

**BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
EXAMINER HEARING JULY 17, 2025**

**CASE No. 25297**

*JAMES RANCH UNIT EXCEPTION  
UNDER ORDER R-111-Q*

**EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**



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

**APPLICATION OF XTO PERMIAN  
OPERATING LLC FOR EXCEPTIONS  
TO THE WELL CASING PROGRAM  
REQUIREMENT UNDER ORDER NO.  
R-111-Q, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

**CASE NO. 25297**

**HEARING PACKAGE  
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**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**APPLICATION OF XTO PERMIAN OPERATING LLC FOR  
EXCEPTIONS TO THE WELL CASING PROGRAM REQUIREMENT  
UNDER ORDER NO. R-111-Q, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

**CASE NO. 25297**

**SELF-AFFIRMED STATEMENT OF WILL DACUS**

1. My name is Will Dacus and I am employed by ExxonMobil as the Wells Manager for the Permian (Delaware) Region. The applicant, XTO Permian Operating LLC, is an operating affiliate of ExxonMobil. I am familiar with the application filed in this matter and the events resulting in the filing of this application.

2. This is my first time testifying before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission. Attached as **XTO Exhibit A-1** is a summary of my educational background and work history. I believe that my credentials qualify me to testify as an expert in petroleum wellbore design and engineering.

3. XTO is the designated operator of the James Ranch Unit (the "Unit") in Eddy County, New Mexico. Under this application, XTO seeks an order approving an exception to the four-string wellbore design requirements in Commission Order No. R-111-Q, subsection C(5)(c)(iv), for three wells: (1) the James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth #116H (API No. 30-015-54882); (2) James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth Com #117H (API No. 30-015-54883); and (3) James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth #708H (API No. 30-015-54960).

4. Order R-111-Q governs the drilling of wells within the Known Potash Leasing Area ("KPLA"). In situations where the operator elects to run a second intermediate string (resulting in

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Exhibit No. A  
Submitted by: XTO Permian Operating, LLC  
Hearing Date: July 17, 2025  
Case no. 25297

a four-string wellbore design) the order specifies four well construction methods designed to “divert flow of wellbore fluids away from the salt interval in the event of a sudden production casing failure.” Order No. R-111-Q, C(5)(c) at p. 9.

5. In 2024 XTO was engaged in a 32 well development program in the KPLA that utilized four-string wellbore designs. XTO elected to use the fourth casing construction design method (depicted in Order R-111-Q as Figure F) which requires: “An engineered weak point shall be included on the second intermediate casing string below the salt formation in the form of a lower strength casing or rupture disc to divert fluid into a suitable relief zone below the salt formation.” See **XTO Exhibit A-2** (containing Order No. R-111-Q, C(5)(c)(iv) and Figure F in R-111-Q).

6. XTO successfully drilled 29 of those wells with an engineered weak point that will “divert fluid into a suitable relief zone below the salt formation” as required by subsection C(5)(c)(iv).

7. However, while drilling 3 of the 32 wells XTO encountered casing and cementing issues that resulted in an engineered weak point which may not “divert fluid into a suitable relief zone below the salt formation” for the following reasons:

- The engineered weak point for James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth #116H was inadvertently placed approximately 3 feet inside of the first intermediate casing shoe instead of below the first intermediate casing. This construction risks not diverting well bore fluids below the salt formation in the event of a well failure, because the crossover point to lower yield strength casing in the Second Intermediate casing string (i.e., the engineered weak point) is just above the First



Intermediate casing shoe. See **XTO Exhibit A-3** (comparing Figure F from R-111-Q with the resulting wellbore for JRU D17 #116H).

- The James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth Com #117H and the James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth #708H both had cement placed too high between the production casing string and second intermediate casing string during remedial bradenhead squeeze operations. This resulted in the top of cement placement above the engineered weak point instead of below it. *Id.* (comparing Figure F from R-111-Q with the resulting wellbore for JRU D17 #117H and #708H.) This cement placement likely will not allow well bore fluids to be diverted below the salt formation in the event of a well failure.

8. Upon discovering these concerns, XTO suspended completion operations in all three wells, conducted a root-cause analysis to determine causal factors for these design flaws in 3 of the 32 wells drilled, and developed corrective actions to prevent recurrence.

