ROBERT M. ST. JOHN JOSEPH J. MULLINS MARK K. ADAMS BRUCE HALL JOHN P. SALAZAR WILLIAM S. DIXON P. BURTON REX D. THROCKMORTON JONATHAN W. HEWES RICHARD C. MINZNER W. ROBERT LASATER, JA. MARK C. MEIERING CATHERINE T. GOLDBERG PATRICK M. SHARY NARK Y. ANAY NANCY J. APPLEBY ELLEN T. SKRAK TRACY M. JENKS HENRY M. BOHNHOEF CHARLES K. PURCELL ANDREW GSCHULTZ JOHNSW SCHULTZ JOHNSW SCHULTZ MARK M. W. PARNISH PAUL R. KOLLER JAMES P. BIEG

CHARLES J. VIGIL THOMAS L. STAHL DAVID W. BUNTING LESLIE MCCARTHY APODACA SUSAN BARGER FOX MacDONNELL GORDON WILLIAM J. ARLAND JAMES A. ASKEW JEFFREY M. CROASDELL SUNNY J. NIXON JEFFREY L. LOWRY DEBORAH E. MANN THOMAS A. OUTLER DEBORAH E. MANN THOMAS A. OUTLER SETH L. SPARKS LISA A. CHAVEZ JOCELYN C. DRENNAN JUCELIN C. DREINNAN MICHAEL, BRESCIA MICHELLE HENRIE NELSE T. SSIMECK R. ARLA K. SPROULS K. ARLA K. SPROULS ALAN HAL BRIAN H. LEMATTA DEBORAH S. GILLE AARON C. VIETS KIMBERLY N. BELL KURT B. GILBERT BRENDA M. MALONEY MATTHEW S. WERMAGER LARRY J. MONTARO JESSICA M.HERNANDEZ MICHAEL J. BRESCIA

RODEY, DICKASON, SLOAN, AKIN & ROBB, P. A. COUNSELORS AND ATTORNEYS AT LAW 315 PASEO DE PERALTA SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

> P.O. BOX 1357 SANTA FE, NM 87504-1357 WEB-SITE: WWW.RODEY.COM E-MAIL: INFO@RODEY.COM

TELEPHONE (505) 954-3900 FACSIMILE (505) 954-3942

June 20, 2003

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OF COUNSEL JACKSON G. AKIN JOHN D. ROBB JAMES C. BITCHIE JO SAXTON BRAYER DONALD B. MONNHEIMER JULIE P. NEERKEN ROBERT G. McCORKLE PABLO PRANDO

BEBNARD S. RODEY (1856-1927) PEARCE C. RODEY (1889-1927) DON L. DICKASON (1906-1999) WILLIAM A. SLOAN (1910-1993)

ALBUQUERQUE OFFICE ALBUQUERQUE PLAZA 201 THIRD STREET NW, SUITE 2200 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102 P.O. BOX 1888 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

TELEPHONE (505) 765-5900 FACSIMILE (505) 768-7395

WRITERS DIRECT NUMBER

(505) 954-3917

HAND-DELIVERED JUN 20 2003 Ms. Lori Wrotenbery, Director Oil Conservation Division 1220 South St. Francis Drive Conservation Division Oil Conservation Division

Application of El Paso Energy Raton, L.L.C. for Approvals of Non-Standard/ Re: Irregular Spacing Units and Certain Non-Standard Setbacks for Unorthodox Well Locations for Coalbed Methane Gas Wells and Any Other Approvals Required for such Units, Setbacks and Wells in Colfax County, New Mexico. Case No. 13097

Dear Ms. Wrotenbery:

On behalf of El Paso Energy Raton, L.L.C., please find enclosed for filing the original and two (2) copies of El Paso Energy Raton, L.L.C.'s Supplemental Certificate of Mailing and Compliance with Division Rule 1207 (Order R-8054), along with the Certificate of Service.

We also enclose an extra copy of each of the above, which we ask be conformed with the NMOCD date and time stamp and returned to our courier. Thank you.

Very truly yours.

