

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

19 December 1984

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Marbob Energy Cor- CASE  
poration for an exception to General 8433  
Rule 104-F and for infill well find-  
ings, Eddy County, New Mexico.

Application of Marbob Energy Corpor- CASE  
ation for three unorthodox oil well 8432  
locations, Eddy County, New Mexico.

BEFORE: Gilbert P. Quintana, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

A P P E A R A N C E S

For the Oil Conservation Division: Jeff Taylor  
Attorney at Law  
Legal Counsel to the Commission  
State Land Office Bldg.  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

For the Applicant: Kevin J. Bliss  
Attorney at Law  
Marbob Energy Corporation  
P. O. Drawer 217  
Artesia, New Mexico 88210

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

I N D E X

JACK AHLEN

Direct Examination by Mr. Bliss 5

Cross Examination by Mr. Quintana 20

JACK ENGLAND

Direct Examination by Mr. Bliss 21

Cross Examination by Mr. Quintana 43

Questions by Mr. Miller 44

RAYE MILLER

Direct Examination by Mr. Bliss 45

Cross Examination by Mr. Quintana 49

STATEMENT BY MR. BLISS 51

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

E X H I B I T S

Marbob Exhibit One, List	6
Marbob Exhibit Two, Map	6
Marbob Exhibit Three, C-102's	8
Marbob Exhibit Four, Applications to Drill	9
Marbob Exhibit Five, Structure Map	10
Marbob Exhibit Six, Cross Section	11
Marbob Exhibit Seven, Cross Section	15
Marbob Exhibit Eight, Cross Section	16
Marbob Exhibit Nine, Listing	23
Marbob Exhibit Ten, Curve A	24
Marbob Exhibit Eleven, Curve B	27
Marbob Exhibit Twelve, Curve	28
Marbob Exhibit Thirteen, Table	30
Marbob Exhibit Fourteen, Table	36
Marbob Exhibit Fifteen, Table	36
Marbob Exhibit Sixteen, Map	46
Marbob Exhibit Seventeen, Letters	47
Marbob Exhibit Eighteen, Waivers	47

1  
2  
3 MR. QUINTANA: We'll call Case  
4 8432 and Case 8433.

5 MR. TAYLOR: The application of  
6 Marbob, Energy Corporation for three unorthodox oil well  
7 locations, Eddy County, New Mexico, and the application of  
8 Marbob Energy Corporation for an exception to General Rule  
9 104-F and for infill well findings, Eddy County, New Mexico.

10 MR. BLISS: May it please the  
11 Examiner, my name is Kevin Bliss, in-house attorney for the  
12 applicant, and I'm appearing on behalf of applicant.

13 I would request at this time  
14 that Cases 8432 and 8433 be consolidated for the purposes of  
15 this hearing.

16 MR. QUINTANA: Cases 8432 and  
17 Case 8433 may be consolidated for purposes of testimony and  
18 you may proceed.

19 MR. BLISS: I have three  
20 witnesses who need to be sworn in.

21 MR. QUINTANA: If there are no  
22 further appearances in this case would the three witnesses  
23 please stand up and be sworn in at this time?  
24  
25

(Witnesses sworn.)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

JACK AHLEN,

being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his  
oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. BLISS:

Q Please state your full name and place of  
residence.

A My name is Jack Ahlen. I live in Ros-  
well, New Mexico.

Q Mr. Ahlen, what is your occupation and in  
what capacity do you appear today?

A I am a consulting geologist. I appear in  
the capacity of giving consultation to Marbob Energy Corpor-  
ation.

Q Have you ever testified before the Oil  
Commission and had your credentials accepted and made a mat-  
ter of record?

A Yes, sir, I have.

Q And are you familiar with the application  
of Marbob Energy Corporation in these cases?

A Yes, I am.

MR. BLISS: Mr. Examiner, are  
the witness' qualifications acceptable?

MR. QUINTANA: They are accep-  
table.

Q Mr. Ahlen, what does Marbob Energy Cor-

1  
2 poration seek with its application in these cases?

3 A Marbob seeks three different things.

4 First, an approval of three unorthodox  
5 well locations.

6 Secondly, an administrative approval pro-  
7 cedure for future unorthodox locations.

8 And thirdly, a finding that infill wells  
9 in the area are necessary to effectively and efficiently  
10 drain the reservoir.

11 Q One furthe question on this. Is there a  
12 limit from lease boundaries that Marbob proposes to drill  
13 these wells?

14 A Yes, sir. In the administrative proce-  
15 dure, as advertised, we propose that the administrative pro-  
16 cedure include a limitation that wells be drilled no closer  
17 than 330 feet from the leaselines or the unit area, and that  
18 wells be drilled no closer than 10 feet to quarter quarter  
19 section lines.

20 Q Okay, Mr. Ahlen, will you now please re-  
21 fer to what has been marked as Marbob's Exhibits One and Two  
22 and identify these for the Examiner?

23 A Marbob Exhibit One is a list of leases, a  
24 tabulation showing the lease name and the portions of each  
25 section which are part thereof, as well as a depth limita-  
tion on some of those leases.

I think that reading that will be redun-  
dant. Let the exhibit speak for itself.

1  
2                   Exhibit Number Two is a map which I have  
3 prepared. It shows the outer limits of Marbob Energy Cor-  
4 poration leases with a bold line. It also shows the limits  
5 of each lease and/or unit, which are more completely de-  
6 scribed in Exhibit Number One.

7                   The map also shows -- is of an area in  
8 Township 17 South, Range 29 East.

9                   The large squares are one mile in dimen-  
10 sion on each side, normal section lines.

11                   I show a multitude of circles, squares,  
12 and hexagons on this map, and they are colored. The intent  
13 is to show the producing zone from each of the wells that  
14 are producing in the area that we're going to discuss this  
15 afternoon.

16                   Those wells with production from the  
17 Grayburg and uppermost San Andres are circles and they are  
18 colored red.

19                   Those wells that are producing from the  
20 lowermost San Andres in this area, commonly called the Keely  
21 Zone, are -- have a square around them and are colored blue.

22                   Thirdly, the hexagons show wells that  
23 Marbob has drilled recently, or since 1982. They are col-  
24 ored purple.

25                   Now, most of the Marbob wells are com-  
pleted in both of the zones that I have previously discus-  
sed, the Keely, Upper San Andres, and the Grayburg section,  
with a few exceptions, and they will be brought out in later

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

testimony.

You will see some numbers in the immediate vicinity of each well.

On the most part, to the upper right is the well numbere as assigned by the operating company.

To the lower right most of the time is the total depth of each well and to the lower left is the subsurface datum on the top of the San Andres formation. It is in the more bold type.

Any questions?

MR. BLISS: I might add at this point, if there are any questionns, since we do have a large number of exhibits, if you could interrupt or make those cross examining questions while we have the exhibits out that we could quote from.

MR. QUINTANA: No questions.

MR. BLISS: Thank you.

Q Mr. Ahlen, will you please refer to what has been collectively marked as Marbob Exhibits Number Three and identify them?

A Marbob Exhibit Three is -- is an exhibit of three C-102 forms, which show the specific location for Marbob Energy Corporation M Dodd B Well No. 46, Well No. 47, and Well No. 48, and they are all on the Marbob Dodd B Lease.

Q And what is the footage description for each well?



1  
2           A           The footage description for the Marbob 46  
3 is 2,310 feet from the north line and 25 feet from the west  
4 line of Section 14, Township 17 South, Range 29 East.

5                       Detailed location for the Marbob M Dodd B  
6 47 is 1,425 feet from the north line and 330 feet from the  
7 east line of Section 14, Township 17 South, Range 29 East.

