

DOCKET: EXAMINER HEARING - THURSDAY - JANUARY 7, 1993

**8:15 A.M. - OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION CONFERENCE ROOM, STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING,
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

Dockets Nos. 3-93 and 4-93 are tentatively set for January 21, 1993 and February 4, 1993. Applications for hearing must be filed at least 23 days in advance of hearing date.

The following cases will be heard before David R. Catanach, Examiner or Michael E. Stogner, Alternate Examiner:

CASE 10649: Application of H. L. Brown, Jr., for a unit agreement, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval of the North Feather State Unit Agreement for an area comprising 640 acres, more or less, of state lands in all or portions of Sections 9 and 16 of Township 15 South, Range 32 East. Said unit is located 4 miles west of the intersection of Highways 31 and 172.

CASE 10650: Application of Mewbourne Oil Company for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks approval for an unorthodox gas well location, in the Cedar Lake-Morrow Gas Pool, 990 feet from the North and East lines (Unit A) of Section 2, Township 18 South, Range 30 East. The E/2 of said Section 2 is to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit. Said unit is located approximately 3 miles southeast of Loco Hills, New Mexico.

CASE 10635: (Continued from December 17, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Mewbourne Oil Company for compulsory pooling and an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the base of the San Andres formation to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the following described areas in Section 15, Township 18 South, Range 28 East, and in the following manner: the E/2 forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent, the SE/4 forming a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical extent, the W/2 SE/4 forming a standard 80-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 80-acre spacing within said vertical extent, the NW/4 SE/4 forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 40-acre spacing within said vertical extent. Said units are to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled at an unorthodox location 1500 feet from the South line and 1980 feet from the East line (Unit J) of said Section 15. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said area is located approximately 9 miles east-southeast of Artesia, New Mexico.

CASE 10636: (Continued from December 17, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Mewbourne Oil Company for compulsory pooling and an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the base of the Abo formation to the base of the Morrow formation underlying the following described areas in Section 27, Township 17 South, Range 28 East, and in the following manner: the E/2 forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent, the SE/4 forming a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical extent, the E/2 SE/4 forming a standard 80-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 80-acre spacing within said vertical extent, the NE/4 SE/4 forming a standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 40-acre spacing within said vertical extent. Said units are to be dedicated to a single well to be drilled at an unorthodox location 1756 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line (Unit I) of said Section 27. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said area is located approximately 7 miles east-southeast of Riverside, New Mexico.

CASE 10651: Application of Pogo Producing Company for directional drilling and an unorthodox oil well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks authority to directionally drill its proposed Mobil Federal Well No. 3 from a surface location 480 feet from the North line and 660 feet from the East line (Unit A) of Section 29, Township 23 South, Range 31 East, in such a manner as to bottom the well in the Brushy Canyon formation of the Delaware Mountain Group, at a standard location approximately 578 feet from the North line and 1870 feet from the East line (Unit B) of said Section 29. Further, applicant seeks approval for an unorthodox location in the Cherry Canyon formation of the Delaware Mountain Group, with the directional wellbore entering the Cherry Canyon formation at an unorthodox location 540 feet from the North line and 1405 feet from the East line, and exiting the Cherry Canyon formation at an orthodox location 571 feet from the North line and 1789 feet from the East line of said Section 29. The NW/4 NE/4 of said Section 29 will be dedicated to the well to form a standard 40-acre spacing and proration unit for said formations. This well is located approximately 9 miles east-southeast of the intersection of Highways 31 and 128.

CASE 10652: Application of Pogo Producing Company for directional drilling and an unorthodox oil well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks authority to directionally drill its proposed Mobil Federal Well No. 8 from a surface location 330 feet from the South line and 1380 feet from the East line (Unit O) of Section 29, Township 23 South, Range 31 East, in such a manner as to bottom the well in the Brushy Canyon formation of the Delaware Mountain Group, at a standard location approximately 413 feet from the South line and 1897 feet from the East line (Unit O) of said Section 29. Applicant also seeks approval for an unorthodox location in the Bell Canyon formation of the Delaware Mountain Group, with the directional wellbore entering the Bell Canyon formation at an unorthodox location 330 feet from the South line and 1381 feet from the East line, and exiting the Bell Canyon formation at an unorthodox location 353 feet from the South line and 1526 feet from the East line of said Section 29. Further, applicant seeks approval for an unorthodox location in the Cherry Canyon formation of the Delaware Mountain Group at an unorthodox location 353 feet from the South line and 1526 feet from the East line, and exiting the Cherry Canyon formation at an orthodox location 402 feet from the South line and 1829 feet from the East line of said Section 29. The SW/4 SW/4 of said Section 29 will be dedicated to the well to form a standard 40-acre spacing and proration unit for said formations. This well is located approximately 9 miles east-southeast of the intersection of Highways 31 and 128.

