

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF V. S. WELCH FOR AN EXCEPTION TO
ORDER NO. R-3221 TO PERMIT THE
DISPOSAL OF PRODUCED SALT WATER INTO
UNLINED OPEN SURFACE PITS IN EDDY
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Case 4520

APPLICATION

COMES NOW V. S. WELCH, by his attorneys, Jennings & Copple, and seeks an exception to Order R-3221, as amended, to permit the disposal of produced salt water into unlined open surface pits located in Section 27, Township 18 South, Range 31 East, N.M.P.M., Eddy County, New Mexico, and in support of his application states:

1. Applicant is the Operator of the V. S. Welch Wells Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 27, Township 18 South, Range 31 East, N.M.P.M., which wells are completed and producing from the Shugart Pool. That said wells produced 6510 barrels of oil during the month of November, 1968.

2. In connection with production of the oil from these six wells, there is produced a small quantity of salt water from between 150 to 170 barrels per day, which water is being disposed of in open unlined pits located in Section 27, Township 18 South, Range 31 East, N.M.P.M. Applicant seeks permission to continue to dispose of said produced salt water into open unlined pits as an exception to Order R-3221, as amended.

3. That there is no fresh or potable water in the vicinity and the only water available in the vicinity for any purpose is

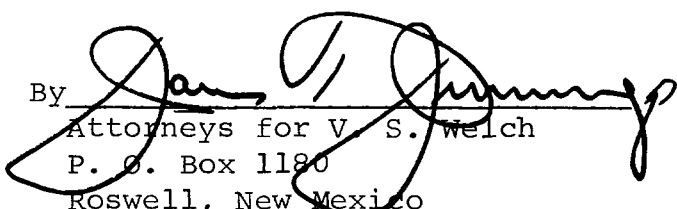
from the pipeline serving the potash mines in the area.

4. That Applicant did not make application for an exception at an earlier date as Applicant was negotiating with Pan American Petroleum Corporation to construct a joint disposal project to dispose water into the V. S. Welch Well No. 2 located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 27, Township 18 South, Range 31 East, N.M.P.M., and Applicant was not advised of Pan American's decision not to enter into the disposal project until late in October, 1968.

5. That in the alternative and in the event that the Commission does not grant a permanent exception, the Applicant be allowed to continue to dispose of produced salt water into said pits for at least six months from date to permit Applicant to ~~complete a study of the feasibility of instituting a pilot water-flood project on this lease.~~ complete a study of the feasibility of instituting a pilot water-flood project on this lease.

WHEREFORE, Applicant requests that this application be set for hearing before the Commission or one of its examiners and that the Commission enter its Order granting Applicant an exception to Order R-3221, as amended, in accordance with this application.

JENNINGS & COPPLE

By 
Attorneys for V. S. Welch
P. O. Box 1180
Roswell, New Mexico