CASE 4327: Appli. of FRANKLIN, ASTON & FAIR FOR AN EXCEPTION TO R-3221, AS AMENDED, EDDY COUNTY.

Application Transcripts. Small Exhibits . ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

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dearnley-meier

BEFORE THE MEW MEMICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION Santa Fe, New Mexico March 25, 1970

EXACENER HEARING

IN THE PATTER OF:

Application of Franklin, Aston & Fair for an exception to Order No.) Case No. 4327 R-3221, as amended, Eddy County, New) Mexico.

BEFORE: Elvis A. Utz, Examiner.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

MR. UTZ: Case 4327.

MR. MATCH: Case 4327. Application of Franklin, Aston and Mair for an exception to Order No. R-3221, as amended, Eddy County, Mew Mexico.

MP. KELLATIV: If the Examiner please, Jason Fellahin, Fellahin and Pox, Santa Fe, appearing for the Applicant. To have one witness I would like to have sworn.

(Witness sworn).

(Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibits 1 through 6 were marked for identification).

MP. MTZ: Are there other appearances? You may proceed.

MR. KELLAHIN: If the Fxaminer please, the application that is present before the Commission in Case 4327 involves a well which is a direct offset to the Applicant's State "A" One Well for which an exception due to the provisions of P-3221 was granted in Case 4182, Order No. P-3820.

Since substantially the same testimony and exhibits will be applicable to this case, we ask that the Commission take notice of the file in Case 4182 to which we will make reference both as to the testimony and as to the exhibits which were offered in that case.

MR. UTZ: You mentioned two orders here, 3820 and 21?

to Order 19 3221 by the provisions of Order 19 3220.

me, men: All miable.

MP. EDIAMIN: We ask you to take notice of the record in the provious case, Number 4181.

MR. UTZ: We will take notice of that record, Mr. Kellahin.

CAVAL SLIGH

the Witness, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. KFLLAHIN:

- O Would you state your name, please?
- A I am Grant Smith.
- O By whom are you employed and in what position, Mr. Smith?

A I am employed as a petroleum geo ist for Franklin, Aston and Fair, Posvell, New Mexico.

O Have you testified before the Oil Conservation Commission and made your qualifications as a geologist a matter of record?

- A Yes, sir.
- O Did you testify in Case 4182 for which an exception

was granted to your State A One Well?

- λ Yes, sir.
- O Now, referring to what has been marked as Applicant's Exhibit Number One, would you identify that exhibit, please?
- A This is an exhibit of the producing wells in the area of our Ballard Federal "NH" Number One in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 1, 18, 29 for which we are asking for salt water disposal.
- Q You are asking for continued surface disposal of salt water; is that correct?
 - A Yes, sir.
- Q You are not confining your application solely to that one well are you, Mr. Smith?
- A No, sir. This well is a new producer in the area and we have are asking that the lease on which it is located which we call our Ballard Lease, which is the northeast quarter of Section 1 of 18, 29 and the north half of the southeast quarter. It's colored in yellow on the Exhibit Number One.

We are also anticipating additional drilling in the area and we are asking also that our Yates Lease be included and it involves all the acreage in Section 6, 18, 30 except the south half of the northwest quarter and the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 6.

- O You are seeking exception for the entire area then that is colored in yellow on Exhibit Number One, except that in Section 36 North?
 - A That is right.
 - O And an exception has already been granted for that?
 - A Yes, sir.
- O At the time you testified in the previous case, Case Number 4182, did you make an investigation for the presence of surface or ground water that could be contaminated by disposal?
 - A Yes, sir.
- Q Have you made any further check on this particular area?
- A Yes, sir. I would like to refer again to the windmill and the tank as shown in Section 24 of 18, 29. I made an effort to go back in and find this well and tank. I got as far as the southeast quarter of Section 13 of 18, 29, and ran out of road.

I have found since then that to get into this area you have to come in from the south on the road that is diagonal from Section 26 and 36. However, whether this windmill is producing or not, I think is questionable.

I contacted a pumper when I was in the area trying to find out how to get into this well and he said that Newmont

was supplying water through a plastic line to a water tank down in this area and this water was being supplied for their water plant for the Newmont Loco Hills waterflood.

