugging back operation is proposed during such recoupment period, the provisions of this Article VI.B. shall be ap-  
35 plicable as between said Consenting Parties in said well.  
36

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38  
39 During the period of time Consenting Parties are entitled to receive Non-Consenting Party's share of production, or the  
40 proceeds therefrom, Consenting Parties shall be responsible for the payment of all production, severance, excise, gathering and other  
41 taxes, and all royalty, overriding royalty and other burdens applicable to Non-Consenting Party's share of production not excepted by Ar-  
42 ticle III.D.  
43

44  
45  
46 In the case of any reworking, plugging back or deeper drilling operation, the Consenting Parties shall be permitted to use, free  
47 of cost, all casing, tubing and other equipment in the well, but the ownership of all such equipment shall remain unchanged; and upon  
48 abandonment of a well after such reworking, plugging back or deeper drilling, the Consenting Parties shall account for all such equip-  
49 ment to the owners thereof, with each party receiving its proportionate part in kind or in value, less cost of salvage.  
50

51  
52  
53 Within sixty (60) days after the completion of any operation under this Article, the party conducting the operations for the  
54 Consenting Parties shall furnish each Non-Consenting Party with an inventory of the equipment in and connected to the well, and an  
55 itemized statement of the cost of drilling, deepening, plugging back, testing, completing, and equipping the well for production; or, at its  
56 option, the operating party, in lieu of an itemized statement of such costs of operation, may submit a detailed statement of monthly bill-  
57 ings. Each month thereafter, during the time the Consenting Parties are being reimbursed as provided above, the party conducting the  
58 operations for the Consenting Parties shall furnish the Non-Consenting Parties with an itemized statement of all costs and liabilities in-  
59 curred in the operation of the well, together with a statement of the quantity of oil and gas produced from it and the amount of proceeds  
60 realized from the sale of the well's working interest production during the preceding month. In determining the quantity of oil and gas  
61 produced during any month, Consenting Parties shall use industry accepted methods such as, but not limited to, metering or periodic  
62 well tests. Any amount realized from the sale or other disposition of equipment newly acquired in connection with any such operation  
63 which would have been owned by a Non-Consenting Party had it participated therein shall be credited against the total unreturned costs  
64 of the work done and of the equipment purchased in determining when the interest of such Non-Consenting Party shall revert to it as  
65 above provided; and if there is a credit balance, it shall be paid to such Non-Consenting Party.  
66



ARTICLE VI  
continued

1 If and when the Consenting Parties recover from a Non-Consenting Party's relinquished interest the amounts provided for above,  
2 the relinquished interests of such Non-Consenting Party shall automatically revert to it, and, from and after such reversion, such Non-  
3 Consenting Party shall own the same interest in such well, the material and equipment in or pertaining thereto, and the production  
4 therefrom as such Non-Consenting Party would have been entitled to had it participated in the drilling, reworking, deepening or plugging  
5 back of said well. Thereafter, such Non-Consenting Party shall be charged with and shall pay its proportionate part of the further costs of  
6 the operation of said well in accordance with the terms of this agreement and the Accounting Procedure attached hereto.

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10 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article VI.B.2., it is agreed that without the mutual consent of all parties, no wells shall  
11 be completed in or produced from a source of supply from which a well located elsewhere on the Contract Area is producing, unless such  
12 well conforms to the then-existing well spacing pattern for such source of supply.

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15  
16 The provisions of this Article shall have no application whatsoever to the drilling of the initial well described in Article VI.A.  
17 except (a) as to Article VII.D.1. (Option No. 2), if selected, or (b) as to the reworking, deepening and plugging back of such initial well  
18 after it has been drilled to the depth specified in Article VI.A. If it shall thereafter prove to be a dry hole or, if initially completed for pro-  
19 duction, ceases to produce in paying quantities.

20  
21  
22  
23 3. Stand-By Time: When a well which has been drilled or deepened has reached its authorized depth and all tests have been  
24 completed, and the results thereof furnished to the parties, stand-by costs incurred pending response to a party's notice proposing a  
25 reworking, deepening, plugging back or completing operation in such a well shall be charged and borne as part of the drilling or deepening  
26 operation just completed. Stand-by costs subsequent to all parties responding, or expiration of the response time permitted, whichever  
27 first occurs, and prior to agreement as to the participating interests of all Consenting Parties pursuant to the terms of the second gram-  
28 matical paragraph of Article VI.B.2., shall be charged to and borne as part of the proposed operation, but if the proposal is subsequently  
29 withdrawn because of insufficient participation, such stand-by costs shall be allocated between the Consenting Parties in the proportion  
30 each Consenting Party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all Consenting Par-  
31 ties.

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34  
35 4. Sidetracking: Except as hereinafter provided, those provisions of this agreement applicable to a "deepening" operation shall  
36 also be applicable to any proposal to directionally control and intentionally deviate a well from vertical so as to change the bottom hole  
37 location (herein called "sidetracking"), unless done to straighten the hole or to drill around junk in the hole or because of other  
38 mechanical difficulties. Any party having the right to participate in a proposed sidetracking operation that does not own an interest in the  
39 affected well bore at the time of the notice shall, upon electing to participate, tender to the well bore owners its proportionate share (equal  
40 to its interest in the sidetracking operation) of the value of that portion of the existing well bore to be utilized as follows:

41  
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43  
44 (a) If the proposal is for sidetracking an existing dry hole, reimbursement shall be on the basis of the actual costs incurred in  
45 the initial drilling of the well down to the depth at which the sidetracking operation is initiated.

46  
47  
48  
49 (b) If the proposal is for sidetracking a well which has previously produced, reimbursement shall be on the basis of the well's  
50 salvable materials and equipment down to the depth at which the sidetracking operation is initiated, determined in accordance with the  
51 provisions of Exhibit "C", less the estimated cost of salvaging and the estimated cost of plugging and abandoning.

52  
53  
54  
55 In the event that notice for a sidetracking operation is given while the drilling rig to be utilized is on location, the response period  
56 shall be limited to forty-eight (48) hours, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays; provided, however, any party may request and  
57 receive up to eight (8) additional days after expiration of the forty-eight (48) hours within which to respond by paying for all stand-by time  
58 incurred during such extended response period. If more than one party elects to take such additional time to respond to the notice, stand-  
59 by costs shall be allocated between the parties taking additional time to respond on a day-to-day basis in the proportion each electing par-  
60 ty's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all the electing parties. In all other in-  
61 stances the response period to a proposal for sidetracking shall be limited to thirty (30) days. See Article XV, Item (L).

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64  
65 C. TAKING PRODUCTION IN KIND:

66  
67 Each party shall <sup>have the right to</sup> take in kind or separately dispose of its proportionate share of all oil and gas produced from the Contract Area,  
68 exclusive of production which may be used in development and producing operations and in preparing and treating oil and gas for  
69 marketing purposes and production unavoidably lost. Any extra expenditure incurred in the taking in kind or separate disposition by any  
70 party of its proportionate share of the production shall be borne by such party. Any party taking its share of production in kind shall be

ARTICLE VI  
continued

1 required to pay for only its proportionate share of such part of Operator's surface facilities which it uses.

2  
3 Each party shall execute such division orders and contracts as may be necessary for the sale of its interest in production from  
4 the Contract Area, and, except as provided in Article VII.B., shall be entitled to receive payment directly from the purchaser thereof for  
5 its share of all production.

6  
7 In the event any party shall fail to make the arrangements necessary to take in kind or separately dispose of its proportionate share of  
8 the oil produced from the Contract Area, Operator shall have the right, subject to the revocation at will by the party owning it, but not  
9 the obligation, to purchase such oil or sell it to others at any time and from time to time, for the account of the non-taking party at the  
10 best price reasonably obtainable under the circumstances in the area for such production. Any such purchase or sale by Operator shall be subject always to the right of the  
11 owner of the production to exercise at any time its right to take in kind, or separately dispose of, its share of all oil not previously  
12 delivered to a purchaser. Any purchase or sale by Operator of any other party's share of oil shall be only for such reasonable periods of  
13 time as are consistent with the minimum needs of the industry under the particular circumstances, but in no event for a period in excess  
14 of one (1) year.

15  
16 In the event one or more parties' separate disposition of its share of the gas causes split-stream deliveries to separate pipelines and/or  
17 deliveries which on a day-to-day basis for any reason are not exactly equal to a party's respective proportionate share of total gas sales to  
18 be allocated to it, the balancing or accounting between the respective accounts of the parties shall be in accordance with any gas balancing  
19 agreement between the parties hereto, whether such an agreement is attached as Exhibit "E", or is a separate agreement.  
20 See Article XV, Item (M).

21 D. Access to Contract Area and Information:

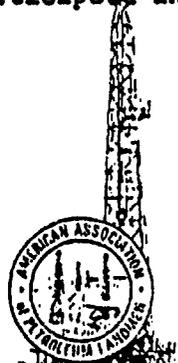
22  
23 Each party shall have access to the Contract Area at all reasonable times, at its sole cost and risk to inspect or observe operations,  
24 and shall have access at reasonable times to information pertaining to the development or operation thereof, including Operator's books  
25 and records relating thereto. Operator, upon request, shall furnish each of the other parties with copies of all forms or reports filed with  
26 governmental agencies, daily drilling reports, well logs, tank tables, daily gauge and run tickets and reports of stock on hand at the first of  
27 each month, and shall make available samples of any cores or cuttings taken from any well drilled on the Contract Area. The cost of  
28 gathering and furnishing information to Non-Operator, other than that specified above, shall be charged to the Non-Operator that re-  
29 quests the information. See Article XV, Item (N).

30  
31 E. Abandonment of Wells:

32  
33 1. Abandonment of Dry Holes: Except for any well drilled or deepened pursuant to Article VI.B.2., any well which has been  
34 drilled or deepened under the terms of this agreement and is proposed to be completed as a dry hole shall not be plugged and abandoned  
35 without the consent of ~~the~~ such participating in the drilling of such well parties. Should Operator, after diligent effort, be unable to contact any party, or should any party fail to reply  
36 within forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) after receipt of notice of the proposal to plug and abandon  
37 such well, such party shall be deemed to have consented to the proposed abandonment. All such wells shall be plugged and abandoned in  
38 accordance with applicable regulations and at the cost, risk and expense of the parties who participated in the cost of drilling or deepening  
39 such well. Any party who objects to plugging and abandoning such well shall have the right to take over the well and conduct further  
40 operations in search of oil and/or gas subject to the provisions of Article VI.B.

41  
42 2. Abandonment of Wells that have Produced: Except for any well in which a Non-Consent operation has been conducted  
43 hereunder for which the Consenting Parties have not been fully reimbursed as herein provided, any well which has been completed as a well  
44 producer shall not be plugged and abandoned without the consent of ~~the~~ such owning a current interest in such well parties. If all parties consent to such abandonment, the well shall  
45 be plugged and abandoned in accordance with applicable regulations and at the cost, risk and expense of ~~the~~ such the parties hereto. If, within  
46 thirty (30) days after receipt of notice of the proposed abandonment of any well, all parties do not agree to the abandonment of such well,  
47 those wishing to continue its operation from the interval(s) of the formation(s) then open to production shall tender to each of the other  
48 parties ~~its~~ ~~proportionate~~ ~~share~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~value~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~well's~~ ~~salvageable~~ ~~material~~ ~~and~~ ~~equipment~~, determined in accordance with the provisions of  
49 Exhibit "C", less the estimated cost of salvaging and the estimated cost of plugging and abandoning. Each abandoning party shall assign  
50 the non-abandoning parties, without warranty, express or implied, as to title or as to quantity, or fitness for use of the equipment and  
51 material, all of its interest in the well and related equipment, together with its interest in the leasehold estate as to, but only as to, the in-  
52 terval or intervals of the formation or formations then open to production. If the interest of the abandoning party is or includes an oil and  
53 gas interest, such party shall execute and deliver to the non-abandoning party or parties an oil and gas lease, limited to the interval or in-  
54 tervals of the formation or formations then open to production, for a term of one (1) year and so long thereafter as oil and/or gas is pro-  
55 duced from the interval or intervals of the formation or formations covered thereby, such lease to be on the form attached as Exhibit  
56

57  
58 \*Failure of a party to respond within the 30 day period provided for the proposed  
59 abandonment shall be deemed to be an election by that party to participate in the  
60 abandonment of such well.



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**ARTICLE VI**  
continued

1 "B". The assignments or leases so limited shall encompass the "drilling unit" upon which the well is located. The payments by, and the  
2 assignments or leases to, the assignees shall be in a ratio based upon the relationship of their respective percentage of participation in the  
3 Contract Area to the aggregate of the percentages of participation in the Contract Area of all assignees. There shall be no readjustment of  
4 interests in the remaining portion of the Contract Area.  
5

6 Thereafter, abandoning parties shall have no further responsibility, liability, or interest in the operation of or production from  
7 the well in the interval or intervals then open other than the royalties retained in any lease made under the terms of this Article. Upon re-  
8 quest, Operator shall continue to operate the assigned well for the account of the non-abandoning parties at the rates and charges con-  
9 templated by this agreement, plus any additional cost and charges which may arise as the result of the separate ownership of the assigned  
10 well. Upon proposed abandonment of the producing interval(s) assigned or leased, the assignor or lessor shall then have the option to  
11 repurchase its prior interest in the well (using the same valuation formula) and participate in further operations therein subject to the pro-  
12 visions hereof.  
13

14 3. Abandonment of Non-Consent Operations: The provisions of Article VI.E.1. or VI.E.2. above shall be applicable as between  
15 Consenting Parties in the event of the proposed abandonment of any well excepted from said Articles; provided, however, no well shall be  
16 permanently plugged and abandoned unless and until all parties having the right to conduct further operations therein have been notified  
17 of the proposed abandonment and afforded the opportunity to elect to take over the well in accordance with the provisions of this Article  
18 VI.E.  
19

**ARTICLE VII.**  
**EXPENDITURES AND LIABILITY OF PARTIES**

23 **A. Liability of Parties:**  
24

25 The liability of the parties shall be several, not joint or collective. Each party shall be responsible only for its obligations, and  
26 shall be liable only for its proportionate share of the costs of developing and operating the Contract Area. Accordingly, the liens granted  
27 among the parties in Article VII.B. are given to secure only the debts of each severally. It is not the intention of the parties to create, nor  
28 shall this agreement be construed as creating, a mining or other partnership or association, or to render the parties liable as partners.  
29

30 **B. Liens and Payment Defaults: (Also See Exhibit "H")**  
31

32 Each Non-Operator grants to Operator a lien upon its oil and gas rights in the Contract Area, and a security interest in its share  
33 of oil and/or gas when extracted and its interest in all equipment, to secure payment of its share of expense, together with interest thereon  
34 at the rate provided in Exhibit "C". To the extent that Operator has a security interest under the Uniform Commercial Code of the  
35 state, Operator shall be entitled to exercise the rights and remedies of a secured party under the Code. The bringing of a suit and the ob-  
36 taining of judgment by Operator for the secured indebtedness shall not be deemed an election of remedies or otherwise affect the lien  
37 rights or security interest as security for the payment thereof. In addition, upon default by any Non-Operator in the payment of its share  
38 of expense, Operator shall have the right, without prejudice to other rights or remedies, to collect from the purchaser the proceeds from  
39 the sale of such Non-Operator's share of oil and/or gas until the amount owed by such Non-Operator, plus interest, has been paid. Each  
40 purchaser shall be entitled to rely upon Operator's written statement concerning the amount of any default. Operator grants a like lien  
41 and security interest to the Non-Operators to secure payment of Operator's proportionate share of expense. See Article XV,  
42 Item (O).

43 ~~If any party fails or is unable to pay its share of expense within sixty (60) days after rendition of a statement therefor by~~  
44 ~~Operator, the non-defaulting parties, including Operator, shall, upon request by Operator, pay the unpaid amount in the proportion that~~  
45 ~~the interest of each such party bears to the interest of all such parties. Each party so paying its share of the unpaid amount shall, to obtain~~  
46 ~~reimbursement thereof, be subrogated to the security rights described in the foregoing paragraph. See Article XV, Item (P).~~  
47

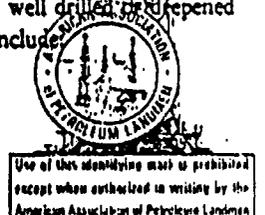
48 **C. Payments and Accounting:**  
49

50 Except as herein otherwise specifically provided, Operator shall promptly pay and discharge expenses incurred in the development  
51 and operation of the Contract Area pursuant to this agreement and shall charge each of the parties hereto with their respective propor-  
52 tionate shares upon the expense basis provided in Exhibit "C". Operator shall keep an accurate record of the joint account hereunder,  
53 showing expenses incurred and charges and credits made and received.  
54

55 Operator, at its election, shall have the right from time to time to demand and receive from the other parties payment in advance  
56 of their respective shares of the estimated amount of the expense to be incurred in operations hereunder during the next succeeding  
57 month, which right may be exercised only by submission to each such party of an itemized statement of such estimated expense, together  
58 with an invoice for its share thereof. Each such statement and invoice for the payment in advance of estimated expense shall be submitted  
59 on or before the 20th day of the next preceding month. Each party shall pay to Operator its proportionate share of such estimate within  
60 fifteen (15) days after such estimate and invoice is received. If any party fails to pay its share of said estimate within said time, the amount  
61 due shall bear interest as provided in Exhibit "C" until paid. Proper adjustment shall be made monthly between advances and actual ex-  
62 penses to the end that each party shall bear and pay its proportionate share of actual expenses incurred, and no more.  
63

64 **D. Limitation of Expenditures:**  
65

66 1. Drill or Deepen: Without the consent of all parties, no well shall be drilled or deepened, except any well drilled or deepened  
67 pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2. of this agreement. Consent to the drilling or deepening shall include  
68  
69  
70



ARTICLE VII

continued

Option No. 1: All necessary expenditures for the drilling or deepening, testing, completing and equipping of the well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities.

Option No. 2: All necessary expenditures for the drilling or deepening and testing of the well. When such well has reached its authorized depth, and all tests have been completed, and the results thereof furnished to the parties, Operator shall give immediate notice to the Non-Operators who have the right to participate in the completion costs. The parties receiving such notice shall have forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) in which to elect to participate in the setting of casing and the completion attempt. Such election, when made, shall include consent to all necessary expenditures for the completing and equipping of such well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities. Failure of any party receiving such notice to reply within the period above fixed shall constitute an election by that party not to participate in the cost of the completion attempt. If one or more, but less than all of the parties, elect to set pipe and to attempt a completion, the provisions of Article VI.B.2. hereof (the phrase "reworking, deepening or plugging back" as contained in Article VI.B.2. shall be deemed to include "completing") shall apply to the operations thereafter conducted by less than all parties.

