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STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico 7 June, 1978 EXAMINER HEARING
IN THE MATTER OF:
Application of Barber Oil, Inc., for ) CASE a unit agreement, Eddy County, New ) 6238 Mexico. )
BEFORE: Daniel S. Nutter
TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING
<u>A P P E A R A N C E S</u>
For the Oil Conservation Lynn Teschendorf, Esq.
Division: Legal Counsel for the Division State Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

SALLY WALTON BOYD CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER 730 Bishop's Lodge Road • Phone (505) 988-3404 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

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Page \_\_\_\_\_ MR. NUTTER: Call Case 6238. MS. TESCHENDORF: Case 6238. Application of Barber Oil, Inc., for a unit agreement, Eddy County, New Mexico. The applicant in the case has requested that we continue it to the June 21st Examiner Hearing. MR. NUTTER: Case Number 6238 will be continued to the Examiner Hearing scheduled to be held at this same place at 9:00 o'clock a. m., June 21, 1978. (Hearing concluded.) 

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#### REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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I, SALLY WALTON BOYD, a Court Reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing and attached Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that said transcript is a full, true, and correct record of the hearing, prepared by me to the best of my ability, knowledge, and skill from my notes taken at the time of the hearing.

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, as sareby certify that the forecoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Frankner hearing of Case, neard by me - 11g= 1377

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1 2 3 4	STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico 21 June 1978
5	EXAMINER HEARING
6 7 8 9	IN THE MATTER OF: Application of Barber Oil, Inc., ) CASE for a unit agreement, Eddy County, ) 6238 New Mexico. )
10 11	BEFORE: Richard L. Stamets
12 13	
14	TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING
15 16	<u>A P P E A R A N C E S</u>
17 18	For the Oil Lynn Teschendorf, Esq. Conservation Division: Legal Counsel for the Division State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
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Page \_\_\_\_\_ 2 MR. STAMETS: We'll call next Case 6238. MS. TESCHENDORF: Case 6238. Application of Barber Oil, Incorporated, for a unit agreement, Eddy County, New Mexico. The applicant in this case has requested it be continued to the August 2nd Examiner Hearing. MR. STAMETS: Case 6238 will be so continued. (Hearing concluded.) 

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#### REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, SIDNEY F. MORRISH, a Court Reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing and attached Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that said transcript is a full, true, and correct record of the hearing, prepared by me to the best of my ability, knowledge, and skill from my notes taken at the time of the hearing.

Sidney F. Morrish, C.S.R.

L do hereby certify that the foregoing 13 in 35 a complete record of Case oî hearing Exal the Q11 Conservation Commission Hexico ¥#¥

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5	EXAMINER HEARING				
6 7 8 9	IN THE MATTER OF: Application of Barber O for a unit agreement E New Mexico. And & Wain flood porce	ddy County, ) ) and CASE 6226			
11	BEFORE: Daniel S. Nutter				
12 13 14	TRANSCRIPT OF H	EARING			
15	APPEARAN	CES			
16 17 18	For the Oil Conservation Division:	Lynn Teschendorf, Esq. Legal Counsel for the Division State Land Office Building Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501			
19 20 21	For the Applicant:	George H. Hunker, Jr., Esq. HUNKER, FEDRIC, P.A. P. O. BOX 1837 Roswell, New Mexico 88201			
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### NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

EXAMINER HEARING

SANTA FE , NEW MEXICO

Hearing Date\_\_\_\_

AUGUST 2, 1978

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

NAME REPRESENTING LOCATION Beauge XI. Aunter. Barber ail, Inc Coswell, hh. Zarlad Oil Soc Henvier E yates Co. Harvey E Antes Co. - wit و و و و Andrew Latte Company and Preduction Carp L'DADAR FORMA Vii Dit Really and

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### NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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EXAMINER HEARING

SANTA FE , NEW MEXICO

Hearing Date\_\_\_\_\_AUGUST 2, 1978 \_\_\_\_\_TIME: 9:00 A.M.

