

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

APPLICATION OF AMERADA HESS)
CORPORATION FOR A WATERFLOOD) CASE NO. 10252
PROJECT, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.)
-----)

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner
 September 19, 1991
 10:45 a.m.
 Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came for hearing before the Oil
Conservation Division on September 19, 1991, at 10:45
a.m. at the State Land Office Building, 310 Old Santa Fe
Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Linda Bumkens, CCR,
Certified Court Reporter No. 3008, in and for the County
of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico.

FOR: OIL CONSERVATION
 DIVISION

BY: LINDA BUMKENS CCR
 Certified Court Reporter
 CCR NO. 3008

I N D E X

September 19, 1991
 Examiner Hearing
 CASE NO. 10252

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3

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A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE DIVISION: ROBERT G. STOVALL, ESQ.
General counsel
Oil Conservation Commission
310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico
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FOR AMERADA HESS
CORPORATION: CAMPBELL, CARR, BERG &
SHERIDAN P.A.
BY: MR. WILLIAM F. CARR, ESQ.
110 North Guadalupe
Santa Fe, New Mexico

FOR MERIDIAN OIL
INC: KELLAHIN, KELLAHIN & AUBREY
BY: MR. TOM KELLAHIN, ESQ.
117 N. Guadalupe
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87504

1 EXAMINER CATANACH: Call the hearing back to
2 order at this time. Case 10252.

3 MR. STOVALL: The application of Amerada Hess
4 Corporation for a waterflood project, Lea County,
5 New Mexico.

6 EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there appearances in
7 this case?

8 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name
9 is William F. Carr with the law firm Campbell, Carr,
10 Berge & Sheridan of Santa Fe. I represent Amerada
11 Hess Corporation and I have four witnesses.

12 EXAMINER CATANACH: Other appearances?

13 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom Kellahin
14 of the Santa Fe law firm of Kellahin, Kellahin &
15 Aubrey appearing today on behalf of the Meridan Oil
16 Inc. I do not have any witnesses to be sworn.

17 EXAMINER CATANACH: Will the witness please
18 stand to be sworn in?

19 (At which time were sworn.)

20 WILLIAM S. HOLDER,
21 the Witness herein, being duly sworn, was examined
22 and testified as follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. CARR:

25 Q. Will you state your name for the record,

1 please?

2 A. My name is Bill S. Holder.

3 Q. And where do you reside?

4 A. I reside in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

5 Q. By whom are you employed?

6 A. Amerada Hess Corporation.

7 Q. And in what capacity?

8 A. As a petroleum land man.

9 Q. Have you previously testified before the
10 New Mexico Oil Conservation Division?

11 A. No, I have not.

12 Q. Would you briefly summarize your
13 educational background and then review your work
14 experience for Mr. Catanach?

15 A. I received my bachelor of arts degree in
16 1980 from Westminster College. I have been a
17 petroleum land man since 1982 when I was first
18 employed by Bremmer Oil Company subsequently
19 employed by Irish Petroleum and Kaiman Resources,
20 and now Amerada Hess.

21 Q. In all those capacities you've worked as a
22 petroleum land man?

23 A. Yes, that's correct.

24 Q. Are you familiar with the application filed
25 in the case?

1 A. Yes, I am.

2 Q. And are you familiar with the status of the
3 lands involved in the proposed north Monument
4 Grayburg/San Andres Unit in this area?

5 A. Yes, I am.

6 MR. CARR: We tender Mr. Holder as an expert
7 witness in petroleum land matters.

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

9 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Would you briefly state what
10 Amerada Hess Corporation seeks in this case?

11 A. We seek approval of a waterflood project
12 for the North Monument Grayburg/San Andres Unit.

13 Q. And this unit area was previously approved
14 for statutory unitization by the Division
15 Order R-9494?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Are you the individual who has been
18 responsible for obtaining ratifications of that
19 order from the working interest owners and the
20 royalty interest owners in the unit area?

21 A. Yes, I am.

22 Q. Has Amerada reviewed the unit agreement and
23 received final approval from the Bureau of Land
24 Management?

25 A. Yes, we have.

1 Q. Could you identify what has been marked as
2 Amerada Hess Exhibit Number 1, please?

3 A. That is a certification determination from
4 the BLM.

5 Q. And this is their final approval?

6 A. Showing their final approval of the unit
7 subject to the OCD's approval.

8 Q. Has this -- and it is subject to receiving
9 authorization for the waterflood project from this
10 Division?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Has this application been reviewed -- the
13 unit application -- with the Commissioner of public
14 lands?

15 A. Yes. We have received preliminary approval
16 and we seek final approval tomorrow. We have a
17 meeting tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

18 Q. What percentage of working interest owners
19 in the unit area have at this time ratified the
20 division unitization order?

21 A. We have a little bit in excess of 91
22 percent.

23 Q. Could you identify what has been marked as
24 Amerada Hess Exhibit Number 2, please?

25 A. Yes. This is a report that shows the

1 percentage ratified on a per-tract basis and totaled
2 on a unit basis.

3 Q. And this exhibit addresses the working
4 interest ownership?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Could you identify what has been marked as
7 Amerada Hess Exhibit Number 3?

8 A. This is a similar report that covers the
9 royalty owner ratifications showing that we have in
10 excess of 81 percent ratification.

11 Q. So at this time you have received
12 sufficient ratifications to cause this unit to be
13 statutorily unitized?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. In your opinion, has Amerada Hess made a
16 good faith effort to locate and secure voluntary
17 participation of all the interest owners in the
18 area?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And have you attempted to identify and
21 provide notice of this application for approval of a
22 waterflood project giving all those parties again
23 notice of the application and hearing?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Could you identify what has been marked as

1 Amerada Hess Exhibit Number 4, please?

2 A. Yes. This is an affidavit of notice and
3 there are two parts to it. Actually, the second
4 part here was sent out prior to our April 4th
5 hearing, which we originally anticipated having our
6 C-108 hearing, and the second part, which is the top
7 affidavit, represents a second attempt to reach
8 those people that we couldn't reach the first time
9 around.

10 Q. So what we have here is the notice that was
11 provided when the case was originally called last
12 April, and in the top portion of this is a separate
13 affidavit with individuals who you have either
14 identified or were unable to reach during the first
15 effort to provide notice?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. In your opinion, has notice been provided
18 to all parties to whom notice has been required to
19 be given by the rules of this Division?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 4 prepared by you
22 or compiled under your direction?

23 A. Yes, they were.

24 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we
25 would move the admission of Amerada Hess Exhibits 1

1 through 4.

2 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 4 will
3 be admitted as evidence.

4 (Amerada Hess exhibits 1 through 4
5 were admitted in evidence.)

6 MR. CARR: That concludes my examination of
7 Mr. Holder.

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. CATANACH:

10 Q. Mr. Holder, the subsequently notified
11 parties, why were not those parties -- why were you
12 not able to notify those parties?

13 A. Well, when we did our initial check for the
14 surface owners that were under the injection wells
15 and all the operators surrounding the injection
16 wells, we came up with addresses that we didn't
17 receive a return receipt card on, and we went back
18 and checked -- did a little further checking -- and
19 found a couple more, or, I think, about ten more.

