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#### 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:

APPLICATION OF HARVEY E. YATES COMPANY FOR A UNIT AGREEMENT, OTERO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

) CASE NO. 11,394

)

ORIGINAL

# REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

#### EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER Hearing Examin RECEIVED

December 7th, 1995

DEC 9 1 1995

Santa Fe, New Mexico Oil Conservation Division

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, December 7th, 1995, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources

Department, Porter Hall, 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

### INDEX

December 7th, 1995 Examiner Hearing CASE NO. 11,394

	PAGE
EXHIBITS	3
APPEARANCES	3
APPLICANT'S WITNESSES:	
MELISSA RANDLE (Landman)	
Direct Examination by Mr. Bruce	5
Examination by Examiner Stogner	9
JOHN UNDERWOOD (Geologist)	
Direct Examination by Mr. Bruce	11
Examination by Examiner Stogner	15
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	23

## EXHIBITS

Applicant's	Identified	Admitted	
Land			
Exhibit Exhibit Exhibit	2 7	9 9 9	
Exhibit Exhibit Exhibit	5 8 6 8	9 9 9 9	
Geology			
Exhibit Exhibit		15 15	
Exhibit Exhibit		15 15	

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# APPEARANCES

#### FOR THE DIVISION:

RAND L. CARROLL Attorney at Law Legal Counsel to the Division 2040 South Pacheco Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

#### FOR THE APPLICANT:

HINKLE, COX, EATON, COFFIELD & HENSLEY 218 Montezuma P.O. Box 2068 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2068 By: JAMES G. BRUCE

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at 2 8:20 a.m.: EXAMINER STOGNER: This hearing will come to 3 I'm Michael E. Stogner, appointed Hearing Examiner 4 5 for today's cases. Please note today's date, December 7th, 1995, Docket Number 35-95. 6 7 And at this time I will call the first case, 11,394. 8 9 MR. CARROLL: Application of Harvey E. Yates Company for a unit agreement, Otero County, New Mexico. 10 EXAMINER STOGNER: Call for appearances. 11 12 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, Jim Bruce representing the Applicant. 13 I have two witnesses to be sworn. 14 15 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other appearances in this matter? 16 17 Will the two witnesses please stand to be sworn? (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.) 18 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, one little thing before 19 20 we begin. The name of the unit had originally been the 21 Bennett Ranch Federal Unit. Because there is state land 22 23 involved, the word "Federal" was dropped and we'd just like 24 it to be called the Bennett Ranch Unit. 25 EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay, so noted.

Is everything else still the same? 8856.9 acres, 1 2 more or less? 3 MR. BRUCE: Yes. 4 EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay. 5 MELISSA RANDLE, the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon 6 7 her oath, was examined and testified as follows: 8 DIRECT EXAMINATION 9 BY MR. BRUCE: Will you please state your name for the record? 10 Q. Yes, Melissa Randle. 11 Α. 12 Q. And where do you reside? 13 Α. Roswell, New Mexico. 14 Q. Who do you work for and in what capacity? 15 Α. I am employed as a landman for Harvey Yates 16 Company. 17 Q. And have you previously testified before the Division? 18 Α. No, I have not. 19 20 Would you please outline your educational and employment background? 21 I have attended college, but for the past 14 1/2 22 Α. 23 years I have been employed in the land department at Harvey 24 Yates Company, the past six working as a landman. 25 Q. And does your area of responsibility include

southeast New Mexico? 1 2 Yes, it does. Α. 3 And are you familiar with the land matters 4 involved in this Application? 5 Α. Yes. MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I would tender Ms. 6 7 Randle as an expert petroleum landman. 8 EXAMINER STOGNER: So qualified. 9 Q. (By Mr. Bruce) Briefly, what does Heyco seek in 10 this case? 11 Approval of its Bennett Ranch Unit, which is an Α. 12 exploratory unit covering 8856.9 acres of federal and state land in Otero County. 13 And what lands are in the unit? And I refer you Q. 14 15 to your Exhibit 1. Exhibit 1 is a land plat of the unit outline. 16 does also indicate the tract numbers for each lease in that 17 unit. 18 19 The second page to Exhibit 1 is a typed-up 20 description of that unit boundary. And on the first page of that exhibit, the land 21 Q. is all federal except for the hachmarked land, and that's 22 state land? 23 24 Α. Yes, that's correct.

25

Q.

What is Exhibit 2?

