

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

GARREY CARRUTHERS  
GOVERNOR

February 23, 1989

POST OFFICE BOX 2088  
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501  
(505) 827-5800

Mr. Thomas Kellahin  
Kellahin, Kellahin & Aubrey  
Attorneys at Law  
Post Office Box 2265  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Re: CASE NO. 9599  
ORDER NO. R-8882

Applicant:

Meridian Oil, Inc.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are two copies of the above-referenced  
Division order recently entered in the subject case.

Sincerely,

*Florene Davidson*

FLORENE DAVIDSON  
OC Staff Specialist

Copy of order also sent to:

Hobbs OCD   x    
Artesia OCD   x    
Aztec OCD   x  

Other William F. Carr

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-8882

APPLICATION OF MERIDIAN OIL, INC.  
FOR COMPULSORY POOLING AND AN UNORTHODOX  
COAL GAS WELL LOCATION, SAN JUAN COUNTY,  
NEW MEXICO

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on February 1, 1989, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 22nd day of February, 1989, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

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

(2) Division Case Nos. 9593, 9594, 9595, 9596, 9598, and 9599 were consolidated at the time of the hearing for the purpose of testimony.

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-8882  
Page -2-

(3) The applicant, Meridian Oil, Inc. (Meridian), seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool underlying the E/2 of Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 8 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to its Stanolind Gas Com Well No. 300 to be drilled at an unorthodox coal gas well location 350 feet from the South line and 530 feet from the East line (Unit P) of said Section 16.

(4) At the time of the hearing the applicant requested that the portion of the case requesting approval of an unorthodox coal gas well location be dismissed inasmuch as the proposed well is to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location 1480 feet from the North line and 1150 feet from the East line (Unit H) of said Section 16.

(5) The applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill a well at the standard coal gas well location described above.

(6) There are interest owners in the proposed proration unit who have not agreed to pool their interests.

(7) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights, to avoid waste, and to afford to the owner of each interest in said unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense his just and fair share of the production in any pool completion resulting from this order, the subject application should be approved by pooling all mineral interests, whatever they may be, within said unit.

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-8882  
Page -3-

(8) The applicant should be designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(9) Any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(10) The applicant has proposed a 200 percent risk penalty be assessed against those interest owners subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order, and in support thereof presented evidence and testimony at the hearing.

(11) Meridian, in the immediate case, has proposed that the risk penalty be based upon geologic, reservoir, economic, and operational parameters and has further testified that the major consideration in determining risk should not be the presence of coal but the characteristics of the coal encountered which in turn has a direct bearing on the producing capability of the wells.

(12) The applicant, which has drilled approximately 200 coal gas wells in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool to date, provided no evidence or testimony which would indicate that any of its wells have been plugged and abandoned due to non-productivity.

(13) The applicant further provided no evidence or testimony which would indicate that any of the wells drilled to date have been plugged and abandoned due to problems encountered while drilling or completing these wells.

(14) The applicant has included certain factors such as market demand, water disposal, gathering, facilities and equipment, etc under its economic and operations risk

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-8882  
Page -4-

parameters which do not have a bearing on the producing capability of any given well and should therefore not be considered in assessing risk.

(15) Based upon the evidence and testimony presented by the applicant, a risk penalty of 156 percent is fair and reasonable and should be adopted in this case.

(16) Any non-consenting working interest owner who does not pay his share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production his share of the reasonable well costs plus an additional 156 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(17) Any non-consenting interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(18) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(19) \$3500.00 per month while drilling and \$350.00 per month while producing should be fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating the subject well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-8882  
Page -5-

(20) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(21) Upon the failure of the operator of said pooled unit to commence the drilling of the well to which said unit is dedicated on or before June 1, 1989, the order pooling said unit should become null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

(22) Should all the parties to this forced pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(23) The operator of the well and unit shall notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All mineral interests, whatever they may be, in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool underlying the E/2 of Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 8 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to the Stanolind Gas Com Well No. 300 to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location 1480 feet from the North line and 1150 feet from the East line (Unit H) of said Section 16.

PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT, the operator of said unit shall commence the drilling of said well on or before the 1st day of June, 1989, and shall thereafter continue the drilling of said well with due diligence to a depth sufficient to test the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool.

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-8882  
Page -6-

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, in the event said operator does not commence the drilling of said well on or before the 1st day of June, 1989, Ordering Paragraph No. (1) of this order shall be null and void and of no effect whatsoever, unless said operator obtains a time extension from the Division for good cause shown.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, should said well not be drilled to completion, or abandonment, within 120 days after commencement thereof, said operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Ordering Paragraph No. (1) of this order should not be rescinded.

(2) The portion of the application requesting approval of an unorthodox coal gas well location 350 feet from the South line and 530 feet from the East line (Unit P) of said Section 16 is hereby dismissed.

(3) Meridian Oil, Inc. is hereby designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(4) After the effective date of this order and within 90 days prior to commencing said well, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner in the subject unit an itemized schedule of estimated well costs.

(5) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him, any non-consenting working interest owner shall have the right to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production, and any such owner who pays his share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-8882  
Page -7-

(6) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the well; if no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of said schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided however, if there is objection to actual well costs within said 45-day period the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(7) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated well costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator his pro rata share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator his pro rata share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(8) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (A) The pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him, and
- (B) As a charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well, 156 percent of the pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-8882  
Page -8-

interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(9) The operator shall distribute said costs and charges withheld from production to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(10) \$3500.00 per month while drilling and \$350.00 per month while producing are hereby fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(11) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under the terms of this order.

(12) Any well costs or charges which are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interest's share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(13) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason shall immediately be placed in escrow in San Juan County, New Mexico, to be paid

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-8882  
Page -9-

to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership; the operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of said escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with said escrow agent.

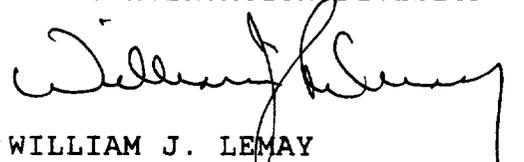
(14) Should all parties to this forced pooling order reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(15) The operator of the well and unit shall notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

(16) Jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



WILLIAM J. LEMAY  
Director

S E A L



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

GARREY CARRUTHERS  
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 2088  
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504  
(505) 827-5800

Memo No. 1-89

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ALL OPERATORS AND INTERESTED PARTIES  
FROM: WILLIAM J. LEMAY, DIVISION DIRECTOR *WJL*  
SUBJECT: MAILING ADDRESS

Effective immediately, the mailing address of the Santa Fe office of the Oil Conservation Division will revert to Post Office Box 2088, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504.

January 19, 1989  
fd/

Dockets Nos. 5-89 and 6-89 are tentatively set for February 15 and March 1, 1989. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 22 days in advance of hearing date.

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 1, 1989

8:15 A.M. - OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION CONFERENCE ROOM,  
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The following cases will be heard before David R. Catanach, Examiner, or Victor T. Lyon, Alternate Examiner:

CASE 9589: Application of Murphy Operating Corporation for expansion of unit area, Chaves and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to expand the Haley Chaveroo San Andres Unit Area, authorized by Division Order No. R-8750, to include an additional 80 acres of State lands in Section 3, Township 8 South, Range 33 East, Chaveroo-San Andres Pool, Chaves County. Said unit area is located approximately 13 miles west of Milnesand, New Mexico.

CASE 9590: Application of Murphy Operating Corporation for area expansion of a waterflood project, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to expand the Haley Chaveroo San Andres Waterflood Project Area, authorized by Division Order No. R-8760, to include an additional 80 acres in Section 3, Township 8 South, Range 33 East, Chaveroo-San Andres Pool, Haley Chaveroo San Andres Unit Area. Said project area is located approximately 13 miles west of Milnesand, New Mexico.

