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

CASE 9883

COMMISSION HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of BTA Oil Producers for an Unorthodox  
Oil Well Location, Eddy County, New Mexico.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE: WILLIAM J. LEMAY, CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM WEISS, COMMISSIONER  
WILLIAM HUMPHRIES, COMMISSIONER

STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

June 21, 1990

**ORIGINAL**

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1           WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had  
2 at 9:22 a.m.:

3           CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Case Number 9883.

4           MR. STOVALL: Application of BTA Oil  
5 Producers for an unorthodox oil well location, Eddy  
6 County, New Mexico.

7           CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Appearances in Case Number  
8 9883?

9           MR. CARR: May it please the Commission, my  
10 name is William F. Carr with the law firm Campbell and  
11 Black, P.A., of Santa Fe.

12           I represent BTA Oil Producers, and I have  
13 three witnesses.

14           CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Mr. Carr.

15           MS. AUBREY: May it please the Commission, my  
16 name is Karen Aubrey with the Santa Fe law firm of  
17 Kellahin, Kellahin and Aubrey.

18           I represent Bird Creek Resources in  
19 opposition to the Application. I have four witnesses  
20 to be sworn.

21           CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Miss Aubrey.  
22 Will the witnesses currently stand and raise your right  
23 hand and be sworn?

24           (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)

25           CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Are we going to have opening

1 remarks, Counsel?

2 MR. CARR: A brief opening.

3 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Brief opening. All right,  
4 you may proceed, Mr. Carr.

5 MR. CARR: May it please the Commission,  
6 early this year BTA Oil Producers proposed the drilling  
7 of its JV-P Pardue Well Number "C" 1 at an unorthodox  
8 location to test the Delaware Formation. They sought  
9 approval of this location by an Administrative  
10 Application.

11 Objection to the Application was filed by  
12 Bird Creek Resources, an offsetting operator, toward  
13 whom the well is being moved. And because of that, the  
14 matter came on for hearing before the Oil Conservation  
15 Division in March.

16 An Examiner Order was entered that approved  
17 the location and imposed a penalty on the well's  
18 ability to produce. The penalty equaled 53 percent of  
19 the 142 depth-bracket allowable, and that penalty was  
20 to remain in effect until the Pardue Well was  
21 underproduced by an amount equal to 12,225 barrels.

22 This figure equals 8.7 -- or 8.15 percent of  
23 the recoverable reserves attributable to the well and  
24 is equal to what the Examiner found to be the  
25 additional drainage that would occur from the

1 offsetting tract.

2 Under this penalty and pursuant to the Order  
3 of the Division, BTA has drilled the well. They  
4 drilled it as a straight hole, and that well is  
5 currently being produced consistent with the penalty  
6 imposed by the Examiner Order.

7 Today we will call witnesses who will show  
8 you that this location, in fact, was necessary and is  
9 necessary.

10 We have a 40-acre tract. This tract is  
11 traversed, as we will show you, by the Pecos River, by  
12 two pipelines, by two floodplains, by a ravine, and by  
13 a railroad track, all on 40 acres, and we will show you  
14 that we had to drill the well at this location.

15 We will show you that we needed to drill it  
16 as a straight hole, the reason being is that when the  
17 well was actually spudded there was a penalty which  
18 impacted the economics.

19 There was limited data on this particular  
20 Delaware reservoir, which doesn't perform just like  
21 other Delaware reservoirs in the area, but all the  
22 wells are relatively recent, and long-term production  
23 histories are unavailable.

24 And we also had to drill it as a straight  
25 hole, because when you look at these factors and the

1 possibility of directional drilling and the increase in  
2 potential problems and operating costs in a directional  
3 hole, it's virtually impossible.

4 We're also going to show you that the penalty  
5 that was imposed by the Examiner is appropriate, it  
6 will protect correlative rights, and we're going to ask  
7 you to affirm the Order of the Examiner as a proper  
8 conservation measure, a measure that will prevent waste  
9 and at the same time permit the operators in the area  
10 to recover their just and fair share of the reserves  
11 from this pool.

12 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Mr. Carr.

13 Miss Aubrey?

14 MS. AUBREY: Thank you.

15 Bird Creek Resources opposed BTA's  
16 Application before the Examiner and continues to oppose  
17 it today. BTA claims that the Examiner, in fact,  
18 imposed a penalty on the BTA well. We claim that the  
19 Examiner imposed no penalty at all. What the Examiner  
20 did was to reduce the allowable for the BTA well for a  
21 six-month period of time.

22 Generally, this -- the Division and this  
23 Commission have penalized unorthodox locations by a  
24 factor which is comprised of the standard location over  
25 -- underneath the proposed location, and the penalty

1 has been permanent on the production of the well.

2 We believe that the Examiner imposed this  
3 penalty because of the suggestion to him that in fact  
4 there was no location for this well in the 40-acre  
5 tract.

6 There is going to be a substantial conflict  
7 in the evidence before you today on whether or not  
8 there is topographic justification for this unorthodox  
9 location.

10 At the hearing below, BTA claimed there was  
11 no geological basis for their request and that the only  
12 basis for their request was that there was no location  
13 available to them.

14 We will show you through witnesses today that  
15 there are in fact locations which are standard in the  
16 East Loving-Delaware Pool, where this well could have  
17 been located.

18 We believe we will also show you today that  
19 the real reason this well was moved closer to the Bird  
20 Creek acreage is that BTA saw the opportunity to drain  
21 Bird Creek instead of moving closer to their own wells  
22 in that section.

23 We ask that the Commission, after hearing all  
24 the testimony, impose a penalty which will actually  
25 penalize BTA for crowding the line and for moving out

1 of the standard location with no either geological or  
2 topographic justification. We ask that the penalty be  
3 made permanent against the production of the well.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Miss Aubrey.

6 At this point, a point of clarification for  
7 the Commission is, my understanding, this well has  
8 already been drilled or not?

9 MR. CARR: Yes, sir, it has.

10 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: If it's already been  
11 drilled, what's the purpose of going through whether  
12 the location itself was justified? Was the well  
13 drilled under an existing Order that was valid?

14 MR. CARR: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: In the interest of trying to  
16 focus on the real issue, I think the issue would be the  
17 size of the penalty and not whether the well itself was  
18 justified in the first place.

19 So with that in mind, is there any objection  
20 to that type of testimony?

21 MS. AUBREY: If I may, Mr. LeMay, the Order  
22 was issued based on what we believe to have been some  
23 misleading testimony to the Examiner. We intend and  
24 would like to put on evidence of the topography of the  
25 area involved. We have aerial photographs, we have a

1 USGS floodplain map.

2           There was a claim before the Examiner that in  
3 fact BTA couldn't drill at a standard location because  
4 it would be moving into the floodplain. We will show  
5 you that they have completed a well in the floodplain  
6 at the same elevation.

7           So, given that, I believe that that sort of  
8 testimony is going to enable you to properly penalize  
9 BTA for the location of this well. They drilled it,  
10 they knew the 30 days hadn't run.

11           We informed their lawyer that we were filing  
12 for a de novo. They went ahead and drilled the well  
13 anyway during the 30-day de novo period, and frankly I  
14 believe our position is, they took the risk by doing  
15 so.

16           And we would like to put on the evidence on  
17 topography, on whether or not this well could have been  
18 directionally drilled, as well as the engineering  
19 testimony to show that the penalty that was imposed by  
20 the Examiner is no penalty at all.

21           CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Miss Aubrey.

22           Mr. Carr?

23           MR. CARR: In response to that, we stand on  
24 the testimony we previously presented, and will present  
25 to you a case today very similar to what was presented

1 before the Examiner.

2 A well was drilled under a valid Order, and  
3 there was no attempt to stay. There was no surprise on  
4 their part that we were going forward with the well.

5 It's -- I think the Commission -- the  
6 Chairman is correct, that much of the case -- and our  
7 case is, as I will tell you now, is quite short -- much  
8 of what was presented before we believe is moot because  
9 the well has been drilled as a straight hole.

10 Directional drilling considerations are only  
11 really tangential to any question before you, and we  
12 think it's appropriate to look at the penalty and see  
13 if in fact, looking at the overall, if in fact, you  
14 shouldn't affirm -- you shouldn't do what we will ask,  
15 and that is affirm the Examiner Order, because we  
16 believe it was an appropriate decision at that time,  
17 and we can show you that it's a decision which we  
18 believe ought to be affirmed.

19 We're not mad at anybody here, but I think  
20 it's important to keep in mind that everything we have  
21 done has been consistent with valid Commission  
22 authority, every step.

23 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Let's take a five-minute  
24 recess. I want to discuss what we will accept in the  
25 way of testimony and what the true issues are.

1 (Thereupon, a recess was taken at 9:32 a.m.)

2 (The following proceedings had at 9:38 a.m.)

3 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Okay, we've discussed this  
4 issue, and it's our opinion that Bird creek had the  
5 opportunity to stay the Order of the Examiner, and  
6 therefore by failing to do so and allowing the well to  
7 be drilled under a valid order, the questions we're  
8 faced with right now are questions of correlative  
9 rights.

10 And the Commission will accept testimony on  
11 questions of correlative rights, we -- specifically  
12 going to the penalty that would be assessed against  
13 BTA, and it's also our request that the Examiner's  
14 record be incorporated as part of this hearing.

15 MS. AUBREY: Mr. LeMay --

16 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Miss Aubrey?

17 MS. AUBREY: -- may I make a response to  
18 that?

19 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Yes.

20 MS. AUBREY: The Commission's rules, as you  
21 know, are not clear on whether or not a party needs to  
22 request a stay of an Examiner Order pending a de novo.

23 I would like to remind the Commission that  
24 BTA could have asked for a stay also.

25 They -- It is our position that they drilled

1 this well at their own risk at a time when they knew we  
2 were going to file a de novo Application and that  
3 having done so, Bird Creek should not be penalized for  
4 presenting testimony today which would have been  
5 presented below, had anyone had any idea that BTA was  
6 going to testify the way they did.

7 And if you will permit me to do so, I would  
8 like to either make an offer of proof now on what we  
9 will show on the issues of topography and the issues of  
10 geology, or I would like to do that at the beginning of  
11 Bird Creek's case so that the record is clear as to  
12 what we would show if we were given the opportunity to  
13 do so, because I think it's relevant to you here today.

14 I don't think it's appropriate for a party to  
15 come into an Examiner Hearing and even unintentionally  
16 misstate a fact and then be able to skate at the  
17 Commission hearing because no stay was asked for by the  
18 other side.

19 They drilled the well, knowing we were filing  
20 for de novo. They knew it. We told them, and they  
21 won't deny that.

22 They didn't have to do it in that 30-day  
23 period, but they chose to. And I suspect they chose to  
24 in order to come to you with a fait accompli to make it  
25 harder for you to look at the testimony on whether or

1 not they should have had an unorthodox location in the  
2 first place.

3 So if you will permit me now, I would like to  
4 make an offer of proof, or I would be -- In fact, I  
5 guess I would prefer to do it at the beginning of Bird  
6 Creek's case, on what we would show on the issues of  
7 whether or not in fact it's true that they couldn't  
8 directionally drill it, whether or not in fact it's  
9 true that they did not gain a geological advantage,  
10 whether or not it's true that there was no topographic  
11 location at which they could have drilled this well  
12 that was standard.

13 Those are the issues that we hope to present  
14 to you today, and I would like to make an offer of  
15 proof on those issues later, if the Commission  
16 continues with this rule.

17 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Miss Aubrey.

18 Mr. Carr?

19 MR. CARR: May it please the Commission, I  
20 would like to, by way of response to Miss Aubrey's  
21 statements, simply for the record, since you now have  
22 incorporated the record of the Examiner Hearing, it's  
23 my understanding, into this proceeding, I can tell you  
24 on behalf of BTA that what we said then we believed to  
25 be the truth. We believed it to be the truth then, and

1 we believe it to be the truth today.

2 And when our witnesses were called, Bird  
3 Creek was present with Counsel, and they had an  
4 opportunity to cross-examine, which they did, and the  
5 record was complete, it was taken under advisement and  
6 an Order was entered, we drilled a well.

7 If what we are going to do now is to honor  
8 your ruling by focusing on correlative rights and the  
9 risk penalty, we are prepared to do that with one  
10 witness. The testimony we believe will -- that will be  
11 focused on that issue, then only to have Bird Creek go  
12 forward with what is an after-the-fact cross-  
13 examination of our witness's testimony, a month ago,  
14 three months ago, we think all we've done is really  
15 circumvent your ruling.

16 We think your ruling was appropriate. We're  
17 prepared to go forward in a fashion consistent with it,  
18 and we believe that the record below was made with a  
19 full opportunity to cross-examine and that that is the  
20 testimony that you can now look to because the parties  
21 under a valid Order relied on that Order, that was  
22 ordered from that testimony, and have gone forward with  
23 the development of the property.

24 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you.

25 MS. AUBREY: Mr. LeMay, may I make a one-

1 sentence response?

2 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Miss Aubrey?

3 MS. AUBREY: Thank you. I would remind the  
4 Commission that this is a de novo proceeding, not an  
5 appeal. We are not bound by the record.

6 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I understand that. The  
7 record, however, was taken at the Examiner level, a  
8 valid Order was issued, a stay was not requested,  
9 suspension of action of the drilling was not requested  
10 by either party. Therefore, we're dealing with a fait  
11 accompli. The well is there.

12 The purpose of the Commission right now is to  
13 assess a penalty, if one is required, based on  
14 correlative-rights issues.

15 And to rehash the entire record as to the  
16 topography considerations is irrelevant to the nature  
17 of this hearing, and my initial ruling will still hold.

18 If you would like to take some time to  
19 reorganize your case on that basis, I would be happy to  
20 grant you that time, Miss Aubrey.

21 MS. AUBREY: No, Mr. LeMay, I don't think we  
22 need to do that. We're prepared to address the  
23 correlative-rights issues, and I will renew my request  
24 to make an offer of proof at the end of BTA's case.

25 EXAMINER LEMAY: Thank you. We shall proceed

1 at this point.

2 MR. CARR: May it please the Commission, at  
3 this time we would call Pete Wilkinson.

4 For the record, I would state we were  
5 prepared to call Mr. Greg Hair and Mr. Keith Logan  
6 whose testimony would be virtually identical to the  
7 testimony presented at the Examiner Hearing and address  
8 geology, which the parties at that level stipulated was  
9 not a controlling factor in the drilling of a well, and  
10 Mr. Logan's testimony will focus solely on topographic  
11 -- or primarily on topographical conditions. I will  
12 not call them, consistent with your ruling.

13 I will call Mr. Pete Wilkinson, a petroleum  
14 engineer with BTA.

15 PETER B. WILKINSON,  
16 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn  
17 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. CARR:

20 Q. Would you state your full name for the  
21 record, please?

22 A. My name is Peter B. Wilkinson.

23 Q. Mr. Wilkinson, where do you reside?

24 A. Midland, Texas.

25 Q. By whom are you employed and in what

1 capacity?

2 A. By BTA Oil Producers as an exploitation  
3 manager.

4 Q. What is an exploitation manager?

5 A. Exploitation is just another word for  
6 development.

7 Q. Have you previously testified before this  
8 Commission?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. Could you review your educational background  
11 for the members of the Commission and then briefly  
12 summarize your work experience?

13 A. Yes, sir. I graduated from Texas Tech  
14 University in 1970 with a bachelor of science in  
15 petroleum engineering. Since that point in time I've  
16 been gainfully employed in the oil business by various  
17 different operators, the past 13 years with BTA.

18 Q. Does your area of responsibility for BTA  
19 include the portion of southeastern New Mexico which is  
20 involved in this case?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed  
23 in this matter on behalf of BTA?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Are you familiar with the Pardue Well and the

1 surrounding area?

2 A. That is correct.

3 MR. CARR: At this point in time, may it  
4 please the Commission, we would tender Mr. Wilkinson as  
5 an expert witness in petroleum engineering.

6 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: His qualifications are  
7 acceptable.

8 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Wilkinson, could you  
9 explain to the Commission the current status of the  
10 Pardue "C" Number 1 Well?

11 A. Yes, sir. We drilled the well, completed it  
12 on May the 18th. The well is capable of flowing top  
13 allowable, but since the point in time that we put the  
14 well on production, we have limited the production to  
15 the Order that was involved in the case.

16 Q. So it is currently producing at 53 percent of  
17 its depth-bracket allowable?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. Have you had experience with developing other  
20 Delaware properties in southeastern New Mexico?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Could you explain to the Commission what your  
23 personal experience was and how you were involved with  
24 the decision to drill this particular well?

25 A. We have evaluated numerous Delaware fields

1 throughout southeastern New Mexico, and in this  
2 particular area, based on the volumetric calculations  
3 and the short amount of decline-curve analysis that we  
4 had, we felt as if we had a good reservoir in the  
5 Delaware, better than normal, and we decided to drill  
6 these wells.

7 Q. Now, Mr. Wilkinson, I'm going to jump forward  
8 in your testimony.

9 Mr. Wilkinson was actually present, may it  
10 please the Commission, to testify about considerations  
11 related to directional drilling, and we will go over  
12 those and simply address questions concerning  
13 correlative rights.

14 Mr. Wilkinson, could you identify what has  
15 been marked as BTA Exhibit Number 6?

16 A. BTA Exhibit Number 6 is simply a copy of the  
17 latest producing capacities of the four wells that we  
18 have completed in the Loving East Field. Included are  
19 Wells B-1, B-2, C-1 and C-2, with the C-1 being the  
20 well in question here at this hearing.

21 We have barrels of oil per day, barrels of  
22 water per day, the amount of gas being produced in  
23 association with the oil, the gas-oil ratio, the choke  
24 size and the flowing-tubing pressure.

25 Q. Now, how recently have the wells in this area

1 actually been drilled?

2 A. They've all been drilled or completed in  
3 1990.

4 Q. 1990 or 1989?

5 A. 1989, 1990, all the wells that we're familiar  
6 with.

7 Q. And do you have on any well a production  
8 history that would enable you to actually project what  
9 the wells will ultimately recover?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. What is the purpose of Exhibit Number 6?

12 A. Exhibit Number 6 just goes, in our opinion,  
13 to show that there is no communication amongst the four  
14 wells that we have in this reservoir.

15 Q. Have you had data available to you concerning  
16 the wells operated by Bird Creek in the property south  
17 of this area?

18 A. Very limited data.

19 Q. Based on the limited data that you have  
20 received, do you have any -- have you seen any evidence  
21 of communication between wells in the reservoir?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Have you tried to estimate the number of  
24 acres that actually can be drained by the Pardue "C"  
25 Number 1 Well?

1 A. Yes, sir, we have.

2 Q. And is your calculation what is set forth at  
3 Exhibit Number 7?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Could you go through this exhibit for the  
6 Commission and explain what these numbers are and what  
7 this exhibit is designed to show?

8 A. Okay, this is simply a volumetric calculation  
9 on our 8808 JV-P Pardue "C" Well Number 1. It's a  
10 simple standard engineering calculation of the original  
11 oil in place. It's a formula that's, of course,  
12 accepted throughout the industry.

13 We assume one of two things to get our final  
14 answer. You either have to assume what area the well  
15 is draining or what the recovery factor is.

16 Q. What recovery factor have you used?

17 A. Okay, in our analysis of the wells in the  
18 Delaware in southeastern New Mexico the wells recover  
19 anywhere from 9 to 21, 22 percent of the original oil  
20 in place.

21 This reservoir being a better productive  
22 reservoir than what we consider an average reservoir,  
23 we feel it's on the upper end of this.

24 So therefore, I went through my calculations  
25 and I assumed an areal extent of 20 acres. We have 53

1 feet of pay with an average porosity of 16 percent,  
2 water saturation of 43 percent, and a formation volume  
3 factor of 1.1.

4 Using these, plugging them into the formula,  
5 we get an original oil in place of 681,801 barrels of  
6 oil. Now, from what limited experience we have in this  
7 reservoir for a decline-curve analysis, we feel as if  
8 the wells will make in the range of 150,000 barrels of  
9 oil each. So you take this and divide it by the  
10 original oil in place, and this comes up to a 22-  
11 percent recovery factor. And we feel that --

12 Q. Just a moment. Twenty-two or 20 percent?

13 A. That comes up to 22 percent, and that would  
14 be based on a 20-acre areal extent.

15 Q. All right.

16 A. Now, we take -- If you take it and correct  
17 backwards for only a 20-percent recovery factor, this  
18 comes up to an areal extent of 22 acres, which will be  
19 drained by this well.

20 Q. Now, when we consider the distance between  
21 the Pardue Well and the closest offsetting well  
22 operated by Bird Creek, if this calculation is correct  
23 and the Pardue Well will drain 22 acres, would that  
24 drainage radius have any impact on the offsetting Bird  
25 Creek well?

1 A. Very little.

2 Q. And that Bird Creek well would be which one?

3 A. It would be the Teledyne Number 1.

4 Q. Now, when we go through this calculation, I  
5 want to be sure we've got the basis for these factors.  
6 The A stands for the area of drainage?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. That's based on the range of drainage areas  
9 for Delaware wells in the area?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And because the wells in this area perform in  
12 a better-than-average capacity, you have taken a larger  
13 area factor here?

14 A. No, sir, that's not correct.

15 Q. Okay, explain that.

16 A. The wells in this area are better than  
17 average. That's why we chose the upper end of the  
18 recovery factors.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. The recovery factor is inversely proportional  
21 to the areal extent.

22 Q. Okay. Now, if we take the other, the 53  
23 feet, the 16-percent porosity, the oil-water  
24 saturation, those figures simply come off log  
25 calculations --

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. -- is that right?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And so by taking these figures, plugging them  
5 into the formula, you then come up with a drainage area  
6 of 22 acres?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. Where did you get the 150,000 barrels of oil?

