

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

ORIGINAL

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED
BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 14114

APPLICATION OF CHEVRON U.S.A., INC. FOR
AMENDMENT OF DIVISION ORDER NO. R-4442,
AS AMENDED, TO AUTHORIZE A VERTICAL
EXPANSION OF THE VACUUM
GRAYBURG-SAN ANDRES UNIT AND ADDITION
OF NEW WELLS FOR INJECTION OF CARBON
DIOXIDE, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID K. BROOKS, Jr., Legal Examiner
WILLIAM V. JONES, Technical Examiner
TERRY WARNELL, Technical Examiner

April 17, 2008

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came for hearing before the New Mexico Oil
Conservation Division, DAVID K. BROOKS, Jr., Legal Examiner,
and WILLIAM V. JONES, Technical Examiner, on April 17, 2008, at
the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources
Department, 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Room 102, Santa Fe,
New Mexico.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE APPLICANT:

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1 MR. JONES: Let's go back on the record. I'm
2 William V. Jones. I'm going to hear one case today.

3 Let's call Case No. 14114, Application of Chevron
4 U.S.A., Inc., for Amendment of Division Order No. R-4442, as
5 amended, to authorize a vertical expansion of the Vacuum
6 Grayburg-San Andres Unit and Addition of New Wells for
7 Injection for Carbon Dioxide, Lea County, New Mexico.

8 Call for appearances.

9 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is
10 William F. Carr, with the Santa Fe office of Holland & Hart,
11 LLP. We represent Chevron U.S.A. in this matter.

12 MR. JONES: Any other appearance? You may proceed.

13 MR. CARR: Mr. Jones, initially, if I may, I would
14 like to point out that when Chevron was advised that this case
15 would have to go to hearing, the Examiner and the Chevron
16 witnesses thought that April was a good time to come to Santa
17 Fe and that the weather would be good. And I'd like just like
18 to note that for the record.

19 MR. JONES: Murphy is alive and well.

20 MR. CARR: I'd also like to point out that Chevron
21 today is doing something which may be a little unusual in the
22 history of the Oil Conservation Division. Chevron is seeking
23 to expand the vertical interval in a unit prior to producing
24 the reserves from that expanded area. We're going to expand
25 first and then produce the reserves. I have a brief opening

1 statement.

2 As the Division is aware, the Vacuum
3 Grayburg-San Andres unit was created in 1972, and at some time,
4 pressure maintenance by water flooding was approved by the
5 Division. In 2001, Texaco, the then operator of the unit,
6 appeared before the Division and sought and obtained approval
7 for the initiation of a tertiary recovery project in the unit
8 area by the injection of CO2. That project was not undertaken.

9 And when Chevron assumed operation in 2007, last
10 year, we came before you and again received Division approval
11 for a CO2 flood for tertiary operations and also were
12 authorized to inject carbon dioxide in 26 wells in the unit
13 area. Chevron is actively working in the unit and intends to
14 be in full CO2 injection during 2008.

15 And today we're seeking two things: We're seeking to
16 expand the vertical interval in this unit. You will see from
17 our evidence that recent reservoir studies suggest that there
18 are reserves in the Grayburg-San Andres Formation in a residual
19 oil zone that is located below the vertical unit limits. And
20 we are seeking authority to expand the vertical interval to
21 take in that additional deeper interval.

22 We also are seeking authorization to inject in
23 certain additional CO2 wells. The application addresses 14
24 wells. All of the wells except one are within the tertiary
25 project area, which is most of, but less than, the entire unit

1 area. And that well that is not in the approved CO2 area is
2 the Vacuum Grayburg-San Andres well No. 145. And we ask that
3 that well be dismissed from this application. We will file a
4 subsequent application seeking administrative approval to
5 convert that well or to use that well only for water injection.

6 Based on our study, we're before you today seeking
7 authorization to complete five new injection wells. As you may
8 recall, between the time that Chevron got its CO2 project
9 approved -- the time Texaco, in 2001, got its CO2 project
10 approved and when it was reapproved by Chevron -- for
11 Chevron -- by mistake five wells were approved administratively
12 for addition to a tertiary recovery project that, in fact, did
13 not exist.

14 So in the order a year ago, those five wells were
15 identified. They were approved for water injection only. And
16 that order provided that if these wells were to, at a later
17 time, be used for CO2 injection, that could only be done by
18 subsequent order of the Division.

19 So today, as part of this case, we're seeking
20 authorization to use those five wells for CO2 injection. So
21 that's 10 of the wells. And then we have three other wells
22 that are currently water injectors that we seek authority to
23 convert to CO2.

24 And I have two witnesses.

25 MR. JONES: Will the witnesses please stand and be

1 sworn?

2 [Witnesses sworn.]

3 DANIEL PEQUENO

4 after having been first duly sworn under oath,
5 was questioned and testified as follows:

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. CARR:

8 Q. Morning. Would you state your full name for the
9 record, please.

10 A. My name is Daniel, and the last name is Pequeno,
11 P as in Paul, e-q-u-e-n-o. In the Spanish language they
12 usually put a little wavy line on top of it which makes it
13 Pequeno.

14 Q. Mr. Pequeno, where you do reside?

15 A. In Midland, Texas.

16 Q. By whom are you employed?

17 A. By Chevron.

18 Q. And what is your position with Chevron?

19 A. I'm a senior landman with Chevron.

20 Q. And have you previously testified before this
21 Division and had your credentials as an expert in petroleum
22 land matters accepted and made a matter of record?

23 A. Yes, I have.

24 Q. We have some new examiners, Mr. Pequeno. Could
25 you just briefly summarize your educational background for

1 them, please?

2 A. I have a Bachelor's in marketing, and I have been
3 employed as a landman for 28 years. 20 of those were with
4 Mobile, five as self-employed, and now with Chevron.

5 Q. And you were the land witness that testified for
6 Chevron in the 2007 hearing that resulted in the order
7 authoring the CO2 project in this unit?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. Are you familiar with the application filed in
10 this case today on behalf of Chevron?

11 A. Yes, I am.

12 Q. Are you familiar with the status of the lands in
13 the Vacuum Grayburg-San Andres unit?

14 A. I sure am.

15 MR. CARR: We tender Mr. Pequeno as an expert witness
16 in petroleum land matters.

17 MR. JONES: I think I know Mr. Pequeno pretty well by
18 now.

19 Where did you work with Mobile?

20 THE WITNESS: Same area, Lea County Vacuum fields.

21 MR. JONES: North Abo?

22 THE WITNESS: Right. North Vacuum Abo, right.

23 MR. JONES: Mr. Pequeno is qualified as an expert in
24 land matters.

25 Q. (By Mr. Carr): Mr. Pequeno, would you briefly

1 summarize what it is that Chevron seeks with this application?

2 A. Okay. Today, Chevron is the operator of the
3 Grayburg-San Andres Unit Tertiary Recovery Project. It is
4 seeking approval of the expansion of the vertical limits of the
5 unitized formation to include portions of the
6 Grayburg-San Andrea Formations between stratographic depth of
7 3,902 and 5,020 feet. We believe a vertical expansion to the
8 proposed depth of 5,020 feet will allow the efficient recovery
9 of all movable hydrocarbons within the Grayburg-San Andres
10 Formation.

11 Q. Are we also seeking authorization to now place 13
12 additional wells on carbon dioxide --

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Mr. Pequeno, could you go to what has been marked
15 for identification as Chevron Exhibit No. 1? Identify this
16 exhibit, and review it for the examiners.

