

## NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## EXAMINER HEARING

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICOHearing Date JANUARY 10, 1990 Time: 8:15 A.M.

NAME	REPRESENTING	LOCATION
Bob Huber	Byron	Santa Fe
By Kelvin	Kelvin Kelbin Aubrey	Santa Fe
William L. Lee	Campbell and Steel	Santa Fe
Steve Bolman	BTH Oil Prod.	Midland
Eric Bosch	NMCCD	ABTEC
Dan R. Nard	Bando's Bruin, cell & water	Roswell
Tim Schultz	WICKAY OIL CO	-
Pale Ketter	-	-
Jim Johnson	PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORP GRANDE PETROLEUM	-
E. R. Manning	El Paso Natural Gas	El Paso, TX
Mark W. W.	OCD	Artistic
G.W. W.	OCD	Artistic



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

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Case 9851

Application of McKay Oil Corporation  
For horizontal drilling, Chaves County,  
New Mexico.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE DAVID R. CATANACH, EXAMINER

STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO  
January 10, 1990

**ORIGINAL**

## A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION:

ROBERT G. STOVALL, ESQ.  
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

FOR MCKAY OIL CORPORATION:

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Attorneys at Law  
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Roswell, New Mexico 88202-0550  
BY: DAMON C. RICHARDS, ESQ.

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1 MR. CATANACH: At this time we'll call Case  
2 9851.

3 MR. STOVALL: Application of McKay Oil  
4 Corporation for horizontal drilling, Chaves County, New  
5 Mexico.

6 MR. CATANACH: Are there appearances in this  
7 case?

8 MR. RICHARDS: Damon Richards with Sanders,  
9 Bruin, Coll & Worley --

10 MR. STOVALL: Wait just a second.

11 MR. RICHARDS: -- representing McKay Oil  
12 Corporation. And as witnesses we'll have Jim Schultz,  
13 a land man, and Jim Johnson, petroleum engineer.

14 MR. CATANACH: Go off the record for a second  
15 here.

16 (Thereupon, a discussion was  
17 held off the record.)

18 MR. CATANACH: Witnesses, please, stand to be  
19 sworn in.

20 JIM SCHULTZ,  
21 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn  
22 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

23 MR. RICHARDS: I'll go ahead and submit a  
24 packet of our exhibits.

25 EXAMINATION

1 BY MR. RICHARDS:

2 Q. Will you state your name and address.

3 A. Jim Schultz, 809 Twin Diamond, Roswell, New  
4 Mexico.

5 Q. What is your present employment?

6 A. McKay Oil Corporation.

7 Q. What do you do there?

8 A. I'm Vice President of Land and Exploration.

9 Q. What is your past education?

10 A. My past education, I have a college degree in  
11 history and political science. I have a paralegal  
12 degree.

13 Q. How much experience do you have in land  
14 training as a land man?

15 A. Probably 12 years.

16 Q. Have you acted as a land man for McKay Oil  
17 and for other entities during that that 12-year time  
18 period?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Have you been able to check the records of  
21 various states, including New Mexico, to determine the  
22 ownership of leases?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Have you acted in that capacity for the last  
25 12 years?

1           A.       Yes.

2           Q.       Did you have the opportunity to examine the  
3 lands on the L.L. & E. Federal No. 3 Well and the McKay  
4 Harvey No. 1 Well located in Chaves County, New Mexico?

5           A.       Yes.

6           Q.       Are there wells presently on the 160-acre  
7 proration units?

8           A.       Yes.

9           Q.       Did you examine the offset acreage?

10          A.       Yes, I did.

11          Q.       Did you prepare Exhibits 1 and 2 indicating  
12 the location of those wells and the offset acreage?

13          A.       Yes, I did.

14          Q.       Did you note the offset acreage in paint  
15 markings?

16          A.       Yes.

17          Q.       Who owns the offset leases?

18          A.       Presently the owner/operator is Yates  
19 Petroleum.

20          Q.       Now, I notice on the map, actually, Mesa and  
21 MTS as being the offset operators. How do you know  
22 that Yates now has those?

