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July 7, 1993

*NOT LICENSED IN NEW MEXICO

David R. Catanach
Oil Conservation Division
310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Re: Case No. 10,731 (Nearburg Unorthodox Location)

Dear Mr. Catanach:

Enclosed, as you requested, is Nearburg's proposed order in the above matter.

Very truly yours,

HINKLE, COX, EATON, COFFIELD
& HENSLEY


James Bruce

Enclosure

c: Robert Shelton
(w/encl.)

W. Thomas Kellahin, Esq.
(w/encl. via First Class Mail)

Ernest L. Carroll, Esq.
(w/encl. via First Class Mail)

VIA HAND DELIVERY

JGB5\93C01.c

**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. 10,731
ORDER NO. R-_____**

**APPLICATION OF NEARBURG PRODUCING
COMPANY FOR AN UNORTHODOX OIL WELL
LOCATION, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

**ORDER OF THE DIVISION
(Proposed by Nearburg Producing Company)**

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on June 17, 1993,
at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this _____ day of July, 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, Nearburg Producing Company, seeks approval
of an unorthodox well location 330 feet from the North line and
2,460 feet from the West line (Unit C) of Section 31, Township 19
South, Range 25 East, N.M.P.M., Eddy County, New Mexico, to test
the North Dagger Draw - Upper Pennsylvanian Pool.

(3) The aforementioned Pool is subject to rules that provide for 160-acre spacing units and for well locations to be no closer than 660 feet to the outer boundary of the unit and no closer than 330 feet from a quarter-quarter section line. The North Dagger Draw - Upper Pennsylvanian Pool is an associated oil and gas pool governed by Division Order No. R-4691, as amended.

(4) The applicant's primary zone of interest for this well is the Upper Pennsylvanian interval.

(5) The well is to be dedicated to an existing 162.60-acre oil spacing and proration unit comprising Lots 1 and 2 and the E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ equivalent) of said Section 31, which is currently dedicated to the Dagger Draw "31" Federal Well Nos. 1 and 4 located in Units D and E, respectively.

(6) At the hearing on this matter, Conoco Inc. and Yates Petroleum Corporation entered their appearances and requested that the application be denied.

(7) The applicant presented land testimony which showed the following:

(a) The surface and minerals are federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

(b) There are three archaeological sites which severely restrict well locations in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31. The only location approved by the archaeologist is the proposed location described above.

(c) The BLM submitted a letter to the applicant indicating approval of the proposed location, and stating that the

only alternative location is 990 feet from the North line and 1,320-1,650 feet from the West line of the Section. However, this alternative location does not have archaeological clearance.

(8) The applicant presented geological evidence which showed the following:

(a) There is a structural low and dolomite thin to the south and west of the proposed location.

(b) A well drilled at a location where a structural low coincides with a dolomite thin in the Upper Pennsylvanian formation results in poor or marginal wells.

(c) Drilling at a location to the southwest of the proposed location risks encountering low structure and thin dolomite, and thus has significant economic risk as compared to the requested location.

(d) The applicant's access to mud logs in the Foster "31" Fee No. 1 Well, located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, leads to its geological interpretations being more comprehensive than those of Yates Petroleum Corporation or Conoco Inc.

(9) The applicant further presented engineering testimony which showed the following:

(a) The Nearburg Producing Company Dagger Draw "31" Fed. No. 2 Well, in Unit B of Section 31, and the Conoco Inc. Dagger Draw No. 11 Well, in Unit O of Section 30, immediately offset the applicant's proposed location.

(b) The Dagger Draw "31" Federal No. 2 Well and the Dagger Draw No. 11 Well have each produced in excess of 300,000

barrels of oil to date, and should each produce well in excess of 500,000 barrels of oil.

(c) The Dagger Draw "31" Federal No. 2 Well and the Dagger Draw No. 11 Well will both drain in excess of 40 acres, and unless the applicant is allowed to drill its proposed well they will drain the E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31. Further, each well has already drained 40 acres. This was confirmed by the engineer for Yates Petroleum Corporation.