20 Q. So these parties represent surface owners?

21 A. Right. And we obtained some information
22 from -- we reviewed the county clerk records, the
23 tax assessor's records, and checked the phone books,
24 city directories, and first time around some of the
25 addresses with -- that are of record -- were bad

1 addresses, and so we reviewed them again. Some of
2 them had changed and we mailed that to the new
3 addresses.

4 Q. Are any of these mineral interest owners?

5 A. No. Well, they could be mineral interest
6 owners. Some of them could be.

7 EXAMINER CATANACH: I have no further
8 questions. Mr. Kellahin, do you have any
9 questions?

10 MR. KELLAHIN: No questions.

11 MR. CARR: At this time we will call
12 Mr. Kline.

13 GARY L. KLINE,
14 the Witness herein, being previously duly sworn, was
15 examined and testified as follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. CARR:

18 Q. For the record, will you state your name
19 and place of residence?

20 A. Gary L. Kline, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

21 Q. By whom are you employed and in what
22 capacity?

23 A. I'm employed by Amerada Hess Corporation as
24 a professional geologist.

25 Q. Were you the expert geological witness who

1 testified in the statutory unitization case last
2 April?

3 A. Yes, I was.

4 Q. And your qualifications as an expert in the
5 field of geology were accepted and made a matter of
6 record at that time?

7 A. Yes, they were.

8 Q. Are you familiar with the application filed
9 in this case?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Have you made a study of the portion of the
12 Unit Monument pool that is involved in this
13 particular waterflood application?

14 A. Yes, I have.

15 MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications
16 acceptable?

17 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

18 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Have you prepared certain
19 material for presentation here today?

20 A. Yes, I have.

21 Q. Mr. Kline, would you review for the
22 Examiner how the proposed injection interval is
23 actually defined?

24 A. The interval is defined from the top of the
25 Grayburg formation to the base of the San Andres

1 formation, and the reference-type well is the Abo
2 Unit Number 1 in the southwestern portion of the
3 unit.

4 Q. Could you refer to the material behind tab
5 Roman numeral VIII in the form C-108, which is our
6 Exhibit Number 6, and using this briefly describe
7 for Mr. Catanach the formation that is involved in
8 this application?

9 A. The geological information is provided in
10 Section 8, and this preliminary pertains to Grayburg
11 formation and the San Andres Unit. The Grayburg is
12 the formation of interest for the waterflood, and
13 the San Andres will be the source of injection water
14 for that waterflood.

15 The Grayburg primarily is a heterogeneous
16 sequence of interbedded dolomitized mud stones,
17 wackestone, packstones, and grainstones with some
18 additional silty and sandy dolomite.

19 The Grayburg Unit itself varies from 350 to
20 approximately 400 feet with an average thickness of
21 375 feet, and the top of the Grayburg will be
22 encountered at a depth from between 3250 to 4,000
23 feet depending upon the structural -- depending upon
24 the position of the well relative to the structure
25 of the formation and also the surface elevation of

1 the well.

2 The Grayburg itself is divided into four
3 units, each with distinctive lithologic and textural
4 differences which effect the distribution and nature
5 of porosity and permeability development perfect.

6 The better quality reservoir occurs at the
7 lower most part of the Grayburg, and poorest
8 reservoir quality occurs in the upper most part of
9 the Grayburg. Vertical continuity of flow units
10 within the Grayburg decreases upwards within the
11 section, and lateral continuity of the flow units is
12 best developed in the lower portion of the Grayburg
13 where the flood would be conducted. And the
14 stratigraphic continuity of flow units as we go up
15 in the section becomes more segregated at lenticular
16 and discontinuous.

17 The San Andres formation is primarily a
18 mass of thick dolomite with some interbedded sands
19 and silts, and the upper most part of the San Andres
20 may contribute some oil, but lower in the section is
21 where we plan to source our injection water.

22 The top of the San Andres will occur at
23 approximate depths of 3620 to 4220 feet, and for the
24 most part, the San Andres is approximately 1,000
25 feet thick. Based upon information available, there

1 are no known faults that cut the San Andres and
2 Grayburg Units that may act at conduits for gas or
3 oil or brine fluids from depths into fresh water
4 aquifers near the surface.

5 Q. Now, there are fresh water zones in the
6 area?

7 A. Yes, there are.

8 Q. Could you identify those, please?

9 A. In the proposed North Monument Grayburg/San
10 Andres Unit, which is about ten miles southwest of
11 Hobbs, we have primary fresh water zones in the
12 Quaternary alluvium, the Pliocene Ogallala formation
13 and also other fresh water zones are likely to be
14 present in the Triassic red bed zones of the Chinle
15 and Santa Rosa formations.

16 The Quaternary aquifers present in the area
17 are recent unconsolidated to semi-consolidated fine
18 to medium-grain sandstones which are primarily
19 localized extent. They consist primarily of dune
20 sands and channel fill and lake deposits. For the
21 most part, these occur in the southern part of the
22 unit. They will likely be 100 feet thick, and they
23 lie unconfirmably upon some of the Ogallala
24 formation, and they will vary in thickness from 5 to
25 80 feet thick.

1 The Pliocene Ogallala aquifer on the other
2 hand, is a heterogeneous complex of terrestrial
3 sediments consisting of calcareous, unconsolidated
4 sand with interbedded clays, silts and gravels, and
5 these will exhibit some rather rapid facies changes.

6 For the most part, the Ogallala varies from
7 0 to 300 feet thick, and the Ogallala is exposed at
8 the surface in the northern part of the unit. There
9 is some evidence that due to the erosional
10 nonconformity that has been removed in the southern
11 part of the unit, but were present in the northern
12 part, we anticipate the thickness to vary between 50
13 and 150 feet, and this will be due to erosional
14 nonconformity bounding the units.

15 Within the Quaternary and the Ogallala
16 deposits within the unit area, the aquifer's first
17 water table is likely to vary from a depth of 5 to
18 55 feet.

19 Now, additional fresh water aquifers can be
20 anticipated in the Triassic red beds in the Chinle
21 and Santa Rosa, and there is some evidence that
22 these may occur very near the surface depending upon
23 the nature of the erosion, and they are likely to be
24 anticipated anywhere from approximately 5 to 150
25 feet below the surface.

1 The Chinle formation is primarily a red and
2 green clay stone with some minor sands that primary
3 aquifers in the red beds are going to occur in the
4 Santa Rosa formation where you have primarily medium
5 to fine-grained sand with interbedded clay and silt
6 stones.

7 Now, the red beds overlies the Permian,
8 Rustler and anhydrite of the unit, which is
9 considered the effective base of the red beds, and
10 so the base of the red beds will occur anywhere
11 between 970 and approximately 1,470 feet. The
12 reservoir anhydrite is considered an impermeable
13 barrier, and it will vary approximately about 65
14 feet, and it will provide a barrier to the
15 contamination of fresh water zones higher up in the
16 section, and is likely to prohibit the movement of
17 brines and oil or gas from below.

18 No known fresh water zones occur below the
19 Rustler anhydrite. Consequently, in all new wells
20 protection for fresh water zones will be a
21 procedure. Cement will be circulated to the surface
22 around casing on these wells to protect the fresh
23 water zones.

24 Q. Based on your review of the geology and the
25 plans of Amerada Hess for this waterflood project,

1 do you have an opinion as to whether or not the
2 proposed waterflood poses any threat to any
3 underground source of drinking water?

