BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

THE APPLICATION OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR COMPULSORY COMMUNITIZATION OF E/2 OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 10 WEST, NMPM, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

THE APPLICATION OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR DETERMINATION AND RATIFICATION OF COMMUNITIZATION OF E/2 OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 10 WEST, NMPM, SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, CONTAINING 320 ACRES.

CASE NO. 710)
CASE NO. 850) Consolidated

Order No. R-549-B

APPLICATION FOR REHEARING

Your Applicant, EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY, applies for rehearing and states:

1. Applicant is the owner of oil and gas leasehold interests in and under the tract of land described in the caption and is a party affected by Order No. R-549-B entered by the Commission on January 12, 1956.

2. Your Applicant would show the Commission that its Order No. R-549-B is erroneous as follows:

a. That the Commission's Finding No. 9, insofar as it finds that the date upon which the working interest owners agreed to communitize their leases of May 19, 1954 is not supported by and is contrary to the credible evidence.

b. That the Commission's Finding No. 11 that the pooling and drilling unit was established on May 19, 1954 is not supported by and is contrary to the weight of the credible evidence.

c. That the portion of Paragraph 1 of the Commission's Order establishing May 19, 1954 as the date the drilling unit upon a pooled and communitized tract became effective is erroneous.

d. That there is no evidence in the record to show that the working interest owners made any agreement on the 19th day of

May, 1954, the date when the original hearing was conducted, and that the evidence shows the agreement to have been made and consummated prior to that date and the selection of that date is arbitrary and unreasonable.

e. That the evidence shows the working interest owners had agreed to communitize and pool their respective interests prior to August 25, 1953, on which date a Notice of Intention to Drill was filed with the Commission.

f. That the finding of the Commission that an agreement was made on May 19, 1954, is an arbitrary and unreasonable finding and not necessary to a determination of the applications.

g. The Commission having held that the working interest owners have the power without the joinder of the lessors to enter an agreement for the communitizing or pooling of tracts of land into drilling units in conformity with Order R-110, the Commission exceeded its jurisdiction by determining the date upon which the working interest owners made such agreement and exceeded its jurisdiction in determining that such agreement did not become effective until the date of the first hearing, which findings were not necessary to a determination of the applications. The Commission, having found that the working interest owners effectively pooled or communitized the tracts of land into a drilling unit, has no further jurisdiction and the Commission's Order is erroneous in attempting to do more than determine the effect of the agreement made by the working interest owners. When that agreement effectively pooled the several tracts into a drilling unit, there remained nothing further for the Commission to do, and those portions of the Commission's Order which attempt to pool or communitize at a later date are invalid and void.

h. Paragraph 2 of the Commission's Order is beyond its jurisdiction and is not supported by the evidence, and is contradictory and contrary to all of the findings and conclusions of the

Commission made in the remaining portions of the Order.

WHEREFORE, your Applicant respectfully requests the Commission to grant a rehearing in these consolidated cases and to hear such further evidence as may be material, and to reconsider the Order entered by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY

By Ben F. Howell
Attorney