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NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

EXAMINER HEARING

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Hearing Date	DECEMBER 3, 1998 Time	8:15 A.M.
NAME	REPRESENTING	LOCATION
6 pm 12 Canal	Lose Room Heart. Candl Denwell	Anteria
Raye Miller	Marbob Energy Corp	Artesia
Robert Bullock	YAter Pet Corp.	ArtesiA
Bren May	11	, \
JOHN R. GRAY	MARBOB	11
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Mike Brown	Manzane Oil	Roswell
Sally Kvadrucka	Fasken	Midland

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. 12,084

APPLICATION OF YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION FOR COMPULSORY POOLING AND UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATION, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner

December 3rd, 1998

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, December 3rd, 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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* * *

EXHIBITS

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APPEARANCES

FOR THE DIVISION:

RAND L. CARROLL Attorney at Law Legal Counsel to the Division 2040 South Pacheco Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

FOR THE APPLICANT:

CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE and SHERIDAN, P.A. Suite 1 - 110 N. Guadalupe P.O. Box 2208
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208
By: WILLIAM F. CARR

FOR PENWELL ENERGY, INC.:

LOSEE, CARSON, HAAS & CARROLL, P.A. 311 West Quay
Post Office Box 1720
Artesia, New Mexico 88210
By: ERNEST L. CARROLL

* * *

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at 1 2 8:15 a.m.: EXAMINER STOGNER: This hearing will come to 3 order, Docket Number 33-98. Please note today's date, 4 December the 3rd, 1998. I'm Michael Stogner, appointed 5 6 Hearing Examiner for today's cases. 7 At this time I will call the first case, 12,084. 8 MR. CARROLL: Application of Yates Petroleum 9 Corporation for compulsory pooling and unorthodox well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. 10 11 EXAMINER STOGNER: Call for appearances. 12 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is 13 William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law firm Campbell, Carr, Berge and Sheridan. We represent Yates Petroleum 14 Corporation in this matter, and I have two witnesses. 15 16 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other appearances? 17 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: Yes, Mr. Examiner, I'm Ernest Carroll of the Artesia law firm of Losee, Carson, 18 19 Haas and Carroll. I am here today representing Penwell 20 Energy, Inc. We have no witnesses. 21 EXAMINER STOGNER: That's Penwell Energy? 22 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: Yes, sir. 23 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other appearances? 24 Okay, will the two witnesses please stand to be 25 sworn at this time?

1	(Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)
2	EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Carr, you may continue, or
3	start, whatever
4	MR. CARR: Whatever seems right.
5	ROBERT BULLOCK,
6	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
7	his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
8	DIRECT EXAMINATION
9	BY MR. CARR:
10	Q. Would you state your name for the record, please?
11	A. My name is Robert Bullock.
12	Q. And where do you reside?
13	A. I reside in Hope, New Mexico.
14	Q. Mr. Bullock, by whom are you employed?
15	A. Yates Petroleum Corporation.
16	Q. And what is your current position with Yates?
17	A. I'm a landman.
18	Q. Have you previously testified before this
19	Division and had your credentials as a petroleum landman
20	accepted and made a matter of record?
21	A. Yes, sir.
22	Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
23	this case?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. Are you familiar with the status of the lands in

6 the area which is the subject of this Application? 1 2 Α. Yes, sir. MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, are the witness's 3 qualifications acceptable? 4 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any objections? So qualified. 5 (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Bullock, would you briefly 6 Q. state what Yates seeks with this Application? 7 Yates seeks a compulsory pooling and an 8 Α. unorthodox well location, pooling all mineral interests in 9 the south half of Section 8, Township 17 South, Range 27 10 East, to be dedicated to our proposed Riverside ASS Federal 11 Com Number 1 well, which is at an unorthodox location of 12 1650 feet from the south line, 660 feet from the east line. 13 And we also would like the cost of drilling and 14 15 completing of the well and the risk associated there to be considered. We would like to be designated operator. 16 Have you prepared exhibits for presentation here Q. 17 18 today? Yes, sir. 19 Α. 20 Would you refer to what has been marked for Q. identification as Yates Petroleum Corporation Exhibit 21 22 Number 1, identify that and review it for the Examiner?

A. Exhibit Number 1 outlines the proposed spacing unit for the drilling of this well, being the south half of Section 8. The red dot indicates our well location. The

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well is located on state minerals, and also communitized with these 160 acres of state minerals are 160 acres of federal minerals, being the south half of the south half of Section 8.

