

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

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

CASE NO. 9504  
ORDER NO. R-8795

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING  
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION ON ITS OWN MOTION TO  
CONSIDER THE AMENDMENT OF RULES  
301, 503, AND 506.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9:00 a.m. on October 20, 1988, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this 1st day of December, 1988, 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 THAT:

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

(2) The Oil Conservation Division proposes to amend Rules 301, 503 and 506 to allow the Division to make changes to the oil proration schedule (as shown on Exhibits A, B, and C attached hereto) including issuing the schedule twice a year instead of three times a year.

(3) The proposed changes were widely published and comments were solicited.

(4) El Paso Natural Gas Company and Phillips Petroleum Company suggested additional language changes which the Division witness found acceptable.

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(5) The proposed rule changes will enable the Division and operators to have more efficient operations and will not impair correlative rights or tend to cause waste, and the application, with the proposed changes, should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) Division Rule 301 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as shown on Exhibit "A" attached to and made a part of this order.

(2) Division Rule 503 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as shown on Exhibit "B" attached to and made a part of this order.

(3) Division Rule 506 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as shown on Exhibit "C" attached to and made a part of this order.

(4) The effective date of this order shall be January 1, 1989.

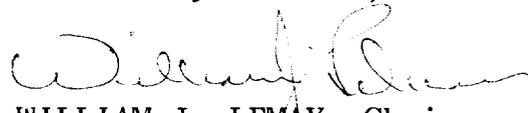
(5) Jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WILLIAM R. HUMPHRIES, Member

  
ERLING A. BROSTUEN, Member

  
WILLIAM J. LEMAY, Chairman  
and Secretary

S E A L

Exhibit "A"

RULE 301. GAS-OIL RATIO AND PRODUCTION TESTS

(a) Each operator shall take a gas-oil ratio test no sooner than 20 days nor later than 30 days following the completion or recompletion of each oil well, if (1) the well is a wildcat, or (2) the well is located in a pool which is not exempt from the requirements of this rule. (Wells completed within one mile of the outer boundary of a defined oil pool producing from the same formation shall be governed by the provisions of this rule which are applicable to the pool.) The results of the test shall be reported to the Division on Form C-116 within 10 days following completion of the test. The gas-oil ratio thus reported shall become effective for proration purposes on the first day of the calendar month following the date they are reported.

Each operator shall also take an annual gas-oil ratio test of each producing oil well, located within a pool not exempted from the requirements of this rule, during a period prescribed by the Division. A gas-oil ratio survey schedule shall be established by the Division setting forth the period in which gas-oil ratio tests are to be taken for each pool wherein a test is required. The gas-oil ratio test shall be such test designated by the Division, made by such method and means, and in such manner as the Division in its discretion may prescribe from time to time.

(b) The results of gas-oil ratio tests taken during survey periods shall be filed with the Division on Form C-116 not later than the 10th of the month following the close of the survey period for the pool in which the well is located. The gas-oil ratios thus reported shall become effective for proration purposes on the first day of the second month following the close of the survey period. Unless Form C-116 is filed within the required time limit, no further allowable will be assigned the affected well until Form C-116 is filed.

(c) In the case of special tests taken between regular gas-oil ratio surveys, the gas-oil ratio shall become effective for proration purposes upon the date Form C-116, reporting the results of such test, is received by the proration department. A special test does not exempt any well from the regular survey.

(d) During gas-oil ratio tests, no well shall be produced at a rate exceeding top unit allowable for the pool in which it is located by more than 25 percent.

(e) The Division Director shall have the authority to exempt such pools as he may deem proper from the gas-oil ratio test requirements of this rule. Such exemption shall be by executive order directed to all operators in the pool being exempted.

(f) The Division Director shall have the authority to require annual productivity tests of all oil wells in pools exempt from gas-oil ratio tests, during a period prescribed by the Division. An oil well productivity survey schedule shall be established by the Division setting forth the period in which productivity tests are to be taken for each pool wherein such tests are required.

(g) The results of productivity tests taken during survey periods shall be filed with the Division on Form C-116 (with the word "Exempt" inserted in the column normally used for reporting gas production) not later than the 10th of the month following the close of the survey period for the pool in which the well is located. Unless Form C-116 is filed within the required time limit, no further allowable will be assigned the affected well until Form C-116 is filed.

(h) In the case of special productivity tests taken between regular test survey periods, which result in a change of allowable assigned to the well, the allowable change shall become effective upon the date the Form C-116 is received by the proration department. A special test does not exempt any well from the regular survey.

(i) During the productivity test, no well shall be produced at a rate exceeding top unit allowable for the pool in which it is located by more than 25 percent.

Exhibit "B"

RULE 503. AUTHORIZATION FOR PRODUCTION OF OIL

(a) Except as provided below, the daily top unit allowable for any oil pool shall be 100 percent of the depth bracket allowable for the pool determined pursuant to the provisions of Rule 505.

(b) The Division shall have the option, within five days prior to the end of the month, to make a determination as to the likelihood of the total producing capacity of all oil wells in the state being in excess of anticipated reasonable market demand for crude petroleum oil from this state.

If the Division determines that such capacity may be in excess of the anticipated reasonable market demand, and that a market demand factor of less than 100 percent may be necessary to prevent waste, it shall immediately institute proper proceedings for a hearing to be held before the 20th day of the following month to determine actual reasonable market demand up to a maximum of 6 months.

