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- 1 EXAMINER JONES: Let's start on the first
- 2 case of the day. Let's call Case 14918, application of
- 3 Mewbourne Oil Company for a nonstandard spacing and
- 4 proration unit and compulsory pooling in Eddy County, New
- 5 Mexico. Call for appearances.
- 6 MR. FELDEWERT: Michael Feldewert, of the
- 7 Santa Fe office of Holland & Hart, appearing on behalf of
- 8 Mewbourne Oil Company. I have two witnesses today.
- 9 EXAMINER JONES: Any other appearances?
- 10 Will the witnesses please stand and state your
- 11 names?
- MR. MITCHELL: Corey Mitchell.
- MR. CLESS: Nate Cless.
- 14 EXAMINER JONES: Will the court reporter
- 15 please swear the witnesses?
- 16 (Two witnesses were sworn.)
- 17 COREY MITCHELL
- 18 Having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
- 19 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 20 BY MR. FELDEWERT:
- Q. Would you please state your full name for the
- 22 record, please, and identify by whom you're employed and
- 23 in what capacity?
- A. My name is Corey Mitchell. I'm employed by
- 25 Mewbourne Oil Company as a landman.

- 1 O. And have you previously testified before this
- 2 Division as an expert witness on petroleum land matters?
- 3 A. I have.
- 4 Q. Were your credentials accepted?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Are you familiar, Mr. Mitchell, with the
- 7 application that's been filed by Mewbourne in this
- 8 matter?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. Are you familiar with the status of the lands
- 11 in the subject area?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- MR. FELDEWERT: Mr. Examiner, I would once
- 14 again tender Mr. Mitchell as an expert witness in
- 15 petroleum land matters.
- 16 EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Mitchell is so
- 17 qualified.
- 18 Q. (By Mr. Feldewert) Would you please turn to
- 19 what's been marked as Mewbourne Exhibit Number 1,
- 20 identify this exhibit for the Examiners, and please
- 21 explain what the company seeks under this application?
- A. Exhibit Number 1 is a land plat, Tomano 10
- 23 Fed Com Number 8-H well. We are seeking to create a
- 24 160-acre nonstandard spacing and proration unit comprised
- of the north half/south half of Section 10, Township 18

- 1 South, Range 31 East, and to pool all the mineral
- 2 interests in the Bone Spring Formation.
- Q. What well will be initially dedicated to this
- 4 north half/south half unit?
- 5 A. The Tomano 10 Fed Com Number 8-H.
- Q. Is that going to comply with all the setbacks
- 7 required by the Division?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. What will the surface and bottomhole locations
- 10 be for this well?
- 11 A. The surface location will be in Unit L, and
- 12 our bottomhole location will be in Unit I.
- Q. What is the initial target for this well?
- 14 A. The Second Bone Spring Sand.
- 15 Q. And have you been able to identify what pool
- is involved with this application?
- 17 A. It is to Tomano Bone Spring pool.
- 18 O. Is the south half of Section 10 all federal
- 19 lands?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. How many leases are involved?
- 22 A. There are two federal leases.
- Q. Does the second page of this exhibit identify
- 24 all of the working interest owners in this acreage?
- 25 A. Yes, sir, it does.

- 1 Q. And is Mewbourne Exhibit Number 2 a copy of
- 2 the well proposal letter that was sent out to these
- 3 interest owners for this project?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. I note this is addressed to Ard Oil, Ltd. Was
- 6 a similar letter sent to all of the working interest
- 7 owners that are shown on the second page of Exhibit
- 8 Number 1?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. This submittal then contained an AFE, did it
- 11 not?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Have all of the working interest owners in
- 14 this acreage agreed to participate in the proposed well?
- 15 A. All of the working interest owners are subject
- 16 to a JOA. They've either elected to participate or go
- 17 nonconsent in the drilling of this well.
- 18 Q. Under the terms of the JOA?
- 19 A. Yes.
- O. Has the well been drilled?
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Why does the company seek then to pool this
- 23 acreage?
- A. We sent out a com agreement, and Ard Oil has
- 25 refused to sign it. And the BLM will not approve it

