

AP - 002

**GENERAL  
CORRESPONDENCE**

**YEAR(S):**

2007-1997

**VonGonten, Glenn, EMNRD**

---

**From:** Brooks, David K., EMNRD  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2007 3:39 PM  
**To:** 'Joan McMahon '  
**Cc:** Price, Wayne, EMNRD; VonGonten, Glenn, EMNRD; Romero, Lawrence S., EMNRD; Fesmire, Mark, EMNRD  
**Subject:** Your request dated March 16, 2007 to Wayne Price for Certain Documents

Dear Ms. McMahon

This is a response to your e-mail communication to Wayne Price dated March 16, 2007, wherein you requested copies of (1) the Stage 2 Abatement Plan for the Grimes Tank Battery, and (2) three specified documents referenced in Mr. William C. Olson's letter of October 20, 2003.

Wayne Price has been absent from the office since Wednesday, March 14, due to a prolonged illness. He checked his e-mails today, and forwarded your request. The records custodian for the Oil Conservation Division is Lawrence Romero. Your request was not received by Mr. Romero prior to today. Therefore, the time period for the agency's written response begins to run today, pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 14-2-8.D. Please accept this communication as the agency's written response.

The information you have requested has been assembled and is available for your inspection and copying in the Santa Fe Office of the Oil Conservation Division, at 1220 South St. Francis Drive, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Mountain Daylight Time, Saturdays, Sundays and State holidays excepted. The charge for copying is \$0.25 per page.

Separately, your letter refers to "your denied February 8, 2007 request." The only February 8, 2007 request from you that we have found requests only a copy of the closure letter. You were furnished a copy of that document on March 2, 2007. Therefore we do not understand what "denied request" you are referencing.

Please feel free to contact me if you require further information, or have questions.

Sincerely,

David K. Brooks  
Assistant General Counsel  
505-476-3450

3/22/2007



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**BILL RICHARDSON**

Governor

**Joanna Prukop**

Cabinet Secretary

**Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.**

Director

**Oil Conservation Division**

March 13, 2007

Mr. Monty Newman- Mayor  
City Of Hobbs  
300 North Turner  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Mr. John Boyd- Commissioner  
City of Hobbs  
2315 West Bender Blvd.  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Reference: Shell Westgate Project AP-2

Dear Mr. Mayor and Commissioner:

Per your recent request, enclosed is a copy of the Oil Conservation Division (OCD) Stage 2 Abatement Plan approval letter issued to Shell E&P Technology Company (operator) dated October 20, 2003. As you know, OCD required this operator to perform extensive remediation work in this area, including razing homes, removing contaminated soils to levels considered safe, and restoring the surface with clean material. The project also included abatement of contaminated groundwater under the site.

OCD understands that the city wishes to utilize this area for a local area park and has requested guidance on this matter. OCD did approve the final report for the remediation of the contaminated soil areas for the old pit and spill areas. OCD's approval was based on the data and facts supplied by the operator at the time of approval. OCD agrees that a local town park could be an appropriate use of the property, but cannot give you any assurance concerning other areas that were not part of the investigation.

The groundwater abatement is still on going and the OCD is requiring the operator to continue the abatement until it meets the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Standards. This could require that parts of the park would have to be utilized in order to continue this operation.

Sincerely:

Electronic signature 031307703130

Wayne Price

OCD-Environmental Bureau Chief

Cc: David Brooks- OCD Legal Counsel

**VonGonten, Glenn, EMNRD**

---

**From:** Joan McMahon [jmcmahon@hobbsnm.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 02, 2007 3:43 PM  
**To:** VonGonten, Glenn, EMNRD  
**Cc:** Price, Wayne, EMNRD  
**Subject:** Re: Westgate risk based closure (Grimes Battery)

Glenn,

Thank you. The attachment is fine. There is no need to fax a signed copy.

Joan

-----Original Message-----

**From:** VonGonten, Glenn, EMNRD  
**Date:** 3/2/2007 3:34:07 PM  
**To:** jmcmahon@hobbsnm.org  
**Cc:** Price, Wayne, EMNRD  
**Subject:** Westgate risk based closure (Grimes Battery)

Joan,

As per your request. Please let me know if you would prefer a fax copy of the signed letter.

