

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 TEXACO EXPLORATION AND)
PRODUCTION, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF A)
PRESSURE MAINTENANCE PROJECT FOR ITS)
NEW MEXICO "O" STATE NCT-1 LEASE AND)
ITS STATE "BA" LEASE, LEA COUNTY,)
NEW MEXICO)

CASE NO. 12,638

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner

April 5th, 2001

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, April 5th, 2001, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

* * *

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OIL CONSERVATION DIV.

I N D E X

April 5th, 2001
Examiner Hearing
CASE NO. 12,638

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A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE APPLICANT:

HOLLAND & HART, L.L.P., and CAMPBELL & CARR
 110 N. Guadalupe, Suite 1
 P.O. Box 2208
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208
 By: WILLIAM F. CARR

* * *

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2 11:35 a.m.:

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: At this time I'll call Case
4 12,638, the Application of Texaco Exploration and
5 Production, Incorporated, for approval of a pressure
6 maintenance project for its New Mexico "O" State NCT-1
7 Lease and its State "BA" Lease, Lea County, New Mexico.

8 Call for appearances in this case.

9 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is
10 William F. Carr with the Santa Fe office of the law firm
11 Holland and Hart, L.L.P. We represent Texaco Exploration
12 and Production, Inc., in this matter, and I have two
13 witnesses.

14 EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there any additional
15 appearances? Okay, will the witnesses please stand to be
16 sworn in?

17 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)

18 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, at this time we call
19 Robert Martin.

20 ROBERT L.W. MARTIN, II,
21 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
22 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. CARR:

25 Q. Would you state your full name for the record,

1 please?

2 A. Yes, Robert Martin.

3 Q. Where do you reside?

4 A. 2813 Maxwell Drive in Midland, Texas.

5 Q. Mr. Martin, by whom are you employed?

6 A. Texaco.

7 Q. And what is your position with Texaco?

8 A. Geologist.

9 Q. Have you previously testified before this
10 Division?

11 A. Yes, I have.

12 Q. At the time of that testimony, were your
13 credentials as an expert witness in petroleum geology
14 accepted and made a matter of record?

15 A. Yes, they were.

16 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
17 this case on behalf of Texaco?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Are you familiar with Texaco's plans to implement
20 a pressure maintenance project in its New Mexico "O" State
21 NCT-1 Lease and its State "BA" Lease by the injection of
22 water into the Abo, the Wolfcamp and the upper
23 Pennsylvanian formations?

24 A. Yes, I am.

25 Q. Are you familiar with the status of the lands in

1 the area which is the subject of this Application?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Have you made a geological study of the area
4 which is the subject of this case?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And are you prepared to share the results of this
7 work with Mr. Catanach?

8 A. Yes, I am.

9 MR. CARR: Are Mr. Martin's qualifications
10 acceptable?

11 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

12 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Martin, would you briefly
13 summarize what it is that Texaco Exploration and
14 Production, Inc., seeks with this Application?

15 A. Texaco is seeking an authorization to inject
16 water into the Abo formation of the North Vacuum-Abo Pool,
17 the Wolfcamp formation of the Undesignated Vacuum-Wolfcamp
18 Pool, and the upper Pennsylvanian formation of the Vacuum-
19 Upper Pennsylvanian Pool in its New Mexico "O" State NCT-1
20 lease and its state "BA" lease, located in portions of
21 Section 36, Township 17 South, Range 34 East, in New
22 Mexico, by way of three injection wells.

23 Q. Let's go to what has been marked for
24 identification as Texaco Exhibit Number 1, and I would ask
25 you, using this plat, to review for the Examiner the

1 current status of the acreage which is the subject of this
2 case and identify the boundaries of this project area.

3 A. Okay. Yeah, the project area shows the acreage
4 that we have in Section 36 of Township 17 South, Range 34
5 East, which are two state leases. The north half of the
6 north half of Section 36 is our State "BA" Lease; the south
7 half of the north half, the southeast quarter and the south
8 half of the southwest quarter are part of our New Mexico
9 NCT-1 lease.