17 A. Okay. This Exhibit 1 is a map of the Vacuum
18 area. The unit outlined in red to the south, which is right in
19 the center, is the Vacuum Grayburg-San Andres unit that we're
20 addressing today.

21 The outline in green is the Central Vacuum Unit. And
22 to the west, which is outlined in pink, is the West Vacuum
23 Unit. They are all operated by Chevron.

24 Q. And are enhanced recovery operations underway in
25 all of these units?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. You are currently flooding in each of them down
3 to approximately the same depth?

4 A. The same depth, yes.

5 Q. And are they being operated under the same
6 pressure limitations?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. Does the proposed expansion create any issues
9 with these offsetting units or offsetting owners, to your
10 knowledge?

11 A. As far as I know, all offset operators were
12 notified, and I have not been aware of any concerns.

13 Q. And it's fair at this time to say that depending
14 on what happens in the Vacuum Grayburg-San Andres Unit, there
15 may be requests for similar expansions for offsetting
16 operators?

17 A. That is correct. There is considerable
18 operators.

19 Q. When was this unit formed?

20 A. The unit was approved by order R-4433 dated
21 November 27, 1972, and is now operated by Chevron.

22 Q. And when did water-flood operations commence in
23 the unit area?

24 A. Water-flood operations have been conducted in the
25 unit areas since 1973 pursuant to Division order R-4442.

1 Q. Does the unit agreement for the Vacuum
2 Grayburg-San Andres unit provide for carbon dioxide flooding?

3 A. Yes, sir. Section 44 of the unit on Page 6
4 applies to that.

5 Q. And is a copy of the unit agreement included in
6 the exhibit marked Chevron Exhibit No. 2?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Is the character of the land in the unit area
9 fee?

10 A. All the lands within the unit are state-owned,
11 100 percent.

12 Q. Could you identify for the examiners what has
13 been marked as Chevron Exhibit No. 3, and just briefly explain
14 what this is and what it's designed to show?

15 A. Exhibit No. 3 was my initial submittal to the
16 State Land Office with a copy to the OCD making an application
17 for the vertical expansion of the unit. And attached to that
18 were all the attachments to it.

19 Q. This exhibit today does not include all of the
20 attachments that were included with the original file; is that
21 right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Geological exhibits will be reviewed by a
24 subsequent witness?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. But this is the application that you filed with
2 the land office seeking their preliminary approval of the
3 vertical expansion of that area?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. In this material, there is also a formal
6 application, and it sets out the original unitized formation as
7 set forth in Article 1.4, and it also contains the new
8 language?

9 A. That is correct, the one we just previously
10 discussed.

11 Q. And this does extend the vertical limits down to
12 a depth of 5,020 feet?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Would you identify what has been marked as
15 Chevron Exhibit No. 4?

16 A. Exhibit No 4 was a response to my application
17 from the land commissioner granting us preliminary approval to
18 our request for a vertical expansion.

19 Q. Mr. Pequeno, going back to this application, when
20 you filed the application with the land office with the
21 attached geological technical presentation, did you also file a
22 complete application at that time with the oil --

23 A. Yes. I filed it with the State Land Office, with
24 a copy to Mr. Fesmire of the OCD.

25 Q. Could you identify now what has been marked as

1 Chevron Exhibit No. 5?

2 A. Exhibit No. 5 is the tract participation in the
3 unit.

4 Q. And this shows this is dated for the vertical
5 expansion --

6 A. Effective January 1, 2008.

7 Q. And what does this show as to the working
8 interest ownership in the unit area?

9 A. It shows that everything is owned -- operated and
10 owned by Chevron.

11 Q. And does this indicate Texaco, but you have
12 succeeded to their --

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Would you identify Chevron Exhibit No. 6, please?

15 A. No. 6 is my notification of all offset operators,
16 lease owners, surface owners and the State of New Mexico with
17 respect to the application. It was sent at the same time and
18 made a part of the application initially.

19 Q. Okay. So you notified all interest owners in
20 January of your plans to expand the unit?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Now, the second page of this exhibit, what does
23 that show?

24 A. Okay. That shows an exhibit. The exhibit is an
25 affidavit that shows --

1 Q. Excuse me, Daniel, the second page of your --

2 A. Oh, the second page. I'm sorry. That just shows
3 the unit outlined in the center, which is the Vacuum
4 Grayburg-San Andres Unit, and notification was sent to all the
5 parties, working interest owners, lease owners, surface owners
6 surrounding that area.

7 Q. You had notified all interest owners within a
8 mile of the --

9 A. That is correct. And in my conversations with
10 Mr. Pete Martinez of the land office, he stated that that
11 needed to be done.

12 Q. And did you notify tenants that had temporary
13 ownership or --

14 A. That's correct. I tried to cover everything.
15 The State Land Office is a surface owner, and the Pearce Trust,
16 and every other one, and the tenants as well.

17 Q. Is Exhibit No. 1 an affidavit from Holland & Hart
18 confirming that notice of this -- today's hearing has been
19 provided in accordance of the rules of the Oil Conservation
20 Division?

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. Were all leasehold operators within one mile,
23 again, notified of this hearing?

24 A. That is correct. I provided all that information
25 to Holland & Hart.

1 Q. And were surface owners notified?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. All offset operators?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. And the State Land Office?

6 A. And the State Land Office.

7 Q. Will Chevron call an additional witness to review
8 the technical aspects of this application?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Were Chevron Exhibits 1 through 7 either prepared
11 by you or compiled under your direction in your position?

12 A. That's correct.

13 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, at this time,
14 we would move the admission into evidence Chevron Exhibits 1
15 through 7.

16 MR. JONES: Exhibits 1 through 7 will be admitted.

17 MR. CARR: That concludes my direct examination of
18 Mr. Pequeno.

19 EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. JONES:

21 Q. Okay. I pretty much rely on Mr. Brooks here for
22 questions like these, but you guys are asking only to amend
23 4442 one more time; is that correct?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Okay. And the unit order itself, 4443, you're

1 not really asking to amend that, you're just asking for
2 approval of the unit -- to lowering the unit depth?

3 MR. CARR: We are seeking your authorization to
4 expand the unitized interval to a lower depth to pick up this
5 residual oil. That's all we're requesting with that part of
6 the application.

7 MR. JONES: And you say you're not really requesting
8 another formal amendment to the unit order that the Division --

9 MR. CARR: We think the unit covers that, Mr. Jones,
10 and we also have already received authorization for a CO2
11 project within the unit. The pressure limitations have been
12 approved. The injection volumes have been approved on a per
13 well basis, and all of those provisions are in place, and
14 Chevron intends to live with those.

15 MR. JONES: So it's -- the original unit order that
16 was -- the State Land Office approves it with provision to
17 modify the units from time to time, and the initial order from
18 the commission or division does not ever need to be revised?

19 MR. CARR: We're asking you to approve the expansion.
20 Once that occurs, we'll go back to the land office and obtain
21 final approval of the amendment of the interval agreement as
22 shown in the language as set out in Chevron's exhibits to amend
23 the unit to just expand the vertical interval. We'll get final
24 approval, and at that time record it.

25 MR. JONES: Okay.

1 Q. (By Mr. Jones): Mr. Pequeno, this Section 35,
2 what's going on with Section 35?

3 A. That is the State 35 Unit that is operated by --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- and that's under water-flood and is on the
6 Grayburg-San Andres unit as well.

