

## GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

# **YEAR(S):** 1992 - 1991

RECEIVED

## **GREENHILL PETROLEUM CORPORATION**

92 FE 1149 WESTHEIMER ROAD, SUITE 200 HOUSTON, TEXAS 570774641 TELEPHONE (713) 589-8484 FAX. (713) 589-9399

Incorporated in Delaware, U.S.A.

February 13, 1992

7/P-slow-

Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

Attention: William J. Lemay

Re: Lovington Paddock/San Andres N/2 Section 6, T17S-R37E Rebecca Caylor Property Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Lemay:

Greenhill Petroleum Corporation is the current Operator of the Lovington Paddock/San Andres Unit Area which includes the N/2 of Section 6, T17S-R37E. The surface owner of this property is Rebecca Caylor Rice. She is also the owner of a very small royalty interest.

Greenhill has experienced numerous problems with Mrs. Rice as have the previous Operators which were Texaco and Getty. The problems appear to be related to the amount of compensation for surface damages as a result of our operations on her property. A major hurdle is her demand for damages based on \$3000.00 per acre land valuation. Greenhill has offered her \$2000.00 per drillsite location which eventually comprises less than one acre. We consider this offer quite reasonable because other surface owners have agreed to \$1000.,00 per location for fifty (50) plus well locations we have drilled in the area. It is hard for Greenhill to justify paying the \$3000.00 per acre for surface damages when the tax roll indicates an assessed land value of \$6.07 per acre. The County Agent informed me that land at an Estate Sale in this area could be purchased for \$100.00 per acre. Therefore, we believe the \$2000.00 per location we have offered is quite fair. We also have similar problems with Mrs. Rice covering all other types of surface damages which we do not have with other surface owners.

Greenhill has tried to cooperate with her and we feel that we have been a good Operator. It appears that her complaints are always centered around obtaining more money. Greenhill has forwarded two (2) settlement checks to Mrs. Rice's attorney with precise details of damages based on higher land values than are paid in surrounding areas. These have all been rejected in an effort to set a precedent for higher land value and damage claims.

Mr. William J. Lemay February 13, 1992 Page 2

Please contact me in the event you need additional information relating to our operations on Mrs. Rice's property.

Sincerely,

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Michael D. heuport

Michael J. Newport Land Manager - Permian Basin

MJN:mle

cc: Jerry Sexton

#### State of New Mexico ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



BRUCE KING GOVERNOR February 6, 1992

ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

MATTHEW BACA DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr. C. Robert Rice 1315 E. Bender, #10 Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Dear Mr. Rice:

I have received your correspondence, postmarked January 21, 1992, stating your concerns about prevention and remediation of oil spills associated with the oil and gas industry. I am enclosing the response from Mr. William J. LeMay, Director, Oil Conservation Division, dated January 31, 1992, that addressed your concerns.

Let me assure you our Department and the Oil Conservation Division (OCD) share your concerns for protection of the environment. The OCD has and continues to work with the general public, environmental groups and industry to develop reasonable rules and regulations, pursuant to statutory requirements and limitations, to prevent ground water contamination and for timely remediation of ground water that is or may become contaminated by accidental spills or leaks.

I appreciate your response from my previous correspondence, and hope your concerns have or will be alleviated following the planned assessment by the OCD Environmental Bureau.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bill LeMay, Director of the Oil Conservation Division in Santa Fe.

Sincerely: Anita Løckwood

Anita Løckwoo Secretary

VILLAGRA BUILDING - 408 Galisteo

Forestry and Resources Conservation Division P.O. Box 1948 87504-1948 827-5830

Park and Recreation Division P.O. Box 1147 87504-1147 827-7465 2040 South Pacheco Office of the Secretary 827-5950

Administrative Services 827-5925

Mining and Minerals 827-5970

Energy Conservation & Management 827-5900 LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail

Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088 827-5800 State of New Mexico ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



BRUCE KING GOVERNOR May 24, 1991

ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

MATTHEW BACA DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr. C. Robert Rice 1315 E. Bender, #10 Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Dear Mr. Rice:

Thank you for your letter of April 3 to Governor King in which you presented information regarding possible environmental problems from a 50-barrel crude oil pipeline leak that occurred in January of 1990. This matter was referred to me and the Oil Conservation Division's (OCD) Environmental Bureau for further investigation. I hope this letter adequately addresses your concerns.

