

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

**CASE NO. 11228
Order No. R-10347**

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION ON ITS OWN MOTION TO PERMIT THE OPERATOR, RAPID COMPANY, INC. AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY THE COPELAN STATE WELL NO. 1 (API NO. 30-005-60372) LOCATED 330 FEET FROM THE NORTH LINE AND 1650 FEET FROM THE WEST LINE (UNIT C) AND THE COPELAN STATE WELL NO. 2 LOCATED 660 FEET FROM THE NORTH AND EAST LINES (UNIT A), BOTH IN SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST, NMPM, CHAVES COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, SHOULD NOT BE PLUGGED AND ABANDONED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DIVISION-APPROVED PLUGGING PROGRAM.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on April 6, 1995, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 18th day of April, 1995, the Division Director, having considered the record and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

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

(2) The witness in this matter, Ray Smith, Deputy Oil and Gas Inspector for the Division, testified via telephone from the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division District Office in Artesia, New Mexico.

(3) Rapid Company, Inc. was the last known owner and operator of the Copelan State Well No. 1 (API No. 30-005-60372) located 330 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the West line (Unit C), and the Copelan State Well No. 2 located 660 feet from the North and East lines (Unit A), both in Section 31, Township 10 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Chaves County, New Mexico.

(4) According to Division records, the Copelan State Well No. 1 was drilled in 1976 by Land Oil Company to a total depth of approximately 1,262 feet. Eight and 5/8-inch casing was set at 306 feet and cemented with 75 sacks, and 4 1/2-inch casing was set at 1,252 feet and cemented with 225 sacks. The subject well produced from the Rabbit Flats-Queen Pool for a short period of time prior to being shut-in by the current operator.

(5) According to Division records, the Copelan State Well No. 2 was drilled in 1961 by Sinclair Oil & Gas Company to a total depth of 6,930 feet. Thirteen and 3/8-inch casing was set at 450 feet and cemented with 400 sacks, and 9 5/8 inch casing was set at 2,200 feet and cemented with 1100 sacks. The subject well tested dry and was PA'd in 1961. In 1978 the well was re-entered by Sage Oil Company. The subject well produced from the Rabbit Flats-Queen Pool for a short period of time before being shut-in by the current operator, Rapid Company, Inc.

(6) On June 23, 1983, the Division received an intent to plug and abandon the Copelan State Well Nos. 1 and 2 from Rapid Company, Inc. on Division Form C-103.

(7) The subject wells were never plugged by Rapid Company, Inc.

(8) Evidence and testimony in this case indicates that the subject wells were bonded at one time, however, the Division utilized the plugging bond several years ago when it plugged additional wells operated by Rapid Company, Inc.

(9) The current condition of the Copelan State Well Nos. 1 and 2 is such that if action is not taken to properly plug and abandon these wells, waste may occur, correlative rights may be violated, and/or fresh water may be contaminated.

(10) All attempts by the Division thus far to contact Rapid Company, Inc., have been unsuccessful.

(11) No interested parties appeared at the hearing, either in support of or in opposition to this matter.

(12) The Copelan State Well Nos. 1 and 2 should be plugged and abandoned in accordance with a program approved by the Artesia District Office of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division as soon as possible.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The Supervisor of the Division's Artesia District Office is hereby authorized to direct the commencement of plugging operations on the Copelan State Well No. 1 (API No. 30-005-60372) located 330 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the West line (Unit C), and the Copelan State Well No. 2 located 660 feet from the North and East lines (Unit A), both in Section 31, Township 10 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Chaves County, New Mexico.

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

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION


William J. LeMay
Director

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