

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

15 July 1987

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Phillips Petroleum CASE
Company for a special (oil) allow- 9176
able, Lea County, New Mexico.

BEFORE: Michael E. Stogner, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

A P P E A R A N C E S

For the Division:

For the Applicant:

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I N D E X

JOHN C. CURRIE

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MR. STOGNER: Call next Case 9176, which is the application of Phillips Petroleum Company for a special (oil) allowable, and I stress the word "oil", Lea County, New Mexico.

Call for appearances.

MR. KELLAHIN: If the Examiner please, I'm Tom Kellahin of Santa Fe, New Mexico, appearing on behalf of the applicant and I have one witness.

May the record reflect, Mr. Examiner, that Mr. John Currie has previously been sworn and qualified as a petroleum engineer and we would like to call him at this point as our witness in this case.

MR. STOGNER: Let the record so show. Please continue, Mr. Kellahin.

JOHN C. CURRIE,
being called as a witness and being previously sworn upon his oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. KELLAHIN:

Q Mr. Currie, let me set before you Phillips Exhibit Number One and I'd like you to take a moment, sir, and simply orient the Examiner as to the

1 physical location of this property in Lea County, New Mex-
2 ico.

3 A Yes. This is located approximately nine
4 miles west of Buckeye, New Mexico. The proration units
5 shaded in blue on this are the very western edge of Vacuum
6 Grayburg-San Andres Field. The boundary of that field is
7 shown by the yellow line on this plat. To the west of that
8 yellow line is the Maljamar Grayburg-San Andres Field.

9 Q Let me make some notes my copy. As we
10 look to the west of the yellow line we're in the Maljamar
11 Field?

12 A That is correct.

13 Q And east of the line is what, sir?

14 A Is Vacuum Grayburg-San Andres Field.

15 Q What are the formations that you're going
16 to address in this hearing?

17 A This is the Grayburg and San Andres for-
18 mations we'll be talking about here. They're located at a
19 depth below approximately 4,200 feet out there.

20 Q In looking at the Vacuum wells, what is
21 the spacing pattern established in the area for the wells?

22 A It's generally on 40-acre spacing in the
23 Vacuum Field.

24 Q And using the depth bracket allowable as-
25 signed for 40-acre well locations, what is the daily barrels

1 of oil that can be produced?

2 A That's 80 barrels of oil per day.

3 Q What is it that you're asking the Exam-
4 iner to do if he should approve this application?

5 A We're asking for a special capacity oil
6 allowable as a -- well, for the four proration units shown
7 there.

8 Q When we use the expression "capacity oil
9 allowable", are we talking about wells that are affected by
10 being adjacent to or in a buffer are in proximity to a
11 waterflood operation?

12 A Yes. We believe this is the case, that
13 these wells are -- should be given a capacity allowable be-
14 cause they are in a buffer area adjacent to a waterflood
15 operation. It's well known that Vacuum Field has been under
16 a number of enhanced recovery and waterflood operations for
17 a number of years now.

18 Q When we look for some guidance within the
19 rules and regulations, do you have a recommendation to the
20 Examiner as to which of the Division rules and regulations
21 might be appropriately applied for the entry of an order in
22 this case?

23 A Yes, I do.

24 Q If I refer you, sir, to what is identi-
25 fied in the rule book as Rule 701, and if we look through

1 701 and we find subparagraph F under Waterfloods and then
2 under F 3, there is a paragraph on page I-3, which I have
3 marked and I will show you, sir.

4 A Yes.

5 Q You might read that out loud so that
6 we'll all have benefit of seeing the same paragraph that you
7 have.

8 A Yes. This is -- the paragraph reads,
9 "Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting the as-
10 signment of special allowables to wells in buffer zones af-
11 ter notice and hearing. Special allowables may also be as-
12 signed in the limited instances where it is established at a
13 hearing that it is imperative to do so" -- "it is imperative
14 for the protection of correlative rights to do so."

