

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.: 14676

APPLICATION OF CIMAREX ENERGY COMPANY
OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF A SECONDARY
RECOVERY PROJECT AND TO QUALIFY THE
PROJECT FOR THE RECOVERED OIL TAX RATE,
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID K. BROOKS, Legal Examiner
WILLIAM JONES, Technical Examiner

DATE: June 23, 2011
Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New
Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID K. BROOKS,
Legal Examiner, and WILLIAM JONES, technical Examiner,
on Thursday, June 23, 2011, at the New Mexico Energy,
Minerals and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South
St. Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

REPORTED BY: Irene Delgado
Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters
500 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 105
Albuquerque, NM 87103

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 FOR THE APPLICANT:

3 JIM BRUCE
 4 P.O. Box 1056
 5 Santa Fe, NM 87504-1056

5 I N D E X

6 NASH DOWDLE

7 Direct Exam by Mr. Bruce 04

8 JOHN FISCO

9 Direct Exam by Mr. Bruce 09

10 TIM WILCOX

11 Direct Exam by Mr. Bruce 20

12

13 EXHIBITS 1 - 4 ADMITTED 09

14 EXHIBITS 5 - 8 ADMITTED 17

15 EXHIBITS 9 - 15 ADMITTED 31

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1 EXAMINER JONES: Back on the record. Will
2 the record reflect that we are going to continue Cases
3 14673 and 14674 until July 23 -- 21.

4 MR. BRUCE: 21

5 EXAMINER JONES: 21.

6 EXAMINER BROOKS: I won't be here then.
7 That's the day of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Foundation
8 Institute, I believe.

9 MR. BRUCE: I will be attending absentia.

10 EXAMINER BROOKS: You will, of course,
11 certify that you listened to the tapes.

12 MR. BRUCE: Possibly.

13 EXAMINER JONES: The next one is, let's call
14 Case 14676, application of Cimarex Energy Company of
15 Colorado for approval of a secondary recovery project
16 and to qualify the project for the recovered oil tax
17 rate, Lea County, New Mexico. Call for appearances.

18 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of
19 Santa Fe representing the applicant. I have three
20 witnesses.

21 EXAMINER JONES: Any other appearances?

22 (No response.)

23 EXAMINER JONES: Will the witnesses please
24 stand and state your names.

25 MR. DOWDLE: Nash Dowdle.

1 MR. FISCO: John Fisco.

2 MR. WILCOX: Tim Wilcox.

3 EXAMINER JONES: Will the court reporter
4 please swear the witnesses.

5 (Witnesses duly sworn.)

6 EXAMINER BROOKS: You don't look old enough
7 to be the Nash Dowdle I once knew.

8 MR. DOWDLE: Yes. And out of Midland?

9 EXAMINER BROOKS: Yes.

10 MR. DOWDLE: I'm the son. Junior.

11 EXAMINER BROOKS: I figured you must be. I
12 remember Nash Dowdle, but he was an older man when I
13 was very young, and that couldn't possibly be you.

14 MR. DOWDLE: No, I'm the younger.

15 NASH J. DOWDLE, JR.

16 (Having been sworn, testified as follows:)

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. BRUCE:

19 Q. Would you please state your name and city
20 of residence for the record.

21 A. Nash Jay Dowdle, Junior, Midland, Texas.

22 Q. Who do you work for and in what capacity?

23 A. Cimarex Energy Company. I'm a landman.

24 Q. Have you previously testified before the
25 Division?

1 A. No, I have not.

2 Q. Please summarize your educational
3 employment background.

4 A. I have a BBA from University of Texas,
5 Permian Basin out of Odessa, 1978, and I have a
6 associate of science degree in paramedic technology
7 also in 1989.

8 Q. And what is your work experience?

9 A. Approximately 15 years as a landman and
10 another 15 years as a paramedic.

11 Q. Who have you worked for recently? How
12 long have you been with Cimarex?

13 A. About a year. Before that I was with
14 Endeavor Energy in the contract with OXY.

15 Q. Have you previously -- excuse me. Are you
16 familiar with the land matters involved in this
17 application?

18 A. Yes, I am.

19 Q. And does your area of responsibility at
20 Cimarex include this portion of Southeast New Mexico?

21 A. Yes, it does.

22 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender Mr. Dowdle
23 as an expert petroleum landman.

