

NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

EXAMINER HEARING

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Hearing Date JUNE 27, 1990 Time: 8:15 A.M.

NAME	REPRESENTING	LOCATION
William L. Jay	Campbell and Black, P.A.	Santa Fe
Bryan C. Cotner	Chevron U.S.A.	Hobbs
Rick Jones	Chevron U.S.A.	Hobbs
Alan Bohling	Chevron U.S.A.	Hobbs.
Jenny Hoover	Conoco	Midland
Renny Pearce	Montgomery & Andrews, PA	Santa Fe
Larry L. Bennett	Jay & Bennett	Subbuck
Tommy Roberts	Tansey Law Firm	Farmington
Karen Cubrey	Kelleher, Kelleher + Cubrey	Santa Fe
John Carbutt	HIXON DEVELOPMENT	FARMINGTON
Daniel R. Vandiver	Fisk + Vandiver	Artesia
Robert Bullcock	Yates Petroleum Corp.	Artesia
James Bruce	Hinkle Law Firm	ABQ
Ernst L. Padilla	Padilla + Snyder	SF
RICK RUCKETTS	PEOC	MIDLAND, TX

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NAME	REPRESENTING	LOCATION
SCOTT HALL	MILLER, STRAUERT FIRM	ST
N. Kellbin D. Falcar	Kellbin Kellbin, Aubrey MERIDIAN OIL	Santa Fe FNM, NM.
Bill Bell	YATES ENERGY	Roswell N.M.
Sharon R. Hamelton	Yates Energy	Roswell, NM
MIKE STEWART	DOYLE HARTMAN	MIDLAND, TX
Gene Gallegos	Gallegos Law Firm	Santa Fe
Ray Jue	Doyle Hartman	Midland
Dan Nutter	Carr, Engle	Santa Fe

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO

2 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

3 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

4 CASE 9969

5
6 EXAMINER HEARING

7
8 IN THE MATTER OF:

9
10 Application of Hixon Development Company for
11 Downhole Commingling and a non-standard oil proration
12 unit, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

13
14 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

15
16 BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, EXAMINER

17
18 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING

19 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

20 June 27, 1990

21
22 **ORIGINAL**

A P P E A R A N C E S

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FOR THE DIVISION:

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APPLICANT'S EXHIBITS:

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1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had
2 at 8:22 a.m.:

3

4 EXAMINER CATANACH: At this time we'll call
5 Case 9969.

6 MR. CARROLL: Application of Hixon
7 Development Company for downhole commingling and a non-
8 standard oil proration unit, Rio Arriba County, New
9 Mexico.

10 EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there appearances in
11 this case?

12 MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Examiner, my name is Tommy
13 Roberts with the law firm of Tansey, Rosebrough,
14 Gerding & Strother in Farmington, New Mexico.

15 I'm appearing on behalf of the Applicant.

16 EXAMINER CATANACH: Any other appearances?
17 Will the -- Do you have witnesses?

18 MR. ROBERTS: I have one witness to be sworn.

19 EXAMINER CATANACH: Witness please stand and
20 be sworn in.

21 (Off the record)

22 (Thereupon, the witness was sworn)

23

24

25

1 Q. And are you familiar with the Application of
2 Hixon Development Company in this case?

3 A. Yes, I am.

4 Q. Have you made a study of pertinent data for
5 purposes of providing testimony in this case?

6 A. I have.

7 MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Examiner, we would tender
8 Mr. Corbett as an expert in the field of petroleum
9 geology.

10 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

11 Q. (By Mr. Roberts) Mr. Corbett, would you
12 briefly summarize the purpose of this Application?

13 A. Hixon Development Company has acquired a 320-
14 acre lease adjacent to but outside of the boundary of
15 the Gavilan-Mancos Oil Pool in Rio Arriba County, New
16 Mexico.

17 We have developed that lease as a 320-acre --
18 on a 320-acre proration unit in the Gavilan-Greenhorn-
19 Graneros-Dakota Pool. The well is economic at present
20 but very marginal.