- A. Exhibit 2 is the proposed unit agreement. It is the standard form used by the Bureau of Land Management and the Commissioner of Public Lands.
  - Q. Who are the working interest owners in the unit?

    And I'd refer you to your Exhibit 3.
- A. Okay, the current working interest owners are
  Harvey E. Yates Company; Yates Energy Corporation; Spiral,
  Inc.: Explorers Petroleum Corporation; Heyco Employees,
- Q. And Heyco is obviously the largest interest owner in the unit?
- 12 A. Yes, with over 82 percent.

Ltd.; and Jalapeno Corporation.

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- Q. Which of these interest owners have ratified or have agreed to ratify the unit?
- A. Each one of them except Jalapeno Corporation, who
  I think just hasn't had time to answer our proposal.
  - Q. Okay. So as of right now, what is the percentage interest committed?
- 19 A. 95.079819 percent.
- 20 Q. And that's of the working interest?
- 21 A. Of the working interest, yes.
  - Q. Has the Commissioner of Public Lands preliminarily approved the unit?
- 24 A. Yes, they have.
  - Q. And is Exhibit 4 his letter of preliminary

#### 8 approval? 1 Α. 2 Yes. And what is Exhibit 5? 3 ο. That is the approval by the Bureau of Land 4 5 Management for our designation of unit outline. 6 0. And so assuming both the Commissioner and the BLM 7 approve, after this hearing a hundred percent of the royalty interest will be committed; is that correct? 8 Yes, that's correct. 9 Α. What is Exhibit 6? 10 0. That is our standard form AAPL 1982 operating 11 Α. 12 agreement, and it does designate Harvey Yates Company as 13 operator. 14 Okay. And finally, what is Exhibit 7? 15 Exhibit 7 is our authority for expenditure Α. the initial well. It does cover our objective of an 16 Ellenburger test, and the completed cost will be \$478,178. 17 And is the granting of this Application in the 18 0. interests of conservation and the prevention of waste? 19 20 Α. Yes, it is. And were Exhibits 1 through 7 prepared by you or 21 Q. under your direction, or compiled from company business 22 23 records?

Mr. Examiner, I would move the

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Α.

Yes, they were.

MR. BRUCE:

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admission of Exhibits 1 through 7.
 1
 2
                EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 1 through 7 will be
     admitted into evidence.
 3
                              EXAMINATION
 4
     BY EXAMINER STOGNER:
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          Q.
               You said 95 percent of the mineral interests have
 6
 7
     signed on. What party has not?
 8
          Α.
               Jalapeno Corporation.
               And they have one point --
          0.
               Let's see. Yes, Jalapeno has 1.588721. If they
10
          Α.
     are the only ones lacking, we do have 98.4112.
11
               Oh, 98, okay.
12
          Q.
          Α.
               Yes.
13
               I heard 95, I'm sorry.
14
          Q.
               I did say 95. Actually, those are -- Most of the
15
          Α.
     Heyco in-house entities total that amount.
16
               Where is Jalapeno Corporation located?
17
          Q.
               I believe their mailing address is in Roswell.
18
          Α.
          Q.
               But it's not one of the Yates entities?
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               Actually, it's Mrs. Yates. Harvey E. Yates, Jr.,
20
     handles that interest for her.
21
22
          Q.
               And they have not agreed. Okay.
               Yeah, it's just a matter of, I think, taking the
23
          Α.
     time to --
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          Q.
               Okay.
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1 Α. -- go through the work. 2 Where is this unit physically located outside of Q. Alamogordo? I'm assuming Alamogordo is the nearest, 3 4 biggest town. 5 Α. Yes, I believe --6 Q. I'm trying to get some kind of -- maybe your 7 geologist, maybe --8 MR. BRUCE: Yeah, we've got a locator map. THE WITNESS: He's probably a little better at 9 that. 10 (By Examiner Stogner) Okay, I just -- As far as 11 Q. any of the land matters, let's see, you've got your state 12 acreage and you do have the preliminary from the state 13 office? 14 15 Α. Yes, we do. Is that included here? Q. 16 17 MR. BRUCE: It's Exhibit 4. THE WITNESS: Correct. 18 (By Examiner Stogner) And this is -- The BLM 19 0. 20 preliminary approval is out of Roswell; is that correct? Yes, that's correct. 21 Α. Is that their normal jurisdiction or --22 Α. I believe so. We did meet with a representative 23

