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NEW MI	EXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION EXAMINER HEARING	
	SANTA FE , NEW MEXICO	
Hearing Date	JANUARY 24, 1990	Time:8:15 A.1
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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:
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12	Application of Santa Fe Energy Case 9852
13	Operating Partners, L.P., for compulsory
14	pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico.
15	· ·
16	ODICINAL
17	ORIGINAL
18	
19	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
20	
21	BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, EXAMINER
22	
23	STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
24	SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
25	January 24, 1990

APPEARANCES FOR THE DIVISION: ROBERT G. STOVALL Attorney at Law Legal Counsel to the Division State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico FOR THE APPLICANT: HINKLE, COX, EATON, COFFIELD & HENSLEY Attorneys at Law 500 Marquette, N.W. Suite 740 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102-2121 BY: MR. JAMES BRUCE

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1	EXAMINER: We'll call case number 9852.
2	MR. STOVALL: Application of Santa Fe
3	Energy Operating Partners, L.P., for compulsory
4	pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico.
5	EXAMINER: Call for appearances.
6	MR. BRUCE: My Examiner, my name is Jim
7	Bruce, from the Hinkle law firm in Albuquerque,
8	representing the Applicant, and I have two witnesses
9	to be sworn.
10	HEARING EXAMINER: Are there any other
11	appearances? Will the witnesses please stand to be
12	sworn.
13	(Thereupon, the Witnesses were sworn.)
14	HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Bruce, you may
15	continue.
16	MR. BRUCE: The first witness is Mr. Green.
17	DIRECT EXAMINATION
18	BY MR. BRUCE:
19	Q. Mr. Green, would you please state your full
20	name and city of residence.
21	A. My name is Gary Green. I live in Midland,
22	Texas.
23	Q. Who are you employed by and in what
24	capacity?
25	A. I am employed by Santa Fe Energy Company as

a petroleum landman.

- Q. Have you previously testified before the OCD as a landman and had your credentials as a landman accepted as a matter of record?
 - A. Yes, I have.
- Q. Are you familiar the land matters involved in case 9852?
 - A. Yes I am.

MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, are the witness' credentials acceptable?

HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Green is so qualified.

- Q. (BY MR. BRUCE) Mr. Green, would you state briefly what Santa Fe seeks in this application.
- A. Santa Fe Energy Operating Partners, L.P., seeks an order approving all of the mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the South 1/2 of Section 24, Township 21 South, Range 27 East, in Eddy County, to form the following well units: Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 24 for all pools of formations based on 40 acres. The Southwest 1/4 of Section 24 for all pools or formations based on 160 acres, and the South 1/2 of Section 24 for all pools or formations based on 320 acres.

The units are to be dedicated to Santa Fe's
Lone Tree Fed. Com. 24 No. 1 well which will be
drilled at a standard location, 1980 feet from the
west line and 660 feet from the south line of
Section 24.

Santa Fe requests consideration of the cost of drilling and completing the well, allocation of those costs, and approval of the actual operating costs and charges for supervision. Santa Fe asks that it be designated as operator of the well and that the charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well be assessed.

- Q. Would you please refer to Exhibit No. 1 and describe its contents and also identify the ownership of the various tracts involved.
- A. Exhibit No. 1 is a 1- to 2,000 scale land plat. It shows the proposed spacing unit would be in the South 1/2 of Section 24, with the location of the proposed well 1980 from the west line, 660 from the south line.

The ownership of the South 1/2 of this section, Santa Fe owns 205 acres out of the Southeast 1/4 and the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4.

Union Pacific Resources owns 100 percent of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4.

Harken Exploration owns an undivided 6.25 percent in the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4, and a 18.75 percent interest in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 24.

- Q. And Harken Exploration and Union Pacific are the two parties you seek to force pool?
 - A. That's correct.

- Q. Would you please describe your efforts to get these interest owners to join in the well, and I'll refer you to Exhibits 2A and 2B.
- A. Exhibits 2A and 2B are letters dated

 December 28th directed to Union Pacific Resources and
 to Harken Exploration, proposing a well, requesting
 that they either join in this well or farm out their
 interest in the well.

