

NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

**ILLEGIBLE**

Examiner Hearing  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
April 1, 1999 -- 8:15 A.M.

Name	Representing	Location
Williamson, Dan	Samuel, Dan, Tony, Thomas	Santa Fe
David Pearson	Yates Petroleum	Albuquerque, NM.
ERIC CUMMINS	Yates Petroleum	Albuquerque, NM
James Bruce	"	SF
Bob Leibrock	Amerind Oil	Midland
Phil Boewer	Ameristate Oil & Gas	Roswell
John McKee	Ocean Energy	Denver
1. Kell, John	Kell, John & Kell, John	Santa Fe
Jerry Elgar	Newburg Prod	Midland
Alfred Findlay	Newburg Prod	Midland
Bill Sirota	KCS Medallion	Midland
WES VANNATIN	KCS Medallion	TULSA
LOUIS MAZZULLO	Ameristate Explor.	ALBUQUERQUE
Tom Timney	Santa Fe	Midland TX
Steve Smith	" "	" "

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

OIL CONSERVATION DIV.

99 APR 15 AM 6:30

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

CASE NO. 12,151

APPLICATION OF NEARBURG EXPLORATION )  
 COMPANY, L.L.C., FOR UNORTHODOX GAS WELL )  
 LOCATION, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO )

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: MARK ASHLEY, Hearing Examiner

April 1st, 1999

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, MARK ASHLEY, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, April 1st, 1999, 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.

\* \* \*

## I N D E X

April 1st, 1999  
Examiner Hearing  
CASE NO. 12,151

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APPEARANCES	3
APPLICANT'S WITNESSES:	
<u>CHRIS FLING</u> (Landman)	
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<u>LEE M. PETERSEN</u> (Geologist)	
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\* \* \*

## E X H I B I T S

Applicant's	Identified	Admitted
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\* \* \*

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## 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:

JAMES G. BRUCE, Attorney at Law  
 612 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite B  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
 P.O. Box 1056  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

\* \* \*

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at  
2 \*.m.:

3 EXAMINER ASHLEY: This hearing will come to order  
4 for Docket Number 10-99. Please note today's date, April  
5 1st, 1999. I'm Mark Ashley, appointed Hearing Examiner for  
6 today's cases.

7 (Off the record)

8 EXAMINER ASHLEY: The Division calls Case 12,151.

9 MR. CARROLL: Application of Nearburg Exploration  
10 Company, L.L.C., for unorthodox gas well location, Lea  
11 County, New Mexico.

12 EXAMINER ASHLEY: Call for appearances.

13 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of Santa Fe,  
14 representing the Applicant. I have two witnesses to be  
15 sworn.

16 EXAMINER ASHLEY: Any additional appearances?

17 Will the witnesses please stand to be sworn in?

18 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)

19 CHRIS FLING,

20 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon  
21 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. BRUCE:

24 Q. Would you please state your name for the record?

25 A. My name is Chris Fling. I live in Fort Worth,

1 Texas.

2 Q. And who do you work for and in what capacity?

3 A. I'm the vice president of land for Range

4 Resources Corporation.

5 Q. What is the relationship of Range Resources to  
6 Nearburg in this case?

7 A. Range Resources is a 50-percent working interest  
8 owner in the property.

9 Q. Okay, and why is Range appearing here today  
10 instead of Nearburg?

11 A. Nearburg had another matter that they needed to  
12 attend to and asked us to stand in their shoes today.

13 Q. Okay, have you previously testified before the  
14 Division?

15 A. I have not.

16 Q. Would you summarize your educational and  
17 employment background for the Examiner?

18 A. I attended the University of Oklahoma, finished  
19 in 1979. I also attended the management program at Rice  
20 University in Houston, Texas.

21 I worked for Conoco for nine years, I was in --  
22 worked for Pacific Enterprises for four years, all as a  
23 landman. I worked as an independent consultant in oil and  
24 gas exploration and production and refining matters for  
25 four years, and I've been in my current position with Range

1 Resources for three years.

2 Q. And are you familiar with the land matters  
3 involved in this Application?

4 A. I am.

5 Q. And your area of responsibility includes the  
6 Permian Basin?

7 A. It does indeed.

8 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender Mr. Fling as  
9 an expert petroleum landman.

10 EXAMINER ASHLEY: Mr. Fling is so qualified.

11 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Briefly, Mr. Fling, what does the  
12 Applicant seek in this case?

