

Case No. 10858
Order No. R-10122
Page 5

- (a) demonstrated with publicly available potash core data and ore grade information, that all of Section 4 was within an area "barren" of commercial potash and thus validated the BLM's potash maps which had reached the same conclusion;
- (b) no commercial potash currently exists in Section 4 or within one-half mile of said Section, nor is it expected to exist in the foreseeable future given the depressed state of the New Mexico potash mining industry;
- (c) potash mining activity would not occur within one mile of Section 4 at any time during the life of the wells being produced in the West Teas Yates-Seven Rivers Pool;
- (d) by using subsidence calculations, the removal of potash ore from the McNutt member of the Salado formation at a depth of 2,000 feet would have to come to within 1200 feet of any of these wells before any said well would be subject to the effects of potash mining subsidence;
- (e) the conductivity data demonstrates that the Salado formation is plastic and virtually impermeable to fluid flow;
- (f) Since 1966, mining in the potash area has been on a significant decline and it is highly improbable that mining activity will occur towards Section 4 from any existing mining operation.

(17) The deletion of the salt protection string from these wells will not unduly reduce the total quantity of commercial deposits of potash which may reasonably be recovered in commercial quantities, nor will it interfere unduly with the orderly commercial development of the potash deposits.

(18) A substantial savings in the costs of each of these wells will be realized by deleting the salt protection string.

(19) The deletion of salt protection string from these wells will not constitute a risk to miner's health or safety.

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