

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
3 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
4 CASE 9866

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8 EXAMINER HEARING

9
10 IN THE MATTER OF:

11
12 Application of Amoco Production Company
13 for Special Pool Rules or Pool
14 Redesignation and Special Pool Rules,
15 Lea County, New Mexico.

16
17
18 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

19
20 BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, EXAMINER

21
22 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING

23 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

24 February 7, 1990

25 **ORIGINAL**

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1 EXAMINER CATANACH: At this time we'll call
2 Case 9866, Application of Amoco Production Company for
3 special pool rules or, in the alternative, pool
4 redesignation and special pool rules, Lea County, New
5 Mexico. Appearances in this case.

6 MR. CURRENS: Mr. Examiner, Daniel R.
7 Currens, attorney for Amoco Production Company,
8 Houston, Texas. I'll have one witness in this case.

9 EXAMINER CATANACH: Any other appearances?
10 Let me swear the witness in.

11 (Thereupon, the witness was sworn.)

12 MR. CURRENS: Mr. Examiner, I believe your
13 file should reflect a copy of a letter from William F.
14 Carr, a local attorney, entering an appearance, with
15 Campbell & Black in this case, for Amoco Production
16 Company, and I'm associated with Mr. Carr in this
17 matter.

18 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, Mr. Currens, I
19 found that in the file.

20 MR. CURRENS: The Fowler-Upper Silurian
21 pool was discovered in 1959 by the completion of a
22 well called the South Mattix Unit #3. That well had
23 produced in several other horizons prior to the time
24 it was recompleted to the Silurian.

25 The pool area that we're talking about or

1 field area we're talking about is a local high in the
2 eastern part of Lea County that has probably had
3 production from six or seven different horizons. But
4 the Fowler-Upper Silurian pool was originally
5 designated as an oil pool, since the discovery well
6 for the pool potential for 90 barrels of oil a day
7 with a gas/oil ratio of around 3500 to 1.

8 The second well was also completed in that
9 pool in 1959. Both of these wells continued to
10 produce for several years, but in 1965 production
11 ceased from the Silurian. Since that time there has
12 been no production from that horizon. Both wells were
13 recompleted in the Yeso at that time, although it may
14 have been termed something else.

15 Since then, and in recent years, two wells
16 have tested the upper Silurian, they're South Mattix
17 Unit Wells #5 and #15, and they've been found
18 productive of dry gas. The Commission properly
19 reclassified the pool to gas, and we now have, on our
20 books as a result of Order R-8667, the Fowler-Upper
21 Silurian gas pool.

22 Our application today is for special rules
23 for the Fowler-Upper Silurian gas pool, and the reason
24 we included an alternate in this was since it had been
25 25, 30 years ago classified as an oil pool, in the

1 event anyone felt it ought to go back to an oil pool,
2 we're asking for special oil pool rules as well, with
3 a higher than normal gas/oil ratio feature.

4 With that as some background, I'm ready to
5 proceed with my witness.

6 JAMES W. (JIM) COLLIER, JR.

7 The witness herein, after having been first duly sworn
8 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. CURRENS:

11 Q. Will you state your name, please.

12 A. My name is James W. Collier, Jr.

13 Q. By whom are you employed, Mr. Collier?

14 A. By Amoco Production Company.

15 Q. And what location and in what capacity?

16 A. I am employed as a senior petroleum
17 engineering associate in Houston Texas, in the region
18 office.

19 Q. In conjunction with your duties as a senior
20 petroleum engineering associate, have you had occasion
21 to investigate the Fowler-Upper Silurian pool in Lea
22 County?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Have you testified before this Commission
25 before?

1 A. Yes, sir, I have.

2 Q. And your qualifications as an expert
3 petroleum engineer are a matter of public record, are
4 they not?

5 A. Yes, sir, they are.

6 Q. In conjunction with this case and this
7 hearing in the matter here today, have you prepared or
8 had prepared under your direction or supervision, or
9 via the business records of Amoco Production Company,
10 certain exhibits that you will present today?

11 A. Yes, I have.

12 MR. CURRENS: We would submit his
13 qualifications.

14 EXAMINER CATANACH: He is so qualified.

15 Q. Let me direct your attention to Exhibit 1
16 and ask what you're showing us there on that exhibit,
17 Mr. Collier?

18 A. Exhibit 1 is simply a location map
19 indicating, by the arrow, the location of the Fowler
20 Field in the southern third of Lea County, New Mexico.

