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. 13,229

APPLICATION OF YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION FOR AN UNORTHODOX GAS WELL LOCATION, AN EXCEPTION TO DIVISION RULE 104.C.(2).(B), AND A RETROACTIVE APPROVAL DATE FOR ANY ORDER ISSUED IN THIS CASE, CHAVES COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: RICHARD EZEANYIM, Hearing Examiner

2004 OCT **1**

September 16th, 2004

Santa Fe, New Mexico

v

This matter came on for hearing before the Negamerico Oil Conservation Division, RICHARD EZEANYIM, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, September 16th, 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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APPEARANCES

FOR THE DIVISION:

GAIL MacQUESTEN
Deputy General Counsel
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

FOR THE APPLICANT:

HOLLAND & HART, L.L.P., and CAMPBELL & CARR 110 N. Guadalupe, Suite 1 P.O. Box 2208
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208
By: WILLIAM F. CARR

* * *

1	WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2	9:34 a.m.:
3	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: So at this time I will call
4	Case Number 13,229, which is reopened application,
5	continued from August 19th, the Application of Yates
6	Petroleum Corporation for an unorthodox gas well location,
7	an exception to Division Rule 104.C.(2).(b), and a
8	retroactive approval date for any order issued in this
9	case, Chaves County, New Mexico.
10	Call for appearances.
11	MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is
12	William F. Carr with the Santa Fe office of Holland and
13	Hart, L.L.P. We represent Yates Petroleum Corporation in
14	this matter, and I have two witnesses.
15	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Any other appearances?
16	May the witnesses stand up to be sworn?
17	(Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)
18	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Mr. Carr, you may continue.
19	MR. CARR: Thank you, Mr. Ezeanyim.
20	CHARLES E. MORAN,
21	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
22	his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
23	DIRECT EXAMINATION
24	BY MR. CARR:
25	Q. Would you state your full name for the record,

1	please?
2	A. My name is Charles Moran.
3	Q. Mr. Moran, where do you reside?
4	A. In Artesia, New Mexico.
5	Q. By whom are you employed?
6	A. Yates Petroleum Corporation?
7	Q. And what is your position with Yates Petroleum
8	Corporation?
9	A. Chief landman.
10	Q. Would you summarize for the Examiner your
11	educational background and review your work experience?
12	A. My educational background, I have a BBA in
13	accounting from St. Edwards University in Austin and a
14	juris doctor degree from the University of Tulsa in
15	Oklahoma. I've been employed with Yates Petroleum for 12
16	years in the land department.
17	Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
18	this case?
19	A. I am.
20	Q. Are you familiar with the status of the lands in
21	the subject area?
22	A. I am.
23	MR. CARR: Mr. Ezeanyim, we tender Mr. Moran as
24	an expert witness in petroleum land matters.
25	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Mr. Moran is so qualified.

1	Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Moran, would you briefly
2	summarize what it is that Yates seeks with this
3	Application?
4	A. We are seeking an unorthodox location for our
5	Hanlad AKZ State Well Number 2, located 330 feet from the
6	south line and 1225 feet from the west line in Section 13
7	of Township 8 South, Range 27 East, Chaves County, New
8	Mexico. We are asking for an effective date of October 1,
9	2003, for this order.
10	Q. And is it because Yates is requesting the
11	retroactive effective date that the Division set this case
12	for hearing?
13	A. It is my understanding that is the reason we
14	could not get this done administratively.
15	Q. Mr. Moran, this case was also advertised for an
16	exception to Division Rule 104.C.(2).(b), so that the
17	subject well, the Hanlad Number 2, could be completed as an
18	infill well in the same formation and in the same quarter
19	section as the original well on the unit. Is this well to
20	be completed in the Wolfcamp formation?
21	A. The Number 2 well will be completed in the
22	Wolfcamp formation.
23	Q. And where is the Number 1 well?

24

25

Strawn formation.

The Number 1 well is currently completed in the

1	Q. So we're not going to have two wells in one
2	formation?
3	A. Correct.
4	Q. And we can therefore request that the portion of
5	the case related to the exception to Division Rule
6	104.C.(2).(b) be dismissed; is that right?
7	A. Yes.
8	Q. Could you identify for the Examiner Yates
9	Petroleum Corporation Exhibit Number 1 and review this
10	exhibit for him?
11	A. Exhibit Number 1 is a nine-section plat centered
12	on Section 13 of Township 8 South, Range 27 East, Chaves
13	County, New Mexico. In Section 13 you will note that the
14	south half is bracketed in dark black. That is the spacing
15	unit for the existing wells that produce on a 320-acre
16	basis.
17	In the southwest quarter you will see two wells
18	under the crosshach. You will see a gas well at
19	approximately 660 feet from the south line and from the
20	west line. That is the Hanlad Number 1 well. And then the
21	dark circle approximately 1225 feet from the west line is
22	the Hanlad Number 2 well.
23	Q. The Hanlad Number 2 well is encroaching on the
24	south line of the section; is that right?
25	A. Yes, it is.

