

## 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 COBRA OIL AND GAS )  
 CORPORATION FOR A UNIT AGREEMENT, )  
 LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO )

APPLICATION OF COBRA OIL AND GAS )  
 CORPORATION FOR AN UNORTHODOX OIL WELL )  
 LOCATION, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO )

CASE NOS. 11,465

11,466

(Consolidated)

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGSEXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner

February 8th, 1996

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, February 8th, 1996, 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.

\* \* \*

STEVEN T. BRENNER, CCR  
 (505) 989-9317

## I N D E X

February 8th, 1996  
 Examiner Hearing  
 CASE NOS. 11,456 and 11,466 (Consolidated)

	PAGE
APPEARANCES	3
APPLICANT'S WITNESSES:	
<u>CHARLES HOUSE</u> (Landman)	
Direct Examination by Mr. Carr	5
Examination by Examiner Stogner	10
<u>JAMES SMALL</u> (Geologist)	
Direct Examination by Mr. Carr	12
Examination by Examiner Stogner	18
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	21

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## E X H I B I T S

Applicant's	Identified	Admitted
Exhibit 1	6	10
Exhibit 2	7	10
Exhibit 3	13	18
Exhibit 4	14	18
Exhibit 5	17	18
Exhibit 6	9	10

\* \* \*

## A P P E A R A N C E S

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:

CAMPBELL, CARR & BERGE, P.A.  
Suite 1 - 110 N. Guadalupe  
P.O. Box 2208  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208  
By: WILLIAM F. CARR

\* \* \*

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at  
2 11:54 a.m.:

3 EXAMINER STOGNER: This hearing will come to  
4 order. I'll call next case, Number 11,465.

5 MR. CARROLL: Application of Cobra Oil and Gas  
6 Corporation for a unit agreement, Lea County, New Mexico.

7 EXAMINER STOGNER: Call for appearances.

8 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is  
9 William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law firm Campbell, Carr  
10 and Berge.

11 We represent Cobra Oil and Gas Corporation in  
12 this matter, and I have two witnesses.

13 Mr. Examiner, we would request at this time that  
14 this case be consolidated with the following case, also an  
15 Application of Cobra, for an unorthodox location for the  
16 one well that will be drilled in the proposed unit.

17 EXAMINER STOGNER: Are there any appearances in  
18 Case 11,465 or the other one, 11,466?

19 Okay, in that case I'll call Case Number 11,466  
20 at this time.

21 MR. CARROLL: Application of Cobra Oil and Gas  
22 Corporation for an unorthodox oil well location, Lea  
23 County, New Mexico.

24 EXAMINER STOGNER: Both matters will be  
25 consolidated for purposes of the testimony, and will the

1 witnesses please stand to be sworn?

2 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)

3 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Stogner, we would  
4 call Mr. Charles House.

5 CHARLES HOUSE,  
6 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon  
7 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. CARR:

10 Q. Would you state your name for the record, please?

11 A. Charles House.

12 Q. Mr. House, where do you reside?

13 A. Midland, Texas.

14 Q. By whom are you employed?

15 A. I'm an independent petroleum landman, currently  
16 under contract to Cobra Oil and Gas Corp.

17 Q. Have you previously testified before this  
18 Division?

19 A. No, I have not.

20 Q. Could you briefly summarize your educational  
21 background and work experience for the Examiner?

22 A. I've been an independent landman for 19 years.  
23 I'm a member of the American Association of Petroleum  
24 Landman and a certified professional landman by that  
25 organization.

1 Q. Are you familiar with the Applications filed in  
2 each of these consolidated cases?

3 A. Yes, I am.

4 Q. And are you familiar with the proposed Lewis Unit  
5 and the proposed State 3 Com Number 1 well?

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, we tender Mr. House as an  
8 expert witness in petroleum land matters.

9 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. House is so qualified.

10 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Could you briefly state what Cobra  
11 Oil and Gas Corporation seeks with these Applications?

12 A. The approval of the Lewis unit and approval of  
13 the unorthodox location for the State Com Number 1 well --  
14 State 3 Com Number 1.

15 Q. And what is the proposed location for the State 3  
16 Com Number 1 well?

17 A. 675 feet from the south line and 114 feet from  
18 the west line of Section 3, Township 10 South, Range 36  
19 East, Lea County.

20 Q. Mr. House, have you prepared certain exhibits for  
21 presentation in this case?

22 A. Yes, I have.

23 Q. Could you refer to what has been marked as Cobra  
24 Exhibit Number 1, identify this and review it for Mr.  
25 Stogner?

