#### 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. 12,573

APPLICATION OF MATADOR PETROLEUM CORPORATION FOR COMPULSORY POOLING, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ORIGINAL

## REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

### EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner

01 JAN 24 PH 4: 0

January 11th, 2001

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID R. CATANACH,
Hearing Examiner, on Thursday January 11th, 2001, 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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#### APPEARANCES

## FOR THE APPLICANT:

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By: W. THOMAS KELLAHIN

FOR DEVON SFS OPERATING, INC.:

JAMES G. BRUCE, Attorney at Law 3304 Camino Lisa Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 P.O. Box 1056 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

ALSO PRESENT:

MICHAEL E. STOGNER, NMOCD Hearing Examiner

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at 1 10:26 a.m.: 2 3 4 5 EXAMINER CATANACH: At this time I'll call Case 6 12,573, the Application of Matador Petroleum Corporation 7 for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico. 8 Call for appearances in this case. 9 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom Kellahin of 10 the Santa Fe law firm of Kellahin and Kellahin, appearing 11 on behalf of the Applicant. 12 I'd like the record to reflect that I have the 13 same two witnesses as in the prior case and that both 14 gentlemen will testify as experts and continue under oath. 15 EXAMINER CATANACH: The record shall reflect that 16 these gentlemen have already been qualified and sworn in, 17 in the previous case. 18 19 Any additional appearances? 20 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce of Santa Fe, 21 representing Devon SFS Operating, Incorporated. witnesses. 22 23 Mr. Bruce, Devon --EXAMINER CATANACH: 24 MR. BRUCE: -- SFS, as in Santa Fe, and F as in 25 Santa Fe.

# 6 MARK A. VIRANT, 1 the witness herein, having been previously duly sworn upon 2 his oath, was examined and testified as follows: 3 4 EXAMINATION 5 BY MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Virant, for the record again, would you 6 Q. 7 please state your name and occupation? Mark A. Virant, landman for Matador Petroleum 8 Corporation. 10 Q. Mr. Virant, were you the landman responsible on behalf of your company for identifying the working interest 1.1 owners for the Laura State "13" Number 1 well? 12 Yes, sir. 13 Α. And was it your responsibility to contact those 14 0. interest owners and attempt to negotiate a voluntary 15 16 agreement? 17 Α. It was. If you'll turn to Exhibit Number 1, identify for 18 19 the Examiner the outlined area which is the proposed 20 spacing unit. 21 Α. Exhibit 1 is the proposed spacing unit for the 22

Laura State well, which is the east half of Section 13, Township 21 South, 34 East.

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- Q. How is the east half of Section 13 subdivided?
- There are four state leases involved. The Α.

ownership on the west half of the northeast is 100 percent Devon. The east half of the northeast is listed on the exhibit, Matador, Chevron, Southwestern and Nearburg. The northeast of the southeast is Matador and Nearburg, 50-50, and the remainder is Matador, DelMar and Nearburg.

- Q. Do you have a tabulation or a summary of the status of your efforts to obtain voluntary agreement?
  - A. Yes, sir, that's Exhibit 2.

- Q. Let's start with Exhibit 2. The first entry is Matador. You've got 28-plus percent.
- A. Correct, we have 28-plus percent. Nearburg has 22-plus percent. We have reached an agreement with Nearburg whereby they will either participate or grant a term assignment. We've done the same thing with Southwestern Energy. Both of those are in writing.

DelMar Holdings, we have a verbal agreement with them along the same lines.

Southwest Royalties claims the interest credited to DelMar Holdings.

Devon Energy has indicated their decision will be based upon the results of the Mary State Well, which is to the north of our proposed location, but is unwilling to sign a deferred election at this time.

And then the final party is Chevron which, as in the previous hearing, has indicated they will not dispose

of any assets because of the pending merger, and Chevron has indicated it will be necessary to initiate forcepooling proceedings in order to force a decision.

- Q. If you reach a final written agreement with these parties, then you will advise the Division that you've done so and those parties can be released from the effects of the compulsory pooling order?
  - A. Yes, sir, I will.
- Q. And they would be the four companies starting with DelMar Holding and then going on down the list?
  - A. Correct.

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- Q. You referred to Devon wanting to know the results of the Mary State. That was the compulsory pooling case that you testified before Examiner Stogner back in October of last year?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. And that's Case 12,519, and it's Order Number R-11,484, correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
  - Q. What's the status of that well?
- 21 A. That well should spud within the week, a week to 22 ten days.
- Q. Let's look at Exhibit 3 and have you describe
  what you're showing here.
  - A. Exhibit 3 is merely a summary of communication

with the parties in the well, letters, phone conversations.

