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| 2 | FOR THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION: | |
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- 1 MR. BROOKS: At this time we'll call Case
- 2 Number 14326, application of the New Mexico Oil
- 3 Conservation Division for a compliance order against
- 4 Nacogdoches Oil and Gas, Inc. Call for appearances.
- 5 MS. ALTOMARE: Mikal Altomare on behalf of
- 6 the Oil Conservation Division. I have one witness.
- 7 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of
- 8 Santa Fe representing Nacogdoches. I think I will
- 9 present two witnesses very briefly.
- MR. BROOKS: Mr. Sanchez, I believe, was
- 11 sworn in the previous case, but we need to get your
- 12 witnesses.
- MR. BRUCE: My witnesses are Mike Dehnisch
- 14 and Mike Allen, and they were sworn at the original
- 15 hearing. They were sworn in. Mr. Allen was qualified as
- 16 an engineer.
- 17 MR. BROOKS: Very good. Then in this
- 18 case, because it's a continuation of the previous case,
- 19 and the purpose of continuing it was to allow Nacogdoches
- 20 to demonstrate what actions they have taken to restore
- 21 compliance, I will call on Mr. Bruce to make his
- 22 presentation.
- 23 MR. BRUCE: I call Mr. Dehnisch to the
- 24 stand first.
- MR. BROOKS: Mr. Dehnisch, you're advised

- 1 you're still under oath.
- 2 MR. DEHNISCH: Yes, sir.
- 3 MIKE DEHNISCH
- 4 Having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
- 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 6 BY MR. BRUCE:
- 7 Q. Just for the record, again, Mr. Dehnisch,
- 8 please state your name and city of residence.
- 9 A. My name is Mike Dehnisch, D-e-h-n-i-s-c-h, and
- 10 I am from Nacogdoches, Texas.
- 11 Q. Who do you work for and in what capacity?
- 12 A. I work for Nacogdoches Oil and Gas, BP of
- 13 operations and compliance.
- 14 Q. Have you assumed responsibility for the
- 15 necessary filings on behalf of Nacogdoches?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. I just want you to testify about a couple of
- 18 things, because Mr. Allen will testify for the most part.
- 19 Mr. Dehnisch, I met a few days ago -- a couple of days
- 20 ago with Ms. Altomare, and she reminded me about a couple
- of wells that needed bonding requirements, one of which
- 22 was the Hospah Sand Unit Number 95. This is getting
- 23 ahead of us, but had that well been swabbed in July of
- 24 2009?
- A. Yes, sir, it had, and the C-103 was turned in.

- 1 Q. But had there been a delay on that one in
- 2 filing the C-115 with the Division?
- A. Yes. Once the -- I went and looked at the
- 4 list and I compared and I saw -- I was comparing my list
- 5 to my C-103s and saw that it was still on there. And
- 6 when I checked with the individual that actually filled
- 7 out our C-115s, it was just overlooked. It was corrected
- 8 on Monday, and then this letter is what she received once
- 9 she sent in that amended C-115.
- MR. BROOKS: Which one was this?
- MR. BRUCE: This is -- go ahead.
- THE WITNESS: For Hospah Unit 95.
- MR. BRUCE: Hospah Sand Unit Number 95.
- 14 THE WITNESS: It was shown as still on the
- 15 list. It just got overlooked.
- 16 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) This is an email that -- to be
- 17 more clear, Angela Velasquez is the person in Farmington
- 18 who has been doing the C-115 filings?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. She received this receipt from the Division;
- 21 is that correct?
- 22 A. Um-hum. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. And she forwarded this receipt to you?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. And this receipt is maintained in the normal

- 1 course of business of Nacogdoches?
- 2 A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Also, in the interim since the last hearing,
- 4 have you overseen the filing of all the other necessary
- 5 production reports with the Division?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. Now, the production was filed up
- 8 through July 31; correct?
- 9 A. Currently, right now, we have filed through
- 10 July 31.
- 11 Q. And was -- first of all -- take a step back.
- 12 What is the general filing date required for production
- 13 reports?
- 14 A. Production reports are due 45 days after the
- 15 end of the month. So like July 31st, realistically, is
- 16 due by September 15th.
- 17 Q. Okay. Right around the 45-day mark?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. And were the June production reports, the
- 20 updates filed -- timely filed earlier this month?
- 21 A. Yes. August 12th, I believe.
- Q. Now, had they been filed a couple ofe days
- 23 earlier, but they showed up on the Division's records on
- 24 that date?
- 25 A. That is correct. That's the day that the

- 1 email confirmations said.
- Q. Were the July production reports also filed?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. So that's what we're talking about. The July
- 5 production reports officially weren't required to be
- 6 filed until September 15th?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. But you wanted to get them filed before the
- 9 hearing?
- 10 A. Yes, sir.
- 11 Q. Did you have to -- I don't know the right
- 12 term -- but twist somebody's arm to make sure everything
- 13 was filed?
- 14 A. We did, because in order to do those filings,
- 15 Ms. Velasquez has to get some reports from our buyer,
- 16 from Western.
- 17 Q. Western Natural Gas?
- 18 A. Just Western. Western Refinery. And,
- 19 typically, she doesn't get that report until about the
- 20 20th of the month, but we begged and pleaded, because we
- 21 wanted to get this done before today. So, typically, we
- 22 probably wouldn't get it until today, which would have
- 23 been too late.
- 24 Q. Were those C-115s then electronically filed at
- 25 some point late last week?

- 1 A. I think it was on Wednesday or Thursday of
- 2 last week.
- 3 Q. Did you confirm -- did you check the
- 4 Division's records to confirm that those production
- 5 reports were showing up in the Division's system?
- A. Yes. On Monday of this past week I went on
- 7 and saw that both June and July C-115s are present.
- 8 Q. Okay,
- 9 A. That's when I noticed the HS 95 and corrected
- 10 it.
- 11 Q. Then just one other thing. To the best of
- 12 your knowledge, all the C-115 reporting is up to date
- 13 with Nacogdoches?
- 14 A. Yes. I've been onto the website and seen.
- 15 Q. Also, for some swabbing and other work done on
- 16 the wells, C-103s were required to be filed.
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. And did you make sure that those were properly
- 19 filed with the Division's Aztec office?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And are all those C-103s with respect to all
- 22 the wells at issue showing up on the Division's website?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move the
- 25 admission of NOG's Exhibit J.

- 1 MS. ALTOMARE: I'm not sure of the
- 2 relevance, but I don't object.
- 3 MR. BROOKS: Exhibit J is admitted.
- 4 (Exhibit J was admitted.)
- 5 MR. BRUCE: I have no further questions
- 6 for the witness.
- 7 MR. BROOKS: Cross-examination, Ms.
- 8 Altomare?
- 9 MS. ALTOMARE: Yes.
- 10 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 11 BY MS. ALTOMARE:
- 12 Q. Were you also responsible for the posting of
- the bonding or just for the C-115s?
- 14 A. Just the C-115s and C-103s.
- 15 Q. Do you have any knowledge of any C-115 or
- 16 production reporting that was associated with the South
- 17 Hospah Unit Number 39 that was or should have been
- 18 reported?
- 19 A. I noticed that on Tuesday, and I was using the
- 20 exhibit from our trial on the 9th, and I noticed -- I saw
- 21 that 39 had now shown up. I don't know what day, but I
- 22 know it was there on Tuesday. And I told our engineer
- 23 about it and our president, even talked to the Aztec
- 24 office about it yesterday; had a nice, long conversation
- 25 with Mr. Perrin and Mr. Kelly on the phone. And,

- 1 apparantly, that's one well that's considered a private
- 2 well and not a federal well.
- If you go back and look in the well file, it
- 4 has some federal documentation in it and it has some, you
- 5 know, state documentation in it. It was something that
- 6 just came up to our attention Tuesday, and we're working
- 7 on it.
- 8 Q. To your knowledge, there's no swabbing or
- 9 production that is pending or should be reported on it
- 10 that wasn't?
- 11 A. For July or June, no. Because, like I said, I
- 12 didn't find it until just --
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. And by looking at the date on there, if you
- 15 look at last production, I think it's 2007.
- 16 Q. 2005, actually. The last injection is
- 17 October --
- 18 A. No. It was the same date that was on Exhibit
- 19 D from the last case, but it didn't show the bonding
- 20 amount on it then. I don't know why it just showed up.
- 21 That's why -- I couldn't get a straight answer. No one
- 22 knew why it wasn't there before and why it is. But if
- 23 it's something we have to take care of, then we missed --
- 24 that's what I'm here to do, is to try to find a way to
- 25 take care of these things.

- 1 Q. Okay. Then if you didn't deal with the
- 2 bonding -- so the only thing you deal with is this
- 3 reporting. You wouldn't have been involved in any
- 4 negotiations for agreed compliance order or anything like
- 5 that?
- 6 A. Probably not. Probably our engineer --
- 7 MS. ALTOMARE: Okay. Then I'll pass the
- 8 witness.
- 9 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Warnell?
- MR. WARNELL: No questions.
- MR. JONES: A quick question.
- 12 EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MR. JONES:
- 14 Q. The reporting is okay for production without
- injection or disposal? Is that all taken care of?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- MR. JONES: Okay.
- MR. BROOKS: I didn't understand your
- 19 conversation with Ms. Altomare about the South Hospah
- 20 Unit Number 39. What's the situation about that one?
- MS. ALTOMARE: The South Hospah Unit 39
- 22 does not -- well, I guess we should probably explain to
- 23 the Hearing Examiners. The operator has, as of this
- 24 morning, four outstanding bonds that have not been posted
- 25 with the Division. I believe that -- my understanding is

- 1 that they are going to present testimony and exhibits for
- 2 three bonds that they are in the process of posting
- 3 today.
- 4 MR. BROOKS: The 39 was one of those?
- 5 MS. ALTOMARE: Number 39 is one of them.
- 6 MR. BROOKS: It's one of the ones for
- 7 which the system shows a bond being due?
- 8 MS. ALTOMARE: Exactly. So it is the last
- 9 remaining bond that is outstanding. And I wanted to
- 10 clarify and make sure that there wasn't a pending
- 11 production report from the gentleman who's responsible
- 12 for that aspect.
- MR. BROOKS: Your testimony was, then,
- 14 that there has not been any production from that well,
- 15 Mr. Dehnisch?
- 16 THE WITNESS: No, sir.
- 17 Q. (By Mr. Jones) That, no, there has not been?
- 18 A. No, there has not been --
- 19 Q. Thank you.
- 20 A. -- production reported, no.
- Q. Has there been production from that well?
- 22 A. Not to my knowledge, no.
- MR. BROOKS: Mr. Bruce, anything further
- 24 of this witness?