24 EXAMINER JONES: He is so qualified.

25 Q. Mr. Dowdle, can you identify Exhibit 1 for

1 the Examiner and explain what Cimarex seeks in this
2 case?

3 A. It's covering approximately 440 acres in
4 Section 1, and we are proposing a waterflood injection
5 to the -- to this area covering 440 acres.

6 Q. And the lease is outlined or highlighted
7 in yellow on Exhibit 1?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And it is a single federal lease?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. And does Cimarex own and control 100
12 percent of the working interest?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And working interest -- all interests are
15 uniform in this lease as to the injection formation?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. What is Exhibit 2, and could you identify
18 that for the Examiner?

19 A. That's the Buffalo Yates Pool, which the
20 subject lease is under, and it's a 40-acre spacing, and
21 it's covering sections, Southeast Quarter Section 36,
22 the North Half of Section 1, North Half of Southeast of
23 Section 2, and the Northwest Quarter of Section 5 and
24 North Half of Section 6.

25 Q. And this is an oil pool?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Regarding the injection application, who
3 are the offset operators?

4 A. They are -- one minute. Saber, Saber
5 Energy.

6 Q. Or should I say -- Exhibit 1 is -- or
7 Exhibit 3 is a land plat, but are all the offset
8 operators and working interest owners listed on there?

9 A. That's correct. It would be Saber, Strata
10 and Penroc.

11 Q. Those are the operators. They operate
12 offsetting wells?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And are the other interest owners listed,
15 the working interest owners?

16 A. I'm not understanding.

17 Q. Are they -- there are other parties who
18 are listed on the exhibit.

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Are they working interest owners?

21 A. Yes, they are.

22 Q. Okay. Has anyone contacted you regarding
23 the proposed injection application?

24 A. Yes, a gentleman from Saber contacted me a
25 few weeks ago and was concerned about some water

1 issues. He was concerned that he might -- their wells
2 may be flooded, and he was wondering if we could take
3 care of that excess water. And I told him we certainly
4 would consider it. And I didn't hear from him for a
5 while, and then about two weeks ago he called me back
6 and said, "We don't have any concerns whatsoever," and
7 so he re-evaluated and he has no concerns.

8 Q. And is the surface owner where the
9 injection well is located the federal government?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. And was the surface owner and all of the
12 offset operators or working interest owners, working
13 interest owners notified of this application?

14 A. Yes, they have been.

15 Q. And is that reflected in Exhibit 4?

16 A. Yes, it is.

17 Q. And were Exhibits 1 through 3 prepared by
18 you or under your supervision?

19 A. Yes, they were.

20 MR. BRUCE:. Mr. Examiner, I would move the
21 admission of Exhibits 1 through 4.

22 EXAMINER JONES: 1 through 3 -- 1 through 4?

23 MR. BRUCE: Well 1 through 4. Exhibit 4 was
24 prepared by me.

25 EXAMINER JONES: We will admit Exhibits 1

1 through 4.

2 (Exhibits 1 - 4 admitted.)

3 MR. BRUCE: I have no further questions of
4 the witness.

5 EXAMINER JONES: The notices went out June
6 the 2nd. Is that correct?

7 WITNESS: That is correct.

8 EXAMINER JONES: And that's -- I don't have
9 any more questions.

10 EXAMINER BROOKS: No questions.

11 MR. BRUCE: Call Mr. Fisco to the stand.

12 JOHN FISCO

13 (Having been sworn, testified as follows:)

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. BRUCE:

16 Q. Good afternoon. Again, would you repeat
17 your name for the record and your city of residence?

18 A. John Fisco, Midland, Texas.

19 Q. And who do you work for?

20 A. I'm a contract geologist for Cimarex
21 Energy.

22 Q. Have you previously testified before the
23 Division as a geologist?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Could you summarize your educational

1 employment background for the Examiner?

2 A. Received a BS in mathematics and geology
3 in 1977 from University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh.
4 Attended University Southwest Louisiana Lafayette for
5 master's work and got -- get my degree at that time,
6 and went to work for Texas Oil and Gas in 1979 as a
7 geologist. Remained there until October of 90 when
8 they were merged in the Marathon, and I've been an
9 independent consulting prospecting geologist ever
10 since.

11 Q. Are you familiar with the geology involved
12 in this application?

13 A. Yes, I am.

14 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender Mr. Fisco
15 as an expert petroleum geologist.