21 We seek to recomplete that well in the
22 Gavilan-Mancos Pool and are requesting a 320-acre
23 nonstandard proration unit for the Gavilan-Mancos.

24 Q. And does your Application also seek to obtain
25 approval for the downhole commingling of production

1 from both zones?

2 A. We do because of the limited potential in the
3 Gavilan-Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota Pool. We're seeking
4 to commingle downhole the Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota and
5 the Gavilan-Mancos Pools.

6 Q. Mr. Corbett, would you elaborate a little bit
7 on the lease history regarding the lease that Hixon
8 Development Company owns covering the west half of
9 Section 5?

10 A. Covering all of Section 5, if I may, the east
11 half of the section was originally developed by J.P.
12 McHugh. In 1986 they drilled the Lady Luck, and in May
13 of 1986 that well was first produced in the Gavilan-
14 Mancos.

15 Subsequent to that, the well was sold to Sun
16 Operating, now Oryx Energy.

17 The well was operated on a standard 320-acre
18 proration unit in the Gavilan-Mancos.

19 In August of 1988 the Gavilan-Mancos Pool was
20 respaced to 640-acre proration units. This well was
21 left on the 320-acre proration unit. The pool boundary
22 divided the section east/west, or into an east half
23 which was producing and a west half which was at that
24 time leased by El Paso Production. That was
25 nonproducing in the Gavilan-Mancos.

1 El Paso's lease was purchased by the land
2 owner from them in February of 1989. He was attempting
3 to get the lease brought into production. El Paso
4 Production didn't feel that it would be economic to
5 drill the Mancos or Dakota, so the land owner bought
6 back the lease, which was HBP, and resold it -- or
7 re-leased it -- to Hixon Development in July of 1989.

8 In January of 1990, Hixon Development Company
9 drilled the Evans Number 1 and completed it in the
10 Gavilan-Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota on a standard 320-
11 acre proration unit, and we're now seeking to
12 recomplete in the Mancos.

13 Q. Now, you mentioned that the east half of
14 Section 5 had been developed with Sun Operating Limited
15 Partnership, Lady Luck Number 1 Well. Where is that
16 well located within the east half of Section 5?

17 A. That well is in the northeast-northeast of
18 Section 5.

19 Q. As a point of clarification, you referred to
20 the land owner having purchased the rights from El Paso
21 Production Company. Is the land owner the mineral-
22 interest owner in this case?

23 A. Yes, that's correct. It was Mr. Curtis
24 Evans, who is the mineral owner.

25 Q. Okay. Let's turn your attention to the

1 exhibit package and refer to what has been marked as
2 Exhibit Number 1, and would you identify that exhibit?

3 A. Exhibit Number 1 is a plat showing Section 5,
4 Township 24 North, Range 2 West. Outlined on -- and
5 the adjacent sections.

6 The plat is illustrating offset operators to
7 the Evans Number 1. It shows that the west half of
8 Section 5 is operated by Hixon Development Company. A
9 number of sections adjacent to that are operated by
10 Mobil Producing Texas & New Mexico. And the east half
11 of Section 5 and one other section on the plat are
12 operated by Sun Operating Limited Partnership for Oryx
13 Energy.

14 Q. Okay. This exhibit also illustrates the
15 location of the Evans Number 1 Well, which is Hixon
16 Development Company's Gavilan-Dakota-Greenhorn-Graneros
17 oil completion. Is that location a standard location
18 for a recompletion in the Gavilan-Mancos Oil Pool?

19 A. That's correct. We're 790 feet off of the
20 north and west lines of the section.

21 Q. Refer to what's been marked as Exhibit Number
22 2 and identify that exhibit.

23 A. Exhibit Number 2 is a similar plat
24 illustrating the ownership in the offset sections.
25 Again, a large number of adjacent tracts owned by

1 Mobile Producing Texas & New Mexico, with working
2 interests owned by Conoco and TOC Rocky Mountain.

3 The east half of Section 5 is owned by Sun
4 Operating Limited Partnership. And also a part of
5 Section 33, the northeast quarter of Section 33 of 25
6 North and 2 West, is owned by Prime Energy Corporation.

