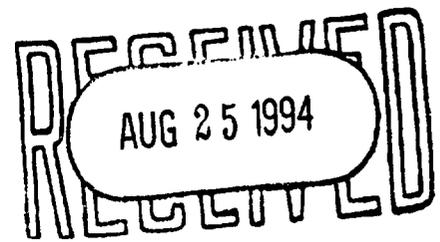


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ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO 88210
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JOHN FISK
DAVID R. VANDIVER

FAX
(505) 746-4208

August 24, 1994

**BEFORE THE
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Case No. 10991 Exhibit No. 3

Submitted by: Yates Petroleum Corporation

Hearing Date: December 15, 1994

Ms. Carol M. Clark
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 30428
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0428

*Re: Mary Irene Stevens
Bankruptcy No. 7-92-10633 MR
Hancock "AHC" Com. No. 3 Well
Township 6 South, Range 26 East, N.M.P.M.
Section 20: SE/4
Chaves County, New Mexico*

Dear Ms. Clark:

You will recall our previous discussions and correspondence concerning the offer of Yates Petroleum Corporation to purchase the mineral interest owned by Mary Irene Stevens in the captioned lands. Our examination of the title reveals that the mineral interest owned by Mary Irene Stevens in NE/4 SE/4 Section 20 is subject to a foreclosure proceeding pending in the District Court of Chaves County, Cause No. CV-93-75-S, instituted by United New Mexico Bank of Roswell. Gary Don Reagan represents United New Mexico.

Yates has discussed the mortgage foreclosure with Mr. Brent Beakley of United New Mexico, who indicated that the bank would be entitled to the proceeds of sale of the mineral interest. Upon receiving the proceeds from the sale, the bank would presumably release its mortgage and dismiss the lawsuit as to the captioned lands. Mr. Beakley indicated that he would like to discuss the matter with you.

Yates is trying to commence drilling operations on the lands as soon as possible. Yates is still willing to purchase the interest upon the terms previously discussed and pay the costs of obtaining an order of sale free of liens and encumbrances. In the alternative, Yates requests that the Trustee execute an Oil and Gas Lease, on the enclosed form, for a primary term of one year, at 1/4 royalty, with no bonus

Ms. Carol M. Clark
Page -2-

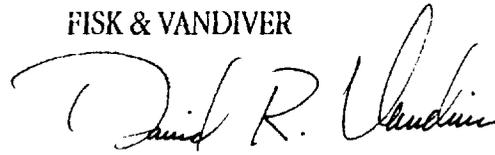
August 24, 1994

being payable to the Trustee. After execution of the lease, Yates will seek ratification thereof by Untied New Mexico.

Please contact me as soon as possible to discuss this matter.

Very truly yours,

FISK & VANDIVER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Vandiver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

David R. Vandiver

DRV:pvw
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Rob Bullock
Mr. Gary Don Reagan

OIL AND GAS LEASE

THIS AGREEMENT made this day of August, 1994, between
James E. Burke, Chapter 7 Trustee of the Mary Irene Stevens, d/b/a Stevens Oil Company, Bankruptcy Estate, under proceeding pending in the
U. S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Mexico, Case No. 7-92-10633 MR

Lessor (whether one or more), whose address is: P. O. Box 2266, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-2266
and Yates Petroleum Corporation, 105 South Fourth Street, Artesia, New Mexico 88210 Lessee, WITNESSETH:

1. Lessor in consideration of Ten and No/100 Dollars
(\$ 10.00) in hand paid, of the royalties herein provided and of the agreements of Lessee herein contained, hereby grants, leases and lets exclusively unto Lessee for the purpose of investigating, exploring, prospecting, drilling and mining for and producing oil and gas, laying pipe lines, building roads, tanks, power stations, telephone lines and other structures thereon and on, over and across lands owned or claimed by Lessor adjacent and contiguous thereto, to produce, save, take care of, treat, transport, and own said products, and housing its employees, the following described land in:

Eddy County, New Mexico, to-wit:

Township 6 South, Range 26 East, N.M.P.M.

Section 20: NE/4 SE/4

containing 40 acres, more or less

2. Without reference to the commencement, prosecution or cessation at any time of drilling or other development operations and/or to the discovery, development or cessation at any time of production of oil or gas and without further payments than the royalties herein provided, and notwithstanding anything else herein contained to the contrary, this lease shall be for a term of one year from this date (called "primary term") and as long thereafter as oil or gas is produced from said land or land with which said land is pooled hereunder.

