

GALLEGOS LAW FIRM

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MICHAEL J. CONDON

April 15, 1996
(Our File No. 96-1.72)

HAND-DELIVERED

William J. LeMay, Director
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RECEIVED

APR 1 1996

Oil Conservation Division

Re: Rhodes Amended Application

Dear Mr. LeMay:

I have reviewed Meridian's motion for protective order filed in this matter on or about April 10, 1996. As you can imagine, the Meridian motion disturbs us greatly in that it confirms that Meridian is ignoring the Commission's Order of March 19, 1996, which stayed Administrative Order NSL-3633. The effect of the Commission's Order should have caused Meridian to shut in the Rhodes "B" Federal Well No. 7. Apparently, Meridian and the Division are comfortable ignoring the Commission's Order. Meridian and the Division have no authority or justification for ignoring the Commission's ruling. Please rest assured that we plan on filing a response in opposition to Meridian's motion for protective order.

Texaco has filed a motion seeking (1) to have the Commission and the Division order the No. 7 well be shut in pursuant to the Commission's ruling pending a hearing on the above-referenced application, and (2) a stay of Administrative Order NSL-3633. Hartman joins in that motion and would make a similar request.

Hartman is agreeable to using the May 2 hearing date which is currently scheduled in this matter to resolve outstanding motions and issues which will determine the procedure we will follow when the hearing on the substantive merits of this application is ultimately scheduled. This should accommodate Meridian's request for a continuance of the evidentiary hearing. We would request, of course, that all pending motions be heard at the May 2 hearing.

William J. LeMay
April 15, 1996
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Thank you for your consideration. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

GALLEGOS LAW FIRM, P.C.

By 
MICHAEL J. CONDON

MJC:sa

cc: W. Thomas Kellahin
William F. Carr (via facsimile)
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Leslyn Swierc
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