2. Rework or Plug Back: Without the consent of all parties, no well shall be reworked or plugged back except a well reworked or plugged back pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2. of this agreement. Consent to the reworking or plugging back of a well shall include all necessary expenditures in conducting such operations and completing and equipping of said well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities.

3. Other Operations: Without the consent of all parties, Operator shall not undertake any single project reasonably estimated to require an expenditure in excess of Twenty Thousand and no/100----- Dollars (\$ 20,000.00) except in connection with a well, the drilling, reworking, deepening, completing, recompleting, or plugging back of which has been previously authorized by or pursuant to this agreement; provided, however, that, in case of explosion, fire, flood or other sudden emergency, whether of the same or different nature, Operator may take such steps and incur such expenses as in its opinion are required to deal with the emergency to safeguard life and property but Operator, as promptly as possible, shall report the emergency to the other parties. If Operator prepares an authority for expenditure (AFE) for its own use, Operator shall furnish any Non-Operator so requesting an information copy thereof for any single project costing in excess of Twenty Thousand and no/100----- Dollars (\$ 20,000.00) but less than the amount first set forth above in this paragraph.

E. Rentals, Shut-in Well Payments and Minimum Royalties:

Rentals, shut-in well payments and minimum royalties which may be required under the terms of any lease shall be paid by the party or parties who subjected such lease to this agreement at its or their expense. In the event two or more parties own and have contributed interests in the same lease to this agreement, such parties may designate one of such parties to make said payments for and on behalf of all such parties. Any party may request, and shall be entitled to receive, proper evidence of all such payments. In the event of failure to make proper payment of any rental, shut-in well payment or minimum royalty through mistake or oversight where such payment is required to continue the lease in force, any loss which results from such non-payment shall be borne in accordance with the provisions of Article ~~IV.B.2~~ IV.B.3.

Operator shall notify Non-Operator of the anticipated completion of a shut-in gas well, or the shutting in or return to production of a producing gas well, at least five (5) days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays), or at the earliest opportunity permitted by circumstances, prior to taking such action, but assumes no liability for failure to do so. In the event of failure by Operator to so notify Non-Operator, the loss of any lease contributed hereto by Non-Operator for failure to make timely payments of any shut-in well payment shall be borne jointly by the parties hereto under the provisions of Article IV.B.3.

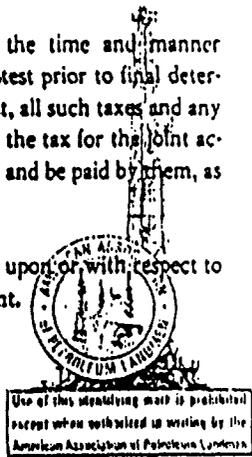
F. Taxes:

Beginning with the first calendar year after the effective date hereof, Operator shall render for ad valorem taxation all property subject to this agreement which by law should be rendered for such taxes, and it shall pay all such taxes assessed thereon before they become delinquent. Prior to the rendition date, each Non-Operator shall furnish Operator information as to burdens (to include, but not be limited to, royalties, overriding royalties and production payments) on leases and oil and gas interests contributed by such Non-Operator. If the assessed valuation of any leasehold estate is reduced by reason of its being subject to outstanding excess royalties, overriding royalties or production payments, the reduction in ad valorem taxes resulting therefrom shall inure to the benefit of the owner or owners of such leasehold estate, and Operator shall adjust the charge to such owner or owners so as to reflect the benefit of such reduction. If the ad valorem taxes are based in whole or in part upon separate valuations of each party's working interest, then notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, charges to the joint account shall be made and paid by the parties hereto in accordance with the tax value generated by each party's working interest. Operator shall bill the other parties for their proportionate shares of all tax payments in the manner provided in Exhibit "C".

If Operator considers any tax assessment improper, Operator may, at its discretion, protest within the time and manner prescribed by law, and prosecute the protest to a final determination, unless all parties agree to abandon the protest prior to final determination. During the pendency of administrative or judicial proceedings, Operator may elect to pay, under protest, all such taxes and any interest and penalty. When any such protested assessment shall have been finally determined, Operator shall pay the tax for the joint account, together with any interest and penalty accrued, and the total cost shall then be assessed against the parties, and be paid by them, as provided in Exhibit "C".

Each party shall pay or cause to be paid all production, severance, excise, gathering and other taxes imposed upon or with respect to the production or handling of such party's share of oil and/or gas produced under the terms of this agreement. \*including excise and crude oil Windfall Profit taxes

See Article XV, Item (Q).



ARTICLE VII  
continued

1 G. Insurance:

2  
3 At all times while operations are conducted hereunder, Operator shall comply with the workmen's compensation law of  
4 the state where the operations are being conducted; provided, however, that Operator may be a self-insurer for liability under said com-  
5 pensation laws in which event the only charge that shall be made to the joint account shall be as provided in Exhibit "C". Operator shall  
6 also carry or provide insurance for the benefit of the joint account of the parties as outlined in Exhibit "D", attached to and made a part  
7 hereof. Operator shall require all contractors engaged in work on or for the Contract Area to comply with the workmen's compensation  
8 law of the state where the operations are being conducted and to maintain such other insurance as Operator may require.

9  
10 In the event automobile public liability insurance is specified in said Exhibit "D", or subsequently receives the approval of the  
11 parties, no direct charge shall be made by Operator for premiums paid for such insurance for Operator's automotive equipment.

12  
13 ARTICLE VIII.  
14 ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE OR TRANSFER OF INTEREST

15  
16 A. Surrender of Leases:

17  
18 The leases covered by this agreement, insofar as they embrace acreage in the Contract Area, shall not be surrendered in whole  
19 or in part unless all parties consent thereto.

20  
21 However, should any party desire to surrender its interest in any lease or in any portion thereof, and the other parties do not  
22 agree or consent thereto, the party desiring to surrender shall assign, without express or implied warranty of title, all of its interest in  
23 such lease, or portion thereof, and any well, material and equipment which may be located thereon and any rights in production  
24 thereafter secured, to the parties not consenting to such surrender. If the interest of the assigning party is or includes an oil and gas in-  
25 terest, the assigning party shall execute and deliver to the party or parties not consenting to such surrender an oil and gas lease covering  
26 such oil and gas interest for a term of one (1) year and so long thereafter as oil and/or gas is produced from the land covered thereby, such  
27 lease to be on the form attached hereto as Exhibit "B". Upon such assignment or lease, the assigning party shall be relieved from all  
28 obligations thereafter accruing, but not theretofore accrued, with respect to the interest assigned or leased and the operation of any well  
29 attributable thereto, and the assigning party shall have no further interest in the assigned or leased premises and its equipment and pro-  
30 duction other than the royalties retained in any lease made under the terms of this Article. The party assignee or lessee shall pay to the  
31 party assignor or lessor the reasonable salvage value of the latter's interest in any wells and equipment attributable to the assigned or leas-  
32 ed acreage. The value of all material shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit "C", less the estimated cost of  
33 salvaging and the estimated cost of plugging and abandoning. If the assignment or lease is in favor of more than one party, the interest  
34 shall be shared by such parties in the proportions that the interest of each bears to the total interest of all such parties.

35  
36 Any assignment, lease or surrender made under this provision shall not reduce or change the assignor's, lessor's or surrendering  
37 party's interest as it was immediately before the assignment, lease or surrender in the balance of the Contract Area; and the acreage  
38 assigned, leased or surrendered, and subsequent operations thereon, shall not thereafter be subject to the terms and provisions of this  
39 agreement.

40  
41 B. Renewal or Extension of Leases:

42  
43 If any party secures a renewal of any oil and gas lease subject to this agreement, all other parties shall be notified promptly, and  
44 shall have the right for a period of thirty (30) days following receipt of such notice in which to elect to participate in the ownership of the  
45 renewal lease, insofar as such lease affects lands within the Contract Area, by paying to the party who acquired it their several proper pro-  
46 portionate shares of the acquisition cost allocated to that part of such lease within the Contract Area, which shall be in proportion to the  
47 interests held at that time by the parties in the Contract Area.

48  
49 If some, but less than all, of the parties elect to participate in the purchase of a renewal lease, it shall be owned by the parties  
50 who elect to participate therein, in a ratio based upon the relationship of their respective percentage of participation in the Contract Area  
51 to the aggregate of the percentages of participation in the Contract Area of all parties participating in the purchase of such renewal lease.  
52 Any renewal lease in which less than all parties elect to participate shall not be subject to this agreement.

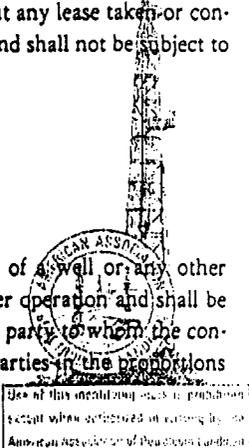
53  
54 Each party who participates in the purchase of a renewal lease shall be given an assignment of its proportionate interest therein  
55 by the acquiring party.

56  
57 The provisions of this Article shall apply to renewal leases whether they are for the entire interest covered by the expiring lease  
58 or cover only a portion of its area or an interest therein. Any renewal lease taken before the expiration of its predecessor lease, or taken or  
59 contracted for within six (6) months after the expiration of the existing lease shall be subject to this provision; but any lease taken or con-  
60 tracted for more than six (6) months after the expiration of an existing lease shall not be deemed a renewal lease and shall not be subject to  
61 the provisions of this agreement.

62  
63 The provisions in this Article shall also be applicable to extensions of oil and gas leases.

64  
65 C. Acreage or Cash Contributions:

66  
67 While this agreement is in force, if any party contracts for a contribution of cash towards the drilling of a well or any other  
68 operation on the Contract Area, such contribution shall be paid to the party who conducted the drilling or other operation and shall be  
69 applied by it against the cost of such drilling or other operation. If the contribution be in the form of acreage, the party to whom the con-  
70 tribution is made shall promptly tender an assignment of the acreage, without warranty of title, to the Drilling Parties in the proportions



Use of this instrument does not constitute an admission of liability by the American Association of Petroleum Landmen.

ARTICLE VIII  
continued

1 said Drilling Parties shared the cost of drilling the well. Such acreage shall become a separate Contract Area and, to the extent possible, be  
2 governed by provisions identical to this agreement. Each party shall promptly notify all other parties of any acreage or cash contributions  
3 it may obtain in support of any well or any other operation on the Contract Area. The above provisions shall also be applicable to op-  
4 tional rights to earn acreage outside the Contract Area which are in support of a well drilled inside the Contract Area.  
5

6 If any party contracts for any consideration relating to disposition of such party's share of substances produced hereunder, such  
7 consideration shall not be deemed a contribution as contemplated in this Article VIII.C.  
8

9 D. Maintenance of Uniform Interest:

10  
11 For the purpose of maintaining uniformity of ownership in the oil and gas leasehold interests covered by this agreement, no  
12 party shall sell, encumber, transfer or make other disposition of its interest in the leases embraced within the Contract Area and in wells,  
13 equipment and production unless such disposition covers either:  
14

- 15 1. the entire interest of the party in all leases and equipment and production; or
- 16
- 17 2. an equal undivided interest in all leases and equipment and production in the Contract Area.
- 18

19 Every such sale, encumbrance, transfer or other disposition made by any party shall be made expressly subject to this agreement  
20 and shall be made without prejudice to the right of the other parties.  
21

22 If, at any time the interest of any party is divided among and owned by four or more co-owners, Operator, at its discretion, may  
23 require such co-owners to appoint a single trustee or agent with full authority to receive notices, approve expenditures, receive billings for  
24 and approve and pay such party's share of the joint expenses, and to deal generally with, and with power to bind, the co-owners of such  
25 party's interest within the scope of the operations embraced in this agreement; however, all such co-owners shall have the right to enter  
26 into and execute all contracts or agreements for the disposition of their respective shares of the oil and gas produced from the Contract  
27 Area and they shall have the right to receive, separately, payment of the sale proceeds thereof.  
28

29 E. Waiver of Rights to Partition:

30  
31 If permitted by the laws of the state or states in which the property covered hereby is located, each party hereto owning an  
32 undivided interest in the Contract Area waives any and all rights it may have to partition and have set aside to it in severalty its undivided  
33 interest therein.  
34

35 ~~F. Preferential Right to Purchase:~~

36  
37 ~~Should any party desire to sell all or any part of its interests under this agreement, or its rights and interests in the Contract~~  
38 ~~Area, it shall promptly give written notice to the other parties, with full information concerning its proposed sale, which shall include the~~  
39 ~~name and address of the prospective purchaser (who must be ready, willing and able to purchase), the purchase price, and all other terms~~  
40 ~~of the offer. The other parties shall then have an optional prior right, for a period of ten (10) days after receipt of the notice, to purchase~~  
41 ~~on the same terms and conditions the interest which the other party proposes to sell; and, if this optional right is exercised, the purchas-~~  
42 ~~ing parties shall share the purchased interest in the proportions that the interest of each bears to the total interest of all purchasing par-~~  
43 ~~ties. However, there shall be no preferential right to purchase in those cases where any party wishes to mortgage its interests, or to~~  
44 ~~dispose of its interests by merger, reorganization, consolidation, or sale of all or substantially all of its assets to a subsidiary or parent com-~~  
45 ~~pany or to a subsidiary of a parent company, or to any company in which any one party owns a majority of the stock.~~  
46

47  
48 ARTICLE IX.  
49 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE ELECTION

50 This agreement is not intended to create, and shall not be construed to create, a relationship of partnership or an association  
51 for profit between or among the parties hereto. Notwithstanding any provision herein that the rights and liabilities hereunder are several  
52 and not joint or collective, or that this agreement and operations hereunder shall not constitute a partnership, if, for federal income tax  
53 purposes, this agreement and the operations hereunder are regarded as a partnership, each party hereby affected elects to be excluded  
54 from the application of all of the provisions of Subchapter "K", Chapter 1, Subtitle "A", of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as per-  
55 mitted and authorized by Section 761 of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Operator is authorized and directed to ex-  
56 ecute on behalf of each party hereby affected such evidence of this election as may be required by the Secretary of the Treasury of the  
57 United States or the Federal Internal Revenue Service, including specifically, but not by way of limitation, all of the returns, statements,  
58 and the data required by Federal Regulations 1.761. Should there be any requirement that each party hereby affected give further  
59 evidence of this election, each such party shall execute such documents and furnish such other evidence as may be required by the  
60 Federal Internal Revenue Service or as may be necessary to evidence this election. No such party shall give any notices or take any other  
61 action inconsistent with the election made hereby. If any present or future income tax laws of the state or states in which the Contract  
62 Area is located or any future income tax laws of the United States contain provisions similar to those in Subchapter "K", Chapter 1,  
63 Subtitle "A", of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, under which an election similar to that provided by Section 761 of the Code is per-  
64 mitted, each party hereby affected shall make such election as may be permitted or required by such laws. In making the foregoing elec-  
65 tion, each such party states that the income derived by such party from operations hereunder can be adequately determined without the  
66 computation of partnership taxable income.  
67  
68  
69  
70



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ARTICLE X.  
CLAIMS AND LAWSUITS

Operator may settle any single uninsured third party damage claim or suit arising from operations hereunder if the expenditure does not exceed Fifteen Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$15,000.00) and if the payment is in complete settlement of such claim or suit. If the amount required for settlement exceeds the above amount, the parties hereto shall assume and take over the further handling of the claim or suit, unless such authority is delegated to Operator. All costs and expenses of handling, settling, or otherwise discharging such claim or suit shall be at the joint expense of the parties participating in the operation from which the claim or suit arises. If a claim is made against any party or if any party is sued on account of any matter arising from operations hereunder over which such individual has no control because of the rights given Operator by this agreement, such party shall immediately notify all other parties, and the claim or suit shall be treated as any other claim or suit involving operations hereunder. All claims or suits involving title to any interest subject to this Agreement shall be treated as a claim or a suit against all parties hereto.

ARTICLE XI.  
FORCE MAJEURE

If any party is rendered unable, wholly or in part, by force majeure to carry out its obligations under this agreement, other than the obligation to make money payments, that party shall give to all other parties prompt written notice of the force majeure with reasonably full particulars concerning it; thereupon, the obligations of the party giving the notice, so far as they are affected by the force majeure, shall be suspended during, but no longer than, the continuance of the force majeure. The affected party shall use all reasonable diligence to remove the force majeure situation as quickly as practicable.

The requirement that any force majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes, lockouts, or other labor difficulty by the party involved, contrary to its wishes; how all such difficulties shall be handled shall be entirely within the discretion of the party concerned.

The term "force majeure", as here employed, shall mean an act of God, strike, lockout, or other industrial disturbance, act of the public enemy, war, blockade, public riot, lightning, fire, storm, flood, explosion, governmental action, governmental delay, restraint or inaction, unavailability of equipment, and any other cause, whether of the kind specifically enumerated above or otherwise, which is not reasonably within the control of the party claiming suspension.

ARTICLE XII.  
NOTICES

All notices authorized or required between the parties and required by any of the provisions of this agreement, unless otherwise specifically provided, shall be given in writing by mail or telegram, postage or charges prepaid, or by telex or telecopier and addressed to the parties to whom the notice is given at the addresses listed on Exhibit "A". The originating notice given under any provision hereof shall be deemed given only when received by the party to whom such notice is directed, and the time for such party to give any notice in response thereto shall run from the date the originating notice is received. The second or any responsive notice shall be deemed given when deposited in the mail or with the telegraph company, with postage or charges prepaid, or sent by telex or telecopier. Each party shall have the right to change its address at any time, and from time to time, by giving written notice thereof to all other parties.

ARTICLE XIII.  
TERM OF AGREEMENT

This agreement shall remain in full force and effect as to the oil and gas leases and/or oil and gas interests subject hereto for the period of time selected below; provided, however, no party hereto shall ever be construed as having any right, title or interest in or to any lease or oil and gas interest contributed by any other party beyond the term of this agreement.

Option No. 1: So long as any of the oil and gas leases subject to this agreement remain or are continued in force as to any part of the Contract Area, whether by production, extension, renewal or otherwise.

~~Option No. 2: In the event the well described in Article VI.A., or any subsequent well drilled under any provision of this agreement, results in production of oil and/or gas in paying quantities, this agreement shall continue in force so long as any such well or wells produce, or are capable of production, and for an additional period of \_\_\_\_\_ days from cessation of all production; provided, however, if, prior to the expiration of such additional period, one or more of the parties hereto are engaged in drilling, reworking, deepening, plugging back, testing or attempting to complete a well or wells hereunder, this agreement shall continue in force until such operations have been completed and if production results therefrom, this agreement shall continue in force as provided herein. In the event the well described in Article VI.A., or any subsequent well drilled hereunder, results in a dry hole, and no other well is producing, or capable of producing oil and/or gas from the Contract Area, this agreement shall terminate unless drilling, deepening, plugging back or reworking operations are commenced within \_\_\_\_\_ days from the date of abandonment of said well.~~

It is agreed, however, that the termination of this agreement shall not relieve any party hereto from any liability which has accrued or attached prior to the date of such termination.