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. BRUCE:

- Q. I just want to clarify that that was not on
- 4 the list of the 29 wells at the hearing six weeks ago.
- 5 A. No, sir.
- 6 Q. When you started rechecking everything prior
- 7 to this hearing, that one cropped up at the last minute?
- 8 A. Yeah. This week when I was checking and found
- 9 the error -- or the reporting error in HS 95, that's when
- 10 the -- it showed up on Tuesday.
- 11 Q. And will Nacogdoches do what's necessary to
- 12 bring it into compliance?
- 13 A. Of course we will.
- MR. BRUCE: That's all I have.
- 15 MS. ALTOMARE: If I could recross briefly.
- 16 MR. BROOKS: You want to ask further
- 17 questions of this witness? Go ahead.
- MS. ALTOMARE: I apologize for the notes
- 19 on here. I'm showing him a printout from August 12th.
- MR. BRUCE: Okay.
- 21 RECROSS EXAMINATION
- 22 BY MS. ALTOMARE:
- 23 Q. I'm showing you an inactive well additional
- 24 financial report from our system. Can you read the date
- 25 into the record on the top of that?

- 1 A. August 12th of 2009.
- Q. Can you turn to the third page of that? Is
- 3 the well, the Number 39 -- South Hospah Unit Number 39
- 4 indicated as being out of compliance and requiring a bond
- 5 as of August 12th, reflected on that report?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 MS. ALTOMARE: Thank you. That's all I
- 8 have.
- 9 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Bruce, anything further
- 10 for this witness?
- MR. BRUCE: No, sir.
- MR. BROOKS: The witness may stand down.
- 13 You may call your next witness.
- 14 MR. BRUCE: I call Mr. Allen to the stand.
- 15 BARRY MICHAEL ALLEN
- 16 Having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
- 17 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 18 BY MR. BRUCE:
- 19 Q. Again, for the record, please state your name
- 20 and city of residence.
- 21 A. Mike Allen, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.
- 22 Q. And what is your job? Who do you work for?
- 23 A. Nacogdoches Oil and Gas.
- Q. And what is your job with Nacogdoches?
- 25 A. I'm a production engineer.

- 1 Q. And you handle all the field operations out in
- the Hospah area?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Mr. Allen, first of all, could you identify
- 5 Exhibit A for the Examiner?
- 6 A. It's a spreadsheet that I prepared. I believe
- 7 I sent it to everyone the following Thursday after the
- 8 hearing.
- 9 Q. And this was requested by the Hearing
- 10 Examiner?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. We agreed to present it to them; correct?
- 13 A. Yes, we did.
- Q. Just briefly, what does it show?
- 15 A. Basically it's just a rundown of all the wells
- 16 and their current status.
- 17 Q. And at the last hearing there were 29 wells
- 18 that -- I believe that were considered out of compliance?
- 19 A. That is correct.
- Q. And what have you done in the interim with
- 21 respect to those wells?
- A. We swabbed them and we sent in the C-103s and
- 23 we sent the C-115s.
- Q. There were still three wells outstanding, were
- 25 there not?

- 1 A. Yes. That's correct.
- 2 O. Which wells are those?
- A. It was the Santa Fe Railroad Number 23, Santa
- 4 Fe Railroad Number 51, and the Santa Fe Railroad A 74.
- 5 Q. Are those all injection wells?
- 6 A. They are.
- 7 MR. BROOKS: That was the 23, the 51, and
- 8 which were the other two?
- 9 THE WITNESS: The Santa Fe Railroad A 74.
- MR. BRUCE: They're all, Mr. Examiner, on
- 11 the fourth page of Exhibit A. You'll notice the Santa Fe
- 12 Railroad 23 is listed twice, and then below that is the
- 13 Santa Fe Railroad 51, and then the Santa Fe Railroad A
- 14 74.
- 15 MR. BROOKS: Okay. So it's four wells
- 16 because the 23 is listed twice?
- 17 MR. BRUCE: That's correct. There's three
- 18 wells, actually.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay.
- 20 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) And have bonds on all of those
- 21 three wells been submitted to Dorothy Phillips of the
- 22 Division?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Are those marked as Exhibits G, H and I?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

- 1 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, these were hand
- 2 delivered this morning about 8:30 to Ms. Phillips.
- Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Let's discuss the status of
- 4 those three wells that do not have production, Mr. Allen.
- 5 What about the Number 23?
- A. Number 23 actually passed the MIT in 2006, and
- 7 it has, we believe, sand over the perforations, and we
- 8 were going to wash it out and put it back on line.
- 9 O. What about the 51?
- 10 A. Number 51 has a leak in the casing, and I have
- 11 filed a C-103 with Aztec's office to plug and abandon
- 12 that well.
- 13 Q. Have supplies been ordered to plug and abandon
- 14 that well?
- 15 A. We have plugging equipment on location, yes,
- or on the lease, I should say.
- 17 Q. And then what about the A 74 well?
- 18 A. It -- we plan to run a tube in the packer in
- 19 it and do an MIT on it.
- 20 Q. Now, I don't want to go through every well on
- 21 this list, but -- and this was discussed at the last
- 22 hearing. A number of these wells have listed in one of
- 23 the right-hand columns that they're ready to produce or
- 24 producible. What does that mean?
- 25 A. We cannot produce them because we do not have

- 1 the adequate water disposal capabilities right now.
- 2 Q. They are capable of producing --
- A. -- in paying quantifies, yes.
- Q. But you need to -- at this point, once
- 5 everything is settled with the Division, you need to get
- 6 a hearing on your disposal well application so that these
- 7 wells can be brought on line?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. Let's go through a few more exhibits,
- 10 Exhibits B through F. First of all, what is Exhibit B?
- 11 A. Exhibit B is the C-103 that I filed on Santa
- 12 Fe Railroad 51 to plug and abandon by November 1st.
- Q. You intend to do that as quickly as you can?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. That's one of the wells that a bond was filed
- 16 on today?
- 17 A. That is correct.
- 18 Q. What is Exhibit C?
- 19 A. Exhibit C is the C-103 filed -- Ms. Altomare
- 20 asked us to file on the HSU Number 93, that there was
- 21 water being put into the well accidentally, and we filed
- 22 a C-103.
- 23 Q. Water was put into that well -- it is an
- 24 injection well?
- 25 A. It is.

- 1 Q. But water was improperly put into it?
- 2 A. It failed the MIT.
- 3 Q. So at the last hearing Ms. Altomare asked for
- information on that well, and this is an attempt to
- 5 comply with that?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. What is Exhibit D?
- 8 A. That is a picture of the Number 93 well that
- 9 shows it has been disconnected and the line has been bull
- 10 plugged so it cannot happen again.
- 11 Q. At this point, since it's been disconnected,
- 12 there cannot be any injection into this well?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- Q. At the last hearing there was a couple of
- 15 other issues regarding, I think, the South Hospah Unit
- 16 Number 54 well?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. What are Exhibits E and F?
- 19 A. E is a picture of the pressure gauge showing
- 20 that it's at 300 psi and the limit is 325, and we're in
- 21 compliance.
- Q. So it was not injecting above pressure?
- 23 A. No, sir.
- 24 O. And there was also an issue raised last time
- 25 about an incorrect sign on the well. What is Exhibit F?

- 1 A. It just shows that we have updated the sign
- 2 and -- with the correct information.
- Q. This is from a few days ago, also; correct?
- 4 A. It is from the 17th. Correct.
- 5 O. Then Exhibits G, H and I are the bonds that
- 6 were filed. And Ms. Altomare raised the other issue of
- 7 this -- I think the South Hospah Number 39. What do you
- 8 know about that well, Mr. Allen?
- 9 A. It is an injection well that has been set up
- 10 and ready to be MIT'd. It should be a producing well if
- 11 it passes the MIT. When I say, "producing," it should be
- 12 an active well.
- 13 Q. Should be an active injection well?
- 14 A. Correct. It should be an active injection
- 15 well if it passes the MIT. It's set up for MIT.
- 16 Q. Is there a federal bond on that well right
- 17 now?
- 18 A. That's what I wanted to check, but I didn't
- 19 get a chance to call the BLM and verify if it has a bond
- 20 on it or not. Because the South Hospah Unit was bonded
- 21 federally.
- 22 Q. The unit, itself, was bonded federally?
- A. I'm not sure exactly if that's the right well,
- 24 if the well was on there. But the unit, itself, was
- 25 bonded under federal.

