

BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

Case No. 277.

May 23, 1951.



BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 23, 1951

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Spurrier, will you authorize putting
on Case No. 277 before Case No. 276?

CASE NO. 277: This is an application of the application
of the Oil Commission, upon its own motion for T. W. Bailes,
Elizabeth Y. Sketchley, and Rio Grande Community to show
cause why they should not plug a well known as Rio Grande
Community, Sketchley No. 1, SW/4 SE/4 Section 5, T. 6N,
R. 1 E, for lack of compliance with the Oil Conservation
Commission Rules and Regulations.

MR. SPURRIER: Yes, sir, Case No. 277/

MR. GRAHAM: Let the record show the notice has
been read?

MR. SPURRIER: Yes.

ELVIS A. UTZ,

having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By MR. GRAHAM:

MR. GRAHAM: Will the Commission ask if there is
anyone here representing T. W. Bailes, Elizabeth Y. Sketchley,
and the Rio Grande Community?

MR. SPURRIER: Yes..

Q Will you state your name?

A Elvis A. Utz, Engineer, Oil Conservation Commission.

Q Is it part of your duties to investigate and inspect wells attention for which is called by the absence of a report?

A That is correct.

Q Have you in the recent past had occasion to inspect the so called Rio Grande Community, Sketchley No. 1 well, located in the SW/4 SE/4 Section 5, Township 6 N, Range 1 East?

A Yes, I have.

Q Previously, in the year 1948 or '49, did you examine that operation also?

A No, I did not. My first experience with this well, was in, approximately, somewhere in the middle part of 1949. Before that I had no knowledge of it.

Q I hand you the file on that well and ask you to tell of the beginning of the operation.

A The C-110, which is the notice of intention to drill this well, was dated April 16, 1948. It was noted on their last report concerning the operations on this well--this report is dated February 28, 1949, which is the last report--that the well was spudded August 1, 1948. However, other evidence which I have secured stated that the well was spudded in March of 1948. A few months earlier than the C-103 shows.

Q And that substantially completes the record in the office on the described forms.

A Other than the report on the casing. I have a prepared history or statement on the whole proceeding if you care for me to go through it.

Q Would you go through that? First let me call your attention to the fact that this bond covers the well in Section 5, 6N, 1E.

A That is correct. It does and there is no bond for the other and no--

Q That would be the next case.

A Excuse me.

(Off the record.)

A There has been no activity on this well since the last report which was dated February 28, 1949, except to move the rig from this location to a new location, which I understand is located in Section 32, 7N, 1E, and which is known as the San Clemente--

Q (Interrupting) And is the subject matter of Case 276?

A That's right. It was reported on C-103, signed by T. W. Bailes, that the well was cased with 7 inch OD set at 4523 with 700 sacks of cement. Eleven and three-quarters OD set at 281 with 275 sacks of cement. Authoritative information has been received orally to the effect that a drill collar was lost and whipstock set to by-pass this. I say that a fishtail and a bit was in the bottom of the whipstock hole. Failure to recover these tools is believed to render the well bore unusable. No samples have been given to the commission or the State Bureau of Mines at Socorro, even though they were requested on several occasions. The daily record of drilling activity wasn't available to the Commission. The latest inspection of the location

which was made May 21, 1951, resulted in the following report. At the surface there are three strings of casing; 18 inch, 11 and 3/4 inch and 7 inch. A wooden plug is stuck into the top of the 7 inch. A six by six by three foot cellar is left open surrounding the casing. A ten by ten by twenty-five board mud pit is also left open, as are two other mud pits of less depth. The location is generally cluttered with old bits, chain, cable and other miscellaneous junk. That is all.

Q In your opinion, Mr. Utz, that operation has been abandoned in fact.

A That's right.

Q And it isn't plugged?

A It isn't plugged.

Q In accordance with the rules of the Commission?

A No, sir.

MR. GRAHAM: That is all, Mr. Commissioner.

MR. NEWMAN: On several occasions I have talked to well servicing companies in Hobbs to determine whether the well was working. These servicing houses can certify as to the amount of work they have done there. That's all.

MR. GRAHAM: Do you have any information, Mr. Newman, how deep that hole might be or might have been?

MR. NEWMAN: What well are we on?

MR. GRAHAM: This is 5- ON-1E, Rio Grande.

MR. NEWMAN: No, I don't have any information how deep that might be.

MR. GRAHAM: But these concerns have been to that well on official jobs?

MR. NEWMAN: Yes, sir. Is this the most recent well or not? That is the old well.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
 : SS
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing and attached transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Commission, in Case No. 277, taken on May 23, 1951, at Santa Fe, is a true and correct record to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

Dated at Albuquerque, this 20th day of June, 1951.

E. E. Greer
Reporter

My Commission Expires:
August 4, 1952