NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Examiner Hearing Santa Fe, New Mexico November 18, 1999 -- 8:15 A.M.

Name	Representing	Location
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PANE R. QUEN	Campbell, Care, BERLE + SHEET SO	
Shannon Nichols	Burlington Resources	Farm. of June
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STATE OF NEW MEXICO

99 DEC -2 PM SNERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 12,282

APPLICATION OF YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A UNIT AGREEMENT, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ORIGINAL

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner

November 18th, 1999 Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, MICHAEL E. STOGNER, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, November 18th, 1999, 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.

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APPEARANCES

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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208
By: PAUL R. OWEN

* * *

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at 1 2 8:20 a.m.: 3 4 5 EXAMINER STOGNER: This hearing will come to 7 order. I'm Michael Stogner, appointed Hearing Examiner for 8 today's cases. Please note today's date, Thursday, 9 November the 18th, 1999, and we're here today to consider Docket Number 35-99. 10 11 At this time I'll call Case Number 12,282. 12 MR. CARROLL: Application of Yates Petroleum Corporation for approval of a unit agreement, Lea County, 13 New Mexico. 14 15 EXAMINER STOGNER: Call for appearances. MR. CARR: Paul Owen of the Santa Fe law firm of 16 17 Campbell, Carr, Berge and Sheridan, for the Applicant, Yates Petroleum Corporation. I have two witnesses in this 18 matter. 19 EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other appearances? 20 21 Will the witnesses please stand to be sworn? 22 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.) EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Owen? 23 MR. OWEN: May it please the Examiner, I call as 24 25 my first witness in this matter Mr. Robert Bullock.

1	ROBERT BULLOCK,
2	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
3	his oath, was examined and testified as follows:
4	DIRECT EXAMINATION
5	BY MR. BULLOCK:
6	Q. Mr. Bullock, please tell us your full name.
7	A. Robert Bullock.
8	Q. And where do you live?
9	A. Hope, New Mexico.
10	Q. Who do you work for?
11	A. I work for Yates Petroleum.
12	Q. What do you do for Yates?
13	A. I'm a landman.
14	Q. Have you previously testified before the Division
15	and had your credentials as a petroleum landman accepted
16	and made a matter of record?
17	A. Yes.
18	Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
19	this case?
20	A. Yes.
21	Q. Are you familiar with the proposed East Sand
22	Springs State Unit?
23	A. Yes, sir.
24	MR. OWEN: Mr. Examiner, are the witness's
25	qualifications acceptable?

Mr. Bullock is so qualified. EXAMINER STOGNER: 1 Q. (By Mr. Owen) Mr. Bullock, I notice that you are 2 3 calling the unit the East Sand Springs State Unit, and it was advertised as the Sand Springs State Unit. Why has the 4 name been changed? 5 That was done at the request of the Commissioner 6 Α. of public lands. They had a unit by that name, so they 7 asked us to amend the name to the East Sand Springs State 8 Unit, which we have done. 9 Are there any changes in the unit agreement or 10 Q. the substance of your proposal, other than the name? 11 12 Α. No. Why don't you tell us what Yates is seeking with 13 Q. 14 this Application? 15 We're seeking approval of this exploratory unit Α. agreement, comprising 4053.92 net acres, located in six 16 17 sections. These are located approximately twelve miles east of Caprock, New Mexico. 18 Have you brought exhibits for introduction in 19 Q. 20 this case? Yes, we have. 21 Α. Why don't you turn to Exhibit Number 1, the unit 22 Q. agreement, and review it for the Examiner, please? 23 This is the standard unit agreement that --24 Α.

requested by the Commissioner of Public Lands. And page 2

of that agreement sets out the unit area. It has the standard language required throughout the body of the agreement. And then Exhibits A and B define the outline of the unit, and Exhibit B sets out the leases that are involved.

- Q. Now, Exhibit A, when you refer to Exhibit A you mean Exhibit A to the unit agreement, that is stapled within the unit agreement?
 - A. That's correct.

