

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION
COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE No. 4022
Order No. R-3683

APPLICATION OF ERNEST A. HANSON
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER NO.
R-3221, AS AMENDED, LEA COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on January 15, 1969, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this 28th day of February, 1969, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony presented and the exhibits received at said hearing, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) That the applicant, Ernest A. Hanson, is the owner and operator of the Atlantic State Well No. 1, located in Unit C of Section 16, Township 20 South, Range 33 East, NMPM West Teas Yates-Seven Rivers Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

(3) That effective January 1, 1969, Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended, prohibits in that area encompassed by Lea, Eddy, Chaves, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the disposal, subject to minor exceptions, of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, streambed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any

-2-

CASE No. 4022

Order No. R-3683

other place or in any manner which would constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

(4) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the State Engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.

(5) That the State Engineer has designated, pursuant to Section 65-3-11 (15), N.M.S.A., 1953 Compilation, all underground water in the State of New Mexico containing 10,000 parts per million or less of dissolved solids as fresh water supplies to be afforded reasonable protection against contamination; except that said designation does not include any water for which there is no present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use that would be impaired by contamination.

(6) That the applicant seeks an exception to the provisions of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the continued disposal of salt water produced by the aforesaid Atlantic State Well No. 1 in an unlined surface pit located in Unit C of said Section 16.

(7) That there are 5 producing shallow water wells located approximately 3 3/4 to 4 1/4 miles to the southwest of the subject pit.

(8) That there is an abandoned shallow water well, the water from which was reported as too salty for cattle to drink, approximately 3 1/2 miles to the northwest of the subject pit.

(9) That there is an abandoned shallow water well, the water from which was reported as too gypseous for cattle to drink, approximately 1 1/2 miles to the north of the subject pit.

(10) That there is an abandoned shallow water well, the water from which was reported as of poor quality, approximately one mile south-southwest of the subject pit.

(11) That the surface and subsurface drainage appears to be in a westerly direction from the subject pit toward a salt lake, known as Laguna Gatuna, located approximately 1 1/8 miles west of the subject pit.

-3-

CASE No. 4022

Order No. R-3683

(12) That there appears to be no water in the vicinity of the subject pit for which a present or reasonably foreseeable beneficial use is or will be made that would be impaired by contamination from said pit.

(13) That the applicant should be permitted to continue to dispose of salt water, produced by applicant's said Atlantic State Well No. 1, in the above-described unlined surface pit.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the applicant, Ernest A. Hanson, is hereby granted an exception to Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, as amended, to continue to dispose of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, by his Atlantic State Well No. 1, located in Unit C of Section 16, Township 20 South, Range 33 East, NMPM, West Teas Yates-Seven Rivers Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, in the unlined surface pit located in said Unit C until further order of the Commission.

(2) That the Commission may by administrative order rescind such authority whenever it reasonably appears to the Commission that such rescission would serve to protect fresh water supplies from contamination.

(3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION


DAVID F. CARGO, Chairman


ALEX J. ARMIJO, Member


A. L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