21 Q. Moving on to Exhibit 2, what do you show on
22 that exhibit?

23 A. Exhibit 2 is a portion of a county map.
24 Outlined in red is the South Mattix Unit. This is a
25 federal exploratory unit located in Township 24 South,

1 Range 37 East in Sections 15 and 22, 600 acres in the
2 unit in Section 15 and 240 acres to the south of
3 Section 22.

4 Q. All right, is the Fowler-Upper Silurian
5 pool contained entirely within the South Mattix unit?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Anything else on Exhibit 2?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Let me ask you, then, to move to Exhibit 3
10 and tell us what you're showing on that exhibit?

11 A. I want to make several points from Exhibit
12 No. 3. This is a stick section going through wells on
13 the eastern part of the South Mattix unit. It does
14 not contain any wells outside that unit.

15 On the left-hand side of the cross-section
16 we start with Well #9, that's the middle number
17 designation at the top.

18 Q. On the right-hand side of this exhibit you
19 have a land plat and a squiggly line going all over
20 the place with part of it outlined in red. Are the
21 red portions of that line the wells that are included
22 on this stick section?

23 A. Yes, sir. I simply adopted this stick
24 section in condensed form for a much larger stick
25 section, just to cut down on the amount of unnecessary

1 paper here.

2 Q. And focus on the area of interest?

3 A. True. The red trace is the trace of this
4 particular cross-section. It extends, as I said, from
5 Well #9 in the north down to the south to Well #12,
6 and back again to the north where it finally
7 terminates with South Mattix Unit #10 on the far
8 right-hand side of the stick section.

9 Q. The well numbers on the stick section are
10 the center numbers in the set of three numbers at the
11 top?

12 A. Yes, sir, that's true.

13 Q. Go ahead.

14 A. You notice that I have several symbols and
15 colors on this stick section. There are four wells at
16 the top that have a red dot symbol on them, those
17 being Wells 3, 13, 5 and 15. In addition, two of the
18 wells, 5 and 15, also have a gas well symbol. The
19 reason I've done this, I'm designating the two wells,
20 5 and 15, that tested dry gas in the past two years in
21 Fowler-Upper Silurian, whereas Wells 3 and 13 do not
22 have the gas well symbols, were the two wells that
23 produced oil as you mentioned in your opening
24 statement.

25 Also, there's an arrow pointing to Well

1 #15. The reason I've singled that well out is because
2 that is the well we would like to produce from
3 initially in this gas reservoir in the Fowler-Upper
4 Silurian.

5 Q. What are all these green portions on this
6 stick section?

7 A. As you mentioned earlier, this is a
8 multiple pay field area. What I've shown by the green
9 section is the current producing interval from the
10 wells currently that are on this particular
11 cross-section.

12 The solid black intervals in the sticks are
13 the zones which previously produced but which are now
14 abandoned. And then the red intervals, you can see on
15 the four wells in the Upper Silurian, are the
16 intervals that we either tested or actually produced
17 from, either oil or gas, in the Upper Silurian.

18 Q. The exceptions to the black interval
19 description that you've just given us, would be where
20 you show the red in Wells #3 and #13, which are now
21 abandoned in the Silurian, being the two--

22 A. That's true. Those are abandoned wells. I
23 showed the intervals in red just to highlight the
24 Silurian interval that did produce.

25 Q. You seem to be in a rather hashy area, if I

1 look in the bottom of this stick section. What are
2 you depicting there?

3 A. All right. If you notice, the top of the
4 Upper Silurian is shown with an uneven line. That is
5 to designate that this is a nonconformed surface. We
6 have a very complex system of thrust and normal
7 faulting down in the basement rocks which extends up
8 through the Ellenburger, the Joins, McKee, the
9 Simpson, the Montoya, the Fusselman and into the Upper
10 Silurian. The nonconformed surface on top of the
11 Upper Silurian was the result of this basement
12 faulting plus nonuniform erosion on the deposits which
13 did form the Upper Silurian. So those two things,
14 basement faulting and nonconformed erosion, controls
15 the surface structural top of the Upper Silurian here.

16 Q. Speaking of structures, do you have a
17 structure map which you've prepared for this hearing?

18 A. Yes, we do.

19 Q. Would that be our Exhibit No. 4?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Why don't we look at it. What are you
22 showing us on Exhibit No. 4, Mr. Collier?

