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APR 20 2005

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO DRILL DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES - RCRO

Type of work: Drill New Well Reenter Well Drill Directional Well Other _____

Type of well: Oil Well Gas Well Injection Other _____

Name and Address of Operator: The Houston Exploration Co. 1100 Louisiana; Suite 2000; Houston, TX 77002 Telephone (713) 830-6800

Name and Address of Surface Owner: Edward Marshall 1608 Skyline Drive; Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Name and Address of Drilling Contractor and Rig Number: Caza Drilling Inc. P.O. Box 17805; Denver, CO. 80217 Rig #234

Surface Location of well: Qtr-Qtr, Sec, Twp, Rge, County, feet from nearest lines of section, and latitude and longitude (if available):
 NESW of Sec 21, T9N, R27E; Stanley County; 2079' FSL & 1709' FWL; Lat=44.724172, Long=100.84715
 If Directional, top of pay and bottom hole location from nearest lines of section:
 NA

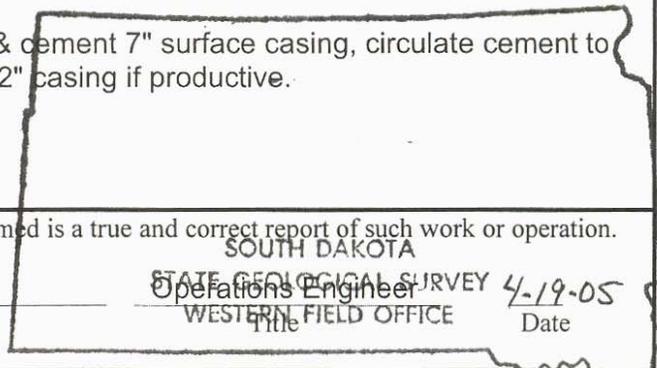
Acres in Spacing (Drilling) Unit: 40 Description of Spacing Unit: NE/4 SW/4 of Sec 21, T9N, R27E

Well Name and Number	Elevation	Field and Pool, or Wildcat	Proposed Depth and Formation
Orton Flats #11-21	1943.6'	Wildcat	2500' - Dakota Sandstone

Size of Hole	Size of Casing	Weight per Foot	Depth	Cementing Program (amount, type, additives)	Depth
1) 9-7/8"	7"	20	350'	150 sxs Type 3 cmt w/2% CaCl	surf
2) 6-1/4"	4-1/2"	10.5	2500'	100 sxs Type 3 cmt w/2% CaCl	1500'-2500'
3)					
4)					

Describe Proposed Operations (Clearly State all Pertinent Details, and Give Pertinent Dates, Including Estimated Date of Starting any Proposed Work). Use additional page(s) if appropriate.
 Move in & rig up drilling rig, drill 9-7/8" hole to 350', run & cement 7" surface casing, circulate cement to surface, drill 6-1/4" hole to 2500', log, run & cement 4-1/2" casing if productive.
 Start Date: 6/1/2005
 End Date: 6/4/2005
 Note: 12 ml pit liner will be used on all earthen pits.

I hereby certify that the foregoing as to any work or operation performed is a true and correct report of such work or operation.
 Signature: Lloyd Bruce Name (Print): Lloyd Bruce Title: Operations Engineer Date: 4-19-05



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Approved By: Jed Wallace Title: Oil & Gas Supervisor

Permit No. 1737 API No. 40 117 20024 Date Issued: 05/03/05

Conditions, if any, on attached page.