

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

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In re: :

The Matter of the : Application Date:
Application of Ascent : October 22, 2025
Resources - Utica, LLC :
for Unit Operation :
Bertram NE LND GR Unit

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UNITIZATION APPLICATION HEARING

- - - - -

Before Hearing Host Cynthia Marshall
All Parties Appearing Remotely
December 17, 2025, 11:30 a.m.

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Spectrum Reporting LLC
400 South Fifth Street, Ste. 201
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-444-1000 or 800-635-9071
www.spectrumreporting.com

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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 A. Barrett, Esq.
(Via videoconference)

ON BEHALF OF Ascent Resources - Utica, LLC:

Atencio Hall, PLLC
381 Mansfield Ave, Suite 500
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
By James Carr, Esq.
(Via videoconference)

ALSO PRESENT:

Barbara Richardson (Via videoconference)
Jeff Large (Via videoconference)
Austin Schade (Via videoconference)
Cory Cosby (Via videoconference)
Joyce Maxwell (Via videoconference)
Leilani Beard (Via videoconference)
Melissa Clark (Via videoconference)
Regina Bryant (Via videoconference)
Rosie Hutton (Via videoconference)
Shawn Golden (Via videoconference)
Timothy Hoover (Via videoconference)
Steve Brown (Via videoconference)
Rodney Brown (Via videoconference)

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18
19
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21
22
23
24

I N D E X

Witnesses	Page
Blake Biggs	
Mr. Carr - Direct	14
Ms. Barrett - Cross	26
Dilyn Delval	
Mr. Carr - Direct	27
Lindsey Hall-Wiist	
Mr. Carr - Direct	33

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

I N D E X

Exhibits	Page
Exhibit A - Application	49
Exhibit D - Unit Map	15
Exhibit E - Cross-section Map	16
Exhibit F - Location Map	30
Exhibit G - Contact Affidavit	16

(PDF exhibits attached to the transcript.)

1 - - - - -

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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

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

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

20 I am now asking anyone who would like
21 to make comments, please state your name slowly
22 and clearly for the Division and identify whether
23 you are an unleased mineral owner, working
24 interest owner, or an owner with property in the

1 Bertram NE LND GR unit. I would also like this
2 information from anyone who represents any of
3 these persons. We will make note of your name and
4 call upon you when it is time for comments.

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

8 MR. GOLDEN: Shawn Golden.

9 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. Mr. Goldman.

10 MR. GOLDEN: Golden. G-O-L-D-E-N.

11 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. Are you a mineral
12 interest owner, or unleased interest owner, or --
13 what is your status?

14 MR. GOLDEN: I'm a mineral interest
15 owner.

16 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. Thank you so
17 much. We have your name, and we will call you
18 when it is time for comments. Okay?

19 MR. GOLDEN: Okay.

20 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you.

21 Is there anyone else?

22 MR. S. BROWN: Hello? Can you hear me?

23 MS. MARSHALL: Yes, I can.

24 MR. S. BROWN: Yeah. My name is Steve

1 Brown. Steven S. Brown. And I'm not really sure
2 -- my mom had 38 acres down in that area.

3 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. Just --
4 Mr. Brown, we're not ready for comments or
5 questions at this time. We're just taking names
6 so that we can have them ready for when we are
7 ready for comments.

8 MR. S. BROWN: Okay.

9 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. So we -- are you
10 a mineral interest owner, or are you an unleased
11 owner, or -- what is your status?

12 MR. S. BROWN: Well, I'm on page--

13 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. You're breaking
14 up really bad.

15 MR. S. BROWN: Yeah. I think I'm a
16 neutral -- what do they call it? What's the name?

17 MS. MARSHALL: Mineral interest owner?

18 MR. R. BROWN: I think it was an
19 "entirety"?

20 MR. S. BROWN: Does that make any
21 sense? Entirety?

22 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. So we have you
23 down for comments and you can make your comments
24 at the end of the hearing once we call for

1 comments. Okay?

2 MR. S. BROWN: It's an "entirely." Or
3 "entirety." Something like that sound.

4 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. Sorry. So, we
5 have your name down and we will call you at the
6 end when we have comments. Okay?

7 MR. S. BROWN: Okay.

8 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you so much. Is
9 there anyone else?

10 MR. R. BROWN: Rodney Brown.

11 MS. MARSHALL: Rodney Brown.

12 MR. R. BROWN: Yes.

13 MS. MARSHALL: Okay.

14 MR. R. BROWN: Mineral interest.

15 MS. MARSHALL: Mineral interest owner.

16 Okay. We have you listed. We will call your name
17 when it's time for comments.

18 Is there anyone else?

19 Hearing none.

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

23 MR. HOOVER: Timothy Hoover. Mineral
24 interest.

1 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you, Mr. Hoover.
2 We have your name, and we will call you when it is
3 time for comments.

4 Is there anyone else?

5 Hearing none.

6 Thank you. With that, we will begin
7 the hearing.

8 Mrs. Barrett.

9 MS. BARRETT: Thank you, and good
10 morning. Today is Wednesday, December 17th, 2025.
11 And we are here on the matter of the application
12 of Ascent Resources-Utica, LLC for unit operation
13 of the Bertram NE LND GR unit. This hearing
14 before the Ohio Department of Natural Resources
15 Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management is
16 convened pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section
17 1509.28. My name is Jennifer Barrett, and I'm an
18 administrative officer for the Division. Also
19 with me today is Program Administrator Cynthia
20 Marshall. We are conducting the hearing today and
21 serve as the Chief's designees on this matter.

22 On October 22nd, 2025, Ascent filed
23 with the Division an application for unit
24 operation for a unit designated as the Bertram NE

1 LND GR unit. Ascent filed subsequent revisions to
2 the application. The unit is proposed to be
3 located in Harrison County, Ohio. In its
4 application, Ascent claims to have the mineral
5 rights through voluntary agreements to
6 approximately 355.187 acres of the desired
7 approximate 466.843-acre unit.

8 The purpose of today's hearing is to
9 determine whether Ascent's Bertram NE LND GR unit
10 application meets all of the requirements of
11 Revised Code Section 1509.28. Under that section,
12 the Chief of the Division must issue an order if
13 he determines that the Applicant has shown that,
14 one, the unit is reasonably necessary to increase
15 substantially the ultimate recovery of oil and
16 gas; and two, the estimated additional recovery
17 from the unit exceeds the additional costs.

18 Neither the Chief nor any of us here
19 today have made any decisions on Ascent's
20 application. After today's hearing, we will
21 review all the information provided to us in order
22 to make a determination. We have a court reporter
23 present as well, and we will have a copy of the
24 transcript of this hearing for review.

