CASE 1562: British American Oil Producing Co. application for secondary recovery project, San Juan Co., Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool & for rules & reg. for project.

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1562

Application, Transcript, Small Exhibits, Etc.



BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION DECEMBER 10, 1958

IN THE MATTER OF:

APPLICATION OF BRITISH AMERICAN OIL PRODUCING COMPANY, CASE 1562

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

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IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of British American Oil Producing Company for permission to institute a secondary recovery project in San Juan County, New Mexico, and for the promulgation of special rules and regulations in connection therewith. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing it to institute a secondary recovery project in the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool for the injection of dry gas and/or liquefied petroleum gas into the Gallup formation through four wells located in Sections 27 and 28, Township 26 North, Range 13 West, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant further proposes that special rules and regulations be promulgated to govern the above-described project, which would include among other things conversion of additional injection wells without notice and hearing, transfer of allowables from injection wells, transfer of allowables from wells shut-in for observation purposes or to increase the efficiency of the project, exemption of all leases connected with the project from gas-oil ratio limitation provided gas produced therefrom is reinjected, and such other rules and regulations the Commission may deem appropriate.

Case 1562

BEFORE:

Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

MR. NUTTER: We will take the next case, Case 1562.

MR. PAYNE: Case 1562, Application of British American Oil Producing Company for permission to institute a secondary recovery project in San Juan County, New Mexico, and for the promulgation of special rules and regulations in connection therewith.

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MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you, Mr. Christy. Mr. Examiner, we would like to commence by moving for leave to amend our petition in one respect. I think it's clear from the gist of the petition that we are requesting the conversion of the Douthit "B" Five Well for injection purposes. Nevertheless, in the precise request made in our application, it does not seem to be clear that the Douthit "B" Five conversion is included. Now, you notice it did mention four wells were being requested. We have mentioned the other three which we are requesting they be approved on administrative approval. Through inadvertance or oversight on my part, what is known as the Douthit "B" Five was not included in our prayer. I would like to amend that at this time.

MR. NUTTER: You still propose to inject gas to four wells, is that correct?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yes, sir.

MR. NUTTER: The four wells are in Sections 27 and 28?

MR. SULLIVAN: There are no changes in those respects,

no.

MR. NUTTER: So the amendment is not broadening the

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scope of this application?

MR. SULLIVAN: No, it's in a sense a technical thing. I think the petition is clear.

MR. PAYNE: I think it is, Mr. Sullivan, in your Paragraph 2, 2-A.

MR. CHRISTY: I believe it is the prayer he refers to.

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm referring, Mr. Payne, to Paragraph 8, where we make specific request on an order. We don't request the approval of the conversion of Douthit "B" Five, which is the well we anticipate will be used initially for gas injection and which is the one we were primarily concerned with. I would like to include this Paragraph 8 and an additional sub-paragraph that the conversion of the Douthit "B" Five to an injection well be included.

MR. NUTTER: If there is no objection to the amendment of paragraph 8 to include the Douthit "B" Five, the application will be amended.

MR. SULLIVAN: We have two witnesses. The first is Mr. Nelson Williamson.

MR. PAYNE: Is your other witness here also?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yes, sir, Mr. John Stein.

(Witnesses sworn.)

MR. NUTTER: At this time, we will call for any other appearances in this case. Are there any?

MR. KELLAHIN: Jason Kellahin, of Kellahin and Fox,

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appearing on behalf of Phillips Fetroleum Company.

MR NUTTER: Any others? Proceed.

MR. SULLIVAN: Take your chair, Mr. Williamson. The first order of business, we have prepared additional copies of exhibits which were attached to the application as Exhibit A and Exhibit B, One, Two, Three and Four as a perfunctory matter. I would like to enter these additional copies in evidence and so submit them.

MR. NUTTER: If there is no objection, British American's Exhibits A through B Four will be admitted.

NELSON H. WILLIAMSON

the witness, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. SULLIVAN:

- C State your name, please?
- A Nelson H. Williamson.
- Q By Whom are you employed and in what capacity, Mr. Williamson?
- A British American Oil Producing Company as division exploitation geologist.
- Q Have you previously appeared before the New Mexico Commission?
 - A No, I have not.
- Q Will you state then your educational and professional packground as a geologist, please?

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- A Graduated from Tulsa University in 1948 with a BS

 Degree in geology and worked for Standard Oil Company of Texas

 in north and central Texas for three years, in west Texas for two

 and a half years, and for the past five years with British American

 Oil Producing Company in the northwestern division, which covers

 the Rocky Mountain area.
- Q Among your duties with the British American Oil Producing Ompany at the present time, have you had occasion to study the Bisti-Lower Gallup Field in San Juan County, New Mexico?
 - A Yes, I have.
- Q Are you familiar with the application that your employer has filed in this cause?
 - A Yes, sir, I am.
- Q In connection with your study and this application, have you prepared certain exhibits which you would like to present to the Commission in this hearing?
 - A Yes, sir, I have.
 - Q Will you proceed then to show the exhibits.
- A We have extra copies here of Exhibits One and Two if you'd like to look at those.

(Marked British American Exhibits 1 and 2 for identification.)

A Exhibit One is a structure map which is contoured on top of the first bench of the Lower Gallup pay in the Bisti Gallup Field in San Juan County, New Mexico. The purpose of this exhibit

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It can be seen starting on the northwest end of the field and going soviheast, the dip is in a northerly direction and represents pretty much the regional dip in the area. This particular exhibit shows primarily British American's part of the field and is designed to take in just the area of which is considered in this proposal here.

- by the colored portion of that exhibit?
 - A Yes, that's right. It's colored in yellow on the exhibit.
 - You have already marked this Exhibit Number One?
 - A That is right
 - Q Continue.

A Exhibit Number Two, which is this exhibit here, is an Isopach which is contoured on a positive microlog separation of the lirst bench of the Low Gallup pay in the Bisti-Lower Gallup Field or that portion of the Bisti-Lower Gallup Field which British American has and is proposing as a secondary recovery unit and shows further the continuity of this reservoir in the particular area.

The contour interval used here is rive feet, and it shows again on the northwest end going southeast. There is no break in this particular reservoir due to the shaling out or pinching out

DEARNLEY - VE EN & ANDOCHTEE ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEX CO Phone CHund 3-6691 of the sands. This particular Exhibit shows British American's acreage yellow as does the Exhibit Number One.

- Q And have you designated this already as Exhibit Number Two; is the exhibit so marked?
 - A Yes, this is marked Exhibit Two.
- Q Do you have further exhibits that you wish to show the Commission?
- A Yes, I do. We have several cross-sections which we wish to show.
 - Q How have you designated these, Mr. Williamson?
- A This is a series of exhibits called Exhibit Three, and it's a series of cross-sections starting with "A" and going through "E".
 - Q Are they already designated as 3-A, B, C, etc.?
 - A Yes, sir, they are.
- Q Read and explain to the Commission what these demonstrate?
- A This particular cross-section and each cross-section, the line of cross-section will be shown by a red line. This particular cross-section here is Exhibit 3-A and is cross-section AA prime and goes from the Douthit "B" 3, British American Oil Producing Company Douthis "B" 3, on the west side to El Paso Sullivan "D" 3 on the east side.
- Q The other wells that are represented on this crosssection are also indicated at the top of the exhibit?

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A That is right. Now, I can read those off, but to dispense with, to nurry along, I think we can dispense with that if it is all right with the Commission.

MR. NUTTER: Yes sir.

out of the reservoir in directions on the flanks, and it is an isopach or a cross-section which shows the thinning and thickening of the Lower Gallup pay section. It further substantiates the fact it is a continuous reservoir except where it shalles out along the flanks. The continuity is repeated across here from the west end to the east end. There is no break in the middle. The thickness is based upon the positive microlog separation through the field.

Q I think it might be helpful if you would mention the section number through which this cross-section is drawn so the tie in between it and the area suggested in the application is clear.

A This cross-section starts at the west with Section 29, goes through Section 28, 27 and ends in Section 26.

- Q Thank you. Do you wish to go to B-B?
- A Yes, if there are no questions on this.
- Q (By Mr. Nutter) The western most well in this section is a dry hole, is it not?

A Yes, they are designated at the top of the crosssection here by the dry hole and the producer and the proposed

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injection wells are also on there.

MR. NUTTER: Thank you.

A This is Exhibit 3-B, and is cross-section BB prime going from Section 29 again to 28 and 27. It is further north of the litest cross-section, and again it is shown or is drawn on positive microlog separation and shows again the continuity of the reservoir. It again shows the shaving out on the west and on the east with the continuous reservoir through the proposed injection wells and to the flanks where it shales out.

Q Three C.

A I forgot to mention previously that the datum line which is used as a reference upon all these cross-sections is a plus 1400 and is shown a horizontal line across the top.

This is cross-section 3-C, CC prime. It is a north-south cross-section from section 21 going through 28 down to 33, and this cross-section again is drawn on the positive microlog separation of the Lower Gallup pay, the first bench. This again shows the shaling out in a north-south direction and a continuity of the reservoir in a north-south direction.

MR. NUTTER: Which is the north side there, the left side of that exhibit?

A Yes, this would be it here (indicating). This is cross-section DD prime and is Exhibit Three "D"; and again is a north-south cross-section only farther east to again show continuity of the reservoir in a north-south direction. It shales out in

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both north and south direction, and this particular cross section is drawn on the positive microlog separation of the first bench of the lower Gallup pay.

Q One More?

A Two more. In the next cross-section, which is Exhibit 3-E, which is EE prime on the index here is a cross-section which is along the main trend of the Bisti Gallup Field and which shows the continuity of the reservoir along the main axis of the field. It is drawn on the same positive microlog separation of the Lower Gallup pay. There is no break, because of the sand conditions or structural conditions along the main trend of the field.

Q All of the sections shown on your Exhibits 3-1 to
E inclusive are generally dealing with the same area you pointed
out as British American area on your Exhibits One and Two?

A That is right.

MR. SULLIVAN: That's all the questions I have, Mr. Examiner, of this witness with the exception of the question whether or not these were prepared by you? All of these Exhibits were prepared by you?

A That is right.

MR. NUTTER: Mr. Williamson, I note your Exhibits

One and Two in the legend indicate that four of these wells will

be water injection wells. You didn't intend to mean water injection,

did you?

