

Dockets Nos. 9-91 and 10-91 are tentatively set for April 4, 1991 and April 18, 1991. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 23 days in advance of hearing date.

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - THURSDAY - MARCH 21, 1991

8:15 A.M. - OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION CONFERENCE ROOM,  
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The following cases will be heard before Michael E. Stogner, or David R. Catanach, or Jim Morrow, Alternate Examiners:

CASE 10263: Application of Giant Exploration & Production Company for compulsory pooling, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool underlying the E/2 of Section 30, Township 25 North, Range 12 West, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool. Said unit is to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location in the NE/4 of said Section 30. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 9 miles southwest by west of the B.I.A. Huerfano Community School.

CASE 10264: Application of Robert L. Bayless for designation of a tight formation, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the designation of the Pictured Cliffs formation underlying portions of Townships 29, 30, 31 and 32 North, Ranges 2, 3, and 4 West, containing 193,090 acres, more or less, as a "Tight Formation" pursuant to Section 107 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 and 18 C.F.R. Section 271.701-705. Said area for the most part comprises the northwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation.

CASE 10265: Application of Northwest Pipeline Corporation for clarification of Division Order No. R-8332 relating to compulsory pooling, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order clarifying Division Order No. R-8332, which order pooled certain interests in the Gavilan Mancos Oil Pool underlying the S/2 of Section 24, Township 25 North, Range 2 West, forming a standard 320-acre proration unit for said pool. Specifically, Northwest seeks an interpretation of decretory paragraph No. (7) to determine whether Northwest must account for the proceeds from the date of first production or from the effective date of Division Order R-7407, which enacted special pool rules for the Gavilan-Mancos Oil Pool establishing 320-acre proration units. Said proration unit is located approximately 5.5 miles north-northeast of Lindrith, New Mexico.

CASE 10241: (Readvertised)

Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of an unorthodox gas well location in both the Undesignated South Dagger Draw-Upper-Pennsylvanian Associated Pool and the Undesignated West Dagger Draw-Morrow Gas Pool to be drilled 560 feet from the South and East lines (Unit P) of Section 9, Township 20 South, Range 24 East, the E/2 of said Section 9 to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 320-acre oil or gas spacing and proration unit. Said unit is located approximately 10 miles west of Seven Rivers, New Mexico.

CASE 10234: (Continued from March 7, 1991, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for compulsory pooling and an unorthodox gas well location, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Ordovician formation underlying the following described acreage in Section 29, Township 9 South, Range 26 East, and in the following manner: the N/2 to form a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent, which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the Undesignated Four Ranch-PrePermian Gas Pool and Undesignated East Bitter Lakes-Wolfcamp Gas Pool; the NE/4 to form a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical extent, which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the South Pecos Slope-Abo Gas Pool; and the SW/4 NE/4 to form a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations developed on 40-acre oil spacing within said vertical extent. Said units are to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled 1980 feet from the North line and 2310 feet from the East line (Unit G) of said Section 29, which is a standard oil and gas well location for zones spaced on 320 acres and 40 acres but is an unorthodox gas well location for zones spaced on 160 acres. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 7 miles north of Mile Marker No. 167 on U.S. Highway 380.

CASE 10266: Application of Fina Oil and Chemical Company for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests below a depth of 10,907 feet underlying the E/2 of Section 28, Township 16 South, Range 34 East, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formation and/or pools within said vertical extent developed on 320-acre spacing, which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the South Kamnitz Atoka-Morrow Gas Pool. Said unit is to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard gas well location thereon. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 7 miles northwest by north of Buckeye, New Mexico.

