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W. THOMAS KELLAHIN\*

August 14, 2001

## HAND DELIVERED

Ms. Lori Wrotenbery, Director Oil Conservation Division 1220 South Saint Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Request of OXY USA WTP LP for Extension of Date for Commencement of Well Pursuant to Compulsory Pooling Order R-11585 Case 12629 (Trombone Federal Com Well No.1) S/2 Section 2, T18S, R25E, NMPM Eddy County, New Mexico

Dear Ms. Wrotenbery:

On behalf of OXY USA WTP LP ("OXY") and in accordance with the provisions of the referenced order (copy enclosed), I am requesting an extension of the commencement date for this well to December 1, 2001 and in support state:

- (1) The order was entered effective May 21, 2001 and provides that this well shall be commenced on or before September 1, 2001;
- (2) The Trombone Federal Com Well No. 1 is part of OXY's current drilling program in Eddy County, New Mexico involving the continuous use of four rigs throughout the year;
- (3) OXY had originally expected to be able to spud this well by September 1, 2001 with one of the four contract rigs involved in this drilling program;

- (4) However, the schedule for this well has been delayed because each rig is still occupied drilling other wells;
- (5) An extension of the commencement date for this well will provide the opportunity to coordinate the commencement of this well with the completion of the other wells in the program;
- (6) Because rig availability in the area is currently tight, efforts to obtain another rig for this program so that this well can be commenced by September 1, 2001 will cause OXY to undertake extraordinary efforts and expenses.

Should you grant this extension, I have enclosed for your consideration a proposed letter which will authorize the requested extension. Should you decide to deny this request, I would appreciate being advised immediately so that OXY can timely file to reinstate this pooling order which will otherwise expire.

W. Thomas Kellahin

cc: David R. Catanach (NMOCD Hearing Examiner)

OXY USA WTP LP
Attn: Doug Hurlbut