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

# APPLICATION OF APACHE CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE THUNDERBIRD EXPLORATORY UNIT, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

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#### **COG's PRE-HEARING STATEMENT**

COG Operating LLC ("COG") submits this Pre-Hearing Statement pursuant to the rules of

the Oil Conservation Division.

## APPEARANCES

#### **APPLICANT**

Apache Corporation

# **ATTORNEY**

Earl E. DeBrine, Jr. Jennifer L. Bradfute Modrall Sperling Post Office Box 2168 500 Fourth Street NW, Suite 1000 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-2168 Telephone: 505.848.1800 edebrine@modrall.com jlb@modrall.com

### **OTHER PARTIES**

COG Operating LLC One Concho Center 600 W. Illinois Avenue Midland, Texas 79701

### **ATTORNEY**

Michael H. Feldewert, Esq. Jordan L. Kessler, Esq. Holland & Hart, LLP Post Office Box 2208 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208 (505) 988-4421 (505) 983-6043 Facsimile

#### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Apache Corporation, ("Apache") seeks an order approving its proposed "Thunderbird Resource Development Unit" comprised of federal and state lands in Eddy County, New Mexico. *See* Application at p. 1. The proposed unitized interval is the stratigraphic equivalent of the top of the Yeso formation encountered at a measured depth of 4,233' down to the stratigraphic equivalent of the top of the Tubb formation at a measured depth of 5,554' as encountered in the Aspen Federal Com #1 well (API No. 30-015-31656) located in NE/4SW/4, Section 31, Township 16 South, Range 31 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.

COG is the operator of offsetting oil and gas acreage within the proposed unitized interval. COG objects to the boundaries of the proposed unitized area on the grounds that it will strand acreage, will impair COG's correlative rights and cause waste.

#### **APPLICANT'S PROPOSED EVIDENCE**

WITNESS Name and Expertise	ESTIMATED TIME	EXHIBITS
Adam Reker – Landman	Approx. 10	Approx. 5
Tim Baker - Landman	Approx. 15	Approx. 5
Candice Pettijohn – Geologist	Approx. 10	Approx. 5
George Freeman and/or Bryan Montgomery – Engineer	Approx. 15	Approx. 4

#### **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

COG is seeking to continue this matter to the January 25, 2018, docket to allow time to confer with the BLM about surface development locations in the affected area outside the proposed unit boundaries. The BLM has scheduled a meeting on Friday, January 5th, to address these issues

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and the decision by the BLM following the scheduled meeting will impact available development options.

Respectfully submitted,

HOLLAND & HART LLP

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## ATTORNEYS FOR COG OPERATING LLC

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on January 4, 2018, I served a copy of the foregoing document to the following counsel of record via Electronic Mail to:

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Attorneys for Apache Corporation

Michael A. Feldewert