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STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
CASE 10,684

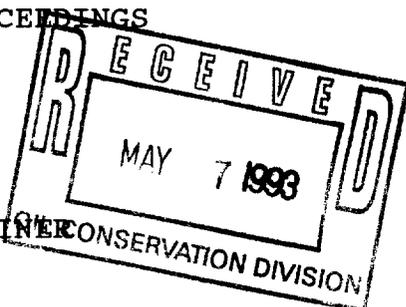
EXAMINER HEARING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of SDX Resources, Inc., for approval
of a waterflood project, Eddy County, New Mexico

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, EXAMINER



ORIGINAL

STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

April 8, 1993

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had
2 at 9:37 a.m.:

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: At this time we'll call
4 Case 10,684.

5 MR. STOVALL: Application of SDX Resources,
6 Inc., for approval of a waterflood project, Eddy
7 County, New Mexico.

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there appearances in
9 this case?

10 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, I'm Tom Kellahin
11 of the Santa Fe law firm of Kellahin and Kellahin,
12 appearing on behalf of the Applicant, and I have one
13 witness to be sworn.

14 EXAMINER CATANACH: Any other appearances?
15 Will the witness please stand and be sworn
16 in?

17 (Thereupon, the witness was sworn.)

18 MR. STOVALL: Now you can ask him any
19 question you want to.

20 CHUCK MORGAN,
21 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn
22 upon his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. KELLAHIN:

25 Q. Mr. Morgan, for the record would you please

1 state your name and occupation?

2 A. My name is Chuck Morgan and I'm an engineer
3 with SDX Resources.

4 Q. On prior occasions have you testified as an
5 engineer before the Oil Conservation Division?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Summarize for us when and where you obtained
8 your engineering degree.

9 A. I got my engineering degree at Las Cruces, at
10 New Mexico State University.

11 Q. In what year?

12 A. In 1980.

13 Q. What are your current responsibilities
14 insofar as this Application for SDX Resources, Inc., is
15 concerned?

16 A. All right, on this Application I was
17 responsible basically for submitting writing and
18 submitting this Application and locating these
19 injection wells and essentially putting together this
20 project.

21 Q. As part of executing those duties, have you
22 completed the C-108 and all the information, as best
23 you know of, as required by the Division for purposes
24 of this hearing?

25 A. Yes, I have.

1 MR. KELLAHIN: We tender Mr. Morgan as an
2 expert petroleum engineer.

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: Mr. Morgan is so
4 qualified.

5 Q. (By Mr. Kellahin) To orient the Examiner as
6 to what you intend to accomplish, Mr. Morgan, let me
7 direct your attention to Exhibit Number 1. On that
8 display identify for us what you have indicated with
9 the wells shown by the blue triangles.

10 A. Okay, the blue triangles are basically offset
11 operators who have injection wells and water floods,
12 basically all around us in the immediate area, in the
13 same --

14 Q. What formation are they flooding?

15 A. They're the Grayburg/San Andres formations.

16 Q. And what do you propose to flood?

17 A. The Grayburg/San Andres.

18 Q. When we look at your project area, how is
19 that identified and described on the display?

20 A. Okay, the project area there is outlined in
21 yellow, basically in the north half of 33.

22 Q. North half of 33 and the north half of the
23 southwest quarter of that same section?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. What is the ownership of that acreage? How

1 is it configured?

2 A. Okay, that acreage is owned by SDX Resources.

3 Q. And it consists of what types of leases?

4 A. Basically oil and gas leases.

5 Q. With federal, state or fee?

6 A. Basically federal leases.

7 Q. Okay, this consists of two federal leases?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. In order to consolidate waterflood operations
10 for a lease cooperative project, have you contacted the
11 Bureau of Land Management to obtain their approval for
12 a cooperative lease waterflood project for this
13 project?