- Q. This exhibit also shows the offsetting operators?
- A. Right.

- Q. And the well is unorthodox toward the eastern boundary of the spacing unit, therefore encroaching on Chi and Penwell; is that right?
- A. Chi, Penwell and OXY. OXY actually is the operator of a lease there in Section 9.
- Q. Okay. What is the primary objective in the proposed well?
 - A. The Morrow formation.
- Q. Are there secondary objectives?
- A. Yes, sir, the Atoka formation, and I'll let Mr.
 May speak to the other --
- Q. All right. Let's go to -- Before we go to Exhibit Number 2, could you just generally summarize the ownership breakdown in the south half of Section 8?
- A. The south half of Section 8 is 50 percent the Yates Companies and 50 percent Penwell Energy, Inc.
- Q. And is the Penwell interest -- That is the only interest that is subject to the compulsory-pooling portion of the case?

A. Yes, sir.

- Q. Is it a 50-50 split?
 - A. It is a 50-50 split, yes.
 - Q. So 50 percent of the interest is voluntary committed to the well?
 - A. Right.
 - Q. Let's go to Exhibit 2, and I'd ask you to identify and review that.
 - A. Exhibit 2 is our AFE for the drilling of the well. It sets out the dryhole cost of \$364,100 and the completed well costs of \$630,600.
 - Q. Are these costs in line with what is charged for other Morrow wells in this area?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Could you summarize for the Examiner Yates' efforts to reach a voluntary agreement with Penwell for the development of this acreage?
 - A. Okay, on August the 19th we proposed the drilling of this well with our letter and AFE and asked them to participate in the drilling of the well with us, and we suggested in that letter if they did not want to participate that we would take a term assignment of their interest. I indicated we would forward our JOA shortly thereafter.

Again, on August the 1st, another letter was

written to them. It again asks them to participate in the drilling of the well. And I suggest in that letter if they chose not to participate with us, that we would take a farmout of their interest and set out the terms of that offer.

Then on October 30th, we submitted to them our joint operating agreement for the drilling of the well.

October 30th, we sent another letter. We amended -- In that letter we amended the original location to the location that we're talking about today.

- Q. Are copies of the letters that you've just testified concerning your negotiations with Penwell included in what has been marked Yates Petroleum Corporation Number 3?
 - A. Yes, sir.

- Q. Is Exhibit Number 4 an affidavit confirming that notice of today's hearing has been provided in accordance with Oil Conservation Division rules?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. And is Exhibit Number 5 a waiver letter executed on behalf of OXY USA, Inc., waiving objection to the proposed unorthodox location?
 - A. Yes, sir, it is.
- Q. Have you made an estimate of the overhead and administrative costs to be incurred while drilling this

well and also while producing it, if it is successful?

- A. Yes, those costs are in our drilling operating agreement.
 - Q. And that's included in Exhibit 3?
- A. That's correct. We would like to use \$5400 for the drilling well rate and \$540 for the producing well rate.
- Q. Are these costs in line with what's charged by other operators for similar wells in the area?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Do you recommend that these figures be incorporated into the order that results from today's hearing?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Does Yates Petroleum Corporation seek to be designated operator of this well?
- 17 A. Yes, we do.
 - Q. Will Yates call a geological witness to review the risk associated with the drilling of this well and also the necessity for the unorthodox location?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. In your opinion, will approval of this

 Application be in the best interests of conservation, the

 prevention of waste and the protection of correlative

 rights?

Yes, sir. A. 1 Were Yates Exhibits 1 through 5 either prepared 2 Q. by you or compiled under your direction? 3 Α. Yes. 4 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we would 5 move the admission into evidence of Yates Petroleum 6 7 Corporation Exhibits 1 through 5. 8 EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 1 through 5 will be admitted into evidence. 9 10 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct 11 examination of Mr. Bullock. EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Carr. 12 Mr. Carroll, do you have any questions? 13 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: No, Mr. Examiner. 14 **EXAMINATION** 15 BY EXAMINER STOGNER: 16 Mr. Bullock, referring to Exhibit Number 1, you 17 0. say there was a 50-50 split between Yates's interest and 18 Penwell's? 19 20 Α. Yes, sir. And is that a divided or an undivided interest? 21 0. They have a big pool, so it would be a -- Our 22 interest is separate from theirs, so it would be divided. 23 Okay, I guess I should say what portion of land 24 0. does Yates own? 25

