1	STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2	ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
3	OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
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7	EXAMINER HEARING
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9	IN THE MATTER OF:
10	Application of Richmond Case 9745
11	petroleum, Inc., for compulsory pooling and an
12	unorthodox coal gas well location, San Juan County,
13	New Mexico
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18	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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20	BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, EXAMINER
21	
22	STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
23	SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
24	October 4, 1989
25	ODICINAI
	ORIGINAL

1	APPEARANCES	
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3	FOR THE DIVISION: ROBERT G. STOVALL Attorney at Law	
4	Legal Counsel to the Divison State Land Office Building	n
5	Santa Fe, New Mexico	
6	FOR THE APPLICANT: HINKLE, COX, EATON COFFIELD & HENSLEY	
7	Attorneys at Law 218 Montezuma	
8	Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 BY: OWEN M. LOPEZ, ESQ.	
9	FOR MERIDIAN OIL,	
10	INC: KELLAHIN, KELLAHIN & AUBREY Attorneys at Law	<u> </u>
11	117 N. Guadalupe Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504	
12	W. THOMAS KELLAHIN, ESQ.	
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- 1 HEARING EXAMINER: Call next case, No.
- 2 9745.
- 3 MR. STOVALL: Application of Richmond
- 4 Petroleum, Inc., for compulsory pooling and an
- 5 unorthodox coal gas well location, San Juan County,
- 6 New Mexico.
- 7 HEARING EXAMINER: Call for appearances.
- MR. LOPEZ: If it please the Examiner, my
- 9 name is Owen Lopez with the Hinkle law firm in Santa
- 10 Fe, New Mexico, appearing on behalf of the Applicant,
- 11 and I have three witnesses to be sworn.
- 12 HEARING EXAMINER: Are there any other
- 13 appearances?
- MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom
- 15 Kellahin appearing on behalf of Meridian Oil, Inc.
- 16 have no witnesses to present in this case.
- MR. STOVALL: Mr. Lopez, this case is
- 18 continued from the September 6 hearing; is that
- 19 correct?
- MR. LOPEZ: Yes, Mr. Stovall. The initial
- 21 case that was applied for and advertised was for the
- 22 north half of Section 9.
- 23 MR. STOVALL: I'm just asking a simple
- 24 procedural question. Were these the same witnesses
- 25 that were sworn at that time?

1 MR. LOPEZ: Two of them were. One is a new 2 witness. MR. STOVALL: Mr. Examiner, because this is 3 4 an ongoing case, and two witnesses were sworn, we only 5 need to swear the additional witness for that purpose. HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Stovall. 6 7 Any other appearances? Will the witness stand and be sworn? 8 9 (Witness sworn.) 10 HEARING EXAMINER: Let the record show that 11 the other two witnesses that will be appearing in this 12 matter have been previously sworn at the hearing on 13 September 6, 1989. 14 Gentlemen, you are under that oath from 15 that time. 16 Mr. Lopez? 17 Thank you, Mr. Examiner. MR. LOPEZ: 18 Just by way of explanation, I might explain 19 that Case 9745 since the September 6th hearing was 20 amended to include the east half of Section 9 rather than the north half, and with a well to be dedicated 21 as an unorthodox well location in the northeast 22 23 northeast, 360 feet from the north line and 120 feet from the east line. 24 I'd now like to call our first witness, Mr. 25

- 1 Fullerton.
- JAMES B. FULLERTON,
- 3 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn
- 4 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
- 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 6 BY MR. LOPEZ:
- 7 Q. Would you please state your name and where
- 8 you reside.
- 9 A. James B. Fullerton, Denver, Colorado.
- 10 Q. What is your occupation, Mr. Fullerton?
- 11 A. I'm an independent petroleum landman.
- 12 Q. Are you familiar with the Case No. 9745?
- 13 A. Yes, I am.
- 14 Q. Did you testify at the September 6 hearing,
- 15 and were your qualifications as a landman at that time
- 16 | accepted as a matter of record?
- 17 A. Yes, they were.
- MR. LOPEZ: Mr. Examiner, do you consider
- 19 the witness still qualified?
- 20 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, he is.
- 21 Q. (BY MR. LOPEZ) Mr. Fullerton, I would like
- 22 you to refer to what's been marked Exhibit No. 1 and
- 23 ask you to identify it.
- A. This is a plat map showing the outline of
- 25 the proposed spacing unit to be pooled and the

