

**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. 13038
ORDER NO. R-12014**

**APPLICATION OF YATES PETROLEUM
CORPORATION FOR COMPULSORY
POOLING AND AN UNORTHODOX GAS
WELL LOCATION, LEA COUNTY, NEW
MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on July 24, 2003, at Santa Fe, New Mexico before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 29th day of August, 2003, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice has been given, and the Division has jurisdiction of this case and its subject matter.

(2) Yates Petroleum Corporation ("Yates" or "Applicant") seeks an order pooling all uncommitted mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Mississippian formation underlying the E/2 of Section 19, Township 15 South, Range 35 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, forming a standard 320-acre stand-up deep gas spacing unit, pursuant to Division Rule 104.C (2), for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within that vertical extent, which presently include but are not necessarily limited to the Undesignated North Eidson-Morrow Gas Pool (76360), Undesignated Big Dog-Morrow Gas Pool (97214), and Undesignated Northwest Big Dog-Mississippian Gas Pool (97215).

(3) This unit is to be dedicated to the Applicant's proposed Associate "AZP" State Com. Well No. 1 (API No. 30-025-36026) to be drilled to a depth of 13,010 feet at an unorthodox deep gas well location 1650 feet from the South line and 2310 feet from the East line (Unit J) of Section 19.

(4) At the hearing the Applicant requested the vertical extent sought in this case be limited to just the deeper gas-bearing Atoka, Morrow, and Mississippian formations.

(5) Applicant's primary zone of interest for this well is the Morrow formation; the secondary zones of interest for the Applicant with this well are the deeper gas-bearing Mississippian formation and the shallower oil-bearing Strawn interval.

(6) Adequate geological evidence was presented by the applicant to support the drilling of this well at an unorthodox gas well location to the deeper Morrow formation. Such evidence indicates that a well drilled at the proposed unorthodox deep gas well location will be at a more favorable geologic position within the Mesa zone of the Middle Morrow interval underlying the southern portion of the E/2 of Section 19, thereby increasing the likelihood of obtaining commercial gas production from the gas-bearing Morrow sand interval. Further, this location is considered to be a standard oil well location for a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit to comprise the NW/4 SE/4 (Unit J) of Section 19 within the Undesignated Townsend-Permo Upper Pennsylvanian Pool (59847). Based on a seismic survey of the immediate area, the Applicant presented evidence to indicate that this location should penetrate a small algal reef mound build-up within the Strawn formation at a more structurally advantageous position within its proposed 40-acre unit, thereby increasing the likelihood of obtaining commercial production.

(7) There are four State leases within the E/2 of Section 19. The Applicant owns the two State leases in the SE/4 of Section 19 (the N/2 SE/4 of Section 19 is included in State Lease No. V-05610 and the S/2 SE/4 of Section 19 is included in State Lease No. V-05611). Applicant controls 100 percent of the working interest underlying the SE/4 of Section 19. Within the NE/4 of Section 19, David H. Arrington Oil and Gas, Inc. owns the two State leases in the NE/4 of Section 19 (the E/2 NE/4 of Section 19 is included in State Lease No. V-05723 and the W/2 NE/4 of Section 19 is included in State Lease No. V-05724).

(8) David H. Arrington Oil and Gas, Inc. appeared at the hearing through legal counsel, but offered no testimony.

(9) Applicant, as an owner of an oil and gas working interest within the unit, has the right to drill for and develop the minerals underlying this unit.

(10) There are interest owners in the proposed 320-acre unit that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(11) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, protect correlative rights, prevent waste, and afford to the owner of each interest in this unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense its just and fair share of hydrocarbons, this application should be approved by pooling all uncommitted mineral interests, whatever they may be, within this unit.

(12) Applicant should be designated the operator of the proposed well and of the unit.