- 1 Q. Will you follow up on that?
- 2 A. Yes, sir, I will.
- Q. In general terms, has Nacogdoches been working
- 4 diligently on these Hospah leases or units over the last
- 5 six weeks?
- A. Yes, sir, we have.
- 7 Q. What size of crew do you have?
- 8 A. We have 15 employees plus truck drivers.
- 9 Q. How many rigs do you have working out there?
- 10 A. We have two that work every day.
- 11 Q. During the last six weeks, not necessarily
- 12 these wells, but have you been P and A-ing wells up in
- 13 the Hospah area?
- 14 A. We have a federal mandate with the -- what
- 15 they call the Hanson Federal Unit, that we're under
- 16 mandate to plug, and we had been setting up to plug, and
- 17 we plugged one of them yesterday, in fact.
- 18 Q. That was actually an agreement affecting a
- 19 prior operator that --
- 20 A. That is correct.
- 21 O. -- a former --
- 22 A. That's correct.
- Q. Have you also been maintaining all the
- 24 producing wells out there?
- 25 A. Yes, we have.

- 1 Q. Of course you went out there to swab these
- 2 wells to show production so once -- to put them in
- 3 compliance so that once you get the water disposal
- 4 capability, they will, of course, again be producing?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. Have you been maintaining and cleaning out the
- 7 injection wells?
- 8 A. We have.
- 9 Q. And I think you testified last time,
- 10 apparently sand gets into these wells so you have to
- 11 clean them out on a fairly regular basis?
- 12 A. Yes, sir, we have.
- Q. And, finally, has NOG and you personally
- 14 maintained contact with the OCD, personnel in the OCD's
- 15 Aztec office?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. Who have you been dealing with there?
- 18 A. Charley Perrin and Kelly Roberts.
- 19 Q. Primarily?
- 20 A. Both of them.
- Q. Were Exhibits A through F prepared by you or
- 22 under your supervision?
- A. A, I prepared, and I took the photographs.
- 24 O. And the C-103s?
- A. And prepared the C-103s.

- 1 Q. And are Exhibits G, H and I part of
- 2 Nacogdoches' business records, the bonds?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I would move the
- 5 admission of Exhibits A through I.
- 6 MS. ALTOMARE: No objection.
- 7 MR. BROOKS: A through I are admitted.
- 8 Pass the witness?
- 9 (Exhibits A through I were admitted.)
- MR. BRUCE: I pass the witness.
- MR. BROOKS: Ms. Altomare?
- 12 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MS. ALTOMARE:
- 14 Q. You mentioned that there were still three
- 15 wells outstanding with bonding, but, actually -- as we
- 16 talked about earlier, there's actually four, at least as
- 17 recently as last Wednesday, from what we can tell from
- 18 documentation; is that right?
- 19 A. The last South Hospah well was a surprise
- 20 yesterday, so --
- 21 O. But at least from what we can see from the
- 22 documents that we have available right now, our system
- 23 was showing at least last Wednesday that that was
- 24 requiring bonding; is that right?
- 25 A. I got my information from Mr. Dehnisch, so --

- 1 Q. You were here, of course, at the last hearing
- 2 on July 9th.
- 3 A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. Do you recall hearing the Examiners go through
- 5 what Nacogdoches was required to do prior to today's
- 6 hearing?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recall hearing the Examiners
- 9 specifically say that Nacogdoches was to have all bonding
- 10 that was required under OCD rules filed prior to today?
- 11 A. Yes, and -- I do.
- 12 Q. And do you recall hearing me ask the Examiners
- 13 to clarify that that was pursuant to what comes up on the
- 14 OCD online system under the financial assurance list on
- 15 the OCD online screen? Do you recall that conversation
- 16 during the hearing?
- 17 A. Not specifically, but --
- 18 Q. But, in any event, you don't dispute that
- 19 Nacogdoches was supposed to have the bonds posted prior
- 20 to coming in the door today?
- 21 A. If we had known -- and I still would like to
- 22 double check with the BLM to make sure that we have not
- 23 bonded that on federal mandate.
- Q. Nonetheless, there's still the other three
- 25 bonds that you didn't have posted prior to today; isn't

- 1 that right?
- 2 A. They were posted.
- 3 O. They've been submitted but they haven't been
- 4 approved and processed and posted; isn't that right?
- A. We brought them in today, yes. This morning.
- Q. With regard to the A 74, you indicated that
- 7 that was an injection well?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Why is it coming up on our system as an oil
- 10 well; do you know?
- 11 A. I don't know.
- 12 Q. Santa Fe Railroad Number -- Santa Fe Railroad
- 13 A; right?
- 14 A. Well, that's right.
- Q. It is an injection well; is that right?
- 16 A. No. I've got conflicting information here.
- 17 Q. Can I ask that you work with the district to
- 18 make sure that our records are accurate --
- 19 A. Sure.
- 20 Q. -- and make sure that the documents are clear
- 21 on that one?
- 22 A. Okay.
- Q. You testified that Nacogdoches needs a
- 24 disposal well in order to bring the rest of the wells on
- 25 line. Does Nacogdoches understand that they're not going

- 1 to be able to do that as long as they're not in
- 2 compliance with OCD rules?
- 3 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 4 Q. That getting a permit for a disposal well is
- 5 not something they're going to be able to get approval
- for unless they're in compliance with OCD rules?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. With reference to Exhibits B and C, just for
- 9 clarification, since none of the boxes are actually
- 10 checked on here, these are meant to notice of intentions,
- 11 not subsequent reports; is that right?
- 12 A. Correct.
- Q. When you actually submit these, can you make
- 14 sure the boxes are checked in the appropriate spots,
- 15 please?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. With regard to Exhibit C, you're indicating
- 18 the information regarding the injection that occurred at
- 19 that well. Was corresponding C-115 production
- 20 information also submitted for that?
- 21 A. That's the well -- I asked our girl that does
- 22 the compliance, and she said file a C-103 first. And I
- 23 have instructed her to do the 115s if we have to do that,
- 24 yes.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. I have spoke with her about it.
- Q. I think -- I thought we made that clear at the
- 3 last hearing. But the C-115 -- whether or not the
- 4 injection was authorized, if it was injection that
- 5 occurred, it needs to be reported.
- A. What about the C-103? Is this right? I mean,
- 7 was it supposed to be on the 103 or just the C-115 only?
- 8 Q. That, you'd have to check with the district.
- 9 I think it never hurts to have additional information.
- 10 But the C-115 is how the Division tracks the production
- 11 and injection data, so that stuff is critical --
- 12 A. Okay.
- 13 Q. -- as far as keeping track of what goes in the
- 14 ground and what comes out.
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. Do you recall at the last hearing that one of
- 17 the things that Nacogdoches was required to do prior to
- 18 today's hearing was to at least begin negotiations with
- 19 the Oil Conservation Division regarding an agreed
- 20 compliance order?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Has Nacogdoches done that?
- 23 A. I've tried.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall being informed on several
- 25 occasions that Nacogdoches would not be able to begin

- 1 negotiations of that sort until they posted all financial
- 2 assurances that were due?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. Nacogdoches has not done that yet; is that
- 5 right?
- A. I still say that there's one well in dispute,
- 7 but --
- 8 Q. But nonetheless, you walked in the door today
- 9 with the last of the bonds. So prior to today, either
- 10 way you look at it, the bonds hadn't been posted?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. So Nacogdoches has not begun negotiations
- 13 regarding an ACO with the Oil Conservation Division as
- 14 required by the directive given at the last hearing; is
- 15 that right?
- 16 A. We had the bonds. I contacted Mr. Sanchez as
- 17 of Friday. He told me that we still had some wells that
- 18 were outstanding. He told me to contact Mr. Bruce, which
- 19 I did. Monday I sent an email. I said I would have the
- 20 bonds in hand. I need to set up a meeting so we could
- 21 start negotiating our ACO. I did not hear back from
- 22 anybody. Mr. Dehnisch made a phone call. He did not
- 23 hear back from anybody on that, as well. I have made
- 24 attempts.
- 25 Q. When you spoke with Mr. Sanchez on Friday,

- 1 that was the first time that you had attempted to set up
- 2 a meeting?
- A. Yes, ma'am. Because we were trying to get all
- 4 the paperwork up to date and make sure that we had
- 5 everything in compliance.
- Q. At that time Mr. Sanchez informed you that he
- 7 would be out of the office working in the field on Monday
- 8 and Tuesday of this week; isn't that right?
- 9 A. No, he did not.
- 10 Q. In your opinion, has Nacogdoches completed all
- of the things that it was asked to do by today by the
- 12 Hearing Examiners?
- 13 A. With the exceptions of the attempt to do the
- 14 ACO, it has.
- 15 Q. It hasn't completed the attempt to -- the
- 16 negotiations with the ACO; isn't that right?
- 17 A. We have not started the negotiations. I need
- 18 somebody to talk to me.
- 19 MS. ALTOMARE: I think that's all I have.
- MR. BRUCE: I have a couple.
- 21 MR. BROOKS: Let's go ahead with the
- 22 Examiners' questions, because you may have some
- 23 additional follow-up on that.

24

EXAMINATION

- 2 BY MR. WARNELL:
- Q. You had mentioned something, Mr. Allen, about
- 4 you had P and A'd some wells since last time we were
- 5 here, and that you're going to be abandoning some more
- 6 . wells?

- 7 A. We're going to plug and abandon the Santa Fe
- 8 Railroad Number 51.
- 9 Q. Any others?
- 10 A. Well, if we have wells that we cannot repair
- or pass the MIT, we plan to plug those, as well.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- A. But we're still looking at those to make sure
- 14 we can't.
- 15 Q. The other day I was going down through this
- 16 spreadsheet which I believe is marked your Exhibit A. A
- 17 couple of things I was hoping you could help clarify
- 18 under the current status. There's some on there that
- 19 say, "no equipment, swabbed," or just, "no equipment."
- 20 What does that mean, "no equipment"?
- 21 A. That the wells -- they've had all the
- 22 equipment removed by the prior operator or someone before
- 23 we got it.
- Q. Then there's a couple on here, three or four,
- 25 I believe, that says, "Cannot find."

