

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

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

**CASE NO. 10700  
Order No. R-9881**

**APPLICATION OF MERIDIAN OIL INC.  
FOR DOWNHOLE COMMINGLING, SAN  
JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

**ORDER OF THE DIVISION**

**BY THE DIVISION:**

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on April 8, 1993, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 19th day of April, 1993, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

**FINDS THAT:**

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

(2) The applicant, Meridian Oil Inc., seeks approval to downhole commingle Fulcher Kutz-Pictured Cliffs and Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool production within the wellbore of its Shiotani Federal Com Well No. 400 which was drilled at a standard gas well location 1630 feet from the South line and 870 feet from the West line (Unit L) of Section 8, Township 29 North, Range 12 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.

(3) The above-described well is to be dedicated to a standard 325.77-acre gas spacing and proration unit comprising the W/2 of Section 8 in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, and a standard 164.44-acre gas spacing and proration unit comprising the SW/4 of Section 8 in the Fulcher Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Pool.

(4) Applicant's geologic evidence indicates that both the Pictured Cliffs and Fruitland formations in this area of the San Juan Basin should be marginally productive.

(5) The applicant expects initial producing rates from the subject well to be approximately 200 MCF and 200-300 MCF gas per day from the Fruitland and Pictured Cliffs formations, respectively.

(6) Applicant's further evidence indicates that due to the marginal production expected, it is uneconomic to drill either a stand alone Pictured Cliffs or Fruitland well in this area. Applicant's testimony also indicates that it is uneconomic to drill and complete the subject well as a dual producer.

(7) The proposed downhole commingling is necessary in order for the applicant to economically recover Basin-Fruitland Coal and Fulcher Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool reserves underlying each respective proration unit.

(8) The ownership within the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool and the Fulcher Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Pool underlying each respective proration unit is not common.

(9) The applicant has notified all interest owners owning an interest in either the Pictured Cliffs or Fruitland formation within the subject proration units of its proposed downhole commingling.

(10) No offset operator and/or interest owner appeared at the hearing in opposition to the proposed downhole commingling.

(11) The applicant further demonstrated through its evidence and testimony that:

- a) there will be no crossflow between the two commingled pools;
- b) neither commingled zone exposes the other to damage by produced liquids;
- c) the fluids from each zone are compatible with the other;
- d) the bottomhole pressure of the lower pressure zone should not be less than 50 percent of the bottomhole pressure of the higher pressure zone adjusted to a common datum; and,
- e) the value of the commingled production is not less than the sum of the values of the individual production.

(12) In the interest of prevention of waste and protection of correlative rights, the subject application should be approved.

(13) Due to the nature of the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas production, straight allocation of gas volumes from both zones is not appropriate. The applicant therefore seeks the adoption of a monthly allocation formula, as shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(14) The operator should be responsible for reporting the monthly gas production from said well by utilizing the proposed allocation formula.

(15) An annual report should be submitted by the operator to both the Aztec and Santa Fe offices of the Division showing the complete computations for each month.

(16) Any condensate production from the subject well should be allocated entirely to the Pictured Cliffs interval.

(17) Any change in the method of gas allocation between the two pools should be made only after due notice and hearing.

(18) To afford the Division an opportunity to assess the potential of waste and to expeditiously order the appropriate remedial action, the operator should notify the Aztec district office of the Division any time the subject well is shut-in for seven consecutive days.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

(1) The applicant, Meridian Oil Inc., is hereby authorized to downhole commingle Fulcher Kutz-Pictured Cliffs and Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool production within the wellbore of its Shiotani Federal Com Well No. 400 located at a standard gas well location 1630 feet from the South line and 870 feet from the West line (Unit L) of Section 8, Township 29 North, Range 12 West, NMPM, San Juan County, New Mexico.

(2) The above-described well shall be dedicated to a standard 325.77-acre gas spacing and proration unit comprising the W/2 of Section 8 in the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, and a standard 164.44-acre gas spacing and proration unit comprising the SW/4 of Section 8 in the Fulcher Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Pool.

