

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. 4367 (de novo)
Order No. R-3983-A

APPLICATION OF MOBIL OIL CORPORATION
FOR A WATERFLOOD EXPANSION, LEA COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing de novo at 9 a.m. on September 16, 1970, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this 10th day of November, 1970, 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 after an examiner hearing, Commission Order No. R-3983, dated June 29, 1970, was entered denying the request of the applicant, Mobil Oil Corporation, for permission to expand its Bridges State Waterflood Project, Vacuum Grayburg-San Andres Pool, by the injection of water into the Grayburg and San Andres formations through two additional injection wells to be drilled in Sections 25 and 26, Township 17 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, as follows:

A well to be drilled at a standard location
2310 feet from the North line and 860 feet
from the West line of Section 25; and

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A well to be drilled at an unorthodox location
100 feet from the South line and 1980 feet from
the West line of Section 26.

(3) That the applicant requested and was granted a hearing de novo before the Oil Conservation Commission.

(4) That the applicant was granted permission to amend the application to permit the conversion to water injection of its Bridges State Well No. 13, located in Unit E of said Section 25, in lieu of the well to be drilled in said unit and to inject into the Grayburg and Upper San Andres formations only in lieu of the entire Grayburg and San Andres formations.

(5) That there are substantial reserves of oil in the Lower San Andres formation on the Marathon McAlister Lease offsetting said Well No. 13 to the south.

(6) That because of the manner in which said Well No. 13 was originally completed there is a reasonable probability that said Well No. 13 cannot be completed for water injection in the Upper San Andres formation in such a manner that water injected would be confined to the Upper San Andres formation only.

(7) That the escape of water into the Lower San Andres formation as described in Finding No. (6), above, would cause premature water breakthrough into wells on the Marathon McAlister Lease, thereby reducing the oil productivity of the wells and reducing the ultimate recovery from the lease.

(8) That there are substantial reserves of oil in the Upper and Lower San Andres formation on the Continental State H-35 Lease to the south of the above-described injection well to be drilled at an unorthodox location in said Section 26.

(9) That there are numerous wells on said Continental Lease completed open-hole in both the Upper and Lower San Andres formation.

(10) That because of the manner in which said Continental wells were completed there is a reasonable probability that water injected through said injection well in Section 26 into the Upper San Andres formation will escape into the Lower San Andres formation through said open-hole completions.

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(11) That the injection of water into the Upper San Andres formation, and the escape of water into the Lower San Andres formation as described in Finding No. (10), above, would cause premature water breakthrough into wells on the Continental lease, thereby reducing the oil productivity of the wells and reducing the ultimate recovery from the lease.

(12) That offset producing wells to the south of each of the subject injection wells have recoverable reserves in the Grayburg and Upper and Lower San Andres formations that would be swept away from said producing wells if the requested injection were permitted.

(13) That the injection of water through said wells would cause waste and would violate the correlative rights of offset operators to the south of each of the proposed locations.

(14) That the subject application should be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That the subject application is hereby denied.

(2) 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. ARMIO, Member


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

