# DEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION CONTESTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE DEKALB AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR AN ORDER OF APPROVAL OF THE UNIT AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPENATION OF THE SITTER LAKE UNIT AREA WITHIN T. MOS., RANGES 25 and 26 EAST, N.H.P.H., CONTAINING 9,032.38 AGRES, MORE OR LESS, CRAVES COUNTY, NEW HEXICO.

Pursuant to notice by the Commission, duly made and published, setting June 7, 1946 at 10:00 A. H. for hearing in the above-entitled matter, said hearing was convened on said day at said hear in the Coronada Room at La Fonda Hotel, Santa Po, New Munico, the Commission sitting as follows:

Commissioner of Public Lands John E. Miles, Member R. R. Spurvier, Secretary Carl B. Livingston

# RECISIER

WE	COPAN	ALDESS:
William B. Hacey R. R. Luch S. W. Ludwick Frenk D. Gardner R. J. Heard R. F. Hiller W. F. Patterson S. P. Hannifin Fester Hervill R. O. Henengin R. C. Dien Harshall Howley John R. Cochsun, Jr. William J. Wright Charles R. Allem J. O. Soth W. R. Hebride John H. Kelly	Oil Conservation Commission State Bureau of Misses  Simplair Prairie Oil Company "Sayburg Oil Company Graptsurg Oil Company  U. S. Geological Survey A. T. & S. F. Railway Company A. T. & S. F. Railway Company Carper Drilling Company Maljamer Coop. Rap. Agreement Faljamer Coop. Rap. Agreement Continental Oil Company Petrologue Prod. Raf. & Pro. Co. Petrologue Prod. Raf. & Pro. Co. Independent Coologist	Artesia, H. H. Artesia, H. H. Reswell, W. H. Hidland, Turns Artesia, H. H. Sunta Pe, H. H. Roswell, W. H. Albuquerque, N. H. Albuquerque, N. H. Artesia, H. H. Artesia, H. H. Artesia, H. H. Artesia, H. H. Reswell, H. H. Reswell, H. H. Reswell, H. H.
Clarence Hinkle Roy O. Yarbrough F. W. Hickman	Herray, Dow and Hinkle Cil Conservation Commission Cil Conservation Commission	Resmall, N. M. Santa Po, N. M. Santa Po, N. M.
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## Covernor Miles:

Continues, the Sundanton is in sension, and the Secretary will proceed with the order of business.

#### Mr. Hinkles

I am Clarence E. Hinkle of Hervey, Dow and Hinkle, representing the behalb Agricultural Association. This is an application by the Defalb Agricultural Association for the approval of a unit agreement to be known as the Hitter Lake Unit Agrammat. The proposed unit area severe approximately 9,672-36 seven gituated in Township 10 South, Ranges 25 and 26 East. All of the lands enhanced in the proposed area are lands of the United States, with the exception of 120 seven in Section 2, Township 105, Range 255, which is State land. The agreement has been excepted by all of the except of the leases and pending applications for leases, except the lands which are enhanced in the se-called Hitter Lake Highway Wildlife Refuge, and there is a question whether leases will be issued for those lands. The area has heretofore been designated by the Director of the U. 5. Goolegical Survey upon the application of the several lease owners as suitable for unitiastion. Under the terms of the agreement the operator is given authority to carry on necessary operations to explain and devalop the unit area. The agreement provides for a test well to be drilled to a depth of 6,500 feet, unless gas or oil is found at a leaser depth. The proposed unit agreement follows substantially the unit agreements which have heretofuse been approved by the Counterion. That you may have before you the proposed unit area, here is a plat which has heretofore been filed with you. I might say that at this time the Befalb Agricultural Association has already started a well in Section 13, which is near the center of the proposed

unit area, and at the present time the well is below 3,500 feet. The goalegical information upon which this unit was formed was done by Mr. John
Kally, and I would like to have him event as a witness.

Hr. John H. Kelly, after being first duly energ, testified as follows:

Mr. Rinkles

What is your name?

Br. Kelly:

John M. Kelly.

Mr. Hinkles

What is your profession?

Mr. Kelly

I am a graduate engineer and geologist, and registered to practice in New Maxiso.

