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W. THOMAS KELLAHIN\*

NEW MEXICO BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION RECOGNIZED SPECIALIST IN THE AREA OF NATURAL RESOURCES-OIL AND GAS LAW

JASON KELLAHIN (RETIRED 1991)

May 21, 1993

#### HAND DELIVERED

Michael E. Stogner Oil Conservation Division 310 Old Santa Fe Trail Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: Meridian Oil Inc. DHC cases

Dear Mike:

I have enclosed a 5.25 floppy disk which contains the DHC allocation formula for NMOCD Cases 10721 through 10725. In addition, I have enclosed a hard copy of that formula for each case and printed such that it can be attached to the respective order as an exhibit. Please call me if you need anything else.

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### MONTHLY GAS PRODUCTION ALLOCATION FORMULA

### GENERAL EQUATION

### Q = Qftc + Qpc

- WHERE: Qt = TOTAL MONTHLY PRODUCTION (MCF/MONTH)
  - Qftc = FRUITLAND COAL (FTC) MONTHLY PRODUCTION Qpc = PICTURED CLIFFS (PC) MONTHLY PRODUCTION (MCF/MONTH)

REARRANGING THE EQUATION TO SOLVE FOR Qftc:

Qftc = Qt - Qpc

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

PICTURED CLIFFS (PC) FORMATION PRODUCTION FORMULA IS:

Qpc = Qpci \* e^{-(Dpc)\*(t)}

WHERE: Qpci = INITIAL PC MONTHLY FLOW RATE (CALCULATED FROM FLOW TEST)

Dpc = PICTURED CLIFFS MONTHLY DECLINE DATE DETERMINED FROM:

MATERIAL BALANCE (FIELD ANALOGY): VOLUMETRIC RESERVES (LOG ANALYSIS) G f(P\*) = 1.34 MMCF/PSI x P\* X Rf

P\* = INITIAL RESERVOIR PRESSURE (7 DAY SIBHP) RF = RECOVERY (FIELD ANALOGY): = 0.85

- THUS: Qftc = Qt Qpci \* e^{-(Dpc)\*(T)}
- WHERE: (t) IS IN MONTHS

REFERENCE: Thompson, R. S., and Wright, J. D., "Oil Property Evaluation", pages 5-2, 5-3.

### DETERMINATION OF Qpci: (INITIAL PICTURED CLIFFS MONTHLY PRODUCTION)

### <u>Qpci = Qt(1) \* Qpc(p) \ {Qpc(p) + Qftc (p)}</u>

### WHERE:

- Qt(1) = FIRST MONTH TOTAL PRODUCTION (MCF)
- Qpc(p) = FINAL PICTURED CLIFFS FLOW TEST (MCFPD)

### Qftc(p) = FINAL FRUITLAND COAL FLOW TEST (MCFPD)

#### **EXAMPLE DETERMINATION OF:**

(a) Np(pc) (b) Qpci (c) Dpc PC EUR INITIAL PC MONTHLY FLOW RATE PC MONTHLY DECLINE RATE

#### (a) DETERMINATION OF Np(pc)

Np(pc) = 1.34 (MMCF/PSI) X P\*(PSI) X Rf

P\* = 300 PSI (FROM 7 DAY SIBHP)

Np(pc) = 1.34 MMCF/PSI X 300 PSI X 0.85

### <u>Np(pc) = 341.7 MMCF</u>

#### (b) DETERMINATION OF Qpci

 $Qpci = Qt(1) X \{Qpc(p)/(Qpc(p) + Qftc(p))\}$ 

Qt(1) =	15,000 MCF
Qpc(p) =	500 MCF/D
Qftc(p) =	400 MCF/D

1ST MONTH TOTAL PRODUCTION PC FLOW TEST FTC FLOW TEST

Qpci = 15,000 MCF/M X {500 MCF/D/(500 MCF/D + 400 MCF/D)}

### **Qpci = 8,333 MCF/M**

#### (c) DETERMINATION OF Dpc

Dpc = (Qpci - Qpcabd)/Npc

Qpcabd = 300 MCF/M

Dpc =(8,333MCF/M - 300MCF/M)/(341,700MCF)

