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PAUL BACA PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTERS 500 FOURTH STREET NW - SUITE 105, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

- 1 A. My name is David Michael Wallace. I work for
- 2 COG Operating, LLC as a landman.
- 3 Q. Have you previously testified before the
- 4 Division?
- 5 A. I have.
- 6 O. Were your credentials as a petroleum landman
- 7 accepted and made a matter of record?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Are you familiar with the application that's
- 10 been filed in this case?
- 11 A. Yes, I am.
- 12 O. And are you familiar with the status of the
- 13 lands in the subject area?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 MS. KESSLER: Mr. Examiner, I would tender
- 16 Mr. Wallace as an expert in petroleum land matters.
- 17 MR. BRUCE: I have no objection.
- 18 EXAMINER McMILLAN: So qualified.
- 19 Q. (BY MS. KESSLER) Mr. Wallace, I'd ask you to
- 20 look at Exhibit 1. Would you please identify this
- 21 exhibit, and please tell us what COG seeks under this
- 22 application?
- A. This is the C-102 plat for our Rojo AE 7811
- 24 JV-P Fed Com #1H well. It seeks to create a 280-acre
- 25 nonstandard spacing unit consisting of the west

- 1 half-west half of Section 27, the west half of the
- 2 northwest quarter of Section 34, the northwest of the
- 3 southwest quarter of Section 34, 25 South, 33 East, Lea
- 4 County, New Mexico.
- 5 O. And do you seek to pool the uncommitted
- 6 interests in the Bone Spring Formation?
- 7 A. Yes, we do.
- 8 O. Has an APD been approved for this well?
- 9 A. Yes, it has.
- 10 Q. Is the API number reflected in the C-102?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And has the Division designated a pool code for
- 13 this well?
- 14 A. Yes. It's the Red Hills Upper Bone Spring
- 15 Shale, Pool Code 97900.
- Q. Will COG be the contract operator of this well?
- 17 A. Yes, they will.
- 18 Q. And is that pursuant to a development agreement
- 19 with BTA?
- 20 A. That is correct.
- O. What is the character of these lands?
- 22 A. They are federal.
- 23 Q. And is the pool governed by Division statewide
- 24 rules?
- 25 A. Yes, they are.

- 1 Q. And the 330 setbacks will apply?
- 2 A. That is correct.
- 3 Q. Are they any depth severances in this pool?
- 4 A. No, there are not.
- 5 Q. Can you please explain why COG is seeking an
- 6 approval of a nonstandard project area?
- 7 A. Under our development agreement with BTA, we're
- 8 obligated to drill this well that consists of solely the
- 9 acreage that we are subject to that development
- 10 agreement with BTA.
- 11 Q. So that would be a mile-and-three-quarter mile
- 12 lateral; is that correct?
- 13 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 14 Q. Okay. Does COG have plans to drill a stand-up
- 15 well that would be in the west half-west half of Section
- 16 3 and the southwest quarter-southwest quarter of Section
- 17 34?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. So the southwest quarter-southwest quarter of
- 20 Section 34 will not be stranded; is that correct?
- 21 A. That is correct.
- Q. What is the status of that well?
- 23 A. We have proceeded to stake the well in the
- 24 southwest-southwest of Section 3. We have some surface
- 25 obstructions there, so we are now proceeding to stake

- 1 the well in the southwest-southwest quarter of Section
- 2 34.
- Q. And that is underway with the BLM; is that
- 4 correct?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 O. What is Exhibit 2?
- 7 A. Exhibit 2 is a map of the tracts in the spacing
- 8 unit, shows the interest of the parties in each tract.
- 9 The recap at the end shows the uncommitted party in the
- 10 spacing unit.
- 11 Q. The only uncommitted party is EOG Resources; is
- 12 that correct?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- Q. And they're a working interest in this well?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Is Exhibit 3 a copy of the well-proposal letter
- 17 that you sent to EOG?
- 18 A. That is correct.
- 19 Q. On what date was this letter sent?
- 20 A. July 28th, 2016.
- 21 O. And did it include an AFE?
- 22 A. Yes, it did.
- 23 O. Are the costs reflected on this AFE consistent
- 24 with what COG has incurred for drilling similar
- 25 horizontal wells in the area?