Yates owns the north half of the south half. Α. 1 Okay, that's a hundred-percent Yates controlled? 2 Q. Yes, sir. 3 Α. And how about Penwell? 4 0. They have the south half of the south half. 5 Α. So let's see, now, your advertisement is 6 Q. for 320 acres, the south half, so that would be 50-50, 7 8 right? 9 Α. Right, yes, sir. 10 Okay, how about 160-acre spacing? 0. Fifty-fifty. 11 Α. 12 Okay, and the proposed 80 acres -- and I'm Q. assuming, because you're asking for 80, there is a known 13 pool out there spaced on 80s? 14 15 Α. Yeah, there must be. 16 Q. Okay. And I'm sure your geologist --Yes, sir. 17 A. -- will tell me which one that is? 18 Q. That also is 50-50. 19 Α. 20 Q. Okay, how about 40? 21 Forty would be a hundred percent Yates. Α. 22 Q. Okay, so that can be dropped from an order in 23 this case? Α. Yes, sir. 24

Now, the operating agreement was provided to

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Q.

1 Penwell on October the 30th; is that correct? Yes, sir, October the 30th. 2 Α. Has there been any amendments to that, or is it 3 Q. shown as what you have given me as Exhibit Number 3? 4 That should be correct. 5 Α. EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay, I have no other 6 7 questions of Mr. Bullock. You may be excused. Mr. Carr? 8 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, at this time we would 9 10 call Brent May. 11 Mr. Stogner, as a follow-up to your question 12 concerning an 80-acre spacing unit, at the time we filed 13 the Application, we did check that. I believe there is an 14 80-acre pool. Mr. May did not do that, I did. And I don't 15 have the name of it with me. May I submit that to you 16 following the hearing? 17 EXAMINER STOGNER: Yes, if you would, please. 18 BRENT MAY, the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon 19 his oath, was examined and testified as follows: 20 DIRECT EXAMINATION 21 BY MR. CARR: 22 Would you state your name for the record, please? 23 Q. Brent May. 24 A. 25 Where do you reside? Q.

1 Α. Artesia, New Mexico. 2 Q. And by whom are you employed? 3 Α. Yates Petroleum. 4 Q. What is your position with Yates? 5 Α. I'm a geologist. 6 Have you previously testified before this 7 Division and had your credentials as a geologist accepted 8 and made a matter of record? 9 Α. Yes, I have. 10 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in 11 this case? 12 Yes, I am. A. 13 Have you made a geological study of the area Q. 14 which is the subject of this Application? Yes, I have. 15 Α. 16 And are you prepared to share the results of that Q. 17 study with Mr. Stogner? 18 Yes, sir. Α. 19 MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications 20 acceptable? 21 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any objection? 22 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: No objection. 23 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. May is so qualified. 24 (By Mr. Carr) Mr. May, let's go first to what Q. 25 has been marked Yates Petroleum Corporation Exhibit Number

6, your isopach map, and I'd like you to first explain the map to the Examiner and then review what it shows.

A. This is an isopach map of the lower Morrow clastics. It's prepared exclusively from well control. I might also note that on this map it's basically only showing the Morrow penetrations, which are double and circle spots.

The contour interval is 20 feet, the proposed 320-acre spacing unit is shown, and the proposed location in the southeast quarter of Section 8 is also shown.

This map is basically showing the thickness from the top of the lower Morrow clastics to the top of the Mississippian -- what I call the Mississippian unconformity. It shows the varying thickness of this isopach within this area.

It shows that our proposed location is on the west flank of the main thick, which is generally running north-south through Sections 4, 9 and 16 of 17 South, 27 East.

Our experience in some of the wells that have been drilled in this area that have economic producing quantities of gas from the Morrow show that it's best to be near the thicks of this isopach. It will give you a much better chance of encountering these lower Morrow channel sands that are -- can produce economic volumes of gas.

So this map shows why we're seeking an unorthodox location. The thick is to the east, so we're trying to get as close to the thick as possible.

