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				Page 3
1		DEVON EXHIBITS ADMITTED		
2	EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	PAGE	
3	DEVON-1	Documents showing five planned wells on LE Ranch	20	
4	DEVON-2	C-102 form for Loving 7 Fee	20	
5	DEVON-3	C-102 form for Goodnight 1 fee	20	
6	DEVON-4	C-102 form for Longhorn 28 fee	20	
7	DEVON-5	C-102 form for Jinglebob 29 fee	20	
8	DEVON-6	C-102 form for Open Range 34 fee	20	
10	DEVON-7	Samedan Royalty Corp, 8/5/2010,	20	
11		with attachments		
12	DEVON-8A	Case No. 14528 Affidavit of Notice with attachments	20	
13	DEVON-8B	Case No. 14534 Affidavit of Notice with attachments	20	
14	DEVON-8C	Case No. 14535 Affidavit of Notice with attachments	20	
16	DEVON-8D	Case No. 14536 Affidavit of Notice with attachments	20	
17	DEVON-8E	Case No. 14537 Affidavit of Notice with attachments	20	
19	DEVON-9	Geologic illustrations for Case Nos. 14528 and 14535	45	
20	DEVON-10	Geologic illustrations for Case	45	
21		Nos. 14534, 14536 and 14537		
22				
23				
24				
25				
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- 1 THE EXAMINER: Let's go ahead then and go
- 2 back on the record. And Mr. Bruce, we're going to
- 3 hear all of these? There are five cases?
- 4 MR. BRUCE: Correct.
- 5 THE EXAMINER: So then let's go ahead and
- 6 call Case 14534. I think they all -- do they all
- 7 read the same.
- 8 MR. BRUCE: Not quite.
- 9 THE EXAMINER: Not quite? Okay. So we're
- 10 going to hear all five of these cases. Case 14534,
- 11 application of Devon Energy Production Company, LP,
- 12 for approval of a nonstandard gas spacing and
- 13 proration unit, unorthodox well locations and
- 14 compulsory pooling, Chaves County, New Mexico.
- 15 Case No. 14535, application of Devon
- 16 Energy Production Company, LP, for compulsory
- 17 pooling, Chaves County New Mexico.
- 18 Case No. 14536, application Devon Energy
- 19 Production Company, LP, for compulsory pooling,
- 20 Chaves County, New Mexico. That's three, I believe.
- Case No. 14537, application of Devon
- 22 Energy Production Company, LP, for compulsory,
- 23 pooling, Chaves County, New Mexico.
- 24 And the fifth case, Case No. 14528,
- 25 application of Devon Energy Production Company, LP



- 1 for nonstandard gas spacing and proration unit in
- 2 unorthodox well locations and compulsory pooling,
- 3 Chaves County, New Mexico.
- 4 Call for appearances.
- 5 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce, of
- 6 Santa Fe, representing the applicant. I have two
- 7 witnesses.
- THE EXAMINER: Any other appearances?
- 9 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom
- 10 Kellahin, of the Santa Fe law firm of Kellahin &
- 11 Kellahin, appearing this morning in all five cases
- 12 for Chisos, LTD.
- 13 THE EXAMINER: Would the witnesses please
- 14 stand and state your name and be sworn?
- 15 (William James Ball, Jr., and Curtis D.
- 16 McKinney were duly sworn by the court reporter.)
- 17 WILLIAM JAMES BALL, JR.,
- 18 having been previously duly sworn, testified as
- 19 follows:
- 20 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 21 BY MR. BRUCE:
- Q. Mr. Ball, could you state your full name
- 23 and where you reside?
- A. William James Ball, Jr., Edmond, Oklahoma.
- Q. Who do you work for, and in what capacity?

- 1 A. Devon Energy Production Company, LP. Land
- 2 advisor for New Mexico.
- 3 Q. Have you previously testified before the
- 4 Commission?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And were your credentials as an expert
- 7 petroleum land man accepted as a matter of record?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And are you familiar with the land matters
- 10 involved in these applications?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender
- 13 Mr. Ball as an expert petroleum land man.
- 14 THE EXAMINER: Any objections,
- 15 Mr. Kellahin, to him?
- MR. KELLAHIN: No.
- 17 THE EXAMINER: So recognized.
- 18 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Mr. Ball, could you
- 19 identify Exhibit 1 for the Examiner and discuss its
- 20 contents briefly?
- 21 A. It's an exhibit showing the first five
- 22 wells that we plan on drilling on the LE Ranch. The
- 23 LE Ranch is about 164 square miles or sections of
- 24 land, approximately 104,000 acres. And again, these
- 25 are the first five wells that we plan on drilling

- 1 there.
- 2 You'll note on the bottom notation, below
- 3 the listed five, the notation is for the Loving
- 4 7 fee 1H. That notation is there just to indicate
- 5 to you that that one will be a little bit of a
- 6 directional down into a pilot hole formation.
- 7 Q. And what is the approximate depths of
- 8 these wells?
- 9 A. The average of all five, as shown on this
- 10 exhibit, is about 8,600 feet, approximately. And
- 11 the total vertical depth is approximately
- 12 11,600 feet.
- 13 Q. And all of these wells will be drilled --
- 14 the pilot hole will be drilled to test the Devonian
- 15 formation?
- 16 A. That's correct. Our plan is to go into
- 17 the top of the Devonian, because it's just a few
- 18 hundred feet below the Mississippi Limestone, which
- 19 is our objective.
- Q. The primary objective?
- 21 A. Yeah.
- Q. Mr. Ball, let's go through the plan plats
- 23 next. What is Exhibit 2?
- 24 A. They're C-102 forms. I believe you'll see
- 25 that on this C-102 form, the top page. It shows the

- 1 proration units, the surface location, the bottom
- 2 hole location, and other general descriptions.
- If you note on the top two -- that should
- 4 be the Loving Well and the Goodnight Well -- those
- 5 are the proration units that will go across the
- 6 section lines.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. Do you want me to describe the second
- 9 page? It's just the Midland Map Company maps
- 10 showing the proration unit. Once again, the red dot
- is the surface location, the green is the bottom
- 12 hole location.
- Q. Okay. Now, with respect to the Exhibit 2,
- 14 which is the Loving 7 No. 1 Well, the pilot hole is
- 15 at an unorthodox oil well location in the southwest
- 16 quarter, northeast quarter of the section, correct?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. And does Devon request unorthodox location
- 19 approval for that well?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, this is the well you mentioned that
- 22 the pilot hole will be directionally drilled a
- 23 little bit. There are two unorthodox locations in
- 24 this case; is that correct?
- 25 A. That is correct.