- 1 A. We cannot locate them, and we've asked the
- 2 Aztec office. And from my understanding, they have not
- 3 been able to locate them, either.
- Q. So we think the wells are out there, we just
- 5 can't locate them?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 MR. WARNELL: No more questions.
- 8 EXAMINATION
- 9 BY MR. JONES:
- 10 Q. Mr. Allen, you live in Oklahoma?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. But you're a production engineer over this
- 13 project?
- 14 A. Yes, sir. Over five states, yes.
- 15 Q. So Nacogdoches has operations in a bunch of
- 16 different states?
- 17 A. Texas and Kansas, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico.
- 18 O. Arizona? Like over in the --
- 19 A. Lukachukai Mountains.
- 20 Q. I wasn't part of the other hearing, so quickly
- 21 I'll just try to ask you -- how often do you have to come
- 22 out to look over this project?
- 23 A. Once a month.
- Q. Do you have humpers or --
- 25 A. Yes, sir. We have people on-site.

- 1 Q. And do you have an automation system set up
- 2 for the project?
- 3 A. As far as?
- Q. Like sensors on the wells to take -- you know,
- 5 keep track of the tubing and casing pressures, the
- 6 production, injection, that kind of stuff?
- 7 A. On injection we do. The rest of the stuff
- 8 we -- we tried to set it up, and we had it automated
- 9 where we could read our oil production and water
- 10 production, and someone kept cutting the wires. So after
- 11 about four or five times, it just got too expensive. We
- 12 gave up.
- Q. So it was a scanner system?
- 14 A. It was a satellite system.
- 15 Q. Satellite system?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. And did it read into your office in Oklahoma?
- 18 A. It was actually prior to Nacogdoches having --
- 19 it was the prior operator that I set up for them, but it
- 20 would have come up on Internet. We could read it off the
- 21 Internet. It did come up on the Internet, I should say.
- Q. So most of this production is the same -- it's
- 23 just a big waterflood; is that correct?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Is it -- I guess, are you -- do you have the

- 1 background permit in mind that permitted this waterflood?
- 2 I mean the hearing order that permitted it, or --
- A. I have read some of that information, yes, but
- 4 I did not have anything to do with any of that. That was
- 5 prior.
- 6 Q. That stuff -- once you take over a waterflood,
- 7 you have to kind of know those old orders, because
- 8 they're still in effect.
- 9 A. Are you talking about injection orders?
- 10 Q. Yeah. The order that permitted the waterflood
- 11 to start with or the latest orders that allowed injection
- 12 in the well.
- 13 A. I have read those, yes, and we know now what
- 14 the pressure limits are and, you know, the layout of the
- 15 field. I have gone through all that, yes.
- 16 Q. Do you have a reservoir engineer you work
- 17 with?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. You're pretty much it, then?
- 20 A. Pretty much it.
- Q. So are you guys trying to actively increase
- 22 the amount of water going in here so you can sweep more
- 23 oil, or are you just trying to put more wells back on
- 24 line?
- A. We're trying to put the wells back on. Our

- 1 injection wells are not adequate. We've had so many
- 2 failures because of the casing integrity failing, and we
- 3 have filed a permit for a disposal well. We need some
- 4 help in that situation, and then we can start putting on
- 5 more wells and increasing production.
- 6 Q. You're trying to get a deeper disposal well?
- 7 A. Yes, sir. In the Entrada.
- 8 Q. So you've got more water than you can handle?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. So where's all the holes in these casings?
- 11 A. They're up around -- it just depends -- 3 to
- 12 500 feet, sometimes as low as 600 feet, the top of the
- 13 cement. It just varies from well to well. But it's
- 14 pretty much in that same area every time.
- 15 Q. How deep are the wells?
- 16 A. Average, about 1,600.
- 17 Q. 1,600 feet. It's the Hospah -- so you've got
- 18 the Fruitland above that?
- 19 A. No. It's -- well, I'm not sure. That's
- 20 outside my area. But I believe it would be below it,
- 21 wouldn't it?
- 22 O. I'm not familiar --
- A. We're actually on the very, very edge of the
- 24 San Juan Basin.
- Q. Are you over by the Ute Mountain Ute

- 1 Reservation?
- A. Chaco Canyon is what they call the field.
- 3 Q. So you're south and west?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- 6 A. They consider it part of the San Juan Basin,
- 7 but it's on the very, very edge. As far as I know, it
- 8 has been tested.
- 9 Q. Has it got good fresh water in that area?
- 10 A. Everything we produce is fresh water.
- 11 Q. Really?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- O. What TDS is it?
- 14 A. 35, I believe.
- 15 O. 3,500?
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 MR. JONES: Okay. I'm not sure I'm
- 18 contributing to the discussion. I better pass it on.
- 19 EXAMINATION
- 20 BY MR. BROOKS:
- Q. Okay. I find this case somewhat confusing, so
- 22 let's begin with what's probably the simplest aspect of
- 23 it, the bonds. The South Hospah Unit Number 39 is the
- 24 one that we have the question about bonding on?
- 25 A. Yes, sir. I believe on the list -- the reason

- 1 why we were confused was because we originally were under
- 2 federal mandate to bond the Federal South Hospah Unit.
- 3 And then we go down and we put up a \$525,000 bond that we
- 4 thought took care of everything on South Hospah. Then,
- 5 all of a sudden, something jumps up and says, "private."
- 6 It says, "P." I'm assuming it says private. And we did
- 7 not know that we had any outstanding wells on the South
- 8 Hospah Unit.
- 9 Q. Are you familiar with the fact that you can
- 10 find out what wells the Division requires bonding on by
- 11 reference to the materials that are maintained on the
- 12 Division's website?
- 13 A. I believe so. Mike Dehnisch mainly takes care
- 14 of that.
- Okay. This well, Number 39, you said it's
- 16 coded private. Is it on private land and private
- 17 minerals?
- 18 A. I don't know. I did not know we had anything
- 19 in South Haspah that was non-federal.
- 20 Q. Okay. If it is, in fact, private, then our
- 21 bonding requirement would apply, even though you may have
- 22 also filed a bond with the feds by mistake. You
- 23 understand that; right?
- 24 A. If it's on private land?
- 25 Q. Yes.

- 1 A. I mean if it's under state regulation.
- O. Unless it's actually on federal land. If it's
- 3 actually on federal minerals, then there may be a
- 4 mistake, but it would depend on that. You understand
- 5 that it might not depend on what you filed with the feds?
- 6 Because they have their requirements and we have ours.
- 7 A. Even if it's federally bonded and it is on
- 8 private land, it still has to be bonded?
- 9 Q. Yes, sir. It doesn't make any difference what
- 10 you filed with the feds. It's whether you've complied
- 11 with our requirements where our requirements are
- 12 applicable.
- 13 A. Okay.
- 14 O. Now, my reaction initially to Exhibit E, which
- is the picture of the pressure guage -- maybe it's
- 16 unjustified and maybe you can explain why it -- but it
- 17 sounded a little to me like the defendant in a murder
- 18 case who offered to present three witnesses to testify
- 19 that they didn't see him murder the deceased.
- The mere fact that you may have injected
- 21 within the pressure limitations at some point in time
- doesn't seem to me to be any kind of proof with regard
- 23 to the fact that you may have injected above the pressure
- 24 limits at other points in time. There was some
- 25 discussion at the previous hearing about pressure

- 1 limitation gauges.
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. All of our orders that have been -- all of our
- 4 injection orders that have been issued anytime recently,
- 5 I believe -- and Mr. Jones can correct me if I'm wrong --
- 6 but it's our standard policy that we do require pressure
- 7 limitation devices. Do you know if those are required?
- 8 You said you looked at those orders. Do you know if
- 9 those are required on those orders?
- 10 A. I did not see that on there. However, we are
- 11 planning on putting that on there anyway.
- 12 Q. You're planning on it, but you haven't done it
- 13 yet?
- 14 A. I have not done it yet.
- 15 Q. Do you know how many injection wells you have?
- 16 How many existing injection wells you have?
- 17 A. Not off the top of my head. I should know
- 18 that, but I -- I'm showing 11.
- 19 MS. ALTOMARE: I believe 26 of the 48
- 20 currently inactive wells are injection wells, if I
- 21 counted correctly earlier.
- 22 A. I count 21, but I may be missing some. But
- 23 they're not all active.
- Q. Do you have some that are active and some that
- 25 are inactive?

- 1 A. These wells that we bonded are inactive.
- Q. But there's a different definition of inactive
- 3 for the purpose of bonding than there is for the purpose
- 4 of determining what's an inactive well, so we can't
- 5 cross-apply those definitions.
- A. I know we have some that have not passed MITs
- 7 that we were going to have to repair, so those obviously
- 8 would not be used.
- 9 Q. Yeah. One of the things I wanted to know --
- 10 and we go to the transcript of the previous hearing, page
- 11 227 -- I said, "I still am not sure whether there's a
- 12 third group of wells that is not in compliance and will
- 13 still not be in compliance after the paperwork violation
- 14 is cured and can be brought into compliance without the
- 15 injection application. If there is, then I want to
- 16 know -- have those wells identified, and by August the
- 17 20th, I want you to either have those wells in compliance
- 18 or be able to put on testimony to explain, specifically,
- 19 why those wells cannot be brought into compliance by
- 20 August 20th or could not be brought into compliance by
- 21 August 20th."
- So far I haven't heard any explanation of
- 23 those matters. And I was getting into the injection
- 24 wells because I would assume that if you have water to
- 25 inject and you have permitted injection wells, and if

- 1 they have passed the MITs and their permits are current,
- 2 then you could get those wells back into compliance, and
- 3 that would, perhaps, allow you to get other wells back
- 4 into compliance.
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. So I'm very confused about exactly what's
- 7 going on here.
- 8 A. I actually did miss one of the wells that we
- 9 said had failed the MIT, and I found out it was current,
- 10 HSU Number 100. That was another well that we thought
- 11 had failed, but it didn't.
- 12 Q. You don't know how many inactive injection
- 13 wells you have?
- 14 A. I couldn't tell you exactly, no, sir.
- 15 Q. You don't know how many failed the MITs and
- 16 how many are, in fact, okay, have passed their MITs?
- 17 A. No. But I can find out.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay.
- 19 MR. JONES: One quick --
- MR. BROOKS: Mr. Jones, go ahead.
- 21 EXAMINATION
- 22 BY MR. JONES:
- Q. Excuse me. Mr. Allen, do you decide how to
- 24 allocate the money for Nacogdoches from this project to
- 25 other projects in other states?

