

**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:**

**Case No. 14529
Order No. R-13318**

**APPLICATION OF APACHE CORPORATION
FOR APPROVAL OF A UNIT AGREEMENT,
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

ORDER OF THE DIVISION

BY THE DIVISION:

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on September 2, 2010, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Terry G. Warnell.

NOW, on this 28th day of September, 2010, the Division Director, having considered the testimony, the record, and the recommendations of the Examiner,

FINDS THAT:

(1) Due public notice has been given, and the Division has jurisdiction of this case and its subject matter.

(2) Apache Corporation ("Applicant"), seeks approval of the Unit Agreement for its Equis State Exploratory Unit Agreement for all oil and gas in all formations from the surface to the base of the Precambrian underlying the following-described 2,480 acres, more or less, of State lands in Lea County, New Mexico:

Township 14 South, Range 35 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 8: N/2, E/2 SW/4, SE/4

Section 9: All

Section 16: All

Section 17: All

(3) Applicant presented evidence at hearing that:

(a) All (100%) of the working interest owners in the Unit Area have committed their interests to the Unit Agreement.

- (b) The royalty interest in the proposed Unit Area is owned 100% by the State of New Mexico.
 - (c) The Commissioner of Public Lands has given his preliminary approval of the Unit Agreement.
 - (d) Working interest ownership is owned 100 percent by Apache Corporation and Pedernales Production, LP.
 - (e) The primary test target for the initial unit test well will be oil from the Abo/Wolfcamp formation, but all formations will be evaluated down to the base of the Precambrian formation. The initial test well will be a horizontal well located in the S/2 N/2 of Section 17.
- (4) No person appeared at the hearing or otherwise objected to the proposed Unit Agreement.
- (5) All of the proposed unit acreage in the Unit Area appears to be productive for the recovery of oil or gas from the target formation under the concept proposed by the applicant. These acres should be unitized and should equally share in the benefits of future oil and gas recovery.
- (6) The approval of the proposed Unit Agreement will serve to prevent waste and protect correlative rights in the lands within the Unit Area.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The Equis State Exploratory Unit Agreement is hereby approved for all oil and gas in all formations from the surface to the base of the Precambrian underlying the following- described 2,480 acres, more or less, of State lands in Lea County, New Mexico:

Township 14 South, Range 35 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 8: N/2, E/2 SW/4, SE/4
Section 9: All
Section 16: All
Section 17: All

- (2) The plan contained within the Equis State Unit Agreement for the development and operation of the above-described Unit Area is hereby approved in principle; provided, however, notwithstanding any of the provisions contained in the Unit Agreement, this approval shall not be considered as waiving or relinquishing, in any manner, any right, duty, or obligation that is now, or hereafter may be, vested in the Division to supervise and control operation of the Unit Area and production of oil and gas therefrom.

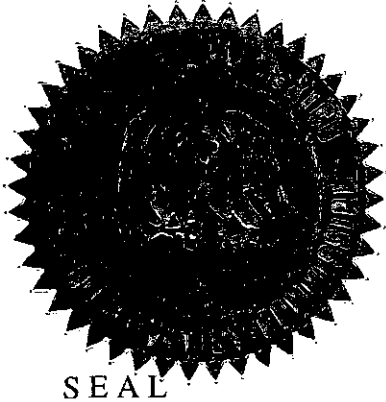
(3) The operator shall file with the Division an executed original or counterpart of the Unit Agreement within 30 days of the effective date thereof; in the event of any subsequent joinder by any other person, or expansion or contraction of the Unit Area, the unit operator shall file with the Division, within 30 days thereafter, copies of the Unit Agreement and any applicable amendment, reflecting the subscription of those interests having joined or ratified.

(4) All (i) plans of development and operation, (ii) creations, expansions, or contractions of participating areas, and (iii) expansions or contractions of the Unit Area, shall be submitted to the Division Director for approval.

(5) This order shall become effective upon final approval of the Unit Agreement by the Commissioner of Public Lands. This order shall terminate upon the termination of the Unit Agreement. The last operator shall promptly notify the Division in writing of such termination.

(6) Jurisdiction of this case is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Division may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Fesmire".

MARK E. FESMIRE, P.E.
Acting Director