

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION
DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 10484
ORDER NO. R-9684

APPLICATION OF MEWBOURNE OIL COMPANY FOR
COMPULSORY POOLING AND AN UNORTHODOX GAS
WELL LOCATION, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on June 11, 1992, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 25th day of June, 1992, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) The applicant, Mewbourne Oil Company, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation, underlying the following described area in Section 35, Township 17 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico:

the N/2 forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre gas spacing within said vertical extent, which presently includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the Undesignated Empire-Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, Undesignated Empire-Atoka Gas Pool, and Undesignated Empire-Morrow Gas Pool; and

the NW/4 forming a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical limits.

(3) Said units are to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled at an unorthodox gas well location 915 feet from the North line and 990 feet from the West line (Unit D) of said Section 35.

(4) The applicant has the right to develop the minerals underlying both of the aforesaid spacing units.

(5) Based on the geological testimony presented at the hearing, a well at the proposed unorthodox location should penetrate a thicker portion of the Lower and Middle Morrow intervals than a well drilled at a standard location thereon, thereby increasing the chances of intersecting a gas bearing zone within the Morrow formation.

(6) There are interest owners in the proposed proration units who have not agreed to pool their interests.

(7) Marathon Oil Company, an interest owner in the operating rights under the subject units, appeared at the hearing through counsel, however no direct testimony was offered.

(8) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights, to prevent waste and to afford to the owner of each interest in said units the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense his just and fair share of production in any pool completion resulting from this order, the subject application should be approved by pooling all mineral interests, whatever they may be, within said units.

(9) The applicant should be designated the operator of the subject well and units.

(10) Any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(11) Any non-consenting working interest owner who does not pay his share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production his share of reasonable well costs plus an additional 200 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(12) Any non-consenting interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(13) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(14) At the time of the hearing, the applicant proposed that the reasonable monthly fixed charges for supervision while drilling and producing said well should be initially set at \$6425.00 and \$642.00, respectively, and that any such overhead charges included in this order contain provisions for an annual adjustment based on accepted industry practices.

(15) The applicant presented testimony at the hearing concerning such overhead charges on wells of similar depth in the general area both as an operator and as a participating interest in wells operated by other parties, which were \$6350.00 for drilling and \$621.00 for producing and \$5984.00 for drilling and \$632.00 for producing, respectively.

(16) Such overhead charges to be adopted in this order should be reduced to reflect actual charges presently accepted in the area.

(17) \$6167.00 per month while drilling and \$626.50 per month while producing should be fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); this charge should be adjusted annually based upon the percentage increase or decrease in average weekly earnings of crude petroleum and gas production workers; the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating the subject well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(18) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(19) Upon the failure of the operator of said pooled units to commence drilling of the well to which said units are dedicated on or before September 30, 1992, the order pooling said units should become null and void and of no further effect whatsoever.

(20) Should all the parties to this force-pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order should thereafter be of no further effect.

(21) The operator of the well and units should notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All mineral interests, whatever they may be, from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation, underlying the following described area in Section 35, Township 17 South, Range 28 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico:

the N/2 forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre gas spacing within said vertical extent, which presently includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the Undesignated Empire-Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, Undesignated Empire-Atoka Gas Pool, and Undesignated Empire-Morrow Gas Pool; and

the NW/4 forming a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical limits.

(2) Said units are to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled at an unorthodox gas well location 915 feet from the North line and 990 feet from the West line (Unit D) of said Section 35.

PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT, the operator of said units shall commence the drilling of said well on or before the 30th day of September, 1992, and shall thereafter continue the drilling of said well with due diligence to a depth sufficient to test from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, in the event said operator does not commence the drilling of said well on or before the 30th day of September, 1992, Decretory Paragraph No. (1) of this order shall be null and void and of no effect whatsoever, unless said operator obtains a time extension from the Division for good cause shown.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, should said well not be drilled to completion, or abandonment, within 120 days after commencement thereof, said operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Decretory Paragraph No. (1) of this order should not be rescinded.

(3) Mewbourne Oil Company is hereby designated the operator of the subject well and units.

(4) After the effective date of this order and within 90 days prior to commencing said well, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner in the subject units an itemized schedule of estimated well costs.

(5) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him, any non-consenting working interest owner shall have the right to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production, and any such owner who pays his share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

(6) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the well; if no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of said schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided however, if there is an objection to actual well costs within said 45-day period the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(7) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator his pro rata share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator his pro rata share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(8) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (A) The pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him; and
- (B) As a charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well, 200 percent of the pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(9) The operator shall distribute said costs and charges withheld from production to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(10) \$6167.00 per month while drilling and \$626.50 per month while producing are hereby fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); provided that this rate shall be adjusted on the first day of April of each year following the effective date of this order; that the adjustment shall be computed by multiplying the rate currently in use by the percentage increase or decrease in the average weekly earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers for the last calendar year compared to the preceding calendar year as shown by *The Index of Average Weekly Earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers* as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the adjusted rate shall be the rates currently in use, plus or minus the computed adjustment; the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(11) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under the terms of this order.

(12) Any well costs or charges which are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interest's share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

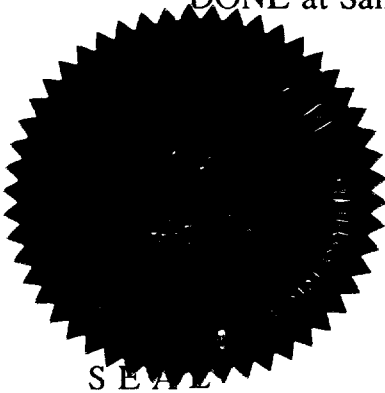
(13) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in Eddy County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership; the operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of said escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with said escrow agent.

(14) Should all the parties to this force-pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

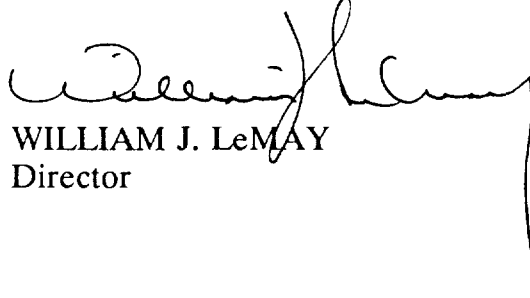
(15) The operator of the subject well and units shall notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force-pooling provisions of this order.

(16) Jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION


WILLIAM J. LeMAY
Director