1	NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
2	STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
3	STATE OF NEW MEXICO
4	Docket No. 4-93
5	Cases Nos. (10572) and 10573
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7	
8	IN THE MATTER OF:
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10	The Application of Texaco Exploration & Production Inc. for waterflood
11	expansion, Lea County, New Mexico
12	BEFORE:
13	EXAMINER DAVID R. CATANACH
14	February 5, 1993
15	
16	ORIGINAL
17	REPORTED BY:
18	DEBORAH O'BINE Certified Shorthand Reporter
19	for the State of New Mexico
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2 2	OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
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APPEARANCES 1 2 FOR THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION: 3 ROBERT G. STOVALL, ESQ. 4 General Counsel State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088 6 7 FOR TEXACO EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION, INC.: 8 CAMPBELL, CARR, BERGE & SHERIDAN 110 N. Guadalupe Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 9 BY: WILLIAM F. CARR, ESQ. 10 11 FOR DOYLE HARTMAN: 12 GALLEGOS LAW FIRM 13 141 E. Palace Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 BY: GLENN J. THERIOT, ESQ. 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

	3
1	INDEX
2	Page Number
3	Appearances 2
4	WITNESS FOR TEXACO EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION INC.:
5	1. <u>CHARLES SADLER</u>
6	Examination by Mr. Carr 4 Examination by Examiner Catanach 20
7	Certificate of Reporter 27
8	
9	EXHIBITS
10	Page Admitted
11	TEXACO PRODUCTION & EXPLORATION INC.:
	Exhibit No. 1 6
12	Exhibit No. 2 7 Exhibit No. 3 8
13	Exhibit No. 4 8
14	
15	Exhibit No. 7 13 Exhibit No. 8 14
16	Exhibit No. 9 14
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
2 5	

EXAMINER CATANACH: Call the hearing to order this morning. Continuation of Docket No. 4-93. At this time we'll call Case 10572.

MR. CARR: Application of Texaco

Exploration & Production Inc. for a waterflood

expansion, Lea County, New Mexico.

EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there appearances in this case?

MR. CARR: May it please the examiner, my name is William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law firm Campbell, Carr, Berge & Sheridan. I represent Texaco, and I have one witness.

EXAMINER CATANACH: Additional appearances?

MR. THERIOT: I'm Glenn Theriot with the Gallegos Law Firm on behalf of Doyle Hartman. We'll be monitoring the activities.

EXAMINER CATANACH: I'm sorry, sir, your name is Glenn --

MR. THERIOT: Theriot, T-h-e-r-i-o-t.

MR. CARR: Mr. Examiner, at this time I would request that Case 10573 also be called and consolidated with this case. They are docketed as two cases, but they're the result of the same application filed by Texaco. The testimony will be virtually

identical in the two cases. 2 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. At this time 3 we'll call case 10573. MR. STOVALL: Application of Texaco Exploration & Production Inc. for a waterflood 5 expansion, Lea County, New Mexico. Didn't I say that 6 7 before? 8 EXAMINER CATANACH: I thought you did. You may proceed. 9 MR. CARR: Thank you. 10 CHARLES SADLER, 11 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn 12 13 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows: EXAMINATION 14 15 BY MR. CARR: Would you state your name for the record, 16 Q. 17 please. Charles Sadler. 18 Α. Q. Mr. Sadler, where do you reside? 19 Hobbs, New Mexico. Α. 20 21 By whom are you employed? Q. 22 A. Texaco. And in what capacity? 23 Q. Area geologist. 24 A. Have you previously testified before this 25 Q.

Division and had your credentials as a geologist accepted and made a matter of record?

A. Yes, I have.

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- Q. Are you familiar with the application filed in each of these cases?
 - A. Yes, I am.
- Q. Are you familiar with the Rhodes Yates
 Waterflood Project and Texaco's plans to expand this
 project?
 - A. Yes, I am.

