# KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN Attorney at Law

W. Thomas Kellahin Recognized Specialist in the Area of Natural Resources-oil and gas law-New Mexico Board of Legal Specialization

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P.O. Box 2265 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 117 North Guadalupe Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

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

February 15, 2006

Re: Application of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP for an exception to the well density Requirements of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

On behalf of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP, please find enclosed our application for an exception to the referenced pool rules such that there can be 2 producing wells in the same 40-acre tract within this spacing unit consisting of the E/2 of Section 30, T27N, R4W that has been set for hearing on the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Examiner's docket now scheduled for March 16, 2006. The hearing will be held at the Division hearing room located at 1220 South Saint 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, you are further notified that if you desire to appear in this case, then you are requested to file a Pre-Hearing Statement with the Division not later than 4:00 PM on Friday, March 10, 2006, with a copy delivered to the undersigned.

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## KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN Attorney at Law

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February 15, 2006

#### HAND DELIVERED

Mr. Mark Fesmire, P.E., Director Oil Conservation Division 1220 South Saint Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Application of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP for an exception to the well density requirements of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

> E/2 Section 30, T27N, R4W including the simultaneous dedication for the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well 21 (Unit Letter B) and to the San Juan 27-4 Unit well 53 (Unit Letter B) both located in the same 40-acre tract of the spacing unit.

Dear Mr. Fesmire:

On behalf of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP, please find enclosed our referenced application which we request be set for hearing on the Examiner's docket now scheduled for March 16, 2006. Also enclosed is our proposed advertisement of this case for the NMOCD docket.

Vep mas Kellahin

cc: Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP Attn: Alan Alexander **CASE**\_\_\_\_: Application of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP for an exception to the well density requirements of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool to permit it to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (NW/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 30, T27N, R4W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 21 (API #30-039-0693700) located 1800 feet FEL and 850 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 53 (API #30-039-201500) located 1460 feet FEL and 900 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section; and

These wells are located approximately 12-1/2 mile southwest of the Gobernador, New Mexico.

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

### IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS COMPANY LP FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE WELL DENISTY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BLANCO-MESAVERDE GAS POOL, RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO.

#### APPLICATION

Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP. ("Burlington") by its attorneys, Kellahin & Kellahin, seeks an order for an exception to the well density requirements of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool to permit it to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (NW/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 30, T27N, R4W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 21 (API #30-039-0693700) located 1800 feet FEL and 850 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 53 (API #30-039-201500) located 1460 feet FEL and 900 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section;

In support of its application Burlington states:

 Burlington is the current operator of the San Juan 27-4 Unit that includes, among other acreage, the E/2 of Section 30, T27N, R4W, San Juan County, New Mexico.

- (2) This spacing unit currently contained three wells completed in the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool as follows:
  - a. the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 21 (API #30-039-0693700) located 1800 feet FEL and 850 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section;
  - b. the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 53 (API #30-039-201500) located 1460 feet FEL and 900 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section; and
  - c. the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 53M (API #30-039-2597700) located 2005 feet FSL and 1595 feet FEL (Unit J) of this section.
- (3) The Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool is governed by Special Rules and Regulations which provide for 320-acre spacing and proration units on which as many as four wells may be drilled. See Order R-8170, as superseded by Order R-10987-A, effective February 1, 1999 and amended by Order R-10987-A (1), effective December 2, 2002. This Special Pool Rules and Regulations provide, among other things, that an infill well shall not be located within the same quarter-quarter section (40-acre tract) and another well.
- (4) On or about October 21, 1999, Burlington recompleted the Well No. 53 such that the No. 21 and the No. 53 are both in the same quarter-quarter section and are located at standard distances from the outer boundaries of this GPU.
- (5) Upon becoming aware of its mistake, Burlington shut-in the Well No. 21 on 1/30/2006 and it remains shit-in and is not producing from the Mesaverde formation.
- (6) While the total number of wells in this Mesaverde gas proration unit ("GPU") is less that what is allowed the Well No. 21 and Well No. 53 are located in the same quarter-quarter section and therefore are in violation of the density requirements of this Special Pool Rules.

- (7) Burlington therefore requests that the Division enter its order granting an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool approving the location of the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 21 and the Well No. 53 in the same quarter-quarter section and authorizing Burlington to simultaneously produce both wells.
- (8) Approval of this application will not impair the correlative rights of any other interest owner in the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool and will afford Burlington the opportunity to utilize the existing wells to produce the reserves from this GPU.
- (9) Approval of this application will be in the best interests of conversations, the prevention of waste and the protection of correlative rights.

