

LEASE NO: VB0484 0000

Application No:

**OIL AND GAS LEASE
(Development Form)**

THIS AGREEMENT, dated May 01, 1996, between the state of New Mexico, acting by and through its commissioner of public lands, hereinafter called the "lessor", and

**YATES PETROLEUM CORP., A NEW MEXICO CORP.
105 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
ARTESIA, NM 88210**

hereinafter called the "lessee",

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the lessee has filed in the office of the commissioner of public lands an application for an oil and gas lease covering the lands hereinafter described and has tendered therewith the required first payment; and

WHEREAS, all of the requirements of law relative to the application and tender have been duly complied with;

THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises as well as the sum of **TWENTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY-TWO and 00/100 dollars (\$20,392.00)**, the same being the amount of the tender above mentioned, and the further sum of \$30.00 filing fee, and of the covenants and agreements hereinafter contained, the lessor does hereby grant, demise, lease and let unto the said lessee, exclusively, for the sole and only purpose of exploration, development and production of oil or gas (including carbon dioxide and helium), or both thereon and therefrom with the right to own all oil and gas so produced and saved therefrom and not reserved as royalty by the lessor under the terms of this lease, together with rights-of-way, easements and servitudes for pipelines, telephone lines, tanks, power houses, stations, gasoline plants and fixtures for producing, treating and caring for such products, and housing and boarding employees, and any and all rights and privileges necessary, incident to or convenient for the economical operation of said land, for oil and gas, with right for such purposes to the free use of oil, gas, casing-head gas or water from said lands, but not from lessor's water wells, and with the rights of removing either during or after the term hereof, all and any improvements placed or erected on the premises by the lessee, including the right to pull all casing, subject, however, to the covenants and conditions hereinafter set out, the following described land situated in the count(y)(ies) of **Eddy**, state of New Mexico, and more particularly described as follows:

<u>Subdivisions</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Institution</u>
NE4, NW4SE4	32	23S	25E	200.00	CS

Said lands having been awarded to lessee and designated as Tract No. **VB-0001** at public sale held by the commissioner of public lands on **April 16, 1996**.

To have and to hold said land, and all the rights and privileges granted hereunder, to and unto the lessee for a primary term of five years from the date hereof, and as long thereafter as oil and gas, or either of them, is produced in paying quantities from said land by lessee, subject to all of the terms and conditions as hereinafter set forth.

In consideration of the premises the parties covenant and agree as follows:

1. Subject to the free use without royalty, as hereinbefore provided, the lessee shall pay the lessor as royalty three-sixteenth part of the oil produced and saved from the leased premises or the cash value thereof, at the option of the lessor, such value to be the price prevailing the day oil is run into a pipeline, if the oil be run into a pipeline, or into storage tanks, if the oil is stored.

2. Subject to the free use without royalty, as hereinbefore provided, at the option of the lessor at any time and from time to time, the lessee shall pay the lessor as royalty three-sixteenth part of the gas produced and saved from the leased premises, including casing-head gas. Unless said option is exercised by lessor, the lessee shall pay the lessor as royalty three-sixteenth of the cash value of the gas, including casing-head gas, produced and saved from the leased premises and marketed or utilized, such value to be equal to the net proceeds derived from the sale of such gas in the field; provided, however, the cash value for royalty purposes of carbon dioxide gas and of hydrocarbon gas delivered to a gasoline plant for extraction of liquid hydrocarbons shall be equal to the net proceeds derived from the sale of such gas, including any liquid hydrocarbons recovered therefrom.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the lessor may require the payment of royalty for all or any part of the gas produced and saved under this lease and or may reduce the royalty value of any such gas (to any amount not less than the net proceeds of sale thereof, in the field) if the commissioner of public lands shall determine such action to be necessary to the successful operation of the lands for oil or gas purposes or to encourage ultimate recovery of oil or gas or to the promotion of conservation of oil or gas or in the public interest.