23          A.       There's a conveyance document dated January 1  
24 of 89 which conveys all of Mesa's interests to Yates  
25 Petroleum, which affect the acreage on the L.L. & E.



1 No. 3.

2 And there is a lease of record in the records  
3 of Chaves County which show that Yates is the lessor of  
4 the offset acreage on the McKay Harvey Federal No. 1.

5 Q. Did you prepare the application that was  
6 submitted by McKay Oil Corporation?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. Was there a typographical error in that  
9 application?

10 A. Yes, there was.

11 Q. What was that error?

12 A. The error was on the deviation points for the  
13 McKay Harvey Federal No. 1. There was a switch in  
14 whether the deviation point was supposed to be 660 from  
15 the south and 960 from the east. The original  
16 application, the way it was written, would show that  
17 the deviation points would actually only be one point.

18 And I have prepared an amendment to that to  
19 show that there is actually two deviation points we're  
20 trying to achieve. And the amendment is dated January  
21 9 of 90.

22 MR. RICHARDS: Mr. Examiner, we submit an  
23 amended application to reflect those changes.

24 Q. (BY MR. RICHARDS) Did you send out notices  
25 to the offset operator?

1           A.       Yes, I did. I mailed it on December 18.  
2 They received it on December 19. And I sent it return  
3 receipt requested and have the original return receipts  
4 present with me at this time.

5           Q.       Going back, we've submitted as Exhibits 3 and  
6 4 evidence that Yates Petroleum Corporation is the only  
7 offset operator; is that correct?

8           A.       That's correct.

9           Q.       And Exhibit No. 5 that you've prepared is a  
10 copy of your letter to Yates notifying them of this  
11 hearing?

12          A.       Yes.

13          Q.       Exhibit No. 6 informs Yates of the docket  
14 number; is that correct?

15          A.       That's correct.

16          Q.       Did you send those out certified mail, return  
17 receipt requested?

18          A.       Yes.

19          Q.       Did you receive back the receipts?

20          A.       Yes.

21          Q.       Are copies of those receipts attached to  
22 Exhibits 5 and 6?

23          A.       Yes.

24                 MR. STOVALL: Hold up just a second, Mr.  
25 Richards.

1                   (Thereupon, a discussion  
2                   was held off the record.)

3                   MR. CATANACH: Go ahead, Mr. Richards.

4                   Q.       (BY MR. RICHARDS) You submitted an  
5 application for an unorthodox location. Were you  
6 actually going to be drilling wells in an unorthodox  
7 location?

8                   A.       Presently the L.L. & E. No. 3 Well is in an  
9 unorthodox location already but had prior approval till  
10 its drilling. What we are requesting is that we be  
11 allowed to directional drill in two different  
12 directions from the present wellbore.

13                   But it would stay within 660 feet of an  
14 outside boundary line. But it would on the L.L. & E. 3  
15 be considered another unorthodox location.

16                   On the McKay Harvey Federal No. 1, we will  
17 again be drilling in two different directions from the  
18 present wellbore. However, the deviation points,  
19 ultimate deviation points, would still be within a  
20 legal location since it was not at a variance more than  
21 990 feet from the outside boundary line and no closer  
22 than 660 from the outside boundary line.

23                   Q.       So the real application for the unorthodox  
24 location is to do some directional drilling; is that  
25 correct?

1           A.       That's correct, but the application is also  
2 to grant us the right for the deviational drilling as  
3 provided for under the rules and regulations of the  
4 OCD.

5           Q.       Have you talked with Randy Patterson who's  
6 the land man at Yates?

7           A.       Randy Patterson, yes, he's the land manager  
8 for Yates Petroleum.

9           Q.       Does he have any objection to this drilling?

10          A.       No. Mr. Patterson said that Yates Petroleum  
11 has no objections to this. And I requested that he  
12 send us a letter of his waiver of attending the  
13 hearing. And he says Yates never waives their rights  
14 to be anywhere. But he had no problems with the --  
15 with our proposed horizontal drilling.

