

July 20, 1949

Mr. F. B. Jackson
P. O. Box 147
First National Bank Building
Longview, Texas

Dear Mr. Jackson:

This is in reply to your letter of July 11th.

I have also before me a letter from W. H. Collins, Sheriff of Curry County at Clovis, New Mexico. Sheriff Collins' letter very completely explains why Deputy Sheriff DeGraffenried authorized the driller to resume operations on the evening of June 9th. We feel therefore, that we have been unfair in our accusations excepting for the fact that you began the well before either a bond was secured or the Form C-101, Notice of Intention to Drill, was approved. Further, we feel that you have been more or less an innocent victim. You understand that we had a very bad experience about a year ago at practically the same site, and we are beginning to wonder if the Western Drilling Company, which has been involved in the drilling of several wells in this area should not be checked very carefully.

In the second paragraph of your letter, you lament the fact that I did not advise you during our first telephone conversation that it was important to have all of these papers on file before you commenced operations. I do not remember that telephone conversation exactly, so I will make no further comment. It was rather surprising to learn however, that the "spud hole" reported to be started to save a lease, was 2811 ft. deep when our Mr. Yarbrough first discovered it.

This letter is to assure you that so long as our rules and regulations are met, you may operate anywhere in the State of New Mexico with complete assurance that your operations will not only be unhindered, but aided in every way which we find possible.

We are sending copies of this letter to everyone concerned and we want everyone concerned to know that you are to proceed according to your own convenience. We want no one, however, to take this letter as authority that we are relaxing our rules, regulations or our vigilance.