

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

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

ORIGINAL

CASE 15409

7 APPLICATION OF OF DEVON  
8 ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, LP,  
9 FOR POOL CREATION AND SPECIAL  
10 POOL RULES, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

11 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

12 EXAMINER HEARING

13 November 12, 2015

14 Santa Fe, New Mexico

15 BEFORE: WILLIAM V. JONES, CHIEF EXAMINER  
16 GABRIEL WADE, LEGAL EXAMINER

17 This matter came on for hearing before the  
18 New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, William V. Jones,  
19 Chief Examiner, and Gabriel Wade, Legal Examiner, on  
20 November 12, 2015, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals,  
21 and Natural Resources Department, Wendell Chino  
22 Building, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Porter Hall,  
23 Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

24 REPORTED BY: ELLEN H. ALLANIC  
25 NEW MEXICO CCR 100  
CALIFORNIA CSR 8670  
PAUL BACA COURT REPORTERS  
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Suite 105  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

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

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## 7 I N D E X

8 CASE NUMBER 15409 CALLED  
9 DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY, LP  
CASE-IN-CHIEF:

11 WITNESS BRANDON PATRICK

12	Direct	Redirect	Further
By Mr. Bruce	4		

		EXAMINATION
14	Examiner Jones	10, 30
	Mr. Wade	12

16 WITNESS SARAH RITTENHOUSE

17	Direct	Redirect	Further
By Mr. Bruce	13		

19	Examiner Jones	EXAMINATION 17
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WITNESS PEDRO MORA

	Direct	Redirect	Further
22 By Mr. Bruce	20		

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1 (Time noted 1:35 p.m.)

2 EXAMINER JONES: Let's go back on the  
3 record, and call case No. 15409, Application of Devon  
4 Energy Production Company, LP, for pool creation and  
5 special pool rules, Eddy County, New Mexico.

6 Call for appearances.

7 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of Santa  
8 Fe representing the applicant. I have three witnesses.

9 EXAMINER JONES: Any other appearances?

10 (No response.)

11 EXAMINER JONES: Will the court reporter  
12 please swear the witnesses.

13 BRANDON PATRICK  
14 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified  
15 as follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. BRUCE:

18 Q. Would you please state your name and city of  
19 residence.

20 A. Brandon Patrick, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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

22 A. Devon Energy. I am a landman.

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

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. Could you summarize your educational and  
2 employment background for the Examiner.

3 A. Yes. I graduated from the University of Oklahoma  
4 with an energy management degree in 2012. And I am  
5 currently a second year law student at Oklahoma City  
6 University.

7 Q. And who have you worked for in the business?

8 A. Devon Energy since I started in May of 2012.

9 Q. Does your area of responsibility at Devon include  
10 this portion of southeast New Mexico?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And are you familiar with the land matters  
13 involved in this application?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender  
16 Mr. Patrick as an expert petroleum landman.

17 EXAMINER JONES: He is so qualified.

18 Q. Mr. Patrick, briefly, what does Devon seek in  
19 this case?

20 A. We seek to create a new pool for horizontal Bone  
21 Spring development in sections ten and 11 of Township 21  
22 South, 27 East in Eddy County.

23 We are asking for 320-acre spacing and several  
24 other special pool rules, which I'll discuss later.

25 The pool name you request is the Burton Flat Bone

1 Spring horizontal pool.

2 Q. And what is the basic reason Devon seeks the  
3 creation of this spacing increase in this special pool?

4 A. Devon plans to drill a number of Bone Spring  
5 wells in the area, including infill wells, which would  
6 otherwise be unorthodox. By having 320-acre spacing,  
7 all interest owners in the 320-acre unit will share in  
8 production in three wells or more in a half section of  
9 land. Thus correlative rights are protected because  
10 there will be no unorthodox locations encroaching on  
11 offsetting 160-acre spacing units.