16          Q.       Have you received any other objections from  
17 anybody?

18          A.       No.

19                 MR. RICHARDS: Do you have any questions of  
20 this witness?

21                 MR. CATANACH: Yes, I do.

22                         EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. CATANACH:

24          Q.       Mr. Schultz, on your Exhibit No., 1 you just  
25 show the pink acreage is the Yates acreage?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Is McKay the operator of all the other  
3 surrounding acreage?

4 A. Yes, we are.

5 Q. Including Section 1 to the north?

6 A. Yes. We obtained that in a farm-out from  
7 INEXCO Oil Company, which, I guess, was assigned to  
8 Louisiana Land Exploration. We have a farm-out, an  
9 assignment, a record assignment of that lease.

10 Q. And also on Exhibit 2, to the west and the  
11 south, you also own that offset acreage?

12 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

13 Q. So Yates is the only affected offset  
14 operator?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. These are proposed 160-acre proration units;  
17 is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. It's my understanding that the actual  
20 horizontal portion of the well in the Abo formation  
21 will not encroach on the 660-foot setback --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- for each proration unit?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. CATANACH: That's all the questions I

1 have of the witness at this time.

2 MR. RICHARDS: I'd like to call Jim Johnson.

3 MR. STOVALL: Mr. Richards, do you want to  
4 move the admission of Mr. Schultz' exhibits?

5 MR. RICHARDS: Yes. We move the admission of  
6 Exhibits 1 through 6

7 (Thereupon, Exhibit Nos. 1 through  
8 6 were offered into evidence.)

9 MR. CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 6 will be  
10 admitted as evidence.

11 (Thereupon, Exhibit Nos. 1 through  
12 6 were admitted into evidence.)

13 MR. RICHARDS: Thank you, Mr. Stovall.

14 MR. STOVALL: I often forget myself.

15 JIM JOHNSON,  
16 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn  
17 upon, his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

18 EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. RICHARDS:

20 Q. Please state your name and address.

21 A. Jim Johnson, 60 West Lake Drive, Albuquerque,  
22 New Mexico.

23 Q. What is your present employment and position?

24 A. I'm President of Petroleum Development  
25 Corporation in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

1           Q.       Give me a brief background of your education  
2 and work experience, please.

3           A.       I received a mechanical engineering/petroleum  
4 option degree from Oklahoma State University in 1956.  
5 I worked as an engineer production foreman, drilling  
6 foreman for Gulf Oil Corporation in West Texas and the  
7 Gulf Coast for approximately eight-and-a-half years.

8                   I worked with an independent oil company,  
9 Pubco Petroleum, in various positions from area  
10 engineer to drilling superintendent in Nebraska, North  
11 Dakota, Wyoming. And in 1970 became vice president of  
12 the Pubco in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

13                   In 73 I started this company, Petroleum  
14 Development Corporation. And I have operated as vice  
15 president to president of this company to the present  
16 time. I've also been president of two other companies  
17 during this period, Rodney Drilling Corporation, in  
18 Roswell, New Mexico, from 1984 to 1989, and Pedco  
19 Swabbing Corporation from 1987 to 1989.

20           Q.       During your work experience, you've had the  
21 opportunity to supervise the completion of a number of  
22 wells. About how many wells have you supervised the  
23 completion of?

24           A.       In excess of 1,000 wells.

25           Q.       How many wells in New Mexico have you

1 supervised the completion of?

2 A. The drilling and completion of 300-plus  
3 wells.

4 Q. How about in the Abo formation?

5 A. Abo formation, 100-plus wells.

6 Q. And you do have a degree in engineering?

7 A. That is correct.

8 MR. RICHARDS: We submit Mr. Johnson as an  
9 expert witness in the engineering matters.

10 MR. CATANACH: Mr. Johnson is so qualified.  
11 Also, if I may ask Mr. Johnson what his association  
12 with McKay is.

