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June 1, 2004

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JUN -1 2004

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

Hand Delivered

Florene Davidson Oil Conservation Division 1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Florene:

Enclosed for filing are an original and one copy of an application for an exception to Division Rule 104.C.(2)(c), together with a proposed advertisement, filed on behalf of Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C. Please set this matter for the June 24, 2004 Examiner hearing. Thank you.

Case 13283

The advertisement is also on the enclosed disk.

Very truly yours,

James Bruce

Attorney for Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C.

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BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION -1 2004

APPLICATION OF NEARBURG EXPLORATION COMPANY, L.L.C. FOR AN EXCEPTION TO DIVISION RULE 104.C.(2)(c), LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

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

Case No.

13283

APPLICATION

Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C. ("Nearburg") applies for an order granting an exception to Division Rule 104.C.(2)(c), to allow two operators in formations developed on 320 acre spacing in the N% of Section 14, Township 21 South, Range 34 East, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico, and in support thereof, states:

- 1. Nearburg is a working interest owner in the N% of Section 14, and desires to drill the Nearburg Producing Company Outland South 14 State Well No. 1, at an orthodox gas well location in the NE%NW% (Unit C) of Section 14, to a depth sufficient to test the Morrow formation (Wilson-Morrow Gas Pool).
- 2. The existing Corner Pocket 14 State Well No. 1, located at an orthodox gas well location in the NE½NE½ (Unit A) of Section 14, currently produces from the Atoka formation (Wilson-Atoka Gas Pool). A Form C-102 for the well is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Corner Pocket 14 State Well No. 1 is operated by ConocoPhillips Company ("ConocoPhillips").
- 3. The Corner Pocket 14 State Well No. 1 and Outland South 14 State Well No. 1 will be simultaneously dedicated to the N½ of Section 14, forming a standard 320 acre gas spacing and proration unit.
- 4. The Corner Pocket 14 State Well No. 1 is subject to an Operating Agreement among ConocoPhillips and Southwestern Energy

Production Company ("Southwestern"), under which ConocoPhillips is operator. Nearburg has acquired the entire working interest of ConocoPhillips and Southwestern in the well unit, except for the wellbore of the Corner Pocket 14 State Well No. 1. Thus, ConocoPhillips will own no working interest in the proposed well.

- 5. Under the Operating Agreement, and Division policy, Nearburg will be allowed to drill the Outland South 14 State Well No. 1 to completion. However, Division Rule 104.C.(2)(c) requires the operator of an infill well on a 320 acre unit to be the same as the operator for the initial well. Therefore, Nearburg cannot operate and produce the Outland South 14 State Well No. 1 if it is completed as a well capable of production from the Atoka formation, and potentially other formations developed on 320 acre spacing.
- 6. Because ConocoPhillips will own no working interest in the Outland South 14 State Well No. 1, and will pay no share of well costs, Nearburg desires to have Nearburg Producing Company, its operating arm, operate the well. ConocoPhillips does not object to Nearburg operating the well. However, ConocoPhillips does not desire to enter into a written agreement with Nearburg, under which Nearburg will be contract operator, and ConocoPhillips record operator, of the Outland South 14 State Well No. 1.
- 7. As a result, Nearburg requests an exception to Division Rule 104.C.(2)(c), to allow two operators in formations developed on 320 acre spacing in the N½ of Section 14.
- 8. The granting of this application will prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

WHEREFORE, applicant requests that, after notice and hearing, the Division enter its order granting the relief requested above.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bruce

Post Office Box 1056

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

(505) 982-2043

Attorney for Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C.

District I 1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240 Fistrict II

State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources

Form C-10: Revised March 17, 199

811 S. 1st Street, Artesia, NM 88210 District III

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Submit to Appropriate District Offic State Lease - 4 Copie

Certificate Number

1000 Rio Brazos F District IV		2040 South Pacheco Santa Fe, NM 87505							ee Lease - 3 Copie		
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¹ API Number				² Pool Code							
30-025-35024				97140					(GAS)		
⁴ Property		5 Property Name					⁶ Well Number				
2667		CORNER POCKET "14" 8 Operator Name								I 9 Elevation	
0176		PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY							1	3669' GR	
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PROPOSED ADVERTISEMENT

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Case <u>13283</u>: Application of Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C. for an exception to Division Rule 104.C.(2)(c), Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order granting an exception to Division Rule 104.C.(2)(c) to allow two operators in all formations developed on 320-acre spacing in the N½ of Section 14, Township 21 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, to form a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit in the Wilson-Atoka Gas Pool and Wilson-Morrow Gas Pool. The unit will be simultaneously dedicated to the existing Corner Pocket 14 State Well No. 1, operated by ConocoPhillips Company, located in the NE½NE½ of Section 14, and the proposed Outland South 14 State Well No. 1, to be operated by applicant, located in the NE½NW½ of Section 1. The unit is located approximately 11½ miles west of Oil Center, New Mexico.

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