10 It also shows some of the offsetting and also the
11 wells -- only the wells that are deeper than 8400 feet,
12 which covers part of the Abo, Wolfcamp and Pennsylvania,
13 are shown on this map.

14 Q. The three injection wells are the wells inside
15 the red circles; is that correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. How many acres are actually in the project area?

18 A. 560 acres.

19 Q. Are you aware of current plans by Texaco to add
20 additional injection wells in the project area?

21 A. The only plans at this time are to convert the
22 three wells to injection.

23 Q. Really, what we're looking here is a water
24 injection, a pressure maintenance effort in the southern
25 end of the Abo, and most of the Abo to the north is under

1 active waterflood or pressure maintenance; isn't that fair
2 to say?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Within this project area the ownership is what,
5 100 percent state land?

6 A. Yes, it is.

7 Q. Have your plans to implement a pressure
8 maintenance project in this area been reviewed with the
9 State Land Office?

10 A. Yes.

11 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, yesterday afternoon we
12 received a letter from the Commissioner of Public Lands
13 waiving objection to our plans to inject in these state
14 leases. That letter is included in our exhibit packets out
15 of order. It's the last document in the exhibit pack
16 marked Texaco Exhibit Number 8.

17 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Martin, let's go to what has
18 been marked Texaco Exhibit Number 2. Would you identify
19 that for Mr. Catanach?

20 A. Yes, Exhibit Number 2 simply shows the other
21 companies that are involved in this area that we had to
22 send letters to, as far as what we're doing in the area
23 with the pressure maintenance.

24 Q. And is Exhibit Number 3 an affidavit confirming
25 that notice of this Application has been, in fact, provided

1 in accordance with the rules of the Oil Conservation
2 Division?

3 A. Yes, it is.

4 Q. Has notice of the Application been provided to
5 all leasehold operators within each of the areas of review
6 for each of the three injection wells?

7 A. That's correct, yes, it has.

8 Q. Let's go now to the geological portion of this
9 Application, and I would ask you to initially refer to the
10 cross-section marked A-A' and review the intervals into
11 which Texaco proposes to inject in this pressure
12 maintenance project.

13 A. Yes, A-A' is a structural cross-section through
14 the "BA" State Number 8, the "O" Number 39 and the "O"
15 Number 38. And basically I just wanted to show the top of
16 the Abo, the top of the Wolfcamp and the top of the upper
17 Penn.

18 The bars that are in green in the depth track
19 show the different perforations that we have for those
20 three particular wells at this time.

21 Q. Would you go through each of these intervals, the
22 intervals into which you propose to inject, would you go
23 through each of them for us and provide general information
24 on them, the depth, thickness, things of that nature?

25 A. Okay. Yeah, the first one will be the Abo

1 formation, which is part of the North Vacuum-Abo Pool.
2 It's mostly dolomite.

3 The depth of the formation is approximately 7900
4 feet to 9200 feet, and the net thickness pay -- In this
5 area we're only focusing in on the lower Abo, which is
6 around 15 to 25 feet, average porosity four to five
7 percent.

8 The Wolfcamp formation is mostly limestone with
9 some dolomite stringers. The approximate depth is from
10 9200 feet to 9950. Net pay thickness varies anywhere from
11 150 to 200 feet. Average porosity can range anywhere in
12 the pay from six to 14 percent.

13 And the last one is the upper Pennsylvanian, part
14 of the Vacuum-Upper Pennsylvanian Pool. It's mostly
15 limestone with dolomite stringers. Approximate depth is
16 9950 to 10,250, and the net thickness pay varies anywhere
17 from 100 to 150 feet, with an average porosity in the pay
18 of six to 12 percent.

19 Q. The other productive zones in this area are what?

20 A. We do have some shallower and deeper productive
21 zones in the area, but none of them are in between the
22 zones that we want to inject into.