13 THE WITNESS: I'm working with McKay on a  
14 consulting basis.

15 Q. (BY MR. RICHARDS) Are you familiar with the  
16 L.L. & E. Federal No. 3 Well and the McKay Harvey No. 1  
17 well?

18 A. Yes, I am.

19 Q. Have you examined the well completion reports  
20 on those wells?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. You've marked the well completion report on  
23 the L.L. & E. well as Exhibit No. 7. Could you briefly  
24 describe the formation that the well is producing from,  
25 including the producing interval, the date it was



1 drilled, and the initial test?

2 A. Well, L.L. & E. 3?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. The well was drilled and reached TD on March  
5 29, 1988. The well was completed on 4/20/1988. The  
6 producing formation in this well was from 2839 to 2861  
7 feet in the Abo sand.

8 Q. Mr. Johnson, have you also had the  
9 opportunity to look at some logs on that well?

10 A. Yes, I have.

11 Q. And do those logs indicate that it is a --  
12 would be a commercial producer in the Abo formation?

13 A. The logs indicated it would be an excellent  
14 producer in the Abo formation.

15 Q. Was it actually completed in the Abo  
16 formation?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. And what was the initial production, did you  
19 say?

20 A. The initial AOF test on that well tested, a  
21 calculated absolute open flow, which is a state  
22 required four point test, 986 MCF per day.

23 Q. What is the cumulative production from that  
24 well?

25 A. The well through November of 1988 has

1 produced 33,311 MCF.

2 Q. Has a volumetric study been performed on the  
3 L.L. & E. No. 3 Well?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What are the results of it?

6 A. The volumetric calculation of future  
7 producible reserves was 764,589 MCF.

8 Q. And you're looking on another exhibit there,  
9 which would be Exhibit No. 11, I believe; is that  
10 correct?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And that information is printed on the top of  
13 that exhibit?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. Let's look at the McKay Harvey well now and  
16 look at the well completion report, which is marked as  
17 Exhibit No. 10. And, please, explain to me the  
18 producing formation of that well along with the date it  
19 was completed and the initial flow rate.

20 A. The producing formation is from 3,748 feet to  
21 3,759 feet. This is a main formation. Another zone  
22 was also perforated, a lower zone, that proved not to  
23 be productive from 3959 to 3961.

24 The well reached TD on February 14, 1984. It  
25 was completed on 3/21/1984 with a calculated absolute

1 open flow 8,554 MCF per day.

2 Q. What is cumulative production from that well  
3 to date?

4 A. Cumulative production on this well is 149,632  
5 MCF.

6 Q. Was a volumetric study performed on that  
7 well?

8 A. Yes, it was. And the future recoverable  
9 reserves was calculated to be 501,467 MCF.

10 Q. Have you also done a test on the gross  
11 recoverable reserves from these two wells?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. What are they?

14 A. The future projected recoverable reserves on  
15 the L.L. & E. Federal No. 3 is 105,600 MCF. Future  
16 recoverable reserves projected on the McKay Harvey  
17 Federal No. 1, is 297,632 MCF.

18 Q. And you set forth those figures on Exhibit  
19 No. 12; is that correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You are coming before the Commission at this  
22 time asking a right to do some deviational drilling.  
23 Why do you request that?

24 A. We are requesting deviational drilling, or  
25 actually horizontal drilling, into the pay zone

1 because -- well, not recovering from the wellbore even  
2 after an extensive adequate fracture treatment, the  
3 reserves that should be recovered from these  
4 wellbores.

5 The L.L. & E. 3 is apparently going to  
6 produce approximately 14 percent of what we should be  
7 recovering. The McKay Harvey is only recovering about  
8 60 percent of what we should be recovering.

9 We feel that we can by drilling horizontally  
10 in the formation -- that it's a possibility that we  
11 will encounter additional vertical fractures known to  
12 be in this reservoir throughout this field. And we  
13 will increase the millidarcy feet to a great extent  
14 since the Abo sand is a tight sand and very low  
15 permeability.

