BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION, INC. FOR THE CREATION OF THE JICARILLA APACHE TRIBAL LANDS-PRODUCTION AREA AND THE ADOPTION OF SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS THEREFORE FOR THE PICTURED CLIFFS FORMATION, EAST BLANCO-PICTURED CLIFFS POOL, AND THE TERTIARY FORMATION, CABRESTO CANYON-TERTIARY POOL, RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO. 13816

<u>AFFIDAVIT</u>

COUNTY OF SANTA FE) ss.)
William F. Carr, attorney	in fact and authorized representative

William F. Carr, attorney in fact and authorized representative of Black Hills Exploration & Production, Inc., the Applicant herein, states that notice of the above-referenced Application was mailed to the interested parties shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto in accordance with Oil Conservation Division Rules, and that true and correct copies of the notice letter and proof of notice are attached hereto.

William F. Carr

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this /8144

day of October 2006.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Case No. 13816 Exhibit No. 3
Submitted by:

BLACK HILLS EXPLORATION & PROD., INC. Hearing Date: November 30, 2006

3618902_1.DOC

EXHIBIT A

NOTIFICATION LIST

APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION, INC. FOR THE CREATION OF THE

JICARILLA APACHE TRIBAL LANDS-PRODUCTION AREA AND THE ADOPTION OF SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS THEREFORE IN THE FOR THE PICTURED CLIFFS FORMATION, EAST BLANCO-PICTURED CLIFFS POOL, AND THE TERTIARY FORMATION, CABRESTO CANYON-TERTIARY POOL, RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Company 3401 East 30th Street Farmington, New Mexico 87402 Attn: Alan Alexander

ConocoPhillips Company
3401 East 30th Street
Farmington, New Mexico 87402
Attn: Alan Alexander

Energen Resources Oil & Gas Company, Inc. 2198 Bloomfield Highway Farmington, New Mexico 87402

Schalk Development Company Post Office Box 25825 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125

Williams Production Company One Williams Center, Suite 2500 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74172

Williams Production Company 999 Godard Ave. Ignascio, Colorado 81137

Bureau of Land Management Farmington District Office 1235 La Plata Highway Suite A Farmington, New Mexico 87401-8731

Jicarilla Apache Nation
Oil & Gas Administrator
Dulce, New Mexico 87255





October 12, 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

AFFECTED INTEREST OWNERS

Re: Application of Black Hills Exploration & Production, Inc. for the creation of the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area and the adoption of Special Rules and Regulations therefore in the Pictured Cliffs formation, East Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool, and the Tertiary formation, Cabresto Canyon—Tertiary Pool, Rio Arriba County New Mexico.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is to advise you that Black Hills Exploration & Production, Inc. has filed the enclosed application with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division seeking an order creating the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area and the adoption of Special Rules and Regulations for this area in the Pictured Cliffs formation, East Blanco Pictured Cliffs Pool and the Tertiary formation, Cabresto Canyon-Tertiary Pool Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

This application has been set for hearing before a Division Examiner on November 9, 2006. You are not required to attend this hearing, but as an owner of an interest that may be affected by this application, you may appear and present testimony. Failure to appear at that time and become a party of record will preclude you from challenging the matter at a later date.

Parties appearing in cases are required by Division Rule 1208.B to file a Pre-Hearing Statement with the Oil Conservation Division's Santa Fe office located at 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, four days in advance of a scheduled hearing, but at least on the Thursday preceding the hearing. This statement must include: the names of the parties and their attorneys; a concise statement of the case; the names of all witnesses the party will call to testify at the hearing; the approximate time the party will need to present its case; and identification of any procedural matters that are to be resolved prior to the hearing.

Sincerely,

William F. Carr

ATTORNEY FOR BLACK HILLS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION, INC.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION, INC. FOR THE CREATION OF THE JICARILLA APACHE TRIBAL LANDS-PRODUCTION AREA AND THE ADOPTION OF SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS THEREFORE IN THE FOR THE PICTURED CLIFFS FORMATION, EAST BLANCO-PICTURED CLIFFS POOL, AND THE TERTIARY FORMATION, CABRESTO CANYON-TERTIARY POOL, RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

CASE NO.