9. **XTO Exhibit A-4** identifies the corrective actions the company is taking to prevent a recurrence of these events. It includes movement away from the 4-string design reflected in Figure F to the 4-string design reflected in Figure D of Order R-111-Q, and increased training and competency assessments for all engineering and operations teams in the KPLA.

10. To address the deficiencies in the three affected wells, XTO proposed to the BLM, the Potash Companies and the Division the following mitigation safeguards:

- a. First, in addition to pressure tests before hydraulic fracturing operations required by R-111-Q,(C)(6)(d) at p. 12, XTO will increase the solid body plug frequency and conduct pressure testing every two stages during hydraulic fracture operations, or about every 400 feet of the wellbore lateral. This will allow immediate action to

reduce the volume impact of potential flow in the event of production casing failure.

See **XTO Exhibit A-5.**

- b. Second, XTO will install additional surface pressure relief valves on the annulus between the second intermediate and first intermediate casing string during hydraulic fracture operations. This additional pressure relief valve will allow pressure build-up to be released at the surface in a controlled manner, rather than through any part of the casing in the unlikely event of a production casing and second intermediate casing string failure. This safeguard is in addition to the surface pressure relief valve on the annulus behind the production casing string and the second intermediate casing string required by R-111-Q, C(5)(c) at p. 9. This additional pressure relief valve is depicted in **XTO Exhibit A-5** and will combine with the required surface pressure relief valve to ensure fluids have an additional path of release at the surface.

11. In November of 2024 XTO notified the BLM of the engineered weak point concern in these three wells and XTO's proposed mitigation measures. See **XTO Exhibit 6.** The BLM forwarded XTO's notice and mitigation measures to the potentially affected potash companies (Intrepid Potash and Mosaic Potash), and subsequently notified XTO that the BLM discussed the proposed mitigation measures and agreed with them if the NMOCD has no concerns. *Id.*

12. XTO instructed the law firm of Holland & Hart to provide a copy of this application and notice of hearing to Intrepid Potash, Mosaic Potash, the members of the Joint Industry Technical Committee that assisted in developing Order R-111-Q, and all division-designated operators within one-mile of each well.

13. In my opinion, the additional safeguards proposed by XTO will provide equivalent protection to the potash interval as Order No. R-111-Q.

14. In my opinion, granting this application will prevent the undue waste of oil and gas reserves, protect correlative rights, prevent the undue waste of commercially recoverable potash, and promote the safe and responsible concurrent development of oil, gas and potash reserves.

15. **XTO Exhibits 1 through 6** were either prepared by me or compiled under my direction and supervision.

16. I affirm under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of New Mexico that the foregoing statements are true and correct. I understand that this self-affirmed statement will be used as written testimony in this case. This statement is made on the date next to my signature below.



Will Dacus

9-JUL-2025

Date

**Will J. Dacus**  
 22777 Springwoods Village Pkwy  
 Spring, TX 77389  
 Phone: 346-502-0180  
 Email: william.j.dacus@exxonmobil.com

## **Experience**

Over 20 years of experience in Drilling & Subsurface Engineering for major oil & gas operator. Held lead engineering and supervisory / managerial roles, supporting various domestic and international drilling, completions, and well intervention operations.

## **Education**

**University of Oklahoma (Norman, OK)**  
 Bachelor of Science – Mechanical Engineering

May 2005

## **Work Experience**

### **ExxonMobil**

**June 2005-current**

#### ***Wells Manager - Permian***

***(Nov '22 – current)***

- Manage engineering + operations personnel in support of drilling and frac operations in the Midland and Delaware Basin

#### ***Wells Manager - Sakhalin***

***(Oct '21 – Oct '22)***

- Managed engineering + operations personnel in support of onshore / offshore drilling and completions operations for the Sakhalin-1 project in Far East Russia, including support of safe and orderly wind down of operations and subsequent transition / exit from project

#### ***Staffing & Development Manager - Wells***

***(Jan '20 – Sept '21)***

- Managed assignment planning and deployment of ~1200 engineering, operations, and support personnel in the global Wells organization

#### ***Well Operations Superintendent – Eastern Canada***

***(Jun '18 – Jan '20)***

- Canada East Drilling Operations Superintendent, responsible for planning and execution of subsea exploration / appraisal drilling program.