7 The west half of Section 5 is -- The lease is
8 owned by Hixon Development Company.

9 Q. Then is it accurate to say that the
10 difference between Exhibits 1 and 2 is that Exhibit 1
11 identifies offset operators, operators of offset
12 tracts, and that Exhibit 2 identifies owners of
13 leasehold interests immediately adjacent to the
14 proposed proration unit?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Do you have any information regarding the
17 nature of the mineral ownership in these offsetting
18 acreages, whether they be federal, state or fee-owned
19 tracts?

20 A. The west half of Section 5 is fee-owned. The
21 balance, I'm not acquainted with.

22 Q. Okay. Refer to Exhibit Number 3, identify
23 that exhibit.

24 A. Exhibit Number 3 illustrates the -- is the
25 notification requirements whereby Hixon Development

1 Company has notified the offset owners and operators of
2 this cause and received from them waivers of
3 objections.

4 Q. Mr. Corbett, would you go through, with
5 respect to each owner, and identify what we have in
6 this package with respect to that owner?

7 A. The first page is a cover letter from Oryx
8 Energy, which was returned. We sent the offset
9 operators and owners a sign-and-return letter where we
10 had worded the disclaimer, also notifying them of this
11 case and their opportunity to appear.

12 The second page is the actual letter -- or a
13 photocopy of the letter sent to Oryx which was signed
14 -- or their objections were waived by a reservoir
15 engineering supervisor.

16 Q. Let me stop you there, and can you testify as
17 to the relationship between Oryx Energy Company and Sun
18 Operating Limited Partnership?

19 A. The leases owned and operated by Sun -- It's
20 Sun Operating Limited Partnership for Oryx Energy,
21 which is actually the parent company.

22 Q. Okay, go ahead with your description of
23 what's contained in Exhibit 3.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. I believe you were at the point where you

1 were referring to the return receipt from Oryx Energy?

2 A. That's correct. The next page is our
3 certified mail return receipt from Oryx Energy.

4 The next page is from -- a return letter from
5 Mobil Oil Corporation. This is the letter that we sent
6 to them, which was signed and approved by an
7 environmental and regulatory loss-prevention supervisor
8 with Mobil.

9 The next page is the return receipt to and
10 from Mobil.

11 Q. And did Mobil's return letter indicate no
12 objection to your proposed plans for a nonstandard
13 proration unit as well as downhole commingling?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Next page is our waiver, as it was returned
17 from Conoco. Again, they had no objection to our
18 proposed commingling or proration unit.

19 Next page is our return receipt from the Post
20 Office on that.

21 Next page is a cover letter from Amoco
22 whereby they waived their objection to a nonstandard
23 proration unit and downhole commingling. They note
24 that their objection is contingent upon us receiving
25 half of the Gavilan Well.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. The next page is from the same company.
3 Our -- Because the record title owner is TOC Rocky
4 Mountains, Inc., which is wholly owned by Amoco
5 Production, we sent the letter to TOC Amoco on the
6 preceding page back.

7 The next page is return receipt information
8 on the TOC Rocky Mountains letter.

9 The final return letter is from Prime Energy,
10 who is not an operator but an owner, and whereby they
11 waived their objection to our nonstandard proration
12 unit and downhole commingling.

13 And the final page of Exhibit 3 is the return
14 receipt information from Prime Energy.

15 Q. Mr. Corbett, you indicated that Prime Energy
16 had waived any objection to your Application. The copy
17 of the letter that I have in my exhibit package does
18 not indicate it's been signed by Prime Energy. Can you
19 review that and --

20 A. This -- Prime Energy has verbally notified us
21 that they have no objection. They have informed us
22 that they were sending a waiver letter such as this is
23 a copy of, returned to us.

24 This letter was sent out, allowing them over
25 the 20 days notification period as required, and you

1 can verify that from the return receipt information on
2 the final page of this exhibit. We had not at the time
3 we were preparing for this exhibit received that
4 letter.