- Q. And the conclusions are as you described with the last exhibit?
  - A. That's correct.

- Q. Let's look at Exhibit 4. What does this represent?
- A. Exhibit 4 is the well proposals to Nearburg, which is the first page, and then the following pages were partners that we AFE'd and gave notice to the well, but those interests have been acquired by Nearburg. So they have all folded into the Nearburg interest.
- Q. And the Nearburg interest now is voluntarily committed?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. When you made the proposal to Nearburg and these other interests now controlled by Nearburg, did you make a similar proposal to the rest of the working interest owners?
  - A. We did.
- Q. Let's turn to Exhibit 5 and have you identify this package of letters.
- A. This package of letters is the well proposal, which contained an AFE and a joint operating agreement, and these are the remainder of the parties that had an interest in the well, some of whom we have subsequently reached a

voluntary agreement with.

- Q. All right. Let's turn to Exhibit 6. Identify this for us.
  - A. This is the AFE for the proposed well.
- Q. This was included in the original well proposal sent to all the working interest owners?
  - A. Yes, sir, it was.
    - Q. And have you received any objection to your AFE?
- A. No, sir.
  - Q. Identify for us Exhibit 7.
- A. Exhibit 7 is a letter from Devon indicating that the interest that we had originally credited to Devon and Nearburg was -- should have been credited 100 percent to Devon.
- Q. When Mr. Gray responded on behalf of Devon in November, did he discuss with you or correspond on any other issue?
  - A. We discussed what their plans were for the well.
  - Q. All right, sir. Exhibit 8, identify this for us.
- A. Exhibit 8 is -- Southwest Royalties was notified, an AFE for the proposed well. They sent this letter back October 26th, claiming the interest that we credited to DelMar Holding.
- Q. Identify and describe Exhibit 9.
  - A. Exhibit 9 is a draft proposal regarding a

Conversation with Ken Gray at Devon whereby we extended

Devon the opportunity to make an election to participate or
to farm out within 15 days of receipt of logs from the Mary

State well, which is to the north.

- Q. Did Mr. Gray on behalf of Devon accept your proposal to defer his election or participation of the Laura State until after he had examined the logs or --
  - A. He did not.

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- Q. -- they had on the Mary State? He did not accept that?
  - A. He did not accept that.
- Q. All right. So at this point you've exhausted all efforts to obtain voluntary agreement with these remaining entities?
- 15 A. That's correct.
  - Q. Identify for us Exhibit 10, what's this.
- A. Exhibit 10 is the proposed joint operating agreement for the well.
  - Q. The operating agreement shows a COPAS attachment for overhead rates of \$7000 a month drilling and \$700 producing?
    - A. Correct.
      - Q. Are these the rates that Nearburg has agreed to?
- A. Nearburg has agreed to \$6500 and \$650, which once again was established in that October 20th force-pooling

We're prepared to accept overhead rates of \$6500 hearing. 1 and \$650 in this well. 2 Q. All right, so they would be consistent, then, 3 with the Mary State --4 5 Α. That's correct. -- force pooling order? 6 Q. 7 Α. That's correct. And then all participants in the Laura State, 8 9 either voluntarily or involuntarily, would be subject to the same rate? 10 11 Α. That's correct. 12 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, that concludes my examination of Mr. Virant. We move the introduction of 13 14 Exhibits 1 through 10. 15 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 10 will be admitted as evidence. 16 17 EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER CATANACH: 18 19 So, Mr. Virant, the parties that you're seeking 20 to pool at this time -- Now, you don't have an agreement with Nearburg officially; is that correct? 21 22 Α. We do. You do have? 23 Q. 24 Yes, sir. Α.

They've signed the JOA?

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Α. They have not. 1 What have they agreed to, or how have they 2 Q. 3 agreed? They have agreed to either participate or to Α. 4 5 grant us a term assignment within 15 days of receipt of the 6 log from the Mary State well. 7 Okay, is that a written agreement that you've ο. reached? 8 It is. Α. 9 10 0. Okay, the same with Southwestern Energy? That's correct. 11 Α. 12 0. Now, DelMar Holdings does have an interest in this proration unit? 13 The title opinion reflects that they do, yes, 14 Α. sir. 15 So you've been negotiating with them as well? 16 ο. 17 That's correct. Α. There's a dispute between DelMar and 18 Q. Southwestern? 19 20 Α. That's correct, or Southwest, Southwest. 21 Q. Southwest Royalties? Yes, sir. 22 Α. 23 Okay. Now, you've not been dealing with Q. 24 Southwest Royalties?