CASE 10653: Application of Armstrong Energy Corporation for special pool rules, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order promulgating special rules and regulations for the Northeast Lea-Delaware Pool including a provision for a special oil allowable of 300 barrels of oil per day. Said pool is located in portions of Townships 19 and 20 South, Range 34 East, located near the Warren Gas Company Compressor Station.

CASE 10646: (Continued from December 17, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Enron Oil & Gas Company for directional drilling, or in the alternative, for an unorthodox gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks authority to directionally drill its proposed Pure Gold "B" Federal Well No. 2 from a surface location in Unit O of Section 17, Township 23 South, Range 31 East to a bottomhole location in the Atoka formation, Undesignated West Sand Dunes-Atoka Gas Pool and in the Morrow formation, Undesignated West Sand Dunes-Morrow Gas Pool at a standard location within 50 feet of a point 660 feet from the North line and 1980 feet from the East line (Unit B) of Section 20, Township 23 South, Range 31 East. IN THE ALTERNATIVE, applicant seeks approval for an unorthodox gas well location 660 feet from the North line and 1700 feet from the East line (Unit B) of Section 20, Township 23 South, Range 31 East, in said Atoka and Morrow pools. The N/2 of said Section 20 is to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit. Said unit is located approximately 7 miles east of Loving, New Mexico.

CASE 10647: (Continued from December 17, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Seely Oil Company for statutory unitization, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order unitizing, for the purpose of establishing a secondary recovery project, all mineral interests in the EK-Yates-Seven Rivers-Queen Pool, underlying 1148.40 acres, more or less, of State land comprising portions of Township 18 South, Ranges 33 and 34 East, to be designated the Central EK Queen Unit Area. To be considered will be those matters required by the New Mexico Statutory Unitization Act, Subsection 70-7-1, et seq., N.M.S.A. 1978, and other provisions of the unit agreement and unit operating agreement. Said unit area is located approximately 22 miles west of Hobbs, New Mexico.

CASE 10648: (Continued from December 17, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Seely Oil Company for approval of a waterflood project and qualification for the recovered oil tax rate, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks authority to institute a waterflood project by injection of water into the Yates, Seven Rivers and Queen formations in its proposed EK Queen Unit Area (Division Case No. 10647) underlying portions of Township 18 South, Ranges 33 and 34 East. The applicant further seeks to qualify this project for the recovered oil tax rate under the "Enhanced Oil Recovery Act" (Laws 1992, Chapter 38, Sections 1 through 5). Said project is centered approximately 22 miles west of Hobbs, New Mexico.

CASE 10643: (Readvertised)

Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for directional drilling and an unorthodox bottomhole gas well location, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks authority to directionally drill its proposed Amaranth "AMG" Federal Com. Well No. 1 from a surface location 1310 feet from the North line and 2630 feet from the East line (Unit B) of Section 12, Township 20 South, Range 30 East, in such a manner as to bottom the well in the Pennsylvanian formation at an unorthodox subsurface gas well location within 50 feet of a point 2449 feet from the North line and 1512 feet from the West line (Unit F) of said Section 12, the W/2 of said Section 12 is to be dedicated to said well forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for said formation. This well is located approximately 21 miles northeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

CASE 10574: (Continued from December 17, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for compulsory pooling, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Canyon formation, at approximately 8,200 feet, underlying the following described acreage in Section 14, Township 20 South, Range 24 East, and in the following described manner: the N/2 to form a single standard 320-acre spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent (which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the South Dagger Draw-Upper Pennsylvanian Associated Pool); the NE/4 and NW/4 to form two standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration units for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical extent; and the NW/4 NE/4 and SW/4 NW/4 to form two standard 40-acre oil spacing and proration units for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 40-acre spacing within said vertical extent. The proposed 320-acre unit is to be dedicated to either a single well to be drilled at a standard location in Unit B or Unit E or to both wells to be simultaneously dedicated to the 320-acre unit. Further the 160-acre gas unit comprising the NE/4 and the 40-acre oil unit comprising the NW/4 NE/4 are to be dedicated to the proposed well to be drilled in Unit B. The 160-acre gas unit comprising the NW/4 and the 40-acre oil unit comprising the SW/4 NW/4 are to be dedicated to the proposed well to be drilled in Unit E. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well or wells and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as the operator of each well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well or wells. The subject area in this matter is located approximately 7.5 miles west by south of Seven Rivers, New Mexico.

