



*Case No. 13743*

# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**BILL RICHARDSON**  
Governor  
**Joanna Prukop**  
Cabinet Secretary

September 21, 2006

**Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

**Williams Production Company, L.L.C.**  
c/o **Holland & Hart LLP**  
**P. O. Box 2208**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208**

**Attention: William F. Carr**

*Administrative Order NSL-5460 (BHL)*

Dear Mr. Carr:

Reference is made to the following: (i) your application on behalf of the operator, Williams Production Company, L.L.C. ("Williams") dated June 12, 2006 (*administrative application reference No. pTDS0-616455313*); (ii) your telephone conversations with Mr. Michael E. Stogner, Staff Engineer with the Division in Santa Fe, on August 7 and 8, 2006; (iii) your meeting with Mr. Stogner on Tuesday afternoon, August 8, 2006; (iv) Mr. Stogner's verbal request for additional information on August 17, 2006; (v) Ms. Ocean Munds-Dry's e-mail of August 28, 2006 with the supplemental that Mr. Stogner requested on August 8 and 17, 2006; (vi) yours and Mr. Stogner's subsequent telephone conversations and meetings, including Wednesday afternoon, September 20, 2006; and (vii) the Division's records in Aztec and Santa Fe, including the files on Williams' previous administrative filing (*see administrative application reference No. pSEM0-518625624*) and Division Case No. 13743: all concerning Williams's request for exception to Division Rules 111.A (13) and 111.C (2), and Rule 7 (a) of the "*Special Rules and Regulations for the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool*," as promulgated by Division Order No. R-8768, as amended.

**The Division Director Finds That:**

- (1) The subject application has been duly filed under the provisions of Division Rules 104.F, 111.A (13), 111.C (2), and 1210.A (2) [formerly Division Rule 1207.A (2), see Division Order No. R-12327-A, issued by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission in Case No. 13482 on September 15, 2005]; and the applicable provisions of the special rules governing the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool (*71629*).
- (2) The "project area" that is the subject of this application comprises a single existing standard 320-acre stand-up gas spacing unit consisting of the W/2 of Section 11, Township 31 North, Range 5 West, NMPM, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.
- (3) The special rules governing the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool provide for 320-acre gas spacing units, infill drilling with one well per quarter section, and for wells to be located no closer than 660 feet from any outer boundary of the spacing unit nor closer than 10 feet from any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary.
- (4) This unit is currently dedicated to Williams' Rosa Unit Well No. 351 (*API No. 30-039-26246*), located at a standard coal gas well location 1260 feet from the South line and 1725 feet from the West line (Unit N) of Section 11.

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- (5) Information provided within your application and the Division's records indicate that Williams recently drilled (spud date: October 8, 2005) its Rosa Unit Well No. 351-A (*API No. 30-039-29365*) as the infill well to its above-described Rosa Unit Well No. 351 within the W/2 of Section 11 from a surface location 1310 feet from the North line and 215 feet from the West line (Unit D) of Section 11 and completed the well within the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool with a horizontal drainhole in the following manner.
- (a) The vertical portion of the well was drilled to a depth of 3,133 feet at which point the wellbore was kicked-off in an east-southeasterly direction at a build rate of 12 degrees per 100 foot of depth.
  - (b) A 90-degree inclination in the wellbore was achieved at a measured depth of 3,958 feet at a corresponding standard subsurface coal gas well location approximately 1406 feet from the North line and 797 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 11.
  - (c) The top of the Basin-Fruitland coal gas formation was intersected by the wellbore at a measured depth of 3,566 feet (as reported by Williams) at a corresponding unorthodox subsurface coal gas well location approximately 1353 feet from the North line and 431 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 11.
  - (d) On October 25, 2005, a total depth of 4,452 feet was reached at a standard subsurface coal gas well location approximately 1459 feet from the North line and 1287 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 11.
  - (e) A 7-inch production string of casing was set at 3,918 feet [subsurface location approximately 1399 feet from the North line and 757 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 11] and cemented to the surface.
  - (f) The following described 4-1/2 inch liner was set in the well from 3,070 feet to 4,445 feet:
    - (i) One joint of non-perforated pipe at the top.
    - (ii) With 33 joints of pre-perforated pipe at the bottom end.
    - (iii) Liner perforations are from 3,153 feet (MD) to 4,444 feet (MD) for a 1291 feet perforated interval.
    - (iv) The liner was not cemented.
- (6) The resulting productive interval of this wellbore extends a distance of 534 feet from the 7-inch production-casing shoe to total depth; therefore the entire interval capable of contributing production is within the producing area [see Division Rule 111.A (7)] of the NW/4 of Section 11 that is considered to be "standard" pursuant to the set-back requirements of the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool.

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- (7) However, since the entry point of this wellbore into the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool, its curve portion, along with a portion of the non-productive horizontal drainhole is considered to be unorthodox pursuant to the setback requirements of the special pool rules governing the Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool and Division Rule 111.A (13), an exception to the special pool rules pursuant to Division Rule 111.C (2) is necessary in this instance.
- (8) It appears that the applicant has satisfied all of the appropriate requirements prescribed in Division Rule 111.C (2) and Rules 7 (b) and 8 of the Basin-Fruitland coal gas special pool rules; therefore, the subject application should be approved.
- (9) The provisions contained within this order and all other applicable provisions of Division Rule 111 and Division Order No. R-8768, as amended, should govern both the Rosa unit Wells No. 351 and 351-A and the subject 320-acre gas spacing unit/project area.

**It Is Therefore Ordered That:**

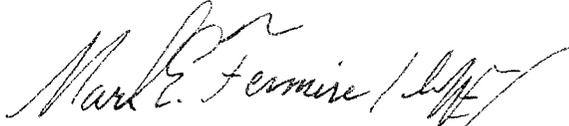
(1) Williams Production Company, L.L.C. ("Williams") is hereby authorized to continue operating its horizontal/high angle directional drilling "Project Area" within the standard 320-acre stand-up gas spacing unit comprising the W/2 of Section 11, Township 31 North, Range 5 West, NMPM, Basin-Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool (71629), Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, in which its above-described Rosa Unit Wells No. 351 (*API No. 30-039-26246*) and 351-A (*API No. 30-039-29365*) are herein simultaneously dedicated.

(2) The operator of this gas spacing unit shall comply with all applicable provisions and conditions set forth in Division Rule 111 and Division Order No. R-8768, as amended.

(3) Jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

  
MARK E. FESMIRE, P. E.  
Director

MEF/ms

cc: New Mexico Oil Conservation Division – Aztec  
U. S. Bureau of Land Management – Farmington  
File: Case No. 13743