1 The Chief's decision will be issued
2 through a Chief's Order, which will be posted on
3 the Division's website. Pursuant to Revised Code
4 Section 1509.36, any order may be appealed within
5 30 days after the date upon which the person to
6 whom the order was issued received the order, and
7 for all other persons adversely affected by the
8 order, within 30 days after the date of the order
9 complained of.

10 The hearing will proceed as follows:
11 Ascent will present its witnesses and exhibits and
12 will answer questions posed by the Division staff.
13 Then any unleased mineral owners, working interest
14 owners, and those persons with property included
15 in the proposed Bertram NE LND GR unit will have
16 the opportunity to present questions and concerns
17 to the Division staff. And then the Division
18 staff may take a break to determine if there's any
19 additional questions for the Applicant.

20 To proceed in an orderly fashion, we
21 ask that any interested party who speaks here
22 today pose any questions to the Division, and we
23 will then ask any questions to Ascent.

24 Additionally, anyone speaking today

1 will be asked to provide their information to the
2 court reporter. If you are uncomfortable speaking
3 during the hearing, we will also accept written
4 comments. Shawn Golden, Steven Brown, Rodney
5 Brown, and Timothy Hoover have all indicated that
6 they wish to make comments, and those comments can
7 be made at the end of the hearing.

8 We will now ask the Applicant to make
9 its introductions and begin its presentation.

10 MR. CARR: Thank you, Ms. Barrett.

11 Good morning, everyone. My name is Jay
12 Carr, and I am here this morning on behalf of the
13 Applicant, Ascent Resources-Utica, LLC, to ask the
14 Division for an order authorizing it to develop
15 the proposed Bertram NE LND GR unit, which I'm
16 simply going to refer to as the "Bertram Northeast
17 unit" according to the unit plan attached to the
18 application.

19 As Ms. Barrett shared, the Bertram NE
20 unit, or Northeast unit, is located in Harrison
21 County and is comprised of 67 separate tracts
22 containing approximately 460 acres of land. If
23 Ascent is issued the requested unit order, it
24 intends to drill a well approximately 21,000 feet

1 in completed lateral length from the southern end
2 of the unit. Ascent seeks a unit order because
3 there are unleased tracts as well as
4 non-consenting tracts within the unit area.
5 Without the order, it would not be able to fully
6 develop the Bertram Northeast unit.

7 This morning, we will hear from three
8 different witnesses: a landman, a geologist, and a
9 reservoir engineer. Their collective testimony is
10 going to establish that Ascent satisfies or meets
11 each of the elements under Revised Code Section
12 1509.28 to be entitled to a unit order. We
13 therefore ask the Division to approve Ascent's
14 application and issue Ascent an order allowing
15 Ascent to move forward with unit operations. I
16 would now like to call our first witness today,
17 Mr. Blake Biggs.

18 MS. MARSHALL: Please swear in the
19 witness.

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2 BLAKE BIGGS

3 being first duly sworn, testifies and says as
4 follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. CARR:

7 Q. Good morning, Mr. Biggs.

8 A. Good morning.

9 Q. I'd like you to begin by introducing
10 yourself to the Division and the audience today,
11 sharing a little bit about your educational and
12 professional background and what you do at Ascent.

13 A. Sure. So, my name is Blake Biggs. I'm
14 the district landman with Ascent Resources in
15 Oklahoma City. I have a Bachelor of Business
16 Administration degree in Energy Management from
17 the University of Oklahoma. I have been with
18 Ascent Resources for nearly seven years now, and I
19 am a member of two professional associations: The
20 American Association of Professional Landmen as
21 well as the Oklahoma City Association of
22 Professional Landmen. And then, as far as what I
23 do at Ascent, my primary job responsibilities,
24 these would include negotiating lease

1 acquisitions, managing field brokers, handling
2 title matters, and assisting with Ascent's
3 development program. I was also the landman
4 responsible for overseeing our unitization efforts
5 with regards to the Bertram Northeast unit.

6 Q. Thank you, Mr. Biggs. Now, I have here
7 onscreen Exhibit D to Ascent's application. With
8 reference to this exhibit, can you generally
9 describe the Bertram Northeast unit, including its
10 location, size, and composition, as well as
11 Ascent's intended development plan?

12 A. Yes, I can. So the Bertram Northeast
13 unit is located in Freeport Township, Harrison
14 County, Ohio. And the unit is made up of 67
15 separate tracts comprised of 466.843 acres. There
16 is one lateral planned for the Bertram Northeast
17 unit, which will be the Bertram NE LND GR 5H,
18 which is planned to be roughly 20,907 feet in
19 lateral length. This will be drilled from the pad
20 located just outside the southwest corner of the
21 unit.

22 Q. Thank you very much. Now, I see
23 onscreen that tracts are highlighted either
24 yellow, green, red, or hashed in green and yellow.

1 Can you explain what those different colors
2 represent?

3 A. Sure. So, the meaning of the colors on
4 Exhibit D are in the bottom right-hand corner of
5 the map. But generally speaking, yellow shows the
6 leased and consented parcels. Green shows parcels
7 that are leased but not consented.

8 Green-and-yellow-hashed parcels are leased, with
9 part of the working interest committed and part of
10 the working interest uncommitted. And lastly, the
11 purple-and-green-hashed parcels are non-consenting
12 due to nonconforming leasehold status.

13 Q. Thank you very much. Now, with respect
14 to the unleased mineral owners, has Ascent
15 attempted to identify those owners and negotiate
16 an oil and gas lease with them?

17 A. Yes, we have.

18 Q. And are those efforts reflected in the
19 contact log attached to Ascent's application?

20 A. Correct, yes. Those efforts are
21 located in Exhibit G of the application, which
22 includes the contact log.

23 Q. And what about the non-consenting
24 working interest owners? Has Ascent attempted to

1 identify them and either commit their acreage or
2 enter into a trade, or acquire their acreage?

3 A. Yes. We've reached out to both
4 non-consenting working interest owners as well as
5 unleased mineral owners to try to lease or gain
6 consent of the interest.

7 Q. Will those efforts, both with respect
8 to the unleased mineral owners and the
9 non-consenting working interest owners continue
10 after today's hearing?

11 A. Yes, we'll -- sorry. Yes, we'll
12 continue to negotiate even after today's hearing.

13 Q. Now, I know it's hard for the eye to
14 see, but at the southern -- just outside the
15 southern end of the unit, there's a little green
16 square here. Can you tell me what that green
17 square represents?

18 A. Yes. So that green square is the
19 planned pad site location for this unit.

20 Q. Can you tell me what the status of that
21 well pad is?

22 A. Yes. The pad is not yet built. It is
23 settled, but not built.

24 Q. And what gives Ascent the right to

1 locate the pad on the Bertram tax parcel?

