

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

18 November 1986

EXAMINER'S HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of Tenneco Oil Company                   CASE  
for compulsory pooling, San Juan                   9265  
County, New Mexico.

BEFORE: David R. Catanach, Examiner

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

A P P E A R A N C E S

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21  
22  
23  
24  
25

I N D E X

STATEMENT BY MR. KELLAHIN 4

KEVIN G. HERINGER

Direct Examination by Mr. Kellahin 6

Cross Examination by Mr. Catanach 16

MICHAEL DECKER

Direct Examination by Mr. Kellahin 17

Cross Examination by Mr. Catanach 24

TIM HOWAR

Direct Examination by Mr. Kellahin 26

Cross Examination by Mr. Catanach 31

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

E X H I B I T S

Tenneco Exhibit One, Summary	
Tenneco Exhibit Two, Map	9
Tenneco Exhibit Three, List	9
Tenneco Exhibit Four, Letter	12
Tenneco Exhibit Five, Letter	13
Tenneco Exhibit Six, Cost Estimate	13
Tenneco Exhibit Seven, Accounting Procedure	14
Tenneco Exhibit Eight, Permit	14
Tenneco Exhibit Nine, Order	15
Tenneco Exhibit Ten, Isopach	19
Tenneco Exhibit Eleven, Cross Section	22
Tenneco Exhibit Twelve, Plat	27
Tenneco Exhibit Thirteen, Data	28

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
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MR. CATANACH: Call next Case  
9265.

MR. TAYLOR: The application of  
Tenneco Oil Company for compulsory pooling, San Juan County,  
New Mexico.

MR. CATANACH: Are there  
appearances in this case?

MR. KELLAHIN: If the Examiner  
please, I'm Tom Kellahin of Santa Fe, New Mexico, the law  
firm of Kellahin, Kellahin & Aubrey. I'm appearing on be-  
half of Tenneco Oil Company, and I have three witnesses,  
three very good witnesses.

MR. CATANACH: Okay. Will the  
witnesses please stand and be sworn in at this time.

(Witnesses sworn.)

MR. CATANACH: I'm sorry, was  
there any other appearances in this case?

MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner,  
this case is one in a continuing series of cases that Tenne-  
co has filed applications for and received orders approving  
operations in the City of Farmington.

This originally involved a

1 drilling island in the City of Farmington in which Dakota  
2 wells were drilled from a drilling island to develop an  
3 entire section.

4 The original two wells have  
5 been drilled, completed, and this represents the third well.

6 The reason we're requesting a  
7 compulsory pooling order for the third well is this  
8 represents an infill well. There was concern on our part  
9 that the original forced pooling order on the initial well  
10 in the east half of this section would either have to be  
11 amended or a new forced pooling order entered in order to  
12 cover the infill well.

13 The three witnesses today are  
14 the same three that appeared before you last year in the  
15 original hearing. They can discuss for you the efforts they  
16 have made to acquire additional leases from various parties,  
17 notwithstanding the fact that those parties, some of which  
18 are already pooled in the original well.

19 We have brought back the same  
20 geologist to talk about the geology, what has occurred, the  
21 knowledge he's gained from the second wells drilled, and  
22 then, finally, the third witness is the engineering witness  
23 who studied the production and can talk about the risk  
24 factor, the costs of drilling, and the inherent risks  
25 involved in drilling from the island.

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KEVIN G. HERINGER,

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. KELLAHIN:

Q Mr. Heringer, for the record would you  
please state your name and occupation?

A Kevin G. Heringer, petroleum landman for  
Tenneco Oil Company, Denver, Colorado.

Q Mr. Heringer, have you previously testi-  
fied before the Oil Conservation Division?

A Yes, I have.

Q And were the petroleum landman that tes-  
tified in the original forced pooling case involving the in-  
itial well in the east half of Section 10, Township 25 -- 29  
North, Range 13 West?

A Yes, that is correct.

Q And subsequent to that pooling order have  
you continued to make efforts to obtain leases from various  
mineral interest owners in the east half of Section 10?