9 A. That was from the decline-curve analysis on  
10 the well down in Section 23 that was previously entered  
11 in the testimony at the hearing.

12 Q. Is this the figure that both parties  
13 stipulated was an accurate estimation at the March  
14 hearing?

15 A. Yes, it was.

16 MS. AUBREY: Excuse me, Mr. LeMay. I'd like  
17 to enter an objection here. I don't believe there were  
18 any stipulations made at the Examiner Hearing.

19 As Mr. Carr has pointed out, you have  
20 incorporated so I don't think it's necessary for him to  
21 characterize it.

22 MR. CARR: All right. We can change the  
23 question at that point, but in response I would direct  
24 the Division's attention to page 43 of the transcript  
25 of the Examiner Hearing.

1                   CHAIRMAN LEMAY: The Commission will take  
2 that under advisement and look at page 43. Meanwhile,  
3 if there's no stipulations, you might rephrase the  
4 question as to the intent.

5           Q.    (By Mr. Carr) Simply, the question was,  
6 where did you get the 150,000-barrel figure?

7           A.    Decline-curve analysis.

8           Q.    In your opinion, will continued operation of  
9 the Pardue Number 1 -- or "C" Number 1 Well -- under  
10 the previous Order impair the correlative rights of  
11 Bird Creek?

12          A.    No, sir.

13          Q.    And why is that?

14          A.    We feel as if the penalty that was placed  
15 upon us in that hearing was substantial and severe to  
16 BTA, to where it would make an inequitable situation.

17          Q.    Do you believe that there is going to be  
18 drainage under this penalty from the Teledyne tract to  
19 the Pardue Well?

20          A.    No, sir.

21          Q.    In your opinion, would affirming the Examiner  
22 Order and continuing the present penalty be in the best  
23 interests of conservation, the prevention of waste, and  
24 the protection of correlative rights?

25          A.    Yes, sir, I do.

1 Q. Were Exhibits 6 and 7 prepared by you?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Do you have anything further to add to your  
4 testimony?

5 A. No, sir.

6 MR. CARR: At this time, may it please the  
7 Commission, I would move the admission of BTA Exhibits  
8 6 and 7.

9 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Without objection, Exhibits  
10 6 and 7 will be admitted into the record.

11 MR. CARR: That concludes my direct  
12 examination of Mr. Wilkinson.

13 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Miss Aubrey?

14 CROSS-EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. AUBREY:

16 Q. Good morning, Mr. Wilkinson.

17 A. Good morning.

18 Q. I believe you just testified that in your  
19 opinion, affirming the Examiner Order will protect  
20 correlative rights; is that correct?

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. Will it protect BTA's correlative rights?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. So BTA is willing to accept a penalty of some  
25 sort against the production from the Number 1 Well; is

1 that right?

2 A. Yes, ma'am. We feel as if the penalty that  
3 was imposed at the previous hearing is adequate.

4 Q. And what is your understanding, Mr.  
5 Wilkinson, of what that penalty is designed to do?

6 A. The penalty is designed to allow Bird Creek  
7 to produce -- or allow BTA to underproduce their well  
8 to an amount of 12,225 barrels of oil, thus allowing  
9 Bird Creek an advantage.

10 Q. And why is that, Mr. Wilkinson?

11 A. Because we're producing our well at less than  
12 top allowable when the well is capable of producing top  
13 allowable.

14 Q. And I believe you just testified that in your  
15 opinion, your well drains 20 to 22 acres?

16 A. Twenty-two acres, yes, ma'am.

17 Q. And you're aware that the wells are spaced on  
18 40's is that right?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. Are you assuming radial drainage in your  
21 analysis?

22 A. We have done no radial-drainage calculations.

23 Q. For the purposes of your testimony today, are  
24 you assuming a 20-acre circle around your wellbore?

25 A. Well, I don't know what a 20-acre circle is.

1 Q. Where do you think your oil is coming from,  
2 Mr. Wilkinson?

3 A. From the Delaware Formation.

4 Q. And specifically where in Section 11 is it  
5 coming from?

6 A. It's coming from the 40-acre tract  
7 surrounding our well.

8 Q. Completely within that 40-acre tract?

9 A. We feel as if the majority of it is, yes.

10 Q. Well, if it's only draining 20 acres, and  
11 you've got a 40-acre tract, it seems that there is some  
12 area out in your 40 that doesn't have any oil in it; is  
13 that right?

14 A. No, ma'am, there's an area within the 40  
15 acres that probably will not be drained.

16 Q. So you're going to leave some oil in the  
17 ground?

18 A. That is quite possible.

19 Q. Are you asking this Commission to respace  
20 this pool on 20's?

21 A. No, ma'am, we are not.

22 Q. Why not?

23 A. First off, we couldn't drill in the center of  
24 the location -- this quarter section -- anyway, so  
25 therefore we're limited. We could not drill another

1 well in the northern portion of this 40-acre tract.  
2 We're not asking for that.

3 Q. Now, you -- So I understand you correctly,  
4 you believe that your 20 acres of oil is entirely  
5 within your 40-acre proration unit; is that correct?

6 A. The vast majority of it, yes, ma'am.

7 Q. So why -- And Bird Creek has the proration  
8 unit to the south; is that correct?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Well, then, why are you willing to accept any  
11 penalty at all, Mr. Wilkinson?

12 A. We drilled this well knowing that we had an  
13 acceptable -- to BTA, at least -- acceptable Order  
14 established by the Oil Conservation Division, and we  
15 felt as if within the guidelines of their ruling that  
16 we could drill an economical well, and we were  
17 acceptable to drill this well per their Order.

18 Q. But you don't think you're draining BTA's --  
19 or Bird Creek's -- oil at all, do you?

20 A. We said very little.

21 Q. How much is that?

22 A. I have no exact calculations, because we have  
23 done no radial-drainage calculations.

24 Q. You're an engineer, aren't you?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

1 Q. Is that something you do in your profession  
2 as an engineer?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. So you can't tell the Commission how many  
5 barrels you believe you will drain from the Bird Creek  
6 acreage?

7 A. Based on previous testimony which has been  
8 entered into in this hearing, we believe it was  
9 approximately the 12,000 barrels that we were  
10 penalized.

11 Q. So part of your 20 acres of oil, 12,000-some-  
12 odd barrels according to your view of things, is over  
13 in Bird Creek's territory, right?

14 A. That is possible.

15 A. Do you think that's true?

16 A. In my best opinion, I don't know.

17 Q. You don't know how many acres. Could it be  
18 more?

19 A. It possibly could be.

20 Q. How do we find that out, Mr. Wilkinson?

21 A. It would be nice to have some core data.

22 Q. Do we have that?

23 A. No, ma'am, we do not.

24 Q. Your well is completed, isn't it?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. It's producing, isn't it?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. Have you cored it?

4 A. No, ma'am.

5 Q. Why not?

6 A. Economic considerations.

7 Q. How much is the cost to core the well?

8 A. To core that well, approximately, would cost  
9 us in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range.

10 Q. And what would a core tell you? Would it  
11 tell you about porosity?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. Would it tell you about permeability?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. Would it give you something on which to base  
16 your estimate of a 20-acre drainage?

17 A. It would give you one more tool under which  
18 you could make some estimations of radial drainage,  
19 yes.

20 Q. Now, your claim is that it's not economic to  
21 do that; is that right?

22 A. I did not say it was not economic. I said  
23 economic -- just considerations.

24 Q. Well, what are those, sir?

25 A. Economic considerations are, will our

1 management allow us to gather this information by  
2 utilizing core analysis? The answer to that is no.

3 Q. And why is that?

4 A. Economic considerations.

5 Q. Well, we seem to be going --

6 A. We try to drill wells and make the most  
7 economical situation and completions for our  
8 management, and that is our job solely.

9 Q. So it wasn't your decision not to core the  
10 well?

11 A. It was not.

12 Q. If you had your choice, you'd core it?

13 A. If I had my choice, I might core it,  
14 possibly.

15 Q. Now, when was this well completed?

16 A. It was completed May the 18th, 1990.

17 Q. And when did you commence drilling it?

18 A. I don't have that date. It would be  
19 approximately 10 days to two weeks prior to that point.

20 Q. So, say around May 2nd; is that right?

21 A. I don't have the exact date of the spud. I  
22 believe that is a matter of public knowledge.

23 Q. Now, you testified that you felt when you  
24 drilled this well that it was a better-than-normal  
25 Delaware well; is that correct?

1           A.    Yes, ma'am, I believe everyone considers that  
2 to be the case with this reservoir.

3           Q.    And you believe that to be true of the entire  
4 East Loving-Delaware Pool?

5           A.    Yes, ma'am.

6           Q.    But this is not a standard Delaware pool?

7           A.    In my opinion, I have not run across another  
8 Delaware pool in this portion of the area that is equal  
9 to this particular pay zone.

10          Q.    It's better, isn't it?

11          A.    In my opinion, yes.

12          Q.    And you believed that at the time of the  
13 Examiner Hearing, didn't you?

14          A.    Yes, ma'am, we did.

15          Q.    Do you agree with Mr. Logan's testimony that  
16 he didn't know whether or not this was going to be a  
17 regular old, standard, garden-variety Delaware pool or  
18 a better-than-average pool?

19                MR. CARR:  I would object to the  
20 characterization of the testimony.  I don't believe  
21 Miss Aubrey can find regular old, garden-type Delaware  
22 pools in that transcript, and if we're to play this  
23 game I don't want those characterizations in the  
24 record.

25                MS. AUBREY:  It may be on page 43, Bill.

1 MR. CARR: Again, it's not on page 43.

2 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Well, recognizing this is  
3 semi-arid climate, we don't expect gardens out in the  
4 oil patch, but there may be other descriptive  
5 terminology you might use to try and describe the  
6 character of this pool.

7 MS. AUBREY: Mr. LeMay, I'll refer the  
8 witness to the record and try to read Mr. Logan's  
9 direct testimony directly to him; how would that be?

10 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Now, Mr. Logan is with your  
11 same company, right?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. He's an engineer?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. You are -- I believe said earlier that you --  
16 Well, let me ask you. Do you stand behind all of his  
17 testimony?

18 A. Yes, ma'am, we do.

19 Q. Do you personally as a witness?

20 A. I personally, to my knowledge of everything  
21 that was contained in the initial hearing on BTA's  
22 behalf, do believe in it, yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Okay. And you would testify the same way if  
24 the same questions were asked to you?

25 A. Possibly. I probably won't give you the

1 exact same answers. As we all know, engineering is not  
2 an exact science.

3 Q. Uh-huh. That's the whole point here, isn't  
4 it, Mr. Wilkinson?

5 A. I believe so.

6 Q. Do you have a copy of the transcript?

7 A. I'm obtaining one right now.

8 Q. Oh, okay, good. On page 22, Mr. Logan  
9 testified at lines 21 to 25 that the average Delaware  
10 well would not be an economic venture for BTA. Do you  
11 agree with that?

12 A. I certainly agree with that.

13 Q. And Mr. Logan testified on pages 26 through  
14 28 -- You can take a minute and look at that if you  
15 want --

16 A. Where would you like me to start?

17 Q. Let's start you on the bottom of page 26,  
18 that if this were an average Delaware field, it would  
19 be a marginal deal; is that correct?

20 A. If it was marginal -- an average Delaware  
21 field, yes, it would be a marginal venture for BTA.

22 Q. And how many -- Just for an average Delaware  
23 field, how many barrels would you assign to that well's  
24 recoverable oil?

25 A. Well, there's a range.

1 Q. Well, can you give me --

2 A. Would you like a range, or would you like  
3 a --

4 Q. Sure.

5 A. -- an average to the best of my ability?

6 Q. Why don't you give me both?

7 A. A range -- I believe this will be on the high  
8 end -- of 150,000. There's some that are a little  
9 deeper that do produce more reserves. There's some we  
10 feel as if make as many as 200,000 barrels. But there  
11 are many, many wells in the Delaware, throughout this  
12 portion of the country that make anywhere from 5000 to  
13 20,000 barrels. We feel as if an average Delaware well  
14 would be in the range of 50,000 barrels of oil.

15 Q. Now, when you all decided to drill this well,  
16 which did you think you were dealing with? The five to  
17 ten or the --

18 A. No, ma'am, we felt as if we were going to get  
19 around the 150,000 barrels or we would not have drilled  
20 the well.

21 Q. And that was assuming no penalty; is that  
22 correct?

23 A. We drilled the well under a standing order  
24 that was entered by the Oil Conservation Division and  
25 we realized at the time that we drilled the well that

1 this was in effect, and it is still in effect today,  
2 and we are abiding by it.

3 Q. Let me rephrase my question. I don't think I  
4 made it clear. When you first proposed this well  
5 before the Examiner Hearing took place --

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. -- you assumed 150,000 barrels of oil --

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. -- is that correct?

10 A. That was the number we used in our economic  
11 justification.

12 Q. And in that economic justification, you  
13 didn't include any kind of penalty, did you?

14 A. No, ma'am, not the original, until after we  
15 had the hearing first.

16 Q. So you assumed that you would be producing  
17 the allowable of -- the depth-bracket allowable of 142  
18 barrels a day; is that correct?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. Now, how did your economic analysis change  
21 once the Examiner entered his Order and you could only  
22 produce 75 barrels a day?

23 A. It extended our payout approximately from --  
24 These are rough numbers based on today's oil prices of  
25 \$15 a barrel -- about from 11 months to 25 months. And

1 25 months is very close to what we consider as one of  
2 our economic parameters into deciding whether or not to  
3 drill a well. But we did drill the well under those  
4 conditions.

5 Q. So I understand you, one of your economic  
6 parameters is the time to payout; is that correct?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. What are your others?

9 A. The ultimate return on your investment and  
10 your rate of return.

11 Q. Any others?

12 A. That is all.

13 Q. What is your rate of return on this well with  
14 the penalty that has been imposed by the Examiner?

15 A. I do not have that with me, but it was  
16 adequate under our guidelines to drill the well.

17 Q. Do I recall correctly that it was over or at  
18 100 percent without the penalty? Was that the  
19 testimony?

20 A. I don't understand your question.

21 Q. And what is your internal rate of return --

22 A. That's privileged --

23 Q. -- on this well?

24 A. -- information.

25 Q. So you don't intend to tell us what that is;

1 is that right?

2 A. No, ma'am, we do not.

3 Q. In your economic analysis of putting together  
4 an AFE for a well -- I'm trying to take you back before  
5 the Examiner -- the time of the Examiner Hearing -- do  
6 you prepare an AFE?

7 A. No, ma'am, I do not. That's prepared by our  
8 drilling department.

9 Q. But your company does; is that correct?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. And into that AFE goes what they believe to  
12 be the necessary costs for drilling the well; is that  
13 right?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. Your Mr. Logan testified that it would cost  
16 about \$70,000 to directionally drill this well. Do you  
17 affirm that part of his testimony?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. And have you made any review of that number  
20 to see whether or not from an economic and reserve-  
21 analysis point of view that's a correct number?

22 A. I have not. Our drilling superintendent  
23 provided that to us.

24 Q. Okay, is your drilling superintendent here  
25 today to testify?

1 A. No, ma'am, he is not.

2 Q. Was your drilling superintendent at the  
3 Examiner Hearing to testify?

4 A. No, ma'am, he was not. I have worked as a  
5 drilling engineer in the past, and I feel as if his  
6 numbers are very close to being correct.

7 Q. But you haven't reviewed them with regard to  
8 this particular well in this particular location?

9 A. Yes, I have looked at his numbers, and I did  
10 agree with them. That is the way BTA works. He  
11 provides us with an AFE, we look at it. We feel as if  
12 it's unreasonable, then we go and discuss this with  
13 him.

14 Q. What was your total AFE cost for this well?

15 A. The total AFE cost for a straight hole --

16 Q. This particular well.

17 A. -- was \$450,000.

18 Q. Are you aware that Bird Creek is producing  
19 the -- drilling these same wells for an AFE cost of  
20 around \$330,000?

21 A. Well, we have discrepancies in the oil  
22 business. I'm sure if it was a larger oil company it  
23 would have been even more.

24 We operate in a very prudent manner. I  
25 cannot testify to how Bird Creek drills or completes

1 wells.

2 Q. I didn't ask you to, Mr. Wilkinson. I asked  
3 if you were aware that their AFE cost on these wells  
4 was about \$330,000?

5 A. In the testimony, yes.

6 Q. Now, by my calculations -- and you correct me  
7 if I'm wrong -- \$70,000 directional drilling cost, if  
8 that's accurate, on a \$450,000 AFE is about two  
9 percent; isn't that right, Mr. Wilkinson?

10 A. It would be somewhat less than two percent,  
11 yes.

12 Q. Now, I believe you have testified that -- Let  
13 me find your testimony here. There was no way to  
14 project the ultimate recovery of reserves when you  
15 drilled this well; is that right?

16 A. Based on the limited data that we had at the  
17 time that we initially began this project, there was  
18 not.

19 Q. And it's your testimony that there's no  
20 communication between BTA's four wells; is that right?

21 A. None that we can see at this point in time.

22 Q. How far are your wells apart?

23 A. They're based on 40-acre spacing.

24 Q. How many -- What's the distance between  
25 wells?

1           A.    It would be approximately 1320.

2           Q.    Are you closer to the Bird Creek well than  
3 you are to any of your other wells?

4           A.    I'd have to scale it off on a map.

5           Q.    Can you do that for me?

6           A.    I don't have a ruler with me.

7           Q.    Okay, let me see if I can give you an exhibit  
8 that will help you along on that.

9                   (Off the record)

10           THE WITNESS: Miss Aubrey, from using a  
11 scale? I have a ruler here, and our well between our  
12 "C" 1 and our "C" 2 and the distance between our "C" 1  
13 and the Teledyne Number 1, they're within about, it  
14 looks to me, 50 feet difference, only.

15           Q.    (By Ms. Aubrey) And which one's farther?

16           A.    I believe ours is about 50 feet further than  
17 the Teledyne Number 1.

18           Q.    That's the "C" 2; is that correct? That  
19 you're talking about?

20           A.    The "C" 1 to the "C" 2 distance is  
21 approximately 50 feet longer than the "C" 1 to the  
22 Teledyne.

23           Q.    And the "C" 2 is one of the wells that you've  
24 referred to on your Exhibit Number 6; isn't that  
25 correct?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. Are you aware that that's presently being  
3 produced in violation of the Gas/Oil Rules for the East  
4 Loving-Delaware Pool?

5 A. Not in my opinion, it's not. This is a  
6 gas/oil ratio that I was given from a well test last  
7 week, is 860 cubic feet per barrel.

8 Q. Are you aware that the "C" 2 does not perform  
9 in the same manner as the "C" 1, or the "B" 1, or the  
10 "B" 2, that it's a different kind of well?

11 A. I'm not aware of that.

12 Q. Okay. Now, what -- The "B" Number 1 Well is  
13 located where?

14 A. Which well?

15 Q. It's on your Exhibit 6.

16 A. Which well?

17 Q. The "B" Number 1.

18 A. Okay, the "B" Number 1 Well is located to the  
19 north of the "C" Number 1 Well.

20 Q. Let me show you an exhibit so we can get the  
21 Commissioners to see some of the relationships here.  
22 I'm going to show you what I've marked as Bird Creek  
23 Exhibit Number 1.

24 (Off the record)

25 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Since that is not marked as

1 an exhibit, sir, I'd like you to take a minute and see  
2 whether or not you agree that the wells are correctly  
3 spotted there.

4 A. The BTA wells are correct. I can't really  
5 testify as to the accuracy of the Bird Creek.

6 Q. You haven't made a study of this area  
7 sufficient to know whether or not those wells -- well  
8 locations are correct?

9 A. Well, Well Numbers 1 and 2, they're not  
10 identified as Teledyne 1, Teledyne 2, RGA 1. May I  
11 refer to my map?

12 Q. You certainly may. Is that a document which  
13 is an exhibit?

14 A. It's a copy of a previous exhibit from the  
15 previous hearing.

16 Q. Let's see, you're looking at Exhibit Number  
17 what from the previous hearing? Exhibit Number 1?

18 A. Yes, ma'am, which is basically just a land  
19 plat showing the wells, both by BTA and Bird Creek.

20 Q. Let me show you this. Is this the one you're  
21 looking at?

22 A. No, ma'am. That was an exhibit prepared for  
23 the hearing today, which we have not entered into  
24 evidence.

25 Q. But it is a land map, isn't it?

1 A. It certainly appears to be, yes.

2 Q. Does that show the locations of the wells?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. And that's an exhibit you have with you?

5 A. It's not an exhibit we have entered into  
6 evidence.

7 Q. Is it an exhibit you have with you?

8 A. We do have copies of it, yes.

9 Q. Now, why don't you show me what you're  
10 looking at?

11 A. I'm looking at basically the same land map  
12 with the information that we've written on here as to  
13 whether or not we know what the situation, the controls  
14 of these wells are.

15 Q. And is that a document you intend to  
16 introduce as an exhibit today?

17 A. No, ma'am. This is for my own information so  
18 that I could get our plats and the location of our  
19 wells relative to the quarter-section or the half-  
20 section which we operate.

21 Q. So is the document I'm -- that you're looking  
22 at, that I'm holding up, the same one without your  
23 handwriting?

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Why don't you look at that and see if we've

1 spotted the wells correctly.

2 A. To the best of my ability, yes.

3 Q. Now, I'm not asking you to sponsor this  
4 exhibit or agree with it.

5 A. Certainly.

6 Q. We've shown, I will tell you a -- We have  
7 assumed 40-acre drainage. That's what the circle  
8 around these wells is. Do you understand that?