#### ***Drilling & Subsurface Engineering Manager – Eastern Canada***

***(Jan '15 – Jun '18)***

- Managed team of 29 engineering / support personnel located in St. John's, Newfoundland. Supported harsh environment platform / subsea drilling operations across multiple rigs operating offshore Canada.

#### ***Drilling Engineering Manager – Angola / Equatorial Guinea***

***(Aug '13 – Dec '14)***

- Managed team of 47 engineering / support personnel located in Houston, Luanda, and Malabo. Supported platform / subsea development drilling operations on 4 rigs operating offshore W Africa.

#### ***Drilling Engineering Supervisor – Black & Beaufort Sea***

***(Jun '12 – Aug '13)***

- Supervised team of 10 engineering / support personnel located in Houston, TX and Bucharest, Romania. Supported project planning for subsea exploration / appraisal drilling project in Romanian sector of the Black Sea.

#### ***Planning Engineer – Drilling Business Planning***

***(Feb '11 – Jun '12)***

- Analyzed ExxonMobil's global drilling performance and market trends.

#### ***Drilling Engineering Supervisor – Equatorial Guinea***

***(Oct '09 – Feb '11)***

- Supervised team of 17 engineering / support personnel located in Houston, TX and Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Supported platform / subsea drilling operations on 2 rigs operating offshore W Africa



***Drilling Engineer – Nigeria / Equatorial Guinea***

***(Jan '07 – Oct '09)***

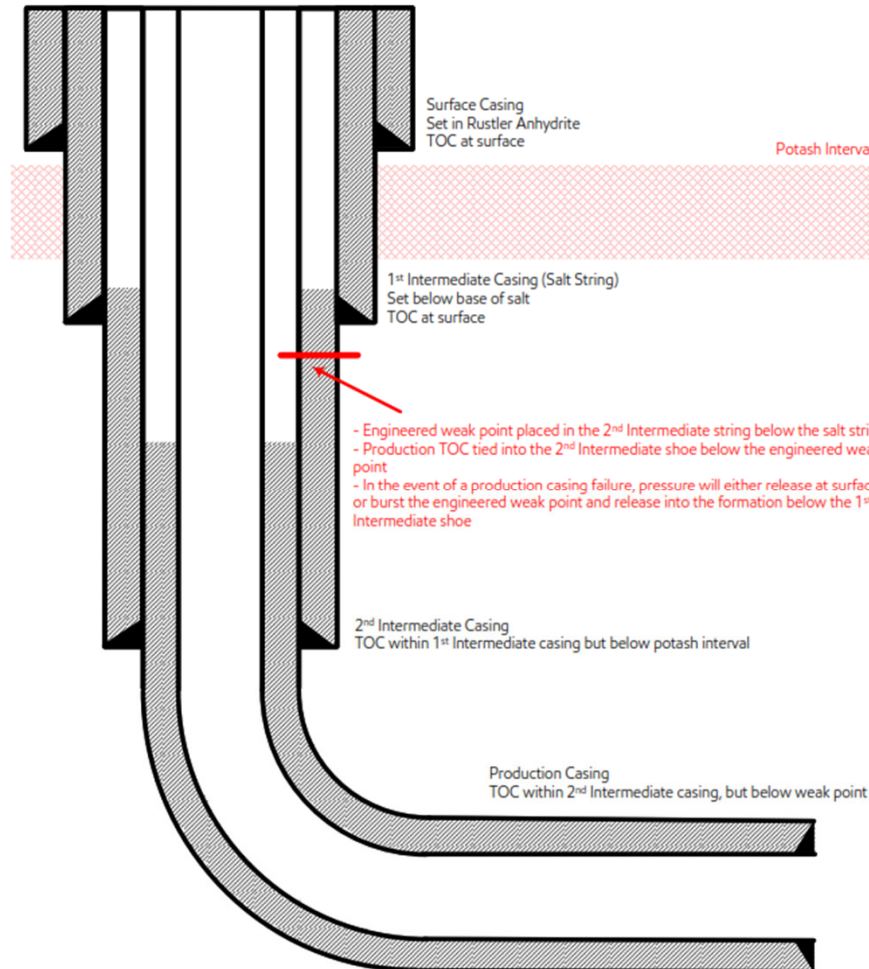
- Drilling engineer on W. Africa offshore exploration and development drilling programs.