A Yes, sir.

Q For the drilling of this infill well?

A Yes, we have.

1 MR. KELLAHIN: We tender Mr.  
2 Heringer as an expert petroleum landman.

3 MR. CATANACH: He is so quali-  
4 fied.

5 Q Mr. Heringer, let me direct your  
6 attention to the Tenneco exhibit booklet and if you'll move  
7 past the first page and look at the second page in which you  
8 have provided us a summary of the acreage and then identi-  
9 fied for us in the east half of the section the various per-  
10 centage ownerships.

11 Would you take a moment and outline for  
12 the Examiner what is the status of the various ownerships?

13 A Okay. The page sets out at the top, we  
14 had started back in May of 1984 knocking on doors, making an  
15 attempt to lease the mineral owners within the east half of  
16 Section 10.

17 To date Tenneco has taken over 420  
18 leases from mineral owners.

19 Running down the ownership, starting at  
20 the top, Tenneco Oil Company, we've leased 278 acres, rough-  
21 ly 87 percent of the spacing unit.

22 (Not understood) Associates, who leased  
23 approximately 20 acres, 6.27 percent; a few additional par-  
24 ties that have agreed to participate, a little over a half  
25 of 1 percent; and the acreage that we've been unable to come

1 to terms or reach people on is 20 acres, or 6.263 percent;  
2 to total 100 percent of our spacing unit.

3 Q This represents the status of your  
4 efforts as of what particular time?

5 A As of the -- probably about a week ago.  
6 Well, we're still making an effort to contact people and in  
7 the event people -- this number changes, has changed daily  
8 within the last month, and we feel as though these are the  
9 -- the final numbers that we've come to.

10 Q We have additional parties that have  
11 agreed to participate in the infill well as a result of your  
12 efforts that were not participants in the original well. In  
13 other words, they were nonconsenting owners in the original  
14 well.

15 A We don't have any parties that have  
16 agreed to participate but the people we have force -- the  
17 people that we force pooled first time around, through our  
18 notices have come back and decided to lease to us, approxi-  
19 mately 20 people, so it's --

20 Q Describe for the Examiner how you have  
21 decided or elected to handle that particular interest owner-  
22 ship.

23 A We told the people that we would go back,  
24 date our leases prior to when the well was spud, the initial  
25 well, take them off the forced pooling, give them the same

1 compensation that we'd offered up front, and pay them a  
2 3/16th royalty.

3 Q When we address ourselves now to those  
4 individuals and interests that as of a few weeks ago were  
5 not committed to the infill well in the east half of this  
6 section, how have you identified those people?

7 A Excuse me, can you --

8 Q Yeah, have you made a list of them?

9 A Yes. Okay. Looking at Exhibit Two, it  
10 is a map of the parties that we had been unable to come to  
11 terms with or reach.

12 Now on Exhibit A attached to that map is  
13 a listing of all the parties that we are force pooling here  
14 today.

15 Q All right. How -- how do we read the map  
16 and the color code in yellow with the numbers and integrate  
17 that with the tabulation of names on Exhibit Number Three?

18 A Okay. Just your -- your numbers corre-  
19 late with your tract numbers on Exhibit A.

20 Q On the far left margin of Exhibit A,  
21 which I've identified as Exhibit Three for this hearing, is  
22 a tract number --

23 A That's correct.

24 Q -- and that corresponds, then, to the  
25 tract identified on Exhibit Two, the plat, and shows you

1 what area in yellow, then, that party has an interest.

2 A That's correct.

3 Q Okay. Within each of those tracts, then,  
4 have you set forth a column to show what their net acres is  
5 for the entire 320-acre unit?

6 A Yes. That is also on Exhibit A. It shows  
7 the net acres and in addition to that is their percentage  
8 within the east half spacing unit, and the last column is  
9 abbreviated, that's "contacted", whether or not I've contac-  
10 ted the people through certified mail.

