

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 NOS. 11,913
)	11,914
APPLICATIONS OF YATES PETROLEUM)	11,915
CORPORATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO)	11,916
DRILL WITHIN THE POTASH AREA AS)	(Consolidated)
DEFINED BY ORDER NO. R-111-P,)	
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO)	

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner

January 30th, 1998

Santa Fe, New Mexico

100-10000-0338
210

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner, on Friday, January 30th, 1998, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Porter Hall, 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

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I N D E X

January 30th, 1998
Examiner Hearing
CASE NOS. 11,913, 11,914, 11,915 and 11,916 (Consolidated)

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A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE DIVISION:

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Legal Counsel to the Division
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FOR THE APPLICANT:

LOSEE, CARSON, HAAS & CARROLL, P.A.
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Artesia, New Mexico 88210
By: ERNEST L. CARROLL

(Continued...)

A P P E A R A N C E S (Continued)

FOR MISSISSIPPI POTASH:

JENKENS & GILCHRIST, P.C.
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200
Dallas, TX 75202-2799
By: CHARLES C. HIGH, JR.

and

KEMP, SMITH, DUNCAN & HAMMOND, P.C.
2000 Norwest Plaza
El Paso, TX 79901-1441
BY: STEVEN J. BLANCO

FOR POGO PRODUCING COMPANY:

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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

and

HINKLE, COX, EATON, COFFIELD & HENSLEY, L.L.P.
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Roswell, New Mexico 88202
By: JAMES A. GILLESPIE

FOR PENWELL ENERGY, INC.:

CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE and SHERIDAN, P.A.
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P.O. Box 2208
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208
By: WILLIAM F. CARR

* * *

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2 8:25 a.m.:

3 EXAMINER STOGNER: This hearing will come to
4 order. Please note today's date, January 18th, 1998 -- I'm
5 sorry, January 30th, 1998.

6 This is a special hearing today to consider four
7 particular cases that have appeared on the January 18th
8 docket, Docket Number 2-98, and they're continued to
9 today's date for special consideration or special hearing
10 to accommodate all the parties' concerns.

11 And for the record, I'm Michael Stogner,
12 appointed Hearing Examiner for today.

13 At this time I will call Cases 11,913, 11,914,
14 11,915 and 11,916 at this time.

15 MR. RAND CARROLL: Application of Yates Petroleum
16 Corporation for authorization to drill within the Potash
17 Area as defined by Order Number R-111-P, Eddy County, New
18 Mexico.

19 EXAMINER STOGNER: At this time I will call for
20 appearances.

21 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: Mr. Stogner, I'm Ernest
22 Carroll of the Artesia law firm of Losee, Carson, Haas and
23 Carroll, and I'm here appearing on behalf of the Applicant,
24 Yates Petroleum.

25 MR. HIGH: Good morning. My name is Charlie

1 High. I'm with the Jenkins and Gilchrist law firm in
2 Dallas. Also appearing in the case, although not present
3 today, is Stephen J. Blanco, of the Kemp Smith in El Paso.
4 We're appearing on behalf of Mississippi Potash.

5 EXAMINER STOGNER: Other appearances?

6 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is
7 William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law firm Campbell, Carr,
8 Berge and Sheridan. We represent Penwell Energy, Inc.
9 We're entering our appearance in support of Yates Petroleum
10 Corporation.

11 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of Santa Fe,
12 representing Pogo Producing Company. We're also in support
13 of Yates' Applications.

14 MR. GILLESPIE: And, Mr. Stogner, Jim Gillespie
15 with the law firm of Hinkle, Cox, Eaton, Coffield and
16 Hensley in Roswell, also on behalf of Pogo.

17 EXAMINER STOGNER: Other appearances?

18 Okay. At this time is there any need for any
19 opening remarks at this point?

20 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: Mr. Stogner, one
21 housekeeping matter. I would officially like to move the
22 consolidation of the four cases to be heard as one case for
23 the presentation of any evidence if necessary, or any
24 argument or any orders. They are all related, and all the
25 issues and witnesses would be identical.

1 MR. HIGH: We have no objection to consolidation,
2 Mr. Stogner.

3 We would also inform you at this time that we are
4 withdrawing our objection to these four wells, and we would
5 simply ask the State to require that they be drilled as
6 close as possible to the west section line of Section 34.
7 They are currently within the buffer zone of an LMR on file
8 with the State Land Office, but we nevertheless are
9 withdrawing our objection and would ask the State to move
10 them as far as it can to that west section line of Section
11 34.

12 MR. RAND CARROLL: Well, Mr. High, it sounds like
13 you're objecting to the proposed locations.

14 MR. HIGH: We're asking the State to determine
15 the bottomhole location. If this bottomhole location is
16 acceptable to the State, it's up to the State. That's all
17 we're doing.

18 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: Mr. Carroll, I was only
19 advised of this development a few moments ago. I have had
20 a quick chance to visit with my client, the representatives
21 and what have you, but I'm a little unsure myself. I would
22 suggest that we might take a recess and let the lawyers --
23 let us kind of discuss how we want to proceed and then go
24 from there, because I'm not sure how -- what your position
25 and Mr. Stogner's position is going to be relative to this.

1 I personally feel that there is probably no need to waste
2 Mr. Stogner's time and your time with the presentation of
3 evidence. But there is these issues.