Ar. Makle:

How long have you prectised?

Mr. Kelly:

Ton years.

Er. Mubles

You were formerly the State (sologist?

Mr. Kelly:

that is right.

Hr. Hinkle:

You are familiar with the area involved in the proposed Bitter Lake Unit Agreement?

Mr. Kelly:

I am.

Br. Hiskle:

Here you performed any work in connection with at Agregant?

Mr. Kellys

Upon information furnished no by Hr. Whelen, who did the magnetometer work, I prepared a contour map of the enticline.

Ar. Einkle:

I hand you berewith the applicant's Exhibit A, and ask you to state whether that is a deplicate of the map made with the application before the  $U_{\star}$  S. Geological Survey for the designation of the Unit Area.

Hr. Kelly:

It is.

Mr. Maklet

You are familiar with the designation which has been made, and the boundaries as shown by the plat attached to the agreement?

Mr. Kelly

Yes.

#### Mr. Himbia:

State whether in your opinion the area covers all or substantially all of the geological features.

Tr. Kelly

I believe it covers all of the features as shown by the geological map and the area map.

Mr. Himkle:

Are you familiar with the agreement?

Mr. Kelly:

Yes.

Br. Hinklet

State whether the operations under this agreement would have a tendency to promote the conservation of oil and gas and the prevention of waste.

Ar. Kelly

I believe it would promote proper development in the area.

Gevernor Milost

Anyone also went to be heard in this case? If not, the application is granted.

Hr. Livingstons

The next case is No. 77 in the matter of the application of the Magnelia Petroleum Company for an order of approval of the Unit Agreement for the development and operation of the Black Hills Anticline Unit Area within Tempetine 17 and 18 South, Ranges 19 and 20 Rest, N.H.P.H., containing 17,426-52 acres, more or less, Chaves Gounty, New Maxico.

Mr. Hinkles

I am Clarence R. Himble of Herrory, Dow and Himble, and an atterney for the applicant, the Hagaelia Petroleum Company. This is the application of the Hagaelia Petroleum Company for the approval of the proposed ditter Lake Anticline Unit Agraement. The unit agreement which has been filed with the Commission contains a plat which shows the proposed unit area. The proposed unit area contains approximately 17,626.62 acros. All of the lands are lands of the United States, emment certain lands aggregating 2,170.56 acros. The unit agreement has been signed by the owners of oil and gas leases covering all of the lands, except the commers of two leases, which are a very small pertian of the total acrospe. The area involved in the agreement was approved by the Director of the U. S. Occlegical Survey and the Secretary of the Interior as one proper for unitiantion. The agreement designates the Hagaelia Petroleum Company as the unit operator, and under the terms of the unit is given power to commence a well within six menths after the approval, and drill the same to a depth of 7,000 feet, unless gas or cil is found at a leaser depths. The form follows substantially the same form as heresters approved by this Commission and the Commission of Public Lands. Hr. Stove Hamiffin, the District Land Sun for Seguelia, is here, and I would like to have him testify.

Hr. S. P. Hermifin, after being first duly sworm, testified as fellows:

Hr. Hinkles

Please state your name.

Mr. Hannifin:

S. P. Harmifin.

Mr. Hinkles

where do you reside?

Mr. Menniiins

downall, New Mexico.

nr. Hinkles

what is your official position?

Mr. Hammifine

District Land Man for Magnalia Petroleum Company.

Br. Binkle:

How long have you been with the Magnelia Petroleum Company?

Mr. Hamifint

20 years.

Mr. Hinklo:

Are you familiar with the so-called Dister Lake Anticline Unit Agreement in Chaves County, New Mexico, which is the subject of the proposed unit agreement?

Ar. Hamilin:

Yes, sir.

Mr. Hinkle:

Do you know whether any geological investigation has been made of this

Mr. Famniffine

Soverel years ago such an investigation was made by J. B. Redley.

Mr. Hinkles

Did Hr. Hedley make a report in connection with the report of the designation of this area before the U. S. Geological Survey?

Hr. Barnifins

He did, yes.

Mr. Hinkles

I hand you herewith the report of Hr. J. B. Hedley, marked Exhibit A. on the ditter Lake Anticline, Chaves County, and ask you whether it is a duplication.