2 A. Ascent has a surface use agreement with
3 the surface owner of the pad site parcel.

4 Q. Now, because the pad is located outside
5 the unit area, has Ascent secured necessary
6 subsurface rights to drill from the pad to the
7 unit area?

8 A. Yes, Ascent has the necessary rights to
9 drill from the pad into the unit area.

10 Q. Thank you very much. Assuming the
11 Division issues Ascent the requested unit order,
12 when does Ascent intend to drill this well?

13 A. Ascent intends to spud this well in the
14 third quarter of 2026.

15 Q. Will this be the only well drilled off
16 the pad, or will other wells be drilled off the
17 pad?

18 A. No. As of right now, there are three
19 wells currently planned to be drilled from this
20 pad. One of these wells that will be into this
21 unit being the 5H on the map on Exhibit D.

22 Q. I like to conclude by asking a few
23 questions about the unit plan attached to the
24 unitization application filed by Ascent. Are you

1 familiar with that unit plan, including the
2 operating agreement attached thereto?

3 A. Yes, I'm familiar.

4 Q. Can you tell me how the unit plan
5 allocates unit cost and production?

6 A. Yes, that will be on a surface acreage
7 basis.

8 Q. Based on your years of experience,
9 education, and training, is allocating unit
10 production and expenses on a surface acreage basis
11 customary?

12 A. Yes, it's customary and the only way
13 I've seen it in my time.

14 Q. And can you tell me who pays unit
15 expenses?

16 A. Sure. The working interest owners do.

17 Q. So, just for clarity, unleased mineral
18 owners or mineral owners in general do not pay the
19 cost to develop the unit, correct?

20 A. That's correct. Only the working
21 interest owners.

22 Q. Now, the unit plan includes a
23 non-consent penalty for working interest owners
24 who elect not to participate in unit operations or

1 deem not to have elected to participate; is that
2 correct?

3 A. Yes. That's correct.

4 Q. Can you tell me what that non-consent
5 penalty is?

6 A. 500 percent.

7 Q. In your experience, based on your
8 education and training, is a 500 percent
9 non-consent penalty for working interest owners
10 just and reasonable?

11 A. Yes. I do believe it is just and
12 reasonable.

13 Q. Have you seen a 500 percent non-consent
14 penalty for working interest owners in other JOAs
15 here -- covering land here in Ohio?

16 A. Yes. It has become common in the
17 industry as well as in the Utica.

18 Q. Thank you, Mr. Biggs.

19 MR. CARR: Those are all the questions
20 I have for you this morning.

21 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you.

22 Mr. Biggs, describe what efforts you
23 have taken to identify unknown or undetermined
24 mineral owners.

1 THE WITNESS: These efforts would
2 include research at county records, including the
3 county recorder, probate or state records, and
4 county court documents. Additionally, Ascent's
5 representatives have performed various internet
6 searches and utilize databases such as
7 Newspapers.com, Ancestry.com, and other online
8 resources. Also, we published a newspaper notice
9 that lists the unknown heirs' tracts in hopes that
10 somebody will reach out.

11 MS. MARSHALL: If you were to receive a
12 unitization order, can you describe what happens
13 to any payments that would be owed to unknown or
14 undetermined mineral owners under that order?

15 THE WITNESS: Sure. So, these
16 royalties would be withheld and placed in suspense
17 until the ownership could be determined. Then
18 Ascent must agree that the documentation clears
19 the title issue. And then, once cleared, the
20 revenue would then be released to the appropriate
21 owners.

22 MS. MARSHALL: What is the current
23 average outstanding offer to the unleased mineral
24 owners in the proposed unit? Average bonus and

1 average royalty?

2 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So, the average
3 bonus currently outstanding is \$5,989.97 per acre.
4 The average royalty outstanding is 19.82 percent.

5 MS. MARSHALL: Is that average royalty
6 based on a net or gross amount?

7 THE WITNESS: These are gross.

8 MS. MARSHALL: Do those offers include
9 surface use?

10 THE WITNESS: These offers? It's a
11 mixture of both. There's a few with surface use,
12 and a few with non-surface clauses in the lease.
13 But these are things that are usually negotiable,
14 especially considering here we have a settled pad
15 site location for the unit.

16 MS. MARSHALL: When will those offers
17 expire?

18 THE WITNESS: Yeah, so these lease
19 offers that have been made have an expiration of
20 two weeks. That's just for that specific offer.
21 But Ascent will continue to work with the mineral
22 owners as long as they, the mineral owners,
23 continue to want to work with Ascent.

24 MS. MARSHALL: And what is the average

1 offer that was accepted by leased mineral owners
2 in the proposed unit? Average bonus and average
3 royalty?

4 THE WITNESS: Sure. So, the average
5 bonus accepted in the unit was about \$1,479 per
6 acre. The average royalty accepted in the unit
7 was 14.52 percent.

8 MS. MARSHALL: Can you please explain
9 the difference between the current offer and
10 average accepted offers?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can. The
12 difference between the average accepted and
13 average unleased offer is due to many of these
14 leases -- the accepted leases having been taken
15 many years ago, that are now held by production
16 for the last, sometimes 30, 40 years. So,
17 different pricing environment now, different
18 climate now. So, that. And then also the fact
19 that there's only a handful unleased mineral
20 owners to pull that data off of, as well.

21 MS. MARSHALL: Do you believe your
22 lease attempts have been reasonable, and why?

23 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do believe our
24 lease attempts have been reasonable. And I think

1 that our contact log will reflect that as well,
2 especially given the fact that we have leased or
3 committed over, I believe, 76 percent of the unit.
4 And again, those efforts are documented in the
5 contact log.

6 MS. MARSHALL: Will you continue
7 attempts to lease the unleased mineral owners
8 after the hearing and after our unitization order
9 is issued, if one is issued?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes, we'll continue to
11 work with these owners even after the hearing and
12 order.

13 MS. MARSHALL: Do you believe your
14 attempts to commit non-consenting working interest
15 owners have been reasonable, and if so, why?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, and it will
17 essentially be the same answer by the fact that
18 over 76 percent of the units have been leased or
19 committed. We've reached out and have a very open
20 line of communication with these non-consenting
21 working interest owners, also documented in the
22 contact log for reference. But yes, I do believe
23 our attempts have been reasonable.

24 MS. MARSHALL: Will you continue your

1 attempts to commit non-consenting working interest
2 owners after today's hearing?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, we've been in
4 constant communication. We'll continue to do so.

5 MS. MARSHALL: Do the leases in the
6 unit authorize drilling into and producing from
7 the proposed unitized formations?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, they do.