***Drilling Engineer – US***

***(Jun '05 – Jan '07)***

- Drilling engineer for various onshore drilling programs in Wyoming, California, and E. Texas. Developed detailed procedures and provided on-site surveillance during well execution.

# R-111-Q: Engineered Weak Point Design



(iv) An engineered weak point shall be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> intermediate casing string below the salt formation in the form of a lower strength casing or rupture disc to divert fluid into a suitable relief zone below the salt formation. Reference wellbore diagram Figure F in Exhibit B.

(1) The 2<sup>nd</sup> intermediate casing string engineered weak point must be placed no less than 100 feet below the salt formation.

(2) The top of production casing cement must tie back at least 500 feet inside the 2<sup>nd</sup> intermediate casing string but not above the engineered weak point.

(3) The annulus between the 2<sup>nd</sup> intermediate and production casing strings shall remain open to surface and monitored

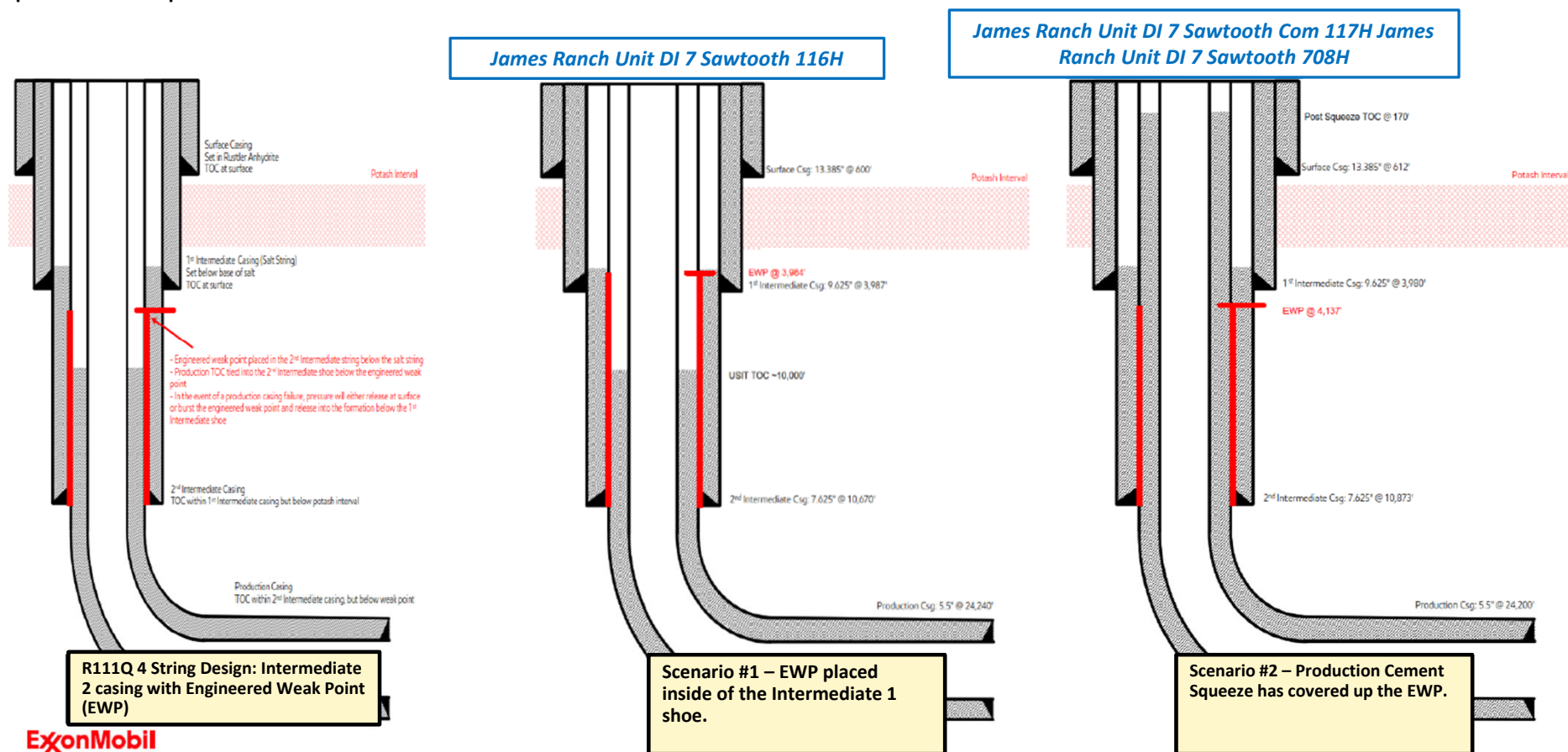
(4) The engineered weak point shall be designed to meet the minimum casing design criteria for the well but remain weaker than the rest of the casing string to ensure that the fluid is directed into the appropriate relief zone. For example: 7-5/8-inch, 29.7 pound L-80 grade casing from the shoe to Cherry Canyon formation crossed over to 7-5/8-inch, 29.7 pound P-110 grade casing to surface, noting that the L-80 grade casing meets the design requirements but is weaker than the P-110 grade casing.