OCD reports no free liquids were able to be recovered, but that clean dirt was brought in and mixed with the hydrocarbon-saturated soil. This rendered any liquid hydrocarbons immobile and prevented downward migration and ground water contamination. Except in shallow ground water areas, on-site remediation is preferred, partly because of limited disposal site space, and companies are expected to perform restoration. In this instance, the pipeline company added manure fertilizer and grass seed to the soil. Pictures taken immediately after the spill and in late August 1990 show that grass was successfully reestablished. However, subsequent winter freezes and spring drought conditions will likely diminish growth this spring and summer.

Your letter also addressed problems regarding pits and equipment left on an adjoining property. OCD reports that although a particular lease may be inactive, the production unit of which the lease is a part is still operating and OCD holds individual or blanket plugging bonds for these wells. OCD rules require that before such bonds are released, all pits must be filled in, debris removed, and the location pass OCD inspection. OCD works with operators to eliminate these problems before or at the end of production.

Your letter touches on issues broader than problems at one specific lease site. The oil patch is aging. Some facilities have been in place for many decades and their operational life is nearing an end. Reports of corrosion problems with gathering lines and storage tanks are increasing. The OCD has recognized this and, as a result, a group of technical experts has been organized

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Administrative Services

827-5925

LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088 827-5800

Energy Conservation & Management 827-5900 Minion and Minerals

Mining and Minerals 827-5970 C. Robert Rice May 24, 1991 Page 2

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I appreciated hearing from you on this matter, and hope that the information we have provided has eased your concern on these issues. If you need further assistance, with this matter, please contact Mr. Bill LeMay, Director of the Oil Conservation Division in Santa Fe.

Sincerely,

Anita Lockwood Secretary

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TEXAS - NM PL Spice 1-23-90









- 23-90 PREN BY RAY Smith

January 20, 1992 Win Bill LeMu Director Oil Consersation Commission P.O. Box 2088 Eante Fe, New Mexico 87504 - 2088 Dear Mr. Je May, letter from Mo, Fock wood in regards to 1/2 Section 6 TITS R37E and other problems in the area. Mo. Fock wood is absolutely incorrect in her paragraph II but due to no fault of hers for & am sure she guoted the misin formation directed to her by the local office of grass growing on this leak area. He Only show the on the lease in august 1990. was a cluster of foreign weeds due to. the feed lor manure . Thank heavens they never survived the unfriendly new Mexico environment, By the end of 1990 the leak was completely devoid of vegetation. If the chass was successfully reestablished as explained to "Ms Fockwood & would have no reason to complain. These distoitions and untruths by the O.C.D. are totally freestrating to landowners. I have witnesses to verify my Claims and have enclosed recent

(January , 992) photographs to verify my claims, The few blades of grass which due exist are the product of seeds which blew on the leak are were nurtured by the excessive rain in the summer of 1991, NO thanks to Texas New Mexico Pupeline Co. or the local O.C.D. Our land is completely interspensed with these areas of oil company devostation and contrary to what Ms. Fock wood was told there is no local program of restoration. What is done initially at the time of a leak depends on the oil Company involved nor on the OCD. The best operators have of the Vily soil and replace it with new top sore. The next lot sprinkle a little blow sand through whick the oil soaks to the top, ou it just blows away. The last group of oil operators do absolutely nothing. It all thinges on the policy of the induividual Eompany Where there is a spill and the bil is not removed decades later there are only a few annual weeds growing, no grass, large base areas only.

3 In one case there is a large burning pit an are or more in area that has been abandoned for decades that is just a black blob on the landscape. No grass ever grows, just a few annual weeds, about 4 operators back and 10-15 years ago I managed to have The operator at the time level The pir to the level of the surrounding area. The OCD did not require him to do Anything, it was done at our urging. Hothing has been done since. We would like bery much if the local OCD program of oil Company restoration refered to in Mrs. Fock woods letter. be directed to this blotch on the landacape where no thing grows. after many decades it is certainly about time somethings is done! These are also many areas on the property which are nor black blobs on the lands cape bur just plain barren land where absolutely no thing grows, not even the weeds. They are bld, old leaks, shush pito, etc. that no effort was ever made to reclaim. If there is a program of ocl Company restoration we landowners' are renauale of same. no restoration has been performed in our area. of something however is nor