- 1 A. Yes, that is correct.
- Q. And are you in the process of negotiating an
- 3 agreement with EOG related to this acreage?
- A. Yes, we are. We're negotiating an acreage
- 5 trade at this time. We just don't have anything signed
- 6 yet.
- 7 Q. So there is no agreement that's been reached?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. And you have a drilling deadline coming up; is
- 10 that correct?
- 11 A. Yes. We have a deadline of 60 days after
- 12 receipt of the APD, and we received it a couple of weeks
- 13 ago.
- 14 Q. Okay. So you're proceeding with force pooling
- 15 EOG; is that correct?
- 16 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 17 Q. Will you notify the Division if a trade is
- 18 reached?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Have you estimated overhead and administrative
- 21 costs while drilling and producing this well?
- 22 A. Yes, we have.
- Q. What are those costs?
- A. 7,000 per month for drilling and 700 per month
- 25 for producing.

- 1 O. And are those costs in line with what COG and
- 2 operators in the area charge for similar wells?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 O. Do you ask that those administrative and
- 5 overhead costs be incorporated into any order resulting
- 6 from this hearing?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And do you ask that it be adjusted in
- 9 accordance with the appropriate accounting procedures?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. With respect to EOG, the uncommitted working
- 12 interest owner, do you request that the Division impose
- 13 a 200 percent risk penalty?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Did COG notify the interest owners in the
- 16 southwest quarter-southwest quarter of Section 34 of
- 17 this hearing and COG's request for a nonstandard project
- 18 area?
- 19 A. Yes, we did.
- 20 Q. Did you also notify the offset operators of the
- 21 40-acre tract surrounding the spacing unit?
- 22 A. Yes, we did.
- Q. And did you also notify EOG?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. WAS Exhibit 4, the Affidavit of Publication,

- 1 directed to the parties for whom green cards were not
- 2 returned?
- 3 A. That is correct.
- 4 O. And is Exhibit 5 an affidavit from my office
- 5 with attached letters providing notice of this hearing
- 6 to the parties we previously discussed?
- 7 A. That is correct.
- 8 O. Were Exhibits 1 through 4 prepared by you or
- 9 compiled under your direction and supervision?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 MS. KESSLER: Mr. Examiners, I'd move
- 12 admission of Exhibits 1 through 5.
- MR. BRUCE: No objection.
- 14 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Exhibits 1 through 5
- 15 may now be accepted as part of the record.
- 16 (COG Operating, LLC Exhibit Numbers 1
- through 5 are offered and admitted into
- 18 evidence.)
- 19 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 20 BY EXAMINER McMILLAN:
- 21 Q. Okay. So are all quarter-quarter sections
- 22 expected to equally contribute to the oil production?
- 23 A. I'm not qualified to answer that.
- Q. Okay. Okay. Then my question now is going to
- 25 Exhibit 4.

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- 1 A. Okay.
- 2 EXAMINER BROOKS: We need to give Mr. Bruce
- 3 a chance --
- 4 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Oh.
- 5 Did you have any questions?
- 6 MR. BRUCE: Yeah. I had a few.
- 7 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Go ahead.
- 8 MS. KESSLER: I'd object to Mr. Bruce
- 9 asking any questions. He didn't file a pre-hearing
- 10 statement, so he's not entitled --
- 11 MR. BRUCE: I disagree with you. I filed
- 12 an entry of appearance. You only have to file a
- 13 pre-hearing statement if you're presenting witnesses.
- 14 EXAMINER BROOKS: Well, my view is that the
- 15 exclusionary provision about pre-hearing statements only
- 16 applies in Commission hearings anyway. I think it's
- 17 limited that way.
- 18 So you may proceed.
- 19 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 20 BY MR. BRUCE:
- Q. Just a few, Mr. Wallace.
- 22 Did I understand you to say that COG's
- 23 agreement with BTA requires you to have a well unit
- 24 which only includes lands that are the subject of that
- 25 agreement?