16 If the bulk of these things do occur, a  
17 tremendous amount of additional reserve could be  
18 recovered from these wells.

19 Q. Have you ever worked on wells in which you've  
20 done directional drilling in the past?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. Have you supervised the drilling of those  
23 wells?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Where were most of those wells?

1           A.       One was in Canada. About three times I've  
2 worked on them in the Gulf Coast.

3           Q.       Do you feel like you're qualified to  
4 supervise the directional drilling?

5           A.       Yes, I do.

6           Q.       Have you been employed by McKay Oil  
7 Corporation to supervise the drilling in this instance?

8           A.       Yes, I have.

9           Q.       Are you familiar with the tools and  
10 instruments used in the directional drilling?

11          A.       Yes, I am.

12          Q.       Let's look at your exhibit that's No. 11 and  
13 explain to me what you have drawn on that exhibit and  
14 what all those figures represent. In other words,  
15 explain to me the procedure you're going to use to do  
16 this directional drilling.

17          A.       This is a schematic of the bottom of the  
18 hole, which shows TD, where the four-and-a-half inch  
19 casing is set at 3154. It was cemented with 325  
20 sacks. The top of cement outside of the casing was  
21 2260.

22                   Shows where the well has been perforated; a  
23 bridge plug is set closing off the lower perforations  
24 that were nonproductive, where the perforations,  
25 current perforations, are producing from the well.

1           They are producing -- the last production on  
2 this well that we have for the month of November  
3 produced 1,080 MCF. Shows that the well was acidized  
4 with 2,000 gallons and crack treated with 40,000  
5 gallons crosslinked gel, using 77,500 pounds of 2040  
6 mesh sand.

7           Shows the top of the Abo formation at 2785.  
8 And, as far as we can tell, or I can from the logs, we  
9 did not go out of the Abo formation drilling the TD.  
10 We have a setting -- have set a cast-iron bridge plug  
11 right above existing perforations at 2835.

12           We then went in this well and milled the  
13 casing, the top of the window being at 2814, and the  
14 bottom of the window being at 2830. In other words, we  
15 mill all the four-and-a-half casing up. There's no  
16 casing in that interval now.

17           We then set a cement plug and drilled it out  
18 to 2819 feet. This will be the kickoff point for a  
19 deviated hole. We were running with a set of tools and  
20 kickoff at 2819. We will drill a 90 degree arc over a  
21 vertical length of 29 feet. The axle length of arc  
22 will be 46 feet.

23           We will then drill horizontally in the center  
24 of the pay zone at 2840 feet for a distance of 271 feet  
25 making the TD of the hole at that time at 3136. We

1 will run directional surveys at 2819, 2834, 2849, 2865,  
2 2915, 3025 and 3136. We do this in the event, for some  
3 unknown reason, if the hole gets off a little bit, we  
4 can kick it right back in where it's supposed to be.

5 After we have tested this arc -- this arc, by  
6 the way, will be going east 13 degrees south, or  
7 azimuth of 103 degrees.

8 After this allowable has been adequately  
9 tested, we plan on going in and drilling a cement plug  
10 to 2825 feet. At that point we will kick off and drill  
11 a 90 degree arc over a vertical depth of 23 feet. The  
12 arc will be 36 feet in length.

13 At that point we will drill horizontally in  
14 the center of the pay zone for 277 feet, a depth,  
15 vertical depth, of 2848. The TD of the well, the arc  
16 or the lateral at that point will be 3,138 feet.

17 We will run deviations, directional surveys,  
18 at 2837, 2849, 2861, 2911 3024, and 3138. And then  
19 we'll test the two laterals together.

20 Q. Do the laterals that you'll be drilling at  
21 correlate to the producing formations as indicated in  
22 the logs?