I have also made a number of telephone calls, had a number of telephone conversations. We've reviewed geological data with Harken Exploration.

- Q. And you mentioned Santa Fe's acreage owned in the unit. What percentage of the unit does that constitute?
- A. That constitutes approximately 65 percent of the unit.
- Q. Now, would you please refer to Exhibit
 No. 3 and discussion the cost of the proposed well.

1	A. Exhibit No. 3 is a well cost estimate
2	prepared by Santa Fe Energy Operating Partners
3	drilling department, indicates drilling an 11,950-foot
4	Morrow test. It shows a dry hole cost of \$643,184.
5	Completed well cost of \$947,340.
6	Q. Is this well cost in line with those
7	normally encountered in drilling wells of this depth
8	in this area of the state?
9	A. Yes, it is.
10	Q. Do you have a recommendation as to the
11	amount that Santa Fe should be paid for supervision
12	and administrative expenses?
13	A. Yes. I recommend that Santa Fe should be
14	paid 5,000 per month for drilling the well, \$500 per
15	month allowed for a producing well.
16	Q. Are these costs in line with amounts
17	normally charged by Santa Fe and others in this area?
18	A. Yes, they are.
19	Q. What penalty do you recommended against
20	non-consenting interest owners?
21	A. Santa Fe recommends cost plus 200 percent.
22	Q. Will the geologist further discuss this
23	matter?
	1

Were all interested parties notified of

Yes, he will.

24

25

A.

Q.

- 1 this hearing? Yes, they were. 2 A. And are those letters and return receipts, 3 Q. 4 submitted as Exhibits 4A and 4B? 5 Yes, they are. A. Mr. Green, were Exhibits 1 through 4 6 7 prepared by you or complied from company records? 8 A. Yes, they were. In your opinion will granting this 9 Q. application be in the interest of conservation and the 10 prevention of waste and the protection of correlative 11 12 rights? A. Yes. 13 14 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move for the admission of Exhibits 1 through 4B. 15 EXAMINER: Exhibits 1 through 4B will be 16 admitted into evidence. 17 18 EXAMINATION BY EXAMINER: 19 20 Mr. Green, what were the overhead charges 21 again? 22 A. \$5,000 for a drilling well, 500 a month for a producing well. 23
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approach Harken and Union Pacific about joining in

24

25

Mr. Green, when did Santa Fe Energy first

1 this well?

- A. Probably about December 26th. Telephone request.
 - Q. That was the first contact that Santa Fe had made?
 - A. Yes, it is.
 - Q. What kind of correspondence have you gotten back from either party?
 - A. I have not received any correspondence back from Union Pacific. I have spoken to them on the telephone. Harken has come to our office. We reviewed geological data with them and the well proposal with Harken. That's the only contact I've had with Union Pacific.
 - Q. As far as the meeting with Harken in your office, what transpired from that conversation and meeting?
 - A. We proposed the well, reviewed the geological data with them and asked him to consider either joining in the well or farming out their acreage to us.
 - Q. What was their response?
 - A. It was under consideration. We have not heard back from them.
 - Q. How about Union Pacific? Did you have a

meeting with them?

A. No, we did not. I have made approximately ten calls to Union Pacific over a period of time, and I've talked to them one time. Their indication was they would -- you know, it was under consideration.

The short fuse there, we have expiring acreage. We had acreage that was expiring February 2nd. That acreage has been extended. We have acreage expiring in April again. To preserve those leases we need to drill the wells, is why we're in there.