5 Q. In your opinion, have the notice requirements
6 set forth in the Rules and Regulations of the Oil
7 Conservation Division been satisfied?

8 A. They have.

9 Q. Refer to Exhibit Number 4, please, and
10 identify that Exhibit.

11 A. Exhibit Number 4 is a base map, structure
12 contours on the Gavilan, the top of the Gavilan-Mancos
13 Oil Pool Formation.

14 It illustrates in yellow our proposed
15 nonstandard proration unit, which is also our standard
16 proration unit in the Gavilan-Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota
17 Pool.

18 There is an arrow highlighting the location
19 of the Evans Number 1. There are also marked in red
20 commingled Gallup Dakota oil wells within the Gavilan-
21 Mancos and Gavilan-Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota Pools.

22 Q. Are the boundaries of the Gavilan-Mancos Oil
23 Pool coexistent with the boundaries of the Gavilan-
24 Dakota-Greenhorn-Graneros Oil Pool?

25 A. Within the vicinity of the Evans Number 1,

1 they are.

2 Q. What is the significance of the contour -- of
3 the structure contours that are depicted on this map?

4 A. This illustrates that the Gavilan -- the
5 Mancos Formation, as it produces in the Gavilan-Mancos
6 Pool, is continuous across the leasehold.

7 Q. It would appear also that this area map
8 depicts the location of offset wells to the Evans
9 Number 1. Is the Lady Luck Number 1 Well depicted?

10 A. It's shown. It's in the northeast quarter of
11 the northeast quarter of Section 5, 24 North and 2
12 West.

13 Q. And who is the operator of the well in the
14 east half of Section 6, which is labeled the 73 B Unit?

15 A. That's Mobil Producing.

16 Q. Okay. Now, refer to Exhibit Number 5 and
17 identify that exhibit, please, and describe it.

18 A. Exhibit Number 5 is a decline curve from the
19 Sun Lady Luck Number 1.

20 This was plotted from data from Dwight's
21 Energy Data, a public data base. It shows the
22 historical production and decline of that well, along
23 with a curve that illustrates a best-fit curve model
24 for a decline from that well.

25 The decline and the parameters shown in the

1 lower right of the corner are the production as of
2 January of 1990, and the decline rates were used in
3 calculations determining whether or not we should
4 attempt to join this well and whether or not we should
5 attempt to recomplete the Evans Number 1 in the
6 Gavilan-Mancos.

7 Q. What is the cumulative production from the
8 Lady Luck Number 1 Well as of January, 1990?

9 A. The cumulative, January of 1990, is 31,832
10 barrels of oil and 85,433 MCF gas.

11 Q. And what is the rate of decline?

12 A. This well shows a 63-percent annual decline
13 rate.

14 Q. Okay. Let's turn to Exhibit Number 6, and
15 identify that exhibit and explain its significance to
16 the Application.

17 A. Exhibit Number 6 is the calculation of the
18 present value of the Lady Luck Number 1, which is the
19 well in the northeast-northeast of Section 5 in the
20 Gavilan-Mancos.

21 The second page of the exhibit is the
22 economic calculations. The final page is input data
23 which has been derived from both Hixon's experience
24 operating wells within the pool and adjacent to the
25 pool.

1 There's also input data from the decline
2 curve taken from Dwight's Energy Data. We used a 63-
3 percent decline rate, production as of January of 1990
4 of 130 barrels per month, the current price of oil,
5 posted as of the beginning of this week, also the
6 current spot-market price of gas, operating expenses of
7 \$1000 per well per month, which is what our experience
8 has been operating in this pool.

9 The economic parameters suggest that this
10 well has already reached its economic limit as of July
11 of 1990. The well is essentially -- While it still
12 produces oil, it's operating without a positive cash
13 flow.