This lease shall not expire at the end of the primary term hereof if there is a well capable of producing gas in paying quantities located upon some part of the lands embraced herein, or upon lands pooled or communitized herewith, where such well is shut-in due to the inability of the lessee to obtain a pipeline connection or to from the date said well was shut-in and on or before said rental date the commencement of marketing of gas from said well or the expiration of ninety days as if gas were being produced in paying quantities and upon the commencement of marketing of gas from said well or the expiration of ninety days which the gas is first marketed shall be credited upon the royalty payable hereunder to the lessor for such year. The provisions of this section shall also apply lease shall not expire so long as said annual royalty is paid as herein provided. The amount of any annual royalty payable under this section shall equal twice the annual rental due to the lessee under the terms of this lease but not less than three hundred twenty dollars (\$320) per well per year, provided, however, that any such annual royalty for any year beginning on or after ten years from the date hereof shall equal four times the annual rental due by the lessee under the terms of this lease but not less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per well per year, provided further that no annual royalty shall be payable under this section if equivalent amounts are timely paid pursuant to another lease issued by lessor and if such other lease includes lands communitized with lands granted hereunder for the purpose of proportionally sharing in the shut-in well. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section to the contrary, this lease shall not be continued after five years from the date hereof for any period of more than ten years by the payment of said annual royalty unless, for good cause shown, the commissioner of public lands, in his discretion, grants such a continuance.

3. Lessee agrees to make full settlement on the twentieth day of each month for all royalties due to the lessor for the preceding month, under this lease, and to permit the lessor or its agents, at all reasonable hours, to examine lessee's books relating to the production and disposition of oil gas produced. Lessee further agrees to submit to lessor annually upon forms furnished by lessor, verified reports showing lessee's operations for the preceding year.

4. An annual rental at the rate of \$1.00 per acre shall become due and payable to the lessor by the lessee upon each acre of the land above described and then claimed by such lessee, and the same shall be due and payable in advance to the lessor on successive anniversary dates of this lease, but the annual rental on any assignment shall in no event be less than forty dollars (\$40.00).

In the event the lessee shall elect to surrender any or all of said acreage, he shall deliver to the lessor a duly executed release thereof and in event said lease has been recorded then he shall upon request furnish and deliver to the lessor a certified copy of a duly recorded release.

5. The lessee may at any time by paying to the lessor all amounts then due as provided herein and the further sum of forty dollars (\$40.00), surrender and cancel this lease insofar as the same covers all or any portion of the lands herein leased and be relieved from further obligations or liability hereunder, in the manner as hereinbefore provided. Provided, this surrender clause and the option herein reserved to the lessee shall cease and become absolutely inoperative immediately and concurrently with the institution of any suit in any court of law or equity by the lessee, lessor or any assignee, to enforce this lease, or any of its terms expressed or implied.

6. All payments due hereunder shall be made on or before the day such payment is due, at the office of the commissioner of public lands in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

7. The lessee shall have the rights to assign this lease in whole or in part. Provided, however, that no assignment of an undivided interest in the lease or in any part thereof nor any assignment of less than a legal subdivision shall be recognized or approved by the lessor. Upon approval in writing by the lessor or an assignee, the assignor shall stand relieved from all obligations to the lessor with respect to the lands embraced in the assignment and the lessor shall likewise be relieved from all obligations to the assignor as to such tracts, and the assignee shall succeed to all of the rights and privileges of the assignor with respect to such tracts and shall be held to have assumed all of the duties and obligations of the assignor to the lessor as to such tracts.

8. In the event a well or wells producing oil or gas in paying quantities should be brought in on adjacent land which is draining the leased premises, lessee shall drill such offset well or wells as a reasonably prudent operator would drill under the same or similar circumstances, provided that no such offset well shall be required if compensatory royalties are paid pursuant to an agreement between the lessor and the lessee.

9. The lessee agrees to notify the lessor of the location of each well before commencing drilling thereon, to keep a complete and accurate log of each well drilled and to furnish a copy thereof, verified by some person having actual knowledge of the facts, to the lessor upon the completion of any well, and to furnish the log of any unfinished well at any time when requested to do so by the lessor.

If any lands embraced in this lease shall be included in any deed or contract of purchase outstanding and subsisting issued pursuant to any sale made of the surface of such lands prior to the date of this lease, it is agreed and understood that no drilling operation shall be commenced on any such lands so sold unless and until the lessee shall have filed a good and sufficient bond with the lessor as required by law, to secure the payment for such damage to the livestock, range, water, crops or tangible improvements on such lands as may be suffered by the purchaser holding such deed or contract of purchase, or his successors, by reason of the developments, use and occupation of such lands by such lessee. Provided, however, that no such bond shall be required if such purchaser shall waive the right to require such bond to be given in the manner provided by law.