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1	APPEARANCES
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3	FOR THE DIVISION: ROBERT G. STOVALL, ESQ. General Counsel
4	Oil Conservation Division
5	State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
6	FOR THE APPLICANT: PADILLA & SNYDER
7	Attorneys at Law BY: ERNEST L. PADILLA, ESQ.
8	Post Office Box 2523 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2523
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1	EXAMINER CATANACH: We will call Case 10144.
2	MR. STOVALL: Application of Mewhourne Oil Company for
3	compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico.
4	EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there appearances in this
5	case?
6	MR. PADILLA: Mr. Examiner, Ernest L. Padilla, Santa
7	Fe, New Mexico, for the applicant in this case. I have two
8	witnesses.
9	EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there any other appearances?
10	Will the witnesses please stand to be sworn in?
11	MR. PADILLA: Can I proceed, Mr. Examiner?
12	EXAMINER CATANACH: Yes, sir.
13	PAUL HADEN,
14	the Witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was
15	examined and testified as follows:
16	DIRECT EXAMINATION
17	BY MR. PADILLA:
18	Q. Mr. Haden, for the record, please state your
19	full name?
20	A. My name is Paul Haden.
21	Q. Who do you work for, Mr. Haden?
22	A. I work for Mewbourne Oil Company in Midland,
23	Texas.
2 4	Q. What do you do?

landman.

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- Q. Have you previously testified before the Oil Conservation Division and had your credentials accepted as a matter of record as a petroleum landman?
 - A. Yes, I have, and they were accepted.
- Q. Are you familiar with the leasehold -- oil and gas leasehold interest in support of the application?
 - A. Yes, I am.
 - Q. That covers what area of property?
- A. This covers the south half of Section 1 in

 Township 18 South, Range 27 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- MR. PADILLA: Mr. Examiner, we tender Mr. Haden as a petroleum landman.
- 14 EXAMINER CATANACH: Mr. Haden is so qualified.
- 15 MR. PADILLA: Mr. Examiner, at this time I would also
 16 like to dismiss that portion of the application that calls
 17 for compulsory pooling from the surface to the base of the
 18 Abo formation. In other words, we would only like the
 19 application to cover from the base of the Abo formation to
 20 the base of the Morrow formation.
- 21 EXAMINER CATANACH: The base of the Λbo to the base of the Morrow formations --
- 23 MR. PADILLA: Correct.
- EXAMINER CATANACH: -- is the only thing that you want pooled.

MR. PADILLA: Right.

EXAMINER CATANACH: That other portion will be dismissed.

- Q. (By Mr. Padilla) Mr. Haden, can you briefly tell us what the purpose of this hearing is today?
- A. The purpose of this hearing is to allow Mewbourne Oil Company as operator to drill a 10,200-foot Morrow test well.
- Q. Why is it necessary to force pool various interests?
- A. Thus far Exxon Company, U.S.A. has not agreed to and joined or farmed out their interest, nor Arco Oil and Gas Company have -- they have not agreed to farm out or join to date.
- Q. Let's go on to what we have marked as Exhibit

 No. 1 and have you identify that for the examiner and tell

 him what that is and what it contains.
- A. Exhibit 1 is at land plat that describes our -shows our location as a circle in red with a red arrow
 pointed directly to it. The south half of the section is
 shaded in yellow which will be the drilling spacing in the
 unit.
 - Q. Is that well at a standard location?
 - A. Yes, this is a standard location.
 - Q. Is that all you have for Exhibit No. 1?

A. Yes, it is.

- Q. Let's go on to what we have marked as Exhibits Nos. 2 and 2A, and have you identify what those two exhibits contain.
- A. Exhibit No. 2 is also a plat showing our tract ownership, which also shows our proposed location within the southwest quarter of Section 1. Tract 1, as reflected in Exhibit 2A, is owned currently by Amoco Production Company and Arco Oil & Gas Company in the amounts of 50 percent each. We do have a farm-out agreement from Amoco Production Company for their interest which was under a previous agreement with them.