(d) The applicant should not drill on the pad of the abandoned Monsanto Hanks Katie Eyre Well (located 660 feet from the North line and 1,980 feet from the West line of Section 31) due to the risk of encountering the abandoned original and/or re-entry wellbores.

(e) Re-entering the wellbore of the Monsanto Hanks Katie Eyre Well is cost-prohibitive due to its age, and because of the tubing cemented in the wellbore during the initial re-entry plugging operations.

(f) Directional drilling to a standard location is not economically feasible.

(10) Yates Petroleum Corporation's engineer testified that an average well in the North and South Dagger Draw-Upper Pennsylvanian Pools produces 205,000 barrels of oil. Therefore, the Dagger Draw "31" Federal No. 2 Well and the Dagger Draw No. 11 Well have both produced their fair share of oil from the Pool. The Yates Petroleum Corporation engineer further testified that these two wells have already drained in excess of 40 acres.

(11) Because the Dagger Draw "31" Federal No. 2 Well and the Dagger Draw No. 11 Well have each had the opportunity to produce their fair share of reserves from the Pool, their correlative rights will not be adversely affected by the drilling of the proposed well.

(12) The alternative location proposed by Conoco Inc. and Yates Petroleum Corporation (990 feet FSL and 1,320-1,650 feet FWL of Section 31) fails to take into account the low structure and thin dolomite encountered in the Foster "31" Fee No. 1 Well.

(13) Approval of the subject application will afford the applicant the opportunity to produce its just and equitable share of the oil in the Upper Pennsylvanian formation, and will otherwise be in the best interests of conservation, the prevention of waste, and the protection of correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) The application of Nearburg Producing Company for an unorthodox oil well location for the North Dagger Draw - Upper Pennsylvanian Pool is hereby approved for a well to be located 330 feet from the North line and 2,460 feet from the West line (Unit C) of Section 31, Township 19 South, Range 25 East, N.M.P.M., Eddy County, New Mexico.

(2) The well shall be dedicated to the existing 162.60-acre oil spacing and proration unit comprising Lots 1 and 2 and the E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ equivalent) of said Section 31, which is currently dedicated to the Dagger Draw "31" Federal Well Nos. 1 and 4, located in Units D and E, respectively. As provided by Division

Order No. R-4691-D, the allowable for the unit shall be 700 barrels of oil per day.

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

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

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

WILLIAM J. LEMAY
Director

S E A L

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - THURSDAY - JUNE 17, 1993
8:15 A.M. - OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION CONFERENCE ROOM, STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Dockets Nos. 19-93 and 20-93 are tentatively set for July 1, 1993 and July 15, 1993. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 23 days in advance of hearing date.

The following cases will be heard before David R. Catanach, Examiner or Michael E. Stogner, Alternate Examiner:

CASE 10731: (Continued from June 3, 1993, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Nearburg Producing Company for an unorthodox oil well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval to drill its Dagger Draw "31" Federal Well No. 5 to the North Dagger Draw-Upper Pennsylvanian Pool at an unorthodox oil well location 330 feet from the North line and 2460 feet from the West line (Unit C) of Section 31, Township 19 South, Range 25 East. Said well is to be simultaneously dedicated to an existing 162.60-acre oil spacing and proration unit comprising Lots 1 and 2 and the E/2 NW/4 (NW/4 equivalent) of said Section 31, which is currently dedicated to the Dagger Draw "31" Federal Well Nos. 1 and 4 located in Units "D" and "E", respectively. Said unit is located approximately 9 miles west by south of Lakewood, New Mexico.

CASE 10687: (Continued from June 3, 1993, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Mewbourne Oil Company for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from 500 feet below the top of the San Andres formation to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the following described areas in Section 17, Township 18 South, Range 28 East, and in the following manner: the E/2 forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent; and the SE/4 forming a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical extent. Said unit is to be dedicated to its Illinois Camp "17" State Well No. 2, to be drilled at a standard location within said E/2 proration unit. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 2 miles north of Illinois Camp.