14 A. Yes, I have.

15 Q. And from what individual at the BLM did you
16 obtain your approval?

17 A. I visited with Armando Lopez.

18 Q. And he has approved the consolidation of
19 these leases for the waterflood?

20 A. Yes, sir, he indicated to me that there
21 should be no problem.

22 Q. Use this display and summarize for Mr.
23 Catanach what it is that you propose to do.

24 A. Basically what we propose to do is put in a
25 small pilot here with two injection wells.

1 SDX has recently drilled a new well in the
2 area, the Leonard "B" Number 5, which is spotted on
3 Exhibit 1.

4 Basically -- Let's see, it's 990 from the
5 north, 2310 from the east.

6 Q. Is the producer approximately equidistant
7 between the two proposed injectors?

8 A. Yes, sir, and the two proposed injectors
9 there are the Leonard "B" Number 1, located in Unit B
10 as marked on your map there, and the Leonard Number 3
11 located in Unit F.

12 Q. What is the status of those two wells?

13 A. Those two wells are currently active
14 producers.

15 Q. And what do you propose to do?

16 A. Basically, as indicated in the C-108, we
17 propose to convert those to injection in the Premier
18 and, if possible, down in the San Andres.

19 Q. Have you made a forecast or an engineering
20 projection of the volume of additional oil that may be
21 recovered if the Division approves your Application?

22 A. Yes, sir, we have. Basically we think that
23 the Leonard "B" portion of the lease will contribute an
24 additional 140,000 barrels, if we get a good response,
25 and the Leonard -- the Leonard portion of the lease,

1 probably 340,000 barrels.

2 Q. Let's turn now to Exhibit Number 2, Mr.
3 Morgan. There is a large copy of that display on the
4 hearing room wall. There are reduced copies of that
5 same information before the Examiner. It's marked as
6 Exhibit Number 3. Exhibit Number 2 -- Let's identify
7 that for the record. Exhibit Number 2 is the C-108?

8 A. C-108, yes, sir.

9 Q. And that constitutes the filing that you've
10 made in this case?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Let's come back to that, and let's go now to
13 Exhibit Number 3, which is the cross-section.

14 As indicated, you have put a larger copy of
15 that same display on the wall of the hearing room. And
16 so the Examiner can see what you propose to do in terms
17 of the actual portion of the pool to be flooded, would
18 you tell us what that plan is?

19 A. Would you --

20 Q. Yes, sir. Where do you want to put the
21 injection fluids?

22 A. Okay, the injection fluids, basically, we
23 would -- we kind of have a two-phase plan that we would
24 like to get approved here today.

25 We have one problem well that is indicated on

1 the cross-section there. It's the Tenneco 33 Number 2.
2 It's spotted essentially halfway between -- well, I
3 can't read it.

4 Q. Well, let's do this again. Hang on a minute.

5 A. All right.

6 Q. Let's go back to Exhibit Number 1.

7 A. All right.

8 Q. The problem well that we will address on
9 Exhibit 1 is located where and identified how?

10 A. Okay, it's the Tenneco 33 Number 2, and it's
11 located midway between the Leonard Number 4 and the new
12 well, the Leonard "B" Number 5.

13 Q. Is it the dryhole symbol or is it the gas
14 well symbol in that location?

15 A. It's the dryhole symbol.

16 Q. All right. The dryhole symbol is the old
17 Tenneco 33 Number 2?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Immediately adjacent to it, slightly to the
20 north and east, is the old Tenneco 33 Number 1?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And in your opinion, the 33 Number 1 has been
23 properly plugged and abandoned and cemented?

24 A. The 33 Number 1 basically has surface
25 casing -- or intermediate casing down to 3200 feet,

1 which is well below any depth that we propose to inject
2 in, so it's no problem. I don't believe that it's -- I
3 believe it's an active producer.

4 Q. Okay, but it's not the problem well that
5 you've identified?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. All right. The problem well, then, is the
8 dryhole symbol shown on Exhibit Number 1?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. All right. Keeping that point in mind, go
11 back now to Exhibit Number 3 and tell us the injection
12 zones.

13 A. Okay, the injection zones that we propose to
14 inject in are basically the Premier, which is in the
15 neighborhood of from 2600 feet down to about 2750, and
16 we would also like to inject into the "A" zone of the
17 San Andres. We feel like we can recover additional
18 reserves by injecting into the "A" zone of the San
19 Andres.

20 Q. All right. In order to accomplish that,
21 identify for us what you perceive as an engineer to be
22 the problem with the problem well.