No, sir, other than that they were AFE'd for the

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Α.

But our title opinion reflects that they don't own 1 well. an interest. 2 EXAMINER CATANACH: Just for the record, the 3 4 Division has received a letter from Southwest Royalties 5 dated January 5th that was copied to you, Mr. Kellahin. MR. KELLAHIN: Yes, sir. 6 7 EXAMINER CATANACH: I assume you've seen that letter? 8 9 EXAMINER CATANACH: We propose to have both entities subject to the pooling order, and they can resolve 10 11 among themselves who the owner is. While we think DelMar has the interest, we don't think we have an obligation to 12 13 solve their disputes, so we're going to send them both the order and the election. 14 EXAMINER CATANACH: So if it turns out that 15 16 Southwest is the owner, they will have the opportunity to 17 join in the well? 18 MR. KELLAHIN: Yeah, they'll be pooled and 19 they'll have to make the election, just like everybody 20 else. 21 EXAMINER CATANACH: I'm just curious. 22 dispute is not resolved during the time period before the 23 well is commenced, how does that play out? MR. KELLAHIN: Well, the mechanics are, they 24 25 would have to make their election to participate before the

well is either drilled or completed. And they would make it qualified, subject to having confirmation of the ownership. We'd probably have to escrow the funds from both of them. We'll just set those aside, and whoever the winner is, then, will be involved. But the election will have expired.

- Q. (By Examiner Catanach) Okay. Devon, I assume, has verbally agreed but has not signed anything?
- A. Well, they've indicated that their decision will be based upon the results of the Mary State well. So they have not committed at this point.
  - Q. Okay. And Chevron, okay.

And this well was proposed on or about October 20th; is that correct?

- A. Yes, sir, October 20th.
- Q. Okay, and from that time you've been dealing with Southwest Royalties; is that correct?
- A. They've been calling me, discussing their interest. And as Mr. Kellahin indicated, we don't really have any interest -- we have an interest, but we're not involved. They need to settle their dispute with DelMar.
- Q. Well, initially did you start dealing with DelMar and then you later found that Southwest -- or you later found out that there was a dispute?
  - A. No, our takeoffs indicated that both parties had

1 interest in acreage out there, so we notified both parties. Q. Okay, that's my question. 2 Nearburg, you said, had agreed to the lesser 3 4 overhead charges of \$6500 and \$650; is that correct? 5 Α. Yes. And how did they -- Did they sign something to 6 Q. 7 that effect? No, sir, we sort of have a standing agreement 8 Α. with them in that area. That's the rate we're exchanging 9 10 with one another. So you're willing to accept those rates in 11 Q. 12 this --13 Α. Correct. 14 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. I have nothing 15 further, Mr. Kellahin. 16 MARTIN EMERY, the witness herein, having been previously duly sworn upon 17 18 his oath, was examined and testified as follows: 19 DIRECT EXAMINATION 20 BY MR. KELLAHIN: 21 Mr. Emery, for the record would you please state Q. 22 your name and occupation? 23 My name is Martin Emery, I'm a geologist with Matador Petroleum Corporation. 24 25 Q. Mr. Emery, is it your responsibility to develop

the geologic analysis on the Laura State well, which is the subject of the hearing?

A. Yes.

- Q. As part of that study and analysis of the geology, do you have an opinion as to the risk associated with this well?
  - A. Yes, I do.
- Q. Do you have a recommendation to the Examiner as to what that percentage risk ought to be in relation to a compulsory pooling order?
- A. Yes.
  - Q. And what is that amount?
- 13 A. The maximum penalty of 200 percent.
  - Q. Let's go through in summary fashion your various geologic displays so that the Examiner has a background and an understanding of your evaluation. If you'll start with Exhibit 11, what are we looking at here?
  - A. Exhibit 11 is a production map. It includes all wells drilled to all depths. The green-coded wells are wells which are productive from the Morrow.
  - Q. Up to now, the green wells are associated to development that is west of the east half of this section?
  - A. Primarily, yes.
- Q. Okay. Identify for the Examiner where the approximate location is of the Mary State well?