- 1 A. No, sir.
- 2 Q. But you make recommendations about how much
- 3 you need; is that correct?
- 4 A. I turn in an AFE --
- Q. And you make a strategic plan every year about
- 6 what you're going to --
- 7 A. Pretty much on a monthly basis.
- 8 Q. So you just turn in AFEs and -- do you always
- 9 get your applications approved, or do you get them
- sometimes turned down by your management?
- 11 A. It just depends.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. It depends how much the price tag is.
- 14 Q. Okay. Are all your production wells pumped
- 15 off? Do you keep them pumped off?
- 16 A. No, sir, we can't. There's very few that we
- 17 can even pump down.
- 18 Q. How high is the fluid level?
- 19 A. In some cases, the lower Hospah is 80 feet
- 20 from the surface.
- 21 Q. Okay. Do you know how deep the fresh water is
- 22 out here or if there is a fresh water zone?
- 23 A. There is one that's actually across the
- 24 highway from us. It's about 550 feet, roughly.
- Q. But you've got some corrosive -- even though

- 1 you've produced water, you say it's 3,500, it's obviously
- 2 some corrosion going on or casing is real old or
- 3 something. So you have a danger there of your waters
- 4 going into the fresh water if you don't keep your wells
- 5 pumped off; is that correct?
- A. Well, I mean, you know, we just checked -- we
- 7 haven't gone around and checked every single fluid level
- 8 on every single well. And that's static, too, by the
- 9 way. It's not actually producing. Because that was the
- 10 only access I had. That was when I had the fluid tech
- 11 come out and check it.
- 12 Q. You're talking about a well that was shut in?
- 13 A. Or shut down. It was static.
- 14 O. It was 80 feet from the surface?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. Okay. So producing fluid levels would be
- 17 lower than that?
- 18 A. Yes, they would be lower than that. But we're
- 19 not pounding fluid within the wellbore.
- 20 Q. Do you keep pumping units on these wells?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. And they're pumping 100 percent of the time?
- A. Yeah. They pump 24/7.
- Q. You have to change the pumps every so often?
- 25 A. Yes, sir. We have two rigs running.

- 1 Q. Changing pumps?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. What about your injection wells that are on
- 4 this -- do they all have packers and tubing in them?
- 5 A. Yes, they do.
- Q. Is the packer set low, pretty close to the top
- 7 of the injection interval?
- 8 A. It's set within the required hundred feet. I
- 9 believe they're actually set -- we found some that were
- 10 set high, and we pulled them out and went down and set
- 11 them where they're supposed to be set. But they're set
- 12 within the guidelines of the U.S.C.
- MR. JONES: Thank you.
- 14 EXAMINATION
- 15 BY MR. BROOKS:
- 16 Q. Looking over the list of wells and the status,
- 17 there's a very large number of wells where that the
- 18 status shown is no equipment, swabbed; right?
- 19 A. We swabbed the wells that didn't have any
- 20 equipment, yes, sir.
- 21 Q. Assuming this is a current list, that would
- 22 seem to indicate that 48 inactive wells is really not an
- 23 index of how much work needs to be done on this unit,
- 24 because all these wells that are listed as, "no
- 25 equipment, swabbed, "they're going to have to be

- 1 re-completed in order to be producing again; right?
- 2 A. They have to have equipment put on.
- 3 Q. Yeah. They have to be re-equipped.
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. Because we can't know what the condition
- 6 downhole is. But they would have to be re-equipped. So
- 7 there's quite a lot of wells that are going to require
- 8 work before they will be commercial producers; is that
- 9 correct? A lot more than 48?
- 10 A. There's a lot of wells that the equipment was
- 11 stripped off of them before we got it, and we have to put
- 12 them -- we don't have any reason to believe that they
- 13 will not be commercially productive.
- Q. Once they're re-equipped?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. Do you have any -- have you come to any
- 17 conclusions of how many of these wells will eventually
- 18 have to be plugged and abandoned? Well, they'll all
- 19 eventually -- how many are not capable of being restored
- 20 to production and will have to be plugged and abandoned?
- 21 A. From what I've seen so far, I think most of
- 22 them will be commercially viable. Like some of the
- 23 injection wells that do not pass the MIT that we cannnot
- 24 repair, we're going to have to pluq.
- Q. You've only identified one in that category as

- of now. You've only identified one that you know you're
- 2 going to plug and abandon as of now; correct?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 MR. BROOKS: Okay. I will pass the
- 5 witness.
- 6 MR. BRUCE: Just a few follow-up
- 7 questions. Mr. Examiner, I just want to reiterate -- Mr.
- 8 Dehnisch testified about this -- the Number 39 well that
- 9 Ms. Altomare asked Mr. Dehnisch about, she handed him a
- 10 sheet that showed that it -- first of all, that was not
- on the list at the hearing six weeks ago.
- MR. BROOKS: The 39?
- MR. BRUCE: Number 39 was not on the list
- 14 six weeks ago. And Ms. Altomare showed Mr. Dehnisch a
- 15 listing that it popped up on the -- I think August 12th
- 16 is what she said. And Mr. Dehnisch testified that he's
- 17 been reviewing the OCD's records, and he saw it on
- 18 Tuesday the 18th.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay.
- 20 MR. BRUCE: But that -- and of course we
- 21 have to find out if it's federally bonded. If not, a
- 22 bond needs to be done.
- 23 MR. BROOKS: What you have to find out is
- 24 if it's actually a federal well.
- MR. BRUCE: That's correct.

- 1 MR. BROOKS: If it's not a federal well,
- 2 then it needs to be bonded.
- MR. BRUCE: But it may be a federal well
- 4 and it is bonded, and we're not certain about that. Two
- 5 other issues before I --
- 6 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 7 BY MR. BRUCE:
- 8 Q. Mr. Allen, on the Well 54, the Examiner asked
- 9 you about that, Nacogdoches has no problem, as Mr.
- 10 Sanchez suggested at the last hearing, putting pressure
- 11 limitation devices on the injection wells.
- 12 A. No. We have no problem with that.
- 13 MR. BRUCE: And before I ask the final
- 14 question, Mr. Jones, you didn't sit through the last one.
- 15 When you were asking about money, I believe Mr. Finley,
- 16 the president of the company, testified last time that
- 17 they have spent seven or eight million bucks rehabing the
- 18 properties out there. I just wanted to make you aware of
- 19 that.
- Then the final issue I would like to ask Mr.
- 21 Allen about -- if you could go back to Exhibit A, the
- 22 spreadsheet, and look at the Santa Fe Railroad A 74.
- 23 MR. WARNELL: It's on page 4, I think.
- MR. BRUCE: Yeah. A 74.
- 25 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Mr. Allen, I believe you

- 1 talked to me about this before, but this shows that it
- was actually swabbed in July of '08; correct?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. Is this the well that Mr. Perrin told you was
- 5 an injection well and they couldn't accept swabbing?
- 6 A. There's some confusion, because -- I don't
- 7 know if it was or not. I don't know if this is the
- 8 particular well or not. He said we can't swab injection
- 9 wells. I have to verify that that's --
- 10 Q. If it was swabbed in July of 2008, and I
- 11 think -- without getting Mr. Dehnisch up on the stand, I
- 12 don't think a C-103 was filed, but if that was done, then
- 13 that well would go off the noncompliance list because it
- 14 was swabbed within the past 12 months.
- 15 A. If that is a producer, yes.
- 16 O. Which still leaves -- so there's two
- 17 questionable wells, whether A 74 is a producer, and by
- 18 filing paperwork, it will be in compliance. Then the 39
- 19 well, which we have to find out whether it's federally
- 20 bonded.
- 21 A. That is --
- MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, rather than
- 23 asking any further questions -- Mr. Examiner, I would
- 24 like this back just for Nacogdoches records, but this a
- 25 copy of Exhibit D presented in the original hearing by

- 1 the Division.
- MR. BROOKS: We would have that here.
- MR. BRUCE: I'm just showing this as to
- 4 what may have resulted in some confusion. If you look at
- 5 the highlighted South Hospah Unit 34, it does show as an
- 6 F or a federal well.
- 7 MS. ALTOMARE: The Division doesn't deny
- 8 that that is reflected. We simply feel that it's moot
- 9 given that the other bonds have still not officially been
- 10 posted prior to today as is required.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay.
- MS. ALTOMARE: We'll certainly look
- into -- find out on our end, as well, if there was some
- 14 kind of an issue.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay.
- 16 MR. BRUCE: No further questions, Mr.
- 17 Examiner.
- MR. BROOKS: Very good. Do you have
- 19 anything further for this witness, Ms. Altomare?
- MS. ALTOMARE: No.
- 21 MR. BROOKS: Very good. The witness may
- 22 stand down.
- Does that conclude your presentation, Mr.
- 24 Bruce?
- MR. BRUCE: Yes.