CASE 9574: (Continued from January 18, 1989, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Marshall Pipe & Supply for dual completion and salt water disposal, Roosevelt County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to dually complete its Cook Well No. 1 located at a previously approved unorthodox gas well location (Order No. R-8618) 330 feet from the North line and 1980 feet from the East line (Unit B) of Section 34, Township 2 South, Range 29 East, by disposing of produced salt water down through tubing into the Undesignated Tule-Montoya Gas Pool in the perforated interval from 7104 feet to 7116 feet and continue producing gas from the Undesignated Tule-Pennsylvanian Gas Pool up the casing/tubing annulus. Said well is located approximately 3.5 miles east by north from the point common to Roosevelt, Chaves, and De Baca Counties.

CASE 9562: (Continued from January 4, 1989, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Santa Fe Energy Operating Partners, L.P. for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the following described acreage in Section 11, Township 20 South, Range 24 East, and in the following described manner:

the NE/4 NW/4 to form a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 40-acre spacing;

the N/2 NW/4 to form a standard 80-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 80-acre spacing;

the NW/4 to form a standard 160-acre oil or gas spacing and proration unit for the Undesignated Dagger Draw-Wolfcamp Gas Pool and Undesignated North Dagger Draw-Upper Pennsylvanian Oil Pool, and any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing;

the N/2 to form a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for the Undesignated Cemetary-Morrow Gas Pool and Undesignated Dagger Draw-Atoka Gas Pool and any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing.

All of the above-described units are to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location for each of the units.

Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said area is located approximately 18 miles southeast of Hope, New Mexico.

CASE 9583: (Readvertised)

Application of Exxon Corporation for compulsory pooling and an unorthodox location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the base of the San Andres formation to the top of the Mississippian formation, excepting however the Undesignated Empire Abo Pool, underlying the following described acreage in Section 17, Township 18 South, Range 27 East, and in the following described manner:

the NW/4 SW/4 (Unit L) to form a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within the above-described vertical limits developed on 40-acre spacing;

the W/2 SW/4 to form a standard 80-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within said vertical extent developed on 80-acre spacing;

the SW/4 to form a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within said vertical extent developed on 160-acre spacing; and,

the W/2 to form a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within said vertical extent developed on 320-acre spacing (which presently includes but not necessarily limited to the Undesignated Scoggin Draw Atoka Gas Pool and the Undesignated Kaiser Ranch Strawn Gas Pool.)

All of the above-described units to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled at an unorthodox location 2095 feet from the South line and 922 feet from the West line of said Section 17.

Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 6 miles south of Riverside, New Mexico.

CASE 9582: (Continued from January 18, 1989, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Strata Production Company for pool creation and special pool rules, or in the alternative for pool extension and special pool rules, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the creation of a new pool for the production of oil from the Bone Spring formation comprising Lots 2 and 7 of Section 4, Township 21 South, Range 32 East, and for the promulgation of special rules and regulations therefor including provisions for 80-acre spacing and proration units and designated well location requirements. IN THE ALTERNATIVE, the applicant seeks to extend the Hat Mesa-Bone Spring Pool to include Lots 1, 2, and 7 of said Section 4 and for the promulgation of special rules and regulations therefor including provisions for 80-acre spacing and proration units and designated well location requirements. Said area is located approximately 3.75 miles southeast of the junction of U.S. Highway 62/180 and Old New Mexico Highway No. 176.

CASE 9568: (Continued from January 18, 1989, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Nearburg Producing Company for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for an unorthodox gas well location 1980 feet from the North line and 990 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 26, Township 19 South, Range 25 East, Undesignated Boyd-Morrow Gas Pool or Undesignated Cemetery-Morrow Gas Pool, the N/2 of said Section 26 to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 320-acre proration unit for either pool. Said location is approximately 5 miles west of Lakewood, New Mexico.