- O That was being supplied to the rancher?
- A Yes, for his cattle.
- O Do you know of any other water sources that might possibly be affected by surface disposal from on your Ballard Lease --
 - A No, sir.
 - 0 -- or your Yates Lease?
- A There is an abandoned homesteader ranch in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of 14. I went in there. No one is living there. There is casing and an old cable tool rig in there. No one living in the area.
 - O Did you find any sign of any well or --
- A I could find no well. I could find some old water tanks in there, but I couldn't find a well.
 - 0 Was there water in the tanks?
 - A No, sir.
 - O Did they appear to have been used recently?
 - A No, sir.

MR. UTZ: That was Section 24 of which township?
THE WITNESS: 18, 29.

MR. UTZ: And that location was the southwest of the southeast?

THE WITNESS: Farmstead or this abandonment?

MR. UTZ: Yes.

THE WITNESS: It's in the southwest of the southeast of Section 1.

MR. UTZ: Section 1?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

MR. UTZ: All right.

Q (By Mr. Kellahin) Would vou identify Exhibits

Two, Three, Four and Five that has been offered here in that

order?

A These were exhibits that were prepared in the original hearing showing drainage patterns and the general water conditions in the area.

O Those are the same exhibits that were offered in the previous case? For convenience, we reproduced them for this hearing.

Was Exhibit Number One prepared by you or under your supervision?

A Yes, sir.

MR. KELLAHIN: At this time, I would like to offer in evidence Exhibit Number One and Exhibits Two, Three, Four

and Five, which are copies of plats from the ground water report Number Three.

MR. UTZ: Without objection, Exhibits Number One through Five will be entered into the record of this case.

O (By Mr. Kellahin) Did you make any test on your Ballard "NH" Number One Well for water production?

A Yes, sir. When we made our application, the well was making thirty barrels of water per day. We metered it again last week and the water production has declined to thirteen barrels of water per day.

The oil is holding steady between forty-five and fifty barrels per day.

Q What is your water production on your State A Number
One Well?

A At the present time, I believe it's about twelve barrels per day.

Q It was about twenty at the time of your application, was it not?

- A Yes, sir.
- Q In your opinion, is the water declining in this area --
 - A Yes, sir.
 - Q -- water production? In your opinion, Mr. Smith,

would the continued use of surface tanks for the disposal of produced water cause any contamination to any fresh water supplies anywhere?

A No, sir.

MR. KELLAHIN: That completes our presentation, Mr. Utz.

MR. UTZ: Are there questions of the witness?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. UTZ:

O Mr. Smith, at this time you just have the two wells on the lease that you are requesting this exception for, is that correct?

A Well, actually, the first well is on a separate lease. The well that we are asking for now is on the Ballard Lease and it is the only producing well on the Ballard Lease. It's producing from a new horizon.

Q Is there any ranching in that area at all?

heavily grazed, mostly because there is not the feed there to graze the land very heavily and where all the water tanks are, we have made a diligent effort to find these and as I mentioned previously, this one tank in Section 24 -- I was told they are supplying fresh water to that through a plastic line.

- O Is that the tank that's shown in the little orange triangle?
- A No, sir. I couldn't get into it. I talked to a pumper that I found in the field. He was telling me about it. He told me I couldn't get back in there with my car. I found out since then you have got to come in from the south.
 - 0 What is that little orange triangle?
- A It is supposed to be a windmill. This was taken from the Bureau of Land Management Map in Roswell.
- O Do you know whether that windmill is producing water or not?
- A No, sir, I don't. The only conclusion I can draw is, it must not be or they wouldn't be pumping water into the area.
- Q Did your record in Case 4182 give the subsurface contours of this area here and which way the drainage was?
 - A Yes, sir.
 - 0 We have all of that data?
 - A Yes, sir.
- Ω Is it your opinion that you will develop this entire area?
- A We hope we can. It is a new pay zone from in the San Andres. We are perforated from 3269 to 3313. The oil

is holding steady at forty-five to fifty barrels a day and the water has declined, I believe I mentioned, from thirty barrels of water per day when we made our application to thirteen barrels the last time we measured it and we are hopeful of additional development in this area.

