CASE 4623: MOTION OF OCC TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT OF DEFINITION OF GAS WELL AS IT APPEARS IN RULES.

# Case Number 4623

Application
Trascripts

Small Exhibits

ETC.

# BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION Santa Fe, New Mexico

November 10, 1971 Examiner Hearing

IN THE MATTER OF:

The hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission upon its own motion to consider the amendment of the definition of a gas well as it appears in its Rules and Regulations.

Case No. 4623

BEFORE: DANIEL S. NUTTER, EXAMINER

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING



7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

ŽŽ

23

MR. NUTTER: We will call Case No. 4623, which is in the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission upon its own motion to consider the amendment of the definition of the gas well as it appears in the Commission Rules and Regulations.

MR. HATCH: George Hatch, appearing on behalf of the Commission and its staff, and I have one witness, Mr. Elvis Utz.

MR. NUTTER: I will call for other appearances in this case.

MR. RAINEY: D. H. Rainey, El Paso Natural Gas Company.

MR. JENNINGS: James T. Jennings of Jennings, Christy and Copple in Roswell, appearing on behalf of M.K.A. Oil Property.

MR. HENDRIX: John H. Hendrix, Wolfson Oil Company and Bruce A. Willbanks.

MR. NUTTER: Let's see, that is Hendrix, M.K.A., Wolfson --

MR. HENDRIX: Bruce Willbanks.

MR. NUTTER: And Willbanks?

MR. LYON: V. T. Lyon, Continental Oil Company.

(Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibit No. 1 was marked

for identification.)

(Witness sworn)

24

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

24

25

# ELVIS A. UTZ

having been first duly sworn, according to law, upon his oath testified as follows:

# DIRECT EXAMINATION

# BY MR. HATCH:

- Q Would you state your name, position and place of employment?
- A Elvis A. Utz, engineer with the Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe.
- Q Are you familiar with Case 4623 and what it proposes?
- A Yes, I am. 4623 proposes a revised definition for a gas well which is to be used as a new definition in our rule book.
- Q And are you familiar with the present definition of a gas well as it appears in the rule book?
- A I could read it into the record. However, briefly, it just merely says that a gas well is a well that is producing from designated gas pool, common source of supply.
- 20 Q All right. And what about oil wells?
- 21 A Well, I believe there is a definition for an oil well,
  22 reads the same. Not the same as a gas well, but common
  23 source of supply.
  - Q Would it be correct to say that you only have oil wells in oil pools?

1	A	At the present time.
2	Q	As they are presently defined?
3	A	I think that is true. "An oil well shall mean any well
4		capable of producing oil and which is not a gas well as
5		defined herein."
6	Q	Do you have any idea as to how many wells would be affected
7		should the Commission choose to adopt the proposed
8		definition?
9	A	Yes. I have made a tabulation. Do you want this Exhibit 1
10	Q	Yes.
11	A	I have made a tabulation of the wells that would be
12		affected and reclassified as gas wells according to our
13		latest oil proration schedule.
14	Q	Mr. Utz, I wish you would go a little further into what
15		you mean when you say the latest proration schedules. Did
16		you look at all schedules for the different districts, and
17		what months?
18	A	Yes. I went through the November and December schedules
19		for Lea County, the Artesia area, which is mainly Eddy
20		County in northwest New Mexico.
21	Q	All right. And what were you taking from those schedules
22		in compiling this exhibit that you have marked as Exhibit 1?
23	A	In the schedules there is periodically a well classified
24		as a gas well, so states in the schedule. Those, of
25		course, are wells in excess of 100,000 to 1, which I

counted in this tabulation, and in addition to that all this is wells which show a good g.o.r. of 100,000 or over. Do you have some pools in the schedule that do not have g.o.r. listed by them? This would be just wells from pools that are not exempt from g.o.r. test or exempt from g.o.r. limitations? 7 Well, yes. There are no wells in the pool that are exempt 8 from the g.o.r. limitation with g.o.r.'s on them. 9 All right. How many wells do you find in going through 10 the schedule? 11 I found 181. 12 Whereabouts are those located? 13 Well, they are located in various pools. Would you like 14 for me to go through the tabulation briefly? 15 Yes. 16 Let me count the pools here. I count twenty-eight pools 17 that these 181 wells are in. I think most of you have a 18 tabulation of Exhibit 1. Most of them are in Langlie 19 Mattix, sixty-three wells, Monument, thirty-five wells, 20 the Allison pool, seven wells, and the Brunson-Ellenburger, 21 four, the Drinkard, eighteen, and the Eunice, Grayburg, San Andres, eight, the South Eunice-Soven Rivers-Queen, eight, 22 23 Penrose-Skelly-Grayburg, ten, the Wilson, five, and the East Red Lake-Queen-Grayburg, four. All the others have 24 25 one.

MR. NUTTER: With the exception of Milnesand, and it 2 has two. That's correct. And there any wells shown there from northwest New Mexico? No. There are none in northwest New Mexico. Are there very many shown now from the Artesia district? 7 Not very many because quite a few pools over the area are 8 exempt from g.o.r. because of their extremely low ratios. 9 All right. Now, you said in pointing to the schedule you 10 were looking at wells that had g.o.r.'s in excess of 100, 11 g.o.r. ratio limitation tested in excess of 100,000. 12 13 Would those also be wells that are only located in the oil 14 pools? 15 That's correct. This tabulation is all for oil pools, and 16 these are wells in oil pools. 17 All right. If the Commission should decide to accept this 18 proposed definition change what would be their basis of 19 their classification? Would it be on the basis of a gas-20 oil ratio test or the producing gas-oil ratio? 21 If the rule went into effect immediately or say within 22 ninety days or such matter these wells would be classified 23 on the basis of their current g.o.r. tests, which is on 24 file with the Commission. 25 If a g.o.r. test is not available I would recommend