11 Q When we look at the names on that list, I  
12 believe there are 26?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q Okay. Most of the names are listed with  
15 addresses unknown. Are there any parties on this list with  
16 whom you have made actual contact?

17 A Yes, sir. There are two parties, Tract  
18 No. 20, Dr. Quintana and Moreland in Farmington do not want  
19 to do anything with Tenneco.

20 And Tract No. 25 is a widow in Farming-  
21 ton, Edna Weinig. She's in the same position as Moreland  
22 and Quintana.

23 Q You have made both Mr. Quintana and Dr.  
24 Moreland and Mrs. Weinig offers of lease, using the same of-  
25 fers and terms you have made to others?

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A That's correct.

Q Okay.

A We've also offered them participate or farm out to Tenneco.

Q And their responses have been what?

A Don't want to talk to Tenneco at this time.

Q Okay. With regard to those for which you do not have any contact, would you identify the efforts that Tenneco has made in order to find current addresses for any of those individuals?

A This has been going on for over three and a half years and many of these people have never been -- had started out trying to be contacted; had a broker down in Farmington for over a year and a half attempting to locate these people.

Just within the last month and a half we made another run in trying to track these people down again; hired another broker, and still knocking on doors, looking in (not clearly understood) office see if taxes have been paid, phone books, written letters to them, just about all, all avenues have been explored.

Q Are you aware of any other reasonable effort that might be undertaken by Tenneco in order to establish the addresses for any of these remaining individuals?

1           A           Not at this time.

2           Q           Let's turn to Exhibit Number Four. Would  
3 you identify that for me?

4           A           This is a letter that was mailed out cer-  
5 tified to the parties stating that the forced pooling was  
6 scheduled for November 18th and they could appear if they so  
7 elected.

8           Q           This is the type of letter that Dr. Quin-  
9 tana would have received a copy of?

10          A           That's correct.

11          Q           All right. Attached to that exhibit is a  
12 copy of the cover letter and the application, the actual ap-  
13 plication was sent to those two individuals owning interests  
14 in Tracts 20 and 25?

15          A           That's correct.

16          Q           Okay.

17          A           In addition, I'd like to point out on Ex-  
18 hibit A to that, to this letter, is the fact that a number  
19 of parties have agreed to lease to Tenneco between the time  
20 that this letter was mailed out and this hearing.

21                    They are not included on the forced  
22 pooled acreage.

23          Q           If the Examiner desires, then, he can  
24 compare the attachment to the letter with the Exhibit Number  
25 Three and see which parties, then, have voluntarily commit-

1 ted either by lease or participation.

2 A That's correct.

3 Q Okay. Let's turn to Exhibit Number Five  
4 and have you identify what that is.

5 A Exhibit Number Five was the letter that  
6 we mailed out prior to informing individuals that if we  
7 could not come to terms that we would force pool them. It  
8 sets out what we did drilling our first well, we're coming  
9 back drilling an infill well, and then it sets out their  
10 options of leasing, farming out, or participating, and the  
11 fact that if we cannot come to terms with them, we'll be  
12 forced to seek compulsory pooling.

13 Q And a similar type letter was sent to the  
14 interest owners in Tract 20?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Okay. When we turn to Exhibit Six, would  
17 you identify that for us, Mr. Heringer?

18 A That is the well cost estimates for  
19 drilling this well and that was enclosed with our letter of  
20 October 23rd, setting out the cost that people would have in  
21 drilling this well.

22 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner,  
23 each of our two subsequent witnesses will address the well  
24 cost question.

25 Q Would you identify Exhibit Number Seven

1 for us?

2 A Exhibit Seven is the COPAS accounting  
3 procedures that will be attached to these wells.

4 Q When we turn to the COPAS accounting pro-  
5 cedures, let's turn to the third page and have you identify  
6 for us the overhead rates.

7 A A drilling well rate of \$4000; a produ-  
8 cing well rate of \$400.

9 Q Are these the producing and drilling  
10 rates that you propose the Examiner include in a forced  
11 pooling order?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And how do they compare to the overhead  
14 rates that were used by Tenneco in the initial wells in this  
15 section for the Dakota production?