8                       And the detailed location for the Marbob  
9 Energy M Dodd B Well No. 48 is 1,425 feet from the north  
10 line and 1,345 feet from the east line of Section 14, Town-  
ship 17 South, Range 29 East.

11                      You will note that each of the three  
12 wells are in the same section.

13                               MR. QUINTANA: Just a moment,  
14 please.

15                              You were at the point that you  
16 mentioned they were all in the same section, unorthodox lo-  
cations.

17           A           Yes, sir, all unorthodox locations in the  
18 same section.

19           Q           Okay, will you please refer now to what  
20 has been collectively marked as Marbob Exhibits Number Four  
21 and identify them?

22           A           Marbob Exhibit Number Four is an applica-  
23 tion for a permit to drill, United States Department of In-  
24 terior, Geological Survey, a Federal form for permits to  
drill, for the Marbob 46, 47, and 48.

25           Q           And in what pool does Marbob propose to

1  
2 drill the proposed unorthodox locations, the future unortho-  
3 dox locations which would be applied for under the adminis-  
4 trative approval procedure requested and the infill wells?

5           A           The pool is the Grayburg Jackson-Seven  
6 Rivers-Queen-Grayburg San Andres.

7           Q           Will you please refer to Marbob Exhibit  
8 Number Five and identify this for the Examiner?

9           A           Exhibit Number Five is a structure con-  
10 tour map on the top of the San Andres formation.

11                   Contour interval is 50 feet. Every fifth  
12 contour is extra heavy on this contour map. You will note  
13 that the structure descends from a maximum elevation of 1350  
14 feet which is approximately 1000 feet across the map, appro-  
15 ximately 350 feet.

16                   The rate of dip across the map is less  
17 than one degree in a generally easterly direction in the  
18 northern three-quarters of the map. There are very slight  
19 deviations from that normal eastward gradient.

20                   In the southern one-quarter of the map  
21 the dip changes abruptly to a more southerly direction. The  
22 rate of dip increases significantly to approximately 300 to  
23 400 feet per mile. This dip to the south is the result of  
24 deep seated structural and stratigraphic relationships which  
25 we might refer to here as the fore reef dip slope of the Abo  
Reef.

26                   You will note the slight undulations in  
27 the structure here. There is one small closure at the com-

1 mon corner of Sections 14, 15, 22 and 23. It is of very  
2 slight consequence.

3 You will note that all the contour lines  
4 fit the datums that I mentioned on the previous map.

5 You might also note on this map that I  
6 show the line of three different cross sections. There is a  
7 north/south cross section and two east/west cross sections,  
8 known as cross section A-B, C-D and E-F.

9 Along the line of each cross section  
10 there are index numbers that index the wells that are lo-  
11 cated on the cross section. On the cross section the same  
12 number is located immediately above the wellbore or the  
13 electric log for that particular well.

14 So the cross sections are indexed to this  
15 structure contour map, and I will be referring back and  
16 forth between these two maps in a few moments.

17 Q Will you now please refer to -- for the  
18 Examiner, or identify for the Examiner, what has been marked  
19 as Marbob Exhibit Number Six, which we have placed on the  
20 wall behind us?

21 A Exhibit Number Six is a structure cross  
22 section across the prospect in a north/south direction. The  
23 scale, the vertical scale is two inches equal 100 feet. The  
24 scale between the wells is marked individually between each  
25 of the wells, such as it's 5/10ths of a mile between these  
two wells, a quarter of a mile between these two, a quarter  
of a mile, so forth, across the line of the section.

1  
2 The wells were chosen to be the most com-  
3 plete detailed examination of -- of the area in interest,  
4 and I chose a well that was very close to a straight line  
5 north/south and the two lines east/west.

6 We have various -- note also the index  
7 numbers at the top of the cross section. It is indexed to  
8 the structure contour map. Also at the top of each well  
9 there is a well symbol as to whether the well has been com-  
10 pleted as an oil well. On another cross section there are  
11 gas well symbols. There might be a dry hole symbol on one  
12 of them. So you can tell immediately whether this is an oil  
13 well, gas well, or a dry hole.

14 The normal heading on the top of each log  
15 placed there by the logging company, showing operator, fee,  
16 well number, elevation, and so forth, all the various admin-  
17 istrative data, as well as a detailed location of each par-  
18 ticular well.

19 I have marked on the cross section struc-  
20 tural and stratigraphic marker zones. Notably the very  
21 heavy line that we see here is the top of the San Andres  
22 formation, which is commonly used for mapping in the area.

23 I have also mapped the top of the Premier  
24 Sand member of the Grayburg formation, although I do not  
25 show the top of the Grayburg formation, since it was not  
pertinent to the examination.

I also show the top of the Lovington Sand  
marker, which carries across the map.

1  
2 I also show the top of the Keeley porosity  
3 zone. The Keeley porosity zone is discontinuous in this area  
4 and another geologist in the same area might mark it a  
5 slightly different place on the logs, since this is really a  
6 porosity top rather than a stratigraphic top. Most geolo-  
7 gists would mark the same place for the Lovington Sand, the  
8 top of the San Andres, and the Premier Sand.

9 Not the similarity across the cross sec-  
10 tion from north to south in that the thickness of most of  
11 the members are very close to the same, as well as the uni-  
12 que characteristics of each of the beds, such as porosity,  
13 radioactivity, and so forth.

14 Over most of this area these same unique  
15 characteristics are present.

16 In the northern area you will note that  
17 most of the wells, or three of the wells that I have shown  
18 here on the cross section, are relatively short. They stop  
19 in the uppermost San Andres. They are perforated in the  
20 Premier Sand.

21 This well was drilled down and explored  
22 to the Keely zone and it was perforated in the Keely zone,  
23 as well as that section between the Keely and the top of the  
24 San Andres.

25 Other wells along this section are per-  
forated throughout the geologic section.

Now, these logs were logged at different  
times from the early 1950's through today, or through Octo-

1  
2 ber, and most of these wells were drilled through October of  
3 this year, so there are varying types of logging techniques  
4 that were used, but essentially they are all porosity logs  
5 and attempt to show the same thing.

6 We have different companies, also, and  
7 each of them have different characteristics and reliability,  
8 but the main thing I want to show is that there is porosity  
9 across this whole area and that it is similar from one end  
10 of the cross section to the other side.

11 Q Mr. Ahlen, are the perforations marked  
12 for each well and is there completion information on the --  
13 indicated on the cross section?

14 A Yes, sir. I have marked the perforated  
15 zones either with an arrow showing a specific location for a  
16 spot perforation, or with a bracket showing a zone of per-  
17 forations.

18 Also, at the bottom of each well I have  
19 given a brief synopsis of the completion history of the well  
20 and what the well initially potentialized for.

21 MR. QUINTANA: And I take it  
22 this cross section indicates, or possibly indicates, that as  
23 you go north the Keely zone becomes almost nonexistent.

24 A Essentially, yes, sir. That is part of  
25 the discontinuous nature of the Keely zone.

MR. QUINTANA: I have no fur-  
ther questions.

Q Will you please now identify for the Exa-

1  
2 miner what has been marked as Marbob Exhibit Number Seven?

3           A           Yes, sir. Next this is cross section C-  
4 D. It runs east/west and the index map at the lower left  
5 here shows that line of section. It is the most southerly  
6 of the two east/west cross sections.

7                   It also is indexed across the top with  
8 the well numbers that are located on Exhibits Number Five,  
9 the structure cross section, and specifically correlate be-  
10 tween the cross section and the structure contour map.