- 1 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Ms. Altomare?
- 2 MS. ALTOMARE: I would like to call Mr.
- 3 Sanchez to the stand.
- 4 MR. BROOKS: Very good. Mr. Sanchez,
- 5 you're reminded you're still under oath.
- 6 MR. SANCHEZ: Yes, sir.
- 7 DANIEL SANCHEZ
- 8 Having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
- 9 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 10 BY MS. ALTOMARE:
- 11 Q. Can you state your name for the record,
- 12 please.
- 13 A. Daniel Sanchez.
- Q. You were previously sworn at the previous
- 15 hearing; is that right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Mr. Sanchez, following the last hearing, you
- 18 met with Nacogdoches representatives to facilitate the
- 19 efforts of moving the company towards compliance; is that
- 20 right?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recall the date that you met with them?
- 23 A. I believe it was on July 20th.
- Q. Where did that meeting take place?
- 25 A. In the Aztec office.

- 1 Q. Who all attended that meeting?
- 2 A. Mr. Mike Allen for NOG showed up. I was
- 3 there. Charlie Perrin, Monica Kuehling, Kelly Roberts
- 4 and Karen Sharp out of the Aztec office were there.
- Q. What was discussed at that time, if you could
- 6 just briefly summarize?
- 7 A. Pretty much what the district office would
- 8 require from an operator in terms of what filings were
- 9 required, when C-103s would be appropriate, the C-115s,
- 10 that kind of thing, the continued comliance with
- 11 injection wells or injecting into injection wells at the
- 12 proper pressures. Monica brought up a few things about
- 13 that. And I also reiterated that in order for us to
- 14 enter into an agreed compliance order on their inactive
- 15 wells, they needed to have the rest of their financial
- 16 assurance in place before we could actually set up a
- 17 meeting.
- 18 After the hearing last month, Mr. Finley
- 19 approached me and said he was going to be in Santa Fe the
- 20 week of August 10th, so I did tell him that I would make
- 21 myself available during that week, which I did. And at
- 22 that meeting on July 20th in Aztec, I also told Mr. Allen
- 23 that I would be available that week. He said, yes, the
- 24 week of the 10th would be good for him. So I made myself
- 25 available that entire week. I didn't hear from Allen

- 1 until Friday morning, at which point --
- 2 Q. August 14th?
- 3 A. Yes -- at which point I informed him that they
- 4 were still out of comliance with the financial assurance
- 5 rule, and we couldn't enter into any discussions on an
- 6 ACOI because of that.
- 7 Q. To back you up to the meeting in Aztec, just
- 8 for clarification, that meeting was not to begin
- 9 negotiations about ACOI?
- 10 A. No, it was not, and I made clear that that was
- 11 the case.
- 12 Q. And they seemed to understanded this?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. And did you have any contact at all between
- 15 that meeting and the August 14th telephone call from
- 16 Nacoqdoches?
- 17 A. No. The first time I heard from them again
- 18 was on the 14th, when Mr. Allen called.
- 19 Q. What was the response when you informed Mr.
- 20 Allen of the fact that the bonds were outstanding and
- 21 negotiations for an ACOI could not move forward until the
- 22 financial assurance issue had been resolved?
- A. He asked what we could do, and I said it was
- 24 best to get ahold of his attorney and to call Dorothy
- 25 Phillips and find out exactly what was left for them to

- 1 file, and that we couldn't do anything until that was
- 2 done. He did say he was going to try to get that done on
- 3 Monday, at which time I told him I was going to be out of
- 4 the office on Monday and Tuesday. The earliest I would
- 5 be available would be Wednesday morning, if they had
- 6 everything in place by that time.
- 7 Q. So you did advise him that you were going to
- 8 be out of the office on Monday the 17th and Tuesday the
- 9 18th?
- 10 A. Yes, I did.
- 11 Q. What was the next contact that you received
- 12 from anybody at Nacogdoches?
- 13 A. I got an email from Mike Allen on August 17th,
- 14 that Monday, at 11:52, and it said that they had
- 15 confirmed that all but three of the wells that were in
- 16 question had C-103s filed and C-115s filed through July
- 17 of '09, and they were acquiring bonds for three wells
- 18 that they still hadn't had posted yet.
- 19 Q. So the time stamp on the email was at
- 20 11-something in the morning?
- 21 A. Yes. At 11:52, August 17th.
- Q. When did you actually have an opportunity to
- 23 read that email, given that you were out in the field
- 24 that day?
- 25 A. I read it that night when I got back to my

- 1 hotel room.
- Q. What was the next contact that you received
- 3 from anybody at Nacogdoches?
- 4 A. I got a voice mail from Mr. Dehnisch on
- 5 Tuesday, and it was about the same time, 11:00 -- between
- 6 11:00 and 12:00 that morning, Tuesday morning. I was out
- 7 of town still out in the districts. I checked my
- 8 messages when I got home, but that wasn't until after
- 9 6:00 p.m. Tuesday night, so it was too late to call, so I
- 10 figured they'd be calling the next morning. I, once
- 11 again, made myself available Wednesday, thinking that
- 12 they might be coming in to talk about it, and we never
- 13 heard from them on Wednesday.
- 14 Q. When you arrived to the office on Wednesday,
- 15 did you log onto OCD online to see what the status of the
- 16 financial assurance compliance was for Nacogdoches?
- 17 A. Yes, I did.
- 18 Q. What did you find?
- 19 A. That there were still four wells out of
- 20 compliance. So I went and talked to Dorothy Phillips and
- 21 asked if they had possibly come in prior to that and had
- 22 turned them in but they hadn't shown up on the system
- 23 yet, and that's when she told me that nothing had been
- 24 turned in yet.
- Q. On Wednesday morning, at that time, they were

- 1 not in a position to begin ACOI negotiations with you?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 O. I have handed out what's marked as OCD Exhibit
- 4 H, which I think is the next letter in our series of
- 5 exhibits from the previous hearing. Can you identify
- 6 what these two documents stapled together are, for the
- 7 record, please?
- 8 A. The first one is inactive well additional
- 9 financial assurance report, and it shows the four wells
- 10 that still required the financial assurance. And other
- 11 part is the inactive well list for Nacogdoches, and it
- 12 still shows 48 that are on that list.
- 13 Q. And both documents are for Nacogdoches Oil and
- 14 Gas and are printed today, August 20th, 2009?
- 15 A. Yes, they are.
- 16 Q. Based on the data in Exhibit H -- I think you
- 17 just said this, but for clarification -- there are four
- 18 wells as of this morning that were showing outstanding
- 19 bonding; isn't that right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. And how many total wells are inactive
- 22 according to the inactive well list?
- 23 A. 48.
- Q. And that would mean that they are in violation
- of Rule 19.15.25.8, meaning they have not reported

- 1 production for a period of more than one year plus 90
- 2 days?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. You heard testimony today that NOG has posted
- 5 bonds, in that they've submitted three bonds today for
- 6 review by the Division for the Santa Fe Railroad Number
- 7 23, Santa Fe Railroad 51, the Santa Fe Railroad A 74. Is
- 8 it your understanding that these bonds that have been
- 9 submitted are actually posted?
- 10 A. I haven't seen that they've been posted yet.
- I know they've been submitted, but they haven't been
- 12 posted.
- Q. Has any bond, to your knowledge, been
- 14 submitted for the South Hospah Unit Number 39?
- 15 A. No.
- Q. What is the amount due, according to Exhibit
- 17 H, for that well?
- A. For that well, I believe it's 6,620.
- 19 Q. I think it's on page 3.
- 20 A. 6,687.
- 21 Q. You were here of course for the July 9th
- 22 hearing; correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And did you have an opportunity to review the
- 25 portion of the transcript where Nacogdoches was given

- 1 specific instructions by the Examiners regarding what
- they were expected to have accomplished prior to today's
- 3 hearing?
- 4 A. Yes, I have.
- 5 Q. What is your understanding of what Nacogdoches
- 6 was required to have completed prior to today's hearing?
- 7 A. They were to have all their C-115s up to date,
- 8 which they've done. They were to have all additional
- 9 financial assurance submitted prior to the 20th, prior to
- 10 coming in today. And by completing that task, they would
- 11 have been, at a minimum, in discussions with us for an
- 12 agreed compliance order for their inactive wells.
- Q. Do you recall providing testimony specifically
- 14 at the last hearing that the financial assurance
- 15 compliance was a prerequisite to beginning negotiations
- 16 for an ACOI?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Have you since -- I think you testified to
- 19 this. But have you since reiterated this on more than
- 20 one occasion to Nacogdoches?
- 21 A. At least three occasions.
- Q. Do you feel that Nacogdoches has met the
- 23 conditions set at the close of the last hearing?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. Given where we are today, do you feel that

- 1 Nacogdoches is a candidate for an ACOI?
- 2 A. No, I do not.
- Q. Can you explain why it is you feel that they
- 4 are not or no longer a candidate for an ACOI?
- 5 A. One of the things that we've done is to try to
- 6 make it very clear, not only to the Hearing Examiners and
- 7 the operator but to anyone we've dealt with with agreed
- 8 compliance orders for their inactive wells, that certain
- 9 requirements need to be met.
- In this case we were very specific. There was
- 11 additional financial assurance. And they didn't have
- 12 that ready, even though they knew they were coming to
- 13 hearing, and that was one of the issues that we were
- 14 coming to hearing on last month.
- 15 When the Commission -- or when the Hearing
- 16 Examiners gave them that additional time, which was
- 17 probably a little bit over a month, we, again, made it
- 18 clear, I thought very clear, that additional financial
- 19 assurance was required in order for us to even begin
- 20 talking about the agreed compliance order. If that would
- 21 have been taken care of even by Wednesday, the process
- 22 isn't that long. We could have done something with them
- 23 all the way up to the last minute. We've bent over
- 24 backwards doing this.
- Mr. Finley expressed to me he'd be here the