- Q. Does this exhibit also contain a trace for your subsequent cross-section?
- A. Yes, it does, cross-section A-A', it does have that trace.
 - Q. And that's what's marked as Yates Exhibit Number Would you go to that and review it for Mr. Stogner?
- A. This is a stratigraphic cross-section, A-A'. The datum is the top of the lower Morrow or what's also called the lower Morrow clastics. Also tops marked are the Atoka, what we call just the Morrow clastics and then the Chester lime.

We also have a wavy line in here that's identified as the top of the Mississippian unconformity, and what that is is where we see the lower Morrow cutting down into existing Mississippian formation.

It's basically a west-to-east cross-section.

Starting on the left-hand side is the OXY Livan Federal

Number 1 in Unit B of Section 17, in 17 South, 27 East.

You can see that this well is on the edge of what was isopached, and that isopached interval, again, is the top of the lower Morrow to the top of the Mississippian unconformity.

This well was completed in the Morrow, but not within this lower Morrow clastics interval. It encountered a thin sand up in the Morrow clastics and perforated that and IP'd it for around 3 million a day. Again, note the lack of hardly any sand in the lower Morrow clastics. Very kind of thin sand, maybe two -- one to two feet thick, and that's all.

The next well on the cross-section is the proposed Yates location, and we feel like -- We're hoping that we're going to encounter one of the sands within this lower Morrow clastics.

Then the next well on the cross-section is the OXY LD "4" Federal Number 1, in Unit 0, Section 4, 17 South, 27 East. You can see that the OXY LD "4" is basically within the thick of this isopached interval, and you can see the massive channel sand that they encounter. That well was perforated in that sand and IP'd for about 3.6 million a day and 50 barrels of condensate.

They also had a smaller, thinner little sand near the base of the lower Morrow clastics, so what we feel like is, when you get into the thick of this isopach, you have a much higher chance of encountering these sands.

The last well on the cross-section is the OXY

Magni State Number 1 in Unit K, Section 10 of 17 South, 27

East. Again, you're getting a little bit further on the

edge, though not quite as much as the Livan, OXY Livan.

And you can see that OXY encountered a few little thin sands within the Morrow clastics and not enough to where they thought it would be economic, so they plugged the well.

- Q. Mr. May, let's go to Exhibit Number 8, the production table. Would you explain the purpose of this exhibit to Mr. Stogner?
- A. This is basically listing off some of the production from the Penn in this immediate area. You might note that some of the wells there's no production data for. This is a fairly recently active area, especially considering the OXY wells; they've been quite active out here lately. So some of the wells are fairly new and we do not have the production.

You might note, though, the production on the LD
"4" Federal Com Number 1, go over to the far right-hand
side, which shows the last daily production that we can
find, 4.6 million a day. Very good well. And it is within
the thick of that isopached interval.

You might note that the Livan, the last daily production is showing about 1.8 million. Remember, though, that that was not out of the isopached interval. They encountered a stray Morrow clastics sand, and that's what they're producing out of.

- Q. Are you prepared to make a recommendation to the Examiner as to the risk penalty that should be assessed against Penwell as a nonparticipating interest owner?
 - A. Yes, I do, we feel like it should be 200 percent.
- Q. And upon what do you base that 200-percent recommendation?

A. If we could go back to Exhibit 6, along with Exhibit 8, also shown on Exhibit 6, some of the wells are colored red. Those wells are producing from this isopached interval of the lower Morrow clastics. But go up in Section 4, in the south half, is the LD "4" Number 1. You can see that is within this thick, has approximately 205 feet of thickness, isopach thickness, in this interval. And remember, it was doing about 4.6 million a day recently.

We don't have any production numbers on the OXY
Roscoe Federal Number 1 in the north half of Section 4, but
it is again within this thick. We have heard, though, that
it is a very good well. And it did have some sands within
the lower Morrow.

Going down to Section 9, the OXY Wallace State

Number 1, that well was originally drilled down and
encountered about 147 feet of isopach thickness. They

didn't find any very good sand, so what they did is, they
came back up the a hole a little bit and sidetracked just a

little bit to the southwest. It didn't improve their isopach thickness much, but they did encounter a thin sand. And from what we understand they perforated it and it's a good well, from what we understand.

Going down in the south half of that Section 9, the OXY Wallace State Number 2, that well is not colored red. Even though they've encountered 199 feet of isopach thickness, they did not encounter any sands within this thick. In fact, that well is a poor Atoka producer. They haven't even attempted anything in the Morrow.