9 MS. MARSHALL: To establish bonus and
10 royalty amounts and leases, how are those
11 generally determined?

12 THE WITNESS: A number of factors go
13 into determining these bonus royalty amounts, but
14 some of these include commodity prices, estimated
15 well economics, lease acquisition timing, and
16 certainly competitor activity in the area. And we
17 take all of these factors into consideration. We
18 feel that these give us our best way to come up
19 with fair bonus and royalty amounts.

20 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. Thank you. That
21 is all the questions that I have.

22 Ms. Barrett, do you have any questions?

23 MS. BARRETT: Yes.

24 - - - - -

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. BARRETT:

3 Q. Can you explain the reasoning for the
4 shape of the unit at the northeast -- or
5 northwest. Sorry. Northwest corner of the unit?6 A. Sure. So, for the unit shape on the
7 northwest corner, generally the unit shape itself
8 is determined by, you know, adjacent units like a
9 couple of the other Bertram units and then units
10 in the area generally. But the specific question
11 to the corner of the unit, that boundary
12 essentially follows the leased tract lines in the
13 area. So the goal is to obviously include as much
14 leasehold as we can. So that just follows a lease
15 tract line there.

16 Q. Okay. Thank you.

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

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

20 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you.

21 Mr. Carr, please call you next witness.

22 MR. CARR: Thank you very much.

23 Our second witness this morning is
24 Dilyn Delval.

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

3 - - - - -

4 DILYN DELVAL

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

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. CARR:

9 Q. Good morning, Ms. Delval.

10 A. Good morning.

11 Q. Like your colleague, Mr. Biggs, I'd
12 like to start by having you introduce yourself to
13 the Division, sharing a little bit about your
14 educational professional background and what you
15 do at Ascent.

16 A. My name is Dilyn Delval, and I'm a
17 geologist employed by Ascent Resources. I hold a
18 Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from
19 Edinburgh University and a Master of Science
20 degree from the University of North Dakota. I
21 entered the oil and gas industry in September of
22 2018 as a geologist at Ascent, and I have worked
23 all seven years in the Appalachian Basin.

24 In my current role at Ascent, I focus

1 on interpreting and integrating subsurface data
2 into company workflows. This work is primarily
3 reflected in the creation and maintenance of
4 subsurface maps used across multiple disciplines,
5 as well as in quality control of the data that
6 generates those maps. I also create geologic
7 exhibits for the Land Department to help verify
8 the geological accuracy of their documentation,
9 and assist in maintaining the integrity of
10 operational data used in our analyses.

11 Q. Thank you so much. Now, to be entitled
12 to a unit order, one of the things that we must
13 establish is that the unitized formation
14 underlying the Bertram Northeast unit is a pool or
15 part of a pool. So can you begin by telling me
16 what formations or formation Ascent seeks to
17 unitize here?

18 A. Yeah, we're looking to utilize the
19 Utica Shale formation, which includes the Point
20 Pleasant Interval.

21 Q. And from a geological perspective, how
22 would you define the word "pool?"

23 A. A "pool" is generally understood to be
24 an area of geologically consistent reservoir

1 properties such as permeability, porosity,
2 thickness, and rock type that share an
3 accumulation of hydrocarbons.

4 Q. It's my understanding that you
5 completed an evaluation to determine whether the
6 unitized formation underlying the northeast unit
7 is a pool or part of a pool. Can you walk us
8 through to that evaluation? Let us know or tell
9 us what you considered.

10 A. Yeah. I reviewed the vertical wells in
11 the area with a full suite of electric logs in
12 order to compare the reservoir quality from well
13 to well. I also reviewed the 3D seismic in the
14 area and looked at the structure maps relevant to
15 the Utica formation.

16 Q. I have on screen Exhibit F to Ascent's
17 application. Can you tell me what this exhibit is
18 depicting and why it is relevant to your analysis?

19 A. Yep. Exhibit F is a subsea structure
20 map of the Point Pleasant Interval around the
21 proposed Bertram unit, which is outlined in blue.
22 The purple crosses are the wells that have
23 penetrated in the Point Pleasant in this area.
24 This map was used creating those control points.

1 The orange dots were used to create a two well
2 cross-sectional line through the Bertram Northeast
3 unit, and they marked the location of the two
4 closest vertical wells to the Bertram Northeast
5 unit with a full suite of logs. These are only a
6 couple of the vertical wells in the area that I
7 used during my analysis. From the structure map,
8 looking at the gentle curve of the contour lines,
9 there is no reason to think that there are any
10 structural features that would separate the Utica
11 Point Pleasant reservoir within the proposed unit.

12 Q. Thank you. I'm going to turn to
13 Exhibit E to Ascent's of application. Can you
14 tell me what this exhibit is depicting and again
15 why it's relevant to your analysis?

16 A. Exhibit E is a stratigraphic
17 cross-section of the two closest wells that we
18 just saw in the previous exhibit, being the E
19 Clark South 7 and the Zechman Thomas Unit. They
20 create that cross-sectional line, the log data
21 curve displayed in both wells are the gamma ray in
22 the left track and then the deep resistivity in
23 the right track. And as you can see on this
24 exhibit, the log data demonstrates that the Utica

1 formation stratigraphy is very consistent and does
2 not significantly change near the proposed Bertram
3 Northeast unit. The geologic properties in
4 general, like the thickness and resistivity, are
5 laterally consistent throughout the proposed unit.

6 Q. Based on your evaluation, is the
7 unitized formation underlying the Bertram
8 Northeast unit a pool or part of a pool?

9 A. Yes, that is what I believe.

10 Q. Your colleague, Mr. Biggs, testified
11 about the unit plan earlier this morning,
12 specifically the non-consent penalty that may
13 apply to working interest owners. And he
14 testified that the non-consent penalty is 500
15 percent for both the initial well and subsequent
16 operations. In your opinion, based on your
17 experience and training, is a 500 percent
18 non-constant penalty for working interest owners
19 just and reasonable?

20 A. Yeah. There's always inherent risk
21 when drilling a well, whether that be unexpected
22 drilling hazards or mechanical issues. So I
23 believe it is just and reasonable for working
24 interest partners to help assume that risk when

1 drilling wells.

2 Q. Thank you very much, Ms. Delval.

3 MR. CARR: Those are all the questions
4 I have for you this morning. The Division may
5 have a few follow-up questions.

6 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you.

7 Ms. Delval, what is the anticipated
8 true vertical depth of the horizontal portion of
9 the wellbore?

10 THE WITNESS: The anticipated landing
11 TVD in the unit is estimated to be 7,721 feet.

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

15 THE WITNESS: Utica is 7,535 feet TVD.
16 The Point Pleasant is 7,659 feet TVD. And the
17 Trenton, or the base of the Utica, is 7,784 feet
18 TVD.

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

21 THE WITNESS: Most of the hydrocarbon
22 production will come from the Point Pleasant, but
23 we would expect a small amount of hydrocarbon to
24 come from the upper Utica over the lifetime of

1 this well.

