

STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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In re: :
The Matter of the :
Application of Ascent :
Resources-Utica, LLC : Application Date:
for Unit Operation : July 3, 2025
: :
Ezekiel NE WRN BL Unit :
:

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UNITIZATION APPLICATION HEARING

- - - - -

Before Hearing Host Cynthia Marshall
All Parties Appearing Remotely
August 28, 2025, 2:30 p.m.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
2045 Morse Road, Building F-3
Columbus, OH 43229
By Jennifer Barrett, Esq.
(Via videoconference)

ON BEHALF OF EAP OHIO, LLC:

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By Mark Hylton, Esq.
(Via videoconference)

ALSO PRESENT:

Cory Cosby (Via videoconference)
Casey Valentine, Esq. (Via videoconference)
Mark Williams (Via videoconference)
Regina Bryant (Via videoconference)
Austin Schade (Via videoconference)
Ronald Mitchell (Via videoconference)
Chris Starr (Via videoconference)
Kaylee Miller (Via videoconference)
Lindsey Hall-Wiist (Via videoconference)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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MS. MARSHALL: Good afternoon. Before we begin, I would like to go over some instructions for this video and telephone conference.

If you have joined online, please mute your microphone. If you have called in via phone, please use the "mute" feature of your phone. Once the hearing begins, everyone will be muted except for those presenting. If you have called in, you can unmute yourself by pressing "star 6."

Witnesses for the Applicant and anyone wishing to make comments, please wait to be individually called upon by your attorney or by the Division before speaking. Please mute your microphones anytime you are not speaking and when you have finished presenting to avoid any feedback.

I am now asking anyone who would like to make comments to please state your name slowly and clearly and identify whether you are an unleased mineral owner, working interest owner, or

1 an owner with property in the Ezekiel NE WRN BL
2 unit. I would also like this information from
3 anyone who represents any of these persons. We
4 will make note of your name and call upon you when
5 it is time for comments.

6 If you have joined us via WebEx, please
7 unmute yourself now and tell us your name if you
8 wish to make comments.

9 Hearing none.

10 If you have joined us via phone, please
11 unmute yourself by pressing "star 6" and tell us
12 your name if you wish to make comments.

13 Hearing none.

14 Thank you. With that, we will begin
15 the hearing.

16 Ms. Barrett.

17 MS. BARRETT: Thank you and good
18 afternoon. Today is Thursday, August 28th, 2025.
19 And we are here on the matter of the application
20 of Ascent Resources-Utica, LLC, for unit operation
21 of the Ezekiel NE WRN BL unit. This hearing
22 before the Ohio Department of Natural Resources,
23 Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management, is
24 convened pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section

1 1509.28.

2 My name is Jennifer Barrett. And I am
3 an administrative officer for the Division. Also
4 with me today is Program Administrator Cynthia
5 Marshall. We are conducting the hearing today and
6 serve as the Chief's designees on this matter.

7 On July 3rd, 2025, Ascent filed with
8 the Division an application for unit operations
9 for a unit designated as the Ezekiel NE WRN BL
10 unit. Ascent filed subsequent revisions to the
11 application. The unit is proposed to be located
12 in Belmont and Guernsey Counties, Ohio. In its
13 application, Ascent claims to have the mineral
14 rights through voluntary agreements to
15 approximately 629.339 acres of the desired
16 approximate 682.167-acre unit.

17 The purpose of today's hearing is to
18 determine whether Ascent's Ezekiel NE WRN BL unit
19 application meets all of the requirements of
20 Revised Code Section 1509.28. Under that section,
21 the Chief of the Division must issue an order if
22 he determines that the Applicant has shown that,
23 one, the unit is reasonably necessary to increase
24 substantially the ultimate recovery of oil and

1 gas; and two, the estimated additional recovery
2 from the unit exceeds the additional cost.

3 Neither the Chief nor any of us here
4 today have made any decisions on Ascent's
5 application. After today's hearing, we will
6 review all of the information provided to us in
7 order to make a determination. We have a court
8 reporter present as well, and we will have a copy
9 of the transcript of this hearing for review.

10 The Chief's decision will be issued
11 through a Chief's Order, which will be posted on
12 the Division's website. Pursuant to Revised Code
13 Section 1509.36, any order may be appealed within
14 30 days after the date upon which the person to
15 whom the order was issued received the order and
16 for all other persons adversely affected by the
17 order within 30 days after the date of the order
18 complained of.

19 The hearing will proceed as follows:
20 Ascent will present its witnesses and exhibits and
21 will answer questions posed by the Division staff.
22 Then any unleased mineral owners, working interest
23 owners, and those persons with property included
24 in the proposed Ezekiel NE WRN BL unit will have

1 the opportunity to present questions and concerns
2 to the Division staff. And then the Division
3 staff may take a break to determine if there are
4 any additional questions for the Applicant.

5 To proceed in an orderly fashion, we
6 ask that any interested party who speaks here
7 today pose any questions to the Division and we
8 will then ask any questions to Ascent.
9 Additionally, anyone speaking today will be asked
10 to provide their information to the court
11 reporter. If you are uncomfortable speaking
12 during the hearing, we will also accept written
13 comments.

14 We will now ask the Applicant to make
15 its introductions and begin its presentation.

16 MR. HYLTON: Thank you very much,
17 Ms. Barrett.

18 Hello, everyone. My name is Mark
19 Hylton, and I'm an attorney with Vorys, Sater,
20 Seymour and Pease. And I'm here today
21 representing Ascent Resources-Utica, LLC, and its
22 request for an order authorizing Ascent to develop
23 and operate the Ezekiel NE WRN BL unit according
24 to the unit plan that was attached to its

1 application.

2 Ascent has acquired oil and gas leases
3 covering over 92 percent of the total unit
4 acreage. Ascent's development plan for this unit
5 involves drilling two wells, one approximately
6 12,300 feet in completed lateral length and the
7 other approximately 13,700 feet in completed
8 lateral length, from a well pad that is situated
9 in the southern end of the unit.

10 Ascent is requesting a unit order
11 because there are tracts in the unit area that are
12 leased in whole or in part to a non-consenting
13 working interest owner, as well as a tract in the
14 unit area that is partially owned by an unleased
15 mineral owner.

16 Today, three witnesses will be
17 testifying in support of Ascent's application:
18 First will be John Schneider, a landman; next will
19 be Paul Cooper, a geologist; and lastly, Matt
20 Padgham, a reservoir engineer. Their testimony
21 will establish that Ascent meets each of the
22 elements required for a unit order under Revised
23 Code Section 1509.28. And we therefore ask the
24 Division to approve the application, including the

1 unit plan, and issue the requested unit order for
2 the Ezekiel NE WRN BL unit.

3 We would like to call our first witness
4 this afternoon, John Schneider.

5 MS. MARSHALL: Please swear in the
6 witness.

7 - - - - -

8 JOHN SCHNEIDER

9 being first duly sworn, testifies and says as
10 follows:

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. HYLTON:

13 Q. Hi. Good afternoon, Mr. Schneider.
14 How are you today?

15 A. Good, Mark.

16 Q. Before we get into the substance of
17 your testimony, would you please introduce
18 yourself to the Division and describe your
19 educational and professional background.

20 A. Sure. My name is John Schneider. I am
21 a landman at Ascent Resources. I started my oil
22 and gas career back in 2007 with Chesapeake,
23 before moving over to Ascent, then American Energy
24 in 2014.

1 I have an undergraduate degree from
2 Baylor University in Texas and a law degree from
3 the University of Oklahoma, College of Law.

4 Q. And do you belong to any professional
5 associations, Mr. Schneider?

6 A. Yes. I'm a member of the Oklahoma Bar
7 Association.

8 Q. And would you please tell us a little
9 bit about your role at Ascent and some of your
10 typical job responsibilities?

11 A. Yes. I'm responsible for overseeing
12 the formation of horizontal drilling units. And I
13 do that by acquiring a leasehold, either through
14 brokers who are contacting landowners directly or
15 through direct negotiations, often with
16 landowners' attorneys.

17 It also involves negotiating with other
18 oil and gas operators in the area, as well as
19 related legal and title issues that are necessary
20 to get a horizontal unit formed.

21 Q. And just to confirm, Mr. Schneider, as
22 part of your job responsibilities, you were the
23 landman put in charge of overseeing the
24 unitization of the subject unit; is that correct?

1 A. Yes, I was.

2 Q. Thank you, Mr. Schneider. Would you
3 please tell us a little bit about the unit and the
4 proposed development plan?

5 A. Sure. The unit is the Ezekiel
6 Northeast. It's an approximately 682-acre unit.
7 We plan on drilling two laterals. Those laterals
8 are tentatively planned to be drilled around the
9 end of the first quarter of next year.

10 We do have further plans to develop the
11 acreage immediately west of this. But this will
12 be the first unit in this area covering this
13 acreage for Ascent.