Glenn

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AUG 07 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

# Memorandum

**To:** Wayne Hamilton, Marti Lightstone, Michael Mazzone, Judith MacGregor, ~~Bill Olson~~  
Kathy Phillips, Chris Williams

**From:** Jennifer Gilkey JG

**Date:** 8/6/2003

**Re:** May 2003 Westgate Report

---

Please find enclosed the map that needs to be added to the May 2003 Westgate report. Also enclosed are the corrected spines for the report. We noticed that the wrong date was printed on them.

I apologize for the inconvenience.

If you have any questions please call the office.

Thanks



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E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**  
**AIRBILL NUMBER: 7929 7044 4917**

**RECEIVED**

September 16, 2003

**SEP 17 2003**  
Environmental Bureau  
Oil Conservation Division

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)**  
**GRIMES BATTERY & TASKER ROAD**  
**HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Olson:

BBC International, Inc. on behalf of Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) respectfully submits this addendum report to the Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery & Tasker Road, Stage 2 Abatement Plan, Soil Remediation Activities Report of May 2003.

In reference to the NMOCD letter to Wayne Hamilton of SEPCo dated August 15, 2003 requesting additional soil sampling in the vicinity of sample points GBN-13P and GBN-16P, this addendum report submits the laboratory analysis results, a summary table of the results, and an updated site map of the sampling points for the two areas requested. The two soil samples were taken on August 15, 2003 at a three (3) foot depth consistent with the bottom of the excavation depth. The sample points are labeled GBN-27 and GBN-28.

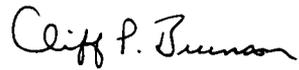
As requested, two copies of this addendum report will be delivered to the Hobbs NMOCD office.

With the submission of this addendum report, it is our understanding that this satisfies the NMOCD's requirements and Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) respectfully requests the concurrence of the NMOCD that the requirements of the Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road, Stage 2 Abatement Plan are completed except for the requirements relating to groundwater. The remaining activities relating to groundwater will continue until the requirements of the NMOCD have been met. All activities associated with groundwater will continue to be reported in the annual groundwater reports submitted to the NMOCD.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 397-6388 or via e-mail at [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com) or Wayne Hamilton at (281) 544-2322 or via e-mail at [Wayne.Hamilton@shell.com](mailto:Wayne.Hamilton@shell.com).

Sincerely,

BBC International, Inc.



Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
President

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Wayne Hamilton, Shell E & P Company



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**BILL RICHARDSON**

Governor

**Joanna Prukop**

Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenberg**

Director

**Oil Conservation Division**

August 15, 2003

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
Rm. 4304 Woodcreek  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, Texas 77079

**RE: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
GRIMES BATTERY/TASKER ROAD  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed the following Shell E&P Company (Shell) documents:

- August 5, 2003 "WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY & TASKER ROAD, STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN, SOIL REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES REPORT, MAY 2003".
- May 29, 2003 "WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY & TASKER ROAD, STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN, SOIL REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES REPORT, MAY 2003".

These documents contain the results of Shell's remediation of contaminated soils pursuant to the Stage 2 Abatement Plan for the former Grimes Tank Battery located in the Westgate Subdivision in Hobbs, New Mexico. The documents also request approval of the soil remediation actions.

The majority of the soil remediation actions taken to date are satisfactory. However, a review of the above-referenced documents shows that during the surface soil remediation in the vicinity of the tank battery there were 2 soil areas with conflicting final excavation sample analyses. Soil sample GBN-12 contained no detectable concentration of total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) in soil. Soil sample GBN-13P contained 9720 mg/kg of TPH in soil, which is well above the approved soil remediation levels for the site. These samples were taken from approximately the same location on the same day. In addition, soil sample GBN-16 contained 49 mg/kg of TPH in the soil. Soil sample GBN-16P contained 8620 mg/kg of TPH in soil, which is well above the approved soil remediation levels for the site. These samples were also taken from approximately

Wayne A. Hamilton  
August 15, 2003  
Page 2

the same location on the same day. The OCD understands that additional excavation was subsequently performed in these areas, but there is no final soil sampling data presented in the report that confirms that soil in these areas were cleaned up to the approved remediation levels.