12 Q. Could you identify Exhibit 1 and describe what it  
13 shows.

14 A. Exhibit 1 is a land plat which highlights  
15 sections 10, 11 as well as the Burton Flat Deep unit to  
16 the north. Devon operates the unit. Devon's acreage is  
17 highlighted. And Devon plans to drill horizontal wells  
18 in the area located on the plat.

19 Q. And so Devon has plans, starting next year, to  
20 drill quite a large number of horizontal Bone Spring  
21 wells?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Will Devon's geologist and engineer further  
24 discuss developments in this area?

25 A. Yes, they will.

1 Q. Now referring to Exhibit 2, are there other Bone  
2 Spring pools in this area?

3 A. Yes. We obtained Exhibit 2 from Paul Kautz of  
4 the Hobbs Office. It shows existing Bone Spring pools  
5 in this area. The brown represents the planned  
6 expansion of these pools.

7 Q. And this is all from Mr. Kautz's internal  
8 division files?

9 A. Yes, these are direct from Mr. Paul Kautz.

10 Q. Does Devon request that these existing pools be  
11 left in place?

12 A. Yes. For existing and future vertical wells and  
13 also for existing horizontal Bone Spring wells, so that  
14 the equities are not readjusted in the existing wells.

15 Q. And what is the spacing for existing Bone Spring  
16 pools?

17 A. It is 40 acres for oil. And, in addition,  
18 there's some Bone Spring gas pools based on 160 acres.

19 Q. What special rules does Devon request for the new  
20 pool?

21 A. We request a standard spacing and proration unit  
22 of 320 acres. The well is to be located no closer than  
23 330 feet to the exterior boundary of a standard well  
24 unit, with interior setbacks of ten feet from a quarter,  
25 quarter section line.

~~BRACKET~~  
~~will Jones~~

1 A special depth ~~frac~~ allowable of 3,500 barrels  
2 of oil per day for a standard 320-acre well unit. And a  
3 GOR of 5,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil.

4 Q. And you mentioned 320-acre spacing in the infill  
5 wells. If you'd look back to Exhibit 1, if you'd look,  
6 like, at the section 10 and 11 acreage, there are a  
7 number of -- look at the south half of section 11.  
8 There are a number of wells planned there, a couple or  
9 maybe more would be unorthodox without the special pool  
10 rules, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And will the technical witnesses discuss --  
13 further discuss the need for the pool rules?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Regarding the GOR request, what is Exhibit 3?

16 A. Exhibit 3 is the nomenclature information for the  
17 nearest Bone Spring pools. As you can see, two of the  
18 three pools are gas pools, which means they had  
19 increased GORs.

20 Q. And that would be the East Avalon-Bone Spring Gas  
21 Pool and the MaGruder-Bone Spring Gas Pool, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And with respect to the East Avalon-Bone Spring  
24 Oil Pool, what is the GOR? And I refer you to  
25 Exhibit 4.



1       A. Exhibit 4 is Order No. 58897, which established a  
2 GOR of 5,000 to one for that pool. Again, the GORs are  
3 elevated in this area.

4       Q. And what is Exhibit 5?

5       A. It is a list of operators of Bone Spring wells  
6 within a mile of sections 10, 11. Other than Devon, the  
7 only operators of active wells are Chevron U.S.A. and  
8 Ranger 40 Petroleum.

9       Q. And were these operators, other than Devon,  
10 notified of this hearing?

11      A. Yes, sir. And that is shown on Exhibit 6.

12      Q. And were Exhibits 1 through 6 either prepared by  
13 you or under your supervision or compiled from company  
14 business records?

15      A. Yes, they were.

16      Q. And is the granting of this application in the  
17 interests of conservation and the prevention of waste?

18      A. Yes.

19               MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move the  
20 admission of Exhibits 1 through 6.

21               EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 1 through 6 are  
22 admitted.

23               (Devon Energy Production Company, LP,  
24 Exhibits 1 through 6 were offered and admitted.)

25               MR. BRUCE: I have no further questions of

1 the witness.

