

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

CASE 10,541

EXAMINER HEARING

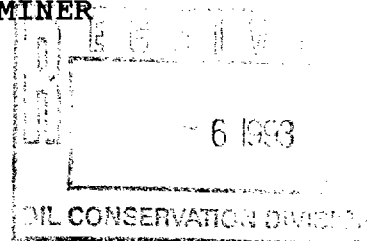
IN THE MATTER OF:

In the matter of Case 10,541 being reopened
pursuant to the provisions of Division Order No.
R-9773, which order promulgated special pool rules
and regulations for the East Herradura Bend-
Delaware Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico

ORIGINAL

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, EXAMINER



STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

July 15, 1993

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE DIVISION:

ROBERT G. STOVALL
Attorney at Law
Legal Counsel to the Division
State Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

FOR RAY WESTALL, BIRD CREEK RESOURCES, COLLINS
AND WARE and CHEVRON USA PRODUCTION COMPANY:

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* * *

I N D E X

Page Number

Appearances

2

REX G. HOWELL

Direct Examination by Mr. Carr

5

Examination by Examiner Catanach

17

Certificate of Reporter

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E X H I B I T S

APPLICANT'S EXHIBITS:

Exhibit 1

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Exhibit 2

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Exhibit 3

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Exhibit 4

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Exhibit 5

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1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had
2 at 10:11 a.m.:

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: At this time we'll call
4 the hearing back to order and call Case 10,541.

5 MR. STOVALL: In the matter of Case 10,541
6 being reopened pursuant to the provisions of Division
7 Order No. R-9773, which order promulgated special pool
8 rules and regulations for the East Herradura Bend-
9 Delaware Pool in Eddy County, New Mexico.

10 EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there appearances in
11 this case?

12 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my
13 name is William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law firm,
14 Campbell, Carr, Berge and Sheridan.

15 I represent the original Applicants in this
16 case, and I have one witness.

17 EXAMINER CATANACH: The original Applicants
18 being who?

19 MR. CARR: Being Ray Westall, Bird Creek
20 Resources.

21 I'm also today representing Collins and Ware.
22 They are the largest working interest owner in the
23 field.

24 EXAMINER CATANACH: Additional appearances?

25 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom Kellahin

1 of the Santa Fe law firm of Kellahin and Kellahin,
2 appearing today on behalf of Fortson Oil Company, Bass
3 Enterprises, and Hanley Production Company.

4 MR. CARR: Mr. Examiner, I would also like to
5 enter my appearance for Chevron USA Production Company.

6 EXAMINER CATANACH: Mr. Bruce?

7 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce from the
8 Hinkle Law Firm representing Pogo Producing Company. I
9 have no witnesses.

10 EXAMINER CATANACH: Any additional
11 appearances?

12 Okay, how many witnesses do we have in this
13 case?

14 MR. CARR: I have one witness.

15 EXAMINER CATANACH: Any witnesses, Mr.
16 Kellahin?

17 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir.

18 EXAMINER CATANACH: Or Mr. Bruce? Okay.

19 Will the witness please stand to be sworn in?

20 REX G. HOWELL,

21 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn
22 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. CARR:

25 Q. Will you state your name for the record,

1 please?

2 A. My name is Rex G. Howell.

3 Q. Mr. Howell, where do you reside?

4 A. Houston, Texas.

5 Q. By whom are you employed?

6 A. Currently I'm a consulting petroleum engineer
7 employed by Ray Westall, Bird Creek Resources and
8 Collins and Ware in this case.

9 Q. And in what capacity are you employed?

10 A. I'm employed as a consulting petroleum
11 engineer.

12 Q. Have you previously testified before this
13 Division?

14 A. Yes, sir, I have.

15 Q. And at the time of that prior testimony were
16 your credentials as a petroleum engineer accepted and
17 made a matter of record?

18 A. Yes, sir, they were.

19 Q. In fact, you were the engineering witness who
20 testified in October of 1992 on the hearing on the
21 original Application for these pool rules; is that
22 correct?

23 A. That's correct, sir.

24 Q. Are you familiar with the East Herradura
25 Bend-Delaware Pool?

1 A. Yes, sir, I am.

2 Q. And are you familiar with the efforts that
3 are being made by the operators in this pool to develop
4 data to support permanent pool rules for the pool?

5 A. Yes, sir, I am.

6 MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications
7 acceptable?

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

9 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Howell, could -- In
10 October, 1992, when you testified, could you just state
11 what was being sought at that time?

12 A. Yes, sir, what we were requesting at the time
13 was special pool rules, including a 10,000-to-one
14 gas/oil ratio limit, for a one-year period.

15 Q. And what was approved by the Division?

16 A. The Division approved special pool rules for
17 a 10,000 gas/oil ratio limit for a six-month period.

18 Q. Have you prepared certain exhibits for
19 presentation here today?

20 A. Yes, sir, I have.

21 Q. Would you refer to what has been marked as
22 Applicant's Exhibit Number 1?

23 A. Yes, sir. Exhibit Number 1 is a map showing
24 the latest well test data for all the wells completed
25 in the Herradura Bend-East Delaware field. There's a

1 total of 27 Delaware completions in this field.
2 They're color-coded red.

3 Also shown by each one of the wells is the
4 production data from the May C-115's showing the daily
5 barrels of oil per day, daily barrels of water per day
6 and the gas/oil ratio.

7 Also shown on the cross-section is a -- on
8 the map, is a trace of the cross-section, going from
9 the well in Section 26 down to Ray Westall's well in
10 Section 35, finally over to his well number 3 in 35,
11 over to Fortson Oil Company Pinnacle State well in
12 Section 36, and finally down to the State GO Bird Creek
13 well in Section 2.

14 That well in Section 2, Unit E, was the
15 discovery well for the Herradura Bend East field, and
16 it was completed in 1985.

17 The operators shown in the field, of course
18 Bird Creek Resources has operations in Section 26 and
19 in Section 2.

20 Ray Westall has eight producing wells, all
21 located in the east half of Section 35.

22 Hanley Petroleum has two wells producing in
23 the west half of Section 35.

24 Another large operator is Fortson Oil
25 Company, who has all ten wells producing in Section 36.

1 Harvey E. Yates Company has one well
2 producing in Section 2.

3 And Santa Fe Operating -- or Santa Fe Energy
4 has three producing wells in Section 2.

5 Shown with open circles on this map are
6 permitted locations. There are some 28 additional
7 wells that have been permitted and could be drilled to
8 this formation.

9 Q. If we look at the gas/oil ratio information
10 shown on this exhibit, is there any clear pattern that
11 emerges?

12 A. No, sir, the gas/oil ratios, which is the
13 bottom number posted by each one of the wells, varies
14 from a low, I guess, of about 2200 cubic feet per
15 barrel, to Fortson's Pinnacle State Well Number 10 in
16 Section 36, to a high of 56,500 cubic feet per barrel,
17 to Hanley Petroleum's Well Number 2 located in Section
18 35.

19 However, generally the higher gas/oil ratios
20 are centered around an area in the southeast quarter of
21 Section 35. You can see the gas/oil ratios for wells
22 in that area are 28,000, 27,000, 22,000.

23 Generally, the gas/oil ratios are high
24 throughout the field, but generally higher in that
25 southeast quarter of 35 area.

1 Q. Let's move, Mr. Howell, to Exhibit Number 2.
2 Would you identify and review that for Mr. Catanach?

3 A. Yes, sir, Exhibit Number 2 is a north-south
4 cross-section that was shown on Exhibit Number 1. What
5 this is is a copy of the original exhibit used in the
6 original hearing.

7 Starting on the left-hand side is the well
8 shown up in Section 26, coming down to Ray Westall's
9 well in Santa Fe Federal Number 1, his Number 3 well,
10 Fortson's Pinnacle State Well Number 1, and finally
11 down to Bird Creek Well in Section 2, which was the
12 discovery well of the field.

13 I've shown -- Starting at the top here, this
14 is Delaware sands, which are Lower Brushy Canyon, a
15 gross interval of about 350 feet of these sands.

16 Now the nomenclature that we have here, the
17 Collins sand, the Westall sand and the Brantley sand,
18 are not universal nomenclature; it's just what the
19 operators in this area designate these sands when
20 talking about them.

21 But generally the Collins sand is the upper
22 sand there. It's the thickest sand, has most of the
23 original oil in place and most of the reserves,
24 probably.

25 Shown next is the Westall sand there, and

1 it's in the middle of it.

2 Finally is the Brantley sand, and all of the
3 wells in the East Herradura Bend field have been
4 completed in either the Collins, the Westall or the
5 Brantley sand.

6 An inspection of this cross-section will show
7 that really these are three vertically separated zones
8 by dense intervals and by shale breaks.

9 However, it appears that the Collins sand and
10 the Brantley sand are predominantly gas -- I mean oil
11 -- zones, with casing-head gas.

12 Now, this is a fairly volatile crude in here.
13 The gravity is about 43 degrees API, the solution GOR
14 was about 1500 cubic feet per barrel, and the original
15 reservoir volume factor was about 1.65 to one. So this
16 is a pretty volatile crude, and will have a high
17 producing gas/oil ratio just due the characteristics of
18 the crude in the formation.

19 The main thing that's really causing the high
20 gas/oil ratios is a gas zone that occurs in the Westall
21 sand.

22 Now, this zone is difficult to determine by
23 log analysis, almost impossible to determine by log
24 analysis. But production characteristics have shown
25 that this zone indicated in red on this cross-section

1 is essentially all gas.

2 Now, when -- Even though the wells are
3 geologically vertically separated, when you perforate
4 either the Brantley zone, which is below this zone, or
5 the Collins zone, which is above this Westall zone, and
6 stimulate it, regardless of what type of stimulation,
7 how low you keep the rates and everything, you
8 communicate with this Westall gas zone.

9 And this is confirmed by not only production
10 testing but by production logging and temperature
11 logging.

12 And examples of those are shown by the Ray
13 Westall's data on the Santa Fe Federal Number 1 and the
14 Number 3 well. These wells are originally perforated
15 in the Brantley sand and then fracture-stimulated with
16 small volumes and low rates.

17 And then with high gas production being
18 experienced, both production logs and temperature logs
19 showed that the gas was channeling from the Westall
20 sand.

21 These are just two examples. There's
22 numerous other examples to show that regardless of how
23 careful you are, that you are going to get into
24 communication with this gas zone. It is not a gas cap;
25 it is truly a gas zone.

1 Q. So what you're dealing with here is an
2 extremely complex reservoir?

3 A. Extremely complex, yes, sir.

4 Q. Let's move to your structure map which has
5 been marked Exhibit Number 3. Would you review that
6 for Mr. Catanach?

7 A. Yes, sir, Exhibit Number 3 is a structure map
8 prepared on top of the Westall zone, which is the
9 predominant gas zone in the area.