- 1 A. The agreement -- there's earning language in
- 2 the agreement which provides that by drilling this, we
- 3 will earn the rest of the acreage in the agreement.
- 4 Q. I guess what I'm asking is why -- is there any
- 5 prohibition to including the southwest-southwest of
- 6 Section 34 in this well unit?
- 7 A. There's not, necessarily. Complications
- 8 associated with the contractual agreements -- the
- 9 southwest-southwest of 34 has its own contractural
- 10 agreements with multiple partners. We've got our
- 11 contractual agreement with BTA that complicates the
- 12 matter considerably with a deadline to drill that well.
- 13 That 40 will be -- we will drill that 40 from the south
- 14 with an extended lateral.
- Q. And you understand -- I'm sure you know that my
- 16 client, RSC, owns an interest in the southwest-southwest
- 17 of Section 34.
- 18 A. Yes, I do.
- 19 Q. Along that line and just so you're aware,
- 20 Mr. Cates, the owner of RSC, informed me that he's not
- 21 necessarily against COG in this case. He just wants his
- 22 acreage drilled.
- 23 A. Okay.
- Q. And I think he's had contact with COG about
- 25 this.

- 1 A. He has. He's one of our partners.
- Q. My question is this. In looking at Exhibit 1,
- 3 the bottom-hole location is severely unorthodox. Are
- 4 you seeking to produce that close to the southwest-
- 5 southwest of Section 34?
- 6 A. Our take point -- our last take point will be
- 7 within standard setbacks.
- 8 Q. Okay. Well, I mean, I'm just -- just asking.
- 9 A. Okay.
- 10 Q. I don't see that -- I don't see -- I just
- 11 wondered why the bottom-hole location was that far
- 12 south.
- 13 And I think just one more, Mr. Wallace.
- 14 You said you would include the southwest-southwest of 34
- 15 with the west half-west half of Section 3 to the south?
- 16 A. That is correct.
- 17 Q. For a Wolfcamp well?
- 18 A. I'm not quite sure, actually. I think it is
- 19 Wolfcamp.
- 20 Q. Thanks, Mr. Wallace.
- 21 MS. KESSLER: May I have a brief redirect,
- 22 please?
- 23 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Yeah.

24

25

1 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

- 2 BY MS. KESSLER:
- O. Mr. Wallace, if you could look at Exhibit 1.
- 4 Is the last take point reflected by the letters "LTP"?
- 5 A. Last take point is LTP, yes, 1,650 from the
- 6 south line.
- 7 O. So that would be considered orthodox; is that
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. And just to clarify, this is a Bone
- 11 Spring well, correct?
- 12 A. That is correct.
- MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd just point
- 14 out that the notice for -- the published notice is for a
- 15 Wolfcamp well.
- 16 EXAMINER McMILLAN: Thank you.
- 17 My question is more or less along the same
- 18 lines. I'm looking at your Notice of Publication.
- 19 Okay?
- 20 EXAMINER BROOKS: Which exhibit is that?
- 21 EXAMINER McMILLAN: That would Exhibit 4,
- 22 Case Number 15605, if you go gown down to number two
- 23 approving. And go down to "pooling all mineral interest
- in the Wolfcamp Formation," yet your testimony says
- 25 "Bone Spring."