(c) At said hearing the Division shall consider all evidence of market demand for crude petroleum oil from this state, and if it is determined that the market demand percentage factor should be less than 100 percent, an order shall be issued establishing the market demand factor and setting a date for the next market demand hearing.

(d) The market demand factor thus established shall be multiplied by the applicable depth bracket allowable for each well and each pool to determine its unit allowable. Any fraction of a barrel shall be regarded as a full barrel in determining top unit allowable.

Upon initial establishment of a market demand factor, and from time to time thereafter, the Division shall issue a proration schedule authorizing the production of oil from the various proration units in the various pools in the state. Any well completed or recompleted after the issuance of said schedule and for which Form C-104 has been approved, shall, by supplement to the schedule, be authorized a daily allowable equal to the top unit allowable in effect. The allowable for such well shall become effective at 7:00 a.m. on the date of the completion, provided Form C-104 is submitted and approved within ten days following date of completion; otherwise the allowable shall be effective on the date the C-104 is approved. (As provided in Rule 1104, "date of completion" is the date when new oil is delivered into the stock tanks.)

(e) A non-marginal unit is defined as being a proration unit which is capable of producing top unit allowable for the pool in which it is located and to which has been assigned a top unit allowable. Any such non-marginal unit shall be permitted to produce said top unit allowable without waste and subject to the provisions of Rules 301, 502, and 506, and all other applicable rules.

A marginal unit is defined as being a proration unit which is incapable of producing top unit allowable for the pool in which it is located as evidenced by well test, production history, or other report or form filed by the operator with the Division. Any such marginal unit shall be permitted to produce any amount of oil which it is capable of producing without waste up to top unit allowable for the pool, subject to the provisions of Rules 301, 502, and 506, and all other applicable rules, provided that an allowable has been assigned to the unit to authorize such production.

A penalized non-marginal unit is defined as being a proration unit to which, because of an excessive gas-oil ratio, an allowable has been assigned which shall be determined in accordance with the procedure set forth in Rule 506. In calculating a penalized allowable, any fraction of a barrel shall be regarded as a full barrel.

(f) A periodic tabulation of all supplements to the current proration schedule shall be made and distributed by the Division.

(g) The provisions of Rule 104(h) et seq. shall be adhered to in fixing top unit allowables.

(h) In the event it becomes necessary for any transporter of crude petroleum to resort to pipeline proration in New Mexico, such transporter shall, as soon as possible and not later than 24 hours after the effective date thereof, notify the Division of its decision to so prorate; upon receipt of such notice from such transporter, the Division may take such emergency action, as may be deemed proper, and/or upon its own motion, after notice, hold a hearing for the purpose of considering any action within its authority, to preserve and protect correlative rights.

In case of pipeline proration any operator affected thereby has the right to make application to the Division for authorization to have any shortage or underproduction resulting therefrom included in subsequent proration schedules. Such applications shall be made upon a form hereby authorized to be prescribed by the Division and filed therewith within thirty days after the close of the first proration period in which such pipeline proration shortage occurred, and such authorization shall be limited in any event to wells capable of producing the daily top unit allowable for such period.

In approving any such application the Division shall determine the period of time during which such shortage shall be made up without injury to the well or pool, and shall include the same in the regularly approved proration schedules following the conclusion of pipeline proration.

Exhibit "C"

RULE 506 GAS-OIL RATIO LIMITATION

(a) In allocated pools containing a well or wells producing from a reservoir which contains both oil and gas, each proration unit shall be permitted to produce only that volume of gas equivalent to the applicable limiting gas-oil ratio multiplied by the top unit oil allowable for the pool. In the event the Division has not set a gas-oil ratio limit for a particular oil pool, the limiting gas-oil ratio shall be 2,000 cubic feet of gas for each barrel of oil produced. In allocated oil pools all producing wells, whether oil or casinghead gas, shall be placed on the oil proration schedule.

(b) Unless heretofore or hereafter specifically exempted by order of the Division issued after hearing, a gas-oil ratio limitation shall be placed on all allocated oil pools, and all proration units having a gas-oil ratio exceeding the limit for the pool shall be penalized in accordance with the following procedure:

(1) Any proration unit which, on the basis of the latest official gas-oil ratio test, has a gas-oil ratio in excess of the limiting gas-oil ratio and has the capacity to produce above the top casinghead gas volume calculated by Rule 506 (a) for the pool in which it is located shall be permitted to produce daily that number of barrels of oil which shall be determined by multiplying the current top unit allowable by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the limiting gas-oil ratio for the pool and the denominator of which shall be the official gas-oil ratio test of the well, and the proration unit will be designated non-marginal.

(2) Any unit containing a well or wells producing from a reservoir which contains both oil and gas shall be permitted to produce only that volume of gas equivalent to the applicable limiting gas-oil ratio multiplied by the top unit allowable currently assigned to the pool.

(3) A marginal unit shall be permitted to produce the same volume of gas which it would be permitted to produce if it were a non-marginal well.

(c) All non-marginal proration units to which gas-oil ratio adjustments are applied shall be so indicated in the proration schedule with adjusted allowables stated.

(d) In cases of new pools, the limit shall be 2,000 cubic feet per barrel until such time as changed by order of the Division issued after a hearing. Upon petition and after notice and hearing according to law, the Division will determine or redetermine the specific gas-oil ratio limit which is applicable to a particular allocated oil pool.