10 And on this, again, I have colored in red the
11 Herradura Bend Delaware completions.

12 In green are other Delaware producers in the
13 area.

14 And then in yellow are the 28 proposed
15 locations.

16 And generally you can see the high of the
17 Westall zone is in the southeast quarter of Section 35,
18 and then the northeast quarter of Section 2. And even
19 though there's no control over Section 1, we're
20 contouring it to go over there. It doesn't confirm 100
21 percent, but generally the higher gas/oil ratios are
22 associated with the high in the Westall gas zone in
23 this area.

24 Q. Mr. Howell, could you identify Applicant's
25 Exhibit Number 4?

1 A. Yes, sir. Exhibit Number 4 is a plot of the
2 production history on Ray Westall's Santa Fe Federal
3 lease.

4 Shown in red is the gas/oil ratio on a lease
5 basis, since the lease went on production in August of
6 1992.

7 Shown in blue is the daily water production.

8 And in green is the daily oil production.

9 And you can see that the gas/oil ratio peaked
10 out at about 25,000 cubic feet per barrel in October of
11 1992, and you can see it's on a decline down to about
12 19,000 cubic feet per barrel in May of 1993, which is
13 the latest available data.

14 And generally I think what this is showing is
15 that as this Westall gas zone is being depleted, that
16 the total producing gas/oil ratio from the lease and
17 from the individual wells will go down.

18 Q. Anything else on Exhibit Number 4?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. Let's go now to Exhibit Number 5. Would you
21 identify and review that for Mr. Catanach?

22 A. Yes, sir. Exhibit Number 5 is the same type
23 of data plotted for the Fortson lease, which is the
24 offset to the Westall Santa Fe Federal lease.

25 Again, the gas/oil ratio here is shown in

1 red, and you can see this lease gas/oil ratio peaked
2 out at about 5000 cubic feet per barrel and has been in
3 the 4000- to 5000-cubic-foot range.

4 And I think what this shows is that very
5 little of the Fortson lease has this Westall gas zone
6 exposed to it, and -- But the gas/oil ratio is still
7 fairly high, just because of the solution gas/oil ratio
8 from the formation.

9 Q. Now, Mr. Howell, are you prepared to make a
10 recommendation to the Examiner concerning the
11 establishment of permanent rules for this pool?

12 A. No, sir, not at this time on permanent rules.

13 Q. And why not?

14 A. Well, sir, there's -- The production history
15 out here has been fairly recent.

16 In other words, we had a delay in getting our
17 gas line out here. We've had delays in getting
18 saltwater disposal facilities. This is a very
19 complicated reservoir. We're trying to get additional
20 data, to run additional studies, to determine drainage
21 areas, to -- and you can see there's 28 more locations
22 of wells to be drilled out here.

23 I believe by -- There will be a lot more data
24 that can be collected and that can be analyzed and
25 determine what are the proper rules for the production

1 of this field.

2 Q. What is it that you are recommending at this
3 time?

4 A. A continuation of the temporary rules,
5 including a 10,000-to-one gas/oil ratio limit for
6 another one-year period.

7 Q. What do you anticipate will occur during that
8 one-year period of time?

9 A. I think a lot of data will be collected,
10 there will be some more wells drilled, more studies
11 done, additional lift equipment installed and just a
12 better handle known on how this reservoir and field is
13 truly going to produce.

14 Q. You previously indicated there were how many
15 wells currently permitted and proposed in the field?

16 A. There are currently 27 producing and another
17 28 permitted.

18 Q. Is any effort being made at this time to
19 model the reservoir?

20 A. Yes, sir, there is, there's another -- Mr.
21 Fortson is attempting to model the reservoir right now.

22 Q. Would, in your opinion, promulgation or a
23 request for the promulgation of permanent pool rules be
24 premature at this time?

25 A. Yes, sir, it would.

1 Q. In your opinion, would a one-year extension
2 of the temporary pool rules for the East Herradura
3 Bend-Delaware Pool, an extension for one year, be in
4 the best interest of conservation, the prevention of
5 waste, and the protection of correlative rights?

6 A. Yes, sir, it would.

7 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 5 prepared by you or
8 compiled under your direction?

9 A. Yes, sir, they were.

10 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we
11 would move the admission of Exhibits 1 through 5.

12 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 5 will
13 be admitted as evidence.

14 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
15 examination of Mr. Howell.

16 EXAMINER CATANACH: Mr. Kellahin? Mr. Bruce?

17 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir.

18 EXAMINATION

19 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

20 Q. Mr. Howell, in the original case for a
21 10,000-to-one GOR, did you present evidence as to the
22 existence of this sand, this Westall sand?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay, that was the basis for the 10,000-to-
25 one GOR request?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Has there been any profile logging or
3 anything of that similar type nature to actually prove
4 that you're getting sand -- I mean gas -- out of this
5 zone?

6 A. Yes, sir, this Exhibit Number 2 here had the
7 profile log on the two wells, the Santa Fe 1 and the 3.

8 The second trace shows both the production
9 log and the temperature log. And kind of the summary
10 is shown down at the bottom of -- on the Black Warrior
11 Production Evaluation Log: Gas production from the
12 Westall sand, 6064 behind the pipe, behind the
13 perforation 6139 to -49 [sic].

14 And then right below it is the nomenclature
15 for the cross-flow, when it was shut in showed cross-
16 flow from 6064, which was the Westall sand, up to the
17 Brantley sand.

18 And then the same type of data over on the
19 Santa Fe Federal Number 3.

20 Of course, the interpretation of temperature
21 logs and profile logs is kind of an art, but I
22 definitely believe that the interpretation of these
23 logs and other logs that we've collected out here shows
24 that the gas, the majority of the gas is coming from
25 this zone.

1 Q. And even if a well is completed in, say, the
2 Brantley sand, you're still going to probably get
3 communication into that?

4 A. Yes, sir, it appears, and I don't know why
5 that is, but it appears that any type of stimulation --
6 and I don't know if these are naturally occurring
7 fractures that are closed and then any pressure
8 differential allows you to frac right up into this
9 sand, but you do get into communication either coming
10 from the bottom up or from the top down.

11 Q. Is it your opinion that this is -- Does the
12 Westall sand contain oil in it?

13 A. It -- Well, let me tell you, sir, I believe
14 it contains some oil. I know it contains gas, and I
15 know it contains water, but I do believe it contains
16 oil.

17 It does contain water, moveable water.

18 But being located between the Brantley and
19 the Collins, which has oil in it, I believe that it has
20 some oil in it. But there are zones that does have
21 only gas and zones that have only water in it.

22 Q. So you don't think it's a gas cap?

23 A. No, sir, I do not think it's a gas cap.

24 Q. Is this sand, the gas-bearing sand, is it
25 correlatable across the whole field?

1 A. No, sir, just in a certain area. There
2 just -- almost looking at -- I guess the Exhibit 3,
3 which is the structure map, you can correlate the sand
4 there, but the gas on the zone predominantly is in the
5 southeast quarter of 35 and then the northeast of 2 in
6 there.

7 The sands -- The markers above and below it,
8 you can correlate, but this gas sand appears to only
9 exist right in that area.

10 Q. Are your high-GOR wells predominantly found
11 in the southeast quarter of 35?

12 A. Yes sir, I think if you could look at the
13 Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 3 kind of together there, you can
14 see that the highest gas/oil ratios are in the
15 southeast quarter there. The Number 6 well is 22,000.
16 The Number 7 well is 21,000. Right above it is a
17 28,000, a 27,000.

18 And then going over to the Hanley well, which
19 is the 56,000 one, coming down to the Pinnacle State
20 well in Section 36 is a 12,000, and then finally coming
21 down to Section 2 there, the Santa Fe wells, what you
22 can see are higher structurally, have a 25,000, a
23 10,000 and then a 16,000.

24 It generally conforms to this structure, but
25 not in all cases.

1 Q. Have you seen up to this point any decrease
2 in the general GOR in the pool?

3 A. Yes, sir, I think overall, I think the
4 Exhibit Number 4 there, on Westall's gas production
5 curve shows a general decrease in the lease thing. In
6 the sense this lease is a large portion of the field,
7 then you could say that the field gas/oil ratio was
8 probably declining some.

9 Q. Do you believe that production at this
10 current GOR is not in any way harming any of these oil
11 reservoirs?

12 A. No, sir, I do not believe it is. I think
13 that the gas zone is completely independent of the oil
14 zone.

15 Q. What additional evidence will you be able to
16 bring us in a year that will help us finally decide?

17 A. I think we'll have -- Well, I think
18 performance will be the main thing. In other words,
19 what's going to happen to anything here?

20 And if the predominant gas production is from
21 this Westall zone and then it continues to decline, as
22 it has indications to, then I think this would
23 conclusively prove that the majority of the high gas
24 production was from this gas zone.

25 As I said before here, with this being a

1 fairly volatile crude, I expect the gas/oil ratio will
2 stay fairly high throughout the life of the reservoir.

3 Again, as we get more data, get more pressure
4 history, having relative permeability data run, I think
5 we can make some predictions to show what this gas/oil
6 ratio would be expected to do. And then with a year's
7 production history I think we can calibrate those
8 predictions better.

9 Q. You said that there was an attempt to model
10 the reservoirs?

11 A. Yes, sir. Well, it's really modeling in the
12 way of running predictions on drainage areas, ultimate
13 recoveries and so forth.

14 Q. To your knowledge, does any operator in the
15 pool have any problem with the current GOR?

16 A. No, sir, not to my knowledge.

17 EXAMINER CATANACH: That's all I have.

18 MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, I have no additional
19 testimony to provide.

20 Chevron has requested that I read a statement
21 into the record.

22 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay.

23 MR. CARR: I have nothing further with Mr.
24 Howell.

25 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, you may do so.

1 MR. CARR: Mr. Examiner, Chevron USA
2 Production Company currently has 12 wells staked
3 in Section 1, Township 23 South, Range 28 East,
4 Eddy County, New Mexico, which lies on the
5 southern margin of the East Herradura Bend-
6 Delaware field with a drilling program slated to
7 begin in July, 1993.

8 The economics of this drilling program were
9 developed based upon a continuation of the current
10 temporary GOR allowable of 10,000 to one. The
11 negative economic impact of a substantially lower
12 GOR would jeopardize this drilling program.
13 Therefore, Chevron requests that the OCD adopt the
14 existing temporary pool rules as permanent rules
15 for the field.

16
17 That's the statement they submitted.

18 With that, I have nothing further in this
19 case.

20 EXAMINER CATANACH: Anything from Mr.
21 Kellahin?

22 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, on behalf of
23 Fortson Oil Company and Hanley Petroleum, Inc., we
24 support the Applicant's request that the gas/oil ratio
25 of 10,000 to one be continued for a temporary period of

1 an additional one year.

2 EXAMINER CATANACH: Anything from Mr. Bruce?

3 MR. BRUCE: No, sir.

4 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, anything further in
5 this case?

6 MR. CARR: Nothing further.

7 EXAMINER CATANACH: There being nothing
8 further, Case 10,541 will be taken under advisement.

9 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded
10 at 10:36 a.m.)