ME	REPRESENTING	LOCATION

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3	Direct Examination by Mr. Hunker	4
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12	Applicant Exhibit One, Plat	20
13	Applicant Exhibit Two, Plat	20
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1 MR. NUTTER: The hearing will come to order. 2 Call first Case Number 6238. 3 MS. TESCHENDORF: Case 6238. Application of 4 Barber Oil, Inc., for a unit agreement, Eddy County, New 5 Mexico. 6 MR. HUNKER: If the Examiner please, we would 7 like to have Case 6238 consolidated with Case 6226 and 8 have a joint hearing with regard to the matter. It's the 9 same property that's involved and it's the same project. 10 MR. NUTTER: We will at this time call Case 11 Number 6226. 12 MS. TESCHENDORF: Case 6226. Application of 13 Barber Oil, Inc., for a waterflood project, Eddy County, 14 New Mexico. 15 MR. NUTTER: Cases 6238 and 6226 will be con-16 solidated for the purpose of hearing. 17 Will you proceed, Mr. Hunker? 18 My name is George H. Hunker, Junior. MR. HUNKER: 19 I'm an attorney, Roswell, New Mexico, and I represent 20 Barber Oil Company, Incorporated, Barber Oil, Inc., of 21 Carlsbad, New Mexico. We have one witness and six exhibits. 22 I'd like to call at this time my witness, Mr. 23 Robert S. Light. 24 (Witness sworn.)

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4 Page \_\_\_\_\_ ROBERT S. LIGHT 1 being called as a witness and having been duly sworn upon 2 3 his oath, testified as follows, to-wit: 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION 5 BY MR. HUNKER: 6 Will you identify yourself for the record, 7 <u>)</u>, 8 please? My name is Robert S. Light. I'm president of 9 Α. Barber Oil, Inc., a Carlsbad corporation --- New Mexico 10 11 corporation operating in Carlsbad, New Mexico. 12 What's your educational background, Mr. Light? <u></u>. 13 Mell, I'm a graduate electrical engineer from Α. the University of Kansas and for three years after gradu-14 ation I worked for Continental Oil Company in the Geo-15 16 physical Department. After that I went to work for Barber Oil in Carlsbad, New Mexico, and have been with them for 17 twenty-one years in Carlsbad. 18 19 0. Have you testified before the Commission previously? 20 21 A. I have. 22 And have your qualifications as a practical С. oil man been accepted by the Commission? 23 24 Α. They were accepted on a prior hearing con-25 cerning the Russell waterflood project which is similar

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to the one presented here today.

2 0. Barber Oil has filed an application with the
3 Commission for the approval of a waterflood project. Have
4 you prepared or caused to be prepared several exhibits in
5 connection with this matter?

A. We have.

Q. Referring to the exhibit marked Number One, will you identify and explain what it shows, please?

9 A. Exhibit Number One is nothing more than an
10 oil and gas map of Township 20 South, Range 28 East, Eddy
11 County, showing in yellow the 240 acres comprising the
12 waterflood proposed project.

13 Q. Referring to Exhibit Number Two, what does14 that exhibit show?

A. Exhibit Number Two is an enlargement of that
area in Section 33, 20 South, 28 East, showing the property
outlined with a hatched section here which Barber Oil now
operates, stripper production.

19 Q. And what do you propose to do, Mr. Light, in20 this particular area?

A. Well, we want to put this project together
under a unit plan and inject water into five of the present
wells, one into the Malco lease, three into the Hughes
lease, and one into the Mayfield lease. There are three
separate leases involved in the project.

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And are those leases marked with the --- are those wells marked with the diamond on this Exhibit Number Two?

A. Right. If you'll refer to the legend, the water injection wells are a black dot which have been producing wells with a triangle around them, and there's at least one injection well on each tract, Tracts One, Two, and Three, so marked.

Q. Referring to Exhibit Number Three, tell the Examiner, if you will, what the typical proposed water injection well schematic plan is.