23 A. On Exhibit 4 I've mapped, in lieu of the
24 top of the Upper Silurian, I've mapped the top of the
25 first major porosity zone in the Upper Silurian.

1 Q. Is that a good correlative marker
2 throughout the area?

3 A. Yes, it is. I'll show you later it is a
4 very good marker.

5 Q. Continue.

6 A. Here you see the nature of the faulting.
7 You can see, again I've shown the two wells that
8 tested gas with red dots with gas well symbols. The
9 northern one is Well #15. That's the well we would
10 like to produce initially. The southern well with the
11 gas well symbol is #5. We have no plans to try to
12 produce that well, although it did test good gas
13 rates, as I'll show you later.

14 The two red dots without gas well symbols
15 are Wells 3, to the northwest, and 13 to the south.
16 These are the two wells that produced oil back in the
17 late 50's and early 60's and have been abandoned since
18 the mid-60's in the Silurian. They both now produce
19 from other zones.

20 You can see that we have in this V-shaped
21 fault block, structural high extending to the
22 southeast part of the fault block, so our high is in
23 the southeast part of that fault block.

24 Q. What about Well #13? It looks like it may
25 not have been in the same fault block.

1 A. Yes. On this map here, it's mapped as
2 being on the down side of that fault. I do believe,
3 however, that production data does indicate that there
4 was a different producing characteristic from 13, but
5 it's questionable whether 13 is completely sealed off
6 from the fault block producing to the north.

7 Q. So it may have some partial communication
8 at least there?

9 A. It appears to.

10 Q. Anything else with respect to the structure
11 map?

12 A. I would point out there's also some test
13 information in the form of drill stem tests, but if
14 you'll notice Well #24, down dip of--actually, it's
15 bed on strike with Well #3, has never been tested on a
16 production test or a flow test in the Upper Silurian,
17 but we did have a drill stem test. This was run in
18 1968. The tool on that test was open two hours and we
19 recovered 10 feet of free oil, 560 feet of drilling
20 fluid, with an initial shut-in pressure after an hour
21 and a half of just under 3100 pounds, and a final
22 shut-in pressure of 3,011 pounds. That was not a good
23 enough test for us to authorize, at that time, any
24 kind of production test in the Upper Silurian.

25 Q. When did you say that was?

1 A. That was in May of 1968.

2 Q. That's after, if I recall from my opening
3 statement, when the oil production had ceased from the
4 other two wells?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think we'll examine that more in a
7 minute, won't we?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. All right. You were talking about this
10 porosity zone that was a good correlative marker. Do
11 you depict that on Exhibit No. 5?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. What is Exhibit No. 5 besides a great big
14 long cross-section?

15 A. Exhibit 5 is a log cross-section which I
16 constructed. I've hung these wells on a subsea data
17 of minus 3500 feet. The section goes from Well #3 on
18 the left-hand side, which is a well that produced oil,
19 then to 15, which is a well that had tested gas in the
20 same correlative interval, then to 32, which has never
21 been tested or had any kind of formation test in the
22 Upper Silurian, and the fourth position well is #5,
23 which has also tested gas, and then the fifth position
24 well is Well #11 which has never been tested in the
25 Upper Silurian, and the far right-hand position is

1 Well #13, which was the other oil-productive well back
2 in the 50's and 60's.

3 Q. Essentially these are all of the wells that
4 are in that V-shaped fault block, with the lowest most
5 of the wells in that block being Well #3, which
6 produced oil back in the early 60's?

7 A. Yes, sir. Actually, Well #13, as I showed
8 you earlier, it's questionable whether it's in that
9 fault block or partially in it. I've marked the top
10 of the Upper Silurian here with a solid line. The
11 Upper Silurian, if you get off of the Fowler
12 anticline, would approach a gross overall thickness of
13 800 feet. However here, because of the erosion on the
14 crest of the Fowler anticline, we have a thinning of
15 that Upper Silurian; so that if you move from Well #3,
16 the overall gross thickness of the Silurian is about
17 520 feet and it's 540 to Well #15.

18 As you get up on top of the structure in
19 Well 32, it starts thinning. It's down to about 436
20 feet there. Well #5, it's only 400 feet thick, so
21 we've lost about half of our gross thickness remote
22 from this area. And #11 is, again, about 400 feet
23 overall gross thickness, and then that, off-structure,
24 we again start to thicken back up in Well #13. The
25 overall thickness is 470 feet.