2 EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER JONES

3 EXAMINER JONES: So the proposed pool will  
4 be the blue?

5 THE WITNESS: No. The proposed pool will be  
6 the purple, sections 10 and 11.

7 EXAMINER JONES: So on your notice to other  
8 Bone Spring operators, tell me again, did you notice in  
9 section 10 and 11 and all surrounding one mile -- within  
10 one mile of --

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, we did.

12 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Did you get any  
13 comments from anybody or support letters or anything  
14 like that?

15 THE WITNESS: We received no response from  
16 either of them --

17 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I did get an  
18 e-mail from Ranger 40 Petroleum. And they simply asked  
19 where their well was in relation to the pool.

20 And I e-mailed them the information, and I  
21 never heard back from them.

22 EXAMINER JONES: Do you want the 320s to  
23 be -- in other words, if you were going to drill a well,  
24 a lay-down well in section 11, would you do a lay-down  
25 south half spacing unit there?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 EXAMINER JONES: Or would you do two  
3 stand-up spacing units?

4 THE WITNESS: It would be lay-down 320s.

5 EXAMINER JONES: Do you want that limited --

6 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I think if you  
7 look at the map, Devon is planning on lay-downs for its  
8 acreage. Other operators outside of there may want  
9 stand-ups, but -- I don't think it should be limited;  
10 but, obviously, Devon is doing all of theirs east, west.

11 EXAMINER JONES: So I meant "limited" in  
12 respect to the ability to create a project area of two  
13 stand-up 320s or a lay-down well.

14 MR. BRUCE: I think that is reasonable, I  
15 mean, depending on the advances of horizontal  
16 technology, sure.

17 EXAMINER JONES: Just in case you want to  
18 drill a longer lateral?

19 MR. BRUCE: Correct.

20 EXAMINER JONES: So you really don't want  
21 limitations put into --

22 MR. BRUCE: I don't think laterals should be  
23 limited to a mile, is what Devon is looking for.

24 EXAMINER JONES: So this case is just to  
25 create the unit and create the limiting GOR and the

1 setbacks and the oil allowable; is that correct?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes.

3 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. I have no further  
4 questions.

5 EXAMINATION BY MR. WADE

6 MR. WADE: The operators that you did notice  
7 are within the pool only or within the one-mile boundary  
8 of the pool that you are, according to your application,  
9 seeking to apply special pool rules?

10 THE WITNESS: We saw every operator within  
11 one mile of sections 10 and 11.

12 MR. WADE: All right. And it was just 10  
13 and 11 --

14 THE WITNESS: Exactly.

15 EXAMINER JONES: The rules are noticing the  
16 operators, correct? It is not to notice the working  
17 interest owners?

18 MR. BRUCE: It's only to notify the  
19 operators of existing wells so long as you're not  
20 seeking to change the spacing of an existing well.

21 EXAMINER JONES: -- of an existing well  
22 inside?

23 MR. BRUCE: Yeah.

24 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. So you are creating  
25 a whole new pool, so you don't have to worry about the

1 statutes and the rules --

2 MR. BRUCE: That is correct. We are not  
3 seeking to affect any existing well or change the  
4 equities in any existing well.

5 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Thank you.

6 SARAH RITTENHOUSE  
7 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified  
8 as follows:

9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. BRUCE:

11 Q. Would you please state your name and city of  
12 residence.

13 A. My name is Sarah Rittenhouse and I live in  
14 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

15 Q. And who do you work for and in what capacity?

16 A. I work for Devon Energy as a senior staff  
17 geologist.

18 Q. Have you previously testified before the  
19 Division?

20 A. No, I haven't.

21 Q. Would you please summarize your educational and  
22 employment background?

23 A. I graduated with a bachelor of science from the  
24 University of Illinois in 1999. And then a master's of  
25 science and hydrogeology in 2005. And I worked for

1 Chevron for six years and then for Hilcorp of Alaska for  
2 two and then Devon for one.

3 Q. And does your area of responsibility at Devon  
4 include this area of southeast New Mexico?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And are you familiar with the geology involved in  
7 this application?

