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NEW MEXI	CO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
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	SANTA FE , NEW MEXICO	
	· :	
Hearing Date	FEBRUARY 10, 1993	Time: 9:00 A.M.
NAME	REPRESENTING	LOCATION
Rick Foppiono Tom Kellahin		·
,	DXY USA	:
Scott Gergler	Byran Co.	57
Marice Trummer William France	CAS CO /NM I PH NN	Santa Fr
William T. / was	EAS COLNM	SantaFe
Fluin Boom	IPH NU	·
PAUL MOLLO	GAS COlum	
JOHN WILLIAMS	- CO/WM	ALB
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1	NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2	STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
3	STATE OF NEW MEXICO
4	CASE NO. 10907
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6	IN THE MATTER OF:
7	
8	The Hearing Called by the Oil Conservation Division to Amend
9	Rules 1111, 1112, and 1115 of its General Rules and Regulations.
10	103 demeral wates and wegatacions.
11	
12	BEFORE:
13	CHAIRMAN WILLIAM LEMAY
14	COMMISSIONER BILL WEISS
15	COMMISSIONER GARY CARLSON
16	State Land Office Building
17	Morgan Hall
18	February 10, 1994
19	
20	
2 1	REPORTED BY:
2 2	CARLA DIANE RODRIGUEZ Certified Shorthand Reporter MAR 3 1994
23	for the State of New Mexico
2 4	
25	

ORIGINAL

APPEARANCES FOR THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION: ROBERT G. STOVALL, ESQ. General Counsel State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 FOR INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION and YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION: CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE & SHERIDAN, P.A. Post Office Box 2208 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208 BY: WILLIAM F. CARR, ESQ.

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CHAIRMAN LEMAY: We'll call Case No. 1 10907, which is the matter of the hearing called 3 by the Oil Conservation Division to amend Rules 1111, 1112, and 1115 of its general rules and regulations. 5 Appearances in Case 10907? 6 MR. STOVALL: Mr. Chairman, Robert G. 7 8 Stovall of Santa Fe, appearing on behalf of the Division, which is the Applicant in the case. I 9 have one witness. 10 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Mr. Carr? 11 12 MR. CARR: May it please the Commission, my name is William F. Carr, with the 13 Santa Fe law firm, Campbell, Carr, Berge and 14 Sheridan. I would like to enter an appearance in 15 this case on behalf of the Independent Petroleum 16 Association of New Mexico, and on behalf of Yates 17 Petroleum Corporation. I have one witness. 18 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you. Additional 19 20 appearances in the case? 21 Will those witnesses who are about to give testimony, please stand and raise your right 22 hands. 23 [And the witnesses were duly sworn.] 24

MR. STOVALL: While I'm passing out

documents, I'll call Mr. Martin to the stand. 1 ED MARTIN 3 Having been first duly sworn upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows: EXAMINATION 5 BY MR. STOVALL: 6 Would you please state your name and 7 Q. 8 place of residence? Ed Martin, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 9 Α. Mr. Martin, how are you employed? 10 Q. I'm an employee of the State of New 11 Α. Mexico, Oil Conservation Division, and I'm the 12 13 ONGARD implementation manager for that division. What exactly does that mean? Q. 14 ONGARD is a system or set-up, relation 15 Α. 16 of database set-ups, for the administrative duties of the OCD and activities of the Taxation 17 & Revenue Department and Land Office for 18 collecting royalties on extraction of minerals. 19 20 Q. Are you familiar with the application in this case and what the Division is seeking? 21 Yes. 22 Α. 23 Q. Would you explain that briefly? The application, essentially, is to 24 Α.

change the filing dates for C-111s and 112s,

- which is the transporter reports, and the C-115s
 which is the production reports, for industry, to
 the last day of the succeeding month, after the
 month of the activity.
 - Q. In other words, you would ask for the report for January production to be filed the last day of February, is that correct?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. What is the relationship between that and ONGARD? How do these reports fit into the ONGARD system, for the record?
- A. All three of those reports will be a part of the ONGARD databases and, if you mean, if the question is intended to--
- Q. I think you've answered it. It's really that these reports are part of the database that you've described earlier?
- A. Right. Production volumes and transportation activities in the state are all part of the ONGARD database system.
- Q. With respect to C-111 and C-112 reports, would you just briefly say what each of those reports are?
- A. C-111s are filed by natural gas transporters and storers in the state. C-112s

- are oil transporters. C-115s are filed by all well operators in the state, to show production of those wells.
 - Q. Historically, in the past, up to the point of the initiation of ONGARD, have C-111s and 112s been stored in any sort of electronic database for any manipulation or use?
 - A. No, they have not.
 - Q. So, ONGARD is the first time they will be collected for an electronic system, is that correct?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. How about the C-115s?
- A. C-115s have been captured electronically in the OCD system, and are still being currently done so.
 - Q. What is the current filing date required as a filing date for these various reports, do you know?
 - A. 111s and 112s are required by the 15th of the following month. 115s are required by the 24th of the following month.
 - Q. Why is the Division requesting this change? It grants more time, is that correct?
- A. It's been a general--in the ONGARD

project, I've had a lot of conversations with industry, and they're unanimously for this, and it benefits the Division as well in that it will promote more accurate data in the new system.

- Q. By giving them more time to file, they'll be able to accumulate more accurate data and have a more reliable reporting system? Is that what you're saying?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. What are the means by which operators or transporters currently file these reports?

 How do they come to the Division?
- A. A variety of ways: Hard copy, which are entered via key entry. Some operators submit tapes or diskettes containing the information.
- Q. What will the filing process be under the new system? What options will be available?
- A. Those options will all still be available, at least initially, and for some indeterminate amount of time. In addition to that, operators will be allowed to or afforded the accommodation of transmitting electronically via electronic data interchange through an outfit called New Mexico Tech-Net in Albuquerque.
 - Q. In plain English, what does that mean?