RODEY, DIØKASON, SLOAN, AKIN & ROBB, P.A. Sunny J. Nixon

SJN/tc

Enclosures

Certificate of Service (w/encls.) CC: G. Kevin Cunningham (w/encls.) Paul H. Dowden (w/encls)

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

CASE NO. 13097

APPLICATION OF EL PASO ENERGY RATON, L.L.C. FOR APPROVALS OF NON-STANDARD/IRREGULAR SPACING UNITS AND CERTAIN NON-STANDARD SETBACKS FOR UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATIONS FOR COALBED METHANE GAS WELLS AND ANY OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR SUCH UNITS, SETBACKS AND WELLS IN COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

RECEIVED

ND WELLS IN COLI AN COLI AND SUPPLEMENTAL CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND Oil Conservation Division COMPLIANCE WITH DIVISION RULE 1207 (ORDER R-8054)

STATE OF NEW MEXICO) : SS COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

Sunny J. Nixon, being first duly sworn, hereby certifies that the undersigned is an attorney for the Applicant and responsible for notification in this matter and that the notice provisions of Division Rule 1207 (Order R-8054) have been complied with, that Applicant has caused to be conducted a good faith diligent effort to find the correct addresses of all interested parties entitled to receive notice, that on May 21, 2003, the undersigned caused to be filed with the Oil Conservation Division the attached Certificate of Mailing and Compliance with Division Rule 1207 (Order R-8054) (Exhibit 1 hereto) and to be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, the attached notice of this hearing and a copy of the Application for the above referenced case, at least twenty days prior to the hearing of this case scheduled for June 19, 2003 to the persons shown in said Application and as evidenced by the attached copies of return receipt cards (Exhibit 2 hereto) and/or evidence of certified mailing, and that pursuant to Division Rule 1207, notice has been given at the correct addresses provided by such rule.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this <u>//HL</u> day/of June, 2003, by

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and the second second 19 E My commission expires: I A R REN human

Notary Public

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

MAY 2 1 2003

Oil Conservation Division CASE NO.

APPLICATION OF EL PASO ENERGY RATON, L.L.C. FOR APPROVALS OF NON-STANDARD/IRREGULAR SPACING UNITS AND CERTAIN NON-STANDARD SETBACKS FOR UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATIONS FOR COALBED METHANE GAS WELLS AND ANY OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR SUCH UNITS, SETBACKS AND WELLS IN COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND COMPLIANCE WITH DIVISION RULE 1207 (ORDER R-8054) ervation Division

STATE OF NEW MEXICO) : SS COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

commission expires:

* E *

Sunny J. Nixon, being first duly sworn, hereby certifies that the undersigned is an attorney for the Applicant and responsible for notification in this matter and that the notice provisions of Division Rule 1207 (Order R-8054) have been complied with, that Applicant has caused to be conducted a good faith diligent effort to find the correct addresses of all interested parties entitled to receive notice, that on May 21, 2003, the undersigned caused to be mailed by certified mail return receipt requested the attached notice of this hearing and a copy of the Application for the above referenced case, at least twenty days prior to the hearing of this case scheduled for June 19, 2003 to the persons shown in said Application and as evidenced by the attached copies of return receipt cards and/or evidence of certified mailing, and that pursuant to Division Rule 1207, notice has been given at the correct addresses provided by such rule.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 2/5 day of May, 2003, by

hele fel Valle

Notary Public

EXHIBIT

NOBERT M. ST. JOHN KOBERT J. MULLINS GARE J. MULLINS GARE K. ADAMB MICZE HALL BELO T. THOROKAMORTON BELO T. THOROKAMORTON BELO T. THOROKAMORTON BELO T. THOROKAMORTON MICZE M. J. BELO MICZERNO ATHER M. MICZER MARCH M. JENKS BWARD RICCO W. MARK MOWERY ATHICK M. JENKS BWARD RICCO W. MARK MOWERY ATHICK M. JENKS MARLES J. SHAT HORISH MICZEL MOREW G. SCHALTZ COTT D. GORDON LANG K. JENKS BELOTT J. MORGAN LANG K. JENKS MICZEL MOREW G. SCHALTZ COTT D. GORDON LANG K. JENKS MICZEL MOREW G. SCHALTZ COTT D. GORDON LANG K. JENKS MICZEL MI

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DAVID W. BUNTING LESUE MECARTHY APODACA SUSAN BARCET ONO WILLIAM J. ARLAND JAMES A. ASEL MILLIAM J. ARLAND JAMES A. ASKEW JEFREY M. CROASDELL SUNNY J. NIKON JEFREY L. LOWRY DEBORAH E. MANN R. TRACY SPROLES BUNNY J. NIKON JEFREY L. LOWRY DEBORAH E. MANN R. TRACY SPROLES DONALD E. MONNMHEMER ADAM MALLISANTTA JULE P. NEBREN MICHAEL J. BRESCIA MICHAEL S. WERMAGEN LABRY J. MONTANG.