2 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you. That is all
3 the questions that I have.

4 Ms. Barrett, do you have any questions?

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

6 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you.

7 Mr. Carr, please call your next
8 witness.

9 MR. CARR: Thank you. Our last witness
10 today is Lindsey Hall-Wiist.

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

13 - - - - -

14 LINDSEY HALL-WIIST

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

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. CARR:

19 Q. Good morning -- actually, I should say
20 good afternoon here in Ohio, Ms. Hall-Wiist. How
21 are you doing?

22 A. I'm doing well.

23 Q. Good. Just like your colleagues, I
24 would like to have you follow suit and share a

1 little bit about your educational professional
2 background and what you do for Ascent on a
3 day-to-day basis?

4 A. All right. My name is Lindsey
5 Hall-Wiist. I'm a reservoir engineer at Ascent
6 Resources. I have a Bachelor of Science in
7 Chemical Engineering from Oklahoma State
8 University. I have about 18 years of industry
9 experience. I started here at Ascent in January
10 of 2024. Prior to that, I worked at Chesapeake
11 Energy and various engineering and leadership
12 roles across the variety of basins that they
13 operated in, including the Marcellus, Eagle Ford,
14 Haynesville, and Mid-Con. I'm a licensed
15 professional engineer here in the state of
16 Oklahoma, and I'm an active member of the Society
17 of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers, the Society of
18 Petroleum Engineers, and Women's Energy Network.

19 Some of my responsibilities at Ascent
20 include working with the multidisciplinary team
21 to optimize our development program for our
22 horizontal wells. So, we use reservoir
23 characterization to understand the existing well
24 performance, and then forecast out future

1 expectations through creating type curves. I'm
2 also responsible for managing producing well
3 forecasts in our associated reserves. And then I
4 also work with the land team to support leasing
5 evaluations and monetization work like we'll see
6 today.

7 Q. Thank you very much. Now, I'd like to
8 ask you a series of questions about the volume of
9 recovery we could expect to see from the Bertram
10 Northeast unit area under two different operating
11 scenarios.

12 The first scenario, I'm going to call
13 the "unitized" case. And that's where the
14 Division issues Ascent the requested unit order
15 and Ascent moves forward and drills the one well
16 to the total measured depth as reflected in its
17 application. The second operation I would call
18 the "non-unitized" case. And that is where the
19 Division does not issue Ascent a request for a
20 unit order, but Ascent nonetheless tries to
21 develop the Bertram Northeast unit area to the
22 best of its ability on a voluntary basis. It is
23 my understanding that you forecasted or estimated
24 recovery under both operating scenarios; Is that

1 correct?

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. Can you generally summarize how you go
4 about estimating or forecasting recovery under
5 those operating scenarios?

6 A. Sure. So, to forecast an undeveloped
7 well, I'll use existing analogue wells to group
8 similar performance expectations and create a type
9 well. So generally, wells with similar geologic
10 parameters and development design. Ones having
11 similar well spacing and similar completion
12 design, we'll group those together to generate an
13 average production forecast. This can then be
14 normalized based on the lateral length for the
15 unitized or non-unitized scenario. Then I'll use
16 costs that are provided by the operations team to
17 run economics that we'll look at here in a few
18 minutes for those two different lateral lengths.

19 Q. Thank you. Now, I have here onscreen
20 what is denoted as Exhibit 7 to Ascent's
21 PowerPoint presentation. I know it's a little
22 hard to see, but are these -- does this exhibit
23 depict the wells that you included within your
24 type well analysis?

1 A. Yes. So, these would be the analogue
2 wells that we use to generate that kind of average
3 production performance.

4 Q. Excellent. And I am now just turning
5 to the next slide after Exhibit 7. And this is a
6 listing of those wells, correct? Those analogue
7 wells?

8 A. Yes, that's right.

9 Q. Now, I'm turning to the actual
10 economics that Ascent submitted as part of its
11 application. Let's talk about the estimates that
12 you came up with and that you developed. Let's
13 start with the unitized case first. What is the
14 volume of recovery we can expect to see under the
15 unitized case?

16 A. Sure. So, in this top table, the
17 volume that we expect to recover would be that
18 estimated gross recovery of over 14 BCFe.

19 Q. And just for the audience's
20 understanding, can you tell us what the acronym
21 "BCFe" stands for?

22 A. BCFe is billions of cubic feet of gas
23 equivalent. So it's taking gas plus oil times a
24 BTU equivalent of times six, and then adding those

1 together and turning it into billions on the
2 units.

3 Q. Thank you very much, I appreciate that.
4 And what about the non-unitized case? What volume
5 of recovery would we expect to see under that
6 scenario?

7 A. So, the non-unitized would be the
8 middle table here where we're showing a lateral
9 length of 2,165. The volume here would be 1.4
10 BCFe.

11 Q. So what is the difference in estimated
12 recovery between the two scenarios?

13 A. So that's the bottom table where we're
14 showing the difference between the unitized and
15 non-unitized scenario. So, the difference for
16 this unit is 12.72 BCFe.

17 Q. In your experience, based on your
18 education and training, is 12.72 BCFe of natural
19 gas a substantial amount of production?

20 A. Yes, this is a very large volume of
21 production. Anything over one or two BCFe is
22 considered a very large volume.

23 Q. In your opinion, is a unit order then
24 reasonably necessary to increase substantially the

1 volume of production from the unit area?

2 A. Yeah. So again, just looking at that
3 difference in volumes there, over 12 BCFe is a
4 substantial volume.

5 Q. I'd like to talk to you about the
6 values associated with the recovery under those
7 two scenarios. Let's start with the unitized case
8 first. What is the value of that 14.12 BCFe of
9 natural gas?

10 A. Sure. So looking at the top table, we
11 do have a few different columns that have value,
12 But I'm going to be talking about the PV10 value.
13 In the unitized scenario, our PV10 is \$28.18
14 million.

15 Q. And again, just for the audience's
16 benefit, can you tell me what PV10 stands for, or
17 what that value correlates to?

18 A. Sure. So a PV10 is our present value
19 discounted at 10 percent. So it takes into
20 account the full life of the well, the revenues
21 and the cost and the initial capital investment,
22 and then discounts that back to time zero at a 10
23 percent discount rate.

24 Q. Thank you very much. But what about

1 the non-unitized case? What's the -- I guess the
2 PV10 value of that recovery?

3 A. The PV10 and the non-unitized scenario
4 is \$1.27 million.

5 Q. And so, what is the difference in PV10
6 value between the two operating scenarios?

7 A. The difference between the two is
8 \$26.91 million.

9 Q. In your opinion, and based on your
10 evaluation, is the value of the additional
11 recovery that Ascent would realize under the
12 unitized case, and that's this 0.72 BCFe fee, does
13 that value exceed the additional costs that Ascent
14 would incur to produce it?