Dpc = 0.024/M

### THUS: Qftc = Qt(MCF/M) - 8,333(MCF/M) X e^{-(0.052(1/M)) X t(M)}

### DETERMINATION OF Qpci: (INITIAL PICTURED CLIFFS MONTHLY PRODUCTION)

### <u>Qpci = Qt(1) X Qpc(p) / {Qpc(p) + Qftc (p)}</u>

### WHERE:

- Qt(1) = FIRST MONTH TOTAL PRODUCTION (MCF)
- Qpc(p) = FINAL PICTURED CLIFFS FLOW TEST (MCFPD)
- Qftc(p) = FINAL FRUITLAND COAL FLOW TEST (MCFPD)

### MONTHLY GAS PRODUCTION ALLOCATION FORMULA

### **GENERAL EQUATION**

### Qt = Qftc + Qpc

WHERE: Qt = TOTAL MONTHLY PRODUCTION (MCF/MONTH)

Qftc = FRUITLAND COAL (FTC) MONTHLY PRODUCTION

Qpc = PICTURED CLIFFS (PC) MONTHLY PRODUCTION (MCF/MONTH)

**REARRANGING THE EQUATION TO SOLVE FOR Qftc:** 

Qftc = Qt - Qpc

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

PICTURED CLIFFS (PC) FORMATION PRODUCTION FORMULA IS:

	Qpc =	Qpci * e^{-(Dpc)*(t)}
WHERE:	Qpci =	INITIAL PC MONTHLY FLOW RATE (CALCULATED FROM FLOW TEST)
	Dpc = Dpc =	PICTURED CLIFFS MONTHLY DECLINE RATE CALCULATED FROM: (Qpci-Qpcabd)/Np(pc) See Determination of Qpci and PC Estimated Ultimate Recovery (EUR) Qpcabd = 300 MCF/M
WHERE:	Np(pc) =	PICTURED CLIFFS ESTIMATED ULTIMATE RECOVERY (EUR) <b>P*x 1.34 MMCF/PSI** x Rf</b> P* = INITIAL RESERVOIR PRESSURE (7 DAY SIBHP) RF = RECOVERY (FIELD ANALOGY): = 0.85 ** DETERMINED FROM MATERIAL BALANCE (FIELD ANALOGY) AND VOLUMETRIC RESERVES (LOG ANALYSIS)

By calculating PC EUR FROM SIBHP and determining PC initial flow rate, Dpc can then be estimated utilizing the previously described parameters

THUS: Qftc = Qt - Qpci \* e^{-(Dpc)\*(t)}

WHERE: (t) IS IN MONTHS

REFERENCE: Thompson, R. S., and Wright, J. D., "Oil Property Evaluation", pages 5-2, 5-3, 5-4.

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DATE:	6-15-93
TOTAL NUMBE: (Includ SPECIAL INSTI	R OF PAGES <u>10</u> ing this one): <u>10</u> RUCTIONS:
Place	Call (505) 326-9786 to confirm transmission

In order to facilitate an economic Pictured Cliffs completion three requirements must be met. It is the combination of these three requirements that determines the economic status and completion method (PC single completion, PC-FTC Dual, PC-FTC commingle) utilized. These three requirements are as follows:

### RESERVES Np(pc)

### FLOW RATE (Qpcl)

### **COSTS (Investment and Operating)**

Shown in the following example are the parameters and calculations used to determine Pictured Cliffs initial rate (Qpci), Pictured Cliffs Estimated Ultimate Recovery (Np(pc)), and Pictured Cliffs decline rate (Dpc). Additionally, estimated costs associated with each completion method and economic sensitivities (figures 1-3) are attached to show the effects of PC reserves (Np(pc)), initial PC rates (Qpci), and completion method (costs).

This example is for the Huerfano Unit #549, but the methodology is applicable for each of the commingle applications submitted (Rhodes C #'s 101 & 102, Whitley A #100, McAdams #500, and the Rowley Com #500). The variations in the Np(pc)'s are due to the specific drill block parameters (thickness, porosity, water saturation). Costs will be similar and the economic sensitivities are applicable for each case.

