

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

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

COMMISSIONER HEARING

Adoption of Agenda,

Adoption of October 4, 2017 Minutes,

Continuation of Case Numbers:
15655, 15656, 15659 and 15660,

Farewell "Roast" of Director David Catanach

December 7, 2017

Santa Fe, New Mexico

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, CHAIRPERSON
ED MARTIN, COMMISSIONER
DR. ROBERT S. BALCH, COMMISSIONER
BILL BRANCARD, ESQ.

This matter came on for hearing before the
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission on Thursday,
December 7, 2017, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department, Wendell Chino Building,
1220 South St. Francis Drive, Porter Hall, Room 102,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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1 (9:20 a.m.; first snow of winter 2017.)

2 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Good morning. This is
3 the meeting of the New Mexico Oil Conservation
4 Commission. My name is David Catanach, Chairman of the
5 Commission. Today's date is December 7th, 2017. The
6 time is approximately 9:20. This meeting is being
7 conducted in Porter Hall within the Wendell Chino State
8 Building. At this time I will take roll.

9 Will the Commissioners please introduce
10 themselves for the record.

11 COMMISSIONER MARTIN: Ed Martin, State Land
12 Office designee.

13 COMMISSIONER BALCH: Dr. Robert Balch,
14 designee of the Secretary of Energy, Minerals and
15 Natural Resources.

16 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thank you,
17 Commissioners.

18 Also present today is Mr. Bill Brancard and
19 Ms. Florene Davidson.

20 Commissioners, in your packet, you should
21 have an agenda for today's meeting. If you've reviewed
22 the agenda, do I hear a motion and second to adopt?

23 COMMISSIONER BALCH: I have reviewed the
24 agenda and move to adopt it.

25 COMMISSIONER MARTIN: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: All in favor?

2 (Ayes are unanimous.)

3 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Motion to adopt the
4 agenda for today's meeting is passed.

5 Also in your packet is the draft minutes
6 for the November 9th, 2017 commission meeting.

7 Commissioners, do you have any changes to
8 the minutes and, if not, do I hear a motion and a
9 second?

10 MR. BRANCARD: Mr. Chairman, item three,
11 that should read "Approval of minutes of October 4th,
12 2017 meeting."

13 COMMISSIONER BALCH: That is true.

14 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Approval of the minutes
15 for what? I'm sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER BALCH: Wrong date.

17 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Why is that wrong? Oh,
18 I see. Okay. That needs to be corrected on the minutes
19 to reflect "October 4th, 2017." I'll correct that, and
20 I'll sign that.

21 COMMISSIONER BALCH: Move to adopt the
22 minutes as corrected.

23 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Do I have a motion on
24 this to accept the minutes as corrected here today?

25 COMMISSIONER MARTIN: I so move.

1 COMMISSIONER BALCH: And second it.

2 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: All in favor?

3 (Ayes are unanimous.)

4 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Motion to adopt the
5 minutes of the October 4th, 2017 meeting is adopted.

6 Couple of announcements: The following
7 four cases will be continued to the Commission hearing
8 scheduled for January 18th, Case Number 15655 and 15656,
9 which are applications of Black Mountain Operating, LLC
10 for a nonstandard oil spacing and proration unit and
11 compulsory pooling and an unorthodox well location, Lea
12 County, New Mexico; and Case Numbers 15659 and 15660,
13 applications of GMT Exploration Company, LLC for a
14 nonstandard oil spacing and proration unit and
15 compulsory pooling also in Lea County, New Mexico.

16 (Proceedings conclude, 9:28 a.m.)

17 (See separate record for next order of
18 business, Case Number 15654.)

19 (9:29 a.m.)

20 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Okay. Next order of
21 business on today's agenda is "Other Business." Do we
22 have any other business.

23 MR. BRANCARD: No report from the
24 litigation front.

25 MS. MARKS: Mr. Chairman, I think we have

1 quite an audience here today, and I'd like to have some
2 public comments, if that's allowed in this open meeting.

3 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Commission Attorney, is
4 that permissible at this time?