- 1 | location of the unorthodox well requested in Case
- 2 9745.
- Q. Referring to this map and the location of
- 4 the well, what is the reason that dictates the
- 5 location of the well?
- 6 A. The boundaries of the Navajo Lake are
- 7 within most of the entire remaining portion of the
- 8 spacing unit of the east half of Section 9, and
- 9 therefore there was only one location that was
- 10 plausible at this time.
- 11 Q. Have you tried to obtain the consent of all
- 12 working interest and other mineral owners in the
- 13 proposed spacing unit?
- 14 A. Yes, I have.
- 15 Q. Have you been successful in getting
- 16 everyone to join?
- 17 A. No. There's three parties that as of yet
- 18 have failed to join.
- 19 Q. I'd now like you to refer to Exhibit No. 2
- 20 and ask you to identify and explain this exhibit.
- 21 A. Exhibit 2 is a letter dated October 1,
- 22 1989, stating basically the three parties in the east
- 23 half of Section 9 that have failed to agree to
- 24 participate in the drilling of the well or otherwise
- 25 dedicate their interest in this proposed well. And

- 1 their working interests are stated as on the letter.
- Q. Now I'd like you to refer to what's been
- 3 marked Exhibit No. 3 and ask you to explain what this
- 4 shows.
- 5 A. Exhibit 3 is a copy of the letters sent out
- 6 to the parties as stated on the October 1st letter.
- 7 And along with the letters to these parties were
- 8 copies of the amended applications, AFE for the well,
- 9 and the operating agreement to be used.
- 10 Q. Would you refer to Exhibit No. 4, and
- ll please explain it.
- 12 A. Exhibit No. 4 is a copy of the letter sent
- 13 to basically, again, the unleased mineral owners,
- 14 people who have failed to join in the proposed well at
- 15 this time.
- 16 Q. So if I understand you correctly, Exhibit 3
- 17 and Exhibit 4 are copies of the actual letters sent to
- 18 the two nonconsenting working interest owners for whom
- 19 you had addresses?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Lopez, I don't seem
- 22 to have Exhibit No. 4 that you're referring to.
- I do have Exhibit No. 4 in front of me at
- 24 this time.
- 25 Q. (BY MR. LOPEZ) I'd now like you to refer

- 1 to what's been marked Exhibit No. 5 and have you
 2 explain it.
- 3 . A. This is a copy of the letter sent to, in
- 4 this case, Meridian, and Exhibit No. 6 is a copy of
- 5 the same letter sent to basically the offsetting
- 6 operators, advising them of our application for
- 7 compulsory pooling in a nonstandard location for the
- 8 northeast quarter of Section 9.
- 9 Q. Which directions do Meridian and Tiffany
- 10 offset the proposed location?
- 11 A. Tiffany Gas Company offsets the proposed
- 12 location to the north in Colorado, and Meridian Oil,
- 13 Inc., offsets the location to the south and the west
- 14 of the proposed well.
- 15 O. And who offsets to the east?
- 16 A. Richmond Petroleum.
- 17 Q. The Applicant in this case.
- I'd now like you to refer to what's been
- 19 marked Exhibit No. 7 and ask you to identify it.
- 20 A. Exhibit No. 7 are copies of the receipts
- 21 for certified mail used and sent to the parties who
- 22 had failed to join in the well, and also the parties
- 23 who were notified of the nonstandard location.
- Q. The offset operators?
- 25 A. The offset operators, yes.

- Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 7 prepared by you
- 2 or under your supervision?
- 3 A. Yes, they were.
- 4 Q. Is the granting of this application in the
- 5 interests of conservation, the prevention of waste,
- 6 and the protection of correlative rights?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 MR. LOPEZ: Mr. Examiner, I'd like to
- 9 introduce Exhibits 1 through 7.
- 10 HEARING EXAMINER: Exhibits 1 through 7
- ll will be admitted into evidence.
- 12 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 13 BY HEARING EXAMINER:
- 14 Q. Mr. Fullerton, what was the risk penalty
- 15 factor presented on -- not the risk penalty factor,
- 16 the overhead charges for this well? Were you the one
- 17 who testified to those charges?
- 18 A. No, Mr. Examiner, I was not.
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: Was it one of your other
- 20 witnesses that testified to that?
- MR. LOPEZ: Yes.
- HEARING EXAMINER: I'm sorry, Mr.
- 23 Fullerton. Thank you.
- I have no other questions for this
- 25 witness. He may be excused.

- 1 Mr. Lopez? MR. LOPEZ: I'd like to call Mr. Adams. 2 3 JAMES L. ADAMS, the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn 5 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION 6 7 BY MR. LOPEZ: 8 Would you please state your name and where 0. 9 you reside. 10 My name is James L. Adams. I live in the Α. 11 vicinity of Dallas, Texas. By whom are you employed, and in what 12 Q. 13 capacity? 14 Α. I am the Executive Vice President of 15 Richmond Petroleum, Inc. 16 And your occupation is? Q. I am a petroleum engineer, my background. 17 Α. 18 Did you testify in this hearing on Q. September 6, and were your qualifications as a 19 20 petroleum engineer accepted as a matter of record? 21 Yes, they were. Α.
- 24 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, sir.

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so qualified?

Q. (BY MR. LOPEZ) Mr. Adams, I believe you

MR. LOPEZ: Would you consider the witness

- 1 testified at the September 6th hearing with respect to
- 2 the proposed risk penalty that you would recommend to
- 3 the examiner. I would also like you to address the
- 4 charges that you would request for supervision.
- 5 First, with respect to the risk factor that
- 6 should be applied to those owners who failed to
- 7 consent to the proposed well, what do you think it
- 8 | should be, and why?
- 9 A. We would ask that the examiner would grant
- 10 the 200 percent nonconsent penalty in this case for
- 11 two primary reasons. First, our operating agreement
- 12 that exists on this property that we have sent out
- 13 calls for a 400 percent nonconsent penalty for those
- 14 people that elect not to participate under our
- 15 operating agreement. This operating agreement has
- 16 been accepted by ourselves and three other San Juan
- 17 | Basin operators that are knowledgeable of the area,
- 18 and they feel that it is a reasonable risk factor, as
- 19 we do.
- Second, there is a certain degree of risk
- 21 involved with the drilling of these wells, primarily
- 22 of a reservoir nature. There is some mechanical risk,
- 23 but that is usually not a high portion of the risk.
- 24 Probably 25 percent would be mechanical risk; 30
- 25 percent would be reservoir risk.

- 1 The coal in this area, as indeed in most of
- 2 the basin, is somewhat variable in its producibility.
- 3 There are relatively good wells immediately adjacent
- 4 to relatively poor wells, the poor wells being wells
- 5 that, in many cases, would not have been drilled had
- 6 that production been known beforehand. So there is
- 7 some significant reservoir risk involved from location
- 8 to location.
- Those would be the reasons.
- 10 Q. With respect to the cost for supervision,
- 11 what do you recommend in that regard?
- 12 A. Again, our operating agreement calls for a
- 13 drilling well overhead rate of \$4,500 per well, and an
- 14 operating overhead rate of \$450 per well.
- 15 Q. Do you think these are reasonable charges?
- 16 A. These charges are approximately average to
- 17 a publication that was made by Ernst & Whinney that
- 18 does the surveys of the entire country, and the San
- 19 Juan Basin being part of that. These were about
- 20 average for the San Juan Basin area.
- 21 Q. Are you requesting that the order in this
- 22 case be expedited?
- 23 A. Yes, sir, we are. We have a November 1
- 24 drilling commitment date that is as a result of our
- 25 farmout agreement. We have to be spudded before