4 And I would also put on the record that Yates
5 stands by the locations as they are presently listed in
6 their four Applications. I would point out to you that we
7 are at the low -- the closest legal distance.

8 They are all -- well, all four of these -- And
9 there's one problem I would point to you. The Number 1
10 well, the Number 2 well and the Number 4 well are along the
11 west line. They are all 330 feet off of that west line,
12 which is the closest legal distance that you can get to
13 that line without asking for an unorthodox.

14 We will not ask for an unorthodox location, for
15 any closer. We would oppose any such, because the Pogo
16 wells are 330 off that same line, and we believe that it
17 would cause waste, it would be a situation for
18 interference.

19 The Number 3 well is due west of the Number 1 --
20 excuse me, due east of the Number 1 well. It is 330 feet
21 off of the south line. I'm not sure what that means, what
22 Mr. High's position is with -- to that one well.

23 But again, we would oppose -- and I would also
24 point out for the record that, as advertised, we couldn't
25 even consider the unorthodox position, and I would sure --

1 I would believe that Pogo, for certain, would have an
2 objection to moving these wells any closer than the legal
3 distance now allowed by the rules of the Commission.

4 MR. RAND CARROLL: Well, Mr. High, you're --
5 these wells are as close as possible under OCD rules. Are
6 you asking for an exception to the rules for an unorthodox
7 location?

8 MR. HIGH: No, we're not. We are withdrawing our
9 objection to these APDs. We're not agreeing the wells can
10 be safely drilled. All we're saying is, we're going to
11 leave that up to the State. If under State rules these
12 locations are acceptable, we'll live with that.

13 We are withdrawing our objection, but we're not
14 -- We're not agreeing to where they ought to be. We will
15 agree that the four wells can be drilled along the west
16 side of Section 34. Where they should be placed, we're
17 going to leave to the State.

18 So we are withdrawing our objection, and if the
19 State wants to approve these APDs at the location proposed,
20 that's up to the State. That's all we're saying.

21 (Off the record)

22 EXAMINER STOGNER: We're going to take a ten-
23 minute -- I'm sorry, before we get started, Mr. --

24 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce on behalf of
25 Pogo again. I would concur with Mr. Carroll, these cases

1 were advertised for specific legal locations, and we think
2 that's what these cases should consider.

3 If there is any attempt to move them to the --
4 the wells, to the south, further to the south or further to
5 the west, they wouldn't be unorthodox, and of course Pogo
6 as the offset operator would have to reconsider its
7 position in this case.

8 We don't think there's any need geologically or
9 for land reasons to move the well locations, and we would
10 support the Yates Applications as they stand right now.

11 EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Bruce.

12 MR. RAND CARROLL: Mr. High, we're a little
13 confused. Since these are legal locations and you don't
14 object to these wells being drilled -- If somebody's
15 drilling a legal location, we really don't decide
16 otherwise. If it's an unorthodox location, we'd take a
17 look at it.

18 MR. HIGH: Yeah, and I have no problem with that.
19 If you want to approve these wells at these proposed
20 locations, that's fine with us. We don't have the
21 information necessary to determine where they ought to be,
22 so we can't say they ought to be here, they ought to be
23 there.

24 From a mining standpoint, we're saying we have no
25 objection to four wells along the west side of Section 34,

1 and we're leaving it up to the State to decide where that
2 bottomhole location ought to be.

3 EXAMINER STOGNER: We'll take a five-minute
4 recess at this time.

5 (Thereupon, a recess was taken at 8:35 a.m.)

6 (The following proceedings had at 8:46 a.m.)

7 EXAMINER STOGNER: This hearing will come to
8 order again.

9 I've been in conference with my legal counsel.
10 I'll turn it over to him at this point.

11 MR. RAND CARROLL: Well, it appears to the
12 Division Yates has filed its Application for four wells in
13 the Potash Area. Mississippi Potash objected in all four
14 cases but withdrew their objection and asked the Division
15 to select the proper location.

16 Since these are orthodox locations, the Division
17 will approve these locations, and we're dismissing the case
18 unless we hear objections or argument to overturn that
19 determination.

20 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: You won't hear an objection
21 from Yates.

22 EXAMINER STOGNER: Does anybody else have
23 anything further, then?

24 MR. RAND CARROLL: Mr. High, do you have anything
25 to say?

1 MR. HIGH: I have no objection. I've stated as
 2 clearly as I can, Mr. Carroll, our position. If the State
 3 thinks those are the locations where the wells ought to be,
 4 then that's up to the State. We don't want to be a party
 5 to the selection of locations of oil and gas wells.

6 MR. RAND CARROLL: Neither do we. If they're
 7 orthodox locations, we'd only be second-guessing the
 8 operator.

9 MR. HIGH: Well, then, that's up to the State.
 10 We withdraw our objection to these APDs.

11 MR. RAND CARROLL: Okay.

12 EXAMINER STOGNER: Then in that case, Cases
 13 11,913 through -16 are hereby dismissed.

14 Hearing adjourned.

15 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
 16 8:48 a.m.)

17 * * *

18
 19
 20 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
 a complete record of the proceedings in
 the Examiner hearing of Cases Nos. 11913, 11914, 11915, and
 heard by me on Jan 30 1998.

21
 22 *Michael E. Stogner*, Examiner
 Oil Conservation Division
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) SS.
 COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL January 30th, 1998.



STEVEN T. BRENNER
 CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 1998