11                   You will note that most of these wells  
12 have been completed as oil wells. There is one gas well on  
13 the extreme left. We have similar administrative data for  
14 the hearing of each well, the same scale vertically, two  
15 inches to 100 feet. I have marked the distance between  
16 wells at each particular location. It is datumized on the  
17 plus 100 -- plus 1000 foot datum, similar to the previous  
18 cross section.

19                   I have shown the same stratigraphic and  
20 structural markers on this as the previous cross section,  
21 with a heavy line being the top of the San Andres, lighter  
22 one above it being the top of the Premier Sand, the lighter  
23 one below the San Andres being the Lovington Sand, and the  
24 lowermost one here being the Keeley porosity zone.

25                   You'll note on this cross section the  
Keeley zone seems to be predominantly much better. It is  
much more continuous on this cross section than on the pre-  
vious section because we're going along with the strati-

1 graphic strike of this particular unit.

2 Again perforations are marked on the mar-  
3 gin of the log in the customary manner. You will note that  
4 again, even though we have dissimilar logs on the cross sec-  
5 tion, they all show approximately the same thing. They have  
6 similar nature across the line of the section but they're  
7 not specifically the same. They show that this is indeed a  
8 continuous reservoir from one end of the cross section to  
9 the other.

10 I did not note before that that odd jump  
11 in the structural discontinuity on the far left is a matter  
12 of distance in scale rather than regional dip or terracing  
13 out here, but the last interval there is a mile and a half;  
14 just the consequence of the wells that I chose for the cross  
15 section.

16 Q Does this cross section also indicate the  
17 east to west or the west to east dip that you spoke of ear-  
18 lier?

19 A Yes. This cross section does indeed in-  
20 dicate this gentle eastward monoclinial dip of less than one  
21 degree that I noted on the structure cross section.

22 Q Okay. Mr. Ahlen, will you now identify  
23 for the Examiner what has been marked as Marbob Exhibit Num-  
24 ber Eight?

25 A Yes, sir. As a re-summary of nomencla-  
ture in the Maljamar country and Loco Hills, there are a  
multitude of local names, in the literature and out of the



1  
2 literature and commonly used by drillers and operators in  
3 the area, such as Loco Hills, Loco Hills 1, 2, 3, 4, Keeley,  
4 and they're not generally accepted geological terms and not  
5 usually published in the literature, but sometimes they're  
6 very handy to use.

7 So that's why I chose Keeley, because  
8 this is a locally known, easily recognized member in this  
9 specific area, but it really doesn't carry out of the area.

10 Exhibit Number, what is this now, Eight,  
11 Exhibit Number Eight almost duplicates the previous cross  
12 section except that it's approximately one mile north of  
13 that. It is the most northerly of the two cross sections  
14 that I did. I call it cross section E-F.

15 It again has the well symbol at the top  
16 denoting whether it is a gas well or an oil well. Some of  
17 these gas wells are producing from deeper horizons, such as  
18 the Morrow, but it was uniquely located at a spot that was  
19 good to use with this particular cross section and you will  
20 not note any perforations in the wellbore on this particular  
21 well because it is completed from the deeper horizon and  
22 that is so noted on the -- at the base of each of the wells.

23 It shows almost identically the same  
24 things as the previous cross section in that we see the re-  
25 gional east dip. We see the uniformity of -- or thickness  
of formations across the cross section. We see the redun-  
dancy in the porosity zones within the San Andres, indi-  
cating again that we are in the same geologic pool or reser-

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

voir that is producing in many of the wells over the section.

MR. QUINTANA: I take it then, that to clarify your testimony here, these three cross sections presented evidence to show that throughout this area that you have applied to -- for these two cases, it's pretty continuous. The formations are very continuous and exemplify the same type of porosity and permeability in one area as the other area.

A Similar. I'd rather say similar porosity and permeability relationship, because each well is unique --

MR. QUINTANA: Unique.

A -- as we all know. So they are very similar porosity and permeability relationships across the area, and this is the thing that I'm trying to emphasize.

Q And this is true, Mr. Ahlen, from north to south and east to west within the entire subject area?

A Yes.

Q One further question. Is this part -- would you describe this as part of a larger continuous field?

A I would indeed.

Q Okay. Do you expect that Marbob will encounter similar geologic circumstances in its M Dodd D 46, 47, and 48 Wells?

A I do expect that, yes, sir.

1  
2 Q And do you expect that Marbob will en-  
3 counter similar geologic circumstances in these wells as it  
4 encountered in previous wells drilled at orthodox and unor-  
5 thodox locations on the Dodd A and Dodd B leases?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q And do you expect that Marbob will en-  
8 counter similar geologic circumstances drilled anywhere in  
9 the subject area at orthodox as well as unorthodox loca-  
10 tions?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q In your opinion is the drilling of addi-  
13 tional wells on all or some of these 40-acre tracts neces-  
14 sary in order to efficiently and economically drain these  
15 40-acre tracts?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And in your opinion will granting this  
18 application allowing Marbob to drill the M Dodd B 46, 47,  
19 and 48, as well as future unorthodox locations under an ad-  
20 ministrative approval procedure, result in the recovery of  
21 additional oil and gas which would not otherwise have been  
22 recovred?

23 A Yes.

24 Q In your opinion will it be necessary for  
25 Marbob to drill wells at unorthodox locations as close as  
330 feet from the lease line or in the case of a unit, uni-  
tized area, in order for Marbob to adequately drain the re-  
servoir, produce its equitable share of the reservoir, and

1  
2 thereby protect its correlative rights?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And, in your opinion, will granting this  
5 application in all respects be in the interest of conserva-  
6 tion, the prevention of waste, and the protecton of correla-  
7 tive rights?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Were Exhibits One through Eight either  
10 prepared by you or prepared by others for you under your di-  
11 rect supervision and can you testify as to their accuracy?

12 A Yes, they were and yes, I can.

13 MR. BLISS: Marbob would move  
14 the admission of Exhibits One to Eight at this time.

15 MR. QUINTANA: Exhibits One  
16 through Eight will be admitted into evidence.

17 MR. BLISS: And that is all the  
18 questions I have of this witness.

19 CROSS EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. QUINTANA:

21 Q Mr. Ahlen.

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q You testified just a few minutes ago that  
24 you felt, it was your professional opinion that drilling  
25 these wells on unorthodox locations would efficiently drain  
the reservoir in a much better manner than it was being  
drained at this time.

1  
2                   Would you tell me what you base that  
3 professional opinion on?

4                   A           Well, there is already a pattern set out  
5 by previously existing wells by offsetting operators as well  
6 as previous Marbob wells, and this is a continuing pattern  
7 radiating from already existing wells.

8                   Now, Marbob will drill some orthodox lo-  
9 cations as well, obviously, especially in those areas where  
10 orthodox locations are available.

11                   For the most part, though, as you well  
12 know, this is a well developed area, high intensity drill-  
13 ling, and there are many, many obstacles in this particular  
14 area to free access to the surface location, and so -- so  
15 there will be variation because of that, as well.

16                   MR. BLISS: I would like to now  
17 call Jack England as my next witness.

18                   JACK ENGLAND,  
19 being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his  
20 oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

21                   DIRECT EXAMINATION

22                   BY MR. BLISS:

23                   Q           Will you please state your name, your oc-  
24 cupation, and where you reside, please?

25                   A           My name is Jack England. I'm employed by  
Ryder Scott Company as a consulting petroleum engineer, and

1  
2 my residence is in Golden, Colorado.

3 Q Mr. England, have you previously testi-  
4 fied before this Division?

5 A No, sir, I have not.

6 Q Will you please state for the Examiner  
7 your educational and professional background?

8 A I'm a 1953 graduate of the University of  
9 Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in petroleum engin-  
eering.