14 Q. And approximately what percent of the
15 unit acreage has been leased to Ascent?

16 A. Over 92 percent.

17 Q. And I see here on the screen there is
18 one tract about midway through the unit that is
19 colored in red-and-yellow striping; that is the
20 one partially unleased tract in the unit. Have
21 you attempted to enter into an oil and gas lease
22 with the unleased mineral owner, Mr. Schneider?

23 A. Yes. We have been in contact for some
24 time, and we have actually been trying to lease

1 them for several years. So we have been in
2 contact regularly for several years. It is a
3 television studio or a television company. They
4 don't seem too interested in leasing, but we have
5 certainly given them an opportunity to do so.

6 Q. Mr. Schneider, have you also tried to
7 enter into an agreement with the non-consenting
8 working interest owner in the unit?

9 A. Yes. We have contacted Tiburon and
10 asked whether they would consent with their
11 interest, and they replied that they would not.

12 Q. And after the hearing today, are you
13 open to continuing negotiations with the unleased
14 mineral owner and the non-consenting working
15 interest owner?

16 A. Yes, we are. Certainly for a
17 reasonable time after the hearing, we are.

18 Q. Mr. Schneider, down here at the
19 southern end of the unit, it's a bit hard to see;
20 there is a small green square. And my
21 understanding is that that represents the location
22 of the well pad for this unit.

23 A. Yes. That is correct.

24 Q. And has that pad been built yet?

1 A. No, not yet. We do plan construction
2 in the next several months.

3 Q. And what gives Ascent the right to put
4 the pad at that location? Do you have a surface
5 use agreement or another agreement with the owner
6 of the land?

7 A. Yes. We have a surface use agreement
8 that allows us to put that pad site on that
9 property.

10 Q. Thank you, Mr. Schneider. And I wanted
11 to turn a little bit here and touch base on the
12 provisions of the unit plan. There are certain
13 provisions of the unit plan that were included as
14 part of the application. Are you familiar with
15 the provisions of the unit plan, including the
16 operating agreement that was attached?

17 A. Yes, I am.

18 Q. And under the unit plan, how are the
19 unit's production and expenses proposed to be
20 allocated?

21 A. They are allocated proportionally on a
22 unit acre basis.

23 Q. A surface acreage basis per tract; is
24 that right?

1 A. Correct. A surface acreage basis.

2 Q. And is that surface acreage basis a
3 common allocation method in your experience?

4 A. Yes, very common.

5 Q. And which parties will be obligated to
6 pay the unit expenses?

7 A. Participating consenting working
8 interest owners.

9 Q. Does the operating agreement include a
10 non-consent penalty for any non-consenting working
11 interest owners, Mr. Schneider?

12 A. It does.

13 Q. Would you tell us what that penalty is?

14 A. I believe it is 500 percent.

15 Q. And given your experience in the
16 industry generally and also in this area in Ohio,
17 do you believe 500 percent is a reasonable
18 non-consent penalty?

19 A. Yes, I do. We voluntarily entered into
20 JOAs with that consent penalty with other
21 operators. And we are also subject to JOAs from
22 other operators with that penalty as well.

23 Q. Thank you very much, Mr. Schneider.

24 MR. HYLTON: I have no further

1 questions for you at this time.

2 MS. MARSHALL: Ms. Barrett, do you have
3 any questions?

4 MS. BARRETT: Yes, I do.

5 - - - - -

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. BARRETT:

8 Q. I was looking at the adjacent well
9 maps, and it does look like the wellbore travels
10 outside of the unit and then back in. Does it
11 have the necessary rights to drill outside the
12 unit boundary there as depicted?

13 A. We do have the mineral rights under
14 that tract. And we are in negotiations with the
15 surface owner as well.

16 Q. Okay. And there is not an overlap then
17 between those two units, correct?

18 A. Well, we won't -- we are drilling under
19 that producing unit, but we are just drilling
20 under it to get to the Ezekiel Northeast. We are
21 not producing under that existing unit, which I
22 believe is the Axel unit.

23 Q. Okay. Do the fractures start -- does
24 the lateral start outside of the unit boundary

1 then?

2 A. No. The fractures will be inside the
3 Ezekiel Northeast. So we will not be producing
4 from the adjoining Axel unit.

5 Q. Okay. And is there a plugged well
6 inside the unit?

7 A. Yes. I believe there is. That is
8 plugged and no longer operative.

9 Q. Okay. And do you know -- are you able
10 to identify where it is on the plat?

11 A. Generally, I believe I can. I think
12 it's towards the northern half of the unit, sort
13 of in the upper left-hand corner. I believe it's
14 around where that green triangle is. I could
15 certainly provide a more detailed location. We do
16 have a survey that has that exact location, but I
17 believe that is the general vicinity based on
18 memory.

19 Q. Okay. And that plugged well won't
20 impact this production on these wells?

21 A. No, ma'am. Mr. Cooper or Mr. Padgham
22 may be able to speak better to that. But I
23 brought it to their attention; it has been
24 examined, and it has been determined not to be an

1 issue.

2 Q. Okay. What is the current average
3 outstanding offer to the unleased mineral owners
4 in the proposed unit?

5 A. Yeah. We have an outstanding offer of
6 5,000 per acre and a 20 percent royalty.

7 Q. And is that based on net or gross?

8 A. I believe it's gross.

9 Q. Okay. And does that offer include
10 surface use?

11 A. It does by default. But we do not need
12 the surface. And we would be perfectly willing to
13 grant a no-surface lease.

14 Q. Will that offer expire?

15 A. We have not set an expiration date on
16 it. We are happy to hold it open for some time.
17 It is a small amount of unleased acreage, and
18 frankly, we have been trying to lease this
19 interest for years. So if they came back even
20 quite later with an agreement, I think we would
21 almost most likely take that lease.

22 Q. Okay. What was the average offer that
23 was accepted by the leased mineral owners in the
24 proposed unit?

1 A. Sure. It closely mirrors what we have
2 extended to the current unleased owners. So the
3 accepted average is \$5,007 per acre, and the
4 royalty is 19.85 percent.

5 Q. Do you believe your attempts to lease
6 that tract have been reasonable?

7 A. Yes. Absolutely. It's like I said, I
8 know that I have tried to lease that tract going
9 back to, I think, 2019. So at least off and on
10 for years we have tried to acquire that tract.

11 Q. And as for the non-consenting working
12 interest owner, do you believe your attempts to
13 commit them have been reasonable?

14 A. Yes. We are in negotiations and
15 contact with Tiburon regarding their acreage, not
16 just in this unit but in this area. And that, I
17 think, plays a part in their decision on what to
18 do with their acreage in the unit. So we are in
19 contact with them, and hopefully we will work out
20 some sort of arrangement.

21 Q. So you will continue those attempts to
22 commit them after today's hearing?

23 A. Yes. They have told us that their
24 position was not to commit. We have obviously

1 given them the offer, so it's really up to them.
2 But we will certainly continue a dialogue with
3 them.

4 Q. Okay. Do the leases in the unit
5 authorize drilling into and producing from the
6 proposed unitized formations?

7 A. Yes, they do.

8 Q. And to establish bonus and royalty
9 amounts in leases, how are those generally
10 determined?

11 A. It's a combination of factors: market
12 rates, our budget, the area in which we are
13 operating, oil and gas prices. So it's a number
14 of factors. But I think our bonus and royalties
15 have been fairly consistent in this unit based on
16 the numbers I gave you earlier. So that seems to
17 be the going rate at this time.

18 Q. Okay. Thank you.

19 MS. BARRETT: No further questions for
20 me.

21 MS. MARSHALL: Mr. Hylton, please call
22 your next witness.

23 MR. HYLTON: Thanks, Ms. Marshall.

24 Our next witness is Paul Cooper.

1 MS. MARSHALL: Please swear in the
2 witness.

3 - - - - -

4 PAUL COOPER

5 being first duly sworn, testifies and says as
6 follows:

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. HYLTON:

9 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Cooper. How are
10 you?

11 A. Good afternoon. I'm doing great.

12 Good afternoon, everyone.

13 Q. Would you introduce yourself to the
14 Division panel and tell us about your educational
15 and professional background, please.

16 A. Certainly. My name is Paul Cooper.
17 I'm a geologist at Ascent. I have been with
18 Ascent almost 11 years now, so 11 years of
19 Appalachian operator experience. Prior to that, I
20 was a well site geology contractor for about seven
21 years. So a total of around 17 to 18 years of
22 industry experience.

23 I have a Bachelor of Science in Geology
24 from Virginia Tech. And I'm a member of the

1 American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

2 Q. Would you please tell us a bit about
3 some of your general day-to-day job
4 responsibilities at Ascent?

5 A. Sure. In general, as a geologist at an
6 E&P, the job is to oversee the acquisition,
7 quality control, and interpretation of the
8 subsurface data regarding that company's asset, in
9 this case, Ascent's Utica Shale. A specific
10 application of that would be, I looked at our
11 subsurface data, mostly well data in the area, of
12 the Ezekiel unit here in order to determine if it
13 qualified as part of a larger pool.

14 Q. And, Mr. Cooper, that last item you
15 mentioned is really what I'm going to be driving
16 at with my questions, which is helping us to
17 determine whether the proposed unitized formation
18 under this unit is a pool or part of a larger
19 pool.