- 1 Q. The initial pilot hole down to, say, the
- 2 top of the Morrow. And where will the Devonian be
- 3 located?
- 4 A. The Devonian is just immediately directly
- 5 below the Mississippi Limestone formation.
- 6 Q. And what quarter section will be dedicated
- 7 in the Devonian?
- 8 A. That would be southwest of the -- excuse
- 9 me, southeast of the northeast.
- 10 Q. So the well will be drilled vertically
- 11 down towards the Morrow-Mississippian and then
- 12 deviated slightly over toward the southeast
- 13 quarter/northeast quarter in the Devonian, correct?
- 14 A. That's correct, half of Section 7.
- 15 Q. Okay. So there will be unorthodox
- 16 locations in the southwest/northeast and in the
- 17 southeast/northeast?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Devon also requests the highlighted
- 20 nonstandard unit. And for the record, could you
- 21 describe the acreage in the nonstandard unit for the
- 22 Mississippian?
- 23 A. It would be the south half of the
- 24 northeast of 7, the north half of the southeast of
- 25 7. In Section 8, it would be the south half of the

- 1 northwest and the north half of the southwest of 8.
- Q. And do you seek forced pooling of both the
- 3 nonstandard unit as to the Missippian?
- A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And then you also seek forced pooling as
- 6 to separately the southwest/northeast and the
- 7 southeast/northeast?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 O. The southeast/northeast, as to the
- 10 Devonian only? And the southwest/northeast as to
- 11 any oil zone that may be discovered uphole?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 Q. Now, turn to the second page of Exhibit 2,
- 14 briefly. Could you describe a little bit the land
- 15 holdings within the LE Ranch?
- 16 A. Devon has leased all these fee lands, with
- 17 the exception of -- well, has leased or we've
- 18 recently reached an agreement in the last few days
- 19 with all the parties that own minerals,
- 20 approximately 12 royalty owners, with the exception
- 21 of one.
- 22 And as you can see, in most cases all the
- 23 way around the proration unit Devon has these lands
- 24 leased up.
- Q. But as to mineral ownership in the

- 1 LE Ranch, are the 12 owners or so you've mentioned
- 2 common throughout this area?
- 3 A. Yes, they are.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. It's kind of on a checkerboard pattern for
- 6 some. For example, as you can see, there are 320
- 7 splits in most of the sections, and the ratios on
- 8 some of the royalty owners are different on one side
- 9 than they are on the other.
- But in some cases, they're consistent.
- 11 For example, if someone might have 6.25 on the east
- 12 half, they'll have 6.25 on the west half percent.
- 13 Q. Okay. But with respect to -- and this
- 14 goes back to notice purposes for the nonstandard
- unit portion or even the unorthodox location portion
- 16 of the application.
- 17 The interest owners are all the same in
- 18 Sections 7 and 8 and in most of the other sections,
- 19 correct?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. Let's go to Exhibit 3. And what does that
- 22 reflect?
- 23 A. Of course, it's a C-102. And it reflects
- 24 the same type of information: Surface location,
- 25 bottom hole, location proration unit or well unit

- 1 outline.
- 2 It's the same situation as far as the
- 3 depth. We'll go down to the top of the Devonian.
- 4 But our objective, as with each one, is again the
- 5 horizontal and Mississippi Limestone.
- Q. And in this instance, the well location,
- 7 which is an unorthodox oil well location, will be
- 8 vertically drilled from the surface down into the
- 9 Devonian, correct?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. And you seek approval of the unorthodox
- 12 locations for any oil zones that may be included in
- 13 that vertical limit, correct?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. And you also seek approval of the
- 16 nonstandard unit?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. And finally, you seek forced pooling of
- 19 all the -- and we'll get to the company in a
- 20 minute -- of mineral interests in the nonstandard
- 21 unit and in the 40 acres where the vertical hole is
- 22 located?
- 23 A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. The remaining three are a little
- 25 simpler, Mr. Ball. Could you run through

- 1 Exhibits 4, 5 and 6 and just discuss what is being
- 2 sought in these cases?
- 3 A. The same objectives as the other two.
- 4 They're obviously just a regular well unit, not a
- 5 nonstandard location and not a special well unit
- 6 situation.
- 7 Q. So the Mississippian unit will be the
- 8 north half of Section 28 in this matter?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. And the well locations are orthodox?
- 11 A. That's right.
- 12 Q. And the surface location, the pilot hole,
- 13 will be vertically drilled to the Devonian?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. So you seek the forced pooling of the
- 16 northeast/northwest quarter as to 40-acre zones and
- 17 the north half as to 320-acre zones?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And does the same hold true as to the
- 20 Jinglebob 29 fee reflected on Exhibit 5?
- 21 A. Yes, it does.
- Q. Again, it's a north half well unit for the
- 23 Mississippian or any gas zone?
- 24 A. That's correct.
- Q. And you would also seek to force pool the

- 1 northwest quarter/northwest quarter as to any
- 2 40-acre oil zones?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. And again, the surface location, the pilot
- 5 hole, will be drilled vertically into the Devonian?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. And finally, as to the Open Range Well in
- 8 Section 34, the north half unit will be will be
- 9 dedicated to any gas well zones?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. And the northwest/northwest will be
- 12 dedicated as to any oil zones?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. Who do you seek to force pool in these
- 15 cases?
- 16 A. We've reached agreement with two other
- 17 parties. But we're only force pooling Samedan
- 18 Royalty Corporation.
- 19 Q. Two other parties were notified of these
- 20 matters, I believe, Pure Energy Resources and
- 21 Chisos?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- Q. And you have reached voluntary agreement
- 24 with those two interests, obviously?
- 25 A. Yes, we have.

