

BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Santa Fe, New Mexico
November 20, 1962

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:)

The hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission, on its own motion, to permit Herschel L. Copelan and all interested parties to appear and show cause why the State of New Mexico Well No. 1, located 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, Chaves County, New Mexico, and the Pan American-State Well No. 1, located 330 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the West line of said Section 27, should not be plugged in accordance with a Commission-approved plugging program.)

CASE 2708

BEFORE: Elvis A. Utz, Examiner.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

MR. UTZ: Case 2708.

MR. DURRETT: In the matter of the hearing called by the Oil Conservation Commission, on its own motion, to permit Herschel L. Copelan and all interested parties to appear and show cause why the State of New Mexico Well No. 1, located 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, Chaves County, New Mexico, and the Pan American-State Well No. 1, located 330 feet from the

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North line and 1650 feet from the West line of said Section 27, should not be plugged in accordance with a Commission-approved plugging program.

May the Examiner please, James Durrett on behalf of the Commission and its staff. I will have one witness, Mr. M. L. Armstrong.

MR. UTZ: Are there other appearances in this case?
You may proceed.

(Witness sworn.)

M. L. ARMSTRONG

called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DURRETT:

Q Will you please state your name and position for the record?

A M. L. Armstrong, Supervisor of District 2 for the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission.

Q As a part of your official duties do you supervise the plugging of wells and prescribed well-plugging programs in your district?

A I do.

Q Are you familiar with the two wells that are the subject

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of this case?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, refer to the official Commission file, if you need to do so, to refresh your memory, and will you please state whether or not these wells are located as described on this docket and as advertised in this cause?

A They are.

Q Are these wells located within your district?

A Yes, sir.

MR. DURRETT: At this time I would like to ask the Examiner to take administrative notice of the Affidavit of Publication which is on file in the Commission files showing that legal notice was given in the papers.

MR. UTZ: I'll take administrative notice of same.

Q (By Mr. Durrett) In your opinion are the two subject wells now causing waste or likely to cause waste in the immediate future if not properly plugged?

A That is right.

Q Do you base this opinion upon the possible damage to the formations that have been penetrated by these two wells?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you have a recommended plugging program that you would like to present to the Examiner at this time?

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A Yes. I would like to have 25 sack cement plug at the T.D.

MR. UTZ: This is for both wells?

A Right, it will be the same on both wells.

MR. UTZ: All right, sir.

A 25 sack plug at T.D., 20 sack plug around 300 with heavy mud between with a 5 sack plug at the top to hold the regulation marker. Shall I say clean up all pits?

Q If you would like to. Do you also have an alternative that you would like to recommend to the Examiner, Mr. Armstrong?

A Well, if they'd rather fill these holes with cement just plumb full of cement, that will be okay.

Q That will be the same for both wells?

A The same for both wells.

Q Do you recommend to the Examiner that the Commission enter an order requiring these wells to be plugged immediately in accordance with your program as you have set out here?

A I do.

MR. DURRETT: May the Examiner please, that will conclude the direct examination of this witness.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. UTZ:

Q Mr. Armstrong, what is the total depth on these wells?



A The State of New Mexico No. 1 T.D. is 1017, and on the Pan American-State No. 1, T.D. is 1015.

MR. DURRETT: May the Examiner please, I would like to ask the witness one more question.

MR. UTZ: You may proceed.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. DURRETT:

Q I neglected to ask you on direct examination, so I would like to ask you at this time, do the official files of the Commission reflect that both of these wells are operated by Herschel L. Copelan as advertised in this case?

A Yes.

MR. DURRETT: Thank you. I believe that will be all.

MR. UTZ: Any other questions of the witness? The witness may be excused.

(Witness excused.)

MR. UTZ: Anyone have a statement in this? The case will be taken under advisement.

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

I, ADA DEARNLEY, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached transcript of proceedings before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, is a true and correct record to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have affixed my hand and notarial seal
this 13th day of December, 1962.