	1	that these wells be classified as gas wells on the basis
	2	of their producing g.o.r.'s as recorded in the statistical
;	3	book of the Oil Commission.
•	Q	All right. How long would that classification remain with
	5	the well?
6	A	It would remain with the well until the next g.o.r. test
7		or until our scrutiny of the producing data for the well
8		showed that it was producing more than 100,000 to 1. Then
9		I would suggest that the well be classified as a gas well
10		immediately and probably shut-in or at least curtailed.
.11	Q	Would your recommendations be the same if it were classified
13		as a gas well, but its production showed that it was
13		producing at least then 100,000 to 1?
14	A	Yes, it would.
15	Q	All right. Will the amount of gas one of these wells is
16		permitted to produce be changed any by this definition.
17	A	No, it would not.
18	Q	Would its permitted gas-oil be the same?
19	A	Its permitted gas-oil and normal unit allowable times the
20	-	pool g.o.r.
21	Q	What about its oil allowable?
22	A	No. Its oil allowable would not be changed either. As a
23		matter of fact, as a gas well its oil allowable or whatever
24		liquids it should produce, if any, would be covered under
25		Rule 803. In other words, up to the normal unit allowable

its legal production, providing that the paper work is all in. 3 Ω All right. Would this definition, if it were adopted by the Commission, change the spacing, have any effect upon 5 the spacing of a well? No, it would not. Spacing would be determined by special 7 pool rules or Rule 104 in the case of the absence of the special pool rules. A gas well in a 40-acre pool would be 40-acre spacing. A 160-acre pool the same. 10 Now, we do have pools that are designated by special 11 pool rules. The majority of these are associated pools 12 where gas-oil have different spacing, but again, this is 13 by special pool rules. 14 All right. Now, in thinking of a wildcat well that is 15 drilled and upon completion its gas-oil ratio is in 16 excess of 100,000 to 1. Would that necessarily mean that 17 you have a gas pool? 18 No, it would not. I would not propose that the 100,000 to 19 1 be mandatory in classifying new pools. I think it 20 probably should be used as a guide in the absence of other 21 information such as reservoir data and p.v.r. tests, but 22 it would not be mandatory, in my opinion, that pools be 23 classified as gas pools if they were over 100,000. Well, the well itself would necessarily be classified as a 25 gas well?

1	A	That's correc
	Q	It would be no
<u></u>		oil pool?
4	A	That's right.
5	Q	All right. Do
		give the Exami
7	A	I think the fi
8		me to be here.
9		plain realisti
10	]	

That's correct. The well itself.

It would be possible for the pool to be classified as an oil pool?

Q All right. Do you have any reason that you would like to give the Examiner for the change in this definition?

I think the first reason, there are two reasons which cause me to be here. The first reason is a matter of just being plain realistic. The vernacular of the industry as well as most federal and state agencies recognize that some wells are gas wells and some wells are oil wells.

They also recognize that there are gas wells in oil pools. I think it is even possible that even we as a Commission recognize there are oil wells in gas pools, so from that standpoint I think it is just being honest with ourselves in calling a well what it actually is, a gas well or an oil well.

The second reason is to assist our proration manager in properly classifying wells in oil pools and not be bound to assign them an oil allowable even though they do not produce any oil or the oil is extremely marginal and nonexistant.

As a matter of fact, he does this now in the proration schedule. Without this classification it probably isn't proper.

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	1	Q Would you go back to what has been marked as Exhibit 1 jus
-	2	a moment? Now, I would ask how many wells in your opinion
	3	might be affected immediately by this change of definition
	4	but I don't think any question was asked concerning the
	5	amount of gas that might be affected, that were produced.
	6	In other words, the amount of gas that might be produced
	7	by those wells.
	8	A Yes. On the far right-hand side is a tabulation for each
	9	pool and the number of wells in that pool under the column
	10	entitled Volume Gas Allowable and M.c.f.
	11	Now, this represents the volume that these wells woul
	12	produce or not would produce, but would be allowed,
	13	according to the pool g.o.r. limit.
-	34	Now, this total is 106,467 m.c.f. Now, I did not have
	15	time to make any study as to how much of the 106,000
	16	probably could be produced, but I would estimate in the
	17	neighborhood of fifty percent.
	18	Q Did you prepare Exhibit 1?
	19	A Yes, sir, yes, I did.
	20	MR. HATCH: I would like to move the introduction of
	21	Exhibit 1 into evidence.
*	22	MR. NUTTER: OCC Exhibit No. 1 will be admitted in
	2.3	
	23	evidence.
	24	MR. HATCH: Do you have anything further you would

25 like to testify to at the present time?

3

5

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Yes. I have one thing further which I am sure I will be asked in the cross-examination in regard to metering the gas from these wells.

Rule 403 of our Rules and Regulations first requires that all dry gas wells be metered separately.

It also gives an administrative relief from this from the Secretary of the Oil Commission. I would recommend that this metering problem be taken care of on an individual well basis or possibly a lease basis by administrative approval or denial from the Secretary of the Commission.

In certain instances I can visualize where the Commission might want an oil or gas well in an oil pool metered separately.

And you mentioned the word dry gas. You were not suggesting that this definition is that only wells classified as gas wells are considered dry gas wells?

No. I think the term dry gas is usually used for gas wells

in gas pools. However, it is a pretty vague definition.

Actually there are wells, gas wells, in oil pools that produce no liquids whatsoever. There are many gas wells in gas pools that produce a substantial amount of liquids.

I think the term, if I used dry gas should be natural gas.

MR. HATCH: That's all the questions I have.

24

MR. NUTTER: Are there any questions of Mr. Utz?

MR. LYON: I would like to ask a question if I may.

# CROSS-EXAMINATION

## BY MR. LYON:

Mr. Utz, I am a little concerned that there is an ambiguity in the definitions in regard to definition of casinghead gas in connection with this.

Casinghead gas is defined as -- "shall mean any gas or vapor or both gas and vapor indigenous to and produced from a pool classified as an oil pool by the Commission. This also includes gas cap gas produced from such an oil pool."

I believe it is the Commission's intent that the gas produced from these gas wells classified by the high gasoil ratio would be considered as dry gas.

No. I don't think it is our intent to consider dry gas.

As I just stated I recall a natural gas. Now, let me

read this definition here for casinghead gas.

Well, I would think that our definition of casinghead gas would pin it down. It would be classified as an oil pool, and the definition says anything that is produced from the vapor form from an oil pool is casinghead gas, so I presume that it would be casinghead gas.

Q This would still be casinghead gas?

25 A Yes.

9

2

5

6

7

8

10

12

13

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

A

10 Q

one

25 times the pool g.o.r.

Did I understand you to say that the measurement of gas
and measuring of liquids and the storage of liquids from
these wells by request and administrative procedures could
be continued to be handled in the way that they presently
are, if this is the operator's desire?
Yes. I think they could. As a matter of fact, I'm sure,
you know, that there are about a page and a half of gas
wells listed in the back of the oil proration schedule.
Well, those are commingled gas wells.
Now, is it your position that these gas wells would still
appear on the oil proration schedule?
Yes, they would, just as they are now, right.
MR. LYON: I believe that's all I have.
As a matter of fact, Mr. Lyon, that is one of Mr. Ramey's
problems down there. It is a well in an oil pool and he
can't drop it out of the schedule just because it produces
no liquids, so he needs a classification for it so that he
can keep it in the schedule.
Also from now on out we will be keeping track of the
gas production as such so we will want it there for that
purpose, too.
MR. NUTTER: Mr. Utz, what would the allowable be for
of these wells that would be classified as a gas well?
MUE WITHNIEG. It would be the normal unit allowable

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

the casinghead gas allowable or the natural gas allowable, whatever the gas allowable is for one of these wells in the schedule?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. NUTTER: How will that be done?

