

BEFORE THE  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
at  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
December 17, 1953

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In the Matter of : )  
El Paso Natural Gas Company's application for )  
unorthodox spacing of wells in irregular town- ) Case No. 611  
ship: Township 28 North, Range 8 West, San )  
Juan County. )  
----- )

(Notice of Publication read by Mr. Graham).

MR. SETH: Mr. Morrell is the witness. If the Commission please, this application is to establish drilling and a spacing unit along the north row of sections in Township 28 North, Range 8 West. This matter has been considered before by the Commission in the same general section in relation to the irregular sections along the west boundaries of the township. This is a slightly different problem. As indicated, the township is irregular, the north row of sections is short.

MR. FOSTER MORRELL

having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By MR. SETH:

Q Mr. Morrell, would you state your name for the record?

A Foster Morrell.

Q By whom are you engaged, Mr. Morrell?

A I am engaged in this case by El Paso Natural Gas Company.

Q What is your profession?

A I am a petroleum consultant.

Q You have appeared before the Commission in previous hearings, have you not?

A I have.

Q Would you state to the Commission, please, in general, the proposal of El Paso Natural Gas Company in this application?

A As Township 28 North, Range 8 West is not a complete township, it is impossible to obtain drilling units consisting of 320 acres without splitting subdivisions of established public land surveys. For this reason the application for unorthodox spacing is filed.

Q This application pertains only to Mesaverde gas, does it not?

A That is correct.

Q Do you have a reproduction of the official plat on this township?

A I do.

(El Paso Natural Gas Company's Exhibit  
No. 1 in Case 611 Marked for Identification)

Q Would you state to the Commission, by referring to this plat, the approximate acreage within each of the sections along the north row?

A The acreage in the sections along the north row of township 28 North, Range 8 West, are as follows: Section 7, 298.76 acres; Section 8, 302.00; Section 9, 287.80; Section 10, 293.84; Section 11, 291.96; Section 12, 294.72 acres.

Q Do you recommend to the Commission that each of these fractional sections be ordered to be a drilling or spacing unit?

A That is correct.

Q What would be the result in this particular situation if the normal spacing rule was applied to this township?

A The owners of lease hold rights would be deprived of their right, the opportunity to recover their equitable and just share of the natural gas.

Q Do you believe if this application is granted it will prevent waste, ultimately, and lead to a greater recovery of gas?

A I do.

Q Do you have a recommendation to make to the Commission as to the well locations within the proposed drilling units as recommended?

A I recommend that the wells be drilled not closer than 660 feet from the outer boundary of each section.

Q Do you have any comment to make on the topography in this particular area there?

A In the particular area these sections are cut by canyons and considerable leeway should be allowed for topographic conditions in establishing well locations.

Q Do you have any other comments or recommendations to make, Mr. Morrell?

A I might add that the sections involved, that is Section 7 to 12, inclusive, are all federal lands and that the lease hold, or gas operating rights in these sections are held entirely by El Paso Natural Gas Company.

MR. SETH: We would like to offer the plat in evidence, if the Commission please.

MR. SPURRIER: Without objection it will be admitted.

MR. SETH: Is there any further statement, Mr. Morrell?

A No.

MR. SPURRIER: Is there a question of the witness? If not the witness may be excused. Does anyone have anything further in this case? If not we will take the case under advisement and move on to Case 612.

(Witness excused)

STATE OF NEW MEXICO     )  
                                  )  
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO    )

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing and attached transcript of hearing in Case No. 611 before the Oil Conservation Commission, State of New Mexico, at Santa Fe, on December 17, 1953, is a true and correct record of the same to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

DATED at Albuquerque, New Mexico, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1953.

  
COURT REPORTER