

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
2 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
3 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
4 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
5 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

6 9 November 1988

7 EXAMINER HEARING

8 IN THE MATTER OF:

9 Application of Benson-Montin-Greer CASE  
10 Drilling Company for the amendment 9525  
11 of Division Order No. R-6469, as  
12 amended, Rio Arriba County, New  
13 Mexico.  
14 New Mexico.

15 BEFORE: David R. Catanach, Examiner

16 TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

17 A P P E A R A N C E S

18  
19  
20 For the Division: Robert G. Stovall  
21 Attorney at Law  
22 Legal Counsel to the Division  
State Land Office Bldg.  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

23 For the Applicant:  
24  
25

1 MR. STOGNER: Call next Case  
2 Number 9525.

3 MR. STOVALL: Application of  
4 Benson-Montin-Greer Drilling Corporation for the amendment  
5 of Division Order No. R-6469, as amended, Rio Arriba and  
6 San Juan Counties, New Mexico.

7 MR. STOGNER: The applicant  
8 has requested that this case be continued to the Examiner  
9 Hearing scheduled for December 7th, 1988.

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(Hearing concluded.)

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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 Conservation Division (Commission) was reported by me;  
that the said transcript 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. 9525,  
heard by me on November 9 1988

David R. Catamb, Examiner,  
Oil Conservation Division

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
2 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
3 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
4 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
5 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

6 7 December 1988

7 EXAMINER HEARING

8 IN THE MATTER OF:

9 Application of Benson-Montin-Greer CASE  
10 for the amendment of Division Order 9525  
11 No. R-6469, as amended, Rio Arriba  
12 County, New Mexico.

13 BEFORE: David R. Catanach, Examiner

14  
15 TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

16  
17 A P P E A R A N C E S

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19 For the Division: Robert G. Stovall  
20 Attorney at Law  
21 Legal Counsel to the Division  
22 State Land Office Bldg.  
23 Santa Fe, New Mexico

24 For the Applicant:  
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MR. CATANACH: Call next Case  
9525.

MR. STOVALL: Application of  
Benson-Montin-Greer Drilling Corp. for an amendment to  
Division Order No. R-6469, as amended, Rio Arriba County,  
New Mexico.

Applicant requests this case  
be continued to January 4th, 1989.

MR. CATANACH: Case 9525 will  
be continued to January 4th, 1989.

(Hearing concluded.)

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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 Conservation Division (Commission) was reported by me; that the said transcript 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. 9525, heard by me on December 7 1981.  
David R. Cistanku, Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division

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

4 January 1989

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Benson-Montin-Greer                   CASE  
Drilling Corp. for the amendment of                   9525  
Division Order No. R-6469, as amend-  
ed, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

BEFORE: David R. Catanach, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

A P P E A R A N C E S

For the Division:   Robert G. Stovall  
  Attorney at Law  
  Legal Counsel to the Division  
  State Land Office Bldg.  
  Santa Fe, New Mexico

For the Applicant:

1 MR. CATANACH: Call next Case  
2 9525.

3 MR. STOVALL: Application of  
4 Benson-Montin-Greer Drilling Corporation for an amendment  
5 to Division Order No. R-6469, as amended, Rio Arriba  
6 County, New Mexico.

7 This case is shown as being  
8 continued to January 18th but applicant requests the case  
9 be continued to February 1st, 1989.

10 MR. CATANACH: Case 9525 will  
11 hereby be continued to February 1st, 1989 hearing.

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(Hearing concluded.)

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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 Conservation Division (Commission) was reported by me; that the said transcript 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. 9525, heard by me on January 4 19 89.

David R. Catanach, Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
2 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
3 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
4 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
5 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

6  
7 1 February 1989

8 EXAMINER HEARING

9 IN THE MATTER OF:

10 Application of Benson-Montin-Greer CASE  
11 Drilling Corporation for the amend- 9525  
12 ment of Division Order No. R-6469,  
13 as amended, Rio Arriba County, New  
14 Mexico.

15 BEFORE: David R. Catanach, Examiner

16 TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

17 A P P E A R A N C E S

18 For the Division:

19 For Benson-Montin-Greer  
20 Drilling Corporation:

William F. Carr  
Attorney at Law  
CAMPBELL and BLACK, P. A.  
P. O. Box 2208  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

21  
22 For Mobil Producing Texas  
23 and New Mexico, Inc.:

W. Perry Pearce  
Attorney at Law  
MONTGOMERY & ANDREWS  
P. O. Box 2307  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

24  
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## I N D E X

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1 MR. CATANACH: We'll call Case  
2 9525.

3 The application of Benson-  
4 Montin-Greer Drilling Corporation for the amendment of  
5 Division Order No. R-6469, as amended, Rio Arriba County,  
6 New Mexico.

7 Are there appearances in this  
8 case?

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

12 We represent Benson-Montin-  
13 Greer Drilling Corporation and I have one witness.

14 MR. CATANACH: Any other ap-  
15 pearances?

16 MR. PEARCE: May it please the  
17 Examiner, I am W. Perry Pearce from the law firm of Mont-  
18 gomery and Andrews, appearing in this matter on behalf of  
19 Mobil Producing Texas and New Mexico, Inc.

20 I do not have a witness.

21 MR. CATANACH: Any other ap-  
22 pearances?

23 MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Examiner, my  
24 name is Bill Hawkins. I am an employee of Amoco Production  
25 Company.

1 I understand a letter request-  
2 ing entry of appearance in this case will be forthcoming  
3 and I'd like to enter that into the record.

4 MR. CATANACH: Okay. Any other  
5 appearances?

6 Will the witness please stand  
7 to be sworn in?

8  
9 (Witness sworn.)

10  
11 MR. CARR: May it please the  
12 Examiner, I have a brief opening statement, if I could make  
13 that at this time.

14 MR. CATANACH: You may pro-  
15 ceed.

16 MR. CARR: Benson-Montin-Greer  
17 is before you today seeking an order that would amend a  
18 prior commission order, Order R-6469, which was entered in  
19 September of 1980.

20 This order, among other  
21 things, created certain nonstandard spacing units in the  
22 Canada Ojitos Unit, which is operated by Benson-Montin-  
23 Greer Drilling Corporation.

24 We're here today to seek ter-  
25 mination of certain of these units and we're going to show

1 you that now termination of these units is required by  
2 prudent operating practices.

3 In making our presentation  
4 today we are first going to address fluid movement across  
5 the southern boundary of the Canada Ojitos Unit. As the  
6 Examiner may be aware, there was a presentation last August  
7 by McHugh in a case concerning expansion of the West Puerto  
8 Chiquito Pool and at that time certain other companies  
9 appeared and presented testimony which suggested that this  
10 fluid migration across the southern boundary was simply not  
11 occurring.

12 For our application to make  
13 any sense, abolishing these units on the southern boundary,  
14 it is necessary that we come in here and show you that we  
15 have evidence, we believe, which establishes that this  
16 migration is in fact occurring.

17 Originally regional migration  
18 occurred to the north along the southern boundary into the  
19 unit. In 1968 gas injection commenced and this fluid mig-  
20 ration was virtually stabilized.

21 In 1985, however, with devel-  
22 opment from the Schmitz anticline and other production in  
23 the area, drainage started occurring away from the unit.  
24 To mitigate this drainage Benson-Montin-Greer as operator  
25 of the unit now must drill certain wells along the southern

1 boundary, but in doing this, it is essential that we drill  
2 no unnecessary wells and it requires that 640-acre spacing  
3 be preserved along that southern boundary. If these non-  
4 standard units remain, and they are long, skinny units that  
5 consist of the south half of two adjoining sections, we  
6 believe they are going to result in additional wells having  
7 to be drilled, unnecessary wells, along the southern border  
8 and for that reason we request -- are requesting that they  
9 be terminated.

10 So we're going to present testimony  
11 that's going to show that drainage has occurred along the  
12 southern boundary; that it is now occurring away from the  
13 unit; that the economics involved simply show that unneces-  
14 sary wells will be marginal and ill-advised, and would be  
15 drilled at an economic loss and that wells are now going to  
16 have to be drilled but it is essential that they be drilled  
17 on 640-acre spacing units, and that the nonstandard units  
18 previously created must therefor be terminated.

19  
20 ALBERT R. GREER,

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

23  
24 DIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY MR. CARR:

1 Q Will you state your full name for the  
2 record, please?

3 A Albert R. Greer.

4 Q Mr. Greer, where do you reside?

5 A Farmington.

6 Q And what is your relationship with  
7 Benson-Montin-Greer Drilling Corporation?

8 A I'm an officer and an engineer.

9 Q And Benson-Montin-Greer is the operator  
10 of the Canada Ojitos Unit?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Have you previously testified before  
13 this Division and had your credentials as an expert petro-  
14 leum engineer accepted and made a matter of record?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q You are the applicant in this case?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 MR. CARR: Are the witness'  
19 qualifications acceptable?

20 MR. CATANACH: They are.

21 Q Mr. Greer, would you refer to what has  
22 been marked for identification as Benson-Montin-Greer  
23 Exhibit Number One, and I would initially ask you to refer  
24 and just identify the documents that are contained behind  
25 the tab identified Table of Contents, and Tabs 1 and 2 of



1 this exhibit, or A and B.

2 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Carr, may I  
3 break in at this point? I apologize for interrupting your  
4 presentation.

5 Mr. Examiner, at this time on  
6 behalf of Mobil Producing Texas and New Mexico, Inc., I'd  
7 like to state for the record an objection to the exhibit  
8 which is about to be discussed by this witness.

9 Mobil was provided with a copy  
10 of this exhibit by Benson-Montin-Greer yesterday afternoon.  
11 We have spent the time that was available to us reviewing  
12 that exhibit. We believe that the contents of that exhibit  
13 are largely irrelevant to the subject under consideration,  
14 which is the re-orientation of two 640-acre spacing units.

15 We believe that the informa-  
16 tion which the exhibit contains and the testimony which we  
17 assume Mr. Greer will offer on that exhibit is not properly  
18 part of the record in this case, nor do we believe that  
19 parties who are vitally concerned with what that informa-  
20 tion may be had any reason to have any knowledge that that  
21 information would be presented or discussed.

22 There has been in the past  
23 some use of parties failure to object to statements which  
24 they believe are incorrect being used against them as their  
25 agreement with that information. Mobil does not wish to be

1 put in that position on the basis of this case today.

2 Mobil disagrees with the con-  
3 clusions which can be drawn from the exhibit. We do not  
4 believe the information contained in that exhibit leads to  
5 proper conclusions, nor do we believe it is complete, and  
6 we need for this record to reflect our objection to the use  
7 of the exhibit and the discussion of the materials contain-  
8 ed therein.

9 MR. CARR: May it please the  
10 Examiner, in response to Mr. Pearce's objection to the evi-  
11 dence on relevance grounds, as I indicated in my opening  
12 statement, we have a question before you which involves re-  
13 creating 640-acre spacing units.

14 Arguments have previously been  
15 presented to the Commission. In fact, Commissioner Bros-  
16 tuen on occasion has stated that where areas are not in  
17 communication they in fact should be in separate pools. It  
18 therefore is essential that we address the questions that  
19 were raised in the August 3rd, 1988 hearing by Mobil and  
20 others as Case 9451, that in fact this migration could not  
21 occur because while Mr. Pearce wants the record to clearly  
22 reflect Mobil's position, we think it's essential that the  
23 record address the entire question and we do not just ig-  
24 nore prior testimony that raises the question as to whether  
25 or not in fact this communication can exist.

