# CASE NO.

6393

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Transcripts,
Small Exhibits,

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NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISS

**EXAMINER HEARING** 

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-	EXAMINER H	HEARING		
-	SANTA FE , NEW MEXICO			
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STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico 7 December 1978

### EXAMINER HEARING

### IN THE MATTER OF:

the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Division on its own motion to consider the amendment of Rule 104 F of the Division Rules and Regulations to provide for the administrative approval of the unorthodox location of wells drilled within secondary recovery or pressure maintenance projects.

CASE 6393

BEFORE: Richard L. Stamets

### TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

## APPEARANCES

For the Oil Conservation Division:

Lynn Teschendorf, Esq.

Legal Counsel for the Division State Land Office Bldg. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

For the Amodo Production Company:

Guy Buell, Esq.

Amoco Production Company

Houston, Texas

For El Paso Natural Gas:

David T. Burleson & Robert Carroll

For Cities Service Co.:

Robert F. Wheeler

Page \_\_\_\_\_\_2

# INDEX

# A. R. KENDRICK

Direct Examination by Ms. Teschendorf

A

SALLY WALTON BOY Empre security recon-

EXHIBITS

Division Exhibit One, Document

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MR. STAMETS: We'll call next Case 6393, being the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Division on its own motion to consider the amendment of Rule 104 F of the Division Rules and Regulations to provide for the administrative approval of the unorthodox location of wells drilled within secondary recovery or pressure maintenance projects.

Call for appearances in this case.

MS. TESCHENDORF: Lynn Teschendorf, appearing on behalf of the Division. I have one witness.

MR. STAMETS: Any other appearances? I'd like to have the witness stand and be sworn.

MR. BUELL: For Amoco Production Company, my name is Guy Buell.

MR. STAMETS: Any other appearances?

MR. BURLESON: For El Paso Natural Gas Company, David T. Burleson and Robert Carroll.

MR. STAMETS: Any others?

MR. WHEELER: For Cities Service Company,

Robert F. Wheeler.

MR. STAMETS: Any other appearances?
Will anyone have a witness besides the Commission?

Okay, I'd like to have the Division's witness stand and be sworn, please.

(Witness sworn.)

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MR. STAMETS: Ms. Teschendorf, you may pro-

### A. R. KENDRICK

being called as a witness and having been duly sworn upon his oath, testified as follows, to-wit:

### DIRECT EXAMINATION

### BY MS. TESCHENDORF:

ceed.

- Q Would you please state your name, by whom you are employed, and in what capacity?
- A. I'm A. R. Kendrick, employed by the Oil

  Conservation Division as District Supervisor at Aztec, New

  Mexico.
- Q Have you previously testified before the Division and are your credentials a matter of record?
  - A. Yes.

MS. TESCHENDORF: Is the witness considered qualified?

MR. STAMETS: The witness' qualifications are considered acceptable in this case.

- Q (Ms. Teschendorf continuing.) Mr. Kendrick, are you familiar with the subject matter of Case 6393?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q And what is the Division proposing in this

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case?

The Division is proposing to make available to operators of all pressure maintenance and secondary recovery projects the flexibility of locating wells at other than standard well locations wherein the Secretary/ Director might approve nonstandard locations administratively without notice and hearing.

Would you please refer to Exhibit Number One in this case and explain what that is?

Exhibit Number One is the proposed revised rule of 104 F, and I would read it into the record showing the difference between the existing rule and the proposed rule.

"The Division Director shall have authority to grant an exception to the well location requirements of Sections B and C above without notice and hearing when the necessity for such unorthodox location is based upon topographical conditions or the recompletion of a well previously drilled to another horizon, provided that said well was drilled in an orthodox location for such original horizon."

Instead of a period we would change that period to a comma and add the following to that paragraph:

"Or further to permit the completion of an efficient production and injection pattern within a secondary recovery or pressure maintenance project provided that such

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unorthodox location within such project is no closer than 330 feet to any lease line nor closer than 10 feet to any quarter quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary."