- Q. And who are the offset operators who could be affected by the encroachment of this well?
- A. The encroachment of the well encroaches on Section 24, which is a leasehold in both -- in Section 24, owned by Yates Petroleum Corporation; Yates Drilling Company; Myco Industries, Inc.; and -- Abo, Myco, Yates -- and Yates Petroleum. They're all Yates entities.
 - Q. So you're really on encroaching upon yourself?
 - A. Encroaching upon ourselves.

- Q. Let's go to what has been marked Yates Exhibit
 Number 2, and using this exhibit I would ask you to review
 for the Examiner the history of the Hanlad AKZ Well Number
 1.
- A. The Hanlad AKZ Number -- or Exhibit Number 1 is the -- or 2, is the original C-102 filed by the company that drilled the well, that being Rault Petroleum. Also attached to it is the order they obtained to drill, in 1982, the unorthodox location of 660-660. At that time it was -- a location 660 feet from the south and west was unorthodox. The rules have been changed. That would be an orthodox well today. But that well was drilled there. It was originally drilled to the Ordovician and completed back into the Strawn formation. There's correspondence with the Division attached to Exhibit 2 for history.

Yates Petroleum Corporation obtained the Hanlad

Number 1 well after the previous operator, or previous owners, let the lease expire. And Yates Petroleum Corporation and its partners bought the leasehold at auction and subsequently paid for the salvage value on the Number 1 well to the previous owners. And that is how we became the operator of the Hanlad Number 1.

- Q. Mr. Moran, this well was originally completed in the Pennsylvanian?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. This exhibit contains an administrative order, NSL-3309, where Yates got approval to complete this well in the Wolfcamp; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And then the last page in this exhibit is a copy of the sundry notice, which shows that in October of 2003, the well was once again recompleted in the Pennsylvanian of formation?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. All right, and that is the history on the well that -- I suspect that that is the reason there was concern that the first well in the unit was completed in the Wolfcamp formation, so that is provided as background information for the Division.

And now I would like, Mr. Moran, to go to Exhibit

Number 3 and review this information as it relates to the

10 well that is the subject of today's Application, the Number 1 2 well. 2 Exhibit Number 3 is our order for the unorthodox A. 3 location, Order Number R-9721, that we obtained in 1992 to 4 5 drill the Hanlad Number 2 well. That well was authorized for drilling at the unorthodox location pursuant to this 6 7 order. And if you will note in paragraph 1 of the order, 8 it was limited to the Ordovician formation only. That's on 9 page 3 of the order, under the number (1). 10 And is this well that you now seek approval of 11 Q. the unorthodox location to recomplete? 12 We are attempting to -- we have recompleted the 13 Α. well into the Wolfcamp formation at this time, and we need 14 15 authority to produce the well. What is the current status of the Number 2 well? Q. 16 17 The Number 2 well is currently shut in, pending Α.

A. The Number 2 well is currently shut in, pending obtaining approval to produce the well at an unorthodox location.

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- Q. And why do you need the retroactive effective date on this order?
- A. The retroactive date is necessary because this well was on the shut-in list and we were required by the OCD to either plug the well or bring it back into production. In complying with the OCD's request to bring

the well back into production, we went out there and worked on the well and completed in the Wolfcamp.

It was subsequently discovered, once we started trying to produce the well and test the well, that we did not have authority to produce it in the Wolfcamp formation. Those tests were occurring in October of '03, and we chose the October 1st date to cover any operations or production from out there during the process of bringing that well back into compliance with the Rules.

- Q. And when you discovered that the original order approving the location for the well was limited to the Ordovician, you shut the well in?
 - A. We shut the well in.