3. The royalties to be paid by Lessee are: (a) on oil, 1/4 of that produced and saved from said land, the same to be delivered at the wells or to the credit of Lessor into the pipe line to which the wells may be connected; Lessee may from time to time purchase any royalty oil in its possession, paying the market price therefor prevailing for the field where produced on the date of purchase; (b) on gas, including casinghead gas or other gaseous substance, produced from said land, and sold, or used off the premises or for the extraction of gasoline or other product therefrom, the market value at the well of 1/4

of the gas so sold or used, provided that on gas sold at the wells the royalty shall be 1/4 of the amount realized from such sale; while there is a gas well on this lease or on acreage pooled therewith but gas is not being sold or used, Lessee may pay or tender as royalty, on or before ninety (90) days after the date on which said well is shut in and thereafter at annual intervals the sum of \$1.00 per acre, and if such payment is made or tendered, this lease shall not terminate and it will be considered that gas is being produced from this lease in paying quantities. Payment or tender of said shut-in gas royalty may be made by check or draft of Lessee mailed or delivered to the parties entitled thereto on or before the date said payment is due. Lessee shall have free use of oil, gas, coal and water from said land, except water from Lessor's wells, for all operations hereunder, and the royalty on oil and gas shall be computed after deducting any so used.

4. Lessee, at its option, is hereby given the right and power to pool or combine the acreage covered by this lease, or any portion thereof as to oil and gas, or either of them, with other land, lease or leases in the immediate vicinity thereof to the extent, hereinafter stipulated, when in Lessee's judgment it is necessary or advisable to do so in order properly to explore, or to develop and operate said leased premises in compliance with the spacing rules of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission, or other lawful authority or when to do so would, in the judgment of Lessee, promote the conservation of oil and gas in and under and that may be produced from said premises. Units pooled for oil hereunder shall not substantially exceed 40 acres each in area, and units pooled for gas hereunder shall not substantially exceed in area 640 acres each plus a tolerance of 10% thereof, provided that should governmental authority having jurisdiction prescribe or permit the creation of units larger than those specified, units thereafter created may conform substantially in size with those prescribed by governmental regulations. Lessee under the provisions hereof may pool or combine acreage covered by this lease, or any portion thereof as above provided as to oil in any one or more strata and as to gas in any one or more strata. The units formed by pooling as to any stratum or strata need not conform in size or area with the unit or units into which the lease is pooled or combined as to any other stratum or strata, and oil units need not conform as to area with gas units. The pooling in one or more instances shall not exhaust the rights of the Lessee hereunder to pool this lease or portions thereof into other units. Lessee shall file for record in the appropriate records of the county in which the leased premises are situated an instrument describing and designating the pooled acreage as a pooled unit. Lessee may at its election exercise its pooling option after commencing operations for or completing an oil or gas well on the leased premises, and the pooled unit may include, but it is not required to include, land or leases upon which a well capable of producing oil or gas in paying quantities has theretofore been completed or upon which operations for the drilling of a well for oil or gas have theretofore been commenced. Operations for drilling on or production of oil or gas from any part of the pooled unit which includes all or a portion of the land covered by this lease regardless of whether such operations for drilling were commenced or such production was secured before or after the execution of this instrument or the instrument designating the pooled unit, shall be considered as operations for drilling on or production of oil or gas from land covered by this lease whether or not the well or wells are located on the premises covered by this lease, and the entire acreage constituting such unit or units, as to oil and gas, or either of them, as herein provided, shall be treated for all purposes, except the payment of royalties on production from the pooled unit, as if the same were included in this lease. For the purpose of computing the royalties to which owners of royalties and payments out of production and each of them, shall be entitled on production of oil and gas, or either of them, from the pooled unit, there shall be allocated to the land covered by this lease and included in said unit a pro rata portion of the oil and gas, or either of them, produced from the pooled unit after deducting that used for operations on the pooled units. Such allocation shall be on an acreage basis—that is to say, there shall be allocated to the acreage covered by this lease and included in the pooled unit that pro rata portion of the oil and gas, or either of them, produced from the pooled unit which the number of surface acres covered by this lease and included in the pooled unit bears to the total number of surface acres included in the pooled unit. Royalties hereunder shall be computed on the portion of such production, whether it be oil and gas, or either of them, so allocated to the land covered by this lease and included in the unit just as though such production were from such land. The production from an oil well will be considered production from the lease or oil pooled unit from which it is producing and not as production from a gas pooled unit; and production from a gas well will be considered as production from the lease or gas pooled unit from which it is producing and not from an oil pooled unit. In addition to the foregoing, Lessee at its option is hereby given the right and power from time to time to commit said land or any part or formation or mineral substance covered hereby to any cooperative or unit agreement or plan of development and operation, and to any modifications thereof, which have been approved by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission or other lawful governmental authority. In such event, the royalty payable to Lessor hereunder shall be computed and paid on the basis of the oil or gas allocated to such land under the terms of any such agreement or plan of operation, which basis shall be the same by which the royalty due the United States or the State of New Mexico is computed and paid. This lease shall not expire during the life of such agreement or plan and shall be subject to the terms thereof and said agreement or plan of operation shall be filed with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission, or other lawful authority, and Lessee shall record in the County in which the leased premises are situated, an instrument describing such agreement or plan of operation and reflecting the commitment thereto, and the same may be recorded either before or after the completion of wells.