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

EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

- Q. (BY MR. CARR) Mr. Sadler, would you briefly state what Texaco seeks in these consolidated cases?
- A. Texaco filed a C-108 application requesting authorization to inject in four wells within the Rhodes Yates Waterflood Expansion Project.
- Q. And what you're proposing is to convert current wells to injection?
 - A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. Let's go to the exhibits that have been provided to the examiner, and I would direct your attention to Texaco Exhibit No. 1, and I would ask you

to identify this exhibit.

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A. Exhibit No. 1 is a base map identifying the three properties operated by Texaco in the waterflood operations. The green area is the Rhodes Yates Unit. The orange is the Rhodes Federal "B" NCT-1 lease. And the pink is the Rhodes Federal "A" lease.

All three of these properties are serviced by a cooperative water injection system. And it's also worth noting, our current 80-acre five spot patterns.

- Q. Does Texaco own an interest in each of these leases?
 - A. Yes, we do.
- Q. Is the interest the same in each of the properties?
 - A. No. It varies.
 - Q. Texaco does, however, operate the waterflood project?
- 19 A. Yes.
 - Q. Let's move to Exhibit No. 2. Would you identify and review that for Mr. Catanach?
 - A. Exhibit No. 2 is a log of the reservoir section. It is the log of the Rhodes Yates Unit No. 16, which is a recent drill within the Rhodes Yates Unit. The injection interval is specifically

identified for an interval of 3100 feet down to approximately 3275 feet.

- Q. Let's move to Exhibit 3. Would you identify this for Mr. Catanach?
- A. Exhibit No. 3 is a structural map on the top of the Yates formation. Worth noting is a dip to the southwest. The structure is important here in that we have a gas column updip, an oil column downdip, with the updip limit of the waterflood being restricted by that contact.
- Q. All right, Mr. Sadler, let's now go to Exhibit 4. Would you identify Exhibit 4 and review the information on this plat for Mr. Catanach?
- A. Exhibit 4 is, again, a base map which identifies our Phase 1 project.

In green are the four proposed conversions which are identified in the C-108. In orange are the five 20-acre infill wells which have been drilled to this date. And also in pink are five current injection wells in which profile modification is being performed in.

- Q. Basically, what you're moving to is a 40-acre, five spot pattern?
 - A. That is correct.
 - Q. This is Phase 1 only?

A. Yes, this is Phase 1.

- Q. What is the status of the Phase 2 part of this project expansion?
- A. We're in the process of evaluating the performance of Phase 1 and constructing our Phase 2 plans which we anticipate proceeding with either fourth quarter of 1993 or first quarter 1994.
- Q. Have you received either budget or partner approval for Phase 2 at this time?
 - A. No, we have not.
 - Q. Could you identify Exhibit No. 5?
- A. Exhibit No. 5 is a base map which identifies our future pattern, being a 40-acre five spot. This is after full implementation of the expansion, which would be Phase 3.
- Q. And these future expansions will also require Oil Conservation Division approval, will they not?
 - A. Yes, they will.
- Q. Let's go to what is marked Exhibit No. 6. Would you identify this?
- A. Exhibit No. 6 is a copy of a letter dated August 25, 1992, in which Texaco requested administrative approval for C-108 application approval. Attached with this letter is the actual

C-108 application. Within this application, both leases were combined.

The OCD separated this into two separate hearings. Per C-108 application regulation supplements have been filed in prior applications and were not included with this application.

- Q. So what you're doing is seeking an expansion of a previously approved project?
 - A. Yes, we are.
- Q. And on the first page of the C-108 you have referenced where additional information has been filed by Texaco concerning this waterflood project?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Was this application furnished to the owner of the surface of the land upon which the injection wells are located and also to each leasehold operator within a half mile of an injection well?
 - A. Yes, it was.
- Q. Were these applications provided by certified mail?
 - A. Yes, they were.
- Q. Are copies of the mail receipts attached to this application as the last two pages of Exhibit No.
- 24 6?

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A. Yes, they are.