from the Las Cruces office at the time that we showed our

exhibits and asked for a preliminary approval, so they have

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1 worked together to some degree. 2 But at present my understanding is, the Roswell office is the office to approve this. 3 4 EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay, I have no other questions of this witness. You may be excused. 5 6 MR. BRUCE: Call Mr. Underwood to the stand. 7 JOHN UNDERWOOD, the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon 8 9 his oath, was examined and testified as follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION 10 BY MR. BRUCE: 11 12 Will you please state your name and city of 13 residence for the record? 14 Α. I am John Underwood. I reside in Roswell, New Mexico. 15 16 And what is your occupation? 17 Α. I am employed by Yates Company International as 18 chief geophysicist. I also act in the capacity of 19 exploration manager for the Harvey E. Yates Company. 20 Have you previously testified before the OCD as a geophysicist? 21 22 Α. No, I have not. 23 Q. Would you please outline your educational and 24 employment background? 25 Α. I have a bachelor of science degree from the

- Colorado School of Mines and over 20 years of oil and gas exploration experience, with the past four years being in Roswell, with primary responsibility in the Delaware and Midland Basins.
  - Q. And are you familiar with the geophysical matters pertaining to this Application?
    - A. Yes, I am.

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8 MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I would tender Mr. 9 Underwood as an expert petroleum geophysicist.

10 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Underwood is so qualified.

- Q. (By Mr. Bruce) First, Mr. Underwood, what is the primary zone of interest for this unit?
  - A. Our primary objective in the unit is the Fusselman formation. The initial well is proposed to test the Ellenburger, which is a secondary objective.
  - Q. Would you move on to your -- it's marked Geology
    Exhibit 1 -- and describe its contents briefly for the
    Examiner?
- A. The Geology Exhibit 1 is a regional map which has been included primarily to indicate where in the world the proposed unit is.

It also does indicate regional physiographic data and all of the subsurface and seismic data that was available to us.

O. And all of the wells in this area are marked on

the map; is that correct?

- A. All existing wells for which we could find any data are indicated on the map.
  - Q. Okay. What is Geology Exhibit Number 2?
- A. Exhibit Number 2 is a generalized stratigraphic column for the area and includes a type log of the nearest well penetration to the prospect.
- Q. And once again, its primary purpose is just to show what zones of interest are in the area?
- A. Yes, we are out where exploration has been rather limited, and these are just to indicate the type column we are expecting to see in the proposed well.
- Q. Okay. Why don't you move on to your Geology Exhibit 3 and discuss its contents for the Examiner?
- A. Exhibit 3 is a depth structure map at the top of the Fusselman formation. It was made using all available well control and seismic data. It does also indicate the location of the first wellbore.
- Q. And that first well is in the northeast quarter of Section 14, approximately in the middle of the unit; is that correct?
- A. The proposed location is 990 from the north, 1980 from the east of Section 14.
  - Q. Now, is this the map that was used to fix the unit outline?

- A. Yes. The outline designation was derived by taking the minus-1500-foot contour and including those proration units which half or more of the proration unit fell within that contour.
  - Q. Finally, what does your Geology Exhibit 4 show?
- A. Geology Exhibit 4 is a cross-section. It includes data from the seismic line because of the limited well control in the area, and it is included to indicate why we chose the 1500-foot contour.

That is the level at which the throw across the east-bounding fault would allow any hydrocarbons to leak across the fault.

- Q. In your opinion, will the granting of this
  Application facilitate the orderly development of the
  Fusselman formation in this interval?
- A. Yes, it will.

- Q. And were Geology Exhibits 1 through 4 prepared by you or under your direction?
- 19 A. Yes, they were.
  - Q. And in your opinion, is the granting of this Application in the interest of conservation and the prevention of waste?
    - A. Yes, it is.

MR. BRUCE: Mr. Examiner, I would move the admission of the Geology Exhibits 1 through 4.

1 EXAMINER STOGNER: Geology Exhibits 1 through 4 2 will be admitted into evidence at this time. 3 EXAMINATION 4 BY EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Underwood, in looking at your last exhibit, 5 6 you're showing the Fusselman and the Hueco trough, if you 7 look back to the west of your proposed location. 8 And then I see something I'm not familiar with. You have the Penn marker, the Fusselman and the Bliss. 9 What is the Bliss? 10 11 Α. The Bliss is the Cambrian-age sandstone that sits 12 immediately above the Precambrian basement. 13 Q. And where is the Ellenburger in relation to that? 14 Α. Above the Bliss. Now, where would the Precambrian be below the 15 Q. 16 Bliss? 17 The Bliss will be about 350 feet thick in this area, so it will be slightly below the Bliss. 18 Q. When you say "in this area", up in the upthrown 19 20 portion where you're drilling, or throughout the whole interval? 21 22 Pretty much throughout the entire area. Through 23 the Fusselman Formation you have very regular deposition. 24 Your thinning over the structure begins at the end of 25 Siluro-Devonian time.