8 A. Yes, I am.

9 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender  
10 Ms. Rittenhouse as an expert petroleum geologist.

11 EXAMINER JONES: The University of Illinois,  
12 is that the Circle Campus downtown Chicago? Or is that  
13 separate?

14 THE WITNESS: That's UIC. The University of  
15 Illinois Urbana-Champaign is upstate.

16 EXAMINER JONES: And you got your master's  
17 there too?

18 THE WITNESS: Illinois State University.

19 EXAMINER JONES: She is so qualified.

20 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, on these  
21 subsequent exhibits, you get a double bonus because not  
22 only do you see the geology, but if you look at the  
23 upper left hand, it is also a vision exam for you.

24 If you can read the header, you are a better  
25 man than me.

1 Q. At this point what is the primary zone of  
2 interest in this --

3 A. The Second Bone Spring. We have two targets in  
4 the Second Bone, an upper unit and a lower unit.

5 Q. And is the Third Spring also a potential target  
6 as time goes by?

7 A. Yes, it is. Absolutely.

8 Q. Let's start with Exhibit 7. Could you identify  
9 that and describe what it shows for the Examiner.

10 A. Exhibit 7 is an isopach of the entire Second Bone  
11 Spring Sand. And you see the red and the blue well  
12 stakes are -- the red are Second Bone Spring, the lower  
13 targets, and the blue are Second Bone Spring, upper  
14 targets. So we have a staggered lateral plan of action  
15 here. This is sections 10 and 11.

16 And the Second Bone Spring is continuous across  
17 these two sections, not a whole lot of variability.

18 Q. And what is Exhibit 8?

19 A. Exhibit 8 is the same two sections with the  
20 structure of the top of the Second Bone Spring Sand.  
21 Again, not a whole lot of variability, dipping gently  
22 from west to east.

23 Q. Now, when you are looking at the development out  
24 here, you're not only looking at, say, in a 320-acre  
25 project area or unit, you are looking at not only infill

1 wells in three wells, being three wells in the Second  
2 Bone Spring, but you are looking at potentially two  
3 wells at each location, correct?

4 A. That's correct. And then there are multiple  
5 targets also in the Third Bone Spring as well.

6 Q. So you are looking at potentially six plus wells  
7 in a well unit?

8 A. Yes, that's correct.

9 Q. Let's move on to the Third Bone Spring. Could  
10 you identify Exhibits 9 and 10 for the Examiner.

11 A. Exhibit 9 is the structure of the top of the  
12 Third Bone Spring Sand and some example laterals going  
13 within that structure. And Exhibit 10 is the isopach  
14 for the Third Bone Spring Sand.

15 Q. And, again, you are looking at fairly similar  
16 thicknesses throughout this area for wells in the  
17 proposed depth pool?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. And, finally, what is Exhibit 11?

20 A. Exhibit 11 shows a cross section going from west  
21 to east across sections 10 and 11. And you see it at  
22 three specific targets that we have planned at this  
23 time, on the upper landing zone, the lower landing zone  
24 in Second Bone Spring, and a landing target in the Third  
25 Bone Spring Sand.



1           And you can see that the thickness is rather --  
2   not variable across sections 10 and 11 in either case.

3           Q.   So both the Second and Third Bone Spring are  
4   continuous across this area and they appear to be  
5   similar, wherever you are going to drill in this area,  
6   there should be similar geology?

7           A.   That's correct.

8           Q.   Were Exhibits 7 through 11 prepared by you or  
9   under your supervision?

10          A.   Yes.

11          Q.   In your opinion, is the granting of this  
12   application in the interests of conservation and the  
13   prevention of waste?

14          A.   Yes.

15                   MR. BRUCE:  I move the admission of Exhibits  
16   7 through 11.

17                   EXAMINER JONES:  Exhibits 7 through 11 are  
18   admitted.

19                   (Devon Energy Production Company, LP,  
20   Exhibits 7 through 11 were offered and admitted.)