Paul H. Dowden (w/Encl.)

RODEY, DICKASON, SLOAN, AKIN & ROBB, P. A. Attorneys at law 315 paseo de peralta Santa Fe. New Mexico 87501-2034

> P.O. BOX 1357 SANTA FE, NM 87504-1357 WWW.RODEY.COM

> TELEPHONE (505) 954-3900 FACSIMILE (505) 954-3942

> > May 21, 2003

OF COUNSEL JACKSON G. AKIN JOHN D. ROBB JAMES C. RITCHE JO SAAVEN ROBERT G. MCCORILLE

BERNARD S. RODEY (1856-1927) PEARCE C. RODEY (1859-1958) DON L. DICKASON (1908-1999) WILLIAM A. SLOAN (1910-1993)

WRITERS DIRECT NUMBER (505) 954-3917

SUNIXONORODEY.COM

TO: PERSONS ON NOTICE LIST ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF HEARING OF THE FOLLOWING NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION CASE:

Re: APPLICATION OF EL PASO ENERGY RATON, L.L.C. FOR APPROVALS OF NON-STANDARD/IRREGULAR SPACING UNITS AND CERTAIN NON-STANDARD SETBACKS FOR UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATIONS FOR COALBED METHANE GAS WELLS AND ANY OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR SUCH UNITS, SETBACKS AND WELLS IN COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

On behalf of El Paso Energy Raton, L.L.C. (Applicant), please find enclosed our Application (Exhibit B) with attached plats, which has been set for hearing on the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division examiner's docket now scheduled for June 19, 2003, commencing at 8:15 a.m. The hearing will be held at the Division hearing room located at 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

As an interest owner who may be affected by this Application, we are notifying you of your right to appear at the hearing and participate in this case, including the right to present evidence either in support of or in opposition to the Application. Failure to appear at the hearing may preclude you from any involvement in this case at a later date.

Pursuant to the Division's Memorandum 2-90 and Rule 1208, you are further notified that if you desire to appear in this case, then you are required to file a Pre-Hearing Statement with the Division not later than 4:00 P.M. on Friday, June 13, 2003, with a copy delivered to the undersigned, and you must file an Entry of Appearance to receive other parties' pre-hearing statements. Please direct any questions to Paul H. Dowden at (832) 676-3489 or Sunny J. Nixon at (505) 954-3917.

Very truly yours, RODEY, DICKASON, SLOAN, AKIN & ROBB, P.A. J. Nixøn Sunny SJN/tc Enclosure CC: Persons on Notice List Attached (w/Encl.) G. Kevin Cunningham (w/Encl.)

NOTICE LIST

United States Department of Agriculture United States Forest Service 333 Broadway SE Albuquerque, NM 87102 Attn: H. Wayne Thornton Director Land & Minerals

United States Forest Service Carson National Forest 208 Cruz Alta Rd. Taos, NM 87571 Attn: Martin Chavez, Jr. Forest Supervisor United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office P. O. Box 27115, 1474 Rodeo Road Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115 Attn: Linda Rundell, State Director

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management - Field Office 435 Montano Rd NE Albuquerque, NM 87107-4935 Attn: Edwin Singleton, Field Office Manager



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

1012 - 3 (

CASE NO.

