

KELLAHIN AND KELLAHIN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

EL PATIO BUILDING

117 NORTH GUADALUPE

POST OFFICE BOX 2265

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-2265

January 2, 1997

W. THOMAS KELLAHIN*

*NEW MEXICO BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION
RECOGNIZED SPECIALIST IN THE AREA OF
NATURAL RESOURCES-OIL AND GAS LAW

JASON KELLAHIN (RETIRED 1991)

TELEPHONE (505) 982-4285
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HAND DELIVERED

Mr. Michael E. Stogner
Chief Hearing Examiner
Oil Conservation Division
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

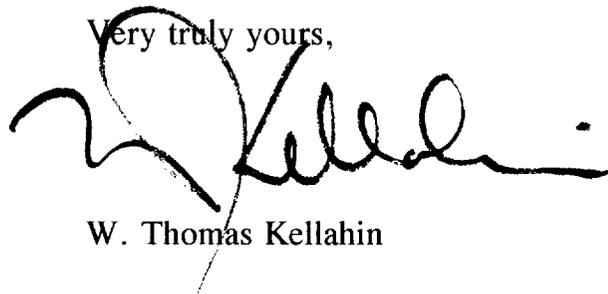
Re: NMOCD Case 11685
Application of Burlington Resources
Oil & Gas Company for a downhole
commingling reference case for
its Canyon Largo Unit,
Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

ms.

Dear Mr. Stogner:

On behalf of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company, I would appreciate you continuing the referenced case from the Examiner docket schedule for January 9, 1997 to the Examiner hearing docket now scheduled for January 23, 1997.

Very truly yours,



W. Thomas Kellahin

cfx: Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company
Attn: Alan Alexander
cfx: William F. Carr, Esq.
Attorney for Chevron USA Inc.

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RECOGNIZED SPECIALIST IN THE AREA OF
NATURAL RESOURCES-OIL AND GAS LAW

JASON KELLAHIN (RETIRED 1991)

December 2, 1996

HAND DELIVERED

11685

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

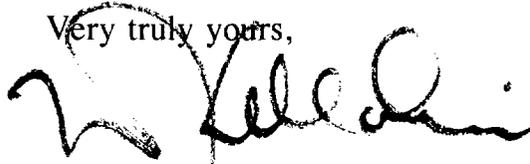
Re: Canyon Largo Unit
Application of Burlington Resources
Oil & Gas Company for the establishment
of a Downhole Commingling Reference Case
Pursuant to Division Rule 303.E
Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. LeMay:

On behalf of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company, please find enclosed our referenced application which we request be set for hearing on the next available 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: Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company
Attn: Mr. Alan Alexander

PROPOSED ADVERTISEMENT

Case 11685. Application of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company for the establishment of a downhole commingling reference case for its Canyon Largo Unit pursuant to Division Rule 303.E and the adoption of special administrative rules therefore, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, in accordance with Division Rule 303.E seeks to establish a downhole commingling reference case to provide for (a) marginal economic criteria, (b) pressure criteria, (c) allocation formulas, and (d) modification of notification rules on an area-wide basis authorization for downhole commingling of Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland-Coal, Chacra, Gallup and Pictured Cliffs gas production in the wellbores of existing or future wells drilled anywhere within the Canyon Largo Unit located in Townships 24 and 25 North, Ranges 6 and 7 West, NMPM, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

The center of said area is located approximately 9 miles northwest from the El Paso Natural Gas Plant-Lindreth Station on New Mexico State Highway 403, New Mexico.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CONSIDERING:

APPLICATION OF BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS COMPANY FOR DOWNHOLE
COMMINGLING REFERENCE CASE FOR ITS
CANYON LARGO UNIT
PURSUANT TO DIVISION RULE 303.E
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO. CASE NO. 11685

APPLICATION

Comes now BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS COMPANY (formerly Meridian Oil Inc.), by and through its attorneys, Kellahin and Kellahin, and applies to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division for the establishment of a downhole commingling reference case pursuant to Division Rule 303.E for its Canyon Largo Unit and the adoption of special administrative rules therefore, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, in accordance with Division Rule 303.E seeks to establish a downhole commingling reference case to provide for (a) marginal economic criteria, (b) pressure criteria, (c) allocation formulas, and (d) modification of notification rules on an area-wide basis authorization for downhole commingling of Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland-Coal, Chacra, Gallup and Pictured Cliffs gas production in the wellbores of existing or future wells drilled anywhere within the Canyon Largo Unit located in Townships 24 and 25 North, Ranges 6 and 7 West, NMPM, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

In support of its application, Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company ("Burlington"). states:

(1) Burlington is the operator of the Canyon Largo Unit and Merrion Oil & Gas Corporation is the suboperator of the Gallup formation which currently includes 45 Dakota wells, 6 Gallup well, 5 Mesaverde wells, 28 Chacra wells, 0 Fruitland-Coal wells and 140 Pictured Cliffs wells all located within an area known as the "Canyon Largo Unit" consisting of 49,876 acres, more or less of acreage, as identified on Exhibit "A".