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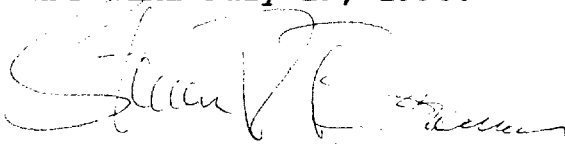
1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
4) ss.
COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

5
6 I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court
7 Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the
8 foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil
9 Conservation Division was reported by me; that I
10 transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true
11 and accurate record of the proceedings.

12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or
13 employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in
14 this matter and that I have no personal interest in the
15 final disposition of this matter.

16 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL July 19, 1993.

17 

18 STEVEN T. BRENNER
19 CCR No. 7

20 My commission expires: October 14, 1994
21

22 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
23 a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 1054/
24 heard by me on July 15, 1993.

25 , Examiner
Oil Conservation Division

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

CASE 10,541

EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

The consolidated Application of Bird Creek
Resources, Fortson Oil Company and Ray Westall
Operating, Inc., for special pool rules, Eddy
County, New Mexico

ORIGINAL

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, EXAMINER

STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

October 1, 1992

A P P E A R A N C E S

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I N D E X

Page Number

Appearances

2

Exhibits

4

RANDALL L. HARRIS

Direct Examination by Mr. Carr

7

Cross-Examination by Mr. Kellahin

21

Cross-Examination by Mr. Bruce

28

Examination by Examiner Stogner

30

Examination by Mr. Stovall

35

Further Examination by Mr. Kellahin

40

Further Examination by Mr. Stovall

41

REX HOWELL

Direct Examination by Mr. Carr

42

Cross-Examination by Mr. Kellahin

55

Cross-Examination by Mr. Bruce

62

Examination by Examiner Stogner

63

RANDALL L. HARRIS (Recalled)

Examination by Examiner Stogner

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Certificate of Reporter

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E X H I B I T S

APPLICANT'S EXHIBITS:

Exhibit 1	9
Exhibit 2	11
Exhibit 3	11
Exhibit 4	15
Exhibit 5	16
Exhibit 6	19
Exhibit 7	55

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1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had
2 at 10:35 a.m.:

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EXAMINER STOGNER: Call the next case, Number
10,541.

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MR. STOVALL: The consolidated Application of
Bird Creek Resources, Fortson Oil Company and Ray
Westall Operating, Inc., for special pool rules, Eddy
County, New Mexico.

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EXAMINER STOGNER: Call for appearances.

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MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my
name is William F. Carr, with the Santa Fe Law firm
Campbell, Carr, Berge and Sheridan. I would like to
enter my appearance in this case for Applicants Bird
Creek Resources and Ray Westall Operating, Inc.

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Initially, I would like to request that
Fortson Oil Company be dismissed as an applicant. I
would like to withdraw my appearance for Fortson so
that Mr. Kellahin can substitute his appearance for
Fortson Oil Company.

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EXAMINER STOGNER: Fortson Oil Company will
be dismissed from -- as being an applicant but not a

1 participant in this particular proceeding.

2 MR. CARR: That is correct.

3 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other appearances?

4 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom Kellahin
5 of the Santa Fe law firm of Kellahin and Kellahin,
6 appearing on behalf of Fortson Oil Company, Bass
7 Enterprises Production Company, and Hanley Petroleum,
8 Inc.

9 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other appearances?

10 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, my name is Jim
11 Bruce from the Hinkle law firm in Santa Fe. I'm
12 representing Santa Fe Energy Operating Partners, L.P.
13 I have no witnesses.

14 MR. CARR: And Mr. Stogner, I would also like
15 to enter my appearance for Harvey E. Yates Company.

16 MR. STOVALL: But they're not an applicant.

17 MR. CARR: They're not an applicant.

18 EXAMINER STOGNER: Are there any other
19 appearances, interested parties, working-interest
20 owners, land owners that would like to be a part of the
21 record?

22 If not, would the witnesses please stand to
23 be sworn?

24 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)

25 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Carr?

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RANDALL L. HARRIS,

the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn
upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARR:

Q. Would you state your name and place of
residence?

A. Yes, my name is Randall Harris. I reside at
Lake Arthur, New Mexico.

Q. Mr. Harris by whom are you employed and in
what capacity?

A. I'm employed by Ray Westall Operating,
Incorporated, as geologist and exploration manager.

Q. Have you previously testified before the Oil
Conservation Division and had your credentials as a
geologist accepted and made a matter of record?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed
in this case on behalf of Ray Westall and Bird Creek
Resources?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. What is the relationship of Ray Westall and
Bird Creek in this area?

A. We're both operators within the East
Herradura Bend-Delaware field.

1 Q. And what is the interest of Fortson Oil
2 Company in the area?

3 A. Fortson is also an operator within the East
4 Herradura Bend-Delaware.

5 Q. Have you made a geologic study of this pool?

6 A. Yes, I have.

7 MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications
8 acceptable?

9 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any objections?

10 MR. KELLAHIN: No.

11 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Harris is so
12 qualified.

13 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Harris could you state
14 what Bird Creek and Westall seek with this Application?

15 A. We ask for special pool rules for the
16 Herradura Bend East Delaware Pool, for a special
17 gas/oil ratio of 10,000 to 1, temporarily for six
18 months.

19 Q. Will this tenth-month period permit you and
20 other operators to develop data which you can bring
21 back to the Commission at that time and at that time
22 have a better handle on the characteristics of this
23 field?

24 A. Yeah, six months should be adequate time to
25 gather the additional data, drill a few more wells, and

1 at that time we should review the producing
2 characteristics of the wells.

3 Q. Have you prepared exhibits for presentation
4 here today?

5 A. Yes, I have.

6 Q. Would you refer to what has been marked as
7 Applicant's Exhibit Number 1, identify that and review
8 it for the Examiner?

9 A. Exhibit Number 1 is a land plat that shows
10 the current pool boundaries. It also indicates the
11 discovery well. That is triangle in the northwest
12 corner of Section 2, discovered -- drilled by Amoco,
13 called the GO State Number 1. It's currently operated
14 by Bird Creek.

15 Q. When was this pool created?

16 A. The pool was designated 3-14-86, by R Order
17 8179 and subsequently extended by R Order 9709.

18 Q. Mr. Harris, I think initially it would be
19 helpful if you would refer to this exhibit and review
20 for the Examiner the interest positions of the various
21 parties who have appeared in this case.

22 A. Ray Westall's interest is in Section 35, the
23 east half, which we currently have drilled and
24 completed the Santa Fe's 1 through 4. We have drilled
25 the Santa Fe 5, and we're waiting on completion, and

1 are currently drilling Santa Fe Number 6.

2 Bird Creek has the Section 26 -- that's to
3 the north -- and in that they have one well producing,
4 the RML Number 1. They also have other parts of
5 Section 2 to the south, including the discovery well,
6 the GO.

7 Fortson Oil Company has Section 36, of which
8 they have drilled five wells to date. The first well
9 has been completed, 2 and 3 are in the process of
10 completion, and 4 and 5 are waiting on completion.

11 Bass Enterprises has Section 25, would be to
12 the northeast of the map. Section 25 is also within
13 the Big Eddy Unit. They operate no Delaware wells in
14 that section as of yet. I believe they have staked
15 some locations, but as far as I know they have not been
16 approved.

17 Santa Fe Energy owns selected tracts in
18 Section 2, and they have no drilling wells at this
19 point. I believe they have staked a location. I'm not
20 aware if it's approved yet either.

21 Heyco also has acreage in Section 2 with no
22 wells, and Hanley Petroleum has the west half of
23 Section 5 with no producing Delaware wells.

24 Q. Now, this pool, you indicated, was approved
25 in 1986. There has, however, been recently a flurry of

1 development that is really outside of the current
2 designated pool boundary but within a mile of that
3 pool; is that right?

4 A. That is correct, yes.

5 Q. Why are you seeking an increase in the
6 gas/oil ratios for the pool?

7 A. Our wells are currently curtailed due to the
8 GOR under statewide rules of 2000 to 1. We need 10,000
9 to 1 just to be able to produce liquids out of the
10 formations.

11 Q. And what are the current allowable
12 limitations for the wells in this pool?

13 A. Pool designations below 6000 feet, oil
14 allowable of 142 barrels of oil a day per well, and
15 284,000 MCF at 2000 to 1.

16 Q. Mr. Harris, I'd like you to refer now to your
17 Exhibits 2 and 3. I think we should refer to these
18 together, the structure map and the cross-section.

19 If you would start with your structure map,
20 identify the -- basically what it shows in the trace
21 and then go into the cross-section.

22 A. Exhibit 2 is a structure map on top of the
23 Westall sand. I'll explain the name in a moment. It
24 also shows the Delaware completions, proposed well
25 locations, and a trace, A to A prime, of the cross-

1 section of Exhibit 3.

2 Q. Okay, let's go at this point to the cross-
3 section.

4 A. Exhibit 3 is a cross-section, A to A prime,
5 which incorporates the Bird Creek RML Federal Number 1,
6 Section 26, through the Ray Westall Santa Fe 1, to the
7 Ray Westall Santa Fe 3, Fortson Oil Pinnacle State
8 Number 1, and then back to the discovery well of Bird
9 Creek Resources State GO Number 1.

10 The names that have been given these
11 formations, being the Collins, the Westall, the
12 Brantley and the Bird Creek Sands, are not official
13 names. They're strictly localized. I believe it was
14 Collins and Ware who have designated these names, but
15 other than that they have no significance.

16 All sands are within the Brushy Canyon of the
17 Delaware formation.

18 Q. Okay, let's start with the well on the left,
19 and if you could just move across to this cross-section
20 for the Examiner.

21 A. Most of the wells have been completed. In
22 fact, all of the wells to date have been shot, acidized
23 and frac'd in the Brantley sand. And most of the
24 wells, being the Santa Fe's Number 2 and 4, and the
25 Pinnacle State Number 1 of Fortson, has also been

1 completed in the Collins sand.

2 To date, no well has been actually perforated
3 within the Westall sand.

4 On physical examination of samples and log
5 calculations, we determined that the Westall sand was
6 probably very gassy, and we were not at this point
7 willing to have a high gas content.

8 After we perforated and completed the Well
9 Number 1 and Well Number 3, we experienced extremely
10 high GOR's, ranging from 10,000, 20,000 to 1. We ran
11 production logs, and those are the logs beside the
12 Santa Fe Number 1 and beside the Santa Fe Number 3.
13 These production logs include a flowing temperature
14 survey, a shut-in temperature survey, and an ohm-
15 impedance log.

16 What these indicate to us, on the flowing
17 temperature, we have a cooling effect from the Westall
18 sand behind pipe to the Brantley perforation, which
19 simply means we've communicated on frac or acid and
20 completed into that sand inadvertently.

21 The ohm-impedance log shows that the top
22 three or four perforations in each of these wells are
23 producing 100 percent of the gas. From that we can
24 deduce that gas is actually coming from the Westall
25 sand, behind the pipe and into the bore hole of the

1 perforations of the Brantley sand.