- 1 Q. And you do not seek to force pool them?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. As to Samedan, what interest does it own
- 4 in all of these well units?
- 5 A. In all of these well units, Samedan
- 6 Royalty Corporation owns 6.25 percent.
- 7 Q. And that is of unleased mineral interest?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. What is Exhibit 7, Mr. Ball?
- 10 A. Exhibit 7, lower in your stack, of course,
- 11 going from the bottom up, is the operating
- 12 agreement, certain pages out of it.
- Then just above that is the AFE which
- 14 accompanied the well proposal. And that was made
- 15 back on July 14th. There's proof of the facts, and
- 16 then it was sent Certified Mail.
- 17 Just above that is -- basically after it
- 18 was mailed out, we felt like there needed to be some
- 19 clarification, a better clarification, as to the
- 20 situation with the pilot hole.
- 21 So there's correspondence in there, e-mail
- 22 and another Certified letter. The Certified letter
- 23 is August 2nd.
- 24 And then again, not knowing what Samedan
- 25 was going to do, on August 5th, regardless of not

- 1 knowing what they did, I just decided to mail them
- 2 the JOA, which is the bottom part of this exhibit.
- Q. Okay. And Exhibit 7 contains all of the
- 4 proposal letters as to all five wells, correct?
- 5 A. That is correct.
- 6 Q. Now, these proposals were sent out in July
- 7 and August, not that long ago. Did Devon have prior
- 8 contacts with Samedan?
- 9 A. Our contacts started with Samedan on
- 10 October 17, 2008, so almost two years.
- It's been quite an experience from my end
- 12 to have dealt with five different land men within
- 13 the organization. And we did not get an inclination
- or a response as to what they were going to do
- 15 until, I think, a week ago today, when they finally
- 16 did respond to what they considered was a lease
- 17 form, that they wanted to lease interest.
- 18 But the conditions in the lease were not
- 19 acceptable to Devon nor the terms that they put with
- 20 this.
- During that time, just to show how much
- 22 time, it was almost 19 months that I had been
- 23 getting the reason that they didn't have an answer
- 24 out of their business unit.
- 25 So basically, we are still in

- 1 negotiations. I am hopeful that we will come to an
- 2 agreement. Devon wants to make an agreement with
- 3 them, and I think we'll get there.
- 4 O. And if Samedan does sign a lease or reach
- 5 other voluntary agreement, will you notify the
- 6 Division?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Now, you mentioned the first contact was
- 9 October 2008. It wasn't just then, and then these
- 10 letters? There were a number of contacts and
- 11 negotiations in the interim, correct?
- 12 A. Many dozens, yes.
- 13 Q. In your opinion, has Devon Energy made a
- 14 good-faith effort to obtain the voluntary joinder of
- 15 Samedan in these well units?
- 16 A. Yes, we have.
- 17 Q. Now, each well proposal to Samedan
- 18 contained in AFE. What are the approximate costs of
- 19 these wells?
- 20 A. They're in the approximate range of
- 21 3,100,000.
- Q. And is this cost reasonable and comparable
- 23 to the cost of other wells drilled at this depth in
- 24 this area of New Mexico?
- 25 A. Yes, they are.

- 1 Q. And what overhead rates does Devon
- 2 propose?
- 3 A. Monthly drilling -- excuse me. Daily
- 4 drilling overhead rates, 5,500. Monthly is \$550.
- 5 Q. Are these rates reasonable and comparable
- 6 to what you're charging in your operating agreement?
- 7 A. Yes, they are.
- 8 Q. Do you request a 200 percent risk charge
- 9 if Samedan goes nonconsent?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And do you request that Devon Energy be
- 12 appointed operator of the well?
- 13 A. Yes.
- MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I've handed you
- 15 Exhibits 8A through 8E. And these are the
- 16 individual well notifications for each of the cases.
- 17 You will see that Pure and Chisos were notified, as
- 18 well as Samedan.
- 19 Of course, Pure and Chisos are dismissed
- 20 from the case, but Samedan did receive actual notice
- 21 of all of the pool of applications.
- 22 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Mr. Ball, in your opinion,
- 23 is the granting of these applications in the
- 24 interest of conservation and the prevention of
- 25 waste?

- 1 A. Yes, they are.
- Q. And were Exhibits 1 through 7 prepared by
- 3 you or under your supervision or compiled from
- 4 company business records?
- 5 A. Yes, they were.
- 6 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move the
- 7 admission of Devon Exhibits 1 through 7 and 8A
- 8 through 8E.
- 9 MR. KELLAHIN: No objection, Mr. Examiner.
- 10 THE EXAMINER: Exhibits 1 through 7 and 8A
- 11 through 8E are admitted.
- 12 (Devon Exhibits 1 through 7 and 8A through
- 13 8E inclusive were admitted.)
- MR. BRUCE: I have no further questions of
- 15 the witness.
- 16 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, because
- 17 Mr. Ball has testified that Devon and my client have
- 18 reached a voluntarily agreement, I have no
- 19 questions. And dismissal of my client from these
- 20 cases causes us not to engage Mr. Ball in any
- 21 questions.
- 22 THE EXAMINER: Thank you.
- 23 Mr. Brooks.
- 24 MR. BROOKS: Well, I think the Examiner
- 25 having experienced some difficulty in keeping this

- 1 all sorted out, I'm having a little trouble keeping
- 2 it sorted out in my mind. I want to ask you a few
- 3 questions, just to clarify.
- 4 We're dealing with five different wells
- 5 here, correct?
- 6 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 7 MR. BROOKS: And there's a different unit
- 8 for each one?
- 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 10 MR. BROOKS: You know, it looked to me
- 11 like only, from what I saw, two of them, 14528 and
- 12 14534, involve an unorthodox unit for the purpose
- of, I assume, a horizontal well; is that correct?
- 14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Those two cases
- 15 have three things going on with it: Nonstandard
- 16 location, the pooling, and the nonstandard gas
- 17 spacing.
- 18 MR. BROOKS: Are the other three vertical
- 19 wells?
- 20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, down to the
- 21 Devonian. But in all cases, they're all going to be
- 22 horizontal. That's our objective.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay. Well, what is the
- 24 spacing unit in these cases?
- THE WITNESS: For Mississippi, horizontal