- 1 November 1 on two wells on this particular farmout, of
- 2 which this would be one of those wells, hopefully.
- Q. Would the other well be the west half of
- 4 Section 10 which was advertised as 9744?
- 5 A. Yes, it would.
- 6 Q. Is it your opinion that the granting of
- 7 this application is in the interests of conservation,
- 8 the prevention of waste, and the protection of
- 9 correlative rights?
- 10 A. Yes, it is.
- 11 MR. LOPEZ: I have no further questions of
- 12 this witness, Mr. Examiner.
- 13 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 14 BY HEARING EXAMINER:
- 15 Q. Mr. Adams, you mentioned something about,
- 16 and can you give me some figures as to 30 percent of
- 17 reservoir risk, and was it 25 percent mechanical?
- 18 A. 25 percent mechanical, 75 percent
- 19 reservoir.
- 20 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you for clarifying
- 21 that for me, and I have no other questions of Mr.
- 22 Adams at this time.
- 23 Are there any other questions of this
- 24 witness? You may be excused.
- Mr. Lopez?

MR. LOPEZ: I'd like to call Mr. Roche. 1 STEVE ROCHE, 2 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn 3 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows: 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION 6 BY MR. LOPEZ: 7 Would you please state you name and where 0. 8 you reside. 9 Α. Steve Roche from Albuquerque, New Mexico. What is your occupation, Mr. Roche? 10 Q. I am consultant for Richmond Petroleum. 11 Α. As a what? 12 Q. A consulting landman. 13 Α. Have you previously testified before the 14 0. Commission? 15 I never have. 16 Α. Would you therefore, briefly, explain your 17 educational background and work experience? Okay. Graduated from Fort Lewis College in 19 Α. 1974 in business; 1978 I graduated from University of 20 New Mexico Law School. I specialized in natural 21 resources law and American Indian law. And for the 22 past 11 years, I've worked as a landman for either 23 companies or on my own in the San Juan Basin, 24 25 primarily.

- Q. Are you familiar with the application of
- 2 Richmond Petroleum in Case No. 9745?
- 3 A. Yes, I am.
- 4 Q. Have you done extensive land work with
- 5 respect to this application?
- 6 A. Yes, I have.
- 7 MR. LOPEZ: Would you consider the witness
- 8 qualified?
- 9 HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Roche is so
- 10 qualified.
- 11 Q. (BY MR. LOPEZ) Mr. Roche, have you had any
- 12 contact with the Bureau of Reclamation with respect to
- 13 this application?
- 14 A. Yes, I have. I initially made contact
- 15 September 8th, I believe, with the intent of trying to
- 16 get their opinion about a location to drill in the
- 17 northeast northeast of 9 or the southeast southeast of
- 18 9. I was encouraged --
- 19 Q. Why just those two locations, if you can
- 20 explain?
- 21 A. That's just about all there is that's not
- 22 under water. That is all there is.
- Q. All right. Go ahead.
- 24 A. Upon meeting -- I had an agreement to meet
- 25 Steve Sacks of the Bureau of Rec in Durango on

- November 8th at the location. He was there, and he was accompanied by the another fellow who was the recreational director, I believe. I don't remember his name. They both met me on site and discussed the possibility of a nonstandard location up there.
- And at that time he recommended the
 northeast northeast would be a better location than
 the southeast southeast because there's about 13
 archeological sites that he didn't want to interfere
 with or have a chance to interfere with on an island
- We charted out a possible road. My one

 concern about the northeast northeast location, after

 going out there on site, was could we stay above the

 high water mark.

in the southeast southeast.