2 Additionally, the shut-in temperature survey
3 shows a cross-flow. The cross-flow is occurring from
4 the Westall sand to the Brantley sand on the wells
5 being shut in.

6 This leads us to believe that the Westall
7 sand itself is a higher pressure, it is isolated from
8 the Brantley. It is not a gas cap, for if it was a gas
9 cap the pressures would be the same and you would not
10 have any cross-flow.

11 We have another indication that it is a
12 totally separate sand and that is our shale barriers
13 above the Westall sand and below the Westall sand.
14 Above it, it's very consistent, 10 to 15 feet. And
15 below, between it and the Brantley, a consistent 8 to
16 10 feet thick. So it is an isolated individual gas
17 sand.

18 Q. So what you have is a gas sand between two
19 oil zones?

20 A. Yes, we have a gas sand between two oil
21 zones.

22 Q. How do you actually complete and fracture
23 these wells?

24 A. We completed these, what we consider a very
25 typical low-rate, low-volume frac: eight barrels a

1 minute, 18,000 gallons total.

2 Q. So there was nothing unusual about the way
3 you actually completed the wells that caused you to
4 communicate into what you have designated the Westall
5 sand?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. If we look at the structure map, does
8 structure play any real role in explaining the gas/oil
9 ratios that you're experiencing in these wells?

10 A. No, sir, the structure plays very little, if
11 any, role at all.

12 If a gas cap was to truly exist in the
13 Brantley or the Collins sand, we should see evidence of
14 it as we go updip. Our two highest updip wells are the
15 discovery well, the GO, and the Bird Creek RML, and
16 they are both low GOR's.

17 Q. And so basically what you have -- Your
18 structure map is simply a map showing the limited
19 extent of the Westall sand?

20 A. Yes, you can infer a limited extent to the
21 Westall sand itself.

22 Q. Could you identify for Mr. Stogner what has
23 been marked as Applicant's Exhibit Number 4?

24 A. Exhibit Number 4 are flow-rate data sheets,
25 field reports performed by Celtic Services on Ray

1 Westall Santa Fe's 1 through 4.

2 Q. And is Exhibit Number 5 that data, just
3 presented in tabular and graphic format?

4 A. Yes, it's the field data that has been
5 extrapolated to hourly and daily rates.

6 Q. All right. Let's go to Exhibit Number 5, and
7 I would ask you to review first the tabular information
8 on the Santa Fe Federal Number 1, and then explain to
9 Mr. Stogner what you believe they show.

10 A. The information that we have gathered --
11 Actually, what this chart is, is the incremental flow
12 rate in time and the volumes of oil and gas and water
13 produced during that incremental flow, and it's been
14 extrapolated out into per hour per day and eventually
15 to our GOR per MCF barrel. Choke sizes are all in
16 64ths through 10 through 32.

17 What we see is, we -- typically what we see
18 -- find out where I am here -- is that the smaller the
19 choke size, the higher the GOR.

20 In fact, as you choke these wells back, you
21 can produce zero oil -- zero fluids total, and just
22 gas.

23 Q. So eventually you can lose, by choking it
24 back, the potential to produce any oil from the
25 formation?

1 A. Yes, by choking it back you produce no oil
2 from the formation at all.

3 Q. Okay. Well, let's go to the graph for the
4 Santa Fe Number 1, the next page on Exhibit Number 5,
5 and could you review for Mr. Stogner what this shows?

6 A. Yes, this is a chart based on barrels of oil,
7 barrels of water and MCF gas per daily rate.

8 The gas is stabilized. It apparently does
9 not have any -- It produces independently of the oil
10 and gas -- or oil and water in the formations.

11 As you can see the gas chart, it's
12 irrelevant. If you're producing on a 32/64 or an
13 18/64, you'll produce approximately 800,000 MCF per
14 day.

15 However, oil varies widely from 180 down to
16 20 or 30 barrels per day. Exactly the same with the
17 water: a high of 600 barrels a day down to a low of 70
18 barrels a day.

19 So gas is being produced independently of the
20 oil and water in the formations.

21 Q. Now, behind this graph you also have tabular
22 and graphic presentations for the other Santa Fe wells?

23 A. Yes, the Santa Fe's 2, 3 and 4.

24 Q. Now, the Number 4 doesn't perform quite like
25 the first three, does it?

1 A. No, the Number 2 does not perform.

2 Q. And why is that?

3 A. This test data on the Number 2 was performed
4 approximately two days after completion, and I think
5 the well was just too new to get a stabilized
6 performance.

7 Q. Mr. Harris, based on your field and geologic
8 study, do you have an opinion on whether the gas/oil
9 ratios that you're experiencing could be related to the
10 existence of a gas cap in the reservoir?

11 A. Based on field data and geologic information,
12 the GOR cannot be related to a gas cap.

13 Typically in a gas cap, the GOR will not
14 change with the varying size of the choke. Ratios of
15 oil and gas will remain the same; only the volumes will
16 change.

17 Q. In your opinion, what will happen to the
18 ability of the operators to produce the reserves in
19 this field if you are required to produce under current
20 statewide rules?

21 A. Under the current rules, our rates would
22 definitely be curtailed, and ultimately I believe that
23 reserves would be left in the ground as you're not
24 being able to produce the oil until you have depleted
25 some of the -- perhaps the oil in place in the Collins

1 and Brantley sands.

2 Q. Would that result in waste, in your opinion?

3 A. That would -- definitely in waste.

4 Q. What would be the impact of approval of this
5 Application on the correlative rights of interest
6 owners in the pool?

7 A. There will be no impact if approved.

8 If not approved, and without the higher GOR,
9 we'll actually be denied an opportunity to produce our
10 share of the oil reserves in the Brantley and Collins
11 sand zones.

12 Q. Is Exhibit Number 6 a copy of an affidavit of
13 mailing confirming that notice of today's hearing has
14 been provided to those individuals identified on
15 Exhibit A?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. And to whom was notice sent?

18 A. Notice was sent to all operators in the pool
19 and all operators of wells in the Delaware formation
20 within a mile of the pool.

21 Q. Are there any unleased mineral owners within
22 the pool boundary?

23 A. No.

24 Q. If this Application is approved, when would
25 you request that the rules become effective?

1 A. Well, we are currently shut in on wells 1, 3
2 and 4. We'll be finished drilling well number 6 pretty
3 rapidly, and completion of number 5.

4 So we would request a ruling as expeditiously
5 as possible.

6 Q. Would an effective date of those Rules of
7 October 1 be satisfactory for your purposes?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Will the Applicants in this case also be
10 calling an engineering witness to review that portion
11 of the case?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 6 either prepared by
14 you or compiled under your direction?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we
17 would move the admission of Applicant's Exhibits 1
18 through 6.

19 EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 1 through 6 will
20 be admitted into evidence.

21 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
22 examination of this witness.

23 EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Carr.

24 Mr. Kellahin, your witness.

25 MR. KELLAHIN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. KELLAHIN:

Q. Mr. Harris, let me find out from you the data that you had available to you from which to reach your conclusions about the source of the gas being produced in the well.

Let's start with the Santa Fe Federal 1.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Second well on the cross-section. Perforated only in the Brantley sand?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What type of logs did you have for that well?

A. We ran a CNL FDC dual micro.

Q. Any other logs?

A. A cement bond log, case log.

Q. The production evaluation logs shown in the left margin?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What type of log was this?

A. This was a temperature -- flowing temperature, shut-in temperature, and ohm impedance.

Q. Do you develop data from this log with a spinner survey, or is that a different procedure?

A. It's a different procedure.

Q. Did you run a spinner survey on this well --

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. -- to determine the source of production?

3 A. The ohm impedance determines the source of
4 production. It is the same basic type log.

5 Q. Is the relevant portion of the production log
6 what I see next to the density log shown on the display
7 for that log?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you run any frac height logs or frac
10 height information to determine how far you may have
11 propagated fractures out of the Brantley sand?

12 A. No, but this survey gives you the same end
13 result. It does show you from where production is
14 coming from. So you can assume that if your production
15 is coming from up the hole, that you have actually
16 treated -- fractured into that zone, yes.

17 Q. We haven't actually perforated the Westall
18 sand in any of the Ray Westall wells in the east yet?

19 A. No.

20 Q. The information available for the Federal 1
21 well tells you the likely source of the gas is going to
22 be the Westall sand?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. When you look at the other three wells, 2, 3
25 and 4, have you the same type of data for each of those

1 wells?

2 A. Yes, we performed the temperature -- flowing
3 temperature/shut-in temperature logs on the Number 2
4 and the Number 4.

5 And yes, the results are basically the same,
6 although we have completed also in the Collins sand, so
7 we have direction-of-flow difference. The Number 4
8 flows up through the Collins sand, and the Number 2
9 flows down to the Brantley sand. That's the only
10 significant difference.

11 Q. The Number 4 well is the only one that is
12 also perforated in the Collins sand?

13 A. No, the Number 2 is also.

14 Q. Number 2?

15 A. Yes, Number 2 and 4.

16 Q. 2 and 4 in the Collins sand, as well as the
17 Brantley sand?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And the 1 and 3 are only in the Brantley
20 sand?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. What do your cement bond logs tell you about
23 the adequacy of the cement?

24 A. Our cement bond logs are showing virtually a
25 hundred percent bond through this entire section. We

1 do not lose bonding till we get approximately 100 feet
2 above the Collins.

3 We have tried everything to date to stay out
4 of the Westall sand.

5 Q. Have you taken any fluid samples and
6 submitted them for PBT analysis --

7 A. Not, sir.

8 Q. -- on any of the production?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You don't have any PBT data to work with?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Your conclusion of the data thus far is that
13 we're not seeing a gas cap in either the Brantley sand
14 or the Collins sand?

15 A. That's true.

16 Q. That the likely source of the gas is going to
17 be the inadvertent communication into the Westall sand?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Do you have sufficient production data on any
20 of your wells to project ultimate recoveries for any of
21 these wells?

22 A. No, sir. We have production of the 1 and 3,
23 which are the first two wells, for approximately six
24 weeks before we shut them in.

25 Well Number 4, we have approximately three

1 weeks of production. That is not adequate enough time
2 to come to any conclusion on ultimate recoveries at
3 all.

4 Q. In looking at the tabulation of data on
5 Exhibit Number 5, have you and your technical people
6 formulated an opinion about the optimum choke setting
7 at which to most efficiently produce any of these
8 wells?

9 A. Oh, yes.

10 Q. Okay, what is the choke setting that you
11 would recommend?

12 A. It varies per well. For optimum, we have --
13 Since this, we have gone out there and played a little
14 more than this actual test data.

15 Q. Let's just take a for instance. Take the
16 Number 1 well and find for me the optimum choke setting
17 that maximizes the oil production and, conversely,
18 minimizes the gas production.

19 A. That would be a choke setting of 22/64, a gas
20 flow rate of 864,000 a day, 156 barrels of oil. That
21 would be optimum.