16 A They are identical.

17 Q Exhibit Number Eight, would you identify  
18 that exhibit for us, Mr. Heringer?

19 A Exhibit Eight is shown as a special use  
20 permit issued by the City of Farmington, just merely to show  
21 that we're working with the city and have come to terms with  
22 them on drilling these wells within the city limits.

23 Q Is this special use permit from the City  
24 of Farmington still in full force and effect?

25 A Yes, it is.

1 Q And this is the use permit by which you  
2 will drill the infill well?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q Would you identify Exhibit Nine for us?

5 A Exhibit Nine is our directional drilling  
6 order from the State saying that we have authority to direc-  
7 tionally drill to the northeast quarter of Section 10.

8 Q Attached as an exhibit to that order is  
9 the surface and approximate bottom hole location of each of  
10 the four wells. Identify for us which of the four wells  
11 we're dealing with here.

12 A Which of the --

13 Q Which of the four wells identified on Ex-  
14 hibit A is the one that addresses the well today.

15 A Okay. The City of Farmington Well No. 1-  
16 E.

17 Q All right. As best you know, is the sur-  
18 face location and the approximate bottom hole location still  
19 the same for that well?

20 A Yes, they are.

21 MR. KELLAHIN; That concludes  
22 my examination of Mr. Heringer.

23 We would at this time, Mr. Exa-  
24 miner, move the introduction of Tenneco Exhibits One through  
25 Nine.

1 MR. CATANACH: Exhibits One  
2 through Nine will be admitted into evidence.

3

4

CROSS EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. CATANACH:

6 Q Mr. Heringer, have you had any more luck  
7 in finding any of the people that you -- hold on a second --  
8 the people listed on Exhibit A to Exhibit Number Three, you  
9 still can't find the majority of those people.

10 A That is correct.

11 Q You couldn't find those initially,  
12 either, when you drilled the first well.

13 A That's correct.

14 Q Have you -- you've been continuing your  
15 attempts to locate those people?

16 A It's -- we have. I think we've explored,  
17 you know, all our avenues to locate these people and a num-  
18 ber of these, I would guess, are people that are -- people  
19 that have passed away, and -- but the effort is on-going and  
20 if any of these people do appear, we will try to reach terms  
21 with them.

22 Q Okay, as I understand it, you've offer to  
23 allow the nonconsenting interest owners in the first well,  
24 you're offering to let them join in the second well and go  
25 back and join in the first well? Is that what you said?

1           A           Well, what we're doing is we've said  
2 that if they want to lease to Tenneco, we will predate the  
3 lease to Novembr of last year and take them off of forced  
4 pooling and pay them the bonus \$400 an acre, and then wipe  
5 them off, I guess, wipe them off the forced pooling as if  
6 they'd leased to us from the outset.

7           Q           Okay, and you've had some success with  
8 that?

9           A           Yes, we have. Within the last ten days  
10 I've picked up another seven or eight mineral owners that  
11 have agreed to do that.

12          Q           Okay.

13                   MR. CATANACH: I think that's  
14 all I have at this time.

15                   The witness may be excused.

16                   MR. KELLAHIN: Call Mr. Mike  
17 Decker at this time, Mr. Examiner.

18                   MICHAEL DECKER,  
19 being called as a witness and being duly sworn upon his  
20 oath, testified as follows, to-wit:  
21

22                   DIRECT EXAMINATION

23                   BY MR. KELLAHIN:

24           Q           Mr. Decker, would you please state your  
25

1 full name and by whom you're employed and in what capacity?

2 A My name is Michael Decker. I'm a project  
3 geological engineer for Tenneco Oil Company in Denver.

4 Q Mr. Decker, have you previously testified  
5 as a petroleum geologist before the Oil Conservation Divi-  
6 sion?

7 A Yes, I have.

8 Q In fact you testified before the Examiner  
9 at a hearing held last year in which Tenneco obtained appro-  
10 val not only for the forced pooling orders but in the direc-  
11 tional drilling portion of those applications.

