

NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO

XXXXXXXXXXXX

120 East Chaco  
May 8, 1957

Oil Conservation Commission  
Box 871  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Att: Mr. Jack Cooley

Dear Jack:

A matter has come up in the Basin which I will outline below and which I believe requires a legal decision.

Palmer and Associates drilled the #1 Hutton well in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 17-29N-13W. The well was a shallow well to the Pictured Cliffs Formation and was non-productive. On July 13, 1954 a plugging report was filed with us showing that the well had been plugged according to our rules. I did not witness the plugging; however I did make a trip to the well to inspect it and from outward appearances it appeared to be as reported. Their C-103 on plugging was therefore approved and Mr. J.T. Hutton signed the C-103 accepting future responsibility of the well.

Recently, however, Mr. Hutton contacted me and said that the well was bubbling gas outside the casing which was left in the hole. I visited the well and found that this was true. He is asking that we force the operator to move back on the well and properly plug it so as to obtain shut-off of the gas which I believe is coming from the Farmington Sandstone Formation at a depth of around 400-500 feet. Palmer and Associates are no longer operating and I am sure that their plugging bond has been released. I would like to have you tell me if we can force the operator to plug the well and if so what procedure should be followed. I will discuss the matter with you further at the hearing this month.

Yours very truly

Emery C. Arnold  
Supervisor, District #3

ECA:hs

cc: Mr. J. T. Hutton  
Farmington, N.M.