A No, that wouldn't be right.

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MR. SULLIVAN: I think that error has open corrected so that on the actual Exhibit 1t only reads "injection wells".

Correct me on that if I'm wrong.

A Yes.

MR. SULLIVAN: That was a draftsman's error on your small copies. We didn't bother to take it off because it had been produced; on the actual exhibit, the proper designation does appear. That's an error I will admit to.

MR. NUTTER: Mr. Williamson, one contour practice your cross-section shows one thing regardless of how far you go you can run out of the pool?

A I wouldn't say that. I'm not qualified to say how far the pool would go.

MR. NUTTER: Any other questions of Mr. Williamson?

If not, he may be excused.

(Witness excused.)

MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you, Mr. Williamson. Mr. Stein, take the stand, please.

JOHN STEIN

the witness, having first been duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. SULLIVAN:

- Q State your full rame, please?
- A I'm John Stein.
- Q By whom are you employed, and what position do you

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occupy with that employer?

A I'm employed by British American Oil Producing Company as district engineer for the entire Rocky Mountain area.

- Q Have you previously testified before this Commission,
 Mr. Stein --
 - A Yes, I have.
 - Q -- as an expert engineering witness?
 - A Yes.

MR. SULLIVAN: May he so testify at this hearing, Mr. Examiner?

MR. NUTTER: Yes, sir.

- Q (By Mr. Sullivan) Mr. Stein, are you familiar with the application that British American has filed with regard to gas injection in this section of the Bisti-Lower Gallup Field?
 - A Yes, sir, I am familiar with the application.
- Q Let's commence with your exhibits, Mr. Stein. Have you prepared certain Exhibits in connection with this application that you'd like to present?
 - A Yes, I have.
 - Q What is the first of those?
- A Exhibit Number Four is the first one that I have to discuss. Exhibit Number Four is a map showing the area covered by our application, which is all that area enclosed within the red lines. It also shows the locations of all the producing wells in the immediate vicinity and the four wells proposed for injection. It

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further demonstrates --

- Q Would you mind just pointing out those four wells?
- A The four wells which we have proposed for injection purposes are Douthit "B" 5, which is located in the southwest of the northeast of Section 28; the Douthit "B" No. 7, which is in the southwest of the northeast of 27; the Douthit "B" --
 - Q Just a moment -- what is the description?
 - A Southwest of the northwest.
 - Q Thank you.
- A The Douthit "B" 12, which is in the southwest south-west of Section 27; and the Douthit "B" 13, which is located in the southwest of the southeast of 28.
- Q Now, at this point just, would you point out the confines of the Douthit "B" Lease?
- A The Douthit "B" Lease is all of Sections 27, 28, 29 and the west half of Section 32.
 - Q Do you know who is the lessor in that?
 - A British American is the lessor.
- Q No, British American is not the lessor; it is the lessee. Who is the lessor?
 - A The United States; the Federal Government.
 - Q Thank you. Proceed.
- A This exhibit also demonstrates the area of influence around, the maximum area of influence we expect around each of these injection wells ultimately. That is the area shown by the heavy

DEARNGEY MEIGH & ASSOCIATES GENERAL LAW REFORMERS ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO Phone Chapel 3-6691 green line. You will note this area of influence is contained wholly within British American's properties.

As gas is injected into each of the injection wells, the gas bubble will be formed, and as gas is continued to be injected, the bubble will continue to grow and, of course, ultimately, sometime away on down the line will reach these approximate proportions.

You will also note that the location of the injection well is such that the area of influence will never be of such magnitude as to invade other properties. It will have no influence on offset properties. Now, information compiled from our pilot LPG injection projects indicate we will not expect any trouble injecting gas into any of these wells.

"GI" Number 1 is taking up to 1600 MCF without any trouble. The reservoir properties in the rest of the pilot project are very similar to the reservoir properties in the area of our proposed gas injection project.

We plan to gather ultimately all the gas from our leases in this area to put into this injection project. However, if initially in the interest of time, and incidentally there is not much left in 1958, our initial gathering system will consist of a system to gather gas only from Sections 27, 28 and Section 34. A compressor station will be built in the vicinity of Douthit "B" No. 9 Well. Of course, the gas gathered from these three Sections will be injected into the Douthit "B" 5, initially.

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Now, the other three wells, Douthit "B" 7, 12 and 13 will be converted to gas injection wells when the produced gas volume becomes sufficiently high to warrant their conversion. Of course, they will not be converted until administrative approval is obtained from the Commission.

At the present time, the wells located in Sections 27, 28 and 34 produce about 18,500 MCF a month. Of this amount, 2500 MCFs a month is required for lease operation use. That leaves us about 16,000 MCFs to inject into the Douthit "B" 5 initially, which would be 530 MCF per day. That's about all I have to say on Exhibit Number Four.

- Q Is each of those proposed injection wells which you have mentioned presently producing oil from the Lower Gallup?
- A Yes, they are. All produce oil from the first bench of the Lower Gallup.
- Q In the application you may recall that we described the Lower Gallup as the stratographic section in the first bench of the Gallup sand at, encountered near the Douthit "B" 5 between a depth of 2966 and 5,000 feet. Is that the formation to which you are referring as being presently productive, into which you hope to inject gas?
 - A That is the formation I'm referring to.
- Q Are you ready to proceed to your next exhibit, Number Five?
 - A Yes, 1 am.

Q Your exhibits are already marked and designated by number?

I have here copies of all these Yes, they are. exhibits which I neglected to pass out. Exhibit Number 5 is actually four exhibits which I have elected to number 5-A, 5-B, 5-C and 5-D. Exhibit 5-A is an electric log of the Douthit "B" No. 5 Well, showing the present condition of the well and the proposed completion for gas injection. Douthit "B" 5 has $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch casing set at 5201 KB cemented with with 100 sacks of regular cement, perforated to completion over the interval 5028 to 5048 feet with four jets per foot. We propose to complete it for gas injection as follows: Run 2 inch EUE tubing equipped with a retrievable packer set at 5010 feet, the annulus filled with oil and pressure casing tested with 2,000 psi for 30 minutes. If there are no leaks, we will complete the well for gas injection through the interval 5028 to 48, which is the first bench of the Lower Gallup sand.

Exhibit 5-B is the electric log section of the Douthit "B" 7 Well. The well has $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch casing set at 5164 feet KB, cemented with 100 sacks of cement. Initially it was perforated from 5016 feet with four jets block squeezed with 70 sacks of cement. After the cement was drilled out, the well was perforated in the third bench of the Gallup Sand at 5024 to 5034 feet, four jets per foot in the first bench, 4970 to 4990 in the first bench of the Gallup.

We propose to complete the well for gas injection purposes

DEARNLEY - MEJER & ASSOCIATES GENERAL LAW REPORTERS ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO . Phone Chopel 3-6691 as follows: We will set a cast iron bridge plug at 5,000 feet KB. This will isolate the first bench from the third bench of the Gallup sand. Tubing will be run and connected to a packer, a retrievable packer and set at 4960 KB. The annulus will be filled with oil and tested at 2,000 psi for thirty minutes. If no leaks are indicated, we will complete the well for gas injection through the interval 4970 to 4490 in the first bench of the Gallup.

Douthit Exhibit 5-C is an electric log of the Douthit "B" 12 Well, which is another one of the wells. We propose to complete the injection through $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch casing set at 5097 feet KB, cemented with 100 sacks of regular cement, perforated on initial completion at 4976 to 4995 with four jets a foot. We propose to complete 4t for gas injection purposes as follows: Run 2 inch tubing equipped with a retrievable packer set at 4960 feet. The annulus will be filled with oil and pressure tested for 30 minutes at 2,000 psi. If no leaks are indicated, it will be completed for gas injection through the interval 4976 to 4995, which is the first bench of the Gallup sand.

Exhibit 5-D is an electric log of the Douthit "B" 13 Well. The well has $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch casing set at 5122 KB, cemented with 100 sacks of regular cement, completed through perforations from 5052 to 5066 and from 5040 to 5044, then it was perforated in the second bench of the Gallup sand from 5026 to 5034 and 5040 to 5044, and then the first bench of the Gallup was perforated from 4994 to 5008 feet.

We propose to complete it for cas injection purposes by

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setting a cast iron bridge plug at 5016 feet KB, which will completely isolate the first bench of the Gallup sand from the other two benches.

Again 2 inch tubing will be equipped with a retrievable packer set at 4980 feet. The annulus will be filled with oil and the casing pressure tested with 2,000 psi for 30 minutes. If no leaks are indicated, we will complete the well for gas injection through intervals from 4994 to 5008 feet KB.

- Q These are the proposed completion plans which you will pursue, assuming that subsequent to the granting of the first well, we will assume administrative approval of the Secretary-Director of the commission were granted for the conversion of these additional wells?
 - A That is correct.
- Q You don't propose to do this work in the three wells represented by your exhibits 5-C, D and E immediately?
 - A No, that is on down the line.
- Q Which well are you referring to and which you wish immediate approval to convert?
 - A The Douthit "B" 5 Well for gas injection purposes.
 - Q Do you have an additional exhibit?
- A Yes, I do have. Exhibit No.66 is a graph of the reservoir performance history of the British American properties in the Bisti Gallup Field. The upper curve is a curve of bottom hole pressure, that is average bottom hole pressure, since completion

of our Marye Number One Well to the present time versus time.

You will note that the pressure has dropped from initially about
1516 psi to around 1,000 psi as of August of 1958.

The middle curve is a plot of monthly production versus time. Prior to May of 1958, the production rate was very erratic due to the pipe line approxpiation. However, since the pipe line was completed to the west coast, the production has been fairly constant due to the allowable which has been set by the Commission and has been producing from 80,000 to 85,000 barrels per month.

The lower curve underlined by the green coloring is a curve of average gas-oil ratio versus time. It, too, was very erratic prior to May, mostly due to up and down production of the field.

Now that we do have a fairly stabalized oil producing rate, we can see the gas-oil ratios are beginning to decline. At the present time, the average gas-oil ratio for all of British American Wells in this particular area is about 500 to one. The solution gas oil-ratio initially was 389 cubic feet per barrel. I might point out here according to our fluid sample taken on Marye No.