15 A. Yes. So, a positive PV10 indicates
16 that there is value beyond the cost incurred to
17 develop it. A value of nearly 27 million is a
18 substantial value and highly economic project.

19 Q. Thank you very much, Ms. Hall-Wiist.
20 Those were all the questions I have -- well, I
21 actually do have one last question: Mr. Biggs
22 testified about the unit plan and specifically the
23 non-consent penalty that may be applicable to
24 working interest owners. And he testified that

1 the non-consent penalty is 500 percent. In your
2 opinion, based on your years of experience,
3 education, and training, is a 500 percent
4 non-consent penalty just and reasonable?

5 A. Yeah, I believe a 500 percent
6 non-consent penalty can be just and reasonable.
7 If you think about the purpose of a non-consent
8 penalty, it is to fairly compensate the consenting
9 owners and the operator for assuming the full
10 financial, operational, and market risk and
11 development whenever somebody else elects not to
12 participate. So, in unconventional horizontal
13 wells, those risks can be rather significant.
14 They include multi-million-dollar upfront drilling
15 and completion costs. There's always potential
16 for mechanical failure. There's uncertainty in
17 performance. And then the long-term price
18 volatility is always an uncertainty and a risk.
19 So the consenting owners have to carry these risks
20 in their entirety while a non-consenting owner is
21 insulated from the upfront loss, but they still
22 get to retain the potential to benefit from the
23 successful well after the payout.

24 Q. Thank you very much.

1 MR. CARR: That is my last question for
2 you this afternoon, but if you would please stay
3 on, the Division may have a few follow-up
4 questions.

5 MS. MARSHALL: Good afternoon,
6 Ms. Hall-Wiist. What is the estimated economic
7 life of the wells in years?

8 THE WITNESS: The economic life is 50
9 years.

10 MS. MARSHALL: What price was used in
11 your economic calculations?

12 THE WITNESS: At the time of running
13 these economics, we used a strip price from
14 June 30th of 2025. The ultimate gas price here is
15 \$3.81 per MCF and \$61.94 per barrel of oil.

16 MS. MARSHALL: When do you estimate you
17 will recover the cost of drilling, testing, and
18 completing the wells at one times, one-and-a-half
19 times, two times, and three times?

20 THE WITNESS: Sure. So, the payout at
21 one time would be 0.8 years. 1.5 times is 1.3
22 years. Two times is 2 years, and three times is
23 4.8 years.

24 MS. MARSHALL: How many total wells

1 will be drilled from the pad?

2 THE WITNESS: We are planning to
3 develop three wells from the pad.

4 MS. MARSHALL: Are there any existing
5 wells?

6 THE WITNESS: There are not.

7 MS. MARSHALL: How are pad costs
8 accounted for in your calculations?

9 THE WITNESS: Pad costs are an
10 estimate, and they are divided evenly between the
11 three wells that we're planning to develop.

12 MS. MARSHALL: Did you use actual pad
13 costs or estimated pad costs in your economics?

14 THE WITNESS: Estimated pad costs, as
15 we didn't have actuals at the time of running
16 economics.

17 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. What amount was
18 included for plugging and restoration costs in
19 your economic calculations per well? Plugging and
20 restoration?

21 THE WITNESS: The cost included is
22 \$250,000 per well, which includes the restoration
23 of the pads.

24 MS. MARSHALL: What is the estimated

1 BCFe fee per 1000 feet?

2 THE WITNESS: 0.68 BCFe per 1000 feet.

3 MS. MARSHALL: What is the estimated
4 recovery factor in the area?

5 THE WITNESS: Approximately 12 percent.

6 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. Does the value of
7 the estimated recovery of oil and gas exceed the
8 estimated additional cost?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, it does.

10 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you. That is all
11 the questions that I have.

12 Ms. Barrett, do you have any
13 questions?

14 MS. BARRETT: I do not. Thank you.

15 MS. MARSHALL: Once again, if you would
16 like to make comments, I am first going to take
17 all of your names and note whether you are an
18 unleased mineral owner, working interest owner, or
19 an owner with property in the unit. Only one
20 person may speak at a time to properly record the
21 hearing, and please mute your microphone once you
22 have delivered your comments or questions to avoid
23 any feedback. Additionally, anyone speaking today
24 will be asked to provide your information to the

1 court reporter. If you are uncomfortable speaking
2 during the hearing, we will also accept written
3 comments. I have Shawn Golden, Steve Brown,
4 Rodney Brown, and Timothy Hoover, and will now ask
5 if anyone else wishes to make comments.

6 If you have joined via WebEx and would
7 like to make comments, please unmute yourself and
8 state your name.

9 Hearing none.

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

13 Hearing none.

14 As a reminder, we ask that any
15 interested party who speaks here today pose any
16 question to the Division, and we will then ask any
17 questions to the Applicant.

18 Mr. Shawn Golden, please let us know if
19 you are here and ready to be sworn in.

20 MR. GOLDEN: Yes, go ahead.

21 MS. MARSHALL: Please swear in

22 Mr. Golden.

23 (Shawn Golden was sworn in)

24 MS. MARSHALL: Mr. Golden, please

1 proceed with your comments or questions.

2 MR. GOLDEN: All right. We leased our
3 property, and they're coming through a little bit
4 more than half of it. And we leased it for three
5 years. This probably -- I guess -- never mind.
6 We leased it for three years. For the remaining
7 property, are we still able to sign for the
8 signing bonus that they actually ain't drilling
9 through? That they are not going to drill through
10 to bring the line?

11 MS. BARRETT: So generally, Mr. Golden,
12 the Division lacks jurisdiction over any kind of
13 leasing. So that includes any kind of lease
14 negotiation or property rights determination as to
15 what you may be able to do with your property. We
16 also can't give any kind of legal advice, but if
17 the Applicant does have any response to
18 Mr. Golden's question --

19 MR. GOLDEN: Well, that would be
20 Mr. Biggs, I think. Blake Biggs.

21 MR. BIGGS: Yeah, I can -- yeah. I
22 think I can generally respond. And if it's
23 something that we want to talk about after the
24 hearing, I'm happy to stay on and get an email or

1 phone number. But I would just say, you know, we
2 leased the full parcel of land at the time. The
3 lease does expire. I don't have the lease pulled
4 up in front of me, so I would have to look at the
5 different lease terms and everything. But, you
6 know, if the lease outside of the unit boundary
7 does expire, then, yes, you would be able to sign
8 a new lease with us or somebody.

9 But there could also be something in a
10 lease that says, you know, "if we drill this well
11 and produce it, it can be held." So it's a
12 case-by-case basis. But if you want to stay on
13 afterwards, if that's all right, I could get your
14 contact information and we could go over that part
15 of the lease if you want.

