STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING: CASE NO. 13,695 APPLICATION OF CHAPARRAL ENERGY, LLC, FOR APPROVAL OF A SALTWATER DISPOSAL WELL, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: WILLIAM V. JONES, JR., Hearing Examiner

June 8th, 2006

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, WILLIAM V. JONES, JR Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, June 8th, 2006, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

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* * *

EXHIBITS

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* * *

APPEARANCES

FOR THE DIVISION:

GAIL MacQUESTEN
Deputy General Counsel
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

FOR THE APPLICANT:

HINKLE, HENSLEY, SHANOR & MARTIN, L.L.P. 218 Montezuma
P.O. Box 2068
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
By: GARY W. LARSON

* * *

1	WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2	8:19 a.m.:
3	EXAMINER JONES: Okay, if there's no other
4	continuances or dismissals, let's call the first case of
5	the day, Case 13,695, which is continued from May the 11th.
6	Application of Chaparral Energy, LLC, for approval of a
7	saltwater disposal well, Lea County, New Mexico.
8	Call for appearances.
9	MR. LARSON: Gary Larson for Chaparral Energy,
10	and I have one witness, Ron Brown.
11	EXAMINER JONES: Any other appearances?
12	Will the witness please stand to be sworn?
13	(Thereupon, the witness was sworn.)
14	MR. LARSON: May I approach and hand you the
15	exhibits?
16	EXAMINER JONES: Sure.
17	RONALD K. BROWN,
18	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
19	his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
20	DIRECT EXAMINATION
21	BY MR. LARSON:
22	Q. Good morning, Mr. Brown.
23	A. Good morning.
24	Q. Would you state your full name for the record,
25	please?

1	A. Ronald K. Brown.
2	Q. And where do you reside?
3	A. Yukon, Oklahoma.
4	Q. And by whom are you employed?
5	A. By Chaparral Energy, LLC.
6	Q. And what is your job title?
7	A. I'm field services manager and production
8	engineer.
9	Q. And what do those functions entail?
10	A. Production engineer, I handle operations in north
11	Texas through New Mexico, production operations. And field
12	services manager, I supervise employees that do work for
13	ourselves, dozers and backhoes and pipeline construction,
14	that type of stuff.
15	Q. Have you previously testified before the New
16	Mexico Oil Conservation Division?
17	A. No, I have not.
18	Q. Have you ever testified before an agency that
19	regulates oil and gas operations?
20	A. I have testified in Oklahoma Corporation
21	Commission.
22	Q. Can you give us an estimate of how many times?
23	A. Between 10 and 12 times.
24	Q. Would you summarize your educational background
25	for me, please?

1	A. I have an engineering degree from the University
2	of Nebraska, with emphasis on soil and water hydrology.
3	I've been working as a petroleum engineer since 1975.
4	Q. And are you a licensed professional engineer?
5	A. Yes, I'm a registered professional engineer.
6	Q. In the State of Oklahoma?
7	A. In the State of Oklahoma.
8	Q. Any other states?
9	A. No, I'm only registered there.
10	Q. And how long have you been employed by Chaparral
11	Energy?
12	A. I've been employed by Chaparral for about 13
13	years.
14	Q. And then you have experience previous to that in
15	the oil and gas industry as an engineer?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. And are you familiar with the engineering matters
18	related to Chaparral's application for approval of a
19	saltwater disposal well?
20	A. Yes, I am. This was prepared under my
21	supervision.
22	Q. And would you identify for the Hearing Examiner
23	Chaparral Exhibit Number 1?
24	A. Exhibit Number 1 is the application and
25	supporting documents for the State test I mean, for the