Therefore, the OCD requires that Shell obtain confirmation samples of undisturbed soils from the base of the excavated areas in the vicinity of GBN-13P and GBN-16P. The samples shall be obtained and analyzed pursuant to the previously approved Stage 2 Abatement Plan and a report containing the results of the sampling event shall be submitted to the OCD Santa Fe Office by October 15, 2003 with a copy provided to the Hobbs District Office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 476-3491.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International



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E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**  
**AIRBILL NUMBER: 7903-0260-7319**

May 29, 2003

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**RECEIVED**  
**MAY 30 2003**  
ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

**SUBJECT: WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY & TASKER ROAD**  
**STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN**  
**SOIL REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES REPORT, MAY 2003**

Dear Mr. Olson:

BBC International, Inc. on behalf of Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) respectfully submits the enclosed Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery & Tasker Road, Stage 2 Abatement Plan, Soil Remediation Activities Report.

This report details the activities conducted in 2001 and 2002 concerning the Westgate site. The activities conducted include the baseline air quality monitoring and flux chamber air monitoring conducted in and around the Westgate subdivision in July 2001, surface soil removal and backfilling west of the former Grimes Tank Battery in September 2001, and the preparation for and implementation of the soil removal in the Tasker Road area in 2002.

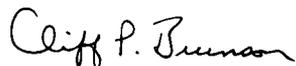
A copy of this report and a CD containing this report is enclosed and two copies of this report are being delivered to the Hobbs NMOCD office.

With the submission of this report, Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) respectfully requests the concurrence of the NMOCD that the requirements of the Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road, Stage 2 Abatement Plan are completed except for the requirements relating to groundwater. The remaining activities relating to groundwater will continue until the requirements of the NMOCD have been met. All activities associated with groundwater will continue to be reported in the annual groundwater reports submitted to the NMOCD.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 397-6388 or via e-mail at [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com) or Wayne Hamilton at (281) 544-2322 or via e-mail at [Wayne.Hamilton@shell.com](mailto:Wayne.Hamilton@shell.com).

Sincerely,

BBC International, Inc.



Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
President

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Wayne Hamilton, Shell E & P Company



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E MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

August 5, 2003

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AUG 06 2003

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

**SUBJECT: WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY & TASKER ROAD  
STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN  
SOIL REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES REPORT, MAY 2003**

Dear Mr. Olson:

BBC International, Inc. on behalf of Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) respectfully submits the enclosed diagram depicting the excavation areas and sampling points of the remediation activities conducted in September 2001 near the Former Grimes Battery.

Pursuant to your request via telephone, I have enclosed this site diagram and folder to be added to the above referenced report submitted to the NMOCD on May 29, 2003. In addition, two copies of this diagram will be submitted to the Hobbs office of the NMOCD to be added to the reports on file in that office.

With the submission of this diagram, Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) respectfully requests the concurrence of the NMOCD that the requirements of the Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road, Stage 2 Abatement Plan are completed except for the requirements relating to groundwater. The remaining activities relating to groundwater will continue until the requirements of the NMOCD have been met. All activities associated with groundwater will continue to be reported in the annual groundwater reports submitted to the NMOCD.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 397-6388 or via e-mail at [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com) or Wayne Hamilton at (281) 544-2322 or via e-mail at [Wayne.Hamilton@shell.com](mailto:Wayne.Hamilton@shell.com).

Sincerely,

BBC International, Inc.

*Cliff P. Brunson*

Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
President

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Wayne Hamilton, Shell E & P Company

MAY 27 2003

Roger C. Anderson  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
May 21, 2003

Dear Mr. Anderson:

We are writing in response to your request that we review the remediation plan proposed by Shell E & P Company regarding an oilfield-related petroleum site underlying a house in a residential area in the Westgate Subdivision in Hobbs, New Mexico.

The methodology used in the Abatement Plan, Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) is consistent with EPA policies and regulations governing corrective action. RBCA is an accepted process that utilizes risk and exposure assessment methodology to aid in determinations about the extent and urgency of corrective action needed to alleviate or remedy situations that could lead to human and environmental exposure to contamination.

We reviewed the risk assessment to ensure the following components were addressed:

- 1) chemicals of concern,
- 2) land use: residential land use,
- 3) receptors: current as well as potential future receptors,
- 4) exposure pathways, and
- 5) target risk levels.