1 If you look at the base of the Upper
2 Silurian, which is also the top of the Fusselman, and
3 you move up about 250 to 300 feet you'll see a very
4 characteristic marker on the SP curve. You'll see a
5 very clean section. It's about, overall, oh, maybe
6 40-feet thick or so. You can see that as moving to
7 the left on the SP curve. That's very repeatable
8 throughout this entire cross-section.

9 Q. I've noticed there are indications that a
10 number of these wells that were tested were all tested
11 in that same zone?

12 A. Yes. That same porosity zone has been
13 tested in the four wells which have been tested in the
14 Upper Silurian.

15 Q. The two that produced oil and the two you
16 tested gas on?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. That's where those things came from?

19 A. That's correct. So what we have, again, is
20 a very correlatable porosity zone of about 40-feet
21 thick that downdip it back in 25, 30 years ago
22 produced oil, but in the last two years that same zone
23 has not produced but tested gas. The wells have never
24 been produced but they did test gas.

25 Q. Are those two wells that tested gas, I

1 guess all of this is cumulative from your stick
2 section and your structure map and this map, since the
3 structure map was on the porosity zone, those wells
4 were the highest wells in that porosity zone and I
5 guess that's reflected on this cross-section and your
6 stick section as well, the gas-test well?

7 A. Yes. For instance, I'll give you an
8 example. Well #3, that upper porosity zone, the top
9 of it was at about minus 3920 feet or so. Well #15,
10 the top of that same porosity zone is at about minus
11 3760. There's a difference of about 150 feet
12 structurally there.

13 Q. Anything else on this exhibit?

14 A. No.

15 Q. I'll fold it up while you get out your
16 Exhibit No. 7. Tell us what Exhibit No. 7 is.

17 A. I think we're on 6.

18 Q. Excuse me. Get out your Exhibit No. 6,
19 then, and tell us what that is.

20 A. Exhibit 6 is an abbreviated well history
21 for South Mattix Well Unit #3. Initially it was
22 completed in 1950 as an Ellenburger well. It had a
23 very high initial rate but it only cum'd 18,000
24 barrels of oil. The reason for that is, most of its
25 life as an Ellenburger completion it was shut-in as an

1 observation well. This is a federal exploratory unit.
2 I'm not sure I mentioned that. We were trying to
3 prove correct spacing for each of these different
4 zones, so this was drilled mostly as an observation
5 well to gather data to prove 80-acre drainage in the
6 Ellenburger.

7 In January of 57 we moved up-hole into the
8 Connell. This is a multiple pay area, so we were
9 trying to test every zone on the way up. The Connell
10 was uneconomical. It only cum'd about 1,600 barrels
11 of oil. We then, in August of 1957, we recompleted at
12 the Fusselman. The first attempt was wet, the second
13 attempt we potentialized 83 barrels of oil and only
14 produced it for right at a year.

15 And then, in February of 1959, we came
16 up-hole to the Upper Silurian, and initially
17 perforated in three separate intervals. The first
18 interval there is the main porosity zone which I
19 showed you on the cross-section. We acidized the well
20 with 10,000 gallons of acid, and a potential flowing
21 90 barrels of oil with no water and 312 Mcf of gas per
22 day, which was an initial potential gas/oil ratio of
23 3467. So it was fairly gassey from the very initial
24 potential. This is Well #3.

25 We also later in its life, it's not really

1 shown on here, but we did some selective testing and
2 verified that the two lower sets of perforations were
3 not contributing significant amounts of hydrocarbons
4 to this well stream. We did verify that only that
5 upper zone was producing oil and gas.

6 We did a workover in April of 1960 as part
7 of that testing, and didn't have much of an effect.
8 We were trying to lower the GOR there. It was not
9 successful. The GOR at that time was up to about 9800
10 cubic feet per barrel. Then, in August of 1963, we
11 came on up-hole to the Tubb and Upper Yeso after
12 having accumulated the 21,300 barrels of oil in the
13 Upper Silurian.

14 Q. Do you have a similar history--

15 A. One more point. I failed to put this on
16 Exhibit 3, but in addition to the 21,300 barrels of
17 oil that #3 accumulated, it also produced about
18 225,000,000 cubic feet of gas.

