

EL PASO ENERGY RATON, L.L.C. P.O. Box 190 - RATON, N.M. 87740

July 17, 2002

Roy Johnson New Mexico Oil Conservation Division 1220 South St. Frances Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: VPRE-99 Exploratory Well in Colfax, County

Dear Roy:

Please consider the subject project as "Tight Hole". Please keep confidential and proprietary all the enclosed information and all other information and correspondence related to this project as long as is allowed by law.

Respectfully,

Don Lankford

DR Lalter

Petroleum Engineer; El Paso