1                   640-acre drainage across that  
2 boundary is one issue. Another thing we're addressing is  
3 640-acre spacing and in communications formally and infor-  
4 mally with Mobil and others there has been agreement that  
5 that is appropriate here, but just because that agreement  
6 has been made, does not affect the record and the data that  
7 is on file with this commission, and it is therefore essen-  
8 tial that we be in a position to present a full case and  
9 address all the issues, not just the ultimate issue in this  
10 case and that is that the existence of these nonstandard  
11 units is appropriate, is going to result in the drilling of  
12 unnecessary wells and is going to cause waste.

13                   But that ultimate question  
14 rests on some other things that must be addressed; i.e.  
15 drainage across that boundary and the appropriateness of  
16 the spacing units and the economics of the wells that will  
17 be drilled down there and to make a full presentation we  
18 must address it all.

19                   Mr. Pearce has made his objec-  
20 tion but I want the record to also show that Benson-Montin-  
21 Greer is absolutely convinced that unless we can present  
22 the whole hearing, that only part of the whole matter is  
23 going to be before you when the time comes to reach a deci-  
24 sion.

25                   MR. CATANACH: Mr. Pearce, if

1 I may, what is Mobil's interest in the case or in the  
2 acreage involved?

3 MR. PEARCE; Mobil is one of  
4 the parties which holds acreage to the south of the Canada  
5 Ojitos Unit boundary. Information contained in this ex-  
6 hibit attempts to demonstrate communication between some  
7 acreage in which Mobil has an interest and the Canada  
8 Ojitos Unit, and that is not restricted to the proration  
9 units in question. It is some rather extensive information  
10 and Mobil's concern is that the information does not go to  
11 the proration unit orientation, which is a 640-acre ques-  
12 tion.

13 Our position on whether or not  
14 the proration units ought to be re-oriented might or might  
15 not be different. Our objection is to information entering  
16 this record without adequate notice to parties who are  
17 vitally affected by this information knowing about it; that  
18 we're going to get crosswise ultimately.

19 MR. CATANACH: So your objec-  
20 tion is that you didn't have enough time to evaluate the  
21 evidence?

22 MR. PEARCE: Our objection is  
23 that based upon the case as it is called, which is the  
24 re-orientation of spacing units, that no party with inter-  
25 ests that are going to be discussed had any knowledge that

1 those interests would be addressed. They had no reason to  
2 be in attendance at this hearing. They had no reason to  
3 prepare conflicting information, if such exists. It is a  
4 surprise to everyone with interests beyond the two prora-  
5 tion units in question that this material is being pre-  
6 sented and there are a number of parties who are vitally  
7 interested in the area and we are concerned that it will be  
8 discussed when those parties had no reason to appear and  
9 participate in the discussion of interests which are impor-  
10 tant to them.

11 MR. CATANACH: Mr. Carr?

12 MR. CARR: As to the timeli-  
13 ness of this, I would like to state for the Examiner's in-  
14 formation that this particular question has been pending  
15 for, well, for almost a year, since last April, and we've  
16 deferred action repeatedly while we conducted seismic work  
17 and did other things.

18 So I think surprise is a false  
19 complaint. I think it's also a false issue for a party who  
20 is in attendance, who's been involved in active negotia-  
21 tions and running seismic work and delaying the application  
22 for some time to come in and try and say there may be some-  
23 body out there who might want to know some of this informa-  
24 tion. I don't think they've got standing to raise that.

25 I think that what we need to

1 recognize is, one, there's only one issue for you to de-  
2 cide, and that is whether or not these proration units  
3 should be terminated, but beyond -- and that's the only  
4 decision you're going to reach in this case because it's  
5 the only thing in the scope of the ad that's before you.

6 But I think it would be ill advised to in the future say  
7 that in a compulsory pooling case, if you're going to  
8 squabble about the penalty, we better give notice we're  
9 going to talk about drainage to the tract to the north,  
10 because it becomes absurd.

11                   The question is the abolish-  
12 ment of these units and we are to make a full presentation  
13 about a number of points that get you to the ultimate  
14 question, and they're all relevant. Is there -- if there  
15 is no drainage occurring, Mr. Catanach, there's no reason  
16 to change the proration units. It's an essential precon-  
17 dition. It's an essential issue that you must address, and  
18 to come in here and say, well, Mr. Greer ought to come in  
19 like some of our clients do with one little plat that says  
20 we've already done it and this is what we've done and we'd  
21 like your seal of approval, we're not doing that. We're  
22 coming in explaining to you, one, what we need, and why it  
23 is we think we need it, and also what the underlying facts  
24 are that make -- cause this to be a sensible and prudent  
25 decision for the operator.

1 MR. CATANACH: We'll proceed  
2 with the case, Mr. Pearce. Your objection will be noted,  
3 however we'll proceed with the case and if at the end of  
4 the case I determine that additional notice or additional  
5 time needs to be given to any other interest owner we'll do  
6 that at that time.

7 MR. PEARCE: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Examiner.

9 MR. CATANACH: You may pro-  
10 ceed, Mr. Carr.

11 Q Mr. Greer, would you just identify what  
12 is contained behind Tab A in Exhibit Number One?

13 A Yes, sir, this is a copy of our applica-  
14 tion in this case.

15 Q And this application simply addresses  
16 termination of certain nonstandard proration units in the  
17 Canada Ojitos Unit?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Would you go --

20 A And adjoining land just outside the  
21 Canada Ojitos Unit.

22 Q Right. Would you now turn to Tab B and  
23 just to get this hearing back on track, state for the  
24 Examiner what is your purpose in bringing this application  
25 to the Division?





1 the G-1, 24 North, 1 West, and then two nonstandard pro-  
2 ration units in 24 North, 1 West, Sections 23 and 24.

3 And we will be discussing the south part  
4 of Township 24 North, 1 West, those proration units, the  
5 injection well just north of it there, the A-14, and wells  
6 producing to the south of it in Section 25, 26, 35, 36, and  
7 then one well in the township south of that in Section 2.

8 Q Mr. Greer, we're going to focusing the  
9 presentation on the wells on the southern -- or the units  
10 on the southern end of the Canada Ojitos Unit.

11 You're also seeking to abolish some non-  
12 standard units elsewhere within Canada Ojitos. What is the  
13 reasoning for that, those that are completely interior?

14 A Well, it's just to make the development  
15 more orderly. Those interior to the unit now were at one  
16 time on the boundary, the same as the others. When the  
17 unit was expanded then they became internal units and  
18 there's just no purpose at all having (unclear.)

19 Q Now, I'd like to direct your testimony  
20 now primarily to the units on the southern end of the  
21 Canada Ojitos and would ask you to refer to the information  
22 behind Tab D and explain to Mr. Catanach your reason for  
23 seeking elimination of those nonstandard units.

24 A Yes, sir. If we'll look at the tan  
25 colored page under Tab D, we show here the situation that

1 could develop. The nonstandard units are a half mile  
2 north/south and two miles long east/west, and I show in the  
3 upper frame, for instance, the low capacity well is the  
4 first well drilled in Section 24 on that long, nonstandard  
5 proration unit, and then if, for instance, we would drill  
6 another well in Section 23 and it turned out to be a high  
7 capacity well, then the owners of the south proration unit  
8 would want to drill another well in the south half of 23  
9 and we would then have an unnecessary well if such were  
10 allowed, and there's a good possibility it would be allow-  
11 ed.

12 On the other hand, if we look at the  
13 bottom frame, if the first well is drilled in the same lo-  
14 cation as indicated above, the proration units are square,  
15 then there's no problem of -- of drainage and equal sharing  
16 of the production from those wells both north and south of  
17 the boundary.

18 The high capacity well, then, would be  
19 drilled on Section 23. Half of the production would go to  
20 the unit, half to the land south of the unit and here again  
21 there is an exact division of the production with no -- no  
22 possibility of offset -- unequal offset drainage, and so  
23 this would permit the drilling of wells on 640-acre and  
24 eliminate the hazard of drilling unnecessary wells for  
25 those (unclear).

1                   Now when we look at the gray sheets on  
2 the righthand side, we have another example of the first  
3 well drilled in the southwest of 23 and it's offset direct-  
4 ly by a unit well to the north. The result, then, is two  
5 long proration units, 2 miles east/west, and the issue  
6 could be raised that those are too, too great a distance  
7 for a well to drain and protect its land, and that would  
8 open the door, then, to 320-acre spacing.

9                   We eliminate that by the manner shown on  
10 the lower frame. The first well drilled in Section 23, the  
11 southwest part of it, a square proration unit; the second  
12 well in either the north or the south part of Section 24,  
13 and here again in both instances the production from each  
14 well is shared exactly the same both north and south of the  
15 unit boundary, and you then have protection of the unit  
16 from drainage and eliminated the risk of drilling unneces-  
17 sary wells.

18                   Q           Mr. Greer, you're familiar with the tes-  
19 timony presented last August in the McHugh case, are you  
20 not?

21                   A           Yes, sir, I've read the transcript.

22                   Q           Have you made a study of regional migra-  
23 tion in this area?

24                   A           Yes, sir.

25                   Q           And are your conclusions summarized in

1 the material behind Tab E?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Would you refer to that material,  
4 please, and first generally summarize the conclusions  
5 you've reached concerning regional migration?

6 A Yes, sir. I was concerned about the  
7 testimony in -- or some of the testimony in the August  
8 hearing. It indicated no -- no communication north and  
9 south in this area, and we have studied the area for many  
10 years and found the relation of virgin pressures to depth  
11 of the reservoirs and found that they are equal; over  
12 geologic time the pressure is equalized.

13 Q Now is that information set out on the  
14 blue pages following Tab E?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Would you refer to that and review it,  
17 please?

18 A On the lefthand page we show schematic-  
19 ally the same situation as is found with a water sand with  
20 outcrops that with depth its pressure will be greater and  
21 be greater by the density of the water. In this instance  
22 the pressure, the virgin pressures of the fields are --  
23 show an oil gradient and it can be calculated from about a  
24 +6100 foot elevation to the depth of the pools when they  
25 were first drilled and when pressures were unaffected by

1 production during man's lifetime.

2 Q It's shown more exactly on the graph on  
3 the righthand side of the different pools which were drill-  
4 led at a time when pressures were virgin in the area and  
5 they all fall within a band of roughly 50 pounds.

6 If a well is drilled anywhere in the  
7 east side of the basin around West Puerto Chiquito, or East  
8 Puerto Chiquito, or Boulder, that has an initial pressure  
9 of less than indicated by this -- this graph, this slope,  
10 we can be assured that the well has suffered by migration,  
11 or the area around the well has suffered migration to a  
12 producing well.

13 Q I'd like you now to direct your atten-  
14 tion to the southern portion of Canada Ojitos Unit and  
15 would direct you more specifically to the structure map,  
16 the brown sheet behind Tab F, and ask you to explain what  
17 that shows.