So even though we're trying to get into the thick of this isopached interval, it does not guarantee that you're going to encounter any channel sands, which is what occurred with that Wallace State Number 2. So the risk is, you can still get in this thick, but still not encounter sands. What we do is try to increase our chances of encountering sands within this thick.

You also might note that the Yates -- proposed Yates location, we're only expecting about 140 feet of isopach thickness. So we're not exactly within the thickest part of it.

So that's another part of the risk, that's another reason why we're asking for a 200-percent penalty. There is risk in drilling this well. We could drill it, get in the thick and still not encounter sands, or drill it

and hit the flank of the thick and not encounter sands. 1 Is Exhibit Number 9 a summary of your geological 2 Q. 3 presentation? Yes, it is. 4 Α. Would you just summarize your geologic 5 Q. 6 conclusions for Mr. Stogner? Basically the target out here is the lower Morrow 7 clastics, with the secondary targets as the Morrow clastics 8 and the Atoka. Within that lower Morrow clastics interval, 9 we're trying to encounter the thickest part of that isopach 10 interval to increase our chances of encountering a Morrow 11 channel sand. 12 In your opinion, will approval of this 13 0. Application be in the best interests of conservation, the 14 prevention of waste and the protection of correlative 15 rights? 16 Yes, it will. 17 Α. Were Yates Exhibits 6 through 9 prepared by you? 18 Q. 19 Α. Yes. 20 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, I'd move 21 the admission of Yates Exhibits 6 through 9. 22 EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 6 through 9 will be 23 admitted into evidence.

MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct

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examination of Mr. May.

1 EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Carr. Mr. Carroll? 2 3 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: I have no questions. EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Carroll, now is a unique 4 5 opportunity. 6 MR. ERNEST CARROLL: I would dearly love to. Ι 7 would probably start with his tie. 8 **EXAMINATION** 9 BY EXAMINER STOGNER: 10 0. Mr. May, what is the proposed depth for this 11 well? 12 I believe -- Off the top of my head, around 9100 Α. feet. 13 14 9100 feet, okay, and you're proposing -- Will Q. 15 this take you to the base of the Morrow? And it looks like you've got some sort of an unconformity out there in that 16 17 Mississippian? 18 We -- As just a standard procedure at Yates, we always drill completely through the Morrow and into the 19 Chester lime to make sure we have -- feel comfortable that 20 21 we have identified that Chester lime. In fact, we drill, sometimes, a hundred feet of rathole within the Chester 22 23 limes so we can specifically see the top of that formation 24 on the electric logs. 25 Q. Okay, and that would be sufficient to get you

into that point?

- A. Yes, we definitely want to cut through that unconformity and make sure that we are through the unconformity.
- Q. Okay, when I'm looking at Exhibits 1 and 6 -this is the two maps that were provided -- does this show
 all of the wells, or just the gas wells? What's some of
 the shallower potential out here?
- A. Exhibit 6 is just showing basically the Morrow penetrations. Some of the other shallow -- There can be Atoka, there can be some scattered Wolfcamp through the general area. There can also be shallow production, as in San Andres, Grayburg, as in that.
- Q. Now, it looks like there's an old well in the south half of Section 8. Do you have any recall of the records of your search on that well, what that one did?
- A. That's a shallow well, did not penetrate into the Morrow, and as far as from what I understand it was plugged and never produced. And it looks like it probably, maybe penetrated into the San Andres, possibly.

EXAMINER STOGNER: I don't have any other questions of Mr. May.

Any other questions of this witness?

MR. CARR: That concludes our presentation in this case.

1	EXAMINER STOGNER: You may be excused.
2	Anything further?
3	MR. CARR: By letter I will identify the 80-acre
4	pool.
5	EXAMINER STOGNER: Would appreciate that.
6	And Mr. Carroll, do you have anything further?
7	MR. ERNEST CARROLL: Nothing further.
8	EXAMINER STOGNER: In that case, Case 12,084,
9	Application of Yates Petroleum for compulsory pooling and
10	unorthodox gas well location will be taken under advisement
11	at this time.
12	(Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
13	8:46 a.m.)
14	* * *
15	
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17	I do hereby certify that the force is the
18	a co mplete restrict of the provided in the fitter than their hearing of Cut (1998).
19	heard by 170 cm 3 December 98
20	Of 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 December 5th, 1998.

STEVEN T. BRENNER

CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 2002