20 And I think an appropriate kind of
21 starting-off point would be asking you to tell us
22 what subsurface formations are included in that
23 proposed unitized formation.

24 A. We are seeking to unitize the entirety

1 of the Utica Shale.

2 Q. And how is it that you would define the
3 term "pool" as a geologist?

4 A. A pool would be an area of the
5 subsurface that has similar rock and reservoir
6 properties, things like lithology type or rock
7 type, mineralogy, sedimentation, reservoir
8 properties like, porosity and permeability, but
9 most importantly, shared accumulation of
10 hydrocarbons.

11 Q. Mr. Cooper, I know you just mentioned
12 that you took a look at some of the subsurface
13 data under this unit as part of the application
14 preparation here, and you said you looked at
15 things like well data. And there are two geology
16 related exhibits in the application that I know
17 you had a part in. And I'm hoping that you could
18 really just walk us through each of those exhibits
19 and explain to us non-geologists, kind of, what
20 they mean, how you can interpret the information,
21 things like that.

22 So I would like to start with the
23 exhibit I'm sharing on the screen, which is
24 Exhibit F. And I will turn things over to you,

1 Mr. Cooper.

2 A. Sure, Mark. So this first exhibit is a
3 map of the subsea structure of the top of the
4 Point Pleasant, so the depth below sea level of
5 that surface. This was generated by interpolating
6 that surface from wells that had penetrated the
7 Point Pleasant and at least had some form of data
8 that could be used to pick that top, to recognize
9 that you intersected that surface.

10 So most of these -- the data generating
11 this map is represented by the purple crosses on
12 this. Most of those being other Utica horizontal
13 wells in the area that had something like an MWD
14 gamma ray, so that you could tell exactly when you
15 intersected the Point Pleasant.

16 The reason for showing a map like this
17 would be to show that there is not a lot of
18 structural variation over this Ezekiel unit. But
19 there is no reason to interpret any significant
20 folding, faulting, or anything that might
21 compartmentalize or break up the area under the
22 Ezekiel from being a part of the larger Utica
23 pool.

24 So these roughly evenly spaced contours

1 are indicating a gentle, about a degree, a little
2 less than a degree, dip to the southeast. And no
3 significant reason for interpreting that said
4 compartmentalization that might exclude this from
5 being a part of the larger pool. Also illustrated
6 here by the orange circles connected schematically
7 across that unit area, those represent the two
8 nearest vertical pilot wells that had complete
9 penetration of the Utica and a suite of electric
10 logs over that interval.

11 These would be probably -- the primary
12 data source for this analysis would be wells that
13 met that criteria, having a suite of logs. The
14 ability to look at the way the rock and reservoir
15 characteristics change over a distance much larger
16 than the unit area and interpret, based on that
17 change, or in this case, lack thereof, that the
18 area under that unit represents a part of a larger
19 pool. And I will illustrate on the next exhibit,
20 a cross-section from those two wells to show that
21 lack of change.

22 So on each side of this cross-section,
23 well A to A', are two of the selected curves from
24 the log suite: gamma ray on the left of each well

1 and deep resistivity on the right. There is
2 incredibly similar character from well to well.
3 Without getting too much into the weeds about what
4 those curves are actually measuring and what they
5 can be interpreted to mean, you can see from the
6 lack of any significant change in character a very
7 similar rock and reservoir profile from the Atmos
8 to the Guernsey 1S, which is a distance of almost
9 ten miles, so significantly larger than the unit
10 area.

11 The horizontal lines represent lines of
12 formation correlation. So illustrating here the
13 top of the Utica, the orange line being the top of
14 the Point Pleasant interval of the Utica, and the
15 purple at the base being the top of the Trenton or
16 the base of the Utica. So also showing that the
17 thickness, the height of the tank of hydrocarbons
18 that we would be attempting to produce from, is
19 also remarkably similar over this distance much
20 greater than the unit area.

21 So based on these factors, I see no
22 reason to interpret that the area under the
23 Ezekiel unit is not a part of a larger Utica pool.

24 Q. Thank you, Mr. Cooper. And these

1 subsurface characteristics you have described for
2 us and the general lack of change over the Ezekiel
3 and broader area, do those facts support the use
4 of a surface acreage-based allocation for the
5 units production and expenses?

6 A. Yes. I believe they do.

7 Q. And could you also tell us, do you
8 believe that 500 percent non-consent penalty that
9 is included in the operating agreement is
10 reasonable?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. Okay. And could you tell us just
13 briefly why that is?

14 A. Sure. So despite the lack of change,
15 there is not a zero percent amount of risk in both
16 geologic change and just the operational risk of
17 attempting to drill, complete, and produce one of
18 these wells. The Utica, you know, is very
19 prolific and repeatable, but there is not zero
20 risk. And so that penalty is intended to
21 encourage working interest partners to
22 participate, when otherwise there would be no
23 reason for them to also share that burden of risk
24 with Ascent or any operator.

1 Q. Thank you, Mr. Cooper.

2

3 MR. HYLTON: No further questions.

4 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you.

5 Mr. Cooper, I have a few questions.

6 What is the true vertical depth of the horizontal
7 portion of the wellbore?

8 THE WITNESS: We anticipate landing the
9 wellbore at 8,465 feet true vertical depth.

10 MS. MARSHALL: What is true vertical
11 depth of the top of the Utica, the Point Pleasant,
12 and the Trenton?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. The top of
14 the Utica we expect to encounter at 8,275 feet
15 true vertical depth, the top of the Point Pleasant
16 at 8,400 feet true vertical depth, and the base of
17 the Utica and base of the Point Pleasant at 8,510
18 feet TVD.

19 MS. MARSHALL: Do you expect production
20 from the outside of the Point Pleasant?

21 MR. COOPER: Yes, ma'am. Over the
22 lifetime of the well, some production should come
23 from the Upper Utica above the Point Pleasant
24 interval.

1 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you.

2 Ms. Barrett, do you have any questions?

3 MS. BARRETT: I do not have any
4 questions. Thank you.

5 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you.

6 Mr. Hylton, please call your next
7 witness.

8 MR. HYLTON: Thank you, Ms. Marshall.

9 Our last witness is Matt Padgham.

10 MS. MARSHALL: Please swear in the
11 witness.

12 - - - - -

13 MATT PADGHAM

14 being first duly sworn, testifies and says as
15 follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. HYLTON:

18 Q. Hello, Mr. Padgham. How are you doing?

19 A. Great, Mark.

20 Q. Could you please introduce yourself to
21 the Division and share just a bit about your
22 educational and professional background.

23 A. Sure. My name is Matt Padgham. I'm a
24 reservoir engineering advisor here at Ascent.

1 Prior to entering the oil and gas industry, I
2 obtained a mechanical engineering degree from
3 Oklahoma State University.

4 Following that, I entered the oil and
5 gas industry as a reservoir engineer. And I have
6 been a practicing reservoir engineer for
7 approximately 15 years, with a little over three
8 years of that span with Ascent.

9 Q. Are you a member of any professional
10 associations?

11 A. Yes. I'm a member of SPE, or the
12 Society of Petroleum Engineers.

13 Q. And what are some of the things that
14 you do on a day-to-day basis at Ascent?

15 A. I'm generally tasked with analyzing
16 well performance, which includes decline curve
17 analysis, reservoir simulation, and volume
18 metrics. But I'm also responsible for the
19 valuation and cataloging of our proven and
20 undeveloped reserves, as well as involved in any
21 acquisition and divestiture activities.

22 Q. As part of the application preparation
23 process, did you forecast well performance for the
24 two wells proposed to be included in this unit for

1 both a unitized operating scenario and
2 non-unitized operating scenario?

3 A. That is correct. We utilize what is
4 called a type curve, or a type well, to estimate
5 performance based on analogous offsets. We would
6 define "analogous offsets" as wells with similar
7 completions, similar rock properties, and overall
8 just generally similar expected performance.

9 Q. Thank you, Mr. Padgham. I'm presenting
10 on the screen the economics exhibit to the
11 application, which depicts your forecast for the
12 well performance. I would like to really kind of
13 go table by table; the top table represents the
14 unitized operating scenario. Could you please
15 tell us how much production you would anticipate
16 from this unit under the unitized operating
17 scenario?

18 A. With the reflected lateral lengths
19 shown there for the 7H and 9H wells, in the
20 unitized scenario, we would estimate total
21 recovery of approximately 24.2 BCFe.

22 Q. And now, to go down to the table below
23 that one, and would you please tell us the
24 anticipated recovery for that non-unitized

1 operating scenario?

2 A. Yeah. In the non-unitized scenario,
3 reflecting the shorter lateral lengths that we
4 would be forced to develop outside of unitization,
5 you see a drop in the estimated recovery from 24.2
6 down to 18.47.