4 A. Not to my knowledge.

5 Q. Were these portions of the material that
6 you've just reviewed, which are included behind tab
7 8 and our Exhibit 6, were they prepared by you?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, I will move the
10 admission of that portion. Later I will move the
11 admission of all of Exhibit C-108, which is our
12 Exhibit 6. I will not do that at this time,
13 however. And that concludes my direct examination
14 of Mr. Kline.

15 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. So you didn't want
16 to enter anything at this time?

17 MR. CARR: I don't think so. It is part of
18 Exhibit 6 and the remainder of the exhibit will be
19 testified to later.

20 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay.

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. CATANACH:

23 Q. Mr. Kline, is it Amerada's intent to
24 waterflood only the Grayburg formation?

25 A. The waterflood may occur in some of the San

1 Andres. The boundary between the San Andres and the
2 Grayburg is not always well defined, and on the
3 crest of the structure we do have oil in the upper
4 part of San Andres.

5 Q. Is it the intent to flood each of the four
6 units that you've described in the Grayburg
7 formation?

8 A. The oil is contained primarily in the lower
9 most part of the Grayburg, primarily in zone 3C and
10 lower part of 3, and this will be the primary target
11 of our waterflood. The upper portion of the unit is
12 highly stratified, vertical continuity is poor. It
13 is likely that any flooding of this unit will be
14 very, very difficult.

15 Q. At this point you only intend to flood
16 Zones 3 and 3C?

17 A. That will be the primary target, yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay.

19 MR. CATANACH: I believe that's all I have.
20 Mr. Kellahin, do you have anything?

21 MR. KELLAHIN: Point of clarification,
22 Mr. Examiner. Mr. Kline has sponsored only this
23 portion of the presentation that deals with geologic
24 data insofar as it defines and locates the fresh
25 water.

1 MR. CARR: That is correct.

2 MR. KELLAHIN: Do you have another geologic
3 witness?

4 MR. CARR: No, we do not.

5 MR. KELLAHIN: Let me ask Mr. Kline a few
6 questions about the geology. Mr. Carr, do you
7 intend Mr. Kline to sponsor Exhibit Number 7?

8 MR. CARR: No, we have an engineering witness
9 who will sponsor the cross section.

10 CROSS-EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

12 Q. Let me ask you a few questions about the
13 geology, Mr. Kline. When we look at the
14 distributions of hydrocarbons within the unit
15 boundaries and the relationship of those
16 hydrocarbons to the potential water, is there a
17 water component geologically as you investigate
18 through the top of the Grayburg down through the
19 base of the San Andres?

20 A. Are you talking about fresh water or the
21 brine water of the formation?

22 Q. Any kind of water.

23 A. Primarily the water that we see here is
24 formation water. It's brine water natural to the
25 formation which has been a part of the influx due to

1 production.

2 Q. Okay. That water component of production,
3 can you as a geologist define where the top of that
4 water is?

5 A. This will be part of our data acquisition
6 to define this. We will be using various logging
7 techniques to define where this water is at
8 occurring times.

9 Q. Is there a separation of the hydrocarbons
10 so that at some point in this Grayburg interval you
11 find predominantly gas production as opposed to oil
12 production?

13 A. Well, it all depends on where you are
14 within the unit, and we do have gas. We have a
15 gas-oil contact at approximately a subsea depth of
16 minus 150, and there is gas production within the
17 unit.

18 Q. Is there a geological explanation for the
19 points in the unit in which gas is accumulated in
20 the reservoir? Is there a structural component to
21 the reservoir?

22 A. Yes. I'd like to say that this is a north
23 trending anticlinal feature, and that the structure
24 of the -- of the unit is primarily in the center of
25 the proposed unit.

1 Q. The gas wells that occur within the unit
2 boundary are found then on the highest point in the
3 structure?

4 A. I would like to defer that to the
5 subsequent testimony, if I may.

6 Q. That is not something that you were
7 involved in analyzing?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you participate in the preparation of
10 Exhibit Number 7 that's part of the presentation?

11 A. No, no.

12 MR. KELLAHIN: I have no further questions.
13 Thank you.

14 EXAMINER CATANACH: The witness may be
15 excused.

16 MR. CARR: At this time we call Jim Almrud.

17 JIM ALMRUD,
18 the Witness herein, being duly sworn, was examined
19 and testified as follows:

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. CARR:

22 Q. Will you state your name for the record,
23 please?

24 A. James Almrud.

25 Q. Where do you reside?

1 A. In Seminole Texas.

2 Q. By whom are you employed?

3 A. Amareda Hess Corporation.

4 Q. And what is your current position with
5 Amerada Hess?

6 A. I'm the manager of technical services for
7 the southwest region office, which area of
8 responsibility includes the Monument area.

9 Q. Have you previously testified before the
10 New Mexico Oil Conservation Division?

11 A. No, I have not.

12 Q. Could you briefly review for Mr. Catanach
13 your educational background?

14 A. I have a bachelor of science degree from
15 the University of Wyoming in 1969.

16 Q. And since graduation for whom have you
17 worked?

18 A. I have worked for Husky Oil Company for two
19 years, and in 1971 I joined Amerada Hess Corporation
20 and have been employed with them since in various
21 engineering and managerial positions.

22 Q. Are you familiar with the waterflood
23 application that has been filed on Amerada Hess's
24 behalf in this particular case?

25 A. Yes, I am.

1 Q. And are you familiar with the proposed
2 North Monument Grayburg/San Andres Unit and the
3 lands and wells that are located within the unit
4 area?

5 A. Yes.

6 MR. CARR: We would tender Mr. Almud as an
7 expert witness in petroleum engineering.

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

9 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Are you the person in Amerada
10 Hess who's been responsible for preparation of the
11 waterflood application for this unit?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. Could you review for the Examiner what work
14 has been done on this proposed project? And I think
15 initially what I'd like you to do is focus on what
16 has been done since the April 4th hearing when the
17 case was originally scheduled.

18 A. The original development plan for the unit
19 was based on very limited information on the
20 reservoir, primarily on core data obtained from one
21 well big the Monument Abo Unit Number 1. It's the
22 only modern logs and the only core available in the
23 whole field. So since the April hearing we have
24 gathered additional information, primarily
25 bottomhole pressure information for the purposes of

1 evaluating the need for infield drilling during the
2 flood process.

3 We've also reviewed the operations and
4 results of two surrounding waterflood in the
5 Grayburg, and we are in the process of modifying our
6 development plan for this unit area.

7 Q. Generally speaking, what sort of
8 modifications are you talking about?

9 A. We're talking about adding one year to the
10 development plan primarily for the purposes of
11 gathering data so that we can optimize our flood
12 plan for the development of the field. This one
13 year period -- or during this one year period we
14 hope to -- or we plan on -- drilling ten wells
15 directly for the purposes of obtaining modern core
16 and modern log information which will be further
17 analyzed and which we think will have a major impact
18 on the plan and development of the field.

19 Q. Is Amerada Hess Exhibit Number 5 a copy of
20 the current plan for development for this project?

21 A. Yes, it is.

22 Q. And has copies of this been provided to
23 both the Bureau of Land Management and to the State
24 Land Office?

25 A. To the Bureau of Land Management, yes. To

1 the State Land Office tomorrow morning.