9 A. Pure radial drainage.

10 Q. I was trying not to confuse you here. I want  
11 to get real clear --

12 A. This was your circle map you referred to  
13 earlier.

14 Q. And you agree that the wells are correctly  
15 spotted; is that correct?

16 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes. I have not  
17 scaled them off, so I can't testify to the accuracy of  
18 the map.

19 Q. Okay, I'm not asking you to. The "B" 1 is  
20 your well; is that right?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. The "C" 2 is your well; is that right?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. The "C" 1 is your well; is that right?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

1 Q. To your knowledge, the wells down in 14 are  
2 Bird Creek wells; is that right?

3 A. To the best of my knowledge.

4 Q. Is it your opinion that the "C" 1 is draining  
5 any of the reserves which are dedicated to the Bird  
6 Creek Number 2?

7 A. The Bird Creek Number 2?

8 Q. Number 2.

9 A. No, ma'am.

10 Q. And you think there's a little bit that  
11 you're draining from the Number 1?

12 A. There might possibly be, yes.

13 Q. And you might not, right, according to --

14 A. We might not. We don't know what type of a  
15 flow situation we have here.

16 Q. Why don't you know that, Mr. Wilkinson?

17 A. We do not have the data available to us.

18 Q. Have you logged the "C" 1?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. Do you have those logs with you today?

21 A. No, ma'am, I did not bring one.

22 Q. Why not?

23 A. I didn't feel as if it was necessary.

24 Q. That was your decision?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

1 Q. Have you ever shared the logs on this well  
2 with anyone?

3 A. No, ma'am.

4 Q. Have you filed them with the Commission?

5 A. I do not know that.

6 Q. You've made some net pay assumptions in your  
7 calculation which I believe is Exhibit Number 7 today?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. Where did you get the numbers you used for  
10 your net pay?

11 A. Log evaluation.

12 Q. Of logs that you're not going to show us?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Is there any other witness in this room who  
15 can testify as to the data on those logs?

16 A. Possibly.

17 Q. Who's that?

18 A. Mr. Logan.

19 Q. Now, you've also got some porosity and  
20 permeability numbers on your Exhibit Number 7; is that  
21 right?

22 A. I have no permeability numbers anywhere.

23 Q. Porosity numbers, is that correct?

24 A. That's correct, yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Where did you get that?

1 A. Off the log.

2 Q. And you did not bring that log with you  
3 today?

4 A. No, ma'am, as I said before.

5 Q. You do not intend to show that log to the  
6 Commission?

7 A. No, ma'am.

8 Q. Now, what is number B on your Exhibit 7?  
9 Assume B equals 1.1. What do we call that?

10 A. That's your formation volume factor. That's  
11 the amount of oil in the reservoir that it takes to  
12 make one barrel of oil on the surface.

13 Q. And what kind of a fluid analysis have you  
14 done?

15 A. This is just a general number that I feel as  
16 if is correct for a Delaware well, based on my  
17 experience.

18 Q. So you did not draw this from the actual  
19 performance of the "C" 1?

20 A. No, ma'am. If you'll see there, it says  
21 assume  $B_o$  equals 1.1. Nowhere in there is it stated  
22 that that is an actual number.

23 Q. What is an actual -- Are there any actual  
24 numbers on Exhibit 7?

25 A. Certainly.

1 Q. Which ones?

2 A. The height, the porosity and the water  
3 saturation.

4 Q. Where did you get the water saturation?

5 A. Log calculations.

6 Q. From the logs you're not showing us?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. So we're assuming 20 acres, and we're  
9 assuming 1.1; is that right?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Could you have done an analysis, a fluid  
12 analysis, which would have given you a real number?

13 A. Yes, we could.

14 Q. And why didn't you do that, Mr. Wilkinson?

15 A. We don't feel as if there is any reason to do  
16 so.

17 Q. Don't you think it's important to show this  
18 Commission how many acres of drainage your well will  
19 actually drain?

20 A. In my experience in the Delaware Formation,  
21 the formation volume factor is in this exact range.

22 Q. And is that in a regular, average Delaware  
23 that well that BTA wouldn't drill, or is that in a  
24 Delaware well like the East Loving-Delaware Pool that  
25 we're dealing with today?

1           A.    Those numbers were obtained from published  
2 literature.

3           Q.    Did you not understand my question, Mr.  
4 Wilkinson?

5           A.    I do not know the exact producing capacity or  
6 the recovery factors of the fields that were in this  
7 published literature.

8           Q.    Well, I want to be sure I understand this  
9 correctly. Your 1.1 number here is from published  
10 literature?

11          A.    Yes, ma'am.

12          Q.    You do not know whether it's from published  
13 literature talking about what you and Mr. Logan have  
14 described as average Delaware wells, or whether it is  
15 from what we have all agreed here are better-than-  
16 average different Delaware wells; is that your  
17 testimony?

18          A.    Yes. If --

19          Q.    Thank you.

20          A.    -- you used a formation volume factor of 1.2,  
21 for instance, you're only talking about less than a  
22 ten-percent change of your oil in place.

23          Q.    Mr. Wilkinson, this is not the usual  
24 situation, is it, where we have a well that hasn't been  
25 drilled?

1           A.    It is not.

2           Q.    We know -- could know a lot about this well,  
3 couldn't we?

4           A.    In reference to what?

5           Q.    In reference to the area that it would drain?

6           A.    No, ma'am.  It's of too limited production at  
7 this point in time to make any estimations of what the  
8 actual recovery will be.

9           Q.    In reference to the number of feet of net  
10 pay?

11          A.    No, that is an actual number.

12          Q.    Again from the logs that you did not bring?

13          A.    That is correct.

14          Q.    Is this an economic well for BTA at the --  
15 with the situation we have now with the penalty, where  
16 you --

17          A.    Under the current Order, it is an economic  
18 situation.

19          Q.    Would you tell me what that economic range  
20 is, then, from being penalized the way you are, if  
21 you're penalized only producing 75 barrels a day for  
22 six months, and how you analyzed it at the front end  
23 before you drilled it?  What's that range?

24          A.    It extended the payout, as I previously  
25 testified to.

1 Q. So it's -- it almost -- if I recall your  
2 testimony correctly, more than doubled the payout?

3 A. That's correct, slightly more than doubled.

4 Q. And is it still your testimony that it wasn't  
5 economical to directionally drill this well for  
6 \$70,000?

7 A. It was not economically viable to drill a  
8 directional well at this location. There are other  
9 factors to consider, other than the initial cost of  
10 drilling a well.

11 Q. But it is economical for BTA to double the  
12 payout?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Now, let me have you look again at what we've  
15 marked as Bird Creek Exhibit Number 1, which is a  
16 drainage area map prepared by Golden Engineering, which  
17 you have in front of you.

18 If we used your calculations on your Exhibit  
19 7, and these wells were capable of draining only 22  
20 acres, how would you draw these circles?

21 A. They would be somewhat less than the circles  
22 that are on the map.

23 Q. And so where, for instance, between the "C" 1  
24 and the "B" 1 the 40-acre circles don't overlap, would  
25 the 20-acre circles overlap?

1 A. No, ma'am.

2 Q. Would there be even more space between them?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. Would that, then, mean that there was oil  
5 underlying the proration unit we're talking about in  
6 Section 11 that would be left in the ground?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. And do you believe that that protects  
9 correlative rights, prevents waste and promotes  
10 conservation of hydrocarbons?

11 A. No, ma'am, I do not.

12 Q. Now, you based your decline-curve analysis on  
13 the -- a well down in Section 23; is that right?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. Do you have that decline curve for us?

16 A. I do not have it on my person, no, ma'am.

17 Q. Why not?

18 A. We have it here if you would like to look at  
19 it.

20 Q. I would.

21 A. Okay, I have the curve.

22 Q. May I have it?

23 A. Well, certainly.

24 Q. It's going to be difficult for me to ask any  
25 questions about it if I don't.

1           A.    It's going to be kind of hard for both of us  
2 to answer questions about it if we don't have it to  
3 look at.

4           MS. AUBREY:   With the Commission's  
5 permission, I'll stand up here next to the witness so I  
6 can look at the copy.

7           CHAIRMAN LEMAY:   Permission granted.

8           Q.    (By Ms. Aubrey)   Now, maybe I'd better mark  
9 this as Bird Creek Exhibit Number 2, just so we'll all  
10 know what we're talking about and the record is  
11 straight.

12                  Did you prepare this, sir?

13           A.    Mr. Logan did.

14           Q.    Is Mr. Logan going to testify today?

15           A.    No, Mr. Logan works for me, and I have  
16 reviewed his work.

17           Q.    And what factors went into your preparation  
18 of this decline curve?

19           A.    These are actual numbers of the production up  
20 until September, 1989.  At that point in time the well  
21 had made approximately 48,000 barrels of oil.

22                  We took the decline curve and extrapolated it  
23 at a 20-percent decline rate, which came up with the  
24 remaining reserves of 99,000 barrels of oil.  You add  
25 those to the 48,000 it's previously produced, and you

1 came up with the ultimate recovery of 147,000 barrels  
2 of oil.

3 Q. And you're -- You told us earlier that your  
4 hypothesis was that you'd have about 150?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Now, this is on the -- This isn't a decline-  
7 curve analysis for the well that we're talking about?

8 A. No, ma'am. We do not have enough data to  
9 identify anything on that.

10 Q. So this is on the South Culebra Bluff Well  
11 which is down in 23; is that right?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. What do you know about that well?

14 A. I know that that -- production curve, and  
15 that's all.

16 Q. Do know how it was completed?

17 A. No, ma'am, I do not.

18 MS. AUBREY: May I take this for a moment,  
19 Mr. LeMay, and show it to my engineering witness?

20 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Yes.

21 MS. AUBREY: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Do you have copies of that?

23 THE WITNESS: No, sir, we just had the one  
24 copy.

25 MR. CARR: I'll be happy to make copies. If

1 the Commission would like to take a break, I'll be glad  
2 to do that.

3 MS. AUBREY: Perhaps we could do that so I  
4 can show it to my witness and the next witness can look  
5 at it too.

6 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Let's take a ten-minute  
7 break and come back. Hopefully, you'll have copies for  
8 all of us. There's no copy of that in the previous  
9 record, is there, of that decline curve?

10 MS. AUBREY: No, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: We'd like to have copies.

12 (Thereupon, a recess was taken at 10:31 a.m.)

13 (The following proceedings had at 10:46 a.m.)

14 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: We shall resume.

15 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Mr. Wilkinson --

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. -- I want to refer you to what I've marked as  
18 Bird Creek Exhibit Number 2 --

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. -- which is your production-decline curve.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. And this is for the South Culebra Bluff  
23 Number 23; is that right?

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Where is this well completed?

1 A. In the Loving-Delaware East Field.

2 Q. Which of the four sands?

3 A. I'm not aware of which sand it's completed  
4 in. I'm not aware of more than one sand that is  
5 productive.

6 Q. Which one is that?

7 A. It's the basal sand right above the top of  
8 the Bone Springs, which we refer to as the Loving pay.

9 Q. I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.

10 A. We refer to it as the Loving pay. That's  
11 BTA's nomenclature.

12 Q. Have you reviewed the exhibits from the prior  
13 hearing?

14 A. Yes, ma'am, I believe so.

15 Q. Did you see exhibits in the prior hearing  
16 that talked about an A, B and a C and a D sand?

17 A. They were in there, yes.

18 Q. Do you agree that there are -- Do you agree  
19 with that nomenclature?

20 A. Well, everyone has their own nomenclature,  
21 yes.

22 Q. So if we assume that there are, in fact, four  
23 sands, A, B, C and D, and that the D is the lowest, are  
24 you then -- Is it your testimony that the South Culebra  
25 Bluff Number 23 is completed in the D?

1           A.    I have no knowledge of which sand the well is  
2 completed in.

3           Q.    Do you know how many sands it's completed in?

4           A.    No, ma'am, I do not.

5           Q.    Do you know whether it's completed in one or  
6 more?

7           A.    No, ma'am, I do not.

8           Q.    Okay.  Where is your "C" Number 1 completed?

9           A.    What we call the Loving pay.

10          Q.    And would that be the A, B, C or D?

11          A.    Under the nomenclature you previously stated,  
12 it would be the D.

13          Q.    It's not completed in the C?

14          A.    No, ma'am.

15          Q.    Or the A or B?

16          A.    No, ma'am.

17          Q.    Do you believe those are productive in that  
18 well?

19          A.    We do not have any basis to say they are  
20 productive or not productive.

21          Q.    What do your logs show, Mr. Wilkinson?

22          A.    Log calculations would indicate that they  
23 would be productive.

24          Q.    Do you intend to recomplete the wells in  
25 those sands?

1           A.   Possibly we'll test them, eventually, when  
2 this zone depletes.

3           Q.   Do you have any --

4           A.   I only make recommendations; I do not make  
5 decisions.

6           Q.   You make engineering assumptions and give  
7 engineering opinions, though; is that correct?

8           A.   That is correct.

9           Q.   Is it your engineering opinion that the C and  
10 the D are sufficiently separated that you are not  
11 producing from the C in your well?

12          A.   That is correct.

13          Q.   So your -- I just want to be sure I  
14 understand this. Your projection of recoverable  
15 reserves of 150,000 barrels is only from the D sand; is  
16 that right?

17          A.   Yes, ma'am.

18          Q.   Have you made any estimates of what this well  
19 would produce from the A, B and C?

20          A.   No, ma'am. We do not know that those zones  
21 are productive.

22          Q.   What do your logs show?

23          A.   Log calculations indicate they would be  
24 productive.

25          Q.   What kind of porosity does your log show in

1 the -- Let's start with the C.

2 A. I don't have a log in front of me, so I  
3 cannot testify to that number, to be exact.

4 Q. And so your 53 feet of net pay is only for  
5 the D sand; is that right?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. How many feet of net pay do you have,  
8 according to your logs, in the C sand?

9 A. I do not have that number in front of me.

10 Q. Do you know whether or not you gained or lost  
11 net pay in the D sand by moving your location where you  
12 did?

13 A. Based on our maps, we believe that we lost  
14 pay by moving to where we did.

15 Q. And are those are maps based on your logs?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. And you don't have the logs?

18 A. No, ma'am, we do not.

19 Q. What do you think about the C sand, Mr.  
20 Wilkinson? Did you gain or lose net pay?

21 A. I don't have those numbers.

22 Q. Is it your testimony today that BTA has not  
23 looked at the C sand as a productive zone in this  
24 wellbore?

25 A. We have done log calculations solely on it.

1 Q. Do you have a fluid analysis on your "B" 1 or  
2 your "B" 2 well?

3 A. No, ma'am.

4 Q. Have you done a fluid analysis on your "B" 1  
5 or your "B" 2 well?

6 A. No, ma'am.

7 Q. What about the "C" 2?

8 A. No, ma'am.

9 Q. You haven't performed a fluid analysis on any  
10 of these wells which you believe to be in this better-  
11 than-average Delaware pool?

12 A. No, we have not.

13 Q. Have you done -- performed any tests from  
14 which we could do a calculation, such as you have done  
15 for us on Exhibit Number 7, using actual numbers.

16 A. No, ma'am. As far as the formation volume  
17 factor, no, we have not.

18 Q. What would be -- In your view, what would be  
19 the number of acres that this well could drain, your  
20 "C" Number 1 could drain, if in fact the formation  
21 volume factor were 1.5?

22 A. I've never experienced a 1.5 formation volume  
23 factor in the Delaware.

24 Q. In which Delaware?

25 A. In any Delaware sand that I have been

1 personally involved with.

2 Q. And have you been personally involved with  
3 this particular Delaware sand before?

4 A. No, ma'am.

5 Q. So you have no knowledge and can't help us  
6 out on that at all?

7 A. All I have is what's based on literature.

8 Q. And you don't know whether that literature  
9 refers to the average Delaware pool or to this  
10 particular --

11 A. It does not --

12 Q. -- Delaware pool?

13 A. -- refer to this particular field, no, it  
14 does not.

15 Q. It does not. You know that it does not; is  
16 that correct?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. How is Exhibit 7 helpful to us, then, Mr.  
19 Wilkinson?

20 A. Exhibit 7 is just a volumetric calculation  
21 of --

22 Q. Based --

23 A. -- the one place that we -- to the best of  
24 our ability, under our tract.

25 Q. But you know that this isn't an average

1 Delaware sand, don't you?

2 A. It's above average, yes.

3 Q. And you know, and I believe you've told us  
4 today, that you were using a calculation which you know  
5 is based on the average Delaware sand; is that correct?

6 A. I only assumed a formation volume factor.  
7 That is the only thing that I have assumed in this  
8 calculation. The other data is accurate data from log  
9 analysis.

10 Q. Now, the formation volume factor affects how  
11 many net acres you come out with, doesn't it?

12 A. It would.

13 Q. Okay. Now, if that number gets bigger, what  
14 happens to the number of acres?

15 A. They get bigger.

16 Q. Huh. Mr. Wilkinson, what do you -- As an  
17 engineer, do you believe that a recovery factor, say in  
18 the neighborhood of 29 to 30 percent, would be fair for  
19 this particular Delaware sand in which your well is  
20 completed?

21 A. I do not.

22 Q. Do you believe that's too high?

23 A. Yes, ma'am, I do.

24 Q. And where did you get the 20-percent recovery  
25 factor that -- You've done that on the little

1 calculations --

2 A. Based on an experience basis, based totally  
3 on my experience as an engineer.

4 Q. In what --

5 A. In Delaware fields throughout southeastern  
6 New Mexico and Texas.

7 Q. Delaware fields such as this one?

8 A. Such as this one.

9 Q. Above-average Delaware fields?

10 A. I have looked at quite a few above-average  
11 Delaware fields, yes, ma'am, and the ones that are  
12 above average, the recovery factors we feel as if are  
13 in the 20- to 22-percent range. The poorer ones are in  
14 the 9- to 10-percent range. And based on what we felt  
15 like -- This field was a good field -- we felt as if  
16 the recovery factors would be higher.

17 Q. And you think 30 percent would be too high;  
18 is that right?

19 A. Absolutely, I believe it would be too high.

20 Q. Now, on your decline-curve analysis, which is  
21 -- we've referred to as Bird Creek Number 2 -- which  
22 was prepared by your Mr. Logan, you show a 20-percent  
23 decline curve; is that right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. But you don't know from which of the four --

1 in which of the four sands this well is completed?

2 A. No, ma'am.

3 Q. Or how many of the four?

4 A. All I know is this well is completed --

5 MR. CARR: Objection --

6 THE WITNESS: -- in the Loving pay.

7 MR. CARR: -- I think these questions have  
8 been asked and answered over and over again, how many  
9 sands this well has been completed in, and our witness  
10 has testified he doesn't know, he doesn't know if  
11 there's more than one, and I object. The testimony is  
12 repetitive.

13 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: It occurs to me we're  
14 getting repetitive in this. I've heard these questions  
15 asked before and answered, and I --

16 MS. AUBREY: I'll be happy --

17 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I don't know what you're  
18 trying to do.

19 MS. AUBREY: I'll be happy to move on, Mr.  
20 Lemay.

21 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) And based on this, you  
22 calculate 147,000 barrels of oil as recoverable  
23 reserves attributable to the South Culebra Bluff Number  
24 1 -- I mean Number 23.

25 A. 23, Number 1, yes.

1 Q. Okay. I know you told us -- And I'm not  
2 trying to be repetitive here -- I know you've told us  
3 that you don't have your logs, but do you know of your  
4 own knowledge what the perforated interval in the "C"  
5 Number 1 is?

6 A. No, ma'am. These 53 feet are based on net  
7 pay. It's not the gross perforated interval.

8 Q. And my question is, do you know what that is?

9 A. No, ma'am, I do not have that with me.

10 Q. Is it here in the room?

11 A. Yes, ma'am. The gross perforated interval is  
12 6041 to 6114.

13 Q. That's 6041 to 6114; is that right?

14 A. That's correct; 73 feet, to the best of my  
15 knowledge.

16 Q. Seventy-three feet?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. I thought you said it was 53 feet.

19 A. Fifty-three feet is a net pay; 73 feet is a  
20 gross pay. Not all the zone within the Loving pay is  
21 felt to be productive.

22 Q. Now, on what basis do you throw --

23 A. Log analysis.

24 Q. Let me finish my question, Mr. Wilkinson, and  
25 then I won't have to repeat it and I won't get yelled

1 at.

2 On what do you base -- What criteria do you  
3 use to throw that 20 feet out?

4 A. Porosity less than 10 percent.

5 Q. Have you done any -- Do you have an opinion  
6 as to the permeability of this Delaware sand?

7 A. My only opinion is a non-exact nature. I  
8 believe it's a tight Delaware sand, because the wells  
9 are nonproductive until they're fracture-stimulated.

10 Q. Okay. Can you -- For purposes of your  
11 testimony today, can you put that into millidarcies for  
12 me?

13 A. No, ma'am, I cannot.

14 Q. Can you give me a range?

15 A. No, ma'am, I cannot.

16 Q. Do you know what range of permeability Mr.  
17 Logan assumed in his testimony?

18 A. No, ma'am, I'm not aware of that.

19 Q. Would you agree with me that a tight sand  
20 would be in the area of 5 to 10 millidarcies?

21 A. No, I certainly would not.

22 Q. Okay, what -- can you -- What would you call  
23 tight?

24 A. I would think less tight would be .1  
25 millidarcies to 3 to 4 to 5 millidarcies.

1 Q. .1 to 5 would be your range?

2 A. To 5, yes.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I have no exact numbers on this reservoir.

5 Q. Is that something you can tell from your  
6 logs?

7 A. No, ma'am, it is not.

8 MS. AUBREY: Okay. May I have a moment, Mr.  
9 Lemay?

10 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Yes.