1           A.    This is a land plat we prepared primarily to show  
2   the acreage involved, the unit outlined in the proposed  
3   location.

4           Q.    Can you explain the status of the land in each of  
5   the two tracts being unitized?

6           A.    Both tracts are state lands.

7           Q.    Do they have the same beneficiary institutions  
8   under each of those tracts?

9           A.    Yes, they do.

10          Q.    Both of them are the New Mexico School of Mines?

11          A.    That is correct.

12          Q.    Now, there are other wells shown on this exhibit  
13   offsetting the proposed unit; is that correct?

14          A.    That is correct.

15          Q.    Will Cobra call a geological witness to review  
16   the status of the offsetting production --

17          A.    Yes.

18          Q.    -- in the area?

19                Can you identify what has been marked as Cobra  
20   Exhibit Number 2?

21          A.    That is a state form unit agreement.

22          Q.    Does this agreement on Schedule B show the status  
23   of the ownership of the acreage and the tracts which have  
24   been unitized?

25          A.    Yes, it does.

1 Q. It shows both the working interest and the  
2 royalty interest ownership?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. What percentage of the working interest will be  
5 voluntarily committed to this unit agreement?

6 A. One hundred percent.

7 Q. And is Cobra to be designated unit operator under  
8 this agreement?

9 A. Yes, they will be.

10 Q. Has the unit agreement been reviewed with the  
11 Commissioner of Public Lands?

12 A. It has been sent to the Commissioner for  
13 approval, but we are currently waiting on that.

14 Q. Will Cobra supply the Commissioner's preliminary  
15 approval letter as soon as it is received?

16 A. Yes, we will.

17 Q. What is the primary objective in this unit?

18 A. The Devonian.

19 Q. And what other formations are actually --  
20 horizons are actually being unitized?

21 A. All formations.

22 Q. Are you required under any of your agreements  
23 with other interest owners in the unit to spud the initial  
24 well in the unit --

25 A. Yes --



1 Q. -- at a particular time?

2 A. Yes, we are. Under one of the agreements we're  
3 required to spud by April 30th, 1996.

4 Q. Now, Mr. House, is Exhibit Number 6 a copy of an  
5 affidavit confirming that notice of the Application has  
6 been provided in accordance with OCD rules?

7 A. Yes, it is.

8 Q. And attached to that affidavit are there copies  
9 of the notice letters?

10 A. Yes, there are.

11 Q. Notice was provided to Santa Fe Energy Resources,  
12 Inc.?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. What is their ownership in the area?

15 A. Santa Fe owns 100 percent of the working interest  
16 or the operating rights of Section 4.

17 Q. And that is also being unitized?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. That's the tract toward whom the well's being  
20 unitized?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. What is the Yates interest in this area?

23 A. Yates is an offset operator that, while probably  
24 not affected by this unit, I guess in overabundance of  
25 caution we went ahead and notified them of what was going

1 on.

2 Q. And do they operate Section 9, the diagonal  
3 offset to the south --

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. Were Exhibits 1 and 2 prepared by you or under  
6 your direction?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Also Exhibit Number 6 is the affidavit?

9 A. Exhibit Number 6 was -- The affidavit was  
10 prepared by your law firm, based on the information I  
11 provided.

12 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, at this time we would  
13 move the admission into evidence of Cobra Exhibits 1, 2 and  
14 6.

15 EXAMINER STOGNER: I'm sorry, which ones?

16 MR. CARR: 1, 2 and 6.

17 EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 1, 2 and 6 will be  
18 admitted into evidence at this time.

19 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct  
20 examination of Mr. House.

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

23 Q. Mr. House, when did you say was the deadline for  
24 drilling date?

25 A. We have April 30th of 1996 under one of our

1 agreements, our agreement with Santa Fe.

2 Q. And in Exhibit Number 2, last page, Exhibit C of  
3 that particular exhibit, you show about three people in  
4 Tract One. Have they all agreed at this point?

5 A. Yes, they have.

6 Q. And Tract Two, Santa Fe has agreed?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So you have 100-percent participation in both  
9 tracts?

10 A. That is correct, yes, sir.

11 Q. And what is the proposed name of this unit?

12 A. This is the Lewis Unit, L-e-w-i-s.

13 Q. Now, these are two state leases. Are they  
14 portions of state leases?

15 A. Yes, Section 3 is one lease, all of Section 4 is  
16 one lease. We were taking only 40 acres out of each lease.

17 Q. And have you met with the Land Office and got  
18 preliminary approval yet?

19 A. I have not. We have submitted the agreement and  
20 are waiting to hear back.

21 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, we talked with them  
22 yesterday, were to meet with them yesterday, and then they  
23 called and were unable to meet. So we delivered the data  
24 to them.