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1	application. We applied for administrative approval.
2	Q. And were there any objections received to that
3	application?
4	A. Yes, there was one written objection from the
5	surface tenants.
6	Q. And that would be a grazing lease?
7	A. That would be a grazing tenant, yes.
8	Q. And do you recall the grazing lessee's name?
9	A. I have it here somewhere. Yes, it's Wendell
10	Dallas or Weldon Dallas.
11	Q. And when did he send the letter to the Division?
12	A. He sent the letter he dated it 7-14 of '05.
13	It was received by the Oil Conservation Division July 18th
14	of '05.
15	Q. And since that time has Chaparral received any
16	information from Mr. Dallas regarding analysis of the
17	matters that are proposed in Chaparral's Application?
18	A. We have had no correspondence from Mr. Dallas.
19	Q. And to your knowledge has he submitted anything
20	further to the Division?
21	A. To my knowledge he has not.
22	Q. Is the disposal well proposed by Chaparral an
23	existing well?
24	A. Yes, it's an existing well.
25	Q. And where is the well located?

The well is located in unit letter K, Section 21, Α. 1 11 South, 33 East, Lea County, New Mexico. 2 And do you know when that well was drilled? 3 0. That well was drilled in 1967 by Bell Petroleum 4 and was completed as a Permo-Penn producer. Also in 1967 5 Bell applied for, and it was approved, to inject produced 6 water down the intermediate into this same zone that we're 7 applying for now as a disposal well. 8 And do you know how long Bell utilized it as an 9 Q. injection well? 10 I know they utilized it for a few months, and 11 then negotiated contracts with a pipeline to dispose of the 12 produced water. I don't know the exact months. 13 So once they had access to a pipeline to 14 Q. Okay. 15 take the produced water, they ceased injecting into the 16 well? Right. And -- But they were injecting down the 17 There wasn't any tubing protecting the 18 back side. intermediate casing. 19 And in conjunction with preparing this 20 21 Application, did Chaparral test the integrity of the 22 proposed injection well?

Yes, we did, and in fact on the -- page 1 of

Exhibit 1 is the report of how -- when we tested it, and

got -- with the chart attached, the second page, where we

23

24

25

1	tested the casing, intermediate casing.
2	Q. And is the well properly cased and cemented, in
3	your opinion?
4	A. Yes, it is.
5	Q. And based on Chaparral's analysis, will any of
6	the produced water to be injected be able to escape into
7	other zones?
8	MS. MacQUESTEN: Mr. Larson
9	MR. LARSON: Yes.
10	MS. MacQUESTEN: I don't recall you asking to
11	have Mr. Brown accepted as an expert. Did I miss that?
12	MR. LARSON: No, I didn't.
13	MS. MacQUESTEN: We'd be happy to entertain such
14	a motion before we go into opinion testimony.
15	MR. LARSON: Okay, I would like to move that Mr.
16	Brown be accepted as an expert witness.
17	EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Brown is qualified as an
18	expert petroleum engineer.
19	MR. LARSON: Thank you, Ms. MacQuesten.
20	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
21	Q. (By Mr. Larson) I may have asked this question
22	already, but will any of the produced water be able to
23	escape into other zones, other than the zone that you
24	propose to inject into?
25	A. To the best of my knowledge, no.

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1	Q. And I'll refer you to page 10 of Exhibit 1. How
2	many oil and gas wells are located in the area of the
3	proposed injection well?
4	A. There are four oil and gas wells in that half-
5	mile circle.
6	Q. And is that in addition to the proposed injection
7	well?
8	A. That is in addition to the proposed injection
9	well, yes.
10	Q. And does Chaparral own any of those wells?
11	A. Chaparral owns two of the wells, one temporary
12	abandoned well, and one well that is testing, that we just
13	drilled.
14	Q. And Chaparral is in the process of bringing that
15	well into production?
16	A. Right.
17	Q. And could you identify that well for the Hearing
18	Examiner?
19	A. The well we're bringing on is the State K Number
20	3, which is south and west of the State K Number 1.
21	Q. And as part of the Application, is Exhibit 1
22	has Chaparral listed those wells along with pertinent
23	information about the completion of those wells?
24	A. Yeah, on page 11, the wells the four
25	additional wells are listed of which the one well was