23 A. Okay, the problem that we have run into, the
24 33 Number 2 well has intermediate casing set to 2800
25 feet and cemented.

1 If we stay strictly in the Premier zone, our
2 injection interval will be 2600 to probably 2700 plus.
3 That should not create any problems if we --

4 Q. So in the Premier zone the well is not a
5 problem; it's covered and protected?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. When you move into the San Andres portion of
8 the project --

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. -- that wellbore poses a potential risk?

11 A. Yes, sir, this wellbore is basically
12 temporarily abandoned, and the top of cement is
13 indicated by a cement bond log at 6800, approximately,
14 and you have 5 1/2 casing exposed from 6800 to the
15 surface.

16 Q. All right. Now, what is your recommendation
17 to the Examiner as a solution to that issue?

18 A. What we would like to do, basically, is begin
19 this project with permission to inject into the
20 Premier, and we'd like to adjust our two injection
21 wells accordingly to where we're injecting only in the
22 Premier.

23 And we would like to in the future, if we're
24 able to gain access to this well and correct this
25 problem, essentially raise the cement top in it.

1 And we're in the process of negotiations to
2 do that now. If we get that done, we'd like to have
3 permission to go ahead and inject into the "A" zone of
4 the San Andres.

5 Q. What is your proposal to the Examiner as to
6 how you'll keep the injection wells separated between
7 the Premier and the San Andres until you fix the San
8 Andres intervals in the old Tenneco well?

9 A. What I'd like to do is set retrievable bridge
10 plugs in the two injection wells right below the
11 Premier.

12 Q. Have you identified those wells and
13 determined that you have enough vertical space between
14 those two intervals to appropriately fit and locate a
15 retrievable plug?

16 A. Yes, sir, I have. I can run through those
17 depths if you'd like me to.

18 Q. All right. In part of your research, have
19 you identified any other problem well within the half-
20 mile radius?

21 A. No, sir, I have not. There's one indicated
22 in the C-108, the American Republic well.

23 Q. Yes, sir.

24 A. And it is -- It was incorrectly reported, and
25 it is actually in Section 35 and not Section 34.

1 Q. All right. So when we go through all the
2 information you've presented today, we come back to the
3 point that you find only this Tenneco well that we've
4 been describing to be a problem well for you?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right. As part of your preparation of
7 the C-108, did you identify and locate any offset
8 operators that might be affected by your project?

9 A. Probably the one offset operator that would
10 be immediately affected would be Mack Energy.

11 Q. Okay. And where would their interests be
12 located, Mr. Morgan?

13 A. Okay, they're located basically in the south
14 half of Section 28.

15 Q. And have you received any objection or
16 comments from them concerning your Application?

17 A. No, sir, no objections. I have visited with
18 a couple of them on previous occasions. They're aware
19 of what we're doing and have made no objections.

20 Q. Let's turn now to -- I believe it's Exhibit
21 Number 4. That should be the two-page exhibit that
22 shows the proposed conversion to injection.

23 Would you identify those for the record,
24 please?

25 A. These are basically two approved Sundry

1 Notices. As part of the procedure, we submitted Sundry
2 Notices to the BLM detailing what we plan to do to
3 these two federal wells in the process of converting
4 them to injectors, and these were approved by the BLM.

5 Q. All right, sir. And Exhibit Number 5 is
6 what, sir?

7 A. Exhibit Number 5 basically is a compensated
8 neutron lithodensity log of the Leonard "B" Number 5,
9 which is the new well located between the injectors.

10 Q. As part of your effort as an engineer, did
11 you make calculations of all the cement tops within the
12 half-mile radius of investigation?

13 A. Yes, I did.

14 Q. Let me show you Exhibit Number 6 and ask you
15 to identify that exhibit.

16 A. Yes, sir, that's my calculations of all the
17 cement tops of the wells identified in the C-108.

18 Q. Without going through it in detail, give us
19 an understanding of how to read the spreadsheet and
20 what calculations you've used.