1, we had a bubble point of 4811 psi. The pressure now, as of August, was 140 psi below the bubble point.

- Q What is your estimated daily injection of gas going to be initially if your petition to inject and convert the Douthit "B" 5 is granted by the Commission, Mr. Stein?
 - A It will be about 530 MCF a day.
 - Q And where did you indicate that gas would come from in

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the initial stages?

- A From the wells in Sections 27, 28 and 34.
- Q Then if you gather gas from the remaining injection wells in your application, as your gathering system is extended, what do you anticipate your daily injection rate would be, at least under presently known circumstances?
- A Well, it would be in the neighborhood of a million a day.
- Q Is it natural to assume there will be increasing quantities of gas throughout your leasehold areas which will be available for injection as time goes on?
 - A Yes, it certainly is.
- Q In British American's application in this matter, Mr. Stein, there was an indication that your company was conducting and making a study of the economic feasibility of LPG in this area. What has that study revealed up to this point?
- A Well, it revealed that LPG is a good method for secondary recovery. However, we have not yet concluded as to the economics of its use.
- Q In this presentation, you are not suggesting or proposing to the Commission any LPG be injected into the project area which has been outlined here in your testimony?
 - A No. I am not.
- Q Do you have any further remarks you would like to make with regard to recommendations you made in your application to the

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Commission with regard to field rules? Let us take specifically your request that field rules include the right to transfer allowables from converted wells. Would you like to give us a discourse on that, and, if so, what is that discourse?

A Yes, we have requested the Commission's approval to transfer allowables from one well to another on a field basis for several reasons, mostly because of economic reasons. Since wells must be converted to injection wells, transfer of allowable will enable us to continue producing the same daily quantity of oil even though good producing wells must be sacrificed for injection purposes.

extremely high GO producers, ratio producers and consequently are gassed out in the latter life of the project. Thus, to enable us to continue producing the field in the most efficient manner, it becomes necessary to transfer allowable of the wells to more efficient wells. Now, to evaluate the results of any secondary recovery program, it is often necessary to shut wells in for observation purposes, to run bottom hole pressures and what have you. However, if we are allowed to transfer allowables, we could continue to produce the field at a maximum efficient rate, and, of course, our daily revenue would not be impaired.

Q You've mentioned two or three different types of situations in which you are suggesting you should have the right to transfer allowables. Let's confine our remarks to the request

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to transfer allowables from those wells which are converted. All of the arguments that you have made for that right would apply equally to wells which have been converted to injection wells, would they not?

- A Yes, sir, they certainly would.
- Q What is the area within which you have recommended to the Commission this right be permitted?

A Well, I think the area should consist of that area which you are gathering gas from and any wells that you are taking gas from or any well that has to be converted to an injection well, we should be allowed to transfer that allowable to any other wells on that particular property or in that particular area.

- Q Do I misunderstand you -- you are not suggesting that you be permitted to transfer allowalbles from a well just because gas from that well is being injected?
 - A Oh, no, that is just one of the reasons.
- Q That is what I wanted to make clear. Would you restate what your recommendation is with regard to transfer of allowables of wells which are converted to injection wells, to what area do you believe that right should be extended?
 - A To that area from which gas is being gathered.
 - Q For injection purposes?
 - A For injection purposes, certainly.
- Q And why do you recommend that that area be the area to which this privilege is extended, Mr. Stein?

effected by this injection program. It will be the area under study at all times, and it will be the one in which it will be a necessity to shut wells down and, well, we feel that it's the practical thing do do. We are going to spend a lot of money to put this injection project in, and we are going to sacrifice some good oil producing wells in order to do so.

Q Do you have any estimates as to the benefits of this gas injection program, Mr. Stein? Would you like to comment on the possible benefits generally or specifically?

A Yes, it's already been proven by development and reservoir studies that the Bisti Gallup field is a closed reservoir and has a solution depletion type recovery mechanism. With this type of recovery mechanism, from our special course studies, we can expect to recover 15 percent of the original oil in place. By injecting produce gas back into the reservoir, I believe that we can increase the ultimate recovery in the area in which we are injecting gas by at least 10 percent additionally of the original oil in place. With the rate of bottom pressure decline and conservation of bottom hole pressure, it will permit efficient operation, it will reduce lifting cost and it will help us to maintain stabilized producing rates for a much longer period of time.

Last but not least, it will prevent surface and sub-surface waste.

Q In connection with your application, Mr. Stein, there

is a request in there that the field orders include what has previously been referred to and is referred to in the application as net gas-oil ratio?

- Yes.
- Q What do you mean by that in connection with your application?
- Mell, what we are asking for is approval to continue producing that well at its maximum assigned allowable after the gas-oil ratio has increased over the 2,000 to 1 which has been set by the State Regulations.
- Q You mean the oil allowable be permitted, to be permitted to produce its maximum legal oil allowable?
- A Yes, after its maximum gas-oil ratio has passed or increased over the two thousand to one ratio set by State Regulations.
- Q Only if what is occurring, however, in connection with that gas?
- A Well, as long as we are gathering it and injecting it back into the ground.
 - Q Thank you.
- efficient operation of the field as a whole. It would allow us to produce the well at economical rates for a longer period of time; and I believe it would increase the ultimate recovery from the area by being able to produce the well down to economic limits

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MR. SULLIVAN: I think that concludes my questioning, Mr. Nutter.

MR. NUTTER: I think we will recess the hearing until

(Recess.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

MR. NUTTER: The hearing will come to order. Does anyone have any questions of Mr. Stein?

MR. KELLAHIN: Yes.

MR. NUTTER: Mr. Kellahin.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. KELLAHIN:

Q Mr. Stein, as I understand your application, you don't set up anything which would be termed as a project area, anything of that nature, do you?

A Well, not exactly, not in so many words; however, we have stated initially we will commence to gather gas from Sections 27, 28 and 34.

- Q That is with your injection gas?
- A We will inject it back into the Douthit 5; that may be considered as a project area.
- Q Now, in connection with your transfer of allowable, as I undersand it, you propose to transfer allowables from wells which are converted to injection wells and from wells that are shut in for reasons of economic and engineering purposes for the operation

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of the project?

- A That is correct.
- Q I don't quite understand what you mean in regard to transfer of those allowables to area from which gas is being gathered for injection purposes?

request, the area involved, of course, primarily will be Sections 27, 28 and 34. We feel that's not unreasonable to ask. We can transfer allowable anywhere in that area. That's where the gas will be taken initially. Now, we will pursue with due diligence to gather the rest of the gas as soon as possible. Of course, when we start gathering gas from other areas, we should have the benefit of transferring allowables if it becomes necessary.

- Q That would be, however, transferring allowables beyond the area of influence of the injection program?
 - A The direct influence, yes.
- Q With that in mind, Mr. Stein, would you have any objection for a procedure which would require administrative approval by the Commission for the transfer of allowables after notice to all of the off set operators?

A No, I wouldn't have any particular objection to it, no. We would rather, if it were possible, to go ahead and transfer allowables whenever necessary and when needed. We could live with it if we had to to get administrative approval before transferring allowable.

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

MR. NUTTER: Any further questions?

EXAMINATION BY MR. PAYNE:

- Q Mr. Stein, along this same line of questioning, I notice on your application you propose to convert "B" 7, "B" 12 and "B" 13 Wells upon application to and approval of the Secretary-Director of the Commission. Do you propose to notify offset operators and have a waiting period of some ten or 15 days before the Commission will grant approval?
- A I don't think we propose that. I don't believe that would be unreasonable.
- Q Is that the only limitation you would have on granting administrative approval, as long as nobody objected you would propose, if the Commission granted approval to? Is that right?
- A I can't see any reason to have any objection. There are all inside wells from outside operators within British American properties. None of them offset any operator. As far as I can see, I can't imagine anybody opposing it.
- Q There is one thing that kind of bothers me a little -why didn't you ask for all four wells instead of asking for one
 administrative approval, which in all probability would be granted
 in the absence of an objection; why didn't you ask for all four
 wells now?
- A At the present time we don't have any more gas available. I mean, we don't have enough gas available to justify

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converting all four of those wells to injection wells right at this minute; and there would be no need to. We just don't need them at the present time. We foresee in the future, as gas volumes increase, they will be required, become entirely practical and feasible to convert those wells as needed to injection wells. At the present time, we can continue to produce oil from them along with one injection well.

- Q One further objection to granting administrative approval would be whether they would be needed for injection gas?
- A Perhaps the Commission would have to take that into consideration. Certainly we would not ask for it if it were not needed.
- Q As I understand your application as amended so to speak by the testimony you propose only to inject dry gas or casing head gas?
 - A Yes, sir.
 - Q No LPG at this time?
 - A No, sir,

MR. PAYNE: Thank you; that's all the questions I have.

MR. NUTTER: Any further questions? Mr. Stamats.

EXAMINATION BY MR. STAMATS:

- Q Mr. Stein --
- A Yes, sir.
- Q -- in the event that LPG injection might be started, would these same four injection wells be used?

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- A It's conceivable they could be used.
- Q Injection of gas at this time would in no way diminish their desireability?
- A You would have to do a few things to the wells to condition them. You would have to inject oil to build up an oil bank to get rid of--before you injected the LPG they could be used if the operator so desired.

MR. STAMATS: That's all.

EXAMINATION BY MR. NUTTER:

- Q Have you ruled out LPG in this immediate area for the present time?
 - A For Douthit "B" 5 we have for the time being.
- Q Mr. Stein, what is this area on Exhibit No. 4 that is outlined in red?
- A That is supposed to be the area covered by this particular application.
 - Q But you don't call this the project area?
- A Well, we haven't designated a project area, so to speak, unless you want to consider the fact we intend to gather gas initially from Sections 27, 28 and 34 an initial project area.
- Q But is this area outlined in red the area you will eventually gather the gas for the injection program?
- A Yes, we will produce that will all diligence. We will commence to construct facilities to gather this gas in Sections 27, 28 and 34 as soon as possible; therefore, we will go ahead with

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our plans to gather the rest of the gas.