plugged and one's producing, the one shut in and the one 1 completing. 2 And I believe you said there was one well that's 3 been plugged and abandoned? 4 Yes, that's correct, the Bell B. 5 Α. And was it properly plugged and abandoned? 6 0. Yes, it was properly plugged and abandoned. 7 Α. And of the other wells within the area of review 8 Q. -- have properly cased and cemented? 9 Yes, they're all properly cased and cemented. 10 Α. And have they been cased and cemented in a manner 11 Q. that would prevent the movement of fluids into other zones? 12 That is correct. 13 Α. And please briefly summarize the injection 14 Q. 15 operations that Chaparral proposes to undertake. 16 We plan on producing the State K Number 3, moving the produced water to the State K Number 1 location, low 17 pressure, and then injecting from that location into the 18 19 State K Number 1, through coated tubing and packer. 20 Q. So you'd be sending produced water from one 21 producing well? At this time, yes. 22 Α. 23 And what is the anticipated daily injection rate Q. for the proposed well? 24 25 Α. Anticipated daily injection rate is 700 barrels a

day.
Q. And what is the anticipated maximum daily
injection rate?
A. I anticipate 1200 barrels a day.
Q. And what does Chaparral propose to be the maximum
injection pressure for the well?
A. We've proposed a maximum pressure of 2000 pounds.
Q. Pounds per square inch?
A. Pounds per square inch, yes.
Q. And does Chaparral intend to implement a
stimulation program for the proposed injection well?
A. At this time we don't feel that a stimulation
program is needed. But if needed, one will be proposed and
sent to the Commission.
Q. Are there any sources of fresh water within a
half a mile of the proposed injection well?
A. Yes, there are two freshwater wells within a half
mile of the proposed well.
Q. And are those identified in Exhibit 1?
A. Whether they're identified or not, we because
there's no way to identify a freshwater well we did
collect water samples from both wells, and they are
analyzed in this exhibit.
Q. Do you know the distance from the proposed

injection well of the two water wells?

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Approximately a quarter of a mile from the well. A. 1 And Chaparral took water samples from both wells 0. 2 and had them analyzed? 3 Yes, we had them analyzed. A. 4 And the analytical data is included in Exhibit 1? 5 Q. That is correct. Α. 6 Has Chaparral analyzed the produced water that's 7 0. to be injected into the proposed well? 8 Yes, we took a sample from the produced well for 9 the testing well and it was analyzed, and it is also 10 11 included in the packet. In Exhibit 1? 0. 12 13 Α. In Exhibit 1, yes. And did Chaparral provide notice of this hearing 14 Q. to the surface owner and other interested parties? 15 Yes, we did. 16 Α. Could you at this time identify Chaparral Exhibit 17 Q. 2 for the Hearing Examiner? 18 Exhibit 2 is the affidavit of hearing. 19 Α. Affidavit of notice of hearing? 20 Q. 21 Α. Notice of hearing, yes, sir. 22 0. And are attached the affidavit the notice letters 23 that Chaparral sent to the interested parties? 24 Yes, they are. And they were sent by priority 25 mail and certified mail.

1	Q. Would the granting of Chaparral's Application be
2	in the interest of conservation and the prevention of
3	waste?
4	A. Yes, it would.
5	Q. Were Chaparral Exhibits 1 and 2 prepared by you
6	or under your supervision?
7	A. Yes, they were.
8	MR. LARSON: Mr. Hearing Examiner, at this time
9	I'd move the admission of Exhibits 1 and 2.
LO	EXAMINER JONES: Exhibits 1 and 2 will be
L1	admitted to evidence.
12	MR. LARSON: I have no further questions for Mr.
13	Brown.
14	EXAMINATION
15	BY EXAMINER JONES:
16	Q. Okay, Mr. Brown, did you say that you had gotten
17	a sample of water from the proposed injection interval in
18	an offset well?
19	A. No, from the the water we're going to inject,
20	from the producing well.
21	Q. Okay. This got this Application got protested
22	and set to hearing before I had a chance to actually
23	interact and maybe ask some questions administratively, so
24	I have some several questions here and maybe even
25	requests that could be done after the bearing that you