- Q. Does that indicate the boundaries of the proposed unit?
 - A. Yes, it does.
- Q. Does it indicate that you have a window within the unit that is not being -- that might otherwise be in the unit that is not being unitized in this case?
- A. Right, we've indicated those windows with that slash line that goes across that specific leasehold.
 - Q. Is this all state acreage?
 - A. Yes, it's all state, 100 percent state acreage.
- Q. What is the status of those two tracts that you have indicated as windows in the unit there?
- A. They are going to be uncommitted to our unit.

 And as a matter of fact, they're going to be unitized by

 Manzano Oil Corporation for their state unit.
 - Q. Is that the Sand Springs State Unit?

8 Yes, that's correct. A. 2 Q. The reason for the name change? Α. Right. 3 Does Exhibit B to the unit agreement, again 4 0. stapled within, as you indicated, does that reflect the 5 ownership within that unit? 6 Yes, we've set out the descriptions of the lands, 7 the acreage and the lease numbers, lessee of record and the 8 working interest within those leases. 9 And within the acreage that is indicated on 10 Q. Exhibit A to the unit agreement, have you received 100-11 percent commitment to the unit? 12 No, the lands in Tract 11, going back to the map, 13 Tract 11 will not be committed to the unit. That leasehold 14 is also owned by Manzano, and it represents 194.68 acres 15 out of the unit will be uncommitted. 16 17 Q. What percentage of commitment have you received so far? 18 It will be right at 95 percent, give or take a 19 Α. 20 little bit. And does that -- That 95 percent gives you 21 Q. effective control of unit operations, does it not? 22 Α. 23 Yes.

to Exhibit Number 2? Well, also contained within Exhibit

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Q.

Okay. Now, Exhibit -- why don't you turn with me

Number 1 is the joint operating -- proposed joint operating 1 agreement; is that correct? 2 Yes, that's what Yates is going to use for the 3 A. operations on the wells in this unit. 4 Okay. Also contained within the exhibits, it 5 Q. appears that Exhibit Number 2 is an AFE. Could you review 6 the totals of that AFE for the Examiner, please? 7 Α. The estimated total dryhole costs for the 8 drilling of this 12,500-foot Mississippian well, \$581,350, 9 10 dryhole. And the completed well costs are \$866,650. Now, Mr. Bullock, is this AFE for the initial 11 Q. well, proposed initial well, within the unit? 12 Yes. 13 Α. And is that -- Referring back to Exhibit A within 14 Q. the unit agreement, is that initial location indicated on 15 that map? 16 No, it's not located on my map. It's in Section 17 Α. 18 5. Will it be indicated on the geologic exhibits? 19 Q. 20 Α. Yes. Okay. Mr. Bullock, does Yates desire to be the 21 Q. 22 designated unit operator? 23 Α. Yes, we do. 24 Q. Does -- Have you received preliminary approval 25 from the Commissioner of Public Lands?

- A. I talked with Pete Martinez this morning, and
 they are going to approve this unit as we have given it to
 them. They will have a two-well requirement for us on a
 two-well commitment. First well, we'll have to spud on or
 before 1-1 of 2000, and the second well will be required to
 be spudded within six months from completion date of that
 first well.
 - Q. So your first well within the unit needs to be spudded by the end of the year; is that correct?
 - A. By 1-1-2000.
 - Q. Did you have any lease-expiration issues in this unit?
 - A. Yes, there's -- That's why we have to be spudding by that date.
 - Q. If you do not spud that date, will you lose some of the leases --
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. -- that you hold within the unit --
- 19 A. That's correct.
 - Q. -- within the proposed unit?
 - Mr. Bullock, does the unit agreement provide for the periodic filing of plans of development?
 - A. Yes, it does.
- Q. Will these be filed with the OCD, as well as other agencies?