CASE 10688: (Continued from June 3, 1993, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Mewbourne Oil Company for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the base of the Abo formation to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the following described areas in Section 31, Township 17 South, Range 28 East, and in the following manner: the S/2 forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent; the SE/4 forming a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical extent; and the SW/4 SE/4 forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 40-acre spacing within said vertical extent. Said unit is to be dedicated to its Chalk Bluff "31" State Well No. 1, to be drilled at a standard location within said S/2 proration unit. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said unit is located approximately 1 mile southwest of the Baylor Triangulation Station.

CASE 10541: (Reopened)

In the matter of Case 10541 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. Operators in said pool may appear and present evidence and show cause why the foregoing Special Rules and Regulations should remain in effect.

CASE 10738: Application of Marbob Energy Corporation for an unorthodox oil well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval to drill its Keely A Federal Well No. 30 at an unorthodox location 25 feet from the South line and 2615 feet from the West line (Unit N) of Section 13, Township 17 South, Range 29 East. The SE/4 SW/4 of said Section 17 is to be dedicated to said well. Applicant further requests approval of the unorthodox location as to all prospective pools of formations including but not limited to the Grayburg Jackson Seven Rivers, Queen, Grayburg, San Andres Pool spaced on 40-acres. Said well is located approximately 2 miles northwest of Loco Hills, New Mexico.

CASE 10739: Application of Marbob Energy Corporation for an unorthodox oil well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval to drill its Burch C Federal Well No. 49 at an unorthodox location 2510 feet from the North line and 330 feet from the East line (Unit E) of Section 23, Township 17 South, Range 29 East. The SW/4 NW/4 of said Section 23 is to be dedicated to said well. Applicant further requests approval of the unorthodox location as to all prospective pools of formations including but not limited to the Grayburg Jackson Seven Rivers, Queen, Grayburg, San Andres Pool spaced on 40-acres. Said well is located approximately 2 miles west of Loco Hills, New Mexico.

CASE 10740: Application of Earon Oil and Gas Company for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Delaware formation underlying the SW/4 SW/4 of Section 31, Township 22 South, Range 32 East. Said unit is to be dedicated to its Silverton 31 Federal Well No. 1 to be drilled at a standard location in the SW/4 SW/4 of said Section 31. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as the operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling and completing said well. Said area is located approximately 7 miles north of mile marker 19 on state highway 128.

CASE 10741: Application of Marathon Oil Company for an unorthodox oil well location, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval of an unorthodox oil well location 1600 feet from the West line and 1650 feet from the North line (Unit F) of Section 32, Township 23 South, Range 38 East, Stateline-Ellenburger Pool. The S/2 NW/4 of said Section 32 is to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 80-acre oil spacing and proration unit. Said unit is located approximately 13 miles south-southeast of Eunice, New Mexico.

CASE 10742: Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval to drill to Sunflower "AHW" Federal Well No. 2 at a unorthodox location 660 feet from the North and East lines (Unit A) of Section 31, Township 19 South, Range 24 East. The N/2 of said Section 31 is to be dedicated to the well. Applicant further requests approval of the unorthodox location as to all prospective pools of formations including but not limited to the Abo, Wolfcamp, Cisco, Canyon, Strawn, Atoka and Morrow spaced on 320-acres. Said well is located approximately 8 miles south by southeast of Antelope Sink.

CASE 10543: (Continued from June 3, 1993, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for an unorthodox gas well location and simultaneous dedication, Eddy County, New Mexico. Subsequent to Division Order No. R-9740, dated October 13, 1992, the applicant, Yates Petroleum Corporation, seeks to reopen this matter to present new evidence to support its original application for an unorthodox gas well location for its Irish Hills "KW" State Well No. 3, located 660 feet from the North and East lines (Unit A) of Section 2, Township 19 South, Range 24 East, to test all formations and/or pools from the top of the Wolfcamp formation to the base of the Morrow formation which are spaced on 320-acre spacing. Lots 1 through 4 and the S/2 N/2 (N/2 equivalent) of said Section 2 are to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 321.08-acre gas spacing and proration unit. Further, the applicant seeks an exception to Division General Rule 104.C(2) to allow the N/2 equivalent of said Section 2 to be simultaneously dedicated in the Penasco Draw-Permo Pennsylvanian Gas Pool to the proposed well and to the existing Irish Hills "KW" State Well No. 2 located at a standard gas well location 1980 feet from the North and East lines (Unit G) of said Section 2. Said unit is located approximately 11.5 miles west by south of Seven Rivers, New Mexico.