- Q Is British American the 100 percent working interest owner in all three of the leases included in this area?
 - A Yes, sir, they are.
 - Q Any variation of royalty interest?
- A There is overrides in there I understand, one percent, two percent.
- Q Are these overrides common throughout the acreage here?
 - A I don't believe so.
- Q Before you could start transferring allowables from one place to another, you would possibly have to communitize or unitize all the interest in there?
- A I don't believe so. There are some small overrides in there. As I say, I don't know they are over the entire area, I can't answer that question truthfully.
- Q Well, right now you are talking about Sections 27 and 28 which are on the Douthit Lease and 34 which is the Dalgy Lease?
 - A That's right.
- Q Do you know whether the ownership royalty interest, working interest and overriding royalty interest is 100 percent common throughout the two leases?
- A Douthit and Dalgy? I don't know they are 100 percent over the field. I think probably they are not.

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O Mr. Stein, would you furnish the Commission with the details as to the ownership of the working interest, the royalty interest and the overriding royalty interest on the three leases that comprise this area outlined in red?

A We could; we could do that by letter if that is satisfactory.

MR. NUTTER: That is satisfactory.

MR. SULLIVAN: As a matter of fact, you know the working interest is common in all those areas; that is 100 percent British American, is it not?

A It is.

Q (By Mr. Nutter) It is all United States Government owned land?

A That is right.

MR. SULLIVAN: The question is the overriding royalty?

MR. NUTTER: Will be the overriding royalty.

MR. SULLIVAN: If you'd like to have that information, if it is relevant to the problem, we can furnish it to you.

MR. NUTTER: I believe it is, Mr. Sullivan, because the Commission has never to my knowledge authorized any transfer of allowables across lease lines unless this area was unitized where there was variation whatsoever in ownership of the acreage.

MR. SULLIVAN: That is your prerogative whether or not it is necessary. I think it is open to some question.

MR. NUTTER: Perhaps so.

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MR. SULLIVAN: But we will furnish that information if it is deemed pertinent by you. Of course, you can take it into consideration.

A I might add we are taking necessary steps to unitize that whole area. Of course that takes time.

Q (By Mr. Nutter) Mr. Stein, do you think any sort of system inequities could occur where you shut in wells or converted them to injection wells in the interior of the lease and transfer the allowable of those wells to a well that is closer to the exterior boundary of that lease?

A Yes, I think there could be inequities. I don't think that would be the case here. From the location of most of the oil wells, most of the allowables that would be transferred would be wells within the interior of the lease. There is one offset; that is down here on in the future time. There is a direct offset here to Phillips' well. I don't think we even propose to transfer say four allowables to that well. We might of necessity have to transfer a portion of the wells' allowable to that particular well. I don't think that would result in any great inequities. I think we should be permitted to transfer allowables. We are going to a lot of expense; we are sacrificing producing wells for the benefit of the reservoir and for the benefit of everybody concerned. It it is done on a reasonable basis, I don't believe there will be any inequities existing.

But you do agree it would be probable?

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A Certainly, if you transferred four allowables to one you would be taking more than your share. A proportionate allowable, I don't think would be too inequitable.

Q Have you suggested any maximum allowable any well would be permitted to have?

A No, sir, I have not. I thought I'd leave that up to the Commission.

Q Mr. Stein, I noticed that the Douthit "B" 7 and the Douthit "B" 13 have both been perforated at an interval other than the first bench of the Gallup sandstone?

A That is correct.

Q Are these intervals that have been perforated depleted at the present time?

A No, sir.

Q Would they be depleted by the time you --

A No, we isolated them from the rest of the reservoir.

We have proposed to set a cast iron bridge plug between them. We are only anticipating injection and recovery from the first bench for the time being. They will be there for future use.

Q You could remove that bridge plug and produce the wells at a later date?

A That is right, or you could take the production out of some other well for instance.

Q Mr. Stein, have you suggested any formula or could you suggest a formula by which the amount of gas that is removed

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from a well and measured presumably I believe at a low pressure could be converted into a high pressure, you could inject into another well so you would be allowed to figure this net gas-oil ratio?

A I don't feel you need a formula. I think one could be contemplated. I don't think you need it. All the gas is measured, of course, at your regular 15 pounds or 15½ which is taken out of the ground at low pressure at 60 degrees. Of course, it's put back in the reservoir at a higher pressure; it's still the same volume going in.

- Q I see, you use volume for volume?
- A Yes.
- Q MCF for MCF?
- A Yes.
- Q All at 15 pounds?
- A Yes, that's the way it will be metered at the time it goes into the ground. It will be taken off of the leases; each lease will be metered as it is taken to the compressor. Of course, there will be one large master meter going into the ground. It could be converted back to the 15 pounds pressure.
- Q What do you suggest is the criteria to determine how much allowable a well should have transferred away from it if it is converted or shut in?
- A I would say the legal allowable for that particular well would be the allowable we would be allowed to transfer.

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- Q At the time it was converted or shut down?
- A That is right.
- Q Would you continue to give this well credit for top allowable if it were a top allowable well at the time it was converted?
 - A Yes, sir.
- Q And four or five years on down the road when there would not be a top allowable well in the pool, this well would still be receiving top allowable credit?
- A Of course, you'd have to be able to produce that from the other wells in order to have it further on down the line. You see, wells would get to the point where they could not make the allowable. Then you'd be reduced to the capacity of the wells. Until such time, that well's top allowable would be given to the other wells which are capable of producing their own allowable plus its allowable. I think it more or less corrects itself as you go on down the line. Wells will decline and eventually none will be a top allowable well, then you haven't got anything to transfer.
- Q Are these four wells the subject of this hearing today top allowable wells at the present time?
 - A Yes, sir.

MR. NUTTER: Does anyone else have any questions? EXAMINATION BY MR. STAMATS:

Q Mr. Stein, would your company be objectionable to a

provision in any order written approving this plan to limiting transfer of allowables to be within the lease? In other words, you could not transfer an allowable from one lease to another until such time these leases were communitized?

A We could live with it.

MR. STAMATS: That's all.

EXAMINATION BY MR. NUTTER:

- Q I think you went into the explanation of where the tank batteries were, didn't you?
 - A No, I did not. I'd be glad to do so.
- Q Point out where the batteries are. I was wondering whether it would be feasible to get to the gas from these other leases here?
- A All of our batteries, with the exception of one, to the best of my knowlege are located in the center of the half section. For instance, Section 27 would have the battery located thusly (indicating); and in the south half, it would be, of course, in the center. It's -- in every case that happens to be the condition so on down the line. The only battery not in the center is Marye Number One battery here. It's situated about in the center of the quarter. Of course, this one is over here (indicating).
- Q How long do you believe it will be until you are in a position to gather the gas on the Marye Lease in 35, in Section 1?
 - A Possibly early in 1959, sometime in 1959. It will take

DEARNLEY: MEIER & ASSOCIATES GENERAL LAW REFORTERS ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO Phone CHopel 3-6691 some time to build this section of the line, and we will pursue it as diligently as possible. It will be probably sometime in the early part of 1959.

Q To you believe the Number 5 well would be able to handle more that 530 MCF?

A Yes, sir, I believe it would handle as much as the "GI" Well which has had 1600 a day and would take more than that if you wanted to increase the pressure. However, we have our facilities designed for 1500 pounds pressure.

Q Well, now, this 18,500 MCF you mentioned being produced was only from Sections 27, 28 and 34?

A Yes, sir.

Q What is the total amount of gas produced in the area that is outlined in red on your Exhibit Two?

A The total amount there would be exclusive of Marye Number One, 34,000 MCF a month. This is taken from October. Wo use about 3200 for lease use, so that would give you roughly 30,800 left over per month. The Marye Number One itself produces around 12,000 MCF a month, all of which is injected into the "GI" One well.

Q Do you believe the Douthit "B" 5 would handle this 30,000 a month that you have available on these three leases?

A Yes, sir, I believe it would.

MR. NUTTER: Any further questions of Mr. Stein?

MR. SULLIVAN: Mr. Nutter, I have two which I would like

to ask for purposes of clarifying answers which he's given in response to a question you asked and one your other engineer asked.

MR. NUTTER: All right.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. SULLIVAN:

- Q You suggested in response to the question by Mr.

 Nutter you felt on transfer of allowables a well should be

 given it's legal allowable at the time it was shut in. Do you

 mean to imply by that it would be a constant allowable that would

 be transferred without regard to changing allowable elsewhere in

 the field?
 - A No, aid not.
- Q Did you on the contrary mean that you felt that well's legal allowable month by month as it might change should be transferable?
- A That's what I meant. I might not have left that impression, the legal allowable from month to month.
- Q Not necessarily as of a constant figure as it was shut in?
 - A No. If I have left that impression, I'm sorry.
- In response to a question asked you by the gentleman on my extreme left here, you indicated that you could live with a situation whereby you would be permitted to transfer your allowables within the same lease. Would you point out, for instance, what the situation would be currently with regard to, for instance

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to the transfer of allowables from the Douthit "B" 5 if your were confined to the Douthit Lease, keeping in mind the ability of the wells to make the current allowable or to make more than the current allowable, et cetera?

A Within the Douthit "B" Lease, we would have all of these wells in here. I don't recall -- some of the wells, of course, can't even make an allowable now -- Number 18 can't make it.

Q It wouldn't be practical to transfer any additional allowables to those wells?

A No, sir, it certainly would not. It has to be transferred to a well that is actually capable of making it plus its own allowable.

Q Then there would be certain limitations if these limitation of allowables within leases were imposed it would impose restrictions on you that would make it more difficult, let's say if not perhaps impossible, to maintain your current rate of production from all of your leases?

A That is correct.

MR. SULLIVAN: That's all, Mr. Nutter; thank you.

MR. NUTTER: Any further questions of Mr. Stein? If not, he may be excused.

(Witness excused.)

MR. SULLIVAN: I'd like to submit for admission into evidence British American's Exhibits One through Six with the sub-

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lettered exhibits under Three and Five thereunder.

MR. NUTTER: Is there objection to the admission of British American's One through Six? If not, they will be received in evidence.

Does anyone have anything further they wish to offer in Case 1562?

MR. KELLAHIN: Phillips Petroleum Company is in general agreement with the application as submitted by British American in this case. We would, however, like to see a provision in the order requiring administrative approval after notice to offset operators before there is any transfer of allowables, before any wells are converted to injection wells or wells shut in for engineering reasons in the operation of the project.