- Q. Since you knew you had a short fuse, why didn't you try to get something put together prior to December 26? That's a pretty short fuse, trying to get voluntary agreement, which I'm sure you're familiar with the compulsory pooling statutes that say voluntary agreements should, by all means, be attempted.
- A. The short fuse, the prospect was brought in by an outside party and proposed on our acreage.
- MR. STOVALL: When did that happen,
- 22 Mr. Green?
 - THE WITNESS: That happened about the middle of December, about the 15th of December.
 - Q. (BY THE EXAMINER) Do you still have a

1 February 2nd lease expiring? 2 No, sir. My next expiration is April the 2nd. 3 EXAMINER: Are there any other questions of 4 Mr. Green? 5 6 MR. BRUCE: I have one, Mr. Examiner. REDIRECT EXAMINATION 7 8 BY MR. BRUCE: Mr. Green, in your opinion, is a month a 9 10 reasonable time to respond to a well proposal? 11 Yes, it is. 12 MR. BRUCE: Thank you. 13 MR. STOVALL: Let me follow up on that if I 14 may, Mr. Bruce. 15 EXAMINATION 16 BY MR. STOVALL: How big an operation is Santa Fe, 17 ٥. 18 Mr. Green, in terms of how many people are involved in a decision to drill a well or participate in a well? 19 20 A. Probably six or seven people. And where are they all located? 21 Q. They are located in Midland and in Houston. 22 A. But you have to communicate with both 23 24 Houston and Midland in order to get permission? That's correct. 25 A. Yes.

1	Q. The context of my question is with a large
2	company and I don't know where Santa Fe fits into
3	that picture it sometimes takes them a month to
4	even tell each other they've got a prospect, much less
5	evaluate it. And I'm wondering if, in fact, a month
6	is a reasonable time to expect Union Pacific to have
7	responded with a decision?
8	A. In my opinion, it's a reasonable time for
9	Union to say, yes, we would be willing to join in the
10	well, or we would be willing to farm out if you will
11	show us your data, your geological data, which they
12	have not even responded to that. They have not even
13	asked for, you know, to see, or any interest at all.
14	MR. STOVALL: Let's take a couple of
15	minutes' break here before we go on, Mr. Bruce, if you
16	don't mind.
17	MR. BRUCE: Sure.

(Thereupon, a recess was held.)

EXAMINER: We have no further questions of Mr. Green at this time, but we may recall him after we hear from your geological witness.

MR. STOVALL: Excuse me, Mr. Examiner, I have one thing I did overlook when we got into the other discussion.

Q. (BY MR. STOVALL) Referring back to your

1	Exhibits 2A and 2B, Mr. Green, it appears that we have
2	photocopies of return receipt cards; is that correct?
3	A. Yes, sir.
4	Q. Do you have originals of those cards?
5	A. I do not have them with me. I can furnish
6	them to you.
7	Q. Do these memorandum constitute the notice
8	to Union Pacific and Harken of this hearing?
9	MR. BRUCE: That would be Exhibits 4A and
10	4B.
11	MR. STOVALL: Oh, I'm sorry. I've got my
12	stack turned upside down. Do we have original cards
13	on those?
14	EXAMINER: No.
15	MR. BRUCE: Mr. Stovall, if you want the
16	original cards, we will be glad to furnish them to
17	you.
18	MR. STOVALL: I think, for the purpose of
19	establishing notice of the hearing, I would like the
20	originals produced.
21	Now I have nothing further.
22	EXAMINER: Mr. Bruce, do you want to call
23	your next witness.
24	MR. BRUCE: Yes, sir.
25	DIRECT EXAMINATION

1	BY MR. BRUG	CE:
2	Q.	Would you please state your full name and
3	city of res	sidence.
4	A.	Yes. My name is Bruce Insalaco. I live in
5	Midland, Te	exas.
6	Q.	Who are you employed by and in what
7	capacity?	
8	A.	I'm employed by Santa Fe Energy as a senior
9	geologist.	
10	Q.	Have you previously testified before the
11	OCD as a ge	eologist and been accepted, as a matter of
12	record, as	an expert geologist?
13	λ.	Yes, I have.
14	Q.	Are you familiar with the geology involved
15	in case 985	52?
16	λ.	Yes, I am.
17		MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, is the witness
18	acceptable	
19		EXAMINER: His qualifications are
20	acceptable	•
21	Q.	(BY MR. BRUCE) Mr. Insalaco, will you
	t .	

please, first, refer to Exhibit No. 5 and discuss the prospective zones in this area.