16 EXAMINER JONES: You're a long ways from home
17 coming from Wisconsin.

18 WITNESS: Well, I had to find money. They
19 didn't hire us up there.

20 EXAMINER JONES: I keep hearing that. He is
21 so qualified.

22 Q. Mr. Fisco, would you identify Exhibit 5
23 for the Examiner?

24 A. Okay. Exhibit 5 is a montage showing the
25 stratigraphy and lithology concerning the Yates

1 Formation. The first chart on there, on the left, is a
2 stratigraphic chart shows the position of the Yates
3 overlying the seven Rivers Formation and underlying the
4 Tansill Formation, all of which being Guadalupian in
5 age.

6 On the right side of that chart, the
7 lithology column basically shows that the formation can
8 have a mix of lithologies including carbonates and
9 sands and evaporates.

10 Below that there is a schematic showing the
11 relative position of the Yates in the back reef titled
12 "flat area," behind the Capitan Reef, and again,
13 overlying the Seven Rivers and underlying the Tansill.

14 The Yates Sand is typically deposited in a
15 lowstand environment. The diagram in the upper
16 right-hand corner kind of schematically demonstrates
17 how during lowstand environments, clastics will migrate
18 across the shelf margin, and during highstand
19 carbonates will be deposited in the flood environment.
20 The Yates is marked by a series of repeats of this
21 phenomenon.

22 The sands typically are found in a strike
23 oriented orientation, in this case being pretty much
24 east-west in the area that I'm studying. In the Sand
25 Lenses there can be numerous of them within the Yates

1 formation, and they are typically interbedded with
2 tight dolomites or anhydrites, and the sands will vary
3 in porosity depending on how much dolomitic cement that
4 they may contain.

5 The final portion of the montage is the type
6 log, and it's also the injection candidate that we will
7 be discussing today, the Bondurant Number 10. What you
8 can see on the top portion is a lot of pink which marks
9 the Tansill Anhydrite Bed that sits over the top of the
10 Yates in this general area. And then there are several
11 markers there that are highlighted by Yates E2
12 down through B1.

13 There are seven sands that make up the Yates
14 Formation in the area. In this particular well there
15 is 108 feet of total gross sand of various porosity
16 within a 256-foot interval. And, of course, from well
17 to well that -- that number will change from well to
18 well.

19 The primary sands that produce in the area
20 are marked as the C1 and the D1. In this particular
21 well, the D1 was perforated and was being produced, and
22 it's marked by the red rectangle in the center of the
23 wellbore. The E1, E2 that sit up above, and the B2
24 that sits down near the base that's not -- B1 that's
25 down near the base are very limited. They come and go

1 in the area. And the B2 typically is wet in most
2 wells, so we will be concentrating on talking about the
3 C1 and B1 for most of this. And in this area that the
4 Yates, very top portion of the Yates, there is
5 anhydrites interbedded with them, and then as you
6 migrate down into the section, you will see that --
7 that sands are interbedded with dolomites.

8 Porosities range from anywhere from zero to
9 about 24 percent on density, and that's out of
10 limestone matrix. Typically we will look at about a 16
11 percent density cutoff which is about the equivalent of
12 14 percent sand.

13 Q. Move on to your Exhibit 6 and discuss it
14 for the Examiner.

15 A. This is a mapped area of the study area.
16 Section 1 of 19/32 is approximately in the center. The
17 blue outline outlines the Bondurant leasehold within
18 the Buffalo Yates Oil Pool. Several things on here.
19 One, this is a structure map, and it's mapped on the
20 top of the C1. The C1 is typically the most laterally
21 consistent through the area, so it makes it easier to
22 see regional dip mapping on a consistent sand rather
23 than one that comes and goes.

24 The color coding on the wells, you will see
25 on the legend that each of the different sands that are

1 encountered in here, I have marked where they produce
2 in individual sands, and, for the most part, what I
3 want you to notice is that this light red or pinkish
4 color marks the C sand production, and it extends
5 across the entire study area.

6 And as you can see, there is a -- pretty much
7 a regional dip from the west down to the east, which is
8 minor little structural positions, but the sand
9 produces throughout all of them. So you can see from
10 this map that there is not a structural control on the
11 trapping mechanism for the Yates. It's a stratigraphic
12 control where the sands pinch out.

13 The structure map is on a contour. And
14 that's -- oh, the last thing on here is there is a thin
15 blue line crossing the leasehold in about the middle
16 there, that's the east-west cross section that I will
17 be discussing here in a few minutes.