- Q. What does Yates plan to do with the wells on this spacing unit?
- A. Yates plans to produce them as long as possible, as economically possible, to obtain the most reserves out of them.
- Q. Has notice been provided of this Application to all affected interest owners as required by the Division?
- A. Yes, it has, and to the extent that all the interest owners are related entities they are all participants in the well, in the wells in the south. We did send notice to Yates Drilling; Myco Industries, Inc.; and Abo Petroleum Corporation and the State Land Office,

just to make sure we covered all bases. 1 When the administrative applications were filed 2 Q. -- and Exhibit Number 4 is a copy of the administrative 3 application -- no notice was required because you were only 4 encroaching on yourself; is that right? 5 A. Correct. 6 And when it was set for hearing, you filed --7 Q. just to be certain all bases were covered, you provided 8 notice to the Land Office and --9 A. Yes. 10 -- all Yates entities? 11 Q. In your opinion, will approval of the Application 12 be in the best interests of conservation, the prevention of 13 waste and the protection of correlative rights? 14 15 Yes, it will. Α. Will Yates call a geological witness to confirm 16 17 that the two wells on this unit will, in fact, be producing from separate horizons? 18 19 Α. Yes. Were Yates Exhibits 1 through 4 prepared by you 20 21 or compiled under your direction? 22 A. They were compiled under my direction. 23 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, at this

time we move the admission into evidence of Yates Petroleum

Corporation Exhibits 1 through 4.

24

1	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Exhibits 1 through 4 will be
2	admitted into evidence.
3	MR. CARR: And that concludes my examination of
4	Mr. Moran.
5	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: I think I will wait to ask my
6	questions with your second until your second testimony
7	so that any of them can answer at that time.
8	MR. CARR: Mr. Examiner, we would therefore at
9	this time call Tim Miller.
10	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Tim Miller.
11	TIM MILLER,
12	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
13	his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
14	DIRECT EXAMINATION
15	BY MR. CARR:
16	Q. Mr. Miller, would you state your full name for
17	the record?
18	A. My name is Tim Miller.
19	Q. Where do you reside?
20	A. I reside in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
21	Q. By whom are you employed?
22	A. Yates Petroleum Corporation.
23	Q. And what is your position with Yates Petroleum
24	Corporation?
25	A. I'm a petroleum geologist.

1	Q. Would you review your educational background and
2	work experience for Mr. Ezeanyim?
3	A. I graduated from Marietta College with a bachelor
4	of science in geology in 1975. In 1978 I graduated with a
5	BS in geology from West Texas State University in Canyon,
6	Texas. I have been employed by several companies in the
7	past, most recently with Yates Petroleum as a geologist in
8	Artesia for a little over 11 1/2 years.
9	Q. Does the geographic area of your responsibility
10	include the acreage which is involved in today's case?
11	A. Yes, it does.
12	Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
13	this matter?
14	A. Yes, I am.
15	MR. CARR: Mr. Ezeanyim, we tender Mr. Miller as
16	an expert in petroleum geology.
17	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Mr. Miller is so qualified.
18	Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Miller, there's been some
19	confusion as to exactly the intervals that each of these
20	wells will be completed in, producing from. Would you
21	refer to your Exhibit Number 5, the cross-section, and
22	confirm for the Examiner the intervals in each well that
23	will be produced?
24	A. Yes, if you look at the exhibit that is the
25	cross-section, this is a cross-section that is hung

Stratigraphically on top of the Wolfcamp. The Hanlad

Number 1, which is on the left side, the original operator

was Rault Petroleum Corporation, which they let the lease

expire so Yates Petroleum came in and re-leased the section

and took over the Hanlad Number 1.

The Hanlad Number 2 is the well on the right side of the cross-section.

There is an index map down in the bottom lower right of this cross-section to give you an idea where these wells are located in Section 13 of 8 South, 27 East. As you can see, the Hanlad Number 1 is on the left side, and the Hanlad Number 2 is to the southeast of the Number 1.

These two wells, as I've shown on this crosssection -- what I've done, I have labeled the top of the
Wolfcamp. Then moving down, you have the top of the Cisco,
which a lot of people would call also the top of the
Pennsylvanian formation. Then we have Strawn/Penn
clastics. The older terminology for this, when this well
was completed, is in the Penn clastics. We also call it
the Strawn formation.

Then in the Rault Petroleum Number 1 well, which is the Hanlad Number 1, you see there is Mississippian formation, and below that we have the Siluro-Devonian formation which is dolomite. Other people also call it the Ordovician. There's give and take back there. We have

drilled some wells near here to the west and drilled a full

-- and took a full core analysis through -- from the Strawn
down into what we call the Siluro-Devonian, and we have
determined through some paleoanalysis that we feel better
that the Ordovician leased up in this area should better be
called the Siluro-Devonian; that's why there might be a
discrepancy in the old data.

Anyway then, on the right is the Hanlad Number 2. Same thing, top of Wolfcamp, the Cisco, Strawn/Penn clastics. This well does not have any Mississippian formation; you go directly from the Strawn into the Siluro-Devonian dolomite.

