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Standard Gas Co.

J-16-30

State of New Mexico



GOVERNOR
JERRY A. RODACA
DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION
WILLIAM S. HUEY

DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

STATE CAPITOL
SANTA FE
87503

STATE GAME COMMISSION

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ROBERT P. GRIFFIN
SILVER CITY

December 5, 1975

Mr. Bill Parish
El Paso Natural Gas Company
Petroleum Plaza
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Dear Mr. Parish:

Several anglers fishing the San Juan River have reported to our Department that a new well pad is being prepared very close to the riverbank approximately 1-1/2 miles upstream from the Aztec Bridge Crossing. This well pad is on State land and in an area of high angler use and preference.

When I first received this report, I contacted Mr. Al Kendrick of the Oil Conservation Commission in Aztec concerning possible contamination of the river caused by drilling fluids and petroleum compounds. Mr. Kendrick advised that the well belonged to El Paso Natural Gas Company and that steel tanks were going to be used to contain some of the well effluents; however, he did indicate that a reserve pit would be placed near the site for overflow purposes.

Our Department would like to urge your company to line the reserve and/or any permanent pits with a nonpermeable liner for preventing seepage during the drilling process and after the well has been established. Any seepage occurring from the pit into ground water and subsequently into the San Juan River could easily contaminate 15 miles of outstanding trout water. We feel precautions must be taken to protect the quality of this section of the river.

Please contact me at 827-2236 in Santa Fe should you have any questions concerning this request; and if our reasoning is not warranted, please advise

Mr. Bill Parish

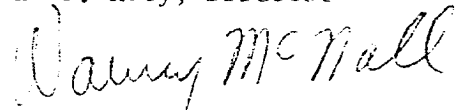
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so we can inform the persons who inquired about this potential pollution source on the banks of the State's best trout stream.

Very truly yours,

William S. Huey, Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Warren J. McNall".

By: Warren J. McNall
Ass't. Chief of Fisheries

cc: Glen Case
Mike Hatch
Al Kendrick, OCC, Aztec, N.M. ✓