We feel it is particularly necessary in this case in that it is proposed that the transfer of allowables be to areas in which gas is being gathered, which in some instances could be remote from the area subject to the influence of this injection program and receiving the benefit of the pressure maintenance program.

We don't want to be opposed to the transfer of allowables. We feel any company setting up a project of this type is entitled to some consideration in that respect.

As offset operators and owner of properties in this pool, Phillips feels notice to these offset operators is essential.

MR. NUTTER: Anything further?

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MR. SULLIVAN: I think that's a reasonable suggestion by Phillips, and I would like to suggest it's not unreasonable to say that if the order contains such a provision that it should apply only to those instances where it is proposed to transfer allowables to lease line offsets. This is a sizeable lease acreage. It seems to me for their protection those wells which are immediately offset to the lease lines are the ones they are interested in for administrative ease and opinion. Myself, the paper work on the part of the operator there seems to be good reason to limit the restriction of notice to offset operators where it is proposed to transfer allowable only to those wells which lie immediately adjacent to a lease line. Interior wells, I should not think the same justification would exist.

MR. NUTTER: If there is nothing further in Case 1562, we will take this case under advisement and take Case 1563.

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

SS

COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

I, JOHN CALVIN BEVELL, Notary Public 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 in stenotype and reduced to typewritten transcript by me; that the same is a true and correct record, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 17th day of December, 1958, in the City of Albuquerque, County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico.

John Calm Berell
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

January 24, 1962

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete redold of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 1562, heard by me on 12-10, 10-18.

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

VIANT DEFICE OCC KES KW W W 1:25 R.W. SULLIVAN ATTORNEY AT LAW 1512 MILE HIGH CENTER DENVER 2, COLORADO

ACOMA 2-4910 - ACOMA 2-2263

LEE, TOOMET & KENT IZOO EIGHTEENTH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

ASSOCIATED IN FED.

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CASE 1562

November 5, 1958

Mr. A. L. Porter, Jr., Secretary-Director New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission State Capitol Santa Fe: New Mexico

Dear Mr. Porter:

Enclosed in triplicate is an Application by The British-American Oil Producing Company, requesting an order permitting the conversion of certain wells to injection wells and a secondary recovery project in the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico. Will you please accept these for filing.

Associated with me in this matter as New Mexico resident counsel are Hervey, Dow and Hinkle, Attorneys at Law, Roswell, New Mexico.

L. W. Sullivan

RWS:FA **Enclosures**

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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APPLICATION

TO THE HONORABLE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

COMES NOW, the Applicant, The British-American Oil Producing Company, and alleges and states to the Commission as follows:

1. Applicant is the owner of oil and gas leases covering the following described lands within the defined limits of the Bisti-Lower Ballup Oil Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico:

Township 26 North, Range 13 West

Sections 27, 28, 29, W¹₂-32, 33, 34, 35

Township 25 North, Range 13 West

Sections 1, 3, and 4

- 2. Applicant desires to inject gas or liquified petroleum gas and gas, if the latter proves to be feasible, pursuant to Rule 701 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, into the first bench of the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool by injection of such substances in the following described wells:
 - (a) Applicant's Douthit B-5, located in the SW4NE4
 Section 28, T-26N, R-13W.
 - (b) Applicant's Douthit B-7, located in the $SW_4^1NW_4^1$ Section 27, T-26N, R-13W.
 - (c) Applicant's Douthit B-12, located in the SW2SW4
 Section 27, T-26N, R-13W.
 - (d) Applicant's Douthit B-13, located in the SW4SE4
 Section 28, T-26N, R-13W.
- 3. Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is a plat showing the location of the above-described wells proposed to be used as injection wells and the

location of all oil and gas wells, including drilling wells and dry holes, if any, and the names of lessees within one half-mile of the said proposed intake wells and showing the operator of each lease offsetting Applicant's lease covering Sections 27 and 28, T-26N, R-13W.

- 4. The above-described proposed intake wells are producing oil and gas from the Lower Gallup Sandstone, which is that stratigraphic section in the first bench of the Gallup Sandstone as encountered in the Douthit B-9 well located in the NE4SE4 Section 28, T-26N, R-13W, between the depths of 4966 ft. and 5000 ft. and which is the formation into which it is proposed to inject such substances and which will be affected by such injection.
- 5. Attached hereto and marked respectively Exhibits B-1, B-2, B-3, and B-4 are the logs of Applicant's wells Douthit B-5, B-7, B-12, and B-13.
- 6. A description of the intake wells' casing is as follows:

 DOUTHIT B-5: 9 5/8" 25.4-1b. Armco spiral well casing set at 213.62 ft. KB, cemented with 175 sacks of regular cement, containing 2% calcium chloride. 5½" 15.5-1b. J-55 casing (21 joints), and 5½" 14-1b.

 J-55 casing (148 joints) set at 5201.05 ft. KB, cemented with 100 sacks of regular cement mixed with 3% gel.
- DOUTHIT B-7: 9 5/8" 25.4-1b. Armco spiral well casing set at 213.88 ft. KB, cemented with 200 sacks of regular cement. 10 joints of $5\frac{1}{2}$ " 15.5-1b. J-55 casing and 117 joints of $5\frac{1}{2}$ " 14-1b. J-55 casing set at 5164 ft. KB and cemented with 100 sacks of regular cement mixed with 3% gel.
- DOUTHIT B-12: 9 5/8" 25.4-1b. Armco spiral well casing set at 213.75 KB, cemented with 200 sacks regular cement. 123 joints 5½" 14-1b.

 J-55 casing set at 5097 ft. KB, cemented with 100 sacks regular cement mixed with 3% gel.
- DOUTHIT B-13: 9 5/8" 25.4-1b. Armco spiral well casing set at 214 ft. KB, cemented with 200 sacks regular cement. 126 joints 5½" 14-1b.

 J-55 casing set at 5122 ft. KB, cemented with 100 sacks regular cement mixed with 3% gel.

It is proposed to test the casing in each of the above-described intake wells before injection therein with a test pressure of 2000 psi by making use of tubing and packer set above the perforations in the casing.

7. All gas produced from all of Applicant's leases in the Bisti
Field above described (except gas produced from Applicant's Marye No. 1 Well,

located in the NEANE' Section 1, T-25N, R-13W) will be used for injection, except gas used in the field for lease purposes. It is estimated that daily injection amounts will approximate 650 mcf initially, which will be increased as required to inject all of the gas produced from Applicant's said leases in the field, except that utilized for lease purposes. Applicant is currently conducting a study to attempt to determine the economic feasibility of preceding the injection of said produced gas with the injection of quantities of liquified petroleum gas. If such studies indicate the economic feasibility of injecting liquified petroleum gas, Applicant may also propose to the Commission at the hearing on this Application that it be granted permission to inject such substances preceding the injection of the produced gas, such injection to be in such quantities as may be then proposed to the Commission. It is proposed that injection of all the produced gas and also of liquified petroleum gas, if justified, will be made initially into Applicant's Douthit B-5 well above-described, and that injection of gas and of liquified petroleum gas, if justified, will be undertaken in the said other proposed injection wells when the volumes of produced gas and the results obtained from injection into the Douthit B-5 well justify the use of such additional injection wells.

- 8. The Commission is requested in the interest of conservation, the prevention of waste, and to permit the most efficient and effective operation of the gas injection project, or the injection of both liquified petroleum gas and gas, to adopt special field rules and regulations which will encompass the following: $D_{LL}(x,y) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i} dx^{i} dx$
- (a) The conversion of Applicant's Douthit B-7, B-12, and B-13 wells to injection wells upon application to and approval of the Secretary-Director of the Commission.
- (b) The transfer of allowables from producing wells converted to injection wells to other producing wells of the Applicant, located on Applicant's leases above-described.
- (c) The transfer of allowables of producing wells which may be shut in for observation in connection with the injection project, or to increase the efficiency of the injection project, to Applicant's other producing wells located on Applicant's leases above described.
 - (d) The operation of all of Applicant's wells producing gas from its said leases on a net gas-oil ratio basis be permitted, each well producing gas which is reinjected into the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool to be permitted to produce its allowable so long as the gas therefrom is so reinjected.

(e) Such other rules and regulations which the Commission deems to be necessary to the proper and efficient operation of the injection program.

WHEREFOR, Applicant respectfully requests that this Application be set for hearing before an examiner at the earliest possible date, and that notice hereof be given as required by law, and that upon the evidence adduced at the hearing, the Commission issue an order establishing rules and regulations governing that part of the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico, more particularly described hereinabove, to accomplish the requests made herein.

Dated this fourth day of November, 1958.