14 Q. Mr. Corbett, I would think that one
15 alternative to the Application of Hixon Development
16 Company in this case might be to reform the spacing
17 unit for the Lady Luck Number 1 Well as to the Gavilan-
18 Mancos Oil Pool, reform it from the currently existing
19 320 acres to 640 acres, and to bring in the owners of
20 the interest under the west half in that well.

21 Do you have an opinion as to the impact on
22 the correlative rights of the parties in the west half
23 of Section 5 with regard to that particular
24 alternative?

25 A. Feeling since the Lady Luck has reached its

1 economic limit, there would be no benefit to joining in
2 ownership of that well. Our correlative rights would
3 not be protected by joining that, as we would receive
4 no benefit from production from that well.

5 Q. Let's turn to Exhibit Number 7. Describe
6 that exhibit.

7 A. Exhibit Number 7 is present value of the
8 Evans Number 1 as it's currently producing from its
9 completion within the Gavilan-Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota
10 Oil Pool. The input parameters are taken from actual
11 production expenses and production rates.

12 The well produces about three barrels per
13 day. It's at or near its economic limit. According to
14 these economic calculations, there are under 1000
15 barrels remaining recoverable in the economic life of
16 the well.

17 Q. And what would be the remaining economic life
18 of this well in terms of days or months?

19 A. Approximately six months.

20 Q. Okay. What conclusions do you draw from the
21 data depicted in Exhibit 7?

22 A. This data illustrates that the Gavilan-
23 Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota Pool here is not economically
24 productive on its own. If we're confined to producing
25 from this pool, within approximately six months it will

1 be time to plug and abandon the well.

2 Q. Let's turn to Exhibit Number 8. Identify
3 that exhibit.

4 A. Exhibit Number 8 is a projected economic
5 scenario based on the Lady Luck decline curve, taking
6 the existing producing Evans Number 1, added \$50,000
7 for a recompletion in the Gavilan-Mancos Pool, and then
8 estimated the present value in reserves attributable to
9 the well, based on the Lady Luck decline, using the
10 same IP and reserves that Sun and Oryx has had in the
11 Lady Luck.

12 This is probably a best-case scenario. It
13 suggests that there are approximately 36,000 barrels of
14 oil that could be recovered in this scenario from the
15 Evans with a present value of \$350,000.

16 Q. How would the best-case scenario compare with
17 the worst-case scenario?

18 A. The worst-case scenario is that the Gavilan-
19 Mancos is nonproductive, in which case at the point
20 where the Gavilan-Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota is
21 economically completed or below its economic limit,
22 we'll plug the entire well.

23 Q. So what is the economic risk to Hixon
24 Development Company of an attempted recompletion in the
25 Gavilan-Mancos Oil Pool?

1 A. \$50,000 for recompletion.

2 Q. Now, if the Gavilan-Mancos Oil Pool
3 recompletion attempt results in production, do you
4 propose an allowable?

5 A. We would propose, because our nonstandard
6 proration unit is half of the Gavilan current proration
7 unit, we would propose half of the allowable or 400
8 barrels of oil per day.

9 Q. What do you project to be the initial rate
10 for production from the Gavilan-Mancos Oil Pool?

11 A. Our initial rate, based on the analogous Lady
12 Luck, is 100 barrels of oil per day.

13 Q. Okay. Turn to Exhibit Number 9 and identify
14 that exhibit.

15 A. Exhibit Number 9 is a proposed projected
16 economic scenario whereby we're allowed to recomplete
17 the Evans in the Gavilan-Mancos for \$50,000 and
18 commingle downhole production from the Gavilan-
19 Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota and the Gavilan-Mancos.

20 We've combined the production streams, but
21 because we can operate in both horizons for the same
22 costs if we're allowed to downhole commingle, the costs
23 for operating simply the Gavilan-Mancos are included.

24 What this illustrates is that by downhole
25 commingling we can produce the Gavilan-Greenhorn-

1 Graneros-Dakota beyond its economic limit and will
2 receive approximately another 1000 barrels of oil from
3 the wellbore.