7 Q. Okay. Is it a similar depth interval?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. It's just water-flood? It's not a CO2
10 flood?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. The depth of the West Vacuum Unit, is that
13 similar to this now or --

14 A. No. That's still to 4850, I believe.

15 Q. Okay. But the central Vacuum unit is actually
16 already at a lower depth; is that right?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And the East Vacuum Grayburg is deeper?

19 A. Right.

20 Q. Okay. And there's 10 tracts, and they're all
21 identically owned?

22 A. That's correct, sir.

23 Q. When did No. 10 -- when did that one get added?

24 A. Tract No. 10? Let me look at the unit.

25 Q. If you don't know, that's okay. But I just don't

1 remember that tract being part of the unit years ago, and I
2 thought maybe it was picked up.

3 A. Let me get a picture of the exact tract number.
4 Tract No. 10 was added a year later.

5 Q. A year later. So it was --

6 A. Right. At that time, we were trying to get the
7 entire Section 35, but Phillips, the owner of that tract at
8 that time, did not want to add to it. So we ended up --
9 narrowed it down to the west half about a year later.

10 MR. JONES: Okay. That's it. Do you have any
11 questions?

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. BROOKS:

14 Q. Okay. Mr. Pequeno, pleased to meet you. We've
15 exchanged a number of e-mails.

16 A. We've exchanged e-mails, that's right, sir.

17 Q. Looking at Exhibit 1, are all -- there are a
18 number of wells that have pink circles around them. It looks
19 like 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 wells that have pink circles
20 around them. Is that -- are all those wells subject to be
21 certified as injectors?

22 A. I believe that's correct. I would defer to
23 Mr. Ingram, the next witness.

24 Q. Okay. What is the significance of the
25 purple-dashed line?

1 A. Okay. That's the target area for the CO2.

2 Q. Okay. And what is the significance of the brown-
3 or gold-dashed line that -- with the curves?

4 A. The tan lines? See --

5 MR. CARR: Mr. Examiner, this plat really serves as
6 the final area of review map for the application, the C-108
7 application, for authorization to inject.

8 The subsequent witness will review it in more detail.
9 But that kind of brown line that is scalloped around the unit
10 area is the total of the areas of review for the injection
11 wells.

12 MR. BROOKS: Okay.

13 Q. (By Mr. Brooks): What I want to get to here is
14 the notice. You know, I specialize in notice. Exhibit No. 6
15 summarizes the notice, the people who were notified; is that
16 correct?

17 A. That is correct, sir.

18 Q. Okay. Now, if notice provision is based on
19 distances from wells where the injection will take place and
20 the wells up in the -- the four wells up along the lease line
21 up there, they are on the margin of the Central Vacuum Unit,
22 right?

23 A. And they were notified by virtue of the C-108s
24 when they were sent for submittal for approval. They were
25 covered under that as well.

1 Q. Okay. Now, the Central Vacuum Unit -- Chevron
2 operates the Central Vacuum Unit, right?

3 A. That is correct, sir.

4 Q. So under the rule, then, you would have to notify
5 all working interest owners --

6 A. That is correct. And we have done so by virtue
7 of the C-108s when we submitted them.

8 Q. So they were notified of the original submission
9 of the application but not of the hearing; is that correct?

10 MR. CARR: At the time of the January letter, there
11 was no hearing schedule, so application was sent. It wasn't
12 until --

13 MR. BROOKS: It would have been set more recently.

14 MR. CARR: March the 18th. That's in Exhibit No. 7
15 that a separate notice was sent of the actual hearing on
16 today's date and the location of the hearing.

17 Q. (By Mr. Brooks): You know, the people on the
18 notice list that are attached here, were they notified of the
19 hearing? Or, given the dates on here, it looks like that was
20 before the hearing was set.

21 A. Yeah. What I submitted was prior to the hearing,
22 when I initially submitted the application. Then when I was
23 advised that we needed to get an attorney, then I submitted all
24 the paperwork back to Holland & Hart to further address that
25 matter with the list of owners.

1 Q. Okay. And Exhibit B to Exhibit 7, then, is the
2 list of the people who were notified of the hearing?

3 MR. CARR: That is correct.

4 MR. JONES: Another thing we have here is a lease
5 line agreement, I think. Was that renegotiated recently, also?

6 THE WITNESS: The lease line agreement, yes. There
7 is a water lease line agreement that was an amendment to the
8 original one. And we have -- everybody, all the working
9 interest owners approved that one.

10 And also for those four line wells that are 438, 439,
11 440 and 441 were covered by the lease line agreement. And we
12 got everybody's approval, all the working interest owners and
13 CVU.

14 MR. JONES: And at that time, they knew that you were
15 going to go to 5,000 feet, and they were aware that the Central
16 Vacuum, I think, is 4850 or something like that?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 MR. JONES: So they knew that?

19 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh. And we have continuous
20 communications with the folks there, the other working interest
21 owners.

22 MR. BROOKS: I'm a little vague on this, and I should
23 have been better prepared in advance, but I don't want to delay
24 things at this point, so I will not ask any more questions.

25 MR. JONES: One situation we had was the C-108s came

1 in, there was no protest to them for adding these wells at the
2 lower depths. And for purposes of the hearing, there was no
3 protesting parties except me being a little bit obstinate about
4 it and requiring -- declaring it a little bit more than an
5 administrative-type application.

6 MR. BROOKS: Well, of course, you and I conferred
7 about it, and we conferred with Mr. Ezeanyim about it at the
8 time, but -- about setting it for hearing -- but as far as the
9 notice is concerned, my thinking at this point would be that as
10 far as the notice of the hearing, when there's not a protest --
11 of course, when there is a protest, the protesting party has a
12 right to notice under general provisional rules -- but it seems
13 to me this probably goes under that catch-all "all other
14 proceedings" that notices whoever the Division requires.

15 I don't see anything that would seem to make it
16 otherwise. I will look into it afterwards, but I don't want to
17 delay the hearing for this purpose.

18 MR. CARR: And if you have concerns, if you will
19 communicate those to me, please?

20 MR. BROOKS: I will. Okay. Thank you. Let's
21 continue.

22 MR. JONES: Okay. Terry, do you have any questions?

23 MR. WARNELL: No, thank you.

24 MR. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Pequeno.

25 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiners, at this time,

1 we call Scott M. Ingram.

2 THE WITNESS: May I say something that might help
3 clarify some of the --

4 MR. CARR: Yes.

5 MR. INGRAM: The lease line injectors for the 438,
6 439 through 441, those will only be injected into -- down to
7 the established oil/water contact to 700 sub-sea, even though
8 we're asking for vertical amendment to the VGSAU unit interval.
9 Since the CVU doesn't flood deeper, we're not going to inject
10 along those lease line wells deeper, because there would be no
11 opportunity to recover the hydrocarbon and the CVU site with
12 this current -- the way the CVU is currently managed. And it
13 will be consistent with the existing lease line injectors that
14 are already injecting CO2 that these are simply 10-acre in-fill
15 locations.

16 MR. JONES: Well, we're getting ahead of ourselves
17 here, but does that include CVU 238?

18 MR. INGRAM: Yeah. 238 is the replacement for the
19 138, which is mechanically unsound to continue to inject, so it
20 will just be injected into -- down to approximately 700
21 sub-sea.

