

CAUSE NO. 197-8 / DOCKET 94-009

IN THE MATTER OF THE
REQUEST FOR AGENCY ACTION
OF COASTAL OIL & GAS
CORPORATION FOR AN ORDER
AMENDING THE ORDER IN CAUSE
NO. 197-1 TO AUTHORIZE AN
EXCEPTION WELL LOCATION
FOR THE SW¼ OF SECTION 26,
TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 21
EAST, S.L.M., IN THE GREEN
RIVER FORMATION OF THE
NATURAL BUTTES AREA OF
UINTAH COUNTY, UTAH

ORDER INDEX

<u>ORDER #</u>	<u>DATE SIGNED</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
#1	6/27/94	FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

August 2, 1994

BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
REQUEST FOR AGENCY ACTION)
OF COASTAL OIL & GAS)
CORPORATION FOR AN ORDER)
AMENDING THE ORDER IN CAUSE)
NO. 197-1 TO AUTHORIZE AN)
EXCEPTION WELL LOCATION)
FOR THE SW¼ OF SECTION 26,)
TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 21)
EAST, S.L.M., IN THE GREEN)
RIVER FORMATION OF THE)
NATURAL BUTTES AREA OF)
UINTAH COUNTY, UTAH)

FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND
ORDER

To Ushoe 8/1/94
Docket No. 94-009

Cause No. 197-8

This cause came on regularly for hearing before the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining (the "Board") on Wednesday, April 27, 1994, at 10:00 am., in the Hearing Room of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining at 355 West North Temple, 3 Triad Center, Suite 520, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The following Board members present and participating in the hearing were: Chairman David D. Lauriski, Judith F. Lever, Jay L. Christensen, Kent G. Stringham, Raymond Murray, Thomas Faddies, and Elise L. Erler. Staff members of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (the "Division") present and participating in the hearing included James W. Carter, Director; Ronald J. Firth, Associate Director for Oil and Gas; Brad Hill, geologist; and Frank Matthews, petroleum engineer.

Phillip Wm. Lear, Esq., of Snell & Wilmer appeared on behalf of Coastal Oil & Gas Corporation ("Coastal"); and Donald H. Spicer, Wendell A. Cole, and David K. Dillon appeared as witnesses for Coastal.

Thomas A. Mitchell, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, represented the Board; and William R. Richards, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, represented the Division. No persons appeared in opposition.

Robert A. Henricks, Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals (Utah State Office); Assad N. Raffoul, petroleum engineer (Utah State Office); and Edwin Forsgren, petroleum engineer (Vernal District Office) appeared for the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board, having fully considered the testimony adduced and the exhibits received at the hearing, and being fully advised in the premises, makes and enters its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board mailed notice of the April 27, 1994 hearing to all interested parties by certified mail, return receipt requested on April 1, 1994, and caused notice to be published in the *Deseret News* and in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on April 4, 1994, and in the *Vernal Express* on April 6, 1994.

2. Coastal mailed photocopies of the Request for Agency Action to all owners.

3. Coastal is a Delaware Corporation in good standing, having its principal place of business in Houston, Texas. Coastal is licensed to do business in Utah.

4. The lands affected by the Request for Agency Action are public domain lands of the United States of America, administered by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") and State of Utah trust lands administered by the Utah Division of State Lands & Forestry.

5. By order in Cause No 197-1 dated April 29, 1982 (the "Order"), the Board established 160-acre drilling units for the production of gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Green River formation in the Natural Buttes Area, affecting the following described lands ("Spaced Lands") in Uintah County, Utah:

Township 9 South, Range 20 East, S.L.M.

Sections 12 through 15
Sections 21 through 28
Sections 33 through 36

Township 9 South, Range 21 East, S.L.M.

Sections 7 through 35

Township 10 South, Range 20 East, S.L.M.

Sections 1 and 12

Township 10 South, Range 21 East, S.L.M.

Sections 2 through 9

6. The drilling units conform to a governmental survey quarter-section or its equivalent, and the Order provides for one well to produce from the Green River formation interval ("Spaced Interval"), the base of which is more particularly described as follows:

[T]he stratigraphic equivalent of the correlation point established at the depth of 4,822 feet below Kelly Bushing in the Ute Trail #10 Well drilled by DeKalb Petroleum Company in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 9 South, Range 21 East, S.L.M., Uintah County, Utah.

7. The Order provides for a uniform spacing pattern in the Spaced Lands and Spaced Interval by authorizing the legal location for each permitted well to be not fewer than 1,000 feet from the exterior boundary line of each drilling unit.

8. Coastal owns or controls the entire working interest in the Spaced Interval in the drilling unit comprising the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, Township 9 South, Range 21 East. In addition, Coastal owns or controls the entire working interests in seven of the eight directly or diagonally offsetting drilling units surrounding the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, except for the diagonally offsetting drilling unit in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35 which is owned 100% by Amoco Production Company.

9. Coastal provided to the Board the written consent to the exception well location signed by Amoco Production Company.

10. The Green River formation underlying the subject drilling units and its eight off-setting drilling units constitutes a pool as that term is defined in section 40-6-2(9) of the *Utah Code Annotated*, and is a highly complex series of isolated and discontinuous beds of productive rock that are randomly distributed vertically over a several thousand foot-thick interval. Many of the beds are separate and distinct and not in communication with each other. They comprise continental deposits including channel sandstones, siltstones, and shales deposited by aggrading streams flowing northwesterly into the Uinta Basin. The lenticular

channel sandstones form the common source of supply where the hydrocarbons are stratigraphically trapped in their updip pinchout.