Q. After you filed this application, can you relate to Mr. Catanach what happened?

- A. After filing this application, Texaco was notified that a hearing had been set by virtue of opposition from an offset operator.
- Q. Could you go to Exhibit No. 6 and turn to the plat that shows the areas of review and then review this exhibit for the examiner?
- A. This is a base map which identifies the leases in the area, as well as the wells. The proposed injection wells are identified with triangles, and the area of review is identified by the half-mile radius circles drawn around each well.
- Q. What is the current status of each of the wells that Texaco is proposing to convert to injection?
 - A. These are currently marginal oil producers.
- Q. Could you go to the pages immediately behind this plat in Exhibit No. 6 and refer to the schematic drawings for the proposed injection wells and review for Mr. Catanach how the wells are currently completed and how Texaco proposes to modify these wells for injection purposes?
- A. There are four wells proposed to be converted, two within the Rhodes Yates Unit. Rhodes

Yates Unit numbers are 8 and 13, and two on the W.H. Rhodes Federal "B" NCT-1, Nos. 6 and 13.

There is one cased hole completion and three open hole completions with casing set approximately 50 feet into the injection interval. That portion of the casing is being perforated. We will be setting injection packers within 50 feet of the top perforation and running cement line injection tubing.

- Q. Will the annular space be -- the pressure in the annular space be monitored in accordance with the Federal Underground Injection Control Program?
 - A. Yes, it will be.

- Q. Has all the data on the wells within the area of review which is required by OCD Form C-108 either been included with the application or otherwise filed with the Division?
- A. Yes, it has. This is an expansion project. The majority of the information has been filed in previous applications. After review by the OCD, additional well schematics were requested by Benjamin Stone in early September. This information was provided to the OCD in late September by Texaco.
- Q. So now the well information on each of the wells within the area of review has been filed with

the OCD?

- A. Yes, it has.
- Q. And has the additional material that was filed by Texaco in September been marked Exhibit 7 for the purpose of this hearing?
 - A. Yes, it has.
- Q. On page 4 of Exhibit 6, the text portion of the application, there is a statement that there are four plugged and abandoned wells within the leasehold area. My question is, how many plugged and abandoned wells are there actually within the area of review as shown on this plat?
- A. There are three. The Koch Exploration
 Wells Federal No. 10 located in spot D, Section 35,
 the Anderson-Pritchard State 28 "A" No. 2, located in
 Spot G, Section 28.
- Q. That's right on the limit of the area of review?
- A. Yes, it is. And the Meridian State UTP No.

 1 well, also located in Spot G, Section 28.
- Q. Since the time the application was filed, have there been additional plugging operations within the unit?
- A. Yes. Since filing of the application,

 Texaco has plugged the W.H. Rhodes "B" Federal NCT-1

No. 2 well.

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- Q. Could you identify what has been marked as Texaco Exhibit No. 8?
- A. Texaco Exhibit No. 8 are the plugging applications and schematics for the wells within the area of review, as well as the additional wells requested by Benjamin Stone.
- Q. So there are several additional plugged and abandoned wells in the area that you also have included plugging information on?
 - A. Yes, there are.
 - O. What is Exhibit No. 9?
- A. Exhibit No. 9 is the well schematic for the Texaco W.H. Rhodes "B" Federal NCT-1 No. 2 which was plugged at the end of 1992.
- Q. So plugging data has now been provided for all wells within the areas of review?
 - A. Yes, it has.
- Q. Are these wells adequately plugged so as to not cause migration between the injection interval and any other formation?
- A. Yes. These wells were approved by OCD and plugged per their regulations.
- Q. And the schematics reflect all the cementing and other detail on each of these pluggings?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Into what zone are you proposing to inject?
- A. We will be injecting into the Yates formation.
 - Q. What is the pool in this area?
 - A. This is the Rhodes Yates Seven Rivers Pool.
- Q. Are there any other productive oil zones in this immediate area?
 - A. No, there are not.
- Q. What is the source of the water you propose to inject?
- A. We will be utilizing existing water sources.
- Q. So it's the same water that you're now injecting in this project area?
- 16 A. Yes.
 - Q. What volumes are you proposing to inject?
- A. Five hundred barrels per day per injection well.
- Q. Is there a maximum injection rate that you are seeking authorization for?
 - A. Seven hundred and fifty pounds.
- Q. Seven hundred and fifty pounds or barrels, the rate?
 - A. The maximum rate is 750. I'm sorry.