CASE 10267: Application of Pacific Enterprises Oil Company (USA) for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Devonian formation underlying the following described acreage in Section 4, Township 23 South, Range 34 East, and in the following manner: All of said Section 4 forming a 639.52-acre gas spacing and proration unit in the Undesignated North Bell Lake-Devonian Gas Pool which is spaced on 640 acres; Lots 3 and 4, S/2 NW/4 and SW/4 (W/2 equivalent) to form a 320.16-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent which includes, but is not necessarily limited to the Undesignated North Antelope Ridge-Wolfcamp Gas Pool, Undesignated Antelope Ridge-Atoka Gas Pool, Undesignated North Bell Lake-Morrow Gas Pool and the Undesignated Antelope Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool; the SW/4 to form a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical extent; and, the NE/4 SW/4 to form a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 40-acre spacing within said vertical extent which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the Undesignated Northwest Antelope Ridge-Bone Spring Pool. Said units are to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled at a standard location in the NE/4 SW/4 (Unit K) of said Section 4. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said area is located approximately 20 miles west-southwest of Eunice, New Mexico.

CASE 10248: (Readvertised)

Application of Pitts Energy Co. for an unorthodox oil well location, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of an unorthodox oil well location to be drilled 1500 feet from the South line and 1650 feet from the East line (Unit J) of Section 5, Township 12 South, Range 38 East, the NW/4 SE/4 of said Section 5 to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 40-acre spacing from the surface to the base of the Devonian formation, which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the Gladiola-Wolfcamp Pool, Undesignated Gladiola-Mississippian Pool, and Gladiola-Devonian Pool. Said unit is located approximately 5 miles northeast of Gladiola, New Mexico.

CASE 10268: Application of BTA Oil Producers for salt water disposal, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, in compliance with the provisions of Division Order No. R-9147-8, seeks authority to dispose of produced salt water into the East Loving-Delaware Pool, in the perforated interval from approximately 3,500 feet to 3,875 feet in its existing Pardue "C" 8808 JV-P Well No. 1 located 176 feet from the South line and 1550 feet from the West line (Unit N) of Section 11, Township 23 South, Range 28 East. Said well is located approximately 3 miles northeast of Loving, New Mexico.

CASE 10269: Application of Marathon Oil Company for a waterflood project and 12 unorthodox injection well locations, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to institute a waterflood project on its McDonald State A/C 2 Lease underlying the E/2, SE/4 NW/4, and SW/4 of Section 16, Township 22 South, Range 36 East, by the injection of water into the South Eunice Seven Rivers-Queen Pool, through the perforated interval from 3500 feet to 3800 feet in 12 injection wells, each to be drilled at unorthodox locations (five of which could be considered as Lease line injection wells). Further, the applicant seeks authorization to inject water under pressure in said project in excess of the NMOCD guideline of 0.2 psi per foot of depth. Said project area is located approximately seven miles south of Oil Center, New Mexico.

CASE 10270: Application of Oryx Energy Company for compulsory pooling, non-standard gas proration unit, and an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the top of the Wolfcamp formation to the base of the Morrow formation underlying Lots 3 and 4, the E/2 SW/4 and SE/4 (S/2 equivalent) of Section 19, Township 18 South, Range 28 East, to form a non-standard 326.81-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent, which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the Undesignated Red Lake Atoka-Morrow Gas Pool and Undesignated North Turkey Track-Morrow Gas Pool. Said unit is to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at an unorthodox gas well location 990 feet from the South and East lines (Unit P) of said Section 19. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 1.5 miles north of the Old Illinois Oil Camp.

CASE 10271: Application of Stevens Operating Corporation for directional drilling and an unorthodox bottomhole oil well location, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to reenter the plugged and abandoned Intex Oil Company Gulf State Well No. 1 located 660 feet from the North and East lines (Unit A) of Section 11, Township 13 South, Range 28 East, and directionally drill from the existing wellbore in such a manner as to bottom the deviated well in the Devonian formation at an unorthodox bottomhole oil well location within a target area described as a rectangle 130 to 530 feet from the North line and from 1400 to 1800 feet from the East line of said Section 11, the NW/4 NE/4 of said Section 11 to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit. Said unit is located approximately 15.5 miles east of Dexter, New Mexico.