Now, to show where the discrepancies are on the two wells producing from separate formations, the Hanlad Number (1,) the well on the left-hand side of the cross-section, what is colored in orange is the perforations in the Strawn-Penn clastics. And this well, from June of 1983 up until March of '04 has produced 509 million cubic feet of gas, 352 barrels of oil and 984 barrels of water.

The Hanlad Number 2, it originally produced down in what we call the <u>Siluro-Devonian</u>. We see that down around 6400 feet, the orange perforations. It cum'd 486 million cubic feet of gas, or I should say -- yes, 1163 barrels of oil, and 30,470 barrels of water.

In October of last year we decided to move up and

test the Wolfcamp, and you see those perfs up towards the 1 top where the Wolfcamp is labeled in orange. And when we 2 were producing it, it had accumulated, so far, until we 3 shut it in, 4.8 million, 14 barrels of oil and 4480 barrels 4 5 of water. 6 As you can see, both wells, they are distinctly producing from two separate geological-age formations. 7 The Hanlad 8 They are not producing out of the Wolfcamp. 9 Number 1 is producing out of the Strawn/Penn clastics, and 10 the Hanlad Number 2 is producing up in the Wolfcamp. 11 Q. Mr. Miller, was Exhibit 5 prepared by you? 12 Α. Yes, it was. 13 MR. CARR: Mr. Ezeanyim, we move the admission 14 into evidence of Yates Exhibit Number 5. 15 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Exhibit Number 5 will be admitted into evidence. 16 17 MR. CARR: That concludes my examination of Mr. Miller. 18 19 EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Gail, any questions? 20 (Off the record) 21 **EXAMINATION** 22 BY EXAMINER EZEANYIM: 23 All right, the questions I'm going to be asking, I don't know who's going to answer them, but the two 24 25 witnesses, you know, can answer. If you can't answer them,

maybe the other witness can answer that. 1 First of all, let's go to -- you dismissed one of 2 3 the things you are seeking for today. You dismissed that exception to Rule 104.C.(2).(b). 4 5 Α. (By Mr. Moran) Yes, as to the Strawn formation, 6 so we're not asking for simultaneous dedication. So you are asking only the --7 Q. (By Mr. Moran) Only for the Wolfcamp. 8 A. 9 Q. Wolfcamp. 10 Α. (By Mr. Moran) And we already have the 11 Ordovician in the previous order. 12 Q. The other, you're talking about this R-9721? (By Mr. Moran) The original order. I don't 13 Α. recall the number, but the original order. 14 Okay. So your only interest now is the Wolfcamp, 15 Q. 16 right? 17 A. (By Mr. Moran) Correct. 18 Q. Before I go to other questions, effective date. 19 You testified about -- I know you are standing there -- you 20 testified about an effective date, October, 2003; is that 21 right? 22 (By Mr. Moran) Right. The reason for that was 23 because this well was shut in at the time. It was on the 24 list requested by the OCD to take action with the well. 25 brought that well back into -- we were out conducting the

operations to bring the well back into compliance, and we recompleted in the Wolfcamp and we were producing that. At that time we learned that the order we had for that well will not cover the Wolfcamp formation, and so we immediately shut it in and filed for an administrative application.

The date of October 1st is to go back and catch any production that occurred when we were out there conducting operations pursuant to bringing the well back into compliance with the other rules.

- Q. So you are saying that if that request is denied you would be in violation of the rules. Is that why you want to make it retroactive to --
 - A. (By Mr. Moran) Yes.
 - Q. -- October 1?

I know you mentioned this Order R-9721 here. Did you -- somebody testified that on the west -- on the north half -- let me see -- north half of Section 24, BHP Petroleum -- don't they have any interest in there?

- A. (By Mr. Moran) Those leases also expired, and Yates Petroleum Corporation and the other Yates entities purchased those leases.
 - Q. So you acquired the interest of BHP in that --
- A. (By Mr. Moran) Well, no, the wells were plugged, and those leases were subsequently sold at auction by the

1	State Land Office, and we were the purchasers of those
2	leases.
3	Q. So you represent interest in that
4	A. (By Mr. Moran) In the south half, those are the
5	tougher wells.
6	Q. Okay, because when I look at Order R-9721 I know
7	that BHP properties has some interest there.
8	A. (By Mr. Moran) They originally did. They
9	drilled the well down in Section 24, the Puffer, that if
10	you will look on the plat you will see that they were shown
11	to be plugged and abandoned. Yates Petroleum Corporation,
12	I believe, has subsequently gone in and re-entered those
13	wells, have we not?
14	MR. MILLER: Well, we've gone in and re-entered
15	the second one
16	MR. MORAN: The second one.
17	MR. MILLER: the southwest quarter.
18	MR. MORAN: Okay.
19	MR. MILLER: And the first one is still plugged
20	and abandoned.
21	MR. MORAN: We've got plans to try that too.
22	MR. MILLER: Yes.
23	Q. (By Examiner Ezeanyim) So essentially you own
24	100-percent in that?
25	A. (By Mr. Moran) Yes.

