

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

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

APPLICATION OF CIMAREX ENERGY CO. FOR  
COMPULSORY POOLING, EDDY COUNTY, NEW  
MEXICO.

Case No. 14,682

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**RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO RE-OPEN**

Cimarex Energy Co. ("Cimarex") submits this response in opposition to the motion to re-open these cases filed by COG Operating LLC ("COG"), and states.

1. Cimarex owns 62.5% of the working interest in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 32, Township 18 South, Range 26 East, N.M.P.M., and another 12.5% of the working interest has executed Cimarex's JOA in that acreage.

2. Cimarex proposes to (initially) drill vertical four wells in the quarter section. These wells are the subject of the above cases.

3. COG and a related entity (Concho Oil & Gas LLC) own 25% of the (unleased) mineral interest in the NW¼ of Section 32. Cimarex proposed the four wells to COG on April 8, 2011. **See Exhibit 1 (the verified statement of the landman) submitted in each case.**

4. After receiving no response from COG on its well proposals for 2-1/2 months, Cimarex filed the pooling applications and timely notified COG of the applications. **Exhibit A.** COG never filed an entry of appearance or objected to the applications before the hearings.

5. COG seeks to re-open the cases based on (i) mistake in not responding to the pooling applications, and (ii) an allegation that horizontal drilling is the better way to develop Section 32.

6. This is not a case where the applicant mailed notice to the wrong address, or where the pertinent personnel did not receive the notice of hearing. COG received notice and simply didn't respond. Unilateral mistake is not a reason to re-open these cases.

7. Likewise, the alleged superiority of horizontal drilling is without merit. COG has attached no data supporting its allegation of the need for horizontal drilling.<sup>1</sup> In any event, COG is free to propose and drill two laydown horizontal wells in the S½ of Section 32, where Cimarex owns no interest.<sup>2</sup> Cimarex does not want to participate in expensive horizontal wells which produce less reserves than vertical wells.

8. Finally, Cimarex will be prejudiced if the cases are re-opened. First, Cimarex has obtained and paid for a surface use agreement with the surface owner. **Exhibit B.** Second, these wells were scheduled for drilling in early September, and may have to be delayed if the cases are re-opened.

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<sup>1</sup> In fact, Cimarex can show that its vertical drilling results in the Yeso are superior to horizontal drilling.

<sup>2</sup> Cimarex also owns 100% of the working interest in the NE¼ of Section 32, has permitted 4 vertical wells in that quarter section, and has constructed its first location.

9. COG has not shown any harm that will occur to it from denying its motion, and issuing orders in these cases. There must be finality in cases such as this where the applicant has followed all of the Division's requirements.

WHEREFORE, Cimarex requests that the motion to re-open be denied.

Respectfully submitted,



James Bruce  
Post Office Box 1056  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504  
(505) 982-2043

Attorney for Cimarex Energy Co.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing pleading was served upon the following counsel of record this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2011 by facsimile transmission:

Ocean Munds-Dry  
Holland & Hart LLP  
P.O. Box 2208  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504  
fax: (505) 982-6043



James Bruce

**JAMES BRUCE**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

POST OFFICE BOX 1056  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504

369 MONTEZUMA, NO. 213  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

(505) 982-2043 (Phone)  
(505) 660-6612 (Cell)  
(505) 982-2151 (Fax)

[jamesbruc@aol.com](mailto:jamesbruc@aol.com)

June 16, 2011

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

To: Persons on Exhibit A

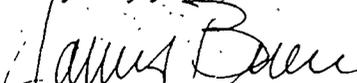
Ladies and gentlemen:

Enclosed are copies of four applications for compulsory pooling, filed with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division by Cimarex Energy Co., regarding the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 32, Township 18 South, Range 26 East, N.M.P.M., Eddy County, New Mexico.

These matters are scheduled for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, July 7, 2011, in Porter Hall at the Division's offices at 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505. You are not required to attend these hearings, but as a possible owner of an interest which may be affected by the applications, you may appear and present testimony. Failure to appear at that time and become a party of record will preclude you from contesting these matters at a later date.

A party appearing in a Division case is required by Division Rules to file a Pre-Hearing Statement no later than Thursday, June 30, 2011. This statement must be filed with the Division's Santa Fe office at the above address, and should include: The names of the party and its attorney; a concise statement of the case; the names of the witnesses the party will call to testify at the hearing; the approximate time the party will need to present its case; and identification of any procedural matters that need to be resolved prior to the hearing. The Pre-Hearing Statement must also be provided to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

  
James Bruce

Attorney for Cimarex Energy Co.