- 1 until we pool the interest of Ard Oil.
- Q. Does this particular pooling application only
- 3 apply to Ard Oil's interests?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. What percentage interest do they control?
- 6 A. It's 2.65 percent.
- 7 Q. What efforts did -- I know you sent out your
- 8 well proposal. You've got elections made by all the
- 9 working interest owners, including Ard Oil. What efforts
- 10 did the company undertake to obtain the signature of Ard
- 11 Oil on the necessary communitization agreement?
- 12 A. In January, we sent a com agreement with a
- 13 letter requesting execution. We never received it back.
- 14 And upon receipt of all the other partners' signatures,
- 15 we sent another letter via Certified Mail in August, and
- 16 we received that package back unclaimed.
- 17 O. The Mewbourne Exhibit Number 2 shows an
- 18 address for Ard Oil, Ltd. Is that a valid address?
- 19 A. It is.
- 20 Q. Is that the address that was utilized to send
- 21 the communitization agreements to them both first in
- 22 January and again in August?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. In fact, if I look at the second page of that
- 25 exhibit, using that address, they actually returned the

- 1 green card for that exhibit?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. Have you been able to previously get in touch
- with Ard Oil, Ltd., at this address in Fort Worth, Texas?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. But for whatever reason, they have not
- 7 returned a signed copy of the communitization agreement?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. So your only remaining recourse, pursuant to
- 10 what the BLM requires, would be to come here before the
- 11 Division and obtain a pooling order?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Let's go through the remaining aspects of this
- 14 pooling order. If we turn to the AFE, which is included
- as the last page of Exhibit Number 2, are the costs
- 16 reflected on this AFE consistent with what the company
- 17 has incurred for drilling similar horizontal wells?
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19 Q. And has Mewbourne made an estimate of the
- 20 overhead and administrative costs to drill this well and
- 21 also while producing this well if it is successful?
- Well, it has been drilled; right?
- A. Yes, sir. We request 6,000 a month for
- 24 drilling and 600 a month for producing.
- Q. Is that what costs that have been charged to

- 1 the working interest owners pursuant to the joint
- 2 operating agreement that they have all executed in this
- 3 matter?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And do you request that these figures be
- 6 incorporated into any order that results from this
- 7 hearing and that they be adjusted in accordance with the
- 8 COPAS accounting procedures?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. Since Ard Oil has actually signed a JOA and
- 11 elected to go nonconsent under the terms of the JOA, I
- 12 guess there's no need for the company to request a 200
- 13 percent risk penalty that is customarily imposed by the
- 14 Division's rules?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. If we turn now to the nonstandard unit, did
- 17 Mewbourne identify the operators and the lease mineral
- 18 interest owners in the 40-acre tract surrounding the
- 19 proposed nonstandard spacing unit?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. Did the company include these known lease
- 22 mineral interest owners in the notice of this hearing?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Has Mewbourne brought a geologist to provide
- 25 technical testimony in support of the nonstandard spacing

- 1 and proration unit?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. Finally, Mr. Mitchell, is Exhibit 3 an
- 4 affidavit, with the attached letters, providing notice of
- 5 this hearing to all of the affected parties?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. Were Exhibits 1 and 2 prepared by you or
- 8 compiled under your direction and supervision?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 MR. FELDEWERT: Mr. Examiner, I would move
- 11 the admission into evidence of not only Mewbourne
- 12 Exhibits 1 and 2, but also the affidavit which has been
- marked as Exhibit Number 3.
- 14 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 1 and 2 will be
- 15 admitted, and the affidavit, Exhibit 3, will be admitted.
- 16 (Exhibits 1, 2 and 3 were admitted.)
- 17 MR. FELDEWERT: That concludes my
- 18 examination of this witness.
- 19 EXAMINATION
- 20 BY EXAMINER JONES:
- Q. Mr. Mitchell, the percent that Mewbourne would
- 22 have had itself, how much would it have in this proposed
- 23 unit?
- A. We have approximately 98 percent committed. I
- 25 don't know exactly offhand what our interest is. And Ard