13 A. We seek an unorthodox gas well location in the  
14 south half of Section 28, Township 21 South, Range 35 East.

15 Q. Could you refer to Exhibit 1, identify it for the  
16 Examiner, and tell him about the well's location?

17 A. Exhibit 1 is a Morrow "B" Sand Production map.  
18 It also indicates the acreage that Nearburg and Range  
19 jointly own in various different colors.

20 Q. What do the colors indicate?

21 A. The yellow is acreage that we own jointly. The  
22 green and blue are acreage that we have under farmout  
23 commitment from other companies.

24 The green outline is the 320-acre proration unit  
25 for the Range State 28 Com Number 2, proposed location.

1 Q. What is the footage location of the well?

2 A. Footage location of the well 660 from the south  
3 line and 990 from the east line, Section 28.

4 Q. To what depth will this well be drilled?

5 A. 13,200 feet or the Morrow formation.

6 Q. Do you request unorthodox-location approval for  
7 all 320-acre gas zones?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Looking at Exhibit 1, could you identify --  
10 They're not identified on this map, but who are the offset  
11 lessees?

12 A. The offset lessees to the east in the west half  
13 of Section 27 is the Crescent Porter Hale Foundation. They  
14 own an 80-acre tract in the east half of the southwest  
15 quarter. In Section 34, the north half is owned by Yates  
16 Petroleum.

17 Q. And the only other offset is yellow, which is  
18 Range Resources?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Were the offsets notified of this Application?

21 A. Yes, they were.

22 Q. And is the affidavit of notice submitted as  
23 Exhibit 2?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do Yates or the foundation object to this



1 location?

2 A. They do not.

3 Q. What is Exhibit 3?

4 A. Exhibit 3 are letters from Crescent Porter Hale  
5 Foundation and Yates Petroleum Corporation, notifying us  
6 that they had no objection.

7 Q. Okay. Now, this Application could have been  
8 applied for administratively. Why was the matter set for  
9 hearing?

10 A. We have a very quickly approaching deadline, May  
11 1st, 1999, to start a well in the south half of Section 28.

12 Q. So you applied for a hearing just to shorten the  
13 process?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Because of this drilling deadline, would you like  
16 the order to issue as soon as possible?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Were Exhibits 2 and 3 prepared by you or compiled  
19 from company business records?

20 A. Yes, they're compiled from company business  
21 records and prepared by either me or Lee Petersen, the  
22 other individual that's with me this morning.

23 Q. And the geologist will also testify about  
24 Exhibit; is that right?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Mr. Fling, in your opinion, is the granting of  
2 this Application in the interests of conservation and the  
3 prevention of waste?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the admission  
6 of Exhibits 2 and 3 at this time.

7 EXAMINER ASHLEY: Exhibits 2 and 3 will be  
8 admitted as evidence.

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY EXAMINER ASHLEY:

11 Q. Could you explain a little more about why you  
12 chose to apply for a hearing as opposed to an  
13 administrative approval for this?

14 A. Yes, we -- The tract that we'll be drilling on in  
15 the south half of Section 28 is a tract we have farmed in  
16 from Phillips Petroleum Company, and there's a May 1st  
17 drilling deadline on that to earn that farmout acreage.

18 MR. CARROLL: Couldn't you have asked for  
19 expedited approval of an administrative application?

20 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, what we were -- or Mr.  
21 Carroll, what we afraid of is, if someone -- if we applied  
22 for it administratively and someone objected. Then it  
23 would be set for sometime in late April, and we wouldn't  
24 get a final approval before then.

25 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

1 Q. (By Examiner Ashley) And your deadline is May  
2 1st?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 EXAMINER ASHLEY: I have no further questions,  
5 Mr. Fling. Thank you.

6 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

7 EXAMINER ASHLEY: Mr. Bruce, how does Mr. Fling  
8 spell his last name?

9 MR. BRUCE: F-l-i-n-g.

10 LEE M. PETERSEN,  
11 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon  
12 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. BRUCE:

15 Q. Could you please state your name for the record?

16 A. My name is Lee Petersen. I live in Richland  
17 Hills, Texas.

18 Q. And who do you work for?

19 A. I work for Range Resources Corporation. I'm the  
20 vice president of geology.

21 Q. Have you previously testified before the  
22 Division?

23 A. Yes, sir, I have.

24 Q. And were your credentials as an expert petroleum  
25 geologist accepted as a matter of record?

1 A. Yes, they were.

2 Q. And are you familiar with geologic matters  
3 pertaining to this Application?

4 A. I am.

5 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I tender Mr. Petersen  
6 as an expert petroleum geologist.