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ARTICLE XIV.  
COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

A. Laws, Regulations and Orders:

This agreement shall be subject to the conservation laws of the state in which the Contract Area is located, to the valid rules, regulations, and orders of any duly constituted regulatory body of said state; and to all other applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and orders.

B. Governing Law:

This agreement and all matters pertaining hereto, including, but not limited to, matters of performance, non-performance, breach, remedies, procedures, rights, duties and interpretation or construction, shall be governed and determined by the law of the state in which the Contract Area is located. If the Contract Area is in two or more states, the law of the state of New Mexico shall govern.

C. Regulatory Agencies:

Nothing herein contained shall grant, or be construed to grant, Operator the right or authority to waive or release any rights, privileges, or obligations which Non-Operators may have under federal or state laws or under rules, regulations or orders promulgated under such laws in reference to oil, gas and mineral operations, including the location, operation, or production of wells, on tracts offsetting or adjacent to the Contract Area.

With respect to operations hereunder, Non-Operators agree to release Operator from any and all losses, damages, injuries, claims and causes of action arising out of, incident to or resulting directly or indirectly from Operator's interpretation or application of rules, rulings, regulations or orders of the Department of Energy or predecessor or successor agencies to the extent such interpretation or application was made in good faith. Each Non-Operator further agrees to reimburse Operator for any amounts applicable to such Non-Operator's share of production that Operator may be required to refund, rebate or pay as a result of such an incorrect interpretation or application, together with interest and penalties thereon owing by Operator as a result of such incorrect interpretation or application.

Non-Operators authorize Operator to prepare and submit such documents as may be required to be submitted to the purchaser of any crude oil sold hereunder or to any other person or entity pursuant to the requirements of the "Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act of 1980", as same may be amended from time to time ("Act"), and any valid regulations or rules which may be issued by the Treasury Department from time to time pursuant to said Act. Each party hereto agrees to furnish any and all certifications or other information which is required to be furnished by said Act in a timely manner and in sufficient detail to permit compliance with said Act.

ARTICLE XV.  
OTHER PROVISIONS

See Article XV. attached hereto and made a part hereof.



## ARTICLE XV

### OTHER PROVISIONS

#### A. REWORKING OPERATIONS

Notwithstanding any language set out in Article VI(B) to the contrary, each non-consenting party to a reworking operation on a well conducted pursuant to Article VI(B) shall, upon commencement of such operations, be deemed to have relinquished to consenting parties, and the consenting parties shall own and be entitled to receive, in proportion to their respective interests, all of such non-consenting party's interest in the well, its leasehold operating rights and share of production therefrom, only insofar as the interval or intervals of the formation or formations which are being reworked and to which such non-consenting party does not desire to join in the reworking thereof, until the proceeds or market value thereof (after deducting production taxes, windfall profits taxes, royalty, overriding royalty and other interests payable out of, or measured by the production from such well, only insofar as the production secured from the interval or intervals of the formation or formations which are subject to said reworking operations accruing with respect to such interest until it reverts) shall equal the total of those certain costs as further described in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of the third grammatical paragraph under Article VI(B) 2, hereof.

#### B. NONDISCRIMINATION

In connection with the performance of work under this agreement, the Operator agrees to comply with all of the provisions of Section 202 (1) to (7) inclusive, of Executive Order 11246 (30 F. R. 12319), which are hereby incorporated by reference in this agreement, and of all provisions of said Executive Order 11246 and all rules, regulations and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

#### C. COVENANTS RUN WITH THE LAND

The terms, provisions, covenants and conditions of this agreement shall be deemed to be covenants running with the lands, the lease or leases and leasehold estates covered hereby, and all of the terms, provisions, covenants and conditions of this agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto, their respective heirs, executors, administrators, personal representatives and assigns.

#### D. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

All of the provisions of this agreement are expressly subject to all applicable laws, orders, rules and regulations of any governmental body or agency having jurisdiction in the premises, and all operations contemplated hereby shall be conducted in conformity therewith. Any provision of this agreement which is inconsistent with any such laws, orders, rules or regulations is hereby modified so as to conform therewith, and this agreement, as so modified, shall continue in full force and effect.

#### E. PRIORITY OF OPERATIONS

If at any time there is more than one operation proposed in connection with any well subject to this agreement, then unless all participating parties agree on the sequence of such operations, such proposals shall be considered and disposed of in the following order of priority:

1. Proposals to do additional testing, coring or logging.
2. Proposals to attempt a completion in the objective zone.
3. Proposals to plug back and attempt completions in shallower zones, in ascending order.
4. Proposals to side-track the well to reach any zone not below the original authorized objective.
5. Proposals to deepen the well, in descending order.

## F. REGULATORY PROVISIONS

### 1. Gaseous Hydrocarbons:

Non-Operators hereby authorize Operator to file and prosecute all applications for determination for well pricing qualification under the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 and to make interim collection filings on behalf of Non-Operators. Operator may employ counsel and technical experts to the extent Operator in its sole discretion considers appropriate for such filings and seeking favorable resolutions thereof. Costs incurred by Operator for such counsel and experts together with all other costs incurred by Operator in preparing the application for determination and interim collection documents as well as the cost of prosecuting the application shall be charged to the Joint Account.

### 2. Liquid Hydrocarbons:

Non-Operators hereby authorize Operator to file with the purchaser of crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbons or with any other person required by law, any statement or certification required by the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act, the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act or by any rule, regulation or order issued thereunder or by any other law, rule, or regulation relating to the pricing of crude oil and other liquid hydrocarbons or the taxation thereof. To the extent that Operator may by law be authorized to do so, Non-Operators hereby authorize Operator to agree with any purchaser to relieve Operator (in whole or in part as Operator may determine) of any filing or certification requirements. In making any filing or certification with any purchaser or crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbons, each Non-Operator shall be solely responsible for furnishing to Operator or such purchaser or any other person required by law any exemption certificate, independent producer certificate or any other evidence required by law to entitle Non-Operator to a higher price for the sale of his production or for a lower rate of windfall profit or other excise tax thereon, and upon a Non-Operator's failure to furnish the same, Operator shall certify to such purchaser for such Non-Operator's interest the lower price and/or higher rate of tax. Operator shall have no duty to seek any refunds on behalf of any Non-Operator of any overpayment of any windfall profit or excise tax to which any Non-Operator may be entitled by law.

### 3. Refunds:

In the event any Non-Operator receives a greater sum for the sale of its share of production than that to which such Non-Operator is entitled, such Non-Operator shall promptly refund any excess sums so collected to the person entitled thereto together with any interest thereon required by law. In the event Operator is required for any reason to make any such refund on any Non-Operator's behalf and such Non-Operator refuses upon Operator's request to reimburse Operator for the amount so paid, then Operator, in addition to any other rights or remedies which it may have as a result of making such refund, (i) shall have the lien provided by Article VII.B. to secure such reimbursement and (ii) shall be authorized to collect from Non-Operator's purchaser of production all revenues attributable to Non-Operator's share of production until the full amount required to be paid or refunded by Non-Operator has been recovered.

### 4. Operator's Liability:

Operator shall use its best judgment in making any of the filings and certifications referred to under Paragraph 1 and 2 above in prosecuting any filings and applications. However, in no event shall Operator have any liability to any Non-Operator in making and prosecuting any such filing or in rendering any statement or certification, absent bad faith, gross negligence or willful misconduct. Any penalties incurred as a result of any incorrect certification, statement or filing shall, in absence of bad faith, gross negligence or willful misconduct, be charged to the parties owning the production to which the penalty pertains. In no event shall any error by Operator relieve any Non-Operator of the liability for any refund under Paragraph 3 above.

5. FERC Orders 451 and 500:

To the extent any Property, Asset or Interest covered by this Assignment is subject to a commitment to sell any production to a purchaser under a gas purchase agreement which includes gas categorized as Section 104 or Section 106 gas under the Natural Gas Policy Act, the following shall apply:

(a) If either party desires to conduct the Good Faith Negotiation Procedure ("GFN") set forth in Section 270.201 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations as to any property assigned to it hereunder, or which it retains after this Assignment, and cannot do so without the cooperation of the other party, the other party agrees to enter into good faith discussions concerning measures necessary to enable the first party to conduct the GFN.

(b) If offers of credit under Sections 284.8(f) of 284.9(f) of the regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as promulgated in Orders No. 500, 500-B, 500-C, or successor regulations, are needed for Assignee to transport gas from any of the Properties, Assignor agrees to negotiate with Assignee in good faith concerning the provisions of such offers of credit.

#### G. OPERATOR PROTECTION

1. Assignment

No assignment or other transfer or disposition of an interest subject to this Agreement shall be effective as to Operator or the other parties hereto until the first day of the month following the month in which (i) Operator receives an authenticated copy of the instrument evidencing such assignment, transfer or disposition and (ii) the person receiving such assignment, transfer or disposition has become obligated by instrument satisfactory to Operator to observe, perform and be bound by all of the covenants, terms and conditions of this Agreement. Prior to such date, neither Operator nor any other party shall be required to recognize such assignment, transfer or disposition for any purpose but may continue to deal exclusively with the party making such assignment, transfer, or disposition in all matters under this Agreement including billings. No assignment or other transfer or disposition of an interest subject to this Agreement shall relieve a party of its obligations accrued prior to the effective date aforesaid. Further, no assignment, transfer or other disposition shall relieve any party of its liability for its share of costs and expenses which may be incurred in any operation to which such party has previously agreed or consented prior to the effective date aforesaid for the drilling, testing, completing and equipping, reworking, recompleting, side-tracking, deepening, plugging-back, or plugging and abandoning of a well even though such operation is performed after said effective date, subject however to such party's right to elect not to participate in completion operations under Article VI.B. and Article VII.D., Option No. 2., not previously consented to.

2. Attorneys Fees:

In the event any party hereto shall ever be required to bring legal proceedings in order to collect any sums due from any party under this Agreement, then party or parties shall also be entitled to recover all court costs, costs of collection and a reasonable attorney's fee, which the lien provided for herein shall also secure.

#### H. PERPETUITIES

It is not the intent of the parties that any provision herein violate any applicable law regarding the rule against perpetuities, the suspension of the absolute power of alienation or other rule regarding the vesting or duration of estates, and this agreement shall be construed as not violating such rule to the extent the same can be so construed consistent with the intent of the parties. In the event, however, any provision hereof is determined to violate such rule, then such provision shall nevertheless be effective for the maximum period (but not longer than the maximum period)

permitted by such rule which will result in no violation.

#### I. NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARY CONTRACT

This Agreement is made solely for the benefit of those persons who are parties hereto (including those persons succeeding to all or part of the interest of an original party if such succession is recognized under the other provisions hereof), and no other person shall have or claim or be entitled to enforce any rights benefits or obligations under this Agreement.

#### J. OPERATOR'S REORGANIZATION AND STATUS CHANGE

1. Notwithstanding, the second sentence of Article V.B.1., in the event of a transfer of all Operator's interest to a corporation which controls, is controlled by or is under common control with Operator or in the event of a transfer of all Operator's interest to any person as a part of the transfer to such person of all or substantially all of Operator's oil and gas properties, such transferee shall automatically become the successor Operator without the approval of Non-Operators.

2. For the purposes of Article V.B., Operator shall be considered to own an interest in the Contract Area if it is a general partner of a limited partnership which owns an interest in the Contract Area or if it owns a carried or reversionary working interest in the Contract Area.

#### K. BANKRUPTCY

If, following the granting of relief under the Bankruptcy Code to any party hereto as debtor thereunder, this Agreement should be held to be an executory contract within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. S 365, then the Operator, or (if the Operator is the debtor in bankruptcy) any other party, shall be entitled to a determination by debtor or any trustee for debtor within thirty (30) days from the date an order for relief is entered under the Bankruptcy Code as to the rejection or assumption of this Operating Agreement. In the event of an assumption, Operator or said other party shall be entitled to adequate assurances as to future performance of debtor's obligation hereunder and the protection of the interest of all other parties.

#### L. ARTICLE VI., PARAGRAPH B.

If any party hereto does not consent to join in the drilling of any Obligation Well (as hereinafter defined), such "Non-Drilling Party" shall assign to the "Drilling Party or Parties" that portion of its interest in any lease or farmout acreage, covering the proration unit assigned by the appropriate governmental regulatory body and limited to the deepest producing formation. The term "Obligation Well", as used in this provision, shall mean any well which must be drilled in order to prevent the termination of any lease, farmout acreage, or any portion thereof, including any well proposed to be drilled during the last six (6) months of the primary term of any lease not otherwise held by production, and any well (hereinafter an "Offset Well") which would be necessary to be drilled within the Contract Area to prevent drainage of the Contract Area by a well located outside of, but within the greater of either the offset distance specified in the applicable lease(s) being drained or 660 feet of the Contract Area. In the event acreage is lost as aforesaid by a party's non-participation in an Obligation Well, the parties hereto agree that such assigned acreage, and the parties' interests therein, shall no longer be subject to the terms of this agreement, but in lieu thereof shall be deemed to be subject to a separate Operating Agreement in form identical hereto, changed only with respect to Exhibit "A" in order to reflect the Drilling Parties' percentages of interest in such acreage.

#### M. ARTICLE VI. PARAGRAPH C.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VI.C and the provisions of Exhibit "E", in the event any party shall fail to make the arrangements necessary to take-in-kind or separately dispose of its proportionate share of the oil and gas produced from the Contract Area, Operator shall have the right, subject to the revocation at will by the party owning it, but not

the obligation, to purchase such oil and gas or sell it to others at any time and from time to time, for the account of the non-taking party at the best price obtainable in the area for such production. Any such purchase or sale by Operator shall be subject always to the right of the owner of the production to exercise at any time its right to take in kind, or separately dispose of, its share of all oil and gas not previously delivered to a purchaser, or to elect to be an underproduced party under Exhibit "E". Any purchase or sale by Operator of any other party's share of oil and gas shall be only for such reasonable periods of time as are consistent with the minimum needs of the industry under the particular circumstances, but in no event for a period in excess of one (1) year.

N. ARTICLE VI., PARAGRAPH D.

Each Non-Operator shall indemnify and hold Operator harmless against any and all liability in excess of insurance covering carried for the joint account for injury to each such Non-Operator's officers, employees and/or agents, resulting from or in any way relating to such officers, employees and/or agents presence on a drilling rig on the Contract Area or from such person traveling by air or water between any point and such drilling rig. Such indemnity to Operator shall also apply to any other person whose presence on the rig or transportation to or from such rig is at the instance of a party other than Operator.

O. ARTICLE VII., PARAGRAPH B.

Subject to the provisions of Article VII.B of this Operating Agreement, each Non-Operator grants to Operator a lien upon all of the rights, titles, and interests of each Non-Operator, whether now existing or hereafter acquired, in and to (i) the oil, gas and other minerals in, on, and under the Contract Area and (ii) any oil, gas and mineral leases covering the Contract Area or any portion thereof. In addition, each Non-Operator grants to Operator a security interest in and to all of such Non-Operator's rights, titles, interests, claims, general intangibles, proceeds, and products thereof, whether now existing or hereafter acquired, in and to (i) all oil, gas and other minerals produced from the Contract Area when produced and all rights thereto, including, but not limited to, an underproduced party's right, if any, pursuant to any gas balancing agreement between the parties hereto against an overproduced party to make-up gas; (ii) all accounts receivable accruing or arising as a result of the sale of such oil, gas and other minerals; (iii) all cash or other proceeds from the sale of such oil, gas and other minerals once produced; and (iv) all oil and gas wells and other surface and subsurface equipment and facilities of any kind or character located on the Contract Area and the cash or other proceeds realized from the sale thereof. Operator grants a like lien and security interest to Non-Operators to secure payment of Operator's proportionate share of expenses.

P. ARTICLE VII., PARAGRAPH B.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, if any Non-Operator neglects or fails to pay sums due and owing Operator hereunder for a period of 90 days after receipt of invoice therefor, Operator, at its sole election and in lieu of the provisions of the second grammatical paragraph of Article VII.B., may notify Non-Operator of its election to regard such Non-Operating Party as a Non-Consenting Party hereunder subject to the percentage penalties set out in Article VI.2 of the printed Model Form as to said costs, whereupon Operator shall be liable therefor. If Non-Operator fails to pay such amount within 20 days after receipt of such notice, then Operator's election shall be effective and Non-Operator will no longer owe said sum to Operator. Non-Operator shall then be subject to the non-consent percentage penalty provisions of Article VI.2. (a) (b) the same as if such party had elected to be a Non-Consenting Party at the inception of the operation, but only with respect to the sums remaining unpaid by such Non-Operator. Provided, however, this provision shall not be applicable to any sums owed Operator, but which such Non-Operator contests in good faith, or any sums less than \$1,000.00.

Q. ARTICLE VII., PARAGRAPH F

Operator shall pay or be responsible for payment of all applicable severance (unless paid by purchaser), production, and similar taxes due on all production for which Operator is disbursing 100% of the proceeds. Any Non-Operator separately producing or taking delivery of oil or gas in kind shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable severance, production, and similar taxes due on production that Operator is not disbursing in accordance with Article VII.E.

Where any party is separately producing or taking delivery of oil and gas in kind, Operator shall have the right to render to the taxing authority the ad valorem taxes on wells within the Contract Area in the name of each party and to provide in such rendition for direct payment by each party of its share of such ad valorem tax. In rendering the property for ad valorem tax purposes, Operator shall base its values for such purpose upon the price received for the sale of oil and gas by each party taking or separately disposing of its share of oil and gas.

The above is subject to any applicable laws or regulations imposing different obligations on Operator or Non-Operator with respect to the responsibility for reporting and payment of severance taxes.

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**ARTICLE XVI.  
MISCELLANEOUS**

This agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and to their respective heirs, devisees, legal representatives, successors and assigns.

This instrument may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original for all purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement shall be effective as of \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_\_.

**OPERATOR**

**MITCHELL ENERGY CORPORATION**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NON-OPERATORS**

**SANTA FE ENERGY OPERATING PARTNERS, L.P.**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MARALO, INC.**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STRATA PRODUCTION COMPANY**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_



EXHIBIT "A"

Attached to and made a part of that certain Operating Agreement dated January 1, 1993, by and between MITCHELL ENERGY CORPORATION, as Operator, and SANTA FE ENERGY OPERATING PARTNERS, L.P., as Non-Operator, covering lands in Lea County, New Mexico.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS

W/2 of Section 28, T-20-S, R-33-E, Lea County, New Mexico.

