

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: )  
APPLICATION OF MEWBOURNE OIL COMPANY FOR )  
POOL EXPANSION AND SPECIAL POOL RULES )  
FOR THE YOUNG-STRAWN POOL, LEA COUNTY, )  
NEW MEXICO )

CASE NO. 13,243

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner

April 1st, 2004

Santa Fe, New Mexico

RECEIVED

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Oil Conservation Division  
1220 S. St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, April 1st, 2004, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

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 Examiner Hearing  
 CASE NO. 13,243

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## A P P E A R A N C E S

## FOR THE DIVISION:

DAVID K. BROOKS, JR.  
 Assistant General Counsel  
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
 1220 South St. Francis Drive  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

## FOR THE APPLICANT:

JAMES G. BRUCE  
 Attorney at Law  
 P.O. Box 1056  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

\* \* \*

1           WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at  
2   8:35 a.m.:

3           EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, at this time we'll call  
4   Case 13,243, the Application of Mewbourne Oil Company for  
5   pool expansion and special pool rules for the Young-Strawn  
6   Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

7           Call for appearances.

8           MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of Santa Fe,  
9   representing the Applicant. I have three witnesses. They  
10   are the same three witnesses who testified in the prior  
11   case.

12          EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, additional appearances?

13          Okay, let the record show that the three  
14   witnesses have already been sworn in and qualified.

15                           STEVE COBB,

16   the witness herein, having been previously duly sworn upon  
17   his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

18                           DIRECT EXAMINATION

19   BY MR. BRUCE:

20           Q. Mr. Cobb, would you identify Exhibit Number 1 for  
21   the Examiner and tell him what Mewbourne seeks in this  
22   case?

23           A. Exhibit 1 is a Midland Map Company plat covering  
24   part of Township 18 South, Range 32 East. The Young-Strawn  
25   Pool currently covers the northeast quarter of Section 20.

1 Q. And what acreage does Mewbourne seek to add to  
2 the pool?

3 A. We're seeking to add the east half of Section 17  
4 where we've recently completed our SF 17 Fed Com Number 1  
5 and 2 wells to the pool.

6 Q. Are there any other producing Strawn wells in  
7 this pool?

8 A. No, there are not.

9 Q. With respect to notice purposes, which we'll get  
10 into later, was Pecos Production Company the operator of  
11 the prior Strawn well in the northeast quarter of Section  
12 20?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. What special pool rules does Mewbourne seek for  
15 this pool?

16 A. We request 80-acre spacing, an allowable of 720  
17 barrels of oil per day, and a gas-oil ratio of 4000 to 1.

18 Q. And what setback requirements do you request?

19 A. 330 feet from the quarter quarter section line.

20 Q. Referring to Exhibit 2, what is the leasehold  
21 ownership situation in the east half of Section 17?

22 A. The east half is comprised of two federal leases.  
23 The east half northeast and the west half southeast are in  
24 Lease Number NM-9016, and the west half northeast and the  
25 east half southeast is in Lease Number 106717.

1 Q. Okay. And although this will be on the next  
2 exhibit, where are the two SF 17 wells located?

3 A. One is in the northeast and the other one is in  
4 the southeast.

5 Q. Okay. Does Exhibit 3 -- Again, these are federal  
6 leases, and royalty ownership is common throughout the east  
7 half of Section 17, is it not?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And does Exhibit 3 list all of the overriding  
10 royalty and/or production payment owners in the east  
11 half --

12 A. Yes, it --

13 Q. -- the entire east half of Section 17?

14 A. Yes, it does.

15 Q. Okay, and again, is working interest ownership  
16 common in the east half of Section 17?

17 A. Yeah, again it's covered by a joint operating  
18 agreement which allocates production to all the working  
19 interest owners in the whole east half.

20 Q. Who was notified of this case?

21 A. We notified the BLM and all the overriding  
22 royalty owners in the east half of 17 and Pecos Production  
23 Company.

