

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
CONSIDERING:**

**CASE NO. 13517  
ORDER NO. R-12380**

**APPLICATION OF CIMAREX ENERGY COMPANY FOR COMPULSORY  
POOLING AND TWO NON-STANDARD GAS SPACING AND PRORATION  
UNITS, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

**ORDER OF THE DIVISION**

**BY THE DIVISION:**

This case came for hearing at 8:15 a.m. at Santa Fe, New Mexico on June 30, 2005 before Examiner William V. Jones.

NOW, on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2005, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner,

**FINDS THAT:**

(1) Due public notice has been given, and the Oil Conservation Division has jurisdiction of this case and of the subject matter.

(2) The applicant, **Cimarex** Energy Company ("applicant"), seeks an order pooling all uncommitted mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the N/2 of Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, in the following manner:

Lots 1, 2, the E/2 NW/4, and the NE/4 (the N/2 equivalent) forming a non-standard **314.16-acre** gas spacing and proration unit for all formations or pools spaced on 320 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include, but are not necessarily limited to the **undesignated Alacran Hills-Atoka** Gas (70060) Pool, the **Burton Flat-Morrow** Prorated Gas (73280) Pool, and the **West Burton Flat-Strawn** Gas (73440) Pool; and

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Lots 1, 2, and the E/2 NW/4 (the NW/4 equivalent) forming a non-standard 154.16-acre gas spacing and proration unit for all formations or pools spaced on 160 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include, but are not necessarily limited to the undesignated Foster Draw-Delaware Gas (76820) Pool.

(3) The above-described units ("the Units") are to be dedicated to the applicant's Colton 7 Federal Well No. 1 (API No. 30-015-33101), to be drilled at a standard well location in the NE/4 NW/4 (Unit C) of Section 7. This well will be drilled to an approximate depth of 11,800 feet.

(4) Two or more separately owned tracts are embraced within the Unit, **and/or** there are royalty interests **and/or** undivided interests in oil and gas minerals in one or more tracts included in the Unit that are separately owned.

(5) Applicant is an owner of an oil and gas working interest within the Units. Applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill to a common source of supply within the NE/4 NW/4 of Section 7.

(6) Devon Energy Production Company, LP ("Devon") entered an appearance in this case as an opponent. No other parties entered an appearance in this case or otherwise opposed this application.

(7) Devon was represented at the hearing through Counsel and at that time entered a verbal statement withdrawing opposition to this case.

(8) The applicant presented testimony from a **Landman** as follows:

(a) Approximately 51% of the working interest is committed to this well at this time.

(b) The applicant in this case (Cimarex Energy Company) wholly owns a subsidiary called Magnum Hunter who in turn wholly owns **Gruy** Petroleum Management Company. The applicant requests that Cimarex Energy Company *or its designee* be named as the Division designated operator of this well.

(c) The well is to be drilled from a surface location of **1,250** feet from the North line and **2,170** feet from the West line directionally to a bottom hole location of **1,250** feet from the North line and **1,650** feet from the West line. The slightly directional orientation of this well is necessary to avoid construction of the surface location too close to Lake Avalon.

(9) There are interest owners in the proposed Units that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(10) Any pooled working interest owner who does not pay its share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production its share of reasonable well costs plus an additional 200% thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in drilling the well.

(11) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$6,500 per month while drilling and \$650 per month while producing, provided that these rates should be adjusted annually pursuant to Section **III.1.A.3.** of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations.*"

(12) Applicants request for non-standard spacing and proration units should be approved.

(13) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, protect correlative rights, prevent waste and afford to the owner of each interest in the Units the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense its just and fair share of hydrocarbons, this application should be approved by pooling all uncommitted interests, whatever they may be, in the oil and gas within the Units.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

(1) Pursuant to the application of Cimarex Energy Company ("applicant"), all uncommitted mineral interests, whatever they may be, in the oil and gas from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the N/2 of Section 7, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled, as follows:

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Lots 1, 2, the E/2 NW/4, and the NE/4 (the N/2 equivalent) forming a non-standard **314.16-acre** gas spacing and proration unit for all formations or pools spaced on 320 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include, but are not necessarily limited to the undesignated **Alacran Hills-Atoka** Gas (70060) Pool, the Burton Flat-Morrow Prorated Gas (73280) Pool, and the West Burton **Flat-Strawn** Gas (73440) Pool; and

Lots 1, 2, and the E/2 NW/4 (the NW/4 equivalent) forming a non-standard **154.16-acre** gas spacing and proration unit for all formations or pools spaced on 160 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include, but are not necessarily limited to the undesignated Foster Draw-Delaware Gas (76820) Pool.