10 I was employed for a period of about 28  
11 years with Marathon Oil Company and predecessor companies in  
12 both the Rocky Mountain Region and the Permian Basin.

13 I spent my last five years with Marathon  
14 in the Midland Office.

15 Subsequent to leaving Marathon I joined  
16 another consulting firm, Sipes, Williamson and Associates;  
17 stationed in Midland for about one year and then moved to  
18 Denver and opened an office for them in Denver. I was with  
19 Sipes, Williamson approximately two and a half years and  
20 joined Ryder Scott. Been with Ryder Scott since November of  
last year.

21 I am registered in the States of Colorado  
22 and Wyoming and that's about the size of it.

23 Q And how long have you done work for Mar-  
24 bob Energy Corporation and been familiar with its opera-  
tions?

25 A I've been employed in a consulting capa-

1 city with Marbob since October of 1982.

2 Q And are you familiar with the application  
3 of Marbob Energy Corporation in these cases?

4 A Yes, sir, I am.

5 MR. BLISS: Is the witness  
6 qualified as an expert as a petroleum engineer?

7 MR. QUINTANA: The witness is  
8 qualified as an expert petroleum engineer.

9 Q Mr. England, would you please identify  
10 for the Examiner what has been marked as Marbob Exhibit Num-  
11 ber Nine?

12 A Yes, sir. Exhibit Number Nine is a list-  
13 ing of wells that were drilled and completed by Marbob  
14 Energy Corporation during the period October, 1982, to Octo-  
15 ber, 1984.

16 What is shown are the individual well  
17 numbers on the M Dodd A and M Dodd B Leases, the footage  
18 locations of those wells, the quarter quarter section and  
19 the OCD order number authorizing unorthodox locations.

20 I would note that -- excuse me.

21 Q The next question was that of all the  
22 wells drilled and completed by Marbob since it commenced  
23 operating the M Dodd A and M Dodd B Leases in October, 1982,  
24 how many were infill wells, that is, wells drilled for pro-  
25 duction on established proration units, and how many were  
the first well on a proration unit?

A All right. All wells with the exception

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

of two were infill wells.

The two wells that are M Dodd A No. 30, located in the southeast southwest of Section 14, Township 27 South, Range 29 East, and the M Dodd B No. 35, located in the southeast southeast quarter of the same section, township and range.

Q Mr. England, will you now please identify what has been marked as Marbob Exhibit Ten and explain it?

A Exhibit Ten is a performance curve for the Mary Dodd A Lease.

What's shown on the curve is actual production from 1976 to October of 1984 along with projected production into the future from October of 1984.

The well in barrels of oil per month is shown on the curve in green.

The average gas/oil ratio for the lease is shown on the curve in the form of red x's.

The well count for the lease is shown on the curve in black.

At the time that Marbob Energy Corporation acquired this lease, there were nineteen wells on the lease that had produced in excess of 1000 barrels of oil, and I used 1000 barrels as my cutoff to determine productive wells because a number of wells had been drilled for purposes of injection. These wells were tested for various periods of time and accumulated relatively minor volumes of oil in terms of 10, 20, 150, maybe as much as 800 barrels.



1  
2 The cumulative production for these nine-  
3 teen wells at October, 1982, was in the range of 2000, in  
4 excess of 100,000 barrels of oil per well.

5 At October of '82 I estimated that the  
6 ultimate recovery would be approximately 1,504,000 barrels  
7 of oil. With the future recovery infinitely continued to  
8 have been operated under the old administration and if no  
9 new wells had been drilled, it would have been about 60,000  
10 barrels of oil to be recovered over future economic life that  
11 at that time was approximately eight years.

12 MR. QUINTANA: What was that --

13 A I would think --

14 MR. QUINTANA: Excuse me, I  
15 didn't mean to interrupt.

16 What was that additional re-  
17 covery?

18 A The future recovery would be approximate-  
19 ly 60,000 barrels.

20 MR. QUINTANA: As compared to  
21 the previous -- as compared to your --

22 A Well, I haven't made that comparison.  
23 I'm just saying that -- that had the lease continued to have  
24 been operated on the old system and no new wells would have  
25 been drilled, it would have cumulated at an additional  
60,000 barrels.

I do make that comparison in a later ex-  
hibit.

1  
2 I would point out that the first new well  
3 which was an infill well, No. 22, came on stream in March of  
4 1983.

5 I would direct your attention to the  
6 average gas/oil ratio history at this time. The GOR varied  
7 from some 1200 feet a barrel to 1500 feet per barrel during  
8 the period 1976 to 1978 and then you can see the trend down-  
9 ward with the average gas/oil ratio being some 508 cubic  
10 feet per barrel during the period 1979 through September,  
11 1982.

12 Now the most recent period in which I  
13 looked at gas/oil ratios for the old wells was that period  
14 from July through Octobr of 1984. At that time the average  
15 gas/oil ratio for the old wells was 407 cubic feet per bar-  
16 rel. This shows that the increase in the gas as shown on  
17 this exhibit is due to the new wells.

18 Q Mr. England, will you now please identify  
19 the document which has been marked --

20 A Excuse me, just one more.

21 There is another point that I would like  
22 to make that I think is rather dramatic.

23 If you look at the actual performance,  
24 look at the oil rate at Sepbember of 1984, and compare that  
25 to the oil rate at September of 1982, you can see that  
there's been an approximate fourteen-fold increase in rate  
of production.

MR. QUINTANA: Would you attri-

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

bute that to infill?

A I would attribute that primarily to the infill wells.

Q Mr. England, would you now please identify the document which has been marked as Marbob Exhibit Number Eleven and explain it?

A Marbob Exhibit Number Eleven is a performance curve of the Mary Dodd B Lease.

Again, the actual and the projected performance is depicted.

The oil rate in barrels of oil per month is shown in green.

Again the gas/oil ratio is shown in red x's and the well count is in black.

At the time that Marbob assumed operation of this lease in October of 1982, the lease contained a total of 24 wells that had produced in excess of 1000 barrels of oil. The cumulative recovery for these wells varied from 6000 barrels to in excess of 100,000 barrels, and average 46,000 barrels per well.

At October of '82 I estimated that the ultimate recovery would be 1,115,000 barrels. Future recovery would have only been 6000 barrels with a future life in the order of two plus or minus years.

Looking now at the gas/oil ratio history, we can see that during the period 1976 to 1978, that the gas/oil ratio generally was in the order of 600 to 800 cubic

1 feet per barrel, again trending downward and averaging only  
2 226 cubic feet per barrel during that period 1979 through  
3 September of 1982.

4 The most recent period which I have  
5 studied the gas/oil ratios of the old wells was July of this  
6 year through October and the average gas/oil ratio was 600  
7 cubic feet per barrel at that time, again demonstrating that  
8 the new wells are responsible for the increase in gas.

9 Q Mr. England, when did --

10 A Again I want to point out the rather  
11 dramatic increase. This time we're looking at an approxi-  
12 mately 33-fold increase in the rate of production as a re-  
13 sult and a consequence of infill drilling.

14 Q I was going to ask one more question.

15 A Yes.

16 Q At what point did the first new well go  
17 on stream for Marbob on that B Lease?

18 A Okay, the first new well on the Mary Dodd  
19 B Lease was B No. 35, and it came on stream in March of  
20 1983.

21 Q Please refer to Marbob Exhibit Number  
22 Twelve and explain it.

23 A Marbob Exhibit Number Twelve is a perfor-  
24 mance curve of the G. J. West Co-op Unit, a recent acquisi-  
25 tion of Marbob Energy Corporation.

Again what is depicted is the actual  
lease performance and a projectio of the performance without

1 any new wells.