THE WITNESS. It is our intent to list it at the head of each pool where we list the -- I believe we list a normal unit allowable, and the g.o.r. on the line just below that we will list the casinghead gas allowable.

MR. NUTTER: And this gas allowable is the top allowable and is applicable to every well in the pool; is that correct?

THE WITNESS: That's right, of oil or gas.

MR. NUTTER: I see.

MR. HATCH: I have one other question here.

MR. PORTER: Before you get into that, I think you should clarify one point here. Mr. Utz said normal unit allowable. In each case it would be top allowable for the pool?

MR. NUTTER: Top allowable for the pool.

THE WITNESS: Top allowable. I should have said top allowable.

#### REDIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. HATCH:

25 O Mr. Utz, on the matter of metering is it your opinion that

1	if the companies continue their reporting as they present1
2	do and the Commission accepted that, that would be
3	considered as approved by the Commission?
4	A Yes, if the Commission accepted it as such.
5	Q You would not expect them to apply for some other method
6	other than metering?
7	A No. I would visualize, Mr. Hatch, that under this rule
8	if their well is classified as a gas well, well, if they
9	don't meter it separately they should make an application.
10	MR. HATCH: That's all I have.
11	MR. NUTTER: Are there any other questions of Mr. Utz?
12	MR. PORTER: I have one question. Mr. Nutter, I came
13	in a little late, as you know. Have you pursued this matter of
14	the possibility of having to renegotiate contracts?
15	MR. NUTTER: That has not been mentioned.
16	MR. PORTER: May I pursue that line of questioning
17	for a moment?
18	CROSS-EXAMINATION
19	BY MR. PORTER:
<b>30</b>	Q Mr. Utz, this matter has been brought to my attention by
21	more than one person. They say that this action by the
2	Commission might necessitate renegotiation of contracts,
3	and this, of course, would require some time.
4	Now, just how much time, I don't know. Would you have
5	any objection to allowing a reasonable time before this

rule was put into effect in order to allow these renegotiations? 3 Α No. I would be quite receptive, personally, to an extension of time to go ahead and write the order and put a time, say, well, if you want ninety days, make it March 1, б whatever time we decide on, even April 1 would be 7 satisfactory as far as our purpose is concerned, and give 8 them plenty of time to do their renegotiating. 9 MR. PORTER: That's all I have. 10 MR. NUTTER: And if a well were classified as a gas 11 well in the proration schedule, Mr. Utz, what would the liquid allowable be on that well? 12 THE WITNESS: It would be whatever the well can 13 produce. It might not be anything. 14 MR. NUTTER: Whatever it could produce up --15 THE WITNESS: Up to the normal. 16 17 MR. NUTTER: Up to the casinghead gas allowable? THE WITNESS: Up to the top allowable. 18 MR. NUTTER: Of gas? 19 THE WITNESS: That's right. 20 MR. NUTTER: And, of course, it would be restricted 21 because it would be a 100,000 to 1 well? 22 THE WITNESS: Well, that's correct. If it was 23 classified as a gas well based on 100,000 and then it properly 24 so couldn't produce any more than a one barrel per 100,000. 25

MR. NUTTER: I see. Are there any further questions of Mr. Utz?

MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Utz, one question.

#### CROSS-EXAMINATION

# BY MR. JENNINGS:

Do you think that we might get into a problem in our definition of casinghead gas when you amend? This is going to be considered as casinghead gas? Does that definition need some change, too? It is on page one.

I don't know. As far as our purpose in promulgating this definition of a gas well I doubt that we would want to change the definition for casinghead gas. Frankly, I think probably the definition for casinghead gas would be very pertinent to some contracts, and we don't want to get into a contract situation as far as our business is concerned.

MR. NUTTER: If an operator sought a change in the definition it would certainly be his prerogative to ask for a hearing to ask for a definition change, wouldn't it?

THE WITNESS: I would think it would be in order, yes.

MR. HENDRIX: May I ask a question?

MR. NUTTER: Sure.

#### CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. HENDRIX:

25 Q Can, in fact, a gas well produce casinghead gas? Now, I

9

11

10

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

19

20

21

22

23

MR. NUTTER: I see. Are there any further questions of Mr. Utz?

MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Utz, one question.

#### CROSS-EXAMINATION

# BY MR. JENNINGS:

- Do you think that we might get into a problem in our definition of casinghead gas when you amend? This is going to be considered as casinghead gas? Does that definition need some change, too? It is on page one.
- I don't know. As far as our purpose in promulgating this definition of a gas well I doubt that we would want to change the definition for casinghead gas. Frankly, I think probably the definition for casinghead gas would be very pertinent to some contracts, and we don't want to get into a contract situation as far as our business is concerned.

MR. NUTTER: If an operator sought a change in the definition it would certainly be his prerogative to ask for a hearing to ask for a definition change, wouldn't it?

THE WITNESS: I would think it would be in order, yes.

MR. HENDRIX: May I ask a question?

MR. NUTTER: Sure.

#### CROSS-EXAMINATION

# 4 BY MR. HENDRIX:

25 Q Can, in fact, a gas well produce casinghead gas? Now, I

б

mean, here you mentioned the plain logic that gas wells are gas wells and what not a little earlier.

By that same line of logic can a gas well produce casinghead gas?

I think that would have to be determined by definition, and our definition of casinghead gas says any gas that comes out of an oil pool is casinghead gas at this time.

Well, aside from that, here again, going back to your statement earlier that by plain logic there are gas wells in gas pools and oil wells in gas pools, gas pools and vice versa, as an engineer do you consider it feasible to think that a gas well can produce casinghead gas aside from the Commission's definition?

I think it can. We are defining casinghead gas as gas cap gas, and you can sure as the world have a gas well in a gas cap, and according to our definition it is casinghead gas.

Now, it may be dry as can be.

MR. NUTTER: I think, Mr. Utz, he is not asking according to definition. He is just asking you according to the logic of the thing.

THE WITNESS: The logic, the opinion of it? Well,
I think I have testified to the fact, Mr. Nutter, that that
determination of casinghead or gas well gas or dry gas, what
was the term you used?

-17

7

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

MR. HENDRIX: Well, I am saying can a gas well produce casinghead gas?

THE WITNESS: And I said I think it can.

MR. HENDRIX: Okay. Thank you.

MR. JENNINGS: One other question, Mr. Utz.

# RECROSS-EXAMINATION

# BY MR. JENNINGS:

In our sister state of Texas is this definition similar, to define a gas well as a gas well that is capable or has a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet?

That is a statute in the state of Texas, the great state of Texas. Also, that is commonly along that line, Mr. Jennings -- I can say that that is a commonly accepted breaking point for determination of oil and gas wells.

Some textbooks I think actually say that it is the way you determine the condensate field from an oil field.