16 MR. GOLDEN: Well, thank you very much,
17 sir. I appreciate it. Okay. I'll do that. And
18 that's all I have. Thank you.

19 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. Thank you,
20 Mr. Golden.

21 Mr. Steve Brown, please let us know
22 that you are here and ready to be sworn in.

23 MR. S. BROWN: Yeah, I can -- this is
24 kind of a--

1 MS. MARSHALL: Okay. just a moment,
2 Mr. Brown. We need to swear you in.

3 Please swear in Mr. Brown.

4 (Steve Brown was sworn in.)

5 MS. MARSHALL: Mr. Brown, please
6 proceed with your comments or questions.

7 MR. S. BROWN: I was just curious --
8 the whole thing in a nutshell is my mom passed
9 away, and there were 38 acres she owned down there
10 in Harrison County. And then through -- the way
11 it was supposed to be set up was a third, a third,
12 and a third. We didn't know what we owned. All
13 we know is we owned a third of -- whatever. And I
14 give -- all of us, we're supposed to have like
15 nine acres, and I gave my nine acres to my
16 brother, Rodney. And I guess my question is: How
17 is my mom's acreage involved in this? Because we
18 don't see her parcel number on here. And the only
19 one I know that there is a number of, a parcel
20 number, is number 66. That little tiny sliver is
21 up on the very north end of your arrow. So does
22 that run back into my mom's somehow? I'm not sure
23 how we became entwined with this whole scenario
24 here. Maybe could maybe clarify that a little bit

1 more.

2 MS. BARRETT: Yes. So again, same
3 response as the previous commenter: The Division
4 doesn't have jurisdiction over property rights
5 determinations. However, Mr. Carr or Mr. Biggs,
6 one of you can help out Mr. Brown or stay on the
7 line after to maybe provide some contact
8 information to discuss these questions.

9 MR. CARR: Sure.

10 MR. BIGGS: I could.

11 MR. S. BROWN: So, the only way I can
12 maybe -- I could see it would be entwined
13 somewhere with this LLC. One of their wells or
14 whatever that company is, I don't know. I'm not
15 sure.

16 MR. BIGGS: I can try to provide some
17 context that might be helpful. So, in Exhibit A
18 of our unitization application, this is where we
19 list the mineral owners that we credit with a
20 mineral interest in the unit. You'll see by
21 Mr. Steven and Mr. Rodney Brown, it's denoted with
22 a "1" superscript next to their name. And so that
23 points to basically a footnote at the bottom that
24 shows that they're an entireties owner, not

1 necessarily a mineral owner, in the unit. So,
2 basically, an entireties owner is not a mineral
3 owner of the tract, but is a mineral owner of a
4 separate tract to which the same lease covers.
5 So, this lease -- meaning this lease would contain
6 an entireties clause. Which basically provides
7 that if any portion of the land covered by the
8 lease is later transferred, and it sounds like
9 maybe from your mom at that point to a separate
10 owner, the royalties payable under the lease would
11 then be divided among each owner in proportion
12 that the acreage owned by such owner bears the
13 entire acreage.

14 So basically, we're not showing you as
15 a mineral owner in this tract; we're showing you
16 as a mineral owner in a tract that the lease
17 covers. So it's likely the acreage you're
18 discussing is outside of this unit and nearby.
19 But we listed your name here because it's possible
20 that you would be entitled to receive some
21 royalties just by owning an interest in some
22 acreage in the overall lease itself.

23 MR. S. BROWN: I guess I was -- what I
24 was wondering was how that came about.

1 MR. BIGGS: Yeah. If you have any
2 follow-up questions, I think my email address and
3 phone number are on the application or the
4 paperwork you received. So feel free to reach
5 out, and I can help clarify anything else.

6 MR. S. BROWN: Okay. I guess I was
7 just was kind of mystified about that. About and
8 -- you know. I really don't know anything about
9 mineral rights and how they work. And I'm not
10 really sure where we go from here.

11 MR. BIGGS: Okay. Yeah. And I think
12 the best way to probably handle it, Jay, you can
13 step in if you want to, but if we need more
14 information or if you want more information from
15 Ascent, then I'm happy to provide it. But it's
16 likely that your name is listed because you own a
17 tract outside of this unit, and you're being
18 basically mentioned for notice purposes.

19 MR. CARR: I would say, Mr. Brown, what
20 Mr. Biggs is discussing in this entireties clause
21 is something that, many minerals are -- it is not
22 something that they're necessarily familiar with.
23 And it's a concept that you kind of have to work
24 through to understand how it functions. So that

1 might be a source of the confusion here.

2 But, as Mr. Blake -- Mr. Biggs
3 testified earlier, one of the things Ascent does
4 prior to ever filing an application is run title
5 at the local courthouse and the local county and
6 try to identify everyone here who is a mineral
7 interest owner and may have an interest in the
8 production. And Ascent has essentially identified
9 you as someone who has interest production because
10 you are subject to a lease that is, that covers
11 land in this unit. I think the best thing to do
12 is maybe talk offline with you after the hearing.

13 As Mr. Biggs testified, his name,
14 telephone number, and email address is all in the
15 notes you received. Then they can explain a
16 little bit of the title history about how they
17 identified you as someone that's having an
18 interest in production, but to really understand
19 your rights and what you may or may not want to
20 do, you will likely need to consult your own
21 attorney to make those determinations and
22 judgments.

23 MR. S. BROWN: Okay. Well, I gave that
24 nine acres to my brother, so he's next up on the

1 list. And that's the next guy you're going to
2 talk to, probably. Rodney.

3 MR. CARR: And if that's the case, I
4 think a discussion with Mr. Biggs outside the
5 hearing -- Ascent maybe doesn't have the paperwork
6 that transferred those mineral rights or are just
7 not aware of it. And so, if there has been a
8 transfer, that's something that Ascent would want
9 to know. So we want -- at the end of the day,
10 Ascent wants its application to be complete. We
11 want to reflect ownership as it is shown in the
12 county records.

13 MR. S. BROWN: All right. So this -- I
14 got his number in this here. So you want me just
15 to call him and --

16 MR. CARR: Yes. Ascent and Mr. Biggs,
17 that's the landman who oversees this development,
18 they're the ones who would best kind of share the
19 information to how they came to your name. And
20 so, to the extent that you did transfer your
21 mineral rights to your brother, they can talk to
22 you about what there -- what they would need from
23 you to update their internal records and then,
24 thereafter, the application.

1 MR. S. BROWN: All right. I don't know
2 any other questions. You know, I got -- I didn't
3 know. I'm not certain either.