12 Well, just taking the first one, there are A. 13 five in the exhibit. All five injection wells are shown They're all cased. All the casing is cemented, not 14 here. 15 necessarily to the surface. The plan is to go into the 16 casing that's in the well, set a packer on 2-inch tubing 17 approximately 50 feet in each case above the bottom of 18 the casing, and inject water down the tubing into the 19 producing zone. Some of these wells have been fracd, 20 some have been shot.

21 <u>0</u> Do you anticipate any difficulty in accom22 plishing this?

A. We anticipate no difficulty at all. We --it looks like a fairly simple operation and similar to what
we've been doing for twenty-five years in the Russell area.

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1 Referring to Exhibit Number Four, the pipeline Ç, 2 summary, what does this exhibit show, Mr. Light? This shows the summary of sales on 3 A. All right. the three various leases, the three leases involved, from 4 5 inception, from the time they first started producing in 1956, and the Mayfield in 1958. It shows each separate 6 7 lease and then the field total for the Saladar Field. 8 If you'll look closely at the production decline 9 you'll see that it's in an advanced state of decline and 10 all wells involved are stripper and at the present, in 11 1977, it produced a field total of about 1700 barrels of 12 oil, which is an advanced state of decline. 13 All wells are stripper or less. 14 Have you prepared another exhibit with regard Ç. 15 to this matter of depletion, referring to Exhibit Number 16 Five? 17 All right. We do have as Exhibit Number Five Α. 18 four decline curves, one for the field total, and it gives 19 from 1956 through 1977, the decline of the Saladar Field, 20 and thereafter breaks this down into each separate lease, the Hughes lease, the Malco lease, and the Mayfield lease. 21 22 MR. NUTTER: This is graphic depiction of the 23 information ---24 Α. Right.

MR. NUTTER: -- that was shown on the previous

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1 exhibit? 2 This is nothing more than the sales, A. Right. 3 the pipeline summary of sales, put on a graph, and it's averaged for the monthly average rather than each month 4 It's a monthly average plot. 5 plotted. 6 MR. NUTTER: For that year. 7 Α. For the year, right. They took the entire 8 year production and then divide it by twelve and plot it. 9 That's what it is. 10 Is Barber, Inc., an interest owner in the <u>Q</u>, 11 project area leases? 12 Barber Oil, Inc., is a one-fourth interested A. 13 party in all three leases. 14 Has it been agreed that Barber would operate 0. 15 the project? 16 A. Barber would become the project operator and 17 all parties have signed the unit plan as well as the unit plan of operation. 18 In other words, this is a voluntary unitiza-19 О. 20 tion? That is correct. All parties of interest are 21 Α. 22 involved except the royalty owners. 23 Do you anticipate that the overriding royalty С. 24 owners will join or ratify the unit agreement? 25 Well, the largest one of all is George D. A.

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Riggs, who's already indicated he will and has not yet 1 2 signed it, but all of them we expect to sign with no pro-3 blem. 4 Have you submitted to the United States Geolo-Ο. gical Survey a form of unit agreement under which these 5 project operations will be conducted? 6 That is true. We have submitted to the USGS 7 A. a form unit plan and unit operations and we have --- do 8 you want me to go further -- a letter from them. 9 I'll ask you the question. 10 0. 11 Okay. Α. 12 Has the United States Geological Survey approved 0. 13 the area as being a logical unit area? 14 Α. I have in front of me their letter dated July 7, whereby they approve the unit area and the allocation 15 16 of production as set forth in the unit plan. Is this Exhibit Number Six? 17 0. This would be Exhibit Number Six. 18 Α. In connection with the lands in the unit area, 19 0. tell me what type lands are involved. 20 By type, there are various leases involved, 21 A. 22 two Federal leases, Tract One is a 160-acre Federal lease 23 called our Hughes Federal. Tract Number Two is a 40-acre 24 Federal lease called the Mayfield Federal, and Tract Three 25 is a fee lease called the Malco fee.

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So you have 200 acres of Federal land and 40 Ο. acres of fee land, is that correct?

