CASE 2859: In the matter of the hearing called by the OCC to consider remains of RHE 202.

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NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

FORM C-103 (Rev 3-55)

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BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION Santa Fe, New Mexico July 17, 1963

REGULAR HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

The hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission on its own motion to consider the revision of Rule 202 of the Commission Rules and Regulations to specify that a report on well plugging operations shall be filed on Commission Form C-103 in accordance with Rule 1106-(b).

Case 2859

BEFORE: Honorable Jack M. Campbell
Mr. A. L. "Pete" Porter
Mr. E. S. "Johnny" Walker

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

MR. PORTER: We will take up Case 2859.

MR. DURRETT: In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission on its own motion to consider the revision of Rule 202 of the Commission Rules and Regulations to specify that a report on well plugging operations shall be filed on Commission Form C-103 in accordance with Rule 1106-(b).

If the Commission please, J. M. Durrett, Junior, appearing on behalf of the Commission and its staff. I'll have one witness in this case, Mr. D. S. Nutter.

MR. PORTER: Have Mr. Nutter sworn, please.

FARMINGTON, N. M. PHONE 325-1182

(Witness sworn.)

DAN NUTTER

called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DURRETT:

- Q Will you please state your full name and position for the record?
- A Dan Nutter, Chief Engineer for the Oil Conservation Commission.
- Q Mr. Nutter, are you prepared to recommend to the Commission today that it issue an order concerning the revision of Rule 202 of the Commission Rules and Regulations?
 - A Yes, sir.
 - Q Would you please proceed with your recommendation?
- A Yes, sir. Rule 201 of the Commission Rules and Regulations requires that an operator, prior to plugging a well, must
 file his notice of intention on C-102. Rule 202 of the Commission rulings describes the manner in which a well must be plugged.
 However, it doesn't say that you have to file any report on
 plugging that well.

Rule 1106 in the section pertaining to forms of the rule book, in paragraph (b) describes the data which is to be furnished



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on the Form C-103 when it is filed on the plugging of the well.

The only change that I would offer today would be to take some of the wording out of paragraph (b), the description of what must be furnished on the Form C-103, move that wording over into Rule 202 just to make Rule 202 clearer, then a C-103 must be filed when you plug the well and detail some of the information that is required. No substantiative changes are suggested at all.

Q In that portion of the rule that you have just testified to would be deleted from 1106-(b)?

No. I would suggest that it remain in 1106 also. This is for the benefit of the neophyte operator that might not be acquainted with the provisions of Rule 1106. He also read that Rule 202 says a well must be plugged, but he doesn't realize there is a form too. This has on occasion risen that the operator did not file the report on plugging the well simply because they didn't know the report was required.

Do I understand that the requirement of filing the Form 103 would be in Rule 202 and also in Rule 1106-(b)?

A That is correct.

Is it your opinion, Mr. Nutter, that the adoption of Q this proposed change would enable the Oil Conservation Commission to more efficiently and effectively administer the laws of the



State of New Mexico as they pertain to the conservation of oil and gas and eliminate waste?

That is my opinion.

MR. DURRETT: Thank you. That concludes my examination of Mr. Nutter.

MR. PORTER: Does anyone have a question of Mr. Nutter? I saw some grimaces out there a while ago when he referred to some of the operators as neophytes.

No neophytes here.

MR. PORTER: Mr. Nutter says there are none here. Anyone want to take exception to that? The witness may be excused. (Witness excused.)

MR. PORTER: Does anyone have anything further to offer in this case? The Commission will take the case under advisement.



DEARNLEY-MEIER REPORTING SERVICE, Inc. BANTA FE. N. M. PHONE 983-3971

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

I, ADA DEARNLEY, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached transcript of proceedings before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, is a true and correct record to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have affixed my hand and notarial seal this 20th day of July, 1963.

My commission expires: June 19, 1967.