18 Q. Move on to your isopach and discuss that.

19 A. Same area of the map, this is an isopach
20 that shows the total Yates Sand in the area that had 16
21 percent density or greater, which is again equivalent
22 to 14 percent sand or greater. So it's the
23 conglomerate of all the various sands, and the general
24 look is that we have a very, very tight well-defined
25 east-west trend to the sand package that you find in

1 the Yates and -- and they are bounded by zero sand to
2 the north and zero sand to the south and get upwards of
3 72 feet of total -- total sand over 16 percent in the
4 middle.

5 Q. Finally, could you discuss your cross
6 sections for the Examiner?

7 A. Okay. Just one added thing on the isopach
8 map, you will see a large blue arrow, that marks the
9 injection candidate that we are going to discuss.

10 This exhibit is cross section, structurally
11 laid out, running east to west through the Bondurant
12 leasehold. The injection candidate, the Number 10,
13 sits in the middle of the cross section right above the
14 title block. Basically what I'm trying to show on here
15 is that structurally we have dip to the east through
16 the area.

17 In the yellow shaded you will see where the
18 16 percent cutoff on the sand so that various wells
19 have various different reservoirs that -- that reach
20 that cutoff and that you will also notice that the
21 perfs, which are those pink rectangles in the wellbore
22 of the various wells will produce from different sands,
23 depending on whether they have -- whether the spacing
24 characteristics were such that they didn't over-produce
25 or have them too close, so they will skip over some

1 sands on various wells just so they don't have them
2 spaced too close.

3 The C Sand, the D Sand, with the C being
4 reddish correlation marker in about the middle, and D
5 being the brownish one up above it, are demonstrated as
6 being the most laterally consistent through the area.
7 The E up above comes and goes very quickly. The B,
8 which is the large thick yellow swat on the bottom of
9 the 10, the Bondurant Number 10, for most wells is wet.
10 There is just a couple of wells that produce from it,
11 so again, outlines where the C and the E is located.

12 Q. And has the injection sand been reasonably
13 defined by development on the Bondurant?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Are there -- are there any faults
16 connecting any fresh water zone at the injection?

17 A. I don't believe there are any faults at
18 this level, and I'm not sure there is any fresh water
19 zones in the area.

20 Q. Were Exhibits 5 through 9 prepared by you
21 or under your direction?

22 A. Yes, they were.

23 Q. In your opinion, is the granting of this
24 application in the interest of conservation and the
25 interest of waste?

1 A. Yes.

2 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move the
3 admission of Exhibits 5 through 8.

4 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 5 through 8 will be
5 admitted.

6 (Exhibits 5 through 8 admitted.)

7 EXAMINER JONES: 32 east, is that Vacuum
8 Field or north of Vacuum Field?

9 WITNESS: You are east of Lusk and west of
10 Quail Ridge.

11 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

12 WITNESS: And there are several small fields
13 in 19/32, but the two big ones, Lusk to the west, west
14 edge of 19/32, and Quail Ridge starts up in 19/33.

15 EXAMINER JONES: Quail Ridge was kind of
16 deep, if I remember, the Yates Formation -- the Queen
17 Formation is kind of deep.

18 WITNESS: The Queen is down about, I think
19 42, 43 hundred feet. The Yates out here runs anywhere
20 from 25 hundred to 35 hundred.

21 EXAMINER JONES: Do you plan on any other
22 completions in this well to sweep anything to the
23 neighbors or --

24 WITNESS: Well, we will probably immediately
25 perforate the C1 package with the D1. I think we are

1 going to be requesting that all the sands from B
2 through E be allowed to be injected into, but the C and
3 D are the primary targets.

4 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. And that's the way it
5 was advertised and noticed to everybody, the whole --

6 WITNESS: I believe so.

7 EXAMINER JONES: The whole package? Those
8 Yates Sands are they marine or near marine or --

9 WITNESS: They're a combination from what I
10 could tell from mapping and research, the lit -- the
11 literature is that you've got a combination of aeolian
12 and fluvial environments out here. It depends on how
13 wet it gets. If it gets dry, blows some dunes across
14 that area, and if you get enough rain, then you might
15 rework some of that into little fluvial channels. I'm
16 thinking, in this area, we have a very strong east-west
17 trend to these sands, so it looks like we've got a
18 little bit more of an aeolian origin to this, and
19 several of the other fields in general townships around
20 are kind of sub-parallel to this, and they are all
21 sub-parallel to the edge of the Capitan Reef.