I'm not sure whether to call this zone GrayburgJackson or Slaughter. There is not enough wells that have
penetrated this zone in this area as far as I am concerned to
come up with a definite correlation on it. But, it is San
Andres production.

- Q You don't have too good of control in there?
- A No, sir.
- Q It is your definite opinion that there is no fresh water in this area?
 - A That is correct.

MR. UTZ: Other questions of the witness? He may be excused.

(Witness excused) .

MR. UTZ: Statements in this case? The case will be taken under advisement.

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EXHIBITS

Applicant's 1 through 6

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

I, BRENDA BURKS, Court Reporter in and for the County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached Transcript of Hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission was reported by me; and that the same is a true and correct record of the said proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

Brenda Burks Court Reporter

complete record of the proceeding in the Francisco bearing of the procedure in the Mexico Oil Conservation Conservation



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OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO P. O. BOX 2008 - SANTA FE GUYZRNOR DAVID F. CARGO CHAIRMAN LAND COMMISSIONER

LAND COMMISSIONER ALEX J. ARMIJO MEMBER

ETATE GEOLOGIST
A. L. PORTER, JR.
SECRETARY - DIRECTOR

April 3, 1970

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ALP/ir	
Copy of order also sent to:	
Hobbs OCC x	
Artesia OCC x	

State Engineer Office

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMSIDERING:

> CRSE No. 4327 Order No. R-3944

APPLICATION OF FRANKLIN, ASTON & FAIR FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER NO. R-3221, AS AMENDED, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

OPDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on March 25, 1970, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Elvis A. Utz.

NOW, on this 3rd day of April, 1970, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises.

PINDS:

- (1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the applicant, Franklin, Aston & Fair, is the owner and operator of certain leases in the Loco Hills Field comprising the ME/4 and N/2 SE/4 of Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 29 East, and the E/2, N/2 NW/4, and S/2 SW/4 of Section 6, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- (3) That Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended, prohibits in that area encompassed by Lea, Eddy, Chaves, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the disposal, subject to minor exceptions, of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, streambed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any other place or in any manner which

~2~ CASE No. 4327 Order No. R-3944

would constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

- (4) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.
- (5) That the State Engineer has designated, pursuant to Section 65-3-11 (15), N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation, all underground water in the State of New Mexico containing 10,000 parts per million or less of dissolved solids as fresh water supplies to be afforded reasonable protection against contamination; except that said designation does not include any water for which there is no present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use that would be impaired by contamination.
- (6) That the applicant seeks an exception to the provisions of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the disposal of salt water produced by applicant's wells located or to be located on said Loco Hills Field leases in unlined surface pits on said leases.
- (7) That the applicant has recently completed the Ballard NH Federal Well No. 1, located 330 feet from the North line and 1750 feet from the East line of said Section 1 as a producing well in the Loco Hills Grayburg-San Andres Pool; that said well produces approximately 30 barrels of water per day in conjunction with its oil production.
- (8) That there is a reasonable probability that the applicant will complete additional wells in the NE/4 of said Section 1.
- (9) That there appears to be no water in the vicinity of the ME/4 of said Section 1 for which a present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use is or will be impaired by contamination from unlined surface pits located on said quarter section.
- (10) That the applicant should be permitted to utilize unlined surface pits for the disposal of salt water produced by wells located or to be located in the NE/4 of Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 29 East, NMPM, Loco Hills Field, Eddy County, New Mexico.

-3-CASE No. 4327 Order No. R-3944

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- (1) That the applicant, Franklin, Aston & Fair, is hereby granted an exception to Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended, to dispose of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, by its wells located or to be located on its lease or leases comprising the NE/4 of Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 29 East, EMPH, Loco Hills Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, in unlined surface pits located on said lease or leases.
- (2) That the Secretary-Director of the Commission may by administrative order rescind such authority whenever it reasonably appears to the Secretary-Director that such rescission would serve to protect fresh water supplies from contamination.
- (3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

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

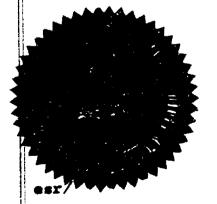
STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DAVID F. CARGO, Chairman

ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member

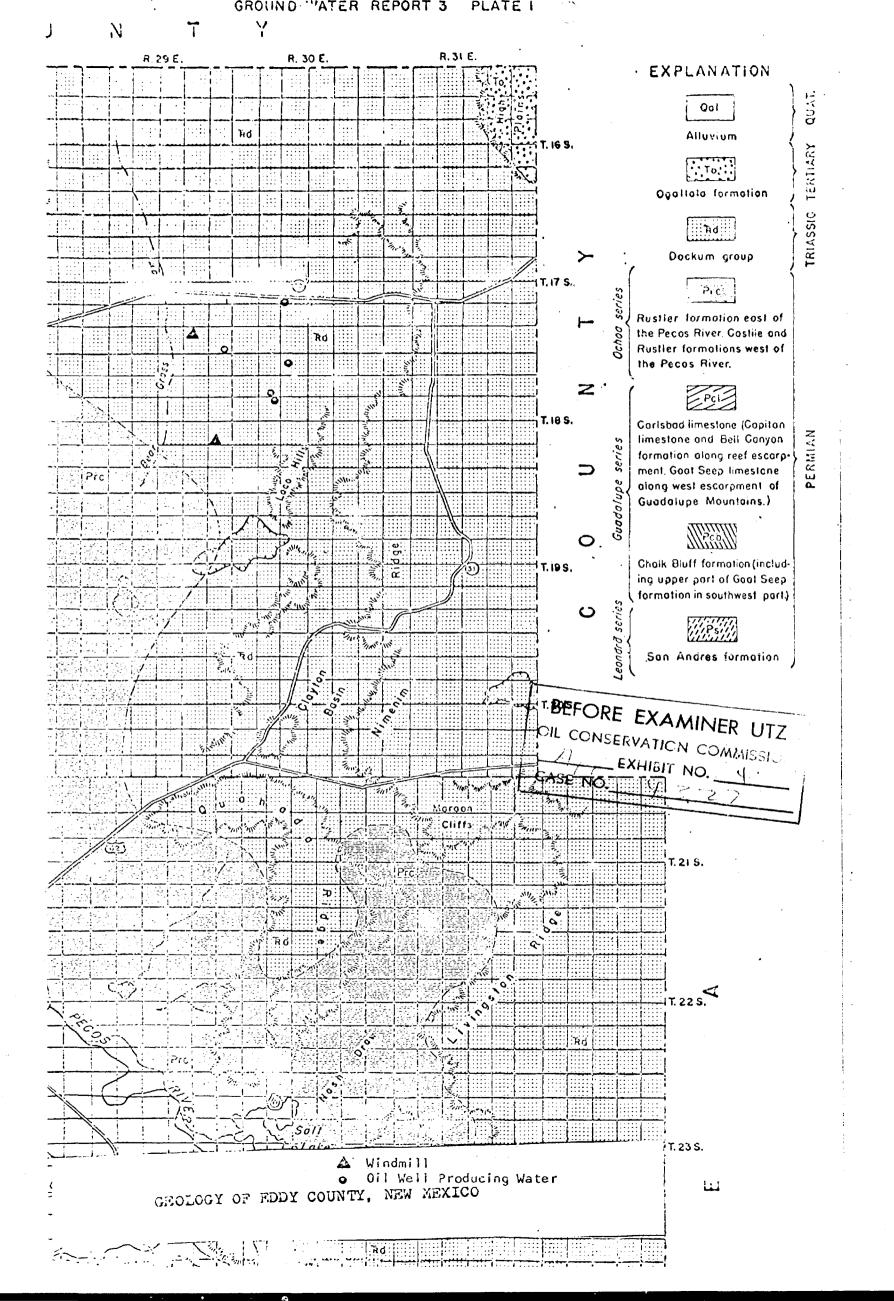