21                   MR. BRUCE:  I have no further questions for  
22   the witness.

23                   EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER JONES

24                   EXAMINER JONES:  The Bone Spring as a whole,  
25   do you consider it -- why is it called one formation?

1 THE WITNESS: That's a good question.

2 Well, the depositional time, I think that  
3 they lumped that together, the three different sand  
4 packages. Because there's First Bone Spring Sand, too.

5 EXAMINER JONES: So, basically, in this  
6 area, do you have the Abo below you or does it go  
7 straight to the Wolfcamp?

8 THE WITNESS: You will see just below at the  
9 base of the Third Bone Spring Sand, the Wolfcamp comes  
10 in with two sand packages, the X and the Y.

11 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. So your Bone Spring  
12 is a source itself that's got its own --

13 THE WITNESS: Also a very good question.

14 EXAMINER JONES: I will rephrase. What is  
15 the source rock for the Bone Spring; is it from the Bone  
16 Spring or is it from down below?

17 THE WITNESS: When we've done the oil  
18 typing, it seems that the Second and Third Bone Spring  
19 seem to be similar in nature. So we believe that that's  
20 coming maybe from some of the strata and maybe in the  
21 Wolfcamp.

22 The First Bone Spring looks more like the  
23 Leonard Section. So that's a mystery at the moment.

24 EXAMINER JONES: I was told we are not  
25 allowed to use the word "Leonard" by Paul Kautz. They

1 use it in Texas.

2 THE WITNESS: Avalon?

3 EXAMINER JONES: No -- go ahead. What I'm  
4 getting at is why are these sands, carbonate packages  
5 linked together so they are all called the Bone Spring;  
6 is it --

7 THE WITNESS: Well, this particular section  
8 next to Burton Flat is right on the edge between the  
9 basin and you're coming up on the shelf there.

10 So as the ocean came up and reseated -- I  
11 mean this is kind of -- it's very similar. That's why  
12 they are lumping them together -- depositionally.

13 EXAMINER JONES: So it's logical for the  
14 geologists to all call this all the Bone Spring?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes. And the cores look very  
16 similar also.

17 EXAMINER JONES: It is kind of like a single  
18 source of supply, you would say?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes.

20 EXAMINER JONES: I don't have any more  
21 questions.

22 MR. BRUCE: Okay. Thank you.

23 PEDRO MORA

24 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified  
25 as follows:

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. BRUCE:

3 Q. Would you please state your name for the record.

4 A. Pedro --

5 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm having difficulty  
6 understanding your accent. For the sake of the record,  
7 please turn so I can hear you as well as possible and  
8 please speak up.

9 A. Pedro Mora, Reservoir Engineer, Devon Energy.

10 Q. Mr. Mora, have you previously testified before  
11 the division.

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. And were your credentials as an expert  
14 petroleum -- excuse me -- I mean reservoir engineer  
15 accepted as a matter of record?

16 A. Yes, that's correct.

17 Q. And does your area of responsibility at Devon  
18 include this portion of southeast New Mexico?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And are you familiar with the engineering matters  
21 related to this application?

22 A. That's correct.

23 MR. BRUCE: I tender Mr. Mora as an expert  
24 reservoir engineer.

25 EXAMINER JONES: He is so qualified.

1 Q. Mr. Mora, you have several documents, and I have  
2 marked them all as Exhibit 12. Without me getting in  
3 the way, why don't you run through your exhibits and  
4 explain why Devon wants to drill these infill wells and  
5 even numerous -- even two wells per Second Bone Spring,  
6 for example, and why you need the allowable?

7 A. All right. Let me just go through Exhibit 12.  
8 Page 2 is a map of sections 10 and 11, this, we mark it  
9 in red.

10 If you go to page 3, we have an overview with the  
11 current maximum allowable of 142 barrels for 40-acre and  
12 2,000 standard square feet per barrel. So we're  
13 requesting another oil increase to 3,500 barrels per day  
14 for a 320-acre unit. That's the equivalent of 437.5  
15 barrel of oil per 40-acre unit and the equivalent of  
16 5,000 standard cubic feet per barrel GOR.