22 MR. JONES: Okay.

23 SCOTT M. INGRAM

24 after having been first duly sworn under oath,
25 was questioned and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

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BY MR. CARR:

Q. Would you state your full name for the record?

A. Scott McCoy Ingram.

Q. Mr. Ingram, where do you reside?

A. Midland, Texas.

Q. By whom are you employed?

A. By Chevron.

Q. What is your position with Chevron?

A. I am a senior staff -- or scientist and also the Vacuum project manager.

Q. Have you previously testified before the Oil Conservation Division.

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Were your credentials as an expert in petroleum geology accepted at that time?

A. Yes, they were.

Q. Are you familiar with Chevron's plans to expand the vertical interval in the Vacuum Grayburg-San Andres unit?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. And are you familiar with the form C-108 that was filed with this application?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. Are you familiar with the Grayburg-San Andres geology in the area for this hearing?

1 A. Yes, I am.

2 Q. And you made a study of that geology?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Are you prepared to review your work with the
5 examiners?

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 MR. CARR: I would tender Mr. Ingram as an expert in
8 petroleum geology.

9 MR. JONES: Mr. Ingram is qualified as an expert in
10 petroleum geology.

11 Q. (By Mr. Carr): Mr. Ingram, I think, initially,
12 it would be helpful to just explain to the examiners why it is
13 that Chevron is now seeking to expand the vertical interval in
14 this unit as you are now proposing to do.

15 A. Last August, in Case 13961, we reapplied for CO2
16 injection. We made reference then to our ongoing study of this
17 residual oil zone interval. It is, essentially, a lower part
18 of the hydrocarbon entrapment that exists beneath the point of
19 first produced water.

20 Historically, operators didn't want any water back in
21 the '30s and the '40s, so these oil/water contacts were
22 typically established at the point that they first encountered
23 water, and in this particular case, these units, essentially,
24 have been developed to that depth, but not beneath it.

25 What we've learned in other major -- other operators

1 in the industry have learned and recognized that there is
2 recoverable hydrocarbons beneath that point as well. Some
3 through a primary and secondary means and then further down in
4 the reservoir, there's no longer mobile oil without tertiary
5 means, but there's oil that can be mobilized with CO2.

6 So we're trying to access that part of this
7 reservoir. It's actually still part of the same reservoir.
8 And to do so, though, the current interval doesn't extend deep
9 enough to allow us to do that. So we are asking for a vertical
10 amendment to the unit or a vertical extension.

11 Q. And during the last few months, you have obtained
12 core information, have you not, on this lower zone?

13 A. Yes, we have. We took a sponge core on the VGSAU
14 No. 250 well. It will be referenced on a couple of cross
15 sections here. We're also planning another sponge core and
16 some other what we call high-tech logs of this residual oil
17 interval to validate its extent and to determine exactly how
18 far down it goes -- because we did not penetrate all of it with
19 the 250 well -- and then to try to identify the commercial
20 limit of that.

21 Q. So what we're doing is we're starting immediately
22 below the current oil/water contact?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And we are expanding the unitized interval down
25 several hundred feet -- whatever it is -- to include this

1 residual zone and attempt to produce reserves from that zone?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Can you describe the general characteristics of
4 the Grayburg-San Andres Formation for the Examiners?

5 A. The Grayburg-San Andres are Permian-aged,
6 carbonate buildups in this location. They are
7 carbonate-dominate buildup deposits in the relatively shallow
8 water, high energy environment, warm waters, a little bit of
9 silt stone intermixed in that, but at a high energy grain stone
10 dominated type deposition, and that's what has made this
11 accumulation at the Vacuum field.

12 Q. Are all current Vacuum Grayburg-San Andres unit
13 completions within the current unitized interval?

14 A. Undoubtedly, yes. 100 percent.

15 Q. And is the proposed vertical expansion completely
16 contained within the Grayburg-San Andres Formation?

17 A. Yes, within the San Andres Formation, which
18 continues all the way down to Glorieta, which is 5800 foot,
19 more or less.

20 Q. Let's go to what's been marked as Chevron Exhibit
21 No. 8. It's a typed log, and I'd ask you to review the
22 information on this exhibit for the examiners.

23 A. Okay. Yes. This -- as I peel back to it, I know
24 exactly what it looks like. It references the same unit well
25 that was the original well in the unit agreement, the

1 New Mexico M State #8. It covers the lower part of the Penrose
2 and then the Grayburg-San Andres Formations.

3 It shows the top of the unit interval, which I
4 believe is at 3102. And it shows the bottom of the current
5 unitized interval, which is, I think, 4809, that subject well.
6 And then it also shows what we're proposing to extend the lower
7 part of the unitized interval down to, which is 5020 in that
8 same reference well:

9 MR. WARNELL: So, Mr. Ingram, excuse me. The 5220
10 depth on Exhibit 8, that's a typo? It would be 5020 feet?

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Yes. That's a typo. It
12 should be 5020.

13 Q. (By Mr. Carr): Mr. Ingram, this is basically the
14 same type log that was presented last August to the Division?

15 A. Yes, sir. Yes, it is.

16 Q. Just extended and includes a larger section so
17 that you can show the expansion interval?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Let's go to your structure map, Exhibit No. 9.
20 If you would review the information on this exhibit for the
21 examiners.

22 A. This is a structure map on the top of the
23 San Andres Formation. There's a very good marker correlated
24 across the northwest shelf. The two main units of reference,
25 the VGSAU is shown in red, the boundary of it is in red, and

1 the Central Vacuum Unit is shown in green. The lighter tan
2 color in the center is the structural crest. You can see it
3 extends from the north -- north central part of the map down
4 through the Central Vacuum Unit and through and into the VGSAU.
5 You can see that the structure -- a long strike falls slowly to
6 the east and to the west. And when you get to the southern
7 boundaries of the VGSAU, you see the contour lines are much
8 closer, reflecting the deeper dip as you're falling into the
9 Delaware Basin.

10 Q. Let's now move to Chevron Exhibit No. 10.

11 A. Okay. This is a zoomed-in version of Exhibit 1,
12 the one that Mr. Brooks had a question on earlier. It's the
13 exact same information, except with the zoom-in, you no longer
14 see the two-mile radius.

15 The tan-dashed line is the one-half mile radius area
16 of review. The purple-dashed line is the original target area
17 that was part of the 2001 Texaco application for CO2. It shows
18 all the area that we envision eventually putting under CO2
19 flood.

20 It also shows the three units, the Central Vacuum
21 Unit, the VGSAU Unit and the West Vacuum Unit in pink over to
22 the left. And then the two blue lines are the cross section
23 indexes of those cross section. I'll show you that shortly.
24 The pink circles -- I love colors -- the pink circles are all
25 of the injection wells that are the subject of this

1 application. Eight of those are existing wells, and then five
2 of those are proposed wells to be drilled.

3 And then the blue circles is the 145, which has been
4 removed from this application. It'll just be reapplied for
5 water injection.

6 Q. What is the yellow area?

7 A. I'm sorry. Thank you. The yellow area is our
8 current CO2 project. We're actively implementing that CO2 flood
9 as we speak. That was the subject -- that was initiated after
10 the approval of 13961 last December.

11 Q. Mr. Ingram, let's go to the west to east cross
12 section of Chevron Exhibit No. 11. And would you review that
13 for the Examiners, please?

14 A. Yes. This is the west-east cross section. There
15 are several things I want to point out, first, the fourth well
16 from the left, the VCW 113. In parentheses you see the
17 M State #8, that is the unit-referenced well in the VGSAU
18 agreement.

19 And I want to point out the correlation markers are
20 markers within the Grayburg San-Andres Formations that we use
21 to confirm and evaluate lateral continuity. I believe you can
22 see that there's a lot of porosity indicated consistently
23 through the San Andres Formation, not as much so through the
24 Grayburg.