22 EXAMINER JONES: This is right north of the
23 reef. Is that correct?

24 WITNESS: Yes. If you go far enough into the
25 Seven Rivers down below, you will encounter some high

1 porosity dolomites, but right first hundred or so feet
2 below the Yates it's pretty much tight dolomite, so
3 we're kind of just a little bit back off. If you move
4 down about 5, 6 miles to the south the sands will
5 almost be sitting on top of the reef.

6 EXAMINER JONES: Geologically it looks
7 amenable to maybe trying a little ~~auto~~ here. Is that
8 the idea?

9 WITNESS: The continuity of the C and D is
10 very well suited to getting secondary.

11 EXAMINER JONES: It does look like it's
12 really lower as you go deeper, at least in this well.
13 The other wells, too.

14 WITNESS: The B Sand a very good reservoir,
15 but it doesn't, for the most part, it's pretty wet in
16 this area. There is a couple -- on the structure map,
17 you saw a couple of minor structures. The B level will
18 have some of the same things and you will get one well
19 will produce here and one well produce there. I
20 believe most of the sand probably produces outside of
21 the study area.

22 EXAMINER JONES: Is there any clays, any
23 recycling water through here?

24 WITNESS: I'm not noticing any clays based on
25 analysis of the logs. It looks like it's either pretty

1 clean sand or sand with dolomite cements. Of course,
2 the Yates being a radioactive sand, it's always kind of
3 hard to tell exactly what your clay content is, but it
4 looks like pretty clean here.

5 EXAMINER JONES: You have a spectral gamma
6 ray on it?

7 WITNESS: I don't think there was one done at
8 the time of the drilling of these wells.

9 EXAMINER JONES: Did they core anything out
10 of here?

11 WITNESS: There was one core, and
12 unfortunately I don't have the core data with me today.

13 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. I don't have any more
14 questions. Thank you very much.

15 WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

16 EXAMINER JONES: David, did you have any?

17 EXAMINER BROOKS: No questions.

18 TIM WILCOX

19 (Having been sworn, testified as follows:)

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. BRUCE:

22 Q. Please state your name and city of
23 residence.

24 A. Tim Wilcox, Denver, Colorado.

25 Q. And who do you work for and in what

1 capacity?

2 A. Cimarex Energy, waterflood engineering
3 manager.

4 Q. Have you previously testified before the
5 Division?

6 A. Yes, I have.

7 Q. And were your credentials as an expert
8 petroleum engineer accepted as a matter of record?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you are familiar with the engineering
11 matters related to this application?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender Mr. Wilcox
14 as an expert petroleum engineer.

15 EXAMINER JONES: He is so qualified.

16 Q. Mr. Wilcox, have you reviewed data
17 regarding the practicality of this project and the
18 economics of the project?

19 A. Yes, I have.

20 Q. Would you identify Exhibit 9 for the
21 Examiner and describe a little bit of the history of
22 this pool.

23 A. Exhibit 9 is -- I think there are two
24 Exhibit 9s in there -- but production and cum
25 production plat for the area. We have all the wells

1 that are in the trend to Buffalo Yates Field, and I
2 would kind of narrow your attention down to the yellow
3 area which is the Bondurant lease that we operate. One
4 map has the cumulative production numbers in oil, gas,
5 and water, in green, red, and blue. And the map with
6 the blue arrow on it has the current rate production in
7 oil in barrels per day, gas in MCF per day and water in
8 MCF per day in the same color sequence.

9 Q. And what is Exhibit 10?

10 A. Exhibit 10 is the historical plot of
11 production for the Cimarex operated wells in the Yates
12 Formation for this portion of Buffalo Field. The field
13 first came on line in -- in this area in 4 of 86 with
14 the Number 4 Bondurant Well. A number of additional
15 drillings occurred at the end of 91, in early 92.
16 There is the Number 5, Number 7, Number 8 and Number 9
17 Wells, you see the production peaked up fairly high at
18 that point to almost 10000 barrels a month. The
19 additional development activity occurred in 94 with the
20 drilling of the Number 10 and Number 11 Well. And then
21 since that point, there hasn't really been significant
22 activity except for some pluggings that have occurred
23 on the Number 5 and Number 3 Well for uneconomic
24 production.