- 1 Oil has 2.65 percent, which they elected to go
- 2 nonconsent, but they refused to sign the com agreement.
- Q. But Mewbourne is the operator of the JOA?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And the JOA has a risk penalty of its own?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. It's got penalties of its own for
- 8 nonparticipation?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. And the application said something about
- 11 record title owners being subject to --
- 12 A. Ard Oil is a record title holder. And that is
- why the BLM is requesting them to sign the com agreement
- 14 as more of a record title holder, as opposed to a working
- 15 interest owner.
- 16 Q. But they are a working interest owner also?
- 17 A. Yes, sir, they're both.
- 18 Q. But it's two federal leases and a whole bunch
- 19 of working interest owners. So someone had the leases
- 20 originally? I don't have land experience. So how does
- 21 that work? They farmed it out or --
- 22 A. It's mainly a family that originally had it,
- 23 the Hudsons. And it got split up amongst their different
- 24 trusts, and we've acquired the interest from them.
- Q. That sounds like a lot of work to put these

- 1 things together.
- 2 A. It can be.
- Q. And the 40-acre tracts around this, about how
- 4 many people were noticed because of that?
- 5 A. Section 11 is the same ownership as in our
- 6 well that's the subject today. It's the same parties,
- 7 same JOA. And in Section 9 is Chesapeake Operating.
- 8 MR. FELDEWERT: Mr. Examiner, if you look
- 9 at Exhibit Number 3, on the fourth page it has a breakout
- 10 to give you an idea of the parties that we originally
- 11 thought we were going to need to pool because of the
- 12 circumstances associated with the communitization
- 13 agreement and the officers.
- 14 Q. (By Examiner Jones) And the people in the
- 15 north half of Section 10, who would that be?
- 16 A. It's the same.
- 17 Q. Same?
- 18 A. Yes, sir, same as in the remainder.
- 19 Q. And no special pool rules for this?
- 20 A. No, sir.
- Q. And no unlocatable parties?
- 22 A. No, sir.
- EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

24

25

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1 EXAMINATION

- 2 BY EXAMINER BROOKS:
- 3 Q. Typically, Ard won't sign anything Hudson
- 4 signs; right?
- 5 A. Correct. That's the problem we have.
- 6 Q. But you said Ard had gone nonconsent?
- 7 A. Yes, sir, because the Hudsons joined.
- 8 EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Feldewert, do you
- 9 think we should go ahead and issue our standard form of
- 10 order on the assumption that if Ard has already decided
- 11 to go nonconsent, they will make the same decision under
- 12 the operating agreement -- under the pooling order?
- 13 MR. FELDEWERT: We kind of have an odd
- 14 circumstance here. I don't know what you can do, other
- than issue your standard pooling order, because we're
- 16 really trying to satisfy the concerns that the BLM had.
- 17 They determined that simply because they were
- 18 subject to a joint operating agreement, that that wasn't
- 19 sufficient for the BLM to go ahead and approve the
- 20 communitization agreement. They wanted the pooling order
- 21 from the Division.
- So I think, to be safe, we need to go forward
- 23 with a standard pooling order.
- 24 EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good. Thank you.
- 25 That's all I have.

- 1 MR. FELDEWERT: We'll call then our second
- 2 witness.
- NATE CLESS
- 4 Having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
- 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 6 BY MR. FELDEWERT:
- 7 Q. Would you please state your name and then
- 8 identify by whom you're employed and in what capacity?
- 9 A. Nate Cless. I'm a geologist for Mewbourne Oil
- 10 Company.
- 11 Q. Have you also previously testified before this
- 12 Division?
- 13 A. I have.
- 14 Q. Have you testified as an expert witness in
- 15 petroleum geology?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. Were your credentials accepted and made a
- 18 matter of public record?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- 20 Q. Are you familiar with the application that has
- 21 been filed by Mewbourne in this case?
- 22 A. I am.
- Q. Have you had the opportunity to conduct a
- 24 geologic study of the lands that are the subject of this
- 25 application?

