



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
AZTEC DISTRICT OFFICE

TONEY ANAYA
GOVERNOR

1000 RIO BRAZOS ROAD
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410
(505) 334-6178

August 20, 1985

Mr. Jeff Tayler
Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Pollution of San Juan River

Dear Jeff:

On June 4, 1985, I received a telephone call from Mr. Gilbert Armenta. He said that an operator on his property had dumped drilling waste into the San Juan River where it borders his property. Upon investigation that day, I discovered that cement drill cuttings had been pushed over the embankment of the river. Some of the cuttings had fallen into the river and some were still on the bank. Evidence at the site indicated that the cuttings had come from the Union Texas Petroleum Corporation Armenta #1 well, located in Sec. 27-T29N-R10W.

I had inspected this site the week previous and noticed a metal pit full of cement cuttings on the well location.

I called Mr. Bill Cooper of the local Union Texas office. He and two other employees met me at the site. They said that the work had been done by one of their contractors.

This action is a direct violation of Rule 105 and I recommend that a fine be assessed. Due to the quantity of flow in the river, and the amount of drill cuttings that went into the river, there was no serious pollution threat and upon direction from me the remaining cuttings were removed from the bank and properly disposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank T. Chavez".

Frank T. Chavez
District Supervisor

FTC/dj

xc: Well File
Operator File