- A. That means that, basically, an electronic file is produced in a stipulated format and transmitted via modem attached to your computer, electronically. No paper or nothing concrete changes hands.
- Q. It's not instantaneous, but it's a very rapid transmission of the data, is that correct?
 - A. Right.

- Q. What is the benefit of that to the Division?
- A. No key entry, for one thing, so it's less labor-intensive; and it's a lot more prompt. There's much more accuracy in the data transmission than in just a mere postmark of a hard copy.
- So, you have proof that these operators submitted this report at this specific time.
- Q. All right. If I understand you correctly, essentially, when the file comes in electronically, it hits the computer and it's in the system; as opposed to a paper report, which has to come in and be manually entered by somebody working within the Division, correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. I assume the Division is encouraging

that, then?

- A. Yes.
- Q. If this application is approved and if the filing dates are extended to the last day of the month, is that going to impair any of the Division's functions or operations, to your knowledge?
- A. No, not to my knowledge. It should help them in their continued support, dealing with industry out there, and they'll have more accurate information out there in the districts, as well.
- Q. Mr. Martin, I would ask you now, at the moment, to turn to what has been marked, on the bottom, OCD Exhibit No. 1 in this case. Would you identify that and just explain what that is?
- A. This is the intended format of the order for the change in the rules.
- Q. Is it your understanding that this is a discussion draft, upon which people are invited to make comment--
 - A. Yes.
- Q. --and upon which input is sought?
- A. In fact, we've invited the industry to attend, not only this hearing, but the one in

1 March, to discuss this very thing.

MR. STOVALL: I would take this

opportunity to point out, Mr. Chairman, we have

advertised this case for both this docket and the

March docket, in order to get the input.

- Q. I know we have at least one party here that's concerning about disposed water reporting. Currently, that's done on what form, do you know?
- A. 120.

- Q. What is the intent with respect to that? Is that going to be an ONGARD report?
- A. The intent, at this point, is to do away with the 120 eventually, and show disposed water on the C-115 instead.
- Q. Am I correct that that's still in a development stage, and there's not a firm answer on the exact manner on how that's going to be done?
- 20 A. That's correct.
 - Q. What is the status of the ONGARD project at this point, as far as operators being able to report into the system?
 - A. In most cases, industry is waiting on us to provide them with ID numbers necessary for

their reporting. And, in light of that, we've issued--the Director has issued an automatic blanket extension of time to file C-111s, 112s and 115s, to March 31st, for January reporting.

- Q. Let me back up for a minute before we address the memorandum. What you're saying, if I understand or if my knowledge is correct, there's some additional, some numbers, as we are all driven by the Computer Age to assign numbers to things, which have got to be presented to industry, entered into their systems, and they've got to be able to include those reports in the reports to come back to the Division, is that correct?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Based upon that, would it be possible, you think, for operators to file timely on either the 25th, or even the last day of February, for January production?
 - A. In some cases, yes; in most cases, no.
- Q. You've indicated that the Division has granted a blanket extension, and I've handed the Commissioners a copy of the memo from Mr. LeMay, the Director of the Division.
- I just found out this morning this has

not gone out. It's being processed and mailed today, as we speak. Is this the memo you're referring to?

A. Yes.

- Q. So, it grants an extension for the January production month until the end of March, is that correct?
 - A. Right.
- Q. What about for subsequent production months? Does this memo address those?
- A. February has also been extended to March 31st, for February production.
- Q. We've indicated that this case is going to come back before the Commission at the March Commission hearing where we're seeking input. Do you have any recommendation as to whether the Commission should take a more formal action, during the intervening time, to give operators the additional time that is being sought in order to file consistent with what we're asking for today?
- A. I believe the fact that we're requesting January and February be filed by March 31st, it will cause some operators some problems. That has kind of a snowballing effect

through time, and I think to alleviate that we should issue some kind of interim directive, saying that subsequent reports will be due in the meantime, until the order is effective and legal, that subsequent reports would be due the last day of the following month.

Q. In other words, because we're starting with ONGARD, you think it would be appropriate for the Commission to, by order, put into place a schedule requiring the reports be filed on the last day of the month until such time as it adopts a rule change for the reporting date?

A. Yes.

MR. STOVALL: And, for the members of the Commission, I have presented a Draft Interim Order of the Commission which would, until such time as the new rule is adopted, set the reporting date for the last date of the month. And the way we've written it, or, if that last day falls on a weekend or holiday, it would be the first business day following.

Q. Let's go back now to the rules, just for a moment, and I want to point out one specific thing as far as the deadline. If you'll take Rule 1111, on the first page, and if you'll

look at the numbered paragraphs 1 and 2-
MR. STOVALL: And I would note that

paragraph C on that page should be paragraph B.

COMMISSIONER WEISS: Which one?

MR. STOVALL: Did you not get a copy?

It's marked "Exhibit 1" on the bottom, and it

- It's marked "Exhibit 1" on the bottom, and it says, "Rule 1111" at the top.
- Q. Would you take a moment to note the deadline dates and point out the differences there, because that may be significant given the new form of reporting.
- A. Basically, because of the almost instantaneous reaction of the modem and the electronic data interchange, we're able to give those people a little extra time to actually process their data. They have until the last day of the month to actually transmit the report because we can receive it seconds after that.

The second case is the hard copy
filers, and they're being instructed to mail
theirs in time to be received by the Division by
the last day of the month.

Q. One other thing, in the notice and advertisement for this case, there was a statement of a provision of applying some

penalties. In the current rules, there are no penalty provisions in the rules for late filing or erroneous filing, is that correct?

A. Correct.

- Q. What would be the intent of the Division, as far as imposition of penalties?
- A. The intent would be to give some added impetus to our concern that people file in a timely and accurate manner, and complete reports.

This becomes much more relevant now that Taxation & Revenue and the State Land Office are basing their calculations for taxes and royalties on this same information.