12 A That is correct.

13 Q Subsequent to your past testimony before  
14 the Division, have you made further geologic investigations  
15 of this area?

16 A Yes, I have.

17 Q And do you have recommendations to the  
18 Examiner as to a risk factor penalty to be assessed in this  
19 case?

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q And have you made a review of the well  
22 costs that were involved in drilling the initial two wells  
23 and how they compare to the infill well?

24 A Yes.

25 MR. KELLAHIN: We tender Mr.

1 Decker as an expert petroleum geologist.

2 MR. CATANACH: He is so quali-  
3 fied.

4 Q Mr. Decker, let me direct your attention  
5 to Exhibit Number Ten in the exhibit book and have you take  
6 a moment and simply identify the exhibit.

7 A Exhibit Number Ten is a net pay Isopach  
8 on the Dakota B-1 Sand. The contour interval on this Iso-  
9 pach is 4 feet and it also includes location of the subject  
10 well and a cross section that is on -- that is Exhibit Num-  
11 ber Eleven.

12 Q Find for us on the plat Section 10 that  
13 is the subject of this hearing.

14 A The Section 10 is located in the middle  
15 of the diagram and includes the surface location of the is-  
16 land, which is located in the City of Farmington, and is --  
17 there is the directional diagram to the bottom hole location  
18 of the 1-E shown within Section Ten.

19 Q And to the south of the surface location  
20 is the bottom hole location of the No. 1 Well?

21 A That is correct.

22 Q And then to the southwest is the bottom  
23 hole location of the No. 2 Well?

24 A That is correct.

25 Q In drilling the initial two wells, the

1 No. 2 and the No. 1, what did you discover in terms of the  
2 net pay thickness in the Dakota B-1 Sand?

3 A Okay, in the No. 1 Well the net pay came  
4 in -- within the Dakota B-1 Sand, came in as we had inter-  
5 preted it; however, then we drilled the No. 2 as we con-  
6 tinued to step out towards the west, we did not encounter as  
7 much pay as we had expected, and the 16 feet that we encoun-  
8 tered does reflect a poorer well, whereas the net pay Isopach  
9 numbers do reflect the estimated ultimate recovery of the  
10 well.

11 Q In comparing the quality of the No. 1  
12 with the No. 2 Well, and the difference of 8 net feet  
13 between 24 and 16, what significance, if any, does that  
14 difference make?

15 A It does make a significant difference and  
16 I'd like to defer what the estimated ultimate recovery is to  
17 Tim Howar, but it does make a difference in the production  
18 rates and also in the final recovery.

19 Q In assessing the geologic risk involved  
20 in picking the location, then, for the infill Well 1-E, how  
21 critical is it for you to find a location that has a net  
22 footage thickness greater than the 16 feet you found in the  
23 No. 2 Well?

24 A It is significant because we have  
25 determined that the 16 feet is close to our economic limit

1 of drilling a directional well in this area and so it is  
2 crucial that we do obtain greater than 16 feet and, hopeful-  
3 ly, again about 20 feet, as we did in the No. 1 Well.

4 Q Can you assign a percentage risk factor  
5 penalty to be assessed in your opinion to the nonconsenting  
6 working interest owners based upon the geologic risk?

7 A Yes, I believe that's a 300 percent pen-  
8 alty is adequate.

9 Q And by 300 percent you mean recovering  
10 the costs of their share of the well from production plus  
11 two more times?

12 A That is correct.

13 Q Let's talk about the risk involved inher-  
14 ently in drilling a directional well, as you've experienced  
15 that risk in Section 10.

16 Describe for the Examiner what was your  
17 success and what difficulty you may have encountered in  
18 drilling the first two wells.

19 A Okay. When we drilled the first two  
20 wells, the No. 1 and No. 2, and I will address my comments  
21 primarily to the No. 2 because the No. 2 is similar in angle  
22 as to the 1-E that we will be drilling.