15 Q Let's talk, sir, about what some of the
16 factors are that you have discovered in your study of this
17 particular problem that have caused you to conclude that a
18 special buffer or capacity allowable is justified for the
19 acreage and for the wells that Phillips operates that we'll
20 discuss in a moment.

21 A Principally the drilling and completion
22 and subsequent production of Well No. 19, which is shown in
23 the completely shaded in blue proration unit there. It
24 shows indications of a waterflood response due to its high
25 water cut and its high productivity and very high producing

1 bottom hole pressure.

2 Q We currently have completed and producing
3 the No. 19 Well shown in Section 35?

4 A That is correct.

5 Q And immediately to the north and east of
6 that location there is a No. 20 Well?

7 A That's correct. That well has been drill-
8 led and cased. It's not yet completed.

9 Q As we look to the west of the Well 19 40-
10 acre tract there's a Well 21.

11 A That is correct also. That well was
12 drilled and cased Monday. It's also not completed.

13 Q And then finally there's the remaining of
14 the three offsetting tracts up in the northwest of the
15 northeast of 35?

16 A That is correct.

17 Q And there is no well yet for that?

18 A No.

19 Q When we talk about a capacity allowable
20 for a well in a buffer area, do we find capacity allowables
21 utilized by producing wells in waterflood areas already?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Can you give the Examiner a general range
24 of expectation for the maximum producing rates for the wells
25 that we'll be discussing in terms of a capacity allowable?

1 A As we'll show later, the oil production
2 would be in the range of approximately 200 to 300 barrels
3 per day.

4 Q Have you determined for yourself that the
5 bottom hole pressure, for example, in Well No. 19, how does
6 that bottom hole pressure compare to what you would find in
7 a virgin reservoir situation in the Grayburg?

8 A The bottom hole pressure in particular
9 zones in Well No. 19 is significantly higher than a virgin
10 bottom hole pressure out there. I believe for Vacuum Field
11 that bottom hole pressure would be in the range of 1600 psi,
12 whereas I've calculated a bottom hole pressure in the range
13 of 2300 psi in certain zones in Well No. 19.

14 Q When we talk about waterfloods in the
15 area for which this acreage that Phillips controls is
16 receiving a waterflood response, could you tell the Examiner
17 generally what waterfloods are being operated that are
18 depicted on this exhibit?

19 A Yes. On Exhibit One, if you'll go over
20 under the Range 34 East, the third section down, which would
21 be the Section 31, you see on the east side of that section
22 there's the ARCO State Vacuum Unit, which was a Grayburg-San
23 Andres water injection project. Two, two water injectors
24 are shown on that in the east half of the east half of that
25 section.

1 In addition, moving directly west to the
2 other side of the plat there is a Pennzoil I believe these
3 are cooperative waterflood units. There's a Phillips state
4 lease, Phillips federal lease, and also on Phillips Philmex
5 lease there's water injection in Section 27.

6 Further, directly to the southeast of the
7 Well No. 19, approximately 3/4 of a mile to a mile, is the
8 Baxter leases there, which is a Queen waterflood.

9 Q All right, Mr. Currie, let's turn to the
10 specifics of the information you've examined on Well No. 19
11 and let me ask you to turn to Exhibit Number Two and iden-
12 tify that for us.

13 A All right, Exhibit Number Two is a por-
14 tion of the neutron density porosity log which we ran on
15 Philmex Well No. 19.

16 On this portion of the log we've written
17 on the top of the Grayburg zone, which is approximately
18 4,185 feet, the top of the San Andres formation at approxi-
19 mately 4,553 feet. I've also shown on here the perforations
20 in this well and highlighted in red are some particular
21 Grayburg sands that showed up in this well.

22 Q Can you identify for us the highlighted
23 Grayburg sands in terms of porosity percentages?

24 A Yes. The upper sands there are between
25 4300 and 4400 feet are -- are typical Grayburg sands that

1 show 8 to 12 percent porosity. The sand highlighted down at
2 about 4540 feet shows upwards of about 18 percent porosity,
3 which is somewhat higher than we normally expect in the
4 Grayburg.

