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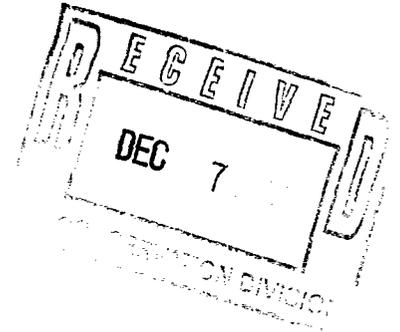
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December 17, 1996

HAND-DELIVERED

William J. LeMay, Director
Oil Conservation Division
New Mexico Department of Energy,
Minerals and Natural Resources
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503



Re: Oil Conservation Division Case No. 11269:
In the Matter of Case No. 11269 Being Reopened Pursuant to the Provisions
of Division Order No. R-10427, Which Order Promulgated Temporary
Special Rules and Regulations for the North Bell Lake-Ellenburger Gas Pool,
Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. LeMay:

Amerada Hess Corporation, an interested party, respectfully requests that this matter which is currently set on the Division docket for the December 19, 1996 hearings be continued to the February 6, 1997 Examiner docket.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM F. CARR
WFC:mlh

cc: Mr. Randy J. Pharr
Land Manager
Amerada Hess Corporation
Post Office Box 2040
Houston, TX 77252-2040