Α. Yes. 1 2 How often are they to be filed? Q. I believe yearly, once a year. I'm not sure of 3 Α. that. 4 5 Is Yates also planning to call a geologic witness Q. in this case? 6 Α. Yes. 7 Mr. Bullock, were Exhibits Number 1 and 2 8 Q. 9 prepared by you or compiled under your direction and supervision? 10 11 Α. Yes, sir. 12 MR. OWEN: Mr. Examiner, I move the admission of 13 Yates Exhibits Numbers 1 and 2. EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 1 and 2 will be 14 15 admitted into evidence at this time. That's all I have for this witness at 16 MR. OWEN: 17 this time. 18 **EXAMINATION** BY EXAMINER STOGNER: 19 20 Mr. Bullock, in looking up there at Tract 11 --Q. and of course it's adjacent to the acreage not included in 21 22 this, which I understand you say was going to be 23 communitized by Manzano; is that correct? Yes, that's correct, yes. 24 Α.

How come Tract 11 is not going to be included in

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Q.

that Manzano --

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- A. They didn't want to commit and dilute their interest, I take it. They didn't give me a real reason, they just didn't want to join it.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. They're unitizing the tract right above it, so I guess they felt like there wasn't any need for them to be in our unit and dilute their interest.
- Q. Well, what I'm asking, why didn't they include that in their proposed unit?
- A. That well -- That lease has a well on it. That's why that slash is through there.
 - Q. No, I'm talking about Tract 11 --
- A. Yeah.
- Q. -- that's not committed at this time. Why aren't they committing it to their unit?
 - A. I don't know. You'll have to -- I don't know the answer to that.
 - Q. Well, didn't you negotiate some sort of proposal for Tract 11 with Manzano?
 - A. Yeah, they didn't want to commit it to our unit.
 - Q. But they didn't tell you that they were going -- or why they didn't want to include it in their unit?
 - A. No.
 - Q. That would really be two units, wouldn't it, that

Manzano is forming, since they're not contiguous? Wouldn't 1 that be right? 2 I don't know that the State Land Office sees it 3 I don't know. 4 that way. Of course, there's other approvals in a unit, is 5 there not? 6 Α. Yeah. 7 8 Q. But yours is contiguous throughout? 9 Α. Yes. Are you familiar with Rule 507, about the 10 Q. 11 contiguous acreage rule? I'm not thoroughly familiar with that ruling, no, 12 Α. I'm not. 13 But yours -- Okay, well, let me read it. Rule 14 Q. 507, Unitized Areas: "After petition and notice and 15 hearing, the Division may grant approval for the combining 16 of contiguous developed proration units into a unitized 17 18 area." Yours fits this requirement, does it not? 19 Uh-huh. 20 Α. Okay. But it doesn't appear that theirs would? 21 Q. I think all they're unitizing, though, is just 22 Α. 23 the south half of 34 and the southwest of 35. I'll let

them tell you that, but that's my understanding, that that

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is all they're unitizing.

1	Q. Okay. Now, on your Exhibit Number 2, you
2	submitted the Sand Springs Unit Well Number 1 proposed AFE.
3	A. Right.
4	Q. Now, if I look over on your map that's provided
5	as Exhibit A of the unit agreement, now there's already a
6	plugged and abandoned well. Is this going to be on the
7	same wellpad or near that area?
8	A. It's close. I'm not sure exactly what the
9	footage of that well is, and it's a very shallow It only
10	went to 164 feet. It's We're going to be real close to
11	that.
12	Q. But you're not going to re-enter that old well,
13	that shallow well?
14	A. No, I don't believe we are, no.
15	EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other questions of this
16	witness?
17	FURTHER EXAMINATION
18	BY MR. OWEN:
19	Q. Well, Mr. Bullock, would you refer to page number
20	5 of the unit agreement? Does that, in fact, provide for
21	annual filing of the plan of development, at the bottom of
22	the page?
23	A. Yes, every twelve-month period.
24	MR. OWEN: Okay, that's all that I have of this
25	witness.