Tract 2 shows Exxon Company, U.S.A.'s ownership.

They have a number of interests in that southeast quarter of Section 1.

- Q. How about Tract 3 that's identified on Exhibit No. 2?
- A. Tract 3 is also Amoco and Arco Oil & Gas. Tract 3 is simply described there which would show that Arco's acreage would be proved up, so to speak, by drilling this well in the southwest quarter.
 - Q. Tract 3 is not involved in this?
- A. Tract 3 is not involved in this action.
- Q. Do you have some arrangement or agreement with Amoco that requires you to drill a well within a certain

amount of time?

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- A. Yes, sir, we do. We have a farm-out agreement with them in which we have to commence actual drilling operations on or before December 25, 1990.
- Q. And that agreement covered all of Section 1 I take it?
 - A. This agreement covers all of Section 1 of which Amoco again owns an interest in the southwest quarter and also the north half.
 - Q. Did you have anything further concerning Exhibits 2 and 2A.
- A. Yes, I do. Currently Arco's interest, 25

 percent interest, in the drilling spacing in the unit is

 uncommitted, and Exxon Company, U.S.A., owning 50 percent,

 is uncommitted.
- Q. That is shown on the tabulation on Exhibit 2A;

 17 is that correct?
- 18 A. That is correct.
- Q. Okay. Let's move on to what we have marked as Exhibit No. 3 and have you identify that for the examiner, please.
- A. Exhibit 3 is -- are various correspondence with Arco Oil and Gas Company and Exxon Company, U.S.A.. This covers a period spanning from October 10, 1989, to October 18, 1990.

ļ	Q. Without getting into any specific detail, or	
I	reading this correspondence, please tell us in your own	
١	words what you have requested from both of these companie	s
	insofar as attempting to seek voluntary joinders is	
	concerned?	

- A. Mewbourne Oil Company has requested to farm out Arco and Exxon for their rights below the base of the Abo formation to the base of the Morrow formation. This is for a 10,250-foot test well. We have requested that they deliver us a 75 percent net revenue interest. They retain an override, 25 percent of eight-eights plus burdens; with an option to convert that override to a 25 percent working interest after a payout of the test well.
- Q. What have been the results of your effort to join both of those companies in drilling this well?
- A. The results have been futile. As you can see, it's been a year in trying to get this deal put together.
- Q. Have you had other verbal communications with both of these companies to try to get voluntary joinder?
- A. Yes, I have, numerous occasions all throughout the span of one year.
- Q. What result did you have from those communications?
- A. Exxon advised us that they will go nonconsent under the order. They do not wish to join. Arco they are

still undecided. They have indicated that they probably would farm out or join in the drilling of the well as to the extent of their interest in the drilling spacing unit.

- Q. When was your latest conversation with representatives of both of these companies?
- A. Latest conversation with Exxon was October 18 wherein they were sent a followup letter requesting them to join in the drilling of the well. Also later than that they were called to see what they wanted to do, and this is when their Exxon representative advised that they would not join in the well. That they would go nonconsent.
 - Q. How about Arco?

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- A. Arco, a conversation with them October 13th indicated that they would either farm out or join.
 - Q. You have had no subsequent response either way?
 - A. No subsequent response.
- Q. This exhibit, the top portion of that, is the notice that our law firm sent to both of these companies;

 19 is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. And the certified return receipt information is included in that; is that also correct?
- 23 A. That is also correct.
- Q. Let's go to Exhibit No. 4 and have you identify that list, please?

- Exhibit 4 is an authorization for our 1 Α. 2 expenditure. This is for the drilling of this 10,200-foot 3 Morrow test well at a location 790 feet from the south line and 2,250 feet from the west line of Section 1, Township 18 4 5 South, Range 27 East. This is for the Chalk Bluff Federal 6 No. 1 Well. Describes the estimated drilling and 7 completion costs. The cost to case to point is \$442,330. The completed well cost is \$724,255. This was prepared 8 9 September 1990.
 - Q. Mr. Haden, has either Exxon or Arco made any representations to you that this AFE is unreasonable?