19 Q. Do you have a similar exhibit for No. 7, if
20 you're finished with 6, that is?

21 A. Yes, I do. 7 is a similar history on Well
22 #13, which was the other oil-productive well in the
23 Upper Silurian. It was initially completed in the
24 Fusselman in January of 1955. It accumulated in the
25 Fusselman 165,000 barrels of oil.

1 Upon reaching its economic limit, it was
2 then recompleted to the Upper Silurian in August of
3 1959. Again, in that same porosity member that I
4 showed you earlier. This is a 14-foot zone it's
5 perforated in, a potential-- Again, it was also
6 flowing 96 barrels of oil, no water, and only 61 Mcf
7 per day, which was an initial potential gas/oil ratio
8 of only 635 as compared to, as I showed you earlier,
9 about 33- to 3400 on Well #3.

10 Q. Would it be fair to say with respect to the
11 next two things on the exhibit, a couple of workovers
12 were attempted, they had some success in increasing
13 oil production, but the GOR after all of those was
14 always relatively low?

15 A. Yes. It appeared to be below 2000, and I
16 can show you that on the next exhibit. We did finally
17 abandon the Upper Silurian in January of 1965 and
18 recompleted up to a shallower zone. That well,
19 accumulated in its life 27,166 barrels of oil, and
20 64.9 million cubic feet of gas.

21 Q. All right. You said you had a production
22 curve on these two wells. Would that be Exhibit 8?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Let's look at that. Let's hit the high
25 spots on it.

1 A. I show four things on this exhibit. I show
2 an oil decline curve, which is the solid black line
3 for the South Mattix #3. You can see it came on in
4 early 59. The dashed, black line is the decline curve
5 for the South Mattix #13, through their entire lives
6 as oil producers. The blue circles, as well as the
7 blue line that I've highlighted, is the gas/oil ratio
8 for Well #13; and then the red are selected gas/oil
9 ratio tests for Well #3.

10 You can see that Well #3 started out above
11 3000 gas/oil ratio, and within a year of its initial
12 completion it was up near 10,000 cubic feet per barrel
13 and stayed there throughout its life. In fact, it
14 even exceeded it. #13, for the most part throughout
15 its life, remained at 2000 to, say, 2500 or less cubic
16 feet per barrel, until the very last few months of
17 production when the well just appeared to be gassing
18 out, which it did, in the very last few months
19 approach and even exceed 10,000 cubic feet per barrel,
20 but this was at the very tail end of production.

21 Q. Would that pretty well summarize all of the
22 activity in the oil completions back in the early
23 days?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Let's move on to where we are today and

1 turn to Exhibit No. 9. What is Exhibit 9?

2 A. Exhibit 9 is a NMOCD Form C-122, which is a
3 four-point backpressure test for a gas well. This is
4 for South Mattix Unit #5. This happened to be the
5 first well that we tested. This was done in 1987.

6 This well on a four-point backpressure test
7 we calculated an absolute open flow of 1.432 million
8 cubic feet of gas per day, with a final rate of flow
9 of 1.149 million cubic feet per day, with a flowing
10 tubing pressure of 1087 p.s.i.g.

11 Q. All right. Was there any liquid produced
12 with this?

13 A. No liquid was reported on this test.

14 Q. How about the other well that was tested?

15 A. Okay, that #15, again this was a little bit
16 later, in 1987. Again this was completing that same
17 porosity member.

18 Q. Are we talking now about Exhibit 10, which
19 is also a Form C-122?

20 A. Yes, for South Mattix Unit #15. We
21 calculate an absolute flow on that well of 3.247
22 million cubic feet of gas per day. The final flow
23 rate was 1.88 million a day, or 1122 p.s.i.g. tubing
24 pressure.

25 Q. What about the fluid on this test?

1 A. There was no fluid reported on this one,
2 either.

3 Q. Is it your opinion that this pool is now,
4 for all purposes, a gas pool?

5 A. Yes, sir, I believe it is.

6 Q. And the classification the Division has for
7 that is proper?

8 A. Yes, I believe it is.

9 Q. All right. Have you made any just rough
10 kinds of estimates of what recovery or reserves might
11 be from this gas area?

