

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

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

*CASE NO. 10276
ORDER NO. R-9519*

**APPLICATION OF MARALEX RESOURCES,
INC. FOR COMPULSORY POOLING, SAN
JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on March 21, 1991, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 7th day of June, 1991, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, 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. Further, notice has been given to and the Division has jurisdiction over those parties listed on Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(2) At the time of the hearing, this case was consolidated with Division Case Nos. 10274 and 10275 for the purpose of testimony.

(3) The applicant, Maralex Resources, Inc., seeks an order pooling those mineral interests in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, listed on said Exhibit "A", that have not agreed to voluntarily pool their interests underlying the E/2 of Section 24, Township 30 North, Range 11 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool.

(4) The applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill a well at a standard coal gas well location in the NE/4 of Section 24.

(5) Norman L. Gilbreath of Aztec, New Mexico, an interest owner in the proposed 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit, appeared at the hearing on his own behalf.

(6) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights, to prevent waste and to afford to the owner of each interest in said unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense his just and fair share of the gas in said pool, the subject application should be approved by pooling the mineral interests of all parties within said unit over whom the Division has jurisdiction.

(7) The applicant should be designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(8) Any non-consenting working interest owner pooled by this order should be afforded the opportunity to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(9) The applicant proposed a 200 percent risk penalty to be assessed against those interest owners subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order, and in support thereof presented evidence and testimony at the hearing.

(10) Applicant's evidence did not substantially support a higher penalty than the precedent established in compulsory pooling cases in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool and the penalty should therefore be 156 percent.

(11) Any non-consenting working interest owner pooled by this order who does not pay his share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production his share of reasonable well costs plus an additional 156 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(12) Any non-consenting interest owner whose interest is pooled by this order should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(13) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner pooled by this order who has paid his share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(14) \$3000.00 per month while drilling and \$300.00 per month while producing should be fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest pooled by this order and in addition thereto, the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating the subject well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest pooled by this order.

(15) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(16) Upon the failure of the operator of said pooled unit to commence drilling of the well to which said unit is dedicated on or before August 31, 1991, the order pooling said unit should become null and void and of no further effect whatsoever.

(17) Should any of the parties to this force-pooling reach voluntary agreement, this order should thereafter be of no further effect as to those parties.

(18) The operator of the well and unit should notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All mineral interests, whatever they may be, in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, owned by parties over whom the Division has jurisdiction as identified in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part hereof, underlying the E/2 of Section 24, Township 30 North, Range 11 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled to form a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard coal gas well location in the NE/4 of Section 24.

PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT, the operator of said unit shall commence the drilling of said well on or before the 31st day of August, 1991, and shall thereafter continue the drilling of said well with due diligence to a depth sufficient to test the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, in the event said operator does not commence the drilling of said well on or before the 31st day of August, 1991, Decretory Paragraph No. (1) of this order shall be null and void and of no effect whatsoever, unless said operator obtains a time extension from the Division for good cause shown.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, should said well not be drilled to completion, or abandonment, within 120 days after commencement thereof, said operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Decretory Paragraph No. (1) of this order should not be rescinded.

(2) Maralex Resources, Inc. is hereby designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(3) After the effective date of this order and within 90 days prior to commencing said well, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner in the subject unit an itemized schedule of estimated well costs.

(4) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him, any non-consenting working interest owner whose interest is pooled by this order shall have the right to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production, and any such owner who pays his share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

(5) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the well; if no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division from a party subject to this order and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of said schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided however, if there is an objection to actual well costs within said 45-day period the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(6) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner pooled by this order who has paid his share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator his pro rata share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator his pro rata share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(7) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (A) The pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner pooled by this order who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him; and
- (B) As a charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well, 156 percent of the pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner pooled by this order who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(8) The operator shall distribute said costs and charges withheld from production to the working interest owners who paid the well costs.

(9) \$3000.00 per month while drilling and \$300.00 per month while producing are hereby fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest pooled by this order and in addition thereto, the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest pooled by this order.

(10) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under the terms of this order.

(11) Any well costs or charges which are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interest's share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(12) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in San Juan County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership; the operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of said escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with said escrow agent.

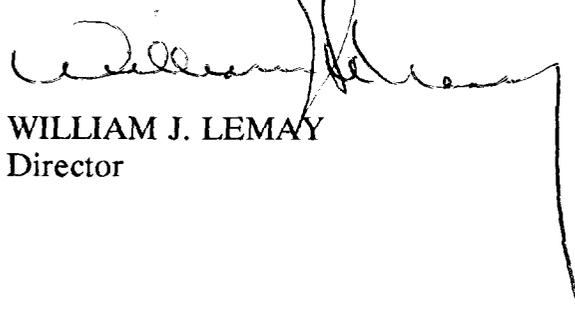
(13) Should any party to this force-pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect as to such party.

(14) The operator of the subject well and unit shall notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order.

(15) 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

S E A L

Exhibit "A"
Case No. 10276
Order No. R-9519

EXHIBIT "5"
(case 10276)

The interest owners in the E1/2 of Section 24, Township 30 North-Range 12 West which Maralex Resources, Inc. seeks to pool.

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>% of unit</u>
Norman L. Gilbreath & Loretta E. Gilbreath P. O. Drawer 208 Aztec, New Mexico 87410	Farmout to Maralex	46.45937%
Southland Royalty El Paso Production Company c/o Meridian Oil Inc. 3535 East 30th St. P. O. Box 4289 Farmington, New Mexico 87499-4289 Attn: Kent Beers	Waiting on their management's decision	37.5%
Glen Dial, Jr. P. O. Box 15074 Lakewood, Colorado 80215	cannot locate	2.25938%
Enid M. Neibaur Price Address Unknown	cannot locate	12.5%
Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad c/o The Anschutz Corporation 555 17th Street Denver, Colorado 80202	verbal agree- ment to lease	1.28125%

BEFORE EXAMINER STOGNER

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

EXHIBIT NO

CASE NO

10274

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