2 Q. Okay. Can you identify what has been
3 marked as Amerada Hess Exhibit Number 6?

4 A. Exhibit Number 6 is a completed C-108
5 application. It contains the information requested
6 on the C-108 form itself and is organized and
7 separated by tabs. These tabs are numbered Roman
8 numerally compatible with the C-108 form itself.

9 Q. And the first document in the beginning of
10 the exhibit is the form C-108?

11 A. Yes. And it's behind the tab marked C-108.

12 Q. And let's go to the material behind the tab
13 marked Roman numeral III, and I'd ask you to
14 identify that, please, and review it.

15 A. The information behind the tab marked Roman
16 Numeral III is that information requested on the
17 form under Roman numeral. The first part of this is
18 a plat and a table showing the proposed well
19 numbering scheme for the unit. The tabular data
20 gives the proposed block and well number for each
21 well that will be contained within the unit
22 boundary. It has the lease and well number, API
23 number, location of each well by unit, section,
24 township and range, and the current operator of each
25 of those leases.

1 Following that is the information requested
2 in part three about the proposed injection wells.
3 Once again, the first portion of this information is
4 in tabular form, and we have the proposed block and
5 well number, the leased name and well number, the
6 API number, the location by unit, section, township
7 and range, the operator, the status, and also the
8 location by footage for each of these proposed
9 injection wells.

10 Following this are wellbore schematics
11 which were prepared on each of the existing
12 wellbores which will be converted to injection.
13 These wellbore schematics give information on total
14 depth, the Kelly bushing elevation, the date
15 drilled, information on casing, cementing details,
16 open hole portion of the wellbore, perforations,
17 information on stimulations, squeezes, tubular data,
18 information on packers, bridge plugs, cement plugs.
19 I think that pretty well covers it.

20 Q. Everything required by form C-108?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And behind that in this exhibit, the next
23 yellow tab, what is the information?

24 A. This is information that we included on
25 typical injection well conversions. It's behind the

1 yellow tab marked typical injection well schematics.

2 The first schematic is a typical well
3 before conversion, which is one of the wells that we
4 took at random and used as an example. Following
5 that is a typical completion of a well with two
6 strings of casing showing tubing, packer, and
7 perforations.

8 The next is a typical completion on a well
9 with three strings of casing showing the same
10 information. This is followed by schematics of
11 wells with three strings of casing and open hole,
12 and three strings of casing with open hole and
13 casing perforations.

14 Following that is a typical drawing for a
15 proposed newly drilled injection well. On all of
16 these typical wellbore drawings is also the
17 information requested by the form regarding such
18 things as the injection formation, the field and
19 pool name, whether or not the well was drilled or
20 will be converted for injection, any other
21 perforations existing in the wellbore, and
22 information on the overlying and underlying
23 producing zones.

24 Q. Does this also show information on the
25 cementing that will be used in the extent of cement

1 circulation?

2 A. Yes, it does. Yes.

3 Q. All right. At full development, how many
4 injection wells do you anticipate having in this
5 unit area?

6 A. There will be 108 full waterflood patterns
7 containing 108 injection wells. Nine of these
8 wellbores will definitely have to be redrilled. We
9 have identified that they do not exist today. There
10 are also 16 temporarily abandoned wellbores which we
11 will anticipate on converting, and we are
12 anticipating that we may have to redrill as many as
13 50 percent of these, and that's just the number that
14 is based on experience, and we don't have any firm
15 idea at this time.

16 Q. You haven't identified any particular well?

17 A. No, we haven't at this time.

18 Q. Will the annular space in the injection
19 will be filled with insert fluid, and will the
20 injection wells be, in all respects, be operated in
21 accordance with the requirements of the Federal
22 Underground Injection Program?

23 A. Yes, they definitely will be.

24 Q. Let's go to the material behind tab Roman
25 numeral V in this exhibit, and I'd ask you to

1 identify that and review it for Mr. Catanach?

2 A. The information contained behind tab five
3 is a two-part plat showing the area of review. It
4 is identical to the area of review map on the wall.
5 This map, or plat, shows all the currently proposed
6 injection wells within the unit boundary. It
7 identifies the unit boundary itself. It shows the
8 lease ownership within two miles of the unit
9 boundary, and also identifies all the wells in
10 ownership within the half mile area of review
11 surrounding each injection well.

12 Q. What plans do you have for injection in
13 wells along the outer edge of the unit area?

14 A. There are two wells along the outer edge,
15 particularly in the southwest corner. Wells
16 proposed to be numbered 1813 and 1815, which
17 directly offset the units Monuments to unit
18 expansion area B. We propose to negotiate a lease
19 line injection agreement with Chevron in the very
20 near future.

21 Q. And you may have already testified to this,
22 but what sort of an injection pattern are you
23 proposing to utilize?

24 A. This will be an 80-acre five spot pattern.

25 Q. Let's go to the information behind tab

1 Roman numeral VI. I'd ask you to identify and
2 review that.

3 A. The information behind Roman numeral VI is
4 broken into four parts divided by yellow tabs. The
5 first of these is information on the unit area
6 producers. Part six of the C-108 requests
7 information on all wellbores which penetrate the
8 injection zone.

9 The information behind that first tab is in
10 two forms. Firstly, tabular
11 information -- tabled information -- on the proposed
12 well numbers, the lease name, API number, location
13 by unit, section, township, range, operator and
14 status followed by schematic drawings on each of the
15 wellbores which penetrate the zone of interest and
16 will be producing from the unitized interval.

17 Following this is a tab marked other wells
18 in the area of review. This is information on other
19 wellbores which penetrate the unitized interval, but
20 will not be used to produce from either because
21 they're producing from deeper horizons or they're
22 outside the unit area.

23 Q. So these will be nonunit wells?

24 A. They will be nonunit wells. Following that
25 is information on plugged and abandoned wells both

1 inside and outside the unit boundary as the tabs
2 indicate, and it's also contained in tabular and
3 schematic form.

4 Q. And did the schematics for these plugged
5 and abandoned wells show all plugging data?

6 A. They show all of the wellbore abandonment
7 plugs that we were able to identify from the records
8 of the companies and the records of the OCD Division
9 in Hobbs.

10 Q. How many plugged and abandoned wells are
11 there in the areas of review?

12 A. We have identified 50 wellbores. There's 28
13 inside the unit area, 22 outside the unit area.

14 Q. And have you reviewed all the data on each
15 of these plugged and abandoned wells?

16 A. Yes, we have reviewed it, and we've also
17 reviewed it with Jerry Sexton of the Hobbs division
18 office. In doing so we have identified 23 wellbores
19 which may have to be reenter and have remedial work
20 done on them because of their abandonment techniques
21 used at the time.

22 Q. Do you intend to do this work before you
23 get into an injection phase?

24 A. Yes, we do.

25 Q. What is the source of the water that

1 Amerada Hess proposes to inject?

2 A. We are proposing to use water from two
3 sources. The first is produced water from the
4 Grayburg producing well. Additional volumes
5 required will be taken from make up wells, water
6 supply wells, which will be drilled to the lower
7 Andres. We're proposing possibly as many as four of
8 these wells. Two of them are being proposed to be
9 drilled in 1992 as far as the data acquisition
10 program that we talked about earlier.

11 Q. Are the locations of these first four
12 proposed water supply wells indicated on the plats
13 in Exhibit Number 5, which is the plan for
14 development?