> That's correct. A.

Do you believe that this proposed area contains 9, all or substantially all of the geological features that's involved?

The oil is trapped stratigraphically in this A. area, and we feel that the entire -- the project as shown would cover the entire geological structure under this particular zone of production, which is about 660 feet deep: fairly shallow.

12 In your opinion, Mr. Light, will the alloca-С. 13 tion of production as provided for in the unit be reasonable and afford the owner or owners of each tract the opportunity to recover and receive without unnecessary 16 expense his just and fair share of the oil and gas produced under unitization?

18 We believe this to be true. The --- all the Α. 19 leases are in an advanced state of decline and in order 20 to allocate production we took the total throughout their 21 lifetime to date and divided each lease total into that 22 total for their percentage of the unit participation.

We feel that's the fairest way to evaluate the future use of -- to pay the royalties in the future. And the USGS has approved this type of allo-0.

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Page \_\_\_ 11 1 cation, is that correct? 2 A. They have. 3 Is it your wish that the Oil Conservation Divi-0. 4 sion designate Barber Oil, Inc., as the operator of this 5 unit? That's our intent. 6 Α. 7 <u>(</u>), Is it your opinion that the approval of the 8 unit agreement will be in the public interest, protect 9 correlative rights, prevent waste, and result in the con-10 servation of oil and gas? 11 I certainly do. Α. 12 I have no other questions, MR. MR. HUNKER: 13 Examiner. I'm sure you will probably have one or two. 14 MR. NUTTER: Yes, sir. 15 16 CROSS EXAMINATION 17 BY MR. NUTTER: 18 Mr. Light, it's been some time since you ap-0. peared here in connection with the Russell Pool waterflood 19 project. 20 21 The Commission, or the Division, in the past 22 year or two has adopted some new regulations and some new 23 requirements with respect to waterflood projects. This 24 is all in accordance with the anticipated underground in-25 jection control program that the Federal government is

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authoring and will impose upon the states, and for one thing, we have sent out memorandum numbered 3-77, dated August 24th, 1977, which requires certain things to be submitted with an application or at the hearing for approval of injection wells in waterflood projects.

6 Included here as item number three is a schematic of all plugged and abandoned wells within the one-half mile 8 radius of any injection well in a project.

9 Now I note under Exhibit Number Two that there 10 are a number of abandoned wells, so it will be necessary 11 for you to submit some schematic diagrams of these plugged 12 wells and show the manner in which those wells were plugged. 13 Now this could be done after you get home. We'll just 14 have to withhold approval of the project until the require-15 ments of Memo Number 3-77 have been met with.

16 Now, what is your anticipated volume of in-17 jection in this project, Mr. Light?

18 We anticipate about 75 barrels of water per A. 19 day to be injected with a pump, with a triplex pump at 20 about approximately 500 pounds pressure.

21 Is that per well? <u>Ç.</u> 22 No, that would be total. A. 23 That would be total? 0. 24 Yes, sir. Α. 25 In other words, it would average about 15 **).** 

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13 Page \_\_\_\_ 1 barrels per day per well. 2 Right, it's a small project. It could be in-Α. 3 creased at a later time. We may want to do some additional 4 drilling at a later time. 5 Well, do you have any idea as to what kind of О, 6 injection pressures will be required? 7 500 pounds pressures is what's anticipated. Α. 8 The Russell Pool is being flooded at 700 pounds surface 9 pressure. 10 Now, that's another thing. Memo Number 3-77 0. 11 reads as follows in Item Number One: "No surface injection 12 pressure greater than .2 psi per foot of depth to the top 13 of the injection zone will be permitted unless there's 14 strong evidence that the strata confining the injection 15 fluid has a fracture gradient that would support a higher 16 pressure." 17 Now your average --- your typical ---18 A. 660 feet deep. 19 Right, .2 of that will give you 120 ---0. 20 120 pounds. A. 21 120, 125 pounds pressure, so we would have to С. 22 have some evidence that the strata here would support a 23 higher pressure than 120 or 125 pounds prior to authorizing 24 any 500 pound injection pressure. 25 In what manner would you like to have that Α.

