

3R - 294

**GENERAL  
CORRESPONDENCE**

**YEAR(S):**  
1992



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

STATE OF  
NEW MEXICO  
OIL  
CONSERVATION  
DIVISION

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION

☒ Telephone ☐ Personal

Time 1010

Date 12/30/92

Originating Party

Bill Olson - OCD Santa Fe

Other Parties

Andy Nowak - EP Air Quality  
- 0043

Subject

SO<sub>2</sub> Emissions - Montana #1 well

Discussion

Told him that San Juan County Fire Marshall measured 44 ppm SO<sub>2</sub> at Montana #1 well

He stated that he has never heard of problem with SO<sub>2</sub> from oil & gas production wells. SO<sub>2</sub> is combustion product. Typically in range of 1000's of ppm SO<sub>2</sub> in stack gas at power plants. He said may be problem with interference with other gases and suggested measuring at diff. radial distances from well

State ambient std for SO<sub>2</sub> = 0.1 ppm 24 hr avg.

Conclusions or Agreements

A If he has any further info he will contact me

Distribution

REA  
Frank Chavez - OCD Aztec

Signed

Bill Olson



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MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	Time 1530	Date 12/29/92
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<u>Originating Party</u> Charles Choulson - OCD Artec	<u>Other Parties</u> Bill Olson - OCD Santa Fe
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Subject  
Emergency Response at Montano #1 gas well

Discussion  
Report from FD of 8 dead cows on south side of Animas River from Flora Vista  
Water surfacing around casing at Montano #1 (Unit M, Sec 28, 30N, 12W)  
He saw one dead calf  
H&M team on site securing area around well  
He is trying to contact owner of well to plug  
OCD may need to do emergency P&A if unable to get owner

Conclusions or Agreements  
He & Frank will work with H&M group on actions

Distribution

RCA

Signed

Bill Olson

# NEW MEXICO

Thursday, December 31, 1992

Albuquerque Journal

## Cattle Deaths Tied to Disease, Stress

By Fritz Thompson

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Pneumonia and stress caused the death of 19 calves in a pasture near Flora Vista on the Animas River, a state livestock inspector said Wednesday.

The inspector, Jim Byrd, said he doesn't know if an old natural gas well leaking toxic hydrogen sulfide at the site contributed to the deaths.

"We won't know if the gas well was a factor unless they decide to do autopsies," Byrd said.

Authorities involved in the disposal of the cattle weren't available Wednesday, and there was no word on the possibility of autopsies.

Byrd said the cattle apparently contracted pneumonia while being grazed

on leased pastures belonging to the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry farm.

"There's not a lot of protection up there, it's out in the open," Byrd said. "We've had rain and snow and cold for weeks, and it's hard on these little guys."

The cattle also apparently were suffering the effects of "shipping fever," a stress disorder that lowers immunity to disease.

The sick cattle were moved by the owners, Olson Farms of Nebraska, closer to the river, where heavy brush offered more protection, Byrd said.

He said the manager of the cattle is experienced and was doctoring and feeding the cattle. About 20 to 30 head

remain in the river pasture, he said, while several hundred are still grazing on the Navajo farm land.

"There's snow and ice on the ground and it's cold up here," he said. "It would help these animals a lot if the sun would come out for a change."

The cattle, called light calves, were steers and heifers weighing 400 to 600 pounds each and worth an estimated \$400 apiece.

The old well was leaking toxic hydrogen sulfide, according to San Juan County Fire Marshal Kevin Simpson.

The cattle were sick before they were shipped to the river pasture, Simpson said.

Water from the well had been making

its way toward the river, Simpson said, but crews dammed the flow.

Byrd said substances might have tainted a nearby earthen stock tank.

"But before I even saw the pollution, it was obvious that these were 'hospital' cattle," Byrd said. He declined to speculate about the possibility of more deaths.

Hazardous materials teams from the Farmington Fire Department and the Hart Valley Volunteer Fire Department also were called out, Simpson said.

And he said his office plans to work with Oil Conservation Division officials to plug the well and find the owner.

Nobody was injured in the investigation or cleanup.

Material from The Associated Press was incorporated into this report.