5 MR. BRANCARD: Certainly. It's an open,
6 public meeting.

7 COMMISSIONER BALCH: We've typically
8 limited people's comments to five minutes per person
9 (laughter).

10 MS. MARKS: Five minutes would be great.
11 Thank you, Commissioner Balch.

12 If I could start with non-OCD employees and
13 then start with District 1, then move to District 2 and
14 District 3 and then to Santa Fe, that would be greatly
15 appreciated.

16 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I honestly don't think
17 the Commissioners are in a hurry to get anywhere.

18 MS. BRADFUTE: Mr. Chairman, she's
19 referring to myself as a non-OCD employee. My name is
20 Jennifer Bradfute, and I'm an attorney at Modrall
21 Sperling.

22 So my career kind of starting OCD work
23 began as you were taking your position here as the
24 director at the OCD, and I heard about you from several
25 clients as I was both actually starting to practice

1 before the OCD and heard a world of good things about
2 you since. You're well respected by the industry. And
3 as I have worked with the Division over the past couple
4 of years, I see that you are with well respected by the
5 staff here, and people appreciate how levelheaded you've
6 been, how fair you've been, and how you've taken the
7 time to hear people out.

8 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thank you,
9 Ms. Bradfute. That's very nice.

10 No other comments?

11 MS. MARKS: If we could move on to District
12 1, is there anybody from District 1 who would like to
13 make a comment?

14 MR. KAUTZ: This is Paul Kautz. I've been
15 here 35 years now, and when I go to Santa Fe, I won't
16 have to be prepared to carry a hard hat with me. As I
17 remember when you were a hearing examiner, when you were
18 trying to figure out what to write about that particular
19 case, you would start throwing pencils into the overhead
20 bin, and occasionally they would fall back down to your
21 desk. And also you won't have to worry about me getting
22 you in trouble with Bill Carr anymore. But I think
23 you've probably been the best director since
24 what's-his-name was director.

25 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: What is his name?

1 MR. KAUTZ: And just remember, if you go
2 back to consulting, I have a nice, big "denied" stamp
3 here.

4 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thank you, Mr. Kautz.
5 That's wonderful.

6 As many of you may not know, I started my
7 career with OCD in District 1, and according to Charlie
8 up in Aztec, that's my favorite district.

9 MR. KAUTZ: I was just stating facts. They
10 do make the news quite often.

11 MR. BAYLISS: So is there any more from
12 District 1?

13 MS. SHARP: Good morning, David. This is
14 Karen.

15 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Good morning, Karen.

16 MS. SHARP: Just wanted you to know that we
17 took a vote, and your retirement is rescinded, and don't
18 wait seven years to come back. Good luck.

19 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Okay. Thank you,
20 Karen. It's been a pleasure working with you guys in
21 District 1 and in all the districts.

22 (Laughter.)

23 MR. BAYLISS: How about District 2?

24 MR. BRATCHER: Yes. This is Mike.

25 I need to set this up a little bit. I

1 mean, I heard this was a roast, so I'm going to roast a
2 little.

3 When I first came to work with OCD,
4 Mr. Catanach was one of the local Santa Fe faces. Me
5 being just a lowly field inspector, I didn't get to see
6 much of the Santa Fe folks. But in 2004, Mike
7 Stubblefield retired, and he was the environmental guy
8 for District 2. Back then, environmental stuff for the
9 OCD was kind of in its infancy. Mike came in one day
10 and had a box of C-141s and remediation plans and I
11 don't know what all. He set it on my desk, and he said,
12 Here, you're the new environmental guy. I said, Okay.
13 I still have that box today sitting here under the desk.
14 I never got to it. I've always been at a deficit.

15 Throughout more than a decade that I've
16 done this out east, I've been involved in what I
17 lovingly refer to as the chloride wars. The OCD wants
18 to regulate chlorides, but we've been reluctant to throw
19 anything out there. So it's been the chloride wars the
20 whole time I've been here. And I thought it would be --
21 this is falling on December 7th, which is the 76th
22 anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

23 Being a Navy veteran, maybe I can come off
24 without being too disrespectful to that. December 7th,
25 1941, the first wave hit Pearl Harbor at 7:55 a.m. --

1 (Poor phone/video conference transmittal.)