4 MR. CARR: We'll talk with your
5 brother. I'm sure the Division will call him
6 next. But again, I recommend you follow-up with
7 Mr. Biggs separately outside the hearing. I think
8 that's the next best step.

9 MR. S. BROWN: Okay. All right. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. CARR: You're welcome.

12 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you, Mr. Brown,
13 for your comments.

14 Mr. Rodney Brown, please let us know if
15 you are here and ready to be sworn in.

16 MR. R. BROWN: Yes. I'm here.

17 MS. MARSHALL: Please swear in
18 Mr. Brown.

19 (Rodney Brown was sworn in.)

20 MS. MARSHALL: Mr. Brown, please
21 proceed with your comments or questions.

22 MR. R. BROWN: Okay. I think I can
23 clarify what my brother was asking. Right now,
24 you have Exhibit D1 showing up there. If you look

1 at the very top of section 13, there's a TWP
2 number 12N and an RNG number 7W. That -- so you
3 just changed -- you need to go back to D1. Yes.
4 Okay. On D1 if you go up to the boxes across the
5 top at Section 13, the TWP 12N, that is our
6 property. There's 38 acres right there where
7 those RNG letters are. And 7W, that's the
8 property that he's talking about. And what we
9 were getting at is it seems to be so far out of
10 the realm of where you're drilling and your
11 production is. We were wondering how we were
12 included in this. That's basically what we're
13 asking.

14 MS. BARRETT: Yes. Thank you. And
15 based on the Applicant's response to your
16 brother's comments as well, if you want to stay on
17 the line after the hearing, you can get in touch
18 with Ascent, or you've got the contact information
19 on the hearing notice that was also sent to you.

20 MR. R. BROWN: Okay.

21 MS. BARRETT: That is what they
22 recommended.

23 MR. R. BROWN: Okay. That would seem
24 to me to be the way to go instead of taking up

1 other people's time. But we thank you.

2 MS. BARRETT: Yes. Thank you for your
3 comments.

4 MS. MARSHALL: Timothy Hoover, please
5 let us know if you are here and ready to be sworn
6 in.

7 MR. HOOVER: I am here.

8 MS. MARSHALL: Please swear in
9 Mr. Hoover.

10 (Timothy Hoover was sworn in.)

11 MS. MARSHALL: Mr. Hoover, please
12 proceed with your comments or questions.

13 MR. HOOVER: My question -- I am half
14 owner of the 59 and 58 tract number with Shawn
15 Golden. And my basic question was the same as
16 his. Like he was saying, stating that the Bertram
17 oil lease goes through almost half of our
18 property. And there's I think there's a remainder
19 of like 6.25 acres. I guess my question is, are
20 there -- because they're only paying royalties on
21 the acreage that is there actually inside that
22 Bertram marking. My question is, does Ascent have
23 intentions of going east of the Bertram well, up
24 towards Freeport, the city of Freeport, to pick up

1 that extra half? And then a follow-up question
2 would be: Our lease is -- we have a three-year
3 lease, and our lease would be up next year. Would
4 they have to actually release that to us or to
5 them from us for any additional bonus money? Just
6 the 6.25 acres, or I believe that's what it is.
7 But those are my two questions.

8 MS. BARRETT: Okay. Thank you,
9 Mr. Hoover. So I'm going to start with your
10 second question first. I will allow Mr. Biggs an
11 opportunity to respond as well too. But, again,
12 as to any lease negotiations or these terms, the
13 Division lacks jurisdiction. So to the extent
14 Mr. Biggs can provide some kind of response to
15 you, it may just be best to speak with him after
16 the hearing and get his contact information. And
17 then, as to what future development is coming, if
18 someone could share the adjacent units map -- in
19 this part of the application, there is this map
20 showing what development has been filed with the
21 Division. There's also an online well locator
22 that the Division maintains that shows pending
23 applications or permits, and then those that are
24 ultimately issued as well. So if -- you can

1 always look at that right off our website. If you
2 want more information about that, feel free to
3 call our office. We have a public information
4 officer who can provide you more information with
5 that.

6 But other than that, that's pretty much
7 the extent of any requirements that Ascent would
8 have to provide towards what future development
9 they might have. We're here today for this
10 specific application. That all said, does Ascent
11 want to provide any other information in response
12 to those two questions?

13 MR. CARR: Yeah.

14 MR. BIGGS: I would.

15 MR. CARR: Go ahead.

16 MR. BIGGS: Oh, I'm sorry.

17 I was saying I would agree with Ms.
18 Barrett on the second point. You can see the
19 nearby adjacent units. If it was in Ascent's
20 plans or somebody else's plans to, you know,
21 develop acreage to the east, then, yes, you'd be
22 notified for a new lease if yours expired. I
23 can't get into specifics of your actual lease form
24 on this hearing, but if you want to stay on, we

1 can talk about it to see what -- as you mentioned,
2 your lease expires in late 2026. Certain things
3 can hold a lease or cause a lease to expire. And
4 it's all on a lease-by-lease basis. So there's
5 not one general form necessarily that determines
6 that. So I think it's best if you and I just
7 maybe look at the specific clauses offline. And
8 we can talk about that, if that works for you.

9 MR. HOOVER: Yeah that sounds great,
10 okay.

11 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you, Mr. Hoover,
12 for your questions and comments. We do have a
13 question in the chat and it says, what were the
14 payouts? One times, 1.5 times, two times, and
15 three times?

16 MS. HALL-WIIST: I can go over those
17 payouts again. So, the one-times payout is 0.8
18 years. 1.5 times payout is 1.3 years. Two times
19 payout is two years, and three times payout is 4.8
20 years.

21 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you very much,
22 Ms. Hall-Wiist. We'll put that in the chat
23 information.

24 Ms. Barrett, do you have any other

1 questions?

2 MS. BARRETT: I do not. Thank you.

3 MS. MARSHALL: Does the Applicant have
4 any final comments?

5 MR. CARR: We do not. Other than to
6 say thank you for everyone's time this morning.

7 MS. MARSHALL: Okay.

8 MR. CARR: I guess I do have one. I do
9 have, I guess just one for clearing the record.

10 I know there was a chat that was
11 received. Are we able to identify who "Melissa"
12 is? Just for the record of who submitted that
13 chat request. A last name.

14 MS. MARSHALL: I believe it just says
15 "Melissa."

16 MR. CARR: Oh, they posted "Clark."
17 Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Clark. We
18 appreciate it. All right. Thank you so much.

19 MS. MARSHALL: Thank you. The hearing
20 is now concluded.

21 - - - - -

22 Thereupon, the foregoing proceedings
23 concluded at 12:35 p.m.

24 - - - - -

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

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I, Jack M. Casey, 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 January 8, 2026.



Jack M. Casey, Notary Public - State of Ohio
My commission expires November 24, 2030.