- 1 A. I have.
- MR. FELDEWERT: Mr. Examiner, I would once
- 3 again tender Mr. Cless as an expert witness in petroleum
- 4 geology.
- 5 EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Cless is so
- 6 qualified.
- 7 Q. (By Mr. Feldewert) Mr. Cless, if we turn to
- 8 what's been marked as Mewbourne Exhibit 4, would you
- 9 please identify that and walk the Examiners through that
- 10 exhibit?
- 11 A. Exhibit 4 is a structure map that I made on
- 12 the base of the Second Bone Spring, what we call the A
- 13 Sand. I'll point out what that marker is in a later
- 14 exhibit.
- Also on here, I've identified the Bone Spring
- 16 producers and what intervals they're producing out of.
- 17 Our main target is the Second Bone Spring Sand, which is
- 18 highlighted by the yellow circles. Those yellow circles
- 19 are vertical Second Bone Spring Sand producers.
- 20 There are also two horizontal Second Bone
- 21 Spring Sand producers that are drilled in the north
- 22 half/north half of Section 10, as well as the south
- 23 half/north half of Section 10, which we have drilled.
- I've also marked on here the location of a
- 25 cross-section that will be a later exhibit, A to A prime.

- 1 But basically as far as structure is concerned in this
- area, it's dipping from north to south. We don't believe
- 3 there's too much of a structural component here. We do
- 4 have vertical Bone Spring production out of the second
- 5 sand, both updip and downdip of us, so we don't believe
- 6 the structure is going to be a major player.
- 7 Q. So you're seeing consistent structure across
- 8 the south half of Section 10?
- 9 A. We are.
- 10 Q. Would you then turn to what's been marked as
- 11 Mewbourne Exhibit 5, identify it, and walk the Examiners
- 12 through that exhibit?
- 13 A. Exhibit Number 5 is a gross isopach map of the
- 14 Second Bone Spring A Sand. Once again, I have here all
- 15 the Bone Spring producers. But under every vertical
- 16 well, there's a number, and that's the gross thickness
- 17 for that particular well.
- So if we just look at -- there are four wells
- in the north half/south half of Section 10, and they
- 20 range from 96 feet of gross thickness to about 120 feet
- 21 of gross thickness. So along the north half/south half
- 22 of Section 10, we probably have an average thickness of
- 23 110 feet. There's not a lot of variation as far as the
- 24 gross interval is concerned in this area.
- 25 Q. The numbers you were just referencing are in

- 1 black on Exhibit Number 5?
- 2 A. Yeah. They're the black numbers directly
- 3 below the wellbores.
- 4 Q. Anything else about this exhibit?
- 5 A. No, sir.
- 6 Q. I note you have A to A prime here. Does that
- 7 relate then to the next exhibit, Exhibit Number 6?
- 8 A. Yes. Again, it is the --
- 9 Q. Give us a minute to pull this exhibit out.
- 10 Once we get it out, would you then identify what's been
- 11 marked as Mewbourne Exhibit Number 6 and walk us through
- 12 this exhibit?
- 13 A. It's a two-well cross-section going through
- 14 the north half/south half of Section 10. It contains the
- 15 well in 10-L, as well as the well in 10-I.
- It's a structural cross-section hung on the
- 17 base of the Second Bone Spring A Sand. That sand is
- 18 about two-thirds of the way down. You can see I've
- 19 marked the top of the Second Bone Spring A Sand, as well
- 20 as the base of the Second Bone Spring A Sand. That's
- 21 where we placed our lateral.
- 22 Q. That's in orange on this particular exhibit?
- 23 A. Yeah. Those are the two orange lines in the
- 24 middle of the cross-section.
- 25 And then you can see on here the gross