11 (Off the record)

12 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Let me ask you a couple more  
13 questions. Are any of the BTA wells on top?

14 A. No, ma'am, they're not. They're all flow-ins  
15 that you see on Exhibit Number 6. It shows a flowing  
16 tubing pressure and a choke size. Those are not  
17 indicative of artificial lift.

18 Q. Mr. Wilkinson, do you know who the working-  
19 interest owners in your proration unit are?

20 A. BTA Oil Producers.

21 Q. Do you know what the railroad's interest in  
22 this unit is?

23 A. No, ma'am, I do not.

24 Q. There's a railroad right-of-way in your  
25 proration unit, isn't there?

1 A. I believe -- Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. Did you select the location at which this  
3 well was drilled?

4 A. No, ma'am, I did not.

5 Q. Who did that?

6 A. Our drilling superintendent.

7 Q. And what's his name?

8 A. Bud Johnson. I did personally inspect the  
9 site.

10 Q. So you've been on the ground?

11 A. Yes, ma'am, I have.

12 Q. Were you involved in the drilling completion  
13 of your "B" Number 1 Well?

14 A. In making a recommendation to management to  
15 drill the well, yes, I was.

16 Q. And that -- You show that on our Exhibit  
17 Number 1; is that correct?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. And that's correctly located; is that your  
20 testimony?

21 A. I cannot testify to the accuracy of your  
22 exhibits. That would be ludicrous.

23 Q. No, I don't want you to do that, Mr.  
24 Wilkinson. You looked at the little exhibit up there  
25 that you haven't introduced, and I believe you

1 testified earlier that from looking at your own map and  
2 looking at this map the well is correctly located. If  
3 you can't --

4 A. To the best of my ability.

5 Q. I won't say one more question, because  
6 lawyers always say that and then go on for an hour, but  
7 where is the bottom-hole -- the exact bottom-hole  
8 location of the "C" Number 1 as completed?

9 A. We do not have this information. We did not  
10 run a directional survey.

11 Q. You don't know where your well -- your  
12 bottom-hole location is?

13 A. No, ma'am. Based on the deviation surveys  
14 that were run in the well, they are within the limits  
15 of our proration unit.

16 Q. So you know you're in your proration unit,  
17 huh?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Do you know whether --

20 A. You can take the angles of deviation and add  
21 them up, and you'll get to where the well is still on  
22 our proration unit. Exact location of which way the  
23 well went, we do not have this information. We did not  
24 run a deviational survey.

25 Q. So you don't know whether it drifted to the

1 north or to the south?

2 A. No, ma'am, we do not.

3 MS. AUBREY: That's all I have, Mr.

4 Wilkinson. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Additional questions of the  
6 witness?

7 MR. CARR: I have no further questions.

8 COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, I have one.

9 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Commissioner Weiss?

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY COMMISSIONER WEISS:

12 Q. Is this reservoir contiguous, or is it a  
13 bunch of 20-acre reservoirs?

14 A. No, sir, it's one contiguous reservoir, in  
15 our opinion.

16 COMMISSIONER WEISS: That's the only question  
17 I have.

18 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you. I have no  
19 questions.

20 Mr. Carr, redirect?

21 MR. CARR: We have no redirect and nothing  
22 further as part of our direct testimony.

23 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you. The witness may  
24 be excused.

25 Miss Aubrey, would you like to present your

1 case?

2 MS. AUBREY: Yes, I would, Mr. LeMay, and at  
3 this time I'd like to renew my request to be allowed to  
4 put on topographic testimony to show the actual number  
5 of locations that were available to BTA.

6 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Request denied.

7 MS. AUBREY: And also to present testimony on  
8 questions of net pay which this witness has raised.

9 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: As they pertain to  
10 correlative rights, we accept testimony, as to penalty  
11 assessment and correlative rights.

12 MS. AUBREY: But you -- So the record's  
13 clear, you will not allow me to put on any testimony  
14 with regard to whether or not there were standard  
15 locations available to BTA at the time that they made  
16 their initial request for an unorthodox location?

17 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I think that was clear, that  
18 we ruled that the well was drilled under a valid Order  
19 and that you had the opportunity to stay the Order,  
20 suspend action, which you chose not to do. Therefore  
21 the well is a fait accompli, and we will rule on the  
22 correlative rights issues, which is our responsibility,  
23 yes.

24 MS. AUBREY: So that I don't do anything  
25 wrong here, since there has been some talk about

1 directional drilling in both -- in cross-examination --  
2 will you permit me to put on a witness as to how much  
3 it would cost to have directionally drilled this well?

4 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: If you can show a  
5 correlation between that and the penalty factor in  
6 correlative rights without trying to establish a line  
7 of argument that would penalize BTA for drilling that  
8 location, yes, the Commission is charged with coming up  
9 with an order at a de novo.

10 By incorporating the previous record, we  
11 certainly have access to any information on directional  
12 drilling. However, I think it's important to establish  
13 how that would affect any revised penalty calculation  
14 based on drainage/correlative-rights considerations,  
15 not necessarily whether BTA had the option to drill  
16 another location or not. That's not an issue in the  
17 hearing.

18 The well's already been drilled. I think  
19 that was established.

20 MS. AUBREY: I understand that, Mr. LeMay,  
21 and that is established. I'm not trying to belabor  
22 this. I just want to be very clear that you are -- you  
23 as the Commission are accepting some of the testimony  
24 below without allowing me to cross-examine or even put  
25 on direct testimony on those issues, and I'm only

1 allowed to cross-examine on those witnesses that they  
2 choose to present today.

3 I guess I just don't understand how it is  
4 that the Commission can adopt the Examiner record in a  
5 de novo hearing, and then restrict my ability to put on  
6 direct proof.

7 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Proof of what? We accept  
8 direct proof as it pertains to what we will have to  
9 issue an order on. Proof of whether they had other  
10 locations to drill is not relevant -- wouldn't help us  
11 at all to ascertain what the proper penalty should be.  
12 That's the reason.

13 MS. AUBREY: Well, let me just give you this  
14 hypothetical. I'm not saying that we would -- we are  
15 making this statement or that we can prove it.

16 But, for instance, if we were able to show  
17 that misstatements of fact were made to the Examiner  
18 about whether or not other locations were available and  
19 you accepted that, you would certainly have the ability  
20 to shut the well in, to refuse to assign an allowable  
21 to the well. That's an option you have today.

22 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I think what you're saying  
23 is that -- whether they lied under oath. If that was  
24 the case, that's a separate issue entirely.

25 But assuming that they were telling the truth

1 and that the record is truthful in all regards, the  
2 Examiner issued a valid ruling which -- an Order which  
3 they drilled under.

4 And now we have a matter of fact here of a  
5 well correctly -- I mean, correctly in the sense of  
6 being drilled under a proper jurisdiction of the  
7 Division -- and now we have a correlative-rights issue  
8 as to what the proper penalty should be.

9 Any other testimony would be irrelevant as to  
10 whether they had other locations to drill, because the  
11 well's drilled already.

12 MS. AUBREY: Well, Mr. LeMay, how is Bird  
13 Creek to show that they lied under oath -- if that's  
14 what they did, if that's what we believe they did --  
15 how are we to show that without being allowed to put on  
16 the testimony?

17 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Mr. Carr?

18 MR. CARR: Do that from cross-examination,  
19 just like I intend to do if they lie today to you. At  
20 the time of the hearing.

21 MS. AUBREY: Well --

22 MR. CARR: And then you get an order and you  
23 go forward with it. And if you want to stay it, you  
24 try and stay it.

25 But we're here before you. The question

1 isn't whether directional drilling, \$70,000 versus  
2 \$30,000, is relevant to whether they decided to drill.  
3 Well, they did drill the well. That was a factor.  
4 It's done.

5 The question is, is there drainage that you  
6 need to act to offset the penalty?

7 MR. STOVALL: Mr. Chairman, if I might offer  
8 to redirect the focus of why you made your decision  
9 initially, the issue raised at the initial hearing and  
10 here is with respect to Bird Creek's correlative  
11 rights.

12 I assume the objection is based upon their  
13 belief that their correlative rights may be violated as  
14 a result of this well being located where it is and  
15 producing at a given rate.

16 I think -- Your underlying determination with  
17 respect to location has to do with the fact that  
18 because the well was validly drilled under a Division  
19 Order, waste could occur as the result of not allowing  
20 BTA to produce the well, and correlative rights can be  
21 effectively protected by imposing a proper production  
22 restriction on that well in order to protect Bird  
23 Creek's resources based upon its location.

24 And I think that's -- If I understand the  
25 Chairman correctly, that is the focus of what the

1 Commission is looking at today.

2 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Well, the Commission has  
3 granted unorthodox locations, many, many unorthodox  
4 locations, for a variety of reasons. It could be  
5 geological. They might choose to just drill this  
6 location without having to drill it -- or without  
7 having to deviate it.

8 Once they drill it -- or before they drill  
9 it, actually -- a penalty is usually assessed with --  
10 once they crowd a neighbor. That penalty can be  
11 argued, which we're doing here today.

12 The fact that they had other locations isn't  
13 truly a consideration, especially of this hearing.  
14 There's no reason -- I mean, we've granted in the past,  
15 as you're well familiar, unorthodox locations based on  
16 geology alone.

17 But we do render opinions, and we do render  
18 findings and an Order, based on the correlative rights  
19 of the various parties, and that's what we're here to  
20 hear, not to necessarily rehash whether they had other  
21 options available which they chose not to exercise.

22 MS. AUBREY: Well, Mr. LeMay, my point is  
23 that Mr. Carr suggests that I get to this through  
24 cross. He is not calling any witnesses that I can  
25 cross-examine who testified before. So I can't cross

1 anyone.

2 Mr. Wilkinson did not testify previously. He  
3 did not testify at the Examiner Hearing. So -- And Mr.  
4 Carr has elected not to call those witnesses --

5 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Mr. Carr?

6 MS. AUBREY: -- so I can't get to it through  
7 cross.

8 MR. CARR: I have three witnesses, Mr. LeMay,  
9 that have presented testimony in these two proceedings.  
10 Mr. Logan and Mr. Hair testified at the Examiner level,  
11 and an attorney from the Kellahin firm cross-examined  
12 them.

13 Today, because they were going to talk about  
14 geology and the surface location, I didn't call them.  
15 I called Mr. Wilkinson. He has been cross-examined.  
16 Every word of testimony BTA has presented has been  
17 subject to cross-examination.

18 Without a valid order, we've acted on it, and  
19 it seems to me that there is a time to go on and go  
20 forward. And the question now is, does this location  
21 impair their correlative rights? It's a correlative-  
22 rights/drainage question. Every bit of testimony has  
23 been subject to cross.

24 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Miss Aubrey, BTA is not  
25 required to put on witnesses that you can cross-

1 examine. Those that they do put on are subject to  
2 cross-examination.

3 You're perfectly free to make the case, and I  
4 hope you do, that a different penalty should be  
5 applicable in this case. But that's your  
6 responsibility.

7 MS. AUBREY: Well, I understand that, Mr.  
8 LeMay. My understanding is that they have a burden of  
9 proof here, that it's the same burden of proof they had  
10 below, that this is a de novo hearing, not an appeal.  
11 And I will proceed as you direct me to proceed.

12 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Yes, and the record has been  
13 incorporated, the record of the previous hearing has  
14 been incorporated, and the Commissioners will take that  
15 into account in rendering their decision on this case.

16 So you may proceed.

17 MS. AUBREY: Thank you.

18 MR. STOVALL: Mr. Chairman, may I ask Miss  
19 Aubrey a question relating to a statement that she made  
20 a moment ago?

21 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Yes, Mr. Stovall.

22 MR. STOVALL: Miss Aubrey, you intimated, you  
23 stated that you believed the BTA witnesses made  
24 incorrect statements when called. Are you stating that  
25 you believe they perjured themselves?

1 MS. AUBREY: Well, Mr. Stovall, I don't think  
2 it's up to me to characterize that. I think it's  
3 simply an -- I have the obligation on behalf of my  
4 client to present testimony, and I'm prepared to do  
5 that today, and support my statements that there are at  
6 least two locations that could have been drilled, that  
7 one of those locations is entirely out of the  
8 floodplain, that the location which they chose for the  
9 "B" Number 1 Well is in the floodplain, that the  
10 reasons that they gave to the Examiner for choosing  
11 their location are not supported by the topography.

12 They have said it's not geology; it's  
13 topography. I mean, we all know that you can't just  
14 get an unorthodox location --

15 MR. STOVALL: I'm asking you --

16 MS. AUBREY: -- we know --

17 MR. STOVALL: Miss Aubrey, I asked you if  
18 you're stating that they perjured themselves --

19 MS. AUBREY: I am not --

20 MR. STOVALL: -- that was my question.

21 MS. AUBREY: I'm not stating that they  
22 perjured themselves. I'm stating, and I have stated,  
23 and I will state again, that I believe they misstated  
24 the facts to the Examiner. I am not stating that they  
25 did that intentionally.

1 MR. STOVALL: I just wanted to get that  
2 clear. I have nothing further on that.

3 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Okay. You may continue,  
4 Miss Aubrey.

5 MS. AUBREY: Thank you. Call Larry  
6 Robinette.

7 LAWRENCE W. ROBINETTE,  
8 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn  
9 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY MS. AUBREY:

12 Q. Would you state your name for the record,  
13 please?

14 A. Lawrence W. Robinette.

15 Q. And what's your occupation, Mr. Robinette?

16 A. I'm -- work as a land-management consultant,  
17 basically as a land manager for Bird Creek Resources.

18 Q. And have you testified previously between the  
19 -- before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division and  
20 had your qualifications as a land made made a matter --  
21 landman made a matter of record?

22 A. Yes, I have.

23 MS. AUBREY: Mr. LeMay, I tender Mr.  
24 Robinette as an expert in petroleum land title.

25 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: His qualifications are

1 acceptable.

2 MS. AUBREY: Thank you.

3 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) So that we can move this  
4 along, Mr. Robinette, would you just briefly describe  
5 Bird Creek's involvement in Section 14, in the well  
6 south of the well we're talking about here today?

7 A. Yes, basically we acquired the interest, we  
8 purchased the interest of Texaco in a gas well called  
9 the Carrasco Comm and subsequently acquired a farmout  
10 from Amoco Production, which gave us approximately 67-  
11 plus percent of the interest in the west half of  
12 Section 14 insofar as it covers from the surface to the  
13 base of the Delaware.

14 Of course, in the case of the Texaco interest  
15 we own, you know, down to the total depth of the --  
16 covered by the leases.

17 Q. And how many wells does Bird Creek have  
18 completed and producing in this area?

19 A. We have six completed and producing in the  
20 west half of Section 14. We have one well completed,  
21 but it's not on line, Section 15. And we have a well  
22 drilling, another well drilling, in the east half of  
23 Section 15.

24 Q. And are all these wells completed or to be  
25 completed in the East Loving-Delaware?

1           A.    Yes.

2           Q.    Were -- At the time that Bird Creek acquired  
3 its interest, were there other wells -- were there  
4 wells producing from the East Loving-Delaware in this  
5 area?

6           A.    Yes, the -- particularly the South Culebra  
7 Bluff 23-1, down in Section 23, in the south half of  
8 23.

9           Q.    And that's the well we saw the production  
10 decline curve on earlier?

11          A.    That's correct.

12          Q.    Are you involved in any way in the decision  
13 to drill these wells?

14          A.    You mean as far as towards the location and  
15 whatever?

16          Q.    Uh-huh.

17          A.    No, that's decided by the engineers.

18          Q.    Are you involved in the economic analysis of  
19 whether or not the wells are economic to drill for Bird  
20 Creek?

21          A.    Yes, to some extent. I run some of the  
22 calculations regarding economics, but these based on  
23 the calculation, the numbers given me by the engineers  
24 regarding reserves and so forth.

25          Q.    Have you made a study or an inquiry into the

1 interests in Section 11?

2 A. Yes, we're aware that BTA's interests was  
3 basically acquired in a farmout agreement with RB  
4 Operating and others that -- in which they drilled an  
5 Atoka well located approximately -- I don't know the  
6 exact location, but approximately the center of the  
7 west half of Section 11.

8 Q. And do you know whether or not the railroad  
9 has any interest in Section 11?

10 A. Yes, it does. It has a railroad right-of-way  
11 in there. I'm not sure -- Those minerals, perhaps, at  
12 least the royalty, may perhaps be owned by Santa Fe  
13 Energy. I'm not sure. Some of the railroad minerals  
14 out here are held by Santa Fe Energy. There's some  
15 sort of royalty agreement.

16 Q. Do you know whether or not those have been  
17 farmed out to BTA?

18 A. Yes, I think they were. The -- I think that  
19 the railroad had leased and that those leases were  
20 acquired by RB, et al. It may been Delta at the time  
21 that they were actually acquired, but it ended up in  
22 the hands of RB and their partners, RB Operating and  
23 their partners.

24 So the railroad is a -- The railroad and/or  
25 Santa Fe Energy is a royalty owner, and the rest of

1 these minerals, to my knowledge, are all owned by  
2 Teledyne, Inc.

3 Q. The Teledyne, Inc., has an interest in the  
4 Bird Creek wells; is that correct?

5 A. Yes, they are the sole royalty owner in the  
6 Bird Creek wells.

7 Q. With regard to the Teledyne Number 1, which  
8 is a Bird Creek well in Section 14, do you know whether  
9 or not that well has been completed?

10 A. Yes, it has.

11 Q. And do you know when it went on production?

12 A. No, I don't have the exact date.

13 Q. Do you know whether or not the logs from that  
14 well have been filed with the Commission?

15 A. If you want the exact date of completion, I  
16 have the file with me. I just don't have it in front  
17 of me.

18 Q. Do you know whether or not the logs have been  
19 filed with the Commission?

20 A. Yes, they have.

21 Q. What about the Teledyne Number 2?

22 A. Yes, it's also been completed and hooked up.

23 Q. And do you know if those logs have been filed  
24 with the Commission?

25 A. Yes, they have.

1 Q. And did you bring them with you today?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. So they're here in this room; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But you're a landman, so you can't really  
6 tell us about the logs; is that right?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Okay. Mr. Robinette, I'm showing you what  
9 I've marked as Bird Creek Exhibit Number 3. Could you  
10 tell us where you obtained that?

11 A. Yes, your office obtained it and sent it to  
12 me.

13 Q. And what is it?

14 A. It's an aerial photograph that shows at least  
15 portions of Section 11 and 14. It certainly shows most  
16 of the -- It shows all of the southwest quarter of  
17 Section 11 and all of the northwest quarter of Section  
18 14.

19 Q. And that's the area we're talking about  
20 today?

21 A. That's correct. It also shows areas in  
22 addition to that, but it does show both of those areas  
23 totally.

24 Q. And can you look at your copy and describe  
25 for the Commissioners where the location of the

1 railroad is from the location of the Pecos River is?

2 A. Yes, the railroad is -- it runs in that -- in  
3 a -- coming in from the -- on the west side, heads in a  
4 northeasterly direction, makes a curve and then heads  
5 east southeast.

6 Q. And does the highway -- is there a highway  
7 that shows on there?

8 A. Yes, there is. The highway coming in, again,  
9 at the west side, comes basically mostly to the east,  
10 dips slightly to the south southeast, and then comes  
11 back up slightly to the east northeast.

12 Q. Are you able, Mr. Robinette, are you able to  
13 draw in the 40-acre proration unit that we're talking  
14 about for the benefit of the Commission? Would you be  
15 able to do that?

16 A. Yeah -- Well, I have done it on another  
17 photograph like this, plotted it out, yes.

18 Q. Okay. Can you take a pen and do it again for  
19 us while you're up there, Mr. Robinette? Is that  
20 possible?

21 A. Yeah, I don't know whether I -- how exact I  
22 can be, because I've oriented that -- I had another map  
23 in which to orient the exact angles of the roads and so  
24 forth.

25 Q. Let me see if I can find that copy for you.

1 This was not an exhibit at the Examiner Hearing, was  
2 it, Mr. Robinette?

3 A. Not to my knowledge. I wasn't present at the  
4 Examiner Hearing.

5 Q. Mr. Robinette, I have marked this photocopy  
6 as Exhibit 3A, and when we take a lunch break I'll get  
7 more copies of it, maybe, if that's acceptable to  
8 Counsel and the Commission.

9 Is this the map on which you located the 40-  
10 acre proration unit?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Would you be able to take my pen and draw it  
13 in on the -- off the photograph?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Now, do you know where this Exhibit Number 3  
16 was obtained from, Mr. Robinette?

17 A. No, I don't remember. You had told me, but I  
18 don't remember where it was obtained from.

19 Q. How about if I tell you again?

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. Diaz.

22 A. Okay, fine.

23 MS. AUBREY: Mr. LeMay, with your permission  
24 I will hand you this one copy that has the proration  
25 unit actually drawn on it, and I will get other copies

1 made during the break of the photograph with the 40-  
2 acre proration unit drawn on it.

3 I have no more questions of Mr. Robinette.

4 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Mr. Carr, cross-examination?

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. CARR:

7 Q. Mr. Robinette --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- did you -- can you testify as to the  
10 accuracy on Exhibit 3A of exactly where you placed the  
11 40-acre tract?

12 A. Yes, by the scale of the map, and I used the  
13 Allen scale, so as far as that is accurate, yes.

14 Q. And you can testify that you've placed the  
15 boundaries of that unit within five feet of where they  
16 actually would be?

17 A. I don't know whether they would be within  
18 five feet on a scale this small.

19 Q. On a scale this small?

20 A. Yeah, right.

21 MR. CARR: May it please the Commission, the  
22 only comment we would have is that I don't believe  
23 Counsel moved the admission of Exhibits 3 and 3A.