- 1 limestone is 320; and the Devonian oil would be 40.
- 2 MR. BROOKS: Okay. But you're not
- 3 applying for a nonstandard unit. So what is the
- 4 situation there?
- 5 THE WITNESS: I think the difference is
- 6 the two that we are doing the nonstandard versus the
- 7 others is they cross the section lines.
- 8 MR. BROOKS: I'm not sure I understand why
- 9 it would not be necessary, if you're doing a
- 10 horizontal in a 40 acre spacing, to have a
- 11 nonstandard unit, even if they didn't cross the
- 12 section lines.
- MR. BRUCE: The Mississippian would be
- 14 320 acres of gas.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay. You're doing the
- 16 horizontal in the Mississippian and in the Devonian?
- 17 MR. BRUCE: That is correct.
- 18 MR. BROOKS: Okay. So the horizontal is
- 19 only in the Mississippian?
- MR. BRUCE: But the pilot holes go down to
- 21 the Devonian. But then they come back and kick off
- 22 in the Mississippian.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay. So the only horizontal
- 24 wells are in the Mississippian?
- MR. BRUCE: That is correct.

- 1 MR. BROOKS: Which is some 320-acre
- 2 spacing. Okay, that helps.
- 3 Samedan is the only party to be approved,
- 4 correct?
- 5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 6 MR. BROOKS: And that is true of all
- 7 cases?
- 8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 9 MR. BROOKS: All five cases?
- 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- MR. BROOKS: And do I understand that
- 12 Samedan's interest is uniform in all the lines
- 13 involved?
- 14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 15 MR. BROOKS: And that would apply to all
- 16 formations?
- 17 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay. That also simplifies
- 19 things.
- Now, what about the unorthodox well
- 21 location aspects in Cases 28 and 34? Have you given
- 22 notice to the owners?
- I don't recall any that I heard the
- 24 explanation of the compliance with the notice
- 25 requirements for the nonstandard location.

- 1 Are there any, or are they all common
- 2 ownership?
- THE WITNESS: It's all the same parties.
- 4 And Devon, our working interest is the same all the
- 5 way around.
- 6 MR. BROOKS: Are all the working interests
- 7 identical in the offsetting units versus the units
- 8 where the nonstandard locations will be?
- 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 10 MR. BROOKS: Okay. So then there are no
- 11 discrepant working interests between any of the
- 12 units adjoining the nonstandard units?
- 13 THE WITNESS: Say that again, sir.
- MR. BROOKS: Well, I think I was just
- 15 repeating myself. I think I've already got your
- 16 answer.
- But just to be sure: In every instance
- 18 where, in both of the two nonstandard locations, the
- 19 offsetting units have identical working interest
- 20 ownership to the unit in which the nonstandard
- 21 location is located; is that correct?
- 22 THE WITNESS: I'm looking, sir. Just a
- 23 second. The royalty ownership for the offsetting
- 24 nonstandard proration units --
- MR. BRUCE: For the unorthodox locations,

- 1 Mr. Ball. That's what he asked.
- THE WITNESS: Yes, they're the same.
- 3 MR. BROOKS: Okay. So I'm looking at
- 4 Exhibit 2, which is 14528.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 6 MR. BROOKS: And in Exhibit 2, the project
- 7 area consists of -- I'm not clear on this. What is
- 8 the project area for the well in Exhibit 2?
- 9 THE WITNESS: For the horizontal
- 10 Mississippi Limestone, the project area is outlined
- 11 on the second page.
- 12 MR. BROOKS: Okay. That's what I was
- 13 thinking. Because it's the same as is outlined on
- 14 the first page by the hashmarks, right?
- 15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 16 MR. BROOKS: So that the project area
- 17 consists of Units G, H, I and J in Section 7 and
- 18 Units E, F, K and L in Section 8?
- 19 THE WITNESS: That's correct, sir.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay. And it's a 320-acre
- 21 unit. So what's nonstandard about the location?
- 22 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, that would be
- 23 the oil well location.
- 24 MR. BROOKS: Okay. So the horizontal
- 25 well, it's not nonstandard in the Mississippian?

- 1 It's only nonstandard in the Devonian?
- 2 MR. BRUCE: It is standard in the
- 3 Mississippian. It would be nonstandard as to any
- 4 oil zone.
- 5 MR. BROOKS: Forty-acre unit?
- 6 MR. BRUCE: Yes.
- 7 MR. BROOKS: That's because it's 2,500
- 8 from the north, which puts it 140. From the south
- 9 edge of the unit, it's 1,400 from the east line of
- 10 the section, which puts it 80 feet from the east
- 11 line of the unit?
- MR. BRUCE: That is correct, Mr. Examiner,
- 13 for everything but one thing. And I think
- 14 Mr. McKinney will go into this a little bit.
- 15 As to the Devonian --
- MR. BROOKS: Yeah.
- 17 MR. BRUCE: -- the unorthodox location is
- 18 actually in the southeast/northwest in Unit H.
- 19 MR. BROOKS: So the bottom hole location
- 20 will be in H, rather than G, for the Devonian?
- 21 MR. BRUCE: For the Devonian. And it will
- 22 be approximately 2,500 feet from the north line and
- 23 I think about 1,280 from the east line.
- MR. BROOKS: So the offsetting units to
- 25 the nonstandard location are going to be Units F, I