In my opinion it is a top limit before a definition of a gas well. As a matter of fact, some of our own orders define gas wells as being 30 and 32,000 g.o.r.'s in our special pool rules, again, the Monument, as I'm sure you know, uses 100,000 to 1.

MR. HENDRIX: I would like one other question, if I

may.

# RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. HENDRIX:

If a gas well in an oil field produces an oil or a liquid with gravity say in excess of fifty degrees would you still classify that as casinghead gas in your opinion?

- In my opinion?
- Yes, sir.

1

2

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

19

20

21

22

24

25

I think I would if it is in an oil pool. We would make no attempt here with this definition to use gravities in any way whatsoever as far as classifying casing of the gas wells are concerned, and if it were a new pool I think possibly gravity should enter into the determination, gravity as well as p.v.r. tests to determine whether it should be classified as an oil or a gas pool.

MR. HENDRIX: Thank you again.

MR. FREEDMAN: H. G. Freedman. May I ask a question?

#### CROSS-EXAMINATION

#### 18 BY MR. FREEDMAN:

On these associated gas wells are you saying there will be a difference in the associated gas well, associated pool as compared with the gas wells in these pools on this list? Is there any difference in your opinion?

I don't know whether I understand your question exactly. 23 A Let me restate it as my understanding. You are asking is there any difference between a gas well as I am defining it

at which we determine a well to be a gas or oil.  And in the acreage?  Well, that is for special pool rules, sure. If we predifferent acreage for gas wells as opposed to oil well and the special pool rules, which we do in all associated pools, for example, 80 acres for an oil well or 320 for gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing gas wells?  But they are both considered gas wells?  A Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil poom MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowing what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedural in a lowable and comply with the Commission's procedural in the mere fact that this well is a gas well as decrease.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as decrease.		here and an oil pool and a gas well and an associated pool
at which we determine a well to be a gas or oil.  And in the acreage?  Well, that is for special pool rules, sure. If we put different acreage for gas wells as opposed to oil well and the special pool rules, which we do in all associ pools, for example, 80 acres for an oil well or 320 ff gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it Q But they are both considered gas wells?  A Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil pool MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu  I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	2	Q Yes, that's correct.
And in the acreage?  And in the acreage?  Well, that is for special pool rules, sure. If we predifferent acreage for gas wells as opposed to oil well and the special pool rules, which we do in all associated pools, for example, 80 acres for an oil well or 320 for gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it But they are both considered gas wells?  A Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil pool MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  O Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowing what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedural I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	3	A The only difference would be in the g.o.r. breaking point
Well, that is for special pool rules, sure. If we put different acreage for gas wells as opposed to oil well and the special pool rules, which we do in all associ pools, for example, 80 acres for an oil well or 320 fingas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it Q But they are both considered gas wells?  A Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil poom MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  Q Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	4	at which we determine a well to be a gas or oil.
different acreage for gas wells as opposed to oil well and the special pool rules, which we do in all associ pools, for example, 80 acres for an oil well or 320 f gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well as dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing to dedicate it gas well, providing to dedicate it gas well, provide it gas well, provide it gas well, provide i	5	Q And in the acreage?
and the special pool rules, which we do in all associ pools, for example, 80 acres for an oil well or 320 f gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it here But they are both considered gas wells?  A Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil po MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a wel is reclassified under this change of rules in order t an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu  I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	6	A Well, that is for special pool rules, sure. If we put
pools, for example, 80 acres for an oil well or 320 f gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it gas wells?  A Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil po MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  Q Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order than allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu A I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	7	different acreage for gas wells as opposed to oil wells
gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it  gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it  But they are both considered gas wells?  Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil po  MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a wel is reclassified under this change of rules in order t an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	8	and the special pool rules, which we do in all associated
But they are both considered gas wells?  A Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil pome. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  O Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowing what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedural I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	9	pools, for example, 80 acres for an oil well or 320 for a
A Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil pome. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  O Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowing what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedural A I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	10	gas well, providing you have the acres to dedicate it.
MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.  MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	11	Q But they are both considered gas wells?
MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?  RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  Q Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu  A I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	12	A Both considered gas wells, producing gas in an oil pool.
RECROSS-EXAMINATION  BY MR. LYON:  Q Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a wel is reclassified under this change of rules in order t an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	13	MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.
BY MR. LYON:  17 Q Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu  18 I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  19 The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	14	MR. LYON: Could I ask one more question please?
Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a wel is reclassified under this change of rules in order t an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	15	RECROSS-EXAMINATION
that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowi what to do what forms will need to be filed for a wel is reclassified under this change of rules in order t an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	16	BY MR. LYON:
what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well is reclassified under this change of rules in order to an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu.  I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	17	Q Mr. Utz, would you mind reviewing for me just to make sure
is reclassified under this change of rules in order t an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	18	that our office staff isn't caught short in not knowing
an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedu  I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles  would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	19	what to do what forms will need to be filed for a well that
22 A I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unles 23 would be a request for metering exceptions. 24 The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	20	is reclassified under this change of rules in order to get
would be a request for metering exceptions.  The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	21	an allowable and comply with the Commission's procedure?
The mere fact that this well is a gas well as de	22	A I don't know of any forms that need to be filed unless they
	23	would be a request for metering exceptions.
by this definition, I don't think would require you to	24	The mere fact that this well is a gas well as defined
	25	by this definition, I don't think would require you to file

	Section 1997 and the section of the
1	any forms as far as a request for allowable is concerned
2	or anything else, production reports included.
3	Q You won't need to file a new C-104?
4	A I don't believe so unless you changed connections.
5	Q Changed connections, then you would?
6	λ Yes.
7	Q But you would be required to set separate metering or to
8	get an exception?
9	A That would be my recommendation, yes, because we might have
10	some wells that we think ought to be metered separately
11	instead of commingled with, say, sixteen other wells I
12	think a determination
13	MR. NUTTER: Instead of being commingled with the
14	casinghead gas?
15	THE WITNESS: That's right. The oil pool gas. I
16	think the Secretary should use at least in his judgment what
17	well should be metered separately or not as to how many wells
18	are commingled with it. You have got one well on the lease.
19	Well, of course, you are going to need separate metering.
20	MR. FREEDMAN: Mr. Utz, let me ask another question.
21	RECROSS-EXAMINATION
22	BY MR. FREEDMAN:
23	Q Are you advocating, then, separate metering for these wells
24	newly designated gas wells as compared with the casinghead
25	are now on this property same lease or administrative

Í	approval to commingle?
2	A Well, I don't know. That may be a tricky question. As
3	compared to the metering of this gas as opposed to
4	casinghead gas?
5	Q Well, we are calling this gas a gas well, and you are
б	advocating separate metering or administrative approval on
7	this gas as compared with the casinghead gas?
8	A I would say if this will answer your question I would
9	say that all gas from this well should have separate
10	metering unless it had administrative approval otherwise.
11	I don't know whether you want to call it casinghead gas
12	or something else.
13	MR. LYON: One more.
14	RECROSS-EXAMINATION
15	BY MR. LYON:
16	Q If you do have separate metering, then I assume you would
17	need to file a separate C-115 for the gas produced from the
18	separate metering facilities as a gas well, or would you
19	report on the same C-150?
20	A Well, I just made a fair perusal if the C-115 report is
21	back there and as they report now I would see no need for
22	a change, really.
23	They report the gas wells in the same pool. It is
24	reported as a gas well in an oil pool.
25	Q So it would be just reported as it is now as one of the

wells in that pool on that lease?