WHEREFORE, Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company, LP requests that this application be set for hearing before an Examiner of the Oil Conservation Division on March 16, 2006 and after notice and hearing as required by law, the Division enter its order granting an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool approving the location of the San Juan 27-4 Unit Wells No. 21 and 53 in the Mesaverde formation and authorizing Burlington to simultaneously produced both wells.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:** 

V THOMAS KELLAHIN KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN P. O. Box 2265 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 (505) 982-4285

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

#### IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED **BY THE OIL CONSERVATIONDIVISON** FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

#### **APPLICATION OF BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL & GAS COMPANY LP FOR AN EXCEPTION** TO THE WELL DENISTY REOUIREMENTS OF THE BLANCO-MEASAVERDE GAS POOL **RIO ARRIBA OR SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

CASE NO.	13667
CASE NO.	13668
CASE NO.	13669
CASE NO.	13670
CASE NO.	13671
CASE NO.	13672
CASE NO.	13673
CASE NO.	13674

#### **CONSOLIDATED PRE-HEARING STATEMENT**

This consolidated pre-hearing statement is submitted by Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP as required by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.

#### **APPEARENCES OF THE PARTIES**

#### **APPLICANT**

Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company 3535 West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Farmington, NM 87501 Attn: Alan Alexander Phone 505-326-9757

#### **OPPONENT**

#### ATTORNEY

W. Thomas Kellahin P. O. Box 2265 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 phone 505-982-4285 Fax 505-982-2047

#### **ATTORNEY**

None

#### STATEMENT OF THE CASES

#### **APPLICANT:**

These eight applications of Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP are for an exception to the well density requirements of the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an exception to the well density requirements of Rule I.B of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool to permit it:

(1) CASE 13667: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarterquarter section (SE/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 16, T30N, R7W, NMPM:

(a) the State Com Well No. 1 (API #30-039-0784700) located 1090 feet FEL and 2040 feet FNL (Unit H) of this section; and

(b) the State Com Well No. 1R (API #30-039-2526200) located 640 feet FEL and 2515 feet FNL (Unit H) of this section; and

(2) CASE 13668: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarterquarter section (SE/4NW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 of Section 11, T29N, R7W, NMPM:

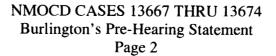
(a) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 57A (API #30-039-2556700) located 1840 feet FWL and 1850 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 29-7 Well No. 57C (API #30-039-2585700) located 2620 feet FWL and 1545 feet FNL (Unit F) of this section.

(3) CASE 13669: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarterquarter section (SW/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 19, T27N, R5W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 27-5 Unit Well No. 138 (API #30-039-2046300) located 1600 feet FEL and 1800 feet FNL (Unit G) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit Well No. 50 (API #30-039-0699600) located 1840 feet FEL and 1650 feet FNL (Unit G) of this section.







(4) CASE 13670: to permit it to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (NW/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 30, T27N, R4W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 21 (API #30-039-0693700) located 1800 feet FEL and 850 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan 27-4 Unit Well No. 53 (API #30-039-201500) located 1460 feet FEL and 900 feet FNL (Unit B) of this section.

(5) CASE 13671: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarterquarter section (NE/4NW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 of Section 33, T29N, R7W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 29-7 Unit Well No. 97B (API #30-039-2586100) located 2135 feet FWL and 1195 feet FNL (Unit C) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 29-7 Well No. 114M (API #30-039-2242500) located 1530 feet FWL and 790 feet FNL (Unit C) of this section.

(6) CASE 13672: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde/Dakota Commingled gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (NE/4SW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 equivalent of Irregular Section 31, T28N, R6W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 28-6 Unit Well No. 210 (API #30-039-2084100) located 1190 feet FWL and 1850 feet FSL (Unit K) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 28-6 Well No. 210P (API #30-039-2945800) located 2015 feet FWL and 1845 feet FSL (Unit K) of this section.

(7) CASE 13673: to permit it to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarter-quarter section (SW/4NE/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the E/2 of Section 5, T27N, R5W, NMPM:

(a) the San Juan 27-5 Unit Well No. 61 (API #30-039-0719100) located 1850 feet FEL and 1700 feet FNL (Unit G) of this section; and

(b) the San Juan Unit 27-5 Well No. 78 (API #30-039-0719400) located 1460 feet FEL and 1460 feet FNL (Unit G) of this section.