Notary Public-Court Reporter

My commission expires:

June 19, 1963.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Executive hearing of case # 2208, heard by me on Nov. 29, 1942.

....., Examiner
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

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**BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION, ON ITS OWN MOTION, TO PERMIT HERSCHEL L. COPELAN AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO WELL NO. 1, LOCATED 1980 FEET FROM THE SOUTH LINE AND 660 FEET FROM THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST, NMPM, CHAVES COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AND THE PAN AMERICAN-STATE WELL NO. 1, LOCATED 330 FEET FROM THE NORTH LINE AND 1650 FEET FROM THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 27, SHOULD NOT BE PLUGGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A COMMISSION-APPROVED PLUGGING PROGRAM.

CASE No. 2708
Order No. R-2379

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 o'clock a.m. on November 20, 1962, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Elvis A. Utz, Examiner duly appointed by the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," in accordance with Rule 1214 of the Commission Rules and Regulations.

NOW, on this 28th day of November, 1962, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the evidence and the recommendations of the Examiner, Elvis A. Utz, 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 State of New Mexico Well No. 1, located 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, NMPM, Chaves County, New Mexico, and the Pan American-State Well No. 1, located 330 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the West line of said Section 27 are owned and operated by Herschel L. Copelan.

(3) That the two subject wells have been abandoned by the operator and have not been plugged in any manner.

(4) That the subject wells are causing or will cause waste and should be plugged in a manner which will confine permanently

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all oil, gas, and water in the separate strata originally containing them.

(5) That both of the subject wells should be plugged in accordance with the following minimum plugging requirements:

- (1) Set 25 sacks of cement at total depth.
- (2) Set 20 sacks of cement at 300 feet.
- (3) Set 5 sacks of cement as a surface plug.
- (4) Fill intervals between cement plugs with mud weighing not less than ten pounds per gallon.
- (5) Set in the surface plug a regulation steel marker not less than 4 inches in diameter and extending at least 4 feet above mean ground level.

(6) That, as an alternative, the operator should be allowed to plug the subject wells in accordance with the following minimum plugging requirements:

- (1) Fill the hole with cement from total depth to the surface.
- (2) Set in the surface cement a regulation steel marker not less than 4 inches in diameter and extending at least 4 feet above mean ground level.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That Herschel L. Copelan is hereby ordered to plug the State of New Mexico Well No. 1, located 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the West line of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 27 East, NMPL, Chaves County, New Mexico, and the Pan American-State Well No. 1, located 330 feet from the North line and 1650 feet from the West line of said Section 27, in accordance with the following minimum plugging requirements:

- (1) Set 25 sacks of cement at total depth.
- (2) Set 20 sacks of cement at 300 feet.
- (3) Set 5 sacks of cement as a surface plug.
- (4) Fill intervals between cement plugs with mud weighing not less than ten pounds per gallon.

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CASE No. 2708
Order No. R-2379

- (5) Set in the surface plug a regulation steel marker not less than 4 inches in diameter and extending at least 4 feet above mean ground level.

(2) That, as an alternative, Herschel L. Copelan is hereby authorized to plug the two subject wells in accordance with the following minimum plugging requirements:

- (1) Fill the hole with cement from total depth to the surface.
- (2) Set in the surface cement a regulation steel marker not less than 4 inches in diameter and extending at least 4 feet above mean ground level.

(3) That the plugging of the two subject wells shall be completed on or before January 1, 1963, and that Herschel L. Copelan shall notify the District Supervisor, District II, Oil Conservation Commission, Artesia, New Mexico, of the exact time and date plugging operations on each well are to commence.

(4) 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.

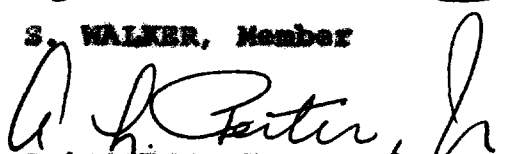
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION



EDWIN L. MECHEM, Chairman



E. S. WALKER, Member



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