18 A This is one interpretation of the struc-  
19 ture in the area and we note here that original migration  
20 has occurred north and south across the unit's south bound-  
21 ary. I believe there's a typographical error on the lower  
22 page, second line. Regional migration first was from the  
23 south during the 20-year period of initial development of  
24 the unit. Then after development took place south in the  
25 unit, then migration turned around and went in the other

1 direction.

2 Q And would you review the pressure infor-  
3 mation on the subsequent sheets that confirm this?

4 A The two -- two yellow sheets following  
5 that show some statistics of pressures of the nearby wells;  
6 the pressures in the gas cap area in the unit and pressure  
7 of the CC State Well that was drilled in February -- or  
8 completed in February, 1988.

9 There was testimony in the August  
10 hearing that the pressures were substantially different and  
11 therefore the -- there was no communication between the two  
12 areas.

13 It's my analysis of this that the pres-  
14 sures are very -- when the CC State Well was drilled, were  
15 practically equalized. The pressure at 6687 feet in the  
16 Amoco CC State at a depth of +617, a datum depth, which is  
17 in the C zone, the CC State at that time was completed only  
18 in the C zone, was 1460 pounds.

19 The bottom hole pressure in the Canada  
20 Ojitos Unit A-14 Well in the last two years has varied  
21 within about 50 pounds of that. We show here pressures  
22 taken and reported to the Commission during the November,  
23 1987, field-wide survey and the February field-wide survey.  
24 Those pressures are very close to the pressure in the CC  
25 State.

1                   Now, in the unit the formation is gas  
2 saturated and has a different pressure gradient than the  
3 oil area south of the -- south of the border, and we recog-  
4 nize that in the next graphs, the gray pages.

5                   On the lower of the gray pages we show  
6 graphically the initial pressure of Amoco CC State and how  
7 that pressure varies with depth, and we've taken the dif-  
8 ferent datums as high as 1000 feet. The reason for that is  
9 the A zone in the Schmitt Anticline Well, which is the  
10 highest well in the area, is about +1000. We know that all  
11 of the zones, A, B and C zones in the area have shown to be  
12 in communication someway or another. In individual wells  
13 vertically they show perhaps no communication, but reser-  
14 voir wide they all show that they have a tendency to equal-  
15 ize.

16                   So, we compare the -- the pressures at  
17 the different depths, in the gas cap to the north and the  
18 oil area to the south, and we see by the dashed line that  
19 the -- for this variation in reservoir datum, that the  
20 pressure of the Amoco CC State falls right in the band of  
21 pressures of the nearest injection well in the Canada  
22 Ojitos Unit.

23                   Q           In your opinion does this confirm your  
24 feelings that there is migration of fluids in the south-  
25 eastern part of the unit?

1           A           Yes, sir. The significance here is 300  
2 to 350 pounds lower pressure than virgin pressure. There's  
3 no reason for the pressure in the Amoco CC State to be down  
4 350 pounds from virgin pressure unless it's been depleted  
5 by production.

6           Q           Would you now identify the information  
7 on the gray sheets behind Tab G in Exhibit Number One?

8           A           Yes, sir. In the August hearing there  
9 was testimony to the effect that the areas were not in com-  
10 munication because the gas/oil ratio of the Schmitz Anti-  
11 cline Well, a high well in this area, was low and if it was  
12 in direct communication with the pressure maintenance pro-  
13 ject of the Canada Ojitos Unit that it would necessarily  
14 have to have a high gas/oil ratio.

15                       That presumption comes from assuming  
16 that what we term "attic oil" would be displaced by a lower  
17 down dip gas injection well and we just note in here the  
18 description of "attic oil" in the first three gray pages in  
19 from the technical literature.

20                       And then we show with the colored map  
21 following that how communication can exist without the  
22 gas/oil ratio of the Schmitz Anticline being initially in-  
23 creased by the -- by the pressure maintenance project.

24           Q           Could you explain what the various color  
25 coding on this exhibit is intended to show?



1           A           Yes, sir. We show in the brown colored  
2 area the lands that we think could be underlain by commer-  
3 cially productive oil zones in the Niobrara.

4           The yellow colored area is the gas in-  
5 vaded area. We show it schematically and by the red arrows  
6 we show generally the path and the directions of force and  
7 pressure that the gas injection exhibits.

8           The gray shaded area is area that gener-  
9 ally is a steep dip, uniform dip, and for the most part it  
10 is nonproductive and actually we used the gray shaded area  
11 in initially establishing the east boundary of the West  
12 Puerto Chiquito Pool to lie within that gray shaded area.

13           Q           Are you now --

14           A           Excuse me, the green, the green coloring  
15 is the barren zone which we noted earlier in the little  
16 sketch of pressures versus depths.

17           Q           Are you now ready to discuss gas drive  
18 in this reservoir?

19           A           Yes, sir. I'd like to point that -- to  
20 the formation that we think is too tight between the two  
21 areas, we think there's a high capacity system to the  
22 south, there's a high capacity system to the north. The  
23 two areas are joined by a tighter, tighter rock. The gas  
24 can force its way slowly into the tight rock to the south  
25 and its initial movement will be not by a solution gas

1 drive, which is expansion of gas, moving oil by expansion.  
2 There is no expansion, the pressures are constant, by a gas  
3 drive; gas forcing oil by piston movement ahead of it until  
4 it breaks through. That's how the pressures can be main-  
5 tained and they were maintained on the Schmitz Anticline  
6 Well; didn't take much volume to do it. It only produced  
7 about 80 barrels a day, so it didn't take much movement to  
8 hold the pressures up on the Schmitz Anticline.

9 Q All right, would you now go to the in-  
10 formation behind Tab H and review the evidence of gas drive  
11 in this reservoir?

12 A We have here some evidence of gas drive  
13 as a consequence of the pressure maintenance project.

14 Principally we injected pressure and  
15 maintained pressure in this unit in order to augment the  
16 gravity drainage process and realize the relatively high  
17 recovery of the oil in place.

18 All of the gas injection wells are  
19 drilled on the up-dip side, or completed on the up-dip side  
20 of the reservoir and they're all in very tight rock. The  
21 highest capacity well, as I recall, of the current injec-  
22 tors, made about 4 or 5 barrels of oil per day; very tight  
23 rock, and yet it will accept gas for gas injection and it's  
24 because of the nature in the reservoir, the fracture system  
25 and fracture blocks and the ability of the gas once it gets

1 into the high capacity fracture system to move throughout  
2 the reservoir.

3 But in the course of that, when the  
4 tight blocks in which the wells are completed and the in-  
5 jection wells receive gas, they actually move the gas ahead  
6 of them by gas drive, they move gas and then oil, and as a  
7 consequence, for instance in this A-14, when it was com-  
8 pleted it would have been a noncommercial oil well that we  
9 have injected gas in and moved the oil out of that block  
10 and then produced that oil that otherwise would have been  
11 unrecoverable.

12 This testing that we did to determine  
13 the action, the gas drive action, is through a repeated or  
14 successive pressure fall-off test on the injection well,  
15 the nearest injection well, the A-14. We show here tests  
16 in 1978, 1980, 1987 and 1989, and you'll note that in each  
17 instance the pressures move to the left on this graph.  
18 From the amount of gas injected and the slope of the line,  
19 we can determine permeability to gas of the tight block in  
20 which the well is injecting.

21 We show in the schedule on the upper  
22 green sheet for July '78, transmissibility, kh/u of 71  
23 darcy feet and permeability to gas, kgh .0012.

24 Over the approximate 10-year period that  
25 gas was injected, the permeability, the transmissibility,

1 to increase to  $kh/\mu$  to .88 and  $kgh$ , .015.

2 Now these are just approximate. We  
3 arrived at these by working through a simple analysis of  
4 the slope of the line on the semilog graph, a method of  
5 analysis often used in determining permeability.

6 Well, this closed system happens to be  
7 the kind that's determined or referred to as concentration  
8 at the boundary. These figures that we get will be a  
9 little bit off because of that and we show a more -- a more  
10 precise calculation later but the difference is relatively  
11 small. But it does confirm that the permeability did in-  
12 crease.

13 Now, the only way the permeability can  
14 increase is for the gas saturation to increase and gas  
15 saturation can increase only if oil is displaced, so it's  
16 very clear the gas drive has moved oil through the reser-  
17 voir and has increased the permeability to gas, and that's  
18 a hazard that we face on the south boundary although initi-  
19 ally we may be pushing just a small volume of oil across  
20 the boundary, once the gas gets there then a significantly  
21 larger volume can move across. If it were only the amount  
22 of gas that we moved initially, we would not have a serious  
23 problem to worry about, but knowing this, this history of  
24 what's happened, of gas moving through the reservoir, it's  
25 just essential that we drill protective wells on the south

1 boundary.

2 Q Now, would you go to the pink sheets  
3 behind Tab H and review -- explain first what the graph on  
4 the Unit Well A-14 shows and then review the summary below.

5 A The pink sheets, the graph shows the  
6 amount of gas injected over the time that -- since we  
7 started in 1974. The injectivity has increased as would be  
8 presumed from the fall off tests and we've calculated the  
9 transmissibility

10 We've injected now at rates as high as  
11 3000 reservoir barrels per day, which is a very substantial  
12 injection volume and recognized that we injected this  
13 volume of gas in a tight block in the reservoir which would  
14 produce probably less than 5 barrels of oil a day when it  
15 was initially completed.

16 Q Now I'd like you to go to Tab I and  
17 start with the first sheet behind that and provide us with  
18 a brief summary of the geometry of this particular reser-  
19 voir.

20 A Well, we've found that this reservoir  
21 comprises tight fracture blocks surrounded by a high capa-  
22 city fracture system and the flow, the flow through the re-  
23 servoir is primarily through the high capacity fracture  
24 system and then if there's a well in a tight block it char-  
25 ges the tight block the oil is produced on.

1                   Because of this it's possible for wells  
2 with good connection to the high capacity fracture system  
3 to drain the tracts of wells completed in tight blocks  
4 better than the wells themselves can do it. We've found  
5 that in West Puerto Chiquito and we now have an example in  
6 the area south of West Puerto Chiquito in which the same  
7 thing is occurring.

8                   Q           Okay, will you now go to the yellow  
9 sheets?

10                  A           Here we look at the same test that we  
11 looked at earlier, which we had on the green sheets, the  
12 pressure fall-off test of the A-14 Well. We show here by  
13 the lower red cross the time that it takes for a pressure  
14 to stabilize. In the 1978 test it took about 60 days. By  
15 the time of the 1987 test, the points showed with the solid  
16 dots, it only took about 5 days to reach steady state con-  
17 dition. And here again is the -- this is an exact flow  
18 regime of concentration at the boundary. Gas is injected  
19 in concentration and the reservoir is in concentration.

20                               We can from -- from this make an esti-  
21 mate of the size of that block that the well is injecting  
22 into and we show that on the green -- green pages. The  
23 analysis on the right is just a simple solution of the dif-  
24 fusivity equation for the -- for the characteristics in  
25 reservoir rock as we measured and the only assumption we

1 have to make is the foregoing in terms of barrels per acre  
2 of pore space.