22 Q. And there's some flexibility in that, you can
23 go to 24?

24 A. That's true, yes, 22, 24. However, that
25 would be overproducing under the 142 barrels a day

1 allowable for the depth bracket, so --

2 Q. At that choke setting?

3 A. At that choke setting.

4 Q. Are you limited by the oil rate or the
5 gas/oil ratio?

6 A. Both. We are limited to 142 barrels of oil a
7 day in the depth bracket of the pool. So no, you could
8 not produce that at 156 barrels a day on the 22/64.
9 You would have to be somewhere between 20 and 22 to get
10 stabilized production.

11 Q. Under the current 2000-to-1 gas/oil ratio,
12 what's the maximum oil rate you can achieve for this
13 well?

14 A. Very little. About 18 barrels a day, if I
15 remember correctly.

16 However it's almost physically impossible on
17 every well except our Number 1 to produce oil at a GOR
18 of 2000 to 1.

19 Q. What is the 10,000-to-1 ratio justification?
20 What's the reason for seeking that level of gas/oil
21 ratio?

22 A. That is the level of which we determined on
23 these tests that we're able to produce a sustained
24 amount of liquid and keeping the gas at a minimum.

25 As we increase the choke size, of course, the

1 gas does not increase, but the oil volume does, and
2 thus overproduction would occur.

3 Q. For instance --

4 A. Plus water will also come in. We have to
5 protect the formation from the invasion of water. The
6 more we open the chokes up, the more water you produce.
7 That's not good.

8 Q. Using your most efficient choke setting and
9 using a 10,000-to-1 gas/oil ratio, what is your
10 equivalent oil rate?

11 A. Our equivalent oil rate on all four wells
12 combined is approximately 100 barrels of oil per day.

13 Q. Per well?

14 A. Per well, at 10,000 to 1. We will be
15 underproducing the 142, but the choke settings are so
16 touchy that if we were to try for more oil we also --
17 It's not uniform. In other words, we don't go from 100
18 barrels a day to 110 to 120. We jump from 100 up to
19 200 barrels a day in one choke setting.

20 So it becomes a matter of playing with the
21 wells individually to establish their optimum rate.

22 Q. What happens if you use a 5000-to-1 gas/oil
23 ratio? What do you see?

24 A. At 5000 to 1, as you can see on every well
25 but Number 1, you're physically -- Again, you're

1 physically limited that you cannot even produce the
2 wells at 5000 to 1. Or you are able to produce them,
3 but you're overproducing at an extremely high rate.
4 Such as the Number 1, at 5000 to 1, which you could
5 establish, you would be producing 168 barrels of oil
6 per day.

7 On the Number 2, the lowest you can get is
8 6.9 -- or 6900 to 1, but you're producing 456 barrels
9 of oil a day, definitely overproducing.

10 Q. Do you have data from which you are able to
11 conclude what the bubble point of the reservoir is?

12 A. I would have to defer that to our engineer.

13 Q. As well as the solution gas/oil temperature?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 MR. KELLAHIN: Thank you, Mr. Examiner.

16 EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Kellahin.

17 Mr. Bruce?

18 CROSS-EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. BRUCE:

20 Q. Mr. Harris, do you have any pressure data,
21 bottom-hole pressure data?

22 A. Bottom-hole pressure data just from our shut-
23 in surface pressures.

24 Q. And what is that?

25 A. Our shut-in surface pressures --

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. -- vary from 2000 to 2400 pounds.

3 Q. And I think you said that the 1 through 4
4 wells are producing, right? Or capable of producing?

5 A. They're capable of production, yes.

6 Q. And each -- What are they producing at, each
7 well?

8 A. Each well?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. We have -- Each well is averaging
11 approximately 100 barrels of oil per day, and anywhere
12 from one -- the low side is the Number 1 well,
13 producing 800,000 a day in gas, to the high side of our
14 Number 3, 1.4 million.

15 Q. So the GOR has varied pretty much from well
16 to well?

17 A. No, as a matter of fact the GOR is pretty
18 well stable at about 11,000 to 1, except for the Number
19 1 well, and that is somewhat lower, 9000 to 1.

20 Q. Which well was that? The Number --

21 A. The Number 1.

22 MR. BRUCE: That's all I have, Mr. Examiner.

23 EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Bruce.

24 Mr. Carr, any redirect?

25 MR. CARR: Nothing further, Mr. Stogner, on

1 redirect.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

4 Q. In referring to your Exhibit Number 3, the
5 Brantley sand, let me make sure I'm understanding this
6 right. What is the reservoir mechanics and the
7 reservoir energy, just the Brantley sand alone?

8 A. We're assuming that the Brantley sand is
9 combination solution gas and water drive.

10 Q. If we run from this Westall sand, what would
11 the -- would the 2000-to-1 limit be satisfactory to
12 produce just the Brantley sand, without the induction
13 of this Westall sand gas coming in?

14 A. That is up to speculation at this point. I
15 would assume probably not, sir. Most Delaware Brushy
16 Canyon fields do exhibit a higher GOR than 2000 to 1.

17 What we have seen, East Loving, which is to
18 the south of us, it apparently is approximately 5000 to
19 1. The Avalon field to the north is 4000 or 5000 to 1.
20 So I think that's generally what we see in the Brushy
21 Canyon formation.

22 Q. Do you know where the oil/water contact is
23 out here?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. It's foreseeable that there's some wells out

1 here without the influence of the Westall sand, I would
2 assume?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And increasing the GOR limit for those wells,
5 which would go along with increased GOR, is there a
6 possibility that we may see a more premature water
7 influx into the oil zone?

8 A. I don't believe so. We have two updip wells
9 currently, both Bird Creek, and on full production --
10 and on pump, they do not exhibit any abnormally high
11 GOR.

12 Q. What is the medium between the Westall sand
13 and that Brantley sand? What are we looking at?

14 A. We're looking at shale, shale and tight
15 sands.

16 Q. So we have the channeling down of the sand
17 through -- I believe you said perforations and then
18 through -- Well, how about the cement behind the pipe?
19 Is that also an influence?

20 A. Probably not. We have excellent bond from
21 the Westall through the Brantley, so we have
22 communicated probably between the cement and the
23 formation.

24 Q. And that was done after fracturing?

25 A. Yes. Well, we assume after fracturing or

1 after acidizing. There would not have been a
2 communication before we acidized or frac'd, no.

3 Q. Do you know what the extent this Westall sand
4 -- On the cross-section you show it to be somewhat
5 limited.

6 A. To the north and south, yes, it is limited.

7 Q. How about to the east and west?

8 A. To the east it does not occur in the west
9 half of Section 35, in the Hanley well. And to the
10 west it has not been -- or -- yeah, to the -- east, it
11 has not been determined yet.

12 Q. What's the characteristic of that Westall
13 sand gas production? Is it high volume, low pressure?
14 High pressure, low volume?

15 A. High pressure. We see the high pressure from
16 two factors: the shut-in of the wells, which is
17 definitely abnormal for Brushy Canyon Delaware, and
18 from our shut-in temperature survey we do see cross-
19 flowing from that zone to the lower Brantley sand.

20 So we can assume there's fairly high
21 pressure. You're not able to put a particular amount
22 on it because you are cross-flowing.

23 We assume this dries gas, with very little
24 liquid in it.

25 Q. What would -- well -- You think one well

1 could drain if it was perforated in that Westall sand,
2 just to drain that sand off, since it is of some --
3 appears to be of somewhat limited extent? Alleviate
4 the problem instead of --

5 A. It's possible. Drainage pattern on a
6 Delaware gas sand, as far as I know, has never been
7 written where I could have read any results of it.

8 I don't know what the extent of drainage
9 would be.

10 Q. Well, you have some indication that it's
11 coming in out of these fractures.

12 Okay, you have some of the Collins sand, I
13 believe, in that Pinnacle State Number 1?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. At least on the cross-section. That is
16 perforated.

17 What's the driving mechanism for that
18 particular sand interval?

19 A. We believe that is also solution gas.

20 Q. No water drive?

21 A. We could assume a water drive. Most Delaware
22 sands do have a water drive.

23 However, we have not found the downdip limit
24 of this sand as of yet.

25 Q. So it's my understanding that without the

1 induction of the Westall sand gas and -- either into
2 the Brantley sand or the Collins sand, that the 10,000-
3 to-1 GOR ratio will not affect the overall production
4 on these two reservoirs?

5 A. No. We believe that, hopefully in six
6 months, that the Westall sand pressure will have come
7 down enough to be equivalent to the Brantley or the
8 Collins or both, to where the GOR will come down.

9 Q. What would be the danger during the six-month
10 period of putting a perf into the Westall sand
11 directly?

12 A. There would be no danger at all.

13 Q. Other than the additional cost?

14 A. That would be correct, yeah, other than the
15 additional cost.

16 Q. At the end of the six-month period, if the
17 Westall sand appeared to be losing its pressure and
18 volume to a sufficient amount, do you think a lower GOR
19 would -- could be given to this pool?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other questions of
22 this witness?

23 MR. STOVALL: Just one other.

24 EXAMINATION

25 BY MR. STOVALL:

1 Q. As far as, you know, if you were to take the
2 option of perforating and producing the gas out of the
3 Westall sand to eliminate the source of gas, given the
4 realities of costs and everything else, what would be
5 the best way to do it? To take one well and set a
6 packer or something and perforate it and produce it,
7 or --

8 A. Well, we have communicated on all four of the
9 Westall wells already. We are communicated to the
10 Westall sand.

11 Q. Uh-huh.

12 A. So you're going to deplete that zone whether
13 you've perforated it or not on our four wells.

14 Perforated, sure, your gas will come into the
15 bore hole directly opposite the sand.

16 I don't see what difference it would make if
17 we did perforate it or just leave it alone. I am not
18 opposed to perforating it.

19 EXAMINER STOGNER: I'm sorry, sir, you just
20 told me you didn't know what the reservoir
21 characteristics was in the Westall sand.

22 Now you're saying without perforating that
23 you can alleviate it.

24 I'm sorry, I'm confused here. You just
25 confused me altogether. You contradicted yourself.

1 THE WITNESS: No, I --

2 EXAMINER STOGNER: You need to straighten me
3 out here.

4 THE WITNESS: Okay, I'm not -- I didn't -- I
5 don't know where I --

6 Q. (By Mr. Stovall) Well, let me back you up
7 and try this again.

8 If I understand what you just said, the
9 answer to my question was that regardless of whether
10 you perforate the Westall sand or continue to produce
11 through your existing perfs, the Westall gas is going
12 to be drained off?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. It's either going to flow through that shale
15 member and get down to the Brantley and be produced, or
16 if you perforate directly it will perforate -- you'll
17 produce it out of that sand?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Now, I think what Examiner Stogner was
20 referring to before was, you had indicated that you
21 didn't know if you were to perforate, say, one well in
22 that Westall, how much area you would effectively drain
23 just of the Westall, with the Westall well?

