

OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
1000 RIO BRAZOS ROAD - AZTEC

87410

October 18, 1974

I. R. TRUJILLO
CHAIRMAN

LAND COMMISSIONER
ALEX J. ARMIJO
MEMBER

STATE GEOLOGIST
A. L. PORTER, JR.
SECRETARY - DIRECTOR

Mr. A. L. Porter, Jr.
New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
P. O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Re: MSBW #1 McCoy, 28-30N-12W

Dear Mr. Porter:

In accordance with your request of October 15, 1974, I made an inspection of the above location on October 17, 1974. The well is flowing a small amount of black sulphur smelling water and a few gas bubbles are breaking through the water. The water runs down a ditch across a field and definitely is detrimental to the land owner as it makes possibly an acre or two of ground unusable for farming. As I stated in my letter of January 10, 1962, Mr. Robert Maddox, Sr. did at that time dig out around the old casing and grouted cement around it. As stated in my letter, I visited the location subsequent to the time this work was accomplished and there was no flow of water or gas. Evidently at some subsequent date the flow again broke out.

Mr. McCoy who previously owned this acreage told me that the size of the flow from the well varied through the year and was seemingly related to the irrigation season. During and following periods of irrigation in the area surrounding the well it seems to flow more water. This indicates that the problem is not deep seated and that the water is coming from a shallow depth.

When this well was originally drilled the reports filed indicate that an artesian flow was encountered from 20 to 100 feet. The reports do not indicate that cement was placed across this zone. It seems reasonable to assume that this is the zone which is flowing water. It is possible that this shallow water table fluctuates with irrigation seasons accounting for the fact that the flow subsides at times.

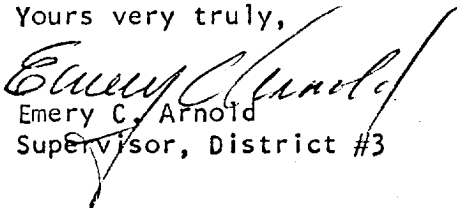
In view of the failure experienced by Mr. Maddox in attempting to grout off the flow at the surface, I believe it will be necessary to actually enter the old hole by some means. This would entail using a bulldozer to remove the cement pad from the top of the hole so that it may be entered. I believe that if the hole could be penetrated to 100 or 150 feet and filled with cement it would cure the problem. Due to the recent irrigation season it would be difficult to use heavy equipment at the site at the present time. If the land owner will agree I believe the best time to attempt the task would be about February or March of the next year as the flow may subside completely by that time.

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The problem of fixing legal responsibility and securing compliance is for the legal department I presume. The north half of Section 28, Township 30 North, Range 12 West is dedicated to a producing Dakota well owned by Amoco Production Co.. I do not know whether they now own the shallow oil and gas rights. There is no well producing on the quarter section from the Pictured Cliffs or shallower. I believe the original MSBW Company is now defunct. Mr. Maddox who originally owned part of the company is now in a rest home in Albuquerque. His son, Robert, Jr., who I am sure has inherited or stands to inherit the oil and gas interests owned by his father now lives in Santa Fe. You might be able to reach him by phone and discuss the problem.

Please keep me advised concerning future developments in the case.

Yours very truly,


Emery C. Arnold
Supervisor, District #3

ECA:mc