Mr. Semiffine

It is.

Mr. Minkles

Does that imp show the geological structure involved?

Mr. Sandfine

Yes.

fire Himbles

Do you know whether the unit area covers all of the structures, according to the plat?

Mr. Harmifine

It does.

Mr. Hinkles

Are you familiar with the terms of the unit agreement?

Gr. Hannifine

You, sir.

Mr. Rinkles

State whether in your epinion the operations under the proposed unit agreement, if a discovery is made, would tend to premote the conservation of oil and the prevention of waste.

Mr. Hannifine

I believe it would. Yes, sir.

Covernor Miles:

Anyone class want to be heard in this case? The application is granted. Heart case.

Hr. Myingstons

The next case is No. 78 in the matter of the application of the Petrolsum Products Refining and Producing Company for an order of approval of an trogular oil and gas well location in Section 36, T. 188, R. 98, Hospah Field, McKinley County, New Mexico, Well No. 48, to be located in the South-east-Southwest-Goutheest quarter of said section, 1220 feet Hest of the center section line, 330 feet North of the South line.

ite. Grillis

by many is J. O. Seth, and I appear for the Petroleum Products Refining and Producing Company. This is an application to drill this well that I derived on this plat. The field and the development began many years ago, and was drilled on a 10-sere spesing. The old wells were not so locate to be in the center of each 10-ears tract. The preposal of this location is to get 660 feet Rast of the wall already drilled. The lease is a State lease, and nobody would be hart by the location. I would like to have hr. richride

Mr. W. R. HoBride, after being first duly sworm, testified as follows:

I'm. Sorth:

Your name, please.

Mrs. No resides

W. R. Mohrido.

Mr. Sethir

You are an officer of the Petroleum Products Refining and Producing COMPARTY?

Mr. McGrides

You, sir.

the Sethi

What is your position?

nr. marios:

Vice-Promident.

Mr. Sethi

You know the general location of these wells in the Hospah Done, do you not?

Mr. MoBrides

Tes.

Mr. Seth:

That development began many years ago?

Mr. McBride:

I think back in 1928 or 1929.

Mr. Sethi

This application today is to drill the well sarked on this plat?

Mr. liebridet

That is well No. 48. The Roman numerals there are the numbers we anticipate drilling, but this is well No. 1 here.

Hr. Sethi

I would like to have this plat marked for attention.

(NOTE: The plat at this point was sarried Exhibit A for the record).

Mr. Cotin

The location you seek for this well is merely to keep it at 660 feet?

Mr. McIrides

Yes, and to correct some of the previous locations and in drilling additional wells we can try to keep them all within the proper spacing. They will all be the same distance from each other. We may have to come in and ask for another irregular spacing if it is necessary.

Mr. Beth:

Are all the walls on the same State Lease owned by your Company?

Mr. MaBride:

Yes, sir.

ir. Sethi

I believe that is all.

Opvernor Miles:

implody also want to be heard in this case? The application is granted.

in. Livingstone

The first case is No. 79. The pathlioner, through his attorneys, Kiler and Sanchus, has requested that the hearing date upon this politica be vacated and that said pathlion be set down for a hearing at some future time, owing to the fact that the pathlioner, with other operators in the Palcher Sasin Cas Field, is endeavoring to formulate a spacing plan to present to the Commission.

The next case is No. 80 in the matter of the petition of Operators' Committee under Haljamar Cooperative Representing Agreement for amendment to Order No. 485, as amended by Order No. 595 of the Commission, to provide for the muning of back allevable from the Haljamar Cooperative Representing area.