15 A. Yes, they are identified there.

16 Q. What is going to be the maximum daily
17 injection rate per well?

18 A. The maximum rate anticipated at this time
19 is 1,000 barrels per day initially, and probably
20 closer to 750 barrels a day at Phillip.

21 Q. And will this be an open or closed
22 injection system?

23 A. This will be a closed system.

24 Q. Will you be initiating by gravity or under
25 pressure?

1 A. We will be injecting initially with
2 gravity -- just on the gravity system, but as we
3 approach fill up, we'll be injecting under pressure.

4 Q. At this time what is the maximum injection
5 pressure you anticipate needing to use?

6 A. 710 PSI is the number we used.

7 Q. Will a pressure limitation of 2/10ths pound
8 per foot of depth to the top of the injection
9 interval be satisfactory for your purposes?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you request authority to increase the
12 injection pressure without the necessity of further
13 hearings if it can be demonstrated to the division
14 that a higher injection pressure would not cause the
15 injection fluids to escape from the injection
16 interval?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Could you refer to the water analyses for
19 the injection fluids that are located behind tab
20 Roman numeral VII in this exhibit?

21 A. The information behind tab in the second
22 page is information on water capability tests which
23 were run by an independent laboratory on waters
24 obtained from Grayburg producing wells mixed with
25 water obtained from water supply wells in the Eunice

1 Monument South Unit. Waters were mixed in various
2 proportions and the report shows that the waters are
3 compatible.

4 Q. Let's go now to the material behind tab 9,
5 and I'd ask you to identify and review that.

6 A. The information behind tab 9 is proposed
7 stimulation information on typical injection well.
8 It states that wells with cased hole completions
9 will be treated with upwards of 3,000 gallons of 15
10 percent hydrochloric acid, and wells with open hole
11 completion will be completed with upwards of 3 to
12 5,000 gallons of 15 percent hydrochloric acid.

13 Q. Are logs of all the proposed injection
14 wells on file with the Division?

15 A. Copies of all the logs that exist are on
16 file with the Division. We did identify four
17 wellbores, which are listed behind tab Roman
18 numeral X, which do not have logs available on
19 them. We are proposing that we will log these wells
20 upon first entry, and file those logs with the
21 Division prior to conversion to injection.

22 Q. Let's go now to tab 11. Would you refer to
23 the material behind that and review the water
24 analyses on the fresh water wells with
25 Mr. Catanach?

1 A. Behind tab 11 is a plat showing the
2 locations of four fresh water wells which were
3 sampled, and behind that are the laboratory analysis
4 by an independent lab showing the analysis of the
5 water. It all indicates that this is fresh water, I
6 think, from the Ogallala formation.

7 Q. Are you aware of similar applications that
8 have been granted for enhanced recovery by
9 waterflooding in the same general area as the
10 subject unit and water -- proposed waterflood
11 project?

12 A. Yes. We have identified several. One is
13 the Eunice Monument South Expansion Area B, which
14 directly offsets our unit. It's identified by the
15 blue-colored area on this area of review map.

16 There's also the Eunice Monument Grayburg
17 Unit operated by Green Hill Petroleum, as well as
18 the Skaggs Grayburg Unit operated by Green Hill, and
19 Conoco has a volunteer unit. It's called the
20 Southeast Monument Unit in the area.

21 Q. Does Amerada Hess request an administrative
22 whereby additional wells can be converted to
23 injection without the necessity of additional
24 hearings?

25 A. Yes, we do.

1 Q. In your opinion, will approval of this
2 application for waterflooding result in the recovery
3 of oil that otherwise would not be recovered?

4 A. Yes, that's right.

5 Q. Have you reviewed the available engineering
6 data on the area in question?

7 A. Yes, I have.

8 Q. As a result of that review and examination,
9 have you found evidence of any open faults or other
10 hydrologic connections between the injection zone
11 and any underground source of drinking water?

12 A. No, we have not.

13 Q. In your opinion, will approval of this
14 application impair the correlative rights of any
15 other interest owner in the area?

16 A. No, it will not.

17 Q. Will Amerada Hess call a witness to review
18 particular questions concerning potential harm to
19 offsetting nonunit producing wells?

20 A. Yes, we will.

21 Q. Were Exhibits 5 and 6 prepared by you, or
22 compiled under your direction?

23 A. Yes, they were.

24 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, I would
25 move the admission of Amerada Hess Exhibits 5 and 6.

1 MR. CATANACH: Exhibits 5 and 6 will be
2 admitted as evidence.

3 (Amerada Hess Exhibits 5 and 6
4 were admitted in evidence.)

5 MR. CARR: That concludes my direct
6 examination of Mr. Almrud.

7 EXAMINER CATANACH: Mr. Kellahin.

8 CROSS-EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

10 Q. Mr. Almrud, for point of reference, it
11 might be easiest to have you look at the display
12 following Exhibit 3 -- Exhibit tab 3. There's a
13 well numbering system shown on a map. Do we have
14 the same book?

15 A. Yes, we do. Mine is a larger scale than
16 yours is.

17 Q. I'd like to focus your attention on what is
18 identified on this display as Block Number 21. Do
19 you find that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. My understanding is that Meridian has a gas
22 well in the Grayburg which would be located within
23 Section 5, a portion of which is identified as
24 Block 21, and it is more particularly located in the
25 northwest of southeast of Section 5. Do you see the

1 gas well symbol?

2 A. I see the gas well symbol.

3 Q. Okay. When we look at Block 21, did you
4 identify with Mr. Sexton whether or not you have any
5 wells within Block 21 that will require any remedial
6 action?

7 A. I don't recall off hand. I'd have to look
8 at the specific information.

9 Q. Okay. Do you have a tabulation or a
10 submittal to the Examiner of what Mr. Sexton has
11 characterized as problem wells, or wells that
12 require remedial action within the project?

13 A. I don't have it prepared in a format to
14 submit, but I do have it here.

15 MR. KELLAHIN: May we ask post hearing that we
16 obtain that information from him?

17 MR. CARR: Yes.

18 MR. KELLAHIN: Thank you.

19 Q. (By Mr. Kellahin) The plan of development,
20 you've asked for the flexibility of being able to
21 administratively alter injection wells. When we
22 look at Block 21, the current plan shows two
23 injectors?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. Do you foresee a need to alter the

1 injection pattern in Block 21?

2 A. I do not at this point in time based on
3 that that is along the edge of the formation. It is
4 getting higher structurally, and the target is
5 thinning in that location.

6 Q. At this point in Block 21, do you foresee a
7 future need for any additional injectors to complete
8 a flood pattern in Block 21?

9 A. I do not at this point in time, no.

10 Q. The plan of operation -- well, let me
11 say -- In Block 21 there are some temporarily
12 abandoned well symbols within that block?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Are those temporarily abandoned wells to be
15 converted to producing wells?

16 A. All temporarily abandoned wells which
17 directly offset injection wells will be converted to
18 production as part of our plan of development if
19 they are joined to the direct offset location. They
20 may or may not. It was kind of left to the option
21 of the people operating the unit at the time.

22 Q. Okay. When I look at Block 21 and see
23 injector Number 3, 2103?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Looking to the south of that producer 2107,

1 that will be, in fact, a producer?