INTERESTS OF THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT

Mitchell Energy Corporation	0.3750000
Santa Fe Energy Operating Partners, L. P.	0.1875000
Maralo, Inc.	0.1875000
Strata Production Company	0.2500000

ADDRESSES OF THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT

Mitchell Energy Corporation 400 West Illinois Suite 1000 Midland, Texas 79701	Maralo, Inc. 223 West Wall Suite 900 Midland, Texas 79701
Santa Fe Energy Operating Partners, LP 550 West Texas Suite 1330 Midland, Texas 79701	Strata Production Company 200 West First Street Suite 700 Roswell, New Mexico 88202

OIL AND GAS LEASES SUBJECT TO THIS AGREEMENT

- Item 1: Federal Oil and Gas Lease NM-57280 dated April 1, 1984, only insofar as it covers the NW/4 and NE/4 SW/4 of Section 28, T-20-S, R-33-E, Lea County, New Mexico, below 3,500 feet beneath the surface. This lease is burdened by a one-eighth (1/8) royalty and a 7.5% of 8/8 overriding royalty.
- Item 2: Federal Oil and Gas Lease NM-77074 dated October 1, 1988, only insofar as it covers the NW/4 SW/4 of Section 28, T-20-S, R-33-E, Lea County, New Mexico. This lease is burdened by a one-eighth (1/8) royalty.
- Item 3: Federal Oil and Gas Lease NM-82927 dated November 1, 1989, only insofar as it covers the S/2 SW/4 of Section 28, T-20-S, R-33-E, Lea County, New Mexico. This lease is burdened by a one-eighth (1/8th) royalty.

## EXHIBIT " C "

Attached to and made a part of that certain Operating Agreement dated January 1, 1993, by and between MITCHELL ENERGY CORPORATION, as Operator, and SANTA FE ENERGY OPERATING PARTNERS, L. P., ET AL, as Non-Operators.

## ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE JOINT OPERATIONS

### I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### 1. Definitions

"Joint Property" shall mean the real and personal property subject to the agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached.

"Joint Operations" shall mean all operations necessary or proper for the development, operation, protection and maintenance of the Joint Property.

"Joint Account" shall mean the account showing the charges paid and credits received in the conduct of the Joint Operations and which are to be shared by the Parties.

"Operator" shall mean the party designated to conduct the Joint Operations.

"Non-Operators" shall mean the Parties to this agreement other than the Operator.

"Parties" shall mean Operator and Non-Operators.

"First Level Supervisors" shall mean those employees whose primary function in Joint Operations is the direct supervision of other employees and/or contract labor directly employed on the Joint Property in a field operating capacity.

"Technical Employees" shall mean those employees having special and specific engineering, geological or other professional skills, and whose primary function in Joint Operations is the handling of specific operating conditions and problems for the benefit of the Joint Property.

"Personal Expenses" shall mean travel and other reasonable reimbursable expenses of Operator's employees.

"Material" shall mean personal property, equipment or supplies acquired or held for use on the Joint Property.

"Controllable Material" shall mean Material which at the time is so classified in the Material Classification Manual as most recently recommended by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies.

#### 2. Statement and Billings

Operator shall bill Non-Operators on or before the last day of each month for their proportionate share of the Joint Account for the preceding month. Such bills will be accompanied by statements which identify the authority for expenditure, lease or facility, and all charges and credits summarized by appropriate classifications of investment and expense except that items of Controllable Material and unusual charges and credits shall be separately identified and fully described in detail.

#### 3. Advances and Payments by Non-Operators

thirty (30)

A. Unless otherwise provided for in the agreement, the Operator may require the Non-Operators to advance their share of estimated cash outlay for the succeeding month's operation within ~~fifteen (15)~~ <sup>thirty (30)</sup> days after receipt of the billing or by the first day of the month for which the advance is required, whichever is later. Operator shall adjust each monthly billing to reflect advances received from the Non-Operators.

B. Each Non-Operator shall pay its proportion of all bills within ~~fifteen (15)~~ <sup>thirty (30)</sup> days after receipt. If payment is not made within such time, the unpaid balance shall bear interest monthly at the prime rate in effect at Manufacturer's Hanover Trust Co., NY, NY on the first day of the month in which delinquency occurs plus 1% or the maximum contract rate permitted by the applicable usury laws in the state in which the Joint Property is located, whichever is the lesser, plus attorney's fees, court costs, and other costs in connection with the collection of unpaid amounts.

#### 4. Adjustments

Payment of any such bills shall not prejudice the right of any Non-Operator to protest or question the correctness thereof; provided, however, all bills and statements rendered to Non-Operators by Operator during any calendar year shall conclusively be presumed to be true and correct after twenty-four (24) months following the end of any such calendar year, unless within the said twenty-four (24) month period a Non-Operator takes written exception thereto and makes claim on Operator for adjustment. No adjustment favorable to Operator shall be made unless it is made within the same prescribed period. The provisions of this paragraph shall not prevent adjustments resulting from a physical inventory of Controllable Material as provided for in Section V.

## 5. Audits

- A. A Non-Operator, upon notice in writing to Operator and all other Non-Operators, shall have the right to audit Operator's accounts and records relating to the Joint Account for any calendar year within the twenty-four (24) month period following the end of such calendar year; provided, however, the making of an audit shall not extend the time for the taking of written exception to and the adjustments of accounts as provided for in Paragraph 4 of this Section I. Where there are two or more Non-Operators, the Non-Operators shall make every reasonable effort to conduct a joint audit in a manner which will result in a minimum of inconvenience to the Operator. Operator shall bear no portion of the Non-Operators' audit cost incurred under this paragraph unless agreed to by the Operator. The audits shall not be conducted more than once each year without prior approval of Operator, except upon the resignation or removal of the Operator, and shall be made at the expense of those Non-Operators approving such audit.
- B. The Operator shall reply in writing to an audit report within 180 days after receipt of such report.

## 6. Approval By Non-Operators

Where an approval or other agreement of the Parties or Non-Operators is expressly required under other sections of this Accounting Procedure and if the agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached contains no contrary provisions in regard thereto, Operator shall notify all Non-Operators of the Operator's proposal, and the agreement or approval of a majority in interest of the Non-Operators shall be controlling on all Non-Operators.

## II. DIRECT CHARGES

Operator shall charge the Joint Account with the following items:

## 1. Ecological and Environmental

Costs incurred for the benefit of the Joint Property as a result of governmental or regulatory requirements to satisfy environmental considerations applicable to the Joint Operations. Such costs may include surveys of an ecological or archaeological nature and pollution control procedures as required by applicable laws and regulations.

## 2. Rentals and Royalties

Lease rentals and royalties paid by Operator for the Joint Operations.

## 3. Labor

- A. (1) Salaries and wages of Operator's field employees directly employed on the Joint Property in the conduct of Joint Operations.
- (2) Salaries of First Level Supervisors in the field.
- (3) Salaries and wages of Technical Employees directly employed on the Joint Property if such charges are excluded from the overhead rates.
- (4) Salaries and wages of Technical Employees either temporarily or permanently assigned to and directly employed in the operation of the Joint Property if such charges are excluded from the overhead rates.
- B. Operator's cost of holiday, vacation, sickness and disability benefits and other customary allowances paid to employees whose salaries and wages are chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraph 3A of this Section II. Such costs under this Paragraph 3B may be charged on a "when and as paid basis" or by "percentage assessment" on the amount of salaries and wages chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraph 3A of this Section II. If percentage assessment is used, the rate shall be based on the Operator's cost experience.
- C. Expenditures or contributions made pursuant to assessments imposed by governmental authority which are applicable to Operator's costs chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraphs 3A and 3B of this Section II.
- D. Personal Expenses of those employees whose salaries and wages are chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraph 3A of this Section II.

## 4. Employee Benefits

Operator's current costs of established plans for employees' group life insurance, hospitalization, pension, retirement, stock purchase, thrift, bonus, and other benefit plans of a like nature, applicable to Operator's labor cost chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraphs 3A and 3B of this Section II shall be Operator's actual cost not to exceed the percent most recently recommended by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies.

## 5. Material

Material purchased or furnished by Operator for use on the Joint Property as provided under Section IV. Only such Material shall be purchased for or transferred to the Joint Property as may be required for immediate use and is reasonably practical and consistent with efficient and economical operations. The accumulation of surplus stocks shall be avoided.

## 6. Transportation

Transportation of employees and Material necessary for the Joint Operations but subject to the following limitations:

- A. If Material is moved to the Joint Property from the Operator's warehouse or other properties, no charge shall be made to the Joint Account for a distance greater than the distance from the nearest reliable supply store where like material is normally available or railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property unless agreed to by the Parties.

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- B. If surplus Material is moved to Operator's warehouse or other storage point, no charge shall be made to the Joint Account for a distance greater than the distance to the nearest reliable supply store where like material is normally available, or railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property unless agreed to by the Parties. No charge shall be made to the Joint Account for moving Material to other properties belonging to Operator, unless agreed to by the Parties.
- C. In the application of subparagraphs A and B above, the option to equalize or charge actual trucking cost is available when the actual charge is \$400 or less excluding accessorial charges. The \$400 will be adjusted to the amount most recently recommended by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies.

7. Services

The cost of contract services, equipment and utilities provided by outside sources, except services excluded by Paragraph 10 of Section II and Paragraph i, ii, and iii, of Section III. The cost of professional consultant services and contract services of technical personnel directly engaged on the Joint Property if such charges are excluded from the overhead rates. The cost of professional consultant services or contract services of technical personnel not directly engaged on the Joint Property shall not be charged to the Joint Account unless previously agreed to by the Parties.

8. Equipment and Facilities Furnished By Operator

- A. Operator shall charge the Joint Account for use of Operator owned equipment and facilities at rates commensurate with costs of ownership and operation. Such rates shall include costs of maintenance, repairs, other operating expense insurance, taxes, depreciation, and interest on gross investment less accumulated depreciation not to exceed ten percent (10%) per annum. Such rates shall not exceed average commercial rates currently prevailing in the immediate area of the Joint Property.
- B. In lieu of charges in paragraph 8A above, Operator may elect to use average commercial rates prevailing in the immediate area of the Joint Property less 20%. For automotive equipment, Operator may elect to use rates published by the Petroleum Motor Transport Association.

9. Damages and Losses to Joint Property

All costs or expenses necessary for the repair or replacement of Joint Property made necessary because of damages or losses incurred by fire, flood, storm, theft, accident, or other cause, except those resulting from Operator's gross negligence or willful misconduct. Operator shall furnish Non-Operator written notice of damages or losses incurred as soon as practicable after a report thereof has been received by Operator.

10. Legal Expense

Expense of handling, investigating and settling litigation or claims, discharging of liens, payment of judgements and amounts paid for settlement of claims incurred in or resulting from operations under the agreement or necessary to protect or recover the Joint Property, except that no charge for services of Operator's legal staff, or fees or expense of outside attorneys shall be made unless previously agreed to by the Parties. All other legal expense is considered to be covered by the overhead provisions of Section III unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, except as provided in Section I, Paragraph 3.

11. Taxes

All taxes of every kind and nature assessed or levied upon or in connection with the Joint Property, the operation thereof or the production therefrom, and which taxes have been paid by the Operator for the benefit of the Parties. If the ad valorem taxes are based in whole or in part upon separate valuations of each party's working interest, then notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, charges to the Joint Account shall be made and paid by the Parties hereto in accordance with the tax value generated by each party's working interest.

12. Insurance

Net premiums paid for insurance required to be carried for the Joint Operations for the protection of the Parties. In the event Joint Operations are conducted in a state in which Operator may act as self-insurer for Worker's Compensation and/or Employers Liability under the respective state's laws, Operator may, at its election, include the risk under its self-insurance program and in that event, Operator shall include a charge at Operator's cost not to exceed manual rates.

13. Abandonment and Reclamation

Costs incurred for abandonment of the Joint Property, including costs required by governmental or other regulatory authority.

14. Communications

Cost of acquiring, leasing, installing, operating, repairing and maintaining communication systems, including radio and microwave facilities directly serving the Joint Property. In the event communication facilities/systems serving the Joint Property are Operator owned, charges to the Joint Account shall be made as provided in Paragraph 8 of this Section II.

15. Other Expenditures

Any other expenditure not covered or dealt with in the foregoing provisions of this Section II, or in Section III and which is of direct benefit to the Joint Property and is incurred by the Operator in the necessary and proper conduct of the Joint

### III. OVERHEAD

#### 1. Overhead - Drilling and Producing Operations

- i. As compensation for administrative, supervision, office services and warehousing costs, Operator shall charge drilling and producing operations on either:

- () Fixed Rate Basis, Paragraph 1A, or  
 ( ) Percentage Basis, Paragraph 1B

Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, such charge shall be in lieu of costs and expenses of all offices and salaries or wages plus applicable burdens and expenses of all personnel, except those directly chargeable under Paragraph 3A, Section II. The cost and expense of services from outside sources in connection with matters of taxation, traffic, accounting or matters before or involving governmental agencies shall be considered as included in the overhead rates provided for in the above selected Paragraph of this Section III unless such cost and expense are agreed to by the Parties as a direct charge to the Joint Account.

- ii. The salaries, wages and Personal Expenses of Technical Employees and/or the cost of professional consultant services and contract services of technical personnel directly employed on the Joint Property:

- ( ) shall be covered by the overhead rates, or  
 () shall not be covered by the overhead rates.

- iii. The salaries, wages and Personal Expenses of Technical Employees and/or costs of professional consultant services and contract services of technical personnel either temporarily or permanently assigned to and directly employed in the operation of the Joint Property:

- ( ) shall be covered by the overhead rates, or  
 () shall not be covered by the overhead rates.

#### A. Overhead - Fixed Rate Basis

- (1) Operator shall charge the Joint Account at the following rates per well per month:

Drilling Well Rate \$ 6,500.00  
 (Prorated for less than a full month)

Producing Well Rate \$ 650.00

- (2) Application of Overhead - Fixed Rate Basis shall be as follows:

##### (a) Drilling Well Rate

- (1) Charges for drilling wells shall begin on the date the well is spudded and terminate on the date the drilling rig, completion rig, or other units used in completion of the well is released, whichever is later, except that no charge shall be made during suspension of drilling or completion operations for fifteen (15) or more consecutive calendar days.
- (2) Charges for wells undergoing any type of workover or recompletion for a period of five (5) consecutive work days or more shall be made at the drilling well rate. Such charges shall be applied for the period from date workover operations, with rig or other units used in workover, commence through date of rig or other unit release, except that no charge shall be made during suspension of operations for fifteen (15) or more consecutive calendar days.

##### (b) Producing Well Rates

- (1) An active well either produced or injected into for any portion of the month shall be considered as a one-well charge for the entire month.
- (2) Each active completion in a multi-completed well in which production is not commingled down hole shall be considered as a one-well charge providing each completion is considered a separate well by the governing regulatory authority.
- (3) An inactive gas well shut in because of overproduction or failure of purchaser to take the production shall be considered as a one-well charge providing the gas well is directly connected to a permanent sales outlet.
- (4) A one-well charge shall be made for the month in which plugging and abandonment operations are completed on any well. This one-well charge shall be made whether or not the well has produced except when drilling well rate applies.
- (5) All other inactive wells (including but not limited to inactive wells covered by unit allowable, lease allowable, transferred allowable, etc.) shall not qualify for an overhead charge.
- (3) The well rates shall be adjusted as of the first day of April each year following the effective date of the agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached. The adjustment shall be computed by multiplying the rate currently in use by the percentage increase or decrease in the average weekly earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers for the last calendar year compared to the calendar year preceding as shown by the index of average weekly earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or the equivalent Canadian index as published by Statistics Canada, as applicable. The adjusted rates shall be the rates currently in use, plus or minus the computed adjustment.

#### B. Overhead - Percentage Basis

- (1) Operator shall charge the Joint Account at the following rates:

(a) Development

\_\_\_\_\_ Percent ( \_\_\_\_\_ %) of the cost of development of the Joint Property exclusive of costs provided under Paragraph 10 of Section II and all salvage credits.

(b) Operating

\_\_\_\_\_ Percent ( \_\_\_\_\_ %) of the cost of operating the Joint Property exclusive of costs provided under Paragraphs 2 and 10 of Section II, all salvage credits, the value of injected substances purchased for secondary recovery and all taxes and assessments which are levied, assessed and paid upon the mineral interest in a well to the Joint Property.

(2) Application of Overhead - Percentage Basis shall be as follows:

For the purpose of determining charges on a percentage basis under Paragraph 1B of this Section III, development shall include all costs in connection with drilling, redrilling, deepening, or any remedial operations on any or all wells involving the use of drilling rig and crew capable of drilling to the producing interval on the Joint Property; also, preliminary expenditures necessary in preparation for drilling and expenditures incurred in abandonment when the well is not completed as a producer, and original cost of construction or installation of fixed assets, the expansion of fixed assets and any other project clearly discernible as a fixed asset, except Major Construction defined in Paragraph 2 of this Section III. All other costs shall be considered as operating.

2. Overhead - Major Construction

To compensate Operator for overhead costs incurred in the construction and installation of fixed assets, the expansion of fixed assets, and any other project clearly discernible as a fixed asset required for the development and operation of the Joint Property, Operator shall either negotiate a rate prior to the beginning of construction, or shall charge the Joint Account for overhead based on the following rates for any Major Construction project in excess of \$ 25,000.00 :

- A. 5 % of first \$100,000 or total cost if less, plus
- B. 3 % of costs in excess of \$100,000 but less than \$1,000,000, plus
- C. 2 % of costs in excess of \$1,000,000.

Total cost shall mean the gross cost of any one project. For the purpose of this paragraph, the component parts of a single project shall not be treated separately and the cost of drilling and workover wells and artificial lift equipment shall be excluded.

3. Catastrophe Overhead

To compensate Operator for overhead costs incurred in the event of expenditures resulting from a single occurrence due to oil spill, blowout, explosion, fire, storm, hurricane, or other catastrophes as agreed to by the Parties, which are necessary to restore the Joint Property to the equivalent condition that existed prior to the event causing the expenditures, Operator shall either negotiate a rate prior to charging the Joint Account or shall charge the Joint Account for overhead based on the following rates:

- A. 5 % of total costs through \$100,000; plus
- B. 3 % of total costs in excess of \$100,000 but less than \$1,000,000; plus
- C. 2 % of total costs in excess of \$1,000,000.

Expenditures subject to the overheads above will not be reduced by insurance recoveries, and no other overhead provisions of this Section III shall apply.