- Q. Do you have any knowledge of any problems that exist under the current system that any sort of penalty structure would hope to address?
 - A. I'm sorry. Say that again.
- Q. For example, are there problems where we have consistent misinformation or late filing?

 Is that the type of thing that--
- A. My understanding is that there are chronic late filers in certain cases, yes.
- MR. STOVALL: Now, Mr. Chairman, at

this time I would like to point out that the proposed rules in this case do not specify a penalty scheme, but I think the discussion in the Division has been that the Division is going to need a little bigger hammer. By granting additional time, whatever that time may be, it's going to need some way to say to operators, who fail to comply or do not do it accurately, that we need a hammer.

I think the philosophy that at least I, as the attorney for the Division has espoused, it's not a technical, if you're a day late or have an inaccurate volume we're intending to nail you, but rather to give operators, if you will, an incentive, and transporters an incentive, to file timely and accurately and to correct mistakes.

Q. Would that be your understanding, Mr. Martin?

A. Yes.

MR. STOVALL: The memo which was sent out by the Director, indicates that there probably would not be any penalty provision put into effect until sometime around the first of January, 1995.

I would just simply ask the Commission, at this time, to request input from operators and Division staff to develop a scheme which addresses the concerns, without becoming so punative or stringent that it has no flexibility at all. I think it needs some examination. I don't think it's something that the Division should just propose and then put down. I think we need a lot of input from operators to help us accomplish this.

1.

We've not asked for it at this time because the transition period is going to cause lots of problems. I think there's going to be some data catch-up, and I think we need to take some time--give people a chance to get on the system first, find out, and then start looking at the penalty proposal.

So, at this time, the Division is not proposing any specific penalty scheme but, rather, raising the concept of the need to have something in place to enforce compliance in the case of operators who are more than occasionally inaccurate, or late.

I have no further questions of Mr. Martin. I have only marked as Exhibit 1,

1. actually, the proposed rules. I guess we can mark, if you like, the memorandum as Exhibit 2, and the proposed order, just submitted for your 3 consideration. If the Commission agrees, I would ask 5 they approve that order today, so that we can get 6 it out, make it effective, and let the operators 7 know that, for the time being, they have until 8 the last day of the month for all reports. 9 10 And, then again, continue this hearing until the March 10th time, to give industry time 11 12 to respond to the proposed rules, and at that 13 time we would propose submitting a set of final rules for your adoption. 14 15 I will allow Mr. Carr to question the 16 witness, and I know he has a witness of his own. 17 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Mr. 18 Stovall. Mr. Carr? MR. STOVALL: Could I get admission of 19

MR. STOVALL: Could I get admission of my exhibit? I think I asked for admission, but I don't know if it got admitted.

CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Without objection,

Exhibit 1 and 2 will be admitted into the record.

Mr. Carr?

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EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. CARR:

- Q. Mr. Martin, if I understand what's being proposed today, is basically an extension of time for filing three forms, C-111, C-112 and C-115?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. It would be the last day of the month following the production month, based on your recommendation?
 - A. Right.
- Q. What has the Division done, or the ONGARD group done to determine if that's an appropriate amount of time for operators to compile the data and get it into the Division?
- A. I haven't really done any in-depth studies, but in my conversations with industry, that's the general comment.
- Q. You indicated there are some chronic late filers. Do we know why some companies are unable to get the data in? Have we been able to ascertain that?
- A. Most of the time, the operators say that they don't have the information coming in to them on a timely basis, or the transporters don't

have the information submitted to them on a
timely basis.

- Q. Is that the kind of information that would be appropriate for operators to present at the March hearing?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Is it your understanding that if operators showed that, for certain kinds of information, perhaps more than the last day of the following month was a reasonable time, that that would be something that would be appropriately before the Division for consideration?
- A. On a case-by-case basis, or on a blanket--
 - On a blanket basis.
- A. That would be the time to bring it up.
 - Q. My question is, is there something in ONGARD that, if you really needed to file the 10th day following, or the 40th day following the production month, would that screw up your system?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. In terms of filing information on produced water, if I understand the current

- 1 C-120s, they're really filed 40 days after the 2 end of the production month?
 - A. I believe that's true.
 - Q. Would it be possible, before we're asked to comment on the rules, to know how you want that information filed? Will it be filed combined with the C-115?
 - A. Yes, it would be.
 - Q. So, it's fair for us to make that assumption as we look at this for next month?
- 11 A. Yes.

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- Q. In terms of penalties, is it the recommendation that there be no penalties in the new rule at this time? I didn't understand that.
- MR. STOVALL: Yes, it is, Mr. Carr.

 17 Yes.
 - Q. So, we're not going to be looking for some language that imposes some sort of a penalty on certain circumstances at this point in the process, where these rules are involved?
 - A. That's my understanding.
- MR. CARR: That's all I have. Thank
 you.
- 25 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Mr. Carr.

Questions of the witness? Commissioner Carlson? 1 COMMISSIONER CARLSON: Yeah, a couple. 3 First, Bob, you're asking us today to approve this interim order, not do anything with the Rule 1111, 1112 and 1115 until next month? Is that 5 what you're asking? 6 7 MR. STOVALL: That is correct, yes. It's just to give--industry doesn't know where 8 the thing is. We've told them informally that 9 10 we're going to extend it, and this just says, here's what it's going to be for now until we 1 1 adopt the rules. 12 13 COMMISSIONER CARLSON: And any 14 penalties will be subject to a rule adopted by 15 the Commission sometime toward the end of the 16 year? MR. STOVALL: That would be my intent. 17 I think it's--personally, I believe that we need 18 19 to have the system up and running and have a 20 couple of months' experience with it, in a quasi-normal state, before we decide, really, how 21 22 best to do that. That's only my own opinion. 23 It's got to come later down the road. 24 COMMISSIONER CARLSON: And now my

questions for the witness.