25 Mr. Martinez indicated by phone he saw no problem

1 with it and would be supplying a preliminary approval  
2 letter. We have not received it yet. We will submit it on  
3 receipt.

4 EXAMINER STOGNER: If you would, please.

5 MR. CARR: Okay.

6 EXAMINER STOGNER: I don't have any other  
7 questions of Mr. House. He may be excused.

8 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, at this time we would  
9 call James Small.

10 JAMES SMALL,  
11 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon  
12 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. CARR:

15 Q. Would you state your full name for the record,  
16 please?

17 A. James Small.

18 Q. Where do you reside?

19 A. Midland, Texas.

20 Q. By whom are you employed?

21 A. I'm employed by Small Geoservices and presently  
22 am a consultant for Cobra Oil and Gas Corporation.

23 Q. Have you previously testified before this  
24 Division?

25 A. No, I haven't.

1 Q. Could you review your educational background for  
2 Mr. Stogner?

3 A. I have a BS in geology from Washington and Lee  
4 University. I've been employed in the oil and gas industry  
5 for 15 years and presently am consulting for the last five  
6 years for Cobra Oil and Gas.

7 Q. And you're a consultant in the area of petroleum  
8 geology; is that right?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in  
11 each of these cases?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And are you familiar with the proposed Lewis Unit  
14 and the State 3 Com Number 1 well?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, we tender Mr. Small as an  
17 expert witness in petroleum geology.

18 EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Small is so qualified.

19 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Have you prepared exhibits for  
20 presentation here today?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. Let's go to your structure map, which has been  
23 marked Exhibit Number 3, and I would ask you to review the  
24 information on this exhibit for the Examiner.

25 A. This is a structure map on 25-foot contours on

1 the top of the Devonian. It's based on the well control,  
2 and it's also based on seismic data that Cobra Oil and Gas  
3 had purchased from a commercial seismic source.

4 Q. Basically what this shows are small Devonian  
5 features in the area; is that correct?

6 A. Yes, sir, the field to the north is Crossroads,  
7 the field to the south in Section 10 is the northern  
8 portion of Crossroads South. And our indications are that  
9 there are some additional undrilled closures on this  
10 productive trend.

11 Q. The wells that are indicated in the solid circle  
12 show producing wells. The others show what? Dry holes or  
13 abandoned wells?

14 A. Yes, sir, dry holes.

15 Q. Are they all in the Devonian?

16 A. No, sir, the well in Section 4, in the southeast  
17 corner, is a San Andres test. It did not penetrate the  
18 Devonian.

19 Q. The wells in the northern portion of Section 10  
20 are those Devonian wells?

21 A. Yes, sir, they're all Devonian.

22 Q. Let's go to the cross-section, your Exhibit  
23 Number 4. Can you review this for Mr. Stogner, please?

24 A. This cross-section starts, A, to the north, it  
25 comes up across a fault and crosses the southern end of the

1 Crossroads field, the Devonian producing field, and then  
2 proceeds south, crosses our proposed location, and then  
3 crosses another fault that is downthrown onto the northern  
4 end of the South Crossroads field.

5 The key well in here, I'd like to bring your  
6 attention to. There are producing wells in both the north  
7 end and the south end of the cross-section. The key well  
8 that I'd like to bring your attention to is the Number 1  
9 Hill and Meeker, which is the producing well in the  
10 Crossroads South field. And between that well and our  
11 location is the Hill and Meeker Number 2, which was a dry  
12 hole, which was low to the Number 1 well, and it was wet.

13 And then we propose to drill this undrilled fault  
14 block just to the northwest of that dry hole.

15 EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay, I'm not finding that  
16 well.

17 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry, it's -- The producer  
18 well is one in from the end of A'.

19 EXAMINER STOGNER: That's the first producing  
20 well from A'?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

22 EXAMINER STOGNER: It's the one that's marked  
23 Hill and Meeker?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

25 EXAMINER STOGNER: The State 10 Well Number 1?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

2 EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay. All right, you may  
3 continue.

4 Q. (By Mr. Carr) And so what you've got in that  
5 well is a Devonian producer in a small geological anomaly;  
6 is that right?

7 A. That is correct. It's a small closure on the  
8 Devonian that was perforated and is productive.

9 Q. And if we move to the left on the cross-section,  
10 then we come to the undrilled fault block, which is the  
11 proposed location?