25 The curve on the left of each well trace is the gamma

1 ray. The curve on the right is the porosity. And we have
2 highlighted the porosity above 6 percent, which is essentially
3 the effective cutoff porosity.

4 And then there's the historic oil/water contact, the
5 blue horizontal line that continues across the cross section.
6 Again, that's the depth at which all of the VGSAU wells have
7 been completed to historically. The green line beneath that is
8 at a depth of 850-foot sub-sea. That's the depth with what we
9 know right now that we're implementing, the CO2 flood in the
10 VGSAU.

11 Then the red line, the red-dashed line -- let's start
12 from the fourth well on the left, which is the type well, the
13 M State #8. You can see that it encounters that wellbore at a
14 depth of 4809, and then its interpreted contact from each of
15 the other wells from that well's location.

16 And I want to point out the way the perforations of
17 the completion intervals are indicated. The hot pink color in
18 the depth track, the center of each log, those are the
19 completion intervals, the active completion intervals, either
20 perforations or open hole sections. There's one well there
21 where you see some teal. Those are perms that have been
22 subsequently squeezed for various reasons.

23 The black intervals at the bottom of the 157 well,
24 the 57 and the 250, those are proposed perforations. Those are
25 perforations that we are getting ready to do as part of our CO2

1 project. And if you look at the VGSAU 57, you can see why
2 there's an immediate need for this vertical expansion to go
3 down to the 850-foot sub-sea data, which is where we want to
4 focus our CO2 flood. We can't do that with the current unit
5 boundary. About 40- to 50-foot of that completion would be
6 beyond the current unit boundary. So we've delayed doing work
7 on that well and a few others in that situation.

8 If you look at the VGSAU No. 250, it's the second
9 well from the right. And then look at the green curve down
10 two-thirds down the well trace. That's our oil saturation
11 curve from the sponge core that we took on that well in 2006.
12 We've done a pretty thorough analysis of that, but we still
13 have yet to do the SCAL analysis, the special core analysis on
14 that, which will give us relative perm and wettability and some
15 other information.

16 But what it does show, that curve is scaled from 0 to
17 50 percent, 0 to the left, 50 oil saturation to the right. And
18 it's highlighted, all the oil saturation above 10 percent.. So
19 you can see for that entire interval from roughly just below
20 4700 down to 48 -- excuse me -- 4960, we've got continuous oil
21 saturation.

22 So it shows oil saturation well beneath the unit
23 boundary. And again, that's why we need to extend the vertical
24 unit boundary so that we can access this in the VGSAU pool.

25 The last thing I want to point out is the gray-dashed

1 line at this bottom. That's the -- how the proposed unit
2 boundary would correlate across the unit in those wells that
3 have been drilled that deep to date.

4 Q. Let's look at the northeast-southwest cross
5 section.

6 MR. BROOKS: That's Exhibit 12?

7 MR. CARR: Yes, sir.

8 A. It is essentially the same set up, same color
9 scheme, but of course, I want to point out the red-dashed
10 contour, which is labeled the VGSAU boundary. Again, that's
11 the current unit boundary. And then just beneath it, you'll
12 see the CVU unit boundary. It's got its own unitized interval
13 described. And in that unit, it's slightly deeper.

14 The second well on this cross section from the left
15 is VGWU 101 and was originally the O State #23. And that is
16 the unit reference well in the Central Vacuum Unit unit
17 agreement. So you can see, if you can look at this, when -- if
18 and when we implement a residual oil zone flood of the Central
19 Vacuum Unit, if we want to go below 850 sub-sea, then we would
20 also need to amend that unit agreement vertically as well.

21 And then you can see the last proposed lower unit
22 boundary, still within the San Andres Formation.

23 Q. (By Mr. Carr): As to Central Vacuum, as you
24 indicated in the beginning of your presentation, there's a
25 lease line agreement, and the injection wells between Vacuum

1 Grayburg-San Andres unit and Central Vacuum Unit are not going
2 to be injecting below the current established base of the
3 unitized interval?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. Is Chevron at this time planning a pilot project
6 in the Central Vacuum Unit to determine whether or not similar
7 activity needs to be instituted in that unit?

8 A. Yes, sir. We're currently looking at that.
9 We've been studying it since last year. One of the main data
10 pieces we need is to decide how deep we can commercially go to
11 make that determination. We're going to do the SCAL analysis
12 on the 250 core that we've already acquired, and then we're
13 going to drill another well in the Central Vacuum Unit and
14 sponge core it down to the free water level.

15 And then we'll do a complete analysis of that core,
16 including SCAL analysis, to decide, you know, how deep the
17 residual oil zone goes to and to what depth we can commercially
18 flood it.

19 Q. Could you just summarize the geological
20 conclusions you have reached from your study of this area?

21 A. Two main things: First, we have to amend the
22 vertical limitations to the unit in order to access this
23 hydrocarbon that's still part of the same reservoir. And the
24 oil is compatible because it is from the same reservoir.

25 We have sampled the upper part of the ROZ

1 independently of other wells and compared that oil to the main
2 table oil. And other than having fewer and lighter
3 hydrocarbons, it's the same fingerprint oil.

4 Q. It is possible that there is recoverable oil in
5 portions of this residual oil zone below the vertical interval
6 that you're trying to bring into the --

7 A. It's possible. As I said, we haven't yet got
8 core data deep enough that will give us all those answers. So
9 it is possible that someday later we could say, "Well, I wish
10 we had extended that unit boundary further."

11 But I'll say this: Right with what we know now,
12 we're only comfortable going to 4850 in the VGSAU, so that
13 extra 150 foot beneath the established oil column -- but with
14 the proposed unit boundary being amended to 5020 in the type
15 well, that's essentially 1,000-foot sub-sea. So that gives us
16 another 150 foot that we could go. And we really don't
17 envision the commerciality of any residual saturations
18 extending beneath that depth.

19 Q. Could you identify what has been marked as
20 Chevron Exhibit No. 13?

21 A. Yes. That's the hearing order from last December
22 authoring the CO2 injection in the VGSAU.

23 Q. And this order established pressure limitations
24 and determined other production parameters for the unit; did it
25 not?

1 A. Yes, sir, it did.

2 Q. And Chevron is intending to fully comply with the
3 limitations or provisions of the order that it obtained last
4 December?

5 A. Yes, we are. All the 13 injectors that are the
6 subject of this application will be managed with the same
7 pressure limitations and injection rates as previously approved
8 by R-4442-B.

9 Q. I'd like to now ask you some questions about
10 Chevron's plan of operation. And I guess we should start by
11 just asking when Chevron plans to initiate this tertiary
12 recover project.

13 A. We're actually doing it now. We started it after
14 last December's approval. We've actually done some pilot
15 deepening in some wells prior to that that is still above the
16 unit boundary at the time. To date, we have added perforations
17 or deepened wells and made the necessary wellhead changes on 12
18 of the 27 wells in our current project area, that yellow area
19 you saw in Exhibit 10. And we have three work-over rigs
20 actively working that project as we speak continuing on the
21 balance of those wells.

22 We have identified, though, several deepening or add
23 perforation opportunities that need to be done to complete that
24 project but that we've delayed doing pending the Division's
25 approval of this application.

1 Q. Would you identify Chevron Exhibit No. 14?

2 A. Yes. This is a list of the wells that are the
3 subject of this application.

4 Q. All right. Then we are going to dismiss the 145?

5 A. Correct.

6 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiners, the Well
7 No. 233, there's a typographical error there. The unit is
8 identified as being Unit L. That actually should be Unit H on
9 that exhibit.