- Q. I assume that you're hoping to hit oil as opposed to gas or --
  - A. Yes, all indications from the existing wellbores are that we will have oil and not gas.
  - Q. When I look at your Exhibit Number 1, you have referenced quite a few wells, and I'm going to mainly ask about those ones down in -- These are wells in Otero County, which -- I don't think there are any.

Are there any producing -- Are there any wells shown on here producing from the Ellenburger or Fusselman down in Texas?

A. No, there are not. The nearest Fusselman production is in the Delaware Basin.

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- Q. Back to the east -- What? About 50 miles?
- A. Approximately, yes. I don't know exactly.
- Q. Now, the well that you used for the type log,
  which is your Exhibit Number 2, when was that well drilled,
  or could you elaborate a little bit on that well?
  - A. That well was drilled by Texaco in the early
    1980s. I don't know the exact date off the top of my head.
    The Fusselman in that well was very tight, developed no porosity at all.
- Q. And what was their primary -- But they went down to the Precambrian, didn't they?
  - A. Yes, they did. Texaco in the early 1980s drilled

two wellbores, the Texaco State 3 FO and the Texaco State 27 FP, which is approximately 15 miles to the southeast of the FO. Those were drilled on structural prospects defined by a loose grid of late 1970s seismic data.

The Texaco FP, approximately 18 miles south of our location, flowed fresh water but had -- in core recovery had heavy oil in place. Texaco did generate an internal report on the possibility of steam flooding that structure for production. Unfortunately, prices outran their plans.

- Q. There again, when I refer to Exhibit Number 2 yours is a nomenclature I'm not familiar with. I see the Fusselman and the Silurian age, and then below that the Montoya. But that El Paso and Canadian, is that what we're -- known as --
- A. The section is the -- The geologic section is the same as you're familiar with in the Delaware Basin.

  Unfortunately, different geologists described the outcrop.

The El Paso formation is a time equivalent and a lithologic equivalent to the Ellenburger. It was described by different geologists in the outcrop, so it has a different name.

- Q. Are there any other potential shallower sources that will be tested in this well?
  - A. The Pennsylvanian section does have the capacity

to generate oil. The modeling that we have done would indicate that it is probably not mature for generation of hydrocarbons.

However, about 40 miles to the north, there has been noncommercial gas production out of the Pennsylvanian section. We do anticipate the Pennsylvanian to be a secondary objective in this wellbore.

- Q. Now, doesn't some of these Pennsylvanian formations outcrop in this area?
- A. Yes, they do. The entire section will outcrop in either the Franklin/Hueco Mountains to the west or the mountains to the east.
- Q. That's what I was trying to visualize. Are you in a little valley here?
  - A. Yes, we are. The -- at the end -- I guess it would be Laramide, the basin was inverted and you began to see the outcrops developing both east and west of you. That structure was enhanced during the Rio Grande rifting, associated with basin and range faulting. This area has remained low throughout that. You do have, to the south and west, outcrops of the full section to see what your rocks do look like.
  - Q. On your cross-section you at least -- you essentially elected to do more of a north -- northeast-southwest, give or take, slice.

But going back to your Exhibit Number 1, there seems to be a well, say, perhaps in that trough. Maybe I'm wrong, or maybe -- I don't know. That Magnolia University Number 1 well. Is that the same geological uplift as what you're testing or --

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A. Not, it is not. The Magnolia Number 1 wellbore is upthrown to an extensive fault system and also, in the Pennsylvanian section, has a significant amount of the intrusives that do outcrop in the Cornudas Mountains.

The Magnolia wellbore did have porosity and dead oil shows in the Fusselman formation, but the structure that it was drilled on is a surface structure related to the Tertiary-age intrusives and not to subsurface structure.

There is a very large graben system that runs between the two wellbores. The cross-section indicates the west side of that. The Magnolia well appears to be upthrown to it.

