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August 19, 2002

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HAND DELIVERED

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

W. THOMAS KELLAHIN\*

Re:

\*NEW MEXICO BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION RECOGNIZED SPECIALIST IN THE AREA OF NATURAL RESOURCES-OIL AND GAS LAW

JASON KELLAHIN (RETIRED 1991)

RECEIVED

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Oil Conservation Division

NMOCD Case 12908

Division Nomenclature Case August 1, 2002

NMOCD CASE 12622 (De Novo)

Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C.
Application for Approval of Two Non-Standard 160-acre
Gas Proration and Spacing Units
NE/4 and SE/4, Section 34, T21S, R34E, NMPM,
East Grama Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico

Ms. Wrotenbery:

On behalf of Redrock Operating Ltd. Co. ("Redrock") and Raptor Natural Pipeline, LLC ("Raptor") please find enclosed our motion to dismiss or in the alternative reopen a portion of Case 12908 heard on August 30, 2001.

Based upon my conservation this morning with Mr. Steve Ross concerning this joint motion, I am notifying Mr. Carr and Mr. Hall that the August 30 is to be vacated and that the Commission is considering reschedule this hearing for 2 days either the week of September 9th or 16th.

In addition, the Commission need to decide the issue of consolidation.

W. Thomas Kellahin

cfx: Michael E. Stogner, Hearing Examiner

David Brooks, Esq., OCD Attorney

Chris Williams, Supervisor (OCD-Hobbs)

J. Scott Hall, Esq.

Attorney for Raptor Natural Pipeline, LLC

William F. Carr, Esq.

Attorney for Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C.

Redrock Operating Ltd. Co.

Attn: Tim Cashon

# STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

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

APPLICATION OF NEARBURG EXPLORATION COMPANY, L.L.C. FOR TWO NON-STANDARD GAS SPACING AND PRORATION UNITS; LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

**CASE NO. 12622 (De Novo)** 

**CASE NO. 12908** 

APPLICATION OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR AN ORDER CREATING AND EXTENDING CERTAIN POOLS, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

JOINT MOTION BY
REDROCK OPERATING LTD, CO
AND
NEARBURG EXPLORATION COMPANY L.L.C.
TO
RESCHEDULE AND
CONSOLIDATE CASE 12622 (DeNovo)
WITH THE REOPENING PART OF CASE 12908

Comes now Redrock Operating Ltd, Co. ("Redrock") and Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C. ("Nearburg") and move the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division ("Division") and the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission ("Commission") continue Case 12622 (DeNovo) and consolidate it with the following portion of Division Case 12908 so that both cases can be heard by the Commission at the same hearing:

## **NOMENCLATURE**

"(bb) CONTRACT the East Grama Ridge-Morrow Pool (Pool Code 77690) in Lea County, New Mexico include:

# Township 22 South, Range 34 East, NMPM

Section 34: E/2

"(cc) EXTEND the Grama Ridge-Morrow Pool (Pool Code 77680) in Lea County, New Mexico include:

# Township 22 South, Range 34 East, NMPM

Section 34: E/2"

and as grounds therefore, states:

#### **SUMMARY**

- (1) Section 34, Township 22 South Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico is divided such that the E/2 is in the East Grama Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool and the W/2 is in the Grama Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool.
- (2) Order R-3006 dated December 3, 1965 created the Grama Ridge Morrow Gas Pool and adopted 640-acre spacing. By Order R-3080 dated July 1, 1966 extended pool to cover all of Section 34.
  - (3) In past cases, the Division:
    - (a) authorized the injection of gas for storage into specific intervals in the Grama Ridge Morrow Gas Pool ("the gas storage pool") in two wells, one being the Grama Ridge Morrow Unit Well No 2 in Unit L of Section 34; (Order R-4491 dated March 16, 1973); and

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- (b) separated the E/2 of Section 34 out of the gas storage pool and from the East Grama Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool. (Order R-5995 dated May 2, 1979).
- (4) Raptor is the operator of the Morrow Gas Storage Unit which includes the W/2 of Section 34 and other acreage.
  - (5) Nearburg is the oil & gas leases for the N/2 of Section 34.
- (6) Redrock is a 10% overriding royalty owner ("ORR") in the S/2 of Section 34 and would own a 5% ORR in the Nearburg well if the E/2 of Section 34 is dedicated to the Nearburg well. If Nearburg's application is granted then Redrock would be excluded from an ORR in the Nearburg well.
- (7) On June 9, 2000, Nearburg completed its Grama Ridge East 34 State Well No. 1 in Unit H of Section 34 and dedicate the N/2 of Section 34 which was denied subsequently by the Division because the 320-acre spacing unit would cross into 2 pools.
- (8) Case 12622 (DeNovo) involves Nearburg's application seeking approval by the Division to subdivide the E/2 of Section 34 to create two non-standard 160-acre gas proration and spacing units ("the NSP Case") (Denied by Order R-11768 dated May 22, 2002).
- (9) Case 12980 ("the Nomenclature Case") is an attempt to move the East boundary of the Grama Ridge-Morrow Gas Pool to the East thereby deleting the impediment to Nearburg dedicating the N/2 of Section 34 to its Grama Ridge East 34 State Well No. 1. Both Raptor and Redrock are opposed to this application.
- (10) On August 9, 2002, Redrock and Raptor filed a motion to dismiss or reopen the Nomenclature Case or in the alterative to consolidate it with the NSP Case.
- (11) On August 13, 2001, Nearburg filed a Response stating "that a determination of the proper pool boundaries is necessary to a full resolution of the issues" and in order to avoid multiple hearing involving the same issues, the case should be consolidate and one hearing held. Response Paragraph (4) and (6).
- (12) Redrock concurs with Nearburg's request to continue these cases and consolidate then for a single hearing before the Commission.
- (13) Raptor does not concur with Redrock and Nearburg's request to consolidate these cases for a single hearing before the Commission.

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### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading was transmitted by facsimile or hand delivered this 19th day of August 2002, as follows:

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Wherefore,

- (1) Nearburg, Redrock and Raptor jointly request that the Commission hearing of Case 12622 (De Novo) set for August 30, 2002 be vacated; and
- (2) And Redrock and Nearburg jointly request that the Commission consolidate Cases 12622 with the referenced portion of Case 12908 be reopened and consolidated with Case 12622 (DeNovo) to be heard before the Commission an a date acceptable to all parties.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Thomas Kellahin

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