



**Marathon  
Oil Company**

P.O. Box 552  
Midland, Texas 79702  
Telephone 915/682-1626

July 3, 1986

CERTIFIED MAIL & RETURN  
RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. James A. Davidson  
P. O. Box 494  
Midland, Texas 79702-0494

Re: Our Lease NM-3867 - Jessie Benson  
Proposed Benson #1 well  
SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14, T-16-S, R-38-E,  
Our East Garrett Area  
Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Marathon Oil Company, by letter dated May 23, 1986, advised you of our intention to drill a 13,500' Silurian test at a legal location in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14, T-16-S, R-38-E, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico.

Marathon is in receipt of your counter-offer letter dated June 30, 1986, and advises that all three (3) options contained in said counter-offer letter are unacceptable to Marathon.

Marathon hereby reiterates our previous offer of May 23, 1986, and requests that you elect one of the following options:

1. Participate in the drilling of the well.
2. Farmout your interest to Marathon in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14, delivering a 75% net revenue interest lease before payout with the option to convert a 1/16 of 8/8 overriding royalty interest into a proportionate 25% working interest at payout.

If your reply to this offer is not received in this office on or before July 11, 1986, at 4:00 p.m., Marathon will proceed to take appropriate action with the New Mexico State Oil Conservation Division to pool the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14, T-16-S, R-38-E, N.M.P.M., Lea County, New Mexico.

Very truly yours,

MARATHON OIL COMPANY

*Steve Daniels*

Steve Daniels  
Landman

BEFORE EXAMINER STOGNER OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION	
EXHIBIT NO.	16
CASE NO.	8960

SMD:mmc'