12 A. Yes, sir, I have.

13 Q. Would they be shown on Exhibit 11?

14 A. Yes. Exhibit 11 is a calculation I made to
15 estimate reserve recovery on a volumetric basis from
16 Well #15, assuming we were allowed to produce it in
17 this gas zone. The top part of the exhibit is a pay
18 analysis where I've broken down into four intervals
19 the overall productive interval that has been
20 perforated. I show the footage, and the total there
21 is 36 feet of net pay. The average porosity for each
22 one of those four subzones, the average water
23 saturation, and then I've Phi-H weighted the water
24 saturation to come up with an average water saturation
25 of 39 percent.

1 Moving on down, I show an initial
2 bottom-hole pressure of 2350 p.s.i. This was a
3 71-hour pressure build-up test run on #15 in 1987.
4 Bottom-hole temperature of 129 degrees, gas gravity of
5 .72, and an initial compressibility factor of .77. I
6 just assumed an abandonment pressure of 500 p.s.i.,
7 and then taking this data and using the equation for a
8 nonideal gas, I've calculated volumetrically what I
9 believe this well can produce to a 500-pound
10 abandonment pressure.

11 I think I've talked about all the factors
12 in the equation with the exception of drainage, area,
13 and I've used a planimetered area of 56.6 acres, which
14 is strictly an area which I planimetered off of the
15 structure map, between subsea depths of minus 3800 and
16 minus 3700 feet, and confined by the two branch faults
17 that I showed on the structure map.

18 Q. That was an arbitrary determination of--

19 A. It's fairly arbitrary. I know I had wells
20 downdipped that gassed out. This is just for the sake
21 of making a calculation. I did planimeter that area
22 and came up with 56 acres. Substituting all those
23 factors in, I believe the well will produce about
24 687,000,000 cubic feet of gas as a salvage
25 recompletion.

1 Q. Okay. Anything else on Exhibit 11?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Let me ask you what your recommendations
4 are for special rules for the Fowler-Upper Silurian
5 gas pool.

6 A. I'm recommending 80-acre drilling tracts in
7 lieu of state-wide 320s for this depth. I'm also
8 recommending that standard location--well, let me back
9 up. The 80-acre drilling tract would consist of
10 either the east half, north half, west half or south
11 half of a governmental quarter section, and then a
12 standard location for a well on those drilling tracts
13 would be within 200 feet of the center of a quarter
14 quarter section.

15 Q. All right. In the event that for some
16 reason this were redesignated the Fowler-Upper
17 Silurian oil pool, would you also have recommendations
18 for special pool rules?

19 A. I would recommend the same proration unit
20 size, 80 acres, with the same description--it would be
21 half of a quarter section--and I would recommend depth
22 bracket allowable, which for this depth would be 267
23 barrels a per day, with a 10,000 to 1 gas/oil ratio.

24 Q. Same kind of well location requirements?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. All right, sir.

2 A. Not that I think any well is going to
3 produce 267 barrels, but with that depth bracket and
4 that GOR, there would be enough allowable to produce
5 what I feel will be attainable rates from a gas well.

6 Q. Is it your opinion that approval of your
7 recommendation here would prevent waste and protect
8 correlative rights?

9 A. Yes, I believe it will.

10 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 11 prepared by you,
13 under your direction or supervision, or taken from
14 Amoco's business records?

15 A. Yes, they were.

16 MR. CURRENS: I would offer Exhibits 1
17 through 11 and tender the witness for any questions
18 you might have, Mr. Examiner.

19 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 11
20 will be admitted as evidence.

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

23 Q. Mr. Collier in your opinion, is the
24 potential for production limited to that area inside
25 the unit in this formation?

1 A. Inside the South Mattix unit?

2 Q. Right.

3 A. Mr. Catanach, I don't know. As you have
4 seen, there has been very limited testing. We do
5 have, as I pointed out, a drill stem test downdip to
6 the interior of the unit, which was not really that
7 encouraging. Outside the unit, to the east, there
8 could possibly be a location at a structural high. I
9 don't know. I really haven't studied anything over
10 there.

11 Q. If I understand correctly, the pool was
12 reclassified to gas in what year, do you know?

13 A. 1988. I believe it was June 1st.

14 Q. And it's currently on 320-acre spacing, is
15 that correct?

16 MR. CURRENS: It would be under state-wide
17 rules having been designated a gas pool after the
18 magic date of 320 for this depth.

19 Q. You assumed a drainage area of 56.6 acres
20 on the #15 well?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Why was that done? Why did you do that?