23 Q. Let's go to Exhibit Number 5, and I'd ask you
24 simply to explain what that is.

25 A. Five just simply shows the cross-section path and

1 all of the wells that are located within Section 36 of 17
2 South, 34 East.

3 Q. Okay, using this as an index map for the cross-
4 section, now, let's go back to that Exhibit Number 4, and
5 I'd ask you to review the remaining information on the
6 cross-section A-A.

7 A. Basically, we just -- it is our opinion that most
8 of these zones within the Abo, Wolfcamp and Pennsylvanian
9 are continuous across this local area and would be a good
10 candidate for waterflood project.

11 Q. Will Texaco call an engineering witness to review
12 the engineering portions of this case?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 5 prepared by you?

15 A. Yes.

16 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, at this time we would
17 move the admission into evidence of Texaco Exhibits 1
18 through 5, which are the exhibits sponsored by Mr. Martin,
19 and we would also ask that Exhibit Number 8, the letter
20 from the Commissioner of Public Lands, be made a part of
21 the record in this case.

22 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 5 and
23 Exhibit Number 8 will be admitted as evidence in this case.

24 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
25 examination of this witness.

EXAMINATION

1
2 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

3 Q. Mr. Martin, to the north is the -- Is that the
4 North Vacuum-Abo Unit?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And that was a Mobil, wasn't it, or at one time?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Who operates that now?

9 A. I believe Exxon Mobil does.

10 Q. And that's being flooded and produced in the same
11 interval that you're proposing here?

12 A. No, most of theirs is a lot higher than ours. As
13 far as what we're looking at in the Abo, it's in the lower
14 portion at this point, which is just above the Wolfcamp,
15 anywhere from 50 to 100 feet above the Wolfcamp.

16 Within the North Vacuum-Abo Pool itself to the
17 north, they are flooding a lot more zones higher up.

18 Q. They're not flooding this particular zone?

19 A. To my knowledge, no.

20 Q. Is it nonproductive up there, or do you know?

21 A. I haven't looked at it. I don't know.

22 Q. Well, is the upper Abo zones not productive on
23 your acreage?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. Why do you choose to just flood this lower Abo

1 zone, as opposed to some upper Abo?

2 A. At this point it's really the only thing that
3 I've looked at hard in the way of rotary sidewall cores
4 that we've taken in another well recently, and there is
5 some question as to where does the Wolfcamp and the Abo
6 actually lie? You get different operators who say the
7 Wolfcamp may actually be a little bit higher, which would
8 include what I call the lower Abo.

9 Q. These zones are pretty much continuous over your
10 whole lease area?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Is the -- I don't recall that the Wolfcamp or
13 upper Penn are being flooded in this area.

14 A. To my knowledge, they are not.

15 Q. But you think there's potential for some pressure
16 maintenance operations?

17 A. Yes, I do, and I believe Kevin Hickey could
18 probably answer that a little better than I could, as to
19 why.

20 Q. Do you know -- On your particular lease, do you
21 know if Texaco owns 100 percent of the working interest?

22 A. On our particular lease, yes, they do.

23 Q. On both these state leases?

24 A. That's correct, on the three tracts that I know
25 that we're going to be injecting into. I don't know about

1 any of the other leases offsetting that.

2 Q. Yeah, but on the State "BA" and NM "O" State
3 there are no other interest owners?

4 MR. CARR: There are no other interest owners;
5 it's 100 percent Texaco acreage.

6 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay.

7 MR. CARR: And the royalty is State of New Mexico
8 on both tracts.

9 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, I guess that's all I
10 have for now.

11 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, at this time we call
12 Kevin Hickey.