21 A. Okay, basically the wells are listed by name
22 and operator in the same order as they're listed in
23 tabular form in the C-108, listed the depth the casing
24 was set, casing sizes, the hole sizes and the amount of
25 cement used, used the -- the cement yield factors are

1 listed that I used, and the height, total height to the
2 cement column, and basically cement top, 100-percent
3 efficiency, 70-percent efficiency and 50-percent
4 efficiency.

5 Q. If you use the safety factor of a 50-percent
6 efficiency, will you have adequate protection on all
7 wells with the exception of the Tenneco well that we've
8 discussed?

9 A. Yes, sir, I feel like we will.

10 Q. Okay. Direct your attention now to Exhibit
11 Number 7. Would you identify and describe that
12 exhibit?

13 A. Yes, sir, this is a -- basically a -- one of
14 the early reporting forms for an S.P. Yates well, the
15 Leonard Number 1, which is located -- If you'll look
16 back on your map, it's located in Unit letter D of
17 Section 34.

18 Basically, there are no records that I can
19 find anywhere that detail the plugs set, when this well
20 was plugged.

21 This well lies exactly one-half mile away
22 from the nearest proposed injector.

23 And this report was filed in 1948, and
24 basically just says P-and-A'd, 12-31-1948.

25 That's the extent of our records.

1 Q. In between your nearest injector and that
2 well, are there any producing wells in the pool?

3 A. Yes, sir, we have the Leonard "B" Number 3,
4 located in Unit A of Section 33.

5 Q. While this well is right on the half-mile-
6 radius-of-investigation circle?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. If the Examiner chose to identify this well
9 as an issue well, would your project expose this
10 wellbore to any risk?

11 A. I don't feel like it would.

12 Q. And why not?

13 A. I think it's far enough away that it won't
14 create any problems.

15 Q. And you have producers in this area --

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. -- that would bleed any pressure that would
18 be generated from the injection well?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Let's go now to Exhibit Number 8. Let me
21 have you identify and describe that.

22 A. Yes, sir, we discussed this previously. This
23 well was covered in the C-108 application. It's the
24 Robinson 3A.

25 The records at the OCD in Artesia, the

1 completion records, indicated this well to be in
2 Section 35 -- or excuse me, Section 34, 660 from the
3 north and the west, which essentially puts it right
4 there where another producer is located. Further
5 research revealed that in fact it was located in
6 Section 35.

7 Q. And it's well beyond, then, the half-mile
8 radius of investigation?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. All right. In compiling the C-102 and
11 preparing your Application --

12 MR. STOVALL: C-108, Mr. Kellahin?

13 Q. (By Mr. Kellahin) I'm sorry, C-108, Mr.
14 Morgan, in preparing for your Application, did you
15 determine that you could stay at least initially within
16 the pressure limitations of the Division using .2
17 p.s.i. per foot of depth?

18 A. Yes, sir, we feel like that that's where we
19 would like to begin our operations at. And if
20 necessary in the future we would -- after we begin
21 injection, we would do some step rates if we want that
22 increased and apply for an increase at a later date.

23 Q. In your opinion would approval of this
24 Application be such that it would protect any potential
25 contamination of fresh water sources in the area?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Approval of this Application would give you
3 and your company an opportunity to recover oil that
4 might not otherwise be recovered?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. The last exhibit, Mr. Examiner, is Exhibit 9,
7 which is my certificate of mailing, notice of hearing
8 to the owner at the surface of the injection wells,
9 Bogle Farms, and the offset operators identified to us
10 in the C-108.

11 With that exhibit, that concludes our direct
12 presentation, and we move the introduction of Exhibits
13 1 through 9.

14 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 9 will
15 be admitted as evidence.

16 (Off the record)

17 EXAMINATION

18 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

19 Q. Mr. Morgan, identify for me, would you, which
20 lease is which, and which -- what lands encompass which
21 lease?

22 A. Okay, the Leonard "B" lease --

23 Q. Uh-huh.

24 A. -- is essentially the northeast quarter of
25 Section 33, 17 South, 29 East.

1 The Leonard lease is the northwest quarter
2 and the north half of the southwest quarter of Section
3 33.

4 Q. Okay. Is the Leonard "B" Federal Number 1 --
5 Do you recall the location of that well?

6 A. Yes, sir. The Leonard "B" Federal Number 1
7 is located in Unit B, 330 from the north line, 1650
8 from the east.

9 Q. Okay. On my exhibit there's some acreage in
10 Section 4 that's outlined in yellow. Does that have
11 any significance?