#### Mr. Cochrans

My name is John E. Cochran, Jr. I represent Maljamar Cooperative Representing Agreement. This is a matter in which the Maljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement sake that Order 485, as assended by Order 595 of this Commission to provide for the running of back allowable from the Haljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement. Order 485 entered by the Commission in Care 36 on Hovember 14, 1942 was the order which approved the Haljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement and approved certain in-put wells and provided for the distribution on allowable on in-put wells to other wells. Order 595 entered by the Commission on January 8, 1945 smended the original order and set up an allocation production plan for the area. Before that order was entered, and while the study was being made, it was agreed that in the interest of conservation at that time no back allowable would be allowed the area, and there was written on February 11, 1944 a letter by Mr. Kelly, then State Geologist, which previded that no back allowable be run from leases in the Maljamar area. Since that time, however, the allocation plan approved has been so successful that the operators feel that it would not be descrimental to the properties to run some back allowable which occurred for the reasons I will tell you. During November Malco Refineries, Inc., who was a substantial crude buyer from the area had too much crude, and the Malco discontinued purchasing orade oil from a large number of leases in the area, and following that several operators had no pipe line connections, and a substantial back allowable accommisted by reason of having no outlet for the oil. As of June 1 there were approximately 20,000 berrels of back allowable which have not been run from certain leases within the area. This back allomble is in some instances unproduced, and in some cases has been preduced and is in storage. All of the operators in the area feel that they should be allowed to run currently to the pipe line companies purchasing the cil a back allowable at a rate not to exceed the rate the Consission allowed the State generally. All operators of leages and wells in this area feel that the way this should be handled would be for individual operators to make application to the Operatore' Committee, which is the manager of the Project, and designate the lease and the amount of back allemble that they feel should be run during a current month, which would not exceed the back allowable figure set for other parts of the State by the Commission. This would amount to probably a barrel a day per well, and in some instances three barrels a day per well, and where the oil is in storage a request would be made for permission to run this to the pipe line company, not to exceed ten barrels per day. After the applications have been made to the Operators' Committee by the operators, the operators feel that the Chairman of the Operators' Countities of the Haljamar Cooperative Representing Agreement should petition the Countesien, or its deputies, administratively for authority to run back allowable during the current month. The reason for suggesting the matter be handled thus is when an operator makes application for back allowable the operators! Countities will have an opportunity to study the request, and if it is in the interest of con-servation the Chairman of the Operators! Committee would file the application with the Commission or its deputy. Due to the fact that the back allemble had its origin about the first of December, the Maljamar Representing Agreement asked that the Commission permit it to follow this procedure in requesting authority to run bank allowable starting December 1, 1945. Mr. Willis J. Wright, Engineer for the Maljamar Cooperative Representing Agreement is here, and if the members of the Commission would care to ask him any questions he may be sworm. Do you have any questions you want to ask high

## Governor Miles:

Yes, will you bring him forward?

Mr. William J. Wright, after being first duly sworm, testified as follows:

Mr. Cochrant

Will you state your name?

Mr. Wright:

William J. Wright.

Mr. Cochrent

Where do you live?



Mr. Wright

Maljamar.

Mr. Cochrant

What is your occupation?

Mr. Wright:

Project engineer for the Maljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement.

Mr. Spurrier:

Mr. Wright, give us an approximation of what percent of the production of any one well would this additional production be; that is, what the back allewable would constitute.

Mr. Wright:

From a daily run it should not exceed 15% of daily allowable, which would be from 1 to 3 barrels per day.

Mr. Cochran:

Mr.Wright, in your opinion, if the method of making up back allowable, as is hereby outlined, is followed, would that constitute underground waste?

Mr. Wrights

Definitely not.

Mr. Livingston:

Back to what period of time is it desired that back allowable be permitted to run?

Mr. Wright:

December 1, 1945.

Governor Miles:

Anyone else want to be heard in this case? If not, the application is granted.

Mr. Livingston:

The next case is 81 in the matter of the petition of the Grayburg Oil Company of New Mexico, Operator of Grayburg Cooperative and Unit Agreement, for an order for transfer of allowable from in-put wells to other wells of same basic leases in the unit area of Grayburg Cooperative and Unit Agreement, Eddy County, New Mexico.