13 KEVIN HICKEY,

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

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. CARR:

18 Q. Will you state your full name for the record,
19 please?

20 A. Kevin Hickey.

21 Q. Where do you reside?

22 A. in Midland, Texas.

23 Q. By whom are you employed?

24 A. I'm employed by Texaco Exploration and
25 Production, Incorporated.

1 Q. And what is your position with Texaco?

2 A. I'm a project engineer.

3 Q. Mr. Hickey, have you previously testified before
4 this Division and had your credentials as an expert in
5 petroleum engineering accepted and made a matter of record?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
8 this case on behalf of Texaco?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Are you familiar with Texaco's plans to implement
11 a pressure maintenance project in the two State of New
12 Mexico leases which are the subject of this hearing?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Have you made an engineering study of the area
15 which is the subject of this case?

16 A. Yes.

17 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, we tender Mr. Hickey as
18 an expert witness in petroleum engineering.

19 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

20 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Hickey, initially could you
21 explain to us why it is that Texaco seeks to implement this
22 pressure maintenance project at this time?

23 A. Through the production of this field we have seen
24 declining bottomhole pressures and increasing GORs, tending
25 to indicate the depletion of the reservoir.

1 Q. Does Texaco plan to drill any additional wells in
2 this area?

3 A. New drilling is unlikely, due to -- unless we
4 have some type of implementation of a pressure maintenance
5 project. We recently -- Our last well we drilled out there
6 last year IP'd for about 60-some barrels a day and is
7 producing about 40 barrels a day now, and that would be a
8 marginally economic well.

9 Q. Let's go to Texaco Exhibit Number 6, and I would
10 ask you to first identify that and then explain the
11 information on that exhibit to Mr. Catanach.

12 A. I believe Mr. Catanach has a smaller version of
13 this map, but I'm going to use a bigger map to work with.
14 Basically this is a plat showing the productive horizons.
15 I have three plats pretty much showing the same acreage.

16 The plat here, the first one with the blue dots
17 on it, shows -- the blue dots represent cumulative
18 production from the Abo formation, that's both the upper
19 and lower Abo. And you can see from this that the Abo
20 formation is probably the predominant producing horizon
21 here.

22 As mentioned by Mr. Martin, there is some active
23 waterfloods going on in the Abo formation. You have the
24 North Vacuum-Abo Unit, which is operated by Exxon Mobil.
25 There is a North Vacuum-Abo East Unit, also operated by

1 Exxon Mobil. There is a North Vacuum-Abo North Unit, which
2 is operated by Sego Petroleum. And then we have a North
3 Vacuum-Abo West Unit, which is operated by Texaco.

4 As you can see, our project area lies in the
5 southern portion of the field.

6 Moving over to the Wolfcamp, which is the red
7 dots, again showing cumulative production from the
8 Wolfcamp, it's much smaller. Both it and the upper Penn
9 kind of overlies the same area, and in this case the project
10 area is a little bit more centrally located.

11 There are no active waterfloods in the Wolfcamp
12 or upper Penn.

13 Q. Mr. Hickey, is Exhibit Number 7 a copy of
14 Texaco's Application for authorization to inject, Form
15 C-108?

16 A. Yes, it is.

17 Q. Does this contain all the information contained
18 by that form?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Is this an expansion of an existing project?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Let's go to page 49 in this exhibit, and I'd ask
23 you just to briefly identify what this is.

24 A. This is similar to -- Page 49 is similar to
25 Exhibit Number 1, basically showing the plat of the wells

1 that have penetrated the Abo, Wolfcamp and upper Penn
2 formations.

3 It shows the ownership, with Texaco being the
4 leasee, the royalty ownership, the State of New Mexico on
5 the -- it shows the location with the three injection
6 wells, with the large red circles outlining the half-mile
7 radius indicating the area of review.

8 And then flipping over to page 48 is another plat
9 basically just showing all the wells drilled within a two-
10 mile radius of the project area.

11 Q. What is the current status of the wells you
12 propose to convert to injection?

13 A. They are active producers.

14 Q. Let's go again to Exhibit 7, and I'd direct your
15 attention to pages 6 through 11 of this exhibit, and would
16 you please explain to Mr. Catanach what these are and what
17 they show?

