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**MERRION**

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OIL & GAS

July 11, 1996

Mr. Frank Chavez, Supervisor

**New Mexico Oil Conservation Division**

1000 Rio Brazos Road

Aztec, New Mexico 97410

RECEIVED  
JUL 12 1996  
OIL CON. DIV.  
DIST. 3

*M*  
Subject: Request for Surface Casing Variance. MEU #9, sw/4 Sec 14, T19N, R3W,  
Sandoval County, New Mexico

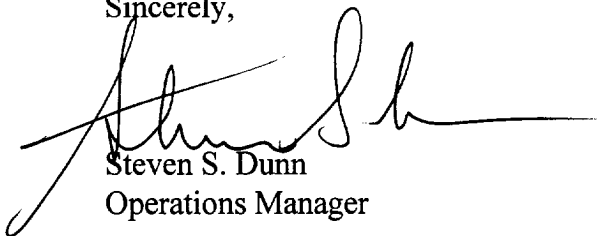
Dear Frank:

Many wells have been safely and soundly drilled in the Media Entrada Unit over the years using surface casing setting depths in the 200 feet  $\pm$  range. No ephemeral or perennial streams, nor gravel deposits are located in the area. In addition the formation on the surface is the Lewis shale.

Based upon these conditions, Merrion asks for a variance from the NMOCD policy on casing setting depths to allow us to set 240 $\pm$  feet of surface casing instead of the recommended 300 $\pm$  feet.

Please call if you wish to discuss.

Sincerely,



Steven S. Dunn  
Operations Manager

cc: Well File