- 1 and J in Section 7?
- MR. BRUCE: Well, I and J, not F.
- 3 MR. BROOKS: Why not F?
- 4 MR. BRUCE: It doesn't encroach on Unit F.
- 5 It's only 1,400 feet from the east line.
- 6 MR. BROOKS: Well, I thought you said that
- 7 the bottom hole location was going to be in Unit G?
- 8 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, for this well --
- 9 MR. BROOKS: Or Unit H? Where is the
- 10 bottom hole location going to be?
- MR. BRUCE: The bottom hole location in
- 12 the Devonian only will be in Unit H. But you said,
- "Unit F." So it should be G, I and J; not F.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay, I understand that. I'm
- 15 sorry. I said "F," and I should have said "G."
- 16 It's G, I and J are the offsetting units?
- MR. BRUCE: In the Devonian.
- 18 MR. BROOKS: In the Devonian.
- MR. BRUCE: As to other uphole zones that
- 20 are oil, the offsetting units will be H, I and J.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay. Now, is the ownership
- 22 of the working interest uniform as to Units G, H, I
- 23 and J in Section 7?
- 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, they are.
- MR. BROOKS: And is that true in all

- 1 formations?
- THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- MR. BROOKS: Thank you. That's what I
- 4 needed to know.
- Now, let me go to Case No. 14534. That
- 6 will be what exhibit number?
- 7 MR. BRUCE: Exhibit 3, Mr. Examiner.
- 8 MR. BROOKS: Exhibit 3? Okay. Yeah, it
- 9 looks like 145311, but I realize that's probably
- 10 something you didn't get copied. Something didn't
- 11 come out on the copy. Okay.
- This well is located in Unit G of
- 13 Section 1, correct?
- 14 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- 15 MR. BROOKS: And the drilling pattern is
- 16 the same, i.e., it's going to be a horizontal in the
- 17 Mississippian and a vertical in other formations in
- 18 which it might be completed?
- 19 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 20 MR. BROOKS: Okay. And the project area
- 21 for the horizontal is in Section 1 of 12 South, 28
- 22 East? It's Units G, H, I and J?
- 23 And in Section 6 of 12 South, 29 East,
- 24 it's Units E, F, K and L; is that correct?
- THE WITNESS: That's correct.

- 1 MR. BROOKS: And that's a 320-acre
- 2 nonstandard unit. But it's nonstandard in
- 3 configuration, not in size, correct? So it's
- 4 320-acre spacing?
- 5 THE WITNESS: That's correct.
- 6 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Now, as to then the
- 7 nonstandard unit aspects, the surface location is in
- 8 Unit G of Section 1, correct?
- 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 10 MR. BROOKS: And it's nonstandard to the
- 11 south, but it's not nonstandard to the east or west,
- 12 correct?
- 13 THE WITNESS: That's correct.
- MR. BROOKS: Now, that surface location,
- is the same thing going to be true of the bottom
- 16 hole locations in the units that might be completed
- 17 on 40 acres?
- 18 THE WITNESS: I believe the bottom hole
- 19 location is standard, which is 1,980 on the south
- 20 and the west.
- MR. BRUCE: Mr. Ball, the surface
- 22 location.
- 23 THE WITNESS: Oh. I thought he said,
- 24 "bottom hole."
- MR. BROOKS: Yeah. I was asking about the

- 1 bottom hole location because, you know, a
- 2 nonstandard surface location does not require an
- 3 exception. So unless you're trying to complete in a
- 4 formation in which it will be nonstandard, then you
- 5 don't need a nonstandard location.
- 6 Well, if you plan to complete a formation
- 7 and any part of the hole and that formation is a
- 8 nonstandard, then you need a nonstandard location
- 9 approval.
- 10 But only the surface location or location
- in formations in which you're not going to have the
- 12 hole opened or completed then doesn't require
- 13 nonstandard location approval. That's why I'm
- 14 asking the question the way I am.
- 15 MR. BRUCE: Well, the surface location,
- 16 that is the pilot hole location --
- 17 MR. BROOKS: Right.
- 18 MR. BRUCE: -- is unorthodox as to any oil
- 19 zone.
- MR. BROOKS: Right. And it may be
- 21 completed as to oil zones as to which it's
- 22 unorthodox?
- MR. BRUCE: That is correct.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay. But the only
- 25 encroachments as from the surface location, at least

- the only encroachment, is toward Unit I in
- 2 Section 1, correct?
- 3 MR. BRUCE: J.
- 4 THE WITNESS: J.
- 5 MR. BROOKS: Okay, J. I stand corrected.
- 6 The only encroachment is toward Unit J in
- 7 Section 1?
- 8 THE WITNESS: That's correct.
- 9 MR. BROOKS: And so here comes my question
- 10 then: Is ownership of the working interest
- 11 identical as between Units G and J in Section 1,
- 12 12 South, 28 East?
- THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, it is.
- 14 MR. BROOKS: And is that true for all
- 15 formations?
- 16 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- MR. BROOKS: Okay. Now, let's talk about
- 18 the unorthodox spacing units or proration units that
- 19 you are requesting. And once again, that only
- 20 applies in Cases No. 14528 and 14534; is that
- 21 correct?
- THE WITNESS: That's correct, sir.
- MR. BROOKS: And this is in the
- 24 Mississippian?
- THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

- 1 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Now, I foresee that
- 2 these are problem situations. Because if you cut
- 3 out four units in this way out of the middle of two
- 4 sections, then it's going to be very difficult for
- 5 anybody to form standard spacing units in that
- 6 pattern.
- 7 So it's important that we have
- 8 notification all the way around. Do you have
- 9 notification all the way around to the extent that
- 10 there's not other ownership?
- MR. BRUCE: I think I asked Mr. Ball this
- 12 question. But Mr. Ball confirmed that if you just
- 13 look at the Loving Well, that the interest owners in
- 14 Sections 7 and 8 surrounding the nonstandard unit
- 15 are also all the same interest owners within the
- 16 nonstandard unit.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 18 MR. BROOKS: Okay. And is the same thing
- 19 true of Section 1 of 12 South, 28 East, and
- 20 Section 6 of 12 South, 29 East, in Case No. 14534?
- 21 THE WITNESS: If what you're saying is,
- 22 you take the 320 project area of this well, the
- 23 Goodnight, and if I was to take exact 320s all the
- 24 way around, it's not the same leasehold owners.
- 25 Because you can see there in Section 36 we