23 A. Yes. They are approximately in the center of  
24 the main pay zone on the logs.

25 Q. And from running these tests, you'll be sure

1 you're staying in those pay zones; is that correct?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. Now, you haven't indicated in your exhibit  
4 that there will be a 90 degree -- you have continued to  
5 talk about a 90 degree kickout. Will that 90 degrees  
6 actually be changed a little bit in accordance with  
7 Exhibit No. 14 showing the actual deviation survey  
8 during the original drilling of L.L. & E. Federal No. 3  
9 well?

10 A. Yes. This could be corrected somewhat. In  
11 fact, we're going to actually run a directional survey  
12 prior to doing our kickoff to be sure to get a check on  
13 what the deviation is at that time and the azimuth at  
14 that time.

15 That way, for example, if it's off 2 degrees,  
16 say, to at a certain direction, we may only be kicking  
17 out -- we may only cut an 88 degree arc rather than a  
18 90 degree arc and be going out of the sands.

19 Q. The objective depth on both of these -- or  
20 the objective point where you'll stop on both of these  
21 laterals will still be more than 660 feet away from the  
22 nearest quarter section line?

23 A. That is correct. In fact, the lateral itself  
24 will always be 660 feet.

25 Q. Okay. Now, let's look at your Exhibit No.



1 12, which is on the McKay Harvey Federal No. 1. And  
2 will you explain your schematic on that?

3 A. Okay. This is also a schematic of the bottom  
4 of the hole which shows the TD of the well with the  
5 four-and-a-half inch casing set, the perforated  
6 interval that has been plugged off with a cast-iron  
7 bridge plug. Shows the base of the Abo to be at 4283  
8 feet, the existing perforations for 3748 to 3759 feet.

9 We acidized with 1500 gallons and frac'd this  
10 well with 30,000 gallons crosslinked gel, 45,700 pounds  
11 of sand. The top of the Abo formation is at 3632  
12 feet. We've set a cast-iron bridge plug at 3746 feet  
13 right above the existing perforations.

14 We cut a window in the casing, the  
15 four-and-a-half inch casing again, the top of the  
16 window being at 3724 feet, the bottom of the window  
17 being at 3740 feet.

18 We've set a cement plug in this well. We  
19 have drilled a cement plug out to 3729 feet. This will  
20 be our kickoff for our north lateral. We'll kick off  
21 and make a 90 degree arc over a vertical depth of 25  
22 feet. The length of the arc will be 39 feet.

23 At that point we'll drill horizontally in  
24 approximately the center of the pay zone for 275 feet.  
25 This will be at a vertical depth of 3754. The TD of

1 the well will be 4043 feet.

2 We will then test this zone. But first of  
3 all, we'll go ahead and give the directional surveys  
4 that were run on this one. The directional surveys  
5 were at 3729, 3742, 3755, 3768, 3818, 3930, and 4033.  
6 Then we will adequately test this lateral.

7 At that time we will drill the cement plug to  
8 3735 feet. We'll kick off at that point, make a 90  
9 degree arc over a vertical depth of 19 feet. The arc  
10 length will be 30 feet. At that point we'll drill  
11 horizontally in approximately the center of pay zone at  
12 3754 feet for a distance of 281 feet.

13 The depth of the hole at that point will be  
14 4046 feet. And we'll aggregate the test with these two  
15 laterals together.

16 Q. Once again, the deviations of the 90 degrees  
17 will actually take into the account the deviation  
18 survey that's attached as Exhibit No. 13; is that  
19 correct?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Mr. Johnson, how do you believe that this  
22 drilling will save costs and allow more production from  
23 those wells and protect the correlative rights of the  
24 owners of oil and gas in this area?

25 A. Well, from our information and summaries in

1 this area in this Abo field, especially over by the  
2 L.L. & E. 3, at the present time for the reserves that  
3 we are recovering from these wells and the future  
4 projected reserves, we would not recover all the  
5 reserves on 40-acre spacing, much less 160-acre  
6 spacing.

7 We are hopeful that this horizontal drilling  
8 will encounter the vertical fractures, improve the  
9 millidarcy feet effective to the wellbore to the point  
10 that we could drain up as much as 160 acres.