### MONTHLY GAS PRODUCTION ALLOCATION FORMULA

### **GENERAL EQUATION**

#### Qt = Qftc + Qpc

- WHERE: Qt = TOTAL MONTHLY PRODUCTION (MCF/MONTH)
  - Qftc = FRUITLAND COAL (ftc) MONTHLY PRODUCTION
  - Qpc = PICTURED CLIFFS (pc) MONTHLY PRODUCTION (MCF/MONTH)

**REARRANGING THE EQUATION TO SOLVE FOR Qftc:** 

Qftc = Qt - Qpc

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

PICTURED CLIFFS (PC) FORMATION PRODUCTION FORMULA IS:

·	Qpc =	Qpci X e^{-(Dpc) X (t)}
WHERE:	Qpci =	INITIAL PC MONTHLY FLOW RATE (CALCULATED FROM FLOW TEST)
	Dpc = Dpc <del>=</del>	PICTURED CLIFFS MONTHLY DECLINE RATE CALCULATED FROM: (QpcI-Qpcabd)/Np(pc) See Determination of QpcI and PC Estimated Ultimate Recovery (Np(pc)) Qpcabd = 300 MCF/M
WHERE:	Np(pc) = Np(pc) =	PICTURED CLIFFS ESTIMATED ULTIMATE RECOVERY (EUR) P X 1.08 MMCF/PSI** X Rf P* = INITIAL RESERVOIR PRESSURE (SIBHP) RF = RECOVERY (FIELD ANALOGY): = 0.85 ** DETERMINED FROM MATERIAL BALANCE (FIELD ANALOGY) AND VOLUMETRIC RESERVES (LOG ANALYSIS)

By calculating Np(pc) from SIBHP and determining Opci, Dpc can then be calculated utilizing the previously described parameters. See derivation of Dpc, item (c) on page 4.

THUS: Qftc = Qt - Qpci X e^{-(Dpc) X (t)} WHERE: (t) IS IN MONTHS

REFERENCE: Thompson, R. S., and Wright, J. D., "Oil Property Evaluation", pages 5-2, 5-3, 5-4.

# HUERFANO UNIT #549

### DETERMINATION OF Qpci: (INITIAL PICTURED CLIFFS MONTHLY PRODUCTION)

### $\underline{Qpci = Qt(1) X Qpc(p) / \{Qpc(p) + Qftc (p)\}}$

### WHERE:

Qt(1) =	FIRST MONTH TOTAL	PRODUCTION (	MCF)
---------	-------------------	--------------	------

### Qpc(p) = FINAL PICTURED CLIFFS FLOW TEST (MCFPD)

Qftc(p) = FINAL FRUITLAND COAL FLOW TEST (MCFPD)

# **HUERFANO UNIT #549**

**EXAMPLE DETERMINATION OF:** 

(a) Np(pc) (b) Qpcl (c) Dpc PC EUR INITIAL PC MONTHLY FLOW RATE PC MONTHLY DECLINE RATE

(a) DETERMINATION OF Np(pc)

(see page 5 for Np(pc) derivation)

Np(pc) = 1.08 (MMCF/PSI) X P\*(PSI) X Rf

P\* = 300 PSI (FROM SIBHP)

Np(pc) = 1.08 MMCF/PSI X 300 PSI X 0.85

### Np(pc) = 275.4 MMCF

### (b) DETERMINATION OF Qpci

Qpci = Qt(1) X (Qpc(p)/(Qpc(p) + Qftc(p)))

Qt(1) =	15,000 MCF	<b>1ST MONTH TOTAL PRODUCTION</b>
Qpc(p) =	500 MCF/D	PC FLOW TEST
Qftc(p) =	400 MCF/D	FTC FLOW TEST

Qpci = 15,000 MCF/M X (500 MCF/D/(500 MCF/D + 400 MCF/D))

### Qpci = 8,333 MCF/M

#### (c) DETERMINATION OF Dpc

Dpc = (Qpci - Qpcabd)/Np(pc)

**Qpcabd = 300 MCF/M** 

Dpc =(8,333MCF/M - 300MCF/M)/(275,400MCF)