1 EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER CARLSON: 3 How are amendments to C-115s handled now, and how will they be handled under the ONGARD system? 5 Amendments to pre-January 94 Α. 6 information, all amendments will be filed on a current form of the C-115. Amendments to pre-94 8 production values will be entered into the 9 10 system, in a -- there's a production total that's 11 captured for each well, and those totals will be 12 adjusted for pre-94. The post-94 amendments will 13 show the amendments month by month, adjusted volumes month by month. 14 15 Q. How are they handled now? In the old system, they were done month 16 Α. 17 by month. Each monthly volume was updated. And inputted into the computer? 18 Q. 19 Α. Yes; key entry. COMMISSIONER CARLSON: 20 That's all. 21 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Commissioner Weiss? 22 COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes. 23 EXAMINATION

BY COMMISSIONER WEISS:

Q.

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On this issue of formatting the data,

there are a number of formats, as I understand it. For instance, I know something about spread sheets and the formats that come with those, or databases, and production, a lot of times, is kept in this type of format. How is that going to transport?

- A. There was some discussion about designing a PC program, if I'm understanding the question, to create this EDI file and have import capability from the operator's system, whatever that might be. That is not currently being pursued because of the wide variety of systems that are out there, for one thing. That may be done at some point in time, but it's not looking too good.
- Q. The operator, he has to adapt to whatever format you require?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. And then, on this question of the information, where the operators say they have to wait to get certain information, what information are we talking about? Who provides it?
- A. In most cases, it's the operator who provides the information to the transporter--or vice versa. The transporter is providing the

1 information to the operator, as to volumes that 2 they picked up or delivered or produced.

MR. STOVALL: Excuse me. You were talking about the data identification numbers, the identification numbers and that sort of thing, is that correct?

about -- it seems to me an oil operator knows how much oil he produces, or how much gas he produces. I don't see where he has to get information from someone.

- A. It's the transporters that are usually waiting on some information from the operator.
- Q. Okay. That makes sense. And then Tech-Net, what is the location of their network?
- A. They're physically located in Albuquerque, and that's where their company offices are. They currently handle the electronic data interchange for the Taxation & Revenue Department and for personal income taxes with the state.
- Q. Correct me here. I envision that there's a line that goes to Albuquerque. Is it just a telephone line?
 - A. A telephone line.

1	Q. Oh. I thought it was something
2	special.
3	COMMISSIONER WEISS: That's all the
4	questions I have. Thank you.
5	EXAMINATION
6	BY CHAIRMAN LEMAY:
7	Q. Was it your understanding, Mr. Martin,
8	that other states generally require this
9	production information to be reported by the last
10	day of the month following the date of
11	production?
12	A. That's my understanding.
13	Q. So, by adopting these rules, we would
1 4	really be more in sync with other states, in
15	reporting requirements?
16	A. I believe so.
17	CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you. Mr. Weiss?
18	FURTHER EXAMINATION
19	BY MR. WEISS:
20	Q. What is the current requirement for the
21	format of the data that you accept?
22	A. In a hard copy, for a hard copy file,
23	you
24	Q. Electronically.
25	A. Electronically?

1	Q. Yes.
2	A. We have electronic data file formats
3	available that we've handed out at various and
4	sundry meetings to industry. It's a fairly
5	strict format, but it's one that's easily
6	adaptable by most large operators, at least.
7	COMMISSIONER WEISS: All right. Thank
8	you.
9	CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Additional questions?
10	If not, the witness may be excused. Thank you,
11	Mr. Martin. Mr. Stovall?
12	MR. STOVALL: I have no further
13	witnesses.
14	CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Mr. Carr?
15	MR. CARR: If it please the Commission,
16	at this time, I would call Michelle Taylor.
17	MICHELLE TAYLOR
18	Having been first duly sworn upon her oath, was
19	examined and testified as follows:
20	EXAMINATION
2 1	BY MR. CARR:
2 2	Q. Would you state your name for the
23	record, please?
24	A. Michelle Taylor.
25	Q. Where do you reside?

1 Α. Artesia, New Mexico. By whom are you employed? Q. 3 Α. Yates Petroleum Corporation. What is your current position with Q. Yates Petroleum Corporation? 5 Α. I am the assistant production 6 supervisor. What does the assistant production 8 Q. supervisor for Yates actually do? 9 We collect the production data 10 11 information. Are you also involved in the 12 Q. 13 preparation of various forms that are filed with government agencies? 14 15 Yes. I supervise or prepare the C-104s, C-115s, C-120s, sundry notices, and also 16 the Federal Form 3160. I also collect other 17 information for in-house use, and I supervise six 18 employees who keypunch data, and help with 19 20 clerical and secretarial duties. Have you previously testified before 21 Q. this Division or Commission? 22 23 Α. No, sir. 24 Could you review, very briefly, your

educational background and work experience?

- I graduated from the Artesia High 1 Α. Yes. I've had various college-level courses 2 School. in business accounting, banking, et cetera. 3 Also, I have been employed by several companies in Artesia; recently Ray Westhal Operator, and 5 6 currently Yates Petroleum Corporation. Are you familiar with the efforts made 7 Q. 8 by Yates Petroleum Corporation to comply and file data with the Oil Conservation Division on Forms 9 C-111, C-112, and C-115? 10 11
 - A. I will be assuming the responsibilities of the C-111. We do not file a C-112. And currently I do file the C-115.
 - Q. Are you prepared to testify concerning the impact on Yates of Oil Conversation Division recommendations to provide for the filing of Forms C-111 and C-115 on the last business day of the month following the production month?
 - A. Yes, I am.

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

CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Her qualifications are acceptable.

Q. Prior to this hearing, you didn't actually see the wording of any proposed rule

that was being proposed by the Division, is that correct?

- A. That is correct.
- Q. Your testimony, really, is based on what Yates was able to determine from the legal advertisement of this matter?
 - A. Right.