23 We kicked off the well in the Kirtland  
24 Fruitland undivided interval and (unclear) to build the an-  
25 gle through the Mesaverde formation and through the Point

1 Lookout member. We got up to approximately 29 degrees with-  
2 in the Point Lookout. Our angle, our proposed angle was 28  
3 degrees. Once we passed through the Point Lookout into the  
4 Mancos formation, which is located immediately below the  
5 Point Lookout, we began to have hole maintaining our angle.  
6 We dropped to 11 degrees within, I'm doing this from memory  
7 here, about 600 feet.

8 We kept going in with additional downhole  
9 motors to alleviate our angle dropping. We found that just  
10 by going in with a standard bottom hole assembly made up to  
11 keep the angle built, that was not sufficient. So we had to  
12 keep going in with downhole motors. We had to make those  
13 additional trips that added to our days, the total days of  
14 drilling, and also to, substantially to our trouble time and  
15 cost, in just keeping the angle built so we'd be able to hit  
16 our target that we had said we would hit within our direc-  
17 tional drilling unit.

18 The similar -- similar problems were seen  
19 in the No. 1 Well, however, it only got up to 18 degrees so  
20 it wasn't quite as crucial as the 28 degrees seen in No. 2.

21 Currently we are proposing to drill the  
22 1-E up to approximately 29 degrees.

23 Q Let me direct your attention, Mr. Decker,  
24 to Exhibit Number Eleven, and have you identify and describe  
25 that exhibit.

1           A           Exhibit Number Eleven is a Dakota strati-  
2 graphic cross section going through the proposed well. It  
3 is listed as A-A', going from east to west. The datum for  
4 this stratigraphic cross section is the Graneros Shale, and  
5 what I'd like to show within this exhibit is the deterior-  
6 ating stratigraphy, or thickness, of the Dakota B Sand in-  
7 terval as you go from east to west.

8                   And if you'll also notice in the  
9 furthestmost western well, the Airport No. 1, this well was  
10 P&A'd in 1961 after producing only 76-million cubic feet of  
11 gas.

12                   This stratigraphic cross section does  
13 reflect a fluvial and channel environment which is a tough  
14 environment, deposition to always predict.

15           Q           Let me direct your attention back to  
16 Exhibit Number Six, which is the AFE that Mr. Heringer has  
17 submitted to those individuals with whom he could find with  
18 ownership in the east half of -- of the section, and based  
19 upon your drilling experience with the No. 2 Well in the  
20 section, describe for us whether or not you have an opinion  
21 as to whether the estimated well cost for the infill well,  
22 the Com 1-E, are fair and reasonable.

23           A           Yes, I do believe they are fair and  
24 reasonable.

25           Q           Okay. Can you describe for us generally

1 how these costs relate to the costs involved in drilling the  
2 other well, the No. 2 Well that was deviated at such a simi-  
3 lar distance?

4 A From -- from these costs here in the No.  
5 2 Well, the directional portion is more, approximately  
6 \$20,000 more than in the original No. 2 Well; however, the  
7 costs are not substantial enough to greatly alter the total  
8 cost that we see between the original AFE cost in the No. 2  
9 and this original AFE cost in the 1-E.

10 MR. KELLAHIN: That concludes  
11 my examination of Mr. Decker. We'd move the exhibits on --  
12 introduction of Exhibits Ten and Eleven.

13 MR. CATANACH: Exhibits Ten and  
14 Eleven will be admitted into evidence.

15

16 CROSS EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. CATANACH:

18 Q Mr. Decker, you've got quite a large num-  
19 ber of wells for control in this area, is that -- is that  
20 correct?

21 A Fair amount, yes.

22 Q How confident do you feel at this point  
23 that you'll hit that -- over that 16 feet of sand in the  
24 proposed well?

25 A I feel reasonably confident that we will

1 get over the 16 feet; however, since this is a fluvial envi-  
2 ronment, this channel that is coming through there, as noted  
3 by the darkened 20-foot contour, that could easily be con-  
4 toured to where the location of the channel would be more to  
5 the east and which would follow the 27 feet, which is lo-  
6 cated in the well southwest of No. 2, and come down to our  
7 Ervin Com 1-E, which is in Section 11, northwest corner of  
8 Section -- excuse me, of section -- northwest quarter of  
9 Section 11 of 24 feet, and then down to our No. 1 location  
10 that we drilled last year.