18 A. Pages 6 through 11 are schematic drawings for
19 each of the three proposed injection wells. They are the
20 present and proposed completions. All three wells are
21 currently completed in all three of the intervals and are
22 downhole commingled.

23 Our plans are not to do any additional well work,
24 but to go ahead and put the wells on injection through
25 lined tubing with a packer, and the annulus will be filled

1 with fluid and pressure-tested as required by the
2 underground injection control program.

3 Q. Does this exhibit contain all of the information
4 on each of the wells within all of the areas of review
5 required by Section 6 of Form C-108?

6 A. There are data on each well in tabular form on
7 page 50. And there's data -- again, there are on the three
8 injection wells; that's included on pages 6 through 11.
9 And then all other wells, there are wellbore diagrams or
10 data sheets for each of the wells in the area of review
11 showing the type of well, construction, depth, record of
12 completion and a completion date.

13 Q. And on those other wells, that's pages 17 through
14 41; is that right?

15 A. Yes, that is correct.

16 Q. Are there plugged and abandoned wells within any
17 of the areas of review?

18 A. Yes, they are identified on page -- They've been
19 identified in the table on page 50. Those are the
20 McCallister State Number 7, the New Mexico "O" State NCT-1
21 Number 18 and the Well Number 24. Those sheets are
22 included in the packet of wells from pages 17 through 41.
23 Page 28, for example, is the wellbore diagram for the New
24 Mexico "O" 18 showing the plugging data and the cement
25 tops.

1 Q. What is the source of the water Texaco proposes
2 to inject in each of the subject injection wells?

3 A. The produced water from the Glorieta and the
4 Paddock formations and some of the San Andres water. These
5 -- our tracts here underlie the -- currently injection
6 units on the Vacuum Glorieta West Unit and the Central
7 Vacuum Unit, so we'll be taken produced water from them.

8 Q. And what injection volumes does Texaco propose?

9 A. We're looking at an average daily rate of about
10 3000 barrels per day. That would be about 1000 barrels a
11 day per well, with probably an initial maximum rate of
12 about 2000 barrels a day for a total of 6000 barrels.

13 Q. Does Exhibit Number 7, the C-108, contain an
14 analysis of the injection water?

15 A. Yes, on pages 43 through 47 there are several
16 water analyses. Excuse me, starting on page 42, actually.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. 42 is the produced water analysis from the Abo,
19 Wolfcamp and upper Penn formations.

20 Page 43 shows a scaling tendency on that
21 particular water.

22 The next page, 44, shows the produced water
23 analysis coming off of the Vacuum Glorieta West Unit, a
24 scaling tendency analysis on that.

25 Looking at page 46, we did some combinations of

1 water between CVU, San Andres water and the Vacuum Glorieta
2 West Unit water, and also between Wolfcamp water -- or the
3 Wolfcamp and Abo and Penn waters and the Vacuum Glorieta
4 West Unit water.

5 Q. Based on this work, can you testify that the
6 waters that you will be injecting into each of these
7 formations will, in fact, be compatible with the waters in
8 those formations?

9 A. Yes, they will be.

10 Q. Will the system be open or closed?

11 A. Closed.

12 Q. Do you propose to inject by gravity or under
13 pressure?

14 A. Under pressure.

15 Q. And what injection pressures is Texaco proposing?

16 A. Average injection pressure, about 1800 p.s.i.g.,
17 with maximum injection pressure of 2200 pounds per square
18 inch.

19 Q. Now, these pressures exceed the .2-pound-per-foot
20 depth limitation employed by the Oil Conservation Division;
21 is that correct?

22 A. They would be within that range.

23 Q. If you go above that range, would you do so only
24 after higher pressures are justified by step rate tests?

25 A. That is correct. We would just step-rate-test

1 before increasing pressure on them.

2 Q. In your opinion, will the proposed injection in
3 these wells pose any threat to underground sources of
4 drinking water?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Are there freshwater wells in the area?