24 When that occurs, we have no objection to  
25 their admission if they're used to -- as orientation

1       plats or to identify the location of the surface of the  
2       well.

3               Beyond that, and also subject to the  
4       qualifications that there may be some inaccuracy due to  
5       scale.

6               As to any probative value as to drainage or  
7       correlative rights or the other issues before you, we  
8       would object to that, although we don't mind if this is  
9       used as a general orientation plat for subsequent  
10      testimony.

11              CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Miss Aubrey?

12              MS. AUBREY: Thank you. I had intended to  
13      offer that exhibit through Mr. West who has been on the  
14      ground and can testify that this accurately represents  
15      the proration unit in question and that he's familiar  
16      with the photograph and the USGS -- and has compared it  
17      to the USGS map in order to ascertain that it in fact  
18      represents the area we're talking about.

19              CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Do you plan to admit this  
20      into evidence, then?

21              MS. AUBREY: I will move it when I put Mr.  
22      West on, yes. Unless you'd rather I do it now. I'd be  
23      happy to do it now if you'd like.

24              CHAIRMAN LEMAY: It's your option.

25              MS. AUBREY: Okay, thank you.

1 MR. CARR: We have no further questions.

2 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: If not, the witness may be  
3 excused.

4 MS. AUBREY: Call John West.

5 JOHN W. WEST,

6 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn  
7 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. AUBREY:

10 Q. Would you state your name for the record,  
11 please?

12 A. I'm John W. West.

13 Q. Mr. West, what's your occupation?

14 A. Civil engineer and surveyor.

15 Q. How long have you been a civil engineer and  
16 surveyor?

17 A. Since 1946.

18 Q. Have you testified previously before the New  
19 Mexico Oil Conservation Division or Commission?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. When was that?

22 A. Many years before any of these gentlemen were  
23 here, but about 1955.

24 Q. Since none of us -- well, none of us who are  
25 now here were here then, would you review your

1 qualifications for the Commission?

2 A. I graduated from New Mexico University at  
3 Albuquerque in 1943 and had worked my way through and  
4 asked the board of registration to give me a  
5 registration as an engineer upon graduation. And they  
6 said, well, you're going into the service; we don't  
7 normally make 22-year-old people professional  
8 engineers.

9 I went in the service, came back three years  
10 later in 1946, I reapplied, and they granted me the  
11 license number 676.

12 I've been practicing ever since.

13 Q. And you're currently full-time, working as a  
14 full-time engineer and surveyor; is that right?

15 A. That's right.

16 MS. AUBREY: Mr. LeMay, I tender Mr. West as  
17 a professional engineer.

18 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Mr. West's qualifications  
19 are certainly well known to the Commission. He is  
20 eminently qualified to testify.

21 MS. AUBREY: Thank you, sir.

22 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Mr. West, we've had some  
23 rulings here by the Commission that are going to change  
24 the testimony you're prepared to give.

25 What I'd like you to do at this point is just

1 briefly tell the Commission what kind of things you  
2 looked at and what you reviewed in order to be prepared  
3 to testify today.

4 A. When I was asked to make a survey of the  
5 general area of the southeast quarter of the southwest  
6 quarter of Section 11, Township 23 South, Range 28  
7 East, to see if in fact there was a place in that 40  
8 that a location that would be at least 330 feet back  
9 from the boundary line between Section 11 and Section  
10 14 and would still be on the floodplain, I ran quite an  
11 extensive topographic survey in the area and selected a  
12 spot that could be drilled 330 --

13 Q. Mr. West, I'm afraid you're going to get me  
14 in trouble here --

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. -- if you continue on with this. Can you  
17 tell the Commission what kinds of documents you looked  
18 at, how many trips you made to the field, how many  
19 times you went to the location?

20 A. Well, we went to the location -- I went two  
21 times, had survey crews out there about four days. But  
22 basically, we were locating physical things on the  
23 ground in that area.

24 Q. So you're familiar with the area; is that  
25 right?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. I've marked an exhibit as Exhibit Number 3.  
3 I'll show you another copy of it, and there is an  
4 exhibit marked as Exhibit 3A there before you. Do you  
5 recognize the location of the proration unit that we're  
6 talking about, Sections 14 and 11, from these  
7 photographs?

8 A. Let me get myself oriented just slightly.  
9 The railroad -- Can I use this one?

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. Now I have it correct.

12 Q. Do those photographs correctly represent the  
13 portions of Sections 11 and 14?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. AUBREY: Mr. Commissioner, I tender  
16 Exhibits 3 and 3A, and I will have additional copies  
17 made at the lunch break for Counsel.

18 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Are there any objections to  
19 Exhibit 3 and 3A being admitted?

20 MR. CARR: May it please the Commission, we  
21 object on relevance grounds if they're used for  
22 anything other than general orientation maps showing  
23 the area.

24 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: The exhibits will be entered  
25 into the record with the notation of opposing counsel

1 noted. Thank you.

2 MS. AUBREY: Mr. Lemay, that's all I have of  
3 this witness.

4 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Additional questions of the  
5 witness? Mr. Carr?

6 MR. CARR: I have no questions.

7 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I have one, Mr. West.

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY CHAIRMAN LEMAY:

10 Q. What's the date of these photographs? Do you  
11 know?

12 A. No, sir, I don't.

13 Q. Is it possible that they were -- I think  
14 there's a notation up there, 1978. Assuming they were  
15 flown in 1978, is there a possibility that the drainage  
16 could have changed somewhat in the 12 or so years since  
17 these photographs were --

18 A. I wouldn't think so.

19 Q. -- taken?

20 A. I was looking at the -- where the -- the  
21 highway comes along the section line from the west  
22 until it swings south to get at a good position to  
23 cross the river, and it crosses the river south of the  
24 north line of Section 14, and then the way the river  
25 comes through and the way the railroad comes across,

1 that's what I used for -- to get myself oriented.

2 Q. Those two items, I would assume, certainly  
3 would not change. The drainage of the river, certainly  
4 you would not expect it to have changed in the 12  
5 years?

6 A. No, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you very much.

8 Do you have any questions?

9 COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.

10 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: If there are no additional  
11 questions of the witness, he may be excused.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

13 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Miss Aubrey?

14 MS. AUBREY: My direct on my next witness  
15 will be lengthy. Perhaps we could take the lunch break  
16 now, and I can photocopy Exhibit 3 and 3A for Mr. Carr  
17 and for the Commission and we could reconvene. Would  
18 that be convenient for the Commission?

19 I'll be happy to start Mr. Barron now,  
20 whatever your pleasure is.

21 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Well, if it'll be lengthy --  
22 You anticipate what? Thirty, forty minutes of direct?

23 MS. AUBREY: I think so. I think so, at  
24 least.

25 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: If you would prefer to keep

1 that together, I can see that.

2 Why don't we take a break now and reconvene  
3 at one o'clock?

4 MS. AUBREY: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Without objection.

6 MR. CARR: No objection.

7 (Thereupon, a recess was taken at 11:39 a.m.)

8 (The following proceedings had at 1:05 p.m.)

9 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: We shall resume. Miss  
10 Aubrey?

11 MS. AUBREY: Thank you.

12 ALLEN C. BARRON,

13 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn  
14 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

15 EXAMINATION

16 BY MS. AUBREY:

17 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Would you state your name  
18 for the record, please?

19 A. Yes, my name is Allen C. Barron.

20 Q. Where are you employed, Mr. Barron?

21 A. I'm employed by Golden Engineering, Inc., a  
22 petroleum consulting firm in Houston, Texas.

23 Q. Mr. Barron, I'm showing you what I've marked  
24 as Bird Creek Exhibit Number 4, which is your résumé.

25 Would you briefly review your professional background

1 for the Commission?

2 A. I have a bachelor of science degree in  
3 chemical and petroleum engineering from the University  
4 of Houston, graduated in 1968.

5 Went to work for Amoco Production Company in  
6 their Gulf Coast Division, involved in well-producing  
7 operations for a period of almost four years.

8 Then employed with Houston Pipeline Company,  
9 which was then a division of Houston Natural Gas, now  
10 Enron Corporation, as a reservoir engineer in their Gas  
11 Reserve Section.

12 In 1978 I entered the consulting business  
13 with a consulting company in Houston, Ralph E. Davis  
14 Associates.

15 I went out on my own with my own practice in  
16 1981 and joined Golden Engineering in 1984.

17 Q. What professional organizations do you belong  
18 to?

19 A. I'm a Registered Professional Engineer in the  
20 State of Texas and am a member of both the Texas and  
21 the National Society of Professional Engineers.

22 I am a member of the Society of Petroleum  
23 Engineers and the Society of Petroleum Evaluation  
24 Engineers.

25 I have membership in the American Association

1 of Petroleum Geologists and several local organizations  
2 in the Houston area involved in the oil and gas  
3 industry.

4 Q. Are you here representing Bird Creek  
5 Resources?

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 Q. Are you familiar with the subject matter of  
8 this Application, the unorthodox location that BTA has  
9 applied for in Section 11?

10 A. Yes, I am.

11 Q. Have you made a study of the area such that  
12 you can testify on all engineering issues before this  
13 Commission?

14 A. Yes, I have.

15 MS. AUBREY: Mr. LeMay, I tender Mr. Barron  
16 as an expert in petroleum engineering.

17 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: His qualifications are  
18 acceptable.

19 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Mr. Barron, within the  
20 larger field of petroleum engineering, do you have a  
21 subspecialty?

22 A. Yes, I specialize in various areas commonly  
23 classified in reservoir engineering.

24 Q. Mr. Barron, let me start by having you refer  
25 to Bird Creek Exhibit Number 1. Now, that's an exhibit

1 that we've had another witness testify to, and I  
2 believe Counsel has a copy of it. Let me show it to  
3 you. Did you prepare this exhibit, sir?

4 A. Yes, this exhibit was prepared by our office.

5 Q. Before we get into the text of the exhibit,  
6 would you describe briefly for the Commission what  
7 Golden Engineering does and what services it provides  
8 for its clients?

9 A. Yes. As I said earlier, we're a consulting  
10 engineering firm. We provide services both  
11 domestically and internationally to the oil and gas  
12 business, including furnishing engineering supervision  
13 for drilling and well-site supervision, both onshore  
14 and offshore.

15 We also operate properties for clients and  
16 handle regulatory matters for them.

17 We are involved in reservoir-engineering  
18 work, analysis, from annual-reserve reports to field  
19 studies, enhanced-recovery studies, evaluation of  
20 properties for sale and acquisition.

21 Additionally, we have a portion of our  
22 company that is involved in environmental actions,  
23 primarily concerned with deep-well injection, hazardous  
24 wastes, and surface groundwater studies.

25 Q. Let me refer you to Exhibit Number 1. Would

1 you describe for the Commission what data you reviewed  
2 in order to have this map prepared?

3 A. This map was prepared as an example of the  
4 base map of the subject area, utilizing the surface  
5 locations of the various wells within these sections,  
6 surface locations being provided from the drilling  
7 applications.

8 These were entered into a computer mapping  
9 system which then translated all that data into a base  
10 map for us to work from.

11 Q. And what kind of computer mapping system is  
12 that, Mr. Barron?

13 A. We use as a primary basis on our system a  
14 computer-derived mapping system that is a commercial  
15 product generated by Scientific Computer Applications  
16 out of Tulsa, Oklahoma. It's integrated with several  
17 other computer applications we have, including an  
18 AUTOCAD system that allows us to draw maps of this  
19 nature.

20 The circles shown on this map are a result of  
21 that system, whereby we are telling it to draw a circle  
22 given a certain radius, that circle encompassing 40  
23 acres on the scale of this particular map.

24 Q. Now, on this map there are circles drawn  
25 around the "C" 1, the "B" 1 and the 1 -- the Number 1

1 Well in Section 15 and the 1 and 2 in Section 14; is  
2 that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And is it your testimony that those circles  
5 represent a 40-acre area?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 Q. Would you explain to the Commission why you  
8 drew that size circle on this map?

9 A. The 40 acres is an area that we feel  
10 represents the effective drainage area of the wells in  
11 this producing pool.

12 Q. And that would be the East Loving-Delaware  
13 Pool; is that correct?

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. Okay. There is a hatched or shaded portion  
16 of those circles which runs between "C" 1 and Number 1  
17 and 2 down in Section 11. Can you explain how you drew  
18 those?

19 A. The hashed area would represent the drainage  
20 area of the BTA "C" 1 Well, which falls below the  
21 dividing line between Sections 11 and 14, and in  
22 addition would be above a potential no-flow boundary  
23 between the BTA Well Number "C" 1 and the Bird Creek  
24 Teledyne 1 Well. So it would represent an area of  
25 drainage to the BTA well that would be in Section 14

1 and nonrecoverable by the Teledyne Number 1 Well.

2 Q. In drawing this map, in preparing this  
3 exhibit, did you assume radial drainage?

4 A. Yes, we did.

5 Q. Can you tell me why you did that?

6 A. We had no additional data, such as core  
7 analysis, on which to base any type of a numerical  
8 simulation of the reservoir. So in lieu of any  
9 additional detailed-type data we did assume radial  
10 drainage for the sake of analysis.

11 Q. In your profession, sir, is it common  
12 practice where you have no additional data to make an  
13 assumption that the drainage of the well will be  
14 radial?

15 A. Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. Have you also reviewed the testimony given by  
17 BTA at the Examiner Hearing in this matter back in  
18 March?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And have you reviewed the Order authored by  
21 the Examiner and entered by the Division in this  
22 matter?

23 A. Yes, I have.

24 Q. Now, on your Exhibit 1, the -- is the  
25 location of the "C" 1 Well the location as it's

1 actually on the ground?

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. Now, you don't have a circle drawn around the  
4 "C" 2; why is that?

5 A. I think at the time we did that, it was not  
6 one that we were getting into a discussion on drainage  
7 or overlap of drainage. We were concerned with the  
8 previous hearing involving the "C" 1 Well and the  
9 Teledyne 1 Well.

10 Q. You show an overlap of the circles here  
11 between the "C" 1 and the Number 2 Well down in Section  
12 14. Does that allow the Commission to conclude that in  
13 your opinion there is some drainage occurring from the  
14 "C" 1 of acreage that is dedicated -- or would be  
15 drained by the "C" 2 Well? I'm sorry, by the Number 2  
16 Well?

17 A. Yes, that's correct, from the "C" 1 to the  
18 Teledyne Number 2 Well.

19 Q. So there are two BTA wells that are being  
20 affected by the location at which the "C" 1 is drilled;  
21 is that correct?

22 A. Two Bird Creek wells being affected by the  
23 location of the "C" 1.

24 Q. Do you have any other comments you wanted to  
25 make about Exhibit Number 1?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Mr. Barron, I'm going to hand you what I've  
3 marked as Exhibit Number 2, which is labeled "Standard  
4 Drainage Area." Did you prepare that exhibit?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 (Off the record)

7 MS. AUBREY: Mr. LeMay, the witness has just  
8 reminded me that we have an Exhibit 2 which is a  
9 decline-production curve, I think, from BTA's files.

10 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: All right.

11 MS. AUBREY: Let me make this Exhibit Number  
12 5, for the record.

13 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Fine.

14 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Exhibit Number 5 again shows  
15 the locations of the wells we've discussed; is that  
16 correct?

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. Would you review the information contained on  
19 this exhibit that's different from Exhibit Number 1?

20 A. This exhibit was prepared to show the  
21 potential drainage area of the "C" 1 Well, had it been  
22 drilled at a standard location, being 330 feet from the  
23 south line of Section 11.

24 Q. Now, that standard location is the closest  
25 standard location to Bird Creek's acreage; is that

1 correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Now, you've indicated a no-flow boundary on  
4 here. Would you explain how that is different from the  
5 no-flow boundary shown on Exhibit 1?

6 A. Yes, the no-flow boundary would be that point  
7 equidistant between the two wells. So as the "C" 1  
8 location would be moved from the location at which the  
9 well was actually drilled, northerly direction and away  
10 from the Teledyne Well to a standard location, the no-  
11 flow boundary would move in the same direction to  
12 remain equidistant between the two wells.

13 Q. And again, there are circles on this map.  
14 Are those, once again, 40-acre drainage radiuses?

15 A. Yes, they are.

16 Q. Did you have any other comments you wanted to  
17 make about Exhibit Number 5?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Let me ask you, Mr. Barron, do you know  
20 whether Bird Creek has been locating its wells in  
21 Section 14 at the nearest standard location to the  
22 section line, or whether they've been locating them in  
23 the center of the quarter-quarter sections?

24 A. Based upon the information as to the surface  
25 locations of the wells, it appears that the wells are

1 being located as close to the center of the 40-acre  
2 proration units as may be possible, given the local  
3 topography.

4 Q. Do you have an opinion as an engineer as to  
5 why Bird Creek is doing this? And did you have any  
6 involvement in that decision?

7 A. No, I did not have any.

8 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether or not  
9 the pool rules which govern the spacing in this pool  
10 contemplate the type of performance we're all seeing  
11 from these wells?

12 A. Yes, I would think they should.

13 Q. I'm showing you Exhibit Number 6, now, which  
14 is a net-pay isopach on the C and D sands. Would you  
15 explain to the Commission why it is that you've  
16 separated those out into two separate sands?

17 A. Our analysis of the producing formation in  
18 this area in the Delaware Pool indicates that the  
19 Delaware can best be described by four sand groups, the  
20 A, B, C and D sands. And the current grouping in the  
21 Delaware, referring to the pool, is the C- and D-sand  
22 section.

23 So we have attempted to map the C and D  
24 together, inasmuch as the wells seem to be completed  
25 within this same continuous unit in all the wells.

1           The A and B sands are then mapped separately.  
2           And similarly, all have been mapped together as a total  
3           Delaware section.

4           Q.    You were present for the earlier testimony of  
5           the engineer from BTA about nomenclature of the sands.  
6           Can you correlate your nomenclature with his?

7           A.    Based upon the testimony he gave and  
8           indications of where his well is completed, it would be  
9           my estimation that what we are referring to as the C-  
10          and D-sand interval in the Delaware is potentially what  
11          he is referring to as the D sand in the Delaware, so it  
12          would be simply a nomenclature discrepancy.

13          Q.    And then your A and B sands would be above  
14          the C and D?

15          A.    Correct. He indicated they had done log  
16          analysis, and I think probably over a similar section  
17          that we have, being the entire Delaware section.

18          Q.    Now that we all have Exhibit 6, Mr. Barron,  
19          would you review that exhibit for the Examiner?

20          A.    This is an isopach map prepared upon the net-  
21          pay interval in the Delaware C and D sections in the  
22          area of interest.

23          Q.    And what data did you use to prepare this  
24          map?

25          A.    Preparation of this map used log analysis

1 that -- on approximately 10 wells that we had in our  
2 files. In addition, we had information on other wells  
3 that we had done some log analysis on, but not quite so  
4 rigorously as for this particular hearing.

5 The log analysis that we did entailed a  
6 digitization of approximately 3000 feet of well log --  
7 excuse me, about 300 feet of well log -- and a computer  
8 analysis on a half-foot incremental basis on  
9 approximately ten wells.

10 We had log analysis on additional wells in  
11 the area that were done by hand, not by computer.

12 Additionally, we had indications of net pay  
13 in certain wells which were supplied to us by Bird  
14 Creek.

15 On those wells supplied to us by Bird Creek  
16 and for which we had the logs, following our rigorous  
17 determination of net pay, we compared the two to get a  
18 consensus opinion between the numbers they were  
19 furnishing and what we were able to decipher, such that  
20 we had some degree of reliability with numbers they  
21 furnished on wells on which we did not have the actual  
22 logs.

23 Q. Did you have available to you the logs on the  
24 BTA "C" Number 1 Well when you prepared this map?

25 A. No, we did not.

1           Q.    Let me refer you to Section 11 on your map  
2 and ask you to state the number of feet of net pay and  
3 the sand to which you attribute that for the "C" 1, the  
4 "B" 1, and the Teledyne 1 and 2 Wells.

5           A.    All right. Based upon our log analysis, we  
6 have an indication of approximately 60 feet of net pay  
7 in the Teledyne Number 1 Well. The determination of  
8 net pay would be that interval in the C and D section  
9 as we define it that would have greater than 10 percent  
10 porosity and less than 60 percent water saturation.

11                    Using similar cutoffs on the Teledyne Number  
12 2 Well, we estimate that there are 64 feet of net pay.

13                    Based upon an extrapolation method using  
14 triangulation, we would anticipate that the "C" 1 Well  
15 would have encountered slightly in excess of 60 feet of  
16 net pay, and that the "B" 1 Well would have encountered  
17 slightly in excess of 50 feet of net pay.

18           Q.    And again, on this Exhibit Number 6 you have  
19 drawn circles around the well locations. Are those the  
20 40-acre radial drainage areas that we talked about  
21 earlier?

22           A.    Yes, they are.

23           Q.    Do you have any other comments that you would  
24 like to make about Exhibit 6?

25           A.    No, not at this time.

1 Q. Number 7, Mr. Carr.

2 I've handed you Exhibit Number 7, which is a  
3 net-pay isopach on the A, B, C and D zones, Mr. Barron.  
4 Did you prepare that?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. And would you review your findings as shown  
7 on that exhibit for the Commission?

8 A. Yes. Again, this map was prepared in the  
9 same fashion as the previous exhibit, detailing the net  
10 feet of pay, this time being throughout the entire  
11 Delaware interval that we have identified as the A, B,  
12 C and D zones.

13 The same criteria for cutoff of net pay was  
14 used, that being in excess of 10 percent porosity and  
15 less than 60 percent water saturation.