4. Amendment of Rates

The overhead rates provided for in this Section III may be amended from time to time only by mutual agreement between the Parties hereto if, in practice, the rates are found to be insufficient or excessive.

#### IV. PRICING OF JOINT ACCOUNT MATERIAL PURCHASES, TRANSFERS AND DISPOSITIONS

Operator is responsible for Joint Account Material and shall make proper and timely charges and credits for all Material movements affecting the Joint Property. Operator shall provide all Material for use on the Joint Property; however, at Operator's option, such Material may be supplied by the Non-Operator. Operator shall make timely disposition of idle and/or surplus Material, such disposal being made either through sale to Operator or Non-Operator, division in kind, or sale to outsider. Operator may purchase, but shall be under no obligation to purchase, interest of Non-Operators in surplus condition A or B Material. The disposal of surplus Controllable Material not purchased by the Operator shall be agreed to by the Parties.

1. Purchases

Material purchased shall be charged at the price paid by Operator after deduction of all discounts received. In case of Material found to be defective or returned to vendor for any other reasons, credit shall be passed to the Joint Account when adjustment has been received by the Operator.

2. Transfers and Dispositions

Material furnished to the Joint Property and Material transferred from the Joint Property or disposed of by the Operator unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, shall be priced on the following basis exclusive of cash discounts:

A. New Material (Condition A)

(1) Tubular Goods Other than Line Pipe

- (a) Tubular goods, sized 2½ inches OD and larger, except line pipe, shall be priced at Eastern mill published carload base prices effective as of date of movement plus transportation cost using the 80,000 pound carload weight basis to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property for which published rail rates for tubular goods exist. If the 80,000 pound rail rate is not offered, the 70,000 pound or 90,000 pound rail rate may be used. Freight charges for tubing will be calculated from Lorain, Ohio and casing from Youngstown, Ohio.
  - (b) For grades which are special to one mill only, prices shall be computed at the mill base of that mill plus transportation cost from that mill to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property as provided above in Paragraph 2.A.(1)(a). For transportation cost from points other than Eastern mills, the 30,000 pound Oil Field Haulers Association interstate truck rate shall be used.
  - (c) Special end finish tubular goods shall be priced at the lowest published out-of-stock price\* f.o.b. Houston, Texas, plus transportation cost, using Oil Field Haulers Association interstate 30,000 pound truck rate, to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property.
  - (d) Macaroni tubing (size less than 2½ inch OD) shall be priced at the lowest published out-of-stock prices\* f.o.b. the supplier plus transportation costs, using the Oil Field Haulers Association interstate truck rate per weight of tubing transferred, to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property.
- \*of a manufacturer-authorized, major stocking distributor

(2) Line Pipe

- (a) Line pipe movements (except size 24 inch OD and larger with walls ¼ inch and over) 30,000 pounds or more shall be priced under provisions of tubular goods pricing in Paragraph A.(1)(a) as provided above. Freight charges shall be calculated from Lorain, Ohio.
  - (b) Line pipe movements (except size 24 inch OD and larger with walls ¼ inch and over) less than 30,000 pounds shall be priced at Eastern mill published carload base prices effective as of date of shipment, plus 20 percent, plus transportation costs based on freight rates as set forth under provisions of tubular goods pricing in Paragraph A.(1)(a) as provided above. Freight charges shall be calculated from Lorain, Ohio.
  - (c) Line pipe 24 inch OD and over and ¼ inch wall and larger shall be priced f.o.b. the point of manufacture at current new published prices plus transportation cost to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property.
  - (d) Line pipe, including fabricated line pipe, drive pipe and conduit not listed on published price lists shall be priced at quoted prices plus freight to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property or at prices agreed to by the Parties.
- (3) Other Material shall be priced at the current new price, in effect at date of movement, as listed by a reliable supply store nearest the Joint Property, or point of manufacture, plus transportation costs, if applicable, to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property.
- (4) Unused new Material, except tubular goods, moved from the Joint Property shall be priced at the current new price, in effect on date of movement, as listed by a reliable supply store nearest the Joint Property, or point of manufacture, plus transportation costs, if applicable, to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property. Unused new tubulars will be priced as provided above in Paragraph 2.A.(1) and (2).

B. Good Used Material (Condition B)

Material in sound and serviceable condition and suitable for reuse without reconditioning:

(1) Material moved to the Joint Property

At seventy-five percent (75%) of current new price, as determined by Paragraph A..

(2) Material used on and moved from the Joint Property

- (a) At seventy-five percent (75%) of current new price, as determined by Paragraph A, if Material was originally charged to the Joint Account as new Material or
- (b) At sixty-five percent (65%) of current new price, as determined by Paragraph A, if Material was originally charged to the Joint Account as used Material.

(3) Material not used on and moved from the Joint Property

At seventy-five percent (75%) of current new price as determined by Paragraph A.

The cost of reconditioning, if any, shall be absorbed by the transferring property.

C. Other Used Material

(1) Condition C

Material which is not in sound and serviceable condition and not suitable for its original function until after reconditioning shall be priced at fifty percent (50%) of current new price as determined by Paragraph A. The cost of reconditioning shall be charged to the receiving property, provided Condition C value plus cost of reconditioning does not exceed Condition B value.

(2) Condition D

Material, excluding junk, no longer suitable for its original purpose, but usable for some other purpose shall be priced on a basis commensurate with its use. Operator may dispose of Condition D Material under procedures normally used by Operator without prior approval of Non-Operators.

- (a) Casing, tubing, or drill pipe used as line pipe shall be priced as Grade A and B seamless line pipe of comparable size and weight. Used casing, tubing or drill pipe utilized as line pipe shall be priced at used line pipe prices.
- (b) Casing, tubing or drill pipe used as higher pressure service lines than standard line pipe, e.g. power oil lines shall be priced under normal pricing procedures for casing, tubing, or drill pipe. Upset tubular goods shall be priced on a non upset basis.

(3) Condition E

Junk shall be priced at prevailing prices. Operator may dispose of Condition E Material under procedures normally utilized by Operator without prior approval of Non-Operators.

D. Obsolete Material

Material which is serviceable and usable for its original function but condition and/or value of such Material is no equivalent to that which would justify a price as provided above may be specially priced as agreed to by the Parties. Such price should result in the Joint Account being charged with the value of the service rendered by such Material.

E. Pricing Conditions

- (1) Loading or unloading costs may be charged to the Joint Account at the rate of twenty-five cents (25¢) per hundred weight on all tubular goods movements, in lieu of actual loading or unloading costs sustained at the stocking point. The above rate shall be adjusted as of the first day of April each year following January 1, 1985 by the same percentage increase or decrease used to adjust overhead rates in Section III, Paragraph 1.A(3). Each year, the rate calculated shall be rounded to the nearest cent and shall be the rate in effect until the first day of April next year. Such rate shall be published each year by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies.
- (2) Material involving erection costs shall be charged at applicable percentage of the current knocked-down price of new Material.

3. Premium Prices

Whenever Material is not readily obtainable at published or listed prices because of national emergencies, strikes or other unusual causes over which the Operator has no control, the Operator may charge the Joint Account for the required Material at the Operator's actual cost incurred in providing such Material, in making it suitable for use, and in moving it to the Joint Property; provided notice in writing is furnished to Non-Operators of the proposed charge prior to billing, Non-Operators for such Material. Each Non-Operator shall have the right, by so electing and notifying Operator within ten days after receiving notice from Operator, to furnish in kind all or part of his share of such Material suitable for use and acceptable to Operator.

4. Warranty of Material Furnished By Operator

Operator does not warrant the Material furnished. In case of defective Material, credit shall not be passed to the Joint Account until adjustment has been received by Operator from the manufacturers or their agents.

## V. INVENTORIES

The Operator shall maintain detailed records of Controllable Material.

1. Periodic Inventories, Notice and Representation

At reasonable intervals, inventories shall be taken by Operator of the Joint Account Controllable Material. Written notice of intention to take inventory shall be given by Operator at least thirty (30) days before any inventory is to begin so that Non-Operators may be represented when any inventory is taken. Failure of Non-Operators to be represented at an inventory shall bind Non-Operators to accept the inventory taken by Operator.

2. Reconciliation and Adjustment of Inventories

Adjustments to the Joint Account resulting from the reconciliation of a physical inventory shall be made within six months following the taking of the inventory. Inventory adjustments shall be made by Operator to the Joint Account for overages and shortages, but, Operator shall be held accountable only for shortages due to lack of reasonable diligence.

3. Special Inventories

Special inventories may be taken whenever there is any sale, change of interest, or change of Operator in the Joint Property. It shall be the duty of the party selling to notify all other Parties as quickly as possible after the transfer of interest takes place. In such cases, both the seller and the purchaser shall be governed by such inventory. In cases involving a change of Operator, all Parties shall be governed by such inventory.

4. Expense of Conducting Inventories

- A. The expense of conducting periodic inventories shall not be charged to the Joint Account unless agreed to by the Parties.
- B. The expense of conducting special inventories shall be charged to the Parties requesting such inventories, except inventories required due to change of Operator shall be charged to the Joint Account.

**EXHIBIT "D"**

**Attached to and made a part of Operating Agreement  
Dated January 1, 1993, by and between  
MITCHELL ENERGY CORPORATION, as Operator, and  
SANTA FE ENERGY OPERATING PARTNERS, L. P. ET AL, as Non-Operators**

**INSURANCE COVERAGE**

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Operator agrees to carry or will cause to be carried with an insurance company or companies satisfactory to Mitchell Energy Corporation ("MEC") and authorized to do business in all areas of operation of this Agreement, insurance coverage with limits of not less than those hereinafter set, such coverage to include, but not be limited to all claims for damages, risks of loss, and contractual indemnities covered by this Agreement.

Operator shall furnish to MEC, in duplicate, certificates on a form acceptable to MEC, signed by authorized agents or representatives of the insurance companies providing the required coverage, evidencing all coverages, extensions and limits required to be carried by Operator under the provisions of this Agreement.

Failure by MEC to request certificates of insurance or failure of Operator to provide certificates or to maintain proper coverage required by this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of the insurance provisions or any other contractual obligations under this Agreement.

- (a) Each Insurance policy maintained by Operator for work performed under this contract must be endorsed as follows:
  - (1) MEC's parent, its subsidiaries, affiliated companies and interrelated companies, and the owners, co-owners, co-lessees, and joint venturers, if any, and their respective employees, officers and agents shall be named as Additional Insureds. Note: This provision is not applicable to the Worker's Compensation Policy.
  - (2) Underwriters shall waive their rights of subrogation (whether by loan receipts, equitable assignment, or otherwise) against all Insureds.
  - (3) The coverage afforded herein shall be primary in relation to any policies carried by MEC itself.
  - (4) To provide thirty (30) days written notice of cancellation or material modification of the policy.
  
- (b) The following insurance coverages are required for all work performed under this Agreement:
  - (1) Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Insurance: Insurance in accordance with all applicable State and Federal Laws with limits of liability of not less than \$ 100,000 covering all of MEC's employees, and all employees of any subcontractor engaged in the work to be performed hereunder.

- (2) **Comprehensive General Liability:** Insurance in an amount of not less than \$ 1,000,000 combined single limit bodily injury and damage per each occurrence. Such insurance coverage shall include the following:
  - a. Owner's Protective Liability covering for work sub-let.
  - b. Contractual Liability, insuring the indemnity agreements contained in the Agreement of which this exhibit is a part.
  - c. Coverage for property damage due to blasting and explosion (x), structural property damage (c), underground property damage (u), and surface damage from blowout and cratering (e).
  - d. Completed Operations and/or Products Liability coverage.
  - e. Endorsement to policies stating that a suit "in rem" will be treated and covered as a suit "in personam".
- (3) **Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance:** Insurance in an amount of not less than \$ 1,000,000 combined single limit bodily injury and damage per each occurrence. Such coverage shall include owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles.
- (4) **Operator shall maintain or cause to be maintained Extra Expense and Well Control Insurance.** The policy will provide for the following coverages:
  - a. Costs of well control following blowout.
  - b. Third party bodily injury and property damage claims caused by seepage pollution or contamination resulting from a blowout.
  - c. Costs of clean-up or containment of seeping, polluting and contaminating substances emanating from the well.
  - d. Redrilling expenses following blowout.

Such Insurance will have limits of liability of not less than \$ 5,000,000 with rates determined on the basis of the area and depth of the well or wells to be drilled.

Each policy of insurance issued pursuant to the provisions of (a), (b) or (c) above shall provide by endorsement or otherwise that the provisions of the policy are extended to cover the interest of the Non-Operator for whom the assured is acting as Operator, agent or contractor under contract, but only with respect to operations conducted by the named assured.

Liability for damages to property of or injury to or death of third persons, which liability arose from operations on the Joint Lease, shall, to the extent not covered by insurance as provided for in this Agreement, shall be borne by all parties to this Operating Agreement in proportion to their respective Percentage Interests.

Operator shall upon written request furnish to Non-Operator a certificate covering each policy of insurance issued pursuant to this Agreement.

**EXHIBIT "E"**

**Attached to and made a part of the Operating Agreement  
Dated January 1, 1993, by and between  
MITCHELL ENERGY CORPORATION, as Operator, and  
SANTA FE ENERGY OPERATING PARTNERS, L. P., ET AL, as Non-Operators**

**GAS BALANCING AGREEMENT FOR GAS PRODUCTION**

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1. Each party shall have the right to take in kind and separately dispose of its proportionate share of the gas produced from the Unit Area and shall be entitled to an opportunity to produce its fair share of the allowable production from a well, including lawful tolerances, established by appropriate regulatory authority. "Gas", as used herein, will be deemed to mean gas well gas and gas produced in association with oil.

2. It is the intent that each party be entitled to gas produced in the proportion that its ownership interest bears to the sum of the ownership interests. It is the intent that the Operator have the duty of controlling the gas production and the responsibility of administering the provisions of this agreement. Operator shall cause deliveries to be made to the gas purchasers at such rates as may be required to give effect to the intent that the gas production accounts of all parties are to be brought into balance under the provisions contained herein. The parties hereto shall share in and own the lease condensate, that is, liquid hydrocarbons recovered from such gas by lease equipment, in accordance with their respective interests, as set forth hereinabove, and upon and subject to the terms of the above described Operating Agreement.

3. To give effect to the intent of this agreement, the Operator shall be governed by the rights of each party:

- (a) When the well's current production is less than the well allowable due to either the capacity of the well to produce or the Unit Operator causing the well to produce below allowable in order to properly balance well allowable overproduction:
  - (1) Each underproduced party, that is, a party who has taken a lesser volume of gas than the quantity such party is herein entitled, shall have the right to take a greater amount of gas than such party's proportionate share of the well's current production, provided that the right to take such greater amount shall be in proportion that its interest bears to the total interest of all underproduced parties desiring to take more than their proportionate share of the well's current production. Provided, however, this provision will only be allowed when such underproduced parties' purchaser is willing and able to take such greater amount.
  - (2) Each overproduced party, that is, a party who has taken a greater volume of gas than the quantity such party is herein entitled, shall reduce its respective take in the proportion that such party's interest bears to the total interest of all overproduced parties, but in no event shall any overproduced party be required to reduce its take to less than fifty percent (50%) of such overproduced party's proportionate share of the well's current production.
- (b) When the well's current production is less than the well allowable due to combined pipeline takes or for reasons other than in subparagraph (a) above:

- (1) Each underproduced party shall have the same rights set forth in subparagraph (a) (1) above.
  - (2) Each overproduced party shall reduce its respective take in the proportion that such party's interest bears to the total interest of all overproduced parties, but in no event shall any overproduced party be required to reduce its take to less than fifty percent (50%) of such overproduced party's proportionate share of the well allowable.
- (c) When the well's current production is equal to or greater than the well allowable:
- (1) Each underproduced party shall have the right to take a greater amount of gas than its proportionate share of the well allowable, provided that the right to take such greater amount shall be in proportion that its interest bears to the total interest of all underproduced parties desiring to take more than their proportionate share of the well allowable.
  - (2) Each overproduced party shall have the same rights set forth in subparagraph (a) (2) above.
- (d) Operator, at the request of any party, may produce the entire well stream, if necessary, for a deliverability test not to exceed seventy-two (72) hours duration required under such requesting party's gas sales contract and may overproduce in any other situation provided that such overproducing would be consistent with prudent operations.

4. Each party taking gas shall furnish Operator a monthly statement of gas taken. After commencement of production, Operator shall furnish a current account monthly of the gas balance between parties hereto including the total quantity of gas produced, the portion thereof used in Unit Area operations, vented or lost, and the total quantity of gas delivered to market.

5. Each party producing, taking or delivering gas to its purchaser shall pay severance taxes, excise taxes, royalties, overriding royalties, production payments and other such payments and taxes on production for which it is obligated by law or by lease or by contract (including the Operating Agreement), and nothing in this Gas Balancing Agreement shall be construed as affecting such obligations. Each party hereto agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the other parties hereto against all claims, losses or liabilities arising out of its failure to fulfill such obligations.

6. The provisions of this agreement shall be separately applicable to each well and each reservoir to the end that production from one reservoir in a well shall not be utilized for the purpose of balancing underproduction from other reservoirs. This shall constitute a separate agreement as to each well and as to each reservoir.

7. When the gas sales from a reservoir in a well permanently cease, Operator shall be responsible to determine the final accounting of underproduction and overproduction and each overproduced party shall account to and compensate each underproduced party with a sum of money equal to the amount actually received, less applicable taxes, by an overproduced party from the sale of that part of the total cumulative volume of gas produced which the underproduced party was entitled to take and payment for such overproduction shall be in the order of accrual, provided, that if such overproduced party has paid the royalties attributable to such overproduction to which the underproduced party's interest is subject, the amount of such royalties shall be deducted from such payment. As to any gas which any party hereto may take for its own use or sell to a third party purchaser affiliated with such selling party, such amount of money payable for the amount of such gas which such party has taken or sold over its proportionate share thereof shall be

based upon the rate which would have been received by the underproduced party as if such gas had been taken during the period or periods of underproduction under its contract with a nonaffiliated third party purchaser; provided, however, if the underproduced party has no such contract, such amount of money shall be based on the average rate received by other parties hereto for their share of gas during the affected period. Overproduced party(ies) shall make payment and Operator shall provide supporting accounting documentation to the underproduced party(ies) within ninety (90) days following cessation of production. It is agreed and understood that Operator has no liability to collect or distribute any monies for overproduction of gas other than those monies that have been remitted to Operator by an overproduced party, i.e., Operator merely acts as a "conduit" for the purposes of cash settlements made pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

8. Nothing herein shall change or affect each party's obligations to pay its proportionate share of all costs and liabilities incurred in lease operations, as its share thereof is set forth in the aforementioned Operating Agreement.