5. If at the expiration of the primary term oil or gas is not being produced on said land, or from land pooled therewith, but Lessee is then engaged in drilling or reworking operations thereon, or shall have completed a dry hole thereon within 60 days prior to the end of the primary term, the lease shall remain in force so long as operations on said well or for drilling or reworking of any additional well are prosecuted with no cessation of more than 60 consecutive days, and if they result in the production of oil or gas so long thereafter as oil or gas is produced from said land, or from land pooled therewith. If, after the expiration of the primary term of this lease and after oil or gas is produced from said land, or from land pooled therewith, the production thereof should cease from any cause, this lease shall not terminate if Lessee commences operations for drilling or reworking within 60 days after the cessation of such production, but shall remain in force and effect as long as such operations are prosecuted with no cessation of more than 60 consecutive days, and if they result in the production of oil or gas, so long thereafter as oil or gas is produced from said land, or from land pooled therewith. Any pooled unit designated by Lessee in accordance with the terms hereof, may be dissolved by Lessee by instrument filed for record in the appropriate records of the county in which the leased premises are situated at any time after the completion of a dry hole or the cessation of production on said unit. In the event a well or wells producing oil or gas in paying quantities should be brought in on adjacent land and within 800 feet of and draining the lease premises, or land pooled therewith, Lessee agrees to drill such offset well or wells as a reasonably prudent operator would drill under the same or similar circumstances. Lessee may at any time execute and deliver to Lessor or place of record a release or releases covering any portion or portions of the above described premises and thereby surrender this lease as to such portion or portions and be relieved of all obligations as to the acreage surrendered.

6. Lessee shall have the right at any time during or after the expiration of this lease to remove all property and fixtures placed by Lessee on said land, including the right to draw and remove all casing. When required by Lessor, Lessee will bury all pipe lines below ordinary plow depth, and no well shall be drilled within two hundred feet of any residence or barn now on said land without Lessor's consent.

7. The rights of either party hereunder may be assigned in whole or in part, and the provisions hereof shall extend to their heirs, successors and assigns but no change or division in ownership of the land or royalties, however accomplished, shall operate to enlarge the obligations or diminish the rights of Lessee; and no change or division in such ownership shall be binding on Lessee until thirty (30) days after Lessee shall have been furnished by registered U. S. mail at Lessee's principal place of business with a certified copy of recorded instrument or instruments evidencing same. In the event of assignment hereof in whole or in part liability for breach of any obligation hereunder shall rest exclusively upon the owner of this lease or of a portion thereof who commits such breach. If six or more parties become entitled to royalty hereunder, Lessee may withhold payment thereof unless and until furnished with a recordable instrument executed by all such parties designating an agent to receive payment for all.

8. The breach by Lessee of any obligation arising hereunder shall not work a forfeiture or termination of this lease nor cause a termination or revision of the estate created hereby nor be grounds for cancellation hereof in whole or in part. In the event Lessor considers that operations are not at any time being conducted in compliance with this lease, Lessor shall notify Lessee in writing of the facts relied upon as constituting a breach hereof, and Lessee, if in default, shall have sixty days after receipt of such notice in which to commence the compliance with the obligations imposed by virtue of this instrument. After the discovery of oil or gas in paying quantities on said premises, Lessee shall develop the acreage retained hereunder as a reasonably prudent operator but in discharging this obligation it shall in no event be required to drill more than one well per forty (40) acres of the area retained hereunder and capable of producing oil in paying quantities and one well per 640 acres plus an acreage tolerance not to exceed 10% of 640 acres of the area retained hereunder and capable of producing gas in paying quantities.

9. Lessor hereby warrants and agrees to defend the title to said land and agrees that Lessee at its option may discharge any tax, mortgage or other lien upon said land either in whole or in part, and in event Lessee does so, it shall be subrogated to such lien with the right to enforce same and apply royalties accruing hereunder toward satisfying same. Without impairment of Lessee's right under the warranty in event of failure of title, it is agreed that if Lessor owns an interest in the oil or gas on, in or under said land less than the entire fee simple estate, then the royalties to be paid Lessor shall be reduced proportionately. Should any one or more of the parties named as Lessors fail to execute this lease, it shall nevertheless be binding upon the party or parties executing the same.

10. Should Lessee be prevented from complying with any express or implied covenant of this lease, from conducting drilling or reworking operations thereon or from producing oil or gas therefrom by reason of scarcity of or inability to obtain or to use equipment or material, or by operation of force majeure, any Federal or state law or any order, rule or regulation of governmental authority, then while so prevented, Lessee's obligation to comply with such covenant shall be suspended, and Lessee shall not be liable in damages for failure to comply therewith; and this lease shall be extended while and so long as Lessee is prevented by any such cause from conducting drilling or reworking operations on or from producing oil or gas from the leased premises; and the time while Lessee is so prevented shall not be counted against Lessee, anything in this lease to the contrary notwithstanding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this instrument is executed on the date first above written.

James E. Burke, Chapter 7 Trustee of the Mary Irene Stevens,
d/b/a Stevens Oil Company, Bankruptcy Estate, under pro-
ceeding pending in the U. S. Bankruptcy Court for the District
of New Mexico, Case No. 7-92-10633 MR

Lessor

Lessee