12 A. That is correct, yes, sir.

13 Q. What is the reservoir drive mechanism in this  
14 area?

15 A. This is a water-drive reservoir in both  
16 Crossroads and Crossroads South field.

17 Q. You've got a bottom water drive?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. So the objective here is to drill at the highest  
20 structural point in this Devonian anomaly?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And by doing that, you'll avoid leaving attic oil  
23 behind; is that correct?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. In your opinion, Mr. Small, will this be in fact



1 a one-well unit?

2 A. Yes, sir. If we're successful we plan to produce  
3 it on 80 acres, and this one well should effectively drain  
4 the whole structure as we envision it.

5 Q. Let's go to Exhibit Number 5. Can you identify  
6 that, please?

7 A. Exhibit Number 5 is a producing well production  
8 map in the area. It shows the producing wells out of the  
9 formations they produce and the cumulative oil production  
10 from those wells.

11 Q. In your opinion, is the formation of this unit  
12 and the drilling of a well at the proposed unorthodox  
13 location to the Devonian necessary to effectively produce  
14 the reserves from this geologic anomaly?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. By developing at this unorthodox location, will  
17 you be able to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. In your opinion, will approval of this  
20 Application otherwise be in the best interest of  
21 conservation, the prevention of waste and the protection of  
22 correlative rights?

23 A. It will.

24 Q. Were Exhibits 3 through 5 prepared by you?

25 A. Yes, they were.

1 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, at this time we would  
2 move the admission into evidence of Cobra Exhibits 3  
3 through 5.

4 EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 3 through 5 will be  
5 admitted into evidence.

6 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct  
7 examination of Mr. Small.

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

10 Q. Mr. Small, what is the well in Section 4, in the  
11 southeast quarter, southeast quarter? What is that one,  
12 and what happened to it?

13 A. The well in the southeast of the southeast of 4  
14 was a San Andres well. It was drilled to approximately  
15 5100 feet and it was tested and it was noncommercial, so it  
16 was plugged and abandoned.

17 Q. Never had any gas.

18 And the field to the south, referring to Exhibit  
19 Number 3 now, the field to the south that you referred to  
20 in Section 10, that's the South Crossroads?

21 A. Yes, that's the northern portion of the South  
22 Crossroads field. There is more of that field one section  
23 south.

24 Q. Are those Devonian wells?

25 A. Yes, sir, they are Devonian wells.

1 Q. And the same way up in Section -- What is that,  
2 34?

3 A. Yes, sir, that's the south end of Crossroads  
4 field. There are two Mississippian producing wells that  
5 were off the Devonian structure, and they're colored in  
6 pink.

7 Q. Are the Mississippian wells, are they within the  
8 unit? Are they below or above the Devonian?

9 A. They're above the Devonian.

10 Q. So that would be included in your unit?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And those Mississippian wells are oil wells?

13 A. Yes, sir, they both produced oil and a fair  
14 amount of gas, but they've been classified as oil wells.

15 Q. Do you know what the standard spacing of both  
16 those two Crossroads fields are?

17 A. They are 40 acres.

18 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other questions of Mr.  
19 Small?

20 MR. CARR: No questions.

21 EXAMINER STOGNER: You may be excused.

22 Anything further, Mr. Carr?

23 MR. CARR: Mr. Stogner, that concludes our  
24 presentation in this case.

25 EXAMINER STOGNER: Nobody else has anything --

1 Well, I just noticed something here. I need to ask Mr.  
2 House a question.

3 In referring to Exhibit Number 2, Mr. House, on  
4 the front cover, you show that to be a state fee  
5 exploratory unit. Was that a typo?

6 MR. CARR: I can answer that. That is a typo.  
7 We were preparing that in our office off a state form.  
8 It's a state-staked unit.

9 EXAMINER STOGNER: Okay. Then with that, I will  
10 take both cases 11,465 and 11,466 under advisement at this  
11 time.

12 And with that, hearing is adjourned.

13 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at  
14 12:10 p.m.)

15 \* \* \*

16  
17  
18  
19  
20 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is  
21 a complete record of the proceedings in  
22 the Examiner hearing of Case Nos. 11465 and 11466  
23 heard by me on 8 February 1996.

24  Examiner  
25 Oil Conservation Division

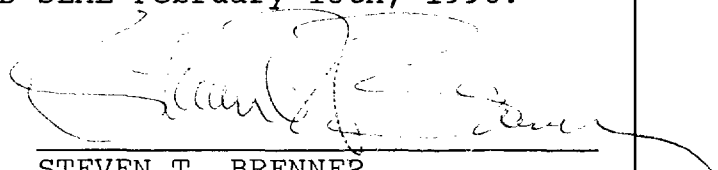
## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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 February 18th, 1996.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVEN T. BRENNER  
CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 1998