3 For the different values of that then we  
4 can calculate the different sizes of the fracture blocks.

5 We show it in the table form in the  
6 upper green sheet and tabular or graphic form on the lower.  
7 It runs from roughly 1000 to nearly 3000 feet would be the  
8 size of the outside edge of the fracture block as we deter-  
9 mined from this method.

10 Q All right, would you go to the tan  
11 sheets that follow and explain how you estimate the barrels  
12 per acre in the tight block?

13 A The tan sheets show the relation of oil  
14 in place per acre as a function of capacity of the forma-  
15 tion, kh, or transmissibility with the viscosity of one.

16 We first presented this to the Commis-  
17 sion in Case 3455, December, 1969. I've seen nothing since  
18 then to give us a better idea of what the relation would  
19 be.

20 From this we can enter this graph with  
21 the transmissibility or the kh as we estimated from trans-  
22 missibility, and how we come up with 200 to 500 barrels per  
23 acre would be the probably pore space of the tight block of  
24 the A-14 Well, and then from that we can go to the next  
25 white sheet in which we pick out the part of the graph that

1 is probably the range of this outside edge of the fractured  
2 block. It shows running from roughly 1500 to 2800, a dif-  
3 ference for the two different tests. Of course if every-  
4 thing were perfect, if we had exact measurements in the  
5 1978, the exact measurements in the 1987 test the two lines  
6 should fall together, but since we don't there is just that  
7 much difference in our analysis.

8 Q Okay, let's go to the last plat behind  
9 this tab and explain how you derived the size of the frac-  
10 ture block around the A-14 Well.

11 A It's impossible, of course, to know  
12 exactly the shape of these fracture blocks. The fact that  
13 the pressures to be leveled off on the pressure fall-off  
14 tests seem to follow a fairly uniform curve implies that  
15 the fracture block is fairly uniform; that is, not excep-  
16 tionally long compared to its width; doesn't make much  
17 difference if it's a square or a circle, it's going to be  
18 about the same.

19 Generally what the information shows is  
20 the distance to the nearest side of the fracture block and  
21 so if we take those minimum distances and if, for instance,  
22 the oil in place is about 250 barrels an acre, it would be  
23 2800 feet to the nearest side, or 5600 feet across the  
24 block and we show that schematically as a right angle to  
25 the dashed lines. The dashed lines are drawn around a



1 circle with a diameter of 2800 feet, it's my thinking that  
2 the blocks are more like parallelograms than they would be  
3 squares, and if so, then the edge of the fracture block  
4 could extend a significant distance away from the well and  
5 the important thing here is that although the well may be a  
6 mile and a half from the boundary, the point of injection  
7 of the gas into the high capacity fracture system may be  
8 nearly to the south boundary line. We can think of the in-  
9 jection of the A-14 Well, begin to think of it in terms of  
10 3000 barrels of reservoir space a day that it injects being  
11 replaced by a series of smaller injectors around the peri-  
12 phery of that block.

13 So it was noted in the August hearing  
14 that the A-14 injection well was over two miles away from  
15 the wells to the south and that it's too far for there to  
16 be any -- any communication. Well, that's just not the  
17 case in this instance, so it's possible the effective point  
18 of injection is much closer than just the wellbores.

19 Q All right, let's go to Tab J and address  
20 now the -- your calculations on the size of the fractures.

21 A Well, since this is an exact -- a flow  
22 regime of constant pressure at the boundary, it's possible  
23 by type curves and recognizing its constant pressure at the  
24 boundary, we can calculate the size of the fracture block;  
25 not only the size of the fracture block but the length of

1 the fracture of the well, the induced fracture caused when  
2 we fraced the well initially.

3 Now, all of these fracture blocks act to  
4 a certain extent by constant pressure from the boundary  
5 because the transmissibility of the fracture system is so  
6 much higher than that of the fracture block, and so within  
7 the Unit, where pressure is maintained, and it is an abso-  
8 lutely constant pressure as to the boundary flow system.

9 In the other areas it's very nearly that  
10 because there is such a high transmissibility here.

11 I've shown by the circles the match that  
12 we get by analyzing this with type curves and it's a very  
13 good, good match. The upper horizontal dots, where the  
14 pressure stabilized, shows the relative length of the -- a  
15 measurement of the side, the analysis called the  $X_D$  and the  
16 fracture half length,  $X_f$ ,  $X_f$  is a half length, and that  
17 shows to be a ratio of about 2.2. That means that the  
18 length of the side is 2.2 times the length of the fracture.

19 Now, while we're looking at the little  
20 square and the schematic diagram of the whole system, it  
21 shows the well to be in the center of the fracture. Well,  
22 of course there's no way of knowing whether it's the center  
23 of the fracture or not and it really doesn't make a lot of  
24 difference. The fracture is so much higher transmissibi-  
25 lity than that of the rock around it, it doesn't make any

1 difference if it's from one end, the center, or the other,  
2 the results will be very nearly the same.

3                   What is significant is that the curve  
4 that fits best is the one calculated as a uniform plus  
5 fracture. This is opposed to a fracture of infinite con-  
6 ductivity and what that means is there's a pressure drop  
7 within the fracture and that simply confirms what the ser-  
8 vice companies tell us all the time, that to get better  
9 frac treatments we need heavier gel and bigger, wider frac-  
10 tures and I think that's true.

11               Q           All right. Please go to the green  
12 sheets and review your calculations on the pressure fall-  
13 off test.

14               A           Okay. We have here a schedule of the  
15 data used to make the test and the analyses at the bottom  
16 is summarized in a little box at the bottom righthand side  
17 for the different assumed values of pore space in terms of  
18 barrels per acre, we could determine the fracture half  
19 length. Now that's  $X_f$ , that's the center of the -- of the  
20 figures in the little box.

21                       For instance, if it's 500 barrels per  
22 acre the fracture half length is 316 feet or if it's 250  
23 barrels per acre it's 446 feet. That means the fracture  
24 length. Now this is the induced fracture caused when we  
25 fraced the well would be from 600 feet to 900 feet.

1                   Now, we asked the service company that  
2 fraced the well what their computer shows should be the  
3 length of the induced fracture according to the size of the  
4 frac treatment, the pressure, the injection pressure while  
5 we were fracing it.

6                   They show that if there was a frac  
7 height of 150 feet the frac length would be 750 feet. If  
8 it was a 50-foot height it would be 1100 feet. It's my  
9 feeling that the frac height was probably not over 50 feet  
10 but their range of 750 feet to 1100 feet fits rather close  
11 with our calculated figures of 600 to 900 feet.

12                 Q           Would you just identify the pink sheets  
13 that follow?

14                 A           The pink sheets are to minimize the  
15 error of analyzing the -- the pressure behavior during the  
16 pressure fall-off test, and the fact that in a gas system  
17 both the viscosities and the deviation from (not clearly  
18 understood) vary within the closed system from the outer  
19 boundary to the well. We take that into account by recog-  
20 nizing this difference through psuedo pressures and of  
21 course the most accurate way is to integrate the relation  
22 of the psuedo pressures and the square of the psuedo pres-  
23 sures and these graphs just show those figures reduced  
24 graphically so that it's easy to read.

25                 Q           Now, Mr. Greer, behind Tab K is some

1 information on the Schmitz Anticline. Before we go into  
2 that, I'd ask you to refer to your mobility analyses that  
3 are contained in Section O in Exhibit Number One.

4 A Yes, sir. If you'll turn to Exhibit O,  
5 the first two green sheets, we've summarized on the upper  
6 green sheet the slope of the build-up curve by a Horner  
7 plot in terms of pounds per cycle, we used logarithm cycles  
8 to find both the first and the second slopes. The second  
9 slope projects out to on the Horner P\*, 1254 pounds.

10 I'd like to move to the yellow sheets to  
11 -- to show the interesting part of this pressure build-up.

12 The first slope is 40.5 pounds per log  
13 cycle and the second is 25.8 pounds per log cycle.

14 And I've expanded the 25.8 pounds per  
15 log cycle on the lower of the yellow graphs in order to see  
16 how we have analyzed it. It's very important to know if or  
17 if not that slope is a straight line. Unfortunately, when  
18 Amoco ran this test they did not use a sensitive pressure  
19 bomb and it's necessary then to estimate as best we can  
20 from this. I think it's most unfortunate that just the  
21 fact that Amoco did not use the pressure -- a sensitive  
22 pressure bomb indicates that the Amoco engineers are not  
23 analyzing the rate/time part of the pressure curve. I  
24 think it's most unfortunate because in this reservoir that  
25 is everything. The rate/time portion is everything and the

1 only way it can be analyzed is with -- exactly, is with  
2 very careful pressure measurement.

3 But I think here that we've taken as  
4 best we can the information available and can draw a  
5 reasonable conclusion from it.

6 Now what I've done is to take the  
7 pressures, and this graph the vertical scale covers about  
8 30 pounds, the pressures cover roughly 20, it's only pos-  
9 sible with this type of pressure gauge to read pressures  
10 within certain limits and so what's happened is the scanner  
11 has read one pressure for four or five readings and prob-  
12 bably the average time and average pressure would be where  
13 I've drawn the crosses, and for instance, the very -- the  
14 lowest cross is four points, it's pretty clear that the  
15 average point would be at the center of the crosses.

16 As we come up to the next to last cross  
17 where there's six points on one side of the cross and one  
18 point on the other, that's where the scanner changed from  
19 readings of one point an hour to six hours between points.  
20 Has it been read all the way across, then there would be  
21 another four or five points there, which would make it  
22 appear a little more uniform than just looking at it here.  
23 I interpret that to be a straight line. I think it's cor-  
24 rect. Now the significance of that is the drainage radius  
25 recedes in this Amoco Schmitz Anticline Well on production

1 and chains on shut-ins that that drainage radius reached a  
2 fracture or a fault of very high capacity. Now if the  
3 fault had infinite capacity, the slope would have changed  
4 from 40.5 pounds to 20.2 pounds, but then it changed to  
5 25.8 pounds. Now that's as accurate as we can tell but it  
6 is enough to know that it is a very high capacity, straight  
7 line fracture or fault, and this is important in our analy-  
8 sis of what's happening in this area.

9 Q All right, why don't you now go back to  
10 the plat in Subsection G and relate this information to the  
11 plat.

12 A This is the colored plat about four or  
13 five pages into the section.

14 I'd like to call attention now to the  
15 faults on the lower righthand side that are evident from  
16 the surface geology. We think there's no question that in  
17 this area those faults extend, or if not those faults,  
18 similar faults extend into the subsurface in the producing  
19 area. We don't know how Amoco located its CC State and  
20 Schmitz Anticline Wells, but if they had information on  
21 faulting in the area it's to be presumed they would locate  
22 them close to the faults because they'd have more fractur-  
23 ing there and productivity.

24 And, as a matter of fact, Mobil, in  
25 asking for a continuance of this hearing, wanted to run a

1 line northeast from Section 27 across the unit boundary  
2 into Section 13, across Section 23, looking for some of  
3 these faults, we presume. We joined them in the survey.  
4 The very first analysis is there is a fault in the south  
5 half of 23 and the presumption is that it's an extension of  
6 a fault from -- from the southeast, mostly east.

7 We think it's a very good possibility  
8 that there is a fault near the Amoco CC State and if so,  
9 the same directional trend of the fault would place that  
10 same fault close to the Schmitz Anticline.