7 EXAMINER ASHLEY: Mr. Petersen is so qualified.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Mr. Petersen, what is the primary  
10 target of this well?

11 A. The primary target of this well is the Morrow "B"  
12 sand, at about 12,500 feet.

13 Q. Could you refer to Exhibit 1, identify that for  
14 the Examiner, and tell him about the production in this  
15 area?

16 A. Exhibit 1 is a production -- cumulative  
17 production map of the Morrow "B" sand in the area of the  
18 proposed well, and the key wells -- Well, let me say first  
19 that all the wells that have produced from the Morrow "B"  
20 sand are marked with a red circle. And the key wells to  
21 this case are the two Rand Paulson wells in Section 33,  
22 Township 31 South, 35 East.

23 And you can see from the map that although these  
24 are fairly new wells, drilled in 1998, that the Number 1  
25 well has already made 1.3 BCF of gas and 25,000 barrels of

1 condensate and was still currently making, as of the last  
2 available commercial production records, over 5 million  
3 cubic feet of gas a day and about 98 barrels of condensate  
4 a day. That was the Number 1 well.

5 The Rand Paulson State 33 Number 2 well, just to  
6 the north of the Number 1 well, also in Section 33, has not  
7 been on line as long, and after only five months of  
8 production has made .7 of a BCF gas and it looks like about  
9 15,000 barrels of condensate, and is also still making a --  
10 producing at a daily rate of over 5 million cubic feet a  
11 day, and 102 barrels condensate per day.

12 The other key well that I'd like to point out  
13 that is on the north side of the proposed location in  
14 Section 28 is the recently drilled Nearburg Range 28 State  
15 Com Number 1 well, in the northeast quarter of Section 28.  
16 This well was drilled and tested the Morrow "B" sand, and  
17 as we will show shortly in additional exhibits, this well  
18 was a dry hole. Although the sand was present, it would  
19 not produce in commercial quantities.

20 Q. Is that Number 1 well the reason why you are  
21 requesting the unorthodox location for this well?

22 A. It is. Data obtained from this well, the Number  
23 1 well in Section 28 and the interpretation thereof, is the  
24 reason that we feel we need to move the location for the  
25 Number 2 well to the east of the standard location, to

1 obtain the best chance of making a commercial well in the  
2 south half of Section 28.

3 Q. What is Exhibit 4, Mr. Petersen -- Excuse me,  
4 Exhibit 5? No, that is 4, Mr. Petersen.

5 A. Exhibit 4 is a structure map contoured on the top  
6 of the Morrow formation in the area. But -- The structure  
7 of the Morrow has very little to do with the prospect, but  
8 it is to show the regional geology, the fact that in  
9 general, the structure on the top of the Morrow formation  
10 in the area dips to the south and southwest.

11 Q. And does that have a line of cross-section on it?

12 A. It does, it shows cross-section A-A', which  
13 illustrates the key wells that we have discussed, plus the  
14 proposed location.

15 Q. Why don't you move on to that cross-section,  
16 Exhibit 5, and discuss it for the Examiner?

17 A. Exhibit 5 is a stratigraphic cross-section, A-A',  
18 as labeled on Exhibit 4, and Exhibit 5 shows the nature of  
19 the Morrow "B" sand in the immediate area of the proposed  
20 location.

21 It shows that the Morrow "B" sand, while  
22 continuous across this area, is in fact somewhat  
23 lenticular. And you can also see the nature of the  
24 porosity and how it changes in a relatively short distance.

25 What it shows is that the Morrow "B" sand in the

1 Rand Paulson key wells, State 33 1 and 2 in Section 33,  
2 have quite a bit better porosity, although a little bit  
3 less thickness, than the Nearburg Range 28 State Com Well  
4 in Section 28. While the Range 28 State Com Number 1 well  
5 actually found the sand in the correct position, and while  
6 the sand was actually thicker than in the key Rand Paulson  
7 wells, in fact, the porosity was less and the permeability  
8 was much less, and we were unable to make a commercial well  
9 at that zone.

10 Q. Does the cross-section indicate that you have a  
11 strong possibility of hitting the sand at your unorthodox  
12 location?

