

**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. 10816  
Order No. R-9968**

**APPLICATION OF COLLINS & WARE, INC.  
FOR A HIGH ANGLE/HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL  
DRILLING PILOT PROJECT AND SPECIAL  
OPERATING RULES THEREFOR, LEA COUNTY,  
NEW MEXICO.**

**ORDER OF THE DIVISION**

**BY THE DIVISION:**

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on September 9, 1993, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 22nd day of September, 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) Division Case Nos. 10814, 10815 and 10816 were consolidated at the time of the hearing for the purpose of testimony.

(3) The applicant, Collins & Ware, Inc., seeks authority to initiate a short radius high angle/horizontal directional drilling pilot project in the Denton-Devonian Pool underlying the NW/4 NW/4 of Section 36, Township 14 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

(4) The applicant further seeks authority to re-enter its Polaris T. D. Pope Well No. 6, located at a standard surface location 660 feet from the North line and 330 feet from the West line (Unit D) of Section 36, and horizontally drill in the following unconventional manner:

Mill casing from a depth of 12,107 feet to 12,157 feet. Set cement plug and kick off from the vertical at a depth of approximately 12,137 feet and drill in a southeast direction building angle to approximately 90 degrees so as to penetrate the upper portion of the Devonian formation. Continue drilling horizontally an undetermined distance so as to bottom said wellbore no closer than 330 feet from the outer boundary of the NW/4 NW/4 of Section 36.

(5) The applicant further seeks the adoption of special operating provisions and rules within the pilot project area including the designation of a prescribed area limiting the horizontal or producing portion of the wellbore such that it can be no closer than 330 feet from the outer boundary of the NW/4 NW/4 of Section 36.

(6) The proposed well is located within the Denton-Devonian Pool which is currently governed by Statewide Rules and Regulations which require standard 40-acre spacing and proration units with wells to be located no closer than 330 feet from the outer boundary of the spacing unit, a standard oil allowable of 365 barrels of oil per day, and a limiting gas-oil ratio of 2,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil.

(7) The evidence presented indicates that the T. D. Pope Well No. 6 was originally drilled and completed in the Denton-Devonian Pool in 1953. The subject well cumulatively produced 595,900 barrels of oil from said pool until it was temporarily abandoned in 1973.

(8) According to applicant's testimony, the T. D. Pope Well No. 6 was temporarily abandoned due to excessive water production.

(9) Through its evidence and testimony, the applicant demonstrated that the proposed high angle wellbore, which is experimental in nature, is designed to penetrate the upper portion of the Devonian formation above the oil-water contact, thereby allowing the recovery of additional oil reserves underlying the NW/4 NW/4 of Section 36, thereby preventing waste.

(10) S & J Operating Company and Polaris Production Corporation, the only two affected offset operators, were notified of the application in this case but did not appear in opposition to the application.

(11) No other offset operator and/or interest owner appeared at the hearing in opposition to the application.

(12) In the interest of conservation and prevention of waste, the application of Collins & Ware, Inc. for a high angle/horizontal directional drilling project should be approved.

(13) The applicant should be required to determine the actual location of the kick-off point prior to commencing directional drilling operations. Also, the applicant should be required to conduct a directional survey on the lateral portion of the wellbore during or after completion of drilling operations in order to verify that the bottomhole location is in compliance with the terms of this order.

(14) The applicant should notify the supervisor of the Hobbs district office of the Division of the date and time of conductance of any directional surveys in order that the same may be witnessed.

(15) The applicant should be required to submit copies of all directional surveys conducted on the subject well to both the Santa Fe and Hobbs offices of the Division.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

(1) The applicant, Collins & Ware, Inc., is hereby authorized to initiate a short radius high angle/horizontal directional drilling pilot project in the Denton-Devonian Pool underlying the NW/4 NW/4 of Section 36, Township 14 South, Range 37 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

(2) The applicant is further authorized to re-enter its Polaris T. D. Pope Well No. 6, located at a standard surface location 660 feet from the North line and 330 feet from the West line (Unit D) of Section 36, and horizontally drill in the following unconventional manner:

Mill casing from a depth of 12,107 feet to 12,157 feet. Set cement plug and kick off from the vertical at a depth of approximately 12,137 feet and drill in a southeast direction building angle to approximately 90 degrees so as to penetrate the upper portion of the Devonian formation. Continue drilling horizontally an undetermined distance so as to bottom said wellbore no closer than 330 feet from the outer boundary of the NW/4 NW/4 of Section 36.

(3) The horizontal or producing portion of the wellbore shall be located no closer than 330 feet from the outer boundary of the NW/4 NW/4 of Section 36.

(4) The applicant shall determine the actual location of the kick-off point prior to commencing directional drilling operations. Also, the applicant shall conduct a directional survey on the lateral portion of the wellbore during or after completion of drilling operations in order to verify that the bottomhole location is in compliance with the terms of this order.

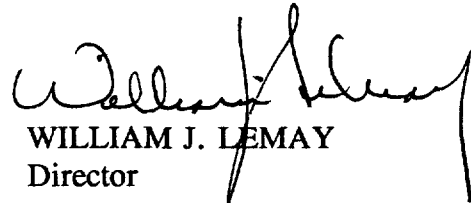
(5) The applicant shall notify the supervisor of the Hobbs district office of the Division of the date and time of conductance of any directional surveys in order that the same may be witnessed.

(6) The applicant shall submit copies of all directional surveys conducted on the subject well to both the Santa Fe and Hobbs offices of the Division.

(7) 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



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