- Α. The Mary State well is located in the northeast quarter of Section 13, 660 from the north line 1980 from the east line.
  - Q. All right, that's the Laura State --
  - Α. Oh, I'm sorry.

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- -- that's the subject well of this hearing, 6 Q. 7 right?
- Yes. The Mary State well is in Section 12, in Α. 8 the southeast quarter. 9
  - Q. All right. And the Mary State in the southeast of 12 is subject of the October pooling case?
    - Α. That is correct.
- 13 Q. Let's turn and look at some of the geologic risks involved in the well. If you'll look at Exhibit 12, 14 15 identify this for me.
  - Α. Exhibit 12 is a structural contour map constructed on top of the lower Morrow.
  - There's a line of fault running north-south that Q. appears to intersect very closely to the locations of both the Mary State and the Laura State?
    - Α. That is correct.
- 22 What's your objective? What are you trying to Q. Do you want to be west of the line or east of the line?
- 25 Preferably west of the line. Α.

Q. And why is that?

- A. Because the production we're trying to offset is west of that line-of-fault trace, as depicted on the structure map.
- Q. Regardless of the success or failure of the Mary State, then, does there continue to be substantial risk associated with where that fault line is in relation to the Laura State well?
  - A. There could be, yes.
- Q. Apart from the geologic risk of structure and faulting, do you have a cross-section that will help illustrate the various members of the Wilson-Morrow Gas Pool that you're trying to test?
  - A. That is correct.
- Q. Let's unfold that and take a look at it. I think it would be helpful if you'll take 13, the cross-section, and then let's look at the first sand map, Exhibit 14. And by looking at 14 then we can see the line of your cross-section. All right?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. We're going to look briefly at your four isopach maps, but so that the Examiner knows your vocabulary or how you -- the nomenclature for your middle Morrow, describe for us what you see and how you have developed your maps by referring to Exhibit Number 13.

A. Exhibit Number 13 is a stratigraphic cross-section. It includes two wells in the proposed location. Our main objectives are highlighted in yellow, and within the middle Morrow there are sandstones, and in descending order our nomenclature is the "B-2" sandstone, "C-1" sandstone, "C-2" sandstone, and "D" sandstone.

And subsequent isopach maps are maps constructed for those sandstone intervals or members of the middle Morrow.

- Q. Okay. And each of those maps is different and varies from the other map? One isopach is not identical to the subsequent isopach?
  - A. No.

- O. There are differences?
- 15 A. Correct.
  - Q. Let's start with Exhibit 14. The risks associated with the Morrow "B-2" SS interval is the absence of commercial gas production in the direction towards which you are drilling your well?
  - A. That is correct. The northernmost producing well within the mapped area is the old Unocal Wilson Deep Unit Number 1 in the north west of Section 13. It's now operated by Maynard.
  - Q. So the Laura State will test the concept of whether or not you've got the right orientation to this

sand lens and whether or not it will have sufficient thickness to produce commercial gas as you move to the north and east?

A. Correct.

- Q. All right, let's look at the next one. Exhibit 15 describes what series in the Morrow? You've identified this as what?
- A. Exhibit 15 should be the "C-1" sandstone. This one is labeled "C-2". It doesn't matter.
- Q. All right, they're out of sequence, so let's stay with the numbering order on the exhibit. So Exhibit 15 is going to skip down to the "C-2" interval.
- A. "C-2", middle Morrow "C-2" sandstone, it's a net sandstone isopach map.
- Q. All right, give us a short summary of the risk associated with this sand.
- A. Like with the previous map, the main -- the thick for this particular sandstone interval is located to the west of the proposed location, and there is no commercial production established from this particular sandstone interval in wells north or south of the proposed location.
- Q. All right, let's go, then, to Exhibit 16. Orient us as to this interval and describe the risk.
- A. This is a net isopach map for the "C-1" sandstone, and like with the previous map, the isopach

thick, the net isopach thick for sandstone is depicted to be west of the proposed location, south and west, and there are noncommercial penetrations to the north, south and east of our proposed location.