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1 presented? I'm not just sure how to present that to you. 2 Well, instantaneous shut-ins on frac jobs, О. 3 step rate injection tests; there's a number of different 4 ways in which operators have demonstrated formation can 5 sustain a higher pressure than the .2. 6 A. Well, would the fact that our past performance 7 in Russell with no problems at all at 700 pounds, and it's 8 only 800 feet deep, substantiate that? 9 Well, I think that would help. О, 10 Α. I mean that would be a field that's three 11 miles distant. 12 If you --- if you can show that there Q, Yeah. 13 hasn't been any fracturing in that. 14 A. Well, we've been doing it for twenty-five 15 years and never been ---16 Twenty-five years? Q, 17 A. Twenty-five years. And it's the same -- almost 18 exactly the same zone with the dip taken out. 19 Now, I'm having a little bit of difficulty on 0. 20 these schematic diagrams of the injection wells. 21 A. All right. 22 Is there any surface pipe in these wells? 0. 23 Well, the surface pipe is shown there, which A. 24 is -- like on Exhibit Three, Well No. 1-3, that's Tract 25 One and that's the Hughes Well No. 3 and there's 5-1/2

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inch casing at 642. That's it. 1 0, There's one string of casing. There's no 2 surface casing per se; this is the production casing. 3 A. Well, the surface casing was probably pulled 4 at the time they ran the casing, production string. 5 Are there fresh waters in this area? О, 6 I would say nothing but brackish water in the Α. 7 area. There's no fresh drinking water, no; never has been 8 and I would say in this entire township. 9 I know there's none around Russell. We do 10 have a 50-foot water well which we plan to supply the water 11 for this project with, and it's brackish, and I do have 12 a water analysis, if you'd like to see it. 13 I think that would be pertinent if we could 0. 14 have the information on that -- on that water analysis. 15 Would you like to have --- I just have one copy. Δ. 16 I would need to copy it for you. 17 Well, you can send that in with the other Q. 18 material, if you'd like to send a copy of that. 19 But I can give you a water analysis of the A. 20 surface water there, which is brackish and has some salt 21 in it, that's satisfactory for flooding. We can use it. 22 Yeah. And in each of these wells you would 0. 23 run a string of tubing, or you'd have a packer in them. 24 The packer would be set -- according to our 25 Α.

1 diagram the packer would be set inside the casing in each 2 case. 3 0. Are all of these wells open hole? Uh-huh, they all produce open hole. 4 A. 5 Four of the injection wells have been fracd and one has been shot with nitro. 6 7 <u>C</u>. And the packer in each instance would be set from 30 to 50 feet ---8 9 Above the bottom of the casing. A. 10 -- above the casing. 0. 11 Now, the annulus presumably would be loaded 12 with an inert fluid. 13 Well, that's the general practice. Α. 14 О, Yes, sir. And the annulus either left open or 15 equipped with a pressure gauge so that if there's any 16 leakage through the packer or through the tubing it can be 17 detected at the surface. 18 I understand that portion of it, even Right. A. 19 though that doesn't state that in the diagram, why, that's 20 the way it would be done, in order to detect leaks. 21 Yes, sir. 0. 22 Ms. Teschendorf? MR. NUTTER: 23 24 CROSS EXAMINATION 25 BY MS. TESCHENDORF:

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My question refers back to the unit agreement, 1 0, 2 which I guess you sent in with the application. 3 Articles Eight and Nine refer to removal of and appointment of a successor unit operator. The Division 4 5 does not necessarily want to have to approve either one of those things, but we certainly would like to be notified 6 of them and just from skimming this, I didn't see any re-7 ference to the Division in those sections, and I don't 8 9 think it would necessarily need amendment of the agreement, 10 but our order will probably ----11 Require notification of any change of unit A. 12 operator? 13 0. Right. Could that be done? 14 Oh, yes. Α. 15 is there anything else regarding MR. NUTTER: 16 the unit? 17 MS. TESCHENDORF: No, I think I've covered 18 everything there. Uh-huh. 19 20 RECROSS EXAMINATION 21 BY MR. NUTTER: 22 Now, Mr. Light, one more question. You said 0. 23 that the biggest royalty owner had indicated that he would 24 sign, Mr. Riggs. Is he a royalty owner on the fee lease 25 or is he an overriding royalty owner on some of the other

Page <u>17</u>

Page <u>18</u>

1 lease?