2 MR. BRATCHER: -- time and lasted until
3 about 9:00. We lost more than 2,400 American sailors,
4 soldiers and civilians, along with 1,000 wounded.
5 Twenty naval vessels were sunk. Greater than 300
6 airplanes were lost. Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "It's
7 a date which will live in infamy."

8 The reason I bring that up is that started
9 a war, and it relates back to the chloride wars. And,
10 you know, David, I appreciate everything you've done.
11 You've done a lot. You've tried to do a lot. You've
12 kind of led us into what we hope is the final battle on
13 the chloride wars with the upcoming -- upcoming rule.
14 But naval vessels are known to have a lot of rats and
15 mice and stuff on there, and when they start -- out,
16 that's the first thing that happens, is the rats and
17 mice jump ship.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. BRATCHER: So I appreciate you for
20 starting this final battle, but why are you jumping
21 ship?

22 (Laughter.)

23 MR. GRISWOLD: God bless you, Mike
24 Bratcher.

25 MR. BRATCHER: Silence right there.

1 (Laughter.)

2 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I don't have an answer
3 to that, Mike. I've been here 28 years total, and I
4 think it's about time to get going on something else.
5 So that's my answer.

6 MR. BRATCHER: Yeah. I wish you the best.
7 I just thought it was befitting of the day to make that
8 analogy.

9 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thanks.

10 (Laughter.)

11 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: "Jumping ship."

12 MR. BAYLISS: Anything else from District
13 2?

14 MS. TULK: David, this is Laura.

15 MR. BAYLISS: I thought so.

16 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: You can't keep Laura
17 down. She's always got something to say.

18 MS. TULK: No, you don't have anything on
19 your nose.

20 It's nice meeting you. Thanks for taking
21 the time, you know, your visits. They were nice. And
22 you took the time to visit each one of us, not all the
23 time, but, you know. I'll never forget our first
24 meeting. I think Griswold brought you down, and I just
25 had to have -- I don't know, Daniel. I've given you

1 guys almonds, and I'm like the mom, you know, make sure
2 you-all have a little snack on the way home because of
3 the budget and all. Anyway, I just remember you telling
4 me that you sure were glad because Griswold was going to
5 feed you a chimichanga, I guess, in Vaughan.

6 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Griswold did feed me
7 (laughter).

8 MS. TULK: You said, I'm going to save this
9 snack Laura gave me, and I'll be good until I get home.

10 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I appreciated it.
11 Laura, I appreciated it. I did get a chimichanga from
12 Mr. Griswold at Allsup's.

13 MS. TULK: Oh, you did?

14 Okay. Well, anyway, if you get bored, come
15 help me scan some logs.

16 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I'll do that. Thank
17 you, Laura.

18 MS. TULK: Thank you.

19 MR. BAYLISS: So do we have anything else
20 from District 2?

21 Well, let's go to the northwest. How about
22 District 3?

23 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: My favorite district,
24 District 3.

25 MR. PERRIN: Well, David, I've only been

1 here about 26 years, so you're an old-timer. District 1
2 has always stated to be your favorite, but we know the
3 truth.

4 MS. TULK: No. His favorite was District
5 2. He kept telling us that.

6 MR. PERRIN: This is your second
7 retirement, so we want to see if this one is going to be
8 for real and in writing. We've watched you retire twice
9 now. David, do you want to share with us what you're
10 going to do?

11 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I bought a skateboard,
12 and I'm going to hang out at the skateboard park for a
13 while here in Santa Fe. After that, I'm not so sure.

14 (Laughter.)

15 COMMISSIONER BALCH: After that, he'll be
16 in the emergency room.

17 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I'll spend some time in
18 the hospital after that.

19 (Laughter.)

20 MR. PERRIN: We'll know to stack up on some
21 get well cards.

22 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I really don't know,
23 Charlie. I know I will be doing something and maybe
24 doing some consulting again, but I'm going to take a
25 little time just to unwind.

1 MR. PERRIN: Well, we'd like to
2 congratulate you on your retirement and let you know
3 that we look forward to working for you -- or working
4 with you in the future. I think it's interesting to
5 know that District 1 is not the only one with a big
6 "deny" stamp -- or complete, correct and timely each and
7 every time.