5 Q How does this interval correlate to the
6 Grayburg intervals that are being flooded in the area?

7 A Most of these sands are directly
8 correlable.

9 Q This is the same zone, then, that's being
10 flooded in the area?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Let's turn now to the production survey,
13 which I think is Exhibit Number Three.

14 A Yes.

15 Q Let me have you fold out the bottom
16 portion of that exhibit so that we're looking at the lower
17 end of the production survey log and let me have you, first
18 of all, identify for the record what this exhibit is.

19 Q Okay. This exhibit is an annular
20 production survey log which we ran on the Philmex Well No.
21 19. If you get the portion of the log that's next to the
22 heading here, they've got a summary of what happened on this
23 well. They put the heading on the bottom part of this log.

24 MR. STOGNER: Okay, is that
25 what's wrong with it?

1 A The purpose behind running this log is
2 when we completed the Well No. 19 we had a high water cut, a
3 high fluid level pumping the well. We thought initially that
4 we were getting water from the Lower San Andres and I guess
5 looking back at Exhibit Two you can see we've drawn in a
6 bridge plug which we set in that well at 4618 feet in
7 attempt to shut off water production. This did no good for
8 us and we continued with a high water cut. With this high
9 fluid level, high amount of oil production, we determined we
10 should run this production survey in the attempt to try to
11 shut off the water, if possible, and improve our oil
12 production.

13 This survey is run by -- we had to remove
14 the tubing anchor from the tubing and it's a tool which is
15 run down the tubing/casing annulus while the well is pumping
16 so that we can actually survey fluid movement while the well
17 is under production.

18 Q Having done that, what does the survey
19 show you, Mr. Currie?

20 A Okay, the results of this survey show, as
21 we've highlighted in red, that 71 percent of the total fluid
22 production is coming from the high porosity Grayburg sand
23 located about 4540 feet.

24 The remaining 29 percent was coming from
25 a couple of the Upper Grayburg sands.

1 All, it was also interesting -- well --

2 Q It's more than interesting, isn't it?

3 A Correct.

4 Q What else does it show you?

5 A Principally, first of all, this showed us
6 that the water was not coming from the Lower San Andres, as
7 we suspected. Then additionally, as I've highlighted in
8 yellow there, we found that fluid was moving downhole also
9 in addition to uphole, moving down hole into the San Andres
10 perforations.

11 Q Even while the well was being produced.

12 A That's correct, while the well was being
13 produced we were losing fluid to the San Andres perfora-
14 tions, which indicates that we would expect the San Andres
15 formation to be more or less at virgin pressure in this well
16 and if the Grayburg formation had been at virgin pressure,
17 you shouldn't be seeing any crossflow like this at all while
18 producing; therefore, the Grayburg must be at a greatly ele-
19 vated pressure.

20 Q Are you able to minimize the crossflow or
21 the thieving of hydrocarbons from the Grayburg into the San
22 Andres under its current allowable of 80 barrels of oil a
23 day?

24 A Under its current allowable it's likely
25 we're losing some hydrocarbons to the San Andres and because

1 of the allowable limitation with our current pumping unit,
2 our pumping equipment, we are making allowable, there's no
3 incentive to put larger equipment in there to draw the fluid
4 level down and reduce this crossflow.

5 Q What will the capacity allowable allow
6 Phillips to do with this well?

7 A We'll install higher capacity pumping
8 equipment, pump the fluid level down to the point that the
9 -- the Grayburg zone will be unable to flow into the San An-
10 dres. In fact, we'll probably start producing the San An-
11 dres again.

12 Q Apart from the crossflow problem in the
13 absence of a capacity allowable, what is going to happen to
14 the hydrocarbons that underlie the Phillips tract as the
15 waterflood operations continue in the area?

16 A It's likely that hydrocarbons in the
17 Grayburg zone will be pushed past this trap. As you can see
18 by this high water cut, we are getting a lot of waterflood
19 influence there, so the hydrocarbons eventually would be
20 pushed off our lease -- our tract.