11 Now, what that means is when we looked  
12 at the evidence of fault of the Schmitz Anticline, that  
13 high capacity fault, the flow system is that the well pro-  
14 duces oil out of the tight block; the tight block is re-  
15 charged continually by that high capacity fracture. If the  
16 flow from that high capacity fracture is cut off, then it  
17 will affect the productivity of the well in the tight  
18 block.

19 And that's what happened at the Schmitz  
20 Anticline when the CC State was drilled.

21 Q All right, would you now move to Tab K  
22 and review the production information on the first graph  
23 behind that tab, on the only graph behind that tab?

24 A Well, we can see here that the produc-  
25 tion from the Schmitz Anticline Well was for all practical



1 purposes flat for two years after first completion.  
2 There's no way that the well, aside from mechanical prob-  
3 lems of some kind, or whatever, will produce level, unless,  
4 number one, it's in an exceptionally large reservoir, or  
5 number two, it's got pressure support from some place.

6 Well, when the CC State and Wishing Well  
7 were drilled and completed and started producing in the  
8 spring of 1988, the production from the Schmitz Anticline  
9 fell off, as would be expected from the analysis of the  
10 fracture system, and that then means that it was not a  
11 large reservoir that held the pressure up, so there's only  
12 one other thing that can hold the pressure up and that's  
13 support from the pressure maintenance project.

14 So, during this time with the Schmitz  
15 Anticline producing only 80 barrels a day it was receiving  
16 enough pressure support to hold its pressure level. Once  
17 the other wells were completed and the pressure fell off,  
18 the pressure maintenance support is not enough to hold it  
19 up, so all we know, all we can tell for certain is that the  
20 pressure maintenance support is somewhere between 80 bar-  
21 rels a day and 1000 barrels a day.

22 Now 80 barrels a day is no problem.  
23 1000 barrels a day is, could be a problem. So again we're  
24 back to the need to drill protection wells for the unit on  
25 the south boundary.

1           Q           All right, would you identify the mater-  
2 ial contained behind Tab L in Exhibit One?

3           A           Under L we show analysis -- simplified  
4 analyses that show simply the slope so that we can project  
5 the pressure out to the Horner P\* pressure and transmis-  
6 sibility, and here for the Wishing Well in May it shows  
7 about one darcy feet per centipoise for transmissibility,  
8 and we show on the second of the yellow sheets on a stand-  
9 ard scale the projection of its pressure out to the Horner  
10 P\* pressure, which would be about 1436 pounds at the depth  
11 at which the bomb was run and then reducing it back to the  
12 datum of +617, and I use that +617 because that's the datum  
13 of the first pressure in the Amoco CC State, why, we get  
14 there 1457 pounds.

15                       The following sheets are simply the  
16 statistics of the pressure survey, the pressure survey data  
17 itself.

18           Q           All right, now, behind Tab M would you  
19 just identify those exhibits, please?

20           A           Okay, here is an analysis of the Wishing  
21 Well in September.

22                       Now, in September I plotted -- it's im-  
23 portant to realize in the analyses that follow that when  
24 the first test was run on the Wishing Well in May, the  
25 build-up test, that the CC State was shut in and so we

1 think that there should have been little interference of  
2 that test at that time.

3 Now, in September all the wells in the  
4 area were shut in for presumably for a frac pulse test when  
5 Amoco fraced its well in the northwest quarter of Section  
6 36. Unfortunately the well was in the gray zone and prob-  
7 ably would have no -- no communication with the West Puerto  
8 Chiquito reservoir.

9 We've not seen a completion test on that  
10 so we don't know about that, but the fact is that all the  
11 wells were shut in so we had another good -- another point  
12 in which we might contain fairly good pressures to try to  
13 make an estimate of the size of the reservoir on the south,  
14 the south boundary.

15 Here we have about the same mobility,  
16 total mobility, a little less than one and we show again on  
17 an expanded graph on the yellow sheet the calculation of  
18 the P\* pressure.

19 And then again we have the same statis-  
20 tical information as before.

21 Q Now if we go to Tab N we also have some  
22 additional analysis of mobility on the Laguna Colorado 2  
23 No. 6 Well.

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Will you review that?

1           A           Yes, sir. Now this, this well is a  
2 small well, makes about 11 barrels a day. It produced for  
3 a month or so, was shut in for I think over a month, then  
4 produced again. It's a real tight well; would have a long  
5 time to reach steady state conditions. It's build-up test  
6 is kind of late. We just didn't have time to go back and  
7 try to analyze the effect of the shut-in and the producing  
8 and the shut-in on its test, but I have an idea that that  
9 has something to do with the wavy nature of the curve.

10                       The -- we took the last projection, of  
11 course, as we have with the others, and projected it out to  
12 a P\* pressure. We show that calculation on the yellow  
13 sheet following it.

14           Q           And the remainder of the documents  
15 behind this tab are supporting information?

16           A           Yes, sir.

17           Q           We have previously discussed Tab O. Are  
18 you ready to go to Tab P?

19           A           Yes, sir.

20           Q           Would you identify the first documents  
21 behind that tab and explain what they are and what they  
22 show?

23           A           These show the -- schematically the  
24 build-up test by Horner plots that we looked at before for  
25 the three wells when they were shut-in in September, and

1 the thing that I'd like to point out here is, first, the  
2 big difference in pressure from the virgin pressure.

3 The next thing is the P\* pressures are  
4 very, very nearly the same and what is really important  
5 here, I feel, is that the different wells, although they  
6 project out to about the same pressures, have very differ-  
7 ent cumulative production.

8 The Schmitz Anticline, 85,000 barrels;  
9 the Wishing Well 57; and the Laguna Colorado only 1,000  
10 barrels, and yet its pressure is somewhere on the order of  
11 the others.

12 Now, a true reservoir pressure is going  
13 to be something less for the Schmitz Anticline and the  
14 Wishing Well than the P\* pressures and my estimate is  
15 that's 1250 pounds.

16 Now the Laguna Colorado is different.  
17 It's drilled a tight block. It's taken a long time to  
18 reach steady state conditions. It's P\* pressure would pro-  
19 bably be pretty close to these pressures. It's just  
20 possible that their pressures are all within about 25-30  
21 pounds of each other. Now that would be the pressure in  
22 the high capacity fracture system, and what that means is  
23 here is another example of wells, the closest well to the  
24 Laguna Colorado is a mile away. These other wells have  
25 drained that well's tight block, as tight as it is, and

1 it's been able to do that because the high capacity system  
2 surrounds the block and the flow system from oil out of the  
3 tight block into the fracture system is so much greater  
4 than the reverse where the flow streams are concentrated  
5 where a well produces in the -- within a tight block.

6 And so this again confirms the -- what I  
7 think is a high capacity system within the south area.

8 Q Mr. Greer, have you an opinion as to  
9 whether or not wells in the southern portion of Canada  
10 Ojitos can in fact drain 640 acres?

11 A Yes, sir, I've made a study of that.

12 Q And have you prepared certain informa-  
13 tion to support that conclusion?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Is that contained behind Tab Q in Exhi-  
16 bit Number One?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Would you refer to the first pink sheet  
19 and identify that and then review the information contained  
20 in this section?

21 A Yes, sir. In order to analyze this I  
22 took the tightest, the indication of the tightest rock  
23 around each of these -- of the smallest wells, the Schmitz  
24 Anticline and the Laguna Colorado.

25 Now in this reservoir the bulk of the

1 production is going to come from the high capacity frac-  
2 ture system and given the opportunity of gravity drainage  
3 within that, but I have eliminated that from this analysis  
4 and taken simply the indication of the tight rock itself,  
5 assumed that there was nothing there except just the tight  
6 rock, that you had a reservoir of only that characteristic  
7 and how long would it take for a well on 640 acres to reach  
8 steady state conditions and how long then it would take at  
9 the current rate of production and given a constant per-  
10 centage decline, which most wells seem to exhibit in this  
11 area, how long would it take to drain the blocks.

12                   The first one is shown on the second  
13 sheet, the Schmitz Anticline, it would take about 70 days  
14 to reach steady state conditions. It has a production rate  
15 now of 70 barrels a day, was initially -- well, I say now,  
16 in September, but I would imagine it's less now, and pro-  
17 ject that to a rate of 3 -- an estimated economic limit of  
18 3 barrels a day, the decline rate would be 98 percent a  
19 year and it would completely deplete that tight block in  
20 about 3 years. It would only be about 25,000 barrels  
21 recoverable limit.

22                   Q            Would you compare the information on the  
23 next sheet.

24                   A            Same thing for the Laguna Colorado. It  
25 would take a longer time; I have nearly 200 days to reach

1 steady state conditions but it doesn't have as much oil in  
2 place and as much recoverable oil. It would deplete 5640  
3 acres in about 7 years.

4 No question that the wells, even without  
5 the high capacity fracture system that helps them, would  
6 drain 640 acres and we're looking at the very tightest rock  
7 in the area.

8 Q Now, Mr. Greer, have you also looked at  
9 anticipated recoveries in the southeastern portion of this  
10 pool?

11 A Yes, sir, from the pressure decline, and  
12 of course it's only a 4-month period from May to September,  
13 but still it appears that the information is good enough  
14 that we can make an estimate of -- of production decline  
15 versus pressure. I've shown this here schematically on the  
16 second of the green sheets.

17 Q That's behind Tab R.

18 A That's behind Tab R. The virgin pres-  
19 sure was around 1800, 1850 pounds in 1965. I show it drop-  
20 ping down as the pressure in the unit dropped down until  
21 1985 when the Schmitz Anticline Well was drilled. Note  
22 that from 1985 till 1988 the pressure didn't change very  
23 much. We show there the February, '88 pressure; the May,  
24 '88 pressure; and the September, '88 pressure. The dotted  
25 line shows a straight line extrapolation of that and the



1 dashed line, the curved line, shows the track that the  
2 pressure probably will take if there's no support from the  
3 pressure maintenance project.

4           That line might extend a little farther  
5 to the right depending upon how much gravity drainage the  
6 wells are allowed to produce. There is enough structure in  
7 the area for some gravity drainage and I believe there's  
8 enough high capacity fracture system to do it. Now, we  
9 don't have an interference test to confirm that but -- but  
10 it would be somewhere in that -- in that range, not very  
11 far. It would not vary much from where that is.

12           Q           Mr. Greer, if you'll now go to the tan  
13 sheets that are the next part of Tab R, review the informa-  
14 tion, and particularly would you compare the information  
15 from May, '88 and September, '88 that's on the top of the  
16 bottom sheet?

17           A           All right. I'd like to look at the  
18 bottom sheet first to show the -- that I have arrived here  
19 from the pressure drop from May to September in the Wishing  
20 Well. You'll note that the Wishing Well and the other  
21 wells are pretty well equalized in September. I noted in  
22 May that the CC State was shut in and the build-up test  
23 there was probably pretty good.

24                       I compared the pressures for the differ-  
25 ent methods we might use. I'd like to note that in May

1 compared to September for the Wishing Well, the 24-hour  
2 shut- in pressure dropped 170 pounds, and the 48-hour  
3 pressures dropped 175 pounds. A modified Muskat average  
4 pressure dropped 180 pounds. Then a Miller, Dyes and  
5 Hutchinson method for the assumed distances to the outer  
6 boundary with 1000 feet and 1500 feet, we show 154 pounds  
7 to 151 pounds.