16 Keeping in mind the numbers offered on the  
17 previous exhibit, this would indicate that the A and B  
18 zones would contribute significantly to the overall net  
19 pay count in the Delaware section, such that the  
20 Teledyne 1 is indicated to have a total of 139 feet of  
21 pay; the Teledyne 2, 159 feet; the BTA "C" 1 should  
22 have encountered in excess of 125 feet; and the BTA "B"  
23 1 Well would have encountered slightly in excess of 100  
24 feet of total net pay.

25 Again, the drainage areas are indicated on

1 the map, being the same 40-acre drainage circles.

2 Q. Is it your opinion, Mr. Barron, that the A,  
3 B, C and D sands will be -- all be present in the "C" 1  
4 and the Teledyne Number 1?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You haven't seen the logs on the "C" 1?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Is it your opinion that those four sands will  
9 be productive in those two wellbores?

10 A. Yes, it is.

11 Q. Is it your opinion that, given the location  
12 of the "C" 1 Well, that production which should be  
13 produced by the Teledyne Well in the A and B zones will  
14 in fact be produced by the "C" 1, given its location?

15 A. Yes, it should be produced by that well.

16 Q. So that the BTA well is going to drain Bird  
17 Creek, not only in the C sand and the D sand, but also  
18 the A and B sand?

19 A. Yes, that is correct.

20 Q. Do you know whether or not there are any  
21 present plans for Bird Creek to complete its well in  
22 the A and B sands?

23 A. No, I do not know of any plans that they  
24 have.

25 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Miss Aubrey, I hate to

1 interrupt. At this point it might be helpful to the  
2 Commission if the witness might identify A, B, C and D  
3 sands on what I have here as Exhibit Number 4 of the  
4 original case.

5 We find ourselves without a log to correlate  
6 a lot of discussion here on A, B, C and D. Is that --  
7 Would that be acceptable, or --

8 MS. AUBREY: That would be fine with me, Mr.  
9 LeMay. In fact, I have some copies of the old BTA  
10 exhibit here, and I'd be happy to show them to you.

11 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Fine, or if you had your own  
12 exhibit, that would be helpful. It's just that it's  
13 very hard for us to follow the discussion on A, B, C  
14 and D without having a log to refer to.

15 MS. AUBREY: I understand.

16 Mr. Barron, I'm marking this as Bird Creek  
17 Number 8. It is, in fact, BTA Exhibit Number 4 from  
18 the Examiner Hearing, and I believe that the Commission  
19 has a copy of it, at least one copy of it up there.  
20 Perhaps Mr. Carr has some additional copies.

21 (Off the record)

22 MS. AUBREY: Gentlemen, here's an extra copy.  
23 I'll look on with the witness, with your permission,  
24 and you can have my last copy.

25 (Off the record)

1 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Mr. Barron, Mr. LeMay has  
2 asked that you refer to this exhibit and help us all in  
3 locating the A, B, C and D zones on the log shown on  
4 BTA's cross-section, A to A prime, from the March  
5 hearing. Can you do that for us?

6 A. Yes, the correlation provided here is a  
7 structural correlation hung upon a common datum,  
8 indicating certain areas of correlation by the same  
9 color, in addition to which they have marked the top of  
10 the Delaware pay. This would be the Loving Pool,  
11 Delaware Pay section.

12 Our differentiation in this would be that  
13 this entire area on the exhibit shaded in green would  
14 be designated as the C and D sands, the top of the C  
15 sand being that point where their heavy black line  
16 indicates the top of the Delaware pay.

17 The lowermost section, as indicated on the --  
18 well, I guess log number 2, on the cross-section, at  
19 about 6110 feet of log depth would be in the area where  
20 we would make a differentiation between the C and D  
21 section.

22 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Which number are you talking  
23 about?

24 THE WITNESS: The second well log to the  
25 cross-section, second well from the left.

1 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Number 2?

2 THE WITNESS: Correct.

3 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Okay.

4 THE WITNESS: So at about -- The BTA  
5 producer's "B" Number 1 Well, the Pardue "B" Number 1  
6 Well. So in the neighborhood of about 6110 feet would  
7 be a dividing point between the C- and D-sand sections,  
8 as we would delineate them.

9 Above that, within that bracket area where  
10 BTA had designated "Loving," would be the A- and B-sand  
11 sections of the Delaware.

12 In this particular well I believe it's proper  
13 to say that the A sand would be the top of the Delaware  
14 at approximately 5850 feet, and that the B-sand section  
15 would be at the top of that correlation point that they  
16 had indicated in orange at about 5915 feet.

17 So in effect, on that particular well we'd be  
18 referring to the entire Delaware sequence of sands as  
19 being from about 5850 feet down to 6140 feet, or to the  
20 top of the Bone Springs.

21 Again, BTA had indicated -- and I think what  
22 they are calling the D in their testimony would be the  
23 pool unit itself, so I would not be able to  
24 differentiate above that where they might call the A, B  
25 and C.

1           CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, that's most  
2 helpful.

3           Q.    (By Ms. Aubrey) I realize that you didn't  
4 prepare that exhibit, Mr. Barron, but based on your  
5 observation of those logs, does it appear to you that  
6 the A and B sands would be productive in the -- both  
7 the Teledyne Number 1 Well and the BTA Number 1 Well?

8           A.    Yes. On the BTA 1 Well, which -- the "B" 1  
9 Well which is on this cross-section, it does appear to  
10 be productive.

11                   It appears similarly to be productive on the  
12 other well logs contained within this cross-section.

13           Q.    Do you have any other comments you want to  
14 make about the logs to the Commission?

15           A.    No.

16           Q.    Mr. Barron, I'm showing you what I've marked  
17 as Bird Creek Exhibit Number 9. This is a multi-page  
18 exhibit. Can you review that for the Commission and  
19 tell the Commission what conclusions you have drawn  
20 from this?

21           A.    Yes, the major portion of Exhibit Number 9 is  
22 an analysis by Core Laboratories of a fluid sample  
23 taken from the Bird Creek Resources Carrasco "14"  
24 Number 1 Well in the East Loving-Delaware Field.

25                   This was a sample obtained for the purpose of

1 a fluid analysis of the producing oil. The analysis --

2 Q. You've reviewed this and are sure of its  
3 accuracy; is that correct? You feel comfortable with  
4 this?

5 A. Yes, I feel comfortable with their analysis.

6 Q. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you.

7 A. Their analysis of the reservoir fluid is  
8 summarized in different places throughout the report  
9 itself.

10 Perhaps on page 2 of 17, which is about the  
11 fifth page of the document, it gives a summary of the  
12 reservoir fluid PVT data.

13 Their conclusions was that the reservoir was  
14 at an initial pressure of 2858 pounds at 106 degrees  
15 fahrenheit, had an initial gas/oil ratio of 1108 cubic  
16 feet per barrel, and had a relative oil volume at  
17 reservoir conditions of 1.543 barrels of oil per barrel  
18 of residual oil at 60 degrees or at surface conditions.

19 So they determined a formation volume factor  
20 for the Delaware oil of 1.543.

21 In addition, they have viscosity data and a  
22 standard presentation of all of their PVT analysis  
23 within the remainder of the report.

24 Q. Now, is the formation volume factor the same  
25 number as the -- as Mr. Wilkinson's calculation on

1 Exhibit 7 where he assumes a 1.1 number? Is that the  
2 -- Are we talking about the same number?

3 A. Yes, the large -- capital B sub o designation  
4 for oil formation volume factor would be a standard  
5 designation.

6 Q. Can you explain for the Commission what the  
7 difference in those two numbers means?

8 A. Formation volume factor, as spoken to  
9 earlier, is an indication of the shrinkage that will  
10 occur in the oil as it changes from reservoir  
11 conditions to separator or stock-tank conditions. The  
12 higher the number, the indication of the greater amount  
13 of shrinkage that's going to occur. The number is in  
14 basis on temperature, pressure and the amount of gas  
15 contained within the oil under the reservoir  
16 conditions.

17 Q. What magnitude or difference is there between  
18 a 1.1 formation volume factor, as shown on BTA's  
19 Exhibit Number 7, and the 1.54 formation volume factor  
20 that is contained in your Exhibit Number 9?

21 A. There would be approximately a 40-percent  
22 difference in the value of the numbers.

23 Q. And is that a number that is -- that one uses  
24 in order to conclude what the drainage of these  
25 particular wells will be?

1           A.    It is a number that can be used in  
2           determination of the drainage, given other assumptions  
3           made in the calculation of oil in place and recoverable  
4           oil, yes.

5           Q.    What other things do you need to know as an  
6           engineer before you can make that calculation?

7           A.    You would need to know the porosity of the  
8           formation, the oil saturation. The formation volume  
9           factor is a consideration. You would need to know the  
10          area of drainage that's going to be affected by the  
11          well. You would need to know the net thickness of  
12          effective reservoir pay that is going to be  
13          contributing to the production. And for recovery of  
14          the oil in place, you would need to have a factor  
15          indicating how much of the oil in place would in fact  
16          be produced.

17          Q.    And is that -- How do you calculate that  
18          recovery factor? Where do you get it?

19          A.    Many ways. Perhaps the best answer coming  
20          from a well that's no longer producing, being a  
21          determination of its oil in place and what it  
22          ultimately produced without any extraneous conditions  
23          limiting its production.

24                         With that information not at hand, it could  
25          be based upon analogy, it can be based on a certain set

1 of statistical correlations which can be utilized.  
2 Ranges of numbers for particular formations have  
3 generally been compiled by different organizations.  
4 Consultants, in particular, have ranges of numbers that  
5 they feel comfortable with.

6 And it's a consensus-of-opinion situation  
7 early in the producing life of a field as to what the  
8 recovery may be, later refined when compared to actual  
9 production history.

10 Q. Let me take you back and ask you a question  
11 about the formation volume factor. Is that a number  
12 which changes from formation to formation?

13 A. Yes, it can.

14 Q. So in order to estimate that number, it would  
15 be important to know with what formation you were  
16 dealing?

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. I'm going to show you the next three exhibits  
19 we have, Mr. Barron. I've marked them as Exhibits 10,  
20 11 and 12 -- Well, let me start over here.

21 Attached to your fluid analysis are two  
22 production-decline curves. Let's just refer to those  
23 as part of Exhibit 9, and why don't you review those  
24 now for the Commissioner?

25 A. All right. One of the wells which was

1 mentioned in the previous hearing as having been on  
2 production for approximately two years and therefore  
3 being one of the better indications of what the  
4 potential recovery might be in the Delaware Pool was  
5 the South Culebra Bluff Well Number 23-1, located in  
6 Section 23 and south of both the Bird Creek and BTA  
7 wells of interest.

8 This particular well came on production in  
9 March of 1988 and has produced approximately two-plus  
10 years, and through March of 1990 had cum'd a total of  
11 57,613 barrels of oil.

12 This data was acquired through a commercial  
13 computer on-line service which accesses the production  
14 records that are filed with various state agencies  
15 throughout the United States, to which we have access  
16 by which we can acquire the production records.

17 These numbers were utilized in a software  
18 program to generate a curve-fit, using a least-squares  
19 method, to try and delineate a curve that would flow  
20 through the most number of production points.

21 There is still interpretation involved in  
22 this because certain points may or may not be accurate  
23 in a well's production. If it's off production for a  
24 certain period of time, they're not representative of  
25 its capacity.

1           But the methodology used did generate a good  
2 curve-fit through this production, as indicated by both  
3 of these curves. One is simply a replot of the other  
4 curve. One is a copy of the computer screen as it's  
5 worked on and is dumped to a printer, and the other one  
6 is a copy of a plot done up on a plotter. Same monthly  
7 production numbers, the same extrapolation.

8           The indication of this work was that this  
9 well seems highly likely to have an ultimate recovery  
10 of approximately 200,000 barrels of oil.

11           Q. Now, earlier in the testimony we talked about  
12 an exhibit we called the Bird Creek Number 2, which was  
13 a production-decline curve that was actually prepared  
14 by BTA --

15           A. Yes, that's correct.

16           Q. -- and on which there was a conclusion,  
17 there's a conclusion stated that there are 147,000  
18 barrels of recoverable reserves. Can you compare those  
19 two exhibits and tell us how you -- whether or not you  
20 disagree with their conclusion?

21           A. Well, their conclusion was based upon  
22 production data apparently available to them through  
23 the month of September, 1989.

24           Our analysis used approximately six  
25 additional months of well production, during which time

1 the well continued to produce at what might be  
2 described a better-than-anticipated rate as compared to  
3 the BTA extrapolation.

4 Their extrapolation used a 20-percent  
5 decline, exponential decline in production, on an  
6 annual basis. The well, as I said, continued to  
7 produce at or near the 2000-barrels-of-oil-per-month  
8 range, which would have been above their forecast,  
9 beginning in September.

10 Consequently, we feel that our analysis and  
11 extrapolation, being based on additional data, is  
12 perhaps more reflective of the well's true capacity to  
13 produce, and as such it should have a decline in the  
14 range of approximately 13-1/2 percent per year, as  
15 opposed to their extrapolation of 20 percent per year,  
16 the result being that it will ultimately recover more  
17 oil.

18 Q. And does that tell you anything about the  
19 number of acres the -- that that particular well, being  
20 the South Culebra Bluff 23, will drain?

21 A. Yes, it does.

22 Q. What does it tell you?

23 A. It tells us that in all likelihood this well  
24 is capable of draining 40 acres.

25 Q. Can you correlate that to the BTA Pardue "C"

1 Number 1 in Section 11 and the Teledyne Number 1 in  
2 Section 14?

3 A. Yes, I feel that these wells are similar in  
4 nature. The reservoir is similar at those locations,  
5 and consequently they should also expect to drain 40  
6 acres.

7 Q. Did you have any other comments you wanted to  
8 make about the production-decline curves prepared by  
9 you or the one prepared by BTA?

10 A. No, not at this time.

11 Q. Now I'm going to show you 10, 11 and 12.

12 (Off the record)

13 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Let me have you look first  
14 at Exhibit Number 10.

15 COMMISSIONER WEISS: Would you give us a  
16 minute to get these straight?

17 MS. AUBREY: Sure. Number 10 should be the A  
18 and B Delaware --

19 COMMISSIONER WEISS: They don't seem to be  
20 that way. We're going to figure it out here in a  
21 minute.

22 (Off the record)

23 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Why don't you help us with  
24 these things?

25 MS. AUBREY: I'll be happy to, if I can

1 figure them out.

2 THE WITNESS: Do you want me to explain what  
3 they are?

4 MS. AUBREY: Maybe we could have Mr. Barron  
5 explain it, and then we could all hear it.

6 THE WITNESS: There are four pages involved  
7 in this series of exhibits. Exhibit Number 10 would be  
8 a single page entitled the A and B Delaware sands. It  
9 will list a series of parameters for seven separate  
10 wells with the BTA "C" 1 Well listed twice. It will  
11 give the drainage area, net volume, net porous volume,  
12 hydrocarbon volume, oil in place and ultimate recovery  
13 for the A and B Delaware sands.

14 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: We have that.

15 THE WITNESS: Exhibit Number 11 is a similar  
16 presentation for the Delaware C and D sands, again for  
17 all seven wells.

18 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Okay, we have that.

19 THE WITNESS: Exhibit Number 12 is a two-page  
20 exhibit showing on one page the Delaware A and B and on  
21 the other page the Delaware C and D.

22 There should only be two lines of  
23 information, and as we'll explain, that will give the  
24 difference in the amount of oil being drained in each  
25 of those reservoirs, depending upon that well's

1 location.

2 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: All right, we've got it,  
3 thank you.

4 Q. (By Ms. Aubrey) Can we start with Exhibit  
5 Number 10, Mr. Barron?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Would you review that for the Commission and  
8 Mr. Stovall?

9 A. Exhibit Number 10 is output generated from  
10 our computer system in which we are able to take each  
11 individual well and delineate a 40-acre drainage area  
12 around that well.

13 The computer will then do a volumetric  
14 integration and determine the amount of oil in place  
15 underlying that 40-acre area or any other strictly  
16 configured or ill-defined polygon we want to draw  
17 around the particular point. It will do an integration  
18 through all areas of production, all reservoirs, taking  
19 into account the fluctuation in porosity across that  
20 area, water saturation and oil saturation, in  
21 determining the oil in place within that area.

22 So we are not simply using an average  
23 porosity across a 40-acre area, as may have been  
24 encountered by a well drilled in the middle of that 40-  
25 acre area.

1           If a particular well came up with 50 feet of  
2 pay and 15 percent porosity and a water saturation of  
3 40 percent, rather than using those in a determination  
4 of oil in place, times the 40 acres, it will actually  
5 integrate across the entire area as the porosity or  
6 saturation may change in relationship to other wells in  
7 the area.

8           And as such, we have done that calculation  
9 for each of the wells indicated on this sheet, in  
10 addition to which we did the same calculation for the  
11 "C" 1 well, had it been drilled at the standard 330-  
12 foot location, rather than the location at which it was  
13 actually drilled.

14           As indicated on the top of the sheet, this is  
15 based -- The ultimate recoverable reserves is based  
16 upon an 18-percent recovery factor in the A and B  
17 sands, and the same 1.543 formation volume factor as  
18 indicated by fluid analysis of the C and D reservoir,  
19 inasmuch as it's the same, similar Delaware formation.

20           Q.    And what conclusions have you come to with  
21 regard to the difference between a standard location  
22 for the "C" 1 and the orth- -- the location which was,  
23 in fact, drilled?

24           A.    That the ultimate recoverable reserves of the  
25 well varied only slightly between the two locations.

1                   However, there was an increase of  
2 approximately 5.3-plus-thousand barrels of ultimate  
3 recoverable oil by nature of the well being moved from  
4 standard location to the actual location it was drilled  
5 at.

6           Q.    And do these calculations assist you in  
7 calculating the amount of impact on the correlative  
8 rights of Bird Creek Resources to the south of that  
9 well?

10          A.    Yes, that's correct.

11          Q.    And would you tell the Commission what your  
12 conclusion on that question is?

13          A.    Referring back to the first page of Exhibit  
14 Number 12, which is a comparison between -- of the  
15 Delaware A and B sands between the two locations for  
16 the "C" 1 Well, this indicates that the "C" 1 Well at  
17 its -- a standard 330-foot location -- would ultimately  
18 drain approximately 27,215 barrels of oil from the Bird  
19 Creek tract. This would be from the dividing line  
20 between Section 11 and 14 down to the no-flow boundary  
21 with the Teledyne Number 1 Well.

22                   At the actual location of the well, that  
23 being, as here referred to as the unorthodox location,  
24 the amount of drainage would actually increase to  
25 43,234 barrels. Inasmuch as the well is farther south

1 and closer to the Teledyne Well, its 40-acre drainage  
2 area would, in fact, be more in Section 14 than in  
3 Section 11.

4 Q. More in Section 14 than in Section 11?

5 A. As compared to the standard location.

6 Q. Now, that is for the C and D zones; is that  
7 correct?

8 A. No, that's for the A and B zones in the  
9 Delaware.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. A similar determination for the C and D zone,  
12 being that interval in which the wells are actually  
13 completed, would again indicate that by nature of the  
14 well having been moved from its -- a, quote, standard  
15 location, to the actual point it was drilled at, there  
16 would be a slight increase in the amount of ultimate  
17 oil that could be recovered.

18 The very slight increase is due to a slight  
19 increase in net pay that appears to occur in the  
20 reservoir as you move south in the area of interest.

21 In comparison to the two locations, the  
22 ultimate drainage, the second page of Exhibit 12 then  
23 shows that in the C and D reservoir the amount of  
24 drainage from Bird Creek at a standard location to the  
25 unorthodox would increase from 31,987 barrels to 49,835

1 barrels, in same -- similar configurations, as  
2 mentioned earlier, with the well's location and the  
3 drainage being more in Section 14 due to the unorthodox  
4 location.

5 Q. Now, Mr. Barron, do you have sufficient data  
6 and exhibits in front of you from which you can, to a  
7 reasonable engineering probability, calculate and  
8 testify to the -- not only the drainage radius of these  
9 wells but the effect that the penalty imposed by the  
10 Examiner has on Bird Creek's correlative rights?

11 A. Based upon our analysis, it indicates that  
12 the wells are capable of draining 40 acres, that in the  
13 C and D zone, the recovery of oil in place is  
14 approximately 20 percent, that it is probably slightly  
15 less or should be slightly less than the A and B  
16 zones -- that's why we used 18 percent -- and that the  
17 location that was approved and at which the well was  
18 drained will in fact allow the BTA well to drain well  
19 in excess of the 12,000-plus barrels that resulted from  
20 the earlier hearing.

21 Q. And can you calculate, as an example of  
22 effect on correlative rights, what that number would  
23 be?

24 A. As indicated on the second page of Exhibit  
25 12, the difference between the ultimate recovery at the

1 two locations would be the 49,835 barrels less the  
2 31,987, so that in that particular completion interval  
3 the well would have the ability to drain some 17,848  
4 barrels of oil from the Bird Creek well.

5 In the upper section of the Delaware, in the  
6 A and B sands, which are currently not on production,  
7 again the same, similar difference in ultimate  
8 recoveries between the two locations indicate that some  
9 16,019 barrels of oil would be drained from the Bird  
10 Creek lease.

11 Q. Can you tell us what that totals?

12 A. I total that being 33,867 barrels.

13 Q. As an engineer, Mr. Barron, do you have an  
14 opinion as to whether or not it is appropriate to add  
15 those numbers together, the additional drainage from  
16 the C and D and the A and B, in order to calculate the  
17 effect on Bird Creek's correlative rights?