- Q. What is Yates actually seeking or recommending by your presence here today?
- A. Yates is here to recommend that the Division amend its rules to provide for the filing of these forms on the 15th day of the second month following the last day of production for the certain production month.
 - Q. That is, in essence, how many days?
- A. Approximately 45 days. For instance,

 January's production not to be filed until March

 15th.
- Q. You heard Mr. Martin testify, and he indicated that as to the C-115s, that information was filed on the 24th day of the month following the production month?
- A. Yes.
- Q. As you see the recommended extension of time, when will forms actually have to be filed

1 by Yates? How much of a change is that? Going on what the state is requesting, the last day of the month, that's still going to 3 be very difficult for Yates to comply, even extending it that many days, five or six days. 5 6 Q. In a month like February, how much of 7 an extension might it be in the worst case 8 scenario? Maybe three days; three or four days. Α. 10 Is Yates currently experiencing Q. 11 problems complying with the current Division filing requirements? 12 13 A. Yes, we are. Are you one of these chronic late 14 Q. filers? 15 16 Α. We are a chronic late filer. 17 sorry. Would you review for the Commission, 18 briefly, why that is? 19 As Ed had mentioned, we do not get our 20 Α. 21 information from the transporters in time. And I 22 know that, Mr. Weiss, you had a question. 23 depend on transporter information to determine 24 production information.

So, therefore, any sales, oil, gas

1 sales that we have, that's what we get paid on by

2 | the transporter, that's what goes on the C-115.

3 | The transporters don't get us our

4 | information--usually we get it around the 21st or

5 | the 22nd of the month. We have to cross-check it

6 | with our information, to make sure they're paying

7 | us right on the right production volumes. By the

8 time we cross-check that, a lot of cases the

9 transporters are wrong. They're missing sales,

10 | dispositions of gas, et cetera.

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By the time we call them, get that straightened out, compare it with our information, get it into the system, it takes quite a while to get all this data correct.

Therefore, we're unable to get our reports out until around the 27th or 28th of the month, and that's if everything goes perfect; we have no computer down time, no holidays, weekends don't fall at a different time. So, it is very hard anyway, and we do try very hard to get them out. We are just unable to.

Yates Petroleum is one of the two largest oil producer companies, volume-wise, in the State of New Mexico. We have a lot of data that comes in and a lot of information that has

to be generated to produce these reports.

- Q. Even if the extension to the last day of the month is adopted by the Division, would it be your expectation that Yates will periodically have to file data after that date?
- A. Yes, I'm afraid so, especially with things that can happen with computers. And also getting the information from the state, the district offices, your POD numbers, which are now part of ONGARD, that is furnished to us by the state, the district offices, and I know they have some lag time in getting those.
- Q. How involved do you anticipate the ONGARD system, as you understand it, how will that affect Yates' ability to meet the state filing requirements?
- A. Under ONGARD, I was under the impression that the C-120s, the salt water disposal reports, would be on it; also, the water disposition would be another factor of additional information that's going to be needed.

If the C-120s are merged with the C-115s, this does create additional work for the operators. Before, we had until the 10th day of the second month following the production month

for the C-120 reporting.

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Now, MMS has a similar report, called the 3160, which is also a production report.

They request that report, also, on the 15th day of the second month following production, and they don't even have as much information in their report as what the state is requiring.

Also, with the ONGARD system, the operators are going to be doing a lot of the work done by the data processing center for the state, by filing electronically, using the state's codes, their property numbers, POD numbers that are set up and assigned by the state, and we are performing a lot of their work.

We are also bearing the additional costs of computer programming, Tech-Net filing fees, so the operators are bearing quite a bit of this change to ONGARD.

- Q. At this time, do you think it's fair or reasonable to try and set an actual date when you can, in good faith, get the effort properly filed on the ONGARD system?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you think, at this point in time, you know whether or not you can make that on the

30th day, or the 10th day of the following month, or is more production and more experience with this effort needed, before that date can be determined?

- A. I think it would help to know exactly what we're getting into. Right now, knowing that I currently cannot get the C-115s out, I would be nipping it by the last day of the month. I really think more time is needed for looking at this.
- Q. In your opinion, will just the extension of this time to the last day of the month, based on what you understand of the system, be sufficient so that Yates can start filing their data on a timely basis?
 - A. No, I do not.

- Q. Has Yates, as a chronic late filer, had to pay fines in the past for delays in, say, getting the C-111s in?
- A. I've never known of any operator receiving any fines or penalties for late filing.
- Q. Was one of the reasons you came to Santa Fe to testify today, general concerns about fines that might be imposed on Yates or other operators, as represented in the ad for this

1 | case?

- 2 A. Yes, it is.
 - Q. Do you concur with Mr. Stovall's recommendation that until there is a shake down period, that no actual penalty provision be adopted by the Division?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. What would be the result of an extension of the filing date of these forms to the 45-day time period, as recommended by Yates?
 - A. More accurate filing. You will get more accurate information, less amending of forms later on. Basically, just more accurate and more reliable information.
 - Q. You have been testifying primarily about filing the form C-115, is that not right?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. Would you anticipate similar problems filing a C-111 that could be alleviated by a later filing date?
 - A. Yes, the problems should be virtually the same.
 - Q. Would you basically summarize Yates
 Petroleum Corporation's recommendation here
 today?

1 Α. Yes. Yates is recommending that the Division require that Forms C-111, C-112 and 3 C-115, be filed on or before the 15th day of the second month following the production month. And you concur in the recommendation 5 Q. that no penalty provisions be adopted at this 6 time? 7 8 Α. Yes. Do you have anything further to add to 9 10 your testimony? Α. 11 No. 12 MR. CARR: That concludes my direct 13 examination of Ms. Taylor. CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Mr. Carr. 14 Mr. Stovall? 15 16 MR. STOVALL: I just have a couple of 17 questions. EXAMINATION 18 BY MR. STOVALL: 19 20 Q. One would be, you've testified about the MMS filing date. Do you handle state tax and 21 royalty filings to the State Land Office and the 22 Taxation & Revenue Department? 23 24 Α. No, I do not.