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**EXHIBIT "F"**

**Attached to and made a part of Operating Agreement  
Dated January 1, 1993, by and between  
MITCHELL ENERGY CORPORATION, as Operator, and  
SANTA FE ENERGY OPERATING PARTNERS, L. P., ET AL, as Non-Operators**

**NON-DISCRIMINATION AND  
CERTIFICATION OF NON-SEGREGATED FACILITIES**

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In order to assure compliance with Federal Equal Employment provisions, Operator agrees and certifies as follows:

Operator is aware of and is fully informed of Operator's responsibilities under Executive Orders No. 11246 and 11375, and shall file compliance reports as required by Section 201 of Executive Order No. 11246, and otherwise comply with the requirements of such orders and with all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, including but not limited to, 41 CFR Part 60-1, 41 CFR Part 60-2, 41 CFR Part 60-3, 41 CFR Part 60-20 and 41 CFR Part 60-50, and all amendments or additions thereto. The affirmative action clause set forth in Section 202 of Executive Order No. 11246 and 41 CFR 60-1.4 is included herein by reference.

- (1) The Operator will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The Operator will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training including apprenticeship. The Operator agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
- (2) The Operator will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Operator, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- (3) The Operator will send to each labor union or representative or workers with which Operator has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided, advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the Operator's commitments under Section 202 of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- (4) The Operator will comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.
- (5) The Operator will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by the rules, regulations and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to Operator's books, records and accounts by the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor for purpose of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations and orders.

- (6) In the event of the Operator's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of the said rules, regulations or orders, this contract may be cancelled, terminated or suspended in whole or in part and the Operator may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts or federally assisted constructions contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulations or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.
- (7) The Operator will include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (7) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to Section 204 of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Operator will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the administering agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that in the event the Operator becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the administering agency, the Operator may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.
- (8) Operator further agrees and certifies that, if the value of any contract or purchase order is \$ 50,000 or more and Operator has 50 or more employees, Operator will:
- (a) File a complete and accurate report on Standard Form 100 (EEO-1) with the Joint Reporting Committee, Federal Depot, Jeffersonville, Indiana, within thirty (30) days of the date of contract award, unless such report has been filed within the twelve (12) month period preceding the date of the contract and otherwise comply with and file such other compliance reports as may be required under Executive Order No. 11246, as amended, and Rules and Regulations adopted thereunder.
  - (b) Develop a written affirmative action compliance program for each of its establishments as required by Title 41, Code of Federal Regulation, Section 60-1.40 and 6, Title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60-2, as amended.
  - (c) LISTING OF EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS. If the value of any contract or purchase order is \$ 10,000 or more, Operator shall be bound by the terms and provisions of the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Act of 1972, Public Law 92-540, as amended by the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Public Law 93-508, and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. The affirmative action clause set forth in 41 CFR 60-250.4 is included herein by reference.
  - (d) EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED. If the value of any contract or purchase order is \$ 2,500 or more, Operator shall be bound by the terms and provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Law 93-516, and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. The affirmative action clause set forth in 41 CFR 60-741.4 is included herein by reference.
  - (e) Operator further understands and agrees that a breach of the assurance herein contained subjects it to the provision of the Order at 41 CFR Chapter 60 of the Secretary of Labor dated May 21, 1968, and the provisions of the equal opportunity clause enumerated in contracts between the United States of American and Non-Operators.

- (9) Operator certifies that he does not maintain or provide for his employees any segregated facilities at any of his establishments, at any location under his control where segregated facilities are maintained. He certifies further that he will not maintain or provide for his employees any segregated facilities at any of his establishments, and that he will not permit his employees to perform their services at any location, under his control, where segregated facilities are maintained. Operator agrees that a breach of his certification is a violation of the Equal Opportunity Clause in this contract. As used in this certification, the term "segregated facilities" means any waiting rooms, work area, rest rooms and wash rooms, restaurants and other eating areas, time clocks, locker rooms and other storage or dressing areas, parking lots, drinking fountains, recreation or entertainment areas, transportation and housing facilities provided for employees which are segregated by explicit directive or are in fact segregated on the basis of race, color, religion, age, or national origin, because of habit, local custom or otherwise; Operator's policies and practices must assure appropriate physical facilities to both sexes. He further agrees that (except where he has obtained identical certifications from proposed subcontractors for specific time periods) he will obtain identical certifications from proposed subcontractors prior to the award of subcontracts exceeding \$ 10,000 which are not exempt from the provisions of Equal Opportunity Clause that he will retain such certifications in his files; and that he will forward the following notice to such proposed subcontractors (except where the proposed subcontractors have submitted identical certifications for specific time period); **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE SUBCONTRACTORS OF REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATIONS OF NONSEGREGATED FACILITIES.** A Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities as required by the May 9, 1967 order on Elimination of Segregated Facilities, by the Secretary of Labor (32 Fed. Reg. 7439, May 19, 1967), must be submitted prior to the award to a subcontract exceeding \$ 10,000 which is not exempt from the provisions of the Equal Opportunity Clause. The certification may be submitted either for each subcontract or for all subcontracts during a period (i.e., quarterly, semiannually or annually). (1968 MAR.) (Note: The penalty for making false statements in offers is prescribed in 18 U.S.C. § 1001).

\*\*\*\*\*

THIS INSTRUMENT PROVIDES NOTICE OF LIENS AND OTHER SECURITY INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTIES, FIXTURES, AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY

EXHIBIT "H"

NOTICE OF JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT AND LIENS AND OTHER SECURITY INTERESTS

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ §  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ § KNOW ALL PERSONS THAT:

WHEREAS, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, the here-inbelow-identified parties, whose addresses are shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto, did agree to and make an agreement for developing and operating certain lands, oil and gas leasehold interests, and/or other oil and gas interests (such agreement, which is incorporated herein by this reference, being hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement"). The lands and interests identified in the Agreement included within a "Contract Area", as that term is therein defined, those described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto (such land and interests described on said Exhibit "A" being hereinafter referred to as the "Lands and Interests"); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement, among other terms and provisions, granted to the parties identified as "Operator" and "Non-Operators" therein certain liens and other security interests in the Lands and Interests and in fixtures and other personal property as follows:

"ARTICLE VII.

B. LIENS AND PAYMENT DEFAULTS:

Each Non-Operator grants to Operator a lien upon its oil and gas rights in the Contract Area, and a security interest in its share of oil and/or gas when extracted and its interest in all equipment, to secure payment of its share of expense, together with interest thereon at the rate provided in Exhibit "C" [the Accounting Procedure attached thereto]. To the extent that Operator has a security interest under the Uniform Commercial Code of the state, Operator shall be entitled to exercise the rights and remedies of a secured party under the Code. The bringing of a suit and the obtaining of judgment of Operator for the secured indebtedness shall not be deemed an election of remedies or otherwise affect the lien rights or security interest as security for the payment thereof. In addition, upon default by any Non-Operator in the payment of its share of expense, Operator shall have the right, without prejudice to other rights or remedies, to collect from the purchaser the proceeds from the sale of such Non-Operator's share of oil and/or gas until the amount owed by such Non-Operator, plus interest, has been paid. Each purchaser shall be entitled to rely upon Operator's written statement concerning the amount of any default. Operator grants a like lien and security interest to the Non-Operators to secure payment of Operator's proportionate share of expense.

"ARTICLE XV. Item (4)

Subject to the provisions of Article VII.B. of this Operating Agreement, each Non-Operator grants to Operator a lien upon all of the rights, titles, and interests of each Non-Operator, whether now existing or

hereafter acquired, in and to (i) the oil, gas, and other minerals in, on, and under the Contract Area and (ii) any oil, gas, and other minerals leases covering the Contract Area or any portion thereof. In addition, each Non-Operator grants to Operator a security interest in and to all of such Non-Operator's rights, titles, interests, claims, general intangibles, proceeds, and products thereof, whether now existing or hereafter acquired, in and to (i) all oil, gas, and other minerals produced from the Contract Area when produced and all rights thereto, including, but not limited to, an underproduced party's right, if any, pursuant to any gas balancing agreement between the parties hereto against an overproduced party to make-up gas; (ii) all accounts receivable accruing or arising as a result of the sale of such oil, gas, and other minerals; (iii) all cash or other proceeds from the sale of such oil, gas, and other minerals once produced; and (iv) all oil and gas wells and other surface and subsurface equipment and facilities of any kind or character located on the Contract Area and the cash or other proceeds realized from the sale thereof. Operator grants a like lien and security interest to the Non-Operators to secure payment of Operator's proportionate share of expenses."

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto hereby give notice of the liens and other security interests granted by Non-Operators to Operator in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement quoted hereinabove, and hereby grant, and give notice of, the following liens: (1) (i) a lien upon all of the rights, titles, and interests of each Non-Operator, whether now existing or hereafter acquired, in and to (a) the Lands and Interests described more particularly on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and (b) all oil, gas, and other minerals in, on, and under the Lands and Interests and (ii) a security interest in and to all of the rights, titles, interests, claims, general intangibles, proceeds, and products thereof of each Non-Operator, whether now existing or hereafter acquired, in and to (a) all oil, gas, and other minerals produced from the Lands and Interests when produced, and all rights thereto, including, but not limited to, an underproduced party's right, if any, pursuant to any gas balancing agreement between the parties hereto against an overproduced party to make-up gas, (b) all accounts receivable accruing or arising as the result of the sale of such oil, gas, and other minerals, (c) all cash or other proceeds from the sale of such oil, gas, and other minerals once produced, and (d) all oil and gas wells and other surface and subsurface equipment and facilities of any kind or character located on or within the Lands and Interests and the cash or other proceeds realized from the sale thereof; and (2) like liens and security interest to Non-Operators.

This Notice may be executed in any number of counterparts, which may be combined to form a single instrument for recording purposes. All parties need not execute this Notice in order for it to be effective as to those parties executing it.

EXECUTED in multiple originals for filing in the real property/mortgage and Uniform Commercial Code records of the hereinabove identified County(ies) of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ and as a Financing Statement under the Uniform Commercial Code of such state with the Secretary of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
"OPERATOR"

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
"NON-OPERATOR"

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
"NON-OPERATOR"

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
"NON-OPERATOR"

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ §  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on \_\_\_\_\_,  
19\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of said corporation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of \_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ §  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on \_\_\_\_\_,  
19\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of said  
corporation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of \_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ §  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on \_\_\_\_\_,  
19\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of \_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ §  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on \_\_\_\_\_,  
19\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ as attorney-in-fact on behalf  
of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of \_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_



**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

P.O. Box 2088  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

**DISTRICT I**  
 P.O. Box 1980, Hobbs, NM 88240

**DISTRICT II**  
 P.O. Drawer DD, Artesia, NM 88210

**DISTRICT III**  
 1000 Rio Brazos Rd., Aztec, NM 87410

**WELL LOCATION AND ACREAGE DEDICATION PLAT**

All Distances must be from the outer boundaries of the section

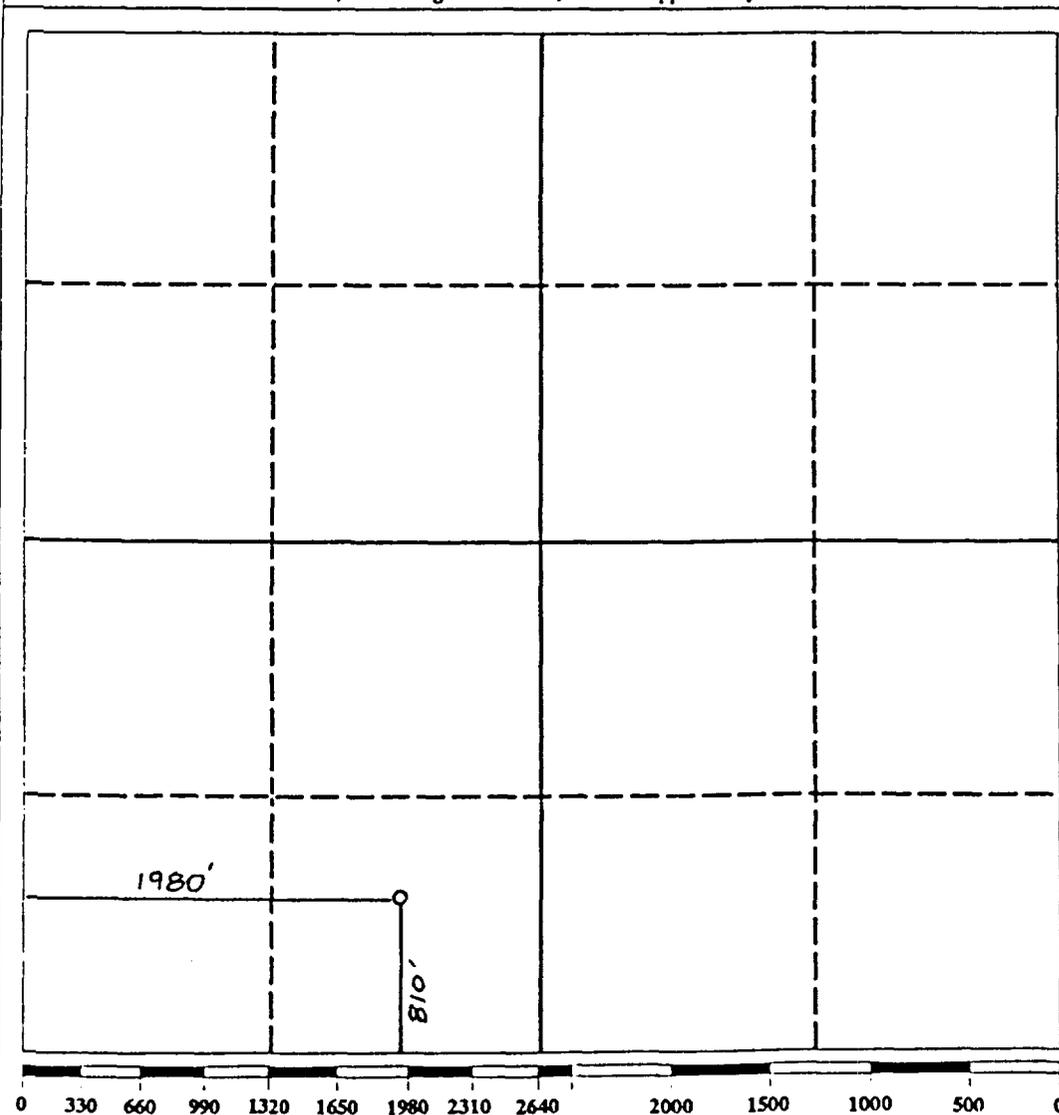
Operator <b>STRATA PRODUCTION</b>			Lease <b>PAVO FEDERAL</b>			Well No. <b>2</b>		
Unit Letter <b>N</b>	Section <b>28</b>	Township <b>20 SOUTH</b>	Range <b>33 EAST</b>	County <b>LEA COUNTY, NM</b>				
Actual Footage Location of Well: <b>1980</b> feet from the <b>WEST</b> line and <b>810</b> feet from the <b>SOUTH</b> line								
Ground level Elev. <b>3613.</b>		Producing Formation			Pool		Dedicated Acreage:  Acres	

- Outline the acreage dedicated to the subject well by colored pencil or hachure marks on the plat below.
- If more than one lease is dedicated to the well, outline each and identify the ownership thereof (both as to working interest and royalty).
- If more than one lease of different ownership is dedicated to the well, have the interest of all owners been consolidated by communitization, unitization, force-pooling, etc.?
 

Yes     No    If answer is "yes" type of consolidation \_\_\_\_\_

If answer is "no" list the owners and tract descriptions which have actually been consolidated. (Use reverse side of this form if necessary.) \_\_\_\_\_

No allowable will be assigned to the well until all interests have been consolidated (by communitization, unitization, forced-pooling, or otherwise) or until a non-standard unit, eliminating such interest, has been approved by the Division.



**OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION**

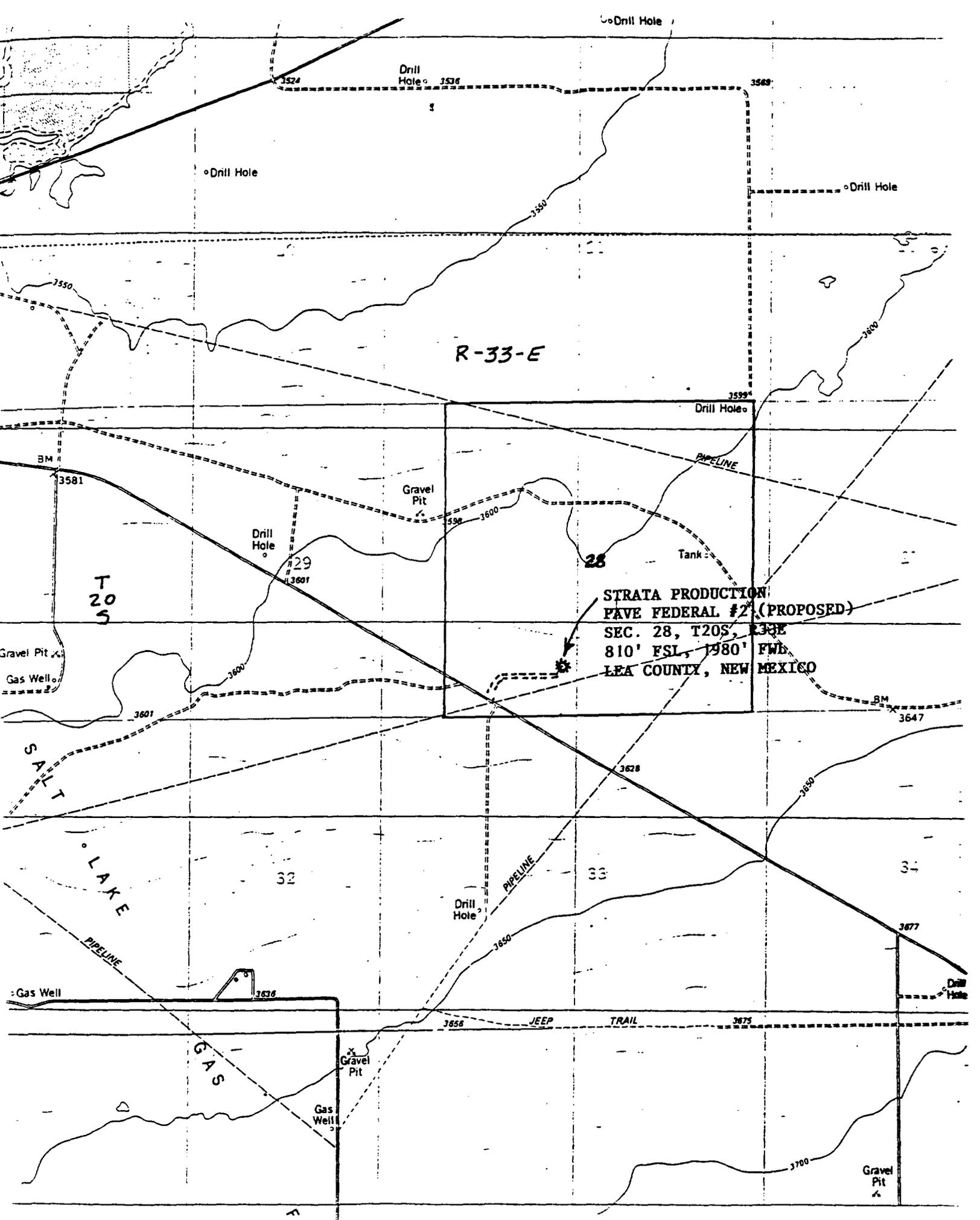
I hereby certify that the well location shown on this plat was plotted from field notes of actual surveys made by me or under my supervision, and that the same is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date Surveyed **DECEMBER 20 1992**