7 Q. And then, what is the difference in
8 recovery between those two operating scenarios,
9 Mr. Padgham?

10 A. It's approximately 5.73 BCFe.

11 Q. Would you consider 5.73 BCFe to be a
12 substantial amount of production?

13 A. Yes, I would. I think it is reflected
14 here in the table in the values, but also from
15 just a pure hydrocarbon standpoint. I think
16 anything in excess of a BCFe would be elevated all
17 the way up to the CEO. So this is a substantial
18 amount of natural gas.

19 Q. Is a unit order then reasonably
20 necessary to substantially increase the ultimate
21 recovery from this unit?

22 A. Yes, it is.

23 Q. Sticking with that bottom table, would
24 you please tell us the anticipated monetary value

1 of the 5.73 BCFe?

2 A. Yeah. There are a couple different
3 values shown there. So we show the operating
4 cost, capital cost, as well as the discounted
5 value of estimated recovery, or think of that as
6 all future oil and gas revenue.

7 And then we show the tabulation of
8 those previous columns in the PV0 and PV10
9 columns. Where PV0 would be the summation of all
10 incoming and outgoing cash flows, which in this
11 case would be approximately 15.96 million for a
12 total PV0 for the two wells.

13 But then a more standard valuation
14 metric for producing properties would be the PV10,
15 which is that same PV0 but discounted at a
16 10 percent discount rate. And in this instance,
17 that discounted value is 8.76 million of PV10.

18 Q. So given the values shown here in this
19 table, with emphasis on that PV10 number, does the
20 value of that 5.73 BCFe exceed the estimated
21 additional cost needed to produce it?

22 A. Yes, it does.

23 Q. Mr. Padgham, could you tell us how well
24 pad costs were accounted for in these numbers, if

1 they were accounted for?

2 A. Yeah. This pad has not yet been built.
3 And so we are using estimated pad costs, which
4 would be shared proportionately between the two
5 wells here. But there are only at this time a
6 planned two wells on this pad, or in this unit.

7 Q. Mr. Padgham, do you believe the
8 500 percent non-consent penalty in the operating
9 agreement is reasonable? And if so, why?

10 A. As Paul Cooper alluded to, there are
11 the operational risks; I would add to that, that
12 there is also the commodity price risk as well.
13 So I do believe the 500 percent is reasonable.

14 Q. Thank you very much, Mr. Padgham.

15 MR. HYLTON: Nothing else for me.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

17 MS. MARSHALL: Do you have any
18 questions?

19 MS. BARRETT: Yes, I do.

20 - - - - -

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. BARRETT:

23 Q. What is the estimated BCFe per 1,000
24 feet?

1 A. For these wells, it's 0.93 BCFe per
2 1,000 feet of lateral.

3 Q. What is the estimated recovery factor
4 in the area?

5 A. We would estimate it at approximately
6 43 percent.

7 Q. Can you explain how the plugged well
8 won't interfere with or impact the operations of
9 these wells?

10 A. Yeah. Based on the public data that we
11 have been able to find on that well, it was
12 drilled in 2011 as a brine source for dust control
13 and was approximately 2,000 feet deep, as
14 Mr. Cooper testified to, or materially deeper than
15 that, you know, in excess of a mile away
16 depth-wise. But then also, that well was plugged
17 in 2014.

18 Q. And then what amount was included for
19 plugging restoration costs of each of these two
20 wells?

21 A. We estimate \$250,000 per well for
22 plugging and restoration.

23 Q. Did you use 50 years for the economic
24 life of the well?

1 A. Yes, that's correct. We limit the life
2 at 50 years to reflect the lifespan of the
3 equipment.

4 Q. And what was the price that was used in
5 your calculations?

6 A. This was a June 19th-dated strip price
7 that was honored for the first four years of the
8 calculations and then held flat at that
9 fourth-year price, which in this instance was
10 \$3.85 per MCF and \$64.57 per barrel of oil.

11 Q. What is the estimated payout of the
12 well at 1, 1.5, 2, and 3 times, please?

13 A. Yeah. 1-times payout is 2.3 years;
14 1.5-times payout is 4.7 years; 2-times payout is
15 9.5 years; and then 3-times payout is 45 years.

16 Q. Okay. Thank you.

17 MS. BARRETT: No further questions for
18 me.

19 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you. Once again,
20 if you would like to make comments, I'm first
21 going to take all of your names and note whether
22 you are an unleased mineral owner, working
23 interest owner, or an owner with property in the
24 unit.

1 Only one person may speak at a time to
2 properly record the hearing and please mute your
3 microphone once you have delivered your comments
4 or questions to avoid any feedback. Additionally,
5 anyone speaking today will be asked to provide
6 their information to the court reporter. If you
7 are uncomfortable speaking during the hearing, we
8 will also accept written comments.

9 If you have joined via WebEx and would
10 like to make comments, please unmute yourself and
11 state your name.

12 Hearing none.

13 If you have joined us via phone and
14 would like to make comments, please unmute
15 yourself by pressing "star 6" and state your name.

16 Hearing none.

17 Ms. Barrett, do you have any additional
18 questions for the Applicant?

19 MS. BARRETT: No, I do not. Thank you.

20 MS. MARSHALL: Does the Applicant have
21 any closing remarks?

22 MR. HYLTON: No, ma'am. We do not.
23 Thank you for your time.

24 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you, everyone.

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The hearing is now concluded.

- - - - -

Thereupon, the foregoing proceedings
concluded at 3:16 p.m.

- - - - -

1 State of Ohio : C E R T I F I C A T E
County of Franklin: SS

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I, Bridget Mary Hoyer, a Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that I transcribed or supervised the transcription of the audio recording of the aforementioned proceedings; that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings.

I do further certify I am not a relative, employee or attorney of any of the parties hereto, and further I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, or financially interested in the action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, on September 19, 2025.



Bridget Mary Hoyer, Notary Public - State of Ohio
My commission expires April 14, 2030.

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
Greg D. Russell, Mark A. Hylton, and Casey Valentine
Attorneys for Applicant