CASE 10272: Application of Amoco Production Company for directional drilling and an unorthodox bottomhole gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to recomplete its existing Smith Federal Gas Com Well No. 1 located 1613 feet from the North line and 2336 feet from the West line (Unit F) of Section 12, Township 22 South, Range 23 East, by directionally drilling from the existing wellbore in such a manner as to bottom the deviated well in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool at an unorthodox gas well location within a target area described as a rectangle 1800 to 2000 feet from the North line and 330 feet to 430 feet from the West line in Unit E of said Section 12, all of Section 12 to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 640-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool. Said unit is located approximately 20 miles west of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

CASE 10286: Application of American Hunter Exploration, Ltd. for a high angle/horizontal directional drilling pilot project, special operating rules therefor, and two non-standard oil proration units, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to initiate a high angle/horizontal directional drilling pilot project in Sections 4 and 6, Township 27 North, Range 1 West, forming two non-standard oil spacing and proration units for said pool comprising 651.76 acres and 620.97 acres, respectively. Within each proration unit the applicant proposes to commence from surface unorthodox oil well locations (Section 4: 330 feet from the North and East lines and Section 6: 450 feet from the North line and 400 feet from the East line), drill vertically to a depth of 7500 feet, plug back to an appropriate depth and kick-off in a westerly direction, build angle to approximately 80 degrees, and continue to drill a high angle hole in the Mancos formation for approximately 2000 feet. Applicant further requests that special operating provisions be established for said project area including the designation of a prescribed area limiting the horizontal extent of each wellbore in each proration unit to the following described target windows: Section 4: 330 to 1830 feet from the North line and 330 to 2830 feet from the East line; and, Section 6: 330 to 1950 feet from the North line and 400 to 2900 feet from the East line. Said area is located approximately 24 miles south of Dulce, New Mexico.

CASE 10273: (Continued from March 21, 1991, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Jack A. Cole for designation of a tight formation, San Juan, Rio Arriba, and Sandoval Counties, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the designation of the Gallup formation underlying portions of Townships 23 and 24 North, Ranges 6, 7, and 8 West, containing 81,920 acres, more or less, as a "Tight Formation" pursuant to Section 107 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 and 18 C.F.R. Section 271.701-705. Said area surrounds the Lybrook and Counselor, New Mexico region.

CASE 10269: (Readvertised)

Application of Marathon Oil Company for a waterflood project and 12 unorthodox injection well locations, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to institute a waterflood project on its McDonald State A/C 2 Lease underlying the W/2 of Section 15 and the E/2, SE/4 NW/4, and SW/4 of Section 16, Township 22 South, Range 36 East, by the injection of water into the South Eunice Seven Rivers-Queen Pool, through the perforated interval from approximately 3500 feet to 3850 feet in 12 injection wells, each to be drilled at unorthodox locations (three of which could be considered as Lease line injection wells). Further, the applicant seeks authorization to inject water under pressure in said project in excess of the NMOCD guideline of 0.2 psi per foot of depth. Said project area is located approximately seven miles south of Oil Center, New Mexico.

CASE 10287: Application of BTA Oil Producers for salt water disposal, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to dispose of produced salt water into the Shinnery-Queen Pool, in the open hole and perforated interval from approximately 3,972 feet to 4,285 feet in its existing Cinco de Mayo Federal Well No. 3 located 990 feet from the North and West lines (Unit D) of Section 24, Township 18 South, Range 32 East. Said well is located approximately 8.5 miles south by east of Maljamar, New Mexico.

CASE 6580: (Reopened)

Application of Conoco Inc. for amendment of Division Order No. R-6157 and Division Administrative Order PMX-153, Maljamar Carbon Dioxide Injection Project, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks to reopen Division Case No. 6580 concerning its previously approved Carbon Dioxide Injection Pilot Project and to amend Order No. R-6157 and Administrative Order PMX-153 to authorize, retroactively, the injection of recycled produced hydrocarbon gases, CO<sub>2</sub>, and water into the Maljamar Grayburg-San Andres Pool in order to continue the effective and efficient operation of the MCA Pressure Maintenance Project and the economic recovery of oil production from the reservoir.