11. The Green River formation contains two productive zones having sands in excess of five-feet thick and having porosities greater than 10% within the boundaries of the drilling unit for the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26. The M-9 Zone pinches out at the legal location, but balloons to the north encompassing the proposed exception well location. The M-11 sands bisect the legal location at the southern end of the pod, but extend to the northwest along a northwest--southeast axis and include the proposed exception location. By moving the location to the proposed exception well location, the proposed COG #14-26-9-21GR Well would intersect both the M-9 and the M-11 Sands.

12. There are no existing Green River formation wells in the offsetting drilling units.

13. Coastal's exception well is to be drilled at a location 1,498 feet from the south line and 832 feet from the west line in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Section 26. The exception well location exceeds by 168 feet the authorized tolerance of 1,000 feet from the exterior boundary of the drilling unit in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

14. The exception well location constitutes a portion of the drill pad of the Natural Buttes Unit #60 Well. Drilling the well from an existing well pad will reduce the effect on the environment of preparing a second drill pad and will save the costs of a second drill pad.

15. Correlative rights of owners in the directly and diagonally offsetting drilling units will not be affected adversely by drilling at the exception location.

16. Drilling the COG #14-26-9-21GR Well at the exception location will protect correlative rights, will prevent waste of the resource by drilling a well at a location that will intersect both the M-9 and the M-11 sands, will reduce environmental effects of preparing and utilizing a second well pad, and will prevent some economic waste by avoiding the preparation of a second well pad.

17. An order authorizing the exception location for the COG #14-26-9-21GR requested will promote the public interest, increase ultimate recovery, prevent waste, and protect correlative rights of all owners.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction of the parties and of the subject matter of Coastal's Request for Agency Action, pursuant to Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the *Utah Code Annotated* and pursuant to the Order; and has the authority to make and promulgate the order hereinafter set forth.

2. The Board has authority to modify its previous orders to grant exceptions to authorized locations pursuant to section 40-6-6(6) of the *Utah Code Annotated* and to R649-3-3.1.3 of the *Utah Administrative Code*.

3. The Division gave due and regular notice of the time, place, and purpose of the hearing to all interested parties as required by law and by the rules and regulations of the Board.

4. Coastal's petition poses an appropriate request for modification of the existing Order to authorize an exception well location.

5. Drilling the COG #14-26-9-21GR well at the proposed exception location will prevent waste of the resource because it will result in the wellbore penetrating and draining the two productive zones in the drilling unit.

6. Drilling the COG #14-26-9-21GR well at the proposed exception location will prevent economic waste and lessen environmental impacts because it will allow Coastal to utilize an existing well pad.

7. Drilling the COG #14-26-9-21GR well at the proposed exception location will promote the development, production, and utilization of oil and gas within the Spaced Interval in such a manner as to achieve the greatest ultimate recovery.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that in order to prevent waste of the oil, gas, and associated hydrocarbons, to increase the ultimate recovery of the resource, to prevent physical and economic waste:

A. Coastal's Request for Agency Action is granted.

B. Drilling the COG #14-26-9-21GR well at the proposed exception location is authorized for geological and environmental reasons, to be administered and supervised by the Division.

C. The Board retains exclusive and continuing jurisdiction of all matters covered by this order and of all parties affected thereby; and specifically, the Board retains and reserves exclusive and continuing jurisdiction to make further orders as appropriate and authorized by statute and applicable regulations.

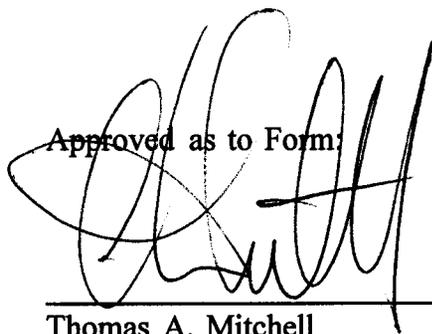
ENTERED this 27th day of June, 1994.

STATE OF UTAH
BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

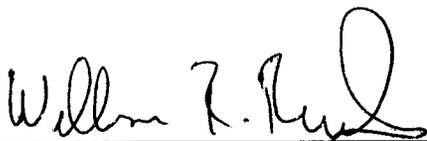


David D. Lauriski
Chairman

Approved as to Form:



Thomas A. Mitchell
Assistant Attorney General
Board of Oil, Gas and Mining



William R. Richards
Assistant Attorney General
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER for Docket No. 94-009, Cause No. 197-8 to be mailed by certified mail, postage prepaid, on the 2nd day of August 1994, to the following:

Phillip Wm. Lear, Esq.
Jeffrey T. Sivertsen, Esq.
Snell & Wilmer
111 East Broadway, Suite 900
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Coastal Oil and Gas Corporation
600 17th Street, Suite 800 South
P.O. Box 749
Denver, Colorado 80201-0749

Sent by first class mail to the following:

Amoco Production Company
P.O. Box 800
Denver, Colorado 80201

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janean Burns", is written over a horizontal line.