

BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

CASE NO. 7534  
ORDER NO. 8853

IN THE MATTER OF A HEARING CALLED  
ON A MOTION OF THE COMMISSION TO  
CONSIDER ELIMINATING THE INTERWELL  
DISTANCE AND AMENDING THE SURFACE  
CASING, GAS-OIL RATIO, AND BOTTOM  
HOLE PRESSURE TESTING REQUIREMENTS  
FOR ALL SECONDARY RECOVERY PROJECTS  
AND POOLS LOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING  
FIELDS WITHIN DIVIDE COUNTY, NORTH  
DAKOTA: AMBROSE, BAUKOL NOONAN, BIG  
DIPPER, BURG, COLGAN, DANEVILLE,  
DOLPHIN, EAST GOOSE LAKE, FLAT LAKE  
EAST, FORTUNA, GOOSENECK, HAMLET,  
HAYLAND, KIMBERLY, MORAINE, MUSTA,  
NOONAN, NORTH TIOGA, SADLER, SKABO,  
SKJERMO, STONEVIEW, WEST AMBROSE,  
WILDROSE.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION FINDS:

(1) This cause came on for hearing at 9:00 a.m. on the 20th day of December, 2000. Order No. 8800, dated January 4, 2001, continued this matter for 60 days or until further order of the Commission.

(2) Special field rules are currently in effect for the Ambrose-Duperow and Red River Pools, Baukol Noonan-Duperow and Madison Pools, Big Dipper-Duperow, Madison and Red River Pools, Burg-Red River and Silurian Pools, Colgan-Duperow Pool, Daneville-Birdbear, Gunton, Madison, Red River and Winnipegosis Pools, Dolphin Dawson Bay Unit, Dolphin-Bakken, Dawson Bay, Madison and Souris River Pools, East Goose Lake-Madison Pool, Flat Lake East Ratcliffe Unit, Flat Lake East-Madison Pool, Fortuna-Red River Pool, Gooseneck-Duperow and Red River Pools, Hamlet-Bakken, Duperow, Madison and Winnipegosis Pools, Hayland-Madison Pool, Kimberly-Birdbear, Duperow and Madison Pools, Moraine-Duperow, Madison, Silurian and Winnipegosis Pools, Musta-Duperow Pool, Noonan-Madison Pool, North Tioga-Bakken, Madison, Red River, Stonewall and Winnipegosis Pools, Sadler-Bakken and Madison Pools, Skabo-Madison Pool, Skjermo-Duperow and Red River Pools, Stoneview Stonewall Unit, Stoneview-Bakken, Duperow, Madison, Red River, Stonewall and Winnipegosis Pools, West Ambrose-Duperow Pool, and Wildrose-Madison and Souris River Pools in Divide County, North Dakota. Said rules require the following:

- (a) Surface casing is not required to be set at a point deep enough to protect the fresh waters found within the Fox Hills Formation.
- (b) All wells drilled must maintain an interwell setback from any well permitted to or producing from each respective pool.
- (c) Semiannual gas-oil ratio tests must be conducted.

(d) Annual reservoir pressure tests must be conducted.

(3) Potable waters are located within the Fox Hills Formation and sufficient surface casing should be set to protect such waters.

(4) An interwell setback prevents operators from drilling a well at an optimum location in the reservoir. A well drilled at an optimum location may produce oil that might otherwise not be produced, therefore, the interwell setback should be eliminated.

(5) Semiannual gas-oil ratio tests are a financial burden on operators and should be required annually only when the gas is not being marketed, although additional tests conducted by the operator may provide valuable information and should be submitted to the Commission.

(6) Annual reservoir pressure tests on existing wells are a financial burden on operators and should be required only when a new well is completed in the pool, although additional tests conducted by the operator may provide valuable information and should be submitted to the Commission.

(7) There were no objections to this case.

(8) The aforementioned protection of potable waters and relief from certain field rules will prevent waste, avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) Commission orders establishing special field rules for the aforementioned pools in paragraph (2) above are hereby amended to provide for the following:

(a) Surface casing shall be set and cemented at a point not less than 50 feet below the base of the Fox Hills Formation.

(b) No interwell setback shall be required to a well permitted to or producing from any respective pool.

(c) The gas-oil ratio of all wells not connected to a gas gathering system shall be measured annually during the month of May. The reservoir pressure shall be measured within 45 days in all wells hereinafter completed in any pool. Drill stem test pressures are acceptable for determining reservoir pressure. Pressure measurements shall be made at or adjusted to its respective subsea datum 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. All additional gas-oil ratio and reservoir pressure determinations conducted on any well, but not specifically required herein, shall be reported to the Director within 15 days following the end of the month in which they are determined.

(2) Paragraph (8) of Commission Order No. 8589, which sets forth the gas-oil ratio and reservoir pressure requirements for the North Tioga-Red River Pool, shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

(3) Paragraph (13) of Commission Order No. 8593, which sets forth the gas-oil ratio and reservoir pressure requirements for the Skabo-Madison Pool, shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

(4) Paragraph (9) of Commission Order No. 8590, which sets forth the gas-oil ratio and reservoir pressure requirements for the Wildrose-Souris River Pool, shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

(5) This order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2001.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

/s/ John Hoeven, Governor

/s/ Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General

/s/ Roger Johnson, Commissioner of Agriculture