APPLICATION

BLACK HILLS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION, INC. ("Black Hills") through its undersigned attorneys, hereby makes application to the Oil Conservation Division for an order creating the "Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area" comprised of the following lands in Rio Arriba, County, New Mexico:

TOWNSHIP 30 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Sections 4 through 9:

All

Sections 15 through 22:

All

Sections 26 through 35:

All

TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Section 32:

S/2

TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Sections 3 through 10:

All

and the adoption of Special Rules and Regulations for this area which authorize the drilling of up to two wells on each 160-acre gas spacing unit (80-acre infill wells) and for special well location requirements in the Pictured Cliffs formation, East Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool (72400) and in the Tertiary formation, Cabresto Canyon-Tertiary Pool

(97037), created by Nomenclature Order No. R-11445, dated September 5, 2000, and in support of its application states.

- 1. Black Hills is the oil and gas operator and a working interest owner in Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area. These lands were acquired from Mallon Oil Company in March of 2003.
- 2. Black Hills is the sole owner and operator the oil and gas minerals under certain tracts and the partial owner and operator of other tracts in this area pursuant to Indian Mineral Development Agreements ("IMDA") and other contracts between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Black Hills.
- 3. The gas bearing zones that are the subject of this application are currently governed by Oil Conservation Division General Rule 104.C(3) which provides for (i) 160-acre gas spacing and proration units, (ii) wells to be located no closer that 660 feet from the outer boundary of the dedicated quarter section nor 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary, and (iii) precludes the drilling, recompletion, and production of a second well within a single 160-acre gas spacing unit.
- 4. Because of topographical, archeological, geological and cultural factors, it is difficult to comply with Division well location rules in the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area.
- 5. To address this difficulty, the Oil Conservation Division entered Administrative Order NSL-4355, dated September 7, 1999, as corrected by order dated October 29, 2002, which:
 - A. identified 60,167.64 acres of Jicarilla Apache Lands in which Mallon [now Black Hills] is the operator of the oil and gas mineral rights ("Mallon/Jicarilla Consolidated Contract Area");

- B. recognized that as exploration and development on these lands progressed unorthodox gas well locations would be necessary to (i) avoid archeological sites; (ii) minimize disturbance to forested and wildlife habitats; (iii) minimize construction of well pads by avoiding rugged terrain when practical; and (iv) position well bores within geologically more favorable locations in order to maximize the likelihood of obtaining commercial gas production; and
- C. authorized Mallon to recomplete existing wells and drill new wells on the Mallon/Jicarilla Consolidated Contract Area to any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing from the surface to the base of the Pictured Cliffs formation, which presently includes the East Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the Cabresto Canyon-Tertiary Pool..., at locations that are unorthodox based the location requirements of Division Rule 104.C (3), provided that any such unorthodox well location is no closer than the required minimum orthodox distance (660 feet) from the outer boundary of the Mallon/Jicarilla Consolidated Contract Area nor closer that 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary.
- 6. By Order No. R-11858, entered on November 1, 2002 in Case 12892, the Oil Conservation Division granted the application of Mallon Oil Company for a pilot project comprised of four separate areas in Townships 29 and 30 West, Range 3 West, NMPM, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, in the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Project Area to gather information on the complex geology and reservoir characteristics of each of the producing intervals in the Pictured Cliffs and the Ojo Alamo, Nacimiento and San Jose formations of the Tertiary system. The well data was to be gathered to enable Mallon to determine proper well density requirements in the Pictured Cliffs and Tertiary system in this portion of the San Juan Basin.
- 7. Other operators in the San Juan Basin have conducted pilot projects to evaluate other portions of the Pictured Cliffs formation for the institution of infill programs but did not evaluate the "peripheral portions" of the reservoir to determine if increased density was required to prevent the waste of hydrocarbons. (See Case No. 12,857, May 2, 2002).