Mr. Miller:

I am Raymond Miller of the Grayburg Oil Company, Artesia. The Grayburg Oil Company is the operator of a unit agreement located on Government lands. In connection with this unit cooperative agreement we are operating a repressuring plant. The last several months we have converted two top allowable wells to in-put wells situated in the MW\(\frac{1}{2}\)SE\(\frac{1}{2}\) of Section 26, Township 17, Range 29, the well known as Grayburg-Keeley 9-B. The other well, Western Production Company-Keeley 12-C, is located in SW\(\frac{1}{2}\)ME\(\frac{1}{2}\)Section 25, Township 17, Range 29. These wells were top allowable wells at the time they were put on as in-put wells, and since then we have been losing that allowable, and we request this allowable be transferred to other wells situated on the same basic leases. The Keeley B basic lease covers the S\(\frac{1}{2}\)Section 24, N\(\frac{1}{2}\)M\(\frac{1}{2}\)Section 25, E\(\frac{1}{2}\)Section 26, Township 17, Range 29%. The Western-Keeley C lease covers the M\(\frac{1}{2}\)SW\(\frac{1}{2}\) and the M\(\frac{1}{2}\)Section 26, all in Township S, Range 39%. Mr. R. J. Heard, Vice-President of the Grayburg Oil Company, is present, and I would like to have him heard.



Mr. R. J. Heard, after being first duly seem, testified as follows: Mr. Millers Your name is -Mr. Heards R. J. Heard. Mr. Millers Mhare do you reside? Mr. Heards Artesia. Mr. Millars Your position with the Crayburg Oil Company? Mr. Heard: Vice-President. Br. Millers fire Heard, you have been in charge of the drilling and production of these subject wells? Mr. Heards Yes. Mr. Millers Do you know that these wells are capable of producing top unit allowable at the time they were converted to injection wells? Mr. Heard? Yes. Mr. Millers In your opinion, if the wells were reconverted to producing wells at this time, would they produce top unit allowable? Mr. Heard: Yes. Mr. Millers Do you think this unit allowable could be produced from other wells on this same basic lease without waste? Mr. Heard? Yes. Mr. Millers Is there any question you must to ask hir. Heard? Mr. Spurriers Approximately how many wells do you intend to allecate this in-put production to, Hr. Heard? Mr. Heard: Approximately 17 wells on one basic lesse, and I think around 12 or 14

on the other.

Hr. Sparriers

Then that would be about 2 or 3 barrels per day per well, would it not?

Mr. Heard?

Yes, sir.

Mr. Sparriers

This would be sensithing less than 10% of each well's production?

Mr. Heards

Yes, sir.

Mr. Miller:

We are requesting the Commission to make up back allowables on these wells, beginning May 1, 1946; that is, on these two subject in-put wells. We are also requesting the Commission to reserve jurisdiction in this case, that they may act administratively in the case of corrections, etc.

Mr. Sparriers

You mean by that you contemplate drilling more in-put wellst

Mr. Miller:

Yes, that is right. There are more wells being drilled at the present time on these leases, and it is our intention to convert these to in-put wells.

Covernor Miles:

Anyone else went to be heard in this case? If not, the petition is granted.

Mr. Livingston:

The next case is No. 82 in the matter of the application of I. K. Mestbrook for an exter of approval of an irregular oil and gas well location in SWAME Section 22, T. 20M, Range 11M, N.M.P.M., MeKinley County, New Muxico for I. K. Westbrook-Senta Fe Pacific Hailrend Company Well No. 1, which location is 1594 feet South of the North line and 2411 feet West of the Mest line of said section. This well started off as a water well, and seems to be ending up as an oil well.

Hr. Iden:

By name is E. C. Iden, and I would like to have fir. I. K. Hestbrock and Mr. E. O. Hemenway sworm.

Mr. E. O. Homersmay, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

Mr. Iden:

Your name is E. O. Hemenway?

Mr. Housemays

You.

Br. Idens

You are connected with the Santa De Pacific Railroad Company?

Mr. Hersermays

I am Land Commissioner at Albuquerque.

Mr. Idens

You are familiar with this application of I. K. Westbrock?

Mr. Homesowyt

Xes.

Mr. Idens

The Santa Pe Pacific Railread Company is the owner of the land on which this well is lacated?

Mr. Hamersony:

Yes.

Mr. Iden:

State to the Commission Mr. Westbrook's activities with reference to this land, particularly with reference to grazing leases prior to the time he acquired the oil lease.

Hr. Remembers

Mr. Mestbrook is a livestock operator in this part of McKinley County, and in connection with his livestock operations entered into a contract with a driller to drill him a deep water well, and when he got down a certain distance there was some showing of oil, and he immediately stopped his work on his water well and fait that there might be some advantage in attempting to get an oil well out of this prospect.