24 Q. And is Exhibit 4 the notice affidavit with the  
25 notice letters and return receipts?

1 A. Yes, it is.

2 Q. Has any interest owner objected to this  
3 Application?

4 A. No, they have not.

5 Q. And what is Exhibit 5?

6 A. Exhibit 5, again, is a notice of this hearing to  
7 Pecos Production and their approval and support of this  
8 hearing.

9 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 5 prepared by you or  
10 under your supervision or compiled from company business  
11 records?

12 A. They were.

13 Q. And in your opinion is the granting of this  
14 Application in the interests of conservation and the  
15 prevention of waste?

16 A. It is.

17 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the admission  
18 of Exhibits 1 through 5.

19 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 5 will be  
20 admitted.

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

23 Q. Mr. Cobb, the working interest ownership is  
24 common in the east half and the royalty interest ownership  
25 is common?

1 A. Right.

2 Q. But the override is not?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. It's common on Tract 1, but it's different from  
5 Tract 2, right?

6 A. Right, right.

7 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. Mr. Bruce, notice in  
8 this case for special pool rules, is that within the pool  
9 and within a mile of the pool; is that correct?

10 MR. BRUCE: The notice requirements are, first of  
11 all, operators in the pool and within a mile of the pool,  
12 providing that the well is not within another designated  
13 pool. And then secondly, we had to notify interest owners  
14 whose interest may be diluted by the increase in well  
15 spacing.

16 And so we notified all of the interest owners in  
17 this case, depending -- because of -- it depends on how the  
18 well units are formed.

19 EXAMINER CATANACH: But you did notify all the  
20 people, all the overrides in the east half of this section?

21 MR. BRUCE: Every single one, yes.

22 EXAMINER CATANACH: In the last case, didn't we  
23 just notify the southeast southeast?

24 MR. BRUCE: Yes, because they were the only  
25 interest owners whose interest would be diluted. The other

1 interest owners in the remainder of the southeast quarter  
2 of Section 22 will gain an interest, and therefore they're  
3 not adversely affected.

4 EXAMINER CATANACH: Hm.

5 MR. BRUCE: In this one, Mr. Examiner, I can ask  
6 Mr. Cobb this question:

7 FURTHER EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. BRUCE:

9 Q. At this point, Mr. Cobb, do you propose to stand  
10 up or lay down the Strawn well units in the east half of  
11 17?

12 A. We're proposing to lay these down, and we met  
13 last Thursday with Armando Lopez and John Simitz at the BLM  
14 in Roswell and went over this with them, and they approved  
15 it and were going to fax me a letter evidencing their proof  
16 of this and support of this Application. I haven't got it  
17 yet, but they told me they had no problem with laying down  
18 those units.

19 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay.

20 MR. BRUCE: And Mr. Examiner, if I may, this case  
21 is a little unusual, or the leasehold ownership is a little  
22 unusual since there are -- If you'll look at Exhibit 1,  
23 there are two leases involved. One well is on one lease,  
24 the second well is on a separate lease. Mewbourne does  
25 propose to lay down the units, so conceivably you could say

1 the interest ownership is diluted, although they -- Let's  
2 take the Number 2 well: You're diluting the interest  
3 ownership in that. On the other hand, the same thing will  
4 happen in reverse on the Number 1 well.

5 EXAMINER CATANACH: But none of the interest  
6 owners, none of the overrides, have expressed any concern  
7 about what's going on in that --

8 MR. BRUCE: I've received calls from a couple  
9 just asking for information, and we just sent out the  
10 exhibits we've submitted to the hearing, to them.

11 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. But there are no  
12 additional operators within a mile of this pool boundary?

13 MR. BRUCE: Not -- No, and I've checked the  
14 Division's records. No additional operators other than  
15 those already within a defined pool, and those do not  
16 count.

17 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, I have no other  
18 questions of this witness.

19 RALPH L. NELSON,  
20 the witness herein, having been previously duly sworn upon  
21 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. BRUCE:

24 Q. Mr. Nelson, let's run through this briefly. What  
25 is Exhibit 6?

1           A.    Exhibit 6 is a regional map showing 18 South, 32  
2 East, like was shown in the previous testimony, again just  
3 showing the Strawn pools in 18 South, 32 East.