EZEKIEL NE WRN BL UNIT

Application for Unit Operations

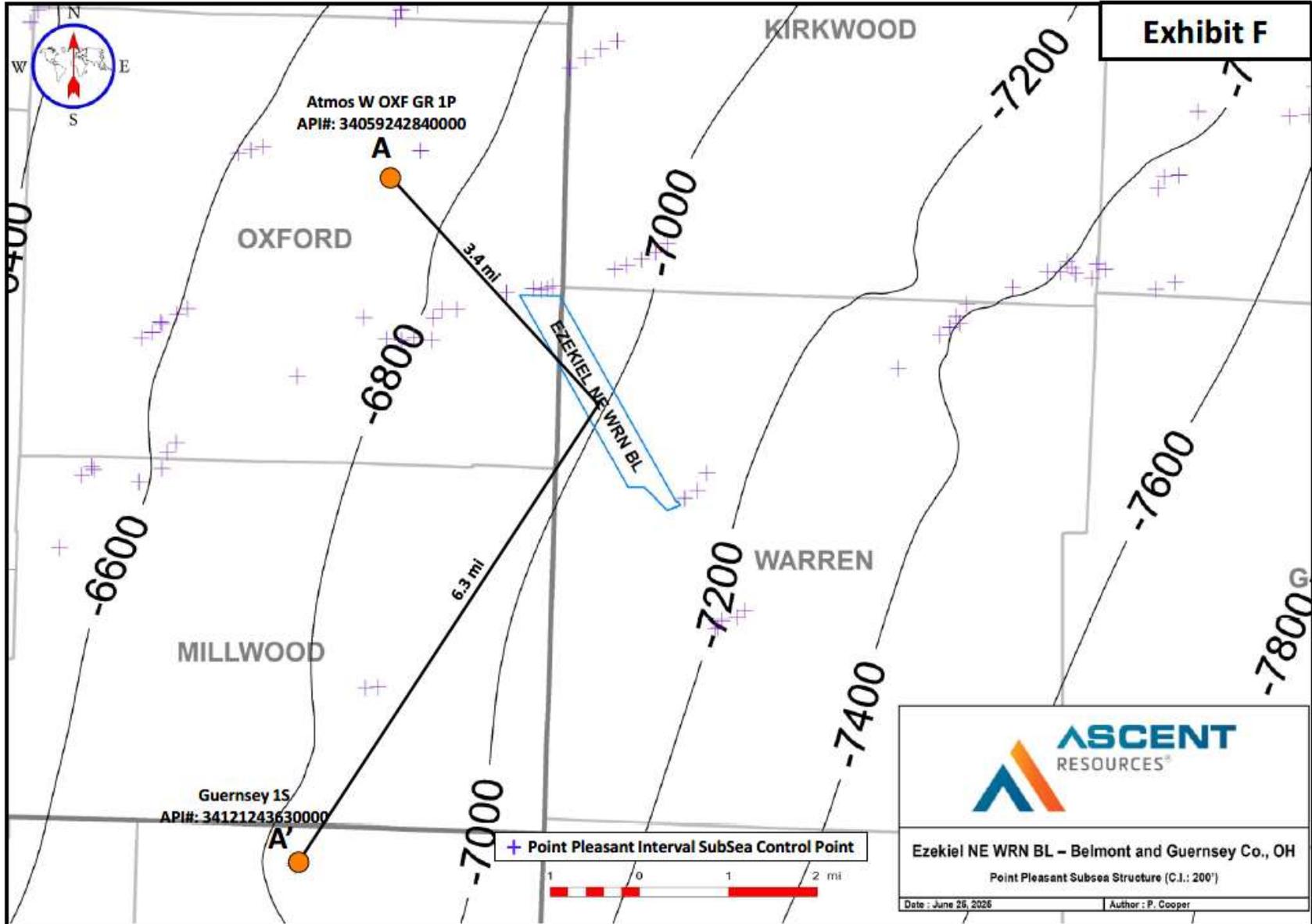
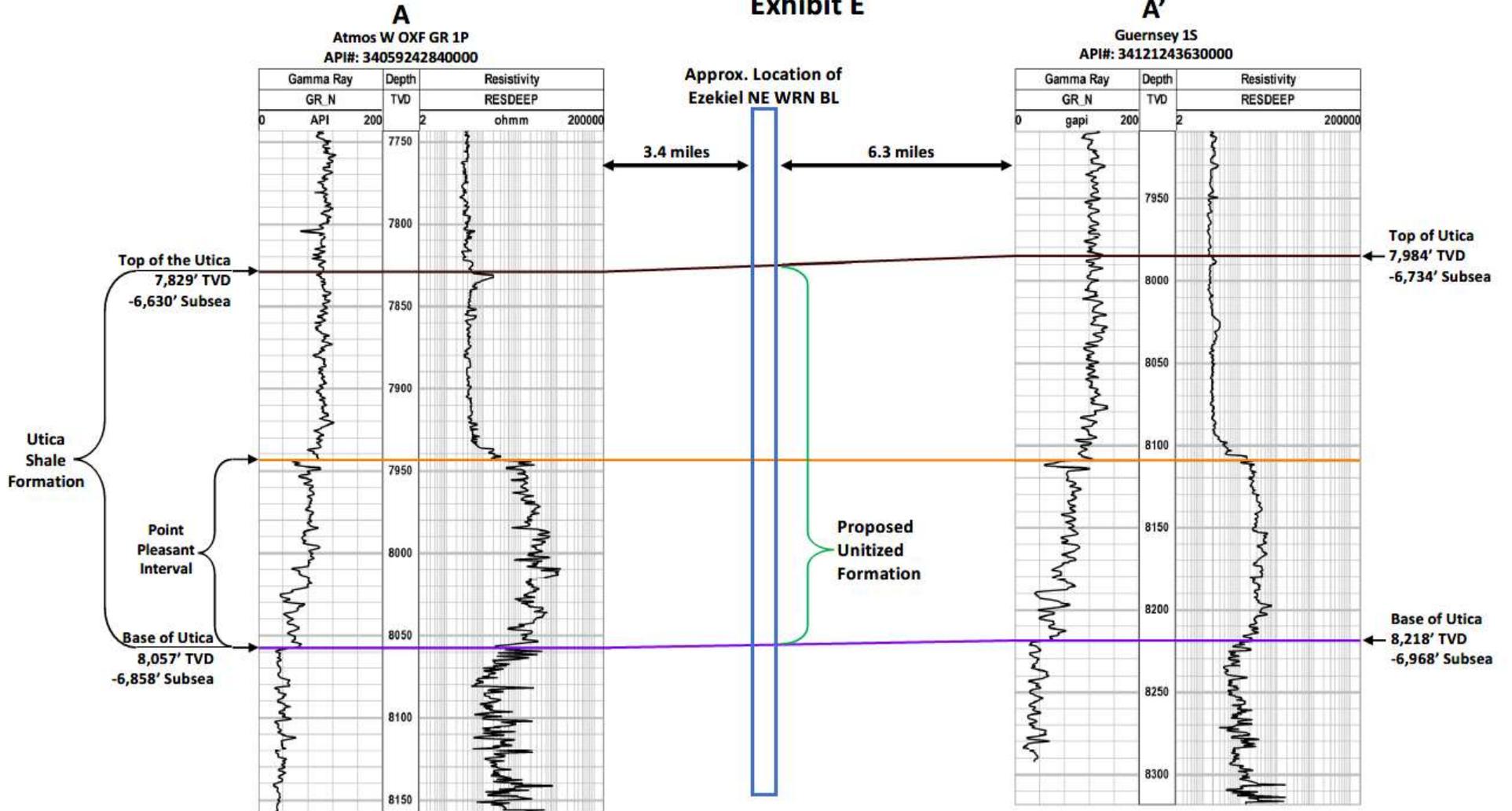
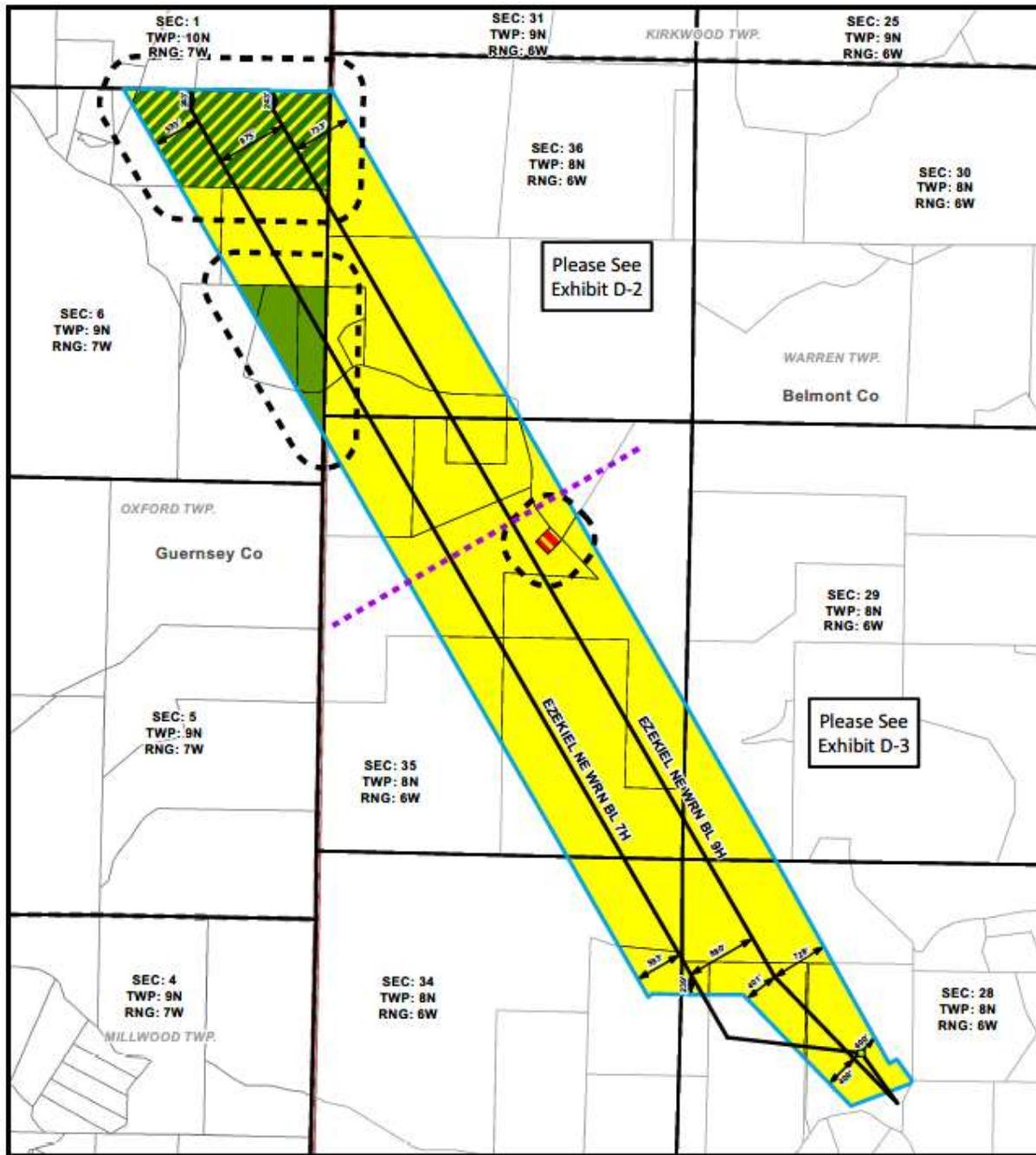