(8) CASE 13674: to produce the following 2 Mesaverde gas wells in the same quarterquarter section (SE/4SW/4) on a standard spacing and proration unit comprised of the W/2 of Section 15, T32N, R7W, NMPM:

(a) the Allison Unit Well No. 16 (API #30-045-11385) located 1800 feet FWL and 890 feet FSL (Unit N) of this section; and

(b) the Allison Unit Well No. 16R (API #30-045-28986) located 2335 feet FWL and 995 feet FSL (Unit N) of this section.

#### **PROPOSED EVIDENCE**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Banco-Mesaverde Gas Pool Rules (R-10987-A, effective December 2, 2002) among other things allows a well density of (4) wells within a standard 320-acre gas spacing unit ("GPU") provided that no more that two wells be located within either quarter section in a GPU.

Burlington recently became aware that it had recompleted Mesaverde gas well in an existing 320-acre spacing unit (GPU") such that two (2) gas wells had been drilled or recompleted in the same 40-acre tracts of an existing 320-acre GPU.

Burlington conducted a review of 1027 completions and discovered that it operates eight (8) GPUs in which are two (2) within the same 40-acre tract and therefore are not in compliance with Rules for this pool.

Burlington has voluntarily "shut-in" wells in these GPUs in order to be incompliance pending a hearing before the Division on these cases.

#### PRECEDENT AND CRITERIA

In a recent case, the Division established a "precedent" by approving an application for BP America is Case 13483, Order R-12385, dated July 8, 2005 authorizing two gas wells to simultaneously produce in the same quarter-quarter of an existing GPU.

The criteria adopted by the Division in the BP America's case are:

(1) the wells in the same 40-acre tract are at "standard" locations in relations to the outer boundaries of the 320-acre GPU and do not encroached upon any surrounding spacing units,

(2) both wells are "low-productivity" wells. In the BP case the wells were not capable of producing more than 150 mcfpd at the existing line pressures.

(3) The two well do not appear to interfere with each other. (While BP introduced production decline curves, BP did not introduce actual "interference calculation to support its contention).

(4) The two well appeared to produce "unique" reserves. (BP did not introduce actual data to support its contention).

(5) BP had no plans to produced more and the maximum of four (4) Mesaverde gas wells in its GPU

(6) There was no objections or opposition.

#### **BURLINGTON'S PROPOSED REFINED CRITERIA:**

Burlington will propose that the Division use actual reservoir petroleum engineering interference calculations rather than the less reliable "low-productivity" wellbore standard. See Item (2) above.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Burlington will present evidence that demonstrates that these 8 cases meet the appropriate criteria and should be granted exceptions form the Rules for this pool as requested, and doing so, will testify and present evidence that includes:

- (1) History of "offending" wells, including reasons for these mistakes
- (2) New Burlington procedures to avoid future non-compliance wellbores
- (3) Information on encroachment
- (4) Total well density for the GPU
- (5) Production data, including initial and current production rates for the wells
- (6) Interference data between wells
- (7) Incremental reserves being produced
- (8) Plats of offsetting owners
- (9) Cost to plug and abandon offending well and redrill.

#### APPLICANT

WITNESSES	EST. TIME	EST. EXHIBITS
L. Tom Loveland (PE)	1-1.5 hour	many
Alan Alexander (landman)	20-30 min.	many