The second paragraph reads: "Applications for administrative approval of unorthodox locations shall be filed in triplicate and shall be accompanied by plats showing the ownership of all leases offsetting the proration or spacing unit for which the unorthodox location is sought, and also all wells completed thereon.

If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon topography the plat shall also show and describe the existent topographical conditions."

The following sentence is added in this paragraph: "If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon completion of an efficient production or injection pattern, the plat shall also show the project outline identifying all producing and injection wells therein and the Applicant shall further include a statement setting forth the necessity for such location."

There are no changes in the third paragraph, I believe, of Rule 104, paragraph F.

- And on this exhibit your proposed additions Q. are underlined in orange, is that correct?
  - They are.
  - Do you have anything further you wish to add Q.

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case?

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to your testimony?

No.

MS. TESCHENDORF: At this time I'll offer Exhibit One.

MR. STAMETS: Exhibit One will be admitted.

Are there any questions of the witness? He may be excused.

Anything further in this case? Statements?

MR. BUELL: May it please the Examiner, Amoco

Production Company supports the recommendation of Mr.

Kendrick. We think it is definitely a step in the right direction.

MR. STAMETS: Any other statements in this

The case will be taken under advisement. (Hearing concluded.)

I, SALLY WALTON BOYD, a Court Reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing and attached Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that said transcript is a full, true, and correct record of the hearing, prepared by me to the best of my ability, knowledge, and skill, from my notes taken at the time of the hearing.

Sally W. Boyd, C.S.R.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the appressions in
the examiner hearing of Gass do. 6.397
heard by on 1 12-719 78.
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Cleur, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division

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### STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

> CASE NO. 6393 Order No. R-5890

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION ON ITS OWN MOTION TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENT OF RULE 104 F OF THE DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL OF THE UNORTHODOX LOCATION OF WELLS DRILLED WITHIN SECONDARY RECOVERY OR PRESSURE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.

### ORDER OF THE DIVISION

### BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on December 7, 1978, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L. Stamets.

NOW, on this 29th day of December, 1978, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

### FINDS:

- (1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.
- (2) That there is often need to drill additional producing wells or injection wells at unorthodox locations within water-flood projects or pressure maintenance projects to permit the completion of a more efficient production and injection pattern therein to cause the recovery of a greater ultimate volume of oil from such projects.
- (3) That whereas many orders authorizing such projects contain an administrative procedure for the approval of additional producing or injection wells at unorthodox locations, many of the orders authorizing such projects do not contain such an administrative procedure.
- (4) That to provide all operators of secondary recovery or pressure maintenance projects the flexibility to complete a more efficient production and injection pattern within such projects

-2-Case No. 6393 Order No. R-5890

without the necessity for notice and hearing, Rule 104 F of Division Rules and Regulations should be amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"F. The Division Director shall have authority to grant an exception to the well location requirements of Sections B and C above without notice and hearing when the necessity for such unorthodox location is based upon topographical conditions, the recompletion of a well previously drilled to another horizon, provided said well was drilled at an orthodox location for such original horizon, or to permit the completion of an efficient production and injection pattern within a secondary recovery or pressure maintenance project, provided that any such unorthodox location within such project is no closer than 330 feet to the outer boundary of the lease or the unitised area, nor closer than 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary.

"Applications for administrative approval of unorthodox locations shall be filed in triplicate and shall be accompanied by plats showing the ownership of all leases offsetting the proration or spacing unit for which the unorthodox location is sought, and also all wells completed thereon. If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon topography, the plat shall also show and describe the existent topographical conditions. If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon completion of an efficient production and injection pattern, the plat shall also show the project outline identifying all producing and injection wells therein, and the applicant shall further include a statement setting forth the necessity for such location.

"All operators of proration or spacing units offsatting the unit for which the unorthodox location is
sought shall be notified of the application by certified
or registered mail, and the application shall state that
such notification has been given. The Division Director
may approve the unorthodox location upon receipt of waivers
from all offset operators or if no offset operator has
entered an objection to the unorthodox location within 20
days after the Director has received the application."

### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That Rule 104 F of the Division Rules and Regulations is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

-3-Came No. 6393 Order No. R-5890

"F. The Division Director shall have authority to grant an exception to the well location requirements of Sections B and C above without notice and hearing when the necessity for such unorthodox location is based upon topographical conditions, the recompletion of a well previously drilled to another horizon, provided said well was drilled at an orthodox location for such original horizon, or to permit the completion of an efficient production and injection pattern within a secondary recovery or pressure maintenance project, provided that any such unorthodox location within such project is no closer than 330 feet to the outer boundary of the lease or the unitized area, nor closer than 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary.

"Applications for administrative approval of unorthodox locations shall be filed in triplicate and shall be accompanied by plats showing the ownership of all leases off-setting the proration or spacing unit for which the unorthodox location is sought, and also all wells completed thereon. If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon topography, the plat shall also show and describe the existent topographical conditions. If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon completion of an efficient production and injection pattern, the plat shall also show the project outline identifying all producing and injection wells therein, and the applicant shall further include a statement setting forth the necessity for such location.

"All operators of proration or spacing units offsetting the unit for which the unorthodox location is sought shall be notified of the application by certified or registered mail, and the application shall state that such notification has been given. The Division Director may approve the unorthodox location upon receipt of waivers from all offset operators or if no offset operator has entered an objection to the unorthodox location within 20 days after the Director has received the application."

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

Case No. 6393 Order No. R-5890

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OLL CONSERVATION DIVISION

JOE D. RAMEY Director

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### PROPOSED REVISED RULE 104 F

exception to the well location requirements of Sections B and C above without notice and hearing when the necessity for such unorthodox location is based upon topographical conditions, the recompletion of a well previously drilled to another horizon, provided said well was drilled at an orthodox location for such original horizon, or to permit the completion of an efficient production and injection pattern within a secondary recovery or pressure maintenance project, provided that any such unorthodox location is no closer than 330 feet to any lease line nor closer than 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary.

Applications for administrative approval of unorthodox locations shall be filed in triplicate and shall be accompanied by plats showing the convership of all leases offsetting the proration or spacing unit for which the unorthodox location is sought, and also all wells completed thereon. If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon topography, the plat shall also show and describe the existent topographical conditions. If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon completion of an efficient production and injection pattern, the plat shall also show the project outline identifying all producing and injection wells therein and the applicant shall further include a statement outlining the

necessity for such location.

BEFORE EXAMINER STAMETS
OIL CONSERVATION EXPENSION
EXPENSION 1

CASE NO. 6393
Submitted by 0CD
Hearing Data 12-7-78

All operators of proration or spacing units offsetting the unit for which the unorthodox location is sought shall be notified of the application by certified or registered mail, and the application shall state that such notification has been given. The Division Director may approve the unorthodox location upon receipt of waivers from all offset operators or if no offset operator has entered an objection to the unorthodox location within 20 days after the Director has received the application.

Dockets Nos. 40-78 and 41-78 are tentatively set for hearing on December 20, 1978 and January 3, 1979. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 22 days in advance of hearing date.

### DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - THURSDAY - DECEMBER 7, 1978

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

The following cases will be heard before Richard L. Stamets, Examiner, or Daniel S. Nutter, Alternate Examiner:

In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Division on its own motion to permit Corinne Grace, The Travelers Indemnity Company, and all other interested parties to appear and show cause why the Indian Hills Com. Well No. 1 located in Unit J of Section 8, Township 21 South, CASE 6392: Range 24 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, should not be plugged and abandoned in accordance with a Division-approved plugging program.

CASE 6393: In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Division on its own motion to consider the amendment of Rule 104 F of the Division Rules and Regulations to provide for the administrative approval of the unorthodox location of wells drilled within secondary recovery or pressure maintenance projects.