(2) In the absence of the establishment of a "reference case" as provided in Rule 303.E, Division general state-wide Rule 303.C requires that administrative applications for downhole commingling of gas production be submitted, processed and approved on a well by well basis including submittal of the following:

- (a) economic criteria to support that at least one zone to be commingled is marginal.
- (b) pressure criteria to demonstrate that the bottomhole pressure of all zones to be commingled is less than the original bottom hole pressure of the lowest pressures zone,
- (c) allocation formulas,
- (d) notification by certified mail return receipt to each interest owner where ownership is not common in the zones to be commingled, and
- (e) notification by certified mail return receipt to each offset operator

(3) Sufficient data is now available from existing wells in this unit to support the Division approving the downhole commingling of Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland-Coal, Gallup, Chacra and Pictured Cliffs gas production within this unit on an "area-wide" basis rather than on a "well-by-well basis."

(4) Sufficient data is now available from existing wells in this unit to support the Division adopting a "reference case" for the downhole commingling of Dakota, Mesaverde, Fruitland-Coal, Gallup and Chacra and Pictured Cliffs gas production within this unit as to the following criteria:

- (a) **economic criteria:** to support that at least one zone to be commingled is marginal;
- (b) **allocation formulas:** to support that each interest owner shall receive its fair and equitable share of production;
- (c) **elimination of unnecessary notice:** such that any future or further notice concerning downhole commingling applications or orders within this unit shall not be required to (a) any

owner (including royalty, overriding royalty or working interest owners) in instances where ownership are not common or percentages are not identical in the zones to be commingled or to (b) each offset operator who is also an interest owner in this unit; but

- (d) **notice to offset operators:** notification by certified mail-return receipt to each offset operator, except as provided in paragraph (c) above, will continue to be made provided those offset operators are operators other than applicant.

(5) Burlington seeks authorization pursuant to Division Rule 303.E that all administrative application for downhole commingling of Mesaverde, Dakota, Fruitland-Coal, Chacra, Gallup and Pictured Cliffs gas production within this unit submitted subsequent to the filing of this application in this case shall be authorized to refer to the order entered in this case and will not be required to submit evidence or data for the following criteria (a) marginal economic criteria, (b) pressure criteria, (c) allocation formulas, and (d) notice to owners of any production within spacing units where the ownership is not common and offset operators who also own an interest in this unit.

(6) Production from the various pools in this unit are now either marginal or uneconomic from existing wells within this unit and the economic life of that production is extended if it is downhole commingled with other production in the unit.

(7) The approval of downhole commingling of these formations within this unit will extend the economic life of the existing wells and thereby increase ultimate recovery from these formations.

(8) In addition, any new wells to be drilled or recompleted in this unit should be approved for downhole commingling because either the Dakota, Fruitland coal-gas, Gallup, Mesaverde, Chacra or the Pictured Cliffs zones are marginal based upon criteria which the applicant will submit at the hearing of this case.

(9) It is anticipated that new wells, recompleted wells or existing wellbores in this unit will be most economically completed if there is a summary administrative procedure by which those wells may be downhole commingled.

(10) The processing of downhole commingling application for this unit in the absence of adopting a reference case will be an administrative burden to the Division and to the operator.

(11) Approval of downhole commingling reference case for this unit on an area-wide basis is in the best interest of conservation, the prevention of waste and the protection of correlative rights.

(12) Burlington requests the adoption of a summary administrative procedure with the necessary exceptions to the Division Rule 303.C so that the Supervisor of the Aztec District Office of the Division shall approve the downhole commingling of said production on an area-wide basis for this unit.

(13) The ownership is not common among these four formations within this unit.

(14) In accordance with Division Rule 303.C(1)(b), the Applicant states and will demonstrate at hearing:

1. That the wells in this unit which are currently single or dual completions are now marginal and production cannot be economically continued nor further developed unless it is done so by downhole commingling that production.
2. That there will be no unrecovered production crossflowing between or among the zones commingled.
3. That the value of the commingled production will not be less than the sum of the values of the individual production.

(15) In order to salvage the remaining production from this unit, Burlington seeks approval to downhole commingle all Dakota, Mesaverde, Chacra, Fruitland-Coal and Pictured Cliffs production from any existing wells where mechanically feasible and the adoption of a summary procedures for the downhole commingling of future wells to be drilled in the Unit.

(16) Burlington will submit at hearing proposed formulas for the allocation of production to each of the commingled zones and a description of the factors or data used in determining such formulas.

(17) Applicant requests that this matter be docketed for hearing on the Division's Examiner docket now scheduled for January 9, 1997.

(18) Notice of this application has been sent to all interest owners entitled to receive production within the unit.

WHEREFORE Applicant requests that this matter be set for hearing on January 9, 1997 before a duly appointed Examiner of the Oil Conservation Division and that after notice and hearing as required by law, the Division enter its order granting this application.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Thomas Kellahin', written in a cursive style.

W. Thomas Kellahin
KELLAHIN and KELLAHIN
P. O. Box 2265
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(505) 982-4285
Attorneys for Applicant