1 EXAMINER STOGNER: If there's no other questions 2 of Mr. Bullock, he may be excused. MR. OWEN: May it please the Examiner, as my 3 second witness in this matter I call Mr. Reed Meek. 4 5 REED H. MEEK, the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon 6 7 his oath, was examined and testified as follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION 8 BY MR. OWEN: 9 Mr. Meek, would you please state and spell your 10 Q. name for us, your full name? 11 Reed H. Meek, M-e-e-k is the last name. 12 Α. 13 Q. How do you spell your first name? 14 A. R-e-e-d. Okay. Where do you live? 15 Q. 16 Α. In Artesia, New Mexico. 17 Q. Who do you work for? Yates Petroleum. 18 Α. What do you do for Yates? 19 Q. I'm a geologist. 20 Α. Have you previously testified before this 21 Q. Division? 22 23 Α. Yes, I have. When was that? 24 Q. 25 Approximately 1992. Α.

1	Q. Have you testified before this Division since
2	that time?
3	A. No.
4	Q. Why don't you go ahead and review for us a little
5	bit about your educational background?
6	A. I have a bachelor's degree in geology from
7	Brigham Young University and a master's degree from the
8	University of Wisconsin.
9	Q. And since you What have you done with that
10	degree? where have you worked?
11	A. I've spent about 15 years in the oil and gas
12	industry, beginning in 1984 with Conoco, Incorporated, in
13	Houston, Texas. I have worked areas in south Texas,
14	southeast New Mexico, northwest New Mexico, and I've done
15	some international work as well.
16	Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
17	this case?
18	A. Yes, I am.
19	Q. Have you made a geologic study of the area
20	surrounding the proposed East Sand Springs Unit?
21	A. Yes.
22	MR. OWEN: Mr. Examiner, I'd tender Mr. Meek as
23	an expert petroleum geologist.
24	EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Meek is so qualified.
25	Q. (By Mr. Owen) Mr. Meek, would you tell us what

horizons Yates is planning to unitize in the East Sand 1 Springs Unit? 2 3 Α. Yes, we're unitizing all horizons. And what's the primary objective? 4 Q. 5 Α. Our primary objective is the Atoka-Morrow formation. 6 7 Q. What pool is that in? 8 A. It would be in the Sand Springs-Atoka-Morrow 9 Pool. Are there secondary objectives? 10 Q. Yes, there are a number of secondary objectives 11 These include the Devonian, the 12 in the area. Mississippian, the Pennsylvanian and the Abo formation. 13 Okay. Exhibit Number 3 appears to be an overview 14 Q. of the project. Can you review Exhibit Number 3 for the 15 Examiner, please? 16 17 Α. I'm sorry, I don't have a copy of it in front of 18 me. Q. Okay. 19 20 Yes, this Exhibit is to show the outline of the proposed unit, as well as the location of some of the other 21 exhibits that we'll be presenting, including, in the 22 23 southern part, a cross-section designated A-A', and it 24 includes three wells.

Also, about midway across the unit is a location

of the seismic line designated as Line 2755.

And then I've also indicated some fault boundaries that communicate some of the geologic constraints on why we're proposing this area as a unit, and those will be discussed further on a structure map, which is one of the further exhibits.

- Mr. Meek, is the location of the proposed initial Q. test well indicated on this exhibit as well?
- That's right, it is located up in Section 5, in the northwest corner of Section 5.
- Q. And Mr. Meek, do you know if Yates is planning to re-enter the previous wellbore that Mr. Bullock indicated was close to that same location?
 - No, it's our intention to drill a new well. A.
- Q. A new well?
- 16 Α. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. Do you know who drilled that previous well?
 - No, I do not. Α.
- 20 Okay. Why don't we turn to Yates Exhibit Number Can you -- the cross-section. Can you review that for 21 the Examiner, please?
 - Α. This is a three-well stratigraphic cross-section, and the datum that the cross-section is hung on is the top of the Austin Shale or the base of the Chester, which is a

lime formation in the Mississippian.