18 A. Yes, I think they should be added together,  
19 because they do represent potential drainage of the C  
20 and D reservoir, in fact are under production at the  
21 current time and are subject to eventual drainage, the  
22 drainage from the A and B being solely dependent upon  
23 the time of completion in both wells as to when that  
24 drainage will actually occur.

25 Q. And what -- Who gets the advantage in that

1 situation? The person who completes in the A and B  
2 first or last?

3 A. Whoever would be completing first would get  
4 the advantage.

5 Q. Now, we reviewed a BTA exhibit, being BTA  
6 Exhibit Number 7, with the BTA witnesses. I'd like you  
7 to review it now for the Commission and give the  
8 Commission your analysis of the appropriate way to make  
9 these calculations.

10 A. In review, Exhibit Number 7 is a volumetric  
11 calculation of the oil in place and ultimate recovery  
12 from the BTA well, using standard engineering equations  
13 and the application of standard reservoir numbers.

14 The difference I would take initially would  
15 be with the formation volume factor, indicated to be  
16 1.1 on Exhibit Number 7, and as I understood that to be  
17 based upon an average -- information available on  
18 average Delaware completions in this area of New  
19 Mexico.

20 In deference to that, I would substitute the  
21 number based upon actual analysis of the produced fluid  
22 in this reservoir, being 1.543. That would indicate,  
23 inasmuch as you're dividing by a larger number in the  
24 equation, you're going to have less oil in place.

25 Given the 20 acres that was used by BTA in

1 this analysis, rather than having the 681,801 barrels  
2 of oil in place, you'd have 486,054 barrels of oil in  
3 place. Simple arithmetic difference.

4           However, if one were to stay with an ultimate  
5 recovery from these wells of 150,000 barrels, it would  
6 mean that you were recovering the same amount of oil  
7 from less oil in place. Therefore, your recovery  
8 factor goes to 31 percent, rather than the numbers  
9 indicated on this of 22 percent.

10           Q. Do you believe 31 percent is a reasonable  
11 recovery factor for the East Loving-Delaware Pool?

12           A. No, I do not.

13           Q. So you would agree with the 20 percent; is  
14 that correct?

15           A. Yes.

16           Q. So we have to change some other number; is  
17 that right?

18           A. That's correct.

19           In order to allow for the same 20-percent  
20 recovery of 150,000 barrels in place which, as I've  
21 indicated on an earlier exhibit, is probably too low,  
22 however, with the 150,000 barrels of recovery and the  
23 same formation volume factor of 1.543, you wind up with  
24 31 acres of drainage, 20 percent recovery, 150,000  
25 barrels of ultimate production.

1           As I indicated, 150,000 barrels per well  
2 appears to be low. Our analysis indicates that a range  
3 of 200,000 barrels per C/D zone completion appears much  
4 more reasonable in comparison to actual production  
5 history from a well that has been on over two years.

6           Consequently, an anticipated recovery of  
7 200,000 barrels of -- being 20 percent of the oil in  
8 place within a 40-acre -- or, excuse me, the 200,000  
9 barrels being 20-percent recovery of the oil in place,  
10 you would in fact be affecting a drainage area of 41  
11 acres.

12           Q. In coming to that conclusion, Mr. Barron,  
13 what -- how many feet of net pay are you using?

14           A. Those are using the numbers as provided by  
15 BTA, based upon their own log analysis of the subject  
16 well.

17           Our analysis, as indicated on Exhibits Number  
18 10, 11 and 12, were based upon extrapolation of numbers  
19 in the area.

20           However, utilizing their number of 53 feet of  
21 net pay and a 16-percent porosity, 43-percent water  
22 saturation, I do wind up with the 41 acres of drainage  
23 for 200,000 barrels of oil.

24           Q. And is it likely or reasonable to expect that  
25 the number of barrels of recoverable reserves may be

1 even higher than that?

2 A. There is that potential, yes.

3 Q. If you use a higher number than that, which  
4 is one that is still supported by your data, what sort  
5 of a drainage pattern do you get?

6 A. Drainage pattern could increase above 40 to  
7 somewhere in the high 40 acres. 46, 47 acres would be  
8 potential.

9 I hasten to add, at this point in time this  
10 is still in the early productive life of this field,  
11 and consequently I feel that 40 acres is a reasonable  
12 and justifiable number at this time to presume for  
13 drainage in this pool.

14 Q. Now, there's been testimony today that these  
15 wells will only drain 20 acres.

16 If a well located at the location of the "C"  
17 1 were to drain 20 acres, what shape would its drainage  
18 radius have to be in order to have an impact on Bird  
19 Creek?

20 A. A circular drainage area, as indicated of  
21 radial flow, would still overlap onto the Bird Creek  
22 acreage and allow for drainage off of Bird Creek's  
23 tract. It would, however, not indicate an overlap of  
24 drainage areas between the two wells, as is indicated  
25 when there's a 40-acre drainage.

1 Q. If BTA is right and these wells will drain 20  
2 acres, then both wells are going to drain 20 acres; is  
3 that right?

4 A. That would be correct.

5 Q. Do you have an opinion as to the number of  
6 acres that the Teledyne Number 1 will drain?

7 A. At this point in time, I would assume it will  
8 drain 40 acres.

9 Q. There was some earlier testimony on the  
10 tightness of these sands and some estimates of  
11 permeability given in -- and a range of permeability  
12 given in millidarcies. Do you have an opinion on that?

13 A. I would agree that any formation that has  
14 permeability in the 1/10-of-a-millidarcy to 5  
15 millidarcies would certainly be considered a relatively  
16 tight reservoir.

17 Q. Is it your opinion that this particular  
18 reservoir we're dealing with is that tight?

19 A. Based upon the production history of these  
20 wells and the fact that they -- those wells completed,  
21 particularly by Bird Creek, continue to produce at full  
22 allowable, flowing with the pressures that they do,  
23 that they are no longer draining oil simply from the  
24 fracture system that was accomplished by stimulating  
25 the wells upon completion, that they are in fact

1 producing oil out of the matrix rock and that rock  
2 capable of sustaining this magnitude of flow is  
3 probably of a higher permeability than that indicated  
4 of, say, 5 millidarcies of less.

5 Q. Could you give us a range in numbers of  
6 millidarcies of which you believe the permeability to  
7 be?

8 A. I think core analysis in this formation would  
9 probably indicate that there is sufficient reservoir  
10 rock that's going to be several hundred millidarcies.

11 That may not be uniform and continuous  
12 through the entire net-pay interval, but I think it  
13 will certainly sufficient enough and perhaps the  
14 predominance such that several hundred millidarcies  
15 would be the average to be expected from this  
16 formation, rather than less than 5 millidarcies.

17 Q. And what effect does that have, that analysis  
18 of permeability, have on your conclusions that the  
19 wells are draining 40, 41 acres?

20 A. Well, I think the wells will still drain the  
21 40 or 41 acres with the higher permeability. They'll  
22 be able to sustain higher rates of flow, they will have  
23 less dramatic declines in production with time once the  
24 wells are no longer capable of making their top  
25 allowable. Consequently, their rates of decline will

1 probably be less -- more in line with the projections  
2 that we have made.

3 Q. Mr. Barron, would you give the Commission  
4 your professional engineering opinion as to the  
5 appropriate penalty to be imposed on the BTA well,  
6 given the location which BTA has chosen to drill and  
7 all the other factors that you've considered today in  
8 order to protect Bird Creek Resources's correlative  
9 rights in Section 14, both in the Teledyne Number 1 and  
10 Number 2?

11 A. Well, I think it would be appropriate to  
12 prevent the BTA well from draining these 33,867 barrels  
13 of potential oil from Bird Creek's leases, that the  
14 determination of the earlier hearing did not allow for  
15 the additional productive interval -- that is apparent  
16 in the wells -- and also BTA believes will ultimately  
17 be productive from this area, awaiting actual testing,  
18 and that the penalty imposed should be such that no  
19 less than this amount of oil is recoverable by Bird  
20 Creek prior to BTA's being able to produce out of the  
21 reservoir.

22 Q. The Examiner's Order was couched in terms of  
23 a time period. Is it your understanding -- Do you have  
24 an understanding as to whether or not that is the  
25 traditional way a penalty has been approached in the

1 State of New Mexico?

2 A. It's been indicated to me that the  
3 traditional method has been a strict imposition of  
4 percentage reduction in productive capacities of the  
5 well based upon their distance to the subject lease  
6 lines in comparison to a standard location.

7 Q. And what is the location of the BTA well with  
8 regard to the lease line?

9 A. The BTA well is indicated to be located 176  
10 feet from the south line of Section 11.

11 Q. And what, as far as you know, is the nearest  
12 standard location?

13 A. 330 feet from the same line.

14 Q. Do you have a recommendation, then, as to the  
15 percent of penalty to be imposed against the BTA well?

16 A. It appears that the well should support a  
17 penalty of  $46\frac{2}{3}$  percent of its allowable and,  
18 consequently, its delivery capacity once it's no longer  
19 able to produce allowable.

20 Q. And that would be for the producing life of  
21 the well?

22 A. Yes, that's correct.

23 Q. Were Exhibits 1 and 3 through 12 either  
24 prepared by you or prepared under your direction and  
25 supervision?

1           A.    Yes, that's correct.

2           MS. AUBREY:  Mr. Commissioner, I tender  
3 Exhibits 1 and 3 through 12.  I also tender Exhibit 2,  
4 which was prepared by BTA and used as an exhibit.

5           CHAIRMAN LEMAY:  Without objection, those  
6 exhibits will be entered into the record.

7           Does that complete your direct?

8           MS. AUBREY:  I have no more questions of the  
9 witness at this time.

10          CHAIRMAN LEMAY:  Thank you, Miss Aubrey.

11          Mr. Carr?

12                            CROSS-EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. CARR:

14          Q.    Mr. Barron, when were you employed by Bird  
15 Creek?

16          A.    Initially employed by Bird Creek in the  
17 beginning of this year, 1990.

18          Q.    And what were you asked to do at that time?

19          A.    We were asked to evaluate those wells that  
20 they had drilled and completed in the East Loving Field  
21 area.

22          Q.    When did you become involved with any of the  
23 matters related to this case?

24          A.    In late May, first part of June of 1990.

25          Q.    Were you involved in any preparation of the

1 testimony presented at the Examiner Hearing?

2 A. No, I was not.

3 Q. Have you reviewed that testimony in  
4 preparation for today's case?

5 A. Yes, I have.

6 Q. I would like to go -- I guess the best way to  
7 work is through these exhibits as best I can in order,  
8 and I'd like to go to Exhibit Number 1, and I -- for me  
9 to understand this, first of all what you've done is,  
10 you've placed the wells at the locations where they are  
11 actually drilled in this area?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And around each of those wells you have drawn  
14 a 40-acre -- a circle which represents a 40-acre  
15 drainage area?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And what you have shown is that by moving the  
18 "C" 1 to the south, that drainage radius extends  
19 farther into Section 14 than if it were at a standard  
20 location?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And then you have got a line running through  
23 the circle which shows a no-flow boundary -- I think  
24 that's pointed out on Exhibit 2 -- between the Teledyne  
25 Number 1 and the "C" Number 1?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Now, to shorten this up, if I understand what  
3 you have done, you have taken these maps, the data in  
4 these maps, and with a computer you have generated the  
5 data that is shown on Exhibits 11 and 12, which explain  
6 the amount of additional drainage being gained by BTA,  
7 other than through this location?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. When I look at Exhibit Number 1, what is the  
10 area that is cross-hatched on that -- on that  
11 particular plat?

12 A. That is approximately 8 -- well, 8.659 acres,  
13 as indicated on the second page of Exhibit 12.

14 Q. Okay. You're going to have to bear with me.  
15 I'm having --

16 A. Exhibit 12, the acreage indicated on that  
17 particular exhibit --

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. -- is the cross-hatched area.

20 Q. Okay, so that when we get -- It's the last  
21 line on the second page, total unorthodox "C" 1  
22 drainage, 8.659?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. So that's the number of acres that is cross-  
25 hatched on Exhibit Number 1; is that right?

1           A.    Yes.

2           Q.    And that is the acreage that is utilized to  
3           -- as the additional drainage area that then results in  
4           the 17,700 additional barrels of oil in the C and D?

5           A.    That's correct.

6           Q.    And then an additional like amount attributed  
7           to the A and the B?

8           A.    That's correct.

9           Q.    All right.  If the "C" Number 1 Well did not  
10          drain 40 -- and assume that just for the purpose of  
11          this question -- then your no-flow boundary would in  
12          fact move off to the north and the west, wouldn't it?  
13          You'd have a smaller drainage circle, and that would  
14          cause that no-flow boundary to move to the northwest,  
15          would it not?

16          A.    If the "C" 1 were to drain only 20 acres,  
17          making the same assumption that all wells would drain  
18          only 20 acres, then in fact there would essentially be  
19          no real overlap of drainage areas.

20                 The no-flow boundary, in theory, is going to  
21          be halfway between the wells, regardless, as indicated  
22          here.  This simply -- exhibit indicates that a no-flow  
23          boundary would exist in an area of overlap.  With  
24          smaller circles the boundary itself would not move.

25          Q.    But based on 40-acre and existing well

1 locations, the cross-hatched area is the 8.6 acres, and  
2 that is the basis of the 17,000 barrels in each of the  
3 two zones?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Now, if we look at the Number 2 Well, what is  
6 the status of the Number 2 Well in 14?

7 A. Number 2 Well is a producing oil well in this  
8 Delaware-Loving Pool.

9 Q. Now, if we take a look at that well and  
10 compare it to the "C" Number 1, there would be a no-  
11 flow boundary between those two, won't there?

12 A. Yes, there will.

13 Q. And so we could draw on this exhibit a line  
14 that sort of goes in that ellipse area, and that would  
15 be an additional no-flow boundary; isn't that right?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And the area south and west of that is --  
18 represents reserves in acreage that's going to be  
19 drained by the Number 2, not the Number 1; isn't that  
20 right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And so that would be appropriate, wouldn't  
23 it, to be a reduction from the 8.6 acres if in fact  
24 we're looking at the area that's going to be drained by  
25 virtue of this location?

1           A.    Yes, that can be done, and I have those  
2 numbers for you.

3           Q.    Okay.  So then we can reduce the 8-acre  
4 factor by that, correct?

5           A.    Yes.

6           Q.    Now, if we also draw a 40-acre circle around  
7 the "C" 2 Well, we're going to have an additional  
8 drainage area lopping into there, are we not?

9           A.    Yes, that's correct.

10          Q.    And that's the standard location; isn't that  
11 right?

12          A.    Yes, as I understand it.

13          Q.    And there's going to be an overlap between  
14 that drainage radius and the radius of the "C" 2; is  
15 that correct?

16          A.    Yes.

17          Q.    And so would it be appropriate to subtract,  
18 perhaps, an additional portion of that hatched area  
19 because there's going to be a no-flow boundary between  
20 the "C" 2 and the offsetting Bird Creek wells too;  
21 isn't that right?

22          A.    No, there would not be -- It would not be --

23          Q.    It will not be --

24          A.    -- not be appropriate.

25          Q.    It would not be appropriate, and why not?

1           A.    If those wells are located equidistant from  
2 the survey line, which they probably are not, the no-  
3 flow boundary would in fact be the survey line.

4            If the "C" 2 is located closer to the survey  
5 than the Teledyne Number 2, then the no-flow boundary  
6 would in fact be into Section 11 by some amount.  
7 However, it would not impact -- not necessarily impact  
8 the drainage of the "C" 1 Well.

9           Q.    If the "C" 2 is closer -- Do you know how far  
10 the setback is on the "C" 2 from the common section  
11 line?

12          A.    Offhand, no, I do not know.

13          Q.    Isn't it in fact closer than the Number 1  
14 well is to that common section line?

15          A.    Looking at the maps, it appears that way, it  
16 probably is. Even though the dots are large, they  
17 should be centered on the location.

18          Q.    Those are both standard locations, aren't  
19 they?

20          A.    I believe they are greater than 330 feet.

21          Q.    And if the "C" 2 is at a standard location  
22 and it has a 40-acre drainage circle drawn around it,  
23 it would also be able to pick up some of the reserves  
24 that are in that area shaded on Exhibit Number 1; isn't  
25 that right?

1           A.    It would potentially pick up some of that  
2 area shown under the influence of the "C" 1, yes,  
3 that's correct.

4           Q.    And those are reserves that that well could  
5 lawfully produce.  You're not challenging anything --

6           A.    No, I'm not challenging that, no.

7           Q.    -- about the "C" Number 2?

8           A.    That's correct.

9           Q.    All right.  And so it is this shaded area, as  
10 shown on Exhibit Number 1, however, that's the basis  
11 for your penalty?

12          A.    That's correct.

13          Q.    Let's go to -- Let me see.  The drainage  
14 radius that you're using on Exhibit 1 are actually  
15 generated as you showed us later in your testimony.  
16 You didn't have core data and information like that to  
17 actually calculate a drainage area or drainage radius  
18 for each of the wells, if I understood your testimony?

19          A.    We used a 40-acre circle for all wells.

20          Q.    Let's look at Exhibit Number 2.

21                    Okay, I mean Number 5.  When I said 2 a  
22 minute ago I meant Number 5.

23          A.    All right.

24                    MR. CARR:  And after doing that, I have no  
25 questions.  Number 5 I was going to be sure I knew what

1 a no-flow boundary is.

2 Q. (By Mr. Carr) If I take a look at Exhibit  
3 Number 6, this is your net-pay isopach on the C/D  
4 interval, the producing interval in this well?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And this is contoured based on what? Log  
7 information?

8 A. Yes, that's correct.

9 Q. And what we have, like on the Number 1 Well,  
10 the Teledyne Number 1, we have 60 feet. Is that net  
11 pay?

12 A. That's net pay greater than 10 percent  
13 porosity and less than 60 percent water saturation.

14 Q. And we have 64 feet in the Number 2?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. How many did you compute for the "C" 1?

17 A. For the "C" 1 Well, we have an indication  
18 that it should have in excess of 60 feet of pay.

19 Q. All right, and did you --

20 A. We did not have the log to look at.

21 Q. And when you look at that log, you see that  
22 it has in fact 53 feet?

23 A. I have not seen the log; you all did not  
24 provide it.

25 Q. If you had 53 feet, then, you would have

1 actually a thinner section as you move off to the  
2 north; isn't that correct? Than what you're  
3 experiencing under the Teledyne wells?

4 A. If our analysis indicated that the net pay  
5 number as you indicated is correct, it would in fact be  
6 reducing itself as it moves to the north.

7 Q. And the thick of the pay, you get more  
8 reserves out of a smaller area? Even a lawyer should  
9 understand that, right?

10 A. No comment.

11 Q. All right. Now, if we look at this -- If we  
12 look at this, we have three 40-acre circles?

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. And then there is a lighter line in the  
15 center that I guess is your 60-foot contour; isn't that  
16 correct?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 Q. Why is the "C" 1 with 60 feet outside your  
19 60-foot contour? Why did you place that between the  
20 60- and 50-foot contour?

21 A. What we're looking at here is a computer  
22 rendition, and you similarly have a 60-foot contour  
23 line farther south in that same section, because in the  
24 center of the section you drop to 57 feet, and then go  
25 back up to 68 feet, and so the computer is trying to

1 generate a best fit of data.

2 The line itself, in theory, should run  
3 through the 60-foot line.

4 You may notice that the 60-foot contour line  
5 is not perfectly smooth. There's a slight amount of  
6 jaggedness to the contouring, and that's a function of  
7 the smoothness factor used when the maps were actually  
8 drawn. The data in the computer will put 60 feet at  
9 that will location and the appropriate areas.

10 Sometimes --

11 Q. So this is just a computer adjustment of  
12 the --

13 A. Yeah, these maps were prepared in time to get  
14 copies made, with not a lot of leeway in terms of  
15 smoothing them out. The data itself is unchanged.

16 Q. If we look at the "B" Number 1, do you know  
17 how many net feet of porosity greater than 10 percent  
18 we have in that well, in Section 11?

19 A. The only thing we had to go on there was the  
20 cross-section provided in the earlier testimony, which  
21 was a neutron-density log.

22 Q. And that's the exhibit that you referred  
23 to --

24 A. Yes, and so we were not able to make a  
25 reduction potential in that pay for saturation. But

1 utilizing the data, it appeared that the numbers -- or  
2 some numbers provided in earlier testimony indicated  
3 that, you know, in excess of 50 percent was probably  
4 reasonable.

5 Q. If you look at that log on the "B" 1, can you  
6 from that log estimate the number -- the amount of net  
7 porosity greater than 10 percent?

8 A. I could take some time to come up with some  
9 numbers, but I'm sure that number is going to be in  
10 excess of 50 feet.

11 Q. You reviewed the prior transcript, did you  
12 not?

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. And this was Exhibit 4 in that prior case?

15 A. Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. And at that time it was indicated or  
17 testified to that this showed porosity in excess of 10  
18 percent?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And if you take the Number 3 and you add that  
21 up, if you get 66 feet or thereabouts, isn't it curious  
22 that you have placed that between the 50- and 60-foot  
23 contour on this particular map, on this isopach map?

24 A. If I understand you correctly, you're saying  
25 that previous testimony showed there were 63, and yet

1 we're only saying there's a little over 50 now.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. We took the information we had at hand, some  
4 of which was on wells that we did have logs, so we  
5 could make an exact determination.

6 On some of those wells BTA may have indicated  
7 there was 70 feet of net pay. Our analysis may have  
8 come very close to 70 feet of pay greater than 10  
9 percent, but only 55 feet of pay when adjusted for  
10 water saturation.