APPLICATION OF EL PASO ENERGY RATON, L.L.C. FOR APPROVALS OF NON-STANDARD/IRREGULAR SPACING UNITS AND CERTAIN NON-STANDARD SETBACKS FOR UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATIONS FOR COALBED METHANE GAS WELLS AND ANY OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR SUCH UNITS, SETBACKS AND WELLS IN COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

APPLICATION

Comes now EL PASO ENERGY RATON, L.L.C. ("El Paso") and applies to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division ("Division") for approval of twenty (20) nonstandard/irregular coalbed methane ("CBM") gas spacing units and certain nonstandard setbacks for unorthodox well locations to be configured from portions of:

Projected Sections 3, 4, and 10, T29N, R18E, NMPM; Projected Sections 21, 22, 23 and 24, T30N, R17E, NMPM; and Projected Sections 29, 30, 32 and 33, T30N, R18E, NMPM; All within the Maxwell Land and Beaubien and Miranda Grants in Colfax County, New Mexico.

These non-standard/irregular spacing units are necessary because of the irregular boundary line between El Paso's mineral interest and the mineral interest of the United States administered by the United States Forest Service ("USFS") and the United States Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") in the Carson National Forest. See Exhibits 1A and 1B (together sometimes referred to collectively as Exhibit 1). Exhibits 1A and 1B are plats showing El Paso's proposed 20 non-standard/irregular spacing units, the proposed non-standard setbacks for the unorthodox locations of wells in each of these spacing units and the irregular boundary between El Paso's mineral interest and the mineral interest of the United States. El Paso's proposed

spacing units and setbacks for well locations will not result in more than one (1) well for each projected 160 acres (or four (4) wells for every projected 640 acres), *albeit* the irregular boundary has necessitated the non-standard/irregular spacing units. El Paso has requested, but the United States, through the USFS and the BLM, has failed to issue oil and gas leases of its mineral interest for CBM production on its side of the irregular boundary line.

El Paso also seeks the Division's approval for certain non-standard setbacks for the unorthodox location of wells. **See Exhibit 1.** El Paso proposes to locate and drill no more than one well in each of the non-standard/irregular spacing units. In locating its wells, El Paso will maintain in its proposed spacing units the Division's standard 660 feet setback along the outer irregular boundary with the United States. On the remaining outer boundaries of the spacing units (at which El Paso is the sole adjoining gas interest owner), El Paso proposes 200 feet non-standard setbacks from these boundaries in locating its wells. These wells are proposed to be completed from the top of the Raton coal seam to the base of the Vermejo coal seam situated in the Raton Basin. This area is approximately 36 miles southwest of Raton, New Mexico.

In support of its Application, El Paso states:

(1) El Paso is the operator of these proposed non-standard spacing units which contain certain irregular subdivisions of projected sections. See Exhibit 1 (plats) attached.

(2) Because of the irregular boundary line between El Paso's mineral interest and the mineral interest of the United States, there are certain subdivisions of projected sections which are irregular in shape and size. **See Exhibit 1 attached**. El Paso's proposed spacing units and the irregular boundary line lie within portions of the original Maxwell and Beaubien and Miranda Grants in which the same legal sections and subdivisions of the United States Public Land have been projected. The Division's standard spacing unit consists of 160 surface contiguous acres, more or less, substantially in the form of a square, which constitutes a quarter section and legal subdivision of the United States Public Land Surveys. Because of the irregular boundary line between El Paso and the United States, El Paso's proposed nonstandard/irregular spacing units are required to locate its proposed wells and to prevent waste. These spacing units will prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

(3) El Paso has requested, but the United States, through the USFS and BLM, has failed to issue oil and gas leases of its mineral interest for CBM production on its side of the irregular boundary line.

(4) El Paso's proposed non-standard/irregular spacing units are listed on the attached list. See Exhibit 2 (list) attached.

(5) El Paso proposes to drill twenty (20) wells. These wells will be located on the non-standard/irregular gas spacing units and within the designated setbacks. See Exhibit 1 attached. El Paso will locate one well in each proposed spacing unit no closer than 660 feet from the irregular outer boundary line between El Paso's and the United States' mineral interests and thereby will comply with the Division's standard setback requirement for well locations. El Paso proposes to locate one well in each spacing unit no closer than 200 feet from the remaining outer boundaries (on which El Paso is the sole adjoining mineral interest owner of gas). El Paso's proposed 200 feet setbacks will deviate from the Division's standard 660 feet setback rule and thereby may result in unorthodox well locations.