7 A. Yes, there are. The freshwater zone, it would be
8 the Ogallala at 200 feet.

9 Q. And are these wells located within a mile of any
10 of the proposed injection wells?

11 A. There are four wells. There is a plat on page
12 12, I believe, showing four wells, and then subsequently on
13 pages 13 through 16 there are water analyses from those
14 wells.

15 Q. Based on your review, can you testify that the
16 wells in the proposed project area are completed and cased
17 in a fashion so as to prevent any problems with the
18 contamination of the waters in these wells?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In your opinion, will what you're proposing pose
21 a threat to any fresh water in the area?

22 A. No, it will not pose any freshwater threat.

23 Q. Have you examined the available geologic and
24 engineering data on this reservoir?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And as a result of that examination, have you
2 found any evidence of open faults or other hydrologic
3 connections between an injection interval and any
4 underground source of drinking water?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Mr. Hickey, in your opinion, will approval of
7 this Application and the implementation of this proposed
8 pressure maintenance project be in the best interest of
9 conservation, the prevention of waste and the protection of
10 correlative rights?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And how soon does Texaco hope to commence this
13 pressure maintenance project?

14 A. We hope to begin this year.

15 Q. Were Texaco Exhibits 6 and 7 prepared by you?

16 A. Yes.

17 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we move
18 the admission into evidence of Texaco Exhibits 6 and 7.

19 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 6 and 7 will be
20 admitted as evidence.

21 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
22 examination of Mr. Hickey.

23 EXAMINATION

24 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

25 Q. Mr. Hickey, how many producing wells are we going

1 to be utilizing here for this project?

2 A. After the three wells are converted there will be
3 approximately four wells remaining. Plans are to expand
4 that to as many as five or six wells.

5 Q. Expand it by additional drilling?

6 A. Additional drilling, plus I believe there's a
7 well producing from a deeper horizon that could be plugged
8 back into the Abo, Wolfcamp and Penn whenever it depletes
9 in the formation it's in now.

10 Q. Can you identify the four wells that will be
11 initially used for production? I'm looking at page 49
12 here, which is a pretty good map.

13 A. The producing wells --

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. -- would be the State "BA" Number 15, you have
16 the New Mexico "O" State Number 11, and you have the New
17 Mexico "O" State Number 39, you have the New Mexico "O"
18 State Number 14, and that would be the four wells.

19 Q. Okay. The 18 well, that's a plugged and
20 abandoned well?

21 A. Correct, 18 and 24 are plugged and abandoned.
22 Number 17 is currently shut in and probably will be plugged
23 and abandoned sometime in the near future.

24 Q. What about the 6 and the 8 on the "BA" lease?

25 A. Those are the injection wells.

1 Q. Oh, those are injection wells?

2 A. 6 and 8 are injection wells on the "BA" and the
3 38 is an injection well on the New Mexico "O" lease.

4 Q. Now, the four producing wells, how are they
5 completed currently?

6 A. They are perforated and commingled to a certain
7 degree in different zones.

8 The "BA" 15 is perforated with 5-1/2-inch casing
9 in the upper Penn and the Wolfcamp. We have not yet --
10 That's the newest well we've drilled. We have not yet
11 added the Abo to that.

12 The New Mexico "O" State Number 11 is currently
13 commingled in all three zones. That is a -- we call a
14 slimhole well. It was initially completed with three
15 strings of 2-7/8 -- or smaller strings of tubing as casing.
16 That was a common practice back when a lot of these wells
17 were drilled back in the 1960s, but it has been commingled
18 in all three zones.

19 The "O" 39 is also currently completed in the
20 upper Penn and then the Wolfcamp. We have not yet added
21 the Abo to it.

22 And I believe, if I remember right, the "O" 14 is
23 completed in the Wolfcamp and upper Penn but has -- there
24 was a deeper well, actually. You can kind of see it on
25 this map here, there's a twin well right next to it, which

1 is the 87. That was completed in the upper Penn. It is no
2 longer an upper Penn well, it has been plugged back and was
3 completed in -- is currently part of the Vacuum Glorieta
4 West Unit.