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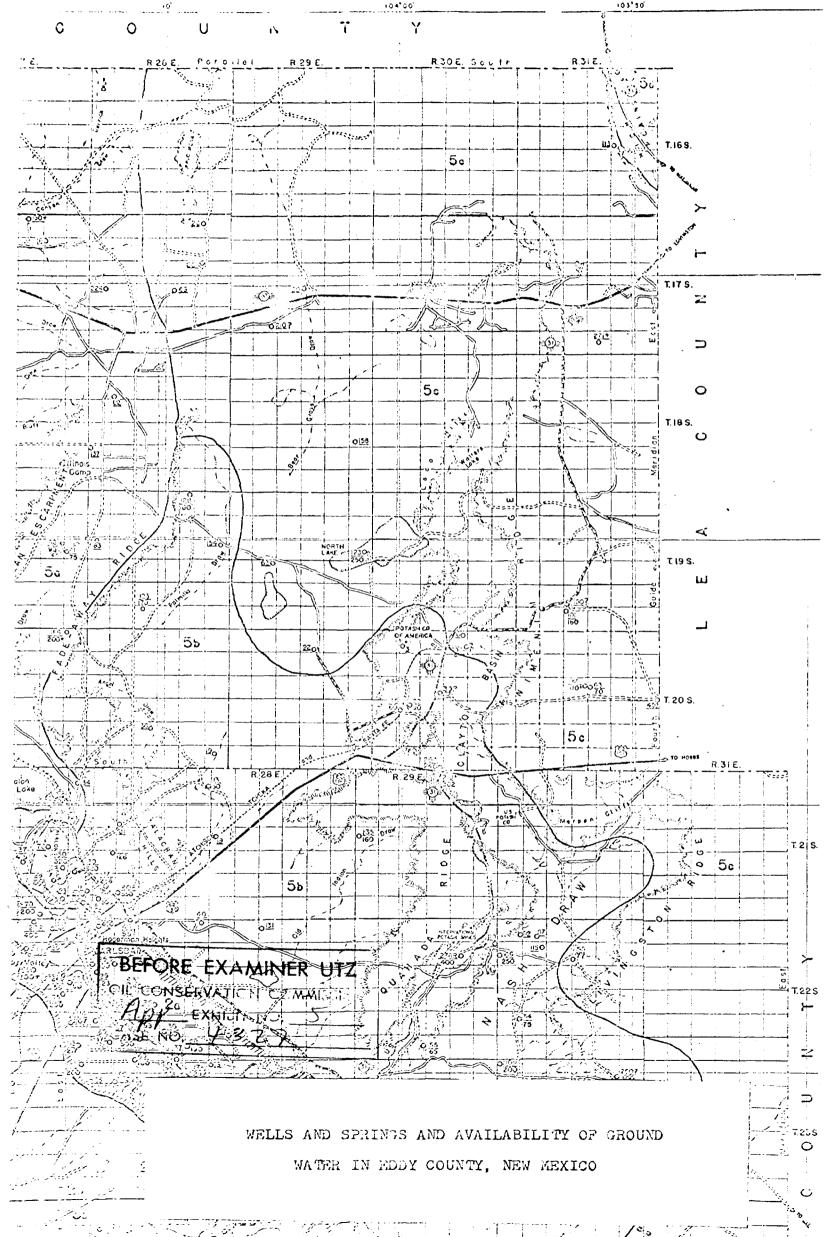
Member & Secretary