24 A. Oh, that's correct, that's correct.

25 No, I don't know how much we would drain off

1 of --

2 Q. Was that what you meant before when you said
3 you didn't know the characteristics of that particular
4 sand?

5 A. I don't know the drainage pattern off the
6 sand.

7 Q. Does the problem appear to be primarily on
8 your -- I'm sorry, is that the Santa Fe lease?

9 Is that what that east half of 35 is? Is
10 that what you're calling that?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And that's where the problem primarily seems
13 to be --

14 A. That's where --

15 Q. -- at least as far as you can tell?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, back to my question again.

18 If there were some concern about raising a
19 GOR and its broader effect in the pool, would it be
20 possible to take, say, the -- it wouldn't matter which
21 well -- one of those six or seven wells in that east
22 half of 35, set a packer below the Westall, perforate
23 the Westall, get the gas out, would you expect to see,
24 then, that you'd have a pressure drop in the Westall
25 and that it would therefore -- you would have less

1 cross-flow down to the Brantley, and therefore you
2 would lower the GOR in the oil wells in the Brantley?

3 A. Yes, if you could --

4 Q. Is that too much of a --

5 A. If you could effectively drain more than that
6 140 acres, yes, you would see a pressure drop in that
7 sand.

8 Q. Do you have any -- Looking at your logs, can
9 you tell from the permeability whether you would expect
10 to --

11 A. The logs indicate fairly good relative
12 permeability.

13 Of course, that's not even calculatable.
14 It's just assumed by the amount of distance between the
15 micro -- the shallow and the deep ladder logs.

16 Q. And that's a sand formation, right?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Given you have kind of a general geologic
19 presumption that gas is going to drain a larger radius
20 than oil, then conceivably you could put -- take one of
21 these wells right in this -- Look at the 2 or 3 for
22 example, or the --

23 A. Conceivably, yes, you could drain the gas off
24 with one well.

25 Q. And I guess given the amount of gas that

1 you're seeing, it really could be economically viable
2 to go ahead and produce that gas for a short time and
3 move it out and --

4 A. Oh, yes.

5 Q. -- kind of protect the Brantley portion of
6 the formation, right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. The bottom line is, is that is a viable
9 option?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Given the -- It wouldn't necessitate
12 expensive drilling of another well or anything else.
13 It could be done as a...

14 A. (Nods)

15 Q. Bottom line, in your opinion, either -- The
16 Westall sand is going to be drained of gas either
17 through the cross-flow to the Brantley, or if another
18 perforation in that sand were required -- That gas is
19 coming one way or the other.

20 A. That gas is overriding everything else in the
21 other two oil zones, yes.

22 MR. STOVALL: I don't think I have any more
23 questions.

24 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other questions of
25 this witness?

1 MR. KELLAHIN: One follow-up, Mr. Examiner.

2 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Kellahin?

3 FURTHER EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

5 Q. Is there any direct measurement of the
6 composition of the hydrocarbons in the Westall sand?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Show me which well has been perforated --

9 A. No, no, no, no --

10 Q. -- exclusively in the Westall sand.

11 A. No, no, not exclusively, no, no.

12 We do have analyses of the gas itself at the
13 higher rates, and our engineer will --

14 Q. But that's gas that we cannot specifically
15 quantify --

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. -- as being produced only out of the Westall
18 sand?

19 A. No, we cannot quantify that, no.

20 Q. So we don't know if the Westall sand will
21 classify itself as a gas sand or not.

22 The presumption at this point is that it
23 should?

24 A. Yes. From all evidence with the ohm
25 impedance, with all the gas coming in the top two or

1 three perforations, yes, it's a pretty good assumption.

2 Q. And the way you've mapped the Westall sand,
3 it's going to extend beyond the Westall leases, and it
4 should be present in the Fortson Oil Company's Pinnacle
5 State Number 1?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 MR. KELLAHIN: No further questions.

8 FURTHER EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. STOVALL:

10 Q. And in response to that, follow-up question
11 to that is that Fortson could then perforate a
12 Westall -- one of its wells in the Westall and get its
13 share of that gas, correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 MR. STOVALL: I have nothing further.

16 EXAMINER STOGNER: Anything further of this
17 witness?

18 MR. CARR: Nothing further.

19 EXAMINER STOGNER: You may be excused at this
20 time.

21 Mr. Carr?

22 MR. CARR: At this time we call Rex Howell.

23 REX HOWELL,

24 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn
25 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARR:

Q. Will you state your name and place of residence?

A. My name is Rex G. Howell. I reside in Houston, Texas.

Q. Mr. Howell, by whom are you employed and in what capacity?

A. I'm an independent petroleum engineering consultant being retained by Collins and Ware at this time.

Q. Could you briefly review your educational background and work experience?

A. Yes, sir. I graduated with a bachelor of science in petroleum engineering from the University of Texas in 1958. I went to work for Amoco as a junior petroleum engineer in Levelland, Texas, and then worked through many offices and many different engineering positions for about 17 year with Amoco. At that time it was Pan American Petroleum.

I left Amoco in 1974. I was division reservoir engineer and supervisor in charge of all the reservoir engineering operations in Texas, New Mexico, and the mid-continent.

Joined the Energy Reserves Group as the

1 division production manager responsible for all
2 production activities in the southern half of the US.

3 And then in 1982 I joined H & G Oil Company
4 in Midland, Texas, as the executive vice president,
5 served in that capacity until about 1985 when Inter
6 North and Houston Natural Gas merged, and was named the
7 executive vice president of the merged companies, Enron
8 Oil and Gas Company, served in that capacity until
9 early 1989 and then took early retirement from Enron
10 and have been an independent petroleum consultant since
11 that time.

12 Q. What interest does Collins and Ware have in
13 this pool?

14 A. Collins and Ware has interest in both the
15 Westall-operated wells in Section 35, and also the 14
16 wells operated in Section 36.

17 Q. When were you actually contacted about this
18 particular question in this pool?

19 A. This particular question came up in mid to
20 late August. Mr. Collins called me and wanted me to
21 update and do a reserve analysis for all of his
22 properties, and then particularly look at this field
23 because it was a recent, new discovery, and attempt to
24 assign reserves to these wells.

25 Q. And you've reviewed this pool as part of that

1 effort?

2 A. Yes, sir, I have.

3 Q. When did you become aware of the potential
4 for a separate gas zone in this pool?

5 A. When I first got to Midland in late August
6 out there, they had all the logs hung up, and a map, on
7 the wall, and were telling me that they had a high --
8 or high gas/oil-ratio wells in the Delaware, and they
9 thought it was coming from a gas sand between two oil
10 zones.

11 Q. And then what have you done since that time
12 to evaluate these properties and, in particular,
13 determine whether or not there is a gas -- separate gas
14 sand in this area?

15 A. All right, sir, I've looked -- attempted to
16 look at all the available data to Collins and Ware,
17 including looking at the well logs and all the
18 production history in attempting to make reserve
19 estimates.

20 Q. Have you reached certain engineering
21 conclusions that you're prepared to present to the
22 Examiner today as a result of this study and review of
23 the pool?

24 A. Yes, sir, I have.

25 MR. CARR: We tender Mr. Howell as an expert

1 witness in petroleum engineering.

2 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any objections?

3 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir.

4 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Howell is so
5 qualified.

6 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Howell, I think it would
7 be helpful if you would now in detail review exactly
8 what you studied and what processes you went through
9 with the limited data available to you to determine
10 whether or not you did have a separate gas sand.

11 A. All right, sir. At the time I started my
12 study on the Westall lease in Section 35, I had well
13 log data on five logs, the logs on Santa Fe wells
14 number 1 through 5. I also had log data on three of
15 the Fortson wells, wells number 1, 2 and 3. So I had
16 logs -- complete electric logs and porosity logs on
17 eight wells in the field.

18 We also had production history from Mr.
19 Westall's four wells -- at the time wells number 1, 2,
20 3 and 4 -- and a short production history on the
21 Pinnacle Federal Number 1 well.

22 Taking that data, then what I did in using
23 the geological nomenclature that this reservoir has
24 been divided into, the three sands, the Collins sand,
25 the Westall sand and the Brantley sand, I then made a

1 log analysis foot by foot for each zone there,
2 determined the porosity, the water saturation, and then
3 from that developed a hydrocarbon pore volume for each
4 zone.

5 That would allow me to determine the original
6 oil in place and the original gas in place for each one
7 of the wells and for each one of the zones.

8 Once knowing the original oil in place,
9 derived by log calculations, I had to go in and make
10 several assumptions. That was really about the end of
11 my real hard data.

12 But I made the assumption that a Delaware
13 well could drain 40 acres.

14 I further made the assumption that a well
15 completed in the Collins sand would have a primary
16 recovery factor of 15 percent of the original oil in
17 place.

18 I made the further assumption that a well
19 completed in the Brantley sand would only have a ten-
20 percent recovery factor of primary oil.

21 Q. And what were you basing that on?

22 A. Well, it's just really looking at the log
23 characteristics here.

24 The average porosity in the Collins sand was
25 higher than it was in the Brantley sand. The Collins

1 sand is a lot more uniform, you can correlate it from
2 well to well better.

3 The Brantley sand is, as I say, lower
4 porosity and seemed to be more heterogeneous than the
5 Collins sand there.

6 So I assumed a lower recovery factor. It was
7 an assumption to try to take into account either lower
8 drainage or lack of good pack.

9 And for the Westall sand, what I did was use
10 the -- calculate bottom-hole pressure from surface
11 shut-in pressures. I assumed an abandonment pressure
12 of 500 p.s.i. and then calculated the original gas in
13 place, and using a 500-pound abandonment pressure you
14 would come up with a recovery of 85 percent of the gas
15 in place for the Westall zones.

16 Q. Now, what other information did you have
17 available to you?

18 A. Well, we don't have a fluid sample on this
19 thing and it's really unfortunate, because it's really
20 key to some of the conclusions that we've drawn on this
21 thing.

22 We know that the oil gravity is 43 degrees
23 API. We do know that.

24 On one of the Fortson wells, they had an
25 early test out of the Brantley sand with a producing

1 gas/oil ratio of 1500. Now, I assumed that the
2 solution gas/oil ratio for this reservoir, then, was
3 1500 cubic feet per square barrel.

4 Knowing the oil gravity of 43 degrees,
5 assuming a solution gas/oil ratio of 1500, and knowing
6 the bottom-hole temperature of the gas gravity, then I
7 could calculate a reservoir volume factor of 1.65.

8 Now, that's a pretty high reservoir volume
9 factor, and -- almost indicating a volatile oil. But
10 what it indicates to me is that this is a real high-
11 quality hydrocarbon being produced out of here, a light
12 crude, and it's with a lot of gas in just the Collins
13 and just the Brantley sands, in addition to probably
14 being essentially all gas out of the Westall sand.

15 Q. Now, admittedly you're working with limited
16 information?

17 A. Yes, sir, very limited information. And like
18 I say, we don't have a bottom-hole sample. You would
19 like to have a -- say, a recombination sample on that
20 thing.