CASE 9591: Application of Amerind Oil Company for compulsory pooling, directional drilling, and an unorthodox oil well location, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing its re-entry into the plugged and abandoned State MTS Well No. 1 located 1830 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line (Unit I) of Section 2, Township 17 South, Range 37 East, wherein applicant proposes to deviate said well as to penetrate the Undesignated Shipp-Strawn Pool at an unorthodox bottomhole location 2310 feet from the South line and 330 feet from the East line of said Section 2. IN THE ALTERNATIVE, should re-entry into the aforementioned well be unsuccessful, the applicant seeks to drill a new well at the above-described unorthodox location in order to test the Strawn formation. In either instance, the applicant FURTHER SEEKS an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Strawn formation underlying the E/2 SE/4 of said Section 2, forming a standard 80-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 80-acre spacing (which presently includes the Undesignated Shipp-Strawn Pool). Said unit is to be dedicated to either the above-described State MTS Well No. 1 or to the new well to be drilled at said unorthodox location. Also to be considered will be the cost of either re-entering, directionally drilling and completing the State MTS Well No. 1 or the cost of drilling and completing the alternate well and, in either case, the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the unit and a charge for risk involved in either re-entering the State MTS Well No. 1 or in drilling the alternate well. Said unit is located approximately 4.25 miles north of Humble City, New Mexico.

CASE 9525: (Continued from January 4, 1989, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Benson-Montin-Greer Drilling Corporation for the amendment of Division Order No. R-6469, as amended, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an amendment to Division Order No. R-6469, as amended, to rescind approval for those non-standard proration units approved therein located in Township 24 North, Range 1 West and Township 26 North, Range 1 West. The center of said area is located approximately 13 miles southwest of Regina, New Mexico.

CASE 9553: (Continued from January 4, 1989, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Benson-Montin-Greer Drilling Corporation for downhole commingling, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval to commingle production from the Basin-Dakota Pool and West Puerto Chiquito-Mancos Oil Pool within the wellbore of its Canada Cjites Unit Well No. 22 located 1685 feet from the North line and 1860 feet from the West line (Unit F) of Section 20, Township 26 North, Range 1 West. Said well is located approximately 20 miles north of Regina, New Mexico.

CASE 9550: (Continued from January 18, 1989, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Meridian Oil, Inc. for a non-standard gas proration unit and an unorthodox gas well location, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for an unorthodox gas well location 2200 feet from the North line and 1360 feet from the East line (Unit G), Section 36, Township 30 North, Range 6 West, to test the Fruitland (sand) Formation, Lots 1 and 2 and the W/2 NE/4 of said Section 36 to be dedicated to said well forming a non-standard 115.04-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said zone. Said location is approximately 5.5 miles northwest by north of Gobernador, New Mexico.

CASE 9592: Application of Meridian Oil, Inc. for compulsory pooling and a non-standard gas proration unit, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool underlying Lots 3 and 4 and the E/2 SW/4 of Section 7, and Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, and the E/2 W/2 of Section 18, Township 30 North, Range 9 West, forming a non-standard 304.39-acre gas spacing and proration unit to be dedicated to its Turner Com Well No. 250 to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location in the NW/4 SW/4 (Unit K) of said Section 18. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 9.5 miles east of Aztec, New Mexico.

CASE 9593: Application of Meridian Oil, Inc. for compulsory pooling, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool underlying Lots 6, 7, 8, and 9 and the S/2 S/2 (S/2 equivalent) of Section 34, Township 31 North, Range 10 West, forming a standard 315.50-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location in the SW/4 of said Section 34. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 7 miles east by north of Aztec, New Mexico.

CASE 9594: Application of Meridian Oil, Inc. for compulsory pooling, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool underlying the S/2 of Section 21, Township 31 North, Range 9 West, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to a well to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location in the SW/4 of said Section 21. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said well location is approximately 4.25 miles west of Archuleta, New Mexico.

CASE 9595: Application of Meridian Oil, Inc. for compulsory pooling, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool underlying the E/2 of Section 32, Township 30 North, Range 8 West, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to its Caperton Com Well No. 310 to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location in the NE/4 of said Section 32. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said well location is approximately 1.75 miles southeast by south of Archuleta, New Mexico.