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- And Steve knew the area like the back of his hand. I could describe it from the map, and he already knew we could stay above the high water mark.
- And so he wanted to meet me out there and see if we could have the locations remain above the water and also have a road into the area that would also be above the water. We charted one out. He recommended a location.
- Upon his recommendation, we had it staked.

 25 And essentially what he said was that, if we met the

- 1 stipulations that his office would have, he didn't see
- 2 any problem with that location.
- Q. Could you describe some of the
- 4 stipulations?
- 5 A. At that time he said the only stipulation
- 6 that he was worried about -- well, the one thing he
- 7 did mention, the only thing we were worried about at
- 8 the time we left was a cemetery.
- 9 You can see that reflected on your map
- 10 | there, the "CEM." We've come to find out that the
- 11 Bureau of Rec did move that cemetary. And the only
- 12 stipulation that he mentioned to me at that time was
- 13 the pits.
- He said that we would have to do a double
- 15 line of pit. I said I didn't think that would be a
- 16 problem. The only other stipulations he said was for
- 17 pipelines; we would have to go to the Corps of
- 18 Engineers in Albuquerque first before we could get
- 19 approval.
- Q. To your knowledge, is the Applicant,
- 21 Richmond Petroleum, willing to meet the stipulations
- 22 of the Bureau of Rec?
- A. Yes, we are. What we did, we had one other
- 24 meeting with the Bureau of Rec in Durango. Steve had
- 25 an environmentalist talk to us up there.

We told him at this time -- we had a real 1 good relationship with him. I told him Richmond was 2 willing to work with him to do whatever we needed to 3 4 do to get the location approved.

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So I went up there again the following week and sat down with him. He had said there might be a need for a closed pit system. We would rather not do the closed system; so we prepared a presentation.

I went up there with Stuart Stroud, who is an environmentalist out of Cortez, Colorado, and he 10 does an exception on the liner for the mining 11 industry, which is way above what they now have in the 12 San Juan Basin.

So we went up there in the compromise position to get the open pit situation rather than the closed pit situation and had a real favorable meeting with Steve and the environmental head of the whole Durango office.

Essentially what Steve told us then was 19 that if we could meet everything we said we could do 20 and put it in a format with the application, that he 21 22 and the environmental guy couldn't see a problem, and Salt Lake City would be the approving office for this 23 24 thing, but they were very positive that we had gone to this extra -- I quess gone to a little bit more than 25

- 1 what the other companies had done.
- Q. Does that conclude your testimony?
- 3 A. Other than Steve had told me he would be
- 4 here today. I thought he was going to come and be at
- 5 the hearing. And then I talked to him yesterday, and
- 6 he said he couldn't make it.
- 7 MR. LOPEZ: I have no further questions of
- 8 this witness.
- 9 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Lopez
- 10 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 11 BY HEARING EXAMINER:
- Q. Mr. Roche, what is the actual location of
- 13 this wellbore that you propose that shows up on the
- 14 C-101 and C-102 and also the application filed with
- 15 the Bureau of Reclamation?
- 16 A. I don't know the exact numbers. I don't
- 17 have those in front of me.
- 18 360 from the north and 120 from the east.
- The reason for that, Mr. Stogner, is, if
- 20 you can see on the map there -- have you got the map
- 21 in front of you?
- 22 Q. Yes, I do.
- 23 A. There's only one way in. It's through the
- 24 west half of 10. Mr. Sacks with the Bureau of Rec
- 25 recommended that we move the roads. That low area,