12 A. No, sir. That's a totally separate lease.
13 Those belong to SDX Resources, but it is not part of
14 this project.

15 Q. Okay. Are there several different
16 waterfloods that offset your proposed waterflood?

17 A. Yes, sir, there are. The primary one --
18 primary one, their offsets will be Mack Energy.

19 Incidentally, on your C-108 you'll notice
20 that Marbob and Mack Energy at the time were basically
21 in the process of filing their paperwork, splitting
22 their operations, so some of those that show Marbob are
23 in fact Mack Energy.

24 Q. Okay. With regards to Exhibit Number 6 on
25 your calculated cement tops --

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. -- did any of the wells that you examined,
3 did they have any cement-bond logs or other data which
4 would substantiate your calculations?

5 A. Basically two of them have cement-bond logs:
6 the problem well that we discussed, and the new well
7 that SDX has drilled, the Leonard "B" 5.

8 Those are the only two that I remember seeing
9 bond logs on.

10 Q. How did the bond logs compare with your
11 calculations, and what kind of efficiency would you use
12 if you --

13 A. Normally in this area, I use an 80-percent
14 efficiency, and it seems to jibe really well with
15 cement tops.

16 Q. That is substantiated by the bond logs on
17 these two wells, more or less?

18 A. Well, yes, sir. The Leonard "B" Number 5
19 circulated cement --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- and I would say, yes, sir, that it jibes
22 real well with the problem well.

23 Once you reach the salt section, your
24 calculations tend to -- you need to use about 100
25 percent efficiency -- or 200 percent in that -- excess

1 in that section.

2 But none of the wells circulated cement
3 except the Leonard "B" Number 5.

4 Q. If you use a 50-percent efficiency, it looks
5 like some of these wells are -- the cement tops would
6 be relatively close to the injection zone.

7 A. Most of them are more than 100 feet from it.

8 Q. With the quality of the cement at the top
9 being probably poorer than it would be anywhere else?

10 A. Yes, sir. Basically, as I said earlier, I'm
11 comfortable that this will not create any problems, and
12 basically I stand by my number there of 80 percent
13 efficiency, especially with these older wells that were
14 cable-tooled wells. They had pretty good boreholes
15 with their cable tools, and 80 percent is a pretty well
16 proven number that stands up well.

17 Q. Okay. Besides the one P-and-A'd well that we
18 talked about, are there any other P-and-A'd wells?

19 A. Yes, sir, if we can go back to the C-108, the
20 Empire South Deep Com Number 8, which is the first one
21 shown in your C-108 --

22 MR. KELLAHIN: It appears on page 15, Mr.
23 Examiner.

24 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay.

25 THE WITNESS: -- it has intermediate set

1 through the zones of interest there, and it's properly
2 P-and-A'd.

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay.

4 THE WITNESS: The next one shown is the
5 Federal 33 C Number 2, which was basically a P-and-A'd
6 well, and it's the problem well that we have discussed.

7 The Leonard State "B" Number 4 is the next
8 one shown, also again, properly P-and-A'd well.

9 And then the Leonard State Number 4, which is
10 the one of S.P. Yates's wells that essentially has no
11 records.

12 Those are the only P-and-A'd wells that I
13 identified.

14 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) And you searched
15 Division records to try and find some plug-in data on
16 that?

17 A. Yes, sir, sure did.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. More than once.

20 Q. Mr. Morgan, are you familiar with any of the
21 offset waterflood operations?

22 A. In a limited capacity, yes, sir.

23 Q. Specifically, to your knowledge, do you know
24 of any out-of-zone water problems in any of these
25 offset floods?

1 A. There are some water flows in the surrounding
2 areas encountered when drilling. Basically I don't
3 know of any problem wells that have pressure on the
4 annulus or anything of that nature.

5 Most of these waterflood -- or water flows
6 come from the Queen formation, could be the result of
7 water floods, could be naturally occurring or -- really
8 don't know.