CASE 9596: Application of Meridian Oil, Inc. for compulsory pooling, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool underlying the E/2 of Section 7, Township 30 North, Range 9 West, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to its Pierce Well No. 250 to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location in the NE/4 of said Section 7. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 10 miles east of Aztec, New Mexico.

CASE 9597: Application of Meridian Oil, Inc. for compulsory pooling and an unorthodox coal gas well location, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool underlying the W/2 of Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 8 West, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to its Delhi Com Well No. 300 to be drilled at an unorthodox coal gas well location 790 feet from the North line and 1165 feet from the West line (Unit K) of said Section 16. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said well location is approximately 4 miles northwest by west of the Navajo Reservoir Dam.

CASE 9598: Application of Meridian Oil, Inc. for compulsory pooling, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool underlying the W/2 of Section 32, Township 31 North, Range 8 West, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to its EPNG Com "A" Well No. 300 to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location in the SW/4 of said Section 32. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said well location is approximately 4 miles north by east of Archuleta, New Mexico.

CASE 9599: Application of Meridian Oil, Inc. for compulsory pooling and an unorthodox coal gas well location, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool underlying the E/2 of Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 8 West, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to its Stanolind Gas Com Well No. 300 to be drilled at an unorthodox coal gas well location 350 feet from the South line and 530 feet from the East line (Unit P) of said Section 16. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said well location is approximately 2.25 miles east-northeast of Archuleta, New Mexico.

CASE 9572: (Continued from January 4, 1989, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Dugan Production Corporation for a non-standard gas proration unit, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for a 164.87-acre non-standard gas spacing and proration unit for production from the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool comprising Lots 1 and 2 and the E/2 NW/4 of Section 31, Township 28 North, Range 10 West. Said unit is to be dedicated to its Knauff Well No. 1 which is presently completed in the Kutz-Fruitland Pool and is located at a previously authorized unorthodox coal gas well location (pursuant to Decretory Paragraph No. (4) of Division Order No. R-8768) 1015 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the West line (Unit C) of said Section 31. This well is located approximately 6.5 miles south-southeast of Bloomfield, New Mexico.

CASE 9573: (Continued from January 4, 1989, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Dugan Production Corporation for a non-standard gas proration unit, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for a 160-acre non-standard gas spacing and proration unit for production from the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool comprising the NE/4 of Section 18, Township 29 North, Range 11 West. Said unit is to be dedicated to its Hana Well No. 1 which is presently a dually completed gas well in the Fruitland formation and the Fulcher Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Pool and is located at a standard coal gas well location 790 feet from the North line and 1520 feet from the East line (Unit B) of said Section 18. This well is located approximately 2.5 miles west-northwest of Bloomfield, New Mexico.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 9599  
Order No. R-  
*2-20-89*  
*met 2/20*  
*WJY*  
*2/20*  
*8882*

APPLICATION OF MERIDIAN OIL, INC.  
FOR COMPULSORY POOLING AND AN UNORTHODOX  
COAL GAS WELL LOCATION, SAN JUAN COUNTY,  
NEW MEXICO

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on February 1, 1989, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 1989, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

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

(2) Division Case Nos. 9593, 9594, 9595, 9596, 9598, and 9599 were consolidated at the time of the hearing for the purpose of testimony.

(3) The applicant, Meridian Oil, Inc. (Meridian), seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool underlying the E/2 of Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 8 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to its Stanolind Gas Com Well No. 300 to be drilled at an unorthodox coal gas well location 350 feet from the South line and 530 feet from the East line (Unit P) of said Section 16.

(4) At the time of the hearing the applicant requested that the portion of the case requesting approval of an unorthodox coal gas well location be dismissed inasmuch as the proposed well is to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location 1480 feet from the North line and 1150 feet from the East line (Unit H) of said Section 16.

(5) The applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill a well at the standard coal gas well location described above.