21 Q Let's turn now, Mr. Currie, to Exhibit
22 Number Four and have you identify that exhibit for us.

23 A Exhibit Number Four shows a -- is a brief
24 recap of the well history and also gives the production on
25 this well.

1 Q As we turn to Exhibit Number Five would
2 you describe for the Examiner the method by which you have
3 determined what you anticipate to be the maximum producing
4 rate for the well?

5 A Yes. This Exhibit Five is my estimation
6 of what the maximum producing rate would be using the
7 productivity index method.

8 The, I guess, skipping down to the
9 calculation in Step 3 there, total fluid production used in
10 the equation is just the sum of the latest production test
11 on the well, which comes to 260 barrels per day.

12 My estimation of reservoir pressure comes
13 from using the hydrostatic gradient to the 4550 foot datum
14 plus a surface injection pressure equal to that reported by
15 ARCO for their State Vacuum Unit injection well. That gives
16 a reservoir pressure of nearly 3500 psi.

17 Then the bottom hole pressure while the
18 well is producing is estimated using a hydrostatic gradient
19 to the datum based on the oil/water cut and adding 110 psi
20 flowing -- flow line pressure on the well, which gives a
21 flowing bottom hole pressure of 2030 psi.

22 Then running into the -- putting this
23 back into the productivity index equation and then using a
24 predicted flowing bottom hole pressure of 100 psi, if we
25 were to pump out the well that would be equivalent to about

1 300 feet of fluid over the perforations. That would give a
2 maximum production rate of 611 barrels of total fluid which
3 with the current water/oil ratio would be about 230 barrels
4 of oil per day.

5 Q Would a special capacity allowable, Mr.
6 Currie, put Phillips in an unfair advantageous situation
7 over the offsetting operators?

8 A No, I do not believe so.

9 Q Have you made an estimate of what the re-
10 servoir voidage would be underlying this 40-acre tract so
11 that we could have some estimates or some approximations of
12 the amount of oil or the length of time it would take you
13 under a capacity allowable to produce your share of the oil?

14 A Just some real rough estimates.

15 Q Well, give us some approximations.

16 A We estimated somewhere in the order of
17 350,000-400,000 barrels of oil in place under our lease.

18 Q And using a capacity allowable if it's
19 approved by the Examiner, how many months or years would it
20 take you to produce your oil?

21 A I believe it came it out to approxiately
22 4 years if we are able to continue producing the well at a
23 230-barrel a day rate.

24 Q And obviously that's not going to sustain
25 itself over the --

1 A Probably once we start producing the oil
2 at capacity the pressure will decline and we'll get a de-
3 cline production number.

4 Q Having looked at the Well 19 situation,
5 let's direct your attention now to the well to the west of
6 that, Well No. 21, and in that regard let me ask you to
7 identify for us Exhibit Number Six.

8 A Okay. Exhibit Number Six is a portion of
9 the neutron density porosity log which we ran on Philmex
10 Well No. 21.

11 Q And what does this log show you, Mr. Cur-
12 rie?

13 A Okay. Again on this log we've drawn on
14 where the top of the Grayburg zone is and where the top of
15 the San Andres is. We've also highlighted in red some of
16 the principal Grayburg sands; again those sands shown be-
17 tween 4300 and 4400 feet are 8 to 10 percent porosity and
18 this zone shown, starts at 4538 feet, exhibits 18 to 20 per-
19 cent porosity, very similar to the Well No. 19.

20 Q What conclusions do you draw from a com-
21 parison between Well 19 and the log on Well 21.

22 A Comparing the logs, and they can be cor-
23 related quite directly, we will -- we would have to assume
24 that Well No. 21 will have as high a productivity as Well
25 No. 19 or perhaps higher. This basal Grayburg sand appears

1 present in both wells and appears to be the zone that's been
2 affected by the waterflood and therefore Well No. 21 will
3 probably -- has probably been affected by the waterflood
4 operations in the area.