- 1 MS. KESSLER: That's correct, Mr. Examiner.
- 2 We'll just need to re-publish with "Bone Spring."
- 3 MR. BRUCE: The application filed in this
- 4 matter also says "Wolfcamp."
- 5 EXAMINER BROOKS: Well, it would appear to
- 6 me that we would have to -- if the application says
- 7 "Wolfcamp" and we're now asking for Bone Spring, that we
- 8 would have to continue it until a day -- at least 30
- 9 days --
- 10 MR. BRUCE: And I'm not objecting to them
- 11 presenting their evidence. I'm just pointing it out.
- 12 EXAMINER BROOKS: Well, I suppose 20 days
- 13 would be sufficient because -- well, the 30-day notice
- 14 is only for filing and doesn't provide any notice
- 15 anyway. So as long as the person has 20 days' notice of
- 16 the application that, should be sufficient, but that
- 17 would require -- well, let's see. It could be continued
- 18 to the 5th. That's actually three weeks.
- MR. BRUCE: 21 days.
- 20 MS. KESSLER: All right.
- 21 EXAMINER BROOKS: 21 days.
- 22 Are you through, Mr. Bruce?
- 23 MR. BRUCE: Yeah, I'm through. Sorry about
- 24 that.
- 25 EXAMINER BROOKS: Did you have any more

- 1 questions, or did you want me to go first?
- 2 EXAMINER McMILLAN: No.
- 3 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 4 BY EXAMINER BROOKS:
- 5 O. Okay. I had a couple of questions here. You
- 6 may have explained this, but all of this went very fast
- 7 and I'm not sure. I didn't get it all.
- 8 On Exhibit Number 2, second page, you have
- 9 "Tract 1, the west half-west half of Section 27 and
- 10 Tract 2, the east half of the southeast quarter of
- 11 Section 34." I don't know -- I didn't understand what
- 12 the east half of the southeast quarter has to do with --
- 13 A. That's a typo. That's my fault.
- 14 Q. Okay. Were you actually talking about the west
- 15 half of the northwest quarter of Section 34?
- 16 A. That's correct. I used this form from another
- 17 well, and it -- I neglected to change that. My error.
- 18 Q. Okay. So Tract 2 is actually the west half of
- 19 the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the
- 20 southwest quarter of Section 34; is that correct?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. And that's --
- 23 A. What is reflected in the unit recap, yes.
- 24 O. Yeah. That's 120 acres?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Okay. Is the math correct on that basis?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Of the recapitulation?
- 4 A. Yes, it is.
- 5 Q. Okay. So EOG is the only party you're force
- 6 pooling?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 O. Okay. The advertisement in this case -- let's
- 9 see. This is Case 15605. The advertisement of this
- 10 case says "also to be considered will be designation of
- 11 COG Operating, LLC as the contract operator of the well
- 12 for BTA Oil Producers." What is the situation there?
- 13 Explain that to me.
- 14 A. We have a development agreement with BTA
- 15 covering multiple sections wherein we have a contract
- 16 operating agreement built into it. So we become the
- 17 contract operator under BTA, but they remain as
- 18 operator. We go in and drill certain wells on their
- 19 acreage and earn into their acreage.
- 20 Q. Okay. So you -- the -- the interest that COG
- 21 has, that's not been earned yet? It will be earned by
- 22 drilling this well. Is that what you're telling me?
- 23 A. That is correct, upon completion, yes.
- Q. Very good. Thank you.
- 25 EXAMINER BROOKS: Did you have any further

- 1 questions, Mike?
- 2 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 3 BY EXAMINER MCMILLAN:
- 4 O. Any unlocatable interests?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 O. I have no further questions.
- 7 A. Thank you.
- 8 MS. KESSLER: Call our next witness.
- JOHN BERTALOTT,
- 10 after having been previously sworn under oath, was
- 11 questioned and testified as follows:
- 12 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MS. KESSLER:
- 14 Q. Please state your name for the record and tell
- 15 the Examiners by whom you are employed and in what
- 16 capacity.
- 17 A. My name is John Bertalott, and I'm a geologist
- 18 with COG Operating.
- 19 Q. Have you previously testified before the
- 20 Division?
- 21 A. Yes, ma'am, I have.
- 22 Q. Were your credentials as a petroleum geologist
- 23 accepted and made a matter of record?
- A. Yes, they were.
- Q. Are you familiar with the application filed in