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(6) El Paso proposes 200 feet non-standard setbacks for the unorthodox well locations because the rough terrain and the surface owner's decisions necessitate flexibility in locating and drilling wells. At the outset, the Division's approval of these setbacks for El Paso's unorthodox location of wells, as dictated by the terrain, topography and surface owner's decisions at or near the time the wells are drilled, will provide the necessary flexibility to enable El Paso to drill one well within each spacing unit. See Exhibit 1 with proposed setbacks shown for each proposed non-standard/irregular spacing unit.

(7) The wells to be drilled within setbacks shown on Exhibit 1 are the first wells within the proposed non-standard/irregular spacing units.

(8) These proposed non-standard/irregular spacing units with certain nonstandard setbacks and unorthodox well locations have not been previously approved by the Division.

(9) Approval of this Application will afford El Paso the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the gas in the proposed spacing units, promote the orderly development of this area, prevent reduced recovery from drilling of too few wells and otherwise prevent waste and protect corrective rights.

(10) Notice of this Application has been sent to the United States through the United States Department of Agriculture - United States Forest Service and the United States Department of the Interior - United States Bureau of Land Management as all of the interest owners and the only persons that may be affected by this Application pursuant to OCD Rule 1207, more particularly set forth in Exhibit 3 hereto. See Exhibit 3 Notice List.

WHEREFORE El Paso requests that this matter be set for hearing on June 19, 2003, before the duly appointed Examiner of the Oil Conservation Division and that after notice and hearing as required by law, the Division enter its order granting this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Kevin Cunningham Senior Counsel El Paso Production Company 9 Greenway Plaza – Suite 1886 Houston, Texas 77046

