## 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:

**APPLICATION OF DAVID H. ARRINGTON OIL &** GAS INC. FOR COMPULSORY POOLING, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

2010 JUN 18 A 740

ff:57(x)

Case No. 14,497

## MOTION TO DISMISS, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE MOTION FOR A CONTINUANCE

Marshall & Winston, Inc. files this motion to dismiss the application filed herein, or in the alternative for a continuance, and in support thereof, states:

A. <u>Facts</u>.

1. Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> of Section 26, Township 15 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, to form a standard 320-acre gas spacing unit for all pools or formations developed on 320-acre spacing, and the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 26 to form a standard 160-acre gas spacing unit for all pools or formations developed on 160-acre spacing. The units are to be dedicated to the proposed Green Eyed Squealy Worm Well No. 1, located in the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 26. Applicant proposes to re-enter the well, purportedly to restore production from existing perforations.

2. The Green Eyed Squealy Worm Well No. 1 was drilled in 2004 and completed in the Morrow formation. **Exhibit A**. The well produced from the Morrow formation until

September 2008, at the latest. The well was not plugged and abandoned. However, production has ceased from the Morrow formation (and any other formation).

3. Marshall & Winston, Inc. owns or controls 100% of the working interest in the N½SE¼ of Section 26, and desires to re-enter the well to test an oil zone developed on 40 acre spacing. Marshall & Winston, Inc.'s interest is not subject to an operating agreement or other agreement pertaining to development of its acreage.

4. Marshall & Winston, Inc. will be filing an application to approve the transfer of operatorship of the well to it from applicant (currently operator of record) so that it can proceed with its development plans. This application will be set for the July 22nd Examiner hearing.

5. Well proposals were sent to Marshall & Winston, Inc. and to Winston Partners, Ltd. (who together own 100% of the mineral interest in the N½SE¼ of Section 26) by letters dated May 20, 2010. Exhibit B. These letters imply that a JOA is still in effect, which is incorrect. Moreover, these letters were received by Marshall & Winston, Inc. and Winston Partners, Ltd., at best, a day or two before the application was filed herein.

6. Applicant filed a Sundry Notice with the Division regarding its proposed operation on or about May 14, 2010. Exhibit C.

#### B. <u>Argument</u>.

1. The application should be dismissed because:

(a) The Division has consistently held that pooling applications should be filed, absent any special circumstances (*e.g.*, an expiring lease) 30-45 days after a proposal letter is sent to the working interest owners. That was not done here.

(b) The Division has held that an APD should not be filed by an operator where the operator owns no interest in the wellsite. In this case, the Sundry Notice, the

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equivalent of an APD for the proposed re-entry, was filed with the Division even though applicant owns no interest in the well site.

For the foregoing reasons, the application filed herein should be dismissed until applicant abides with Division pooling requirements.

In the alternative, this case should be continued to the July 22nd hearing because:
(a) The filing of the application, simultaneously with the mailing of a proposal letter, is improper, and requires a continuance. See paragraph B(1)(a) above.
(b) The application being filed by Marshall & Winston, Inc. cannot be heard until July 22nd. In the interest of economy, it is best to consolidate both matters for hearing.

WHEREFORE, Marshall & Winston, Inc. requests that this case be dismissed, or in the alternative continued to the July 22nd Examiner hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bruce Post Office Box 1056 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 (505) 982-2043

Attorney for Marshall & Winston, Inc.

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing pleading was served upon the following counsel of record this  $\int \mathcal{F} \mathcal{M}_{-}$  day of June, 2010 by facsimile transmission:

William F. Carr Ocean Munds-Dry Holland & Hart LLP P.O. Box 2208 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 (505) 983-6043

James Bruce

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EXHIBIT

P.O. BOX 2071, MIDLAND, TEXAS 79702 OFF (432) 682-6685 FAX (432) 682-4139

May 20, 2010

Marshall & Winston, Inc., PO Box 50880 Midland, Texas 79710-0880

RE: Re-establish Morrow Production Green Eyed Squeally Worm API 30-025-36013 Lea County, New Mexico

Ladies and Gentlemen:

David H. Arrington Oil & Gas, Inc, (DHA) as operator of record for the subject well proposes to restore production from the existing perforations in the subject well. We invite you to participate in the operation, based on your interest in the original designated Pooled Unit (S1/2 of Section 26, T155, R34E) and the terms of the original JOA. Enclosed is an Authority for Expenditure (AFE) for this project. Please indicate your election below and return one executed copy to the undersigned.

Please feel free to call or email me at <u>monty@arringtonoil.com</u> with your questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Best Regards,

Monty W. Kastner Vice President, Land & Legal

I/we elect to participate in the Proposed Operations pursuant to the attached AFE

I/we elect not to participate in the Proposed Operations pursuant to the attached AFE.

Ву:\_\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_



## DAVID H. ARRINGTON OIL & GAS, INC.

P.O. BOX 2071, MIDLAND, TEXAB 79702 DFF (432) 682-6685 FAX (432) 682-4139

May 20, 2010

Winston Partners, LTD C/O Sargent Management <u>4800 Eirst Bank Place</u> Minneap<del>olis, Minnesota Sy402</del>

RE: Re-establish Morrow Production Green Eved Squaally Worm API 30-025-36013 Lea County, New Mexico

Ladies and Gentleman:

David H. Arrington Oil & Gas, inc, (DHA) as operator of record for the subject well proposes to restore production from the existing perforations in the subject well. We invite you to participate in the operation, based on your interest in the original designated Pooled Unit (S1/2 of Section 20, T355, R34E) and the terms of the original JOA. Enclosed is an Authority for Expenditure (AFE) for this project. Please indicate your election below and return one executed copy to the undersigned.

Please feel free to call or email me at <u>monty@arringtonoil.com</u> with your questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Best Regards,

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Monty W. Kastner Vice President, Land & Legal

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I/we elect to participate in the Proposed Operations pursuant to the attached AFE

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we elect not to participate in the Proposed Operations pursuant to the attached AFE.

By:\_\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

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Date:\_\_\_\_\_

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