

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

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

CASE NO. 14539
ORDER NO. R-13347

APPLICATION OF ENERGEN RESOURCES
CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A
PILOT PROJECT, UNORTHODOX OIL
WELL LOCATIONS, AND FOR EXCEPTION
FROM RULE 19.15.15.11 NMAC TO
DETERMINE PROPER WELL DENSITIES
FOR PICTURED CLIFFS FORMATION
WELLS IN PORTIONS OF THE GAVILAN,
TAPACITO AND SOUTH BLANCO-
PICTURED CLIFFS POOLS, RIO ARRIBA
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on September 2, 2010, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Terry Warnell.

NOW, on this 11th day of January, 2011, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner,

FINDS THAT:

- (1) Due notice has been given, and the Division has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this case.
- (2) This case was consolidated for purposes of hearing with Case No. 12857 (Reopened). However, since the two cases involve different agenda, separate orders are being issued.

(3) Energen Resources Corporation (“Energen” or “applicant”) seeks approval for the establishment of an 8-well infill pilot project program to determine proper well densities for the Pictured Cliffs formation in portions of the Gavilan-Pictured Cliffs Pool (77360), the Tapacito-Pictured Cliffs Pool (85920) and the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool (72439) in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

(4) Applicant further seeks an exception to the well density development limitations applicable to each of the referenced pools. The proposed eight infill wells and lands comprising the pilot project study area are as follow:

NW/4 Section 23, T-27N, R-3W

Gavilan-Pictured Cliffs Pool

Jicarilla 94 Well No. 5C (API No. 30-039-27671)

Location: SW/4 NW/4

NW/4 Section 11, T-26N, R-3W

Gavilan-Pictured Cliffs Pool

Jicarilla 96 Well No. 5A (API No. 30-039-21238)

Location: NW/4 NW/4

SE/4 Section 19, T-26N, R-3W

Tapacito-Pictured Cliffs Pool

Jicarilla 98 Well No. 2B (API No. 30-039-27308)

Location: NE/4 SE/4

SW/4 Section 20, T-26N, R-3W

Tapacito-Pictured Cliffs Pool

Jicarilla 98 Well No. 3B (API No. 30-039-26915)

Location: NE/4 SW/4

NW/4 Section 33, T-26N, R-3W

Tapacito-Pictured Cliffs Pool

Jicarilla 117E Well No. 9B (API No. 30-039-29295)

Location: SW/4 NW/4

SW/4 Section 34, T-26N, R-3W

Tapacito-Pictured Cliffs Pool

Jicarilla 117E Well No. 3B (API No. 30-039-29296)

Location: NW/4 SW/4

SE/4 Section 5, T-26N, R-5W

South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool

Jicarilla 152W Well No. 2M (API No. 30-039-26575)

Location: NW/4 SE/4

NW/4 Section 6, T-26N, R-5W
South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs Pool
Jicarilla West Well No. 9M (API No. 30-039-26306)
Location: NE/4 NW/4

(5) In addition, Applicant seeks approval pursuant to Rule 19.15.15.13 of unorthodox well locations for four of the referenced wells:

Jicarilla 94 Well No. 5C	2540FNL, 680FWL, Section 23, T-27N, R-3W
Jicarilla 98 Well No. 2B	2200FSL, 660FEL, Section 19, T-26N, R-3W
Jicarilla 98 Well No. 3B	1980FSL, 2350FWL, Section 20, T-26N, R-3W
Jicarilla 117E Well No. 9B	2515FNL, 5654FWL, Section 33, T-26N, R-3W

(6) The Gavilan-Pictured Cliffs Pool is an “unprorated gas pool” not subject to the Division’s statewide rules entitled “Gas Proration and Allocation” (Part 21). This pool is currently governed by Division Rules 15.10.C and 15.11.C, which provide for 160-acre spacing units, require wells to be no closer than 660 feet to the outer boundary of their assigned units nor closer than 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary, and preclude the drilling, recompletion, and production of a second gas well within a single 160-acre gas spacing unit.

(7) Both the South Blanco-Pictured Cliffs and Tapacito-Pictured Cliffs Pools are prorated gas pools and are therefore subject to the Division’s statewide rules (Part 21). Both pools are developed on standard 160-acre spacing units with wells no closer than 660 feet to the outer boundary of their assigned units nor closer than 10 feet to any quarter-quarter section line or subdivision inner boundary. While the pool rules governing both pools (see Division Order No. R-8170, as amended) do not specifically restrict the number of wells per unit, neither do they specifically permit additional wells.

(8) Applicant appeared at the hearing through counsel and presented land and geologic testimony as follows:

(a) Each of the 160-acre units is owned by Energen and ownership is identical in all pools.

(b) It is not economic to drill new wells to recover the incremental reserves out of the Pictured Cliffs.

(c) Volumetric analysis suggests that increasing well density to two wells per 160-acre spacing unit would recover additional reserves and that the current one well per 160-acre unit density rule may result in a low percentage of the gas in place being produced.

(9) No other party appeared at the hearing or otherwise objected to the granting of this application.

(10) The granting of this application will afford the Applicant the opportunity to gather additional data and examine various geologic and engineering factors to determine proper well density and well locations for all Pictured Cliffs Gas Pools and formations. Use of the data from the pilot project could ultimately result in the recovery of additional gas reserves that may not otherwise be recovered. Granting this application will prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The application of Energen Resources Corporation to conduct an 8-well infill pilot study program in the Pictured Cliffs formation as described in Finding four (4) of this Order in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico simultaneously and to dedicate a unit consisting of Section 30, Township 24 North, Range 1 East, NMPM, in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, is hereby approved.

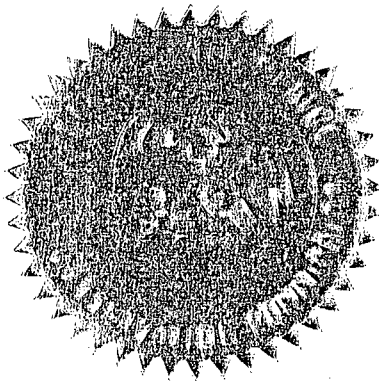
(2) The unorthodox location of Applicant's proposed four wells, as described in Finding five (5) of this Order is approved.

(3) The applicant is further authorized to commingle oil and gas production from the Gavilan-Pictured Cliffs and Tapacito-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pools (in accordance with Rule 19.15.12.11.C(2) NMAC), in those wells described in this order.

(4) The operator shall notify the Aztec District Office of the Division upon implementation of commingling operations.

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

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



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STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Sanchez", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

DANIEL SANCHEZ
Acting Director