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December 13, 1996

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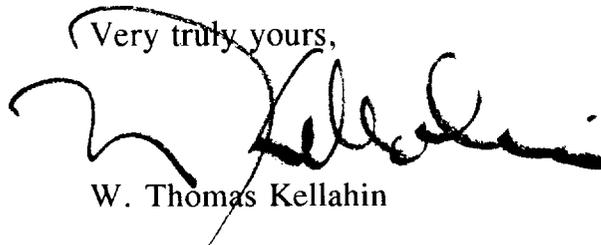
Mr. William J. LeMay, Director
Oil Conservation Division
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Re: Hummer "4" State Com Well No. 1
Application of Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C.
for Compulsory Pooling
Eddy County, New Mexico**

Dear Mr. LeMay:

On behalf of Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C., please find enclosed our referenced application which we request be set for hearing on the Examiner's docket now scheduled for January 9, 1997. Also enclosed is our proposed advertisement of this case for the NMOCD docket.

Very truly yours,



W. Thomas Kellahin

cc: Nearburg Exploration Company
Attn: Duke Roush

DEC
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CASE 11684: Application of Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C. for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the E/2 of Section 4, T18S, R28E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre gas spacing within said vertical extent, which presently may include but is not necessarily limited to the South Empire-Morrow Gas Pool, the North Empire-Atoka Gas Pool, South Empire-Wolfcamp Gas Pool, and forming a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit underlying the NE/4 of said Section 4 for any and all formations/pools developed on 160-acre gas spacing, and forming a 40 acre spacing unit underlying the SE/4NE/4 of said Section 4 for any and all formations and/or pools spaced on 40-acre spacing. Said unit is to be dedicated to its Hummer "4" State Com Well No. 1 to be drilled and completed at a standard well location in Unit H of said Section 4. Also to be considered will be the costs of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the costs thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of Nearburg Producing Company as the operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in said well.

Said unit is located approximately 14 miles southeast from Artesia, New Mexico.

DEC

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF NEARBURG EXPLORATION COMPANY, L.L.C.
FOR COMPULSORY POOLING,
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO. 11684

APPLICATION

Comes now NEARBURG EXPLORATION COMPANY, L.L.C. by its attorneys, Kellahin & Kellahin, and in accordance with Section 70-2-17(c) (1978) applies to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division for an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the E/2 of Section 4, T18S, R28E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre gas spacing within said vertical extent, which presently may include but is not necessarily limited to the South Empire-Morrow Gas Pool, the North Empire-Atoka Gas Pool and the South Empire-Wolfcamp Gas Pool, and forming a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit underlying the NE/4 of said Section 4 for any and all formations/pools developed on 160-acre gas spacing, and forming a 40 acre spacing unit underlying the SE/4NE/4 of said Section 4 for any and all formations and/or pools spaced on 40-acre spacing. Said unit is to be dedicated to its Hummer "4" State Com Well No. 1 to be drilled and completed at a standard well location in Unit F of said Section 4. Also to be considered will be the costs of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the costs thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of Nearburg Producing Company as the operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in said well.

In support of its application, Nearburg Exploration Company, ("Nearburg") states:

1. Nearburg has a working interest ownership in the oil and gas minerals from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the E/2 of Section 4, T18S, R28E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.

2. The subject tract is located within one-mile of the current boundaries of the South Empire-Morrow Gas Pool, the North Empire-Atoka Gas Pool and the South Empire-Wolfcamp Gas Pool.

3. The subject well is to be drilled at a standard well location 1650 feet from the north and 660 feet from the east line (Unit H) of Section 4 to test any and all formations in the pooled interval from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation and to be dedicated to the appropriate sized spacing unit for the appropriate pool.

4. Nearburg has the voluntary agreement of certain of the working interest ownership of the oil & gas minerals from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the E/2 of Section 4.

5. Nearburg has proposed the subject well and its appropriate spacing unit to the remaining working interest owners in the spacing unit as identified on Exhibit "A."

6. Despite its good faith efforts, Nearburg has been unable to obtain a written voluntary agreement from all of the parties listed on Exhibit "A."

7. Pursuant to Section 70-2-17(c) NMSA (1978) and in order to obtain its just and equitable share of potential production underlying this spacing unit, Nearburg needs an order of the Division pooling the identified and described mineral interests involved in order to protect correlative rights and prevent waste.

8. In accordance with the Division's notice requirements, a copy of this application has been sent to the parties whose interest is to be pooled as listed on Exhibit "A" notifying each of this case and of the applicant's request for a hearing of this matter before the Division on the next available Examiner's docket now scheduled for January 9, 1997.

WHEREFORE, Nearburg, as applicant, requests that this application be set for hearing on January 9, 1997 before the Division's duly appointed examiner, and that after notice and hearing as required by law, the Division enter its order pooling the mineral interest described in the appropriate spacing unit for the drilling of the subject well at a standard well location upon terms and conditions which include:

- (1) Nearburg Producing Company be named operator;
- (2) Provisions for applicant and all working interest owners to participate in the costs of drilling, completing, equipping and operating the well;
- (3) In the event a working interest owner fails to elect to participate, then provision be made to recover out of production, the costs of the drilling, completing, equipping and operating the well, including a risk factor penalty of 200 %;
- (4) Provision for overhead rates per month drilling and per month operating and a provision providing for an adjustment method of the overhead rates as provided by COPAS;
- (5) For such other and further relief as may be proper.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



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EXHIBIT "A"

OXY USA, Inc.
P. O. Box 50250
Midland, Texas 79710
Attn: Kent Woolley

Atlantic Richfield Company
P. O. Box 1610
Midland, Texas 79702

Exxon Corporation
P. O. Box 1600
Midland, Texas 79702

Marathon Oil Company
P. O. Box 552
Midland, Texas 79702-0552

Mewbourne Oil Company
500 West Texas, Suite 1050
Midland, Texas 79701