- 1 that hachure-line area, we need to keep it along the
- 2 northern border of that is what he recommended to stay
- 3 above the sagebrush and the high water line.
- So he recommended we move the road all the
- 5 way up on the north line and come down to the north
- 6 side of that little plateau where that cemetery is.
- 7 So basically what I did is let him tell me where he
- 8 wanted it, and we surveyed it in based on his
- 9 recommendation.
- 10 Q. How was it surveyed?
- 11 A. Surveying company out of Cortez that did
- 12 it. I don't remember their name.
- 13 : Q. Did you file a subsequent C-102 with the
- 14 Aztec office, showing that with their signature and
- 15 their landman's seal of approval on it?
- 16 A. Brian Wood of Permits West took care of
- 17 that location.
- 18 Q. Do you have a copy of those documents?
- 19 A. I do not have a copy with me, no.
- Q. Do you know if that was actually surveyed
- 21 or not?
- 22 A. Yes, it was.
- Q. Has an official form been filed, I quess
- 24 Form UC 1378 Application, with the Bureau of Rec?
- 25 A. Our meeting was last week in Durango with

- 1 the environmental guy, and due to the extra
- 2 documentation and the extra report that we have to
- 3 file with that, Stuart Stroud has to furnish us a
- 4 special report describing all his liners.
- 5 We're doing an extensive pit system with a
- 6 back-up pit system. All that stuff was by
- 7 recommendation of Steve and the environmental guy. He
- 8 said, "That's what you're going to have to do to
- 9 satisfy our people."
- 10 And so they made recommendations, and
- 11 basically we're following them.
- 12 Q. Has an official, on-site inspection of this
- 13 location with your company and the other agencies,
- 14 including the Bureau of Reclamation, been done to
- 15 date?
- 16 A. Not an official one because that's done
- 17 after applying with the Bureau of Rec.
- An unofficial on-site has been done by me
- 19 twice, by Permits West once, Brian Wood, and myself;
- 20 the second with Steve Sacks and his other Bureau of
- 21 Rec guy.
- Q. Do you know what other agencies, federal
- 23 and state, will be involved in the official, on-site
- 24 inspection?
- 25 A. Yes, sir. It will be Game and Fish. It

- l will be Corps of Engineers. It will be State Parks
- 2 and Bureau of Rec.
- Q. I believe the OCD Aztec office?
- A. And the OCD, right.
- Q. After the official on-site inspection is done, what is your understanding of the next step with the Bureau of Reclamation approval?
- A. One reason why it's taken so long is, we have to go to the Corps of Engineers first. They're
- 10 kind of the coordinating agency up there for all these
- 11 different projects. And once we get their approval,
- 12 and they tell us what kind of format we need to
- 13 follow, then Bureau of Rec will act. Together with
- 14 that, we have to get that extra report.
- We'll have the on-site, and then the
- 16 paperwork will be recommended in Durango and sent to
- 17 Salt Lake City.
- 18 Steve Sacks and his environmental guy,
- 19 after we worked out this deal in Durango, he said that
- 20 he would recommend approval. If he was satisfied with
- 21 the pit lining, which we have documentation that we
- 22 gave him, and the back-up pit system, he would
- 23 recommend -- it's really an exception to the rule that
- 24 they generally use up there because we're going the
- 25 extra step above what the normal standard is in that

- l area.
- Q. Could it be foreseeable that the well site
- 3 could be somewhat different than what you have stated
- 4 in your application today? After this procedure,
- 5 could it be foreseeable that one of the agencies
- 6 involved might suggest moving it 10, 20, 30 feet in
- 7 some direction?
- 8 A. I don't think so because that's why I took
- 9 Steve out there. Steve is the primary surface --
- 10 well, he's the surface owner and in control of the
- ll surface. That's the reason why, in working out the
- 12 deal with Meridian, before I tried to work out the
- 13 deal with Meridian, I went up there to make sure the
- 14 Bureau of Rec would support me on this location.
- Once I did that, the next day I went and
- 16 saw Meridian in order to work out this whole section.
- 17 So Steve was supportive enough and sure enough as to
- 18 where he wanted that location. So I feel like that's
- 19 where it's going to be.
- 20 We don't have a hell of a lot of -- excuse
- 21 me. We don't have a heck of a lot of location to work
- 22 with. So Steve -- we were out there for two hours
- 23 walking all over the area. We were walking the area
- 24 out in relation to where we thought the cemetery was,
- 25 in relation to where the drainage would be, because