Well, I see no reason for any change. As far as the gas proration business we would have absolutely no use for it. All they want to know back there is is that a gas well or an oil well so that he can properly classify it in the proration schedule.

MR. LYON: All right. Thank you.

#### REDIRECT EXAMINATION

# BY MR. HATCH:

Mr. Utz, do you know whether or not now some wells have been appearing on the schedule as gas wells for a period of time and some are being reported on the C-115 as gas wells? Do you know whether or not Mr. Ramey has required those to be separately metered in the past?

I don't know whether he has or not. I have a couple of them here. If it is important I will be glad to look in the proration schedule and see if he classifies them as gas wells, but I don't know at this point. All I know is that they call them gas wells on the C-115 report.

MR. NUTTER: I believe, Mr. Utz, that it might be contemplated, mightn't it, that it would just be another well on the list, and that the metering would just simply be the means of determining how much gas came from the well rather than a calculation based on tests to determine --

THE WITNESS: That is absolutely right.

11

13

14

15

16

17

18

MR. NUTTER: It is another well on the lease? THE WITNESS: That's right. Just a determination of whether we think in our judgment that it ought to be commingled with other metering or what. MR. NUTTER: The method to determine the production from the well? THE WITNESS: That's correct. MR. NUTTER: Are there any further questions or discussion? We will excuse Mr. Utz. (Witness excused) MR. NUTTER: Does anyone have any statements they wish to make? MR. RAINEY: D. H. Rainey with El Paso Natural Gas Company. El Paso is the largest purchaser of gas in New Mexico, and a major producer also. It would commend the Commission for its efforts to more precisely define a gas well. It has been pointed out to me and Mr. Porter mentioned it specifically one of the gasoline plant operators in which we purchase the residue gas has indicated a great concern that this change in definition may necessitate the renegotiation of certain contracts in that they have only casinghead contracts. In light of the discussion about the definition of

24 casinghead gas I would offer a minor change to the proposed 25 rule which might solve this situation as far as the contracting

is concerned.

If I may, let me suggest it, and then we can kick it around if that is agreeable with the Examiner.

I would further suggest also that we separate the proposed rule into two sections to more precisely determine what we are talking about. I am using exactly the same wording as is in this advertisement, "Gas well shall mean --" and I am merely inserting an a, well producing gas or natural gas from a gas pool or b, a well with a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil producing from an oil pool, and then I would suggest adding this language, " and shall be specifically defined as a casinghead gas well."

This may resolve the well under the definition as it exists in the rules now. It is still defined as casinghead gas, and it may be that this would clarify the situation as to either casinghead gas wells and would resolve the contractual problems that we are concerned with.

It would still leave it under contract as a casinghead gas well. Now, this is one alternative.

I would further suggest in line with again Mr. Porter's suggestion and Mr. Utz' acquiescence that this order be made effective April 1, 1972, if the Commission decides to issue such an order, and further, that the hearing record be kept open until December 1 in order that written statements may be filed which will become a part of the record.

10

13

15

17 18

19

20

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Z÷

MR. NUTTER: Are there any other statements?

MR. LYON: I would like to make a statement, please.

V. T. Lyon, Continental Oil Company. As you can tell from the questions that I have asked, our principal concern is the amount of additional administrative burden which might be placed on us under these rules, and we would just like to recommend that the Commission provide as much flexibility as possible to continue operations as they presently are without filing a lot of paperwork and this sort of thing where there really is no advantage to changing the gas well connection.

MR. NUTTER: Is that it?

MR. LYON: Yes, that's it.

MR. NUTTER: Thank you.

MR. JENNINGS: I would like to make one observation as the first on behalf of people for whom we have appeared we certainly recommend the adoption of the rule as proposed at the earliest possible date. We would hate to burden El Paso with the obligation of having to change some of these contracts, but I think that they can arrange it, and it wouldn't take too long.

I see no point in modifying the rules. El Paso has had ample opportunity to present testimony, and we haven't had any opportunity to cross-examine the El Paso witness since he didn't elect to be sworn.

MR. RAINEY: I will be happy to be sworn if you want

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

1 me to. MR. JENNINGS: And I understand that this would have to be done by application, but we would recommend that the Commission, if it sees fit to better define casinghead gas, to use this definition, "Casinghead gas shall mean any gas or vapor or both gas and vapor indigenous to and produced from an oil 7 well." 8 This also includes gas cap gas produced from an oil 9 well. MR. NUTTER: Now, the first part that you read was in the rules. Then what you added was this --MR. JENNINGS: No. This is in the definition of casinghead gas. MR. NUTTER: And what did you add there? MR. RAINEY: He changed it from oil pool to oil well. MR. JENNINGS: We dropped the word oil pool and put oil well. MR. NUTTER: Are there any other statements? MR. AZBILL: Yes, sir. Luther Azbill with Skelly. In general, we would concur with Mr. Rainey's proposal that he just gave, and we also would request as much time as possible before this did become effective because there are matters that we do have to study and --MR. NUTTER: Thank you, sir. MR. AZBILL: And December 1 or a January 1 would be

24

23

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

too early. MR. NUTTER: I see. MR. UTZ: How would March 1 suit you? MR. AZBILL: I would rather support his April 1 motion. MR. NUTTER: That is an April Fool's Day. You can't tell what will happen that day. Are there any other statements? MR. HATCH: The Commission has received a telegram from Amoco Production Company supporting the amendment of the 10 gas well definition. We won't read all of that into the record. 11 Perhaps you want to announce whether or not you would hold it 12 open for statements until December 1. 13 MR. NUTTER: This is November 10. We will take a 14 ten minute recess before the ruling on your motion, Mr. Rainey. 15 (Whereupon, recess was held.) 16 MR. NUTTER: The hearing will come to order, please. I think we have disposed of everything on the docket with the

> exception of a motion or two by Mr. Rainey. MR. RAINEY: I will withdraw my motions for leave to file written statement, but I do urge that the Commission

consider not making this order effective until April 1972.

MR. NUTTER: We will give dur consideration to your request for an extension of time before the order, if entered, would be effective.