- Q. As far as the geophysical information which Exhibit Number 3 was produced from, when was that seismic data run?
- A. That data is -- The five lines are two programs run by Texaco, one in 1973, one in 1975. They're all Vibroseis data.
  - Q. So it was information that Harvey E. Yates has

#### 20 1 essentially purchased? 2 We have licensed this data, yes, sir. No additional seismic data has been done 3 0. 4 subsequent to that time? Texaco did shoot a seismic program in 1981 using 5 Α. sign bit crews. That data is not available as licensed 6 data. Texaco has not made that available to the market. 7 8 And Heyco has not run any of the seismic surveys 9 through there? We have not, sir, no. 10 Α. What do you propose the total depth of this well 11 Q. 12 to be? 13 Α. 6400 feet, which would test 200 feet into the El 14 Paso or Ellenburger equivalent. That's 6400 feet --15 0. 16 Α. Yes, sir. 17 Q. -- total depth? 18 How deep was that Texaco well? 19 Α. I don't remember the TD on it. It did get down 20 through the Bliss Sandstone. I believe the TD is marked on 21 Figure 3. Like what? 8200? 22 Q.

- Q. Hike what. 0200.
- A. 8683 for the Texaco FO.
- Q. What's the freshwater zones in this area that you as a geologist will anticipate going through in the early

stages of drilling?

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A. The entire section has produced fresh water in the wellbores that exist out there. The Fusselman, even the El Paso, does produce fresh water in the area.

That fresh water is probably related to the Tertiary basin and range faulting where the outcrops appear to the west of us.

- Q. What's the primary commercial or residential or ranch use of the water formation out there?
- A. The Texaco FO was released to the rancher for -
  11 as a water well, and they generally use it to fill a tank

  12 for their cattle.
- Q. But what formation do they obtain their water --
  - A. That's out of the Fusselman as well, sir.
- 15 Q. Out of the Fusselman. Wow, about 8000 feet?
- A. The Fusselman in that wellbore was 5900, I believe.
- 18 Q. Got one heck of a windmill, huh?
- 19 A. The well will flow.
- 20 Q. Oh, well --
- 21 A. They don't need a mill at all.
- 22 EXAMINER STOGNER: Good. I have no further
- 23 | questions of Mr. Underwood.
- MR. BRUCE: Neither do I.
- 25 EXAMINER STOGNER: He may be excused.

1	Do you have anything further, Mr. Bruce?
2	MR. BRUCE: No, sir.
3	EXAMINER STOGNER: Does anybody else have
4	anything further in Case 11,394?
5	If not, then this case will be taken under
6	advisement.
7	(Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
8	8:45 a.m.)
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# CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE	OF	NEW	MEX	ICO	)	
					)	SS
COUNTY	OF	SAN	ITA	FE	)	

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL December 7th, 1995.

STEVEN T. BRENNER CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 1998

hereby certify that the foregoing is
a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 1394.
heard by may on A forement.

19 95

Oil Conservation Division

Oli Company

#### 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:

APPLICATION OF HARVEY E. YATES COMPANY FOR A UNIT AGREEMENT, OTERO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

CASE NO. 11,394

ORIGINAL

#### REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

#### EXAMINER HEARING

RECEIVED

OCT 1 9 1995

BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner

Oil Conservation Division

October 5th, 1995

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, October 5th, 1995, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources

Department, Porter Hall, 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

#### INDEX

October 5th, 1995 Examiner Hearing CASE NO. 11,394

PAGE

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

4

\* \* \*

### APPEARANCES

### FOR THE DIVISION:

RAND L. CARROLL Attorney at Law Legal Counsel to the Division 2040 South Pacheco Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

1	WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2	9:36 a.m.:
3	EXAMINER STOGNER: Call Case Number 11,394.
4	MR. CARROLL: Application of Harvey E. Yates
5	Company for a unit agreement, Otero County, New Mexico.
6	EXAMINER STOGNER: At this time I'll call for
7	appearances.
8	This Application was filed by Mr. Jim Bruce, and
9	his letter of September 27th requested that it be
10	readvertised to the October 19th hearing.
11	It didn't say anything about continuance, but I'm
12	going to take it that he's not here that this case
13	will be continued and readvertised for the October 19th
14	hearing.
15	(Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
16	9:37 a.m.)
17	* * *
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#### CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO )
) ss.
COUNTY OF SANTA FE )

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL October 12th, 1995.

STEVEN T. BRENNER

CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 1998

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 11394, heard by message of the proceedings in the Examiner hearing of Case No. 11394.

\_\_\_, Examiner

Oil Conservation Division