could supply, and then we can write the order --1 Okay. Α. 2 -- after that. Let's see. Q. 3 The State Land Office -- Did you notice the State 4 Land Office? Is that in the --5 We noticed the State Land Office of this hearing. 6 A. Okay. 7 Q. We did not send them a notice of the Application. 8 Did you hear anything back from them? 9 Q. No, did not hear anything back from them. 10 A. Okay. But it clearly says convert the above well 11 Q. to a saltwater disposal well, so... 12 Did the notice that went to them actually have a 13 copy of the whole Application? It didn't, did it? 14 No, it did not. 15 A. Okay. That's something that I think is in our 16 Q. Rules to do that, so maybe if you guys can do that and --17 We will get that done, yes. 18 Α. Okay. And the other operators within a half 19 Q. mile, I have Prime Operating Company at 2640 feet, so I'm 20 willing to forget that one. And the rest of them I match 21 22 right up with what you said. Phoenix operating -- and you 23 noticed them. 24 Tipperary Oil and Gas for -- had the plugged and 25 abandoned well. Do you guys control that well now?

No, but we didn't -- because it was plugged that Α. 1 long ago, I did not notify them. 2 So it went -- it went --3 Q. Yeah --4 Α. That's okay, but it went back to the -- because 5 Q. it was --6 It should have went back to the State. 7 A. The State. And of course you guys are Chaparral, Q. 8 9 okay. Okay, another thing, can you have your geologist 10 give me a piece of paper that has all the formation tops, 11 from the surface all the way down to about 9000 feet or so, 12 something like that? 13 14 A. Okay. 15 Q. And then -- and notice the State Land Office. And then can you give me a before-conversion diagram of the 16 17 well itself, of the way it is right now? I think the 18 conversion -- the well -- unless I'm -- I could be wrong on 19 that. I think the one you've got now is the one that's after conversion, after you drill out plugs and that kind 20 of stuff and put the 5-1/2 casing in. 21 Α. Right now it's -- the 5-1/2 casing isn't 22 23 in there, and it's just the 8-5/8 packer is in there for -has TA'd. 24

So it's not much different?

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Q.

Not much different, but I'll prepare that one and A. 1 send it to you. 2 And let's see here. Okay, your pressure Okay. 3 Q. maximum that you want -- Do you need 2000 pounds, do you 4 think, to get water in the ground? 5 No, I'm just saying that that is a maximum. Ι 6 don't think it will get to that, but that's -- I had to 7 8 pick a number. Okay, you realize we start out with .2 p.s.i. per 9 Q. foot in New Mexico, and then if you run a step-rate test or 10 show that fracturing of the formation or above the 11 formation won't occur, well, you can apply for more 12 13 pressure --14 Α. Right. -- in the future? But we'll start you out at .2. 15 Okay. As far as -- Before I forget Weldon 16 Dallas's concern here, did you guys have any contact with 17 18 them, with him? 19 We sent him a letter asking, you know, what his 20 concern was, and the only response, you know, was, we got this copy that he sent here to the Commission, from the 21 22 Commission. We got nothing back from him. 23 Yeah, okay. Okay, I think our Rules don't even Q. say you have to notify the leasee anyway, so the State Land 24

Office, once you notify them, we'll see what happens there.

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Okay, the well table -- I guess the biggest --1 the biggest problem I've got here -- and Gail's going to 2 talk to you in a minute about something else, but -- is the 3 cement tops in the offset wells. And that's something that 4 we've had to pay real close attention to, and your well 5 table doesn't really -- I quess what I really need is 6 wellbore diagrams of each one of those wells, and I think 7 you've got --8 I have the Bell B. Unfortunately, the one I --9 Α. The Bell A, Bell B, and the plugged well? 10 Q. Right. 11 A. Okay, they're all there then, right? 12 Q. They're all here, yes. 13 Α. Q. Okay. If you look on those -- Let's pick one 14 here. Okay, the plugged wells, the first one in the pack 15 here, right? 16 Α. Right. 17 Q. The Bell B. Okay, that one has a plug at 5900 18 19 feet and then an open interval; is that correct? 20 A. Right. Up to --21 Q. -- 650 feet. 22 Α. 23 Q. Well, actually --24 Well, top of cement was 38- --Α. 25 36- --Q.