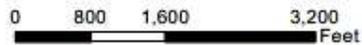
Exhibit E





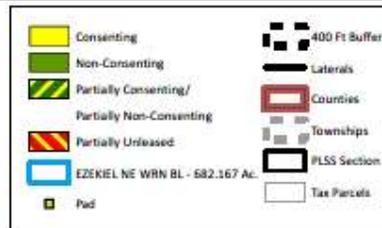
NAD 1927 UTM Zone 17N

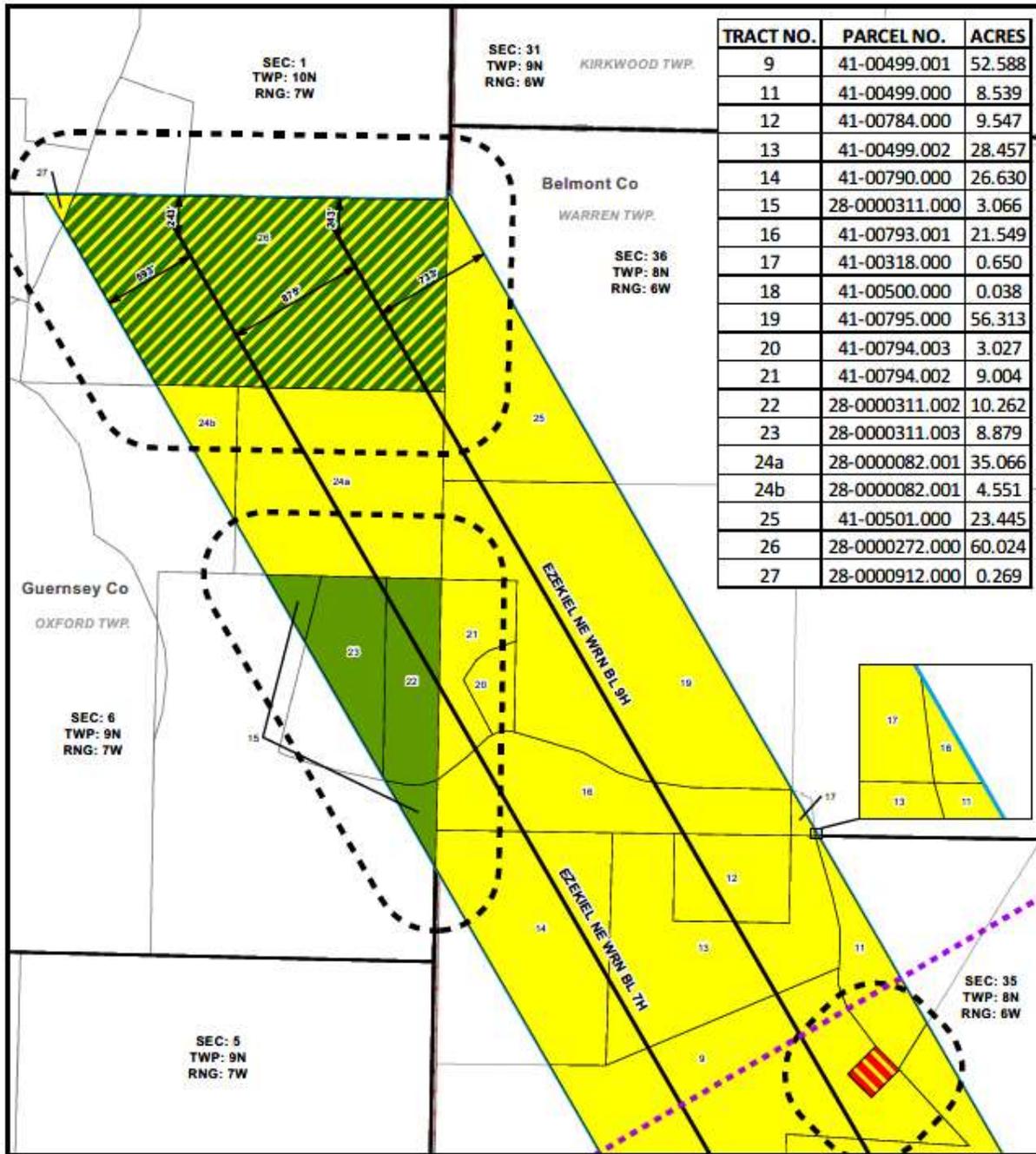
**EZEKIEL NE WRN BL
EXHIBIT D-1**



1 in = 1,542 ft

Revised 8/20/2025



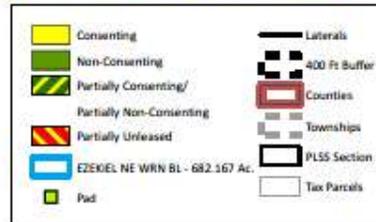


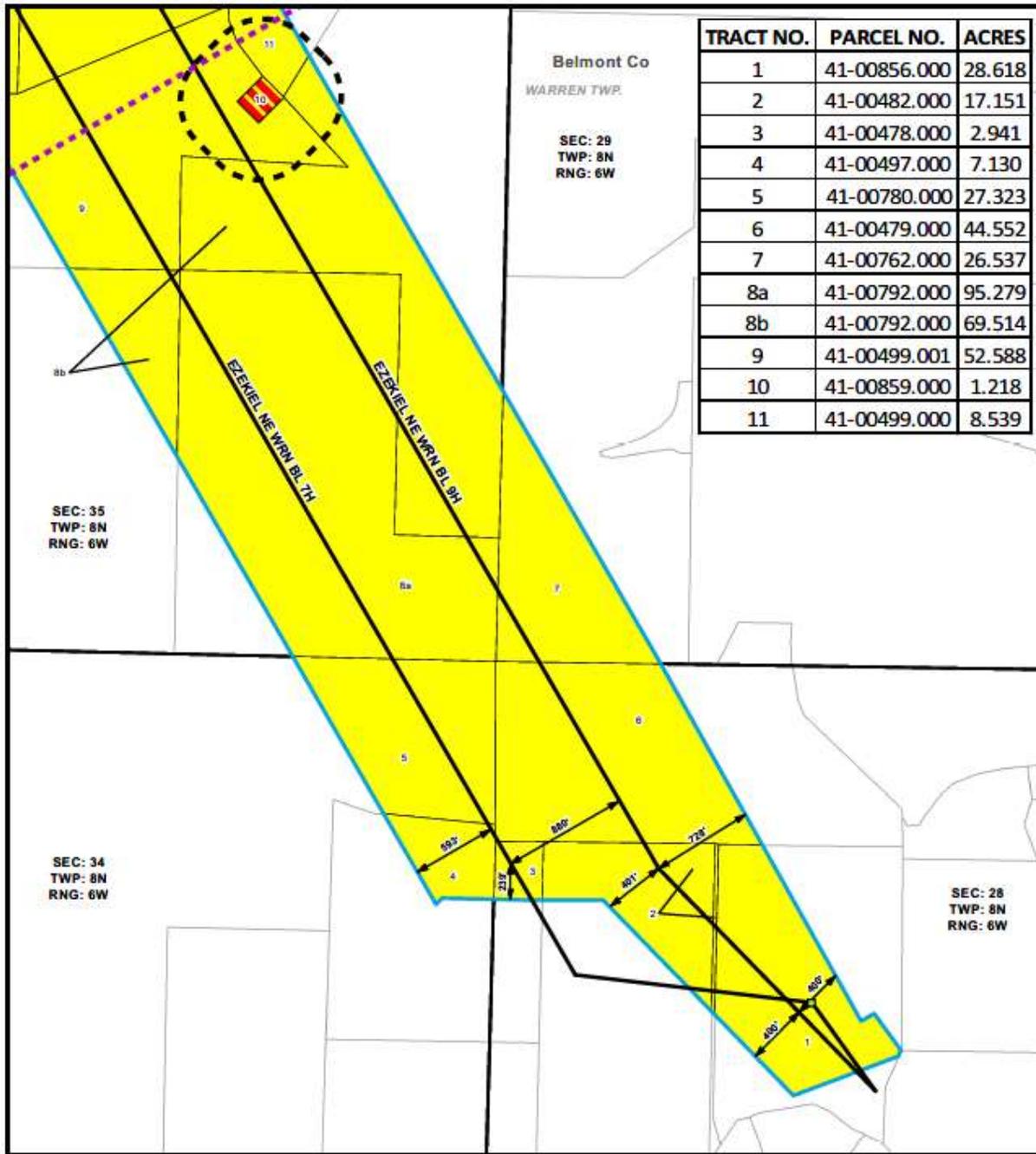
NAD 1927 UTM Zone 17N

EZEKIEL NE WRN BL
EXHIBIT D-2

0 462.5 925 1,850 Feet

1 in = 795 ft



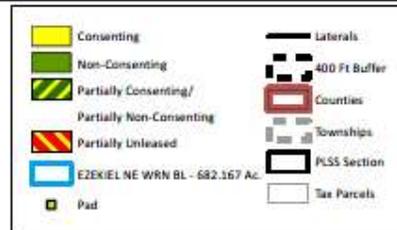


NAD 1927 UTM Zone 17N

**EZEKIEL NE WRN BL
EXHIBIT D-3**

0 490 980 1,960 Feet

1 in = 875 ft





TRACT NO.	PARCEL NO.	ACRES	EXHIBIT
1	41-00856.000	28.618	D-3
2	41-00482.000	17.151	D-3
3	41-00478.000	2.941	D-3
4	41-00497.000	7.130	D-3
5	41-00780.000	27.323	D-3
6	41-00479.000	44.552	D-3
7	41-00762.000	26.537	D-3
8a	41-00792.000	95.279	D-3
8b	41-00792.000	69.514	D-3
9	41-00499.001	52.588	D-2/D-3
10	41-00859.000	1.218	D-3
11	41-00499.000	8.539	D-2/D-3
12	41-00784.000	9.547	D-2
13	41-00499.002	28.457	D-2
14	41-00790.000	26.630	D-2
15	28-0000311.000	3.066	D-2
16	41-00793.001	21.549	D-2
17	41-00318.000	0.650	D-2
18	41-00500.000	0.038	D-2
19	41-00795.000	56.313	D-2
20	41-00794.003	3.027	D-2
21	41-00794.002	9.004	D-2
22	28-0000311.002	10.262	D-2
23	28-0000311.003	8.879	D-2
24a	28-0000082.001	35.066	D-2
24b	28-0000082.001	4.551	D-2
25	41-00501.000	23.445	D-2
26	28-0000272.000	60.024	D-2
27	28-0000912.000	0.269	D-2
	TOTAL:	682.167	