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

COG Operating LLC  
Concho Oil & Gas LLC  
Suite 100  
550 West Texas  
Midland, Texas 79701

**U.S. Postal Service™**  
**CERTIFIED MAIL™ RECEIPT**  
*(Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)*

For delivery information visit our website at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

**OFFICIAL USE**

0469 2985 0000 041T 8002

Postage	\$ 1.28
Certified Fee	\$ 2.85
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	\$ 2.30
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Postage &amp; Fees</b>	<b>\$ 6.43</b>



Sent To COG Operating LLC  
Concho Oil & Gas LLC  
 Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No. Suite 100  
 City, State, ZIP+4 550 West Texas  
Midland, Texas 79701

PS Form 3800, August 2006 See Reverse for Instructions

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> </ul>	<p>A. Signature <u>[Signature]</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Addressee</p> <p>B. Received by (Printed Name) <u>[Signature]</u> C. Date of Delivery <u>6-20</u></p> <p>D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No          If YES, enter delivery address below:</p>
<p>1. Article Addressed to:</p> <p><u>COG Operating LLC</u>  <u>Concho Oil &amp; Gas LLC</u>  <u>Suite 100</u>  <u>550 West Texas</u>  <u>Midland, Texas 79701</u></p>	<p>3. Service Type</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D.</p>
<p>2. Article Number          (Transfer from service label) <u>7008 1140 0003 5862 6940</u></p>	<p>4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>



2.2) If the well is a dry hole, Grantee shall remove the caliche pad and redistribute the topsoil over the drill site location and restore the surface of the Land as near as is reasonably possible to its condition prior to drilling operations, which shall include reseeded the entire drill site location with ten (10) times the recommended seeding quantity of five pure live seed (5 PLS) pounds per acre of Sideoats Grama seed.

**Freshwater Pit Stations:**

3.) Grantee shall pay Grantor the cash sum of [REDACTED] Dollars [REDACTED] for each freshwater pit station that Grantee constructs on the Land. This amount shall represent surface damages for constructing, erecting, installing, operating, maintaining, inspecting, using, replacing, repairing, moving on and removing from the Land a freshwater pit station and any equipment needed to operate same, including structures of whatever kind, machinery, engines, pumps, equipment, appliances, facilities, meters, pipes, lines, regulators, fittings, valves and any other structure as may be necessary to operate a freshwater pit station. Grantee shall consult with Grantor as to the location of the freshwater pit station prior to staking and surveying same.

4.) Grantee shall stockpile, adjacent to the location of the freshwater pit station, all soil that has been excavated during the digging of the pit, and shall line the pit with material of sufficient thickness to prevent the escape of water on or into the Land. Upon written request of Grantor, Grantee shall fence-off the entire location, including the pit, areas where caliche has been laid, roads built around the pit, tank batteries and any equipment that has been placed on the location of the pit station. Within six (6) months after Grantee no longer uses the freshwater pit station, Grantee shall remove all structures and equipment associated with same and level the surface of the Land, and restore the surface of the Land as near as reasonably possible to its condition prior to construction of the freshwater pit station, which shall include reseeded the location of the freshwater pit station with ten (10) times the recommended seeding quantity of five pure live seed (5 PLS) pounds per acre of Sideoats Grama seed.

**Saltwater Injection Wells:**

5.) Grantee shall pay Grantor the cash sum of [REDACTED] cents [REDACTED] per barrel for disposing of oil field produced water from wells not located on the Land. Grantee shall not be required to pay or compensate Grantor for disposing of oil field produced water from its wells located on the Land.

**New Road Construction:**

6.) Grantee shall pay Grantor the cash sum of [REDACTED] Dollars [REDACTED] per rod for any new road constructed by Grantee on the Land. New roads constructed by Grantee shall not exceed twenty feet (20') in width. Grantee will be responsible for maintaining new roads and shall not allow its vehicles to enlarge the margin of said roads. Grantee shall consult with Grantor as to the placement and route of any such road before construction is underway; however, Grantor shall be reasonable in its location. Grantee shall have the right to use any existing road located on the Land but must obtain Grantor's permission before utilizing same. If necessary, Grantee shall upgrade any existing road in need of repair before utilizing same. Grantee shall not be required to pay Grantor for its use of any existing roads.

7.) If any fence located on the Land is cut as a result of Grantee constructing a new road, Grantee shall properly brace same before cutting and, upon written request of Grantor, shall install and maintain a cattle guard across the cut section of fence with a pipe gate capable of being locked.

8.) When Grantee no longer uses a road, or portion thereof, to access its wells located on the Land, Grantee shall, upon written request of Grantor, remove the materials utilized to construct the road and restore the surface of the Land as near as reasonably possible to its condition prior to the construction of same, which shall

including reseeding the reclaimed portion of the road with ten (10) times the recommended seeding quantity of five pure live seed (5 PLS) pounds per acre of Sideoats Grama seed.