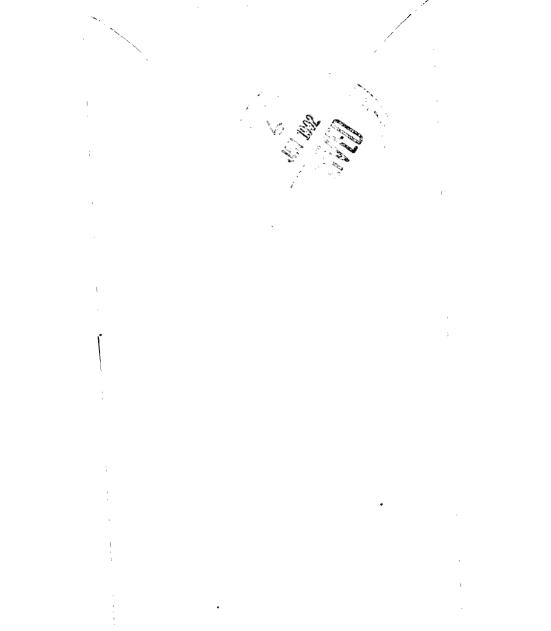
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C. Robert Nice 1315 E Bender #10 46665, N.M., 88240 Ms. Anita & ockwood Cabinet Secretary Office of the Governor State Capital Bldg. Sante Fe, New Mexico 87503

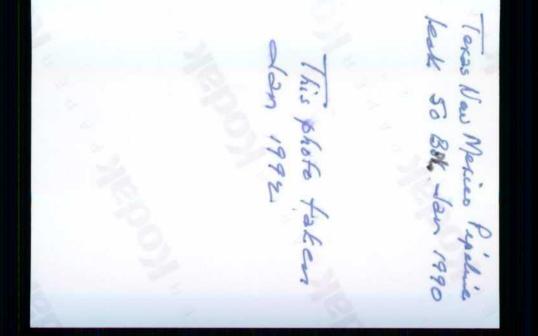
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Photo Copy to Ms Lockwood.

C. Robert Rice 1315 E Bender #10

+6565, N.M. 88240

State of New Mexico ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Santa Fe. New Mexico 87505



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OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

BRUCE KING GOVERNOR

### January 31, 1992

ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

MATTHEW BACA DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT NO. P-327-278-283

Mr. C. Robert Rice 1315 E. Bender, #10 Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Dear Mr. Rice:

I have received your letter, dated January 20, 1992, stating your concerns about prevention and remediation of oil spills associated with the oil and gas industry. The Oil Conservation Division shares your concern for protection of the environment and is required by statute to prevent degradation of those ground waters designated as fresh by the State Engineer office. To This end, the OCD has recently added an environmental geologist to the staff of the Hobbs District office.

In addition to the Environmental Geologist, whose duties include the investigation of contamination complaints and evaluation of requirements for remediation of spill events, a taskforce has been created by the OCD to investigate and develop recommendations for rules and/or regulations that will upgrade and insure the integrity of New Mexico's aging infrastructure in the oil and gas industry.

Remediation of accidental spill events requires site specific investigation and actions. The individual OCD Districts require different methods and levels of remediation due to the geologic and hydrologic diversity of their districts. To assist the general public and the oil and gas industry in interpreting the OCD's requirements for prevention and remediation of spill events a statewide policy is being developed.

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Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088 827-5800

Energy Conservation & Management 827-5900 Mining and Minerals 827-5970 Mr. C. Robert Rice January 31, 1992 Page -2-

Ms. Kathy Brown, Environmental Geologist, from the OCD Santa Fe office will be in the Hobbs area the week of February 10th. Ms. Brown will contact you to arrange a convenient time for her to visit your property to assess the extent of the contamination you have reported.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Roger Anderson, Acting Environmental Bureau Chief, at the above address or at (505) 827-5812.