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- A. They have made no such representations.
- Q. Is this a typical AFE used by Mewbourne used for drilling a Morrow well?
 - A. This is a typical AFE for a Morrow well for this area.
 - Q. Mr. Haden, assuming that the Oil Conservation

 Division gives approval to this application, does Mewbourne

 Oil Company wished to be named the operator under an order issued by the division?
 - A. Yes, sir. Mewbourne Oil Company does wish to be named operator.
- Q. Mr. Haden, do you have any recommendation as to what type of overhead charges for drilling and producing well rates are?

We are recommending \$5,500 for a drilling well 1 Α. rate and \$550 for a producing well rate. 2 3 Where do you get these figures from? 4 These are normal costs associated with this type of well for this depth. This is from the company. 5 Is it your opinion that these figures are 6 7 reasonable? We feel these figures are reasonable. 8 Α. 9 Mr. Haden, do you have anything further to add to your testimony here today? 10 11 Α. No, sir, I do not. MR. PADILLA: Mr. Examiner, we tender Exhibits 1 12 13 through 4, and that concludes my direct testimony of this 14 witness. 15 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 4 will be admitted as evidence. 16 17 (Applicant's Exhibits 1 through 4 18 were admitted in evidence.) 19 EXAMINATION 20 BY EXAMINER CATANACH: Mr. Haden, has Mewbourne drilled a Morrow well 21 Q. 22 in this area recently? 23 Yes, sir, we have. We have recently completed a Α. 24 Morrow well in Section 12 in the northeast quarter.

These proposed well costs are in line with what

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Q.

1 you incurred in that previous well? 2 These are normal costs. 3 Q. The proposed overhead rates are in line with what other operators are charging in this area? 5 Yes, sir, as far as I know from information Α. 6 available to me. How exactly is that determined, these overhead 7 Q. 8 rates? It's my understanding they're determined from 9 Α. 10 accounting estimates. 11 EXAMINER CATANACH: I have no further questions of 12 this witness. He may be excused. MR. PADILLA: We will call David Overton at this time, 13 14 Mr. Chairman. 15 J. DAVID OVERTON, 16 the Witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was 17 examined and testified as follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION 18 BY MR. PADILLA: 19 20 Q. Mr. Overton, have you -- let me ask you first 21 what your full name is? 22 My name is J. David Overton. I'm employed by Α. Mewbourne Oil Company as an exploration geologist. 23 24 And have you previously testified before the Oil

Conservation Division as an exploration geologist?

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A. Yes, sir, I have.

- Q. And your credentials have been accepted as a matter of record in that field?
 - A. Yes, sir, they have.
- Q. Have you prepared a study of geologic information underlying this section or the area of the application?
- A. Yes, sir, I have.
 - MR. PADILLA: Mr. Examiner, we tender Mr. Overton as an exploration geologist.

11 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

- Q. (By Mr. Padilla) Generally, Mr. Overton, please tell us what type of geology you're looking at in the area of the application?
- A. We're looking at the Morrow formation, Lower

 Morrow Sands. As exhibits we have a production study, two

 cross sections and two isopach maps with structure contours

 on them.
- Q. Let's move on to Exhibit No. 5, and have you identify Exhibit No. 5 for Examiner Catanach, please.
- A. Exhibit No. 5 is the base map, including only those wells that penetrated the Morrow formation. There are numerous shallower oil-producing wells in the area, but we have rights only below those that oil production and so it's not represented on this map. We do show production

from the wells which have penetrated the Morrow and give cumulative totals for those wells through October 1990.