- Q. And then the final display, let's look at Exhibit 17.
- A. The final display is a net sandstone isopach map for the "D" sandstone interval, and we do not expect any net reservoir in that interval at the proposed location.
- Q. All right. The working interest owners to be pooled in the east half of 13, are they also involved in the Mary State well up in Section 12?
  - A. The majority of them are common, yes.
- Q. All right. The interest owners, then, in the Laura State will have the opportunity to see the log on the Mary State and make their decision accordingly; is that not true?
- A. That is right, they will be provided with the well data from the Mary State well in Section 12.
- Q. And if they choose not to voluntarily participate under the pooling order in the Laura State well, what would that tell you?
- A. It would say that they deem the Laura State to be sufficiently risky as to not participate, given that they have the well information from the Mary State well in

Section 12. 1 Based upon that fact situation, would you 2 3 recommend, then, that if they elect not to participate in the Laura State, that they should be subject to the maximum 4 5 penalty? Α. That is correct. 6 7 MR. KELLAHIN: That concludes my examination of 8 Mr. Emery. We move the introduction of his Exhibits 11 9 10 through 17. EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 11 through 17 will 11 be admitted as evidence. 12 13 EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER CATANACH: 14 15 Mr. Emery, there appears to be a well in the 16 southeast quarter of Section 13, the Wilson State? That is correct. 17 Α. 18 Was that drilled to test the Morrow? 0. It was drilled to test and did produce from the 19 Α. 20 It is currently inactive in the Morrow. It is Morrow. currently a Strawn producer, which I think it's also 21 22 inactive in the Strawn as well. 23 Who operates that well? Q. 24 Α. I'm not certain who the current operator was.

The original operator was Dorchester.

1 You've no plans to complete your well in the Q. 2 Strawn do you? Although I do believe that well is no longer 3 No. active in the Strawn. 4 Wait a minute, are you pooling Dorchester? 5 Q. Dorchester's not an interest owner, but they operate this 6 7 Strawn well? Like I said, I do not believe the well is still 8 Α. 9 active. But you don't know if it's plugged? 10 Q. I'm not certain if it's plugged, but it's not 11 active in either the Strawn or the Morrow. 12 13 Q. Now, on that same exhibit, Exhibit Number 12, you've got a fault. Is this fault in the Morrow formation? 14 Correct. 15 Α. Now, is that a fault that separates the east half 16 Q. and the west half of that section in the producing 17 intervals? 18 Possibly, yes. 19 Α. And that would be in all four of the producing 20 0. intervals --21 Correct. 22 Α. -- all four of the sands? 23 Q. Α. Correct. 24

But you don't know if it's a sealing fault where

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Q.

it separates?

- A. True.
- Q. And you're drilling on the west side of that fault?
  - A. Just on the west side, hopefully.
  - Q. And why is that?
  - A. Again, as I stated earlier, we are attempting to replicate some of the production that's recently been established to the west of our proposed location.
  - Q. Well, if that turns out to be a sealing fault and it's in the location that you have it there, your well is not going to be draining the east half of that section; is that your opinion?
  - A. Possibly. The fault is depicted based on subsurface information and scant 2-D seismic data. The fault is also a reverse fault. There's a slight chance -- a steep-angle reverse fault or a high-angle reverse fault. There's a slight chance that we could have repeated section in the Laura State location if we do intersect the fault, in which case we would then have the capability to potentially drain reservoir both east and west of the fault.
  - Q. What production to the west are you talking about as far as trying to establish -- Have there been some newer wells drilled in this area?

- Yes, there have. 1 Α. Go back and look at Exhibit 11. ٥. 2 On Exhibit 11 in Section 12 you can see the notes 3 Α. 4 by the two wells, coded green, in the western half of Section 12. Those are both fairly recent completions, one 5 in May, one in August of last year. 6 7 8 9
  - And then the well in the northeast of the northeast of Section 14 is also a recent completion. Exact date I'm not sure, but it was late last year.
  - According to that exhibit, it looks like that 0. well in the southeast quarter is inactive in both the Strawn and Morrow at this time.
    - That's correct. Α.
- 14 And it looks like it hasn't produced out of those intervals since the 1970s. 15
  - The dates on there are the date of initial Α. production.
  - Q. Okay.

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- 19 It's not the last date of production.
- 20 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. Anything further of 21 this witness?
- No, sir. 22 MR. KELLAHIN:
- 23 EXAMINER CATANACH: Anything further in this
- 24 case, Mr. Kellahin?
- 25 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir. Oh, I'm sorry, Exhibit

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18 is the notice of hearing.
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                                                                                                                        EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibit 18 will be admitted
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                                         as evidence.
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                                                                                                                        And there being nothing further in this case,
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                                         Case 12,573 will be taken under advisement.
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                                                                                                                          (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
         7
                                         10:55 a.m.)
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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 Japuary 15th, 2001.

STEVEN T. BRENNER

CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 2002