(13) Any pooled working interest owner who does not pay its share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production its share of reasonable well costs plus an additional 200 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(14) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$ 5,400.00 per month while drilling and \$ 540.00 per month while producing, provided that these rates should be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3. of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations*." The operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each pooled working interest.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) Pursuant to the application of Yates Petroleum Corporation ("Applicant"), all uncommitted mineral interests, whatever they may be, from the top of the Atoka formation to the base of the Mississippian formation underlying the E/2 of Section 19, Township 15 South, Range 35 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled to form a standard 320-acre stand-up deep gas spacing unit, pursuant to Division Rule 104.C (2), for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within that vertical extent, which presently include but are not necessarily limited to the Undesignated North Eidson-Morrow Gas Pool (76360), Undesignated Big Dog-Morrow Gas Pool (97214), and Undesignated Northwest Big Dog-Mississippian Gas Pool (97215).

(2) This unit shall be dedicated to the Applicant's proposed Associate "AZP" State Com. Well No. 1 (API No. 30-025-36026) to be drilled to at an unorthodox deep gas well location, herein approved, 1650 feet from the South line and 2310 feet from the East line (Unit J) of Section 19.

(3) The operator of this unit shall commence drilling the proposed well on or before December 1, 2003, and shall thereafter continue drilling the well with due diligence to a depth sufficient to test the Mississippian formation.

(4) In the event the operator does not commence drilling the proposed well on or before December 1, 2003, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no effect, unless the operator obtains a time extension from the Division Director for good cause.

(5) Should the proposed well not be drilled to completion, or be abandoned, within 120 days after commencement thereof, the operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Ordering Paragraph (1) should not be rescinded.

(6) Upon final plugging and abandonment of the proposed well, the force-pooled unit created by this Order shall terminate, unless this Order has been amended to authorize further operations.

(7) Applicant is hereby designated the operator of the proposed well and of this unit.

(8) After pooling, uncommitted working interest owners are referred to as pooled working interest owners. ("Pooled working interest owners" are owners of working interests in the unit, including unleased mineral interests, who are not parties to an operating agreement governing this unit.) After the effective date of this order, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner in the unit an itemized schedule of estimated well costs of drilling, completing, and equipping the proposed well ("well costs").

(9) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished, any pooled working interest owner shall have the right to pay its share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production as hereinafter provided, and any such owner who pays its share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges. Pooled working interest owners who elect not to pay their share of estimated well costs as provided in this paragraph shall thereafter be referred to as "non-consenting working interest owners."

(10) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known pooled working interest owner (including each non-consenting working interest owner) an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the proposed well. If no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division, and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of the schedule, the actual well costs shall be

deemed to be the reasonable well costs. If there is an objection to actual well costs within the 45-day period, the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(11) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any pooled working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated well costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator its share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator the amount, if any, that the estimated well costs that it has paid exceeds its share of reasonable well costs.

(12) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (a) the proportionate share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner; and
- (b) as a charge for the risk involved in drilling the well, 200 percent of the above costs.

(13) The operator shall distribute the costs and charges withheld from production to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(14) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$ 5,400.00 per month while drilling and \$ 540.00 per month while producing, provided that this rate shall be adjusted annually pursuant to Section III.1.A.3. of the COPAS form titled "*Accounting Procedure-Joint Operations*." The operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each pooled working interest owners.

(15) Except as provided in Ordering Paragraphs (12) and (14) above, all proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in Lea County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership. The operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of the escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with the escrow agent.

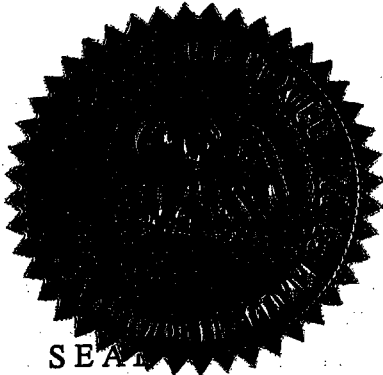
(16) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8)-royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under this order. Any well costs or charges that are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interests' share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(17) Should all the parties to this compulsory pooling order reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, that portion of this order authorizing compulsory pooling shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(18) The operator of the above-described well and unit shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this Order.

(19) Jurisdiction of this case 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

Lori Wrotenbery

LORI WROTENBERY
Director