

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:

CASE No. 4102
Order No. R-3734

APPLICATION OF W. H. MCKINLEY
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER NO.
R-3221, AS AMENDED, EDDY COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on April 16, 1969, at Hobbs, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this 22nd day of April, 1969, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony presented and the exhibits received at said hearing, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) That the applicant, W. H. McKinley, is the owner and operator of certain wells on his lease covering the NE/4 of Section 1, Township 17 South, Range 30 East, NMPM, Square Lake Grayburg-San Andres Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico.

(3) That effective January 1, 1969, Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended, prohibits in that area encompassed by Lea, Eddy, Chaves, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the disposal, subject to minor exceptions, of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, streambed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any

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other place or in any manner which would constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

(4) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.

(5) That the State Engineer has designated, pursuant to Section 65-3-11 (15), N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation, all underground water in the State of New Mexico containing 10,000 parts per million or less of dissolved solids as fresh water supplies to be afforded reasonable protection against contamination; except that said designation does not include any water for which there is no present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use that would be impaired by contamination.

(6) That the applicant seeks an exception to the provisions of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the continued disposal of salt water, produced by applicant's wells located on his lease covering the NE/4 of said Section 1, in an unlined surface pit located in said quarter section.

(7) That the applicant has a need to dispose of approximately 13 barrels of water per day in the subject pit.

(8) That the evidence indicates that there are no shallow water wells within six miles of the subject lease.

(9) That there appears to be no water in the vicinity of the subject lease for which a present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use is or will be made that would be impaired by contamination from said pit.

(10) That the applicant should be permitted to dispose of salt water produced by his wells located in the NE/4 of said Section 1 in an unlined surface pit located in said quarter section.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, W. H. McKinley, is hereby granted an exception to Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended.

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to dispose of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, by his wells located in the NE/4 of Section 1, Township 17 South, Range 30 East, NMPM, Square Lake Grayburg-San Andres Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico, in an unlined surface pit located in said quarter section until further order of the Commission.

(2) That the Commission may by administrative order rescind such authority whenever it reasonably appears to the Commission that such rescission would serve to protect fresh water supplies from contamination.

(3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DAVID F. CARGO, Chairman

ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member

A. L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