In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Division on its own motion to consider CASE 6394: the adoption of an administrative procedure and Forms C-132 and C-132-A, all for the purpose of making wellhead price ceiling category determinations under the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978.

Application of David Fasken for pool contraction and pool extension, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the contraction of the Indian Basin-Morrow Gas Pool by the deletion therefrom of Section 9, Township 21 South, Range 24 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, and the extension of the Cemetery-Morrow Gas Pool to include the aforesaid Section 9. CASE 6395:

CASE 6396: Application of Amoco Production Company for pool creation and contraction, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the contraction of the House Drinkard oil pool by the deletion therefrom of the NE/4 and E/2 SE/4 of Section 12 and the E/2 NE/4 of Section 13, both in Township 20 South, Range 38 East, and the W/2 of Section 7 and the NW/4 of Section 18, Township 20 South, Range 39 East, and the creation of a new gas pool for Lower Drinkard production in the NE/4 of Section 12, Township 20 South, Range 38 East, all in Lea County, New Mexico.

CASE 6397: Application of Western Oil Producers, Inc. for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Morrow formation underlying all of Section 4, Township 24 South, Range 35 East, Cinta Roja-Morrow Gas Pool, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location thereon. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision. Also to be considered will be the designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.

CASE 6398: Application of Texas Oil & Gas Corporation for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approved for the unartishing location for the Williamp and rennsylvanian formations of its State Com Well No. 1, to be located 660 feet from the South and West lines of Section 18, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, Catclaw Draw Field, Eddy County, New Mexico, all of said Section 18 to be dedicated to the well in the Morrow formation.

CASE 6399: Application of Texas 011 & Gas Corporation for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico Applicant, in the above-eryled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Wolfcamp and Pennsylvanian formations underlying the W/2 of Section 32, Township 18 South, Range 27 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, to be dedicated to a well to be drilled 710 feet from the North line and 2330 feet from the West line of said section. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision. Also to be considered will be the designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.

CASE 6400: Application of Coronado Exploration Corporation for compulsory pooling, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the San Andres formation underlying each of the following 40-acre tracts: SW/4 SW/4 Section 7; SW/4 SW/4 Section 8; SW/4 SE/4 Section 18; NW/4 NW/4 Section 19; and NW/4 NW/4 Section 20, all in Township 10 South, Range 28 East, Race Track-San Andres Pool, Chaves County, New Mexico. Also the NE/4 NE/4 Section 28, Township 10 South, Range 28 East, LE Ranch-San Andres Pool, Chaves County, and the SW/4 NE/4 Section 15, Township 11 South, Range 28 East, East Chisum-San Andres Pool, Chaves County. Each of the aforesaid 40-acre tracts would comprise a drilling unit to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location thereon. Also to be considered, with respect to each of the above described drilling units and well, will be the cost of drilling and completing the well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision; also to be considered will be the designation of applicant as operator of each well and a charge for risk involved in drilling each well.

1. Det.

- CASE 6401: Application of Southland Royalty Company for downhole commingling, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

  Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the downhole commingling of Pictured

  Cliffs and Messwerde production within the wellbore of its Jicarilla 101 Well No. 1 located in

  Unit A of Section 1, Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.
- CASE 6402: Application of Southland Royalty Company for downhole commingling, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

  Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the downhole commingling of Gallup and
  Dakota production within the wellbore of its Jicarilla 101 Well No. 2 located in Unit M of Section
  12. Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.
- Application of Consolidated Oil & Gas, Inc. for downhole commingling, San Juan County, New Mexico.

  Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks approval for the downhole commingling of Basin Dakota and Blanco Mesaverde production within the wellbore of its O'Shea Well No. 1 located in Unit K of Section 3, Township 31 North, Range 13 West, San Juan County, New Mexico.
- case 6404: Application of Sun Production Company for compulsory pooling, non-standard gas proration unit, and an unorthodox well location, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Eumont Gas Pool underlying the SE/4 of Section 35, Township 19 South, Range 36 East, Lea County, New Mexico, to form a non-standard 160-acre proration unit to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at an unorthodox location 810 feet from the South line and 2030 feet from the East line of said section. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision. Also to be considered will be the designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well.
- CASE 6405:

  Application of LaRue and Muncy for exception to Order No. R-111-A, Eddy County, New Mexico.

  Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an exception to the casing/cementing rules for the

  Oil-Potash Area as promulgated by Order No. R-111-A to permit its Federal FR Well No. 1 located
  in Unit I of Section 15, Township 18 South, Range 30 East, Eddy County, New Mexico, to be completed
  in the following manner: set surface casing and circulate cement; eliminate salt protection string;
  and do not circulate cement on production casing.

Application of the Oil Conservation Division on its own motion to consider the amendment of Rule 104 F. of the Division Rules and Regulations Dell to provide for the administrative approval of the year thoday locations of wells drilled within secondary recovery affor presur mantenance projects

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# STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Division on its own motion to consider the amendment of Rule 104 F of the Division Rules and Regulations to provide for the amendment approval of the unorthodox location of wells drilled within secondary recovery or pressure maintenance projects.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on

19 78, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner

NOW, on this day of December, 1978, the

Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

- (2) That there is often need to drill additional producing wells or injection wells at uncrthodox locations within water-flood projects or pressure maintenance projects to permit the completion of a more efficient production and injection pattern therein and to permit the recovery of a greater ultimate volume of oil chereby
- (3) That many orders authorizing such projects contain an administrative procedure for the approval of additional producing or injection wells at unorthodox locations, for the completion and injection pattern.
- (4) That to provide all operators of secondary recovery or pressure maintenance projects the flexibility to complete a more efficient production and injection pattern within such projects without the necessity for notice and hearing, Rule 104 F of Division Rules and Regulations should be amended to read in its entirety as follows:
- exception to the well location requirements of Sections B and C above without notice and hearing when the necessity for such unorthodox location is based upon topographical conditions, the recompletion of a well previously drilled to another horizon, provided said well was drilled at an orthodox location for such original horizon, or to permit the completion of an efficient production and injection pattern within a secondary recovery or pressure maintenance project, provided that any such unorthodox location is no closer than 330 feet to any losse line nor closer than 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary.

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Applications for administrative approval of unorthodox locations shall be filed in triplicate and shall be accompanied by plats showing the ownership of all leases offsetting the proration or spacing unit for which the unorthodox location is sought, and also all wells completed thereon. If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon topography, the plat shall also show and describe the existent topographical conditions. If the proposed unorthodox location is based upon completion of an efficient production and injection pattern, the plat shall also show the project outline identifying all producing and injection wells therein, and the applicant shall further include a statement outlining the necessity for such location.

All operators of proration or spacing units offsetting the unit for which the unorthodox location is sought shall be notified of the application by certified or registered mail, and the application shall state that such notification has been given. The Division Director may approve the unorthodox location upon receipt of waivers from all offset operators or if no offset operator has entered an objection to the unorthodox location within 20 days after the Director has received the application. "

IT IS THERE FORE ORDERED:

(1) that Rule 104 F of Division Bules and Regulations is hereby amended to read in its entirely as follows:

### DROPOGD ROVIOND DULE 104-P-

\*F. The Division Director shall have authority to grant an exception to the well location requirements of Sections 3 and C above without notice and hearing when the necessity for such unorthodox location is based upon topographical conditions, the recompletion of a well previously drilled to another horizon, provided said well was drilled at an orthodox location for such original horizon, or to permit the completion of an efficient production and injection pattern within a secondary recovery or pressure maintenance project, provided that any such unorthodox the said project in a 330 feet to any losse line nor closer than 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary.

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All operators of proration or spacing units offsetting the unit for which the unorthodox location is sought shall be notified of the application by certified or registered mail, and the application shall state that such notification has been given. The Division Director may approve the unorthodox location upon receipt of waivers from all offset operators or if no offset operator has entered an objection to the unorthodox location within 20 days after the Director has received the application.

(2) Jurisdiction

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