8 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Well, you never know.
9 I may be back, Charlie, so careful with that "denied"
10 stamp.

11 MR. PERRIN: Maybe that ship-jumping the
12 second time will bring you back a third time, and then
13 you can get your stuff finished up.

14 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Okay.

15 MR. PERRIN: The ship-jumping part. We
16 wish you well.

17 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thank you, Charlie.
18 Okay. We done?

19 MR. BAYLISS: He's hoping that District 3
20 is done. This should be encouragement for more.

21 MR. PERRIN: We're done for now.

22 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thanks. Cory H.

23 MS. VERMERSCH: Director Catanach,
24 complete, correct and timely.

25 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Was that Amy?

1 MR. BAYLISS: Amy said that.

2 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thank you, Amy.

3 MS. VERMERSCH: When you go work for
4 industry, you might get those little denied stickers.

5 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I could be back here,
6 Amy. You better be careful.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. PERRIN: He's already threatened to
9 come back. He may be our boss.

10 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: If I came back a third
11 time, the people at PERA would think I was really nuts.

12 MR. PERRIN: I think that's everything from
13 District 3.

14 MR. BAYLISS: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thanks, guys. So --

16 MR. BAYLISS: There are people here laying
17 in wait.

18 MR. BROOKS: The record will reflect
19 District 4 is unrepresented.

20 (Laughter.)

21 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I should have sent more
22 of you away today. We sent Will Jones to a BLM training
23 session. So --

24 MR. GRISWOLD: For the record, I'm Jim
25 Griswold, the Environmental Bureau chief of the

1 Division, maybe the last Environmental Bureau chief the
2 Division's ever had. And I know we'll get a chance over
3 the remaining couple of weeks to say goodbye again, but
4 thanks, Dave. And I would hope but I know it's not true
5 that the work at the Environmental Bureau didn't have
6 anything to do with you deciding to retire, but that's
7 not the case. But it's been a pleasure having you --
8 the three Division directors that I've served for the
9 last ten years, far and away, you're the best to work
10 with.

11 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thanks, Jim. I
12 appreciate it. And I wish for once you would have come
13 in and given me some good news in the morning.

14 MR. GRISWOLD: September production is over
15 15 million barrels, an all-time high.

16 MR. BILLINGS: I'm Brad Billings. I
17 haven't known you that long, but it has been a pleasure.
18 I understand this is your second retirement, and you're
19 already indicating you might do three or more. Your
20 presence is going to be pretty minimal because we're not
21 really sure when you're leaving. So that's all. Thank
22 you.

23 (Laughter.)

24 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thank you, Bradford.

25 MR. SANCHEZ: Daniel Sanchez, Compliance

1 and Enforcement manager. And I have to copy a little
 2 bit on what Jim said. Of the three that I've worked for
 3 the last 14 years, you've definitely been the easiest
 4 one to work for. Some of the piles of paper that I take
 5 over to your desk to have you sign, I've been pretty
 6 lucky that you've read through them. I'll try that with
 7 the next director. Well, I guess. But it really has
 8 been a pleasure working for you, and I wish you the
 9 best.

10 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thanks, Daniel. I
 11 enjoyed working with you. And I did read those
 12 documents, for the record.

13 MR. SANCHEZ: Damn it.

14 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I'm a speed reader.

15 MR. BROOKS: Well, my remarks won't be as
 16 long as they usually are.

17 (Applause, laughter.)

18 COMMISSIONER BALCH: I'm going to set the
 19 five-minute timer.

20 MR. BROOKS: The statement was made by, I
 21 think, Bratcher that you were the best director since
 22 what's-his-name, and his name is -- my only guess is
 23 that his name is Bill LeMay. Which I can attest to the
 24 others in between, but I don't date back to Bill LeMay.
 25 So I would say you're the best since Bill LeMay.

1 Of course, when I came here, there was a
2 lot of talk about Catanach and Stogner among the
3 employees, and I had the feeling -- I got the impression
4 that they were perceived as sort of a duplicate
5 personality like -- like Rosencrantz and Guildenstern or
6 Haldeman and Ehrlichman --

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. BROOKS: -- but I soon found out there
9 was a marked difference because Catanach was uniformly
10 professional and courteous, and Mr. Stogner's
11 professionalism was occasionally tinged with episodes of
12 temper.