- Q. And that would be barrels?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. In each of the four wells?
- A. Yes, barrels in each of the four wells.
- Q. Is this going to be a closed system?
- A. Yes, it will be a closed system.
- Q. Are you going to be injecting by gravity or under pressure?
 - A. We will be injecting under pressure.
- Q. What is the initial pressure that you're requesting?
 - A. Six hundred pounds.
- Q. How does that relate to .2 pound per foot of depth to the top of the injection interval?
 - A. That is per the regulations of the OCD.
- Q. If the order that was entered as a result of this hearing, if that order provided for a pressure limitation of .2 pound per foot of depth to the top of the injection interval, would that be sufficient initially for Texaco's purposes?
 - A. Yes, it would be.
- Q. Do you anticipate a need to increase that pressure?
- A. Yes. And if we do, we will have a witnessed OCD separate test done to justify that

increase.

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- Q. Are there fresh water zones in the area?
- A. Yes, there are.
- Q. And what are they?
- A. The Ogallala and Santa Rosa.
- Q. And at approximately what depth are these located?
 - A. Two hundred and fifty to 500 feet.
- Q. Have you been able to locate any fresh water wells within this area?
- A. There is one water supply well. It's a Santa Rosa well in Spot E, Section 35.
 - Q. And that is a water supply well for whom?
- A. For Koch Exploration.
- Q. Do you know what formation this well is producing from?
 - A. It's producing from the Santa Rosa.
- Q. Mr. Sadler, have you examined the available geologic and engineering data on this area?
 - A. Yes, I have.
- Q. As a result of that examination, have you found evidence of any faults or other hydrologic connections between the injection interval and any underground source of drinking water?
 - A. No, I have not.

- Q. Are there going to be any additional capital costs for additional facilities for this Phase 1 project expansion?
 - A. No, there are not.

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- Q. Can you tell me what the total estimated costs for the project expansion are at least estimated at this time to be?
- A. This first phase of the project, approximately \$1 million.
- Q. What is the additional volume of oil that you expect to recover as a result of the Phase 1 expansion?
 - A. Approximately 450,000 barrels.
- Q. Can you estimate the value of that additional oil?
 - A. Approximately \$8 million, using \$18 oil.
- Q. How soon does Texaco propose to commence injection if this expansion is approved?
 - A. Approximately 30 days.
- Q. In your opinion, will approval of this application result in the increased recovery of oil?
- A. Utilizing the existing patterns, yes, the production rates are approaching depletion.
- Q. In your opinion, is it prudent to now expand the project area as proposed to maximize the

recovery of crude oil from the Phase 1 area?

- A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Has the production from the reservoir been sufficiently depleted so that it is now prudent to implement this additional waterflood?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. In your opinion, will the approval of these applications be in the best interest of conservation, the prevention of waste, and the protection of correlative rights?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 9 either prepared by you or compiled under your direction?
 - A. Yes, they were.
 - Q. Can you testify as to their accuracy?
 - A. Yes, I can.
- MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we would move the admission of Texaco Exhibits 1 through 9.
- EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 9
 will be admitted into evidence.
- MR. CARR: That concludes my direct examination of Mr. Sadler.
- EXAMINER CATANACH: Mr. Theriot, do you have any questions of this witness?

MR. THERIOT: No.