10 MR. JONES: 243?

11 MR. CARR: 233.

12 MR. JONES: 33 is an H?

13 MR. CARR: Is an H.

14 A. The first eight of those are the wells that are
15 already existing water injectors and need to be converted to
16 CO2. And the last five would be omission of the 145. Those
17 are the wells to be drilled that will be completed as CO2
18 injectors.

19 Q. (By Mr. Carr): Mr. Ingram, would you explain how
20 Chevron plans to implement the CO2?

21 A. Well, it will be a phased implementation. As I
22 said, we're currently initiating and completing the first
23 phase, which is that project area in yellow that we showed you.
24 It's 160 acres. We're anticipating doing the next phase in
25 next year's capital program in 2009. And then beyond that, it

1 will be a phased expansion, based on the results of the first
2 two areas. But we do anticipate fully developing the target
3 area, that purple-dashed area with CO2 eventually.

4 Q. Would you identify Exhibit 15, please?

5 A. 15 is the C-108 application which is the subject
6 of this hearing.

7 Q. In fact, there have been three recent C-108
8 applications filed for this unit; is that not correct?

9 A. I've lost count. Yes.

10 Q. Texaco filed an application back in 2001?

11 A. I'm sorry. Texaco filed the application in 2001
12 asking for CO2 injection, which we did not act upon, and that
13 expired. So last July there was a followup application, 13961,
14 that was approved by the Division in December for CO2
15 injection, and that was -- that application included all of the
16 original wells that had been applied for by Texaco in 2001 and
17 made reference to the fact that there were additional wells
18 that had been drilled since 2001.

19 So that application brought current all of the well
20 data -- as part of the C-108 -- all of the new drills that had
21 been drilled and any subsequent P&As that had happened in the
22 interim.

23 And in this application, just supplements that
24 application and asks for the authority to inject into the 13
25 wells, and then it also shows some supplemental data. As one

1 of you noticed, the lease line injectors, their area of review
2 extends further into the CVU than any of the previous wells, so
3 we have the T&A data and the well completion data sheets and
4 all that for the incremental area as the area of review has
5 expanded.

6 Q. So summarize for the Examiner what information is
7 contained in this C-150.

8 A. There's the well completion data sheets. There's
9 the P&A records. I believe that's in part six. There's the
10 chemical analysis of fresh water. Essentially, there's all the
11 data responsive to this application for the additional wells
12 that weren't covered in prior filings.

13 Q. So if you take these three C-108s together, you
14 now have before the Division full information on all wells
15 within the current areas of review for each of the injection
16 wells that are the subject of today's hearing?

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. Could you identify what has been marked as
19 Exhibit 16, please?

20 A. Yes. That's the tabulation of the well data in
21 response to Item 4.

22 Q. 4 -- 6. I'm sorry, 6.

23 A. Item 6, and it's specifically for the sections as
24 we expanded the area of review. It covers the wells that
25 weren't previously part of the area review because of the

1 smaller area covered with injectors.

2 Q. Mr. Ingram, this exhibit isn't just supplemental
3 information?

4 A. No. In these sections, it's all the wells that
5 exist in those sections.

6 Q. So when Mr. Jones looks at the sections that are
7 involved in this case, Exhibit No. 16 contains, in tabular
8 form, all the required information for all wells in those
9 sections? He doesn't have to go back to prior filings to take
10 a look at what's going on in those sections?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Does the new C-108 exhibit contained all data
13 required on plugged and abandoned wells within the expanded
14 area of review?

15 A. Yes, it does.

16 Q. Was most of this information actually filed last
17 fall?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Does the exhibit, as revised, now contain all
20 information required by the C-108 for every one of the wells
21 that's involved in this application?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And the current and accurate area of review map,
24 the one that is current as of today, is what was marked as
25 Exhibit 1 and used by Chevron as their orientation plan in this

1 case?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Are all wells in the project area properly
4 completed and cased so as to prevent any problems with any
5 water wells in the area?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Have you reviewed the data available on wells
8 within the areas of review of this CO2 flood and satisfied
9 yourself that no remedial work is required on any of these
10 wells to enable Chevron and others to safely operate wells in
11 close proximity to this CO2 flood?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. How many total injection wells and producing
14 wells will be in the unit if this application is approved?

15 A. There will be 46 injection wells, 36 of which
16 will be in this target area, and there will be 53 producing
17 wells, 46 of which are in the target area.

18 Q. When you talk about injection wells, you're
19 including both water and CO2 injectors?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. How does Chevron monitor these wells to insure
22 the wellbore integrity?

23 A. We have a SCADA system, an automatic monitoring
24 system that monitors pressures and injection rates and it has
25 automatic shut-ins built in so that if the injection pressure

1 were to suddenly drop indicating a leak, those wells would be
2 automatically shut-in. We also maintain the mechanical
3 integrity tests on these wells, and then they are visually
4 inspected by our lease operators, our field specialists on a
5 daily basis.

6 Q. Are there fresh water zones in the area?

7 A. Yes, there is, the Ogallala. Its base is about
8 220-foot sub-sea -- or 220-foot depth.

9 Q. Have you examined the available geologic and
10 engineering data on this reservoir?

11 A. Yes, I have.

12 Q. And as a result of that examination, have you
13 found any evidence of open faults or other hydrologic
14 connections between the proposed injection intervals and any
15 underground source of drinking water?

16 A. No. No, I haven't.

17 Q. What is the source of the CO2 you propose to
18 inject?

19 A. It comes from the McElmo Dome. It comes down the
20 Cortez pipeline, and we have transportation contracts to get it
21 to the VGSAU. Also part of the gas will be -- part of the
22 injected CO2 will be reinjected-produced CO2 from the wells. We
23 will recycle that CO2.

24 Q. What volumes of CO2 do you propose to inject?

25 A. On average, the wells, when on CO2, will be at

1 two and a half million CO2 per day. When they're on water
2 injection, on average, 1,000 barrels of water a day.

3 Q. And these injection rates have previously been
4 approved by the Division?

5 A. Yes. This is identical to what was approved in
6 13961.

7 Q. And what will be the maximum injection?

8 A. 5,000 MCF of CO2 a day and 2500 barrels of water.

9 Q. And again, these have been previously approved?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. What pressure limitation has been approved for
12 this project?

13 A. 1850 pounds while on CO2 at the surface and 1500
14 pounds while on water.

15 Q. In your opinion, will the approval of this
16 application for the expansion of the vertical limits in this
17 unit and the approval of the subject injection wells be in the
18 best interest of conservation and prevention of waste and
19 protection of rights?

20 A. Yes, it will.

21 Q. Does Chevron request that the order be expedited?

22 A. Yes, we do, if at all possible. As I said, we've
23 delayed some well work pending the approval from the Division.
24 It also ties into the timely coordination with shutting in
25 offsetting existing CO2 injectors along the lease line. We

1 have to do that from a safety standpoint to reduce the
2 reservoir pressure in the wells that we're getting ready to
3 deepen and work on. We don't want to be injecting CO2 in a
4 nearby well and re-pressuring the reservoir. It just causes
5 added safety concerns. So as soon as the Division could
6 approve this, it would be greatly appreciated.