The above-described units ("the Units") are hereby dedicated to the applicant's Colton 7 Federal Well No. 1 (API No. **30-015-33101**), to be drilled at a standard well location in the NE/4 NW/4 (Unit C) of Section 7.

(2) The applicants request for non-standard spacing and proration units is hereby approved for all formations or pools (from surface to the base of the Morrow formation) spaced on 160 acres within the NW/4 equivalent of Section 7 and for all formations or pools spaced on 320 acres within the N/2 equivalent of Section 7.

(3) The operator of the Units shall commence drilling operations on the proposed well on or before October 31, 2005 and shall thereafter continue drilling the well with due diligence to test the Morrow formation at an approximate depth of **11,800** feet.

(4) In the event the operator does not commence drilling operations on the proposed well on or before October 31, 2005, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no effect, unless the operator obtains a time extension from the Division Director for good cause.

(5) Should the proposed well not be drilled and completed within 120 days after commencement thereof, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no further effect, and the unit created by this Order shall terminate unless the operator appears before the Division Director and obtains an extension of time to complete the well for good cause demonstrated by satisfactory evidence.

(6) Upon final plugging and abandonment of the Colton 7 Federal Well No. 1 (API No. 30-015-33101), the pooled unit created by this Order shall terminate, unless this order has been amended to authorize further operations.

(7) Cimarex Energy Company or its **designee** is hereby designated the operator of the proposed well and of the Unit.

(8) After pooling, uncommitted working interest owners are referred to as pooled working interest owners. ("Pooled working interest owners" are owners of working interests in the Units, including unleased mineral interests, who are not parties to an operating agreement governing the Units.) After the effective date of this order, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner in the Units an itemized schedule of estimated costs of drilling, completing and equipping the proposed well ("well costs").

(9) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished, any pooled working interest owner shall have the right to pay its share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production as hereinafter provided, and any such owner who pays its share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges. Pooled working interest owners who elect not to pay their share of estimated well costs as provided in this paragraph shall thereafter be referred to as "non-consenting working interest owners."

(10) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner (including non-consenting working interest owners) an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the proposed well. If no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division, and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of the schedule, the actual well costs shall be deemed to be the reasonable well costs. If there is an objection to actual well costs within the 45-day period, the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(11) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any pooled working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator its share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator the amount, if any, that the estimated well costs it has paid exceed its share of reasonable well costs.

(12) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (a) the proportionate share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner; and
- (b) as a charge for the risk involved in drilling the well, 200% of the above costs.

(13) The operator shall distribute the costs and charges withheld from production, proportionately, to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(14) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$6,500 per month while drilling and \$650 per month while producing, provided that these rates shall be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3. of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations*." The operator is authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to pooled working interest owners.

(15) Except as provided in Ordering Paragraphs (12) and (14) above, all proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in Eddy County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership. The operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of the escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with the escrow agent.

(16) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under this order. Any well costs or charges that are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interests' share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(17) Should all the parties to this compulsory pooling order reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

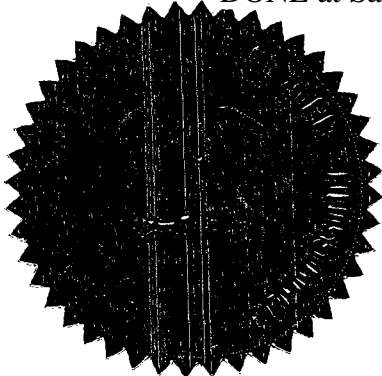
(18) The operator of the well and Units shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

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(19) Jurisdiction of this case is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.



SEAL

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

MARK E. FESMIRE, P.E.  
Director