From R111Q

R111Q Exhibit B: [Figure F] 4 String – 2nd Intermediate casing engineering weak point

# Background

As part of the broader 32-well program at James Ranch Unit DI-7 Sawtooth under R-111-Q using wellbore design Figure F, XTO successfully executed 29 wells. Three wells were inadvertently delivered that did not fully comply with the specified requirements:



## Corrective Actions

Comprehensive investigation conducted to identify the causal factors that resulted in non-compliance incidents and to develop corrective measures to prevent recurrence:

1. Well Design Modifications

Transitioned from Figure F to Figure D in similar KPLA well design scenarios to improve execution reliability

2. Enhanced Training & Competency Verification

Implemented targeted R-111-Q refresher training for XTO Engineering and Operations teams, including competency assessments to ensure understanding and adherence.



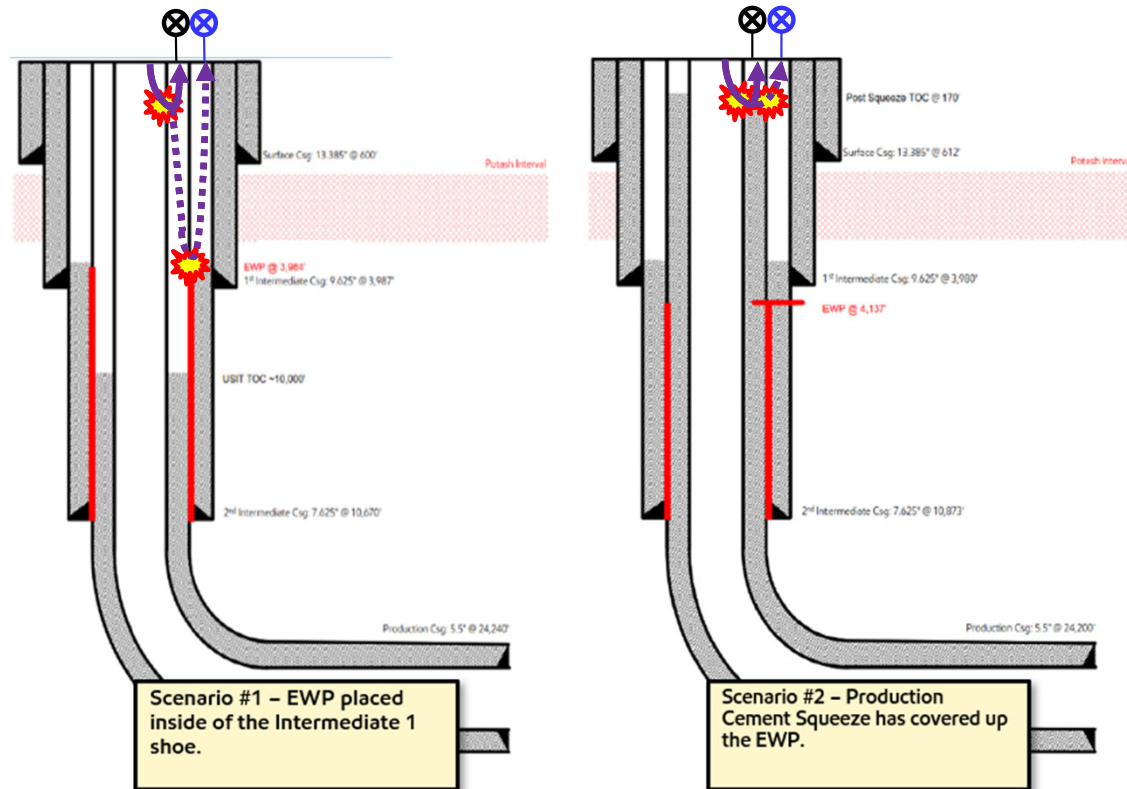
# Mitigation

XTO proposes the following additional mitigation safeguards for all three wells:

