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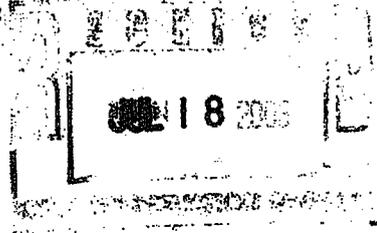
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July 16, 2003

Mr. David K. Brooks  
Assistant General Counsel  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural  
Resources Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Humble State #3 Tank Battery Site  
Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Brooks:

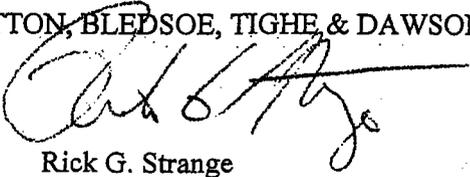
Thank you for your letter dated July 9<sup>th</sup>. I have reviewed that with my client and provide this response.

Your letter references Rule 313 and indicates this rule was originally adopted in 1950. That rule has been amended, as recently as May 15, 2000. We ceased operations on this lease in 1988. Any subsequent changes to the rule would not apply to us. I do not have the exact text of the rule as it existed in 1988, but even looking at its most current version, I fail to see where this provides your agency with the authority to order us to remediate a site that has not been used for 15 years. Accordingly, we must respectfully decline your request to submit a work plan. If you have any legal authority allowing your agency to retroactively impose this proposed requirement, I would appreciate the opportunity to review the same.

Very truly yours,

COTTON, BLEDSOE, TIGHE & DAWSON

By:

  
Rick G. Strange

RGS/sm