7 Q. Mr. Ingram, were Chevron Exhibits 8 through 16
8 prepared by you or compiled at your direction?

9 A. Yes, they were.

10 Q. Can you testify as to their accuracy?

11 A. Yes, I can.

12 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiners, at this time,
13 we move the admission into evidence of Chevron
14 Exhibits 8 through 16.

15 MR. JONES: Exhibits 8 through 16 will be admitted.

16 MR. CARR: That concludes my direct examination of
17 Mr. Ingram, Mr. Examiner. Chevron will be filing a proposed
18 order in this case that will correctly contain well
19 descriptions and everything else so you don't have to go back
20 and recheck that part of it.

21 MR. JONES: Mr. Carr did give me a post order last
22 time, and it really helped also.

23 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct examination,
24 Mr. Examiner.

25 MR. JONES: Okay. Terry, do you have questions of

1 Mr. Ingram?

2 MR. WARNELL: No. I don't believe I do at this time.

3 MR. JONES: Speak up if you have some later. I have
4 quite a few. Mr. Brooks usually asks the pertinent ones after
5 I forget to ask them.

6 MR. BROOKS: Well, I'm not going to ask Mr. Ingram
7 very many.

8 MR. JONES: You're not interested in transition zones
9 in the San Andres?

10 MR. BROOKS: Well, I am. But I don't know enough
11 about it to ask intelligent questions.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. JONES:

14 Q. How are you guys set up on joint interest,
15 monitoring joint interest operating? Is it somebody out of
16 Houston that does that, or do you do it out of your shop?

17 A. No. It's our accounting group that handles --

18 Q. What I mean is, for approving for East Vacuum
19 Grayburg, what engineer looks over that project? Does Chevron
20 still have an interest in that?

21 A. No. Actually, we sold all of our interest in the
22 East Vacuum Grayburg-San Andres. We do have a lease line
23 agreement with them as well. We have some common lease line
24 injectors between the CVU and the East Vacuum Grayburg.

25 Q. Okay. That's what I was getting at. Do you have

1 any data from them? I thought they were injecting pretty
2 low -- they were going pretty low on their --

3 A. I'm not sure what their interval is, but I don't
4 believe it's beneath the established 700-foot sub-sea data, not
5 substantially --

6 MR. BROOKS: Excuse me. I'm sorry. Go ahead and
7 finish your answer. And then I'll interject before the next
8 question.

9 A. It's not substantially beneath 700 sub-sea. In
10 fact, there are isolated wells in the Central Vacuum Unit that
11 currently produce from 770 sub-sea, 780 sub-sea. But nothing
12 in the VGSAU produces beneath the current unit boundary. And,
13 in fact, nothing produces beneath 700 sub-sea in the VGSAU.

14 It's something that, I think historically, people
15 have said, "We've got a 300-barrel a day oil well down to 700.
16 I wonder if we went a little farther, is there any more oil?"

17 So isolated wells have completed slightly deeper in
18 the CVU, and that may well be in the East Vacuum as well.

19 MR. BROOKS: It seems to become apparent that we're
20 not going to be able to get started on the next case prior to
21 the lunch hour. So I'm sure as fascinating as this testimony
22 is that some of you may want to do something else.

23 So everyone who's not involved in this case is
24 excused to 1:30.

25 Q. (By Mr. Jones): I'll try to go a little faster

1 here. Why were those wells, those perfs, squeezed off in some
2 of those wells that were actually perfed lower?

3 A. The specifics of--

4 Q. Well, did you see anything in general why they
5 were?

6 A. In some wells, I'm sure they encountered
7 incremental water that they weren't willing to handle at the
8 time. We know that in doing this and expanding deeper, we're
9 going to have to move more water in the wells that we've
10 already deepened or added perfs.

11 But above the current unit boundary, we've seen that
12 we've had to upsize our pumping equipment. And I suspect that
13 that was the main thing, that they didn't see the economic
14 value of it at the time.

15 However, we've already done two deepenings where
16 we've encountered a good bit of incremental oil without
17 incremental water. So, you know, it's kind of like any
18 carbonate reservoir. It's heterogeneous enough that you can't
19 apply any rule to every wellbore.

20 Q. Have you done any tracing in your frac jobs to
21 see if they're moving down -- or any fracture identification
22 logs?

23 A. We haven't been running any fracture
24 identification logs recently. And, in fact, we haven't
25 fracture stimulate the wells recently. I'm sure some have been

1 done over the years, but all of our completions are just with
2 acid stimulations up to five to eight barrels a minute.

3 We do know that the vertical permeability is high
4 enough that we are having some CO2 impact strata deeper than
5 where it's injected. We've recently deepened a well in the
6 Central Vacuum Unit and encountered an increased GOR by
7 deepening it. And there's really no explanation for that,
8 other than you had CO2 migrating downward.

9 Q. So you're going to do the sponge core, special
10 core analysis to get capillary pressures?

11 A. To get the oil saturations and also the capillary
12 pressures, the relative permeability --

13 Q. But even without that information, you know
14 enough to lower it to this depth --

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. -- based on log analysis and the work you've
17 already done on the sponge core?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Okay. You haven't run any TDT logs to look for
20 changing saturations?

21 A. No, but we had planned in this current drilling
22 program to do some pulse neutron logs -- essentially, the same
23 thing for that very purpose -- pulse neutron logs and some
24 repeat formation testers to kind of determine the pressure
25 profile vertically through the Central Vacuum flood.

1 Q. It looks like it's a little dirtier down deep.

2 A. Yeah, if you look at that type well, the gamma
3 ray kicks up. So the permeabilities in that particular well
4 may be lower, but if you look laterally in all the deeper wells
5 not necessarily shown in that cross section, that character
6 isn't always present.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. There's good porosity down there in what we've
9 seen. It's reservoir quality.

10 Q. Okay. Is the CO2 versus water a factor in
11 lowering these? In other words, I've heard that you can CO2
12 higher water saturation reservoirs where you couldn't
13 water-flood them. In other words, you could have them expanded
14 or deepened. Is that a factor in your decision?

15 A. Yes, it is. Because, yeah, you mobilize oil with
16 CO2 that water will not mobilize. You change its mobility.

17 Q. Okay. Are the pressures that you're encountering
18 so far on the wells that you've started, is that plenty? 1850
19 pounds?

20 A. Yes, sir. We've had no problem. Of course,
21 we're not injecting CO2 yet, but we're not encountering
22 problems injecting water at our 1500-pound limit, so we think
23 1850 will be fine.

24 Q. Okay. And your CO2 availability is okay? Are
25 you still doing makeup water? I probably asked this a year

1 ago, and I forgot the answer.

2 A. Yes. And don't ask me why, because I can't give
3 you a good reason. We talked to our lease operators. Last
4 year we spent \$5 million drilling a saltwater disposal well on
5 the property so that we could put away the excess water that
6 we're currently injecting. But as we convert patterns to CO2
7 flood, we'll be taking water out of the injection system, and
8 we need a place to put it. So we've drilled a disposal well.
9 But at the same time, on an individual property basis, the
10 field specialist at the time will end up short on water.

11 So we do have water supply wells there, and they are
12 on occasion used for extra makeup water. But we are putting in
13 a water transfer line from each of the three main batteries:
14 CVU, the VGSAU and also we have a Glorieta flood there, VGW --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- so that we can better transfer water from one
17 unit to another to avoid needing any more makeup water.

18 MR. JONES: Okay. These -- before I forget, can you
19 guys send me Exhibit A by e-mail? Or, actually, you're going
20 to give me --

21 MR. CARR: I will do a proposed order, and we will
22 include Exhibit A.

23 MR. JONES: The water flows, the big water flows that
24 were encountered out there in the past -- this is a change of
25 subject -- but it looks like all your wells are decent.