4           Q.    And just to double check, you've made a study of  
5 this area, and these are the only Strawn wells that you're  
6 aware of in this particular township?

7           A.    That is correct.

8           Q.    What is Exhibit 7?

9           A.    Exhibit 7 is a structure map on top of the Strawn  
10 formation. It shows a sharp anticlinal ridge running down  
11 through the northeast part of Section 20 and the east half  
12 of Section 17, the axis of which is very close to the  
13 center, the north-south line down the center of the east  
14 half of Section 17.

15          Q.    In the prior pool there was some faulting shown  
16 on that map. There's no faulting indicated by your geology  
17 in this particular map, in the area of this particular map?

18          A.    Right, this map was constructed primarily based  
19 on well control with some other means included.

20          Q.    Okay. And what is Exhibit 8?

21          A.    Exhibit 8 is a gross isopach of the Strawn  
22 formation, again showing the three Strawn producing wells,  
23 and the gross, the net clean line and the net porosity.

24          Q.    And finally Exhibit 9, the cross-section, perhaps  
25 go through that in a little more detail.

1           A.    Section 9 [sic] is the line of section shown on  
2 Exhibit 8.  It starts with the well on the left side, in A,  
3 in the west half of Section 17, with a Strawn penetration  
4 that was dry in the Strawn but made a very good Wolfcamp  
5 producer upon completion.

6           The next well shown is the old ARCO Young  
7 Federal, the discovery well for the Young-Strawn Pool.  It  
8 drill stem tested the Strawn, had a bottomhole pressure of  
9 about 5300 pounds, flowed oil to surface, and has a similar  
10 Strawn interval as shown in the Mewbourne SF 17 Federal Com  
11 Number 2, which is currently testing flowing at high rates.

12           The next well is SF 17 Federal Com Number 1.  
13 Although it has some porosity, it does not have the good  
14 limestone vuggy porosity for the most part that was present  
15 in the SF Federal Com Number 2.

16           The last well on the section is a dry hole as far  
17 as the Strawn is concerned, located in Section 8.

18           Q.    Now, once again, based on the geology and on the  
19 surface features, do you believe the 330-foot setback  
20 requirement that you request is needed?

21           A.    Yes, I do.

22           Q.    Were Exhibits 6 through 9 prepared by you or  
23 under your supervision?

24           A.    Yes.

25           Q.    And in your opinion is the granting of this

1 Application in the interests of conservation and the  
2 prevention of waste?

3 A. It is.

4 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the admission  
5 of Exhibits 6 through 9.

6 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 6 through 9 will be  
7 admitted.

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

10 Q. Mr. Young -- I mean, Mr. Nelson, can you tell me  
11 how the geologic properties in the SF 17 Number 2 compare  
12 to the Young Fed Number 1?

13 A. In terms of the porosity?

14 Q. Porosity.

15 A. Okay, sure. Sure. As we examine the area, the  
16 ARCO Young Federal Number 1 apparently has much higher  
17 porosity than the SF 17 Federal Com Number 2. It had a  
18 good flow rate on drill stem test, but certainly nothing  
19 compared to some other Strawn wells that we've seen. It's  
20 our analysis of this, the ARCO well is on a very narrow  
21 anticlinal ridge where it is located in the Strawn, and  
22 that location is long and narrow.

23 However, in the southeast quarter of Section 17  
24 and also in the northeast quarter of Section 17 the Strawn  
25 buildup appears to expand in more of a -- encompassing most

1 of the southeast quarter, if not all of the southeast  
2 quarter, and part of the northeast quarter. The wells were  
3 located on top of the structural ridge, just as a  
4 conservative way to stake locations, however there is  
5 evidence there could be significantly more Strawn potential  
6 in the east half of the east half.

7 Q. So the wells in 17 are structurally higher than  
8 the well in 20?

9 A. Yes, they are.

10 Q. Okay. Does that contribute to being better-  
11 producing wells?

12 A. I think in part it helps. I think fracturing may  
13 help with these reservoirs, although we don't see the great  
14 positive growth of Strawn accumulation in these wells.