1. Increase solid body plug and pressure testing frequency during hydraulic fracture operations
2. Install additional surface pressure relief valves on the annulus between the second intermediate and first intermediate casing string during hydraulic fracture operations.

The proposed additional safeguards provide equivalent (redundant) protections to the potash interval as the provisions in Order No. R-111-Q.

- ⊗ Production x Intermediate-2 surface pressure relief valve
- ⊗ Intermediate-2 x Intermediate-1 surface pressure relief valve **(added)**
- ☀ Potential failure points
- ➡ Frac fluid potential flow / relief path (primary)
- ➡ Frac fluid potential flow / relief path (secondary)



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
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**CASE NO. 25297**

**SELF-AFFIRMED STATEMENT OF  
MICHAEL H. FELDEWERT**

1. I am attorney in fact and authorized representative of XTO Permian Operating LLC (“XTO”), the Applicant herein. I have personal knowledge of this matter addressed herein and am competent to provide this self-affirmed statement.

2. The above-referenced application and notice of the hearing on this application was sent by certified mail to the affected parties on the date set forth in the letter attached hereto.

3. The spreadsheet attached hereto contains the names of the parties to whom notice was provided.

4. The spreadsheet attached hereto contains the information provided by the United States Postal Service on the status of the delivery of this notice as of July 9, 2025.

5. I caused a notice to be published to all parties subject to these proceedings. An affidavit of publication from the publication’s legal clerk with a copy of the notice publication is attached herein.

6. I affirm under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of New Mexico that the foregoing statement are true and correct. I understand that this self-affirmed statement will be used as written testimony in this case. This statement is made on the date next to my signature below.

**BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Exhibit No. B  
Submitted by: XTO Permian Operating, LLC  
Hearing Date: July 17, 2025  
Case no. 25297**



Michael H. Feldewert

07/09/25

Date



**Adam G. Rankin**  
**Partner**  
**Phone** (505) 988-4421  
agrarkin@hollandhart.com

April 25, 2025

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**CERTIFIED RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**TO: AFFECTED PARTIES**

**Re: Application of XTO Permian Operating LLC for Exceptions to the Well Casing Program Requirement Under Order No. R-111-Q, Eddy County, New Mexico.**

Ladies & Gentlemen:

This letter is to advise you that XTO Permian Operating LLC has filed the enclosed application with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission. A hearing has been requested before a Division Examiner on May 15, 2025, and the status of the hearing can be monitored through the Division's website at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/ocd/>.

**It is anticipated that hearings will be held in a hybrid format with both in-person and virtual participation options. The meeting will be held in the Pecos Hall Hearing Room at the Wendall Chino Building, 1st Floor, 1220 South St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, New Mexico. To participate virtually in the hearing, see the instructions posted on the OCD Hearings website: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/ocd/hearing-info/>.**

You are not required to attend this hearing, but as an owner of an interest that may be affected by this application, you may appear and present testimony. Failure to appear at that time and become a party of record will preclude you from challenging the matter at a later date. Parties appearing in cases are required to file a Pre-hearing Statement four business days in advance of a scheduled hearing that complies with the provisions of NMAC 19.15.4.13.B.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Will Dacus at (832) 948-5021 or at [william.j.dacus@exxonmobil.com](mailto:william.j.dacus@exxonmobil.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AG Rankin'.

Adam G. Rankin  
**ATTORNEY FOR XTO PERMIAN OPERATING  
LLC**

**Location**  
110 North Guadalupe, Suite 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87501-1849

**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 2208  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-2208

**Contact**  
p: 505.988.4421 | f: 505.983.6043  
[www.hollandhart.com](http://www.hollandhart.com)

Holland & Hart LLP Anchorage Aspen Billings Boise Boulder Cheyenne Denver Jackson Hole Las Vegas Reno Salt Lake City Santa Fe Washington, D.C.