13 Anyway, Catanach was here, I think, for six
14 or seven years before I -- before he retired -- for the
15 time that I was here before he left and retired. And
16 then when you came back, I had retired. And now I've
17 been here for two years, and we've been here together
18 since we both came back. And the last time he retired,
19 I got his office. It doesn't look like this is going to
20 happen this time.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MR. BROOKS: And he has left me with a
23 horizontal well rule in midstream. And another comment
24 Bratcher made when he was talking about the Navy, he
25 said something about the Japanese attack on Pearl

1 Harbor, that the first wave came in at 7:00 and
2 created -- in the morning and created all sorts of
3 havoc, then they left at 9:00. And I thought maybe he
4 was drawing some analogy there to David Catanach, but
5 since I'm never here before 8:30, I can't attest to that
6 personally.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. BROOKS: Anyway, David, we appreciate
9 your service. And we wish you would withdraw your
10 resignation, your retirement.

11 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Well, thank you.
12 Mr. Brooks. I'm usually here at 6:30, by the way,
13 instead of 7:00.

14 MR. BROOKS: Oh. Oh.

15 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: And I'd just like to
16 say that the stories you heard about Stogner and
17 Catanach were probably not true. There are a lot of
18 stories going around. But we were really good employees
19 and respected management.

20 MR. BROOKS: Well, I know you were. I was
21 here for several years after -- I was here for several
22 years after you left, and I also had a considerable
23 opportunity to observe what I assume were sources of
24 some of those stories.

25 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Not true. Most of them

1 are not true. Exaggeration.

2 MR. WARNELL: Terry Warnell, with the State
3 Land Office --

4 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Good morning,
5 Mr. Warnell.

6 MR. WARNELL: -- ex-OCD-er. I started
7 working at the OCD ten years ago, and kind of like what
8 David was saying -- or what Mr. Brooks was saying, David
9 wasn't here then. He had already retired. I had heard
10 a lot of stories, a lot of good things about David, and
11 then I got to know him, and I figured out that wasn't
12 true.

13 (Laughter.)

14 MR. WARNELL: I've enjoyed working with
15 you, David, and wish you the very best.

16 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thank you, Terry.

17 MR. McMILLAN: Mike McMillan, engineering.

18 My biggest regret is that you never gave
19 the OCD the opportunity to give a presentation about
20 working harder but not smarter.

21 (Laughter.)

22 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I'm glad you brought
23 that up, Mr. McMillan. I still have three weeks left,
24 right? I know a perfect person to come in and give you
25 guys a full-day seminar on that, so I will contact

1 Mr. Ezeanyim.

2 MR. McMILLAN: And I had to testify before
3 the OCD, and I had heard horror stories about it, about
4 the examiners. And I was a witness before you, and it
5 was true.

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. BROOKS: Next time we'll bring Michael
8 Feldewert in.

9 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thanks, Mike.

10 MR. HERRMANN: Mr. Catanach -- or Director
11 Catanach, Keith Herrmann representing the Compliance and
12 Enforcement Bureau.

13 I want to congratulate you on finally
14 getting your picture on the wall. Not only that, but
15 they are level, and from what I can tell, actually
16 equally spaced.

17 (Laughter.)

18 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: We thank Mr. Goetze,
19 who is responsible for that.

20 MR. GOETZE: And Mr. Leonard.

21 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Mr. Leonard -- Mr.
22 Lowe, Mr. Goetze.

23 MR. GOETZE: Mr. Lowe.

24 Phil Goetze, Engineering Bureau.

25 The esteemed attorney, Mr. Brooks, has

1 brought to our attention that the position of the
2 director has many hats to wear as a director, and this
3 was brought to the attention of the Governor's Office.

4 May I approach the table, please?

5 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I'm not sure.

6 (Laughter.)