CASE 10743: Application of Meridian Oil Inc. for downhole commingling and for an administrative downhole commingling procedure within the Allison Unit Area, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval to commingle gas production from the Blanco-Mesaverde Gas Pool and the Basin-Dakota Gas Pool within the wellbore to be drilled for Unit Well No. 9R, to be located in Unit (G) E/2 equivalent of Section 13, Township 32 North, Range 7 West, NMPM with the 320-acre spacing and proration unit for both pools to be dedicated the E/2 equivalent of said Section 13. In addition, the applicant seeks the adoption of an administrative procedure for authorizing the downhole commingling of Mesaverde and Dakota production in the wellbores of existing and subsequently drilled wells within the Allison Unit Area without hearing and without the requirement of notice of any offsetting operator and without the requirement that each interest owner in the Mesaverde and Dakota Participating Area be notified of such commingling. The Allison Unit is located in portions of Sections 7, 8, 9, 16-22, 28-31, Township 32 North, Range 6 West, and in portions of Sections 9-16, 23-26, Township 32 North, Range 7 West, NMPM. Said unit is located approximately 4.2 miles south of Allison, Colorado.

CASE 10744: Application of Meridian Oil Inc. for a high angle/horizontal directional drilling pilot project, special operating rules therefor, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks to initiate a high angle/horizontal directional drilling pilot project in the Gavilan-Mancos Oil Pool underlying all of Section 17, Township 26 North, Range 2 West, being a standard 640-acre spacing and proration unit for said pool. The applicant proposes to drill its Cheney Federal Well No. 4 located at a standard surface location in said Section 17, kick off from the vertical in an estimated northwesterly directional commencing to build angle at an appropriate rate to vertically and horizontally traverse the proposed producing area. Applicant further seeks the adoption of special operating provisions and rules within the pilot project area including the designation of a target window such that the horizontal or producing portion of the wellbore shall be no closer than 790 feet from the outer boundary of the spacing unit. Said project is approximately 13 miles north of Lindrith, New Mexico.

CASE 10745: Application of Meridian Oil Inc. for an unorthodox gas well location and downhole commingling, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval to downhole commingle Choza Mesa-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool and the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool production within the wellbore of its proposed Valdez Well No. 5 to be drilled at an unorthodox gas well "off pattern" location for the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool, being 1820 feet from the West line and 1850 feet from the North line (Unit F) of Section 16, Township 28 North, Range 4 West. Said well is to be dedicated to a standard 320-acre gas spacing unit for the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool being the N/2 of Section 16 and to a standard 160-acre gas spacing unit for the Choza Mesa-Pictured Cliffs Gas Pool being the NW/4 of Section 16. The well is located approximately 3 miles east of Laguna Seca Mesa.

CASE 10719: (Continued from April 22, 1993, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation for directional drilling and an unorthodox bottomhole gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks authority to directionally drill its proposed Power Federal Com Well No. 2 from a surface location 1400 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line (Unit I) of Section 26, Township 17 South, Range 30 East, in such a manner as to bottom the well in the Cedar Lake-Morrow Gas Pool at an unorthodox subsurface gas well location within 75 feet of a point 660 feet from the South and East lines (Unit P) of said Section 26. The E/2 of said Section 26 is to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said pool. Said unit is located approximately 3 miles east-southeast of Loco Hills, New Mexico.

CASE 10556: (Continued from June 3, 1993, Examiner Hearing.)

In the matter of Case 10556 being reopened pursuant to the provisions of Division Order No. R-9759, which order promulgated special pool rules and regulations for the Old Millman Ranch-Bone Spring Pool in Eddy County. Operators in said pool may appear and present evidence about the nature of the reservoir with regards to the proper classification of the pool as either oil or gas.

CASE 10746: Application of Devon Energy Corporation for special pool rules, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks the promulgation of special rules for the Soapberry Draw-Delaware Pool located in the SE/4 of Section 8, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, including a provisions for a gas-oil limitation of 6000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil. Said area is located approximately 3 miles east of Avalon Reservoir.