**Pipelines:**

9.) Grantee shall pay Grantor the cash sum of [REDACTED] Dollars [REDACTED] per rod for any permanent pipeline, eight inches (8") or larger in diameter, that Grantee installs on the Land. Any such permanent pipeline installed by Grantee on the Land shall be buried below ordinary plow depth or twenty-three inches (23"), whichever is the shallower depth.

10.) Grantee shall not be required to pay or compensate Grantor for temporary lines, including, but not limited to, production lines, flow lines and water lines that are smaller than eight inches (8") in diameter. Grantee shall not be required to bury temporary lines. Grantee shall place all temporary lines directly adjacent to and alongside of roads.

**Power Lines:**

11.) Grantee shall pay Grantor the cash sum of [REDACTED] Dollars [REDACTED] per hole for each hole drilled or dug on the Land for the installation of electrical poles used to support power lines. Power lines shall be installed as close to roads as reasonably possible without interfering with Grantee's operations.

**Purchased Materials:**

12.) Grantee has the option to purchase sand and topsoil owned by Grantor for the construction, modification or remediation of drill site locations and access roads located on the Land at a rate of [REDACTED] Dollars [REDACTED] per cubic yard.

13.) Grantee has the option to purchase fresh water produced from Grantor's water well for its drilling and completion operations at a rate of [REDACTED] Cents [REDACTED] per barrel, provided that Grantor's water well is capable of producing the quantity and quality of freshwater required by Grantee for its operations. Grantee must obtain Grantor's permission before using any existing water well located on the Land. Grantee shall furnish all equipment needed to operate and accurately meter the water well and shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from the governmental agency having jurisdiction over same. Grantee shall be entitled to recoup from its water use, on a basis of [REDACTED] Cents [REDACTED] per barrel, the costs incurred by Grantee to drill, equip and run water lines from the well before being required to purchase water from Grantor. The terms of this paragraph shall also apply to any new water well drilled by Grantee on the Land. Grantor shall have the right to takeover for its own personal use any water well that is no longer being used by Grantee. In the event Grantor should choose to take over a water well, Grantee shall assist in filing any paperwork required by the governmental agency having jurisdiction over same to evidence Grantor's use and ownership of any such well. Grantor shall be solely responsible for any such well upon taking over same.

**Equipment Removal and Restoration:**

14.) If any well located on the Land is plugged and abandoned, Grantee shall, within six (6) months thereof, remove any and all equipment used directly or indirectly by Grantee as it pertains to the abandoned well and shall thereafter restore the site as near a reasonably possible to its original condition.

**Indemnification:**

15.) Grantee shall be solely responsible and liable for any harm or injuries caused to persons or property as a result of Grantee's operations, and shall indemnify and hold

Grantor and their trustees, officers, employees and agents harmless from and against any and all claims, charges, assessments, damages, expenses, fines or penalties incurred in defense of Grantor as a result of Grantee's operations; provided, however that nothing herein shall be construed to require or obligate Grantee to indemnify Grantor against, or hold Grantor harmless from Grantor's own negligent acts or omissions. Further, Grantee shall indemnify and save Grantor and his trustees, officers, employees and agents harmless from any and all damages, cleanup expenses, fines, or penalties, resulting from a fire or any violation of, or non-compliance with, applicable local, state, or federal laws and regulations resulting from Grantee's operations.

**Grantee's Rights:**

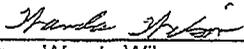
16.) Notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary, this Agreement is made without prejudice as to the rights of Grantee pursuant to any existing Oil, Gas and Mineral Lease or other agreement covering the Land and nothing herein shall be construed to lessen or alter Grantee's rights under any such Oil, Gas and Mineral Lease or agreement.

THIS AGREEMENT shall be binding on the party's successors, assigns, agents and representatives. Grantee's agents and/or independent contractors who enter onto the Land shall comply with the terms and conditions set forth herein. The covenants hereunder shall be performable in Eddy County, New Mexico.

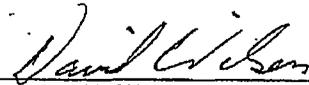
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is executed the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2011.

**Grantors:**

Wanda Wilson

  
By: Wanda Wilson

David Wilson

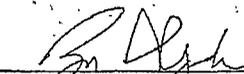
  
By: David Wilson

Diana Wilson

  
By: Diana Wilson

**Grantee:**

Cimarex Energy Co.

  
By: Roger Alexander, Attorney-in-Fact