- 1 week of the 10th. I never heard from him again. Mr
- 2 Allen, during the meeting in Aztec, told me that he'd be
- 3 here the week of the 10th. I didn't hear from him until
- 4 the very last day of that week. At that point he still
- 5 didn't have the financial assurance in place.
- I -- over the last few years we have worked
- 7 with a number of operators who continue to promise coming
- 8 into compliance. We've extended dates again and again
- 9 with the same end result, which is we end up back here in
- 10 front of the Hearing Examiners again asking for the same
- 11 thing we did when we started.
- 12 Q. Is an agreed compliance order for inactive
- 13 wells usually seen as form of punishment or sanction?
- 14 A. No, it's not a punishment or a sanction. What
- 15 it is, it allows an operator to come into compliance when
- 16 they are out and gives them an opportunity to actually
- 17 take care of business the way it should be. And most of
- 18 the time that's going to be the case when a new operator
- 19 comes on and takes over wells that are, obviously, going
- 20 to bring them out of compliance.
- Q. So it's something that's usually extended to
- 22 operators that are in good standing or we have reason to
- 23 believe are going to rise to the occasion and are
- 24 deserving of this additional facilitation?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. At this time what do you feel the appropriate
- 2 course of action in this matter is?
- A. At this point we would ask that the Hearing
- 4 Examiners find that NOG did not meet the requirements
- 5 that they set down in the previous hearing and that any
- of the wells on the inactive well list at this point be
- 7 plugged by a date certain or brought back into
- 8 compliance.
- 9 Q. So rather than asking for all of the wells to
- 10 be plugged, the Division, Oil Conservation Division, is
- 11 asking that NOG be required to plug and abandon or
- 12 transfer those wells that are currently listed as
- inactive as of today by a date certain?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- MS. ALTOMARE: I think that's all I have.
- 16 Pass the witness.
- MR. BROOKS: Mr. Bruce?
- 18 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 19 BY MR. BRUCE:
- Q. Mr. Sanchez, you don't disagree that the
- 21 Hospah South Number 39 didn't come up until recently? It
- 22 wasn't on the Division's original filings?
- A. No. And I really don't think that that's an
- 24 issue in this case right now. The fact that it may be a
- 25 federal well, it will go away anyway if it does turn out

- 1 that that's the case. The point was that there was still
- 2 three other wells that required the financial assurance
- 3 prior to the date, and I could read directly off the
- 4 transcript of that hearing. It says, "prior to today all
- 5 these things would have to be done." That's what my
- 6 point is. The 39 I don't believe is really a point of
- 7 issue at this time.
- 8 Q. Let me ask you this, though, Mr. Sanchez, is
- 9 there really any material difference if the bonds had
- 10 been filed at 4:59 p.m. yesterday or 8:30 this morning,
- 11 like they were filed?
- 12 A. I believe there is a big difference in that in
- order for us to begin the negotiations required by the
- 14 Hearing Examiners at the last hearing, they had to have
- 15 been submitted at a time where we would have had time to
- 16 actually sit down and work through an agreement.
- 17 Q. Well, I believe if you look at the transcript
- 18 it says, "at least the parties have contacted each other
- 19 about an ACOI," not that an ACOI would be completed by
- 20 today.
- 21 A. That's correct. But the agreement was that
- they would be working on an agreement, an agreed
- 23 compliance order, which we told them at the time couldn't
- 24 happen until financial assurance was in place. So just
- 25 calling and saying, "We want to do this," without having

- 1 all the other pieces in place, wouldn't have done them
- 2 any good.
- Q. You were here and listened to Mr. Dehnisch
- 4 testifying about getting all the reports filed; right?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. They couldn't really determine what they
- 7 needed to bond until they had all that stuff filed, could
- 8 they?
- 9 A. If they were concerned about that, they should
- 10 have looked at the wells that are showing additional
- 11 financial assurance. They could have filed those
- 12 financial assurances, and then those would have been
- 13 returned to them after they have gotten into compliance.
- 14 To me, that wasn't an excuse to not file them.
- 15 Q. They have filed them, though.
- 16 A. Yes. As of today, yes, they are current, with
- 17 the exception of maybe one well, which, like I said, is
- 18 really a moot point.
- 19 Q. They're current with all the C-103s?
- 20 A. As far as I know, yes.
- O. Current with all the C-115s?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. So the issue is whether the bond was filed a
- 24 half hour late?
- 25 A. Or a day late, which would have allowed them

- 1 to enter into the agreement, which the Hearing Examiners
- 2 required in the last hearing.
- Q. And you did say that both Mr. Allen and Mr.
- 4 Finley said they would meet with you during the week of
- 5 the 10th and that you were contacted about meeting on the
- 6 14th. The 14th was the week of the 10th, was it not?
- 7 A. The 14th was the week of the 10th, but they
- 8 had not -- they didn't do what was supposed to have been
- 9 done. That was the whole point of it. We did not have
- 10 leeway to enter into agreed compliance orders as long as
- 11 an operator is out of compliance with the financial
- 12 assurance.
- 13 Q. If all the bonds are proper, they have now
- 14 submitted all the financial assurance, submitted all the
- 15 paperwork, and what you are saying is that you will not
- 16 enter into negotiations with them today?
- 17 A. No, I will not.
- 18 Q. Two years ago what were the status of these
- 19 leases, Mr. Sanchez?
- 20 A. Off the top of my head, I couldn't tell you
- 21 that. I'd have to look at it again.
- Q. Were they in good shape?
- 23 MS. ALTOMARE: I'm going to object. It's
- 24 beyond the scope of direct and it's not relevant as to
- 25 why we're here today.

- 1 MR. BRUCE: I think Mr. Sanchez testified
- 2 that they have just gone out of their way to give
- 3 Nacogdoches a break and that Nacogdoches has just done
- 4 nothing out there.
- 5 MR. BROOKS: I'm going to overrule the
- 6 objection. The witness can testify if he knows or has an
- 7 opinion.
- 8 A. Like I said, unless I look back that far, I
- 9 couldn't tell you. I deal with so many different
- 10 operators. I'd have to look at each case individually.
- 11 Even if I testified a month ago, I have testified in
- 12 other cases since then, so I'd rather not state something
- 13 that I'm not sure about.
- 14 MR. BRUCE: I think that's all I have at
- 15 this point, Mr. Examiner.
- 16 EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. WARNELL:
- 18 Q. Mr. Sanchez, would it be fair for me to assume
- 19 that these wells, since Nacogdoches has taken ownership,
- 20 are in better shape today than they were before
- 21 Nacogdoches started operating these wells?
- 22 A. Like I told Mr. Bruce, I really couldn't say
- 23 that. I'd have to go out there and look at the system,
- 24 probably, again, and probably talk to the Aztec office.
- 25 Just from, you know, the fact that there are so many of

- 1 these wells that do not have any equipment, we're not
- 2 really sure of the condition downhole. It would be hard
- 3 for me to say one way or the other.
- 4 MR. WARNELL: I have no more questions.
- 5 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Jones?
- 6 MR. JONES: No questions.
- 7 EXAMINATION
- 8 BY MR. BROOKS:
- 9 Q. I quess, like Mr. Bruce, I have some
- 10 difficulty understanding why you would have been willing
- 11 to enter into an agreement if they had filed all bonds by
- 12 yesterday afternoon, and you testified that the one that
- 13 they have not filed is not really an issue, but you're
- 14 not willing to do so in view of them having filed them
- 15 today. I quess the distinction is -- I'm not entirely
- 16 sure why that distinction should be made. Do you want to
- 17 say anything further on that?
- 18 A. Yes. If I go by what the Hearing Examiners
- 19 put down as conditions from the last hearing, the fact
- 20 that they were given probably, what, 40 additional days
- 21 to do this work, do the research to find out exactly what
- 22 needed to be posted, what needed to be filed, whatever,
- 23 and do that, and if they would have come in in the time
- 24 frame -- I don't care if it would have been an hour ahead
- 25 of time. That would've given me an hour to work with

- them -- they didn't do that.
- 2 Going by what you said, Mr. Brooks, "By August
- 3 20th, we want you to be able to show us that all the
- 4 paperwork is filed, discrepancies have been cured, that
- 5 any financial assurance that remains required has been
- 6 filed and accepted, and that you have entered into -- at
- 7 least entered into negotiations with the Division for an
- 8 ACOI.
- 9 "Mr. Ezeanyim: But on August 20 if you are
- 10 still out of compliance, then we have to, you know,
- 11 make -- you know, give them all they're asking for and
- 12 give an order that -- we make that recommendation to the
- 13 director.
- "Mr. Brooks: But we would be prepared to
- 15 issue a sanctions order of the nature requested by the
- 16 Division, or we would be prepared to recommend that
- 17 course of action to the director if this has not been
- 18 complied with.
- 19 "Mr. Brooks: And all bonding that is required
- 20 under our rules will be filed prior to August 20th."
- 21 I'm going by what the Hearing Examiners
- 22 determined at the last hearing, by also giving the
- 23 additional time and specific instruction as to what
- 24 needed to be done and by what time.
- One thing I've come to see over the last few

- 1 years is the more deadlines are extended, like I said
- 2 before, the less we see in the compliance issues. We end
- 3 up at the same point eventually no matter how many times
- 4 we've done this.
- 5 MR. BROOKS: Well, I have -- in the seven
- 6 years or eight years I've been here, I've seen a lot of
- 7 these situations of attempts to rehabilitate more or less
- 8 abandoned secondary recovery units. Maybe I wouldn't
- 9 have heard of the ones that had a happy ending, but I
- 10 haven't heard of any that had a happy ending yet for
- 11 anybody.
- I guess I don't have any further questions of
- 13 this witness. You may stand down, unless the attorneys
- 14 have other questions. Any redirect, Ms. Altomare?
- 15 MS. ALTOMARE: No. I do want to make a
- 16 closing.
- 17 MR. BROOKS: Anything further of this
- 18 witness?
- MR. BRUCE: No, sir.
- 20 MR. BROOKS: The witness may stand down.
- 21 MR. JONES: Did you guys admit the --
- 22 MS. ALTOMARE: I'd like to move Exhibit H
- 23 into the record, OCD's Exhibit H.
- MR. BROOKS: Any objection, Mr. Bruce?
- MR. BRUCE: No, sir.

