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November 29, 2007

Secretary Joanna Prukop  
1220 S. St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Secretary Prukop:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed drilling pit rule 50. If enacted, this new rule will adversely affect the economics of drilling for oil and gas within the State of New Mexico. As both a producer and contract driller, my company has already felt the effects of this proposed regulation. Virtually all our customers have their drilling plans on hold pending the outcome of this new rule. This has caused us to lose over 60 New Mexico jobs due to three of our five drilling rigs being idled due to lack of work.

Do not presume that we argue only for jobs over the environment. We believe in good stewardship. We also believe that the current pit rule more than adequately protects ground water and the environment and that this new rule is an example of poor stewardship in that it adds regulation and cost to a problem that has already been more than adequately addressed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James M. Clark, Jr.  
President, Elm Ridge Exploration Company, LLC