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN OIL PRODUCING COMPANY,

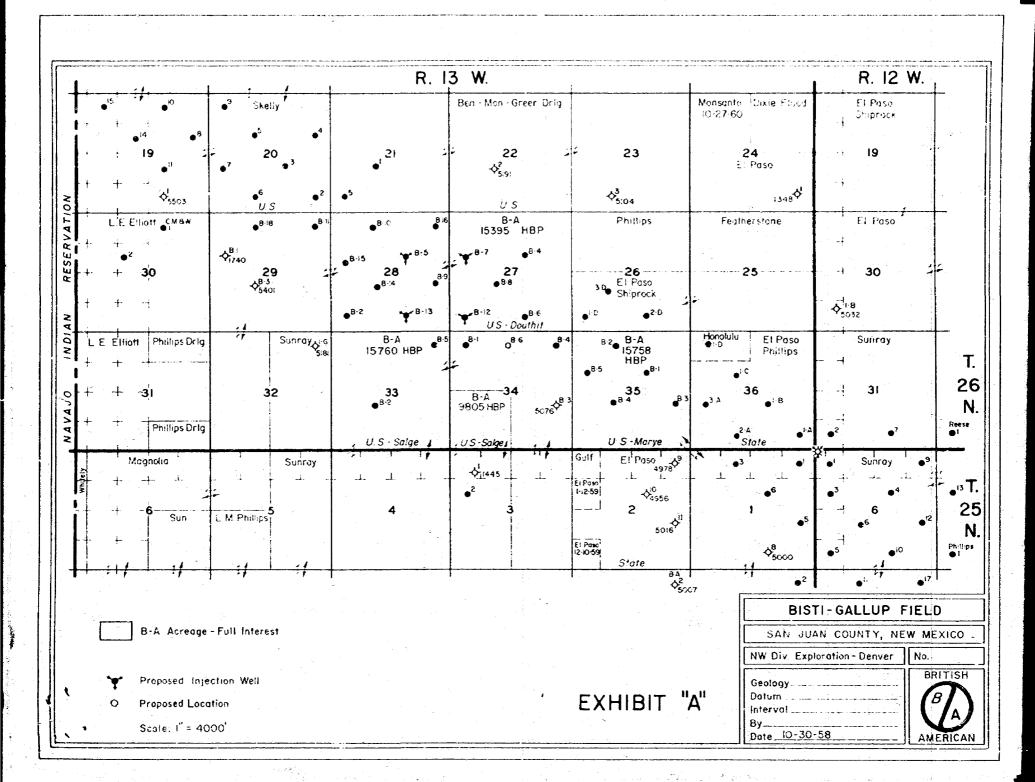
Applicant

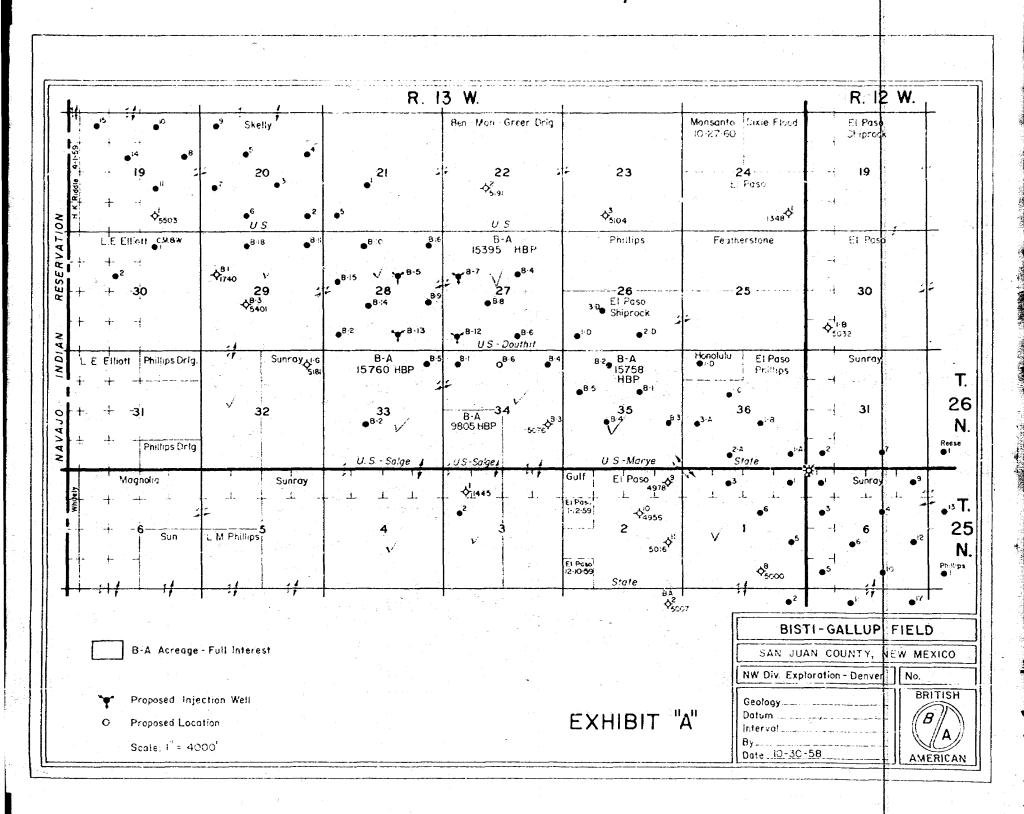
. Sullivan, Attorney

1512 Mile High Center Denver 2, Colorado

Howard C. Bratton, Attorney Hervey, Dow & Hinkle Box 547

Roswell, New Mexico





11 am 58

MODESITT AND SULLIVAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MILE HIGH CENTER
DENVER 2, COLORADO
CHERRY 4-6679

LELAND E. MODESITT ROBERT W. SULLIVAN Tile 562

ASSOCIATED IN
FEDERAL MATTERS WITH
LEE, TOOMEY & KENT
1200 1819 STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

December 12, 1958

Oil Conservation Commission State of New Mexico 107 Mabry Hall, Capitol Building Santa Fe, New Mexico

Attention: Mr. D. S. Nutter, Examiner

Re: Case No. 1562

Gentlemen:

During the course of the Examiner Hearing held in Case 1562 on December 10, 1958, applicant, The British-American Oil Producing Company, was requested by the Examiner, to furnish a statement of ownership including overriding royalties of the leases covering the lands included in applicant's application in this case. This request was made in connection with applicant's request that field rules be promulgated which would include permission to transfer allowables from wells shut in in connection with the injection project to a lease other than that on which the shut-in wells are located.

In compliance with the request of the Examiner, applicant submits the following information:

- (a) All of the lands included in applicant's application in this case are owned by the United States.
- (b) Applicant is the owner of the entire leasehold interest on the lands included in applicant's application in this case.
- (c) Overriding royalties on the lands included in applicant's application in this case are as follows:

Township 26 North, Range 13 West	
Sections 27, 28, 29, W_2^1 32) ½% J. F. Fritz) ½% Mary Sue Douthit
Township 26 North, Range 13 West)
Sections 33 and 34)
Township 25 North, Range 13 West) 1% H. J. Salge
Sections 3 and 4	.) }
Township 26 North, Range 13 West)
Section 35)
Township 25 North, Range 13 West) 1% M. B. Marye, et ux.
Section 1)

As I stated at the hearing, it is my opinion that the varying ownerships of overriding royalties among the leases as to which the transfer of allowables was requested should not be deemed by the Commission a factor material to granting this permission. Assuming that otherwise the transfer of allowables is justified and that no suggestion is made that the correlative rights of an overriding royalty owner or other owners will be abused by drainage across lease lines as a result of transfer of allowables, the position of the overriding royalty owner from whose tract the allowable would be transferred is not affected by the transfer. The lessee of the tract is primarily responsible for the efficient and proper development and operation of the tract, subject, of course, to the control of the Commission. If the secondary recovery program will contribute to a diminution of waste and increase ultimate recovery, particularly from the tract from which it is proposed that allowables will be transferred, the overriding royalty owner on such tract gains proportionately as the ultimate recovery therefrom is enhanced, even though his current income from the tract may be reduced.

I give the foregoing explanation in support of my statement made at the hearing on December 10, 1958, since I made no elaboration on my position at the hearing. I trust that this brief explanation will help to clarify and fortify my statement made at the hearing that I felt that differences of overriding royalty ownerships were not a relevant factor in determining whether the transfer of allowables across lease lines should be permitted.

Respectfully,

P. W. Sullivan, Attorney for

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN OIL PRODUCING COMPANY, Applicant

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION P: O. BOX 871

SANTA FE. NEW MEXICO

P.O. Box 871 Santa Fe, New Mexico January 7, 1959

Mr. S. B. Christy Hervey, Dow & Hinkle P.O. Box 547 Roswell, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Christy:

Enclosed herewith please find Order No. R-1316, entered by the Commission in Case No. 1562 December 31, 1958.

You will note that the order authorizes British American Oil Producing Company to institute a gas injection project in the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool and to convert a producing oil well to gas injection, effective immediately. You will also note that the order defines a project area for the gas injection project and promulgates special rules for the operation of said project, effective February 1, 1959.

We are also enclosing a copy of the Gas Injection Project Operator's Monthly Report, required to be filed monthly under the terms of the subject order. A supply of these forms will be available for your use within a few days.

The above report is to be filed each month within three days after the normal unit allowable for Northwest New Mexico has been established. Its purpose is primarily to ascertain the amount of allowable which is to be assigned each well in the project area during the following month based on the project's performance during the preceding month. For example, the report which is filed in February will be to assign the allowable for March and will contain production data for January.

It will be necessary to take gas-oil ratio tests on each <u>producing</u> well in the project each month with the results of said tests included in the data submitted on the monthly report. The gas-oil ratios need not be filed on the regular gas-oil ratio test report (Form C-ll6) except during the normal testing period prescribed by the Commission for the Bisti Pool. No tests will be required on wells which are shut-in or have been converted to gas injection.

Mr. S. B. Christy Roswell, New Mexico

January 7, 1959

Insamuch as the monthly report embodies substantially all of the data normally reported on Form C-120 for injection projects, this latter form will not be required. You are, therefore, exempt from that portion of hule 704 which pertains to Form C-120.

Very truly yours,

A. L. Porter, Jr. Secretary - Director

ALP/DSN:bp Encls.

CC-Emery Arnold, OCC, Aztec

DEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMENSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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

CASE NO. 1562 Order No. R-1316

APPLICATION OF BRITISH AMERICAN OIL PRODUCING COMPANY FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING A GAS INJECTION PROJECT IN THE BISTI-LOWER GALLUP OIL POOL IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AND FOR THE PROMULGATION OF SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SAID PROJECT.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 o'clock a.m. on December 10, 1958, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner duly appointed by the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," in accordance with Rule 1214 of the Commission Rules and Regulations.

NOW, on this 3/ day of December, 1958, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the application, the evidence adduced and the recommendations of the Examiner, Daniel S. Nutter, 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 applicant, British American Oil Producing Company, is the operator of four leases in the Bisti-Lower Collup Oil Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico, described as follows:

DOUTHIT "B" THASE

TOMESHIP	26	NORTH	RANGE	13	WESSY,	nmom
Section	27:	All			and the selection of th	
Section :	28:	All		1		
Section	29:	All				
Section :	32:	17/2		1		

SALGE "B" LEASE

TOWNSHIP 25 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, NMPH Section 3: All Section 4: All

TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, NMPH Section 33: All Section 34: All

MARYE LEASE

TOWNSHIP 25 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, NMPM Section 1: All

MARYE "B" LEASE

TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, NMPW Section 35: All

- (3) That the applicant proposes to institute a gas injection project on said leases by immediate injection of gas into the Gallup formation through its Douthit "B" Well No. 5, located in the SW/4 NE/4 of said Section 28.
- (4) That the applicant further proposes the establishment of an administrative procedure whereby approval may be obtained for the conversion to gas injection of the following-described wells:

Douthit "B" Well No. 7, SW/4 NW/4 of said Section 27 Douthit "B" Well No. 12,SW/4 SW/4 of said Section 27 Douthit "B" Well No. 13,SW/4 SE/4 of said Section 28

- (5) That the applicant further proposes that special rules and regulations be promulgated to govern the operation of said project, which rules would provide for:
 - (a) the transfer of allowables from injection wells to producing wells on the above-described leases.
 - (b) the transfer of allowables from wells which have been shut-in for observation or to increase the efficiency of the project, to other wells on the above-described leases.
 - (c) operation of the wells on the abovedescribed leases on a net gas-oil ratio basis giving allowance for gas injected.

