

BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

In the Matter of:

CASE 2066 Application of the Humble Oil & Refining Company for an oil-gas dual completion utilizing two strings of casing. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing it to dually complete its Kathleen Steckel Well No. 1, located in the NW/4 NE/4 of Section 19, Township 18 South, Range 27 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to produce oil from an undesignated Abo pool and gas from an undesignated Pennsylvanian pool through 4½-inch casing and 2 7/8-inch casing respectively cemented in a common well bore. Applicant proposes also to install tubing for the Abo production.

Mabry Hall
September 7, 1960

BEFORE:

Elvis A. Utz, Examiner.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MR. UTZ: Case 2066.

MR. PAYNE: Case 2066, Application of Humble Oil & Refining Company for an oil-gas dual completion utilizing two strings of casing.

MR. BRATTON: Howard Bratton, Roswell, New Mexico, appearing on behalf of the Applicant. We have one witness and ask that he be sworn.

(Witness sworn in.)

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I N D E X

WITNESS

PAGE

J. E. WILLINGHAM

Direct Examination by Mr. Bratton
Examination by Mr. Utz

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(Thereupon, the documents were marked as Applicant's Exhibits One, Two and Three for identification.)

J. E. WILLINGHAM

a witness, called by and on behalf of the Applicant, having first been duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. BRATTON:

Q Will you state your name, address, and by whom you are employed?

A J. E. Willingham, I live in Midland, Texas, I am employed by the Humble Oil and Refining Company.

Q Have you previously testified before this Commission as an expert witness?

A Yes sir, I have.

Q Are you familiar with the area under consideration in Case 2066 and the well involved in that application.

A Yes sir, I am.

Q Will you state what Humble's request is in Case 2066?

A Basically, without going into minute details, we are planning to set 2 7/8 inch casing at 9500 feet as one string, and 4 1/2-inch casing at 5500 feet as another string, the upper string of 4 1/2 being in the Abo, the lower 2 3/8 in the Bend.

Q Referring to Humble's Exhibit Number One, does it show the location of the well in question.



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A Yes, this is a map that shows the location.

Q Where is that location?

A It's located in Eddy County, Texas --

Q Where was that?

A Excuse me, Eddy County, New Mexico, in Section 19, T 15 N, R 27 E.

Q The location of the well in the section is what?

A It's 660 feet from the north line and 1980 feet from the east line.

Q All right, sir. Now, refer to Humble's Exhibit Number Two, which is headed, Humble Plan Number One, and state what that is.

A This is a sample diagrammatic sketch of the installation as planned. Actually, this well is already started. We have already set 15 3/8. We were in a river bottom and instead of setting it at fifty feet, we had to set it at 115, and we will set 9 5/8-inch casing at 1500 feet and drill an 8 3/4-inch hole below, and we have set 4 1/2 and 2 7/8 as I have previously outlined.

Q All right, sir. What is your cementing program and centralizing program?

A We will cement the casing through both strings since the two formations are quite a distance apart, and we will bring the cement on the 2 7/8-inch casing up to the bottom of the 4 1/2, and we will cement from the bottom of the 4 1/2 and bring the cement 600 feet above the uppermost pay.



Q This is a wildcat well both as to the Abo oil and as to the Pennsylvanian Bend gas?

A Yes, sir; actually, I didn't answer all of the question. We will centralize through all pays.

Q Excuse me. What type of centralizers have you decided to use, Mr. Willingham?

A We will either use turbolizers or just spiral-type stabilizers. There are several kinds on the market now that could be used; I hate to be tied down to one particular manufacturer because there's so many on the market.

Q And satisfactory, in your opinion?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, you are anticipating a Pennsylvania Bend gas at approximately 9500 feet.

A Yes, sir, that is correct.

Q And Abo oil at approximately 5500 feet?

A That's correct.

Q Do you have anything else you care to say with relation to your proposed plan?

A No sir, I believe not. I think this is standard, it is what we have used in the past, and we have many installations like this in Texas and we have some in New Mexico, we have one in New Mexico and another one drilling similar to this one.

Q Do you propose tubing in your Abo?

A There will be tubing in the Abo, yes sir.

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Q All right, sir. Now, refer to your Exhibit Number Three, Mr. Willingham, and explain what that is, and --

A Exhibit Number Three is--we are presenting to the Commission not as a request, but this is a wildcat and we can't always ascertain what our exact conditions would be, and if we don't obtain a high volume gas well, we may want to switch the 4 1/2 and set it at 9500 and set the 2 7/8 up high.

Q This is just presented as an alternative in case the Commission should be interested as to what you would propose in the event you got a high volume gas well?

A Yes, sir.

Q In your opinion, would Plan Number Two work satisfactorily in the event you should encounter that situation?

A Yes sir, it would.

Q Other than the switching of the two strings of casing, it would be --

A Basically the same.

Q --basically the same thing?

A Yes.

Q Is there any other information which you would care to present to the Commission in connection with this proposal, Mr. Willingham?

A No sir, I believe that all the information and the details were presented in the past, and I don't believe the Commission would want to be bothered with it.

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Q Were Exhibits One through Three prepared by you or under your supervision?

A Yes sir, they were.

MR. BRATTON: We would offer Humble's Exhibits One through Three in evidence.

MR. UTZ: Without objection, Humble's Exhibits One through Three will be entered into the record.

MR. BRATTON: We have no further questions at this time.

EXAMINATION BY MR. UTZ:

Q As I understand your cementing program, Mr. Willingham, you will have cement from TD to 600 feet above the uppermost pay of the two stages?

A Yes sir, that's true.

Q And you don't anticipate any producing zones or portable water zones between 115 feet and 600 feet above the uppermost pay?

A If you will notice, we are setting 9 5/8 at 1500. This 15 3/8 was set in the river bottom because of the work in the dirt formation.

Q Well, then I'll alter the inquiry to be from 600 feet above the uppermost pay to 1500 feet?

A We do not anticipate any water.

Q And you will be able to artificially lift, in case need be, your zone?

A Absolutely.

MR. UTZ: Are there any other questions of the witness?



MR. PAYNE: Mr. Willingham, the case was advertised for Plan Number One only; it might be possible, however, to set up an administrative procedure in the event of approval whereby Plan Number Two could be approved upon notification of offset operators.

MR. BRATTON: If the Commission could, we would request that such an administrative approval be placed in the order, if the Commission sees it possible.

MR. UTZ: Are there other questions? The witness may be excused.

(Witness excused.)

MR. UTZ: Are there other statements in this case? If not, this case will be taken under advisement. We will take a ten-minute break.

(Short recess.)

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