- Q. What type of Morrow production does this exhibit show in terms of economics?
- A. Generally in terms of economics we have about 50 percent of Morrow penetrations or slightly less being economic under Mewbourne's -- and being profitable under Mewbourne's guidelines, roughly over half have been noneconomic and nonprofitable.
- Q. Let's take the first two tiers of sections on that exhibit. Obviously there is no Morrow formation -- well, there is some Morrow penetration in that first tier; is that correct?
- A. Yes, sir. There are two Morrow penetrations in the first two tiers currently. One is Section 35, which was completed in Lower Morrow and never produced on record, and any economic amounts they did produce some gas during a potential but they never sold any to the best of my knowledge. There is a well in Section 5 which has been there 7 1/2 years and made a little over a quarter of a Bcf of gas. And under our guidelines that would be uneconomical.
- Q. The third tier does contain more Morrow wells, and tell us about economics of those Morrow wells in that third tier?

- In that third tier we have approximately nine 1 Α. penetrations of which three of them have been economic to 2 3 date under our guidelines, which means that roughly the 4 other -- there's five of them that uneconomic or marginally 5 economical. One well in Section 7 at 550 million may have 6 made its money back, paid for itself. Our well is in the northeast quarter of Section 12, and we have calculated 7 8 absolutely no flow on it. It is currently shut-in waiting on a pipeline.
 - Q. In terms of the first location what do you generally expect to encounter as far as payback is concerned?

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- A. We're hoping to encounter a well similar to our well in Section 12, maybe a little better. We hope to improve on that.
- Q. How would you characterize the location in terms of a step-out or development well?
- A. It's a fairly uncontrolled step-out. We're attempting to step out from that well in Section 12 but there is not a lot of control to truly generate any --
- Q. That exhibit also shows some lines of cross section, B B prime and C C prime, and I assume that those --
- A. Those are the cross sections that we have to present.

- Q. Do you have anything further on this exhibit?
- A. No, sir.

- Q. Let's move on to Exhibit No. 6 and have you identify that for the examiner, please.
- A. Exhibit No. 6 would be cross section B to B prime. It trends from the west to the east across the area of well control we have, including a proposed location in roughly what we're expecting to get in that well. As we see as the A Sand, what we have marked as the Lower Morrow A Sand, is not found in either of the wells to the west or east of our proposed location. Our Lower Morrow C Sand which we encountered in our well in Section 12, we see a nonproductive remnant in the well to the west. We do not find that interval at all or that sand deposit at all in the well to the east.
 - Q. That's the sand highlighted in pink?
- A. In pink, yes, sir. A Sand is highlighted in brown.
 - Q. I notice you've highlighted an upper formation in yellow.
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - O. What is that?
- A. That's an Atoka Sand, which we encounter in our well in Section 12. It has not been productive in the area from my production study. We hope to run into that in a

little better quality than what we have.

- 0. That's --
- A. That's kind of serendipitous.
- Q. Something you're going to look at on your way
- A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Do you have anything further on this cross section?
- A. No, sir, I don't.
- Q. Let's move on to the other cross section,

 11 Exhibit 7?
- 12 Α. Exhibit 7 is cross section C to C prime. 13 runs down a trend or projected trend for the Lower Morrow A Sand, from the well to the northwest in Section of 17 of 27 14 15 down to our well in Section 12 of 18 of 27. We see that that well in Section 35 did encounter what we believe to be 16 17 the brown sand. They did perf. it. The scout ticket record shows that it did flare at a rate of 6.4 million per 18 19 day, dropping down to 4 million per day, and no production 20 records were available on that well.

21 Our well we have --

- Q. When you say "our well," what well do you mean?
- A. The Mewbourne Oil Company Federal T No. 1 in Section 12, the northeast of Section 12.
 - Q. That is the well on the --

- A. It is one of the sands that is productive.
- Q. It's the one on the extreme right hand of the exhibits?
 - A. Right.