25 Q. So the reservoir at this point, especially

1 on the Bondurant lease, is severely depleted, is it
2 not?

3 A. Yes, almost every well is less than a
4 couple of barrels a day.

5 Q. How does Cimarex plan to develop this
6 project area?

7 A. We plan to use the Bondurant Number 10
8 Well as the injector. It's in the middle of all of our
9 current production, so it isolates that well from
10 everywhere else going to complete the gross Yates
11 interval that Mr. Examiner mentioned to John earlier in
12 the porosity intervals, and then establish injection by
13 pulling production equipment that is there and going in
14 with plastic coated tubing in a lockset packer.

15 Q. And you are requesting proposal to inject
16 into the entire Yates interval although maybe the lower
17 zone might be too wet?

18 A. Correct. And most of the offsetting wells
19 are completed in almost every one of those intervals,
20 so we want to be able to push oil to any interval
21 that's open.

22 Q. And was this project proposed as a method
23 of extending the life of the reservoir?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What is the drive mechanism of the pool?

1 A. Solution gas.

2 Q. And how many -- initially there will just
3 be the one injection well?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And how many producers, initially?

6 A. Five producers.

7 Q. In the event that there could be
8 additional injectors, do you request that the order
9 contain approval for allowing administrative approval
10 of additional injectors?

11 A. Yes, pending the results of what we see in
12 Number 10 Well, we may want to cover the seven well,
13 also, but we might want to wait and see what kind of
14 results we get.

15 Q. Have you looked at how many additional
16 barrels of oil you anticipate recovering from this
17 project?

18 A. Conservatively, I'm estimating about
19 128,000.

20 Q. How did you calculate those reserves? And
21 I will refer you to your Exhibits 11, 12 and 13
22 together.

23 A. For this field we used offset analog
24 fields for calculating increased recovery. Exhibit 11
25 shows where our existing Buffalo Field is in the red

1 circle and the blue circle around it. The two analog
2 fields that I looked at were the Hackberry North Field
3 which is about 12 miles to the west, and the Teas West
4 Field which is about six miles to the south.

5 If you look at Exhibit 12, that is a
6 production define curve analogy on the North Hackberry
7 Unit, and because a lot of this production in these
8 older fields occurred prior to 1970, I didn't have that
9 production information, but the waterflood was started
10 in 1970, so the bottom forecast line on there is
11 assumed at 10 percent decline, and at that decline
12 rate, the ultimate recovery would be 1.4 million
13 barrels, approximately, on a primary basis.

14 The production that's on this curve would be
15 indicative of the secondary recovery, and forecasting
16 that recovery out, we would have a 2.2 million barrel
17 or 2.3 million barrel secondary recovery ultimate. So
18 subtracting the two from each other comes up with your
19 remaining or your secondary increase in that primary --
20 secondary primary ratio in this field would be point
21 five million, approximately.

22 So then we used the same approach on the Teas
23 West Unit which is a little bit newer flood which flood
24 was not initiated -- that's Exhibit Number 13 -- that
25 flood was initiated in 2003. We have a primary

1 recovery forecast of 1.14 million barrels, a secondary
2 recovery forecast of 2.7 million barrels, and that
3 primary to secondary ratio is about point 5, so I
4 average the two, and it's point 55 ratio for our
5 recovery, which is probably somewhat conservative to
6 some other fields in the area, but we wanted to be
7 conservative on our first pass.

8 Q. Mr. Fisco touched on this, but do you
9 anticipate any adverse effects on the offsetting leases
10 since you are just flooding your own lease?

11 A. No. I wouldn't expect adverse effects.
12 In fact, I mean, if we don't keep our wells pumped down
13 on each side of our flood, we could actually help the
14 offset operators.

15 Q. And I think you touched on this, but what
16 additional facilities must be installed for the
17 project?

18 A. We will need to put in a waterflood plant
19 and then some minimal piping from the plant to our one
20 injection well. Estimated cost of the facilities will
21 be about \$580,000. And the total project is going to
22 be about \$730,000.

23 Q. And do you anticipate the project to be
24 economic?

25 A. Yes, we do.

1 Q. And what was the estimated value of the
2 incremental production you anticipate?

3 A. Using current board prices we are coming
4 up with about \$4 million before tax value on 10 percent
5 discount rate.