(3) The allocation of gas produced from both zones shall be in accordance with the allocation formula adopted for this well as further described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(4) The operator is responsible for reporting the monthly gas production from the subject well to the Division utilizing the allocation formula adopted herein. An annual report shall be submitted by the operator to both the Aztec and Santa Fe offices of the Division showing the complete computations for the previous twelve month period.

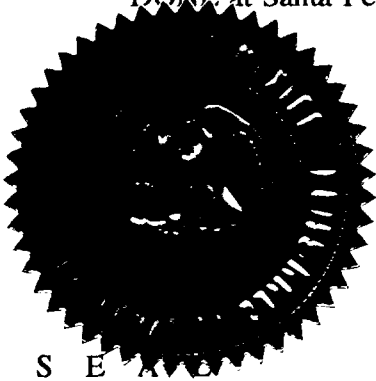
(5) Condensate production from the subject well shall be allocated entirely to the Fulcher Kutz-Pictured Cliffs Pool. Water production shall be reported in a manner acceptable to the supervisor of the Aztec district office of the Division.

(6) Any variance in the method of gas allocation between the two pools shall be made only after due notice and hearing.

(7) The operator shall immediately notify the supervisor of the Aztec district office of the Division any time the subject well has been shut-in for seven consecutive days and shall concurrently present, to the Division, a plan for remedial action.

(8) Jurisdiction is hereby retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

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



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

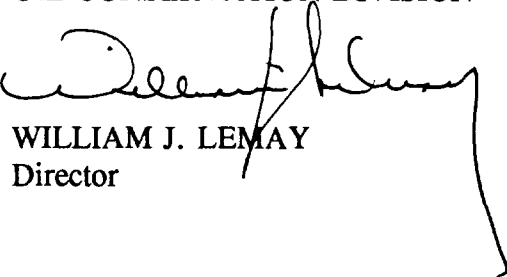
  
WILLIAM J. LEMAY  
Director

EXHIBIT "A"  
CASE NO. 10700  
DIVISION ORDER NO. R-9881

**SHIOTANI FEDERAL COM  
WELL NO. 400**

**MONTHLY GAS PRODUCTION ALLOCATION FORMULA**

**GENERAL EQUATION:**

$$QT = Q_{ftc} + Q_{pc}$$

**WHERE:** QT = TOTAL MONTHLY PRODUCTION (MCF/MONTH)

Q<sub>ftc</sub> = FRUITLAND COAL (FTC) MONTHLY PRODUCTION (MCF/MONTH)

Q<sub>pc</sub> = PICTURED CLIFFS (PC) MONTHLY PRODUCTION (MCF/MONTH)

**REARRANGING THE EQUATION TO SOLVE FOR Q<sub>ftc</sub>:**

$$Q_{ftc} = Q_t - Q_{pc}$$

ANY PRODUCTION RATE OVER WHAT IS CALCULATED FOR THE PICTURED CLIFFS (PC) USING THE APPLIED FORMULA IS FRUITLAND COAL (FTC) PRODUCTION.

**ICTURED CLIFFS (PC) FORMATION PRODUCTION FORMULA IS:**

$$Q_{pc} = Q_{pci} * e^{- (D_{pc}) * (t)}$$

**WHERE:** Q<sub>pci</sub> = INITIAL PC MONTHLY FLOW RATE (CALCULATED FROM FLOW TEST)

D<sub>pc</sub> = MONTHLY DECLINE RATE DETERMINED FROM:

MATERIAL BALANCE (FIELD ANALOGY): VOLUMETRIC RESERVES (LOG ANALYSIS)

$$G_f(P^*) = 0.83 \text{ MMCF/PSI} \times P^* \times R_f$$

P\* = INITIAL RESERVOIR PRESSURE (7-DAY SIBHP)

R<sub>f</sub> = RECOVERY (FIELD ANALOGY): = 0.85

**THUS:**

$$Q_{ftc} = Q_t - Q_{pci} * e^{- (D_{pc}) * (t)}$$

**WHERE:** (t) IS TIME IN MONTHS OF PRODUCTION