- 1 have plantation. And going around, it looks like
- 2 it's all Devon until another area to the south,
- 3 where it says "Crystal" and "Chase."
- MR. BRUCE: Just as to Sections 1 and 6,
- 5 Mr. Ball, are the interest owners the same?
- THE WITNESS: Yes, they are.
- 7 MR. BROOKS: And I'm inclined to think
- 8 that's all we would require, because the owners up
- 9 in Section 36 could form standard units.
- The owners in Section 6 can only develop
- 11 their acreage -- if there's any desire to develop in
- 12 the Mississippian, the acreage in Section 6, then
- 13 there's going to have to be some more nonstandard
- 14 units created there.
- 15 But I do not see that the owners in
- 16 Section 36 are adversely affected.
- 17 MR. BRUCE: There's one other thing.
- Mr. Ball, do the leases from the fee
- 19 owners in these two wells, have they executed
- 20 provisions of the lease form that allows you to form
- 21 a nonstandard unit for purposes of these horizontal
- 22 tests?
- 23 THE WITNESS: Yes. We obtained waivers or
- 24 have agreed to obtain waivers in the case of the
- 25 Pure and Chisos. We are wrapping up the paperwork.

- 1 But they are aware that we've done a waiver from the
- 2 lease form that allows us to go across section
- 3 lines. And of course, they're very much aware of
- 4 everything in this well here.
- 5 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Who are the working
- 6 interest owners in those units? Are those the same
- 7 ones, Chisos and Samedan?
- 8 THE WITNESS: The only working interest
- 9 owners will be Chisos, for part of their interest,
- 10 Chisos, Ltd. --
- MR. BROOKS: Right.
- 12 THE WITNESS: -- Devon, and a person named
- 13 D.K. Boyd.
- MR. BROOKS: And do you have a waiver from
- 15 Mr. Boyd?
- 16 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 17 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Can you file copies of
- 18 those waivers in this case so we can be sure that
- 19 we're --
- MR. BRUCE: Yes, sir.
- MR. BROOKS: -- taken care of on the
- 22 notice requirements there?
- Because in the case of compulsory pooling,
- 24 by rule, if the parties have joined by contract,
- 25 they don't have to be notified, so we don't have

- 1 that issue.
- 2 But we do have that issue as to the
- 3 nonstandard units. So if notice is not necessary
- 4 because of the waiver, then we need the waivers to
- 5 be filed.
- I think I've taken care of all my
- 7 concerns. Sorry it took so long.
- 8 THE EXAMINER: I appreciate that. Thank
- 9 you.
- Mr. Ball, on the Goodnight No. 1, that's
- 11 the second well that we're talking about on
- 12 Exhibit 3, page 2?
- 13 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 14 THE EXAMINER: I'm curious as to why
- 15 you're dipping down to the southeast with that well
- 16 and not just going --
- 17 THE WITNESS: I think, if it's all right,
- 18 if I let our geologist, who's going to testify in a
- 19 minute. But I think it's probably a science reason
- 20 that he will go over.
- 21 THE EXAMINER: Have you had enough fun for
- 22 the morning? It's times like this when I'm glad
- 23 Mr. Brooks is here, because I've got all these
- 24 questions for him when I go to write these up.
- 25 All right. I don't think there's any more

- 1 questions of this witness.
- MR. BRUCE: Okay. I call Mr. McKinney to
- 3 the stand.
- 4 CURTIS D. MCKINNEY,
- 5 having been previously duly sworn, testified as
- 6 follows:
- 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 8 BY MR. BRUCE:
- 9 Q. Would you please state your name for the
- 10 record?
- 11 A. Curtis D. McKinney.
- 12 Q. Where do you reside?
- 13 A. Oklahoma City.
- 14 Q. And who do you work for?
- 15 A. Devon Energy Corporation.
- 16 Q. What is your job with Devon?
- 17 A. Petroleum geologist.
- 18 Q. Have you previously testified before the
- 19 Division?
- 20 A. I have.
- Q. And were your credentials as an expert
- 22 petroleum geologist accepted as matter of record?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And are you familiar with the geology
- 25 involved in these applications?

- 1 A. Yes.
- MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I request that
- 3 Mr. McKinney be recognized as an expert petroleum
- 4 geologist.
- 5 THE EXAMINER: Mr. McKinney is so
- 6 recognized.
- 7 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Mr. McKinney, you have two
- 8 exhibits. Would you just first explain why you
- 9 broke them up into two exhibits?
- 10 A. I'm trying to minimize the paperwork and,
- 11 you know, get them coordinated geographically so
- 12 that we could, you know, work through this
- information, a lot of the information here, as
- 14 efficiently as possible.
- 15 Q. And for what wells does Exhibit 9 apply?
- 16 A. There's a label in the lower right-hand
- 17 corner. It's Case 14528, Loving 7 Fee No. 1; and
- 18 Case 14535, the Longhorn 28 Fee No. 1.
- 19 Q. And why don't you run through these
- 20 exhibits and discuss in particular what you are
- 21 seeking, first with respect to the Mississippian
- 22 development?
- A. All right. There's three sheets attached
- 24 as part of Exhibit 9. The front sheet is a subsea
- 25 structure map on the Mississippian. These are all

- 1 in 10 South, 29 East.
- In the upper left of the map, you see the
- 3 red rectangle. That's the proposed horizontal
- 4 proration unit for the Loving 7 Fee No. 1.
- 5 The well itself, the surface location, is
- 6 designated by the open black circle and the black
- 7 horizontal line. Heading off to the east is the
- 8 path of the horizontal proposed path.
- 9 And you can see there's a fault associated
- 10 with that proration unit. And we've located this
- 11 well, for purposes of the Mississippian, on the
- 12 upthrown side of that fault.
- And we'll be drilling that well -- the
- 14 pilot hole will be drilled as has been discussed
- 15 previously. It will be slightly directionally
- 16 drilled to move it a little bit away from the fault
- 17 for the bottom hole objective, which would be the
- 18 Devonian oil, as previously discussed.
- 19 But our primary objective is the gas
- 20 potential in the Mississippian. That's what this
- 21 exhibit addresses.
- 22 And the wells are labeled with the subsea
- 23 structure value for the Mississippian top. And
- 24 beneath the wells, in blue, generally beneath it, if
- 25 there was an overspotting problem, it may shift a