5 Again, we're looking at the subsequent drilling
6 to further develop this based on the pressure maintenance.

7 Q. Well, is the potential for Abo production in the
8 three southern wells, is that pretty low?

9 A. In --

10 Q. The wells on the "O" State Lease?

11 A. No, I think what the deal is, like in the "O" 39,
12 we have a fairly good well, we just haven't gotten around
13 to adding the upper pay. Once we start the pressure
14 maintenance project, we'll go ahead and look at adding some
15 additional pay in that well in the Abo.

16 Eventually the plan is to have all three wells,
17 or all the producing wells and all the injection wells
18 completed in all zones.

19 Q. Now, you guys aren't going to try and regulate in
20 any way how much water goes into each of the zones?

21 A. No, we're not planning on running any type of
22 diversion equipment to try to divert water.

23 What we probably will do is put the wells on
24 injection, let them stabilize, run injection profiles, and
25 if for some reason we see some type of conformance problem,

1 maybe go back and try to work the wells over to restimulate
2 zones that may not be taking water.

3 But initially, given the low bottomhole pressure
4 of the reservoir, we're just going to kind of let the water
5 go where it may and just kind of monitor the results
6 through injection profiles and offset production.

7 Q. Based on your current data, do you anticipate the
8 water preferentially going into one zone?

9 A. No, to be honest with you I would kind of
10 anticipate it would take water equally into the zones. I
11 think the Abo formation is probably the most pressure-
12 depleted but is probably the most -- tightest.

13 So I think -- The reservoir will dictate how
14 we'll go, but I don't anticipate seeing one zone drink all
15 the water, as opposed to the others. But until we actually
16 start trying it, we probably won't know that answer for
17 sure.

18 Q. Okay. The four producing wells, are those fairly
19 marginal at this point in time? Do you know what the --

20 A. No, the overall -- I have some other data on the
21 wells, but our overall from the project area, we're making,
22 producing about 170 barrels of oil per day.

23 The "BA" 15 is about a 40-barrel-a- day well.
24 That was the most recent one.

25 The "O" 39 makes about 60 barrels a day.

1 The "O" 14 is pretty marginal, it's only about
2 10.

3 I think the "O" 11 as well is only about 10 or
4 11.

5 The "O" 38, which is a converted well to be
6 converted, is also fairly marginal. It's about a less-
7 than-10-barrel-a-day well.

8 The "BA" 6 is about a 20-barrel-a-day well.

9 And the "BA" 8 is about a 40-barrel-a-day well.

10 Q. The only reason these were chosen was because of
11 the pattern --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. Are you aware of any problems or -- I seem
16 to recall that at one time Mobil up to the north had to use
17 fresh water to inject into the Abo formation. Are you
18 aware of any problems that they had or --

19 A. As far as injecting fresh water?

20 Q. -- or -- as far as not being able to inject a
21 brine water into the Abo?

22 A. I don't know of any reason why they have had any
23 problems. I do know that the Abo formation, particularly
24 the upper Abo, is much tighter. I think we have relatively
25 decent porosity and permeability in the upper Penn and in

1 the main producing interval of the Wolfcamp, which is the
2 lower Wolfcamp, which is -- based on logs and porosity
3 data, we think -- we don't anticipate any problems as far
4 as injecting produced water.

5 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. I think that's all I
6 have, Mr. Carr.

7 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, that concludes our
8 presentation in this case.

9 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, that's all I have.

10 There being nothing further in this case, Case
11 12,638 will be taken under advisement.

12 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
13 12:08 p.m.)

14 * * *

15
16
17 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
18 a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 12638,
19 heard by me on April 5 192001.
20 David R. Catanach, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division
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22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL April 13th, 2001.



STEVEN T. BRENNER
 CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 2002