11 I could easily contour this Isopach to  
12 reflect the channel would come through those three locations  
13 and then have sand quality drop off to where we would only  
14 anticipate 15 feet, or maybe even less, within that 1-E lo-  
15 cation.

16 Q You say that 16 feet is your cutoff point  
17 for a commercial well? Is that what you said?

18 A The 16 feet is an approximation based on  
19 what we've seen of time, the net pay value of the wells lo-  
20 cated in this area, back to estimated ultimate recoveries,  
21 and 16 feet would make it an economic location.

22 MR. CATANACH: That's all I  
23 have. The witness may be excused.

24

25



1 signed to go hand in hand with Exhibit Ten, which Mike de-  
2 tailed. What Exhibit Twelve indicates are the cumulative  
3 productions, production from all of the Dakota wells in the  
4 area, as well as the date the wells came on.

5 Specifically what I use this to illus-  
6 trate is primarily with the wells that were drilled 20 years  
7 ago or more, in the 1960's, and there's a very good correla-  
8 tion, I think, between the production to date, which for all  
9 intents and purposes is ultimate, with the net pay as mapped  
10 on Exhibit Ten.

11 You can see as you trend towards the west  
12 the quality of production does drop off significantly and if  
13 you -- you could almost draw a vertical line, I think,  
14 through Section 10 indicating a line of where the wells are  
15 what we call good wells and where it gets into areas where  
16 we probably wouldn't want to be drilling, and it, I think,  
17 supports the net pay map that Mike detailed.

18 Q The Examiner is authorized by the statute  
19 to enter a risk factor penalty against any nonconsenting  
20 owners up to a 200 percent penalty. Have you made an en-  
21 gineering evaluation and study of the known production in  
22 order to arrive at your recommendation to the Examiner as to  
23 that risk factor penalty percentage?

24 A Yes, I have.

25 Q The Examiner asked Mr. Decker about the

1 large number of wells in here establishing sufficient geolo-  
2 gic control and therefore perhaps reducing the geologic  
3 risk. Mr. Decker concluded that notwithstanding the large  
4 number of wells, that there was still a significant geologic  
5 risk.

6 Let me ask you a similar question. In  
7 view of the large number of Dakota wells and the established  
8 production and producing characteristics, do you have an  
9 opinion as to what that percentage risk factor penalty ought  
10 to be?

11 A I would recommend 200 percent.

12 Q All right, why?

13 A If you look at -- if we can jump ahead to  
14 Exhibit Thirteen?

15 Q All right, let's do it.

16 A What this is designed to do is illustrate  
17 the magnitude of how much production quality we lose in just  
18 dropping from 24 to 16 feet of net pay. When you think of  
19 going from 24 to 16 feet of net pay it doesn't seem it's  
20 that big a deal but the line below the net pay line illus-  
21 trates the current capacity of the two wells. The City of  
22 Farmington Com No. 1 is a good well, admittedly. Its cur-  
23 rent capacity is about 2.4-million cubic feet per day; how-  
24 ever, the City of Farmington No. 2 Well is below 700 a day.  
25 So you can see dropping off 8 feet, cutting your net pay by

1 25 percent, we're seeing probably 3-1/2-fold decrease in ca-  
2 pacity and that would translate directly to ultimate recov-  
3 ery.

4                   What Mike got -- what Mike Decker talked  
5 about when he looked at Exhibit Ten, if in fact that fluvial  
6 channel does trend away from the Com No. 1-E and we lose a  
7 net pay down to the 16-foot or less, it's probably -- it's  
8 -- the results for that well would be very similar to what  
9 we see in the City of Farmington No. 2 Well and at present  
10 that's not really a well I'd recommend to drill.