8 Now, we don't have any idea as to the  
9 distance to the boundaries of these fracture blocks with  
10 the information we now have, but the important thing here  
11 is not that we know it exactly but if it's 1000 feet what  
12 would be the pressure drop; if it were 1500 feet what would  
13 be the pressure drop. It's roughly the same in both in-  
14 stances and so we can feel like the pressure drop is rea-  
15 sonably accurate. The Horner  $P^*$  difference is 151 pounds.  
16 I've used for my analysis 150 pounds, which we show on the  
17 upper tan sheet down toward the middle, if there is 157,000  
18 barrels, reservoir barrels produced, which is what we esti-  
19 mate here, 150 pounds, that's a coefficient of 1050 reser-  
20 voir barrels per pound, and divide that by the system com-  
21 pressibility and we come up with a total reservoir volume  
22 of 2600 thousand, 2-1/2 million barrels, approximately.

23 Then we make a further analysis, assum-  
24 ing it is 2-1/2 million barrels, then on the pink sheets  
25 following we come up with the area that would be involved,

1 depending on how many barrels per acre. It runs from 2000  
2 barrels an acre, it would be about 1250 acres indicated;  
3 for 500 barrels an acre, about 5000.

4 On the lower of the pink sheets we show  
5 diffusivity constant and the area which would be brought  
6 into a steady state condition given the transmissibility of  
7 the Wishing Well type log and we calculate that here and we  
8 show that 500 barrels an acre could be up to 6000 acres but  
9 2000 barrels an acre it's only 1450.

10 Then we plot those on the next blue  
11 sheets and the lower curve on the blue sheet shows the re-  
12 lations of reservoir area to pore space in stock tank bar-  
13 rels an acre. If we had an interference test in the area  
14 there we might be able to tell something about what the  
15 pore volume is. We don't have one and so we've drawn it  
16 for the different possibilities.

17 The next line above shows the area that  
18 would be possible for steady state conditions to develop in  
19 the 120 days of the test. That's roughly that much -- many  
20 days initially before the May test and that many, then, to  
21 September test.

22 If there is a high capacity fracture  
23 system, which I firmly believe there is by all indications  
24 up there, and the indications are of a high capacity frac-  
25 ture system, we note those on the bottom of the upper blue

1 sheet. Number one is the equalized pressures. Number two  
2 is the two slopes of the Schmitz Anticline build-up, and  
3 the interference from the State CC and the Wishing Well  
4 when they came on. The immediate interference between the  
5 Wishing Well and the CC State and that's recorded in the  
6 transcript of Case 9451, and then the P\* pressure of the  
7 Laguna Colorado. Those things added together tell me there  
8 is a high capacity fracture system in this area.

9                   So when we add those things together  
10 what it means is that the area of the reservoir that could  
11 be brought into steady state conditions could be 10, 15,  
12 20, 30,000 acres. Now the indication is from the oil in  
13 place that it's only like 2 to 5000 acres, so what that  
14 means to me is this -- this area, the high capacity frac-  
15 ture system is not very big and wells drilled within that  
16 area and have the depleted pressure will have to share in  
17 the production that's already developed. Those that are  
18 drilled outside that and have higher pressures, then, will  
19 be in tighter formations than what is exhibited here.

20                   And what that means, then, is that the  
21 wells generally are going to drain on an average only their  
22 spacing units and that's not very much at solution gas  
23 drive.

24                   Now, we point out that in West Puerto  
25 Chiquito and in Gavilan, that initial wells with capacities

1 of 5-to-600 barrels a day, in West Puerto Chiquito have  
2 produced as much as 2-million barrels; in Gavilan they've  
3 produced several hundred thousand barrels. That's not  
4 going to happen here. The only way that can happen is for  
5 the wells to drain large areas and you can see by this blue  
6 graph that that can't happen.

7 So, again our concern for spacing, that  
8 the wells just absolutely must be drilled on no closer than  
9 640 acres.

10 Q Would you now go to the information con-  
11 tained behind Tab S in Exhibit Number One and review the  
12 economics involved in development of this southern portion  
13 of Canada Ojitos?

14 A We show here some economics of oil value  
15 and total gross -- total net income to wells depending on  
16 whether -- what the spacing is.

17 On the lefthand sheet we show the fig-  
18 ures for 100 barrel per acre recovery and on the righthand  
19 sheet, 150 barrels per acre.

20 I have three columns. One is for the  
21 value of oil at \$10.00 a barrel, one at \$15.00, and one at  
22 \$20. We assume the value of gas at roughly 1/8th of the  
23 value of the oil; that is, 1/8th of dollars per barrel  
24 would give dollars per mcf of gas, and then I've assumed  
25 about 5.6 mcf per barrel might be realized. We add the two

1 together to come up with a total value of gas and oil based  
2 on oil barrels, and then we assumed lease burdens, taxes,  
3 and so on, gives a net value then of about 75 percent of  
4 the gross and then after operating expense, \$2.50 a barrel,  
5 which I think is probably conservative, then we show a net  
6 value then of \$10.00 oil is \$10.30; \$15.00 oil, \$16.70; and  
7 \$20.00 oil, \$22.00.

8 Then for the various spacings and gross  
9 income, or net income, we arrive at the economics, which I  
10 think are more readily absorbed by looking at the graphs on  
11 the green sheets that follow.

12 On the upper green sheet we show, for  
13 instance, that it's for 100 barrels per acre recovery, and  
14 which "Below B. P." means below the bubble point. All of  
15 this area is going to be below the bubble point, that there  
16 would be a loss for anything less than 320 acres per well;  
17 zero ratio of profit to investments for anything less than  
18 about \$16.00 a barrel, and even at \$20.00 a barrel, the --  
19 the profit probably would not cover interest on investment.  
20 I've not figured interest and I've not figured rate of re-  
21 turn. These are just simple profit-to-investment ratios.

22 On 640 acre spacing at \$100.00 per bar-  
23 rel -- I mean 100 barrels per acre, there's an opportunity  
24 in the range of \$15.00 to \$20.00 a barrel to show a mini-  
25 mum profit.

1                   At 150 barrels an acre profit ratios as  
2 high as 2-to-1 can be realized if we can get up to \$17.00  
3 to \$18.00 a barrel. Right now it's about \$16.00; just what  
4 it will be, no one knows. I think it's a little bit dif-  
5 ficult to forecast.

6                   But at 320 acres per well, even at  
7 \$20.00 a barrel, the profit-to-investment ratio is less  
8 than one and just is not enough to warrant the drilling of  
9 these risky wells.

10                  Q           And you conclude from this that you need  
11 640-acre spacing in the area?

12                  A           Yes, sir, we can conclude we need 640  
13 acres and we can conclude that the wells will drain 640  
14 acres.

15                  Q           Now, Mr. Greer, behind Tab T in Exhibit  
16 One is just some statistical information on the wells in  
17 the southern portion of this pool, is that correct?

18                  A           Yes, sir, uh-huh.

19                  Q           Is Exhibit Number Two a copy of the af-  
20 fidavit of notice letter given to Mobil providing them with  
21 notice of today's hearing?

22                  A           Yes, sir.

23                  Q           Mr. Greer, is Mobil the only other in-  
24 terest owner in the proration units that would be reestab-  
25 lished as a result of your application in this case?

1           A           Yes, sir.

2           Q           Based on your study of the area and your  
3 experience with this particular field, is it your profes-  
4 sional opinion that fluid is migrating at this time from  
5 the Canada Ojitos to wells that are producing south of the  
6 unit boundary?

7           A           Yes, sir.

8           Q           As unit operator is it your opinion that  
9 you have an obligation to protect the unit from this fluid  
10 migration?

11          A           Yes, sir.

12          Q           In your opinion will wells have to be  
13 drilled if you're to fully carry out that responsibility?

14          A           Yes, sir.

15          Q           In developing this pool is it your opin-  
16 ion that 640-acre spacing is appropriate both geologically  
17 and economically for the development of this area?

18          A           Yes, sir.

19          Q           If the nonstandard proration units that  
20 are the subject of this hearing are abolished, will that  
21 enable you to protect the unit in a responsible and prudent  
22 manner?

23          A           Yes, sir.

24          Q           In your opinion will granting this  
25 application be in the best interest of conservation, the



1 prevention of waste, and the protection of correlative  
2 rights?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Were Exhibits One and Two prepared by  
5 you or compiled at your direction?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr.  
8 Catanach, I move the admission of Benson-Montin-Greer  
9 Drilling Corporation Exhibits One and Two.

10 MR. CATANACH: Exhibits One  
11 and Two will be admitted as evidence.

12 Let's take a short break at  
13 this point, ten minutes.

14

15 (Thereupon a recess was taken.)

16

17 MR. CATANACH: We'll call the  
18 hearing back to order and turn it over to Mr. Pearce at  
19 this time.

20 MR. PEARCE: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Examiner.

22

23 CROSS EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. PEARCE:

25 Q Mr. Greer, if you would, please, turn

1 with me to Tab C, which is the orientation plat of the  
2 area, and we are interested in the two nonstandard prora-  
3 tion units at the southern end of the Canada Ojitos Unit.  
4 Do you see the two units I'm talking about?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q How were those two nonstandard proration  
7 units formed?

8 A When the Canada Ojitos Unit was origi-  
9 nally put together it covered a little bit larger area than  
10 now shown in Township 14 North, 1 West.

11 After drilling the A-14 injection well,  
12 the USGS at that time wanted the unit contracted and we had  
13 just an arbitrary final agreement, we wanted to include all  
14 of 23 and 24; they wanted to take out as much as we would  
15 agree to, and we just finally settled arbitrarily on  
16 cutting 23, 24, and then the east 19 and 20, in half.

17 Q And you filed an application with the  
18 Division to form those nonstandard units, is that correct?

19 A No, sir. Then in 1980 -- and at that  
20 time the spacing was 320 acres a well. Then in 1980 under  
21 one of our applications the spacing in West Puerto Chiquito  
22 went to 640 acres a well. So at that time the west bound-  
23 ary and the north part of 26, 1 and the south boundary,  
24 then, in 24, 1, cut through half sections, and the engineer  
25 at that time, Dan Nutter, said, well, he'd feel more com-

1     fortable if we just separated the unit acreage from the  
2     non-unit acreage and make some long, nonstandard proration  
3     units.

4                     At that time we had seen no arguments in  
5     this area for spacing closer than 640 acres and so I had no  
6     objection to doing whatever they wanted to do at that time  
7     and felt like if and when the time came to drill them, why,  
8     we could always take another look at them, and so that's  
9     how they came to be and that's -- the time to look at them  
10    is now.

11            Q            Okay, so they currently do have 640  
12    acres each.

13            A            Yes, sir.

14            Q            And under the proposal they will have  
15    640 acres each.

16            A            Yes, sir.

17            Q            So we're not proposing to change the  
18    amount of acreage --

19            A            Per well.

20            Q            -- per well.

21            A            No, sir.

22            Q            All of this acreage is in a 640-acre  
23    spaced pool at this time, is that right?

24            A            Yes, sir.

25            Q            And unless somebody showed something

1 different the assumption before this Division is that a  
2 well drilled on that acreage would drain 640 acres, is that  
3 correct?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Okay. Thank you.