- 1 little bit, but that's the overall isopach thickness
- 2 of the Mississippian.
- 3 So this exhibit is meant to demonstrate
- 4 that the Mississippian across this area, from the
- 5 northwest part of the map down to the southeast
- 6 part, is generally 500 feet or thicker. And so it's
- 7 present across the area, and that's one objective of
- 8 this exhibit.
- The other would be just to show why we are
- 10 locating these wells and proposing these proration
- 11 units as we are. It has to do with the faults and
- 12 where the structure lies.
- 13 Let's see. Then also on that exhibit
- 14 you'll see that dashed line. That's just a line of
- 15 cross-section that I prepared just to demonstrate
- 16 what the zone actually looks like on logs.
- 17 This area has got a lot of older wells in
- 18 it, so the logs are stuff that you would find from
- 19 the '50s, generally. I hope this is not too small.
- 20 I heard your comment earlier.
- This is a two-well section. But basically
- 22 the cross-section demonstrates in blue, I've
- 23 highlighted the Missippian section. And you will
- 24 see there's 540-plus feet of it.
- These two wells actually demonstrate that

- 1 the Missippian has been tested in the area and shown
- 2 to have some gas. It wasn't commercial. We're
- 3 hoping to greatly improve on that with horizontal
- 4 wells.
- 5 And I've also noted with red dashed lines
- 6 to indicate the upper part of the Mississippian.
- 7 That's actually our objective with our horizontal
- 8 wellbores.
- 9 And then overlying it would be the
- 10 Atoka/Morrow section. And underlying it, below that
- 11 blue line that you see, that's the Siluro/Devonian
- 12 section that we're going to test also with our pilot
- 13 hole.
- 14 And then the final part of Exhibit 9, the
- 15 last page, is very much a look-alike practically to
- 16 the Mississippian structure. This is all pretty
- 17 conformable stuff. This is a map of the top of the
- 18 Sirliro/Devonian.
- And again, the one oddity really is up
- 20 there in the northwest part of the map, associated
- 21 with our Loving 7 Fee Well location. You'll see
- 22 those two red squares. Those are those proration
- 23 units that were discussed previously.
- 24 And there's two of them because as our
- 25 counsel said, the surface hole will be assigned

- 1 to -- we're applying for assignment to a proration
- unit. That would be the southwest of the northeast.
- 3 And then the Devonian, we're applying to be assigned
- 4 there to the southeast of the northeast.
- 5 And then the other well, as shown on this
- 6 exhibit to the southeast, is our Longhorn 28 Fee
- 7 No. 1 Well, which is Case No. 14535.
- 8 And that's quite a bit more standard
- 9 again, though we're staying on the upfront side of
- 10 the fault. And so the lateral is a little bit
- 11 shorter there because of trying to stay within
- 12 Section 28, you have a standard unit.
- 13 Q. And again, in the Loving Well, the
- 14 Devonian was directionally drilling it slightly to
- 15 the east, just to make sure you're away from that
- 16 fault?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. What is Exhibit 10?
- 19 A. Exhibit 10 is very similar to what we just
- 20 went through. I'll go through it also. It's again
- 21 to consolidate geographically and for efficiency.
- 22 I've got three case numbers represented on here.
- In the south, the first page of this
- 24 three-page Exhibit No. 10 is the Mississippian
- 25 subsea structure. Again, you can see the fault

- 1 shown in blue, downthrown to the northwest.
- 2 And our Goodnight Fee No. 1, which is Case
- 3 No. 14534, will be located again, the same sort of
- 4 designation, with the open circle showing the
- 5 surface location. And the black line, moving off to
- 6 the to the east, will be the lateral.
- 7 And the proposed proration unit is being
- 8 shown by the red rectangle for that Mississippian
- 9 gas proposal.
- 10 And the same is true for the other.
- 11 That's the one that has the nonstandard related to
- 12 the Siluro/Devonian, which we'll get to in just one
- 13 moment.
- 14 Again, I've got a little dotted line to
- 15 show a three-well cross-section. And also
- 16 designated on this in this particular area -- and
- 17 now we're down to, I believe, 11 South and 12 South,
- 18 29 East. So we've moved a bit south.
- 19 There is some production down here, and
- 20 that's indicated by the color coding. It's either
- 21 Devonian oil or Mississippian gas. So there is some
- 22 Mississippian gas production in the area of these
- 23 wells, actual sales.
- 24 And then the three-well cross-section,
- 25 similar to the one I described before, again with

- 1 the Mississippian shown in blue. Here again the
- 2 Mississippian is present across the area from just
- 3 about 500 feet thick to over 600 feet thick.
- 4 Again, this Siluro/Devonian section is
- 5 shown at the base of the cross-section, highlighted
- 6 in green. And we're overlaying by the Atoka/Morrow
- 7 section above the Mississippian.
- 8 Also, similar to the last cross-section,
- 9 the upper part of the Mississippian, highlighted by
- 10 the red dashed horizontal lines, that's where we'll
- 11 try to land our horizontal.
- 12 And then the last exhibit or the last page
- of this Exhibit 10 is a map on the Siluro/Devonian.
- 14 Again, the fault shown is in blue. Everything is
- 15 the same as the previous one, except that now we've
- 16 got a 40-acre proposed proration unit.
- 17 And you can see, at this scale, it looks
- 18 like we're right on the line. We're actually -- I
- 19 think we're about 40 or 80 feet inside the line, but
- 20 certainly nonstandard. That will be the proration
- 21 unit we're trying to assign to this proposed well
- 22 for the Devonian.
- Q. And again, for the Goodnight No. 1 in
- 24 Section 1, you moved the well to the south to avoid
- 25 that fault in the Devonian?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- Q. In your opinion, will each quarter section
- 3 attributed to the Mississippian horizontal be
- 4 productive in the Mississippian?
- 5 A. That's our thesis, yes.
- 6 Q. And could you describe just briefly -- you
- 7 did arrange to e-mail the directional drilling plans
- 8 to the Examiner last night. But could you explain
- 9 briefly how the horizontal portion of the wellbore
- 10 will be drilled and completed?
- 11 A. In each case, with the slight exception of
- 12 this on Exhibit 9, the Loving Well, which was
- 13 previously described, we're directionally drilling
- 14 that pilot hole slightly.
- 15 But in each case, every well will have a
- 16 pilot hole. We'll drill down on top of the San
- 17 Andres in each case roughly 2,200 feet, set our
- 18 intermediate. And then drill down, tag into the
- 19 Siluro/Devonian 25 or 40 feet, depending upon what
- the well tells us, and then we'll log that portion.
- Then we will plug back and kick off
- somewhere around 5,700 feet or so near the base of
- 23 the Abo section and directionally drill these
- 24 wells -- I think it's 10 degrees per 100 build --
- 25 and land these in this upper portion of the

