

BEFORE THE  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Santa Fe, New Mexico  
March 17, 1953

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

CASE NO. 520



ADA DEARNLEY & ASSOCIATES  
COURT REPORTERS  
ROOM 12, CROMWELL BLDG.  
PHONES 7-9645 AND 5-9546  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



Q Will you state to the Commission your qualifications?

A I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Petroleum Engineering from the University of California, 1941 and have worked for six years in drilling and production in California fields and one year in Texas-New Mexico.

Q Have you worked with any other oil company than Southern California Petroleum Corporation?

A Yes, for the first five years I worked for M. H. Whittier Company in California.

Q Have you testified before this Commission?

A No, sir.

MR. MCKENNA: Will the Commission accept the qualifications?

MR. SPURRIER: It will.

Q Are you familiar with the application, Mr. Warren, of Vosburg No. 2?

A Yes.

Q Is this well now a producing well?

A Yes, it is.

Q I hand you this plat which has been marked as Exhibit No. 1. Will you state whether or not this plat has been prepared at your direction?

A Yes, it has.

Q Can you state the location of Vosburg No. 2?

A Vosburg No. 2 is 991.4 feet west and 295 feet north of the southeast corner of the Section 18.

Q Is there any offset well to Vosburg No. 2?

A No, not a direct offset.

Q What well does exist in Section 19?

A There is a proposed well in Section 19, which would be a southerly offset.

Q What well is that?

A Leonard Oil Company.

Q Have they been notified of this application?

A They have.

Q Have you received any communication from the Leonard Oil Company regarding this application for the Vosburg No. 2?

A Yes, we have a letter. They waive any objection to it, to this location.

Q Would you state to the Commission the reason for the unorthodox location of Vosburg No. 2, which is a producing well?

A That was a surveying error. We have the affidavit which the surveyor who staked both Vosburg No. 1 and 2 made.

Q Mr. Warren, I hand you Exhibit No. 2, will you tell the Commission what Exhibit No. 2 is?

A Exhibit 2 is the affidavit by John West, a professional engineer and surveyor, working at Hobbs, New Mexico.

Q Is he the one who did the surveying for Vosburg No. 2?

A Yes.

Q Did you secure the affidavit from Mr. West at our request and at our direction?

A Yes.

Q Would you read to the Commission the paragraphs as marked, three, four, five and six of that affidavit?

A "This location was made from the U.S.G.L.O. markers at the northwest corner and the north quarter corner of section 18; the U.S.G.L.O. markers on the south and east sides of the section had

either been destroyed or buried in the county road.

September 26, 1952, after the No. 1 well had been drilled, I staked the No. 2 well in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section 18. Since we chained the 2970.0 feet from the north line for the No. 1 well we just chained on south 1980 feet from it and West 660 feet for the No. 2 well.

January 24, 1953, after Mr. W. A. Lyons, vice president of Culbertson & Irwin, Inc., had called my attention to the fact that some other surveyor had reported the number two well not properly located, I made a recheck. I started back at the markers on the north side of the section and checking the No. 1 well first. At 2970 feet from the north and 330.0 feet from the east lines of the section I found the east offset stake from the well I had staked but the well was drilled south 35 feet. When we checked in on No. 2 it was 1980 feet south of the No. 1 well as it had been drilled, but not as it had been staked. This made it only 295 feet from the south line of the section.

In my opinion, one of the golfers at the Jal Golf Club saw that the location was staked near a green and also near the left side of two fairways and just moved my stake south the 35 feet before the dirt contractor came to dig the pits. As a result we have two wells 35 feet south of the location they were intended."

Q In other words, it is the opinion of the licensed surveyor that one of the golf players objected to having an extra hole in the rough?

A Yes.

Q Has Southern California Petroleum Company been the operator

for Culbertson-Irwin since approximately February, 1952?

A Yes.

Q When did you discover this error in surveying?

A Just in January, it was early in January of this year.

Q You folks were in good faith and did not know that the location was unorthodox?

A No, we thought both wells had been drilled as they were filed with the Commission.

MR. McKENNA: I would like to offer Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2, which is the affidavit in evidence.

MR. SPURRIER: Without objection they will be received. Anyone have a question of the witness? If not the witness may be excused.

(Witness excused.)

MR. SPURRIER: Any further comments in the case? The case will be taken under advisement.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO )  
                          : SS.  
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO )

I, ADA DEARNLEY, hereby certify that the above and foregoing transcript of proceedings in Case No. 520, taken before the Oil Conservation Commission on March 17, 1953, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, is a true and correct record.

Dated in Albuquerque, New Mexico, this 25th day of March, 1953.

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:  
June 19, 1955.