

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. 4937  
Order No. R-4539

APPLICATION OF CONTINENTAL  
OIL COMPANY FOR SPECIAL POOL  
RULES, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on April 11, 1973, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Elvis A. Utz.

NOW, on this 22nd day of May, 1973, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, 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, Continental Oil Company, seeks the promulgation of special rules and regulations for the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, including provisions for 160-acre spacing and proration units.
- (3) That the applicant has established that one well in the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool can efficiently and economically drain and develop 160 acres.
- (4) That in order to prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, to avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, to prevent reduced recovery which might result from the drilling of too few wells, and to otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights, special rules and regulations providing for 160-acre spacing units should be promulgated for the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool.
- (5) That the special rules and regulations should provide for limited well locations in order to assure orderly development of the pool and protect correlative rights.

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(6) That the special rules and regulations for the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool should apply only to wells located within the horizontal limits of said pool.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

That, effective April 1, 1973, Special Rules and Regulations for the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby promulgated as follows:

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS  
FOR THE  
BELL LAKE-BONE SPRING POOL

RULE 1. Each well completed or recompleted in the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool shall be spaced, drilled, operated, and produced in accordance with the Special Rules and Regulations hereinafter set forth.

RULE 2. Each well shall be located on a standard unit containing 160 acres, more or less, substantially in the form of a square, which is a quarter section being a legal subdivision of the United States Public Land Surveys provided that nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the drilling of a well on each of the quarter-quarter sections in the unit.

RULE 3. The Secretary-Director of the Commission may grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 2 without notice and hearing when an application has been filed for a non-standard unit consisting of less than 160 acres or the unorthodox size or shape of the tract is due to a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Land Surveys. All operators offsetting the proposed non-standard unit shall be notified of the application by registered or certified mail, and the application shall state that such notice has been furnished. The Secretary-Director may approve the application upon receipt of written waivers from all offset operators or if no offset operator has entered an objection to the formation of the non-standard unit within 30 days after the Secretary-Director has received the application.

RULE 4. Each well shall be located no closer than 660 feet to the outer boundary of the quarter-section and no closer than 330 feet to a quarter-quarter section inner boundary.

RULE 5. The Secretary-Director may grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 4 without notice and hearing when an application has been filed for an unorthodox location necessitated by topographical conditions or the recompletion of a well previously drilled to another horizon. All operators offsetting the proposed location shall be notified of the application by registered or certified mail, and the application shall state

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that such notice has been furnished. The Secretary-Director may approve the application upon receipt of written waivers from all operators offsetting the proposed location or if no objection to the unorthodox location has been entered within 20 days after the Secretary-Director has received the application.

RULE 6. Top unit allowable for a standard proration unit (158 through 162 acres) shall be based on a depth bracket allowable of 470 barrels per day, and in the event there is more than one well on an 160-acre proration unit, the operator may produce the allowable assigned to the unit from the wells on the unit in any proportion.

The allowable assigned to a non-standard proration unit shall bear the same ratio to a standard allowable as the acreage in such non-standard unit bears to 160 acres.

RULE 7. That the limiting gas-oil ratio for the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool shall be 2,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil produced.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

(1) That the locations of all wells drilling to or completed in the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool prior to April 1, 1973, are hereby approved; that the operator of any well having an unorthodox location shall notify the Hobbs District Office of the Commission in writing of the name and location of the well on or before June 1, 1973.

(2) That, pursuant to Paragraph A. of Section 65-3-14.5, NMSA 1953, contained in Chapter 271, Laws of 1969, existing wells in the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool shall have dedicated thereto 160 acres in accordance with the foregoing pool rules; or, pursuant to Paragraph C. of said Section 65-3-14.5, existing wells may have non-standard spacing or proration units established by the Commission and dedicated thereto.

Failure to file new Forms C-102 with the Commission dedicating 160 acres to a well or to obtain a non-standard unit approved by the Commission within 60 days from the date of this order shall subject the well to cancellation of allowable. Until said Form C-102 has been filed or until a non-standard unit has been approved, and subject to said 60-day limitation, each well presently drilling to or completed in the Bell Lake-Bone Spring Pool shall receive no more than one-fourth of a standard allowable for the pool.

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

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DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year herein-  
above designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION



*I. R. Trujillo*  
I. R. TRUJILLO, Chairman

*Alex J. Armijo*  
ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member

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

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