2  
3 At the time of acquisition by Marbob the  
4 lease contained a total of 50 wells that had produced in ex-  
5 cess of 1000 barrels of oil per well.

6 The cums per well for this lease, or this  
7 unit, varied from 2000, were in the range of 2000 to 9000  
8 barrels of oil per well. The average was 31,000 barrels of  
9 oil per well.

10 I estimate the ultimate recovery as of  
11 September of 1984 to be 1,618,000 barrels or a future of  
12 53,0900 barrels, a future economic life slightly less than  
13 nine years.

14 Again I would direct your attention to  
15 the gas/oil ratio history. You can see that it was generally  
16 flat during the period 1976 to 1982, averaging some 4 to  
17 5,000 cubic feet per barrel.

18 In 1983 to date the gas/oil ratio has de-  
19 creased until it's now in the order of 1300 to 1500 cubic  
20 feet per barrel.

21 I point this out because this level is  
22 still less than the average of 2 to 3000 cubic feet per bar-  
23 rel for those leases that have enjoyed infill drilling,  
24 namely the Mary Dodd A and the Mary Dodd B Leases.

25 I would conclude that the G. J. West Co-  
op Unit will show a similar response, or respond in a simi-  
lar manner, as that of the M Dodd A and the M Dodd B with  
infill drilling.

1  
2 MR. QUINTANA: I just have one  
3 question.

4 A Yes, sir.

5 MR. QUINTANA: West Co-op Unit  
6 --

7 A Yes, sir.

8 MR. QUINTANA: -- your produc-  
9 tion curve on September of 1984, why did it drop so abruptly  
10 there?

11 A There is a one month period of time in  
12 which, as the assignment was being made and the properties  
13 were changing hands, that only one well was on production  
14 and the remainder were all shut in.

15 Q Mr. England, will you now refer to what  
16 has been marked as Marbob Exhibit Number Thirteen and iden-  
17 tify it and explain it for the Examiner?

18 A Marbob Exhibit Number Thirteen is a com-  
19 parison of recovery data of certain leases in the Grayburg  
20 Jackson Field, Eddy County, New Mexico.

21 What is shown on the exhibit are the  
22 leases involved in the subject area; the general location of  
23 these leases -- they're all located in Township 17 South,  
24 Range 29 East; the size of the lease in acres; the number of  
25 wells on each individual lease that have produced in excess  
of 1000 barrels of oil per well; the estimated ultimate re-  
covery at October 1st, 1982, expressed in terms of barrels  
of oil, Mcf of gas, and then these recovery units have in

turn been reduced to acre recovery designation.

Also is shown for those two leases that have undergone infill drilling activity, the estimated ultimate recovery at November 1st, 1984, as a result of these new wells.

On the Boyd Dodd B Lease, it's a 160-acre lease, containing four wells. The estimated recovery at 10-1-82 for this lease is 377,000 barrels of oil and 123,000 Mcf of gas.

This translates to a per acre recovery of 2356 barrels of oil and 769 Mcf of gas, with an overall average gas/oil ratio of 326 cubic feet per barrel.

There have been no new wells drilled on this lease.

The next lease on the -- the next property on the exhibit is the Continental State. This lease contains 240 acres, three wells. Estimated ultimate recovery at October '82 was 54,000 barrels of oil and 8000 Mcf of gas.

This per acre recovery is 226 barrels of oil and 33 Mcf of gas. The average gas/oil ratio is anticipated to be 148 cubic feet per barrel. Again, no new wells on this lease.

On the M Dodd A Lease, it's a 600 acre lease. It had 19 wells. The estimated ultimate recovery at October of '82 is 1,504,000 barrels of oil and 1.4 Bcf of gas. This is equivalent to 2507 barrels of oil per acre recovery and 2244 Mcf of gas per acre recovery with an aver-

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

age gas/oil ratio of 835 cubic feet per barrel.

At the time I prepared this exhibit there had been 13 new wells drilled and completed on this lease.

The estimated ultimate recovery for all wells on the lease is 2,050,000 barrels of oil and roughly, 2.5 Bcf of gas.

Our per acre recovery is now 3417 barrels of oil and 4296 Mcf of gas.

The increase in the oil recovery is in the order of 35 to 36 percent.

The average gas/oil ratio over the life of the property with the new drilling is anticipated to be 1257 cubic feet per barrel and it's anticipated that the economic life as a result of infill drilling has been extended to approximately 20 years, or an increase of about 12 years.

The M Dodd B Lease is a 1480 acre lease. It contained 24 wells. Its estimated ultimate recovery at October 1st, 1982, was 1,115,000 barrels of oil and approximately a half a Bcf of gas.

The per acre recovery is 753 barrels of oil and 351 Mcf of gas and an overall gas/oil ratio anticipated at that time to have been in the order of 550 feet per barrel.

The estimated ultimate recovery at November 1st, 1984, with new wells, with some eight new wells having been completed, is 1,513,000 barrels of oil and ap



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

proximately 1.4 Bcf of gas.

The increase in the per acre -- excuse me.

The per acre recovery would be 1022 barrels of oil and 934 Mcf of gas. Again, the increase in the per acre recovery is in the order of 34 to 36 percent.

The anticipated average gas/oil ratio over the life of the property is 913 cubic feet per barrel.

Again, as a result of infill drilling, the economic life has been extended in this case to approximately 16 years for a gain of some 14 years.

I would conclude from this exhibit, it's obvious that infill wells are necessary to produce additional oil and gas that would not be produced by old wells on existing proration units. In other words, when looking at the performance curves, it is difficult to see how one could give recovery credit much beyond what I have for the old wells.

Q So, Mr. England, it was your conclusion that infill wells were necessary to recover additional reserves of oil and gas on existing proration units?

A Yes, sir.

Q Given what you know about the Dodd A and Dodd B Leases, and given the testimony of Jack Ahlen regarding the similarity of geologic circumstances in the entire subject area, is it your opinion that in those proration units within the subject area with existing or previous pro-

1  
2       duction, that infill wells will be necessary to recovery the  
3       oil and gas reserves existing in those units?

4               A               Yes, sir, absolutely.

5                       The performance of the infill wells drill-  
6       led to date has been very convincing.

7               Q               Mr. England, as can be observed in Exhi-  
8       bit Nine, Marbob has drilled a number of wells at unorthodox  
9       locations and it proposes to drill a number of additional  
10      wells at unorthodox locations in the future, including the  
11      Dodd B 46, 47, and 48.

12                      Referring to Exhibit Two, could you ex-  
13      plain why these particular locations were chosen for the M  
14      Dodd B 46, 47, and 48?

15               A               Okay. Looking at Exhibit Two, it was al-  
16      ready established by Mr. Ahlen in previous testimony what is  
17      contemplated by the drilling in this area is the continua-  
18      tion and the extension of a pattern that has been initiated  
19      by an offset operator. I direct your attention to Section  
20      23.

21                      There are -- there are many facets invol-  
22      ved in answering this question. The -- it was desired to  
23      not only develop San Andres reserves utilizing the existing  
24      pattern, but it was also desired to be able to develop the  
25      Grayburg reserves and for those wells that have not initial-  
26      ly been completed in the Grayburg along with the San Andres,  
27      it is contemplated that these wells will be completed in the  
28      Grayburg some time in the future.

1  
2 By locating the wells at unorthodox loca-  
3 tions, it presents the greatest opportunity for Marbob Ener-  
4 gy Corporation to encounter Grayburg conditions that will  
5 have been the least altered from original.