CASE 10626: (Continued from December 17, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for compulsory pooling and an unorthodox gas well location, Chaves County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Abo formation underlying the NW/4 of Section 32, Township 6 South, Range 26 East, forming a standard 160-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 160-acre spacing within said vertical extent, which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the Undesignated Pecos Slope-Abo Gas Pool. Said unit is to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard gas well location thereon. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said area is located approximately 16 miles west by north of Elkins, New Mexico.

CASE 10654: **Application of Warrior, Inc. for an unorthodox oil well location, Eumont Oil Pool, Lea County, New Mexico.** Applicant seeks an order approving the drilling of its Federal "D" Well No. 13 in the Eumont Oil Pool at an unorthodox oil well location 1300 feet from the South and West lines (Unit M) of Section 26, Township 20 South, Range 36 East. Said well is to be dedicated to a standard 40-acre oil proration and spacing unit consisting of the SW/4 SW/4 of said Section 26. Said unit is located approximately 7 miles southwest of Monument, New Mexico.

CASE 10655: **Application of Meridian Oil Inc. for compulsory pooling, Lea County, New Mexico.** Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests in the Eumont Gas Pool underlying the S/2 of Section 36, Township 21 South, Range 36 East, to be dedicated to its proposed Shell State Com "D" Well No. 13 to be drilled at a previously approved unorthodox gas well location 1780 feet from the South line and 760 feet from the West line (Unit L) of said Section 36 and dedicated to a previously approved non-standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit consisting of the S/2 of said Section 36 and to simultaneously dedicate production with the Shell State Com "D" Well No. 12. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as the operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling and completing said well. Said unit is located approximately 3 miles west of Eunice, New Mexico.

CASE 10656: **Application of Mitchell Energy Corporation for compulsory pooling and an unorthodox gas well location, Lea County, New Mexico.** Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the top of the Wolfcamp formation to the base of the Pennsylvanian formation underlying the W/2 of Section 28, Township 20 South, Range 33 East, forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent, which presently includes but is not necessarily limited to the South Salt Lake-Morrow Gas Pool. Said unit is to be dedicated to its Tomahawk "28" Federal Com Well No. 1 to be drilled and completed at an unorthodox gas well location 1650 feet from the North line and 1980 feet from the West line (Unit F) of said Section 28. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision, designation of applicant as the operator of the well and a charge for risk involved in drilling and completing said well. Said unit is located approximately 22 miles southeast of Maljamar, New Mexico.

CASE 10657: Application of Marathon Oil Company for reinstatement of underproduction for a GPU in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in accordance with Rule 14(b) of the General Rules for prorated gas pools of New Mexico, seeks an order reinstating canceled underproduction from the proration period ending March 31, 1990 for a gas proration unit ("GPU") in the Indian Basin-Upper Pennsylvanian Gas Pool consisting of all of Section 34, Township 21 South, Range 23 East, and dedicated to its Indian Basin D Well No. 1 located in Unit K of said Section 34. Said area is located approximately 22 miles west of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

CASE 10624: (Readvertised)

Application of Sea Coast, Inc. for compulsory pooling, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Fruitland Coal formation underlying the W/2 (equivalent) of Section 8, Township 29 North, Range 12 West, forming a standard 325.77-acre gas spacing unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent, which presently includes but is not limited to the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool. Said unit is to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location in Section 8. Applicant requests that Meridian Oil Inc. be designated as operator. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said area is located on the east end of Farmington, New Mexico.

CASE 10625: (Readvertised)

Application of Sea Coast, Inc. for compulsory pooling, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant seeks an order pooling all mineral interests from the surface to the base of the Fruitland Coal formation underlying the E/2 (equivalent) of Section 8, Township 29 North, Range 12 West, forming a standard 322.86-acre gas spacing unit for any and all formations and/or pools developed on 320-acre spacing within said vertical extent, which presently includes but is not limited to the Basin-Fruitland Coal Gas Pool. Said unit is to be dedicated to a well to be drilled at a standard location in Section 8. Applicant requests that Meridian Oil Inc. be designated as operator. Also to be considered will be the cost of drilling and completing said well and the allocation of the cost thereof as well as actual operating costs and charges for supervision and a charge for risk involved in drilling said well. Said area is located on the east end of Farmington, New Mexico.