Signature & Seal of Professional Surveyor

*[Professional Engineer Seal: REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, STATE OF NEW MEXICO, NO. 5412]*

Certificate No. **5412**  
 NM PE 5412



R-33-E

STRATA PRODUCTION  
PAVE FEDERAL #2 (PROPOSED)  
SEC. 28, T20S, R33E  
810' FSL, 1980' FWL  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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Drill Hole

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BEFORE EXAMINER STOGNER

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Strata EXHIBIT NO. 5

CASE NO. 10656

LARGE FORMAT  
EXHIBIT HAS  
BEEN REMOVED  
AND IS LOCATED  
IN THE NEXT FILE

NOTICE OF STAKING

(Not to be used in place of Application for Permit to Drill Form 3160-3)



1. Oil Well <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gas Well <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (Specify)		6. Lease Number NM 82927	
2. Name of Operator: STRATA PRODUCTION		7. If Indian, Allottee or Tribe Name	
3. Name of Specific Contact Person: CAROL GARCIA		8. Unit Agreement Name	
4. Address & Phone No. of Operator or Agent 648 PETROLEUM BUILDING ROSWELL, NM 88201 505 622-1127		9. Farm or Lease Name PAVO FEDERAL	
5. Surface Location of Well 660' FSL 760' FWL Attach: a) Sketch showing road entry into pad, pad dimensions, and reserve pit. b) Topographical or other acceptable map showing location, access road, and lease boundaries.		10. Well No. 1	
		11. Field or Wildcat Name	
		12. Sec., T., R., M., or Dk and Survey or Area SEC. 28, T20S, R33E	
15. Formation Objective(s) DELAWARE	16. Estimated Well Depth 8200'	13. County, Parish or Borough LEA COUNTY	14. State NEW MEXICO

17. Additional Information (as appropriate; must include surface owner's name, address, and telephone number).

BLM-CARLSBAD OFFICE

18. Signed Dan R. Reddy Title PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER & LAND SURVEYOR Date 12/1/92  
DAN R. REDDY AGENT FOR STRATA

Note: Upon receipt of this Notice, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will schedule the date of the onsite predrill inspection and notify you accordingly. The location must be staked and access road must be flagged prior to the onsite.

Operators must consider the following prior to the onsite:

- a) H2S Potential
- b) Cultural Resources (Archeology)
- c) Federal Right of Way or Special Use Permit

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

State of New Mexico  
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Form C-102  
 Revised 1-1-89

**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

P.O. Box 2088  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

**DISTRICT I**  
 P.O. Box 1980, Hobbs, NM 88240

**DISTRICT II**  
 P.O. Drawer DD, Artesia, NM 88210

**DISTRICT III**  
 1000 Rio Brazos Rd., Aztec, NM 87410

**WELL LOCATION AND ACREAGE DEDICATION PLAT**  
 All Distances must be from the outer boundaries of the section

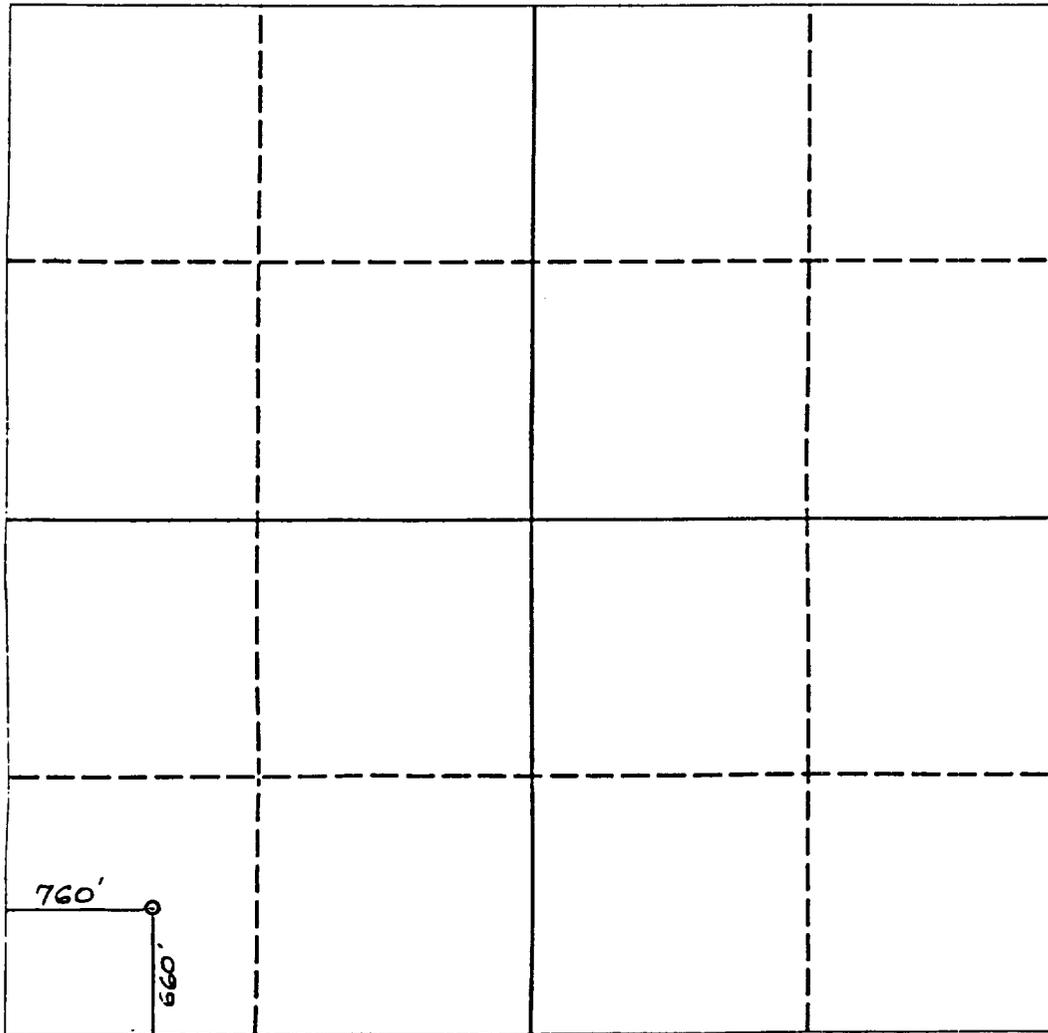
Operator <b>STRATA PRODUCTION</b>			Lease <b>PAVO FEDERAL</b>		Well No. <b>1</b>
Unit Letter <b>M</b>	Section <b>28</b>	Township <b>20 SOUTH</b>	Range <b>33 EAST</b>	County <b>LEA COUNTY, NM</b>	
Actual Footage Location of Well: <b>760</b> feet from the <b>WEST</b> line and <b>660</b> feet from the <b>SOUTH</b> line					
Ground Elev. <b>610.</b>	Producing Formation		Pool	Dedicated Acreage:  Acres	

- Outline the acreage dedicated to the subject well by colored pencil or hachure marks on the plat below.
- If more than one lease is dedicated to the well, outline each and identify the ownership thereof (both as to working interest and royalty).
- If more than one lease of different ownership is dedicated to the well, have the interest of all owners been consolidated by communitization, unitization, force-pooling, etc.?
 

Yes     No    If answer is "yes" type of consolidation \_\_\_\_\_

If answer is "no" list the owners and tract descriptions which have actually been consolidated. (Use reverse side of this form if necessary.) \_\_\_\_\_

No allowable will be assigned to the well until all interests have been consolidated (by communitization, unitization, forced-pooling, or otherwise) or until a non-standard unit, eliminating such interest, has been approved by the Division.



**OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION**

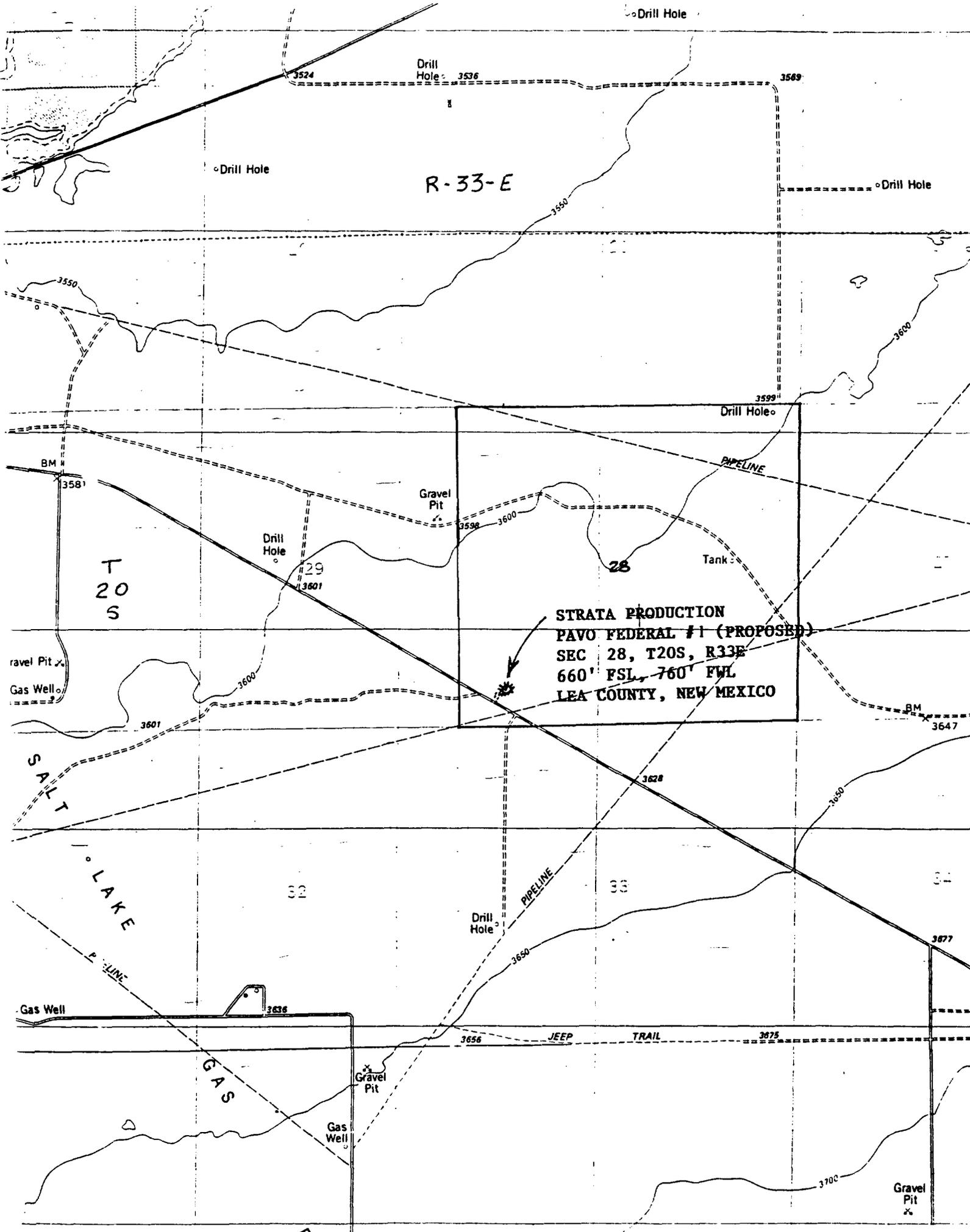
I hereby certify that the well location shown on this plat was plotted from field notes of actual surveys made by me or under my supervision, and that the same is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date Surveyed  
**DECEMBER 22 1992**

Signature & Seal of Professional Surveyor

NM PR 100-105412

0 330 660 990 1320 1650 1980 2310 2640 2000 1500 1000 500 0



Drill Hole 3536

R-33-E

**STRAATA PRODUCTION  
PAVO FEDERAL #1 (PROPOSED)  
SEC 28, T20S, R33E  
660' PSL, 760' FWL  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

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Gravel Pit

BEFORE EXAMINER STOGNER

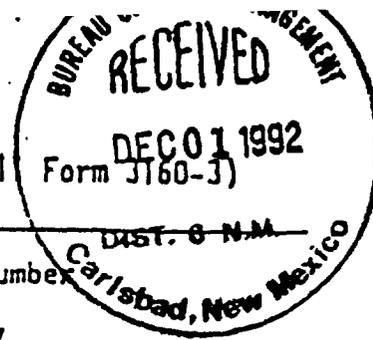
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Strat EXHIBIT NO. 7

CASE NO. 10656

NOTICE OF STAKING

(Not to be used in place of Application for Permit to Drill)



1. Oil Well <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gas Well <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (Specify)		6. Lease Number NM 82927	
2. Name of Operator: STRATA PRODUCTION		7. If Indian, Allottee or Tribe Name	
3. Name of Specific Contact Person: CAROL GARCIA		8. Unit Agreement Name	
4. Address & Phone No. of Operator or Agent 648 PETROLEUM BUILDING ROSWELL, NM 88201 505 622-1127		9. Farm or Lease Name PAVO FEDERAL	
5. Surface Location of Well 810' FSL 1980' FWL Attach: a) Sketch showing road entry into pad, pad dimensions, and reserve pit. b) Topographical or other acceptable map showing location, access road, and lease boundaries.		10. Well No. 2	
		11. Field or Wildcat Name	
		12. Sec., T., R., H., or Blk and Survey or Area SEC. 28, T20S, R33E	
15. Formation Objective(s) DELAWARE	16. Estimated Well Depth 8200'	13. County, Parish or Borough LEA COUNTY	14. State NEW MEXICO

17. Additional Information (as appropriate; must include surface owner's name, address, and telephone number).

BLM-CARLSBAD OFFICE

18. Signed Dan R. Reddy Title PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER & LAND SURVEYOR Date 12/1/92  
DAN R. REDDY AGENT FOR STRATA

Note: Upon receipt of this Notice, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will schedule the date of the on-site predrill inspection and notify you accordingly. The location must be staked and access road must be flagged prior to the onsite.

Operators must consider the following prior to the onsite:

- a) H2S Potential
- b) Cultural Resources (Archeology)
- c) Federal Right of Way or Special Use Permit

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Form C-102  
 Revised 1-1-89

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

P.O. Box 2088  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

DISTRICT I  
 P.O. Box 1980, Hobbs, NM 88240

DISTRICT II  
 P.O. Drawer DD, Artesia, NM 88210

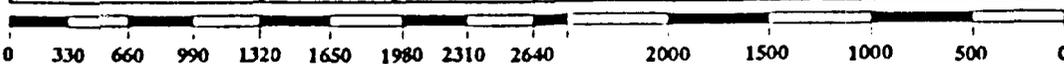
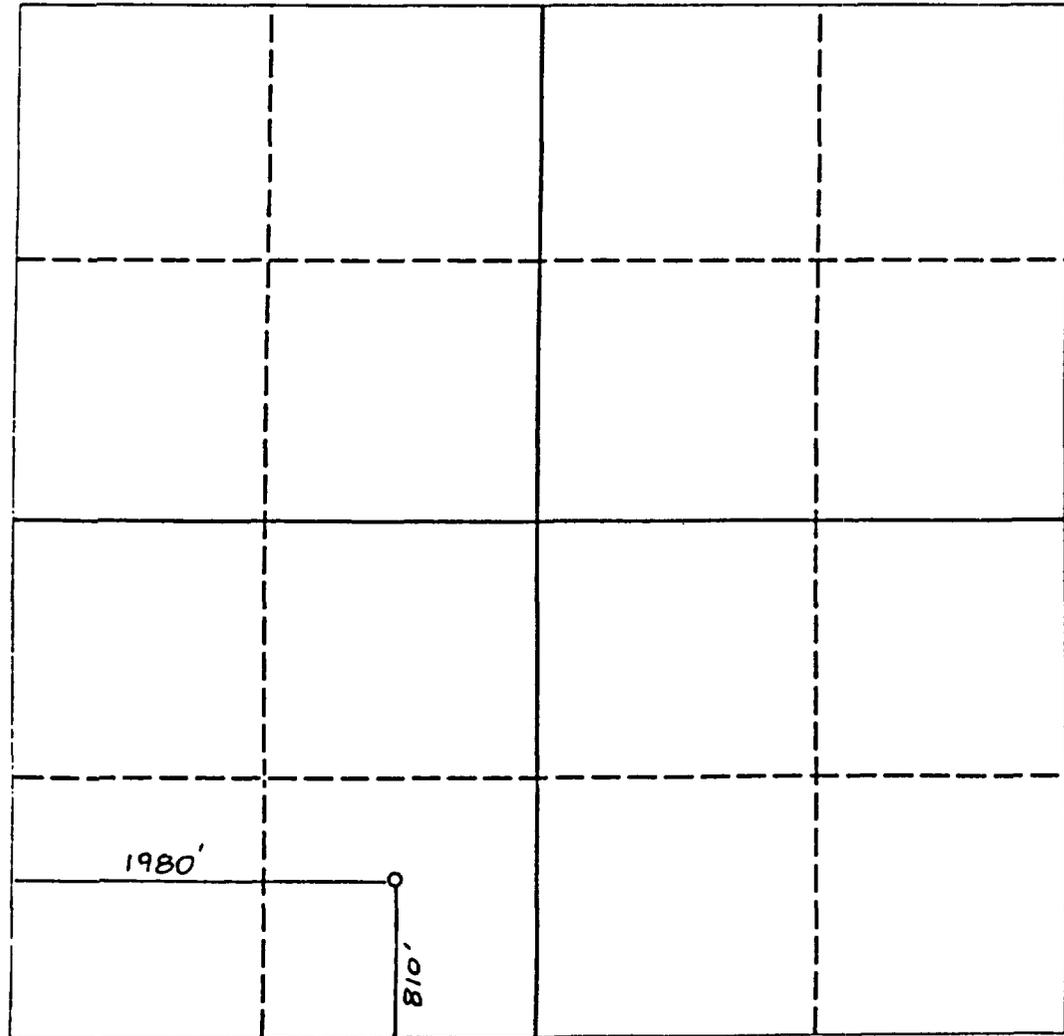
DISTRICT III  
 1000 Rio Razos Rd., Aztec, NM 87410

WELL LOCATION AND ACREAGE DEDICATION PLAT

All Distances must be from the outer boundaries of the section

Operator <b>STRATA PRODUCTION</b>			Lease <b>PAVO FEDERAL</b>			Well No. <b>2</b>		
Unit Letter <b>N</b>	Section <b>28</b>	Township <b>20 SOUTH</b>	Range <b>33 EAST</b>	County <b>LEA COUNTY, NM</b>				
Actual Footage Location of Well: <b>1980</b> feet from the <b>WEST</b> line and <b>810</b> feet from the <b>SOUTH</b> line								
Ground level Elev. <b>3613.</b>		Producing Formation			Pool		Dedicated Acreage: Acres	

- Outline the acreage dedicated to the subject well by colored pencil or hachure marks on the plat below.
- If more than one lease is dedicated to the well, outline each and identify the ownership thereof (both as to working interest and royalty).
- If more than one lease of different ownership is dedicated to the well, have the interest of all owners been consolidated by communitization, unitization, force-pooling, etc.?
   