21 But to really get meaningful fluid properties
22 out of it, you've got to know what proportion to
23 combine the gas back with the oil. And with all the
24 evidence out here of communication with the gas zone,
25 it's really difficult. And about the only way I would

1 know to get a valid fluid sample out of this thing, a
2 bottomhole sample -- and I think the operations people
3 would not look on this kindly -- is maybe to drill stem
4 test just the Collins sand there, and then you might
5 could get a true fluid sample and do it.

6 I'm not advocating that, but I don't know how
7 to get a good bottom-hole sample or a -- or what
8 proportions to recombine the gas and oil to come up
9 with the correct fluid properties.

10 Q. With the information available, and based on
11 the assumptions that you've had to make, have you been
12 able to reach conclusions concerning the producing
13 gas/oil ratios for this pool?

14 A. Yes, sir, just taking -- on these
15 assumptions, and there are many assumptions in here --
16 for just the Collins sands and the Brantley sands,
17 which are the oil sands in here, and based on these
18 assumptions that I've outlined, I think the average
19 producing gas/oil ratio of those wells, of the wells
20 completed in just those sands, with no communication,
21 will be in the vicinity of 7700 cubic feet per barrel,
22 over the life of the properties.

23 Q. And this is just from the solution gas only?

24 A. Yes, sir, that's just from production of
25 solution gas in those two oil sands.

1 Q. Have you attempted to factor in what you
2 understand to be the Westall sand?

3 A. Yes, sir, again taking into account an 85-
4 percent recovery factor, which is assuming a 500-pound
5 abandonment pressure, then I calculate in just the
6 eight wells that I analyzed, assuming they'll drain 40
7 acres, that there's about 2.6 BCF of gas in the Westall
8 sand.

9 So when you add that to the 2.6 BCF to the
10 gas, solution gas that's going to be produced, you're
11 going to come up with about an average gas/oil ratio of
12 9700 cubic feet per barrel over the life of these
13 properties.

14 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether or not
15 it would be prudent to independently produce the
16 Westall sands?

17 A. Well, sir, I -- I don't think it would be --
18 I don't think you can independently produce the Westall
19 sand, just as I don't believe you can independently
20 produce the Brantley and the Collins.

21 I know that the Westall sand has good
22 productivity, following stimulation by a frac from the
23 lower zone. But just because a well has good initial
24 bottomhole pressure and initial deliverability doesn't
25 indicate it's going to be a big well and drain a large

1 area there.

2 But your question, specifically, I don't know
3 how you would do that, because in my belief, by looking
4 at the log characteristics of that well -- we don't
5 have any cores and no permeability measurements there
6 -- I think the Westall sand is going to have to be
7 stimulated.

8 So if you stimulate the Westall sand, you go
9 into the Brantley sand and the Collins sand. So I
10 don't think you can independently produce the Westall
11 sand.

12 Q. Based on your understanding of this
13 reservoir, do you see evidence of a gas cap?

14 A. No, sir, I do not see any evidence. And when
15 we first -- when I first went to Midland and they told
16 me about a gas zone between two oil zones, it didn't
17 seem right to me. And I thought, Well there's a zone
18 that's got a gas cap in it; that's their a problem
19 there.

20 But after reviewing -- And this is a sample
21 log from a cross-section there. But reviewing all of
22 the logs available out there, you can see that there is
23 a good shale barrier between the Westall interval and
24 the Brantley sand. And in my opinion, that is a good
25 geologic barrier there.

1 Right above the Westall sand there is another
2 good shale barrier. In fact, it's thicker than the one
3 between the Brantley. Again, it exists in all the
4 wells over there, and so I think that's the thing
5 there.

6 Now, why there's just gas in the Westall
7 zone, I can't answer that.

8 But -- And then I further looked at the --
9 Based on log analysis only, I cannot calculate or
10 locate a gas/oil contact in either the Brantley or the
11 Collins zones. Consequently, I can't locate an
12 oil/water contact.

13 Now, I can locate zones that have high water
14 saturation scattered through there, much higher than I
15 would suspect connate water or irreducible water, and I
16 suspect some water production in here.

17 But I cannot locate, in these wells that I've
18 seen, I cannot locate either a gas/oil contact nor an
19 oil/water contact in either of the zones.

20 Q. In your opinion, would approval for six
21 months of a gas/oil ratio on a temporary basis of
22 10,000 to 1 dissipate reservoir energy?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. In your opinion, would denial of this
25 Application ultimately result in oil being left in the

1 ground?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. In working with this information, did you
4 come across any other data or information that would
5 support the existence of a separate gas zone in the
6 reservoir?

7 A. Yes, sir, we did. We looked at some gas
8 analysis that was available.

9 One, the first one here, what I've got is
10 produced gas analysis from three wells. All three of
11 these wells produce from the Brushy Creek section of
12 the Delaware here.

13 The first one, what I've looked at is the
14 heating values and the liquid content of the gas.

15 And you can see on the Ray Westall well the
16 heating value in BTU's per MCF is about 1167, where the
17 other two wells, again out of the Delaware, are 1571
18 and 1431.

19 In other words, a much dryer gas reflected by
20 the heating value.

21 This is also reflected and shown by the
22 liquid content of the gas. Five gallons per million
23 for the FM pluses in the Ray Westall well, 13 gallons
24 per million in the Bird Creek well, and in excess of 10
25 gallons per million in the Myrtle Meyer Number 2 well.

1 So to me -- And this is only three samples.
2 But to me, this indicates that the Ray Westall well is
3 a much dryer gas and is really not representative of
4 what you would expect casinghead gas to be in a normal
5 Delaware reservoir.

6 Q. Could you just summarize for Mr. Stogner the
7 conclusions you've reached from your work with this
8 pool?

9 A. Yes, sir. What I've concluded from looking
10 at the data -- and I admit that it's limited here --
11 that we really have three geologically separate zones
12 out here, two of them being oil and the third one being
13 in the middle of the two oil zones, being a
14 predominantly gas zone.

15 That when you try to stimulate either the
16 upper oil sand or the bottom oil sand, you're going to
17 get communication with it, and that, consequently, the
18 gas contributed by that zone is going to contribute to
19 a higher gas/oil ratio in this field.

20 And that I do not believe that the well can
21 be -- that the field can be efficiently depleted at a
22 gas/oil ratio limit of 2000 to 1.

23 Q. Is 10,000 to 1 needed to do this efficiently?

24 A. Yes, sir, in my opinion a period of six
25 months here will allow us to collect other data and see

1 if this is the optimum gas/oil ratio to produce this
2 field at.

3 Q. Admittedly, there's a lot of activity in the
4 area right now?

5 A. Yes, sir, there's many wells, as you heard,
6 being drilled.

7 Q. And it's your recommendation that if this
8 Application is approved it should be re-opened and
9 reviewed again in six months?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Was Exhibit Number 7 prepared by you?

12 A. Yes, it was.

13 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, I would
14 move the admission of Applicant's Exhibit Number 7.

15 EXAMINER STOGNER: Are there any objections?

16 MR. KELLAHIN: No objection.

17 EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibit Number 7 will be
18 admitted into evidence.

19 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
20 examination of Mr. Howell.

21 EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Carr.

22 Mr. Kellahin, your witness.

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

25 Q. Mr. Howell, give me a checklist, if you will,

1 sir, of what type of data you would propose the
2 operators gather from their wells so that in six months
3 when we come back to the Examiner we will now have
4 sufficient data to satisfy the issue of the appropriate
5 gas/oil ratio for the reservoir.

6 A. You know, let me think of the things that
7 would be ideal from a reservoir engineering standpoint.

8 From an operator's from an operator's
9 standpoint, looking at costs --

10 Q. No, sir, my question was for the reservoir
11 engineer, what do you see?

12 A. I think a complete core analysis of the whole
13 -- of all three sands out here would be quite helpful
14 in determining permeability, porosity and hopefully
15 coming at some answer of what drainage areas might be.

16 Q. We don't have any core data yet for the
17 reservoir?

18 A. Not to my knowledge. Now, I think maybe one
19 of the Fortune wells has had the upper sand cored. I
20 have not seen that analysis yet.

21 But I would like to see core analyses on all
22 three sands, a full core analysis.

23 Q. All right, sir. What else?

24 A. I'd like to see relative permeability data
25 obtained from those things so we can make not only some

1 primary recovery calculations, I believe that these
2 sands really have a -- quite a potential for waterflood
3 and even tertiary. So I'd like to see some oil/water
4 relative permeability rates.

5 So I'd like to see relative permeability,
6 gas/oil and oil/water.

7 Q. All right, sir. What else?

8 A. I'd like to see a bottomhole flood analysis.
9 Now, I think that's going to have to be some thought of
10 how we're going to collect that. Is anybody willing to
11 drill stem test?

12 Once you get through the Collins sand or
13 penetrate that shale below the Collins sand, I'm not
14 sure you can get a representative sample of just the
15 oil.

16 Q. When you're looking at a fluid analysis, do
17 we have to take them for multiple wells in the
18 reservoir in order to have an accurate reflection of
19 the reservoir?

20 A. Well, the more you have, the better. The
21 more data points you have. I would think if you could
22 get one good -- one good -- I guess if we could get one
23 sample that kind of fit what we thought it should be, I
24 would be kind of comfortable with that.

25 If it doesn't fit what I want, then I would

1 want to take a couple. But the more you have, the
2 better. But a fluid sample would really be helpful.

3 Q. All right, sir. What else?

4 A. I think, of course, daily production
5 histories on all the wells of the choke sizes and the
6 -- as the operators normally get. All rates, all
7 gas/water, the pressures and the choke sizes, and I
8 think that could help on that thing.

9 Pressure data would also be helpful too.

10 Q. What kind of pressure data would you propose
11 to gather, over what intervals?

12 A. Well, on the flowing wells, if you could run
13 bottoms in there, you know, I think that would be
14 appropriate, to run bottoms, if the operators, you
15 know, would consent to running bottoms on the wells.
16 There's always a chance of losing the bottom, and you
17 don't like to do that.

18 But, you know, if you could take pressures
19 fairly early -- and I think what we're seeing here,
20 they're going to be pretty representative over there.
21 But if you could get, say, a well every 80 acres, every
22 other well, like that, pressures over the history
23 here -- You know, in six months and if this reservoirs
24 are as good as I expect it to be -- I don't like -- I
25 don't expect to see a lot of pressure drawdown in these

1 wells out here. But I think we do need to get some
2 pressure data on as many wells as are feasible.

3 Q. Let me ask you to respond to a question that
4 Mr. Stovall introduced into the topic a while ago, and
5 that is whether one of these operators could simply
6 selectively perforate the Westall sand, get all the gas
7 out of that sand and not somehow disrupt the reservoir.
8 Is that a solution for us?

9 A. Well, in my opinion it's not. And as I told
10 Mr. Carr, I don't think you can find your withdrawal
11 point to just the Westall sand.