2 A. Yes, it will be.

3 Q. To the west of that is a temporarily
4 abandoned well Number 6. Is that to be converted to
5 production?

6 A. Yes, it is.

7 Q. Okay. Because it's a direct offset to that
8 injector?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. KELLAHIN: I believe that's all the
11 questions I have. Thank you.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. CATANACH:

14 Q. Mr. Almrud, is it my understanding that you
15 may at a later time propose to alter the injection
16 wells? Change which wells are going to be injection
17 wells?

18 A. I guess, as I stated earlier, it was our
19 plan to gather data from these ten wells which we
20 propose to drill early next year, evaluate the data,
21 and that information could effect our ultimate
22 development plan. It is possible that that would
23 lead us to propose to our partners that we infield
24 drill this field which would take the number of
25 injection wells from 108 to significantly more than

1 that.

2 I do not anticipate at this point in time
3 that we would change the injection pattern in that
4 shifting it one way or another, I think, would be of
5 any great advantage or disadvantage.

6 Q. Okay. It is further my understanding
7 that you're not going to place any wells on
8 injection for about a year; is that correct, while
9 you do some further evaluation?

10 A. That is correct. Our existing thinking at
11 this point in time is that we would probably not --
12 well, let me back off that. I'm sorry. We do plan
13 on doing some injectivity tests in 1992 upwards of a
14 four-well test for purposes of defining injection
15 pressures, volumes, responses sort of thing,
16 gathering as much information as we can early on.
17 Injectivity prior to finalizing our full development
18 plans, but we had not planned on putting a given
19 section or portion of the field on total injection
20 during 1992.

21 Q. Okay. Have you reviewed the completions of
22 your proposed injection wells with Jerry Sexton?

23 A. No. I do not -- No. We did not
24 specifically talk about the completion techniques on
25 the injection wells.

1 Q. Okay. What you have talked with Jerry
2 about are area of review wells?

3 A. We looked at all plugged and abandoned
4 wellbores within the area of review, and looked for
5 problems which he could identify as possible areas
6 where the -- what they call a salt section was not
7 definitely -- what do I want to say? -- isolated.

8 Q. And he's identified 23 wells that may need
9 corrective action?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. 23 plugged wells?

12 A. These are plugged and abandoned wells, yes.

13 Q. Has an agreement been reached with Jerry as
14 to -- is Amerada going to reenter all 23 of those
15 wells, or is there still some talking going on
16 between you and Jerry?

17 A. We left it that I would take that back to
18 our management and we would review it, but we are
19 going to endeavor to -- We'll make the formation,
20 properly isolate it, and protect the upper horizons
21 from any injection fluids, and it's our intent to do
22 what is required to do that.

23 I guess -- you know, we will definitely
24 review these, and if we find problems that we think
25 possibly aren't quite as critical as Jerry did, I'm

1 sure we'll go back and review them with him with the
2 hopes that some things might be negotiable, but we
3 will endeavor to do exactly what is required.

4 Q. The proposed injection wells, or the
5 schematics that you've presented as evidence, do
6 those reflect the actual perforated and open hole
7 intervals that you'll be injecting into, or is
8 that -- is it too preliminary at this point to
9 actually final?

10 A. It's too preliminary. We've only
11 identified that in the typical.

12 Q. That's just how --

13 A. That's how we propose to do them. These
14 injection wells drawings are as the wells exist
15 today.

16 Q. I see. So these in no way reflect what
17 actual interval you'll be injecting into?

18 A. No. They do not, no.

19 Q. Okay. Have you had any discussions with
20 Jerry concerning the producing wells within the area
21 of review?

22 A. No. I showed him the information that we
23 have in the C-108 here, and I guess we left it at
24 that. It was Amerada Hess's responsibility to
25 identify any problems with isolating the zone of

1 interest and, of course, we have direct interest in
2 being sure that the injection interval is isolated
3 in all of our producing wells and in all of our
4 injection wells, and we have gone through the
5 records and checked for correct amount of cement
6 above shoe and above perforations, and there are
7 very few wellbores that do not have the mandated --
8 I guess you might call it that -- volume from the
9 regulations.

10 Q. You have identified those wells?

11 A. Yes. And some of -- I guess some of our
12 future plans are hinged on dual completion wellbores
13 that maybe don't have enough cement above the
14 Grayburg at this point in time, but after the
15 current operator goes in and squeezes off
16 perforations in the Queen, the well would then
17 qualify and then have the adequate amount of
18 cement. So there are some that might not meet the
19 requirements today, but they will meet the
20 requirements before injection begins.

21 Q. Approximately how many producing wells, or
22 any other type of wells besides plugged wells, are
23 in the area of review?

24 A. Wells which we will have direct use of and
25 contact with, injection wells and producing wells,

1 amount to at least 293.

2 Q. But I'm talking about the total number of
3 wells within -- whether in or out of the unit that
4 are out of the review wells.

5 A. In the area of review? In excess of 500.

6 Q. 500. Two things I'd like to get from you.
7 A list of the 23 wells that Jerry has identified as
8 problem wells as far as PNA?

9 A. We can supply that to you today.

10 Q. A list of other wells which you've
11 identified as not having the adequate amount of
12 cement behind the casing.

13 A. We can supply that to you today as well.

14 Q. And you may want to note on those that they
15 will be squeezed by the current operator, or
16 something like that if you know that that's going to
17 occur?

18 A. The other complicating factor here is that
19 the wellbores within the unit that were producing
20 roughly a year ago, were put on a demand list, and
21 we will demand that wellbore from each operator
22 prior to unit -- or at the time of unitization, and
23 each well operator has the choice of either
24 submitting the wellbore or not submitting it.

25 If they choose not to submit, of course,

1 they'll be squeezing off the Grayburg zone and
2 possibly converting the well into a Queen well or
3 something like this, and our obligation has
4 disappeared or is no longer there.

5 So I just offer that as a reason. It might
6 sound like I was hedging a little bit, but I really
7 wasn't. We don't know exactly which wellbores we're
8 going to be dealing with in the future.

9 Q. I understand.

10 EXAMINER CATANACH: I believe that's all I
11 have of the witness. You may be excused.

12 MR. CARR: At this time we call Mr. Hermann

13 JEFFERY B. HERMANN,

14 the Witness herein, being previously duly sworn, was
15 examined and testified as follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. CARR:

18 Q. Will you state your name for the record,
19 please?

20 A. Jeffery Bruce Hermann.

21 Q. Mr. Hermann, where do you reside?

22 A. Tulsa, Oklahoma.

23 Q. By whom are you employed?

24 A. Amerada Hess Corporation.

25 Q. And in what capacity?

1 A. I'm a petroleum professional engineer in a
2 reservoir engineering group.

3 Q. Did you testify in April at the hearing
4 when the statutory unitization application came
5 before the Division?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And at that time were your credentials as a
8 petroleum engineer accepted and made a matter of
9 record?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are you familiar with the application filed
12 in this case seeking approval of a waterflood
13 project for the North Monument Grayburg/San Unit?

14 A. Yes, I am.

15 MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications
16 acceptable?

17 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

18 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Hermann, have you
19 reviewed the proposed unit operations to determine
20 if they will have an adverse effect on offsetting
21 nonunit producing wells?

