

BEFORE THE
NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Santa Fe, New Mexico

April 16, 1969

REGULAR HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
)

Application George H.)
Mitchell for an exception)
to Order No. R-3221, as)
amended, Eddy County,)
New Mexico.)

Case No. 4101

BEFORE: A. L. Porter, Jr., Secretary-Director
Alex J. Armijo, Land Commissioner
George Hatch, Counsel

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

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CIVIL OFFICE 001

MR. PORTER: Case 4101.

MR. HATCH: Case 4101, application of George H. Mitchell for an exception to Order No. R-3221, as amended, Eddy County, New Mexico.

GEORGE H. MITCHELL

the Applicant herein, offered himself as a witness, being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HATCH:

Q State your name and identify yourself for the record.

A I am George H. Mitchell, from Kermit, Texas.

Q This is your application?

A Yes, sir. I am asking for an exception to Rule 3, R-3221. I have a lease in Eddy County, New Mexico. I have a plat here of that lease and the well, and if you would like, I would like to mark this.

(Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibit Number 1, was marked for identification.)

Q Will you identify the well on there, and give the location?

A This well is located 700 -- just a minute, that is wrong. This well is located in the northwest quarter of the

northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 26 South, Range 29 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.

Q Is that well shown on this plat?

A Yes, this well is shown on this plat. I have one well that isn't designated on that plat, on the lease, and it makes, for the average six months, 696 barrels of oil, this is in December; and 1,434 barrels of water, which would average -- my calculation is about three barrels, approximately, three barrels of oil a day, and about eight barrels of water, which would average out about 116 barrels of oil a month and 240 barrels of water.

Now, the closest fresh water to this location is approximately eight miles east, two wells belonging to El Paso Natural Gas Company.

MR. PORTER: Water wells?

THE WITNESS: Fresh water wells suitable for stock and human consumption.

MR. PORTER: They are approximately eight miles away, you say?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, I would say east.

MR. PORTER: Do you know the location of those wells by Section, Township?

THE WITNESS: No, sir, I sure don't, I'm sorry.

MR. PORTER: Is there anything else?

THE WITNESS: There is a farm, I would say, approximately two miles north that has an irrigation well that is not fresh water, and no one lives there or no residents of this farm, and what time they do stay there, they have to haul their drinking water in.

MR. PORTER: But the water from two miles north is used for irrigation?

THE WITNESS: Yes. And this is a hilly range, and it is north of Red Bluff Dam, and it is east of the Pecos River, and it is in the hilly country, and this farm now is uphill from this particular location.

There is a stock water well approximately two and a half miles, that would be south and east of this location, it is used for stock purposes only. I knew it wasn't good to use, and I didn't think it would be necessary to bring in an analysis of this water. But I do have the well record that was filed with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission in Santa Fe, in October, in 1961, which gives the depth and thicknesses of each formation that this pit went through while they were filling this particular well.

MR. HATCH: Would you like this as an exhibit?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. HATCH: We will mark this as Exhibit 2.

(Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibit
Number 2 was marked for
identification.)

MR. HATCH: Did you want to read any of the
information on here?

THE WITNESS: No, other than you might read the
first of it there.

MR. HATCH: Why don't you go through that?

THE WITNESS: Here it says that on the surface
there is no anhydrite present in the surface. It is, oh,
I'd say it is red clay, gravel, and adobe, and hard slate
rock. And from that, I would say that it was salt,
according to this. I have a pit, there is an old pit on
that, but it is off adjacent to the pit in use at this time,
or it was at that time, and it is approximately 30 by 30,
and I'd say it is, oh, two or three feet deep. I believe
that is all I have.

MR. PORTER: Does anyone have any questions of Mr.
Mitchell?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. NUTTER:

Q Mr. Mitchell, how far from your pit is the Pecos

River?

A I'd say it is approximately a mile and a half.

Q Is there any production of oil in the State of Texas immediately to the south of this area?

A Yes, sir, there is four wells.

Q And have applications been entertained by the Railroad Commission of Texas for exceptions to the salt water disposal order?

A It is my understanding they have, sir.

Q Do you know whether the Texas Railroad Commission has approved or has denied the applications for exceptions in that area?

A I couldn't answer that. They are still putting water in the pit adjacent to my lease in Texas.

Q You are not aware that the Railroad Commission has denied the application in that area, then?

A No, sir, I could not say.

Q What would be the nature of the drainage from your pit, as far as the river is concerned? Would the surface drainage be toward the river?

A Yes, it would.

Q Would it be fair to assume then that subsurface drainage in the gravel beds immediately below the surface

would be toward the river?

A Now, that I couldn't say. Now, that is upheavel, what I mean, it is rolled, and where they have done excavation work and road work, why, there is hard rock would crop out, and it lays all different ways.

Q Now, the location of your pit is in the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 34, is that correct?

A Yes, in Lot 6, I believe.

MR. NUTTER: I would call the Commission's attention to the fact that the State Highway map indicates that the Pecos River in this area flows down the section line between Sections 33 and 34, and that the pit would be approximately five-eighths to three-quarters of a mile ^{east} ~~west~~ of the river.

That is all I have.

MR. PORTER: Does anyone else have a question?

Mr. Stamets, do you have any questions?

MR. STAMETS: No, I don't believe so.

MR. PORTER: Does anyone else have anything to offer in this case? The Commission will take the case under advisement.

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO)

I, SAMUEL MORTELETTE, Court Reporter in and for the County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing and attached Transcript of Hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission was reported by me, and that the same is a true and correct record of the said proceedings, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.


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