A. Exhibit No. 5 is a production map with production cumulatives through 7/1 of 89. Down on the

base in the left-hand corner you can see the different colors representing different formations that the production is attributed to in the area of our proposed well. And beside each well symbol of the producing well you will note -- down at the bottom there's a key.

The first numbers in smaller print is a completion date of those wells. The next line in the bolder type is the cumulative production with MBOs first, million cubic feet of gas, second, and thousands barrels of water, third. And below that in smaller print, again, is current daily rates of these wells.

As you can see on this production plat, the two main producing horizons in the area -- the red being the Morrow production and the green being Wolfcamp production -- and those are our primary and secondary objectives. Just moving south of the proposed location in Section 26, the Southeast 1/4, is a Morrow well that had made 275 million cubic feet. It's now inactive.

Another Morrow well due south in the North

1/2 of Section 36 had made 0.6 of bcf and is now

inactive. There are several wells with cumulatives

over bcf out of the Morrow, down in Southwestern

Section 36, over in the Northwest of Section 35. And what we see as a real upside potential is a well over in Section 29 that's made 7.7 bcf, so far out of the Morrow.

- Q. What about the Atoka in this area?
- A. The Atoka, we feel we have a chance of encountering it, but there are just two wells that have any type of production from the Atoka, and both of these wells appear uneconomic out of this horizon.

The well in the northwest of Section 31, it only made 4 million cubic feet out of the Atoka before that zone was abandoned. And the well in the Northwest 1/4 of 23, it made 152 million cubic feet out the Atoka zone before it was abandoned.

- Q. And is the same pretty much true of the Strawn in this area?
- A. There are five Strawn producers on this plat. The closest to the proposed location, being over in Section 19, only cumed 1,000 barrels of oil before it was P & A'd out of the Strawn.

Another well over in Section 31, it produced 0.3 of a B and 16,000 barrels out of the Strawn. And another well down in Section 1, 2 1/2 miles south of the proposed location, had produced 4 million cubic feet before it was plugged. So, again,

we feel that we have a chance of encountering Strawn production but that the Strawn production in the immediate area is not economic to pursue.

- Q. What about the Deleware in this area? Is it a potential?
- A. Yes. The Delaware is produced 2 1/2 miles to the north of our proposed location in the northwest Fenton Draw Delaware field, but it is 2 1/2 miles away. And that is the nearest Delaware production.

We feel, again, that we'll encounter a very large section of Delaware sands, and there is always that potential for Delaware production to exist.

- Q. As to the Morrow, your primary objective, the nearest good well is about a mile away; is that correct?
 - A. A little over a mile.
- Q. Would you please now refer to Exhibit No. 6 and describe its contents briefly.
- A. Exhibit No. 6 is a structure map on top of the Middle Morrow Horizon. Its contoured at 50 foot increments. The wells colored red are Middle Morrow producers. And the open-circled wells are wells that penetrate the Morrow that do not have Morrow production.

And, as you can see, regionally, the

structure is dipping from the northwest down towards
the southeast.

- Q. Would you please now move on to the cross-section marked Exhibit No. 7 and describe it for the Examiner.
- A. The cross-section that I've constructed here includes both the primary and secondary objective, the Morrow horizon at the base of the cross-section and the Wolfcamp towards the top of the cross-section.

As you can see, I broke out the top of the Lower Morrow clastics at the base of the Lower Morrow. There is quite a thick sand package in there, but these wells in the vicinity of our proposed location, several have tested it but have never found it productive. It usually tests water. It is productive three or four miles off to the west, but, again, in the vicinity of this proposed location, it is not productive.

The Middle Morrow clastics, however, is the main Morrow producing horizon in the vicinity of where we proposed to drill. And what I have done is broken it up into several sands, and you can see the Middle Morrow "C" sand being the thickest of the sand packages in this Middle Morrow clastic.