12 And further, just because you have good
13 initial productivity doesn't indicate you're going to
14 drain the world on that, and so I think you could get
15 gas out of a well by perforating it there.

16 But I think if you had to stimulate it, in my
17 opinion, if you have to stimulate you're going to get,
18 also, some oil out of the Collins and the Brantley
19 zone. And just because you get the well at this 40
20 acres, I don't think you lose the problem from the
21 other 40 acres, in my opinion.

22 Q. You introduced the topic just now of
23 potential future pressure maintenance for the
24 reservoir?

25 A. Yes, sir, I think this really has a lot of

1 potential for secondary by waterflooding and tertiary
2 by CO₂. And that's based on -- When I joined H & G Oil
3 Company, we were operating the Delaware Field in Loving
4 County, Texas, and we bought the field from Mobile
5 after it had been successfully waterflooded. Not a
6 great waterflood, but a successful waterflood.

7 And we picked up CO₂ and compressed it and
8 carried it 26 miles there. And when I left, we had
9 already recovered 4 million barrels of tertiary oil
10 from that field.

11 And looking at the quality of sand,
12 particularly the Collins sand is much better than that
13 one. So if this field responds under primary, as I
14 suspect it will, I think secondary by waterflooding
15 would be quite feasible and followed by CO₂. So I
16 think this is a very valuable reservoir, yes, sir.

17 Q. Part of a scheme for pressure maintenance
18 would be control of pressure by limiting the gas
19 withdrawals from the reservoir, would it not?

20 A. Under primary, I think you could -- I don't
21 think you'll want to ever -- You can slow the rate of
22 pressure decline, but you will stretch the life.

23 In other words, if this zone, on the solution
24 gas drive reservoir, which I think is the predominant
25 producing mechanism, and you deplete it down to the

1 balance pressure, the economic limit, under a 2000-to-1
2 gas/oil ratio, you can do this.

3 I think it's going to take 25 to 35 years to
4 do it. You're going to get to the same point and
5 essentially the same ultimate recovery as under a
6 10,000-to-1 gas/oil ratio, but you can shorten the life
7 by roughly a fivefold increase to do that.

8 So I don't think you're going to conserve
9 energy by not producing the gas/oil ratio.

10 Now, I think everyone realizes or believes --
11 the reservoir engineers do -- that the quicker you
12 start a waterflood and less the shrinkage of crude, the
13 better your ultimate recovery.

14 Q. Let me ask you this: Does it impair the
15 opportunity for success of the pressure maintenance
16 project by increasing the gas/oil ratio to the 10,000-
17 to-1 rate for a six-month period?

18 A. No, sir, not in my opinion.

19 Q. If this is truly a solution gas/oil reservoir
20 and we were not going to develop a gas cap or make an
21 existing gas cap larger in any of these zones, then
22 it's not rate-relative?

23 A. That's correct, sir.

24 Q. So at a solution gas/oil ratio reservoir,
25 we're not going to leave oil in the ground by

1 manipulating the gas/oil ratio?

2 A. No, you can stretch the life out a lot.

3 Q. Anything else on data-gathering for the
4 reservoir in order to come back in six months and have
5 an answer to the issue?

6 A. There's probably other things, but that's all
7 I can think of right now, sir.

8 MR. KELLAHIN: Thank you. No further
9 questions.

10 EXAMINER STOGNER: Thank you, Mr. Kellahin.
11 Mr. Bruce?

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. BRUCE:

14 Q. Mr. Howell, you said you did look at log data
15 on Fortson wells 1 through 3?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Did the Westall zone extend eastward to the
18 number 3 well?

19 A. Yes, sir, it did.

20 Q. And what kind of production history data did
21 you have? What kind of production data did you have
22 when you did your study?

23 A. I had -- On the Westall wells I had the four
24 tests that were submitted there, and then on the
25 Fortson Pinnacle Number 1 I had one test that had been

1 submitted to Mr. Collins, who's a working interest
2 owner under that unit, one test only, and it was a
3 fairly short-term test.

4 Q. Okay. Do you recall what the Fortson test
5 showed?

6 A. No, sir, I do not recall. I'm sure we could
7 find it.

8 Q. Okay. And there wasn't any pressure data on
9 the Fortson wells?

10 A. No, sir.

11 MR. BRUCE: I don't have anything further,
12 Mr. Examiner.

13 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Carr, any redirect?

14 MR. CARR: No redirect.

15 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Carr, I have a few
16 questions for Mr. Howell, and then I would like to come
17 back to Mr. Harris.

18 EXAMINATION

19 BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

20 Q. Mr. Howell, this -- In answering Mr.
21 Kellahin's questions, I jotted down what he had asked
22 you. I call it a sort of a reservoir engineer's wish
23 list --

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. -- core data and such as that.

1 In your opinion, is that type of information
2 and data feasible on a lease basis for -- in this area?

3 A. You mean can it be collected? Yes, sir, I
4 believe it can. Now, Mr. Westall, I don't know -- I
5 know he's drilled well 6. I don't know if 7 and 8 are
6 available to be drilled. But, you know, at that time
7 they could be cored.

8 Q. Let me -- Can it be collected by one operator
9 on his lease?

10 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

11 Q. It could. Would it be better if a
12 conglomeration of operators collected this data?

13 A. Yes, sir. The more data points you have
14 scattered out across the field, the more better it
15 would be.

16 Q. So this would be information that perhaps you
17 would like for unitization, say?

18 A. Oh, I think ultimate unitization and
19 secondary recovery, yes, sir. Just proper maintenance
20 of the field, operation of the field to develop a real
21 optimum plan of depletion, the more data you get, the
22 better that you can do the design work.

23 EXAMINER STOGNER: I have no other questions
24 of Mr. Howell. Are there any questions of this
25 witness?

1 MR. CARR: No.

2 EXAMINER STOGNER: I'd like to recall Mr.
3 Harris at this time.

4 MR. CARR: Mr. Harris?

5 RANDALL L. HARRIS (Recalled),
6 the witness herein, after having been previously duly
7 sworn upon his oath, was examined and testified as
8 follows:

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

11 Q. Mr. Harris, you are employed by which
12 company?

13 A. Ray Westall Operating.

14 Q. Before proposing this today, was there a
15 meeting with the operators in this particular pool
16 about what was going on, about your proposal, about
17 what you have presented today?

18 A. Yes, sir. We've had several meetings. One
19 was just a joint operating meeting between Fortson Oil
20 and Great West Oil and Collins and Ware. That was, I
21 believe, September the 1st or 2nd.

22 Q. And that was just of the three original
23 Applicants?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Has there been any communications with -- Let

1 me go back. How many operators are out in the pool?
2 How many operators have wells that are -- have
3 production from this pool or dedicated to this pool?

4 A. Just Bird Creek, Ray Westall and Fortson.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. We have shown the data, however, to Bass and
7 to Hanley and to Heyco as a matter of courtesy before
8 this hearing. We've basically presented our case to
9 them for their nod of approval or not object before we
10 appeared here today.

11 EXAMINER STOGNER: So gentlemen, and Mr.
12 Kellahin, Mr. Bruce, Santa Fe, Hanley and Bass, and Mr.
13 Carr, Harvey Yates is appearing here today as a working
14 interest in this pool?

15 MR. KELLAHIN: Yes sir.

16 MR. CARR: Correct.

17 EXAMINER STOGNER: I just wanted to make sure
18 I was clear on everything.

19 MR. BRUCE: I'm not sure where Santa Fe's
20 interests are. I think they're within a mile of the
21 pool.

22 EXAMINER STOGNER: But they're not -- Your
23 client is not an operator?

24 MR. BRUCE: I believe not at this time.

25 Q. (By Examiner Stogner) Has there ever been

1 any talk that you're aware of, of unitizing this area?

2 A. Yes, in our first initial meeting with
3 Collins and Ware and Fortson, it was discussed that the
4 quality of the reservoir, especially the Collins sand,
5 did appear to have the characteristics of secondary
6 recovery, so it was touched on that ground, yes.

7 As far as unitization, you would just assume
8 unitization if you were going to go into a joint
9 waterflood project at some time in the future.

10 Q. Getting away from that line of questioning,
11 the wells -- I don't want to use the word "caused" --
12 well, yeah, I will -- that causes communication with
13 the Westall sand, you have narrowed it down to which
14 four wells, in your opinion?

15 A. The Santa Fe Federals 1, 2, 3 and 4.

16 Q. And when I look at Exhibit Number 2, which is
17 a map, it's those four wells marked 1, 2, 3 and 4 in
18 the east half of Section 35?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Wells 6 and 7 are proposed locations?

21 A. Number 6 is currently -- I just got a late
22 report. We are running casing on it as -- right at the
23 moment.

24 Q. Okay. Now, when I look up north, there's a
25 well number 5.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. That wasn't on the cross-section.

3 A. No, that is a new well that we were in the
4 process of still completing.

5 Q. A geological question: We have used and we
6 have continually used your nomenclature. I'll say the
7 Collins sand, the Westall sand, Brantley sand and Bird
8 Creek sand.

9 Are these -- You've mentioned already that
10 these names are not recognized but only localized for
11 today's case. Do they correspond with any other known
12 sand intervals that have been named or designated out
13 there as such?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Okay. So any reference to these names today
16 in an order subsequent to this is just for that
17 particular purpose; it is not, nor do we -- nor is the
18 Division advocating naming any pools, parts of or
19 sands, intervals or producing sands?

20 A. No, sir. Every company has their own
21 designation, generally of their pay sands within the
22 Delaware.

23 EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay, I want that clear
24 that if these -- we recognize these names today, we've
25 utilized them but nor are we in any way advocating the

1 designation of any pools or parts of, other than the
2 normal accepted procedures of naming after formations
3 such as geographical area.

4 I have no other questions of Mr. Harris. Are
5 there any other questions while he is on the stand?

6 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir.

7 MR. CARR: No, sir.

8 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Carr, do you have
9 anything further?

10 MR. CARR: I have nothing further in this
11 case.

12 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Kellahin?

13 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir.

14 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Bruce?

15 MR. BRUCE: No, sir.

16 EXAMINER STOGNER: Is there any need for
17 closing statements at this time?

18 MR. CARR: No, sir.

19 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir.

20 EXAMINER STOGNER: Does anybody else have
21 anything further in Case Number 10,541? If not, this
22 case will be taken under advisement.

23 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded
24 at 11:55 a.m.)

25 * * *

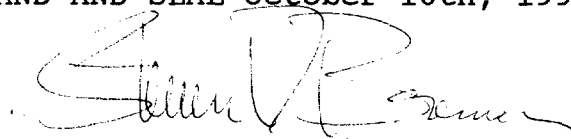
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) SS.
COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

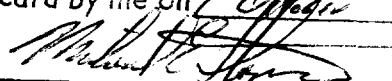
WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL October 10th, 1992.



STEVEN T. BRENNER
CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 1994

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 10541, heard by me on 10/10/92 1992.


_____, Examiner
Oil Conservation Division