22 A. Yes. We have our review of proposed unit
23 operations. In particular in the vicinity of
24 Meridian's Number 1R Laughlin gas well which is
25 located in the northeast quarter -- the southeast

1 quarter of Section 5, Township 20 South, Range 37
2 East. We did that in part because Meridian had
3 previously asked us to exclude that 40-acre parcel
4 from the unit, and that particular situation was
5 discussed at our hearing in last April.

6 Q. Have you prepared an exhibit for
7 presentation here today?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Is that what has been marked as Amerada
10 Hess Exhibit Number 7?

11 A. Yes, it is.

12 Q. Would you identify this and review it for
13 Mr. Catanach?

14 A. We have prepared a structural cross-section
15 to include Meridian's gas well. There's a little
16 location map in the lower left-hand corner of this
17 exhibit that shows where this cross-section is
18 located. It starts at unit producer 1606 on the
19 left-hand side of the exhibit, runs due south to
20 Meridian's gas well, and then due east to unit
21 producer 2216.

22 In all, it shows 6 proposed unit producing
23 wells, four proposed unit injection wells, the
24 original well on Meridian's tract which is now
25 plugged and abandoned, and that well was abandoned

1 back in the '70s, and their current gas completion,
2 the Number 1R well.

3 We have highlighted in red Meridian's
4 current gas completion interval. It is from minus
5 23 feet to minus 77 feet, and what we've identified
6 as lower Grayburg Zone 2 and Upper Grayburg Zone 3.

7 In contrast, our target waterflood interval
8 will be confined largely to Grayburg Zones 3 and 3C
9 between the original gas/oil contact of minus 150
10 and the original water/oil contact of minus 350. We
11 have highlighted that area in green on this
12 particular exhibit, and you can see there is
13 significant vertical separation between the gas
14 completion interval and our target waterflood
15 interval.

16 In addition, our geologist has previously
17 stated that as a whole, the Upper Grayburg and
18 particular Zones 1, 2, and 3 are highly stratified,
19 the porous and permeable intervals are commonly
20 thin, lateral is discontinuous, and there is little
21 evidence of vertical communication between zones,
22 and, again, that just further emphasizes the
23 vertical segregation between this gas completion and
24 our target waterflood interval.

25 I also point out that there's considerable

1 distance between our nearest injection well and
2 Meridian's gas well. Our unit injector 2103, which
3 is located on this cross-section, is approximately
4 2100 feet north of Meridian's gas well. We will be
5 confining our injection of that well as indicated by
6 the blue line to Lower Grayburg Zone 3 and Grayburg
7 Zone 3C, so it's not even the same stratigraphical
8 interval as Meridian's gas completion.

9 In addition, there will be a unit producer,
10 well Number 2106, between this injection well and
11 Meridian's gas well. That well will be a producing
12 well, and it will act as -- not only allow us to
13 monitor performance, but it will also be drawing
14 production from these wells.

15 There will be other wells injecting into
16 the Upper Grayburg Zone 3. The closest or nearest
17 injector that will actually be injecting in the
18 Grayburg Zone 3 will be approximately 3100 feet away
19 from Meridian's gas well. It's not shown on this
20 particular diagram, but, again, there will be
21 wells -- producing wells -- between that injector
22 and Meridian's gas wells.

23 The remainder of the injection wells
24 injecting into Zones 3 will be on the order of a
25 mile or more away, and, again, there will be

1 multiple producing wells between those injectors and
2 Meridian's gas well. So we have concluded that
3 based on the vertical separation and segregation of
4 the zones, the distances involved, and the fact
5 there will be producing wells between any of our
6 injectors in this gas well, that that gas well will
7 not be harmed by unit operation.

8 Q. Mr. Hermann, will the proposed waterflood
9 project have an adverse impact on other nonunit
10 producing wells?

11 A. No. When we set up -- or selected the unit
12 boundary -- we selected it to be sure that there
13 would be -- at least each unit injector -- would be
14 at least two locations from any nonunit Grayburg/San
15 Andres producing well. The only exceptions would be
16 injectors 1813 and 1815 that were described
17 previously by Jim Almrud that would be part of a
18 negotiated lease line injection agreement with
19 Chevron. Next adjacent to their unit is the
20 Monument South Unit Expansion Area B.

21 Q. In your opinion, will water injection have
22 an adverse impact on nearby Grayburg gas wells?

23 A. No. We will be designing, operating and
24 monitoring the flood in such a manner as to minimize
25 out of zone losses and injected fluid, and also to

1 prevent oil from moving outside the unit boundary.

2 Q. In your opinion, will the proposed
3 waterflood project cause the premature watering out
4 of any offsetting wells or otherwise damage any
5 neighboring properties?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Was Exhibit Number 7 prepared by you?

8 A. Yes, it was.

9 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, I move
10 the admission of Amerada Hess Exhibit Number 7.

11 MR. CATANACH: Exhibit Number 7 will be
12 admitted as evidence.

13 (Amerada Hess Exhibit 7 was
14 admitted as evidence.)

15 MR. CARR: That concludes my direct
16 examination of Mr. Hermann.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

19 Q. Mr. Hermann, let me direct your attention
20 back to Exhibit Number 7. There is some
21 nomenclature on the display. The bottom indicates
22 an original water/oil contact. How is that
23 determined?

24 A. Yes. Just a review of past performance and
25 records that were on file both in the State and with

1 our own company and other companies based on
2 production tests.

3 Q. And based upon those tests then, you have
4 estimated what the original location of the water
5 was in this portion of the reservoir?

6 A. Yes. That's our best estimate at this
7 time.

8 Q. Okay. What period of time represents the
9 data on which this point was made? Original means
10 when in point of time in terms of --

11 A. Did we make that assessment?

12 Q. Yes, sir.

13 A. Well, the assessment was made in the early
14 1980s based on review of data that went all the way
15 back to the initial discoveries way back in the
16 mid-1930s.

17 Q. Can you approximate for us what is the
18 current oil/water contact in this particular portion
19 of the reservoir?

20 A. The oil/water contact varies substantially
21 throughout the reservoir. We have seen instances of
22 water encroachment vertically from the San Andres
23 into the lower most Grayburg. We have seen that
24 encroachment as high as Grayburg Zone 3C, but we
25 have not seen any instances where water is

1 encroached higher than Grayburg Zone 3C.

2 Q. Within the specific area of this Block 21,
3 as generally shown on this display, can you
4 approximate for us based upon your evaluation of
5 these wells, where you think the current oil/water
6 contact is?

7 A. I cannot do that with the data I have here.
8 One of the things we'll be doing too is -- that's
9 one of the reasons why we are concentrating
10 initially on the data acquisition program, so we can
11 better identify where that water encroachment has
12 incurred and how far it has incurred throughout the
13 study area.

14 Q. Do you know whether or not the producing
15 wells that are still producing within Block 21 are
16 producing water?

17 A. I'm sure there are some wells that are
18 producing water, but I cannot say at the present
19 time how much.

20 Q. Okay. When we look now at the original
21 gas/oil contact, was that original contact developed
22 in the same way by examining the data available to
23 you?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. What is your estimate now of the current

1 gas/oil contact in this portion of the reservoir?

2 A. In this portion of the field we still feel
3 the gas/oil contact is at approximately minus 150
4 feet.

5 Q. Why has that not changed over time?

6 A. We just have not seen encroachment of water
7 in this particular area into the gas cap. The only
8 area we've seen any measurable encroachment of water
9 into the gas cap is in the white area on that map
10 south of our unit where we had Zones 3C in the gas
11 cap.