6 MR. QUINTANA: You mean loca-  
7 tions which have not been drained or have been drained --

8 A Locations which have shown the least ef-  
9 fect of drainage.

10 I might also point out that Marbob is  
11 watching with a great deal of interest the waterflood that  
12 is going to be conducted by Phillips Petroleum in Section 23  
13 and they've been -- they've been looking to the future and  
14 if this waterflood is successful, then the spacing program  
15 that they're utilizing is going to allow them to be able to  
16 immediately implement a similar waterflood in their acreage  
17 -- on their acreage.

18 Q Mr. England, is the size of the Marbob  
19 treatment in the San Andres also a factor in its desire to  
20 locate these wells at unorthodox locations?

21 A Yes, sir, primarily because of the large  
22 volume of treatment and the concern -- one actually has no  
23 control over the direction that the fracture might go, and  
24 we try to stay as far as possible away from the old loca-  
25 tions so we don't have to be concerned about fracing into  
the old wellbore, won't have to be concerned about perhaps  
old poor primary cement jobs that would not contain the  
fluid and might eventually wind up with a well actually pro-

1  
2 ducing out of the surface head, and I've seen that occur in  
3 some fields.

4 Q Why will it be necessary to drill future  
5 wells at other unorthodox locations within the entire sub-  
6 ject area?

7 A I believe it will be necessary to drill  
8 future wells on unorthodox locations in the subject area in  
9 order to complete the existing spacing pattern that we've  
10 discussed or as is contemplated by Marbob and to achieve the  
11 greatest ultimate recovery.

12 Q Mr. England, will you now refer to the  
13 documents which have been marked as Marbob's Exhibits Num-  
14 bers Fourteen and Fifteen, and identify them and explain  
15 their contents?

16 A All right, sir. Marbob Exhibit Number  
17 Fourteen is a summary of the completion data on the recently  
18 drilled wells on the Mary Dodd A and Mary Dodd B Leases,  
19 Grayburg-Jackson Field, Eddy County, New Mexico.

20 What's shown on Exhibit Number Fourteen  
21 are the leases, the individual well numbers, the unit letter  
22 designation, and location by section, township, and range.

23 Also shown on Exhibit Fourteen is the top  
24 of the San Andres and depth datum, the perforated interval  
25 in the Grayburg and the San Andres, the net pay perforated  
in the Grayburg and the San Andres, and the initial produc-  
tion along with the test date.

Exhibit Fifteen is the unorthodox loca-

1  
2 tions provide additional Grayburg reserves, Mary Dodd A and  
3 Mary Dodd B Leases, Grayburg-Jackson Field, Eddy County, New  
4 Mexico.

5 What's listed on this lease -- I beg your  
6 pardon, what's listed on this exhibit are two recently drilled  
7 wells, Mary Dodd B No. 36 and Mary Dodd A No. 31, and  
8 two of their immediate offsets and what's -- what's -- the  
9 comparison that's made on the exhibit are the perforated intervals,  
10 the initial production, production in October of '84 for the offsets  
11 as compared to the test data of these two recently drilled wells.

12 If I might, I'd like to come back now to  
13 Exhibit Fourteen and discuss it in a little more detail.

14 The Mary Dodd A No. 31 was completed in  
15 the perforated interval in the Grayburg from 2379 feet to  
16 2495 feet and in the San Andres from 2572 feet to 3344 feet.

17 24 feet of Grayburg and 248 feet of San  
18 Andres pay were perforated.

19 Now, coming down to Mary Dodd B No. 36,  
20 its perforated interval in the Grayburg was 2437 feet to  
21 2557 and in the San Andres, 2620 to 3336. In this well 38  
22 feet of pay was perforated in the Grayburg and 201 feet of  
23 pay was perforated in the San Andres.

24 If we take all ten wells on this exhibit  
25 as a whole on a fee acre basis, the Grayburg formation  
should have contributed approximately 16 percent of the total daily production.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Now, if I might, I apologize for skipping back and forth, but I need to refer to both exhibits in order to make the next few points.

Going to Exhibit Fifteen and looking at the data for Mary Dodd B No. 36, its initial test was 67 barrels of oil per day, 100 Mcf of gas per day, and 40 barrels of water per day, tested in February of 1984.

You will note that I have noted that the Grayburg perms tested 18 barrels of oil per day, 2 barrels of water per day, and 20 Mcf of gas per day over a 12 day period.

Coming down to Mary Dodd A No. 31, it tested 32 barrels of oil per day, 50 barrels of water -- 50 Mcf of gas per day, and 48 barrels of water per day.

Both of these tests were the combined production from both the San Andres and Grayburg formations.

Now, on the -- as far as Mary Dodd A No. 31 is concerned, its Grayburg test was 7 barrels of oil per day and a trace of water and 5 Mcf of gas per day.

Looking at these two sets of test data the Mary Dodd A No. 31 on the theoretical basis, 9 percent of the production should have been coming from the Grayburg. On an actual test basis about 22 percent of the production is coming from the Grayburg.

While on Mary Dodd B No. 36, on a fee acre basis about 16 percent of the production should have been coming from the Grayburg; on an actual test basis 27 per-

1 cent.

2  
3 Therefore, I consider on this basis that  
4 the Grayburg will contribute anywhere from 9 percent to 27  
5 percent of the recovery.

6 MR. QUINTANA: Additional re-  
7 covery.

8 A Of the total recovery from the two per-  
9 forated zones. I only have a limited number of well tests  
10 from which to draw this conclusion.

11 MR. QUINTANA: And what you're  
12 saying is by drilling at those unorthodox locations you --  
13 gives you 9 percent more reserves from the Grayburg.

14 A I don't think I can go that far. I can  
15 say that 9 percent of the total production stream is attri-  
16 butable to Grayburg.

17 MR. QUINTANA: Grayburg.

18 Q At, excuse me, at a minimum.

19 A At a minimum. I was going to say that  
20 the actual test data makes it reasonable to me that you  
21 could anticipate that this could be as high as 22 to 27 per-  
22 cent.

23 Now, the only other thing that I would  
24 point out on Exhibit Number Fourteen, that in addition, the  
25 Mary Dodd No. 31 and the Mary Dodd -- Mary Dodd B No. 36,  
there are three other unorthodox locations in this tabula-  
tion.

They are Mary Dodd A No. 34, and Mary

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Dodd B No. 41 and No. 42.

Now, going to Exhibit Fifteen, all we've done here is compare an example with Mary Dodd B No. 34, and I would like to point out there is a typo on this exhibit. The test date for Mary Dodd B No. 34 should be 11-04-71 and not 11-01.

But this well tested 34 barrels of oil per day and 105 Mcf of gas per day and 45 barrels of water per day in November of 1971, after squeezing off the Grayburg perforations.

The -- during the completion period the rate of production from the total well varied from 2 to 7 barrels of oil per day and 160 to 180 barrels of water per day.

The operator ran a survey and concluded that all this fluid was coming from the Grayburg perforations and squeezed the Grayburg off with 150 sacks of Class C cement.

In October from the San Andres by itself, this well was making -- I didn't write that figure down -- going to the other offset, Burch B No. 20, it was completed in March of 1971 for 125 barrels of oil per day. The Grayburg was commingled with the San Andres and not reported separately, but I would point out in October of this year from both the San Andres and the Grayburg perforated intervals, the well produced an average of 2 barrels of oil per day, 5 barrels of water per day, and 37 Mcf of gas, so that



1 the test in Mary Dodd B No. 36 in the Grayburg by itself,  
2 about a nine-fold increase.

3 On the Mary Dodd A No. 31, the offset  
4 that was chosen there was Mary Dodd A No. 3. In March of  
5 1936 this well was completed for a reported 55 barrels of  
6 oil per day after shooting the Grayburg and San Andres open  
7 hole sections with 200 and 100 quarts of nitro, respective-  
8 ly.

