S. P. YATES CHAIRMAN OF THE ROAI JOHN A. YATES PRESIDENT

PEYTON YATES

RANDY G. PATTERSON SECRETARY

DENNIS G. KINSEY THEASURER

MARTIN VATES, III 1912 - 1985 FRANK W. YATES 1936 - 1986



105 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO 88210-2118
TELEPHONE (505) 748-1471

March 13, 2002

Mr. David Catanach New Mexico Oil Conservation Division 1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 Facsimile & Mail (505-476-3462)

RE: Preliminary Approval

Proposed New Grass State Unit Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Catanach:

Please find enclosed the preliminary approval of the New Grass State Unit granted by the Commissioner of Public Lands.

Based upon this preliminary approval Yates Petroleum Corporation respectfully requests an expedited OCD Order due to the first lease expiration being April 1, 2002.

Please call me at 505-748-4351 if you need any further information.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

YATES PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Hert Bullock

Robert Bullock Landman

RB:bn enclosure(s)