- 1 this case?
- 2 A. Yes, I am.
- 3 O. Have you conducted a geologic study of the
- 4 lands that are the subject of this application?
- 5 A. Yes, ma'am.
- MS. KESSLER: Mr. Examiners, I would tender
- 7 Mr. Bertalott as an expert in petroleum geology.
- 8 MR. BRUCE: No objection.
- 9 EXAMINER McMILLAN: So qualified.
- 10 O. (BY MS. KESSLER) Please turn to Exhibit 6 and
- 11 identify this exhibit and walk us through it.
- 12 A. Exhibit 6 is a location map highlighting where
- our proposed well will be drilled. It is oriented north
- 14 to south. And what also is shown is offset wells that
- 15 have been drilled and completed in a similar zone that
- 16 we are going to target.
- 17 Q. And the COG-BTA acreage is highlighted in
- 18 yellow; is that right?
- 19 A. That is correct.
- Q. What is Exhibit 7?
- 21 A. Exhibit 7 is, once again, the same location
- 22 map. Only this time it is showing a structure map that
- 23 is of the Upper Avalon Shale, a contour interval of 50
- 24 feet. We will be drilling slightly downdip. A minimal
- 25 dip is in the area.

- 1 O. Based on the structure in this nonstandard
- 2 project area, have you identified any geologic hazards
- 3 to drilling a horizontal well?
- 4 A. No, ma'am.
- 5 O. What is Exhibit 8?
- 6 A. Exhibit 8 highlights a location of a cross
- 7 section, A to A prime, north to south, wells that are
- 8 representative of the reservoir that we intend to
- 9 target, also highlighting the north-to-south location of
- 10 our proposed well.
- 11 Q. And A to A prime is the cross-section line that
- 12 you use for your next exhibit, right?
- 13 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 14 Q. And did you use three wells to put together
- 15 this cross section?
- 16 A. I did.
- 17 Q. Is Exhibit 9 a cross-section exhibit?
- 18 A. Yes, it is, a stratigraphic cross section, A to
- 19 A prime, from the previous location map, north to south.
- 20 It is stratigraphically hung on the Upper Avalon Shale
- 21 top. We see continuity of the reservoir throughout this
- 22 area and relative uniform thickness as well.
- 23 Q. Based on your geologic study of this area, have
- 24 you identified any hazards to developing this acreage
- 25 using a mile-and-three-quarter lateral?

- 1 A. No, ma'am.
- Q. In your opinion, can the area be efficiently
- and economically developed by horizontal wells?
- 4 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 5 Q. And do you believe that each tract in the
- 6 proposed nonstandard spacing unit will contribute more
- 7 or less equally to production from the well?
- 8 A. Yes, I do.
- 9 Q. And the completed interval will comply with the
- 10 330 setbacks, correct?
- 11 A. Right.
- 12 O. In your opinion, will the granting of COG's
- 13 application be in the best interest of conservation, the
- 14 prevention of waste and the protection of correlative
- 15 rights?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Were Exhibits 6 through 9 prepared by you or
- 18 compiled under your direction or supervision?
- 19 A. Yes, they were.
- MS. KESSLER: Mr. Examiners, I'd move
- 21 admission of Exhibits 6 through 9.
- MR. BRUCE: No objection.
- EXAMINER McMILLAN: Exhibits 6, 7, 8 and 9
- 24 may now be accepted as part of the record.
- 25 (COG Operating, LLC Exhibit Numbers 6