EZEKIEL NE WRN BL
MAP TABLE



Section 5. Economic Calculation Summaries *Required*
Unitized Scenario

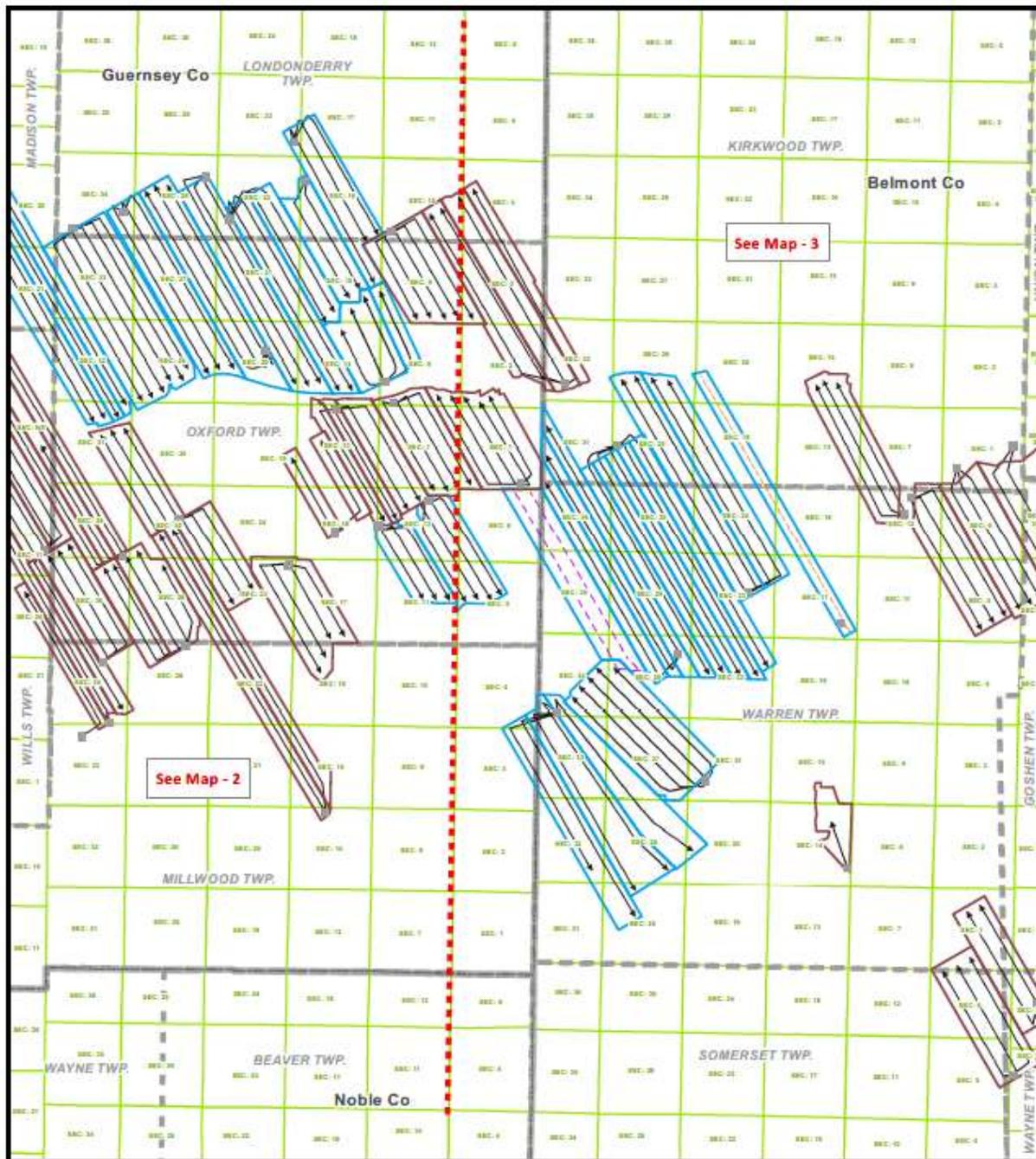
Well Name	Lateral Length (ft)	Measured Depth (ft)	Operating Costs (MM\$)	Capital Costs (MM\$)	Undiscounted Value of Estimated Recovery (MM\$)	PV0 (MM\$)	PV10 (MM\$)	Estimated Gross Recovery (BCFe)
Ezekiel NE WRN BL 7H	12,332	22,392	\$24.43	\$9.18	\$59.50	\$25.30	\$12.95	11.45
Ezekiel NE WRN BL 9H	13,734	25,086	\$26.99	\$9.77	\$66.26	\$28.88	\$14.86	12.75
Total:	26,066	47,478	\$51.42	\$18.95	\$125.76	\$54.18	\$27.81	24.20

Non-Unitized Scenario

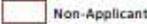
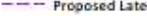
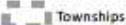
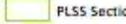
Well Name	Lateral Length (ft)	Measured Depth (ft)	Operating Costs (MM\$)	Capital Costs (MM\$)	Undiscounted Value of Estimated Recovery (MM\$)	PV0 (MM\$)	PV10 (MM\$)	Estimated Gross Recovery (BCFe)
Ezekiel NE WRN BL 7H	8,427	18,487	\$17.27	\$7.73	\$40.66	\$15.18	\$7.38	7.83
Ezekiel NE WRN BL 9H	11,459	21,869	\$22.83	\$8.86	\$55.29	\$23.04	\$11.67	10.64
Total:	19,886	40,356	\$40.10	\$16.59	\$95.95	\$38.22	\$19.05	18.47

Difference

Well Name	Lateral Length (ft)	Measured Depth (ft)	Operating Costs (MM\$)	Capital Costs (MM\$)	Undiscounted Value of Estimated Recovery (MM\$)	PV0 (MM\$)	PV10 (MM\$)	Estimated Gross Recovery (BCFe)
Ezekiel NE WRN BL 7H	3,905	3,905	\$7.16	\$1.45	\$18.84	\$10.12	\$5.57	3.62
Ezekiel NE WRN BL 9H	2,275	3,217	\$4.16	\$0.91	\$10.97	\$5.84	\$3.19	2.11
Total:	6,180	7,122	\$11.32	\$2.36	\$29.81	\$15.96	\$8.76	5.73

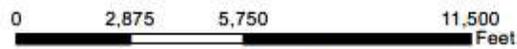


Ezekiel NE WRN BL
ADJACENT UNITS MAP 1

-  Working Units
-  Non-Applicant Units
-  Pad
-  Producing Laterals
-  Permitted Laterals
-  Proposed Laterals
-  Townships
-  PLSS Section
-  Counties