15 Q. The well in Section 20, I think your engineer  
16 testified that it probably drained an area of approximately  
17 51 acres, if I'm not mistaken. Geologically, would the  
18 Number 2 well be capable of at least that, and given the  
19 nature of the expanded reservoir up there, would it  
20 probably drain more?

21 A. I believe it would, yes.

22 Q. And the problem with the Number 1 well is what?  
23 Is it tight?

24 A. It is tight. As you look on the cross-section,  
25 we define these Strawn reservoirs both in terms of

1 porosity, but the limestone content -- if you notice the  
2 upper green colored-in porosity, if you will, the PE  
3 indicates it to be much chertier than the lower porosity  
4 zone.

5 I think the main pay in the reservoir is -- as  
6 we've seen in other Strawn pools, is going to be in this  
7 Strawn algal mound facies.

8 Q. Can you make the determination whether or not  
9 these wells are connected to the -- Is this the same  
10 structure, basically, in Section 17 and 20?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And it's geologically connected?

13 A. It is.

14 Q. Okay. I guess there's a potential for drilling a  
15 second well south of the Number 2?

16 A. Yes, there is.

17 Q. Do you know if Mewbourne plans to do that or --

18 A. We're currently considering it. Whether it would  
19 be in the O location or P location, we don't know yet.

20 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, I believe that's all I  
21 have, Mr. Bruce.

22 MR. BRUCE: I have nothing further of "Mr.  
23 Young".

24 Mr. Examiner, I'm handing you in this matter some  
25 exhibits, 10 through 13, which are the same exhibits which

1 Mr. Montgomery testified about in the prior case. I would  
2 just have Mr. Montgomery confirm that he did indeed prepare  
3 those exhibits, and if you have any further questions...

4 BRYAN M. MONTGOMERY,

5 the witness herein, having been previously duly sworn upon  
6 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. BRUCE:

9 Q. Mr. Montgomery, did you prepare Exhibits 10  
10 through 13?

11 A. I did.

12 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the admission  
13 of Exhibits 10 through 13 in this case.

14 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 10 through 13 will  
15 be admitted, and I think we've gone over all that I need  
16 to, so...

17 MR. BRUCE: Okay.

18 THE WITNESS: Well, I had one thing I did notice  
19 a question --

20 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, go ahead.

21 THE WITNESS: That's unusual, I know. Some  
22 discussion about the connectivity between the Young well  
23 and the 17 Number 2 and how that might be geologically. On  
24 an engineering side, it's interesting to note the low GORs  
25 we have in our 17 Number 2. We did not DST the well, and

1 -- just so that the Examiner has the most data he can have.  
 2 We don't have the pressure, the bottomhole pressure of that  
 3 well.

4 But the low GOR, if you remember, it even dipped  
 5 down lower when we opened the well up, and I'm not sure.  
 6 We may have lost gas to the tank. When you put that much  
 7 oil through the system, sometimes you don't separate it  
 8 properly. But regardless, it's around 1100, which to me  
 9 exhibits a virgin-pressure assumption that I would then  
 10 make. So I did want to just add that.

11 EXAMINATION

12 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

13 Q. So you don't believe those are connected, or  
 14 their connectivity is not very good?

15 A. Is limited, exactly.

16 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, that's all I have.

17 MR. BRUCE: Maybe I'll have Mr. Carr say  
 18 something.

19 MR. CARR: Try and elevate the level.

20 MR. BRUCE: I have nothing further, Mr. Examiner.

21 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, there being nothing  
 22 further, Case 13,243 will be taken under advisement.

23 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at  
 24 9:55 a.m.)

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is  
 a complete record of the proceedings in  
 the Examiner hearing of Case No. 13243.  
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*David R. Catnach*, Examiner

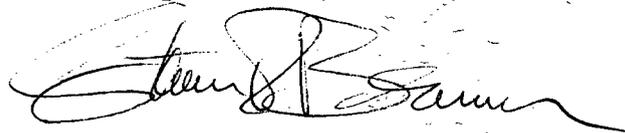
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF SANTA FE )

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL April 2nd, 2004.



STEVEN T. BRENNER  
CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 16th, 2006