

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. 3859
Order No. R-3517

APPLICATION OF WILSON OIL COMPANY
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ORDER NO. R-3221,
AS AMENDED, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on September 18, 1968, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

NOW, on this 4th day of October, 1968, 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 the applicant, Wilson Oil Company, is the owner and operator of leases located in Sections 13, 23, and 24 of Township 21 South, Range 34 East, and Sections 7 and 18 of Township 21 South, Range 35 East, NMPM, Wilson Yates-Seven Rivers Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.

(3) That effective January 1, 1969, Order (3) of Commission Order No. R-3221, dated May 1, 1967, prohibits in that area encompassed by Lea, Eddy, Chaves, and Roosevelt Counties, New Mexico, the disposal, subject to minor exceptions, of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, streambed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, or in any other place or in any manner which will constitute a hazard to any fresh water supplies and said disposal has not previously been prohibited.

CASE No. 3859

Order No. R-3517

(4) That the applicant seeks an exception to the provisions of the aforesaid Order (3) to permit the continued disposal of produced water in seven unlined surface pits located in the center of the W/2 of said Section 13, center of the W/2 SE/4 of said Section 13, SW/4 NE/4 of said Section 23, center of the SW/4 of said Section 24, center of NE/4 of said Section 7, NE/4 SW/4 of said Section 7, and NW/4 NW/4 of said Section 18. In the alternative, applicant seeks an extension of time in which to comply with the provisions of said Order (3) of Order No. R-3221.

(5) That said Order No. R-3221 found that the disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, on the surface of the ground, or in any pit, pond, lake, depression, draw, streambed, or arroyo, or in any watercourse, constitutes a hazard to existing fresh water supplies, as designated by the state engineer, in the vicinity of such disposal.

(6) That the aforesaid Order No. R-3221 was issued in order to afford reasonable protection against contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the state engineer through disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in unlined surface pits.

(7) That fresh water supplies as designated by the state engineer exist in the immediate vicinity of the subject unlined disposal pits.

(8) That the quality of the fresh water in the immediate vicinity of the subject pits is markedly better than the quality of the produced water being disposed of in the subject pits.

(9) That the applicant has disposed of considerable volumes of produced water in said unlined pits over a period of approximately 30 years.

(10) That the evidence indicates that there has been some deterioration of the quality of the fresh water supplies in the immediate vicinity of the subject pits during said 30 years.

(11) That the evidence is inconclusive as to the additional amounts of produced water to be disposed of in the subject unlined pits during the remaining life of the pool.

(12) That continued disposal of water produced in conjunction with the production of oil or gas, or both, in the subject unlined surface pits would constitute an additional threat of contamination of fresh water supplies designated by the state engineer existing in the vicinity of said pits.

-3-

CASE No. 3859

Order No. R-3517

(13) 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


GUYTON B. HAYS, Member


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