- 1 there's drainage on the back side of this thing too.
- 2 So we were out there quite a while.
- Q. But with the application of where it sets
- 4 now, might there be a possibility that the location
- 5 could be somewhat different? So far you have gotten
- 6 an unofficial recommendation or an unofficial okay
- 7 from the Bureau of Rec?
- 8 A. Right.
- 9 Q. But if it would be possible or if it was
- 10 recommended by one of the other agencies to move it or
- Il set it somewhere else, could that possibly be in a
- 12 direction that is less unorthodox than this particular
- 13 location, just by a few feet, as long as it's within
- 14 the high water mark?
- 15 A. It would be less unorthodox, yes.
- 16 Q. So any order issued in that should maybe
- 17 provide that a well location be no more unorthodox
- 18 than what you're asking?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- 20 Q. But within the high water mark as shown in
- 21 the northeast quarter-northeast quarter?
- 22 A. That would be right.
- 23 Q. That way there would be some leeway?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Has there been a study or an economic

- 1 evaluation made of why a well could not be
- 2 directionally drilled from the surface location to an
- 3 orthodox location pursuant to the Fruitland Basin coal
- 4 gas pool rules?
- 5 A. I think Mr. Adams has some AFE's where
- 6 we've done some economic evaluation, and it shows
- 7 essentially we're talking \$300,000 to \$400,000 more to
- 8 do that.
- 9 MR. LOPEZ: If I may interject, Mr.
- 10 Examiner, I didn't put on that evidence today because
- 11 it was put on at the September 6th hearing pretty much
- 12 at length, but I can recall Mr. Adams who can explain
- 13 what the AFE would show for a directionally drilled
- 14 well.
- 15 HEARING EXAMINER: Help me out, Mr. Lopez.
- 16 I remember there was some directional cost, but was
- 17 this cost specific to this particular case, or was it
- 18 one of the other two cases?
- 19 I remember that all three of the cases were
- 20 consolidated at that time; so the evidence which Mr.
- 21 Adams gave me in the September 6 hearing could apply
- 22 for a directionally drilled well in this area?
- 23 MR. LOPEZ: That was my understanding and
- 24 continues to be.
- 25 HEARING EXAMINER: In that case, I have no

1	other questions of Mr. Roche.
2	I believe the testimony which we received
3	on September 9th for the directional drilling should
4	be adequate, and I have no other questions of him
5	either.
6	Is there anything further in this case, Mr
7	Lopez?
8	MR. LOPEZ: No, Mr. Examiner.
9	HEARING EXAMINER: Does anybody else have
10	anything further in this case?
11	Case No. 9745 will be taken under
12	advisement.
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	
3	STATE OF NEW MEXICO)) ss.
4	COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
5	
6	I, Deborah O'Bine, Certified Shorthand
7	Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the
8	foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil
9	Conservation Division was reported by me; that I
10	caused my notes to be transcribed under my personal
11	supervision; and that the foregoing is a true and
12	accurate record of the proceedings.
13	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative
14	or employee of any of the parties or attorneys
15	involved in this matter and that I have no personal
16	interest in the final disposition of this matter.
17	WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL November 1, 1989.
18	Deborah Bine
19	DEBORAH O'BINE CSR No. 127
20	CDR NO. 127
21	My commission expires: August 10, 1990
22	I do harany continues to a second
23	I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in
24	the Examiner hearing of Case No. 9745, heard by me on 4 Other 1989.
25	Martiner Ethyper, Examiner
	Oil Conservation Division