Mr. Iden.

You are familiar with the location of the well?

Mr. Hememay:

It is in Section 22, Township 20 North, Range 11 West. It is in the SW2 of the NEZ.

Mr. Idens

I believe as shown by the petition, it is 274 feet South of the quarter section line 40-acre subdivision line. Is that correct?

Mr. Remember

That is about it. I think it is 274 feet South of the quarter line and 229 feet East of the West line of that 40-acre treat.

Mr. Ideas

Stated in another way, it is 1594 feet South of the North line and 2411 feet West of the East line?

Mr. Homemays

Yes, sir.

Mr. Iden:

Did the grazing lease Mr. Westbrook had prior to an oil showing in the water well embrace other lands than this?

Mr. Homeways

Yes, as I recall, it took in all oil holdings in that township.

Mr. Idens

He still has the grazing lease?

Pr. Headways

He has a purchase contract for the purchase of the surface rights.

Mr. Litens

After the showing you gave him an oil and gas lease on certain lands for the purpose of protecting him in drilling the well, further with the hope that he might get oil or gas?

Mr. Hemesways

Tes.

Mr. Idens

It covers 160 serse surrounding this prospect?

Mr. Hosenways

Yes.

Mr. Idens

Does your company own all of the acreage adjacent to this particular acreage?

Mr. Penermays

We orm immediately adjacent. Section 16 cornering to the Morthmet is a school section. We own the others in the immediate vicinity.

Mr. Idens

Generally speaking, how far is this from any other producing oil and gas well?

Mr. Benemayı

Approximately 15 or 18 miles Northwest of any present production.

Mr. Iden:

Do you know the depth of the water well?

Mr. Remitmays

Approximately 1100 feet.

Mr. Iden:

Do you know of any possible objection in parmitting this well to be drilled in this location?

Mr. Remounity:

No.

Mr. Iden:

I think that is all.

Governor Miles:

What is the approximate distance from this well to the corner of the school section you speak of?

Mr. Hemerways

About 2900 feet approximately to the coutheast corner of the school section.

Mr. Iden:

Mr. Westbrook, will you take the stand?

Hr. Westbrook, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

Mr. Idens

Your name is I. K. Westbrock?

ar. metorocks

Yes, sir.

Are Idens

You are the petitioner in this matter?

Mr. Westbrooks

Tes, sire

dr. idens

where do you live?

Hr. Hastorocks

Cro-mpount.

Mr. Iden:

How long have you lived there?

Mr. westbrooks

29 years.

Mr. Ideas

You are a rancher in that community?

Mr. estbrocks

Yes, sir, I have been a rancher there 29 years.

Mr. Iden:

You have heard Mr. Hemenway's testimony. Was it correct in all respects?

Mr. Westbrooks

Yes, dir.

Mr. Idens

You might desire to continue the drilling of this well with the hope of getting oil and gas?

Ar. Westbrooks

Yes, I would like to prospect for it.

Mr. Iden:

It was begus as a water well?

Er. Martbrooks

Absolutely. Mear the center of this township.

Mr. Iden:

At west depth did you encounter this oil and gas showing?

Mr. westbrooks

LNA rest.

fire Idens

is that where the well stands today?

Mr. Westbrocks

You draw it.

Mr. Idens

So far as you know, would it make a commercial well at this time? Hr. Sestorocks

I do not know. There is quite a little showing, and the driller states it may be a commercial well.

itr. Iden:

I believe that is all, unless the Conscission has some questions. Hr. Spurriers

One question, it. Westbrook. You have a lease. How do you have a plugging bond?

Mr. Fastbrook!

The bond is accompanying my petition here.

Mr. Livingston:

Mr. Westbrook has on file a \$2500 corporate surely bond to go to a depth not to exceed 1500 feet, but the bond has not been accepted until the Commission grants its order.

Mr. Idens

based on that showing, we ask that the potition be granted.

dovernor Mless

Anyone also went to be heard on this case? If not, the application is granted. Heating discipated.

I certify that the above is a transcript of the proceedings in this matter as taken from my shorthand notes.

Mary E. Martin

Mury E. Martin, Stenographer