6 A Mr. Examiner, if I might, that's my  
7 feeling, too, that it will drain more than 640 acres.

8 Q And you -- okay, you mentioned that the  
9 A-14 injection well was drilled. When was that well  
10 drilled?

11 A Well, we started injecting in 1974. I  
12 believe it was completed and maybe a well was drilled a  
13 year or two earlier than that, I believe.

14 Q Was it drilled intending for that to be  
15 an injection well?

16 A No, we just drilled it as another well.

17 Q And it was nonproductive.

18 A It did not make a commercial oil well.

19 Q Non-commercial.

20 A And my analysis was in view of what we  
21 had found with the other wells in tight blocks, that it  
22 just might possibly make a good injector, so we started  
23 injecting gas in it and then made our first confirmation in  
24 that test shown in 1978 that in fact it -- it was a good  
25 injector because as we determined at that time that

1 pressure in that well was the same as the gas cap pressure  
2 in the rest of them, although we had injected quite a bit  
3 of gas for four years. That meant that there -- we were  
4 not in a sense stacking up gas around the well, it was  
5 getting into the reservoir. That was the main purpose of  
6 that first test in 1978, to confirm that.

7 Q Okay. Now, based upon the results of  
8 drilling and A-14 Well, the BLM indicated -- or its prede-  
9 cessor agency, I guess, not the BLM, the predecessor agen-  
10 cy indicated to you that the boundary should be contracted.

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q And that unit boundary be negotiation  
13 was moved up to the middle of 23 and 24.

14 A Yes, that's correct.

15 Q Mr. Greer, I apologize, maybe you can  
16 tell me the tab. On one of the tabs you had a graphical  
17 representation of injection into the A-14?

18 A Okay.

19 Q I'm sorry, I turned to it and I believe  
20 it's H.

21 I notice that beginning in perhaps  
22 mid-19 -- late -- I apologize, early 1986, it seems that  
23 injection rates in the A-14 Well have been increased --

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q -- rather dramatically?

1           A           Yes, sir.

2           Q           Do you have any plans to further in-  
3 crease the injection rate of wells in the Canada Ojitos  
4 Unit?

5           A           Well, we're thinking about it. One of  
6 our problems is that the G-1, which is completed only in  
7 the C zone, was not taking as much gas as I thought we  
8 should be able to get into it, so a couple of years ago we  
9 fraced the A and B zone and initially when we fraced it was  
10 with oil and it made a reasonably good injector.

11                       Since that time fairly good results in  
12 the area have been obtained by fracing with water. We took  
13 the risk of fracing in that tight zone with water and in  
14 the course of drilling it we did not increase the capacity  
15 of the A and B zones and in fact the frac apparently ex-  
16 tended into the C zone and rather than helping the well, we  
17 hurt it, so in order to get more gas in the southern part  
18 of the unit, then, we have injected more gas in the A-14  
19 than otherwise we would have.

20                       So that's the reason why we injected  
21 more gas. And then what we'll do in the future is just  
22 going to depend on all of the things that's happened.  
23 Right now it really makes little difference where we inject  
24 the gas. We can maintain pressure on the unit while in-  
25 jecting in any one of the injection wells if they'll take

1 the gas.

2 Q All right, Mr. Greer, looking -- I'm now  
3 looking at the colored representation behind Tab G, which  
4 shows your interpretation of the gas zone.

5 A The gas invaded area, yes, sir.

6 Q It appears that operations to date have  
7 just about swept all of the oil in your opinion out of the  
8 southern part of the Canada Ojitos Unit.

9 A Well, of course, this is schematically.  
10 There is undoubtedly tight rocks there that the gas is  
11 going around; we don't know just where they are; some of it  
12 will be swept out and some of it will not, but the gas is  
13 not yet channeled to the L-3 in the upper lefthand side, so  
14 again this is just schematically I think a fair representa-  
15 tion of what's taking place.

16 Q All right, sir, looking at this exhibit,  
17 we're looking at the proration and spacing unit in Section  
18 23 and 24. You're suggesting two standard, standardly  
19 oriented 640-acre spacing and proration units.

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q If those two spacing units are approved  
22 and wells are drilled on those spacing units, do you be-  
23 lieve that that is adequate protection to the southern  
24 boundary of the Canada Ojitos Unit?

25 A Well, it's just going to depend on the

1 capacities of the wells. We won't know that until they're  
2 drilled. My firm hope is that that's -- that those two  
3 wells will be enough. We may have to drill another one but  
4 I would hope not.

5 Q Where would you put another one if you  
6 felt it was necessary?

7 A Well, we might come over into 19 and  
8 maybe into 15.

9 Q Looking at pressure data in this area,  
10 particularly on the Amoco State CC-1 --

11 A Okay.

12 Q -- what's the latest pressure informa-  
13 tion you have on that and if you could get me to a tab in  
14 your exhibit, --

15 A Okay.

16 Q -- I would appreciate it.

17 A Let's see, would like the summary or the  
18 build-up or --

19 Q The State CC-1, you've got the build-up  
20 and then we'll look at the summary.

21 A Oh. Okay, the CC State, all we have is  
22 what was recorded by -- by Amoco in the August hearing and  
23 what they furnished to the conservation commission, so  
24 that's only a summary. We don't have a build-up. I think  
25 Amoco took a build-up in September. We asked them for it



1 but they felt they could not release it.

2 Q Okay. Can you refer me to the summary?

3 A It would probably be I'd say in Section  
4 P. No, this is September and we didn't have it.

5 Okay, it would be with the initial  
6 pressures in the area, which would be under Tab F, the two  
7 yellow sheets. Okay, the CC State on the righthand side of  
8 the center of the page, February 15th, '88, at a depth of  
9 6687, which is +617, was 1460 pounds.

10 Q Okay.

11 A The -- that pressure was given to the  
12 Oil Conservation Division; also was recorded in Case 9451  
13 in August by Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones was the witness and he  
14 said he made a rough adjustment to a datum of +750 for his  
15 exhibit. So he used a +750 for his exhibits and his rough  
16 adjustment I think was pretty rough, all right, because  
17 that doesn't check out very good, but the C zone pressure  
18 was at 6687 and that was just about the center of the C  
19 zone. The C zone was the only zone open at that time and  
20 so I think there's very little doubt as to the depth and  
21 the pressure.

22 Q Okay, but you don't have the build-up  
23 data available to you on that?

24 A No, sir, Amoco would not release that to  
25 us.

1           Q           All right. Let's flip back, if we can,  
2 to Tab C, the map, again, please, sir.

3                       The well in Section 26, which well is  
4 that?

5           A           I believe that's the CC State.

6           Q           And the well in Section 35 immediately  
7 south of that?

8           A           That's the Wishing Well.

9           Q           And the well to the south of 35 in 2?

10          A           That's the Laguna Colorado.

11          Q           The well in 25?

12          A           Is the Schmitz Anticline.

13          Q           And I notice there's a well in 36. Do  
14 you know what that well is?

15          A           The north -- the southeast of 36 is a  
16 well of Southern Union's which we consider is out of the  
17 West Puerto Chiquito Pool. They asked that it be removed 8  
18 or 10 years ago and we had no objection since it's in the  
19 gray zone, and then the well in the northwest of 36 is one  
20 drilled by Amoco just recently and we've not seen a comple-  
21 tion on it but the fact that it's bottomed in the C zone --  
22 I mean in the gray zone leads me to believe it probably is  
23 not in the reservoir, not in the West Puerto Chiquito  
24 reservoir.

25          Q           All right, sir, looking at the progres-

1 sion from the Canada Ojitos Unit down through the State CC,  
2 down to the Wishing Well, down to the Laguna Well --

3 A Okay.

4 Q -- if that area is receiving pressure  
5 support from the Canada Ojitos Unit, what impact would you  
6 -- what differences would you expect to see in GOR's  
7 between those wells?

8 A Initially there'd be no impact, as I in-  
9 dicated before. The action is going to be a piston action  
10 pushing oil ahead of it, ahead of the gas, until the gas  
11 breaks through and it, if anything, will tend to reduce the  
12 gas/oil ratio.

13 Q Okay, and so that --

14 A And then once the gas breaks through,  
15 then, of course, it will tend to increase it.

16 Q Mr. Greer, in looking over these materi-  
17 als, Mobil has come up with some data requests which I'll  
18 simply state for the record and I don't expect that it's  
19 things that you have available to you, but I want you to  
20 know what they'd like to see if you can provide it, and  
21 certainly you and Mr. Carr can discuss that.

22 With regard to the A-14 injection well  
23 we'd like to see the injection pressures by month, '84  
24 through '89.

25 A Okay, we have that. I don't have it

1 with me but we can supply it.

2 Q Now the note I have in front of me says,  
3 "Raw fall off pressure data".

4 A Okay.

5 Q It says '78, '80, '87, '89, and '89, the  
6 most recent data.

7 A Yeah, we --

8 MR. CARR: '78, '80 --

9 MR. PEARCE: '87, '89.

10 Q Injection rates by month, which I think  
11 you've graphically shown but if you've got a sheet that  
12 just sets that forth.

13 A Okay.

14 Q Item raw meter reading injection rate  
15 data for January of '86 through January of '89, including  
16 operating conditions.

17 A January which?

18 Q '86, January of '89.

19 A That's a three year period?

20 Q Yes. They would like initial bottom  
21 hole pressure data, whatever you have available on the A-14  
22 and the COU L-3.

23 A Okay, we don't have any on the L-3. The  
24 A-14, the bottom hole pressures have been calculated from  
25 the static pressures of the -- of the surface pressures, so

1 --

2 Q You didn't take a bottom hole when you  
3 initially drilled that well?

4 A I think not.

5 Q Okay. Have you done any bottom hole  
6 pressure build-ups on the L-3 in the last five years?

7 A We've never, never done any on the L-3.

8 Q Okay. Do you have separate production  
9 data on the L-3 not aggregated with the rest of the unit?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Gas and oil?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q We'd like to see that, please. Let me  
14 pause for one moment.

15 Thank you, Mr. Greer.

16 MR. PEARCE: Mr. Examiner, I  
17 have nothing further of Mr. Greer.

18 MR. CATANACH: Mr. Carr, will  
19 your -- Mr. Greer have any opposition to supplying that  
20 information to Mobil?

21 MR. GREER: No, I have no  
22 objection. The pressure fall-off data was taken, let's  
23 see, the one back in '78, 10 years ago, I think that we can  
24 dig up the charts on it. I know the one since then, that  
25 we have them, and it's very simple, we have the well so

1 equipped that when we shut it in, we shut it in up-stream  
2 of the meter run and that means that the instant that the  
3 well was shut in we have both the flowing pressure and the  
4 fall-off pressure immediately takes place. The only es-  
5 timates that have to be made is the amount of friction  
6 between the flowing pressures and the static pressure and  
7 so I can send a copy of the charts and Mobil's engineers  
8 can analyze them just like I do.

9  
10 CROSS EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. CATANACH:

12 Q Mr. Greer, most of the testimony today  
13 has been with the units in Section 23 and 24 but you also  
14 want to rescind units within the Canada Ojitos Unit. Do  
15 you see any adverse affect on any interest owners by this?