The intent of the cross-section is to show that the center well, the Carper-McAlester State "AD" Number 1 -- that the Morrow has been deposited in an incised valley system and that the sands that are located in the basal part of the Morrow were deposited as channel sands in this incised valley system, and that's the primary target of our proposed unit.

- Q. And are the wells that are part of this crosssection or reflected on this cross-section, are those reflected also on the index map on the bottom of the --
- A. That's right, this is represented on the index map, Exhibit Number 3, as the cross-section A-A'.
- Q. And Mr. Meek, is this dip that you're showing with the Carper-McAlester State "AD" Number 1 -- does that reflect a valley between these faults that you have indicated on the index map?
- A. That's right, we believe that the Morrow formation, the sands that we target when we drill for the Morrow, were deposited in topographic lows, which are either incised valleys or fault-controlled depositional lows.

And we believe in this area we have evidence from the fault -- from the well here and the Carper-McAlester well as well, as I'll show with the seismic line, evidence

that there is some fault boundaries controlling the location of this depositional channel.

- Q. Well, let's go ahead and turn to that seismic line, Yates Exhibit Number 5. Can you tell us why that's significant?
- A. Yeah, the seismic line is an east-west line about midway through our unit -- it crosses Section 12 and Section 7 -- and it indicates the presence of a fault. And across this fault, going from the west to the east, we see a thickening of the Morrow formation that gives us some indication that this is part of a control on where the Morrow channel existed at the time of deposition.
- Q. And is that thickening, that thickening of the sands, is your target in this case?
 - A. That's right.

- Q. Okay. Now, Exhibit Number 6 appears to be a structure map. Can you tell us about that, what that map reflects?
- A. Okay, the map is contoured on the top of the Mississippian or the base of the Morrow Section, so it's the best representation we can make of the structural configuration at the time of the Morrow deposition. It takes into account all the well control, and there are a number of wells that penetrate this horizon, and gives us an indication -- as well as taking into account the

interpretation from the seismic data, and gives us an indication that there is a channel feature that's bounded on both the east and west sides by faulting.

- Q. And is that also reflected on Exhibit Number 7, your isopach?
- A. That's correct, the isopach map is to illustrate how the Morrow formation, or the Atoka-Morrow formation, thickens down through the center of this valley.
- Q. Okay. And again, your initial test well is going to be located up there in the northwest of Section 5; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.

- Q. Is that initial test well location indicated on the isopach and the structure map and the --
- A. I believe it's indicated on all three of the maps that I've presented.
- Q. Overall, what does your geologic study tell you about the subject formation in this area?
- A. Well, we find that the Atoka-Morrow section is primarily a shaly section, but there are sands, and we believe that these sands are generally deposited in some type of channel-type of system. And one of the things that we try to identify in exploring for this horizon is the location of these channels, using either seismic or subsurface well interpretation techniques, and to target

these paleo- or ancient channels for drilling.

- Q. Why have you located the proposed initial test well up in Section 5?
- A. Well, first of all, we believe that it's a location that's in this channel system.

We also recognize that there is some risk that we may not find the sands that we're targeting, and one of the things that we try to do in locating wells is identify secondary objectives that may be zones that would be productive as well in the case that we don't find the primary objective sands.

In this case, we're offsetting the McKnight -Actually, it's the Manzano Snake Eyes State well, which is
in the northeast of Section 6, which is producing from a
zone in the Abo formation. So we see that as a secondary
objective in this well, although the Atoka-Morrow is our
primary objective.

- Q. So the well control from that well wouldn't have been helpful for, say, your cross-section? It's not producing from the same formation; is that right?
 - A. It is not producing from the Atoka-Morrow, no.
- Q. Okay. Given the geographic features in this area, is this an area that can be best developed under a unit plan?
 - A. Yes.