 Yes     No    If answer is "yes" type of consolidation \_\_\_\_\_
   
If answer is "no" list the owners and tract descriptions which have actually been consolidated. (Use reverse side of this form if necessary). \_\_\_\_\_
   
No allowable will be assigned to the well until all interests have been consolidated (by communitization, unitization, forced-pooling, or otherwise) or until a non-standard unit, eliminating such interest, has been approved by the Division.



**OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

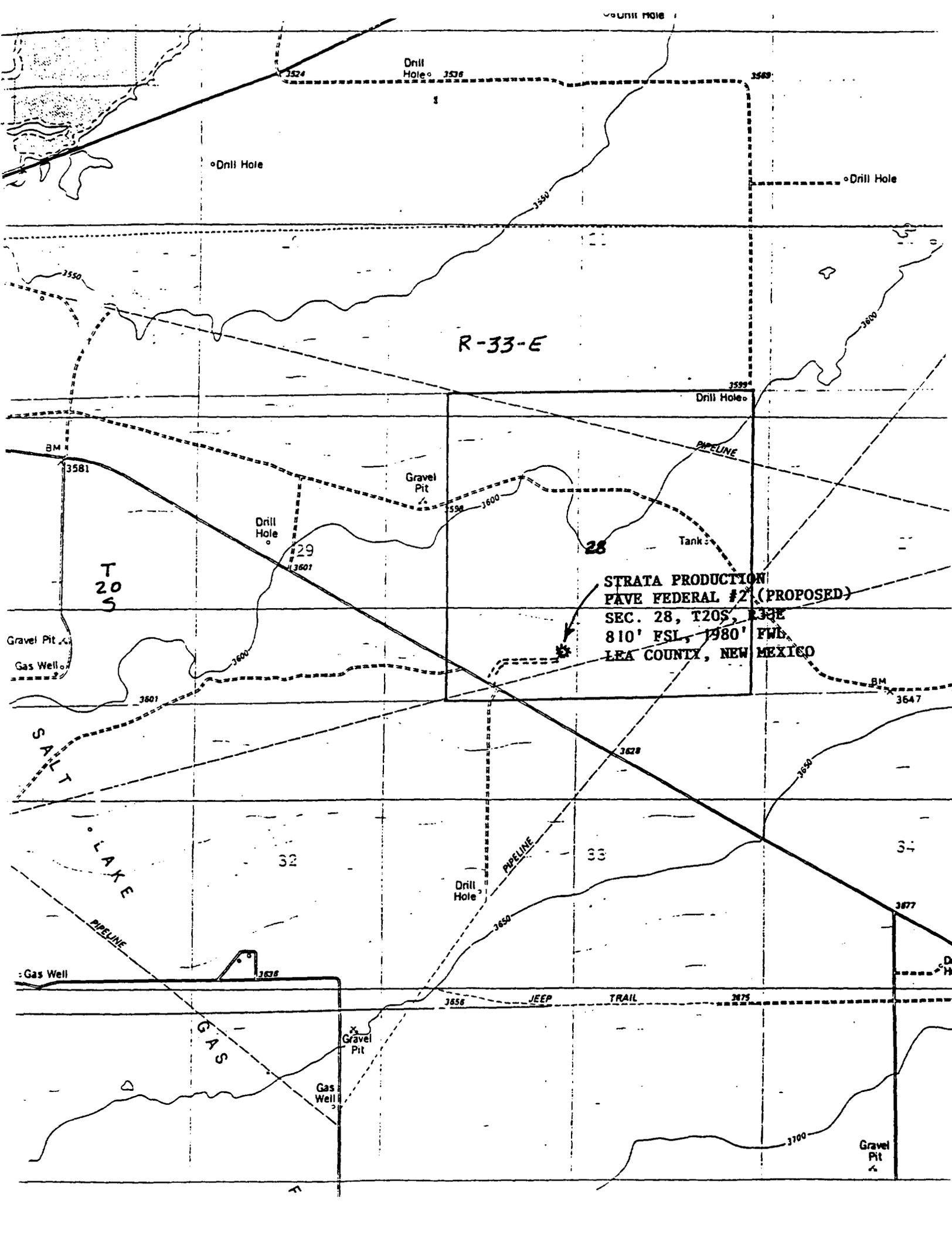
**SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the well location shown on this plat was plotted from field notes of actual surveys made by me or under my supervision, and that the same is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date Surveyed  
**DECEMBER 22 F 1992**

Signature & Seal of Professional Surveyor

Certificate No. **5412**  
 NM PEES



Drill Hole 3524  
Drill Hole 3526

Drill Hole

Drill Hole

R-33-E

Drill Hole 3599

PIPELINE

Gravel Pit

Drill Hole 3601

Tank

STRATA PRODUCTION  
FAVE FEDERAL #2 (PROPOSED)  
SEC. 28, T20S, R33E  
810' FSL, 1980' FWB  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

T 20 S

Gravel Pit  
Gas Well

SALT LAKE

PIPELINE

Drill Hole

Gas Well

GAS

Gravel Pit

Gas Well

Gravel Pit

BEFORE EXAMINER STOGNER

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Stretz EXHIBIT NO. 8

CASE NO. 10656

Submit to: Appropriate District Office  
 State Lease - 4 copies  
 Fee Lease - 3 copies

State of New Mexico  
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Form C-102  
 Revised 1-1-89

**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

P.O. Box 2088  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

**DISTRICT I**  
 P.O. Box 1980, Hobbs, NM 88240

**DISTRICT II**  
 P.O. Drawer DD, Artesia, NM 88210

**DISTRICT III**  
 1000 Rio Aztec Rd., Aztec, NM 87410

**WELL LOCATION AND ACREAGE DEDICATION PLAT**

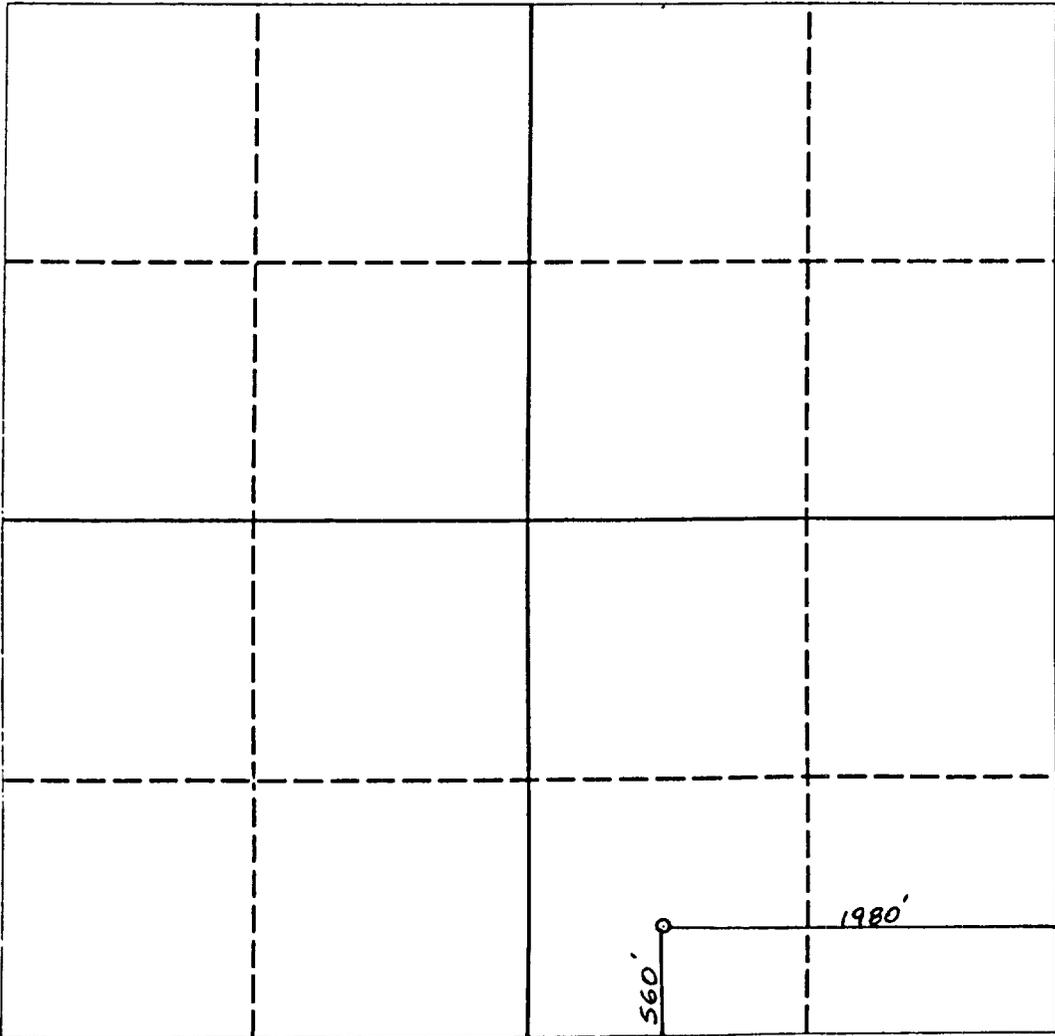
All Distances must be from the outer boundaries of the section

Operator <b>STRATA PRODUCTION</b>			Lease <b>PAVO FEDERAL</b>			Well No. <b>3</b>		
Unit Letter <b>0</b>	Section <b>28</b>	Township <b>20 SOUTH</b>	Range <b>33 EAST</b>	County <b>LEA COUNTY, NM</b>		NMPM		

Actual Footage Location of Well:  
**560** feet from the **SOUTH** line and **1980** feet from the **EAST** line

Ground level Elev. <b>3624.</b>	Producing Formation	Pool	Dedicated Acreage:  Acres
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- Outline the acreage dedicated to the subject well by colored pencil or hachure marks on the plat below.
- If more than one lease is dedicated to the well, outline each and identify the ownership thereof (both as to working interest and royalty).
- If more than one lease of different ownership is dedicated to the well, have the interest of all owners been consolidated by communitization, unitization, force-pooling, etc.?  
 Yes     No    If answer is "yes" type of consolidation \_\_\_\_\_  
 If answer is "no" list the owners and tract descriptions which have actually been consolidated. (Use reverse side of this form if necessary).  
 No allowable will be assigned to the well until all interests have been consolidated (by communitization, unitization, forced-pooling, or otherwise) or until a non-standard unit, eliminating such interest, has been approved by the Division.



**OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**

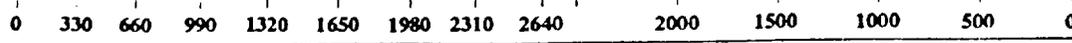
I hereby certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION**

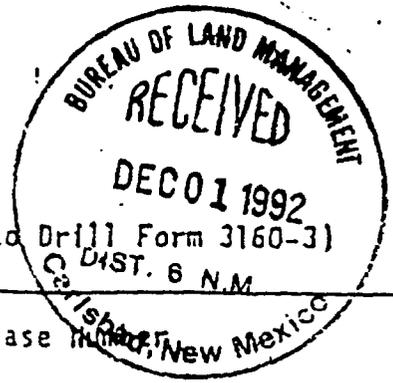
I hereby certify that the well location shown on this plat was plotted from field notes of actual surveys made by me or under my supervision, and that the same is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date Surveyed  
**DECEMBER 22, 1992**  
 Signature & Seal of Professional Surveyor  
  
 Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 NM PE&PS NO. \_\_\_\_\_



NOTICE OF STAKING

(Not to be used in place of Application for Permit to Drill Form 3160-3)



1. Oil Well <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gas Well <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (Specify)		6. Lease Number NM 82927	
2. Name of Operator: STRATA PRODUCTION		7. If Indian, Allottee or Tribe Name	
3. Name of Specific Contact Person: CAROL GARCIA		8. Unit Agreement Name	
4. Address & Phone No. of Operator or Agent 648 PETROLEUM BUILDING ROSWELL, NM 88201 505 622-1127		9. Farm or Lease Name PAVO FEDERAL	
5. Surface Location of Well 560' FSL 1980' FEL Attach: a) Sketch showing road entry into pad, pad dimensions, and reserve pit. b) Topographical or other acceptable map showing location, access road, and lease boundaries.		10. Well No. 3	
		11. Field or Wildcat Name	
		12. Sec., T., R., M., or Blk and Survey or Area SEC. 28, T20S, R33E	
15. Formation Objective(s) DELAWARE	16. Estimated Well Depth 8200'	13. County, Parish or Borough LEA COUNTY	14. State NEW MEXICO

17. Additional Information (as appropriate; must include surface owner's name, address, and telephone number).

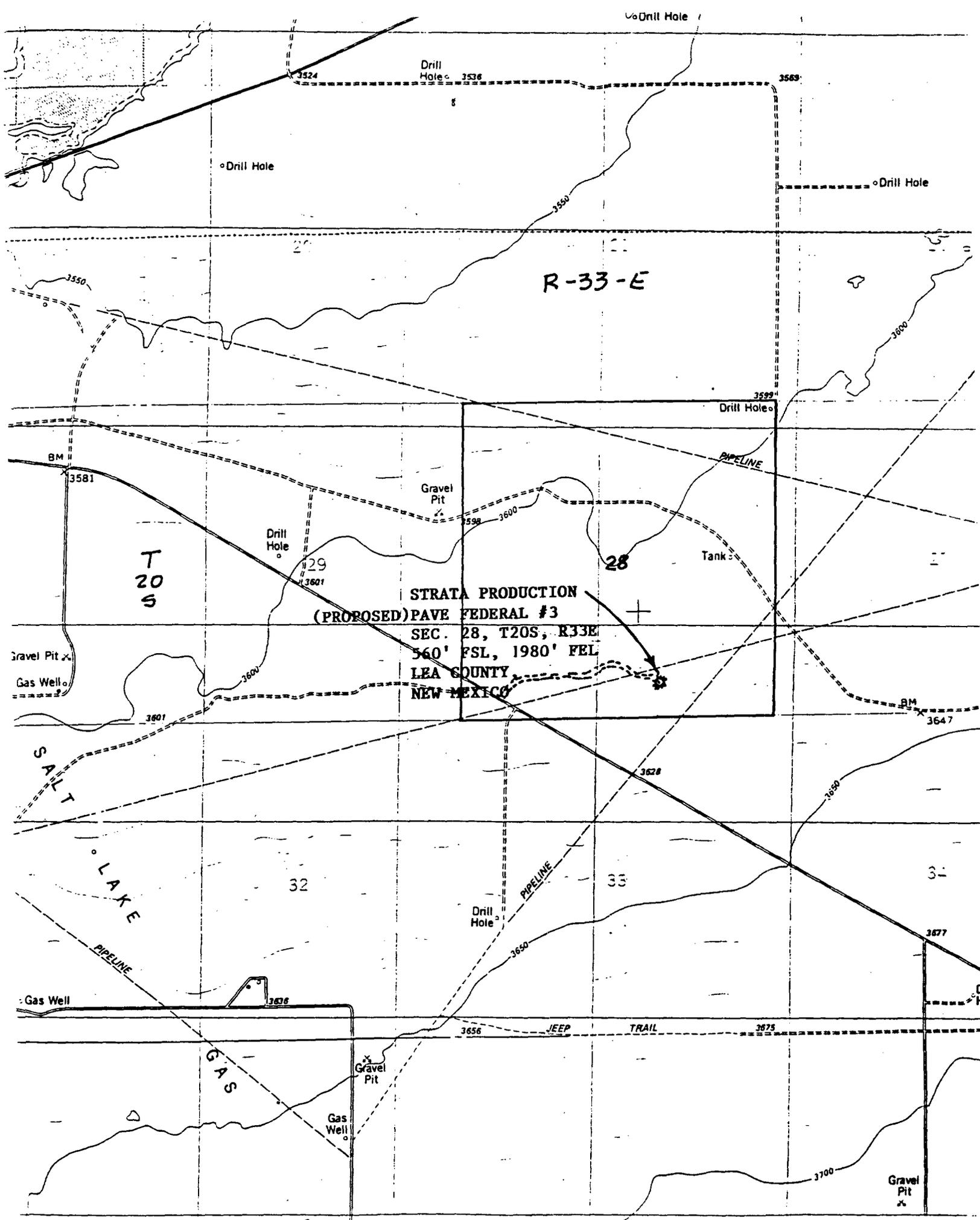
BLM-CARLSBAD OFFICE

18. Signed: Dan R. Reddy Title PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER & LAND SURVEYOR Date 12/1/92  
DAN R. REDDY AGENT FOR STRATA

Note: Upon receipt of this Notice, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will schedule the date of the on-site predrill inspection and notify you accordingly. The location must be staked and access road must be flagged prior to the onsite.

Operators must consider the following prior to the onsite:

- a) U2S Potential
- b) Cultural Resources (Archeology)
- c) Federal Right of Way or Special Use Permit



STRATA PRODUCTION  
(PROPOSED) PAVE FEDERAL #3  
SEC. 28, T20S, R33E  
560' FSL, 1980' FEL  
LEA COUNTY  
NEW MEXICO

R-33-E

T  
20  
S

SALT  
LAKE

GAS

Gravel  
Pit

BEFORE EXAMINER STC GNER

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Strata EXHIBIT NO. 9

CASE NO. 10656