4 Q. And how does that convert to dollar value?

5 A. It's a present value of approximately
6 \$15,000.

7 Q. Mr. Corbett, it appears that there would be
8 another alternative to the Application of Hixon
9 Development Company in this case, and that would be the
10 alternative where the spacing unit for the Lady Luck
11 Number 1 Well would be reformed or enlarged from 320
12 acres to 640 acres as to the Gavilan-Mancos Oil Pool,
13 and then have Hixon Development Company recomplete the
14 Gavilan-Mancos Oil Pool in its Evans Number 1 Well on
15 an infill basis.

16 Do you have an opinion as to the impact on
17 correlative rights of the interest owners in the west
18 half with respect to that alternative?

19 A. We feel that this would deny the interest
20 owners their correlative rights. The east half has
21 produced without any benefit to the owners in the west
22 half.

23 There is some possibility that the west half
24 is, at least in part, depleted from production in the
25 east half. We feel that if in fact the west half is

1 depleted, the economic risk is all Hixon Development
2 Company's.

3 But it's a small risk compared to drilling a
4 new well. We feel that it's worth the risk, because
5 the well is soon going to be at its economic limit.

6 Q. What -- Go ahead.

7 A. The -- Well, maybe I haven't answered your
8 question.

9 Q. Well, I just wanted to have you elaborate on
10 another issue. Let's assume that the alternative I
11 have suggested were to be adopted. Do you have any
12 opinion as to the impact of that alternative on your
13 lease situation?

14 A. Because the minerals in the west half of the
15 section were leased at the time that the Lady Luck was
16 drilled and completed and at the time that the Gavilan-
17 Mancos was respaced to 640-acre spacing, if that lease
18 were being depleted by the Lady Luck, then you could
19 make a case that it was producing.

20 Mr. Evans bought back the lease from El Paso
21 Production in order to obtain some benefit from
22 production on the west half.

23 It's possible that if we were to reform the
24 proration unit and have Hixon Development participate
25 in historical production in the Lady Luck -- Is that

1 what you're suggesting?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. -- that some benefit of that should have gone
4 to El Paso Production, because at the time the Lady
5 Luck was producing during its economic life, El Paso
6 Production owned a lease in the west half.

7 There may be some revenue due them, and if in
8 fact the lease was producing then -- and it could be
9 that Hixon would not actually have -- or, Mr. Evans in
10 buying those minerals to bring it into production would
11 have erred, it could be that their lease could have
12 been considered held by production.

13 Q. So in summary, it would be your position that
14 the Hixon lease could be in jeopardy and might not be
15 valid?

16 A. A case could be made that the El Paso lease
17 could still be the valid lease on the west half.

18 Q. Let's turn your attention to the portion of
19 the Application dealing with downhole commingling. How
20 would you physically affect the downhole commingling of
21 production in the wellbore?

22 A. Our intent is to recomplete the Gavilan-
23 Mancos and then pump using one tubing string to the
24 Gavilan-Mancos and the Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota Pool.

25 Q. Would you expect the total value of the oil

1 produced from the Evans Number 1 to be diminished as a
2 result of downhole commingling?

3 A. In the offset wells in this area, the
4 character of the oil is very similar, and downhole
5 commingling as it's already been effected in the
6 Gavilan-Mancos Pool, has not diminished the character
7 of the oil or the value of the oil.

8 Q. Based on your knowledge of ownership, is the
9 working interest, the overriding royalty interest, and
10 the royalty interest ownership of the two zones to be
11 commingled common?

12 A. If our case for a nonstandard proration unit
13 is approved, ownership is common in the two pools in
14 the west half of Section 5.

15 Q. In your opinion, would the commingling
16 jeopardize the efficiency of future secondary-recovery
17 operations in either of the zones to be commingled?

18 A. No, I don't believe that it would.

19 Q. And would you expect the fluid
20 characteristics to be compatible in the wellbore?

21 A. They are.

22 Q. Do you have enough information at this point
23 to be able to propose an allocation formula?

24 A. We don't have adequate information at this
25 point to propose an allocation formula, because pending

1 our approval of a nonstandard proration unit we have
2 not completed in the Gavilan-Mancos Pool.