9 Q. Any specific interval in the Queen?

10 A. No, sir. It's kind of erratic in that area.
11 There was none encountered on that Leonard Number 5, to
12 my knowledge. So sometimes you run into it, sometimes
13 you don't.

14 Q. Okay, it's my understanding you are
15 negotiating with the operator of the Tenneco 33?

16 A. Yes, sir, that would be Central Resources.
17 We would like to essentially buy that wellbore and do
18 recompletion on it, if possible, and I know they have
19 contacted Central Resources, SDX has, and that's as far
20 as -- that's the extent of my knowledge on that.

21 Q. Okay. You cited earlier some additional
22 recoveries. That's beyond what you will recover with
23 primary production on these two leases?

24 A. Yes, sir, that's secondary recovery numbers.

25 Q. About 480,000 barrels?

1 A. If everything works and we get full one-to-
2 one secondary and primary.

3 Q. Do you plan at this time on converting any
4 other additional wells to injection on these leases?

5 A. Not at this time. However, we feel like if
6 we were to achieve that number that you just cited,
7 that we probably would need another injector on the
8 Leonard lease itself.

9 Now, whether we did a conversion or we
10 drilled an injector -- We probably would need to drill
11 that injector. But we have not -- have not discussed
12 that at this time.

13 Q. This area that we're talking about has never
14 really been under flood except from offset acreage?

15 A. Not to my knowledge. It's one of the reasons
16 for the project. We see pretty depleted pressures in
17 our new well.

18 Q. Is the primary producing zone -- Is that the
19 Premier?

20 A. Both the Premier and the San Andres "A".

21 Q. About equally, would you say?

22 A. Oh, I'd hate to say, really. Most of these
23 were open-hole and both done at the same time, very
24 difficult to segregate.

25 Q. Is your additional recovery based on flooding

1 both of these zones?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: I think that's all I
4 have.

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. STOVALL:

7 Q. I need to ask something here. Are you
8 interested in getting the enhanced oil recovery tax
9 credit?

10 A. I imagine we are.

11 Q. You hadn't much thought about it before, have
12 you?

13 A. Every little bit helps for stripper
14 operators, it sure does.

15 Q. A couple questions and as much by way of
16 explanation -- It appears to me that you have not
17 researched this thoroughly and --

18 A. No, I have not, sure haven't. Not on the
19 tax-credit situation, no.

20 Q. Let me ask you, now, your project area is
21 outlined there with the yellow, right?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Are you going to effectively going to enhance
24 production throughout the area with these two
25 injectors, do you think?

1 A. With these two we feel like cost-effectively
2 we're going to get our best shot, without adding a
3 third injector, which we discussed earlier would
4 probably be necessary for the full effect.

5 Q. Now, are you aware of the -- again, I'm going
6 to guess you probably aren't -- but aware of the
7 requirements to qualify for the credit?

8 A. No, I'm not. Not completely, no, sir.

9 Q. Okay, let's run that real quickly so you know
10 what you've got to do.

11 The first thing is, you've got a new project,
12 and I assume it's -- you don't -- obviously you don't
13 consider premature; I think your testimony indicates
14 that.

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. How soon do you intend to begin injection?

17 A. Probably relatively soon after we get
18 approved.

19 Q. So you're not looking at any lengthy delay?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. The way the process works is, after the
22 Division approves the project and certifies it to you
23 as an EOR-qualified project, you have five days from
24 that date -- this is -- being a secondary recovery
25 project -- in which to apply for certification of a

1 positive production response.

2 What that means is that you're going to have
3 to come in and, because we don't have decline curves
4 here or baseline production, you're going to have to
5 demonstrate -- and it's something you'll need to do at
6 the start of the waterflood --

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. -- is what is your baseline decline, what is
9 your production?

10 And then at some point, as soon as you get a
11 positive response and establish that as a -- over a
12 period of time, not just, you know, one month's
13 production but --

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. -- a couple months --

16 A. Right.

17 Q. -- you must actually apply to us within five
18 years from the date of the certificate, and the
19 certificate will have a date specific on it.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. Within five years from that date you must
22 apply to us and come back and prove that positive
23 production response, prove that you have, in fact --
24 recovering more oil than you would have without the
25 secondary recovery efforts.