17 So that increase in allowable will allow for  
18 increased well density from four wells per section to  
19 six wells per section for future development.

20 And this increase in the well density will allow  
21 for optimum for economics and maximize the reserve and  
22 the resource recovery.

23 So numerical modern techniques were used to reach  
24 that conclusion and to optimize the spacing and the  
25 value of the asset.

1 Q. Before I go further, Mr. Mora, you are talking  
2 about three wells per half section, but, eventually,  
3 there will be a lot more wells than that probably?

4 A. That's correct. We are satisfied there is more  
5 than one possible target. So we have the Upper Second  
6 Bone Spring and we have the Lower Second Bone Spring.  
7 And, as Sarah present before, the maps looks  
8 'continuity' and good potential for landing wells in  
9 those areas.

10 Q. If all these wells were drilled and completed at  
11 the same time, you'd need probably a larger increase in  
12 the allowable?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. But the wells would probably be spaced out over a  
15 period of time and development?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Okay. Move on to page 4, please.

18 A. Page 4 is just an example. The straight line is  
19 the current allowable of 568 barrel of oil per day  
20 according to 160-acre spacing. And these three wells  
21 surrounding in those two sections, ten and 11, that  
22 clearly reach more of that particular allowable. So  
23 that is one of the examples that we want to show.

24 If we move to page 5 in Exhibit 12, you can see a  
25 plug and a table. In this particular plug, you can see

1 how the MPV per section is calculated and then  
2 incremental reserves per section.

3 So you can see that with four wells per section  
4 we can have something close to 1.2 million barrels of  
5 oil. But when we move to six wells per section, we can  
6 increase that reserve to 1.4 million barrels per  
7 section.

8 That's going to increase our ~~NPV~~ <sup>NPV</sup> value from  
9 6.2 million to 6.5 million. And the ~~NPV~~ <sup>NPV</sup> also is going  
10 to increase. The rate of return decrease but as a group  
11 of wells -- reserve per section is going to increase and  
12 the MPVT, stand-up well.

13 Q. So you are kind of balancing rate of return plus  
14 reserves per section?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. Let me ask you, has Devon done this over in Lea  
17 County, six wells per section?

18 A. That is correct. We did that for the Cotton Draw  
19 Unit and we presented that before.

20 Q. And have those wells been drilled?

21 A. Actually, we drilled -- from the six wells, we  
22 drilled four wells already. They are cleaning up right  
23 now. With the pressures -- the pressures look good and  
24 we are still number 5 or 4, so it's still young to  
25 decide, but it looks promising.

1 MR. BRUCE: And I can give you that case  
2 number, Mr. Examiner.

3 Q. But the results you have to date from over in the  
4 Cotton Draw unit support page 5 of this exhibit?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. Go ahead.

7 A. So page 6 is just a summary or studies,  
8 simulation, that show that the optimum well density is  
9 six wells per section based on an MPV 10.

10 You can increase the reserve per section in 20 --  
11 from 20 to 30 percent. We are expecting peak rates of  
12 1,250 barrels of oil per well in a six-well per section  
13 spacing scenario.

14 That way just consider one landing target. So if  
15 we have more than one landing target at the same time,  
16 that particular rate could be double.

17 So there is potential for development in two  
18 landing zones within the same (incomprehensible), and  
19 that reinforces the need of that increase in the  
20 allowable.

21 So the current maximum allowable is 142 barrels  
22 per 40 acres. And we are requesting to increase that  
23 allowable to 437.5 barrel of oil per day per 40-acre  
24 unit. And that's the equivalent to seventy, fifty barrel  
25 of oil per day for 150-acre spacing or 1,157 barrel of



1 oil per day in 107-acre unit. That's equivalent of six  
2 wells per section.

3 Q. That would be six times 107, so 6,040 acres?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Was Exhibit 12 prepared by you, Mr. Mora?

