

**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. 12550  
ORDER NO. R-11522**

**APPLICATION OF TMBR/SHARP DRILLING, INC. FOR COMPULSORY  
POOLING, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

**ORDER OF THE DIVISION**

**BY THE DIVISION:**

This case came on for hearing at 8:15 a.m. on December 7, 2000, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner David R. Catanach.

NOW, on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2001, 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) The applicant, TMBR/Sharp Drilling, Inc. ("TMBR Sharp"), seeks an order pooling all uncommitted mineral interests in the Atoka and Morrow formations underlying the W/2 of Section 21, Township 18 South, Range 32 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, to form a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for formations or pools spaced on 320 acres within this vertical extent, which presently include but are not necessarily limited to the Undesignated North Lusk-Morrow Gas Pool and the Undesignated Querecho Plains-Atoka Gas Pool. This unit is to be dedicated to the applicant's proposed Federal "21" Well No. 1 to be drilled at a standard gas well location 1980 feet from the South line and 990 feet from the West line (Unit L) of Section 21.
- (3) The applicant has the right to drill and proposes to drill its Federal "21" Well No. 1 at the standard gas well location described above.
- (4) There are interest owners in the proposed unit that have not agreed to pool their interests.

(5) The applicant presented evidence that demonstrates:

- (a) including TMBR Sharp, there are nine working interest owners within the W/2 of Section 21;
- (b) TMBR Sharp has reached a voluntary agreement with two interest owners and has voluntarily consolidated approximately 64% of the interest ownership within the proposed unit;
- (c) TMBR Sharp seeks to pool the remaining six interest owners representing approximately 36% of the interest ownership within the proposed unit;
- (d) on July 25, 2000, TMBR Sharp contacted the interest owners in the proposed unit and offered to acquire their interest;
- (e) on October 18, 2000, TMBR Sharp sent a well proposal letter to Anadarko Petroleum Corporation ("Anadarko"), a 25% working interest owner in the proposed unit, seeking their voluntary participation in the drilling of the Federal "21" Well No. 1; and
- (f) by letter dated November 9, 2000, Anadarko advised TMBR Sharp that it elected not to participate in the drilling of the Federal "21" Well No. 1.

(6) The evidence presented demonstrates that, with the exception of Anadarko, TMBR Sharp has not proposed the drilling of the Federal "21" Well No. 1 to the remaining interest owners within the proposed unit, nor has it invited their voluntary participation in the drilling of the proposed well.

(7) Under normal circumstances, this application would be denied for the reason described above; however, subsequent to the hearing, TMBR Sharp advised the Division that, with the exception of Anadarko, it has reached a voluntary agreement for the drilling of the Federal "21" Well No. 1 with all the remaining interest owners within the proposed unit.

(8) TMBR Sharp further requested that Anadarko be the only interest owner subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

(9) To avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, protect correlative rights, prevent waste and afford to the owner of each interest in the unit the opportunity to recover or receive without unnecessary expense its just and fair share of hydrocarbons, this application should be approved by pooling the interest of Anadarko in the Atoka and Morrow formations within the unit.

(10) TMBR Sharp should be designated the operator of the subject well and unit.

(11) After pooling, uncommitted working interest owners are referred to as non-consenting working interest owners. Any non-consenting working interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to pay its share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production.

(12) Any non-consenting working interest owner who does not pay its share of estimated well costs should have withheld from production its share of reasonable well costs plus an additional 200 percent thereof as a reasonable charge for the risk involved in drilling the well.

(13) Any non-consenting interest owner should be afforded the opportunity to object to the actual well costs but actual well costs should be adopted as the reasonable well costs in the absence of such objection.

(14) Following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated costs should pay to the operator any amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and should receive from the operator any amount that paid estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(15) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) should be fixed at \$6,000.00 per month while drilling and \$600.00 per month while producing. The operator should be authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the

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supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(16) All proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason should be placed in escrow to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership.

(17) If the operator of the pooled unit fails to commence drilling the well to which the unit is dedicated on or before April 15, 2001, or if all the parties to this forced pooling reach voluntary agreement subsequent to the entry of this order, this order should become of no effect.