- 1 through 9 are offered and admitted into
- 2 evidence.)
- 3 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 4 BY MR. BRUCE:
- 5 Q. Just a few questions, Mr. Bertalott.
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. Looking at your Exhibit 8, there is a
- 8 mile-and-a-half lateral in Sections 35 and 2. I presume
- 9 that's a COG well.
- 10 A. That actually was not drilled. That was an
- 11 Endeavor well that we inherited with -- so that well was
- 12 not drilled by COG.
- 13 Q. Okay. And then your Exhibit 9, the well on the
- 14 right side of the cross section, that's actually a
- 15 vertical Wolfcamp well; is it not?
- 16 A. The far right --
- 17 Q. Yes.
- 18 A. Yes. That is a deep Wolfcamp well that we use
- 19 to identify the reservoir that we'll be targeting.
- 20 Q. Just out of curiosity, is COG looking --
- 21 considering developing the Wolfcamp in this area?
- 22 A. We are examining the opportunity.
- Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 24 A. Uh-huh.
- 25 CROSS-EXAMINATION

- 1 BY EXAMINER McMILLAN:
- Q. Okay. Where the target interval?
- 3 A. The target interval on the cross section where
- 4 it says "lateral interval," that is where we intend to
- 5 target our lateral. That interval is commonly targeted
- 6 by COG in other Upper Avalon wells, as well as offset
- 7 operators.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. I'm sorry. It's not on the blowup version of
- 10 the cross section, but on Exhibit 9, the lateral
- 11 interval is highlighted on the left-hand side.
- 12 O. So 9270 to 9320?
- 13 A. We would like to target that -- the shale
- 14 package there, correct.
- 15 Q. Do you expect all quarter-quarter sections to
- 16 equally contribute to production?
- 17 A. Yes, I do.
- 18 Q. Okay. And the target of the interval is the
- 19 same -- the target interval for the Rojo is the same as
- 20 the other wells?
- 21 A. It's very similar to what other -- we and other
- 22 operators have targeted, yes, sir.
- EXAMINER McMILLAN: Go ahead.
- 24 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 25 BY EXAMINER BROOKS:

- 1 Q. I had a question and just one question, and you
- 2 may not know the answer. If you do, answer it. If the
- 3 landman -- maybe we can get it from him or from counsel.
- When do you plan to drill this well?
- 5 A. I believe we are getting ready to spud the well
- 6 relatively soon.
- 7 Q. Relatively soon?
- 8 A. Uh-huh.
- 9 Q. That's quite specific. Do you have any kind of
- 10 forecast? I take it it's not scheduled -- not
- 11 specifically scheduled, at least not that you know
- 12 about?
- 13 A. (Indicating.)
- MS. KESSLER: Mr. Examiner, I believe the
- 15 landman can answer that question, but since there is a
- 16 60-day contractual deadline from the date the AFE was
- 17 filed, I think the drilling deadline is very close.
- 18 EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay. Well, you're not
- 19 bound by -- you're not entering into any commitments to
- 20 OCD so you're not bound by anybody's answer to that
- 21 question. We all know that the statute allows you to
- 22 drill it before or after the pooling order is issued.
- MS. KESSLER: Correct.
- 24 EXAMINER BROOKS: Did the first witness --
- 25 did Mr. Wallace have an answer to that?

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3	STATE OF NEW MEXICO
4	COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
5	
6	CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER
7	I, MARY C. HANKINS, Certified Court
8	Reporter, New Mexico Certified Court Reporter No. 20,
9	and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify
10	that I reported the foregoing proceedings in
11	stenographic shorthand and that the foregoing pages are
12	a true and correct transcript of those proceedings that
13	were reduced to printed form by me to the best of my
14	ability.
15	I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Reporter's
16	Record of the proceedings truly and accurately reflects
17	the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.
18	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
19	employed by nor related to any of the parties or
20	attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in
21	the final disposition of this case.
22	
23	MADA C. HANKING CCD DDD
24	MARY C. HANKINS, CCR, RPR Certified Court Reporter New Mexico CCR No. 20
25	Date of CCR Expiration: 12/31/2017