6 Q. And what is Exhibit 14?

7 A. Exhibit 14 shows the forecast that we used
8 to come up with the economics that we just mentioned
9 where we have about a three-year time period to reach a
10 peak rate of 3500 barrels a month type of rate which is
11 conservatively less than the peak production for the
12 field.

13 Q. And is the project area so depleted that
14 it's prudent to apply an enhanced recovery program at
15 this time?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. In your opinion, is this project
18 technically and economically feasible?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And will it recover substantially more
21 hydrocarbons than would be recovered without
22 the project?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. As a result, will it benefit the working
25 and royalty interest owners on the lease?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Because of the additional estimated
3 production, in your opinion, do the wells in the
4 project area qualify for the recovered oil tax rate?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Let's move on to the injection
7 application, Exhibit 15, Mr. Wilcox. Now, this
8 application was prepared by Kay Havenor who was a
9 contractor for Cimarex?

10 A. Correct. Yes.

11 Q. And have you reviewed the data in this
12 application?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And do you concur with the data?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Let's move on to Page 3 of the C-108, and
17 we can discuss a little bit about the initial injection
18 well.

19 A. As we mentioned earlier, the Bondurant
20 Number 10 is the one we want to convert to injection.
21 The injection interval down below is mentioned as 3362
22 to 3650 which covers essentially the entire
23 stratigraphic unit. We have only one stratigraphic
24 unit perforated in the well right now, so we would go
25 in and perforate all the other intervals that have

1 porosity, substantial porosity to inject into. And
2 then to monitor the offsets, we could end up
3 perforating offset producers as well to get the full
4 benefit from -- in fact, I think we will.

5 Q. How much do you anticipate what the
6 injection volumes will be?

7 A. The application says 8,000 barrels a day.
8 I went back and looked at some injection calculations.
9 I think it will probably be more in the order of 1,000
10 to 2,000 barrels a day at the initial rate, so probably
11 will stabilize at quite a bit less than that. I think
12 we should start out at a low pressure of say 600
13 pounds, which is below the point 2 PSI per foot
14 requirement, and let that injection stabilize for about
15 a month, and then go in and run a step rate test and
16 have that dictate the pressure we should use to keep
17 the pressure.

18 Q. Let's move on to Page 8 of this C-105.

19 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I haven't marked
20 this as an exhibit that I'm just handing you, but it's
21 a clearer print than -- I think the page was printed in
22 Greek originally.

23 Q. Mr. Wilcox, does this contain data on all
24 the wells in the area of review?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And besides the chart, there is a lot of
2 data given below on the wells in the area of review.
3 Is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And are all the wells in the area of
6 review either properly plugged or abandoned or are they
7 properly -- between zones?

8 A. Yes, they are.

9 Q. And the -- what will be the source of the
10 injection water?

11 A. It will be Bone Springs produced wells.

12 Q. And is that water compatible with the
13 formation water?

14 A. Yes, it is.

15 Q. Moving back to Page 14, does that indicate
16 how the Bondurant Number 10 will be completed for
17 injection?

18 A. Page 14?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. That's the -- that's the producing
21 diagram.

22 Q. Oh, the present status, and then 15 is
23 the --

24 A. 15 is the proposed injection program,
25 correct.

1 Q. And the following pages are sketched,
2 wellbore sketches of plugged and abandoned wells?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you see any problem wells in this area?

5 A. No. They are all plugged appropriately.

6 Q. And again, the geologist touched on this,
7 but do you know of any sources of fresh water in the
8 immediate area of the injection well?

9 A. No, we did not find any.

10 Q. Were Exhibits 9 through 14 prepared by you
11 or under your supervision?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And again, you have reviewed Exhibit 15
14 and concur with that exhibit, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. The C-108?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. In your opinion, is the granting of this
19 application in the interest of conservation and the
20 prevention of waste?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. BRUCE: And, Mr. Examiner, I move the
23 admission of Exhibits 9 through 15.

24 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 9 through 15 will
25 be admitted.

1 (Exhibits 9 through 15 admitted.)

2 EXAMINER JONES: I see an example of Yates
3 production water in the --

4 WITNESS: Yes.

5 EXAMINER JONES: Page 11?

6 WITNESS: Right.

7 EXAMINER JONES: And as far as the Bone
8 Spring water that's going in, it's real pretty fresh
9 stuff, isn't it?

10 WITNESS: Yes. In fact, after we got that,
11 we got some samples of our produced water out there and
12 did some mix analysis with it, and it shows no scaling
13 tendencies with the mixture of the two waters, which is
14 what we are worried about.