5 Q Rather than divide your request into four
6 separate applications before the Division to come forth at
7 various times, do you have a recommendation to the Examiner
8 as to whether or not there is sufficient information avail-
9 able upon which he can approve a special capacity allowable
10 for all four of these spacing units?

11 A Yes. Based on the results seen in Wells
12 19 and 21 it's likely that the other two proration units
13 which we're asking for will also be affected as offsetting
14 proration units and should -- we would assume that we should
15 get them all -- we'd ask for approval for all of them at
16 once.

17 Q All right. Let me turn to your last Ex-
18 hibit Number Seven, Mr. Currie, and have you identify that
19 exhibit for us.

20 A Exhibit Number Seven is a fluid
21 production history plot. The operator isn't shown on here
22 but it is the -- this plot is of the -- the lease name is
23 State FTG Well No. 4. It's the ARCO well immediately
24 offsetting our Well No. 19 to the east. It's in the
25 southwest of the northwest of Section 36.

1 Q Show us how to read the exhibit.

2 A All right. There's three curves on here.
3 The oil production in monthly barrels of oil is shown in the
4 black curve.

5 The gas production is shown in the red
6 curve and water production is shown is shown by the blue
7 curve.

8 Q Having analyzed the exhibit and its
9 relationship to Well 19, what conclusions do you draw from
10 the information?

11 A This plot shows fairly strong evidence
12 that the ARCO Well offsetting us to the east has also been
13 influenced by waterflood. If you'll look at the years of
14 production history from 1970 to 1983, the production is
15 pretty much flat at a very low rate, I believe that's three
16 to four barrels a day, typical of a depleted well. Sometime
17 in 1983 to '85 production increases tenfold here.

18 Q How does that production increase
19 correspond to the flooded area involved in that well?

20 A I beg your pardon?

21 Q Yes, sir. With regard to the production
22 increase that you find in 1985, where the oil volume now
23 increases dramatically?

24 A This it?

25 Q Yes. Now how does that compare to your

1 opinion that that is to be attributable to additional
2 movement by a waterflood?

3 A In the -- in the absence of any pressure
4 support I would have expected the well to continue at the
5 low, low production rate, whereas it increased dramatically,
6 water production went up dramatically. I'd say there would
7 be influence by the amount of waterflood.

8 Q Do you have any other geologic or
9 engineering explanation for that fact other than attributing
10 it to a waterflood response?

11 A A response of that magnitude is -- I
12 would have a hard time attributing to any other fact other
13 than some sort of that it caught some sort of pressure
14 support at that point.

15 Q Were Exhibits One through Seven either
16 prepared by you or compiled under your direction and
17 supervision?

18 A Yes, they were.

19 Q Do you have an opinion, Mr. Currie, as to
20 whether approval of this application will prevent waste?

21 A Yes, I feel approval of this application
22 will prevent waste in that under the current producing
23 operation in Well No. 19 fluid is being lost from the
24 Grayburg zone into the San Andres, fluid which may not be
25 recoverable.

1 Q Do you have an opinion as to whether this
2 application will protect correlative rights?

3 A Yes, I feel it will protect correlative
4 rights. The tracts in question, by being influenced by a
5 waterflood, are having the oil swept through and off of the
6 unit. If Phillips is unable to produce at capacity, some of
7 that oil may be swept onto adjoining tracts.

8 MR. KELLAHIN: That concludes
9 my examination of Mr. Currie, Mr. Examiner.

10 We would move the introduction
11 of his Exhibits One through Seven.

12 MR. STOGNER: Exhibits One
13 through Seven will be admitted into evidence.

14

15 CROSS EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. STOGNER:

17 Q I'm still a little bit confused on this
18 Exhibit Number Seven. Which well is it referring to?

19 A Oh, it's the -- in Section 36 there.

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A The ARCO Lease State FTG Well No. 4.