11 So we did some statistical work and reduced  
12 this well accordingly for water saturation.

13 Q. And so it was because of that, that the 66  
14 feet shown on the previous Exhibit Number 4 has been  
15 translated into something between 50 and 60?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Now, Exhibit Number 7 is an isopach map on  
18 all of the zones; is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. You've not seen a log on the "C" Number 1,  
21 have you?

22 A. No, sir, I have not.

23 Q. Yet it was your testimony that you're  
24 convinced that it can produce from the A and B?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Are any wells that are operated by Bird Creek  
2 producing from the A and B?

3 A. No, they are not, to my knowledge.

4 Q. Are any wells producing -- by BTA or anyone  
5 else -- producing from the A and B?

6 A. Yes, there are wells in this general area  
7 that do produce.

8 Q. And when you say general area, are we talking  
9 about within the, say, four sections that we've been  
10 focusing on here today?

11 A. No, I believe there's a well -- And I  
12 apologize; I don't have these numbers in front of me.  
13 If I'm not mistaken, I believe there's a well in  
14 Section 25 to the southeast, there's a well north of  
15 here in Section 5, and I believe there is a third well  
16 within, you know, this general vicinity that has  
17 produced from the B. I don't remember where it was.

18 Q. And now and throughout the testimony when  
19 we're talking about A and B, none of the wells that  
20 have been the subject of today's hearing are currently  
21 producing there?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. We're only talking about a future potential  
24 at some time in the future?

25 A. Based upon log analysis, yes, sir, that's

1 correct.

2 Q. We've had some testimony on formation volume  
3 factors. You've dealt with these as a -- throughout  
4 your professional life, have you not?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And that experience, you -- Based on that  
7 experience, I believe you testified they change  
8 formation to formation; is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do they change within a formation?

11 A. There may be some change. Not too  
12 significant, would be the normal --

13 Q. Would be the normal --

14 A. -- consensus of opinion, yes.

15 Q. They also change well to well on occasion, do  
16 they not?

17 A. I'd say it's more possible than a practical  
18 occurrence.

19 Q. You are aware of situations, and have  
20 encountered them, where within the same reservoir wells  
21 demonstrate different formation volume factors?

22 A. That's correct. Formation volume factor  
23 usually uses based upon original conditions. And so  
24 the assumption is generally made that the reservoir is  
25 at equilibrium at discovery, so it should be uniform;

1 it may then change.

2 Q. When we looked at Exhibit Number 9 -- They  
3 also, going back to formation volume factors, they also  
4 tend to change during the producing life of a well; is  
5 that not true?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Now, if we take a look at some of the  
8 decline-curve information that you presented as part of  
9 -- I think Exhibit Number 9. It was attached to the  
10 core data.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Core Lab analysis. We saw a different curve  
13 than what had been offered earlier from BTA records for  
14 the Culebra Bluff Number 23 Well; is that right?

15 A. They're different in their extrapolation of  
16 future production. They contain what appears to be the  
17 same reported oil production, with their well having  
18 less indicated months of production than ours.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. They have some additional information, which  
21 is apparently the gas production.

22 Q. Okay. Now, what -- In preparing for the  
23 case, you stated you had reviewed prior testimony; is  
24 that not correct?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And you're aware of the testimony of Mr. Bill  
2 Burke?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. Are you aware that he testified about the  
5 producing capabilities of this well?

6 A. Yes, I indicated he did give a number.

7 Q. And are you aware of what those numbers are?

8 A. I'd be glad to have them reviewed to me so I  
9 don't say the wrong one.

10 Q. Let me just show you the transcript of the  
11 Examiner Hearing, page 47, and you might want to take a  
12 look at that. It appears to me he's talking about this  
13 well; is that not correct?

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. And he was talking about how many barrels of  
16 oil had been produced by that well at that time?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And how many barrels was he reciting?

19 A. Quoting his testimony on page 47, he says,  
20 "It has produced 60,000 barrels of oil."

21 Q. All right. And then did he take that number  
22 and compute a total production for the well?

23 A. Yes, he comes up with an estimate of 130,000  
24 barrels for that well.

25 Q. Now, how many additional months' production

1 do you have to change a 130,000-barrel figure to  
2 200,000?

3 A. I don't know that I have any additional  
4 months of production than he may have had at that time.  
5 I don't know specifically.

6 He does indicate the 60,000, and our records  
7 indicate that it had a slightly less number, based on  
8 file testimony, so he may have had an additional month.

9 Q. So you have a difference of opinion with Mr.  
10 Burke?

11 A. It's basically a difference of opinion of  
12 extrapolation of reserves.

13 Q. And that difference of opinion would affect  
14 -- If we work 130,000 barrels into a calculation as  
15 opposed to 200,000 barrels into a calculation, it can  
16 make quite a substantial difference in the number of  
17 acres that are actually contributing to any of these  
18 wells?

19 A. It could with one difference, in that it's my  
20 knowledge that that well is not completed in the entire  
21 section in which he anticipates 130,000 barrels of oil.

22 Q. And on what do you base that?

23 A. A review of that well production.

24 Q. Have you looked at the actual logs on that  
25 well?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And are there zones that can be opened that  
3 have not been?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And did you take that into -- factor that in,  
6 in changing your number?

7 A. What we did was anticipate that the well was  
8 actually producing significantly from that zone, that  
9 it was only completed in the lower interval but is  
10 producing in the entire interval. Consequently, we felt  
11 that in time it will drain or produce better than he  
12 may have anticipated it would.

13 Q. So that producing the entire zone -- It's  
14 just not perforated in the entire zone -- I'm not  
15 trying to --

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. I'm just trying to understand what you're  
18 saying.

19 A. Right.

20 Q. You talked about permeability a little bit.  
21 Are you aware of any testing of any well in the  
22 Delaware in this area done by Bird Creek without first  
23 fracture-stimulating that well?

24 A. No, I am not.

25 Q. So there's no well, to your knowledge -- Is

1 there any well, to your knowledge, that could produce  
2 in commercial quantities without having to be fracture-  
3 stimulated first?

4 A. I don't know that one way or the other.

5 Q. Based on your study of the reservoir, do you  
6 have an opinion as to whether or not the reservoir is  
7 basically a tight formation that needs stimulation to  
8 produce?

9 A. Based upon the review of the operations to  
10 date, it appears that stimulation is necessary to  
11 affect the types of producing rates these wells now  
12 exhibit, yes.

13 Q. Did you have any bottom-hole pressure buildup  
14 data to substantiate the statement of 200 to 300  
15 millidarcies of permeability?

16 A. No, I do not.

17 Q. Let's see, I need Exhibit Number 10, which is  
18 one of the computer-generated exhibits. These are --  
19 Excuse me.

20 These are the computer-generated --

21 A. It's a summation of the data generated by the  
22 computer just presented in --

23 Q. Based on --

24 A. -- print-sheet form, right.

25 Q. Based on the previous data?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And this was done, and these numbers do not  
3 necessarily reflect exact log information. If we go to  
4 your hydrocarbon core volume, we might see computer  
5 adjustments like we did on some of the earlier  
6 exhibits? I'm asking; I'm not -- I don't know --

7 A. On those wells where we had data, it would be  
8 reflective of the log analysis of that well, and then  
9 the extrapolation of that data to the next well.

10 If we did not have data on that well, such as  
11 on the BTA Well, then it was still in the extrapolation  
12 mode.

13 Q. And here we're assuming a 40-acre drainage  
14 area for each of the wells?

15 A. In determination of the oil in place, that's  
16 correct.

17 Q. And again this is on the upper two zones that  
18 are not completed --

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. -- no wells are completed in those?

21 You're basing your penalty recommendation on  
22 not only current producing zones but also what you  
23 anticipate might be future production?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And you're coming up with a 33,000 figure?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And if you apply a 46. -- a 46-2/3 penalty to  
3 the Pardue Number 1, "C" Number 1, you would have  
4 restricted that well by in excess of 33,000 barrels  
5 during the first year, would you not? If it stays at  
6 top allowable of 142 barrels a day?

7 A. I'll go with your calculation, yes, sir.

8 MR. CARR: That's all I have. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Mr. Carr.

10 Additional questions of the witness?

11 MS. AUBREY: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I think we have some  
13 questions here. Would you rather have redirect after  
14 we ask our questions?

15 MS. AUBREY: Oh, certainly.

16 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Commissioner Weiss?

17 EXAMINATION

18 BY COMMISSIONER WEISS:

19 Q. Let's see, on Exhibit 5 --

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. -- what is the definition of a no-flow  
22 boundary again?

23 A. It would be at a position, all things assumed  
24 equal and uniform in drainage, at which the pressure  
25 transient --

1 Q. Do we know that there's all things equal and  
2 uniform drainage here? Is there a KH anywhere? Is  
3 there an equal pressure anywhere? Any measurements?

4 A. No, we're just assuming radial drainage at  
5 this point in time. There have been no pressure-  
6 transient analyses.

7 COMMISSIONER WEISS: I have no more  
8 questions.

9 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I have one, Mr. Barron.

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY CHAIRMAN LEMAY:

12 Q. If you did have -- The assumptions are, you  
13 have 40 acres of radial drainage. If that's the case,  
14 can you explain the variation in flowing tubing  
15 pressures presented in the exhibits that BTA had there  
16 on their wells, their wells in there?

17 A. Not having actual knowledge of the wells,  
18 other than that information, I would have to make some  
19 generalized statements that may relate to completions  
20 of the wells, hookups, certainly going to be indicative  
21 of choke size, it should be indicative of the amount of  
22 production which has already occurred in the wells, it  
23 may have to do with localized reservoir conditions,  
24 paraffin problems, if they are in fact there, which I  
25 don't know.

1 I'm just saying there are many localized  
2 situations which could dictate that two wells, same  
3 reservoir, same rock characteristics, may produce  
4 differently at the surface because of other things that  
5 are going on, other than the reservoirs themselves.

6 So it would not be unusual to see wells with  
7 different flow rates, pressures or whatever.

8 Q. I guess that's my question is that, with your  
9 experience in the oil patch, is that an unusual  
10 situation with top allowable flowing wells? Is that  
11 the norm, or is that unusual to encounter that  
12 variation in flowing tubing pressure?

13 A. Well, I think variations are the norm.  
14 Again, these wells apparently have the capacity to  
15 produce their allowable and have spare capacity, so I  
16 don't know if the wells are being produced at allowable  
17 every day of the month, or if in fact a well that has a  
18 capacity of 172 barrels a day, like the "B" Number 2,  
19 may be produced at that rate for 25 days and the shut  
20 in, since they don't need to produce it for the  
21 remainder of their rate.

22 If they test the well on the first or second  
23 day of being opened back up, it certainly may have an  
24 abnormal flow characteristics that it wouldn't maintain  
25 for the next 30 days.

1           So differences, I think, would be the norm.  
2           If they were all the same, I think you'd be getting  
3           suspect well-tests reporting then.

4           CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I think Commissioner Weiss  
5           has a question.

6                           FURTHER EXAMINATION

7           BY COMMISSIONER WEISS:

8           Q. I'm afraid I was a little hasty there. I  
9           didn't make things very clear. My point is, you don't  
10          know that there's a no-flow boundary there, because you  
11          don't have any information?

12          A. That's correct, that's making several  
13          assumptions on radial drainage and the fact that at a  
14          point in time the pressure transients will meet --

15          Q. I understand.

16          A. -- and that will --

17          Q. But there's nothing to say what the pressure  
18          transients are? We don't know KH, we don't know the  
19          static pressure?

20          A. You're correct.

21          Q. Then you have interference from other wells.  
22          You don't know that there's a no-flow boundary there,  
23          from what I can see?

24          A. That's correct.

25          CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Any other additional

1 questions of the witness?

2 MS. AUBREY: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Miss Aubrey?

4 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MS. AUBREY:

6 Q. Mr. Barron, will these wells, the "C" -- the  
7 BTA "C" Number 1 and the Teledyne Number 1 -- continue  
8 to produce at top allowable for their entire producing  
9 life?

10 A. No, they will not.

11 Q. At a point in time when they have -- are no  
12 longer capable of producing the allowable, is it  
13 necessary to continue to penalize the BTA well, to  
14 penalize its advantage over the Teledyne Number 1  
15 drilled by Bird Creek, to compensate for the unorthodox  
16 location?

17 A. Yes, because at some point in time the Bird  
18 Creek Well will no longer be able to produce the top  
19 allowable, and that will allow some maintenance of  
20 stability between the two wells.

21 Q. So imposing the penalty as the Commission has  
22 always done for the producing life of the well will  
23 continue to maintain the status quo between the wells;  
24 is that correct?

25 A. That's correct.

1 MS. AUBREY: Thank you.

2 I have nothing more, Mr. LeMay.

3 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: The witness may excused.

4 Do you have an additional witness, or is that  
5 it?

6 MS. AUBREY: Given the Commission's prior  
7 rulings, I believe that's it.

8 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Well, we can wind it up, I  
9 think with summary statements. I was going to take a  
10 break, but why don't we wind it up now then?

11 Do you want to break to kind of get your  
12 concluding statements together? I can give you that  
13 or --

14 MS. AUBREY: No.

15 MR. CARR: I'm ready to go.

16 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: All right, we'll conclude,  
17 then.

18 (Off the record)

19 MS. AUBREY: Commissioners, the Applicant BTA  
20 has completely failed in its burden of proving to you  
21 that the Examiner Order below should be sustained if in  
22 fact that was its burden today.

23 We believe its burden was to prove by a prima  
24 facie case that it was entitled to an unorthodox  
25 location. We believe that it's failed in that burden

1 of proof also.

2 BTA knew it was the Applicant here and that  
3 it had the obligation under your Rules to come forward  
4 with proof that would allow you as Commissioners to  
5 enter an order which correctly reflected the testimony  
6 given and which correctly put the burden on the  
7 Applicant.

8 They have refused to produce their logs for  
9 you, they have not done any fluid analysis, they have  
10 not cored their wells, and they are the ones coming to  
11 you asking for approval of a nonstandard location.

12 That location crowds Bird Creek's property.  
13 That location affects Bird Creek's correlative rights.  
14 If you believe BTA's testimony, that location promotes  
15 waste of hydrocarbons by leaving large portions of  
16 Section 11 with oil in place that will never be drained  
17 by a well.

18 Now, these wells either drain 20 acres or  
19 they drain 40 acres. Your own rules reflect the fact  
20 that the Commission's always believed they have drained  
21 40 acres. Spacing rules are written for 40's. And I  
22 don't believe that you've been shown anything today  
23 which would allow you to conclude to the contrary.

24 If these wells drained 40 acres, they're  
25 draining our oil, and they need to be penalized for

1 that.

2 This Commission has always taken the position  
3 that well-spacing rules are there for a reason, that  
4 they are not to be lightly treated, and that producers  
5 who choose to locate their wells in unorthodox  
6 locations are required to pay a penalty for doing that.

7 The penalty imposed by the Examiner is not a  
8 penalty at all; it's simply a delay in production. It  
9 simply delays the amount of time that BTA gets to  
10 produce some oil. But it gets it, nonetheless, and it  
11 gets it by virtue of moving closer to Bird Creek's  
12 location.

13 There was no corresponding increase in the  
14 allowable for the Bird Creek Well while there was a  
15 six-month delay in production -- in allowable on the  
16 BTA Well.

17 We would ask you, based on the testimony  
18 before you today, that you impose a penalty on BTA  
19 which correctly and accurately compensates Bird Creek  
20 for the loss of reserves, for the violation of its  
21 correlative rights, and we suggest to you that that  
22 percentage is 46 percent of the allowable for the life  
23 of the well, for as long as the well produces.

24 That's the way the Commission's done it in  
25 the past. We believe that to be the correct way to do

1 it. We believe that that is the way to do it, to keep  
2 these two wells in balance and in equity during their  
3 joint producing lives, particularly at a time when both  
4 wells have dropped below the allowable now set for the  
5 wells.

6 If you are to grant BTA's Application for an  
7 unorthodox location for this well that they've already  
8 drilled, we would ask, then, that you impose that  
9 penalty on them in order that we can all play on a  
10 level field and all know what the rules are in advance.  
11 We thought those rules were the spacing rules that are  
12 printed. We believe that operators who violate them or  
13 who ask for exceptions to them ought to be penalized.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Miss Aubrey.

16 Mr. Carr?

17 MR. CARR: May it please the Commission, as I  
18 stated when we opened, BTA early this year proposed a  
19 well at this location. The record that you  
20 incorporated into this case earlier today shows that  
21 they first tried a standard location, could not drill a  
22 well there.

23 Nothing in this record suggests that BTA in  
24 this case, or in any other location in this pool, has  
25 been engaged in the game of "closeology." They're

1 where they are because this is the location that was  
2 available on this 40-acre tract.

3 And so we come before you, and the task as we  
4 come before you is to try and determine how much these  
5 wells are going to drain. And we don't have the data,  
6 we just don't have core information -- no one does --  
7 to individually go out and calculate drainage radius --  
8 radii.

9 So what we have to do is, we go to  
10 volumetrics, and we take a look at the area that we can  
11 reasonably expect the wells to drain, and then we try  
12 and estimate the impact on the offsetting wells, and  
13 that's what we've tried to do.

14 We've shown you volumetrics with data from  
15 this well, from the log on this well, with a recovery  
16 factor that we all agree to. There are differences in  
17 the formation volume factor, there are differences in  
18 the ultimate recovery.

19 But in this formula, changing one factor will  
20 change the other. And we stand on the information that  
21 we've presented you today as we stand on the  
22 information we presented you in March as being our  
23 accurate, best interpretation of what our well will do  
24 and the impact it will have on the offsetting wells.

25 We came before you, and we have asked you to

1 affirm what the Examiner did.

2 We resent the fact or the suggestion that we  
3 are refusing to provide data. I don't think anybody  
4 asked for anything today that wasn't provided.

5 And as to the logs, they are on file with the  
6 Division, and each of you may look at them anytime you  
7 want. They are there, and they're there for your  
8 review.

9 The question of what area is going to be  
10 drained was addressed by Bird Creek by coming in with  
11 some computer-generated information that I submit to  
12 you is fundamentally flawed at the outset.

13 Look at Exhibit Number 1. The hatched area  
14 is the input factor that results in the penalty number.  
15 And yet, they're basing that on one no-flow boundary,  
16 and they ignore the impact of two other wells.

17 If you factor those in, the shaded area  
18 becomes smaller. I'm a lawyer, but it seems to me that  
19 means the drainage is smaller. And when you look at  
20 it, it's a nice computer presentation, but it misses  
21 the mark and it's wrong.

22 We submit to you what we've used is standard  
23 industry information and in an appropriate, responsible  
24 engineering approach, and we conclude that our well's  
25 going to drain 22 acres.

1           The Examiner found that the additional  
2 drainage area was about 12,225 barrels.

3           Now, if we look at the number of acres that  
4 they were concluding were going to be drained, 17,000,  
5 and we try and factor in some general limitations due  
6 to the impact other wells would have on this drainage  
7 area because of interference between wells, we think  
8 that's a reasonable number. And it represents 8.15  
9 percent of the recoverable reserves, based on 150,000,  
10 which we still believe is a correct determination of  
11 what these wells will ultimately make, based on  
12 information available to us at this stage in the life  
13 of the wells.

14           And on that, we believe that the penalty  
15 imposed by the Examiner was correct. I'm not going to  
16 repeat it over and over again. We think we've given  
17 you a proper engineering way to estimate the drainage  
18 area, the additional recovery.

19           We think what we've said today is consistent  
20 with what you'll see we said in March. When Mr. Logan  
21 testified then, he thought about 20 acres would be  
22 drained. When we ran the volumetrics we came out at  
23 about that level, and we stand on what we believe is a  
24 consistent presentation through two hearings.

25           Bird Creek comes in, and they talk about

1 drainage areas that may or may not exist. They ignore  
2 certain wells.

3 And then they throw in the clincher: Well,  
4 let's multiply it by two, because there's some  
5 potential behind the pipe that someday somebody might  
6 produce. And I submit to you, that's an arbitrary,  
7 capricious and unreasonable way to deal with this  
8 situation.

9 What they're asking is a permanent penalty  
10 that's going to shut in a well long after the advantage  
11 that we might be gaining is offset. It's going to dry  
12 up the producing life of the existing wells, the Pardue  
13 "C" Number 1, and it is going to ultimately cause  
14 increased cost to recover the same reserves, and  
15 there's going to be waste, there are going to be  
16 reserves left in the ground.

17 We ask you to affirm the Order of the  
18 Examiner Hearing as an appropriate conservation tool to  
19 permit the operators in this pool, both Bird Creek and  
20 BTA -- to provide each of them the opportunity to  
21 produce their just and fair share of the reserves in  
22 the Delaware Formation under these tracts.

23 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Mr. Carr. Are  
24 there any other statements in the case?

25 I'm going to request that both parties submit

1 draft orders for the Commission's consideration.

2 Nothing more? We'll take the case under  
3 advisement.

4 Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

5 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded  
6 at 2:55 p.m.)

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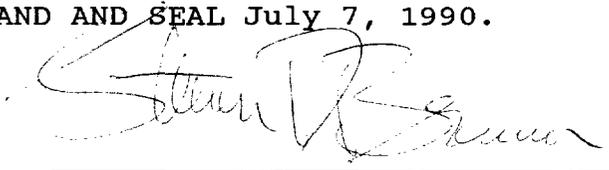
## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

1  
2  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO )  
4 COUNTY OF SANTA FE ) ss.

5  
6 I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Shorthand  
7 Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the  
8 foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil  
9 Conservation Commission was reported by me; that I  
10 transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true  
11 and accurate record of the proceedings.

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

16 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL July 7, 1990.

17  
18   
19 STEVEN T. BRENNER  
CSR No. 106

20 My commission expires: October 14, 1990  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25