Do you have any knowledge when those

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Q.

1	deadlines are for their filings?
2	A. No, I do not. I am not in the revenue
3	department.
4	Q. So you don't know whether an extension
5	of that would affect filing to those agencies?
6	A. No, I do not.
7	COMMISSIONER CARLSON: Mr. Stovall,
8	those are due on the 55th day following the month
9	of production.
10	MR. STOVALL: So it would not have an
11	impact.
12	Q. The second question, then, would be,
13	you've asked for the 15th day of the second month
14	for the rule change. Would it be safe to assume
15	that you would like to see that in the Interim
16	Order as well?
17	A. That would be nice, yes.
18	MR. STOVALL: I have no other questions
19	of this witness.
20	CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Mr.
21	Stovall. Commissioner Carlson?
22	EXAMINATION
23	BY COMMISSIONER CARLSON:
24	Q. What does the federal government
25	require? You said you did the federal forms?

Right. That is the Form 3160, and it 1 Α. is due the 15th day of the second month following 2 the month of production. That's when it's 3 required and due. COMMISSIONER CARLSON: Mr. Stovall or 5 Mr. Martin, what's the down side of this? Is 6 anybody harmed by going to the 15th day of the 7 second month? 8 9 MR. STOVALL: I just asked Mr. Martin 10 and, as far as we can see, we picked the last day of the month following the month because an 11 informal survey showed that's what other states 12 do. I was about to propose we might even 13 consider doing the Interim Order to the 15th day 14 15 of the second month. 16 We know of no down side, at this So, we're not objecting to that position, 17 we just had a starting point. 18 COMMISSIONER CARLSON: I don't have any 19 20 other questions. CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Commissioner Weiss? 21 EXAMINATION 22 23 BY COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes, Ms. Taylor, on the producer and 24

transporter differences, how are they resolved

and who wins?

A. What we do is, as far as Yates

Petroleum is concerned, we can run tickets every
day or every time there is a sale. At the end of
the month, your transporter is saying, Navajo,
for instance, takes all their runs for a certain
lease. They send you that as a statement.

We compare what we've keyed in, what we show as runs, to what they say they took. If they do not compare, I immediately get on the phone, call them up, and we go through and check.

Usually, our information is more correct. There's a lot of transporters--I'm not picking on Navajo. As a matter of fact, they're one of the best--but there are a lot of transporters out there that they misrun tickets, it gets lost in their computer system somewhere, so they are not sending us the complete, hundred-percent volume taken off of certain leases.

So, I have to get with them, fax them copies of the run ticket to prove, "Here it is." Then they go back, recalculate them, then send them back to us with a corrected volume.

Therefore, I can get the corrected volume on the C-115 without going through a lot of amending and going through all of that rigmarole that you have to do.

- Q. If the order was written so that the producers' records were the accepted volumes to report, could you meet the timing requirements?
- A. Well, it's kind of hard to explain, as far as a producer, because to show the produced volume of oil, you gauge your tanks, you take your ending stock of your tanks, plus your sales, and this is your netted oil sales based on what you're going to get paid on.

That's what the transporters will report on their C-111s, which we, as reporters or C-115 filers, have to match. We take that, then, minus any beginning stock. That is your production. So, it does take your actual netted sales to calculate your produced volumes.

So, you do need that information. If we say we sold 170 barrels and that's what we generate on our reports, the transporter calculates using your gravities, your temperatures and all of that to 160, we're going to be off from the transporter reports, and,

therefore, we're not going to match and we're going to go through a lot of, you know, later on down the road, amending.

- Q. And how does it end up being amended?

 In your example, 160, 170, what's the number?
- A. The operator would send in an amended C-115 for that lease, correcting the barrels sold, and also your produced volumes.
- Q. It seems to me, if we use your data, it wouldn't require the extra 15 days. That's just the way it sounds, to me.
- A. So, let me get this straight. If we use our data, that means the transporters are going to have to pay us on what I say we sold to them? I don't understand.
- Q. That's what you said. That's what I asked you. Sounds like there's always a difference, and they come back and you win.
- A. I say I win, by missing run tickets.

 Now, as far as netting volume, if we're a barrel or two barrels off, which we can be, it works out pretty well. But sometimes we have the missing run tickets or we've miskeyed in a run ticket.

So, there are errors on both parts.

It's not always--we just have to reconcile them,

but a lot of times the transporters miss the run
tickets, so our volume would be more accurate.

As far as our computer system, we have to net out run tickets. We have a program that works pretty well with industry for the other transporters, but you're still fluctuating. It's very difficult to have five different transporters all using the same, identical program to calculate run tickets and, come up with a run total for the lease; so, therefore, you always will be off a little bit, a barrel or two.

- Q. I still don't know how it's reconciled, what the right answer is.
- A. Well, if we're off a barrel or two, I go with the transporter because that's what they're paying us on. So, in that case, I will go with what the transporter shows and adjust my figures to match the transporter.
- Q. So, the state's records are based on what the transporter pays?
 - A. Exactly.
 - Q. I didn't know that.
- 24 A. Yes.

Q. I have another question. When you fill

out the C-115s, that's a hard-copy operation now, right?

A. Correct.

- Q. Now, internally, do you keep that, or is that all done electronically?
- A. We keep the hard copy, and also in our computer we have saved that, internally, through the computer system. Does that answer your question?
- Q. If you didn't have to use the hard copy, sounds like that would save you at least space?
- A. Yeah, as far as paper goes. From what I understand, talking to our computer department—and I am not a computer genius or anything—but I understand that it would cost us quite a bit of money to comply with the EDI filing, and right now we're unable to file electronically because of that cost. We just cannot afford it.
- Q. Does that have to do with adding that system?
- A. With ONGARD, the EDI filing.