(18) The operator of the well and unit should notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

(1) Pursuant to the application of TMBR/ Sharp Drilling, Inc., the uncommitted mineral interest of Anadarko Petroleum Company in the Atoka and Morrow formations underlying the W/2 of Section 21, Township 18 South, Range 32 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico, is hereby pooled thereby forming a standard 320-acre gas spacing and proration unit for the Undesignated North Lusk-Morrow and the Undesignated Querecho Plains-Atoka Gas Pools. This unit shall be dedicated to the applicant's proposed Federal "21" Well No. 1 to be drilled at a standard gas well location 1980 feet from the South line and 990 feet from the West line (Unit L) of Section 21.

(2) The operator of the unit shall commence drilling the proposed well on or before April 15, 2001, and shall thereafter continue drilling the well with due diligence to test the Atoka and Morrow formations.

(3) In the event the operator does not commence drilling the well on or before April 15, 2001, Ordering Paragraph (1) shall be of no effect, unless the operator obtains a time extension from the Division Director for good cause shown.

(4) Should the well not be drilled to completion or be abandoned within 120 days after commencement thereof, the operator shall appear before the Division Director and show cause why Ordering Paragraph (1) should not be rescinded.

(5) TMBR/Sharp Drilling, Inc., is hereby designated the operator of the subject

well and unit.

(6) After pooling, uncommitted working interest owners are referred to as non-consenting working interest owners. After the effective date of this order, the operator shall furnish the Division and each known non-consenting working interest owner in the unit an itemized schedule of estimated well costs.

(7) Within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished, any non-consenting working interest owner shall have the right to pay its share of estimated well costs to the operator in lieu of paying its share of reasonable well costs out of production, and any such owner who pays its share of estimated well costs as provided above shall remain liable for operating costs but shall not be liable for risk charges.

(8) The operator shall furnish the Division and each known non-consenting working interest owner an itemized schedule of actual well costs within 90 days following completion of the well. If no objection to the actual well costs is received by the Division and the Division has not objected within 45 days following receipt of the schedule, the actual well costs shall be the reasonable well costs; provided, however, that if there is an objection to actual well costs within the 45-day period, the Division will determine reasonable well costs after public notice and hearing.

(9) Within 60 days following determination of reasonable well costs, any non-consenting working interest owner who has paid its share of estimated costs in advance as provided above shall pay to the operator its share of the amount that reasonable well costs exceed estimated well costs and shall receive from the operator its share of the amount that estimated well costs exceed reasonable well costs.

(10) The operator is hereby authorized to withhold the following costs and charges from production:

- (a) the proportionate share of reasonable well costs attributable to each non-consenting working interest owner who has not paid its share of estimated well costs within 30 days from the date the schedule of estimated well costs is furnished; and
- (b) as a charge for the risk involved in drilling the well, 200 percent of the above costs.

(11) The operator shall distribute the costs and charges withheld from production

to the parties who advanced the well costs.

(12) Reasonable charges for supervision (combined fixed rates) are hereby fixed at \$6,000.00 per month while drilling and \$600.00 per month while producing. The operator is authorized to withhold from production the proportionate share of both the supervision charges and the actual expenditures required for operating the well, not in excess of what are reasonable, attributable to each non-consenting working interest.

(13) Any unleased mineral interest shall be considered a seven-eighths ( $7/8$ ) working interest and a one-eighth ( $1/8$ ) royalty interest for the purpose of allocating costs and charges under this order.

(14) Any well costs or charges that are to be paid out of production shall be withheld only from the working interests' share of production, and no costs or charges shall be withheld from production attributable to royalty interests.

(15) All proceeds from production from the well that are not disbursed for any reason shall be placed in escrow in Lea County, New Mexico, to be paid to the true owner thereof upon demand and proof of ownership. The operator shall notify the Division of the name and address of the escrow agent within 30 days from the date of first deposit with the escrow agent.

(16) Should all the parties to this compulsory pooling order reach voluntary agreement subsequent to entry of this order, this order shall thereafter be of no further effect.

(17) The operator of the well and unit shall notify the Division in writing of the subsequent voluntary agreement of all parties subject to the forced pooling provisions of this order.

(18) 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

*Lori Wrotenbery*  
LORI WROTENBERY  
Director