- 1 Mississippian, and then take them out to a legal
- 2 location at the edge of the proposed proration unit.
- Roughly, you know, measured depth, that's
- 4 going to vary with each well from 11,100 to -- I
- 5 think in one case, it may be over 13,000 feet. And
- 6 that will be the end of that well.
- 7 And then we will set 7-inch casing to the
- 8 base of the curve. And after we drill the lateral,
- 9 we'll attempt an open-hole acid frac completion in
- 10 the Mississippian for gas. Hopefully, we'll
- 11 encounter a fractured section.
- Q. Were Exhibits 9 and 10 prepared by you or
- 13 under your supervision?
- 14 A. They were prepared by me.
- 15 Q. And in your opinion, is the granting of
- 16 these applications in the interest of conservation
- 17 and the prevention of waste?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the
- 20 admission of Exhibits 9 and 10.
- THE EXAMINER: Exhibits 9 and 10 are
- 22 admitted.
- 23 (Devon Exhibits 9 and 10 were admitted.)
- 24 MR. BRUCE: I have no further questions of
- 25 the witness.

- 1 THE EXAMINER: Thank you.
- 2 Mr. Brooks.
- MR. BROOKS: Are you going to have an
- 4 engineering witness, Mr. Bruce?
- 5 MR. BRUCE: No, sir, we're not.
- 6 MR. BROOKS: So any technical questions
- 7 will be addressed to this witness.
- 8 As I understood you describe your drilling
- 9 plan, the kickoff point is not going to be in the
- 10 Mississippian formation? It will be in the Abo
- 11 formation; is that correct?
- 12 THE WITNESS: I think that's where we will
- 13 start the build, yes.
- MR. BROOKS: And you know, first off,
- 15 these pilot hole -- and this question arose because
- 16 when we were discussing the first case, I believe
- 17 that it's 14528, Mr. Bruce indicated that the bottom
- 18 hole location of the pilot hole in the Devonian was
- 19 going to be different from the surface location.
- THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 21 MR. BROOKS: And is that going to be true
- in the other wells?
- THE WITNESS: No.
- MR. BROOKS: All the other wells will be
- 25 vertical?

- 1 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's right.
- 2 MR. BROOKS: All right. As close as --
- 3 and I understand there's no such thing as a vertical
- 4 well.
- 5 THE WITNESS: As we all understand
- 6 vertical, right.
- 7 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Now, what we need, and
- 8 we probably need this only because we state these
- 9 things and keep account of them. But we will need
- 10 you to supply us with an estimate of the footage
- 11 locations of the point of penetration into the
- 12 Mississippian for each of these wells.
- Now, I don't think that anything would
- 14 have to be done, so far as changing the order, if
- 15 you miss the estimate, which probably will happen to
- 16 some extent, as long as both the estimated and the
- 17 actual point of penetration are within the producing
- 18 area. So it's not an outstanding --
- 19 THE WITNESS: I believe we submitted that
- 20 as part of our ATD --
- 21 MR. BROOKS: Now, do you have that
- 22 information in the materials --
- 23 THE WITNESS: It's in the ATD. I'm not
- 24 sure it's in the materials. But we have it, and I
- 25 can get them to you probably today.

- 1 MR. BROOKS: Okay. I think that's all I
- 2 have, Mr. Warnell.
- THE EXAMINER: Okay, all right.
- 4 Mr. McKinney, let's talk a little bit more. You
- 5 said you're going to start in the Abo?
- 6 THE WITNESS: More or less, yes. That's
- 7 the plan.
- 8 THE EXAMINER: And make your bend into the
- 9 Mississippian. You're going to be setting 7-inch?
- 10 THE WITNESS: At the base of the curve,
- 11 that is correct.
- 12 THE EXAMINER: At the base of the curve.
- 13 And then it will be open hole completion beyond
- 14 that?
- THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Well, it's
- 16 uncemented, I should say. We won't cement. We'll
- 17 put a slotted liner down there.
- 18 THE EXAMINER: I don't believe I have any
- 19 more questions at this time.
- MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd ask you to
- 21 take these matters under advisement, except for
- 22 Case 14528, which needs to be continued to
- 23 September 16th, in order to take care of an error in
- 24 the advertisement which was corrected a couple of
- 25 weeks ago. So it doesn't need to be continued

- longer than that. 1
- THE EXAMINER: Okay. We're going to 2
- supplement the record with the point of penetration. 3
- And you asked for something else, didn't 4
- 5 you?
- I don't recall. Did I ask 6 MR. BROOKS:
- 7 for anything else? I mean the record will reflect
- if I did. I don't remember. I think I was just
- clarifying most of the stuff, and it seems to be in 9
- 10 there.
- THE WITNESS: Mr. Examiner, we'll submit 11
- those to you in an explicit form. But I believe 12
- that yesterday we e-mailed you our directional plan, 13
- 14 and it's written in there.
- 15 THE EXAMINER: It's in there?
- 16 THE WITNESS: It's kind of buried in
- So we may just submit another simple written 17
- 18 to make it very clear. But it's in there. You just
- 19 have to dig.
- 20 THE EXAMINER: Okay, good. So we'll
- 21 continue Case 14528 to September 16th. And we will
- 22 take under advisement Case Nos. 14534, 14535, 14536,
- 23 and 14537.
- (The hearing concluded at 10:06 a.m.) 24
- I do hereby certify that the foregoing is 25
  - a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No.

25