and

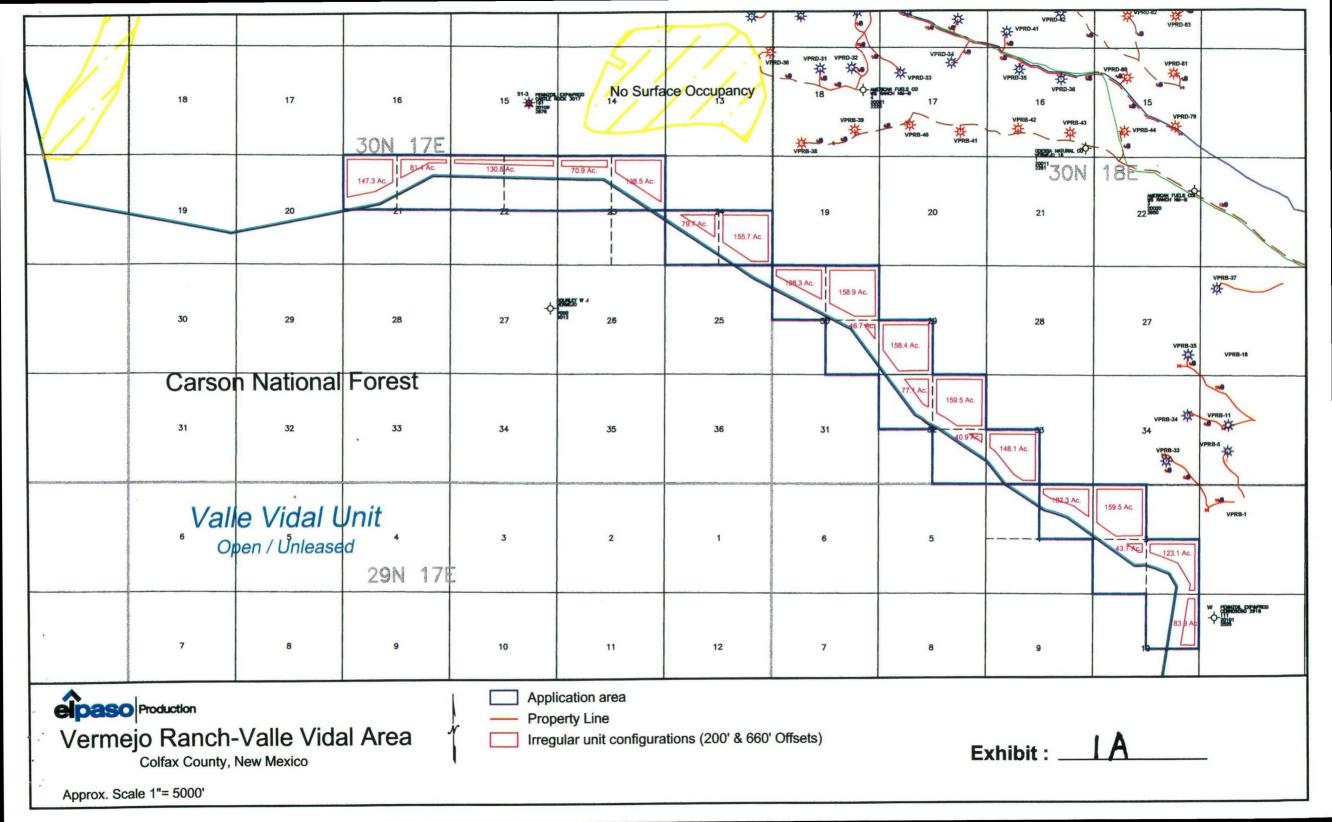
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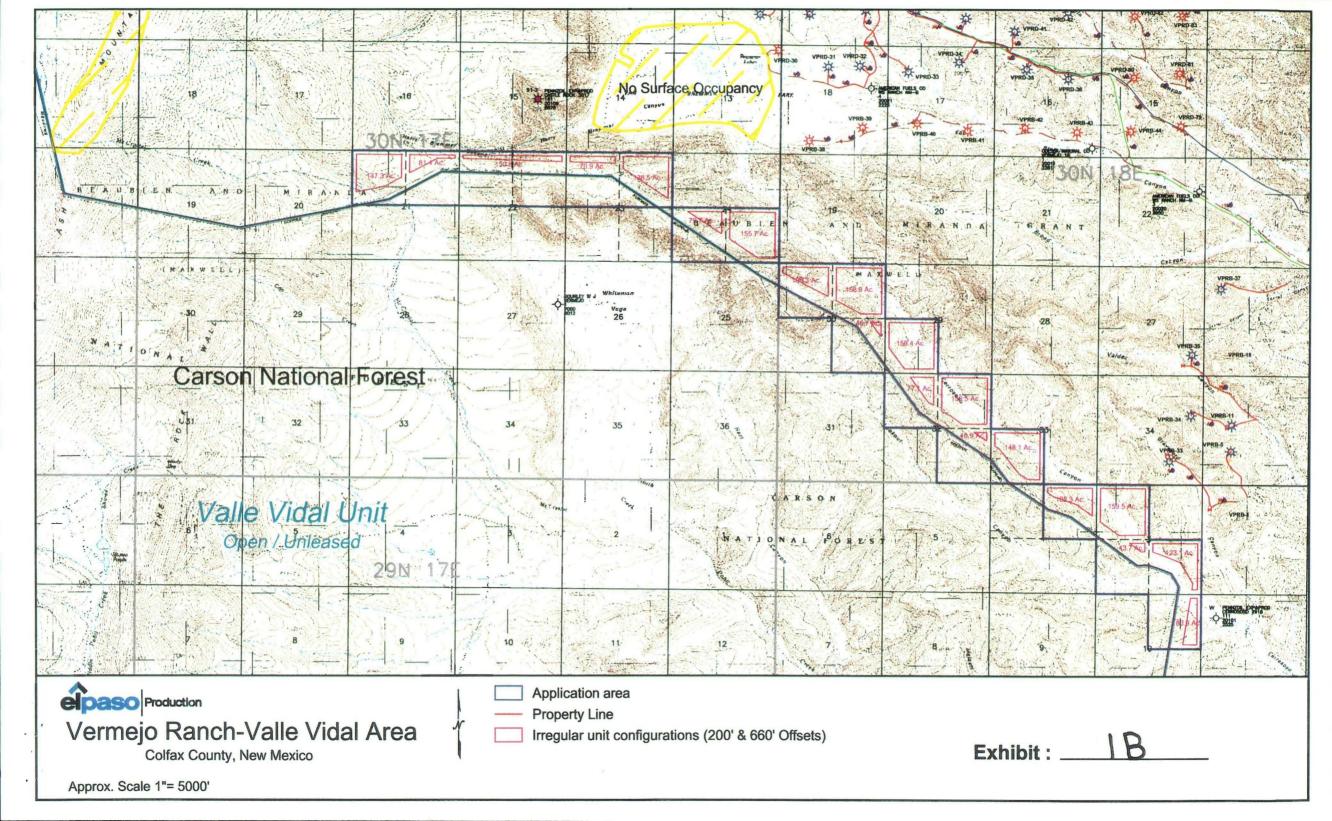
RODEY, DICKASON, SLOAN, AKIN & ROBB, P.A.