Also, I believe, Mr. Rainey, that inasmuch as we have

advertised this case and given the definition in the advertisement that we would be bound to enter an order if we entered one that would be substantially the same as was advertised, and I believe that your proposed amendment as substantial definition from the advertisement so we would have to eliminate consideration of that definition also.

MR. RAINEY: Just trying to clarify.

MR. NUTTER: With that, I believe we can take the case under advisement and the hearing is adjourned.

#### INDEX WITNESS PAGE ELVIS A. UTZ Direct Examination by Mr. Hatch Cross-Examination by Mr. Lyon 12 Redirect Examination by Mr. Hatch 14 7 Cross-Examination by Mr. Porter 15 Cross-Examination by Mr. Jennings 17 9 Cross-Examination by Mr. Hendrix 17 10 19 Recross-Examination by Mr. Jennings 11 20 Recross-Examination by Mr. Hendrix 12 Cross-Examination by Mr. Freedman 20 13 21 Recross-Examination by Mr. Lyon 14 Recross-Examination by Mr. Freedman 22 15 23 Recross-Examination by Mr. Lyon 16 24 Redirect Examination by Mr. Hatch 17 18 19 EXHIBITS 20 MARKED PAGE 21 2 OCC Exhibit No. 1 22 PAGE OFFERED 10 OCC Exhibit No. 1 24

	1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO )							
	1							
	COUNTY OF BERNALILLO							
	I, LINDA MALONE, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that							
4								
	the foregoing and attached Transcript of Hearing before the							
5	New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission was reported by me;							
6	that the same is a true and correct record of the said							
, <b>7</b>	proceedings, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.							
8	my knowledge, skill and ability.							
9								
10								
11	Landa Mila							
12	Court Reporter							
13								
14								
15	en de la companya de La companya de la co							
16								
17								
18								
19	en de la companya de La companya de la co							
20								
21								
22	I do haven make and the surgering is							
23	the Examinar Boardon or the Maria in							
24	beard by as as Mauro 1971							
25	How Morioo Oll Concervation Commission							
25 1	The second secon							



# OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO P. O. BOX 2068 - SANTA FE 87501

November 10, 1971

GOVERNOR BRUCE KING CHAIRMAN

LAND COMMISSIONER ALEX J. ARMIJO MEMBER

STATE GEOLOGIST
A. L. PORTER, JR.
SECRETARY – DIRECTOR

	Re:	Case No	4623
Mr. James T. Jennings		Order No.	R-4226
Jennings, Christy & Copple Attorneys at Law		Applicant:	
Post Office Box 1180		occ	
Roswell, New Mexico 88201			<del></del>

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are two copies of the above-referenced Commission order recently entered in the subject case.

Very truly yours,

A. L. PORTER, Jr. Secretary-Director

ALP/ir				•
Copy of order	also sent to:			
Hobbs OCC Artesia OCC	<b>X</b>	•		
Aztec OCC	X			
Other			4	1 8 1

# BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPON ITS OWN MOTION TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINITION OF A GAS WELL.

> CASE NO. 4623 Order No. R-4226

## ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

## BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on November 10, 1971, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter.

NOW, on this 30th day of Movember, 1971, 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,

# 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 gas well definition contained in Section "A" of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Rules and Regulations entitled "DEFINITIONS" does not recognize the existence of gas wells in oil pools.
- (3) That wells that have a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil are in fact gas wells even though located in pools classified as oil pools.
- (4) That the existence of gas wells in oil pools should be recognized by the Commission.
- (5) That the definition of a gas well should be amended to recognize the principle that gas wells do occur in oil pools.
- (6) That a reasonable definition of a gas well in an oil pool would include a well that has a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil.

-2-CASE MO. 4623 Order Mo. R-4226

(7) That the definition of a gas well as it appears in Section "A" of the Commission Rules and Regulations should be amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"Gas well shall mean a well producing gas or natural gas from a gas pool, or a well with a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil producing from an oil pool."

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That effective April 1, 1972, the definition of a gas well as it appears in Section "A" of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission Rules and Regulations is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"Gas well shall mean a well producing gas or natural gas from a gas pool, or a well with a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil producing from an oil pool.

(2) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DOME at Santa Pe, New Mexico, on this day and year hereinabove designated.

> STATE OF MEN MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION CONMISSION

BRUCE KING, Chairman

ALEX J. ARMIJO. Member

A. L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

SEAL

dr/

Gas wed" show yellaw any well the gas ar condensate, or both. Coas well shall mean a well producing gus or natural gas from a Common source y gas despley as determined any the Con The term "gas well" is any well (a) which TEXAS produces natural gas not associated or blendich with oruse retracteum and at the time of production, or (b) which produces more than one hundred thousand (100,000) curice feel of water al gas to each barrel of cruse petrolaumail from the same producing horizon, or (c) which produces natural gas from a formation of producing harizon production of gas only accountered in a wrel bore through which crudl petrolemnoil is produced through the inside of another string of coming 6R5 wece shace mean a weel, the principe production of which at the well head is gas as defined by the Act and is not mail well as defined agave,

,00 00

MTRI MANE
Mela mone
Remisions a dord hard their horas

GAS WELL means any wed which pro Hrizona of 50,000 mile gent af gar per barrel up ail, or any well derved ar a gar will be the Commission. "Les weed" shows mean (a) a well which produce material gas only; (h) any well capatites and also producing sil from the same common source of supple but not in commercial quantities; or (c) any well classed as a gos well be the Commission for any reason. COLORADO GAS WELL shall mean a well, the principal production of which at the month of the well is gar, as befored Cen the Och WYOMING GAS WELL shall mean a weel the principal production of which , at the manth of the well, is gas, as defined by the begoing Conservation Law, gas weel shall mean (1) a well which KANSAS produces ustarted gas only in com creed quantities; (2) that part of a well wherein the gas producing stratum has oven suc cessfully cased off from the oil, the gas being produced through a Braden-head deed the ail through an in or string of caring producing gas in commercial quantities and also producing ail from the same common saurce of supply but not in commercial quantities

Telegram

western union

KA059 NSC 3 18

1:0V 1 6 1971

1971 NOV 10 M 8 42

NS HSD250 GE PDB=WUX THE THE COUNTS TON TEX 9 3342 CST=
NEW MEXICO GIL GONSERVATION COUNTS TON=
STATECAND OFFICE BLDG SANTA FE NHEX=

ATTENTION INR. A. L. CORTER. DR., SECRETARY DIRECTOR - THE EXAMINER HEARING NOVEMBER 10, 1971. 
CASE 4623 ON THE DOCKET OF THE SUBJECT HEARING HAS BEEN CALLED TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT OF THE OTL CONSERVATION COMMISSION DEFINITION OF A GAS WELL TO EXPAND THAT DEFINITION TO INCLUDE A WELL PRODUCING FROM AN OTL POOL WITH A GAS OF THE BARREL OF OTHER OF THE OF GAS PER BARREL OF OTHER

WU 1201 (R 5-59)

mestern union

Telegram

CAS WELL DEFINITION IN THAT HANNERS

SMOCO CHODUCTION COMPANY SUPPORTS AMENDMENT OF THE

= 10 1971 4623 100,000.#[524] mc

WU 1201 (R 5-69)

# CASE 4563: Continued from the October 27, 1971, Examiner Hearing

Application of Corinne Grace for special gas-oil ratio limitation and pressure maintenance project, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to produce her State Well No. 1 located in Unit A of Section 1, Township 15 South, Range 29 East, Double L-Queen Pool, Chaves County, New Mexico, with no gas-oil ratio limitation, strip the liquids, and institute a pressure maintenance project by the injection of all said gas back into the producing formation through her State Well No. 2 located in Unit B of said Section 1. Applicant further seeks to transfer an oil allowable from said Well No. 2 to said Well No. 1.