BEFORE THE OIL COMSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

CASE No. 2859 Order No. R-2542

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION ON ITS OWN MOTION TO COMSIDER THE REVISION OF BULE 202 OF THE COMMIS-SION BULES AND REGULATIONS.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 o'clock a.m. on July 17, 1963, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

MOW, on this 7th day of August, 1963, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony presented and the exhibits received at said hearing, 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 in order to clarify the requirements of Rule 1106-(b) concerning reports on well plugging operations. Bule 202 of the Commission Rules and Regulations should be amended to incorporate the provisions of Rule 1106-(b).
- (5) That adoption of the proposed rule change will enable the Oil Conservation Commission to more efficiently and effectively administer the laws of the State of New Mexico concerning the conservation of oil and gas and the prevention of waste.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That Rule 202 of the Commission Rules and Regulations is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

RULE 202. METHOD OF PLUGGING

(a) Before any well is abandoned, it shall be plugged in a manner which will permanently confine all oil, gas, and water in the separate strata originally containing

-2-CASE No. 2859 Order No. R-2542

them. This operation shall be accomplished by the use of mud-laden fluid, cement and plugs, used singly or in combination as may be approved by the Commission. The exact location of abandoned wells shall be shown by a steel marker at least four inches in diameter set in concrete, and extending at least four feet above mean ground level. The name and number of the well and its location (unit letter, section, township, and range) shall be welded, stamped, or otherwise permanently engraved into the metal of the marker. Seismic, core or other exploratory holes drilled to or below sands containing fresh water shall be plugged and abandoned in accordance with the applicable provisions recited above. Permanent markers are not required on seismic holes.

Within thirty days following the completion of plugging operations on any well, a record of the work done shall be filed with the Commission in TRIPLICATE, on Form C-103. Such report shall be filed by the owner of the well and shall include the date the plugging operations were begun along with the date the work was completed; a detailed account of the manner in which the work was performed; the depths and lengths of the various plugs set; the nature and quantities of materials employed in plugging operations; the amount, size and depth of all casing left in the hole and the weight of mud employed in plugging the well and any other pertinent information. No plugging report submitted on Form C-103 shall be approved by the Commission unless such report specifically states that pits have been filled and the location levelled, and cleared of junk. The filing of Form C-105, "Well Record," is also necessary to obtain Commission approval of a plugging report.

It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the plugged well to contact the appropriate District Office of the Commission to arrange for an inspection of the plugged well and the location by a Commission representative.

- (b) If a well is to be abandoned temporarily and no casing pulled, then a plug shall be placed at the top and bottom of the casing in such manner as to prevent the intrusion of any foreign matter into the well and a record of the work done shall be filed with the Commission in TRIPLICATE on Form C-103 within thirty days following the completion of the temporary plugging operations.
- (c) When drilling operations have been suspended for sixty days, the well shall be plugged and abandoned unless a permit for temporary abandonment has been obtained from the Commission.

CASE No. 2859 order No. R-2542

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

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Chairman

E. G. WALKER, Member

L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

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JMD/esr August 5, 1963

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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CAS:

CASE No. 2859

Order No. R- 2542

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION ON ITS OWN MOTION TO CONSIDER THE REVISION OF RULE 202 OF THE COMMIS-SION RULES AND REGULATIONS.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 o'clock a.m. on July 17, 1961, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this _____ day of _August __, 1961, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony presented and the exhibits received at said hearing, 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 in order to clarify the requirements of Rule 1106-(b) concerning reports on well plugging operations, Rule 202 of the Commission Rules and Regulations should be amended to incorporate the provisions of Rule 1106-(b).
- (3) That adoption of the proposed rule change will enable the Oil Conservation Commission to more officiently and effectively administer the laws of the State of New Mexico concerning the conservation of oil and gas and the prevention of waste.

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(1) That Rule 202 of the Commission Rules and Regulations is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

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-2-CASE No. 2859

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Permanent markers are not required on seismic holes.

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and the location by a Commission representative

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- (b) If a well is to be abandoned temporarily and no casing pulled, then a plug shall be placed at the top and bottom of the casing in such manner as to prevent the intrusion of any foreign matter into the well and a record of the work done shall be filed with the Commission in TRIPLICATE on Form C-103 within thirty days following the completion of plugging operations.
- (c) When drilling operations have been suspended sixty
 for 60-days, the well shall be plugged and abandoned unless
 a permit for temporary abandonment shall-be obtained from the Commission.
- (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 the day and year hereinabove designated.