A. He's the overriding royalty owner on the Hughes
Federal lease only, which when spread out throughout the --he has 6-1/4 percent in the Hughes Federal lease as an
overriding royalty owner.

6 <u>0</u> Uh-huh, how about the royalty owner on the fee 7 lease? Has he agreed to come in?

8 A. There are a number of them and, of course, the
9 fee lease is a 40-acre lease and becomes a rather small
10 part of the thing, but we have not --- we have not gotten
11 their signatures, but we anticipate no problem.

12 George Riggs is the only person that is in the13 area. The rest of them are dispersed long distances.

Q. Now that fee lease won't have a producing well on it after you've converted the No. 1 to an injection well.

A. That's true.

18 Q. But they will be -- that lease and the owners
19 of that lease, will be participating in the production.

20 A. They will be participating according to their
21 portion of the present depleted property over the total
22 of all property.

23 Q. And this allocation formula is covered in the
24 unit operating agreement.

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That is true. And it's set forth in the -- in

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the Exhibit -- I'm not sure it's Exhibit A -- that's exhibited at the end of the unit plan.

Q. Okay.

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A. Their interests are all protected, and the allocation has been based on prior production.

It would be Exhibit C to the unit agreement. The participation percentage there is based on strictly on the past production of the three depleted properties.

Q. I see, based on primary production.

A. Right, on primary production. That's the only fair basis of doing it. We have no -- nothing but driller's logs on the wells when they were drilled. We have no idea of depth of formation or anything in the producing zone.

It's the only really fair, just way of allocating production.

16 MR. HUNKER: Mr. Nutter, I'd like to announce 17 to the Commission that when the USGS approved the form of 18 unit agreement, they transposed the words "supervisor" 19 and "Commission" so that the word "supervisor" appears 20 first and the "Commission" appears second, in that order, 21 and they have asked us to add at the end of Article Eight 22 on page eight, a sentence which reads, "Nothing herein 23 contained shall be construed to relieve or discharge any 24 unit operator or unit manager who resigns or is removed 25 hereunder from any liability or duties accruing or per-

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20 Page\_ 1 formable by it prior to the effective date of such resig-2 nation or removal." 3 This is probably responsive to your question, 4 Ms. Teschendorf. 5 MR. NUTTER: You mean all that took the place 6 of this one little, short sentence that was the last sen-7 tence there? 8 MR. HUNKER: Well, they add that additional 9 sentence there. 10 In addition. Α. 11 MR. HUNKER: To that paragraph. 12 MR. NUTTER: Oh, I see. Are there any further 13 questions of Mr. Light? He may be excused. 14 MR. HUNKER: I'd like to offer at this time 15 Exhibits One through Six. 16 MR. NUTTER: Applicant's Exhibits One through 17 Six will be admitted in evidence. 18 Does anyone have anything they wish to offer 19 in Case Number 6238 or 6226? 20 If not, we'll take the cases under advisement. 21 (Hearing concluded.) 22 23 24 25

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#### REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, SALLY WALTON BOYD, a Court Reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing and attached Transcript of Hearing before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that said transcript is a full, true, and correct record of the hearing, prepared by me to the best of my ability, knowledge, and skill from my notes taken at the time of the hearing.

y Wooton Boyd CSR

Sally Walton Boyd, C.S.R

I do hereby cert a (c the foregoing in ા ર  $th_0$ hears 6.226 New Mexico Oil Conservation Commession 2020 (1) **63** 

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