CASE 10601: (Continued from November 19, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Strata Production Company for salt water disposal, Eddy County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to dispose of produced salt water into the Scanlon-Delaware Pool through the perforated interval from approximately 3274 feet to 3030 feet in its Doris Federal Well No. 2 located 1780 feet from the South line and 1980 feet from the East line (Unit J) of Section 26, Township 20 South, Range 28 East, which is approximately northeast by north of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

CASE 10572: (Continued from December 17, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Texaco Exploration & Production Inc. for waterflood expansion, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to expand its W. H. Rhodes "B" Federal Waterflood Project, authorized by Division Order No. R-2748, by converting its W. H. Rhodes "B" Federal (NCT-1) Well No. 6 located 1980 feet from the South line and 660 feet from the East line (Unit I) and its W. H. Rhodes "B" Federal (NCT-1) Well No. 13 located 990 feet from the South line and 1650 feet from the East line (Unit O), both in Section 27, Township 26 South, Range 37 East, from producing oil wells to water injection wells. Said project area is located approximately 7.5 miles south-southeast of Jal, New Mexico.

CASE 10573: (Continued from December 17, 1992, Examiner Hearing.)

Application of Texaco Exploration & Production Inc. for waterflood expansion, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authority to expand its Rhodes Yates Unit Waterflood Project, authorized by Division Order No. R-3889, by converting its Rhodes Yates Unit Well No. 8 located 1875 feet from the North line and 765 feet from the West line (Unit E) and its Rhodes Yates Unit Well No. 13 located 660 feet from the South and West lines (Unit M), both in Section 27, Township 26 South, Range 37 East, Rhodes Yates Unit, Rhodes Yates-Seven Rivers Pool, from producing oil wells to water injection wells. Said project area is located approximately 7.5 miles south-southeast of Jal, New Mexico.

**DOCKET: COMMISSION HEARING - THURSDAY - JANUARY 14, 1993
9:00 A.M. - MORGAN HALL, STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING,
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

The Land Commissioner's designee for this hearing will be Gary Carlson and/or Jami Bailey

CASE 10436: (Rehearing - Continued from December 1, 1992, Commission Hearing.)

In the matter of the application of Four Corners Gas Producers Association and the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association to rehear Case No. 10436 which was called by the Oil Conservation Commission to provide for the expansion of the Vulnerable Area in the San Juan Basin amongst other things. This rehearing will be limited to the following three issues only:

1. To reconsider allowing extensions of up to two years to the basic one year- two year-three year timetable for the elimination of discharge;
2. To reconsider the establishment of a 200-foot radius wellhead protection area around private water wells which are not part of a community of municipal water supply; and
3. To reconsider the provisions of the order providing for variances; specifically, to clarify whether a variance can be granted for multiple sites under a single request and to determine the appropriate notice requirements for a variance request.

CASE 10444: (DE NOVO)

Application of Amerada Hess Corporation for pool contraction, pool creation, and promulgation of special pool rules, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks the creation of a new pool for the production of oil from the Lower Blinbry formation and the promulgation of special pool rules therefor, including provisions for 80-acre oil spacing and proration units, designated well location requirements and a special gas-oil ratio limitation of 10,000 cubic feet of gas per barrel of oil. Applicant also seeks the concomitant contraction of the vertical limits of the Hobbs-Blinbry Pool in conjunction with the creation of said new Lower Blinbry oil pool within the existing horizontal boundaries of the Hobbs-Blinbry Pool in portions of Townships 18 and 19 South, Range 38 East. Said area is located on the west side of Hobbs, New Mexico. Upon application of Amerada Hess Corporation this case will be heard De Novo pursuant to the provisions of Rule 1220.

CASE 10345: (DE NOVO)

Application of Louise Y. Locke to consider objections to well costs, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant requests the Commission review actual well costs charged against her interest by BHP Petroleum (Americas), Inc., for the drilling of the Gallegos Canyon Unit Well #390 to determine the reasonableness of such costs pursuant to the provisions of Commission Order R-9581-A. Said well is located at the southeast edge of Farmington, New Mexico.

CASE 10346: (DE NOVO)

Application of Louise Y. Locke to consider objections to well costs, San Juan County, New Mexico. Applicant requests the Commission review actual well costs charged against her interest by BHP Petroleum (Americas), Inc., for the drilling of the Gallegos Canyon Unit Well #391 to determine the reasonableness of such costs pursuant to the provisions of Commission Order R-9581-A. Said well is located at the southeast edge of Farmington, New Mexico.

CASE 10507: (DE NOVO)

Application of C & C Landfarm Inc. for a commercial surface waste disposal facility, Lea County, New Mexico. Applicant, in the above-styled cause, seeks authorization to construct and operate a commercial landfarm facility for remediation of non-hazardous hydrocarbon-contaminated soils using an enhanced biodegradation process. Said area is to be located in the SW/4 NE/4 (Unit G) of Section 3, Township 20 South, Range 37 East, which is approximately 2 miles southeast of Monument, New Mexico. Upon application of intervenors Elsie Reeves, S-W Cattle Co. and W. T. (Trent) Stradley, this case will be heard De Novo pursuant to the provisions of Rule 1220.