9 It was shut in in 1976 as being unecono-  
10 mic and Marbob cleaned out in December of 1982, produced an  
11 average of 4 barrels of oil per day and one barrel of water  
12 per day, 2 Mcf of gas per day in October of '84, but out  
13 test data on Mary Dodd A No. 31 is a 1.75 increase over that  
14 October production level.

15 Looking at the Burch C No. 36, which is a  
16 southeasterly offset, it was compared for 102 barrels of oil  
17 per day, 120 Mcf of gas per day, 127 barrels of water per  
18 day, in May of 1973.

19 Again, the Grayburg was being commingled  
20 with the San Andres and not reported separately; however, in  
21 October of this year the well produced an average of 5 bar-  
22 rels of oil per day, 2 barrels of water per day, and 2 Mcf  
23 of gas per day from both zones and the test rate that's  
24 shown for Dodd A No. 31 represents about a 1.4 increase over  
25 the October average production from the Burch C No. 36.

Q Mr. England, is it your conclusion based  
on the Exhibits Fourteen and Fifteen that these two particu-

1  
2 lar unorthodox wells examples, the A 31 and the B 36, pro-  
3 vided additional Grayburg recovery?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Is it your opinion, based upon this evi-  
6 dence, that Marbob by drilling in unorthodox locations on  
7 the entire subject area will be able to recover reserves in  
8 the Grayburg formation which would not otherwise be re-  
covered?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q Mr. England, in your opinion will the  
11 drilling of additional wells on all or some of these 40-acre  
12 tracts at unorthodox locations be necessary in order to ef-  
13 ficiently and economically drain these 40-acre tracts?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q And in your opinion will granting this  
16 application allowing Marbob to drill M Dodd B 46, 47, and  
17 48, as well as future unorthodox locations on the subject  
18 area under the administrative approval procedure applied for  
19 herein result in the recovery of additional oil and gas in  
20 both the Grayburg and San Andres formations which would not  
otherwise be recovered.

21 A Yes, sir, that's my conclusion.

22 Q And in your opinion will it be necessary  
23 for Marbob to drill wells at unorthodox locations as close  
24 as 330 feet from a lease line or in the case of a unit, uni-  
25 tized area, in order for Marbob to adequately drain the re-  
servoir, produce its equitable share of the reservoir, and

1  
2 thereby protect its correlative rights?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q And in your opinion will the granting of  
5 this application in all respects be in the interest of con-  
6 servation, the prevention of waste, and the protection of  
7 correlative rights?

8 A Yes, sir, it is.

9 Q Were Exhibits Numbers Nine through Fif-  
10 teen either prepared by you or under your direction and sup-  
11 ervision and can you testify as to their accuracy?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 MR. BLISS: Marbob Energy moves  
14 the admission of Exhibits Nine through Fifteen at this time.

15 MR. QUINTANA: Exhibits Nine  
16 through Fifteen will be accepted into evidence.

17 MR. BLISS: And I have no fur-  
18 ther questions of this witness.

19 MR. QUINTANA: I have one ques-  
20 tion.

21 CROSS EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. QUINTANA:

23 Q Are any of these leases, the Dodd A, Dodd  
24 B, or the West Co-op Unit, designated as waterfloods  
25 already?

Do you have any orders showing that they  
were waterfloods?

1  
2 MR. BLISS: This might be a  
3 better question to address to Raye Miller because --

4 A I'll refer that question to Raye Miller.

5 MR. BLISS: -- he might have a  
6 better idea of operations in that respect.

7 MR. QUINTANA: Other than that  
8 I don't have any questions of the witness.

9 MR. MILLER: May I ask him one,  
10 or is that out of place?

11 MR. QUINTANA: No.

12 QUESTIONS BY MR. MILLER:

13 Q On Exhibit Fifteen in looking at the M.  
14 Dodd B 34 and 36, given the poor results of the Grayburg in  
15 the Well No. 34, do you think it would have been as advanta-  
16 geous to have drilled the well at an orthodox location  
17 thereby being closer, or was the 36, being unorthodox and  
18 further away from the 34 wellbore a better location?

19 A I think Well No. B-36 being located at an  
20 unorthodox location did exactly what it was supposed to do,  
21 and that was to provide the maximum opportunity for the well  
22 to encounter the least altered Grayburg reservoir condi-  
23 tions.

24 MR. QUINTANA: Okay, you may  
25 now be excused.

MR. BLISS: I would now like to  
call Mr. Raye Miller as my next and final witness.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

RAYE P. MILLER,

being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his  
oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. BLISS:

Q Will you please state your name, your oc-  
cupation, and where you reside, please?

A My name is Raye Miller. I work at Marbob  
Energy Corporation in the Land Department. I'm also Secre-  
tary-Treasurer of Marbob Energy Corporation, and I reside in  
Artesia, New Mexico.

Q Mr. Miller, have you previously testified  
before the Division?

A No, I have not.

Q Mr. Miller, what is your educational back-  
ground?

A I hold a Bachelor of Arts in economics  
from the University of New Mexico in 1976 and a Masters in  
Business Administration from the University of Southern Cal-  
ifornia in 1978.

Q And how long have you worked in the Land  
Department at Marbob?

A I've worked in the Land Department appro-  
ximately three years and been employed by Marbob Energy  
about four and one-half years.

1  
2 Q Are you familiar with the application of  
3 Marbob Energy Corporation in these cases?

4 A Yes.

5 MR. BLISS: Are Mr. Miller's  
6 credentials acceptable as a landman?

7 MR. QUINTANA: Mr. --

8 MR. BLISS: Miller.

9 MR. QUINTANA: Mr. Miller's  
10 credentials as a landman are acceptable.

11 Q Mr. Miller, will you look at what has  
12 been marked as Marbob Exhibit Sixteen and explain what it  
13 is?

14 A Marbob's Exhibit Sixteen is a map identi-  
15 fying all offset tracts in the Grauburg-San Andres formation  
16 offsetting the entire subject area, and a list of offset  
17 operators.

18 In the cases where there were no pro-  
19 ducing wells and the ownership of the operating rights were  
20 split among several entities and no one entity could be  
21 clearly defined as "operator", all of the interest owners  
22 were notified.

23 Also, the first tract listed, which, that  
24 being the Featherstone Development Corporation, concerning  
25 title flaws and all the persons who may be "the offset oper-  
26 ator" were notified.

27 Q Was there any case where the State of New  
28 Mexico still owned the ownership in the --

1  
2           A           Yes.    One tract, which was shown down  
3 there as Pioneer Production Company and Commissioner of Pub-  
4 lic Lands, Pioneer Production Company was the lessee from  
5 the State of New Mexico, but that expired May of '84 and the  
6 Commissioner of Public Lands now holds the oil and gas  
rights in an unleases status.

7           Q           Will you now refer to what has been  
8 marked collectively as Marbob Exhibit Seventeen and identify  
9 these for the Examiner?

10          A           They are copies of letters which were  
11 sent to the offset operators by certified mail.

12                   I'd like to point out that the letters  
13 were also sent to three owners of a portion of the Grayburg-  
14 San Andres formation within the subject area but who own  
15 rights below those owned by Marbob. Those people are Atlan-  
16 tic Richfield, Midwest Investment Company and Conoco, and  
all parties received notice.

17          Q           How was this information on the offset  
18 operators obtained?

19          A           The information was obtained by research-  
20 ing the records in Eddy County, New Mexico, and supplemented  
21 by take-offs from Federal abstracts and C-115 data from the  
Artesia Office of the Oil Conservation Division.