11 Of course, this would save a tremendous  
12 amount of money if they could go out there and drill  
13 wells, wells, wells. In fact, at the present time, the  
14 reserves we get from these wells, we can't even afford  
15 to economically drill another well to even recover  
16 100,000 or 150,000 barrels reserves based on the price  
17 of natural gas at this time.

18 MR. RICHARDS: Do you have any questions?

19 MR. CATANACH: Yes.

20 EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. CATANACH:

22 Q. Mr. Johnson, has this type of well completion  
23 ever been attempted in the Abo?

24 A. No, it has not.

25 Q. Has not. How did you determine the direction

1 of your laterals, the direction of the proposed  
2 laterals?

3 A. How did we determine the direction of it?

4 Q. The direction they'll go.

5 A. They'll -- it will be done with a special  
6 tool that -- we're using a company named Sidewinder out  
7 of Tulsa, Oklahoma. And it will be done with a special  
8 tool that they're just now doing, and they've  
9 experimented with it and tested it. And they're going  
10 to be the experts on getting that thing going the right  
11 direction.

12 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't make myself clear.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. How did you guys determine which direction to  
15 drill these lateral holes?

16 A. Okay. Based on the information we have from  
17 offset sands and in the existing wells, we've had maps  
18 made of isopachs of the sands and decided to take off  
19 in the best direction we could take off to encounter  
20 the best sands.

21 Q. I kind of didn't get your figures. You  
22 stated somewhat to the effect that the L.L. & E. well  
23 would only recover 14 percent of the reserves?

24 A. The volumetric reserves, recoverable  
25 volumetric, were calculated at 764,589 MCF. This is a

1 zone of 22 feet, it has 16 percent porosity, water  
2 saturation of about 35 percent.

3 And at the present time based on decline  
4 curve calculations, we estimate the total recoverable  
5 reserves will be 105,600 MCF.

6 MR. STOVALL: You mean the total recovery  
7 through that?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes. Total recoverable  
9 reserves from this wellbore. It has currently produced  
10 33,311 MCF. The current production rate is 1080 MCF  
11 per month.

12 Q. (BY MR. CATANACH) So that's where you get  
13 the 14 percent. That's fairly low for a gas field,  
14 isn't it?

15 A. It's very low.

16 Q. On the Harvey what did you figure there?

17 A. The cumulative production currently is  
18 149,632. I've calculated, based on decline curves, the  
19 future total recoverable reserves that we will recover  
20 is 297,632. The current producing rate is 1850 MCF.  
21 The volumetric recoverable researches was 501,467.

22 Q. Mr. Johnson, is there any way to estimate  
23 what you might recover with these two with the  
24 laterals? Is there any way to do that?

25 A. It's very difficult. We feel like there's no

1 question in our minds and many other operators' minds  
2 in this area that we do have vertical fractures in the  
3 Abo sands throughout the Abo pay.

4 And, of course, the big hope here is are we  
5 cracking the well? Is it going out 30 feet or 40  
6 feet? We calculate it to go out 1300 feet and going up  
7 vertical fractures. We're not getting what we should  
8 be getting. This is one of the big things.

9 The other thing, what effect will this have?  
10 We will increase the exposed area of the sand by 6 to  
11 11 times what we have exposed now to the wellbore by  
12 doing this. This should increase millidarcy feet  
13 calculations, which should enhance higher production.

14 We're hopeful that these wells, that we can  
15 double and triple their beginning production rates and  
16 double and triple the reserves recoverable from the  
17 wellbores.

18 Q. Do you have an idea that -- or do you have an  
19 opinion as to whether the laterals will drain an area  
20 larger than 160 acres?

21 A. I do not feel that the laterals will.

22 Q. You mention the tight sands, low  
23 permeability. Is this indicative of the Abo just in  
24 this area or the total Abo?

25 A. The total Abo field is tight sands, low

1 permeability. The total field is. There's some wells  
2 in the Abo that are very good wells. And I've had  
3 wells that are coming before natural, which is very,  
4 very -- this is 1 or 2 percent of the total wells in  
5 the field.