6 A. Yes, it was.

7 Q. And in your opinion is the granting of this  
8 application in the interests of conservation and the  
9 prevention of waste?

10 A. Yes, it is.

11 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move the  
12 admission of Exhibit 12.

13 EXAMINER JONES: Exhibit 12 will is  
14 admitted.

15 (Devon Energy Production Company, LP,  
16 Exhibit 12 was offered and admitted.)

17 EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER JONES

18 EXAMINER JONES: I remember that case where  
19 you presented the results of the simulation that you did  
20 along with -- and you had a history match --

21 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

22 EXAMINER JONES: And I can find that.

23 THE WITNESS: And we also have history match  
24 for surrounding wells in the area for Burton Flat as  
25 well.

1 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Your MPV really  
2 drops off if you hit eight wells.

3 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

4 EXAMINER JONES: And is that because of the  
5 built-in interference?

6 THE WITNESS: That's correct. We are  
7 expecting some interference -- or more is indicated --  
8 even with four wells per section we have some kind of  
9 interference. We didn't see any interference with one,  
10 two, or three wells per section.

11 EXAMINER JONES: Say that first part  
12 again -- even with how many wells per section?

13 THE WITNESS: With four wells per section or  
14 more it's indicated that we have some kind of  
15 interference. You can see here in the table on page 5  
16 that the reserves per wells are around 324 MBO. And  
17 that number is the same for one, two, or three wells per  
18 section. That is the equivalent of one well in 640  
19 acres or two wells in -- a well at 320 acres or a well  
20 at 228 acres.

21 And then when we use a well per 160 acres,  
22 we start to see some decremental in the reserves per  
23 well. And you see that that is as a reducing, we tend  
24 to reach 233 MBO per well. By using that, we optimize  
25 the MPV and we optimize our reserves per section.

1           So we know there's going to be some kind of  
2 interference, but we are going to drain more of that  
3 section in the same time.

4           EXAMINER JONES: You said four. What about  
5 three? Is there a potential that your reservoir  
6 parameters could be such that three wells could over  
7 time interfere with each other?

8           THE WITNESS: Our models indicate there is  
9 no interference in a 35-year period.

10          EXAMINER JONES: But you are basing it on a  
11 certain geometric mean, porosity, maybe permeability;  
12 but you have a range of permeabilities and porosities,  
13 right?

14          THE WITNESS: Our properties are coming from  
15 the cores that we have in the area, and --

16          EXAMINER JONES: Which still shows you a  
17 distribution?

18          THE WITNESS: That's correct.

19          EXAMINER JONES: So your simulation is built  
20 on geometric mean numbers?

21          THE WITNESS: That's correct.

22          EXAMINER JONES: Are you going to ask him  
23 more questions?

24          MR. BRUCE: Depending on what you say.

25          EXAMINER JONES: Can you tell me all the

1 reasons you can think of why you need 320 spacing for a  
2 horizontal well here versus 160?

3 THE WITNESS: We just run those cases to see  
4 we have interference or not.

5 EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

6 THE WITNESS: So as I mentioned before, we  
7 run one well in a 640 spacing. And then we run one well  
8 in 320, one well 228 --

9 EXAMINER JONES: Right.

10 THE WITNESS: And then one well in 160 and  
11 one well in 107-acre spacing and one well in 80-acre  
12 spacing. What we will try to see is how long it is  
13 going to take to interfere one well with the other and  
14 how much is going to intact in the reserves.

15 So it looks like with 320, 640, 228 we don't  
16 have any interference. And then when we have four,  
17 five, six, seven, or eight wells per section --

18 EXAMINER JONES: You really start picking up  
19 interference.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, correct.

21 When we run our numbers in a project, if we  
22 optimize our reserve and our MPV, the optimal wells per  
23 section is six. And we are doing that pilot right now  
24 in Cotton Draw.

25 EXAMINER JONES: But your surface locations,

1 it looks like -- you drew straight lines between your  
2 surface hole and your bottom hole on Exhibit 1. But  
3 there's a reason why you needed surface hole locations  
4 or a surface hole at a certain spot there --

5 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, page 2 of  
6 Mr. Mora's exhibit may be a little more accurate. I'm  
7 on page 2 of his exhibit. It shows a little more  
8 accurate representation of well locations.