Mark K. Adams Sunny J., Nixon

P O Box 1357 315 Paseo de Peraita Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1357 (505) 954-3917- Telephone

Attorneys for Applicant El Paso Energy Raton, L.L.C.





Non-Standard Location #1	Section 21	NW/4	T-30-N, R-17-E	147.3	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #2	Section 21	NE/4	T-30-N, R-17-E	81.4	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #3	Section 22	N/2N/2	T-30-N, R-17-E	130.8	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #4	Section 23	NW/4	T-30-N, R-17-E	70.9	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #5	Section 23	NE/4	T-30-N, R-17-E	138.5	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #6	Section 24	SW/4	T-30-N, R-17-E	79.7	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #7	Section 24	SE/4	T-30-N, R-17-E	155.7	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #8	Section 30	NW/4	T-30-N, R-18-E	108.3	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #9	Section 30	NE/4	T-30-N, R-18-E	158.9	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #10	Section 30	SE/4	T-30-N, R-18-E	46.7	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #11	Section 29	SW/4	T-30-N, R-18-E	158.4	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #12	Section 32	NW/4	T-30-N, R-18-E	77.1	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #13	Section 32	NE/4	T-30-N, R-18-E	159.5	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #14	Section 32	SE/4	T-30-N, R-18-E	40.9	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #15	Section 33	SW/4	T-30-N, R-18-E	148.1	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #16	Section 4	NE/4	T-29-N, R-18-E	102.3	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #17	Section 3	NW/4	T-29-N, R-18-E	159.5	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #18	Section 3	SW/4	T-29-N, R-18-E	43.7	Colfax
Non-Standard Location #19	Section 3	SE/4	T-29-N, R-18-E	123.1	Coifax
Non-Standard Location #20	Section 10	NE/4	T-29-N, R-18-E	83.9	Colfax

NON-STANDARD SPACING UNITS AND WELL LOCATIONS

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NOTICE LIST

United States Department of Agriculture United States Forest Service 333 Broadway SE Albuquerque, NM 87102 Attn: H. Wayne Thornton Director Land & Minerals

United States Forest Service Carson National Forest 208 Cruz Alta Rd. Taos, NM 87571 Attn: Martin Chavez, Jr. Forest Supervisor United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office P. O. Box 27115, 1474 Rodeo Road Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115 Attn: Linda Rundell, State Director

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management - Field Office 435 Montano Rd NE Albuquerque, NM 87107-4935 Attn: Edwin Singleton, Field Office Manager

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 Complete items 1, 2, ar. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. 	A. Received by (Please Print DUZD KODG FOR 2727) C. Signature X. C. Signature MAY 2 7 2003 C. Addressee
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Santa Fe, N.M. 87502-0115 Attn: Linda Rundell, State Dir.	
2. Article Number (Copy from service laber) uested 7000 0520 0021 6896 0099	4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes
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IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 13097

APPLICATION OF EL PASO ENERGY RATON, L.L.C. FOR APPROVALS OF NON-STANDARD/IRREGULAR SPACING UNITS AND CERTAIN NON-STANDARD SETBACKS FOR UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATIONS FOR COALBED METHANE GAS WELLS AND ANY OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR SUCH UNITS, SETBACKS AND WELLS IN COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

RECEIVED

JUN 20 2003

Oil Conservation Division

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing

Supplemental Certificate of Mailing and Compliance with Division Rule 1207 (Order R-

8054) by El Paso Energy Raton, L.L.C. to be mailed by First Class Mail, postage

prepaid, this day of June, 2003 to the following:

Carsten F. Goff, Deputy State Director Resource, Planning, Use & Protection United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office 1474 Rodeo Road P. O. Box 27115 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115 (505) 438-7458 – Facsimile RODEY, DICKASON, SLOAN, AKIN & ROBB, P.A.

Sunny J Nixon

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