 Apparently, there were problems with our computer system, which we run an IBM-400 system, and it

would be very difficult for us to program our 1 system to fall in line with the Tech-Net and the 2 3 EDI filing. COMMISSIONER WEISS: I have no other 5 questions. Thank you. CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I have one question. 6 7 EXAMINATION BY CHAIRMAN LEMAY: 8 What could the Division or Commission 9 0. 10 do to encourage you to go to the EDI format? 11 Program our computer for free. 12 Q. If we did supply some technical 13 expertise in that area, do you know if Yates would consider going to the EDI format? 14 15 Α. Most definitely. As a matter of fact, I do believe--Ed, was it you that I was talking 16 17 to, that offered their services to help us. MR. MARTIN: Not mine, because that's 18 19 not my bailiwick, but I could bring somebody down 20 there that would know. Yeah, to take a look at it to see what 21 we needed or what kind of hardware or software we 22 would need to do that. 23 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Commissioner Weiss has 24 25 something.

FURTHER EXAMINATION

BY COMMISSIONER WEISS:

- Q. Has this not been addressed up until just today, this problem of the formatting?
- A. No, we've talked about it at one of the meetings. Our computer people have discussed it with their computer personnel, so I don't know. I can't give you any specifics on it.

MR. STOVALL: It has been an ongoing process. We've been trying to get the information out to industry. There are a couple of different approaches. I could put Mr. Martin back on, I'm going to probably do it, anyway, if you would like for him to address some of those problems and let you know where that stands. He would be the more appropriate person.

COMMISSIONER WEISS: We hear one operator here, "Can't do it."

MR. STOVALL: This is not an isolated case. What she's saying is not something that's unique to Yates Petroleum. There are others with, maybe not the same problem, but they have similar problems in terms of, maybe, being able to--

COMMISSIONER WEISS: Perhaps today is

not the day to address this problem, but I should 1 certainly think at this March hearing, my gosh, 2 3 this has got to be reconciled. We have all these different operators with all these different 5 systems. MR. STOVALL: I would like to go ahead 6 and put Mr. Martin back on, and let him just 7 update you on where the Division is on that, if we're through with Ms. Taylor. COMMISSIONER CARLSON: I have one more 10 question. 11 12 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER CARLSON: 13 14 Q. Do you do Division Orders for Yates? No, I do not. 15 Α. Do you know when those are required to 16 be submitted? 17 No, I'm sorry I do not. Α. 18 MR. CARR: That's all I have. 19 concludes the presentation on behalf of Yates. 20 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Additional questions? 21 22 If not, the witness may be excused. MR. STOVALL: I would like to recall 23 24 Mr. Martin at this time.

CHAIRMAN LEMAY: You're still under

1 oath.

MR. STOVALL: I would like to address
the easy question first, if you don't mind, Mr.
Chairman, and then I would like Mr. Weiss to ask

the questions he's got regarding the electronic filing.

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ED MARTIN

Having been previously duly sworn upon his oath, was examined and testified further as follows:

FURTHER EXAMINATION

BY MR. STOVALL:

- Q. Mr. Martin, is there any magic to picking the end of the month, as the filing date?
 - A. Not as far as ONGARD is concerned.
- Q. Do you know of any problems, generally speaking, that would be caused if we decided to go with this request to, say, the 15th day of the second month following?
 - A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. Commissioner Carlson has stated that would still be in advance of the revenue reporting dates. Would you have any problem recommending to the Commission on the Interim Order that we presented that, rather than make it the last day of the month, it be the 15th day of

the second month following the month of production?

A. No problem.

- Q. Now, we're talking a little bit about incentive and also a little bit about the word processing load. If a paper filer comes in you've already said it has to be key-entered, is that correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. By granting this additional time, again, it doesn't make any difference for electronic filers because the date is instantaneously in the database, is that correct?
 - A. Right.
- Q. Would it be worth considering, perhaps, because of the volume of data that would have to be entered by the Division personnel, if we're going to go to the 15th as the functional date, maybe somewhat earlier for paper filers, to give the Division additional time in which to key-enter data? In other words, electronically you could file by the 45th day, but if you're doing it on paper you have to file by the 35th day, just simply because of the workload it puts on the Division and the time period to get it

done?

- A. It's in the state's best interest, in my opinion, to encourage people to go to EDI, if they can. So, if that would lean to that, yes, I would recommend that.
- Q. Now, give the fact that Commissioner Carlson has informed us that the revenue filing date is the 55th day, if you will, if we went to the 15th, it would be the 45th day, that would only allow 10 days to get data in, as opposed to, if we went to the 30th day, that would give us 25 days. That's kind of where I'm coming from in suggesting that we might look at something like that in the permanent rules.
 - A. I agree.
- Q. For the moment, you have no problem with, let's go to the 45th day, or the 15th day of the second month? You have no problem with that?
 - A. Right.
- Q. Would you explain to Commissioner
 Weiss, at this time, what the status is of
 electronic filing programs? And I think there
 are two, if I understand. There's a direct
 computer to computer, where each operator would

program their own computer to the format required to transmit the data, and the other is some way to use a state-developed program? Fill us in on where we stand on both of those.

A. EDI has been a pretty accepted method of transmitting information for quite a while. Companies, where operators are large enough to have a data processing department of their own, may or may not have the expertise to design their own EDI file. And that's certainly acceptable. They've been able to design their own, based on Tech-Net's format and standards, and transmit without using Tech-Net's PC software. It generates a file for them, and they can write their own programs to generate these EDI files.

The PC program is being design by

Tech-Net, and it's not--the last time I tested

it, it was not anywhere near bug-proof and

probably won't be for another week or two,

even. And that was really intended, not for the

operators of Yates' size, but the medium-sized

ones who don't have an on-site data processing

department. They would--we would be willing to

provide the PC software to those filers for free,

and allow them to transmit EDI. Now, like I

said, it's not close to being complete yet.