9 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. So you intend to --  
10 you're a reservoir engineer, you're not a facilities  
11 engineer?

12 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

13 EXAMINER JONES: Or a drilling guy or  
14 completions, either?

15 THE WITNESS: No. I'm not completions  
16 either.

17 MR. BRUCE: And, Mr. Examiner, if you do  
18 have some questions about the surface locations,  
19 Mr. Patrick could answer those. That's more of a land  
20 deal than a reservoir deal.

21 EXAMINER JONES: I don't know if there was  
22 compelling need to put surface facilities -- I could  
23 probably ask Mr. Patrick one more time.

24 MR. BRUCE: Of course, this is resort  
25 territory out here, so we're trying to minimize surface

1 facilities.

2 EXAMINER JONES: It's Burton Flat. The  
3 Burton Flat area was a -- had some prorated gas pools  
4 out there at one time.

5 MR. BRUCE: More on Strauff.

6 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. And then they did a  
7 little proration. I think they're still named that.

8 Mr. Wade?

9 MR. WADE: No more questions. Recall Mr.  
10 Patrick.

11 EXAMINER JONES: Can we recall Mr. Patrick?

12 MR. BRUCE: Sure.

13 BRANDON PATRICK

14 having been sworn, resumed the stand and was further  
15 questioned and further testified as follows:

16 EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER JONES

17 EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Patrick, your Exhibit 1  
18 shows the location right along the section line for the  
19 surface holes. Are they -- is this some kind of a  
20 restricted area?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes. All the surface around  
22 here is federal and also there is -- there are a lot of  
23 gas lines, existing infrastructure in there. And so  
24 picking surface locations, your well pads, battery pads,  
25 et cetera, are pretty hard to find.

1           That is the reason, actually, in section 11  
2   why our surface hole location is off into section 12.  
3   There are several lines in that area that caused our  
4   pad -- having to go right there. And, also, with  
5   archeological areas, we had to move it there as well.

6           And the straight lines, that was just  
7   because of the way this is mapped in our system, the GIS  
8   system.

9           EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

10          THE WITNESS: And also the reason why we  
11   take some of these locations is because we had --  
12   there's a combination of getting drilling completions  
13   via land -- everybody was involved in the choice of  
14   these surface hole locations because we wanted to  
15   optimize -- we just wanted to have the best MPV and we  
16   didn't want to increase drilling costs by having to have  
17   a big kick out, things like that.

18          So these were all strategically picked with  
19   what was available, left after we took into  
20   consideration archeological areas and gas lines.

21          EXAMINER JONES: Okay. If you did a 160  
22   spacing for your horizontal well in this pool and you  
23   needed to actually go to a higher spacing, the only step  
24   up would be to a 320; is that correct?

25          THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

1 EXAMINER JONES: Because we can't split 40s.

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

3 EXAMINER JONES: I have been told that many  
4 times.

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

6 EXAMINER JONES: I think I have enough  
7 information.

8 MR. WADE: I have no questions.

9 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you very much. We  
10 have just taken case 15409 under advisement.

11

12 (Time noted 2:12 p.m.)

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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



1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO )  
2 ) ss.  
3 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO )  
4  
5  
6

7 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

8  
9 I, ELLEN H. ALLANIC, New Mexico Reporter CCR  
10 No. 100, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that on Thursday, November  
11 12, 2015, the proceedings in the above-captioned matter  
12 were taken before me, that I did report in stenographic  
13 shorthand the proceedings set forth herein, and the  
14 foregoing pages are a true and correct transcription to  
15 the best of my ability and control.

16  
17 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by  
18 nor related to nor contracted with (unless excepted by  
19 the rules) any of the parties or attorneys in this case,  
20 and that I have no interest whatsoever in the final  
21 disposition of this case in any court.

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