13 A. Yes, we believe we have a very strong possibility  
14 of encountering the Morrow "B" sand at the proposed  
15 location.

16 Q. Let's move on to Exhibit 6 and maybe discuss a  
17 little bit more in detail how the Number 1 well or the  
18 logging from the Number 1 well dictated the move to the  
19 east, the Number 2 well.

20 A. Exhibit 6 is a net sand isopach of the Morrow "B"  
21 sandstone, the same sand that is colored yellow in the  
22 cross-section, Exhibit 5, and it shows the lenticular  
23 nature of the Morrow B sand. It shows that in general the  
24 direction orientation of the sand is from north to south  
25 across the area of the proposed well.

1           And what it shows also is that by moving the  
2       location to a nonstandard location, as proposed to the  
3       east, that we would be able to get in the very thickest  
4       part of the particular sand channel in the Morrow "B".

5           Also, another reason we would like to move it to  
6       the east is because in the Nearburg Range 28 State Com  
7       Number 1 well in the northeast of 28, we ran a Schlumberger  
8       FMI imaging log in that well, and the interpretation of  
9       that log indicated that the best sand development and  
10      porosity and permeability would be to move the location  
11      somewhat to the east, as well as just to the south.

12           So for that reason and for the interpretation,  
13      subsurface interpretation of this net-sand isopach, we are  
14      requesting the location.

15           Q.    In your opinion, is the proposed location  
16      necessary to adequately test the Morrow and ensure a  
17      reasonable chance of success?

18           A.    Yes, I believe so.

19           Q.    In your opinion, is the granting of this  
20      Application in the interest of conservation and the  
21      prevention of waste?

22           A.    Yes, sir.

23           Q.    And were Exhibits 1, 4, 5 and 6 prepared by you  
24      or under your direction?

25           A.    They were.



1 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I'd move the admission  
2 of Exhibits 1, 4, 5 and 6.

3 EXAMINER ASHLEY: Exhibits 1, 4, 5 and 6 will be  
4 admitted as evidence.

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY EXAMINER ASHLEY:

7 Q. Mr. Petersen, you said that the log that you ran  
8 on the Nearburg well said move the location to the south  
9 and to the east?

10 A. Yes, Mr. Examiner.

11 Q. That was from Nearburg's location, or from the  
12 standard location?

13 A. If I understand your question right, Mr.  
14 Examiner, it would be from the standard location.

15 Q. Okay. Could I get you to tell me what the daily  
16 production rates are, again, in Section 33 for the two  
17 wells, the Rand Paulson wells?

18 A. Yes, sir. Those daily rates, as of my last  
19 commercial available records, are, the Rand Paulson State  
20 33 Number 1 well, in the southwest of Section 33, the daily  
21 rate is five million and eighty-six cubic feet of gas per  
22 day and 98 barrels condensate. And Rand Paulson State 33  
23 Number 2 well, in the northwest quarter of Section 33 is  
24 five million one hundred and seventy-eight cubic feet of  
25 gas per day and 102 barrels of condensate per day.

1 Q. Thank you. You stated that the Morrow "B" sand  
2 is your primary target. What are your secondary targets?

3 A. There are secondary targets in this well of the  
4 Wolfcamp limestone and also the Bone Spring.

5 EXAMINER ASHLEY: Okay, I have no further  
6 questions, Mr. Petersen. Thank you.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 MR. BRUCE: I have nothing further in this case,  
9 Mr. Examiner.

10 EXAMINER ASHLEY: There being nothing further in  
11 this case, Case 12,151 will be taken under advisement.

12 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at  
13 8:40 a.m.)

14 \* \* \*

15  
16  
17 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is  
18 a complete record of the proceedings in  
19 the Examiner hearing of Case No. 12151,  
20 heard by me on 4-1 1989.  
21 Mark Beatty, Examiner  
22 Oil Conservation Division  
23  
24  
25

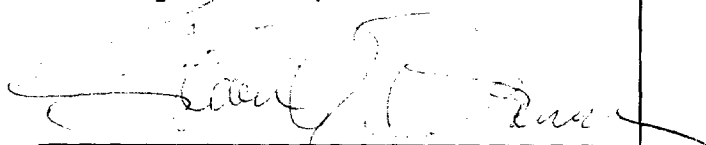
## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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 April 2nd, 1999.



STEVEN T. BRENNER  
CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 2002