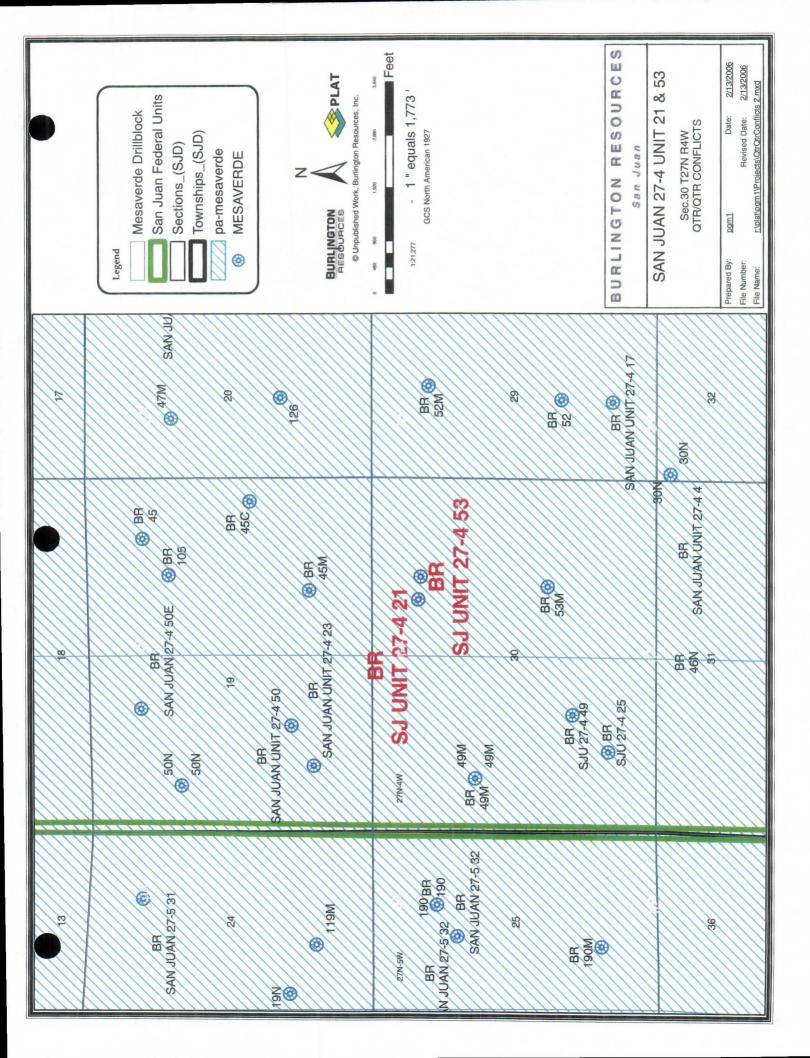
#### **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

Burlington request to consolidate these 8 cases for purposes of hearing.

**KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN** 



W. Thomas Kellahin





# WORKING INTEREST OWNERS

SAN JUAN 27-4 - MV , PA NUMBER 6320465000

TEMPE LTD PARTNERSHIP

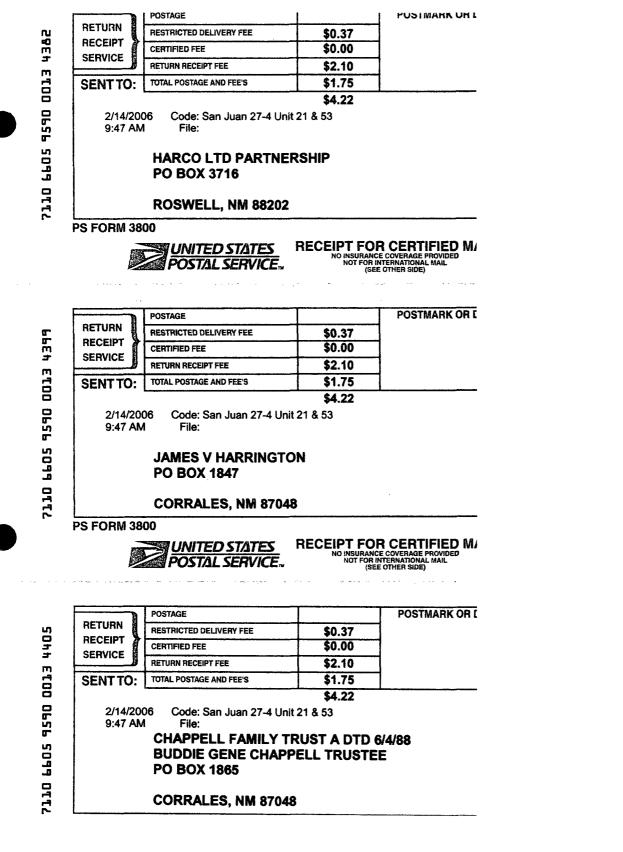
JAMES V HARRINGTON

HARCO LTD PARTNERSHIP

CHAPPELL FAMILY TRUST A DTD 6/4/88







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Form 3811 Article Number micle Addressed to: JAMES V HARRINGTON PO BOX 1847	Return Receipt    COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY   A. Signature   X Address   B. Fieceived by (Printed Name) C. Date of Deli   J. U.H.ATTURG Z.Y.C.   D. Is delivery address different from them 1? Yess   If YES enter delivery address below: No.   7110 LOS 9590 D013