-3-Case No. 1562 Order No. R-1316

- (d) such other rules and regulations as are deemed appropriate by the Commission.
- (6) That the project area should be limited to said Douthit "B" lease until such time as the Commission has received evidence of agreement by the affected overriding royalty interests to inclusion of the additional acreage described in Finding No. 2 in the project.
- (7) That the applicant has established by a preponderance of the evidence that approval of the subject application to inject gas into the Gallup formation of the Bisti-Lower Gallup Cil Pool will prevent waste and result in greater ultimate recovery of oil from said pool.
- (8) That the application to convert the said Douthit "B" Well No. 5 to gas injection should be authorized.
- (9) That special rules and regulations governing the applicant's gas injection project in the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool should be established.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, British-American Oil Producing Company, be and the same is hereby authorized to operate a gas injection project in the Bisti-Lower Callup Oil Pool in San Juan County, New Mexico, subject to the special rules and regulations for said project as hereinafter set forth, provided however, that the area of said project shall be confined to the limits of the applicant's Douthit "B" Lease until such time as the Commission has received evidence of agreement by the affected overriding royalty interests to inclusion of the additional acreage in the project. That upon receipt of such proof, the Secretary-Director of the Commission is authorized to enlarge the project area as hereinafter defined to include the following described acreage:

SALGE "B" LEASE

TOWNSHIP 25 NORTH, RANGE 13 VEST, NMPM Section 3: All Section 4: All

TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, NMPM Section 33: All Section 34: All

MARYE LEASE

TOWNSHIP 25 NORTH, RANGE 13 VEST, MEPH Section 1: All

-4-Case No. 1562 Order No. R-1316

MARYE 'B" LEASE

TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, NIEW Section 36: All

- (2) That the applicant be and the same is hereby authorized to convert its Douthit "B" Well No. 5, located in the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 28, Township 26 North, Range 13 West, NHPM, Sam Juan County, New Mexico, to a gas injection well, with injection of gas through perforations in the interval between 5028 feet and 5048 feet.
- (3) That special rules and regulations governing the operation of the above-described gas injection project on applicant's Douthit "B" Lease be and the same are hereby promulgated as follows, effective February 1, 1959:

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE BRITISH-AMERICAN OIL PRODUCING COMPANY "26-13" GAS INJECTION PROJECT

RULE 1. The project area of the British-American Oil Producing Company "26-13" Cas Injection Project, hereinafter referred to as the "Project," shall comprise that area described as follows:

TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, NMPM

Section 27: All Section 28: All Section 29: All Section 32: W/2

- RULE 2. The allowable for the Project shall be the sum of the allowables of the several wells within the project area, including those wells which are shut-in or are used as gas injection wells.
- RULE 3. Allowables for gas injection wells may be transferred to producing wells within the project area, as may the allowables for producing wells which, in the interest of more efficient operation of the Project, are shut-in or curtailed because of high gas-oil ratio or shut-in for pressure regulation, control of pattern or sweep efficiencies, to observe changes in pressures or changes in characteristics of reservoir liquids, or progress of sweep.
- RME 4. The project allowable may be produced from any well or wells in the project area in any proportion, subject to the limitations set forth in Rule 3, provided that the rate of

Case No. 1562 Order No. R-1316

production is consistent with the efficient operation of the Project and provided further that no well shall produce in excess of two times the top unit allowable for the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool, or 200 barrels per day, whichever is greater.

RULE 5. The allowable assigned to any gas injection well, which allowable is to be transferred to any well or wells in the project area for production, shall in no event exceed the producing capacity of the well prior to conversion to gas injection, as determined by the testing procedure prescribed by Rule 7.

Conversion of producing wells to gas injection, or the drilling of additional wells for gas injection, shall be done only after approval of same by the Secretary-Director of the Commission. To obtain such approval, the Project operator shall file proper application with the Commission, which application shall include the following:

- (1) A plat showing location of proposed injection well, all wells within the project area and offset operators, locating their offsetting wells to the project area.
- (2) A schematic drawing of the proposed injection well which fully describes the casing, tubing, perforated interval, and depths and showing that injection of gas will be confined into the Bisti-Lower Gallup formation.
- (3) A letter stating that all interested parties, including offset operators to the project area have been furnished a complete copy of the application and the date of the notification.

The Secretary-Director may approve the proposed gas injection well if, within 20 days after receiving the application, no objection to the proposal is received. The Secretary-Director may grant immediate approval provided waivers of objection are received from all interested parties.

RULE 6. The allowable assigned to any well which is shut-in or is curtailed in accordance with the provisions of Rule 3, which allowable is to be transferred to any well or wells in the project area for production, shall in no event exceed the producing capacity of the well prior to such shut-in or curtailment as determined by the testing procedure prescribed by Rule 7.

NULE 7. The allowable assigned to any well which is used for the purpose of gas injection, or which is shut-in or curtailed in accordance with Rule 3, shall be determined by a 34-hour test at a stabilized rate of production, which shall be the final 24-hour

-6-Case No. 1562 Order No. R-1316

period of a 72-hour test throughout which the well shall be produced in the same manner and at a constant rate. In no event shall a well receive an allowable greater than its ability to produce, or greater than top unit allowable for the pool multiplied by the well's acreage factor, whichever is applicable. The project operator shall notify all operators offsetting the Project, as well as the Commission, of the exact time such tests are to be conducted. Tests may be witnessed by representatives of the offsetting operators and the Commission, if they so desire.

RULE 8. No well in the project area shall be assigned any allowable transferred from any other well or wells in the project area unless and until said well has been approved by the Commission as a duly authorized "Transfer Well." To receive approval for any such Transfer Well, the Project operator shall file application with the Secretary-Director of the Commission for permission to transfer allowable to the well, setting forth therein the well's current allowable and the maximum allowable which will be assigned to the well. Copies of the application shall be provided to all operators owning acreage offsetting the proration unit on which the transfer well is located. The Secretary-Director may designate the well as a Transfer Well subject to the maximum expected allowable for the well if, within 20 days after receiving the application, no objection to the designation is received. The Secretary-Director may grant immediate designation as a Transfer Well provided waivers of objection are received from all such offset operators.

RULE 9. The allowable assigned to any well in the Project shall be based upon the ability of the well to produce and shall be subject to the limiting gas-oil ratio (2,000 to 1) for the Bisti-Lower Gallup Cil Pool, except that any well or wells within the project area producing with a gas-oil ratio in excess of 2,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil may be produced on a "net" gas-oil ratio basis, which net gas-oil ratio shall be determined by applying credit for daily average gas injected into the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool within the project area to such high gas-oil ratio well. The daily adjusted oil allowable for any such well receiving gas injection credit shall be determined in accordance with the following formula:

$$A_{adj} = \frac{\text{TUA} \times F_a \times 2,000}{\frac{P_g - I_g}{P_o}}$$

-7-Case No. 1562 Order No. R-1316

where:

Aadi = the well's daily adjusted allowable

TUA = top unit allowable for pool

Fa = the well's acreage factor

P average daily volume of gas produced by the well during the preceding month, cubic feet

the well's allocated share of the daily average gas injected during the preceding month, cubic feet

Po = average daily volume of oil produced by the well during the preceding month, barrels

In no event shall the amount of injected gas being credited to a well be such as to cause the net gas-oil ratio, $\frac{P}{g} - I_g$, to be less than 2,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of $\frac{P}{g}$ oil produced.

RULE 10. Each month the project operator shall, within three days after the normal unit allowable for Northwest New Mexico has been established, submit to the Commission a Gas Injection Project Operator's Report, on a form prescribed by the Commission, outlining thereon the data required, and requesting allowables for each of the several wells in the Project.

RULE 11. The Commission shall, upon review of the report and after any adjustments deemed necessary, assign allowables to each well in the Project for the next succeeding month in accordance with these rules.

RULE 12. The Special Bules and Regulations for the operation of the subject Project shall prevail against the Statewide Rules and also against the Special Rules and Negulations for the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool, if in conflict therewith.

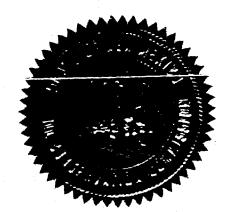
DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year herein-above designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

EDWIN L. MECHEM, Chairman

MURRAY E. MORGAN, Member

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



DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING DECEMBER 10, 1958

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION 9 a.m., Mabry Hall, State Capitol, Santa Fe, New Mexico

The following cases will be heard before Daniel S. Nutter, Examiner:

CASE 1558:

Application of Sunray Mid-Continent Oil Company for permission to commingle the production from two separate oil pools. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing it to commingle the production from the Blinebry Oil Pool and Drinkard Pool on its State Land "15" Lease comprising the S/2 S/2 of Section 16, Township 21 South, Range 37 East, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant proposes to meter the production from the Blinebry Oil Pool prior to being commingled and to determine Drinkard Pool production by subtracting the metered volume on the total gauged production in the common tank battery.

CASE 1559:

Application of Sunray Mid-Continent Oil Company for an order authorizing a secondary recovery project in San Juan County, New Mexico, and for the promulgation of special rules and regulations in connection with said project. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing it to institute a secondary recovery project in the Bisti-Lower Gallup Qil Pool for the injection of dry gas into the Gallup formation through its Federal "C" Well No. 18, located in the SW/4 NE/4 of Section 7, Township 25 North, Range 12 West, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant further proposes that special rules and regulations be promulgated to govern the operation of the above-referenced project, which rules would provide among other things for the conversion of additional injection wells without notice and hearing, the transfer of allowables from injection wells to producing wells, transfer of allowables from wells which have been shut-in for observation or to increase the efficiency of the project, exemption of all leases connected with the project from gas-oil ratio limitation provided gas produced therefrom is reinjected, and such other rules and regulations the Commission may deem appropriate.