3 We're lacking production information, rates,
4 pressures, that type of data that you'd need to have an
5 allocation formula.

6 Q. There would seem to be other information that
7 is not available at this time, just by virtue of the
8 fact that the recompletion in the Mancos has not been
9 done. Do you propose to submit pertinent information
10 to a request for downhole commingling at a later date?

11 A. We would propose to submit that as
12 information is obtained after completion in the
13 Gavilan-Mancos.

14 Q. By way of summary, would you just briefly
15 recap the productive capabilities of the Dakota
16 Formation as you have seen it in the Evans Number 1
17 Well?

18 A. The Evans Number 1, which is currently
19 producing from the Dakota, is marginal at best. It has
20 a relatively flat decline, but at approximately three
21 barrels per day it's very marginal economic production.

22 We feel that there are economic reserves or
23 reserves that can be recovered but that those can most
24 efficiently be recovered by commingling.

25 Q. And describe the anticipated rate of

1 production or the anticipated productive capabilities
2 of the Mancos Oil zone.

3 This is a bit of an unknown. Our scenario
4 modeled after the Sun Lady Luck would be approximately
5 a 100-barrel-a-day well, which would be economic and
6 allow us to continue to produce both the Mancos and
7 Dakota zones for five to ten years.

8 Q. What result will there be if the downhole
9 commingling request is not granted?

10 A. If downhole commingling is not granted and
11 the nonstandard proration unit is, we will plug the
12 Dakota zone, thereby wasting the Dakota reserves. That
13 would result in waste of reserves in the Dakota.

14 If the nonstandard proration unit -- Did I
15 say if it was approved or if it was not? At any rate,
16 if the nonstandard proration unit is approved and
17 downhole commingling is not approved, we will produce
18 the Mancos, plugging, possibly prematurely, the Dakota.

19 If nonstandard proration is not approved, the
20 well in its entirety will be plugged at the economic --
21 the end of the economic life of the Dakota production,
22 thereby wasting reserves.

23 Q. In your opinion, will the granting of this
24 Application result in the prevention of both economic
25 and physical waste, would it be in the interests of

1 conservation, and would it result in the protection of
2 correlative rights?

3 A. Yes, it would.

4 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 9 either prepared by
5 you or at your direction or under your supervision?

6 A. They were.

7 MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Examiner, we move the
8 admission of Exhibits 1 through 9.

9 We have no further questions for the witness.

10 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 9 will
11 be admitted as evidence.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

14 Q. Mr. Corbett, are there any wells in the
15 sections surrounding Section 5 besides 6, besides
16 Section 6?

17 A. There is in Section 32 of 25 North and 2
18 West, the Mobil Lindrith B Unit Number 34.

19 Also to the south in Section 8 the Mobil
20 Lindrith B Unit Number 72.

21 In Section 4 to the east, the Mobile Lindrith
22 B Unit 37 and 38; and in Section 9, which has an
23 adjacent common corner to the southeast, the Mobile
24 Lindrith 74 B.

25 Our lease was -- well, it's geographically

1 within the area; it's landlocked, if you will, by the
2 Mobile Lindrith B Unit.

3 At the time that the unit was formed, Mr.
4 Evans's father would not sign the pooling clause --
5 would not sign the lease with the pooling clause. This
6 lease was effectively left out of Mobil's unit.

7 Q. I see. Okay, so Mobile would be the operator
8 of all the offset acreage except for Sun? Mobile and
9 Sun would be the two operators, offset operators?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Now, the Amoco and the TOC interest, those
12 are just interest owners with Mobil?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. The proration unit for the Lady Luck Number
15 1, was that approved by the Division by some order that
16 you know of, or was that grandfathered in when they
17 changed the Rules?

18 A. That was grandfathered.

19 Q. It was? And you said that well has already
20 reached its economic limit?

21 A. In -- to -- Based on the published, public
22 data available to us and our economic calculations,
23 it's reached its limit.