7 COMMISSIONER BALCH: Can we have a vote on
8 that?

9 MR. GOETZE: Please, if you would, remove
10 the device (indicating).

11 This (indicating) was flown in from the
12 fourth floor. Each panel represents a part of your job
13 description.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. GOETZE: We can start with the star.
16 That would be the commitment to a team that has a hard
17 time winning -- Mr. Sanchez. Of course, the director is
18 for your position that you hold now, kind of, and is, of
19 course, very black and white. And then, of course,
20 there is the commissioner, and that's the most -- how do
21 we say it -- fluctuate and most dynamic position that
22 you hold. And then the fourth panel is, of course,
23 dedication to your future, which is a retirement going
24 and fishing and enjoying your life. But wear it in good
25 health, and remind you of all these fantastic influences

1 and pride of work that you've done.

2 MR. GRISWOLD: Put it on.

3 MR. GOETZE: And it has been an honor and
4 privilege to work with you.

5 (Special handcrafted, flown-in-from-the-
6 fourth floor, four-panel hat presented to
7 Director Catanach.)

8 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: That's very unique, and
9 I will treasure that always.

10 MS. WOJAHN: Director Catanach, as you
11 know, I'm Beth Wojahn. I'm the P&IP [sic] for the
12 Department.

13 (Poor phone/video conference transmittal.)

14 MS. WOJAHN: And on behalf of Secretary
15 McQueen and Deputy Secretary Matthias Sayer, thank you
16 for all you've done. Certainly, they've only been here
17 for a year, but you and your team have been here a lot
18 longer. And I just want to say from my heart, I really
19 appreciate all you've done for OCD, and we do realize
20 that you have a good team, and that's very important.
21 And we will try and do our best to wish you the best in
22 your retirement.

23 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thank you, Beth, very
24 much. I enjoyed totally working with you and the
25 Secretary and the Deputy Secretary for the year.

1 MS. MARKS: Dr. Catanach, Allison Marks,
2 Deputy Director of the OCD.

3 I think it's quite telling that it took
4 your last commission hearing to put your picture finally
5 on the wall. It's a reflection of you as a person.
6 You're possibly the most humble person I have ever
7 worked for. And getting all of the districts here for
8 your last meeting is very meaningful. I know how much
9 the districts mean to you, and you have done everything
10 to reach out and include the districts' staff and make
11 them feel important. And I know how important the
12 districts' staff are to you. You would have gone to
13 each district office every single week if you could
14 have.

15 And everyone at Aztec, Artesia and Hobbs --
16 the fan favorite -- he would have gone to see you every
17 single week and I do know that. He loves you guys
18 probably more than everyone here in Santa Fe. And I
19 think Director Catanach has hopefully set a foundation
20 for the next director to make the districts' staff be
21 the real heart and soul of the Division and make the
22 districts' staff really all feel as though they are part
23 of one OCD and not just a Santa Fe OCD.

24 And Director Catanach won't want me to say
25 this, but he has beaten himself up probably on a weekly

1 basis for not feeling as though he has done enough, but
2 I think he has done enough as he could with budget
3 constraints and staffing levels. But his heart has been
4 in the right place for the past three years, and I
5 really appreciate everything he has done.

6 And all the districts' staff and Santa Fe
7 has come together to get a pretty cool present here that
8 we have for you. We have a cool fly box here. It says,
9 "You're pretty fly for a state petroleum engineer."
10 Some flies in here and a gift card so you can -- it's
11 pretty cool. We have the first snow day of the year, so
12 you can get some skis or a new mountain bike. And
13 that's from all the districts' staff and everyone here
14 in Santa Fe. And we will really miss you.

15 MR. GOETZE: Don't cry.

16 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I'm not going to cry,
17 Mr. Goetze.

18 MS. MARKS: And your sense of humor.

19 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I'd just like to say,
20 Ms. Marks, one of the ways that this job has been
21 easier, at least for the past year, was because you came
22 to us, and you tremendously helped me in my job, and I
23 really appreciate everything you've done this year. So
24 I want to thank you personally.