8. The Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area is on the eastern edge of the Pictured Cliffs formation and in a "peripheral portion" of this reservoir.

9. Data obtained from wells drilled in the Pilot Project Area approved for Mallon, as well as data from other wells in the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area, demonstrates that infill development of this portion of East Blanco- Pictured Cliffs Pool and the Cabresto Canyon-Tertiary Pool will result in the recovery of incremental reserves from each pool that cannot be recovered with only one well on each 160-acre spacing unit thereby preventing waste.

10. Black Hills therefore seeks an order from the Division that:

A. creates the "Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area" comprised of the following lands in Rio Arriba, County, New Mexico:

TOWNSHIP 30 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Sections 4 through 9:

All

Sections 15 through 22:

All

Sections 26 through 35:

All

TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Section 32:

S/2

TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Sections 3 through 10:

All

B. provides for wells to be drilled and recompleted at unorthodox well locations in the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area in the East Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the Cabresto Canyon-Tertiary Pool at locations that are unorthodox based the location requirements of Division Rule 104.C (3), provided that any such unorthodox well location is no

closer than the required minimum orthodox distance (660 feet) from the

outer boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area nor

closer that 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner

boundary, and

C. authorizes an optional infill well on each 160-acre spacing and proration

unit in the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area.

11. Approval of this application will result in the recovery of incremental

hydrocarbons from the East Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool and the Cabresto Canyon-

Tertiary Pool that otherwise would be wasted and will otherwise be in the best interest of

conservation and the protection of correlative rights.

12. Notice of this application has been provided in accordance with the rules

of the Oil Conservation Division by Certified Mail to the affected parties identified on

Exhibit A to this application.

Wherefore, Black Hills Exploration & Production, Inc. request that this

application be set for hearing before an examiner of the Oil Conservation Division on

November 9, 2006, and that after notice and hearing as required by law, the Division

enter its order granting this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Holland & Hart, LLP

William Fl Carr

ATTORNEYS FOR BLACK HILLS

EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION, INC.

CASE : Application of Black Hills Exploration & Production, Inc. for the creation of the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area and the adoption of Special Pool Rules and Regulations therefore in the Pictured Cliffs formation, East-Blanco Pictured Cliffs Pool, and the Tertiary formation, Cabresto Canyon-Tertiary Pool, Rio Arriba County New Mexico. Applicant seeks the creation of the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area to be comprised of the following lands located in Rio Arriba, County, New Mexico:

TOWNSHIP 30 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Sections 4 through 9:

All

Sections 15 through 22:

All

Sections 26 through 35:

All

TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Section 32:

S/2

TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Sections 3 through 10:

All

Applicant also seeks the adoption of Special Rules and Regulations for the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area that provide for increased well density within each standard 160-acre spacing and proration unit from the current maximum of one well as provided by Division General Rule 104.C, to a maximum of two wells (80-acre infill wells) per 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit and for special well location requirements. This area is located approximately 4 miles to 6 miles Southwest of Burns, New Mexico.

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☐ Registered Certified Mail ☐ Insured Mail ☐ Insured Mail Service Type Service Type C. Signature C. Signature **9558** 955B Domestic Return Receipt Domestic Return Receipt × × က 1140 000Z 1140 0002 Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, Print your name and address on the reverse Print your name and address on the reverse Complete Items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete Complete Items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete 1235 LaPlata Highway, Ste A Farmington, NM 87401-8731 Bureau of Land Management Farmington District Office SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired. so that we can return the card to you. SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired so that we can return the card to you Farmington, NM 87402 7007 7007 or on the front if space permits. Attn: Alan Alexander or on the front if space permits. 3401 East 30th Street PS Form 3811, July 1999 PS Form 3811, July 1999 2. Article Number (Copy froi 2. Article Number (Copy # Article Addressed to: Article Addressed to: Burlington Resources Oil & Gas SAMES 1235 LaPlata Highway, Ste A City, State, ZIP+4 Farmington, NM 87401-8731 Bureau of Land Management Street, Apt. No.; Farmington District Office or PO Box No. 1725 r Farmington, NM 87402 Attn: Alan Alexander 3401 East 30th Street OBRINILO WALL REGIDE 2:40 产 Total Postage & Fees | \$ 5,46 2.40 Ŕ Total Postage & Fees | \$ Bl. H; IIS Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required) Proper Postage B kc K / + i / 1/5
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JEFFERSON PLACE
110 NORTH GUADALUPE
SUITE 1
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 2208
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-2208