6 But apparently they are encountered in large  
7 vertical fractures, something which caused it to  
8 happen, which increased the permeability to the  
9 wellbore. But it's -- you know, the Abo was classified  
10 a tight sand and received the 108 M GPA classification,  
11 which gave us a higher gas price for a long period of  
12 time.

13 It also qualified at one time for the tight  
14 sands tax credit because it was -- and we received \$.51  
15 in MCF tax credit for a period of time.

16 Q. How did you pick these two particular wells  
17 to conduct this?

18 A. Well, they were picked by McKay Oil  
19 Corporation. And with some of our -- what we want to  
20 do actually is we have a well over here, the McKay  
21 Harvey is about -- in the deeper part of the field --  
22 it's at 3700 feet. The other well is at 2800 foot.

23 So you actually have the west Abo, west Pecos  
24 slope Abo field, which is where the L.L. & E. No. 3 is  
25 located. We had many wells in this. We have 80 wells

1 we operate in this area.

2 We get over here to the McKay Harvey area,  
3 this is a different area, so we wanted to do it on both  
4 sides of the field.

5 Q. This is something that may be continued in  
6 the future if these two were successful?

7 A. If these are successful, I imagine we're  
8 going to drill every well out there that we have.

9 Q. On the particulars of the actual drilling and  
10 completion, you said you were going to run a deviation  
11 survey to your kickoff point?

12 A. A directional survey.

13 Q. Directional survey.

14 A. So this will be -- which will be both the  
15 inclination and the azimuth. We have to be sure that  
16 we stay in that sand or we defeat our purpose.

17 Q. There is no casing set in the lateral  
18 portions?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Just open hole completion?

21 A. Just open hole. There could be a  
22 possibility -- and we know, hopefully, the well could  
23 sluff in on us. If it is, our plans would be to clean  
24 the hole out and more than likely run a fiberglass type  
25 line in the hole, in the lateral.



1           One thing I think I may have failed to say on  
2 the McKay Harvey Federal No. 1, the first lateral is  
3 going to go due north; the second lateral will be going  
4 due west.

5           On the L.L. & E. 3, I did say where the first  
6 level is going. The second lateral will be going due  
7 west.

8           Q.       Due west and what other direction?

9           A.       The other one will be east 13 degrees south  
10 on azimuth reading of 103 degrees.

11          Q.       When both the laterals are drilled and  
12 producing, those will just be produced -- how? Up to  
13 casing?

14          A.       No. We'll run tubing in the hole just  
15 like -- we'll run tubing 2 3/8 tubing in the hole just  
16 like it's currently producing.

17          Q.       On the Harvey Well, the cement top is below  
18 your kickoff point or below where you're going to go  
19 with your laterals. Is that going to be a problem at  
20 all?

21          A.       Well, the top of the cement is 3256.

22               MR. CATANACH: Oh, I'm sorry. That's right.  
23               That's all the questions we have at this  
24 time.

25               MR. RICHARDS: Okay.

1 MR. CATANACH: The witness may be excused.

2 MR. RICHARDS: We move for the admission of  
3 the remaining Exhibits 7 through 14

4 (Thereupon, Exhibit Nos. 7 through  
5 14 were offered into evidence.)

6 MR. CATANACH: Exhibits 7 through 14 will be  
7 admitted as evidence in this case.

8 (Thereupon, Exhibit Nos. 7 through  
9 14 were admitted into evidence.)

10 There being nothing further in the case, it  
11 will be taken under advisement.

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## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO     )  
                                      ) ss.  
COUNTY OF SANTA FE     )

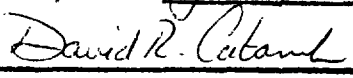
I, Debbie Vestal, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Examiner of the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I caused my notes to be transcribed under my personal supervision; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL February 10, 1990.

  
Debbie Vestal  
CSR No. 400

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 9851, heard by me on January 10 19 90.

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division