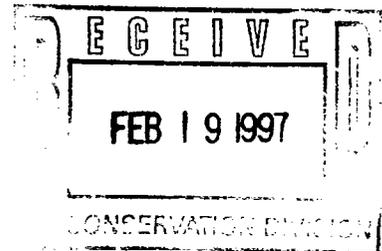


DOYLE HARTMAN
Oil Operator
3811 TURTLE CREEK BLVD., SUITE 200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75219

(214) 520-1800
(214) 520-0811 FAX



Via Facsimile (505) 827-8177 and FedEx

February 18, 1997

Case 11727

New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Attn: William J. LeMay, Director
Michael E. Stogner, Chief Hearing Officer

Re: Unorthodox Bottomhole Location and Directional Drilling
ARCO Permian, A Division of Atlantic Richfield Company

Evelyn 35 State Com Well No. 1
Eddy County, New Mexico
1730' FNL and 660' FEL, Section 35, T-17-S, R-28-E

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the certified NMOCD hearing notice that was issued by William F. Carr of Campbell, Carr, Berge and Sheridan on January 30, 1997 regarding an NMOCD examiner hearing scheduled for February 20, 1997 pertaining to ARCO's application for whipstocking and proposed unorthodox bottom-hole Morrow location, for its Evelyn 35 State Com No. 1 well. ARCO is requesting approval of an unorthodox bottom-hole location consisting of 1253' FNL and 508' FEL, Section 35, T-17-S, R-28-E, Eddy County, New Mexico.

This letter is being written to inform you that today (February 18, 1997) we found a "Notice of Attempt to Deliver" slip in our Midland, Texas post office box making us aware, for the first time, of Mr. Carr's certified letter and notice of January 30, 1997.

In recognition of the fact that ARCO's hearing is presently set for the morning of February 20, 1997 (less than two days from now), it is virtually impossible for us to (1) assemble and analyze pertinent data corresponding to ARCO's application and (2) be in attendance at the hearing presently scheduled February 20, 1997. Moreover, due to post office error, we did not receive notice of ARCO's

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February 20, 1997 hearing until after the deadline for filing Prehearing Statements as per NMOCD Memorandum 2-90.

In light of the foregoing, we respectfully request that ARCO's currently scheduled Evelyn 35 State Com No. 1 hearing be moved back to the next scheduled examiner hearing date so as to give us time to orderly assess the impact of ARCO's application on our offsetting State "BV" Morrow lease.

Your cooperation in this matter is respectfully and promptly requested.

Very truly yours,

DOYLE HARTMAN, Oil Operator



Doyle Hartman

enclosures (3)

rcp
wpdocs\corresp.dh\unocdsta.bv

cc: Via Facsimile (505) 827-8177 and U.S. Mail
William F. Carr
Campbell, Carr, Berge & Sheridan, P.A.
110 North Guadalupe, Suite 1
P.O. Box 2208
Santa Fe, NM 87504-2208

Via Facsimile (915) 688-5757 and U.S. Mail
Lee Scarborough
ARCO Oil and Gas Company
600 N. Marienfeld (79701)
P.O. Box 1610
Midland, TX 79702

New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
February 18, 1997
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Via Facsimile (505) 986-0741
J.E. Gallegos
Michael J. Condon
Gallegos Law Firm
460 St. Michaels Drive, Building 300
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Doyle Hartman, Midland
Carolyn M. Sebastian
Don Mashburn
Steve Hartman
Sheila Potts
Linda Land
Cindy Brooks

Doyle Hartman, Dallas