

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. 9272  
Order No. R-8579

APPLICATION OF MITCHELL ENERGY  
CORPORATION FOR COMPULSORY POOLING,  
NON-STANDARD PRORATION UNIT AND AN  
UNORTHODOX WELL LOCATION, LEA  
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This cause came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on December 2, 1987, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Michael E. Stogner.

NOW, on this 11th day of January, 1988, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being fully advised in the premises,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice having been given as required by law, the Division has jurisdiction of this cause and the subject matter thereof.

(2) The applicant, Mitchell Energy Corporation, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the top of the Wolfcamp formation to a depth of approximately 14,700 feet underlying the following described acreage in Section 3, Township 15 South, Range 35 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, in the following described manner:

Lots 1 through 4 and S/2 N/2 to form a non-standard 324.7-acre, more or less, gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within said vertical limits developed on 320-acre spacing;

Lots 3 and 4 to form a non-standard 82.8-acre, more or less, oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within said vertical limits developed on 80-acre spacing; and

Lot 3 to form a non-standard 41.3-acre, more or less, oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within said vertical limits developed on 40-acre spacing.

(3) All of the above-described units are to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled at a location (either standard or non-standard, depending on the appropriate spacing rules applicable to this well's completion horizon(s)) 660 feet from the North line and 1830 feet from the West line (Unit C) of said Section 3.

(4) There are interest owners in the proposed proration units who have not agreed to pool their interests.

(5) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, to protect correlative rights, to prevent waste, and to afford to the owner of each interest in said units the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense his just and fair share of the hydrocarbons in any pool completion resulting from this order, the subject application should be approved by pooling all mineral interests, whatever they may be, within said units.

(6) The above-described non-standard units are necessitated by a variation in the legal subdivision on the U.S. Public Land Surveys.

(7) No interested party objected to this application.

(8) The applicant should be designated the operator of the subject well and units.

(9) Any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(10) Any non-consenting working interest owner who does not pay his share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production his share of the reasonable well costs plus an additional 200 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well.

(11) Any non-consenting interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(12) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(13) \$4600.00 per month while drilling and \$460.00 per month while producing should be fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating the subject well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(14) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(15) Upon the failure of the operator of said pooled units to commence drilling of the well to which said units are dedicated on or before March 1, 1988, the order pooling said units should become null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

(16) Should all the parties to this force pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order should thereafter be of no further effect.

(17) The operator of the well and units should notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force pooling provisions of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) All mineral interests, whatever they may be, from the top of the Wolfcamp formation to a depth of approximately 14,700 feet underlying the following described acreage in Section 3, Township 15 South, Range 35 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, are hereby pooled:

Lots 1 through 4 and S/2 N/2 to form a non-standard 324.7-acre, more or less, gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within said vertical limits developed on 320-acre spacing;

Lots 3 and 4 to form a non-standard 82.8-acre, more or less, oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within said vertical limits developed on 80-acre spacing; and

Lot 3 to form a non-standard 41.3-acre, more or less, oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools within said vertical limits developed on 40-acre spacing.

All of the above-described units are to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled at a location (either standard or non-standard, depending on the appropriate spacing rules applicable to this well's completion horizon(s)) 660 feet from the North line and 1830 feet from the West line (Unit C) of said Section 3.

PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT, the operator of said units shall commence the drilling of said well on or before the first day of March, 1988, and shall thereafter continue the drilling of said well with due diligence to a depth of approximately 14,700 feet;

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, in the event said operator does not commence the drilling of said well on or before the first day of March, 1988, Ordering Paragraph No. (1) of this order shall be null and void and of no effect whatsoever, unless said operator obtains a time extension from the Division for good cause shown.

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, should said well not be drilled to completion, or abandonment, within 120 days after commencement thereof, said operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Ordering Paragraph No. (1) of this order should not be rescinded.

(2) Mitchell Energy Corporation is hereby designated the operator of the subject well and units.

(3) After the effective date of this order and within 90 days prior to commencing said well, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner in the subject units an itemized schedule of estimated well costs.

(4) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him, any non-consenting working interest owner shall have the right to pay his share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying his

share of reasonable well costs out of production, and any such owner who pays his share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

(5) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the well; if no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of said schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided however, if there is an objection to actual well costs within said 45-day period the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(6) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid his share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator his pro rata share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator his pro rata share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(7) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

(A) The pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(B) As a charge for the risk involved in the drilling of the well, 200 percent of the pro rata share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid his share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished to him.

(8) The operator shall distribute said costs and charges withheld from production to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(9) \$4600.00 per month while drilling and \$460.00 per month while producing are hereby fixed as reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates); the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share

of such supervision charges attributable to each non-consenting working interest, and in addition thereto, the operator is hereby authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of actual expenditures required for operating such well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(10) Any unsevered mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths (7/8) working interest and a one-eighth (1/8) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under the terms of this order.

(11) Any well costs or charges which are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interest's share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

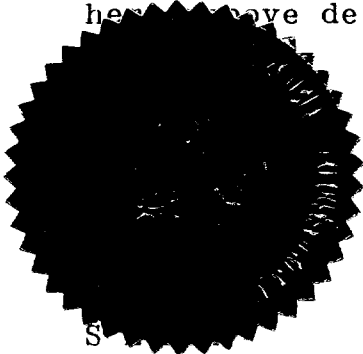
(12) All proceeds from production from the subject well which are not disbursed for any reason shall immediately be placed in escrow in Lea County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership; the operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of said escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with said escrow agent.

(13) Should all the parties to this force pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

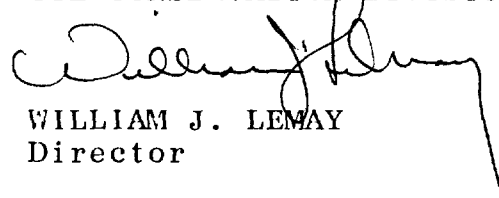
(14) The operator of the well and units shall notify the Director of the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the force pooling provisions of this order.

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

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



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

  
WILLIAM J. LEMAY  
Director