Okay. How soon do you plan to drill that initial 1 Q. 2 test well? Well, due to some expiring lease considerations, 3 Α. we need to spud the well before 1-1 of 2000. 4 In that case, do you request that the order in 5 Q. this case be expedited? 6 Α. Yes, we do. In your opinion, will approval of this 8 Q. Application be in the best interests of conservation, the 9 10 prevention of waste and the protection of correlative rights? 11 12 Α. Yes. Is Exhibit Number 8 a written summary of your 13 Q. 14 geologic presentation? 15 Α. That's right. Was that summary also provided to the State land 16 Q. office? 17 Yes, it was. 18 Α. Were Exhibits 3 through 8 prepared by you or 19 Q. under your direction and supervision? 20 21 Α. Yes, they were. 22 MR. OWEN: Mr. Examiner, I tender for admission 23 Yates Exhibits 3 through 8. 24 EXAMINER STOGNER: Exhibits 3 through 8 will be

admitted into evidence at this time.

EXAMINATION

BY EXAMINER STOGNER:

- Q. On your geological maps that you provided, it appears that this valley or fault zone extends further to the south, or does it actually stop in Sections 25 and 26?
- A. Well, we believe it extends at least into Section 25, because we believe that the Carper-McAlester well, which is on the cross-section, is located within this valley system.

As far as how much further to the south it extends, we can only guess. We don't have the seismic data that we need to extend that further to the south.

- Q. It looks like you have some well control down there in Sections 35 and 36. Was that investigated, or does that not go deep enough?
- A. Those wells -- There are some wells to the south that go deep enough. The ones that show TDs of less than 11,000 feet are not deep enough, but there is one well there at 12,896 feet that is deep enough to have penetrated this formation. That well was not investigated in this study.
- Q. Now in referring to Exhibit Number 7, you have a permeability and porosity pinchout up in the north?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. How did you come to that conclusion? Just by the

well control?

- A. You'll notice there are two wells up just to the north of the proposed unit boundary in Sections 28 and 26. Both of these wells have a well-developed basal Morrow sand in them. Neither of them was completed or is productive from that sand. And based on the fact that the sand was not produced in those wells, although it could possibly be prospective, we've inferred that perhaps there is a permeability/porosity pinchout that has made those sands nonproductive.
- Q. And what can you tell me about the well in Section 6 that went down to 13,447?
- A. We see evidence of well developed Morrow sands in that well as well, but they were not completed. In speaking with the geologist that worked for Manzano at the time, they re-entered that well and recompleted it to the Abo. They had made an attempt to get down into the Morrow and recomplete those sands but were unable to because of mechanical problems.
 - Q. When was that well drilled? Do you know?
- A. I couldn't give you the precise date, but the original well, I believe, was drilled sometime in the 1960s.

EXAMINER STOGNER: Any other questions of this witness?

1	MR. OWEN: I have no further questions, Mr.
2	Examiner.
3	EXAMINER STOGNER: Mr. Meek, you may be excused.
4	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
5	MR. OWEN: Mr. Examiner, I do note that the
6	Applicant has a lease-expiration problem and needs to get
7	this initial test well drilled by the end of this year. I
8	request that the order if you're so inclined, the order
9	approving this unit be expedited and be issued in the very
10	near future so that the Applicant can get its well down and
11	avoid the lease expiration.
12	That's all I have in this case.
13	EXAMINER STOGNER: Your request will be so noted,
14	Mr. Owen.
15	If there's nothing further in Case Number 12,282,
16	then this matter will be taken under advisement.
17	(Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
18	8:52 a.m.)
19	* * *
20	
21	i do hereby certify that the foregoing is a complete record of the proceedings in
22	the Examiner hearing of Case its. 12182, heard by the on 18 Ver. 18 99.
23	Market of the Exercises
24	// On Leafing Volumen
25	

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 November 22nd, 1999.

STEVEN T. BRENNER

CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 2002