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- Q. Okay. Anything further on this exhibit?
- A. Again we show some upper -- some sands above there that we would like to run into, but have not been able to truly map across the proposed location.
- Q. Are you ready to move on to the other exhibits at this time?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Let's go to Exhibit No. 8 and have you identify that, please.
 - Α. Exhibit 8 is a Lower Morrow structure map with a gross Lower Morrow A Sand isopach map imposed and shaded in The structure in the area trends from the northwest dipping to the southeast, which we find as a regional dip in the area. There are no structural features outside of the regional dip across the area map. Our brown sand trend runs from the northwest toward the southeast. If you will note outside of zero lines, where we find no sand, we have two wells with control -- as control in this area. The one in Section 35 and the well in the northeast of Section 12. We are proposing a very optimistic location as far as this trend goes in Section 1.

Q. Does that translate to -- how does that optimism translate to risk?

- A. We're optimistic that it's there, but as far as having only two points of control where you see this sand, risk is fairly high.
- Q. Let's go on to the next exhibit, Exhibit No. 9, and identify that for the examiner, please, and tell him what that contains.
- A. Exhibit No. 9 is a Lower Morrow structure map with a gross Lower Morrow C Sand isopach on it. Again the structure is the same as on Exhibit No. 8. Our sand trend is a little different, though. Roughly it runs northwest to southeast also. On this one, outside of zeros, we have two points of control which were on our cross section. In the west half of Section 12 we have six-foot of gross sand with no porosity development in it. And in our well we have six-foot of gross sand with six-foot of porosity development. Again we're being fairly optimistic with our projection and our proposed well is optimistic as we can be.
- Q. Mr. Overton, in terms of -- well, based on your study, what opinion do you have as to a recommendation for risk factor penalty?
- A. Due to the fact that we have so little control on either of these sands, as far as seeing them in other

wells in the area, this, to me, is a very risky prospect 1 2 though we see -- we feel like it has a potential to be profitable, but I would recommend the maximum 200 percent 3 risk penalty for it. Mr. Overton, do you have anything further to add 5 0. in terms of your geologic presentation? 6 No, I don't. 7 Α. In your opinion, would the approval of this 8 application be in the best interest of conservation of oil 9 10 and gas and protection of correlative rights? 11 Α. Yes, sir, it would. 12 MR. PADILLA: Mr. Examiner, we offer Exhibits 5 13 through 9 and pass the witness at this time. 14 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 5 through 9 will be admitted as evidence. 15 16 (Applicant's Exhibits 5 through 9 17 were admitted in evidence.) 18 EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER CATANACH: 19 Mr. Overton, your well in Section 12 is 20 Ο. 21 producing from the A and C Sand? 22 Yes, sir, it is. Α. 23 Both sands. You said you did have some Atoka Q. 24 potential in that? Well, we ran across an interesting zone in there 25 Α.

- that had a small showing of gas while we were drilling it.

 That potential is really undetermined at this time outside

 of at some point in time we will perforate that and see

 what it will do.
 - Q. According to your geology you should encounter a thicker interval in both of the sands in your proposed well?
 - A. Yes, sir, that's our hope.

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- 9 Q. Your well in Section 12 is very economic at this 10 point, is it not?
 - A. Currently it's a shut-in so we haven't made any money from it yet.
 - Q. Well, it has been tested.
- A. We feel like it will be an economical well for 15 us.
 - Q. Now, these isopachs were just generated with the well control and no other information was utilized?
 - A. No, sir, just well control. At that depth and for these types of sands seismic would not do you much good without there being some structural reference to it.
 - Q. Do you know why the well in Section 35 was never produced from?
- A. No, sir, that well was completed -- if you will look over at the cross section, C to C prime, the scout ticket, it will show that it was completed in '62 and our

plugging information we were able to find -- to show it was plugged in the Morrow in 1963. So I really don't know why they did not attempt to produce that outside of in that time frame they may have not have had a pipeline or facilities to produce it.

- Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether there is any potential for Wolfcamp or Upper Penn production in that well -- the proposed well?
- A. No, sir, I don't believe there will be. There is -- to date there has not been any significant production from either one of those in this area.

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

MR. PADILLA: We have nothing further, Mr. Examiner.

EXAMINER CATANACH: There being nothing further --

MR. HADEN: Mr. Examiner, I have one other thing.

Although I'm confident that Arco will join to farm out, we would like to pool this acreage from the base of the Abo, as requested, to the base of the Morrow. This would also be for all formations. That is based on 40, 80, 160 and 320. In other words, we would like to pool for a well in the south half of the section as for 320-acre spacing, and southwest quarter for 160-acre spacing, the south half of the southwest quarter for 80-acre spacing, and the southeast of the southwest quarter for 40-acre spacing.

This is where the well will be located, in the southeast of the southwest quarter.

MR. PADILLA: Mr. Examiner, that would be conditioned to the extent that Mewbourne has an interest in any of

to the extent that Mewbourne has an interest in any of those proration units obviously.

PAUL HADEN,

having been previously sworn, was examined and testified further as follows:

EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. STOVALL:

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- Q. Mr. Haden, let me just ask you. Do you know if there are any -- between the Abo and the Morrow are there any formations which are pooled on less than 320 acres?
 - A. There could be some Morrow production.
- 15 O. There could be some what?
- A. There could be some Morrow production that we could encounter below the Abo.
- Q. Would that be -- that would be a wildcat spacing, 40-acre spacing?
- A. It would be a wildcat, yes. Probably it
 wouldn't be 40 acres, but we just would like to include all
 proration units.
- Q. Mewbourne actually owns no interest a this time;

 24 is that correct?
- 25 A. We have a contractual --

Q. You have a right to earn --

- A. We have a right to earn. We do not have an assignment yet.
- Q. What rates does Mewbourne have to earn? What can it earn as a result of the drilling?
- A. Mewbourne can earn a 25 percent interest in the drilling and spacing unit. In other words, we will earn all of Amoco's interest in the southwest quarter by drilling this well. They own 50 percent interest in the southwest quarter.
 - Q. Is it a drilled earn or produced earned?
- A. It's a produced earned.
 - Q. So if you drill a dry hole, you don't get anything; is that right?
 - A. That's correct. However, it is subject to continuous development.
 - MR. STOVALL: Mr. Examiner, I recommend that -- we can take his request into consideration. We're going to have to look more carefully at the application and notice to determine whether there may be any limitations on our ability to do that because of the way the case was advertised. The way the application was filed and the case was advertised. But I don't think we need any additional testimony or evidence to review that at this time.

MR. STOVALL: We will take your request under

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consideration, Mr. Haden, and see if what we can do.
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         MR. PADILLA: I have nothing further, Mr. Examiner.
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         EXAMINER CATANACH: There being nothing further, Case
    10144 will be taken under advisement.
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         (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.)
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1	STATE OF NEW MEXICO)) ss.
2	COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
3	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
4	
5	I, Susan G. Ptacek, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and
6	Notary Public, do HEREBY CERTIFY that I stenographically
7	reported the proceedings before the Oil Conservation
8	Division, and that the foregoing is a true, complete and
9	accurate transcript of the proceedings of said hearing as
10	appears from my stenographic notes so taken and transcribed
11	under my personal supervision.
1 2	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not related to nor
1 3	employed by any of the parties hereto, and have no interest
1 4	in the outcome thereof.
15	DATED at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 10th day of
16	December, 1990.
17	Swan & Placek
18	SUSAN G. PTACEK
19	My Commission Expires: Certified Shorthand Reporter December 10, 1993 Notary Public
2 0	
21	I do hereby continue the foregoing is
2 2	
2 3	the Examiner hearing of Case 3. 10144 The Examiner heari
2 4	Dand ((tank, Examiner
2 5	Oil Conservation Division