22 Q Well No. 4.

23 A Over on the west side there.

24 Q Now let's refer to Exhibit Number One. I
25 was trying to locate all the injection wells here. Let's go

1 Baxter wells that you referred to. Now those appear to be
2 in Section 36?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q And those down there in Section 1 -- 6

5 A Section 1 and 6.

6 Q Okay, and what zones are those injecting
7 into?

8 A Those are injecting into the Queen zone.

9 Q Okay, now these would not have any affect
10 on your particular well, is that true?

11 A Not to my knowledge.

12 Q Okay.

13 A The Queen zone is at approximately 3800
14 feet.

15 Q Now then, the other batch of wells that
16 you were talking about here over there in Section 27 and 28,
17 are they not? They show Pennzoil and Phillips State leases?

18 A Yes.

19 Q They show a cluster of about three injec-
20 tion wells.

21 A That's -- that is correct, and there's --

22 Q And what --

23 A There's one injection well in the north-
24 east of Section 33, also.

25 Q Northeast of 33, okay, it's marked Well

1 No. 3 or --

2 A Yeah, that I believe that's right.

3 Q Now what zones are these going into?

4 A Those are injecting into the Grayburg-San
5 Andres.

6 Q Okay, where is there another cluster of
7 these injection wells?

8 A Okay, over on the east side.

9 Q Okay.

10 A In Section 31.

11 Q Section 31.

12 A The two ARCO leases shown there, State
13 Vacuum Unit.

14 Q Okay.

15 A Well No. 2, I believe, and Well No. 1 in
16 the southeast quarter. Well --

17 Q All right.

18 A -- 2 in the northeast quarter and 1 in
19 the southeast quarter.

20 Q Now according to your testimony today
21 these -- these two waterflood areas are affecting your
22 zones, is that it?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Although they're about three miles or one
25 about a mile off, that's the one on the west side. Whose --

1 the ones over on the west side, whose wells are those?

2 A Phillips has one injection well and
3 Pennzoil has the other injection wells.

4 Q That was your cooperative unit you were
5 talking about.

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay, and how about the ones over on the
8 State Vacuum Unit, that's ARCO?

9 A That's ARCO. That's correct.

10 Q Okay. Can you base which of these two
11 project areas are influencing your area?

12 A My estimate is that it's the ARCO project
13 area. My reason behind that is the studying in addition to
14 this -- the production curve that we've shown as Exhibit
15 Seven, I've looked at other production histories on those
16 ARCO leases in Section 36 and it appears that you can trace
17 a response in those wells over the last five or six years
18 actually trending from east going to the west.

19 Q Okay. Now let's go from the east to the
20 west there, now these wells are all in Section 31, marked
21 Sohio and --

22 A Yes.

23 Q -- Kincaid and Watson and Phillips, are
24 all those Grayburg producers?

25 A Yes, those are all Grayburg producers.

1 Q Now did they get any influence of this?

2 A I've been unable to see any production
3 history of those wells where they're influenced by the ARCO
4 flood.

5 Q And do you know if those particular zones
6 of influence correspond with the zone that you're producing
7 from and the injection zones?

8 A I don't have any logs on the wells in
9 Section 31 to -- to base -- to see whether the zones are the
10 same or not.

11 Q Okay. Now let's go to Well No. 19.

12 A Okay.

13 Q Let's see, I believe you gave me a
14 production history, is that right?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Now from Well No. 19 what was the nearest
17 -- was the ARCO No. 4 the nearest producing well in the
18 Grayburg?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q Okay, now do the perforations on the logs
21 of the ARCO Well No. 4 and your Well No. 19, do they
22 correspond with each other?

23 A I do not know what the exact perforated
24 interval on Well No. 4 was. It was originally completed
25 open hole and I think ARCO may have deepened it. I do not

1 -- I really don't know what the completion history is on
2 that well now.

3 Q Okay, how about those wells to the south,
4 the Amoco and Cities, Union wells?

5 A Yeah, I think virtually all the wells to
6 the south are producing from other horizons.

7 Down on the bottom I've got a legend
8 showing the symbol for the completion zones --

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A -- on these wells, and the Grayburg-San
11 Andres completions are the ones that have symbol around
12 them.