- Q. With that software, let's talk about the PC software now, because EDI software is kind of proceeding at its own pace in each company, as I understand it?
 - A. Right.

- Q. With respect to the PC software, it's my understanding that that software does not have an import capability to take a Lotus file or a D-base file, or some other format, in which an operator currently processes information, and convert it to the EDI format and then transmit it, is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. It would have to be entered into this program file to start with? That would become the data processing file that the user would use, is that correct?
- A. Yes. And it's not intended to be an administrative-type system that you could use to replace your current system for retaining volumes, that kind of thing. It's not intended to be that way. It's more of a real quick program to just generate the EDI file, and has very little storage capability.

Q. At this point, the state, or Tech-Net, has not really gotten into the idea of developing an import program to, say, take a Lotus file and put it into EDI? I pick out Lotus just because it's a well-known name. It could be any spread sheet or database file. We haven't gone that far to say, let's go grab what's there and convert it and move?

A. That's correct.

MR. STOVALL: I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN LEMAY: I have one, just to follow-up on that.

FURTHER EXAMINATION

BY CHAIRMAN LEMAY:

Q. Is it conceivable that, at some point in time, it could be an automatic transfer from an existing file to the EDI format, through some software, and then be automatically transferred to a database?

A. It's a doable thing. The question is, who would do it? Tech-Net is currently unwilling to provide services to do that. That's not to say that somebody else couldn't do that, that we couldn't find someone else to do that.

Are there other consultants out there, 1 Q. to your knowledge, working with companies on the 3 conversion to EDI? Yes, I have heard of a few. I would imagine they're along the same lines as Tech-Net, 5 developing PC programs to better serve the 6 7 operator, from an administrative standpoint on their side, and also build this EDI file. 8 From what you've seen, is this whole 9 10 approach of ONGARD and EDI, kind of a wave of the 11 future that, hopefully, the other states will follow suit also? 12 13 Α. I think so. CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Any other questions of 14 the witness? 15 COMMISSIONER WEISS: I have one. 16 17 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Commissioner Weiss? FURTHER EXAMINATION 18 BY COMMISSIONER WEISS: 19 20 Q. Is ASCII a universal file? 21 Yes, but you would have to--if your 22 intent is to put that as an import capability just to import ASCII, yes, that could be done. 23 24 But a lot of operators would have to change their

system to develop that ASCII file.

- Q. That would be the universal solution to this, perhaps. It sounds to me like we're creating more work for the state, more work for the operator. We're not getting anything with ONGARD, other than to please Taxation & Revenue.

 A. I haven't been involved in the
 - A. I haven't been involved in the discussions with Tech-Net about developing an import capability of one particular type of file, but that could be discussed. It's doable.

COMMISSIONER WEISS: I have no other questions. Thank you.

MR. STOVALL: I do want to address one issue.

FURTHER EXAMINATION

BY MR. STOVALL:

- Q. I think you heard the questions between Commissioner Weiss and the Yates witness regarding the reconciliation between transporters and operators, that information. Is it in the state's best interest that they make that reconciliation before they file their reports with them?
 - A. Oh, sure.
- Q. So it would be advantageous, then, to give them the additional time to do that, to

avoid amended reports?

1 1

A. Oh, definitely.

MR. STOVALL: At this time, I have nothing further, Mr. Chairman. I would ask that, if the Commission would be willing, that it act on the Interim Order, and we can draft an Interim Order to be effective immediately with respect to the filing time for reports, until such time as permanent rule change amendments are made to Rules 1111, 1112, and 1115.

CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Thank you, Mr. Stovall.

Give us 30 seconds here.

[Discussion off the record.]

CHAIRMAN LEMAY: From the bench, the Commission has adopted the Interim Order with the expresse change to 45 days beyond the last day of production as a due date, and I'm instructing the Division to type up a good copy.

MR. STOVALL: We'll prepare an order this afternoon, while Commissioner Weiss is still here. The language I'll use is the 15th day of the second month following the month of production, if that's acceptable.

CHAIRMAN LEMAY: That was the wish of

1 | the Commission.

COMMISSIONER CARLSON: Will the draft orders for the March 10th hearing also have the 45 days?

MR. STOVALL: I would like to meet with Mr. Martin, make some changes to what we have, and discuss the distinction between paper filing and electronic filing. We would like to get some industry input. My intent at this point would be to focus on that as the date, although we may bump it earlier for paper filers, because of the inputting problem we've got.

COMMISSIONER CARLSON: And I also would like it with the caveat that I would like to check with my people so there's no problem with the 35 days or the 45 days.

MR. STOVALL: I would like to have Tax & Rev and State Land Office testimony on that.

I think it would be helpful to get their input at that time. Our intent today was get the ball rolling and get some discussion, and we have had that, and I think we will continue to have that.

COMMISSIONER WEISS: This interim order doesn't force anybody to do anything, is that right?

MR. STOVALL: That's correct, except to 1 file their reports. 2 3 CHAIRMAN LEMAY: Anything additional in the case? If not, we shall continue this case 5 until the March 10th hearing, and the record will 6 remain open. For those of you that want to file 7 additional comments, evidence, please do so, and 8 we'll reopen it a month from today. 9 Anything additional in the case? 10 Ιt will be continued. Thank you. 11 (And the proceedings concluded at 1:00 12 13 o'clock p.m.) 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO SS. COUNTY OF SANTA FE 5 I, Carla Diane Rodriguez, Certified 6 Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY 7 CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of 8 proceedings before the Oil Conservation 10 Commission was reported by me; that I caused my 11 notes to be transcribed under my personal supervision; and that the foregoing is a true and 12 13 accurate record of the proceedings. I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a 14 15 relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have 16 17 no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter. 18 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL March 1, 1994. 19 20 21 22 23 CSR No. 24