EXAMINATION

BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

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- Q. Mr. Sadler, on Exhibit No. 1, you've got three separate areas. Has just one of those areas been unitized?
 - A. Yes.
 - O. The Rhodes Yates Unit?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And that Rhodes Yates Unit waterflood was authorized by No. R-3889, and according to the ad, the W.H. Rhodes "B" federal waterflood project was authorized by R-2748?

MR. CARR: That is correct, Mr. Catanach.

- Q. (BY EXAMINER CATANACH) The Rhodes Federal "A" lease, has that been authorized for waterflood, to your knowledge?
 - A. To my knowledge, yes.
- Q. And do you have any idea what that older number may be?
 - A. No, I don't.
 - Q. Do you know why the whole area wasn't initially unitized?
 - A. Reading through the material that we have on hand, there were problems getting the operators to

agree to some type of unitization formula.

- Q. Texaco is the operator of all three of the units for the areas?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. But you do have various and different working interest owners?
- A. In two of the properties, the working interest owners are the same, the Federal "A" and the "B" NCT-1; those are the same. And in the Rhodes Yates Unit, one of those operators is in the unit, and then there are two smaller working interest owners that are different.
- Q. Is the Rhodes Yates Unit, is that all federal lands, too?
- A. No. There is some state land within that unit.
- Q. It's all operated as generally a common waterflood?
- 19 A. Yes.

- Q. Subsequent to the original orders entered in these two cases that I already cited, do you know which orders have expanded the waterflood projects, which administrative orders?
- MR. CARR: Mr. Catanach, if I might, the orders that expand the area are indicated, at least

some of them and otherwise case numbers are indicated on the bottom of Form C-108.

EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay.

MR. CARR: If you would like us to compile those and provide them to you, we can.

EXAMINER CATANACH: That's all right. We should have that information here.

Q. Mr. Sadler, you said this application was initially reviewed by Ben Stone. To your knowledge, do you have all the information required in to the Division at this time?

A. Yes.

MR. STOVALL: Mr. Carr, just to clear something up and make sure we've got this down, you've got the C-108 as your exhibit here?

MR. CARR: Yes.

MR. STOVALL: That is the complete C-108 package from the administrative review; is that correct?

MR. CARR: That is the application that was filed, I believe in August of last year, seeking administrative approval. There was a letter from Mr. Stone to Texaco following his review on the 8th of September in which he requested additional information on certain specific wells, and that was provided by

Texaco on September the 21st.

I might note that Mr. Stone requested information on all wells within the area of review that was not on file. He also asked for some additional information on several plugged and abandoned wells that are immediately outside the area of review in the Koch lease down in Section 35, for example.

All of that was supplied, and those wellbore schematics, well data sheets are included in the exhibit as Exhibit 7.

MR. STOVALL: Okay. I just wanted to make sure that we've got the complete record here from either --

MR. CARR: Yes.

MR. STOVALL: And you're saying we do; we don't need to incorporate anything from the administrative --

MR. CARR: I don't believe so because everything we filed for administrative approval plus the supplemental data is all contained in the exhibit package.

MR. STOVALL: That's all I want to know.

EXAMINER CATANACH: So, to your knowledge,
all the area of review wells have been submitted by

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Texaco in this specific application? MR. CARR: That plus the references on the 2 C-108 prior filing. 3 EXAMINER CATANACH: So there is some data. 4 5 MR. CARR: Yes. And they are indicated on the bottom of C-108. 6 MR. STOVALL: When you say references to 7 prior, you're talking about the previous orders that 8 9 MR. CARR: I'm talking about the previous 10 application for approval of a waterflood project. 11 MR. STOVALL: Not this expansion 12 application, but the original application? 13 No, not this expansion. 14 MR. CARR: MR. STOVALL: Just to make sure we've got a 15 complete record, the documents noted are the cases and 16 orders noted on the C-108 --17 MR. CARR: Yes. 18 MR. STOVALL: -- are prior approvals of 19 various phases of this waterflood project? 20 That's correct. MR. CARR: 21 MR. STOVALL: And they are there just so we 22 23 go back and check the prior records, and then everything that is associated with this application 24

for this expansion is in the exhibits?