XTO - James Ranch Exception Order R-111-Q - Case no. 25297  
Postal Delivery Report

9414811898765449564056	Chevron	1400 Smith St	Houston	TX	77002-7311	This is a reminder to arrange for redelivery of your item or your item will be returned to sender.
9414811898765449564025	Chevron USA, Inc.	6301 Deauville	Midland	TX	79706-2964	Your package will arrive later than expected, but is still on its way. It is currently in transit to the next facility.
9414811898765449564094	COP	600 W Illinois Ave	Midland	TX	79701-4882	Your item was picked up at a postal facility at 7:47 am on April 30, 2025 in MIDLAND, TX 79701.
9414811898765449564087	Coterra	840 Gessner Rd Ste 1400	Houston	TX	77024-4152	Your item was delivered to an individual at the address at 11:12 am on April 30, 2025 in HOUSTON, TX 77024.
9414811898765449564414	Coterra	6001 Deauville	Midland	TX	79706-2671	Your item was picked up at the post office at 9:02 am on May 9, 2025 in MIDLAND, TX 79701.
9414811898765449564469	Devon Energy Product	20 N Broadway	Oklahoma City	OK	73102-9213	Your item was picked up at a postal facility at 10:14 am on May 6, 2025 in OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102.
9414811898765449564407	EOG Resources Inc	PO Box 2267	Midland	TX	79702-2267	Your item was picked up at a postal facility at 8:35 am on May 14, 2025 in MIDLAND, TX 79701.
9414811898765449564445	EOG Resources Inc	5509 Champions Dr	Midland	TX	79706-2843	Your item was picked up at a postal facility at 8:47 am on April 29, 2025 in MIDLAND, TX 79701.

XTO - James Ranch Exception Order R-111-Q - Case no. 25297  
Postal Delivery Report

9414811898765449564438	Harvard Petroleum Co LLC	PO Box 936	Roswell	NM	88202-0936	Your item was picked up at the post office at 10:41 am on April 30, 2025 in ROSWELL, NM 88201.
9414811898765449564568	Intrepid	210 Red Cloud Rd	Carlsbad	NM	88220-8978	Your item is being held at the CARLSBAD, NM 88220 post office at 7:51 am on April 30, 2025. This is at the request of the customer.
9414811898765449564506	Intrepid	707 127th St. Suite 4200	Denver	CO	80202	Your item was delivered to an individual at the address at 9:31 am on April 28, 2025 in DENVER, CO 80202.
9414811898765449564544	KAISER Francis Oil	6733 S Yale Ave	Tulsa	OK	74136-3302	Your item was delivered to the front desk, reception area, or mail room at 11:35 am on April 29, 2025 in TULSA, OK 74136.
9414811898765449564537	Mewbourne	500 W Texas Ave Ste 1020	Midland	TX	79701-4279	Your item was delivered to the front desk, reception area, or mail room at 11:29 am on April 29, 2025 in MIDLAND, TX 79701.
9414811898765449565213	Mosaic	1361 Potash Mines Rd	Carlsbad	NM	88220-8958	Your item was picked up at the post office at 2:31 pm on May 5, 2025 in CARLSBAD, NM 88220.
9414811898765449565220	Mosaic	PO Box 7698	Tyler	TX	75711-7698	Your item has been delivered and is available at a PO Box at 11:51 am on May 1, 2025 in TYLER, TX 75711.

XTO - James Ranch Exception Order R-111-Q - Case no. 25297  
Postal Delivery Report

