

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 THE NEW MEXICO OIL )  
CONSERVATION DIVISION, THROUGH THE )  
ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU CHIEF, FOR AN ORDER )  
DETERMINING THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY OR )  
PARTIES AND ORDERING THE RESPONSIBLE )  
PARTY OR PARTIES TO CONDUCT DIVISION- )  
APPROVED CORRECTIVE ACTION WITH RESPECT )  
TO A HYDROCARBON RELEASE, LEA COUNTY, )  
NEW MEXICO )

CASE NO. 13,004

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner

**RECEIVED**  
APR 24 2003  
Oil Conservation Division

April 10th, 2003

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, April 10th, 2003, 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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I N D E X

April 10th, 2003  
Examiner Hearing  
CASE NO. 13,004

	PAGE
STATEMENT BY MR. BROOKS	5
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	8

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## A P P E A R A N C E S

## FOR THE DIVISION:

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By: J. SCOTT HALL

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By: PAUL R. OWEN

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By: W. THOMAS KELLAHIN

\* \* \*

1           WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at  
2 8:55 a.m.:

3           EXAMINER STOGNER: You know, while we're on a  
4 roll here, can I call Case Number 13,004, which is the  
5 Application of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division,  
6 through the Environmental Bureau Chief, for an order  
7 determining the responsible party or parties and ordering  
8 the responsible party or parties to conduct Division-  
9 approved corrective action with respect to a hydrocarbon  
10 release, Lea County, New Mexico? Would that be okay if I  
11 called that at this point, Mr. Catanach?

12           EXAMINER CATANACH: Well, you are the senior  
13 Examiner, Mr. Stogner.

14           EXAMINER STOGNER: Only by a few months, but  
15 thank you very much.

16           At this time I will call Case Number 13,004, so  
17 noted on the docket.

18           Call for appearances.

19           MR. BROOKS: Mr. Examiner, I'm David Brooks,  
20 Assistant General Counsel to the Energy, Minerals and  
21 Natural Resources Department of the State of New Mexico,  
22 appearing for the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.

23           MR. HALL: Mr. Examiner, Scott Hall, Miller  
24 Stratvert, PA, Santa Fe, appearing on behalf of Shell  
25 Exploration and Production Company.

1 MR. OWEN: May it please the Examiner, I'm Paul  
2 R. Owen of the Santa Fe law firm of Montgomery and Andrews,  
3 appearing on behalf of Samedan Oil Corporation, now known  
4 as Noble Energy, Inc.

5 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom Kellahin of  
6 the Santa Fe law firm of Kellahin and Kellahin. I'm  
7 appearing on behalf of Occidental Permian.

8 EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay. Mr. Brooks, or who  
9 would like to make a statement at this time?

10 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Examiner, as has been  
11 represented to the Examiner previously, the parties have  
12 reached a tentative settlement in this case, and the terms  
13 of the settlement were that Case Number 13,004 was to be  
14 dismissed.

15 Someone expressly called for it to be dismissed  
16 without prejudice. Of course, all OCD dismissals are  
17 without prejudice, so that's a technicality, but the  
18 settlement does contemplate that if the terms of the  
19 settlement are not fully performed or if they do not  
20 satisfy the OCD's requirement, even though they are fully  
21 performed, the case may be refiled. However, the case will  
22 remain dismissed under the terms of the settlement unless  
23 and until it is refiled.

24 And I believe all parties have signed off on the  
25 settlement at this point, and therefore we are requesting

1 that relief.

2 EXAMINER STOGNER: Anything further along these  
3 lines?

4 Just for the record, I have before me the  
5 Stipulated Conditional Dismissal, which has the signatures  
6 of each of the attorneys representing today. This is the  
7 official document in which a reference -- I plan to proceed  
8 to offer to Ms. Wrotenbery a dismissal with the stipulation  
9 that this dismissal will be incorporated on the record  
10 within that, as opposed to trying to recopy this onto the  
11 actual dismissal. That's how I'll proceed at this time.

12 So instead of dismissing it on the record, I'm  
13 going to take it under advisement with the intention of  
14 offering the dismissal to Ms. Wrotenbery with the  
15 stipulation.

16 Anything further?

17 MR. BROOKS: That will be satisfactory, and I  
18 believe for the record I will state that it will be OCD's  
19 understanding that the deadlines referred to in the  
20 agreement will run from the date that Ms. Wrotenbery signs  
21 the order of dismissal.

22 EXAMINER STOGNER: So noted, and I will make this  
23 a priority to give to her so she can act accordingly and in  
24 a timely manner.

25 If there's nothing further, then Case 13,004 will

1 be taken under advisement with my intention to offer that  
2 dismissal.

3 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner.

4 EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Catanach.

5 EXAMINER CATANACH: Anything else we can do for  
6 you, Mr. Stogner?

7 EXAMINER STOGNER: No, no, I apologize for  
8 butting in on your most esteemed hearing today. At this  
9 time I'll take leave until I think I might be needed again.

10 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at  
11 8:57 a.m.)

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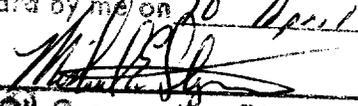
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I do hereby certify that the foregoing is  
a complete record of the proceedings of  
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 13004,  
heard by me on 10 April 2003.  
  
Michael J. Stogner, Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division

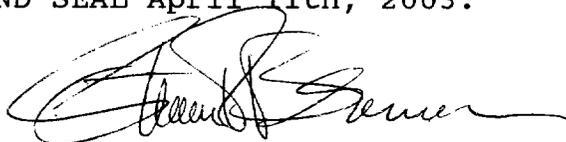
## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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 11th, 2003.



STEVEN T. BRENNER  
 CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 16th, 2006