24 Q. In the Gavilan-Mancos Pool?

25 A. That's correct. The well was drilled only to

1 the Gavilan Mancos -- No, I believe at that time that
2 he was going to the Dakota, but he has not attempted --
3 or his son has not attempted to complete in the Dakota.

4 Q. All right.

5 A. The proration unit for that would be a 320-
6 acre Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota spacing. That's
7 standard, the east half.

8 Q. Okay. You said the Evans Number 1 is
9 producing three barrels of oil per day, currently,
10 approximately?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Any water or gas?

13 A. It does produce gas. As shown on the
14 Dwight's curve, it's producing approximately 2000 MCF
15 per month.

16 MR. ROBERTS: Is that the Evans?

17 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry. The Evans or
18 the Lady Luck?

19 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) Evans.

20 A. Oh, the Evans does produce some gas. It's
21 currently not tied in, based on the limited reserves
22 estimated.

23 Q. How did you arrive at the estimate of 100
24 barrels a day potential for the Evans Number 1 in the
25 Gavilan?

1 A. That's based on the analog of the Lady Luck,
2 the Dwight's decline curves there. Initial production
3 was -- Or their peak production was 3000 barrels per
4 month or about 100 barrels per day.

5 Q. Okay. Have you done an analysis to determine
6 that -- Well, is it your opinion that the Lady Luck
7 Number 1 has not drained all of the west half of that
8 section?

9 A. We're -- We believe that there are
10 recoverable reserves from the Mancos in the west half
11 of the section.

12 The best-case scenario is -- or well, that
13 will -- If the well is not drained at all, if in fact
14 the Lady Luck drained 320 acres, it's at any rate
15 reached its economic limit.

16 We feel that if it will drain the west half
17 or if it's capable of draining the west half, it
18 already has because it's reached -- the well is all
19 played out. In that instance, we think it's worth the
20 attempt.

21 Q. Do you know at this point whether the well
22 will flow when you complete in the Gavilan-Mancos Pool,
23 or will it have to be pumped?

24 A. Based on the offset wells, it will need to be
25 pumped. We don't have pressure data at our location on

1 the Gavilan-Mancos yet.

2 Q. Do you have pressure information on the
3 Dakota?

4 A. The Dakota, we have some. I can't quantify
5 that, but we are pumping the well.

6 Q. Currently?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You don't have any -- You don't see that
9 there will be any problems with cross-flow of any kind
10 between the two zones?

11 A. Not at the anticipated rates. I'm sure that
12 we'll be able to keep the well pumped off.

13 Q. Let me ask you this: The Lady Luck Number 1,
14 did that produce at a GOR of less than 2000 to 1?

15 A. It did originally. I haven't calculated the
16 GOR most recently.

17 Q. Now, the -- All of the west half is commonly
18 owned by Hixon; Hixon is the only interest owner in
19 that section?

20 A. Our lease covers from the base of the Mesa
21 Verde, so that the ownership of the Gavilan-Mancos and
22 the Greenhorn-Graneros-Dakota are common.

23 Q. Okay. And you propose to work with the
24 District Supervisor to come up with an allocation
25 formula if commingling is approved?

1 A. That's correct, once we have adequate data to
2 calculate a formula.

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: I have no further
4 questions of the witness.

5 MR. ROBERTS: I have no --

6 EXAMINER CATANACH: You're excused.

7 Anything further in this case?

8 If not, Case 9969 will be taken under
9 advisement.

10 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded
11 at 9:07 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

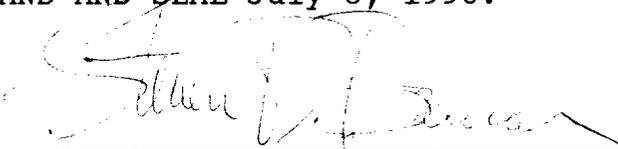
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STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) SS.
COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL July 8, 1990.



STEVEN T. BRENNER
CSR No. 106

My commission expires: October 14, 1990

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 8965, heard by me on June 27 1990.

David R. Catanzano, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division