



RICHARDSON OPERATING COMPANY

1700 Lincoln, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80203 (303) 830-8000
FAX (303) 830-8009

January 4, 2001

Mr. Rich Dembowski
Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office
1235 LaPlata Highway
Farmington, NM 87401

Via Fax and Mail: (505) 599-8997

Re: Applications for Permit to Drill
Locations Offsetting Underground Coal Mine Area
San Juan County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Dembowski:

In our meeting on November 3, 2000, Richardson Operating Company was directed by the BLM to expedite its drilling program in the area offsetting San Juan Coal Company's deep coal lease and future expansion area. We are diligently trying to develop our acreage, and have submitted the following APD's over the last five+ months. They are all still pending BLM approval.

Priority 1:

Well	Location	Date APD Filed
ROPCO 4-1	NENE-Sec 4-29N-14W	10-02-00
ROPCO 4-2	NESE-Sec 4-29N-14W	11-10-00
ROPCO 4-3	NWSW-Sec 4-29N-14W	10-08-00
ROPCO 4-4	NENW-Sec 4-29N-14W	11-23-00
ROPCO 5-4	SWNE-Sec 5-29N-14W	10-28-00
ROPCO 9-4	SENW-Sec 9-29N-14W	08-11-00
WF Federal 27-1	SWNE-Sec 27-30N-14W	10-06-00
WF Federal 27-3	NESW-Sec 27-30N-14W	10-07-00
WF Navajo 14-1	NESE-Sec 14-29N-14W	04-30-00
WF Navajo 23-1	SENE-Sec 23-29N-14W	07-07-00

Priority 2:

Well	Location	Date APD Filed
ROPCO 8-1	NWNE-Sec 8-29N-14W	08-10-00
ROPCO 9-1	NENE-Sec 9-29N-14W	09-21-00
ROPCO 10-1	NWNW-Sec 10-29N-14W	11-25-00

**BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**
Case No. 12734 Exhibit No. A-14
Submitted By:
Richardson Operating Company
Hearing Date: November 13, 2001

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Yesterday, Elizabeth Allison informed us that the permits won't be approved until we submit acceptable, revised EA's. Permits West, Inc. has filed our APD's over the last three years, and prior to now, we never experienced approval delays because of the way the EA's were written. To date, Permits West still does not understand what Elizabeth wants. There is nothing environmentally controversial about the area we are developing. It is generally flat, covered with sand and some sage brush.

Most importantly, there is a shortage of available, reliable drillers in the San Juan Basin. We scheduled our driller based on expectations of reasonable APD approvals. We are now in jeopardy of losing the ability to obtain a drilling rig because we can't commit to drilling dates.

Please help us in any way you can to expedite our APD approvals.

Sincerely,

RICHARDSON OPERATING COMPANY



Cathleen Colby
Land Manager

cc: Brian Wood
Permits West, Inc.