MR. CARR: In the exhibit package, yes, sir.

MR. CARR: If you would like for us to request that they be incorporated -- Form C-108 does state that if the information required under certain sections above has previously been submitted, it need not be duplicated. For that reason, we simply referenced the prior files.

MR. STOVALL: In my opinion, the Division can take notice and inquire into prior records for their official -- the orders would incorporate that information.

- Q. (BY EXAMINER CATANACH) Mr. Sadler, is the Yates formation the only one being flooded in this waterflood?
 - A. Yes, it is.
 - Q. Is the Seven Rivers productive at all?
 - A. It's not that we've found.
- Q. The open hole interval in two -- three of the injection wells?
 - A. Three of the injection wells.
 - Q. Does that only include the Yates formation?
- 23 A. Yes.

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Q. Mr. Sadler, have you examined the area of review wells and satisfied yourself that they're

cemented properly and will not serve as a conduit for 2 migration? Α. Yes. 3 Q. Have you looked at the plugged and abandoned wells in the area of review and satisfied 5 yourself that they're plugged properly? 6 Α. Yes. EXAMINER CATANACH: I believe that's all I 8 have. MR. CARR: We have nothing further. 10 EXAMINER CATANACH: There being nothing 11 further in this case, Cases 10572 and 10573 will be 12 taken under advisement. 13 14 15 16 I do here y centry that the foregoing to 17 a complete racord of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case 140. 1572/0573 18 neard by me on February 5 1923 19 Oil Conservation Division 20 21 22 23 24 25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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COUNTY OF SANTA FE

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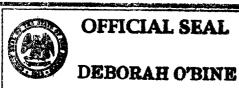
I, Deborah O'Bine, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that I caused my notes to be transcribed under my personal supervision, and that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings of said hearing.

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, February 13,

Deborah Bine

DEBORAH O'BINE CCR No. 63



NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW MEXICO

My Commission Expires 101 19, 1994

1	NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
2	STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
3	STATE OF NEW MEXICO
4	CASE NO. 10572 and 10573
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9	The Applications of Texaco Exploration
10	& Production, Inc., for Waterflood Expansion, Lea County, New Mexico.
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16	OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION BEFORE:
17	MICHAEL E. STOGNER
18	Hearing Examiner
19	State Land Office Building
20	December 18, 1992
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2 2	
23	REPORTED BY:
24	CARLA DIANE RODRIGUEZ Certified Court Reporter
25	for the State of New Mexico



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10	INDEX
11	Page Number
12	Appearances 2
13	Certificate of Reporter 4
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
2 1	
22	
23	
2 4	
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1 EXAMINER STOGNER: With that, before I adjourn for today, the two Texaco cases we had 2 discussed, Mr. Carr, do you have anything? 3 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, at this time we 4 would request those cases be continued to January 5 7th. We're still trying to coordinate schedules 6 with counsel for Doyle Hartman, and we'll be back 7 8 to you proposing a hearing date at that time. 9 EXAMINER STOGNER: I'll work with you 10 on that in setting up a special hearing sometime in January. 11 With that, these two cases, 10572 and 12 13 10573, will be continued to the Examiner Hearing scheduled for January 7th, and today's hearing is 14 15 adjourned. (And the proceedings concluded.) 16 17 18 19 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is 20 a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 21 heard by me on____ 22 23 _, **Exa**miner Oil Conservation Division 24

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO 3 SS. COUNTY OF SANTA FE I, Carla Diane Rodriguez, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY 7 CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of 8 9 proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I caused my notes to be 10 11 transcribed under my personal supervision; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record 12 13 of the proceedings. I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a 14 relative or employee of any of the parties or 15 attorneys involved in this matter and that I have 16 17 no personal interest in the final disposition of 18 this matter. 19 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL January 18, 20 1992. 21 22

DIANE RODRIGUEZ,

CSR No. 4

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