12 In certain area we have seen encroachment
13 of fluid, both oil and water, into that gas cap
14 area, but we have not seen any evidence anywhere
15 that water encroachment has gotten up into Zone 3.

16 Q. In terms of the gas/oil contact, has that
17 not changed over time in this specific period?

18 A. It is possible that gas/oil contact has
19 moved slightly one way or the other, but there's not
20 enough evidence to pin down any movement.

21 Q. Okay. Geologically, when we look at the
22 vertical separation between the gradient
23 perforations and their gas well, and the
24 perforations lower down in the Grayburg 3C, there's
25 no geologic barriers that would preclude water from

1 moving up structure within that formation, are
2 there?

3 A. Well, if you're talking about water moving
4 from Zone 3C into Zone 3, yes, I think there are
5 geological barriers out there. Again, we've seen
6 the natural water influx stop within Zone 3C at
7 various points throughout the reservoir due to
8 apparently the barrier to vertical flow, and, again,
9 as you get into the Upper most Grayburg, there are
10 many more dense streaks in those Zones that will,
11 again, act as barriers to flow.

12 Q. There is nothing that satisfies you as a
13 reservoir engineer that that barrier system is
14 complete to fully isolate 3C from 3 in this site
15 specific area, is there?

16 A. We see no evidence to indicate that there
17 are no -- All the evidence we have looked at seems
18 to support that there are barriers between the gas
19 producing intervals in the Upper Grayburg and our
20 target water flow particularly in Zone 3C.

21 Q. For an example, if we pick injector 2103,
22 which is two to the left of the gas well, and look
23 at that first injector, the injection interval is to
24 be the open hole interval?

25 A. The injection interval will be outlined in

1 blue which will include lower most Zone 3 and
2 Grayburg Zone 3C.

3 Q. When we look at the corresponding producer
4 that is between the gas well in this injector, where
5 will its perforations be?

6 A. I think that will be determined at a later
7 date. I would assume it would be Grayburg Zone 3C,
8 and in all probability, a portion of the Lower most
9 Grayburg Zone 3.

10 Q. So when we look at producer 2106, it's your
11 belief that those perforations would be adequate not
12 only to recover additional oil that's being moved by
13 the injector well towards that producing well, but
14 it will serve as a safety net, if you will, by which
15 you can protect the gas well that's farther away?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And geologically you believe the reservoir
18 will operate in such a way that the water injected
19 is going to move laterally to horizontally --

20 A. Particularly --

21 Q. -- and not move vertically?

22 A. Particularly when you get into the Upper
23 Grayburg Zone. There's enough stratification there
24 that we believe the water will move laterally not
25 vertically.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 MR. KELLAHIN: No further questions.

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: I believe I don't have
4 anything for this witness. However, I would like to
5 ask Mr. Almrud one more question.

6 JIM ALMRUD

7 the Witness herein, being previously duly sworn, was
8 examined and testified as follows:

9 REEXAMINATION

10 BY MR. CATANACH:

11 Q. I believe we might have gone over this
12 slightly at the unit case, but I would like for you
13 to explain. The map on the wall shows the proposed
14 injection wells. You've got an area in the center
15 of the unit that does not have any injection
16 occurring into it. Can you explain that?

17 A. Yes. That area -- I don't know what the
18 best explanation is -- is an area that we feel is
19 receiving influence from the aquifer down below
20 directly, and that there are fewer barriers in there
21 to vertical flow, and a lot of the wellbores are
22 still top allowable wells, and as such we feel that
23 they were not a prime waterflood target in that they
24 were already receiving some effects from the
25 aquifer.

1 So we've targeted the tighter areas around
2 the edge of that area which we feel have not
3 recovered probably any oil due to water activity,
4 but primarily due to solution gas drive, and
5 therefore, the prime target for the waterflood.

6 Q. Will the producing wells in that area
7 receive any benefit from waterflood operation?

8 A. They could well in that the, you know,
9 there's injection wells along the edge of it and
10 they could very well receive some benefit one row
11 into the center area. And that area is also a prime
12 tertiary target and has an ideal situation for
13 tertiary recovery in the future.

14 Q. And you said there still are some top
15 allowable wells in that area?

16 A. Yes, there are.

17 Q. Excluding that area, do you know what the
18 average production rate within the unit is?

19 A. I would guess around 20 barrels a day.

20 EXAMINER CATANACH: I believe that's all I
21 have.

22 MR. CARR: There was one other point that
23 we --

24 THE WITNESS: Yes. We weren't sure about your
25 concern about the integrity of wellbores. As part

1 of our unit agreement with our partner -- unit
2 operating agreement -- we will be entering every
3 unitized wellbore within the first year, or at least
4 we have an obligation to within the first two years
5 of operation for purposes of doing casing integrity
6 tests and also braidenhead tests to make sure A, the
7 casing is in adequate condition to contain the flood
8 and also that there is no flow of fluids of any
9 kind, liquid or gas, up from behind any surface pipe
10 or intermediate strings.

11 EXAMINER CATANACH: That's all producing unit
12 wells?

13 THE WITNESS: That all the producing unit
14 wells; that is correct.

15 EXAMINER CATANACH: I think our concern is
16 that, and we want to make sure that any area of
17 review well has adequate cement behind the casing to
18 isolate injected fluids is basically our concern.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay. We have reviewed them.
20 We've had several people go through the drawings and
21 try to identify problems. If other people, you
22 know, feel that they have identified problems, we
23 sure want to look at them and review it.

24 EXAMINER CATANACH: Well, I probably get to go
25 through these 500 wells and check them myself. Are

1 there any other questions of this witness?

2 MR. CARR: Nothing further.

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: Anything further in this
4 case?

5 MR. KELLAHIN: Nothing further.

6 EXAMINER CATANACH: There being nothing
7 further, Case Number 10252 will be taken under
8 advisement.

9 (The foregoing case was concluded at the
10 approximate hour of 12:00 p.m.)
11
12
13
14
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16

17 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
18 a complete record of the proceedings in
19 the Examiner hearing of Case No. 10252,
heard by me on September 19 1991.

20 David R. Catanch, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division
21
22
23
24
25

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss.
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

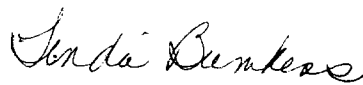
3 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing transcript of
5 the proceedings were taken by me, that I was then
6 and there a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary
7 Public in and for the County of Bernalillo, State
8 of New Mexico, and by virtue thereof, authorized to
9 administer an oath; that the witness before
10 testifying was duly sworn to testify to the
11 whole truth and nothing but the truth; that the
12 questions propounded by counsel and the answers of
13 the witness thereto were taken down by me, and that
14 the foregoing pages of typewritten matter contain a
15 true and accurate transcript as requested by counsel
16 of the proceedings and testimony had and adduced
17 upon the taking of said deposition, all to the best
18 of my skill and ability.

19 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not related to
20 nor employed by any of the parties hereto, and have
21 no interest in the outcome hereof.

22 DATED at Bernalillo, New Mexico, this day
23 November 12, 1991.

24 My commission expires
25 April 24, 1994


LINDA BUMKENS
CCR No. 3008
Notary Public