16 A No, sir, I see no adverse affect on  
17 anyone. Those within the unit are just a practical matter  
18 of kind of cleaning up the records.

19 Q There are wells currently drilled on  
20 three of those units, is that correct?

21 A Well, there's a well drilled on -- the  
22 F-20 is being tested in the Dakota. The A-8 has just been  
23 staked. It's not yet been drilled.

24 Q I see. And the well in Section 1 is --

25 A A-1 is an injection well.

1 Q -- an injection well.

2 A The reason for that was I think there  
3 was, oh, 10 or 15 acres in the south part of Section 1 that  
4 people didn't want to lease their land, they didn't want to  
5 fool with leasing it, and so that was taken care of with  
6 the statutory unitization two years ago, so we have no  
7 longer a need for that.

8 Q Mr. Greer, what is the -- what is the  
9 ownership of the south half of Sections 23 and 24?

10 A I believe the south half of 23 is all  
11 Mobil and the south half of 24, as I recall, Mobil has I  
12 believe it's 120 acres.

13 The rest of 24 is owned by the unit  
14 owners who were unit owners prior to 1980.

15 Q And how do you plan to develop those two  
16 sections --

17 A Well, our discussions with Mobil have  
18 tentatively been that the well in 23 would be located in  
19 the southwest of 23. Mobil would operate it.

20 The one in 24 is still indefinite.  
21 Mobil wants to look at some more seismic work before they  
22 come to a conclusion on it, so if we drill 24 the chances  
23 are that the unit would operate it.

24 MR. CATANACH: That's all I  
25 have at this time.

1                                   Are there other questions of  
2 Mr. Greer? Mr. Chavez?

3  
4 QUESTIONS BY MR. CHAVEZ:

5                   Q           Mr. Greer, is it significant that Sec-  
6 tion 19 is not included in this, or wasn't included in the  
7 original order in this case?

8                   A           Oh.

9                   Q           It's also cut in half like 23 and 24 but  
10 doesn't appear that there was a nonstandard proration unit  
11 assigned for that.

12                  A           Yeah, we probably should have included  
13 it. The -- I think all the acreage, my recollection is all  
14 the acreage in Section 19 is unit acreage, both inside and  
15 out, owned by unit owners, and we felt like there's be no  
16 problem with that but of course we probably should have  
17 included it.

18                  Q           Do you mean that here is -- there is --

19                  A           I wonder if it's too late.

20                                   MR. CARR: Yes, I think it is.

21                  Q           You mean that there is or that there  
22 isn't a nonstandard proration unit already?

23                  A           Well, there is a nonstandard proration  
24 unit, my recollection is.

25                  Q           Okay.\



1           A           Oh, yeah, I remember now what the prob-  
2 lem was. It covers the south half, I believe, of 19 and  
3 the southwest of 20, so it's nonstandard not only as to the  
4 shape of it but I think it's only 480 acres and it would  
5 seem to be like most of that acreage is owned, if not all  
6 of it, by the unit and so I believe I decided, well, we'll  
7 just address that when the time comes to drill it.

8           Q           Okay. Is there any significance to the  
9 well that's already been drilled and plugged and abandoned  
10 in Section 24?

11          A           My recollection is that that was a well  
12 drilled by Reading & Bates maybe in the 1950's before we  
13 ever drilled any wells in the unit and we've used it for a  
14 point for mapping and that's about all.

15                   The Mancos, my recollection is that they  
16 did not test the Mancos. I think the well went to the  
17 Dakota.

18          Q           Mr. Greer, when you're talking about  
19 attic oil under Section G, the reference that you've used  
20 talks about attic oil that appears to have been displaced  
21 by a water drive in a water drive reservoir. Is that --  
22 are you drawing an analogy or is there --

23          A           Well, they, in water drive reservoirs  
24 you can sweep most of the oil but you won't get the  
25 so-called attic, might not get the so-called attic oil, and

1 you can then inject gas even down in the water zone, let  
2 the gas migrate up above where any wells are drilled and  
3 the gas will force the oil back down into the lower --  
4 wells that are structurally lower, and that's the type of  
5 attic oil that we're talking about here.

6 Q How would you relate that attic oil in  
7 the -- that you're referring to in the Schmitz Anticline  
8 Well where there has not been a water --

9 A Hasn't been a water drive? The analogy  
10 is the same. The gas is injected below the oil. The oil  
11 is up-dip from the injector and so it's in a sense attic  
12 oil with respect to -- to the injector, and if there's  
13 highly communicative area between the injector, in the  
14 Schmitz Anticline, for instance, then it would displace the  
15 oil out of the Schmitz Anticline area and it would have a  
16 high gas/oil ratio as Amoco suggested in the August hear-  
17 ing.

18 Q Thank you. That's all.

19 MR. CATANACH: Are there any  
20 other questions of the witness?

21 MR. PEARCE: Just very brief-  
22 ly.

23

24

25

## 1 RE-CROSS EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. PEARCE:

3 Q Mr. Greer, I think I understood your  
4 position to be that if these proration units, spacing  
5 units, are re-oriented having half of them in the unit and  
6 half of them out of the unit will represent no problem.

7 A Yes, sir, I see no problem at all with  
8 that. In fact, I think it's the ideal way to drill wells  
9 on the boundary.

10 Q It's an accounting -- thank you; just  
11 wanted to confirm my understanding. Thank you.

12 MR. CATANACH: Anything fur-  
13 ther?

14 MR. CARR: Nothing further.

15 MR. PEARCE: I'd like to make  
16 a brief closing, if I might, Mr. Examiner.

17 MR. CATANACH: Certainly. You  
18 may proceed.

19 MR. PEARCE: Thank you. Mr.  
20 Examiner, it seems to me that -- that the problem is ob-  
21 vious.

22 If we just look at the two  
23 nonstandard spacing units presently existing in Section 23  
24 and 24, the problem is there is not adequate information to  
25 determine what the orientation of those proration units

1 ought to be.

2 Mr. Greer had a hand in  
3 creating those nonstandard proration units in 1980. We're  
4 now back in 1989 and we're seeking to undo what we did.

5 Mobil has earlier expressed an  
6 objection to Mr. Greer's exhibit and his testimony as ir-  
7 relevant. Since 1980 Section 23 and 24 have been subject  
8 to 640-acre spacing. They are subject to it now and in the  
9 absence of someone putting on a nonstandard proration unit  
10 case to show that the proper spacing for those wells should  
11 be something else, those two sections will continue to be  
12 subject to 640-acre spacing.

13 The Exhibit One, which was  
14 presented and discussed at length in this hearing had some-  
15 thing to do with 640-acre spacing and the propriety of that  
16 spacing. Mobil began the case expressing its concern that  
17 we were going to have a discussion of irrelevant informa-  
18 tion because that evidence is not relevant in an area that  
19 is already subject to 640-acre spacing. After listening to  
20 the testimony and reviewing the exhibit in the hearing to-  
21 day, Mobil's position is that the application is still pre-  
22 mature. We still have no idea what the appropriate orient-  
23 ation for 640-acre spacing units in Section 23 and 24 is.  
24 Until wells are drilled and technical information is deve-  
25 loped I don't think we will have any idea. I don't think

1 the information presented in Exhibit One is helpful to that  
2 case. We still have an objection to the admission of that  
3 information.

4 This is a 640-acre spacing,  
5 has been and will be a 640-acre spacing unit and informa-  
6 tion which is put into this record on the pretense that it  
7 is supporting 640-acre spacing is irrelevant. Our concerns  
8 remain.

9 Mobil therefore requests that  
10 in view of the admission of the exhibit that this record  
11 remain open for a period of thirty days to allow Mobil to  
12 submit written comments and a written response. We began  
13 by discussing other parties with interests in the area  
14 south of the Canada Ojitos Unit who might be concerned  
15 about the evidence which has been presented to the Divi-  
16 sion. I do not know what to suggest to the Division to do  
17 about those parties. Amoco has indicated on the record  
18 that they expect to file an entry of appearance in this  
19 case. We don't know whether there are other parties who  
20 are interested or not.

21 We remain concerned. We think  
22 the application is premature and we think wells should be  
23 drilled before the decision is made.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. CATANACH: Mr. Carr.

1 MR. CARR: I had really not  
2 planned to give a closing but I'm going to respond to  
3 certain things that Mr. Pearce has said.

4 First of all, as to the false  
5 issue of other parties, and he doesn't know how that should  
6 be handled. I would suggest to you that what the Examiner  
7 ought to do is rule on the application. We're here seek-  
8 ing one thing, creation of standard 640-acre spacing units  
9 on the southern border of the Canada Ojitos Unit so devel-  
10 opment can take place in a prudent fashion.

11 Now perhaps Mobil has some  
12 broader scheme or some other plan for what's going on here  
13 today but all we would like is to get some obstacles out of  
14 the way so we can do what the unit operator has been trying  
15 to do for a year now and that is drill necessary protection  
16 wells along the southern boundary.

17 It's premature Mr. Pearce  
18 says, maybe we should wait till the wells are drilled.  
19 Well, that is absolutely the flip side of what we're talk-  
20 ing about. We think the administrative obstacles ought to  
21 be removed so we can put these wells in an efficient, pru-  
22 dent location and that we can avoid drilling unnecessary  
23 wasteful wells which will cause economic waste and impair  
24 the rights of the interest owners in this area.

25 We talk about irrelevant evi-

1       dence. I wonder if he was here for the hearing. He em-  
2       ployed the same tactic he employed earlier when we were  
3       talking about the admission of the exhibits.

4                       Certainly it's relevant to  
5       tell you we need to have standard units because there is  
6       migration in the area, and we can tell you there is.

7                       Certainly it's relevant to  
8       show you that 640-acre standard spacing units are appro-  
9       priate and we have shown you that they are.

10                      Certainly it's relevant for us  
11       to come in here and tell you that we've been standing  
12       around for a year waiting for people to make up their mind  
13       that the time has come now to get on with carrying out our  
14       obligations as unit operator and protect the southern por-  
15       tion of this unit and we've shown you not only what we need  
16       but why we need it. We've given notice to everyone who's  
17       entitled to it, they're here today, and it seems to me that  
18       they should have put their case on today and not sit back  
19       and ask to submit written comments thirty days after the  
20       hearing.

21                      We've been waiting for a year  
22       now. We think it's time to get this matter resolved and we  
23       ask you to enter an order granting the application.

24                      If Mobil wants to take this  
25       case and run off and try and do something else with it,

1 well, they can try that later and we'll come in and ob-  
2 ject.

3 But we've made a complete  
4 record. Everything that we've presented is relevant. It's  
5 consistent with our application and the time has come to  
6 take the case under advisement and enter an order so we can  
7 continue to carry out our duties as unit operator in a res-  
8 ponsible fashion.

9 MR. CATANACH: Mr. Pearce, I'm  
10 going to -- I'm going to allow ten days for written com-  
11 ments to be submitted by Mobil and then we'll close the  
12 record in this case.

13 At that time we'll take the  
14 case under advisement.

15

16 (Hearing concluded.)

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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 Conservation Division (Commission) was reported by me; that the said transcript 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. 9525, heard by me on February 1 1989.

David R. Catanach, Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division