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Publisher's Bill

120 lines one time at 84.00

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Affidavit_5,00	during the time of publication and the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in any supplement. The first publication being on the
Subtotal 89.00	- 19th day of October, 2006
Tax	and the last publication on thelath_day of
Total \$ 95.68	advertisement has been duly made, or assessed as court costs. The undersigned has personal knowledge of the matters and things set forth in this affidavit.
Payment received at Rio Grande SUN	Latur Trapp Publisher
Date 10 20 06	Subscribed and sworn to before me this $19^{\frac{13}{4}}$ day of $0 + 0$ A.D. $0 + 0$
By Man Charles	Maria V. Seguy Jar.

Affidavit of Publication

I, Robert Trapp, being first duly sworn,

declare and say I am the publisher of the Rio Grande SUN, a weekly newspaper published in the English language and having a general circulation in the County of Rio Arriba, State of New Mexico, and being a newspaper duly qualified to

publish legal notices and advertisements under the provisions of Chapter 167 of the Session

Laws of 1937. The publication, a copy of which is hereto attached, was published in said paper

Maria V. Lopez-Garcia/Notary Public My commission expires 13 July 2009

State of New Mexico County of Rio Arriba

once each week for

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The State of New Mexico through its Oil Conservation Divi sion hereby gives notice pursuant to law and the Rules and sion nereby gives notice pursuant to law and the nules and Regulations of the Division of the following public hearing to be held at 8:15 A.M. on November 9, 2006, in the Oil Conser-vation Division Hearing Room at 1220 South St. Francis, Sana Fe. New Mexico, before an examiner duly appoint for the nearing. If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, quilified sign language interpreter. or any other form of auxillary aid or service to attend or particior any other form or auximary and or service to attend or participate in the hearing, please contact: Florene Davidson at 505-476-3458 or through the New Mexico Relay Network, 1-800-559-1779 by October 30, 2006. Public documents, including he agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessi ble forms. Please contact Florene Davidson if a summary or other type of accessible form is needed.

All named parties and persons having any right, title, interest or claim in the following cases and notice to the

NOTE: All land descriptions herein refer to the New Mexico. Principal Meridian whether or not so stated.)

Application of Black Hills Exploration & Production, Inc. Application of Black Hills Exploration & Production, Inc. for the creation of the Jicarilla Ageche Tribal Lands Production Area and the adoption of Special Pool Rules and Regulations therefore in the Sictured Cliffs formation. East-Blanco Pictured Cliffs Pool, and the Tertiary formation, Cabresto Canyon-Tertiary Pool, Ric Arriba County New Mexico. Applicant seeks the creation of the Jicarilla Anacha Tribal-Lands Production Area to be compressed of the Apache Tribal Lands Production Area to be comprised of the following lands located in Rio Armba, County, New Mexico:

All.

Sections 15 through 22: Sections 26 through 35:

All

TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, NMPM

Sections 3 through 10: Applicant also seeks the adoption of Special Rules and Regu-Applicant also seeks the adoption of Special Rules and Regulations for the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Lands Production Area that provide for increased well density within each standard 160-acre spacing and proration unit from the current maximum of one well as provided by División General Rule 104 C. to a maximum of two wells (80-acre intil sils) per 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit in intil sils) per 160-acre quirements. This area is located approximation 4 miles to 6 miles Southwest of parts, New Mexico.

servation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico on this servation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico on this 12th day of October 2006.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO Off. CONSERVATION DIVISION.

Fesmire, P.E., Director