CASE 10747: Application of Nearburg Producing Company for salt water disposal, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks authority to convert its M.H. Federal Well No. 1-1N located 660 feet from the South line and 1980 feet from the West line (Unit N) of Section 1, Township 22 South, Range 24 East, and utilize said well to dispose of produced salt water into the Cisco Canyon formation through the perforated interval from approximately 8219 feet to 8380 feet. Said well is located 1 mile east of Little Walt Spring.

CASE 10717: (Continued from May 20, 1993, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Davcro Inc. for salt water disposal, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks authority to re-enter the previously plugged and abandoned Cactus Drilling Corporation Sawyer Deep Well No. 1 located 330 feet from the South line and 2310 feet from the West line (Unit N) of Section 19, Township 9 South, Range 38 East, and utilize said well to dispose of produced salt water into the Sawyer-San Andres Associated Pool through the open-hole interval from approximately 5120 feet to 5600 feet. Said well is located approximately 4.5 miles east of Crossroads, New Mexico.

CASE 10748: Application of Yates Energy Corporation for pool creation, classification of the new pool as an associated pool and for special pool rules, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks creation of a new pool for the production of oil and gas from the Pennsylvanian formation underlying the W/2 of Section 17, Township 22 South, Range 24 East, NMPM. Applicant also seeks classification of this new pool as an associated oil and gas pool and the promulgation of special rules and regulations for the pool including: 320-acre spacing and proration units; designated well location requirements; a limit of no more than one well per quarter section; a special depth bracket allowable for each well on a 320-acre spacing or proration unit of 1400 barrels of oil per day and; administrative procedures for approval of unorthodox well locations and non-standard spacing or proration units. Said area is located approximately 2 miles east of Lone Butte.

CASE 10749: Application of Devon Energy Corporation for pool creation and special pool rules, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks the promulgation of special rules for the Ingle Wells-Delaware Pool located in portions of Sections 26 and 35 of Township 23 South, Range 31 East and in a portion of Section 2, Township 24 South, Range 31 East, including a provision for a gas-oil limitation of 5000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil. Said area is located approximately 2 miles west of mile marker 19 on highway 128.

CASE 10513: (Continued from May 20, 1993, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Hanley Petroleum Inc. for determination of reasonable well costs, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, as a working interest owner in the Santa Fe Energy Operating Partners, L.P. Kachina "8" Federal Well No. 2 located 1830 feet from the North line and 660 feet from the West line (Unit E) of Section 8, Township 18 South, Range 33 East, South Corbin-Wolfcamp Pool, which was drilled pursuant to the compulsory pooling provisions of Division Order Nos. R-9480, R-9480-A, and R-9480-B, all entered in Case Nos. 10211 and 10219, and to which is dedicated the W/2 NW/4 (Units D and E) of said Section 8, seeks an order ascertaining the reasonableness of actual well costs for the subject well. Said unit is located approximately 7.5 miles southeast by south of Maljamar, New Mexico.

Docket No. 18-93

DOCKET: COMMISSION HEARING - THURSDAY - JUNE 24, 1993
9:00 A.M. - MORGAN HALL, STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The Land Commissioner's designee for this hearing will be Gary Carlson

CASE 10345: De Novo - Continued from April 29, 1993, Commission Hearing.)

Application of Louise Y. Locke to consider objections to well costs, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant requests the Commission review actual well costs charged against her interest by BHP Petroleum (Americas), Inc., for the drilling of the Gallegos Canyon Unit Well #390 to determine the reasonableness of such costs pursuant to the provisions of Commission Order No. R-9581-A. Said well is located at the southeast edge of Farmington, New Mexico.

CASE 10346: De Novo - Continued from April 29, 1993, Commission Hearing.)

Application of Louise Y. Locke to consider objections to well costs, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant requests the Commission review actual well costs charged against her interest by BHP Petroleum (Americas), Inc., for the drilling of the Gallegos Canyon Unit Well #391 to determine the reasonableness of such costs pursuant to the provisions of Commission Order No. R-9581-A. Said well is located at the southeast edge of Farmington, New Mexico.