23 A. I assumed we were bounded by the two
24 faults. If you look at Exhibit 4, I just assumed that
25 we were bounded by the two faults on the north and

1 south, and I just planimetered between minus 3800 feet
2 and minus 3700 feet, and that area between the two
3 faults come up to be 56.6 acres. It could be more, it
4 could be less.

5 It's a situation where we had two downdip
6 wells, that in one case was a very gassey oil
7 completion, and the other it was a low to moderate
8 gassey oil completion. As I showed you, both of those
9 wells essentially gassed out after having produced
10 somewhere around 20- to 30,000 barrels each.

11 And then we tested dry gas in two wells at
12 the top of the structure. Basically, for convenience
13 sake, I planimetered down to a depth of minus 3800 and
14 assumed that we could drain gas reserves up to minus
15 3700. That's the area I chose. It could be 60 acres,
16 it could be 70, it could be 50; but 56 is the number I
17 came up with.

18 Q. Could it be more than 80?

19 A. It's highly unlikely. Well #3, as I showed
20 you, was an oil well. It did have a high GOR. Well
21 #24, which was just about on strike with #3, recovered
22 only free oil and drilling fluid on the drill stem
23 test back in 68. I don't believe there's 80 acres of
24 gas reservoir here to drain, that's even available.

25 Q. What are the chances of extending the

1 reservoir into another area? Do you have an opinion
2 on that?

3 A. If this interpretation is correct, there's
4 a potential location outside the unit in that same
5 fault block, it would appear to me. I don't have much
6 hope to extend it to the north or to the south. If
7 you go in that same fault block to the northwest,
8 we're hurting for any test data down there. I might
9 also mention that #3 did produce water during its
10 life. So there's evidence that there might be a water
11 leg down there, too.

12 To answer your question, I would say very
13 slim. Right now 15 appears to be our only shot to
14 salvage anything out of this Upper Silurian. Even
15 though #5 also produced gas, we have already
16 recompleted it to a different zone. We have no
17 intention to produce it. That's the southern gas well
18 that was tested in 87.

19 Q. So the 15 is going to be the only well
20 producing for the time being?

21 A. That's our current plans, that's right.

22 Q. Just one more question, Mr. Collier. Do
23 you have an opinion as to why this initially started
24 out as an oil reservoir and it seems to have gone to
25 gas? Is it just the location of the wells, or do you

1 have another opinion on that?

2 A. Well, it appears to me to be--well, it
3 could be an associated gas cap on top of an oil
4 reservoir that maybe we were very close to that gas
5 cap on our initial completion, produced some oil and
6 then gassed out. That's what it appears to me to be.
7 I don't hold out any hope that there's any oil
8 productivity left. It appears to have gone to a gas
9 reservoir.

10 Q. Okay. Would Well #15 fall in the proposed
11 location requirements? Would that be under those
12 requirements, or would that conform to the
13 requirements?

14 A. Yeah. 15 is right in the geographic center
15 of the quarter quarter section, so that's within 200
16 feet of the center.

17 Q. How did you arrive at 200 feet?

18 A. I think I chose some other field rules, and
19 by example I chose 200 feet. There's nothing magic
20 about it.

21 EXAMINER CATANACH: I believe that's all I
22 have for the witness. He may be excused.

23 MR. CURRENS: That's all I have, Mr.
24 Examiner.

25 EXAMINER CATANACH: There being nothing

1 further in this case, Case 9866 will be taken under
2 advisement.

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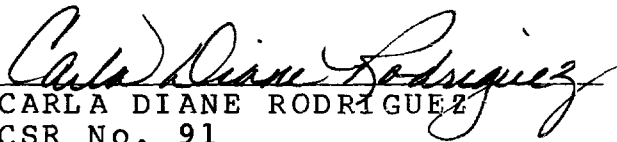
1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
4 COUNTY OF SANTA FE) ss.

5
6 I, Carla Diane Rodriguez, Certified
7 Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY
8 that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before
9 the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that
10 I caused my notes to be transcribed under my personal
11 supervision; and that the foregoing is a true and
12 accurate record of the proceedings.

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

17 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL February 25, 1990.

18 
19 CARLA DIANE RODRIGUEZ
20 CSR No. 91

21 My commission expires: May 25, 1991

22
23 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
24 a complete record of the proceedings in
25 the Examine hearing of Case No. 9866,
heard by me on February 7 19 90.


David R. Catamb, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division