You can see several wells have tested it.

Champlin Toothman Com. No. 1 Well in Section 25

tested these sands. They were not found to be

producing commercially productive quantities, and they
came up to the Wolfcamp.

Santa Fe Energy, in 1985, drilled a Vernon Federal 1-Y, encountered a very thick section of sand, but, again, the well tested less than 100 mcf a day out of this Middle Morrow "C" in the E package, and that well -- that zone was plugged and abandoned.

And I put one other major well, Perry Bass Big Eddy 39, the well on the right side of cross-section, as the two sands open, and, again, that is the well that has made 7.7 bcf, and that's what we see as upside to our prospect.

- Q. Thank you. Would you please now refer to Exhibits 8A and 8B and discuss them.
- A. Exhibit 8A is a Net Clean Sand Isopach of Middle Morrow "C" Sand. Again, that was a main producing sand in that Middle Morrow clastic package. What I have here is two values for each of the well bores. The first value, as I've noted down in the key, is a clean sand value, with sand having a gamma ray registered less than 60 units. The other value is within that clean sand, that portion of it that has

porosity greater than 7 percent. And I believe that that value would represent a net pay value. The porosities lower than 7 percent usually do not produce.

And as you can see, there is a thick fairway of this one sand body running from northwest to southeast through our proposed location. But as this isopach, I think, shows, there is the risk, as we encountered in our well in the Southeast of 25. It had a very thick sand package, but it did not produce commercially. That's what we see as a risk for this Middle Morrow clastics package.

But, again, the upside, or what we see as possible potential, is this well over in Section 29 that had produced the 7.7 bcf out of this sand package.

- Q. What about the Wolfcamp?
- A. The Wolfcamp plat is a Net Porosity Isopach of the lower Wolfcamp Carbonate. Again, this is the same carbonate interval denoted on the cross-section. These values beside each well that I contoured on here are values representing a clean carbonate with a gamma ray less than 30 units and porosity greater than 4 percent.

And I've color coded, again, the Wolfcamp

producers on here in green to demonstrate the trend that's running from south towards the north. Here again, if you take a look back at the production map, the Wolfcamp cumulatives seem to be spotty. There's some very good wells, and there's, also, some uneconomic wells that have produced out of this horizon. It is not necessarily tied in with the net pay values that each well has.

2.3

For instance, there are wells such as the well in 25 that is an economic Wolfcamp well that does not have but one-third to a quarter of the net pay footage that the well does in the Southwest 1/4 of 35, yet their cumulatives are substantially different.

- Q. Mr. Insalaco, do you have an opinion regarding the penalty which should be assessed against non-consenting interest owners?
 - A. Yes. I believe cost plus 200 percent.
 - Q. What do you base that on?
- A. This is based on the distance from other producing wells in both the Morrow and the Wolfcamp horizons. The potential that mechanical problems may develop with the drilling of a deeper well, and the risk or the unproductive nature of Morrow sands as we have tested them down in the Southeast 1/4 of 25 and the spotty or inconsistent cumulative production that

exist in the Wolfcamp.

Q. And, in you

- Q. And, in your opinion, is the granting of this application in the interest of conservation, the prevention of waste, and the protection of correlative rights?
 - λ. Yes.
 - Q. Were Exhibits 5 through 8B prepared by you?
- A. Yes, they were.

MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I move the admission of Exhibits 5 through 8B.

EXAMINER: Exhibits 5 through 8B will be admitted into evidence.

EXAMINATION

BY EXAMINER:

- Q. There is a well that keeps cropping up as a plugged and abandoned well in the South 1/2 of Section 24. It's just to the north and east. Would you explain that well a little bit?
- A. Yes, sir. That is a well that TD'd at a depth of, I believe, 1,061 feet. So it did not test at any of these deeper horizons.
- Q. Was it a shallow test, or did they have problems?
- A. Yes. It was a Yates test. There is some Yates production that is just off this plat over in

Section 15. In 14 you can see three dry holes and one plugged producer, up to the northwest of our proposed location. That is the edge of some shallow Yates production. It looks like they were spaced on 5-10 acre spacing. There's two or three dry hole symbols in a row.

