

BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

CASE NO. 7374  
(CONTINUED)  
ORDER NO. 8726

IN THE MATTER OF A HEARING CALLED  
ON A MOTION OF THE COMMISSION TO  
CONSIDER THE PROPER SPACING FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE BURG-SILURIAN  
POOL, DIVIDE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA,  
REDEFINE THE LIMITS OF THE FIELD,  
AND ENACT SUCH SPECIAL FIELD RULES  
AS MAY BE NECESSARY.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION FINDS:

(1) This cause came on for hearing at 9:00 a.m. on the 23rd day of August, 2000.

(2) Geological and engineering evidence presented to the Commission relative to the matter of well spacing indicates that the Burg-Silurian Pool, as classified and defined in this order, should be developed on a pattern of one well per 320 acres for the effective and efficient recovery of oil from said pool, to assure rapid development, to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, and to prevent waste in a manner that will protect correlative rights.

(3) Proper 320-acre spacing in the Silurian Pool in this field will result in the efficient and economical development of the field as a whole and will operate so as to prevent waste and provide maximum ultimate recovery, will avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, and will protect correlative rights.

(4) The unrestricted flaring of gas produced from the Burg-Silurian Pool could be considered waste, and in order to minimize such, production from the pool should be restricted until the wells producing therefrom are connected to a gas gathering and processing facility.

(5) Certain special field rules are necessary to prevent waste and protect against the contamination and pollution of surface lands and fresh waters.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) The Burg Field is hereby redefined as the following described tracts of land in Divide County, North Dakota:

TOWNSHIP 161 NORTH, RANGE 99 WEST, 5TH PM  
THE SE/4 OF SECTION 24 AND THE NE/4 OF SECTION 25,

together with those additional quarter sections or governmental lots corresponding thereto as may be proven productive by wells drilled on lands within one mile of the boundaries of the field as set forth above, provided further that such extensions of the field boundaries shall include only sufficient acreage to form a spacing unit for such wells, and any intervening lands.

(2) The Burg-Silurian Pool is hereby redefined as that

accumulation of oil and gas found in the interval from below the base of the Ashern Formation to above the top of the Middle Member of the Interlake Formation within the limits of the field as set forth above.

(3) The proper spacing for the development of the Burg-Silurian Pool is hereby set at one well per 320 acres.

(4) All wells hereafter drilled to the Burg-Silurian Pool shall be located not less than 660 feet from a spacing unit boundary, although no interwell setback shall be required to a well permitted to or producing from the pool. Wells presently permitted to or producing from the pool that do not conform to this spacing pattern shall be considered exceptions.

(5) Spacing units in the Burg-Silurian Pool shall consist of two adjacent quarter sections, or governmental lots corresponding thereto within the same section. The configuration of spacing units, either standup or laydown, shall be determined by the location of the first well in the section, such that the aforesaid well will be nearest to the center of the spacing unit. Spacing units for wells being equi-distant from the center of each spacing unit shall be designated by the operator; however, the Commission shall have continuing jurisdiction, and in the event that spacing units hereafter formed by this policy do not coincide with the geological and physical nature of the reservoir, the Commission may alter specific spacing units upon application by any interested party, after due notice and hearing.

(6) The SE/4 of Section 24 and the NE/4 of Section 25, Township 161 North, Range 99 West, Divide County, North Dakota, is designated a 320-acre spacing unit for the Burg-Silurian Pool.

(7) No well hereafter shall be drilled in the Burg-Silurian Pool except in conformity with the regulations above without special order of the Commission after due notice and hearing.

(8) The following rules concerning the casing, tubing and equipping of wells shall apply to the subsequent drilling and operation of wells in the Burg-Silurian Pool:

- (a) The surface casing shall consist of new or reconditioned pipe that has been previously tested to 1000 pounds per square inch. The casing shall be set and cemented at a point not less than 50 feet below the base of the Fox Hills Formation. Sufficient cement shall be used to fill the annular space outside the pipe to the surface of the ground, or the bottom of the cellar, and sufficient scratchers and centralizers shall be used to assure a good cement job. Cement shall be allowed to stand a minimum of 12 hours before drilling the plug or initiating tests. The quality of cement shall conform to the standards provided under North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) Section 43-02-03-21;
- (b) The producing or oil string shall consist of new or reconditioned pipe that has been previously tested to 2000 pounds per square inch. Casing shall be set and cemented at a point not higher than the top of the producing formation, or at a point approved by the Director. Sufficient cement shall be used and applied in such a manner as to protect and isolate all formations containing oil and/or gas, protect the pipe through salt sections encountered, and isolate the Dakota-Lakota Series. The cement shall be

allowed to stand a minimum of 15 hours before drilling the plug or initiating tests. The quality of cement shall conform to the standards provided under NDAC Section 43-02-03-21. After cementing, the casing shall be tested by application of pump pressure of at least 2000 pounds per square inch. If, at the end of 30 minutes this pressure has dropped 150 pounds per square inch or more, the casing shall be repaired. Thereafter, the casing shall again be tested in the same manner. Further work shall not proceed until a satisfactory test has been obtained;

- (c) All well-head fittings and connections shall have a working pressure in excess of that to which they are expected to be subjected; and,
- (d) All wells shall be equipped with tubing and all flowing wells shall be equipped with tubing and tubing packer; all tubing shall be of sufficient internal diameter to allow the passage of a bottom hole pressure gauge for the purpose of obtaining bottom hole pressure measurements.

(9) The gas-oil ratio of all wells not connected to a gas gathering system shall be measured biennially during the month of May. The reservoir pressure of all pumping wells shall be determined biennially during the month of May and fluid level tests approved by the Director may be utilized. The reservoir pressure shall be measured within 45 days of all wells hereinafter completed in the Burg-Silurian Pool. Drill stem test pressures are acceptable for determining reservoir pressure. Pressure measurements shall be made at or adjusted to a subsea datum of 8320 feet after the well has been shut in for a minimum of 48 hours. All gas-oil ratio and reservoir pressure determinations shall be made by methods approved by the Director and reported to the Director within 15 days following the end of the month in which they are determined. The Director is authorized to waive these requirements if the necessity therefor can be demonstrated to his satisfaction.

(10) No salt water, drilling mud, crude oil, or waste oil shall be stored in pits in this field, except in an emergency, and approved by the Director.

(11) All wells in the Burg-Silurian Pool shall be allowed to produce at an unrestricted rate for a period of 60 days commencing on the first day oil is produced through well-head equipment into tanks from the ultimate producing interval after casing has been run; after that, oil production from such wells shall not exceed an average of 200 barrels per day for a period of 60 days; after that, oil production from such wells shall not exceed an average of 150 barrels per day for a period of 60 days, thereafter, oil production from such wells shall not exceed an average of 100 barrels of oil per day; if and when such wells are connected to a gas gathering and processing facility the foregoing restrictions shall be removed, and the wells shall be allowed to produce at a maximum efficient rate.

(12) If the flaring of gas produced with crude oil from the Burg-Silurian Pool causes, or threatens to cause, degradation of ambient air quality, production from the pool shall be further restricted.

(13) This order shall cover all of the Burg-Silurian Pool common source of supply of crude oil and/or natural gas as herein defined, and shall continue in full force and effect until

further order of the Commission or until the last well in the pool has been plugged and abandoned.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2000.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

/s/ Edward T. Schafer, Governor

/s/ Heidi Heitkamp, Attorney General

/s/ Roger Johnson, Commissioner of Agriculture