### Dpc = 0.029/M

### THUS: Qftc = Qt(MCF/M) - 8,333(MCF/M) X e^{-(0.029(1/M)) X t(M)}

A. DETE	ERMINA	TION	OF PC	RESE	RVES	Np(p	c)=	(HC	PV X I	8g	X Rf)		
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	a.	(t)		thick	1855		·	3	35.	0	ft		
	b.	(phi)		poros	sity				15.	0	%		
	c.	(Sw)		H2O :	aturat	lon		-	55.	0	%		
	d.	(Rf)		Reco	very Fa	actor		æ	85.	0	%		
	<b>e</b> .	(rcf)		Rese	rvoir C	ubic F	Feet	@ r	servo	oir	condi	lions	
	f.	(scf)		Stand	lard Cu	ubic F	eet	@st	andar	d d	condit	ions	
								-					
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	2	16,465,	,680 ft^:	3	Immro	r = 1,0	00,000 ft	-3					
HCPV		16.4	66 m	mrct									
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assuming:			Zs	=	1.00					. •			
			Zr	*	0.94								
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			Tr	-	100	*F	or 560	• <b>R</b>					
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Bg	2	0.06	57 (s	cf/ (re	cf osi	a)} X	Pr (p	sia)		•	•		
						~			•				
3.	EUR		=	HCP\	/ X Ba	X Rf							
-	<b>H</b>	16.46	6 (mm	rcf) X	0.0657	{scf/f	rcf osi	a)} X	Pr (Da	ia)	X 0.8	5	
Np(pc)	-	1 08	(mm	erf/n	ela) X	( Pr (	neial	X N	95			-	

### B. PICTURED CLIFFS DRILLING /COMPLETION COST SUMMARY

### 1. STAND ALONE SINGLE PC COMPLETION

ESTIMATED COSTS:	TANGIBLE	INTANGIBLE	TOTAL
	(M\$)	(M\$)	(M\$)
	183.39	136.12	319.51

### 2. FTC/PC DUAL COMPLETION\*

ESTIMATED COSTS:	TANGIBLE	INTANGIBLE	TOTAL
	(M\$)	(M\$)	(M\$)
	173.49	93.67	267.16

### 3. FTC/PC COMMINGLE COMPLETION\*

ESTIMATED COSTS:	TANGIBLE	INTANGIBLE	TOTAL
	(M\$)	(M\$)	(M\$)
	91.69	93.67	185.36

\*PICTURED CLIFFS COSTS ONLY

### C. ECONOMIC SUMMARY

### FIGURES 1-3 PICTURED CLIFFS RESERVES VS RATE OF RETURN (%)

THREE CASES PER FIGURE (FTC/PC COMMINGLE, FTC/PC DUAL, PC SINGLE)

FIGURE 1 INITIAL RATE = 100 MCF/D FIGURE 2 INITIAL RATE = 200 MCF/D FIGURE 3 INITIAL RATE = 300 MCF/D

# **PICTURED CLIFFS**





# **PICTURED CLIFFS**





	WELL	POOL		OWNERSH	4	NSL		ECONOMICS
1		FTC	РС	FTC	РС	FTC	РС	SUB ECON
	Rhodes C#101	BFTC	W-K	Comm	Comm	NSL	NSL	FTC · PC
	Rhodes C#102	BFTC	X-W	Comm	Comm	УO	NSL	FTC - PC
	Whitley A#100	BFTC	W-K	Comm	Comm	УО	NSL	FTC - PC
.•	Rowley Com#500	BFTC	ЯЯ	Diff	Diff	УO	NSL	PC -Margin
	McAdams #500	BFTC	ЯЯ	Diff	Diff	УÓ	OK	PC
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TO: Company:	NMOCD	
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#### **Oil Property Evaluation**

to plot, they yield results on a time basis, and they're deceptively easy to analyze. Decline curves are also one of the oldest methods of predicting reserves.

Decline curves, as used today, are simply a plot of production rate versus time on semilog, loglog, or specially scaled paper. The most common plot is semilog. When the logarithm of producing rate is plotted versus linear time, a straight line often results. This phenomenon is referred to as "exponential decline" and is similar to the decay of a radioactive element. Exponential decline is also referred to as constant percentage decline because of terminology used in the early 1900's. Occasionally, someone will state that exponential decline and constant percentage decline are different. This is not true; they are synonyms for decline curves which plot as a straight line on semi-log paper.

Often the data will not plot as a straight line on semi-log paper, but instead will "curve up" or be concave upwards. This situation, in which the decline rate continuously decreases with time, can usually be modeled with a hyperbolic equation. In cases of this type, the well is said to be experiencing "hyperbolic decline." A special case of hyperbolic decline is known as "harmonic decline."

#### 5.1 DECLINE CURVE EQUATIONS

#### 5.1.1 Exponential Decline

The equation of a straight line on semilog paper can be written as

$$q = \hat{q}_i e^{-Dt}$$
 (5-1)

where

- q = producing rate at time t, vol/unit (ime
- $q_i = producing rate at time 0, vol/unit time$
- D = nominal exponential decline rate, 1/time
- t = time
- e = base of natural logarithms, (2.718....)