- Q. Mr. Insalaco, what is your proposed spud date for this well?
- A. Initially, it was prior to February 2nd, and now I believe we're looking at a date prior to April 2nd, before our leases in the area start falling apart.

MR. STOVALL: Question. To follow up on that, what is the earliest you would expect to spud this location? Do you have a target date, or do we need to get Mr. Green back to answer that question?

THE WITNESS: I believe it would probably be based on permitting, but Mr. Green could answer it much better than I can.

MR. STOVALL: Let's finish with this witness, then let's get that answer. I neglected to ask that before. I apologize.

EXAMINER: I have no further questions of this witness at this time.

MR. STOVALL: I have nothing further of

1 this witness. EXAMINER: You may be excused. 2 3 THE WITNESS: Thank you. EXAMINER: Mr. Bruce, we would like to call Mr. Green at this time. 5 FURTHER EXAMINATION 7 BY MR. STOVALL: Mr. Green, I will just ask you the question 8 Q. 9 that you heard but were unable to answer because you 10 weren't on the stand. What's the earliest -- what's your window 11 12 for drilling this well? 13 Α. The well has been permitted last week. Ιt 14 will take 30 days, because of the federal lease 15 involved in it, before we get approval on permit. 16 Santa Fe would like to spud this well somewhere around 17 the middle of March to insure that we get on and we 18 are drilling before expiration of our leases. 19 Is one of the leases you're concerned with Q. 20 the federal lease? Is that one of the expiring 21 leases? 22 A. No. The federal lease is Union Pacific's

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are concerned about are the leases that Santa Fe

It is HBP, Held By Production. The leases we

23

24

25

Energy owns.

- Q. What type of lease are they?
- A. Fee leases.

б

MR. STOVALL: Mr. Green and Mr. Bruce, before we take this case under advisement, I would advise you of the concern that the Examiner and I have got at the moment. It appears that the timing between the time you've attempted to negotiate with Union and Harken -- I believe it is -- and the time you filed the application, is rather short. Now, you don't need an explanation at the moment.

I understand that you only acquired the property and that you appeared to have a window in there which was relatively short. I think Santa Fe has been on the other side of forced pooling applications in which there was not a large amount of time to conduct negotiations and evaluate prospects.

Recognizing the circumstances, I would recommend the Examiner go ahead and take the case under advisement, but given the nature of the circumstances, would appreciate in the future more detailed discussion with respect to verbal communications between parties that they've sought to be force pooled. Something establishing that there really was some good faith attempts at negotiations and either can't come to terms, or the other parties

1	are unwilling to respond, but a more specific and
2	detailed record of that with perhaps some more written
3	communication and a little bit more time in the
4	future.
5	I'm just stating that on the record to make
6	you aware this is not the only case of this nature.
7	We've had numerous cases where the application is
8	filed almost the day negotiations have begun. And
9	that does raise the question of good faith
10	negotiations to attempt to reach an agreement.
11	With that comment, and that's all it is at
12	this point, is a comment representing the concerns of
13	the Division, I recommend that the Examiner take this
14	case under advisement.
15	EXAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Stovall. There
16	are no further questions of Mr. Green. Mr. Bruce, do
17	you have anything further?
18	MR. BRUCE: Nothing further.
19	EXAMINER: Does anybody else have anything
20	further in Case No. 9852?
21	This case will be taken under advisement.
22	I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
23	a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 9852
24	neard by me on 24 January 1990:
25	Oil Conservation Division

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss. COUNTY OF SANTA FE 5 I, Diana Abeyta, Certified Shorthand 6 7 Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the 8 foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I 9 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. I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative 13 or employee of any of the parties or attorneys 14 15 involved in this matter and that I have no personal 16 interest in the final disposition of this matter. 17 18 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL January 31, 1990. 19 20 21 22 CSR No. 267 23 My commission expires: May 7, 1993

24

25