-- yeah, 3685. A. 1 So basically that whole interval, if Yeah. 0. 2 gremlins happened to move up and down the hole, could 3 actually -- it's entirely possible, maybe not likely but possible, that fluid could move over and move down into 5 other formations. And see, you didn't apply for a permit 6 to inject in that lower interval down to 5900. I can't say 7

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everybody, but that's the problem I have with that well. So we would -- if everything else worked out, we would grant you a permit to inject, but we would require you to go back in and set a plug higher in this well.

what would happen if you applied for a permit to have -- to

-- in that zone, which would mean you'd need to re-notice

- Okay, there is a plug at 3685. A.
- Right. But waters moving laterally from the well that you're injecting into would come in around 4000 feet, and -- You see what I mean?
- Okay, about -- Yeah, the way I looked at A. Yeah. it -- and -- was that, you know, because that one was cemented, they had a plug at 5900, and that cement went up to 3600, and there was a plug --
- 0. The cement -- the cement in the wellbore went up to --
- On the outside of the casing --24
 - Q. Oh.

-- went up to 3600, and then they set a plug on Α. 1 the inside at 3600, and they tagged to prove it was there. 2 So what is the cement top on the production 3 Q. casing, on the 4-1/2-inch? 4 Α. At 3685. 5 That's the cement top? 6 Q. Yeah. 7 Α. With no -- Did it have a DV tool in the hole? 8 That I do not know. This information came from 9 A. 10 the State records. Yeah. Okay. So can you give me another wellbore 11 Q. diagram, then, that actually shows the cement volumes and 12 13 the cement top --14 A. Okay. -- real -- very clearly on that well? 15 Q. A. Okay. 16 And then the next well is the same way, the Bell 17 Q. That one shows a top-of-cement at 8166 and then the 18 8-5/8 casing above that. 19 20 A. Right. 21 Q. And so if water is injected around 4000 feet, it 22 could possibly move laterally and move up to the Bradenhead 23 or down to -- you know, if worst came to worst, to 8166 24 feet. 25 Α. Right.

1	Q. So you guys you guys control that well, so you
2	could do something with that one, maybe.
3	A. But the Bell A, no, it we're not the operator
4	of the Bell A.
5	Q. Oh.
6	A. That one is Phoenix Hydrocarbon.
7	Q. This is page 13?
8	A. Yeah, she messed up and left Chaparral Energy on
9	the operator, but it's not the operator. She was using our
10	form, and it automatically prints us as an operator.
11	EXAMINER JONES: Okay, okay. Well, I guess I'll
12	just keep on going here. We Those kind of things, can
13	you just make sure the wellbore diagrams are extremely
14	accurate on all the offset wells, and send that to me, and
15	the other ones, and then we'll look at it and see what
16	happens then.
17	And that's all I had on this well. I think Gail
18	had something to say.
19	MS. MacQUESTEN: I had a couple of questions.
20	EXAMINATION
21	BY MS. MacQUESTEN:
22	Q. On Exhibit Number 2, the affidavit of notice of
23	hearing, it states that copies of the notice letters and
24	certified return receipts are attached, and I didn't get
25	copies of the return receipts. Do you have those?