15 EXAMINER JONES: Not a bunch of iron?

16 WITNESS: There is a little bit of iron in
17 there, but I think it said it would only precipitate at
18 less than a thousandth of a pound per I think thousand
19 barrels of water.

20 EXAMINER JONES: Did you look at the logs on
21 these zones in the lower part of the Yates to see if
22 there is any residual oil that could be maybe not
23 produced primarily but produced secondarily? You said
24 you were going to perforate them or --

25 WITNESS: I didn't look at the logs as far as

1 calculating out residual oil saturations or anything
2 like that, but I know we have some of the zones that
3 are perforated in that lower interval already, so if
4 while we are in there it's a minimal cost to go ahead
5 and perforate additional intervals, and then we can do
6 injection profiles and things afterwards to make sure
7 that water is going into the zones we want it to go
8 into.

9 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Well, I didn't -- on
10 your production report, it didn't show big volumes of
11 water being recovered. So is that true, even if you
12 perforate down below there, you don't move a lot of
13 that water, or would you move a lot of water? That's
14 the porosity --

15 WITNESS: You would move some water, and so
16 that would be an ongoing surveillance project for the
17 area that if we see, you know, that zone taking a lot
18 of water, and it's going to our offsets, to just go in
19 and squeeze that interval off.

20 EXAMINER JONES: The project area, would that
21 be the whole lease?

22 WITNESS: Yes.

23 EXAMINER JONES: The whole lease?

24 WITNESS: I don't think the isopach, the zero
25 line covers the whole lease, but the project area is

1 essentially --

2 EXAMINER JONES: Do you know the gravity of
3 the oil?

4 WITNESS: 38 degrees.

5 EXAMINER JONES: As far as the current
6 pressure and the initial pressure?

7 WITNESS: Initial pressure we were estimating
8 about 1200 pounds. We didn't find any actual pressure
9 build up information, but kind of taking some tests
10 before stimulation, that's what we estimated. Right
11 now we haven't done any current buildups, but we're
12 pumping a low --

13 EXAMINER JONES: Pretty low?

14 WITNESS: So less than 200 pounds.

15 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. But the analogy
16 waterfloods look okay, but does that also coincide with
17 maybe a mobility ratio look at it --

18 WITNESS: Well, I did look at the mobility
19 ratios on the other fields, but here the live well
20 viscosity is point 85 and the dead oil viscosity is
21 2.7, so that's going to be a pretty good mobility ratio
22 for water on that.

23 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. And the water that
24 will be brought in, are they real close by?

25 WITNESS: We are drilling Bone Springs Well.

1 There are two Bone Springs Wells producing there
2 already, and we have the other laterals that we are
3 drilling out there and have drilled in the area
4 already.

5 EXAMINER JONES: So this is going to be a
6 plus for everything.

7 WITNESS: Right. I mean this project might
8 not have justified drilling a water supply well on its
9 own, but if we have a water supplying the area, then
10 this is a benefit both ways.

11 EXAMINER JONES: And you chose to only --
12 choose one injection well in the middle of the lease
13 rather than try to bound the lease -- I mean, have a --
14 you get an inverted pattern instead of a --

15 WITNESS: Correct. We wanted to make sure
16 that we didn't adversely affect offset operators, so
17 that's why we picked the middle lease. The previous
18 owner of this lease had tried to go out and bring in
19 all the operators in the entire field, and they
20 couldn't get a resolution to it, so --

21 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Well, if you see some
22 response, then you might.

23 WITNESS: We could probably convince them
24 better to join us.

25 EXAMINER JONES: At least this way you are

1 not robbing your own lease of production?

2 WITNESS: Correct.

3 EXAMINER JONES: David, do you have any
4 questions?

5 EXAMINER BROOKS: No questions.

6 EXAMINER JONES: Thanks for coming up here.
7 With that, is that all for your case?

8 MR. BRUCE: Yes, sir.

9 EXAMINER JONES: Take Case 14676 under
10 advisement.

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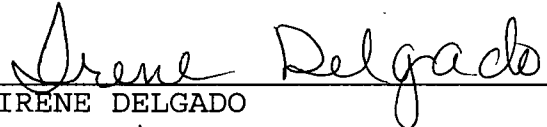
I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. _____
heard by me on _____
_____, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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