CASE 10288: Application of Phillips Petroleum Company for a pressure maintenance project and a special oil producing allowable therein, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to institute a pressure maintenance project on its James "A" State Lease underlying Lots 1 through 4, S/2 N/2, N/2 SW/4, SE/4 SW/4, and SE/4 of Section 2, Township 22 South, Range 30 East, by the injection of water into the Cabin Lake-Delaware Pool, through a perforated interval from approximately 5600 feet to 7400 feet in a well to be drilled 1250 feet from the South line and 1150 feet from the East line (Unit P) of said Section 2. Applicant further seeks a special oil producing allowable whereby any well in the project area could produce its ability and would not be subject to the depth bracket allowable for said pool. Said project area is located approximately 2.2 miles east of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

CASE 10267: (Continued from March 21, 1991, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Pacific Enterprises Oil Company (USA) for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Devonian formation underlying the following described acreage in Section 4, Township 23 South, Range 34 East, and in the following manner: All of said Section 4 forming a 639.52-acre gas spacing and proration unit in the Undesignated North Bell Lake-Devonian Gas Pool which is spaced on 640 acres; Lots 3 and 4, S/2 NW/4 and SW/4 (W/2 equivalent) to form a 320.16-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent which includes, but is not necessarily limited to the Undesignated North Antelope Ridge-Wolfcamp Gas Pool, Undesignated Antelope Ridge-Atoka Gas Pool, Undesignated North Bell Lake-Morrow Gas Pool and the Undesignated Antelope Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool; the SW/4 to form a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical extent; and, the NE/4 SW/4 to form a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 40-acre spacing within said vertical extent which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the Undesignated Northwest Antelope Ridge-Bone Spring Pool. Said units are to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled at a standard location in the NE/4 SW/4 (Unit K) of said Section 4. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said area is located approximately 20 miles west-southwest of Eunice, New Mexico.

CASE 10289: Application of BHP Petroleum (Americas) Inc. for amendment of Division Order No. R-9351, Lea County, New Mexico. Division Order No. R-9351 authorized an unorthodox oil well location to test the Strawn formation 1250 feet from the South line and 1725 feet from the East line (Unit O) of Section 20, Township 17 South, Range 37 East, whereby the SW/4 SE/4 of said Section 20 would be dedicated to said well to form a standard 40-acre oil proration unit. At this time the applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks to deepen its Kimbrough State Well No. 1 to the base of the Devonian formation and to amend said Order No. R-9351 to include all formations from the base of the Strawn formation to the base of the Devonian formation in the provisions set forth in said Order. Said well is located approximately 3.5 miles west-northwest of Humble City, New Mexico.

CASE 10290: Application of Avon Energy Corporation for amendment of Division Order Nos. R-3185, R-3185-A and R-3528 to expand the vertical limits and to establish an injection pressure limitation for the Turner "B" Lease Waterflood Project, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an amendment to Division Order No. R-3185, R-3185-A, and R-3528 to expand the vertical limits and to establish an injection pressure limitation for the Turner "B" Lease Waterflood Project to 450 psi above the formation parting pressure as determined from step-rate tests for four (4) certain injection wells in the entire Grayburg-San Andres formation of the Grayburg-Jackson Pool within the project area being all or parts of Sections 17, 20, 29, and 30 of Township 17 South, Range 31 East. Said project area is located approximately 4.5 miles east of Loco Hills, New Mexico.

CASE 10291: In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Division on its own motion for an order creating and assigning discovery allowables to certain pools in Lea County, New Mexico.

- (a) Create a new pool in Lea County, New Mexico, classified as an oil pool for Wolfcamp production and designated the South Shoe Bar-Wolfcamp Pool. Said pool would comprise:

TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 35 EAST, NMPM  
Section 1: NE/4

In addition, the discovery well for said South Shoe Bar-Wolfcamp Pool, the Mobil Exploration and Producing US Inc. Lovington Deep State Well No. 3 located in Unit G of Section 1, Township 17 South, Range 35 East, NMPM, is entitled to and should receive a bonus discovery allowable in the amount of 51,240 barrels of oil to be assigned over a two year period.

- (b) Assign a bonus discovery allowable of 37,930 barrels of oil to the Mitchell Energy Corporation Geronimo Federal Well No. 1 located in Unit D of Section 31, Township 19 South, Range 33 East, NMPM, the discovery well for the Geronimo-Delaware Pool. This discovery allowable is to be assigned over a two-year period.