

December 7, 1976

Public Service Commission
Bataan Memorial Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Ribhard Montoya, Chairman
Clarence A. Lithgow, Commissioner
Gary Blakeley, Commissioner

Gentlemen:

As you are probably aware, there is a shallow, natural gas field currently being developed northeast of Wagon Mound, New Mexico. My interest in this development is twofold: (1) I am the owner of a ranch covering a substantial portion of the inferred limits of this gas field, and (2) I am also interested in developing natural gas for the northeastern New Mexico market. In the matter of correlative mineral rights, I am presently offset by three producing gas wells which have been drilled by Brooks Exploration Company, Denver, Colorado.

Since last July, natural gas from these wells has been compressed and produced into the intrastate natural gas pipeline system operated by Las Vegas Natural Gas Company, Raton Natural Gas Company, and Midwest Energy Corporation of Tulsa, Oklahoma. I have been advised by Midwest that they have run approximately one-third less gas than their annual average for July to December through their portion of the line from Raton to Colmor, New Mexico. This information plus gas run statements supplied verbally by the Oil Conservation Commission indicate that approximately 300,000 MCF/day is presently being produced from the three wells at the compressor station, for delivery to Las Vegas.

My efforts to develop information relative to: gas sales, wellhead gas prices, BTU adjustments, transmission rates, a record of public hearings, gas contracts, and New Mexico State mineral taxes have been unsuccessful - either in response to inquiries made at your Commission offices or directly to the aforementioned gas companies. Requests for pertinent information from the Las Vegas - Raton gas companies have been answered in a noncommittal and evasive manner.

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It seems to me the intrastate gas system and its operation are under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Public Service Commission, and I would like to request that information pertaining to this matter be made available to myself and the general public. I am not requesting any confidential drilling or well information from the offset operator, Brooks Exploration - only data applicable to the public utilities.

Very truly yours,

William Gruenewald

WG:lj