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KELLAHIN AND FOX
ATTOCHEYS AT LAW
54 EAST SAN FRANCISCO STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 1/259

54% EAST SAN FRANCISCO STREET POST OFFICE BOX 1769 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

February 24, 1970

EB 26

TELEPHONE 982-4315 AREA CODE 505

MAT

The Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico
P. O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Care 4337

Re: Application - Franklin, Aston & Fair, Inc. for an exception to Order No. R-3221, as amended, Eddy County, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

JASON W. KELLAHIN ROBERT E.FOX

> Enclosed please find the original and two copies of a revised application re the above Order, which hearing is set for March 25.

Yours very truly,

Josen W. Kellahi

Jason W. Kellahin

jwk;jh

cc: Tom P. Stephens w/enc.

DOCKET MALLED

Date 3-12-70

BEFORE THE

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO

APPLICATION OF FRANKLIN, ASTON & FAIR, INC., FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE PROVISIONS OF ORDER NO. R-3221, AS AMENDED, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Care 4337

APPLICATION

Comes now Franklin, Aston & Fair, Inc., and applies to the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico for an order granting an exception to the provisions of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended, to permit the use of unlined surface pits for the disposal of produced water in the Loco Hills-Grayburg-San Andres Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico, and in support thereof would show the Commission:

- 1. Applicant is the operator of the Ballard NH Federal No. 1 Well, located 1750 feet from the East Line, and 330 feet from the North line of Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 29 East, N.M.P.M., Eddy County, New Mexico.
- 2. Said well is producing approximately 30 barrels of water per day with production from the Jackson zone of the San Andres formation.
- 3. The subject well is a direct offset to applicant's State A-1 Well, located in Unit O, Section 36, Township 17 South, Range 29 East, N.M.P.M., for which well and exception from the provisions of Order No. R-3221, as amended, was granted by this Commission on August 27, 1969, by its Order No. R-3820 on the basis of a finding that there appears to be no shallow fresh water in the vicinity of said well for which a present or reasonably forseeable beneficial use is or will be made that would be impaired by contamination from surface pits.

- 4. Applicant reasonably believes that further wells will be drilled in the vicinity of the Ballard NH Federal No. 1 Well, and the State Λ Well No. 1, and that an exception to the provisions of Order No. R-3221, as amended, should be granted for the following described lands: NE/4, N/2 SE/4, Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 29 East, and E/2, N/2NM/4, S/2 SW/4 Section 6, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, N.N.P.M.
- 5. That there is no fresh water supply in the vicinity of the subject well and the above-described lands, and the water disposal pits to be used in conjunction therewith that would or could be contaminated or be subject to contamination by use of surface disposal pits.

WHEREFORE, applicant prays that this application be set for hearing before the Commission or the Commission's duly appointed examiner, and that after notice and hearing as required by law, the Commission enter its order:

1. Granting an exception from the provisions of Order No. R-3221, as amended, to permit the use of a surface disposal pit at or near the site of the Ballard Federal No. 1 Well, and for an exception from the provisions of said order covering the following described lands:

Township 18 South, Range 29 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 1 - NE/4, N/2 SE/4

Township 18 South, Range 30 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 6 - E/2, N/2 NW/4, S/2 SW/4

Loco Hills Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, and for such other and further orders as to the Commission appear just.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN, ASTON & FAIR, Inc.

Xellahin & Fox
P. O. Box 1769
Santa Fe, New Mexico

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

GMH/esr

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

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WAS

CASE No. 4327

Order No. R-3944

APPLICATION OF FRANKLIN, ASTON & FAIR FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER NO. R-3221, AS AMENDED, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on March 25, 1940, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Elvis A. Utz

NOW, on this <u>day of <u>report</u>, 19670, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,</u>

FINDS:

- (1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That the applicant, Franklin, Aston & Fair, is the owner and operator of certain leases in the Loco Hills Field comprising the NE/4 and N/2 SE/4 of Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 29 East, and the E/2, N/2 NW/4, and S/2 SW/4 of Section 6, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico.
- (3) That Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended, prohibits in that area encompassed by Lea, Eddy, Chaves, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the disposal, subject to minor exceptions, of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, streambed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any other place or in any manner which

would constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

- (4) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.
- (5) That the State Engineer has designated, pursuant to Section 65-3-11 (15), N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation, all underground water in the State of New Mexico containing 10,000 parts per million or less of dissolved solids as fresh water supplies to be afforded reasonable protection against contamination; except that said designation does not include any water for which there is no present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use that would be impaired by contamination.
- (6) That the applicant seeks an exception to the provisions, of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the disposal of salt water produced by applicant's wells located or to be located on said Loco Hills Field leases in unlined surface pits on said leases.
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 (3) That the appears to be no water in the recent;

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- (1) That the applicant, Franklin, Aston & Fair, is hereby granted an exception to Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended, to dispose of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, by its wells located or to be located on its leases comprising the NE/4 and N/2 SE/4 of Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 29 East, and the E/2, N/2 NW/4, and S/2 EW/4 of Section 6, Township 18 South, Range 30.

 East, NMPM, Loco Hills Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, in unlined surface pits located on said leases.
- (2) That the Secretary-Director of the Commission may by administrative order rescind such authority whenever it reasonably appears to the Secretary-Director that such rescission would serve to protect fresh water supplies from contamination.
- (3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

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

CASE 4328: Application of PUBCO PETROLEUM CORP. FOR COMPULSORY POOLING, SAN JUAN COUNTY, N.M.