- 1 interval is pretty consistent across that north
- 2 half/south half. And the porosity log is on the right
- 3 side of each wellbore. And throughout this interval, we
- 4 have an average porosity of 10 to 12 percent, which is
- 5 consistent with what we see in other parts of this play.
- 6 Again, I've marked a horizontal target in that
- 7 interval. So we do believe the north half/south half
- 8 will be productive in this Second Bone Spring Sand.
- 9 Q. You're seeing consistency here with respect to
- 10 porosity and thickness across this interval?
- 11 A. Yes, we were.
- 12 Q. Just for the record, I note that there is an
- inset in the right of Exhibit Number 6. It's labeled,
- 14 "Top Second Bone Spring Sand." Is that the same
- 15 depiction as what's been marked as Mewbourne Exhibit
- 16 Number 5?
- 17 A. Yes, it is. That's the gross isopach map that
- 18 I used for Exhibit Number 5. And again, this first well
- 19 is the well that we're going to be landing by. And the
- 20 well in 10-I is the well that's closest to our
- 21 bottomhole.
- Q. Based on your study, do you see any geologic
- 23 impediment to develop this area using a full-section
- 24 horizontal well?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. In your opinion, is this an area that can be
- 2 efficiently and effectively drained and developed by
- 3 horizontal wells?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. Would you expect that the proposed project
- 6 area will contribute more or less equally to the well's
- 7 production?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. Will the completed interval for this well
- 10 comply with the setback requirements for the horizontal
- 11 well rule?
- 12 A. It will.
- Q. If I turn to what's been marked as Mewbourne
- 14 Exhibit Number 7, does this contain a well planning
- 15 report and diagrams demonstrating compliance with the
- 16 setback requirements?
- 17 A. Yes, it does. This is a horizontal well plan
- 18 that's given to us by our directional drilling company.
- 19 On the front page, towards the bottom, you have the
- 20 surface location marked at 1,737 from the south, 250 from
- 21 the west, and the landing point at 1,743 from south and
- 22 738 from west. That will be where the first completion
- 23 point will be. And then the bottomhole location of 1,800
- 24 from the south, 330 from the east. So these all comply
- 25 with the state-wide setbacks.

- If you flip through that, it's got all the
- 2 details of the well plan. And the last two pages on that
- 3 are the wellbore diagrams that we have. So the
- 4 second-to-the-last page shows where we're going to be
- 5 kicking off at 8,015 TVD. Our landing point, which is
- 6 marked by "EOB," which stands for end of build, is going
- 7 to be at 8,492 TVD, and then our bottomhole location at
- 8 8,482 TVD.
- And the last page is just a map view of the
- 10 wellbore diagram and the wellbore path for this
- 11 particular well.
- 12 Q. In your opinion, will the granting of
- 13 Mewbourne's application be in the best interest of
- 14 conservation, the prevention of waste and the protection
- 15 of correlative rights?
- 16 A. Yes, it will.
- Q. Were Mewbourne Exhibits 4 through 7 prepared
- 18 by you or compiled under your direction and supervision?
- 19 A. Yes, they were.
- 20 MR. FELDEWERT: Mr. Examiner, I would move
- 21 the admission into evidence of Mewbourne Exhibits 4
- through 7.
- 23 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 4 through 7 will
- 24 be admitted.
- 25 (Exhibits 4 through 7 were admitted.)