25 MS. MARKS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Is that it?

2 MR. BAYLISS: You've got the tennis racket.
3 You can bang it.

4 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: I'd just like to say --
5 I mean, this is -- I've been here 28 years, and this is
6 the only thing that I've ever known. The Division is
7 home to me. It's -- I've worked with so many wonderful
8 people over the years, and truly they're all dedicated
9 professionals, and I think that that's -- when I leave
10 this job, that's what I'm going to miss the most
11 absolutely, is the people that I've worked with, the
12 people that I currently work with. And I just want to
13 thank everybody in the Division for making this job
14 easier over the past three years. Well, sometimes.
15 Sometimes it is difficult. We've gone through some very
16 difficult times. And I just again want to thank
17 everybody for being dedicated and professional and
18 helping me out. So thank you-all.

19 Okay. Any other business?

20 And I wish to thank the Commissioners.
21 I've enjoyed being on the Commission for three years,
22 and I know we've had some really interesting cases over
23 that period of time, and we've come through it okay.
24 And I wish you well in the horizontal well rule hearing
25 and the spill rule hearing that will be up shortly,

1 probably the first quarter of this next year. And I
2 know you guys will do a wonderful job, and I wish you
3 well.

4 COMMISSIONER BALCH: I don't know about Ed,
5 but I'm retiring next week.

6 COMMISSIONER MARTIN: I'm thinking about it
7 myself.

8 (Laughter.)

9 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: And thank you,
10 Mr. Brancard, for all the help you've given me and the
11 Commission over the years. I really appreciate your
12 effort.

13 MR. BRANCARD: Your ability to run and
14 handle a hearing makes my job so much easier. So I
15 appreciate it.

16 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Not at first. I
17 remember I had never done a commission hearing, and I
18 was very nervous. I had done an examiner hearing, but I
19 had never done a commissioner hearing. So I was very
20 nervous, so you helped me through the first few.

21 MR. BRANCARD: You know how to handle a
22 racket or a gavel.

23 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: And thank you, Florene.
24 She's a wonderful person, who has been here
25 for 55 years, and she is one of the ones I will miss the

1 most.

2 MS. DAVIDSON: I just wanted to say I
3 worked with David --

4 All of your time was in Santa Fe, right?

5 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. DAVIDSON: -- since he was just a young
7 boy --

8 (Laughter.)

9 MS. DAVIDSON: -- sometimes a bratty boy.
10 And the stories about Stogner and Catanach, not all of
11 them -- some of them are true, yes.

12 (Laughter.)

13 MS. DAVIDSON: But I've enjoyed working
14 with you. It was hard to go from working with you to
15 working for you, to taking -- but you didn't give me too
16 many orders, so that was good. I've enjoyed all my time
17 with you, David. You will be missed.

18 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Thank you, Florene.

19 I can tell you with regards to Mr. Martin
20 sitting next to me, there was a time we worked together
21 under Commissioner -- I mean under Director --

22 COMMISSIONER MARTIN: What's-his-name.

23 (Laughter.)

24 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: -- what's-his-name.

25 And I think I was nearing the end of my career the first

1 time, the 25 years, and I might have had a little bit of
2 an attitude. And the director came into my office one
3 day and told me, I don't want you to talk to Ed Martin
4 anymore; you're having a bad influence on him. And
5 that's a true story. So I promptly went over to Ed's
6 office and talked to him as much as I could.

7 (Laughter.)

8 COMMISSIONER MARTIN: I was traumatized.

9 CHAIRMAN CATANACH: Again, thank you very
10 much. And I appreciate this ceremony, and it was
11 memorable and wonderful. Thank you.

12 And this hearing is adjourned.

13 (Applause.)

14 (The proceedings conclude, 9:59 a.m.)

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
3

4 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

5 I, MARY C. HANKINS, Certified Court
6 Reporter, New Mexico Certified Court Reporter No. 20,
7 and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify
8 that I reported the foregoing proceedings in
9 stenographic shorthand and that the foregoing pages are
10 a true and correct transcript of those proceedings that
11 were reduced to printed form by me to the best of my
12 ability.

13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that the Reporter's
14 Record of the proceedings truly and accurately reflects
15 the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.

16 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
17 employed by nor related to any of the parties or
18 attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in
19 the final disposition of this case.

20 DATED this January 5, 2018.
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23 MARY C. HANKINS, CCR, RPR
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25 New Mexico CCR No. 20
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