1	MR. LARSON: They weren't attached at
2	THE WITNESS: Okay, I have those on for the
3	two.
4	Q. (By Ms. MacQuesten) And were you able to get
5	return receipts on all of the addresses that you mailed
6	notice to?
7	A. I don't have I have these two on my list.
8	MS. MacQUESTEN: So if we could get copies of
9	these to add to the exhibit
10	MR. LARSON: Certainly.
11	MS. MacQUESTEN: and it appears we've got a
12	return receipt for Phoenix Hydrocarbons and Weldon
13	MR. LARSON: Yes.
14	MS. MacQUESTEN: Dallas, and then you're going
15	to be re-notifying the Land Office; is that right?
16	MR. LARSON: That's right.
17	THE WITNESS: And when we will and we will get
18	receipt from that one.
19	MS. MacQUESTEN: Okay.
20	MR. LARSON: The notice of hearing was sent by
21	priority mail, I believe.
22	THE WITNESS: Right.
23	MS. MacQUESTEN: And we'll need to have something
24	indicating receipt of the notice.
25	MR. LARSON: Certainly.

Q. (By Ms. MacQuesten) My other questions go to a different issue, and that is in regard to our new Rule 40.

And perhaps I should address these questions to Mr. Larson.

Partie the second

Are you aware we have -- in Rule 701 there's a requirement that the operator be in compliance with Rule 40 before we can grant an injection permit. I just want to let you know that a short time ago I did check the inactive well list for Chaparral, and it appeared to me that there were more wells on the list than are allowed under Rule 40, which would put them in violation of Rule 40.

If that's the case -- and I can't say right now that that is because I've been out of the office for the past three days visiting the Districts, and I can't -- wasn't able to check this morning. But if that's the case, when it comes time for Mr. Jones to be able to grant a permit, he will not be able to grant a permit until Chaparral is in compliance with Rule 40, either by getting wells removed from the inactive well list or entering into an agreed compliance order to bring those wells into compliance, and I just wanted to make sure you are aware of that as we go through this process.

A. Right, and they were -- two weeks ago, everything -- all but two wells were in compliance. Whether the paper- -- with the field person. Now, whether the paperwork had got through the district office or not, I

1	don't know.
2	Q. Right, and that may be something you'll need to
3	keep
4	A. Yes.
5	Q up, to make sure that paperwork has gone
6	through. If it hasn't gone through and it's causing you
7	problems, you may want to call us and talk about an agreed
8	compliance order
9	A. Right.
10	Q and get that in place
11	A. Right.
12	Q so it's not an issue for you.
13	MR. LARSON: And what would you suggest we do in
14	terms of letting the Hearing Examiner know that we're in
15	compliance with Rule 40?
16	MS. MacQUESTEN: We can check. We have the
17	ability
18	EXAMINER JONES: We'll check.
19	MS. MacQUESTEN: to check online. But if it
20	is a question for you, you may want to keep in touch.
21	MR. LARSON: Sure.
22	MS. MacQUESTEN: Okay.
23	(Off the record)
24	EXAMINER JONES: Okay, what we're thinking is to
25	continue this till June 6th, and Mr. Brown won't have to

1	show up, but maybe some designee of him, maybe Mr. Larson,
2	show up and just show us the requested information and
3	MR. LARSON: June 6th?
4	EXAMINER JONES: July 6th.
5	MR. LARSON: July 6th.
6	EXAMINER JONES: July 6th, sorry.
7	MR. LARSON: Okay.
8	EXAMINER JONES: That's I think that's a month
9	away.
10	MR. LARSON: And should we submit all the things
11	you requested at that time, or do you want us to send them
12	as we get them in?
13	EXAMINER JONES: No, just wait till that time.
14	MR. LARSON: Okay.
15	EXAMINER JONES: Okay? And that's all we have.
16	So we've continued Case 13,695 until July the 6th.
17	Thank you guys very much.
18	MR. LARSON: Thank you.
19	(Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
20	8:50 a.m.)
21	* * *
22	
23	den hereby certify that the foregoing in a complete record of the proceedings in
24	the Examiner hearing of Case No
25	, Examiner
	Oil Conservation Division

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL June 11th, 2006.

STEVEN T. BRENNER

CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 16th, 2006