1 There's one well I wanted to question on this list, but I
2 appreciate you coming up with a new list like you did here.

3 MR. CARR: It was simply getting too hard to manage.

4 MR. JONES: It looked like a giant project.

5 Q. (By Mr. Jones): But the water flows in years
6 past, there was gigantic water flows -- Mr. Carr probably
7 remembers this -- right at the corner where the CVU 238 is?

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. There were water flows that could almost not be
10 trucked off as fast. And did you ever figure out where that
11 water was coming from?

12 A. Was it in the reservoir section?

13 Q. It was coming through the salt. It was highly
14 brine-saturated waters that were coming to surface when the
15 wells were being drilled through the salt. I think that's what
16 happened. So it charged up salt.

17 A. Off the top of my head, I can't answer that. But
18 I will tell you that the wells in the area, the four lease line
19 wells, the 438 through 441 and then the -- well, those are the
20 ones that we're getting ready to drill in that area, because of
21 that situation. Because of problems drilling, the water flows,
22 those wells have an incremental casing rod instead of just
23 setting a surface casing at 1500 feet, we're going to set an
24 intermediate string at 3200 feet. So we'll have all the salt
25 section cased off with that string and then, once again, the

1 production string at TD.

2 Q. So did you -- I was looking down. Did you just
3 say that you are encountering water flows still? Or are you
4 not? You're just planning on casing off the salt?

5 A. Casing off, for protection.

6 Q. Okay. The tracts -- there's 10 tracts, and
7 obviously they're the same interest probably to the granite
8 down there, but if they were not, and considering this
9 Exhibit No. 9 with your nice structure map and everything,
10 deepening this unit, would that necessitate changing the
11 participation parameters?

12 A. If the deeper intervals were owned differently
13 than the --

14 Q. No. If in the area, the 10 tracts were not
15 identically owned.

16 A. Oh. I see what you're saying now. I suppose it
17 might if that structure still plays a role. We're going to
18 have more of the residual oil zone on the crest of the
19 structure that's above the current unit boundary than we will
20 off the flank and extend the unit boundary. That relationship
21 is still going to hold true.

22 I don't know if I'd have to work the numbers to see,
23 but I guess on the perimeter of the unit, you're still going to
24 have a lesser valuation of that hydrocarbon interval than on
25 the crest of the structure. So maybe to reverse my answer, it

1 probably really wouldn't change because the ratio would still
2 be present.

3 Q. What about the actual where you're going to --
4 the decisions you're going to make of where to perforate in
5 those wells? You're just asking for general deepened
6 structure. Are you asking for the 5,020 feet? Are you asking
7 for sub-sea --

8 A. We're asking for that depth in the same reference
9 well, in the M #8 well.

10 Q. So you are asking for sub-sea -- oh, so you're
11 asking for geologically --

12 A. The way the unit is currently defined, it's by
13 two depths, two reference depths in the M #8 well.

14 Q. In that well? Okay.

15 A. So that -- you correlate those markers at those
16 depths to offsetting wells, so we're just asking to move to a
17 different lower marker in that same well.

18 Q. It will float with the structure. And so your
19 actual performance in perforating, you will have the
20 opportunity to look at the wells that are saturations, for
21 instance, and actually not perforate too low if you don't --
22 decide not to?

23 A. Right, right.

24 MR. JONES: Okay. That's all my questions.

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EXAMINATION

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BY MR. BROOKS:

Q. Okay. I don't have very many questions. I'm going to keep it very general here. The wells that are in pink on Exhibit No. 1, those are the wells that you're seeking injection for at this time, correct?

A. Yes. And I count 13 total.

Q. Now, understanding -- and I believe you're right. I miscounted a minute ago. I neglected those two that are in the yellow zone. I didn't see those at the time. I said 11, but I know you're right, there are 13.

These are all new drilled wells?

A. They are all wells that have been drilled since 2001.

Q. Okay. Now, the ones up on the lease line are --

A. Those are to be drilled later this year.

Q. And how many of these are already drilled?

A. Of these, there were eight that are already drilled. And there are five. Those four along the lease line --

Q. Yes.

A. -- and then the one southwest that's on the purple-dashed line, that one is to be drilled.

Q. Okay. So it's the four along the lease line and the one on the purple line.

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Those are to be drilled. The others are already
3 existing wells?

4 A. Yes, sir. They're current water injectors.

5 Q. So what you're seeking here is the CO2 injection
6 authority?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. The water injection authority you already have on
9 the existing wells.

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. Now, there's something said about CO2
12 injection authority under a previous order that has not been
13 used; did I hear that correctly?

14 A. Yes. Texaco gained approval to initiate a CO2
15 flood in 2001. And we -- that had a 12-month time frame, and
16 it was not implemented in that 12 months. So that permit
17 expired.

18 Q. So there's never actually been any CO2 injection
19 into the --

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. -- Grayburg-San Andres unit?

22 A. Into this unit. That's correct.

23 Q. Right. Okay.

24 MR. BROOKS: That's all my questions.

25 MR. JONES: Terry?

EXAMINATION

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BY MR. WARNELL:

Q. Good questions. I really don't have a whole lot to add, although I'd like to go back to Exhibit 8.

A. The type logs?

Q. Yeah. That old Welex Acoustic sonic log there, do you know when that was logged?

A. No, I don't.

Q. It's been --

A. I would say in the '60s.

Q. It's been quite some time back. Where would this well be from Exhibit 8 on my Exhibit 10? Or is it on there?

A. Yes. It is on Exhibit -- I'm sorry. No.

On Exhibit 10, if you look where the two blue lines cross or intersect, they both intersect on that type log well.

Q. Okay. There it is. I see it. All right.

A. I designed the cross sections for that very purpose, to make sure the unit reference well was on both.

Q. I appreciate your planning that out. Thank you.

MR. WARNELL: I have no further questions.

MR. JONES: Okay. Well, thank you very much for coming. I think it was necessary still for you guys to come up for this. And I appreciate Mr. Carr giving a direct order.

MR. CARR: And we are glad you are --

MR. JONES: Sorry about the weather.

1 MR. CARR: And our only thought is we're glad you are
2 the examiner and not the weatherman.

3 MR. JONES: With that, we'll take Case No. 14114
4 under advisement.

5 [Hearing concluded.]
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I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. _____
heard by me on _____

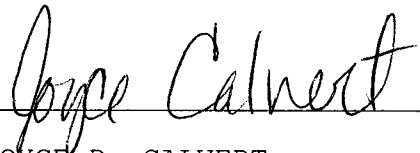
_____, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division

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I, JOYCE D. CALVERT, Provisional Court Reporter for the State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings in stenographic shorthand and that the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of those proceedings and was reduced to printed form under my direct supervision.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in this case and that I have no interest in the final disposition of this proceeding.



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4 I, JOYCE D. CALVERT, a New Mexico Provisional
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7 that I reported the attached proceedings; that pages numbered
8 1-57 inclusive, are a true and correct transcript of my
9 stenographic notes. On the date I reported these proceedings,
10 I was the holder of Provisional License Number P-03.

11 Dated at Albuquerque, New Mexico, 17th day of
12 April, 2008.

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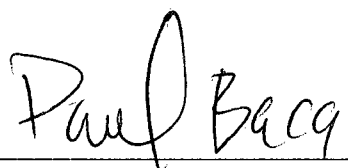
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