- 1 MR. FELDEWERT: That concludes my
- 2 examination of this witness.
- 3 EXAMINATION
- 4 BY EXAMINER JONES:
- 5 Q. Mr. Cless, so on this cross-section, your well
- 6 will be drilled -- where are you going to tell them to
- 7 land your well?
- 8 A. If you look on the right side, I've got it
- 9 marked as a horizontal target with that double red arrow.
- 10 So we're going to land right in the middle of that.
- 11 Q. Right in the middle? So basically, it looks
- 12 like your resistivity log is pretty critical for your
- 13 pilot hole to look for where you're going?
- 14 A. Like I said, this is the third well that we're
- 15 drilling in this section. So more or less in this area
- 16 we look at porosity, and we use resistivity to calculate
- 17 water saturations and stuff. With the vertical wells in
- 18 this area, we know this area is productive in this
- 19 interval, so we do use the resistivity logs and the gamma
- 20 ray logs for tying us in whenever we're landing the well.
- 21 Q. You just have a mud log when you're drilling?
- 22 A. We have a mud log and then a gamma ray log
- 23 that we run as we drill the well.
- Q. So the gamma ray is 30 feet back or so?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

- 1 Q. How fast do they drill in --
- 2 A. Usually, we drill the lateral in anywhere from
- 3 five to seven days. So it's about a 4,200-foot lateral,
- 4 so anywhere from 500 to -- we drilled some that have been
- 5 about 1,000 feet a day. Usually about 500 feet a day,
- 6 though.
- 7 Q. How many minutes per foot?
- 8 A. A half a minute per foot. On average, half
- 9 minute to a minute.
- 10 Q. That fast?
- 11 A. As you get farther into the lateral, it slows
- 12 down a little bit. But usually starting out, it's about
- 13 a half a minute to a minute per foot.
- Q. Are there vertical wells producing in this 160
- 15 acres right now?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 O. Out of this same interval?
- 18 A. Yes, there are.
- 19 Q. Or even out of the upper or lower Bone Spring
- 20 interval?
- 21 A. They're producing out of this particular
- 22 interval. The well in 10-L, as well as the well in 10-K,
- 23 are both producing out of this interval. And they
- 24 produce out of -- actually, I believe they just produce
- 25 out of the Second Bone Spring Sand.

- The well in 10-L we're not too concerned with
- 2 because by the time we land, we'll be far enough away
- 3 from that well. The well in 10-K, we kind of have an
- 4 idea of where we believe that well -- the frack
- 5 orientation of this area. So for our completion, we use
- 6 a packer-and-port system, so we spaced our ports around
- 7 that to kind of minimize interference with that well.
- 8 O. What about I and J?
- 9 A. They both produce out of the Second Bone
- 10 Spring Carbonate, which all the wells that are in blue
- 11 produce out of the Second Bone Spring Carbonate. So
- 12 that's going to be above this interval, so we're not too
- 13 concerned with interference or communication with those
- 14 wells.
- 15 O. Where would it be on this cross-section?
- 16 A. Basically, just off the top of this. I've got
- 17 it marked, "Second Bone Spring Sand." And just above
- 18 that is the Second Bone Spring Carbonate.
- 19 Q. It's in the same pool?
- 20 A. Yes, it is.
- Q. You don't plan on petitioning to split the
- 22 pool?
- 23 A. No, sir.
- Q. Is it going to affect your allowable, those
- 25 vertical wells?

- 1 A. I don't believe they will. The vertical wells
- are down to about 5 to 10 barrels a day, so I don't
- 3 believe it will affect it.
- Q. So do you expect pretty good continuity? You
- 5 don't expect --
- A. As far as when we drill the well, like I said,
- 7 this well has been drilled, and we never got of the zone
- 8 that we were targeting. For this, since we have such a
- 9 big interval that we're landing in, we're just going to
- 10 put it right in the middle. And we've never had any
- 11 problems staying in the sand.
- 12 Q. So you can't just frack your vertical wells
- 13 again with a bigger frack job and get through the same
- 14 thing here?
- 15 A. We've just seen better results going in and
- 16 drilling horizontals in these.
- 17 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you very much.
- 18 David?
- 19 EXAMINATION
- 20 BY EXAMINER BROOKS:
- Q. On this last page of your Exhibit Number 7,
- 22 you have a red line that's marked, "Lease line," and a
- 23 red line that's marked as, "330 foot hard line," on the
- 24 left. The red line on the right, is that the 330-foot
- 25 line at the other end of the unit?