

## ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT

January 12, 1979

POST OFFICE BOX 2068 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501 (505) 827-2434

Mr. James W. Newman Western Production Credit Association P. O. Box 350 Guyman, Oklahoma 73942

> Re: Irwin Wells Nos. 1 and 1-A, NW/4 NW/4, Section 29, T-21-N, R-36-E, Union County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Newman:

The above-referenced wells were drilled by Oil Exploration, Inc., in 1955 and 1956 and were never plugged. As far as I have been able to determine, the wells were "capped" by cutting off the casing at about 10 feet below surface, welding on steel caps and covered with cement and dirt. The Division is concerned that fresh water in the area could be contaminated, and would like to see the wells plugged properly.

To that end I have tried to locate Oil Exploration. Since I have not met with success, I would like to hire a contractor to perform the necessary work at the State's expense. If this is acceptable to you, I would appreciate written permission to enter your property for this purpose. I believe the wells are located in a wheat field, and I would gladly defer action until a time when it would not interfere with farming operations.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to your reply.

Very truly yours,

(Ms.) LYNN TESCHENDORF General Counsel

LT/dr

cc: Carl Ulvog

JERRY APODACA GOVERNOR

NICK FRANKLIN SECRETARY