CASE 1560:

Application of El Paso Natural Gas Company for a dual completion. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing it to dually complete its Huerfano Unit Well No. 92 (DG) located in the SN/4 NW/4 of Section 7, Township 26 North, Range 9 West, San Juan County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to permit the production of gas from an undesignated Gallup gas pool and gas from an undesignated Dakota gas pool.

CASE 1561:

Application of Tidewater Oil Company for a dual completion. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing it to dually complete its A. B. Coates "C" Well No. 17, located in the SE/4 NE/4 of Section 24, Township 25 South, Range 37 East, Lea County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to permit the production of oil from the Justis-McKee Pool and oil from the Justis-Ellenburger Pool through parallel strings of tubing.

CASE 1562:

Application of British American Oil Producing Company for permission to institute a secondary recovery project in San Juan County, New Mexico, and for the promulgation of special rules and regulations in connection therewith. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing it to institute a secondary recovery project in the Bisti-Lower Gallup Oil Pool for the injection of dry gas and/or liquefied petroleum gas into the Gallup formation through four wells located in Sections 27 and 28, Township 26 North Range 13 West, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant further proposes that

Docket No. 33-58

CASE 1562: (con't)

special rules and regulations be promulgated to govern the above-described project, which would include among other things conversion of additional injection wells without notice and hearing, transfer of allowables from injection wells, transfer of allowables from wells shut-in for observation purposes or to increase the efficiency of the project, exemption of all leases connected with the project from gas-oll ratio limitation provided gas produced therefrom is reinjected, and such other rules and regulations the Commission may deem appropriate.

CASE 1563:

Application of Caulkins Gil Company for a dual completion. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing it to dually complete its Breech "A" Well No. D-204, located in the SE/4 SE/4 of Section 9, Township 26 North, Range 6 West, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to permit the production of oil from the South Blanco-Tocito Oil Pool and the production of gas from the South Blanco-Dakota Gas Pool through parallel strings of tubing.

CASE 1564:

Application of Great Western Drilling Company for approval of a unit agreement and a pilot water flood project. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order approving its proposed North Central Caprock Queen Unit Agreement embracing 2,040 acres, more or less, of state and federal lands in Sections 13, 14, 15, and 24, of Township 13 South, Range 31 East, and Sections 17, 18, and 19, of Township 13 South, Range 32 East, Caprock-Queen Pool, Chaves and Lea Counties, New Mexico, and for authority to institute a pilot water flood project in the Queen formation underlying said unit area.

CASE 1565:

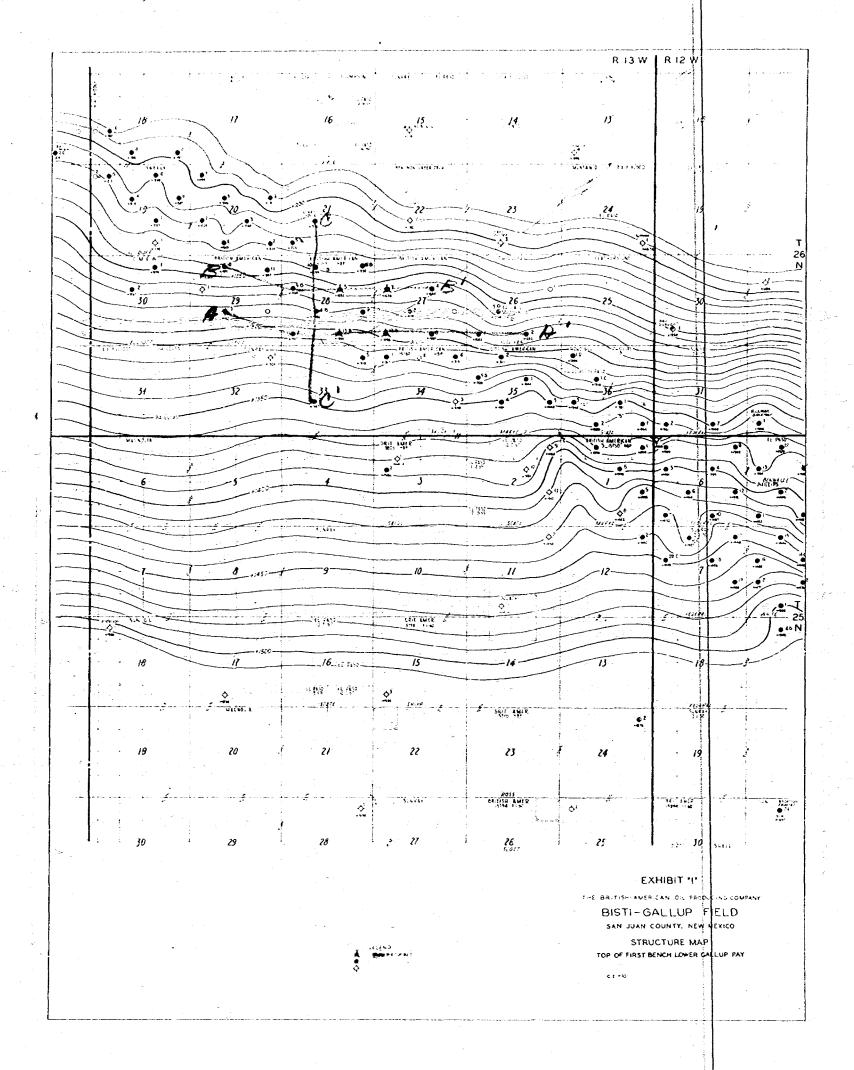
Application of Continental Oil Company for a dual completion. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order authorizing it to dually complete its Warren Unit Well No. 9 located in the SW/4 NW/4 of Section 27, Township 20 South, Range 38 East, Lea County, New Mexico, in such a manner as to permit the production of gas from the Warren-Tubb Gas Pool and oil from the Warren-Drinkard Oil Pool through parallel strings of tubing.

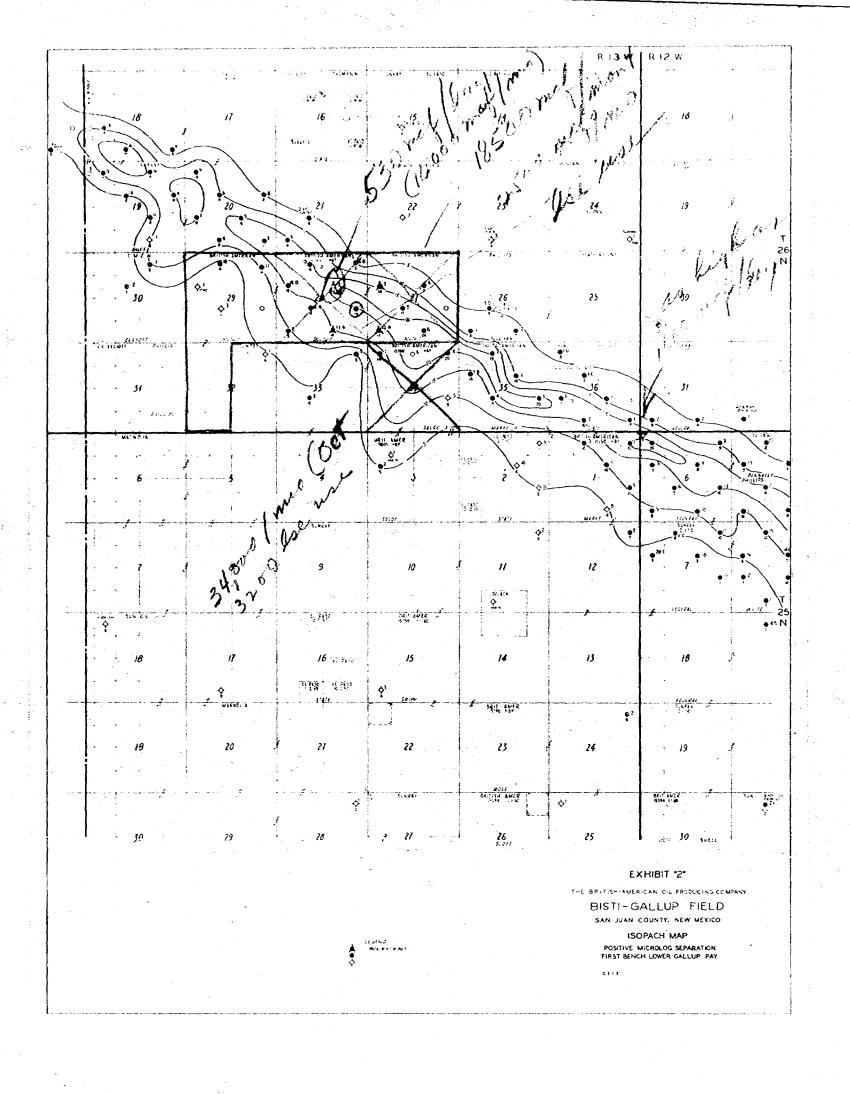
CASE 1566:

Application of Pan American Petroleum Corporation for approval of a unit agreement. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order approving its East Saunders Unit Agreement embracing approximately 2,320 acres of state acreage in Township 14 South, Range 34 East, Lea County, New Mexico.

CASE 1567:

Application of Olsen Oils, Inc., for a non-standard gas proration unit. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order establishing a 160-acre non-standard gas proration unit in the Tubb Gas Pool consisting of the N/2 NW/4, SW/4 NW/4 and the NW/4 SW/4 of Section 25, Township 22 South, Range 37 East, Lea County, New Mexico; or in the alternative for a compulsory pooling order pooling all interests within the vertical limits of the Tubb Gas Pool in the NW/4 of said Section 25 as one Tubb Gas Unit and a like order pooling all interests within the vertical limits of the Tubb Gas Pool in the SW/4 of said Section 25 as another Tubb Gas Unit.





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Engr JE S 4 Dec, 1956