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Sincerely: William J. LeMa/y Director

xc: Anita Lockwood, Secretary, EMNRD Chris Eustice, OCD Hobbs District

State of New Mexico ENERGY INNERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

CONSEL RE JR:3 X.3 HM 8 52

**BRUCE KING** 

GOVERNOR

May 24, 1991

ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

MATTHEW BACA DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr. C. Robert Rice 1315 E. Bender, #10 Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

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2040 South Pacheco Office of the Secretary 827-5950

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Administrative Services

827-5970

C. Robert Rice May 24, 1991 Page 2

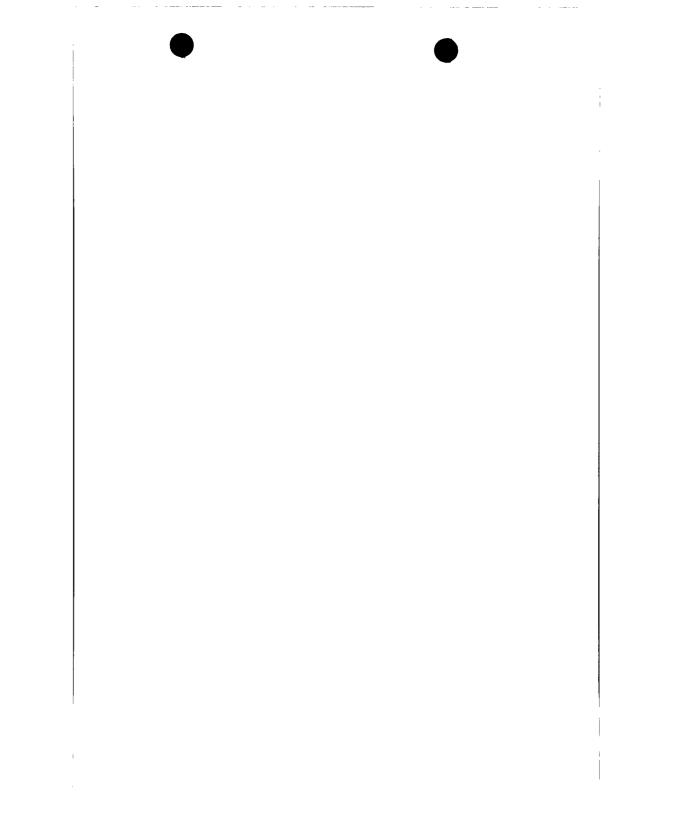
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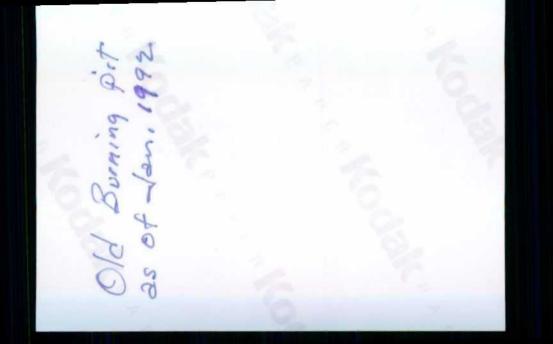
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Old Burning Pit 25 of Jan. 1992



Taxas New Maries Repelines 50 Bbs leak on Jan 1990 This photo taken Jan. 1992



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## State of New Mexico ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



**BRUCE KING** GOVERNOR

May 24, 1991

ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

MATTHEW BACA DEPUTY SECRETARY

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Sincerely,

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Anita Lockwood Secretary



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR INTER-AGENCY MEMO



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\$ STATE OF NEW MEXICO CONSERVATION MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION Time Date Telephone Personal ID AM 5/17 Originating Party Other Parties Ledwicky Reanie 393-2135 Koyck K Jupeline Subject Robert Rice Complain Discussion My Lednicky whethere he was fame oninte aske He said he wat the inci n In Mr. Rice on ol. 1021 Ke par negoi 99D. 23 bor Conclusions or Agreements he would to work on asker 'u 10 to Muder presention nmi N me Distribution District 1 - Spills. Signed Scert