(6) There are interest owners in the proposed proration unit who have not agreed to pool their interests.

(7) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights, to avoid waste, and to afford to the owner of each interest in said unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense his just and fair share of the production in any pool completion resulting from this order, the subject application should be approved by pooling all mineral interests, whatever they may be, within said unit.

(8) The applicant should be designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(9) Any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(10) The applicant has proposed a 200 percent risk penalty be assessed against those interest owners subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order, and in support thereof presented evidence and testimony at the hearing.

(11) Meridian, in the immediate case, has proposed that the risk penalty be based upon geologic, reservoir, economic, and operational parameters and has further testified that the major consideration in determining risk should not be the presence of coal but the characteristics of the coal encountered which in turn has a direct bearing on the producing capability of the wells.

(12) The applicant, which has drilled approximately 200 coal gas wells in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool to date, provided no evidence or testimony which would indicate that any of its wells have been plugged and abandoned due to non-productivity.

(13) The applicant further provided no evidence or testimony which would indicate that any of the wells drilled to date have been plugged and abandoned due to problems encountered while drilling or completing these wells.

(14) The applicant has included certain factors such as market demand, water disposal, gathering, facilities and equipment, etc under its economic and operations risk parameters which do not have a bearing on the producing capability of any given well and should therefore not be considered in assessing risk.

(15) Based upon the evidence and testimony presented by the applicant, a risk penalty of 156 percent is fair and reasonable and should be adopted in this case.

(16) Any non-consenting working interest owner who does not pay his share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production his share of the reasonable well costs plus an additional 156 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(17) Any non-consenting interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(18) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(19) \$3500.00 per month while drilling and \$350.00 per month while producing should be fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating the subject well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(20) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(21) Upon the failure of the operator of said pooled unit to commence the drilling of the well to which said unit is dedicated on or before June 1, 1989, the order pooling said unit should become null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

(22) Should all the parties to this forced pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(23) The operator of the well and unit shall notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All mineral interests, whatever they may be, in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool underlying the E/2 of Section 16, Township 30 North, Range 8 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool, to be dedicated to the Stanolind Gas Com Well No. 300 to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location 1480 feet from the North line and 1150 feet from the East line (Unit H) of said Section 16.

PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT, the operator of said unit shall commence the drilling of said well on or before the 1st day of June, 1989, and shall thereafter continue the drilling of said well with due diligence to a depth sufficient to test the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, in the event said operator does not commence the drilling of said well on or before the 1st day of June, 1989, Ordering Paragraph No. (1) of this order shall be null and void and of no effect whatsoever, unless said operator obtains a time extension from the Division for good cause shown.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, should said well not be drilled to completion, or abandonment, within 120 days after commencement thereof, said operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Ordering Paragraph No. (1) of this order should not be rescinded.

(2) The portion of the application requesting approval of an unorthodox coal gas well location 350 feet from the South line and 530 feet from the East line (Unit P) of said Section 16 is hereby dismissed.

(3) Meridian Oil, Inc. is hereby designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(4) After the effective date of this order and within 90 days prior to commencing said well, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner in the subject unit an itemized schedule of estimated well costs.

(5) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him, any non-consenting working interest owner shall have the right to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production, and any such owner who pays his share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

(6) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the well; if no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of said schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided however, if there is objection to actual well costs within said 45-day period the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(7) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated well costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator his pro rata share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator his pro rata share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(8) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (A) The pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him, *and*
- (B) As a charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well, 156 percent of the pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(9) The operator shall distribute said costs and charges withheld from production to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(10) \$3500.00 per month while drilling and \$350.00

per month while producing are hereby fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(11) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under the terms of this order.

(12) Any well costs or charges which are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interest's share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(13) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason shall immediately be placed in escrow in San Juan County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership; the operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of said escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with said escrow agent.

(14) Should all parties to this forced pooling order reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(15) The operator of the well and unit shall notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

(16) Jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

WILLIAM J. LEMAY  
Director