

BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR
AN ORDER REVISING AND AMENDING ORDER
NO. R-110 TO PROVIDE FOR DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF "SLIM-HOLE"
COMPLETIONS TO A TOTAL DEPTH WHICH
SHALL NOT EXCEED FROM THE SURFACE TO
THE BASE OF THE MESAVERDE FORMATION
WITHOUT THE NECESSITY FOR ADMINISTRA-
TIVE APPROVAL OR NOTICE AND HEARING.

CASE NO. 1981

A P P L I C A T I O N

COMES NOW El Paso Natural Gas Company, a Delaware corporation, with license to do business in the State of New Mexico, hereinafter called "Applicant," and files this, its application to amend Order No. R-110, as amended, of the Oil Conservation Commission, State of New Mexico, and in support thereof would respectfully show the Commission the following:

I.

Paragraph (e)(1) of Statewide Rule 107, with respect to "slim-hole" completions provides:

"(e) The Commission's District Supervisors or their representatives shall have authority to approve "slim-hole" completions without the necessity for administrative approval or notice and hearing when the following conditions exist:

"(1) The well is to be completed with a total depth of 5,000 feet or less,"

In many instances future wells to be drilled and completed in the Blanco (Mesaverde) Pool will exceed a total depth of 5,000 feet. Many of these wells could and should be completed by "slim-hole" completion methods in order to prevent waste and the Commission's District Supervisors should have authority to approve "slim-hole" completions in the Blanco (Mesaverde) Pool without the necessity for administrative approval or notice and hearing when the conditions in the following proposed amendment exist.

II.

Order No. R-110 dated November 9, 1951, as amended, of the Oil Conservation Commission of the State of New Mexico should be amended by adding to Section 4, Casing and Cementing Program, the following:

"(e) The Commission's District Supervisors or their representatives shall have authority to approve "slim-hole" completions without the necessity for administrative approval or notice and hearing when the following conditions exist:

"(1) The well is to be completed with a total depth which shall not exceed the base of the Mesaverde Formation,

"(2) The well is not a wildcat (It is not more than one mile from an existing well producing from the same common source of supply to which it is projected),

"(3) No known corrosive or pressure problems exist which might make the "slim-hole" method of completion undesirable,

"(4) The well will not be a dual completion,

"(5) The tubing used as a substitute for casing will be either 2-3/8 inch OD or 2-7/8 inch OD."

III.

The provisions of said proposed amendment should be added to Section VIII (Special Pool Rules for Blanco (Mesaverde) Gas Pool) of the proposed General Rules and Regulations for the Prorated Gas Pools of Northwestern New Mexico, now pending before this Commission, when and if such General Rules are adopted.

IV.

The granting of this application would prevent waste and would not prejudice or violate correlative rights.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Applicant prays that after due notice as required by law, this matter be set for hearing before either the Oil Conservation Commission of the State of New Mexico or

an examiner therefor and that upon final hearing of said matter, said Order No. R-110, as amended, be amended further as aforesaid, and that said proposed amendment be added to the General Rules and Regulations, as aforesaid, when and if the same are adopted.

Garrett C. Whitworth
Attorney for El Paso Natural
Gas Company