AN. April 3, 1991 1315 E Bender #10 HOSDS NM 88240 Sovenor Bruce King ojzcizi(V)z State Capital Blog Santa Fe, N.M. \$1503 APR 1 7 1991 Wear Dovernor King, I wish to call good the to a problem we are having with Jeras New Mexico pipeline Company and my unsuccessful attempt to have this matter addressed. The parties responsible for these and other environment problems, created by oil company Operations, have not to date taken care of some. In January 1990, Texas New Mexico Repeline had an oil leak in a 4 inch Figh pressure pipeline which completely Covered approximately 1/2 acre of land. This Land was completely oil covered and atterly destroyed. We requested Texas New Mexico Pipelene to have off the oily soil and to replace it with clean soil. This the pepeline Company refused to do. your Local E.I.D. recommended that the Soil be removed and new soil installed and receded and reported same to local O.C.D., but as of this date 4/3/91, nothing has been accom-plished. E.I.D. pointed out when they viewed this damage in 1990 they were concurred about cattle contamination and water

(2) Contamination. Recades ago one of the operators had a burning pit, right in the center of this property, and moved off leaving same The very best we could ever do was to get one of the many subsequent operators to level off the pit. There is however, a large black area of an acre or so of ugh land in the middle of the property where nothing will grow. I have had no success with O.C.O. in this matter. On an adjacent property, there is an abandoned tank Battery which will Cost many thousands of dollars to remove. The origional major oil operator is long gone, but the eigesore and environ mental problem remains. On the SW/4 of section 6 remains a hugh slush pit, 3024 feet high, which was abandoned decades age by another one of the majors. In the rare periods of wet weather, it has over flowed and caused problems, In no way Could an individual landowner afford to remove such a problem. I also guestion the ability of the subsequent in dependant Operators to remove same due to the high Cost and their financial status. I have heard from reliable source this is true in other locations. When they move out

1<sup>55</sup>. 3 the electric lines and poles are left, the cement platforms and anything of Value that is less than cost to move it. I have been told by the OCD there are no set of operating rules that the oil companies are forled to operate by. The situation is developing similar to the rape of lastern Pennsylvania by the coal Barons. They took their money and ran. Now the state is trying to reclaim the land with a Surtal on long ton of coal produced. The burder of payment is on someone else. I am sure that in most other areas of the United States a pipeline Company would be forced to clean - up and promptly. I do not understand why your new Mexico Offices, in charge of Such matters, will not accept responsibility. Very fruly yours Please lasore Chober Kine C. Robert Rice 1315 E. Bender#10 HOBBS NM 88240

STATE OF NEW MEXICO



ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION HOBBS DISTRICT OFFICE

BRUCE KING GOVERNOR POST OFFICE BOX 1980 HOBBS, NEW MEXICO 88241-1980 (505) 393-6161

April 23, 1991

Bill LeMay Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, NM 87504-2088

SUBJECT: LETTER TO GOVERNOR KING FROM MR. RICE CONCERNING OCD\_POLICY.

I am attaching pictures of the leak Mr. Rice refers to. The pictures show: 1&2) The area when the leak was found with oil still there. 3&4) The soil hauled in to cover the spill. 5) The spill area later on, with weeds growing.

To have the above pictures are not normal, but over the years all companies want us to verify any problems which occur on this lease. For this reason and to be able to show fairness by the Oil Conservation Division, this lease is inspected by the OCD more than any other lease in Lea County.

The clean up the Texas New Mexico Pipeline is normal and conforms to the standards we require. There are only (2) two places in Southeast New Mexico where this oily dirt can be removed to. It has been found that leaving the soils where the leak occurs does less environmental harm than any other disposal means that can be economically done at this time.

Mr. Rice's reference to the Environmental Improvement Division cannot be checked as everyone who was with the EID at that time has quit. Normally they call us to handle oilfield problems. I question whether Texas-New Mexico was told by the EID to remove the oily dirt.

The Penroc battery is a normal tank battery in which the operator installed a new separator and that is the tank Mr. Rice refers to for separating the gas & liquid. Bill LeMay April 23, 1991 Page 2

We have inspected it for safety and have also had an inspector from the EID look over the tank battery and they were satisfied with the situation. I believe the Sheriff's Department also looked into the problem and the last time I talked to them they were satisfied.

I have also had a complaint from the owner of Penroc about Mr. Rice contacting K & S Electric to have Penroc's electrical equipment removed. I considered this a legal problem and not one which the OCD had authority to do anything about.

To make a long story short the Hobbs OCD office has much pride in the way we treat people and that we are responsive to anyone's problem. Normally we can get most arguments somewhat settled between ranchers and the oil industry. Although either side may not like our ruling, they accept the OCD as being fair and consistent.