Application of Jack L. McClellan for a dual completion, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the abovestyled cause, seeks approval for the dual completion (conventional) of his Bar-J Federal Well No. 1 located in Unit E of Section 15, Township 6 South, Range 27 East, Chaves County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to produce oil from an undesignated Siluro-Devonian peel through tubing and gas from the Haystack-Cisco Gas Pool through the casing-tubing annulus.

Application of Jake L. Hamon for a non-standard unit, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of an 80-acre non-standard oil proration unit comprising the NE/4 SE/4 and SE/4 NE/4 of Section 30, Township 16 South, Range 36 East, East Shoe Bar-Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled 1830 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line of said section 30. Walfson Willanks

The matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation of the definition of a gas well as it appears in its Rules and Regulations to read as follows:

"Gas well shall mean"

"Gas well shall mean" 4623: In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation

gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet

of gas per barrel of oil producing from an oil pool. The shall be appreciately the formation of a loop of the formation of a loop of the property of the sugar than the state of the property of the property of the sugar than the sugar than the property of the sugar than the su

# DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 10, 1071

9 A.M. - OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM, STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING - SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The following cases will be heard before Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner, or Elvis A. Utz, Alternate Examiner:

Booker Kelley

Asolar Palmon

Insplie Eugen

midlend

Application of Tenneco Oil Company for a unit agreement, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of a unit area comprising 520 acres, more or less, of Federal lands in Section 3, Township 19 South, Range 32 East, Lusk-Seven Rivers Pool. Lea County, New Mexico.

CASE 4618:

Application of Tenneco Oil Company for a waterflood project, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to institute a waterflood project in the Lusk-Seven Rivers Pool by the injection of water through one well located in the SE/4 NW/4 of Section 3, Township 19 South, Range 32 East, Lea County, New Mexico.

CASE 4619:

Dec 1

Application of Corinne Grace for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface of the ground down to and including the Morrow formation underlying the N/2 of Section 25, Township 22 South, Range 26 East, which acreage is within one mile of the South Carlsbad-Morrow Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico. Said acreage to be dedicated to a well to be drilled to the Morrow formation at a location 1980 feet from the North and East lines of said Section 25. Also to be considered will be the costs of drilling said well, a charge for the risk involved, a provision for the allocation of actual operating costs, and the establishment of charges of supervision of said well.

CASE 4620:

Cont to Dec 1 Application of Corinne Grace for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface of the ground down to and including the Morrow formation underlying the N/2 of Section 24, Township 22 South, Range 26 East, which acreage is in the vicinity of the South Carlsbad-Morrow Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico. Said acreage to be dedicated to a well to be drilled to the Morrow formation at a location 1980 feet from the North and East lines of said Section 24. Also to be considered will be the costs of drilling said well, a charge for the risk involved, a provision for the allocation of actual operating costs, and the establishment of charges for supervision of said well.

# CASE 4563: Continued from the October 27, 1971, Examiner Hearing

Application of Corinne Grace for special gas-oil ratio limitation and pressure maintenance project, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to produce her State Well No. 1 located in Unit A of Section 1, Township 15 South, Range 29 East, Double L-Queen Pool, Chaves County, New Mexico, with no gas-oil ratio limitation, strip the liquids, and institute a pressure maintenance project by the injection of all said gas back into the producing formation through her State Well No. 2 located in Unit B of said Section 1. Applicant further seeks to transfer an oil allowable from said Well No. 2 to said Well No. 1.

CASE 4621: Application of Jack L. McClellan for a dual completion, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the abovestyled cause, seeks approval for the dual completion (conventional) of his Bar-J Federal Well No. 1 located in Unit E of Section 15, Township 6 South, Range 27 East, Chaves County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to produce oil from an undesignated Siluro-Devonian pool through tubing and gas from the Haystack-Cisco Gas Pool through the casing-tubing annulus.

CASE 4622: Application of Jake L. Hamon for a non-standard unit, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of an 80-acre non-standard oil proration unit comprising the NE/4 SE/4 and SE/4 NE/4 of Section 30, Township 16 South, Range 36 East, East Shoe Bar-Devonian Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled 1830 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line of said Section 30.

CASE 4623:

In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission upon its own motion to consider the amendment of the definition of a gas well as it appears in its Rules and Regulations to read as follows:

"Gas well shall mean a well producing gas or natural gas from a gas pool or a well with a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil producing from an oil pool."

# DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 10, 1971

9 A.M. - OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM, STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING - SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The following cases will be heard before Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner, or Elvis A. Utz, Alternate Examiner:

- CASE 4617: Application of Tenneco Oil Company for a unit agreement, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval of a unit area comprising 520 acres, more or seeks approval of a unit area comprising 520 acres, more or less, of Federal lands in Section 3, Township 19 South, Range 32 East, Lusk-Seven Rivers Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.
- CASE 4618: Application of Tenneco Oil Company for a waterflood project,
  Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled
  cause, seeks authority to institute a waterflood project
  in the Lusk-Seven Rivers Pool by the injection of water
  in the Lusk-Seven Rivers Pool by the injection 3,
  through one well located in the SF/4 NW/4 of Section 3,
  Township 19 South, Range 32 East, Lea County, New Mexico.
- CASE 4619: Application of Corinne Grace for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface of the ground down to and including the Morrow formation underlying the N/2 of Section 25, Township 22 formation underlying the N/2 of Section 25, Township 22 formation underlying the N/2 of Section 25, Township 26 fouth, Range 26 East, which acreage is within one mile of the South Carlsbad-Morrow Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico. The South Carlsbad-Morrow Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico. Said acreage to be dedicated to a well to be drilled to the Morrow formation at a location 1980 feet from the North and East lines of said Section 25. Also to be considered and East lines of said Section 25. Also to be considered will be the costs of drilling said well, a charge for the vision of said well.
  - CASE 4620: Application of Corinne Grace for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface of the ground down to and including the Morrow surface of the ground down to and including the Morrow formation underlying the N/2 of Section 24, Township 22 formation underlying the N/2 of Section 24, Township 22 formation and East pool, Eddy County, New Mexico. The South Carlsbad-Morrow Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico. Said acreage to be dedicated to a well to be drilled to said acreage to be dedicated to a well to be considered and East lines of said Section 24. Also to be considered will be the costs of drilling said well, a charge for the will be the costs of drilling said well, a charge for the operating costs, and the establishment of charges for supervision of said well.