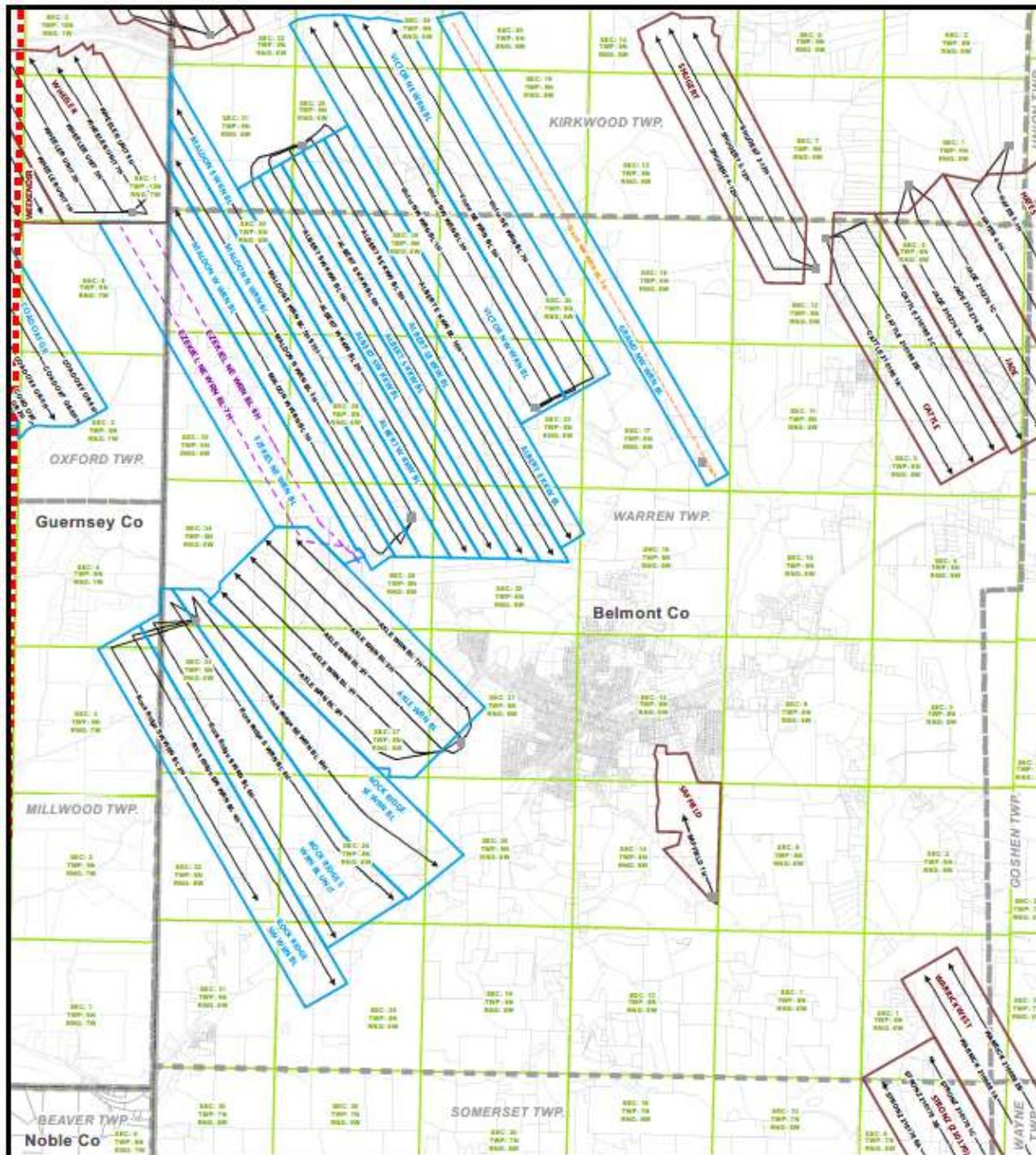


Ezekiel NE WRN BL ADJACENT UNITS MAP 2

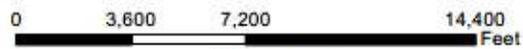


1 in = 3,691 ft

- Working Units
- Non-Applicant Units
- Pad
- Producing Laterals
- Permitted Laterals
- Proposed Laterals
- Townships
- PLSS Section
- Counties
- Tax Parcels

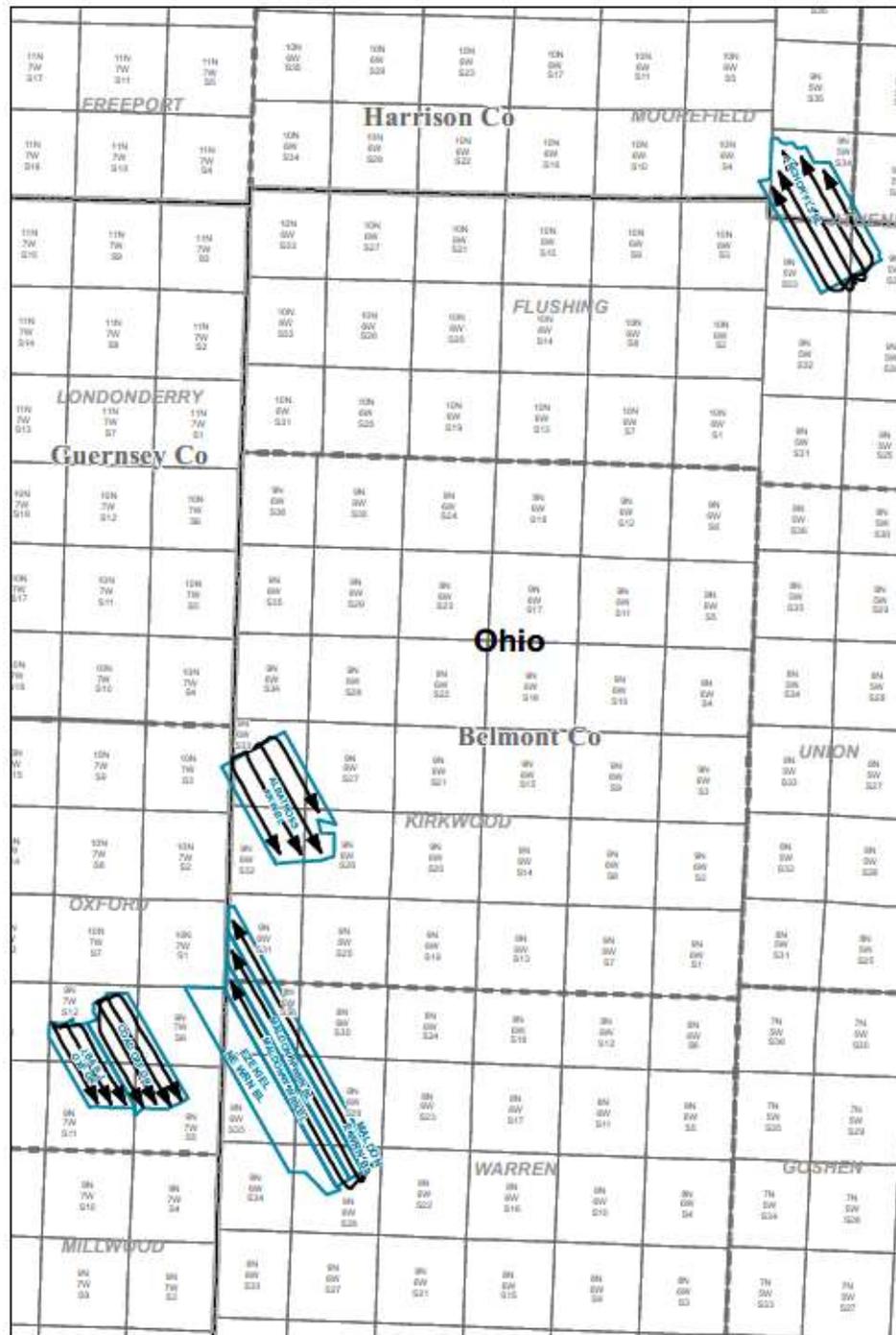


Ezekiel NE WRN BL ADJACENT UNITS MAP 3

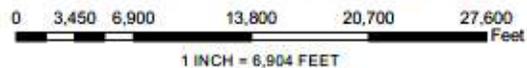


1 in = 4,583 ft

- Working Units
- Non-Applicant Units
- Pad
- Producing Laterals
- Permitted Laterals
- Proposed Laterals
- Townships
- PLSS Section
- Counties
- Tax Parcels



**EZEKIEL NE WRN BL
RESERVE CALCULATION**



Legend
 ▲ Producing
 ■ ARU Units



EZEKIEL NE WRN BL Unit - Reserve Calculation Wells

API NO.	WELL NAME	LATERAL LENGTH (ft.)	PROD. START DATE	DISTANCE FROM UNIT (mi.)
34013207110000	ALBATROSS KKW BL 2H	5781	12-Oct-14	1.6
34013207120000	ALBATROSS KKW BL 4H	6473	26-Sep-14	1.6
34013207050000	ALBATROSS KKW BL 6H	6995	08-Oct-14	1.6
34013207130000	ALBATROSS KKW BL 8H	4774	28-Sep-14	1.6
34013208350000	ANCHOR FLS BL 1H	6676	22-Oct-15	10.6
34013208370000	ANCHOR FLS BL 3H	7319	30-Oct-15	10.6
34013208360000	ANCHOR FLS BL 5H	8411	23-Oct-15	10.6
34013208340000	ANCHOR FLS BL 7H	7600	27-Oct-15	10.6
34013208380000	ANCHOR FLS BL 9H	5758	21-Oct-15	10.6
34059244470000	COAD OXF GR 2H	5171	15-Oct-15	0.6
34059244260000	COAD OXF GR 4H	6462	15-Oct-15	0.6
34059243450000	COAD OXF GR 6H	7040	15-Oct-15	0.6
34059244270000	COAD OXF GR 8H	6806	19-Oct-15	0.6
34059244480000	J BAR J OXF GR 2H	4890	17-Oct-15	1.2
34059244130000	J BAR J OXF GR 4H	4890	21-Oct-15	1.2
34059244460000	J BAR J OXF GR 6H	4921	17-Oct-15	1.2
34013214610000	MALDON E WRN BL 5H	16508	01-Dec-20	0.3
34013214600000	MALDON N WRN BL 3H	15368	01-Dec-20	0.2
34013214590000	MALDON W WRN BL 1H	13801	01-Dec-20	0.0