11                   Q                   Let's talk about the second portion of  
12 Exhibit Number Thirteen and talk about the pressure informa-  
13 tion that you've displayed.

14                   A                   The first line is the original pressure  
15 for the two wells. We had anticipated essentially hitting  
16 virgin reservoir pressure with those two wells and that's --  
17 I estimated that to be around 2000 pounds and that's what  
18 both of the wells did test.

19                                   Currently that reservoir pressure,  
20 though, is down around 1600 pounds. The two shut-in pres-  
21 sures were obtained from this past month, the Farmington  
22 plant was down for about a month and a half so the wells  
23 were shut-in for that period and we were able to obtain rel-  
24 atively good shut-in pressures.

25                                   What I included that for, it was just to

1 illustrate that the reservoir pressure is decreasing some-  
2 what in Section 10, and we may or may not hit virgin pres-  
3 sure when we drill the 1-E. That would just add further  
4 risk to the net pay question.

5 Q Let me direct your attention back to  
6 Exhibit Number Three, which is the -- I'm sorry, Exhibit  
7 Numbaer Six, which is the proposed AFE for the well, and ask  
8 you to comment, sir, on whether or not you have an opinion  
9 about that AFE as to whether it's fair and reasonable.

10 A Yes, I think it's fair and reasonable.  
11 In fact it might be a little bit low, personally, just  
12 because I checked and both of the AFE's for the previous two  
13 wells drilled we've -- we've been low. We were about  
14 \$50,000 over on these. Most of that was involved in some of  
15 the problems we had that Mike detailed in getting through  
16 the Mancos and having trouble building our angle and  
17 maintaining that angle and having to use -- experiencing  
18 more costs in directional drilling.

19 I think we have not inflated this AFE to  
20 reflect that. I think our feeling is we should be able to  
21 do this one, hopefully, anticipating those problems, so I  
22 think this is an accurate estimate of the costs that we will  
23 incur, but there is -- there is risk that we could again go  
24 over AFE.

25 Q If you establish Dakota production with

1 the infill well, do you have a market for that gas?

2 A Yes. We -- currently the gas is being  
3 sold to the city and going through the plant in the City of  
4 Farmington, and specifically, that's why we are drilling  
5 this well. We anticipate, because of the quality of produc-  
6 tion from the No. 2 Well, it wasn't what we had hoped for,  
7 we anticipate we'll fall below the demand that the plant  
8 asked for sometime in this upcoming year of '88, so we're  
9 drilling this third well to be able to meet that demand.

10 Q Were Exhibits Twelve and Thirteen pre-  
11 pared by you or compiled under your direction and supervi-  
12 sion?

13 A Yes.

14 MR. KELLAHIN: We move the in-  
15 troduction of Exhibits Twelve and Thirteen.

16 MR. CATANACH: Exhibits Twelve  
17 and Thirteen will be admitted into evidence.

18

19 CROSS EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. CATANACH:

21 Q Mr. Howar, reservoir sand thickness is  
22 not the only variable in determining the productive capabil-  
23 ities of these wells, is it?

24 A No. Oh, no; however, if I might, I'm not  
25 sure what you're referring to but porosity, the other fac-

1 tors that will enter into that tend to behave similarly to  
2 sand thickness. A drop off in sand thickness generally will  
3 be a drop off in the quality of the rock, as well.

4 Both the wells, the City No. 1 and No. 2  
5 were completed, acidized, in exactly the same manner, so I'm  
6 fairly confident that any discrepancy in production quality  
7 is not a result of completion technique.

8 MR. CATANACH: That's all the  
9 questions I have of the witness. He may be excused.

10 MR. KELLAHIN: That concludes  
11 our presentation in this case, Mr. Examiner.

12 MR. CATANACH: There being  
13 nothing further in Case 9265 it will be taken under  
14 advisement.

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16 (Hearing concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SALLY W. BOYD, C.S.R., DO  
HEREBY CERTIFY 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. 9265,  
heard by me on November 18 1987.

David R. Calant, Examiner  
Oil Conservation Division