1	Q. And therefore there's no need for any notice
2	requirement in this case?
3	A. (By Mr. Moran) Correct.
4	A. (By Mr. Miller) Correct.
5	Q. The well you're talking about, what formation are
6	you in now? I know you want to go to the Wolfcamp, your
7	primary target. Where are you right now? You are in the
8	Pennsylvanian?
9	A. (By Mr. Miller) No, the Hanlad Number 2 is
10	right now is not producing at all.
11	Q. You shut it in?
12	A. (By Mr. Miller) We shut it in, because
13	basically, it did produce out of what's called the
14	Ordovician, and it produced almost half a BCF before it
15	depleted, so that's why it was shut in originally. And
16	then we decided the order about the State telling us to
17	do something or lose the well, we found out that there were
18	some interesting intervals up in the Wolfcamp, and we went
19	in there and perforated and acidized them, and we'll have a
20	pretty decent well if we're allowed to produce it.
21	So right now it's not doing anything.
22	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Okay. Do you have any
23	questions?
24	MS. MacQUESTEN: I had a couple of questions, and
25	I don't know whether they're for Mr. Moran or Mr. Carr, but

I understand you're asking for the order to have 1 retroactive because you were requested or directed to bring 2 the well into compliance with, I assume, 201? 3 Yes, that's right. MR. CARR: 4 MS. MacQUESTEN: Was that a formal order or some 5 6 other --MR. MORAN: It was --7 MR. CARR: It was on the list. 8 MR. MORAN: We had a list, working list, of all 9 the wells that we were working to bring back into 10 compliance. This is one of the last ones on the list that 11 we were bringing back into compliance pursuant to the list 12 and agreement we had with the OCD to bring all our wells 13 back into compliance. 14 15 MS. MacQUESTEN: Was this an informal agreement or an agreement issued after a hearing? 16 MR. CARR: We had a list of wells presented to us 17 by the Division. We met with the Division, we entered a 18 19 stipulated compliance order, I think is what it was called, 20 and where we agreed to bring the wells on the list, so many 21 per month, until all of them were in compliance. 22 This was one of the later ones, and when they got out and were working on the well and testing the Wolfcamp 23 they discovered that the original order approving the 24

the first part of

unorthodox location was expressly limited to one horizon.

The reason for the delay is partially that what 1 we did was, we filed an administrative application seeking 2 authorization in all horizons for the well, and Mr. Stogner 3 kicked that back, saying that that would create a number of 4 problems. 5 And so we dismissed that case, filed a second 6 Application. And then because I found an administrative 7 order in the Wolfcamp -- I've included that -- only to 8 discover that in this well they had never gone down -- that 9 10 they had gone back to the Penn. 11 MR. MORAN: The Penn in that well. MR. CARR: But in any event, there were 12 confusions in both of them. And I talked to Mr. Stogner, 13 and he suggested because of the retroactive effective date 14 he thought we ought to put the whole history out before the 15 Division and come to hearing on this one. 16 17 MS. MacQUESTEN: Was this an agreed compliance order entered into negotiated with Mr. Brooks? 18 MR. CARR: Yes, it was. Yes, it was. 19 MS. MacQUESTEN: Is he aware of this action? 20 Does he feel that --21 MR. CARR: I have no idea. The well is no longer 22 on the list because we've got it in a posture where it's 23 capable of production. 24

Thank you.

MS. MacQUESTEN:

1	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: So actually this case was
2	sent to hearing because we couldn't approve the retroactive
3	date?
4	MR. CARR: That was the feeling, yes, and we just
5	want to pick up the production back at the time it was
6	being recompleted and tested.
7	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Nothing further, you may be
8	excused.
9	MR. CARR: That concludes our presentation.
10	EXAMINER EZEANYIM: Now I will take Case Number
11	13,229 under advisement.
12	(Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
13	9:59 a.m.)
14	* * *
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17	i do her buy to not the foregoing is a complete busines in proceedings in
18	the Examiner hearing of Case No. 13227 heard by me on 9 (11)
19	Exeminer .
20	Cil Conservation Division
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Section 1995

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 September 19th, 2004.

STEVEN T. BRENNER

CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 16th, 2006