1 At that time we'll certify the project to
2 Taxation and Revenue. We may reserve the right at that
3 time to identify only that area which has actually
4 shown a benefit from the waterflood, so it may not be
5 the entire project area.

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay. From that time, actually, you'll be
8 entitled to the reduced tax rate, retroactive to the
9 date that we determine as the initial positive
10 production response date --

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. -- and it's about 50 percent of the tax on
13 all of the oil produced from that time, so it's worth a
14 few cents.

15 A. Sure is.

16 Q. So assuming from what you're saying that
17 you're ready to begin flooding fairly quickly --

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. -- it appeared to me that we can certify it
20 as of the date the Order approving the project is
21 issued, rather than delay certification.

22 A. All right, we'll get some baseline
23 information to --

24 Q. Some baseline numbers for production.

25 And then just as I say, your next critical

1 thing is to make sure you don't forget that five-year
2 date, because if you miss that, you're -- That's not
3 get a response within then, but to actually have had an
4 application in to us by --

5 A. Within five years you need to come back and
6 demonstrate your positive response; is that correct?

7 Q. Right.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. But you should do it -- Obviously, it's in
10 your interest to do it as soon as you get a good
11 established positive production.

12 If you get it in a year or two, you can begin
13 getting the credit at that time. Don't wait the five
14 years.

15 A. Yes, sir. I'll relay that on. I'm sure SDX
16 will be very interested in that.

17 MR. KELLAHIN: Mr. Examiner, is it possible
18 to have those appropriate findings included in this
19 Order without amending or re-advertising our
20 Application?

21 MR. STOVALL: I'm not sure that -- I'm not --
22 I mean, this came in as an administrative Application.
23 It was docketed by the Commission.

24 I'm not sure that there's any real notice
25 requirement, because it doesn't affect anybody else's

1 interest, it has no effect on correlative rights, so
2 we're -- It has some effect on waste, obviously; it's
3 to encourage prevention of.

4 MR. KELLAHIN: You occasionally see it
5 noticed on the docket, but I'm not aware that that's
6 required.

7 MR. STOVALL: If it's included in an
8 application, we usually put it in the notice and on the
9 docket, but I don't think it's a critical element to
10 this -- to granting that Application, because there are
11 -- it has no effect on anybody else.

12 MR. KELLAHIN: In point of procedure, do we
13 need to request for administrative findings as to that
14 issue, or can they be incorporated into the waterflood
15 order?

16 MR. STOVALL: It may incorporate it into
17 the -- What we do is, the way we've done it now is, we
18 incorporate the findings that it qualifies into the
19 Order, and then we issue a separate certificate that
20 says this project is qualified, and then it identifies
21 the project area.

22 MR. KELLAHIN: On behalf of the Applicant, we
23 would so request that that be accomplished in this
24 case.

25 Thank you, Mr. Examiner.

1 MR. STOVALL: And then at the time we get the
2 positive production response we'll actually identify
3 the specific wells which qualify for the credit, as
4 well as the area.

5 MR. KELLAHIN: All right, I understand how
6 that process works, and I can tell Mr. Morgan how to
7 accomplish that.

8 We had simply overlooked the fact that we
9 could findings in this flood order that would raise the
10 issue and satisfy the prerequisites for the enhanced
11 oil recovery benefits.

12 MR. STOVALL: Yeah, I think there's no
13 requirement for an additional hearing or any additional
14 -- The basic evidence required here is what's needed.

15 FURTHER EXAMINATION

16 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

17 Q. Let me just ask you, Mr. Morgan, the
18 ownership of the two leases in question --

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. -- is that common?

21 A. Yes, sir, to my knowledge it is.

22 Q. Working interest?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And royalty interest is probably the same
25 also --

1 A. I believe so.

2 Q. -- in these two federal leases?

3 A. Yes, sir, I believe so.

4 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, that's all I have.

5 Anything further, Mr. Kellahin?

6 MR. KELLAHIN: No, sir, not from this

7 witness.

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: There being nothing

9 further, Case 10,684 will be taken under advisement.

10 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded
11 at 10:16 a.m.)

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