DRAFT - November 5, 1971

Statement of El Paso Natural Gas Company in Case No. 4623 before the Oil Commission of the State of New Mexico.

El Paso Natural Gas Company is the largest purchaser of New Mexico produced gas and is itself a major producer of gas in New Mexico. El Paso supports the proposal of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission to more precisely define a gas well in its rules and regulations. El Paso commends the Commission for its efforts in this regard.

El Paso suggests that the amended definition should read as follows:

Gas well shall mean: A) a well producing gas or natural gas from a gas pool or; B) a well with a gas/oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil producing from an oil pool.cmd shall be specifically defined as a casingland gas well El Paso believes that the more precise definition of a gas well will

relieve the Commission of the necessity of exercising its discretion in classifying pools in the very early stages of development as to whether or not it is a gas pool or an oil pool and will strengthen the statewide rules and regulations in this regard. It is also their opinion that this will in no way violate correlative rights and will aid in preventing waste by insuring that wells are produced with a minimum of flaring from high ratio wells in newly discovered pools.

# NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION COMMISSION OPERATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

COMPANY

STATUS CONC Lease Total 4 E 30 8 37 Las Creces "B" -Allison Penn . Roosevalt 2 3 30 8 37 FLASE MANE THE STATE OF SETTING HONDER OF LEDERAL FLASE HOND WELL NO. UNIT SEC. THE RIGH D 30 8 37 H 30 8 37 NMD3431 HENTHLY ACTUAL BARRELS 5190 8250 7430 GAS WELL 3060 4774 GAS WELL TOTAL CIGUIDS PRODUCED 2656 OF WATER
PRODUCED 0 10 0 0 Ū 2120 18 909 5840 30 3/1/8/30 730/ 26 PRODUCES HCF 144..... P. O. Box 1351 Midla . J. Tox 29701 FOR MONTH VENTED Principal Sylvestion Sec. LEASE NO GOSON DISPOSITION OF GAS 18909 WAR SOLD. PURCH. OTHER 1311 The state of the state of SEP 27/8 SARRELS TO TRANS PORTER DISPOSITION OF SIL . . PRICE 1971 C TRANS 7.0. 72NG# 30 CN3 CNNX CNXX 575

TO TRANSPORT OF THE PERSON OF

S (REV. 11, 67) (D.

MECO LL STATE

( ) ( )

# PURCHASER'S AND OPERATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

	88 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
	zc
	4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
	20 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
	O V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V
The control of the co	POOL 15E  OPERATOR  PASO RATURAL GAS  CARLSON FRO RA  CARLSON FRO A S  CARGURY FEDERAL  CANGLIE FED 21
	WELL NAME  2  JUN 1971  A 727 AL  R 727 AL
	P PRODUCED PRODUCED P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P
	P. O. Box PROD. 27 14 27 14 23 15
	ABLE
	aso, lexas 79999  ACTUAL C B AARREIS C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C
	BARREIS OF WALTER PRO- DUCED
	22.94 70.74 2.07 2.14.52 2.14.52 2.14.52 3.54.51
	UN CO
	A 16 1971  OUSPOSITION OF CAS  CHAS OTHER ER MCF  ER MCF  ER MCF  ER P  OTHER ER P
	WETE AND SECULATION OF SECURATION OF SECULATION OF SECURATION OF SECURAT

# OIL WELLS IN SOUTHEAST NEW MEXICO WHICH HAVE MORE THAN 100 Mcf G.O.R.

POOL	No. Wells above 100 M-GOR	Pool GOR Limit MCF	Volume Gas Allow. MCF
Langlie Mattix	63	10	47,250
Monument	35	3	7,875
Allison	7	2	5,010
Anderson Ranch	1	2	1,200
Brunson-Ellenburger	4	2	1,400
Cato	1	2	150
Corbin-Queen	1	2	150
Drinkard	18	6	15,064
Eumont-Yates S.R.	1	10	750
Eunice - Gr. S.A.	8	6	3,600
So. Eunice - 7 R - Q	8	10	6,000
Fowler-Upper Yates	1 .	6	1,050
Justis-Blinebry	1	6	600
Milnesand S.A.	2,	2	300
Moore-Permo Penn.	1	2	566
Paddock	1	2	200
Penrose Skelly-Grayb.	10	10	7,500
Praire-Cisco	1	2	716
N. San Simon-Yates	1	10	~ 750
Terry-Blinebry	1	6	600
Tubb-Oil	1	2	266
Vacuum-WC	1	2	716
Wantz Abo	1	2	350
Wilson	5	2	750
E. Weir-Blinebry	1	.2	300
Lusk-Strawn	1	4	2,604
E. Red Lake-Q-Grayb.	4	2	600
Red Lake-Q-GrS.A.	1	2	150
TOTALS	181		106,467

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. 46 5 5

# DRAFT

GMH/dr



# 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:

KM

Am

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPON ITS OWN MOTION TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINITION OF A GAS WELL.

CASE No. Order No.

CASE No. 4623

Order No. R- 4226

# ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

# BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on November 10 , 1971, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Daniel S. Nutter

NOW, on this <u>day of December</u>, 1971, 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,

# 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 definition of a gas well contained in Section "A" of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Rules and Regulations entitled "DEFINITIONS" does not recognize the existence of gas wells in oil pools.

- (3) That wells that have a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil are in fact gas wells even though located in pools classified as oil pools.
- (4) That the existence of gas wells in oil pools should be recognized by the Commission.
- (5) That the definition of a gas well should be amended to recognize the principle that gas wells do occur in oil pools.
- (6) That a reasonable definition of a gas well in an oil pool would include a well that has a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil.
- (7) That the definition of a gas well as it appears in Section "A" of the Commission Rules and Regulations should be amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"Gas well shall mean a well producing gas or natural gas from a gas pool, or a well with a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil producing from an oil pool."

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That effective April 1, 1972, the definition of a gas well as it appears in Section "A" of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission Rules and Regulations is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"Gas well shall mean a well producing gas or natural gas from a gas pool or a well with a gas-oil ratio in excess of 100,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil producing from an oil pool."

-3-CASE NO. 4623 Order No. R-

(2) 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 this day and year hereinabove designated.