We have been working with the Rice's for some seven or eight years, but their respect has not changed, yet we will continue to work toward this goal.

A large file is maintained on the Rices' property if any additional information is requested let me know.

Yours very truly.

JERRY SEXTON District Supervisor I

JS/sad

Enclosures - Pictures Letter-needs no comment

cc:Dave Boyer

APR 1 7 1991 ST. CORP. COMM PIPELINE DIV. March 26 1991 Eddie Seay New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission District 1 - 1000 W. Broadeway Hobbs New Mexico 88240 Dear Eddie, 1 This will serve to document this conversation and our two previous Conversations starting with February 12, 1991 in regards to unsanitary and potentially dangerous operations on my wifes property ie 1/2 section 6 TITS R 37E. The first is the refusal of the Texas New Mexico Supeline Company to cleanup their leak of Junuary 1990. Unless they are made to have logg the only soil and replace it with new Soil, and there are places which accept this contaminated soil there will be a large black spot on the surface of the property hundreds of years from now. Ty situation will be the same as the acre ः) or so black spor from an old burning pit which was abandoned right in the center of the property. Oil is

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Considering the very very, dangerous situation in regards to H2S gas & do not see why this operator teneroe has not been made to clean up their. act. Someone in authority should address this situation before there is fatality number three or more, In addition at the Peuroc 4F well the well head collects contaminated Water, which could be detrimental to livestock, wildlife, or surface water · · · · · · · · etc. This well should have been Covered or filled in when the well was abandoned 2+ years ago. The well site should have been cleared of trash and debris. Very truly yours Robert Arie

STATE OF NEW MEXICO



ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION HOBBS DISTRICT OFFICE

GARREY CARRUTHERS GOVERNOR POST OFFICE BOX 1980 HOBBS, NEW MEXICO 88241-1980 (505) 393-6161

February 7, 1989

Mrs. Rice RD 3 Box 2254 Birdsboro, Pa. 19508

Mrs. Rice:

The Oil Conservation Division does not have any written rules & regulations which govern payment of damages by oilfield spills & leaks. Damage payments are to be worked out between landowner & operator.

In addition, there are no written rules for cleanup of spills and leaks. All cleanups from leaks and spills are determined by each appropriate District office and its field personnel.

Since no spill or leak is the same nor affects the area the same, written guidelines would not be appropriate. It is all determined on a leak by spill case.

All transmission lines and pipelines carrying oilfield production, by-products or oilfield waste is governed by OCD Rules & Regulations.

Sincerely,

Eddie W. Seay, Field Representative Supervisor

EWS:jm

RD 3 Box 2254 Birdsboro, Pa 19508 January 27, 1989

Eddie W Seay Oil Conservation Division PO Box 1980 Hobbs, New Mexico 88241-1980

Dear Eddie:

We really need to know two points of information in regards to New Mexico state rules and regulations. The first, are there any set rules and guidelines in regards to clean up of oil spills and damage due to oil field operations? The second, we need to know if the Oil Commission or any other state agency has guidelines that would govern payments for oil field damage? Do transmission pipelines come under same rules and regulations as pipelines used in oil field operations on fee property?

If there are regulations we need copy of same. If there are no regulations we need to know that also. Any charges for copy or books we will be happy to forward to you.

Sincerely

## NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

1-24-90

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March 26 1991 Eddie Sean New Mexico Oil Consenation Commission District 1 - 1000 W. Broadway Hobbs New Mexico 88240 Dear Eddie, This will serve to document this conversation and our two previous Conversations starting with February 12, 1991 in regards to unsanitary and potentially dangerous operations on my wifes property ie 1/2 Section 6 TITS R 3TE. Texas New Mexico Pipeline Company to cleanup their leak of Junuary 1990, Unless they are made to have logg the oily Soil and replace it with new Soil, and there are places which accept this contaminated soil there will be a large black spot on the surface of the property hundreds of years from now. Ty situation will be the same as the acre ••••) ou so black spor from an old burning pit which was abandoned right in the center of the property. Oil is

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Very truly yours

Mike May. This Tank Battery is really an unsate operation There is 4/25 all over this field. Eddie tells me he ) has No authority to force them to do anything, Bobbie