

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. 4434
Order No. R-4058
NOMENCLATURE

APPLICATION OF UNION OIL COMPANY
OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE CREATION OF
A NEW GAS POOL AND SPECIAL POOL
RULES, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on October 28, 1970, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Elvis A. Utz.

NOW, on this 10th day of November, 1970, the Commission, a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, 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, Union Oil Company of California, seeks the creation of a new gas pool for Morrow production in Lea County, New Mexico, and the promulgation of special rules and regulations governing said pool, including a provision for 640-acre spacing and proration units and fixed well location requirements.

(3) That the Union Oil Company of California Pipeline Federal Well No. 1, located 660 feet from the South line and 760 feet from the West line of Section 4, Township 19 South, Range 34 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, having its top perforations at 13,420 feet, has discovered a separate common

source of supply which should be designated the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool; that the vertical limits of said pool should be the Morrow formation and that the horizontal limits of said pool should be all of said Section 4.

(4) That in order to prevent the economic loss caused by the drilling of unnecessary wells, to avoid the augmentation of risk arising from the drilling of an excessive number of wells, to prevent reduced recovery which might result from the drilling of too few wells, and to otherwise prevent waste and protect correlative rights, temporary special rules and regulations providing for 640-acre spacing units should be promulgated for the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool.

(5) That the temporary special rules and regulations should provide for limited well locations in order to assure orderly development of the pool and protect correlative rights.

(6) That special rules and regulations should be established for a temporary period to expire one year from the date that a pipeline connection is first obtained for a well in the pool; that during this temporary period all operators in the subject pool should gather all available information relative to drainage and recoverable reserves.

(7) That this case should be reopened at an examiner hearing one year from the date that a pipeline connection is first obtained for a well in the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool, at which time the operators in the subject pool should appear and show cause why the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool should not be developed on 320-acre spacing units.

(8) That the first operator to obtain a pipeline connection for a well in the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool should notify the Commission in writing of such fact, and that the Commission should thereupon issue a supplemental order designating an exact date for reopening this case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) That a new pool in Lea County, New Mexico, classified as a gas pool for Morrow production, is hereby created and designated the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool, with vertical limits comprising

the Morrow formation and horizontal limits comprising the following-described area:

LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 34 EAST, NMPM
Section 4: All

(2) That temporary Special Rules and Regulations for the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby promulgated as follows:

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE
LA RICA-MORROW GAS POOL

RULE 1. Each well completed or recompleted in the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool or in the Morrow formation within one mile thereof, and not nearer to or within the limits of another designated Morrow gas pool, shall be spaced, drilled, operated, and produced in accordance with the Special Rules and Regulations hereinafter set forth.

RULE 2. Each well shall be located on a standard unit containing 640 acres, more or less, consisting of a governmental section.

RULE 3. The Secretary-Director of the Commission may grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 2 without notice and hearing when an application has been filed for a non-standard unit and the unorthodox size or shape of the unit is necessitated by a variation in the legal subdivision of the United States Public Land Surveys, or the following facts exist and the following provisions are complied with:

- (a) The non-standard unit consists of quarter-quarter sections or lots that are contiguous by a common bordering side.
- (b) The non-standard unit lies wholly within a governmental section and contains less acreage than a standard unit.
- (c) The applicant presents written consent in the form of waivers from all offset operators and from all operators owning interests in

the section in which the non-standard unit is situated and which acreage is not included in said non-standard unit.

- (d) In lieu of paragraph (c) of this rule, the applicant may furnish proof of the fact that all of the aforesaid operators were notified by registered or certified mail of his intent to form such non-standard unit. The Secretary-Director may approve the application if no such operator has entered an objection to the formation of such non-standard unit within 30 days after the Secretary-Director has received the application.

RULE 4. Each well shall be located no nearer than 1650 feet to the outer boundary of the section and no nearer than 330 feet to any governmental quarter-quarter section line.

RULE 5. The Secretary-Director may grant an exception to the requirements of Rule 4 without notice and hearing when an application has been filed for an unorthodox location necessitated by topographical conditions or the recompletion of a well previously drilled to another horizon. All operators offsetting the proposed location shall be notified of the application by registered or certified mail, and the application shall state that such notice has been furnished. The Secretary-Director may approve the application upon receipt of written waivers from all operators offsetting the proposed location or if no objection to the unorthodox location has been entered within 20 days after the Secretary-Director has received the application.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

(1) That the locations of all wells presently drilling to or completed in the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool or in the Morrow formation within one mile thereof are hereby approved; that the operator of any well having an unorthodox location shall notify the Hobbs District Office of the Commission in writing of the name and location of the well on or before December 1, 1970.

(2) That, pursuant to Paragraph A. of Section 65-3-14.5, NMSA 1953, contained in Chapter 271, Laws of 1969, existing wells in the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool shall have dedicated thereto

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640 acres in accordance with the foregoing pool rules; or, pursuant to Paragraph C. of said Section 65-3-14.5, existing wells may have non-standard spacing or proration units established by the Commission and dedicated thereto.

Failure to file new Forms C-102 with the Commission dedicating 640 acres to a well or to obtain a non-standard unit approved by the Commission within 60 days from the date of this order shall subject the well to cancellation of allowable. Until said Form C-102 has been filed or until a non-standard unit has been approved, and subject to said 60-day limitation, each well presently drilling to or completed in the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool or in the Morrow formation within one mile thereof shall receive no more than one-half of a standard allowable for the pool.

(3) That this cause shall be reopened at an examiner hearing one year from the date that a pipeline connection is first obtained for a well in the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool, at which time the operators in the subject pool may appear and show cause why the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool should not be developed on 320-acre spacing units.

(4) That the first operator to obtain a pipeline connection for a well in the La Rica-Morrow Gas Pool shall notify the Commission in writing of such fact, and that the Commission will thereupon issue a supplemental order designating an exact date for reopening this case.

(5) 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. ARMIJO, Member

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

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