

**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:**

**CASE NO. 12697
ORDER NO. R-11659**

**APPLICATION OF TRILOGY OPERATING, INC. FOR COMPULSORY
POOLING, LEA, NEW MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on August 9, 2001, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David K. Brooks.

NOW, on this 18th day of September, 2001, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner,

FINDS THAT:

- (1) Due public notice has been given, and the Division has jurisdiction of this case and of the subject matter.
- (2) Trilogy Operating, Inc., ("Applicant"), seeks an order pooling all uncommitted mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Abo formation underlying the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 24, Township 19 South, Range 38 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, in the following manner:

The SW/4 NE/4, forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit (the 40-acre "Unit") for all formations or pools spaced on 40 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include, but are not necessarily limited to, the South Nadine-Seven Rivers-Yates Pool, Nadine Tubb Pool, Nadine-Blinebry Pool and Nadine Drinkard-Abo Pool.

(3) The above-described unit (the Unit) is to be dedicated to Applicant's Sapphire Well No. 1, located at a standard well location within the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 24.

(4) Two or more separately owned tracts are embraced within the Unit, and/or there are owners of royalty interests and/or undivided interests in oil and gas minerals in one or more tracts included in the Unit which are separately owned.

(5) Applicant is an owner of an oil and gas working interest within the Unit. Applicant has the right to drill and has drilled its Sapphire Well No. 1 (the "well") to a common source of supply at a standard well location within the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 24.

(6) There are interest owners in the proposed unit that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(7) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, protect correlative rights, prevent waste and afford to the owner of each interest in the Unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense its just and fair share of hydrocarbons, this application should be approved by pooling all uncommitted mineral interests, whatever they may be, within the Unit.

(8) Applicant should be designated the operator of the well and of the Unit.

(9) After pooling, uncommitted working interest owners are referred to as non-consenting working interest owners. ("Uncommitted working interest owners" are owners of working interests in the Unit, including unleased mineral interests, who are not parties to an operating agreement governing the Unit.)

(10) Any non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid its share of actual well costs should have withheld from production its share of reasonable well costs plus an additional 100% thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in drilling the well.

(11) Any non-consenting interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs, but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(12) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid its share of actual costs should receive from the operator any amount that paid, estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(13) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$4500 per month while drilling and \$450 per month while producing, provided that these rates should be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3. of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations.*" The operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(14) Except as noted in Findings (10) and (13) above, all proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(15) The operator should notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) Pursuant to the application of Trilogy Operating, Inc., all uncommitted mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Abo formation underlying the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 24, Township 19 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled, as follows:

The SW/4 NE/4, forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for all formations or pools spaced on 40 acres within this vertical extent which presently include but are not necessarily limited to the South Nadine-Seven Rivers-Yates Pool, Nadine Tubb Pool, Nadine-Blinebry Pool and Nadine Drinkard-Abo Pool.

The Unit shall be dedicated to Applicant's Sapphire Well No. 1, located at a standard well location within the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 24.

(2) Should the well not be drilled to completion, or be abandoned, within 120 days after commencement thereof, the operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Ordering Paragraph (1) should not be rescinded.

(3) Applicant is hereby designated the operator of the well and of the Unit.

(4) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known non-consenting working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the well. If no objection to the actual well costs is received by

the Division, and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of the schedule, the actual well costs shall be deemed to be the reasonable well costs; provided, however, that if there is an objection to actual well costs within the 45-day period, the Division will determine reasonable well costs after notice and hearing.

(5) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid its share of well costs shall receive from the operator its share of the amount that paid well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(6) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (a) the proportionate share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid its share of actual well costs; and
- (b) as a charge for the risk involved in drilling the well, 100% of the above costs.

(7) The operator shall distribute the costs and charges withheld from production, proportionately, to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(8) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$4500 per month while drilling and \$450 per month while producing, provided that these rates should be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3. of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations.*" The operator is authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(9) Except as provided in Ordering Paragraphs (6) and (8) above, all proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in Lea County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership. The operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of the escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with the escrow agent.

(10) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under this order. Any well costs or charges that are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interests' share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(11) Should all the parties to this compulsory pooling order reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(12) The operator of the well and Unit shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

(13) Jurisdiction of this case is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Lori Wrotenbery
LORI WROTENBERY
Director