9414811898765449565244	Owl SWD Operating LLC, Ben Stone Agent	PO Box 300	Como	TX	75431-0300	Your item departed our USPS facility in ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87101 on June 19, 2025 at 6:45 pm. The item is currently in transit to the destination.
9414811898765449565237	Oxy U S A Inc	5 Greenway Plz Ste 110	Houston	TX	77046-0521	Your item has been delivered to an agent at the front desk, reception, or mail room at 10:29 am on April 30, 2025 in HOUSTON, TX 77046.
9414811898765449565855	Oxy U S A Inc	PO Box 50250	Midland	TX	79710-0250	Your item was picked up at a postal facility at 9:35 am on May 1, 2025 in MIDLAND, TX 79705.
9414811898765449565824	Oxy U S A Inc	1600 Gehrig Dr	Midland	TX	79706-3594	Your item was picked up at the post office at 9:59 am on May 1, 2025 in MIDLAND, TX 79701.
9414811898765449565893	Permian Resources	300 N Marienfeld St Ste 100	Midland	TX	79701-4345	Your item was delivered to an individual at the address at 1:07 pm on May 2, 2025 in MIDLAND, TX 79701.
9414811898765449565886	Strata Prod Co	1301 N Sycamore Ave	Roswell	NM	88201-8892	Your item has been delivered to an agent at the front desk, reception, or mail room at 10:05 am on April 30, 2025 in ROSWELL, NM 88201.
9414811898765449565879	Strata Prod Co	PO Box 1030	Roswell	NM	88202-1030	Your item was picked up at the post office at 10:54 am on April 30, 2025 in ROSWELL, NM 88201.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

CARLSBAD CURRENT-ARGUS  
PO BOX 507  
HUTCHINSON, KS 67504-0507

STATE OF NEW MEXICO } SS  
COUNTY OF EDDY }

Account Number: 83  
Ad Number: 45410  
Description: XTO - James Ranch Unit  
Ad Cost: \$131.24

Sherry Groves, being first duly sworn, says:

That she is the Agent of the the Carlsbad Current-Argus, a Weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Carlsbad, Eddy County, New Mexico; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in said newspaper on the following dates:

May 1, 2025

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:

*Sherry Groves*

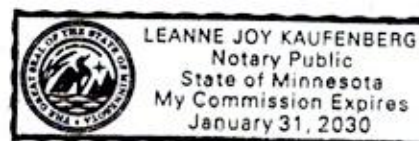
Agent

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2025.

*Leanne Kaufenberg*

Leanne Kaufenberg, Notary Public, Redwood County  
Minnesota

Holland And Hart  
HOLLAND AND HART  
110 N Guadalupe ST # 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87501-1849  
kethaggard@hollandhart.com



BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Exhibit No. C  
Submitted by: XTO Permian Operating, LLC  
Hearing Date: July 17, 2025  
Case no. 25297



Case No. 25297: Application of XTO Permian Operating LLC for Exceptions to the Well Casing Program Requirement Under Order No. R-111-Q, Eddy County, New Mexico. Notice to all affected interest owners, including all heirs, devisees and successors of: Chevron; Chevron USA, Inc.; COP; Coterra; Devon Energy Product; EOG Resources Inc; Harvard Petroleum Co LLC; Intrepid; KAISER Francis Oil; Mewbourne; Mosaic; Owl SWD Operating LLC; Oxy USA Inc.; Permian Resources; and Strata Prod Co. The State of New Mexico, Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Oil Conservation Division ("Division") hereby gives notice that the Division will hold public hearing 8:30 a.m. on May 15, 2025, to consider this application. The hearing will be conducted in a hybrid fashion, both in-person at the Energy, Minerals, Natural Resources Department, Wendell Chino Building, Pecos Hall, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, 1st Floor, Santa Fe, NM 87505 and via the WebEx virtual meeting platform. To participate in the hearings electronically, see the instructions posted on the docket for the hearing date: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/ocd/hearing-info/> or contact Freya Tschantz, at [Freya.Tschantz@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:Freya.Tschantz@emnrd.nm.gov). Applicant in the above-styled cause seeks an order for approval of exceptions to the well casing program requirements provided under Order No. R-111-Q for three wells: (1) the James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth #116H (API No. 30-015-54882); (2) James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth Federal C #117H (API No. 30-015-54883); and (3) James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth #708H (API No. 30-015-54960). The wells do not comply with the casing requirements outlined in Order No. R-111-Q, C(5)(c)(iv). Specifically, XTO seeks an exception for placement of an engineered weak point in the second intermediate casing 3 feet above the first intermediate casing shoe in the James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth #116H well. XTO also seeks exceptions for its James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth Federal C #117H and James Ranch Unit DI 7 Sawtooth #708H which both had top of cement placed above an engineered weak point instead of below it. XTO proposes additional safeguards during hydraulic fracturing including reducing the solid body plug frequency to once every two stages and placing a surface pressure relief valve on the annulus between the second intermediate and first intermediate casing string. This area is located approximately 16 miles east of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Published in the Carlsbad Current-Argus May 1, 2025. #45410