22          Q           Will you now refer to what has been  
23 marked collectively as Marbob Exhibit Number Eighteen and  
24 identify these for the Examiner?

25          A           Yes.    Contained here are waivers of ob-

1  
2 jection signed by the offset operators or owners which have  
3 been received by Marbob to date.

4 We have yet to receive all of these and  
5 they will be forwarded to the Division upon receipt.

6 I'd like to point out one letter, that  
7 from Jack Plemmons. It's the one on top and also the second  
8 page there was a letter which he sent to Mr. Stamets here at  
9 the Oil Conservation Division.

10 As you can see, Mr. Plemmons has re-  
11 quested that no unorthodox locations or injection wells be  
12 allowed within 2640 feet of his lease in Section 27.

13 This hearing does not deal with injection  
14 wells and it is Marbob's position that since we will never  
15 drill closer than 330 feet to his lease line, that he has no  
16 basis for objection and that Marbob should be entitled to  
17 have its application for administrative approval procedure  
18 approved based on the evidence presented at this hearing.

19 Q Mr. Miller, were Exhibits Sixteen through  
20 Eighteen either prepared by you or prepared by others under  
21 your direct supervision, and can you testify as to their ac-  
22 curacy?

23 A Yes.

24 MR. BLISS: At this time I will  
25 offer Marbob Energy Corporation's Exhibits Sixteen through  
26 Eighteen into evidence.

27 MR. QUINTANA: The Exhibits  
28 Sixteen through Eighteen will be accepted as evidence.



1  
2 MR. BLISS: Mr. Examiner, that  
3 concludes our direct testimony.

4 I believe you have one question  
5 that you wanted to address regarding existing waterfloods to  
6 Mr. Miller.

7 CROSS EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. QUINTANA:

9 Q Mr. Miller, let me clarify for the re-  
10 cord, in this -- when you first came to the Oil Conservation  
11 Division you applied to drill at unorthodox locations based  
12 on an expansion of a waterflood to -- your reason was to  
13 more efficiently drain the reservoir.

14 Are any of these leases currently under a  
15 waterflood order, our order that was issued by the Commis-  
16 sion?

17 A Yes. Unfortunately I did not bring the  
18 information with me, but I believe that there have been or-  
19 ders and were active waterfloods on both the Dodd A, the  
20 Dodd B, and the Grayburg-Jackson West Co-op Unit.

21 There is currently disposal on all three  
22 leases and when I say disposal, it's utilization of injec-  
23 tion wells that were permitted under those waterfloods and  
24 the wells that are being injected to, I believe, are the  
25 Dodd B No. 9, No. 17; the Dodd A 16 and 20. I believe that  
those are the four wells that are currently being injected  
into on the Dodd leases, and on the GJ West Unit, I believe

1  
2 they're disposing or injecting into one of those authorized  
3 wells. I believe it's No. 14. I know it's one of the wells  
4 located in the north half of Section 28.

5 The status of the waterflood project is a  
6 situation where basically Marbob has only operated the Dodd  
7 A and Dodd B for a portion of about two years now and has  
8 just recently acquired the Grayburg-Jackson West Co-op Unit.

9 Sun Oil Company waterflooded what has  
10 been referred to here as the Premier Sand, sometimes noted  
11 as the MeTex Sand in the local area, in the Dodd B, exten-  
12 sively. In fact, at one point I believe there was a fire  
flood even put into effect on this area.

13 The Grayburg-Jackson was waterflooded in  
14 both the Upper San Andres and the Grayburg zones, I believe,  
15 and the Dodd A was waterflooded in the Keeley zone as well  
as some of the Grayburg sections.

16 Basically Marbob looks at the fact that  
17 both of these or all of these leases are qualified as active  
18 waterflood programs and what we are looking at is one, an  
19 assessment of Phillips' development of their waterflood in  
20 the same pool in Section 23, and also an evaluation of our  
21 development once the infill portion of the drilling has  
basically been completed.

22 There are some problems and I know that  
23 we'll be working closely with the Commission at some point  
24 when we look at really activating this.

25 Phillips Oil, in their application, had a

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

problem with a plugged well, the M Dodd B No. 3 feel within a half mile and was not properly plugged, and, of course, some of this will have to come under review, but it may be a thing where if Marbob elects to actively inject, they'll have to rework some wells to efficiently establish not only a drainage pattern but to correct some problems.

Q So it is possible that even though there is not current injection in all these leases, that they could be expanded in the future?

A Yes. Marbob owns 100 percent of the operating rights or Marbob and its related entities owns 100 percent of the operating rights in all of the subject area.

Q And it is my understanding that by drilling these infill wells at these proposed unorthodox locations, or future proposed unorthodox locations, that it does two things: It produces additional reserves that would not otherwise be recovered, and it also sets up a pattern for future secondary recovery that may occur.

A Exactly.

Q Thank you.

MR. QUINTANA: I have no other questions of the witness.

MR. BLISS: I have some very brief closing remarks in regard only to the matter of Mr. Plemmons objection, and that is only to reiterate that in its testimony today, that Marbob established that it will be necessary to drill wells at unorthodox locations within 330

1 feet of the outer boundaries of the leases and unit if Mar-  
2 bob is to protect its correlative rights, and also to note  
3 that Mr. Plemmons did not assert any legal basis for his ob-  
4 jection in the letter.

5 And I would also like to note  
6 his absence at this hearing.

7 MR. QUINTANA: It will be so  
8 noted.

9 Mr. Bliss, I would like to  
10 point out that -- well, I would -- I would like to suggest  
11 that if you do happen to drill at an unorthodox location  
12 offsetting Jack Plemmons lease, that you would actively com-  
13 mence injection in those areas because the orders that were  
14 properly issued before and in the statewide rules allow for  
15 you to inject within 330 foot of the lease line as long as  
16 it's an active injection.

17 That would save a lot of con-  
18 troversy between yourselves and Mr. Plemmons and if you wish  
19 to -- you know, if I do grant this order, it would allow you  
20 to do that, but I'm sure that he would probably come and  
21 create some type of controversy where you would have to come  
22 back to hearing, and I would make the suggestion that if you  
23 do happen to drill within 330 foot of the lease, you com-  
24 mence active water injection and statewide rules allow you  
25 to do that, and he would have a difficult time objecting to  
that.

MR. MILLER: I might note just

1  
2 for the Examiner's information, there has been some work  
3 done subsequent to the time that the hearing was developing  
4 the information.

5 We have offset Mr. Plemmons in  
6 orthodox locations in the GJ West No. 63 Well on his north  
7 border, which would be between Well No. 26 and 24; on his  
8 west border in the GJ Well No. 64 Well, an orthodox location  
9 between his Well No. 17 and 16.

10 The GJ West No. 65 is currently  
11 being drilled at an orthodox location between Well No. 7 and  
12 16.

13 The pad has been laid for the  
14 GJ West No. 6, which is between his well -- our Well No. 7  
15 and 6, which would be the south offset, all at orthodox lo-  
16 cations.

17 MR. QUINTANA: Thank you. Is  
18 there anything further of the witness?

19 If not, he may be excused and  
20 Cases 8432 and 8433 will be taken under advisement.

21  
22  
23  
24  
25 (Hearing concluded.)

## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SALLY W. BOYD, C.S.R., DO HEREBY CERTIFY  
that the foregoing Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Con-  
servation Division was reported by me; that the said tran-  
script is a full, true, and correct record of the hearing,  
prepared by me to the best of my ability.

Sally W. Boyd CSR

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is  
a complete record of the proceedings in  
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 8432 & 8433  
heard by me on Dec. 19 1984.

Albert P. Quintana Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division