Any system of units can be used as long as the product Dt is unitless and q and  $q_j$  are expressed in the same units. Equation 5-1 can be "derived" by stating that the decline rate at any time is proportional to the production rate, but there is no theoretical foundation for this "derivation," The theoretical foundation for exponential decline will be discussed later.

#### 5.1.1.1 Nominal and Effective Decline Rates

Equation (5-1) *defines* the nominal decline rate (D). In dealing with production data, we intuitively think in terms of "effective" decline rate. For example, if we are told that a well produced 100 BOPD one year ago and now produces 50 BOPD, we naturally feel that the well declined at a rate of 50% per year. Imagine our surprise when the engineer says it is declining at 69.3% per year! Which one of the these is correct? Both of them are. Effective decline is defined as

$$\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{e}} = \frac{\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{i}} - \mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{i}}} \tag{5-2}$$

for a given time period. The relationship between **D** and  $D_e$  can be derived as follows. We take **t** to be one time period (a year, perhaps). Since  $q_j$  and **q** are the same for both definitions of decline rate we can solve equations 5-1 and 5-2 for **q** and set the results equal:

$$q = q$$
  
 $q_i e^{-D} = q_i - q_i D_e$   
(t has been set to 1)  
factor out  $q_i$ 

 $q_i e^{-D} = q_i(1 - D_e)$ 

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Nominal decline as a function of effective decline is

$$D = -\ln(1 - D_e)$$
 (5-3)

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#### **Decline Curve Analysis**

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Effective decline as a function of nominal decline is

$$D_e = 1 - e^{-D}$$
 (5-4)

The authors strongly prefer the use of nominal decline rather than effective decline for reasons which will be discussed throughout the rest of the chapter.

One of the major reasons for using nominal decline has to do with changing the time units on decline rate. With nominal decline, a yearly rate can be changed to a monthly rate simply by dividing by 12. This is not possible with effective decline! In order to convert yearly effective rate to monthly effective rate, the *twelfth root* of  $1 - D_e$  must be taken. Taking the twelfth root or raising a number to the twelfth power is not difficult, but it is not intuitive. An example will illustrate the above ideas.

Example 5-1 Nominal and Effective Decline Rates

Given that a well has declined from 100 BOPD to 96 BOPD during a one month period.

- A) Predict the rate after 11 more months using nominal exponential decline.
- B) Same as A using effective decline.
  - A) Using Nominal Decline

 $q_i = 100 BOPD$ 

q = 96 BOPD

$$t = 1$$
 month

$$D = \left[ \ln\left(\frac{q_i}{q}\right) \right] / t$$

$$D = .04082 / mo$$
(5-1)

Find rate at end of 1 year.  

$$q = q_i e^{-Dt}$$
 $q = 100e^{-.04082}$  (12)  
 $q = 61.27$  BOPD

B) Using Effective Decline

$$D_{e} = \frac{q_{i} - q}{q_{i}}$$
(5-2)  

$$D_{e} = \frac{100 - 96}{100}$$
  

$$D_{e} = .04/\text{month}$$
  
Convert to yearly  

$$1 - D_{ey} = (1 - D_{em})^{12}$$
  

$$1 - D_{ey} = (1 - .04)^{12}$$
  

$$D_{ey} = .3875/\text{year}$$
  
Find rate at end of 1 year  

$$q = q_{i} (1 - D_{e})$$
  

$$q = 100(1 - .3873)$$
  

$$q = 61.27 \text{ BOPD}$$

The authors find it much easier to use nominal decline. No matter what the units on **D** and **t**, it is only necessary to multiply by the appropriate time factor to cause the product **Dt** to be unitless. Try to predict the rate 22½ months from now using effective decline — it's not worth the effort.

#### 5.1.1.2 Cumulative Production

In oil property evaluation, we are more interested in the amount of oil produced each year than the rate at any given time. In order to determine the cumulative oil production  $(N_p)$  at any STATE OF NEW MEXICO



ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION** 

BRUCE KING GOVERNOR

ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY POST OFFICE BOX 2088 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504 (505) 827-5800

July 9, 1993

KELLAHIN AND KELLAHIN Attorneys at Law P. O. Drawer 2265 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

RE: CASE NOS. 10721, 10722, 10723, 10724, 10725 ORDER NO. R-9920

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are two copies of the above-referenced Division order recently entered in the subject cases.

Sincerely,

Sally Luchtle

Sally E. Leichtle Administrative Secretary

cc: BLM - Farmington Steve Keene - TRD Donna McDonald - OCD Aztec OCD Office