- 1 MR. BROOKS: Exhibit H admitted.
- We have strange policies about closing
- 3 statements at the OCD that I've never fully understood,
- 4 but as long as everybody's happy with them. Which one of
- 5 you wants to go first? If you both want to go first, I
- 6 have to make a decision. Okay. Ms. Altomare, you may go
- 7 ahead with your closing statement.
- 8 (Exhibit H was admitted.)
- 9 MS. ALTOMARE: Frankly, I had sincerely
- 10 hoped to be able to walk in here today and not have it be
- 11 an adversarial situation, to be able to look at the
- 12 presentation and know that they have come into
- 13 compliance, OCD compliance, and was very disappointed at
- 14 the close of yesterday business to discover that
- 15 Nacogdoches had not risen to the occasion and had not
- 16 posted the necessary bonds and had not entered into any
- 17 kind of substantive negotiations whatsoever with the
- 18 Division regarding an ACOI in this case.
- 19 Regardless of a comparison of this unit versus
- 20 previous operators, that's not the point. We've bent
- 21 over backwards giving this operator, time and time again,
- 22 opportunities to meet deadlines, come into compliance.
- 23 We've given them all kinds of contacts within our agency.
- 24 We've given them a full toolbox of people and resources
- 25 with which to work to get this done, and they had

- 1 repeatedly demonstrated that they're either unwilling or
- 2 unable to meet our deadlines, even when it is put on a
- 3 formal record by Hearing Examiners in terms that,
- 4 basically, hold their feet to the fire.
- I don't see how that indicates that they're
- 6 going to be anymore inclined to comply with an agreed
- 7 compliance order should we enter into one with them. I
- 8 certainly don't think that they're candidates for an
- 9 agreed compliance order, which is something that we
- 10 extend to operators who are in good standing and whom we
- 11 feel are deserving of some sort of an amnesty-type
- 12 situation.
- 13 At this point in time -- certainly they have
- 14 done some work -- we're not asking to plug all of their
- 15 wells. They've gotten some things back on line. Great.
- 16 Allow them to keep producing them. The wells that are
- 17 currently on their inactive well list, they have failed
- 18 to meet the deadlines. The deadlines were very clearly
- 19 stated. They were very clearly clarified by counsel, by
- 20 both Hearing Examiners. There was nothing left to
- 21 dispute. And they failed to meet the deadlines. They
- 22 did not post the bonds. They did not enter into
- 23 negotiations for the ACOI. They didn't comply. They've
- 24 appeared here today and they're not in compliance.
- 25 And I think it's now on the Examiners to

- 1 uphold what they said they were going to do at the last
- 2 hearing, which is make a recommendation to the director
- 3 for an order for sanctions. And we feel that an
- 4 appropriate sanction would be an order requiring them to
- 5 plug or transfer the wells that are currently listed as
- 6 inactive on their inactive well list. And at this point
- 7 in time, that's what the OCD is requesting.
- 8 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Bruce?
- 9 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, harkening
- 10 back -- I mentioned this to Mr. Jones -- harkening back
- 11 to the last hearing, Mr. Finley and Mr. Allen testified
- 12 what this property was like two years ago. It was a mess
- on the federal, state and fee leases and Indian leases.
- 14 Testimony was that 7 to \$8 million has been spent on
- 15 these leases. They are not attempting to avoid anything.
- 16 And I recognize their question about rehabilitating
- 17 waterfloods, but I don't think they would be out there if
- 18 they were losing money right now after two years.
- 19 Yes, the transcript says get this done by
- 20 August 20th. Today is August 20th. You know, I'm
- 21 sorry -- and I've admitted this in prior meetings with
- 22 the Division. I'm not always cognizant about how quickly
- 23 things get posted on the Division's website, et cetera.
- 24 But today is August 20th.
- 25 Everything that the Examiners asked for at the

- 1 July hearing has been taken care of. The one thing that
- 2 might be sitting out there is a bond on that Number 39
- 3 well, but that might be bonded because there is an issue
- 4 of whether that's federal and bonded already. If it's
- 5 federal, it's already been bonded. That's the point. If
- 6 it is fee, then a bond needs to be in place. That's the
- 7 only thing.
- I mean, I'm sorry. I think filing the bond
- 9 last night at 5:00 p.m. or 8:00 a.m. this morning is de
- 10 minimis. I really do. I think that's actually the only
- 11 time I've ever used that Latin term in argument.
- 12 With respect to the negotiations, you know,
- once again Mr. Finley said he contacted them during the
- 14 week of the 10th. Mike Allen contacted Mr. Sanchez. And
- 15 I know Mr. Sanchez has other work to do, as we all do.
- 16 It's a tough world out there. But, you know, it requires
- 17 two parties to negotiate.
- 18 And my witness has testified that Mr. Sanchez
- 19 never -- he told Mr. Allen to call me, which Mr. Allen
- 20 did, and they started getting things lined out, but Mr.
- 21 Allen believed that every -- although the bonds weren't
- 22 in place, they were being prepared. And he thought all
- 23 the paperwork was done and, therefore, he could enter
- 24 into negotiations. But it takes two to talk. Both of my
- 25 witnesses testified that they contacted Mr. Sanchez. I

- 1 recognize he was out of town. I didn't realize that
- 2 until Tuesday morning when Ms. Altomare and Ms.
- 3 MacQuesten informed me of that. If Mr. Sanchez won't
- 4 return their phone calls or their emails, it's pretty
- 5 hard to negotiate an ACO.
- I would request two things: That Nacogdoches,
- 7 within a week's time, either submit proof that that 39
- 8 well is bonded by the federal government or submit a bond
- 9 to the Division if it is private land. And the second
- 10 thing I'd request is that the Division enter an order
- 11 requiring the Division to enter into an ACOI. I don't
- 12 see any profit for anyone on these 48 wells out of --
- 13 Nacogdoches will enter into an ACO regarding bringing
- 14 each and every one of these 48 wells into compliance.
- 15 And, again, what we need is that water
- 16 disposal well. That's why they're sitting out there.
- 17 That's why -- there's a lot of them. We agree there's a
- 18 lot of wells out of compliance. The reason is, for the
- 19 most part -- except for a couple of wells that need a gas
- 20 hookup -- all of those wells need sufficient water
- 21 disposal capability, which is why, at this point in time,
- 22 we're kind of in a catch-22 situation. Anyway, that's
- 23 it, Mr. Examiner. That's what we request.
- 24 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Well, when we said we
- 25 would dismiss this on certain conditions, we -- each side

- 1 is partly right in terms of the conditions having been
- 2 met. Because, Mr. Bruce, you're right that I said, "by
- 3 August 20th." I did not say, "before August 20th," so --
- 4 MS. ALTOMARE: Actually, I think you said
- 5 both. If you look on page 228, you said, "And all
- 6 bonding that is required under our rules will be filed
- 7 prior to August 20th."
- 8 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Yeah. I said, "by
- 9 August 20th," on page 225, however. That would appear to
- 10 have been complied with. However, I also said that,
- 11 "must have at least entered into negotiation with the
- 12 Division for an ACOI," and I don't think there was ever
- any ambiguity about the fact that the Division said they
- 14 would not enter into negotiations until bonding was
- 15 filed. By filing the bonding today, it would have been
- 16 impossible for you to comply with the remaining
- 17 provision.
- 18 So I think the conditions for dismissal of the
- 19 case have not been complied with. That means that the
- 20 case now having been fully submitted, the Division will
- 21 take the case under advisement. I anticipate that we
- 22 would probably make a recommendation to the director in
- 23 about 30 days. In the meantime, if Nacogdoches can
- 24 pursuade the Division staff to enter into an ACOI, they
- 25 can notify us and we could reopen -- we will reconsider

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| 1 | this matter. |
| 2 | But I don't see any point in scheduling |
| 3 | another hearing in view of Mr. Sanchez's testimony that |
| 4 | he does not currently consider that to be a possibility, |
| 5 | and Nacogdoches' testimony that they can't come into |
| 6 | compliance without the additional salt water disposal |
| 7 | capability. Although, I see that as somewhat |
| 8 | questionable, actually, given the fact that they have a |
| 9 | number of existing injection permits that the Division |
| 10 | has not moved to cancel, and it's not at all clear what |
| 11 | the status of those injection wells is, to me, at this |
| 12 | time. |
| 13 | Anyway, Mr. Sanchez and I work for the same |
| 14 | boss, so presumably confronted with a recommendation, |
| 15 | somebody will make a policy decision, and I assume that's |
| 16 | what needs to be done. So with that statement, Case |
| 17 | Number 14326 will be taken under advisement. |
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| 20 | i d |
| 21 | d complete record of the foregoing is |
| 22 | the Examiner hearing of Case No. |
| 23 | F. Committee of the com |
| 24 | Oil Conservation Division, Examiner |
| 25 | anoth a sets |