13 Q Okay. And if I look at your Well No. 21
14 and I go to the west and to the southwest, I show a couple
15 of P&A wells.

16 A Yes.

17 Q Do you know what zones those were
18 producing from or were they even tested?

19 A That designation is a dry hole so I would
20 guess they were not tested. I do not know.

21 Q Okay.

22 A I believe they were drilled to
23 approximately the San Andres.

24 Q Is it possible that you could have just
25 drilled into a sweet area in the Grayburg-San Andres that

1 hasn't never been influenced before?

2 A I would have -- I would have thought that
3 except for the production survey where it shows that the
4 Grayburg formation pressure is much higher than the San
5 Andres pressure below it. I would have expected them to be
6 at a similar pressure if we just drilled into a virgin area.

7 Q Now did I understand your testimony that
8 pressures that you encountered in the No. 19 Well far
9 exceeded or exceeded the virgin pressure?

10 A That's correct. The bottom hole
11 producing pressure in Well No. 19 that I calculated is 2030
12 psi and initial reservoir pressure in the Vacuum Grayburg-
13 San Andres Field was around 1600 to 1700 psi.

14 Q Was that -- did that hold true for this
15 whole area?

16 A In my experience it's held true, yes.

17 Q How about the water analyses, can you
18 determine whether that's injected water or formation water?

19 A We can try. We have not got a water
20 analysis run yet.

21 Q And are both of these zones or most of
22 the injection out there is from this fresh Ogalalla water,
23 is that right?

24 A I believe that's true.

25 Q What kind of special allowable are you

1 really seeking for the Well No. 19? Are you seeking 228
2 barrels a day or what?

3 A The 228 barrels a day is an estimate of
4 what we think it could produce. We would like to be free to
5 produce the well at whatever its capacity is.

6 Q For how long? I mean I'm talking about a
7 calendar of what, say two years and then go -- revert back
8 to normal allowable or are you -- want to keep this forever
9 or as long as it --

10 A I would assume, well, we'd ask for it
11 for, you know, just to be allowed to do that forever. I
12 don't expect the well will hold up that long.

13 Q Uh-huh.

14 MR. STOGNER: I have no further
15 questions of this witness at this time.

16 Are there any other questions?

17 MR. KELLAHIN: Just a few to
18 follow-up, Mr. Examiner.

19 MR. STOGNER: Mr. Kellahin.

20

21 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

23 Q Let me have you take Exhibit Number One,
24 Mr. Currie, and circle for us, if you will as we move from
25 the ARCO wells in the far east, as we go from those injec-

1 tion wells in the Grayburg, as we move to the west, then,
2 towards the Phillips property, would you help us circle the
3 wells that you've examined the production history for to
4 show how you've plotted the waterflood response that you at-
5 tribute to the ARCO waterflood?

6 A Certainly.

7 Q Sure, let's do that. What's the first
8 one as we move from east to west?

9 A Well, it would be a well shown in Section
10 31 in the southeast of the northeast on the ARCO Waterflood
11 Unit, Well No. 1 there.

12 Q Okay.

13 A That one has shown a production response.

14 Q Southeast of northeast, No. 1 Well. All
15 right, as we move to the west, then what others have you ex-
16 amined?

17 A If we move over to Section 36, in the
18 south half of the northeast quarter, the ARCO lease, I've
19 examined both 1 and 2 on the State E-TG Lease.

20 Q All right.

21 A They've both shown response similar to
22 that well No. 4.

23 Then moving straight west from there on
24 the ARCO State F-TG Lease, both Wells No. 1 and 4 have shown
25 a production response.

1 Q In terms of gathering more information
2 that will help you further document your opinion on the
3 waterflood response, do you have an opinion as to whether
4 obtaining a water analysis of the produced water will give
5 you any definitive results as to whether or not you are re-
6 ceiving a waterflood response?

7 A It may or it may not. As, Mr. Examiner,
8 as you've noted, this well is a great distance from the
9 nearest Grayburg injector, or Grayburg-San Andres injectors,
10 and it's likely that over that distance the composition of
11 the water would have been affected by the reservoir, natural
12 salts in the reservoir, that we may be unable to detect any
13 similarity between our produced water and anybody's injected
14 water.

15 Q At this point, then, the best available
16 information to you to support your opinions are the in-
17 creased bottom hole pressures that are significantly higher
18 than a virgin pressure. That's one of the factors.

19 A Yes. In fact, the increased pressure in
20 one zone in the Grayburg, that's much higher than the San
21 Andres right below it.

22 Q And what are the other factors that you
23 believe are significant?

24 A And the other significant factor is the
25 high water/oil ratio which for initial completion out there

1 is really again about a 1-to-1 water/oil ratio and that's
2 normally about a 1/2-to-1 or a lot of wells make no water at
3 all initially.

4 MR. KELLAHIN: Thank you. I
5 have nothing further.

6

7

RE CROSS EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. STOGNER:

9 Q If I look at your Exhibit Number One and
10 I go up to the northeast quarter, northeast northeast of
11 Section 36, it says "salt water disposal well." Do you know
12 anything about that?

13 A It's disposing into the San Andres and I
14 believe, like several other disposal wells out there, it's
15 Lower San Andres. There's a large -- a high porosity water-
16 bearing zone in the lower part of the San Andres.

17 Q Do you know if they're produced under
18 pressure or not?

19 A If they're injecting under pressure?

20 Q Yeah. In other words --

21 A I believe --

22 Q -- would that well be an influence?

23 A I believe they do have some surface
24 pressure on that well. Yes, I looked it up. I think
25 they're allowed to inject up to 1000 or 1200 psi.

1 Q Do you know what the injection pressures
2 are over on the State Vacuum ARCO Unit?

3 A Yes, they're reporting 1450 psi surface
4 pressure.

5 Q Now when you said that you saw some
6 response on that Well No. 1 over there on that ARCO Unit and
7 then those two ARCO wells over in the State E-TG Lease in
8 Section 36, did you get some similar responses like you did
9 --

10 A Yes, it was virtually identical to that
11 plot. The response occurred earlier in time on the -- on
12 the State E Lease approximately two years earlier and in the
13 State Vacuum Unit it occurred within a year or two of
14 initiation of injection by the ARCO Unit.

15 Q When again did ARCO first start injecting
16 over there?

17 A Middle 1970's.

18 MR. KELLAHIN: If you'd like to
19 have those, Mr. Examiner, I believe Mr. Currie has copies of
20 those --

21 A Yeah, I'd like to --

22 MR. KELLAHIN: -- production
23 plots.

24 A I'd like for you to supplement Exhibit
25 Number Seven with those.

1 MR. KELLAHIN: We can do that
2 right now. I believe he's got those.

3 Do you have those, John?

4 You've given me four of the
5 five and we've already introduced the fifth, okay.

6 A Yes.

7 MR. KELLAHIN: Okay, this is
8 all the ones I --

9 Mr. Examiner, I have marked
10 Exhibits Eight, Nine, Ten, and Eleven, which are the
11 production plots that Mr. Currie has prepared on the four
12 wells that we've been discussing.

13 MR. STOGNER: That's all I have
14 of this witness at this time and I'll, if I haven't done so,
15 I'll at this time take into consideration Exhibits One
16 through Ten.

17 MR. KELLAHIN: I believe we're
18 up to Eleven.

19 MR. STOGNER: Okay, Eleven,
20 Exhibits One through Eleven will be admitted into evidence.

21 Do you have --

22 MR. KELLAHIN: I have nothing
23 further, no, sir.

24 MR. STOGNER: In that case,
25 Case Number 9176 will be taken under advisement.

(Hearing concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Sally W. Boyd CSR

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 9176.
heard by me on 15 July 1987.

Michael A. Stanger
Examiner
Oil Conservation Division