We found that each of these areas was addressed according to standard methods for RBCA. The proposed abatement plan includes an assessment of the extent and concentration of chemicals and the risk of exposure to those chemicals present in the surface and subsurface soils in the specified site. The analytical methods used for this assessment includes evaluating detected individual indicator chemicals and evaluating the crude oil. Our review did not include a quantitative evaluation of assumptions or models such as those used in the indoor air volatilization model.

Residential land use was assumed in the selection and development of risk-based screening levels. The risk-based screening levels used for this assessment involved using upper range residential exposure parameters from the USEPA, which results in a conservative estimate of health risk. The target risk levels assumed for the screening levels are appropriate for cancer risk but would not be conservative for the analysis of non-carcinogens since potential additivity from multiple chemicals is not addressed.

While standard RBCA is considered an acceptable method for determining the contamination capacity of a site, sometimes additional risk assessment information is needed to justify a no-further action decision. Relevant to this case may be the consideration of multiple exposure pathways or multiple chemicals of concern. These characteristics were not included in the proposed abatement plan.

We would like to specify that our review was confined to analysis of the methodology used for the abatement plan and did not include verification of screening levels, quantitative values or analysis of the assumptions of the volatilization and groundwater models. Based on our review, appropriate protective analysis of risks posed by chemicals at this site was completed. While several areas, previously mentioned, were not evaluated, we find it unlikely that they would change the understanding of risk posed by chemicals at this site.

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact Randy Merker at (505) 476-3583.

Sincerely,



C. Mack Sewell, DrPH, MS  
NM State Epidemiologist

cc: Randy Merker, Program Manager, Environmental Health Epidemiology

## Olson, William

---

**From:** Olson, William  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2003 3:40 PM  
**To:** Prukop, Joanna; Mills, Tom  
**Cc:** Wrotenbery, Lori; Anderson, Roger  
**Subject:** Shell/Westgate Subdivision Lawsuit Briefing

Joanna and Tom,

Attached is a 5/20/03 Hobbs News-Sun article on a second environmental lawsuit related to a oilfield contamination site in Hobbs, New Mexico that has been under OCD oversight since 1997. Lori asked me to brief you about ongoing environmental issues at the site.

The site is located within the Westgate Subdivision, a residential housing area, on the western edge of Hobbs, New Mexico. The site was also the location of Shell Oil Company's Grimes Lease and is called the W.D. Grimes Battery/Westgate Subdivision site. Oil production on the Grimes Lease has been occurring since the late 1920's, prior to construction of the subdivision.

In September of 1997, OCD received citizen complaints of odors from the Grimes Tank battery. OCD inspection showed that Altura, a subsequent lease operator, was excavating a former unlined pit at the adjacent Grimes Tank Battery without an OCD approved work plan. Further site investigations, overseen by the OCD, showed that the a home under construction was being built over oily soils and that ground water was contaminated with hydrocarbons. In December of 1997, OCD received a petition from residents of the Westgate Subdivision reporting a high incidence of health problems in the neighborhood. The OCD required that Shell investigate, and remediate contamination at the site and worked with the Health Department to determine potential effects on public health. Around this time, the residents retained legal counsel and filed suit against Shell for alleged health effects.

Investigations at the site have shown that the home under construction and several adjacent older subdivision homes were constructed over former unlined pits and oil contaminated soils. The contamination was found to be limited to this area of the subdivision with the exception of some petroleum contaminated soils at the site of an old plugged and abandoned oil well between 2 homes north of this area. Shell purchased the homes over the pits, demolished them, constructed a movable contained structure over the pit areas to control vapor emissions and excavated underlying contaminated soils. The excavations were completed in October of 2002. The Health Department attempted to evaluate residential health in the subdivision but a number of people would not participate in health surveys because of their lawsuit.

All of the investigation and remediation actions have been conducted under OCD Rule 19 for abatement of pollution and have been subject to a full public notice and participation process, including the opportunity for public hearings on all remediation proposals. The residents attorney's originally believed OCD's draft approval of the remediation plan was inadequate and requested a hearing, but later withdrew their hearing request prior to the hearing date.

To date, ground water remediation is ongoing, the soil remediation report is expected next month and OCD is awaiting a Health Department evaluation of Shell's risk assessment of petroleum contaminated soils at the site of the plugged and abandoned oil well.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
(505) 476-3491



Hobbs  
News-Sun.htm

# Hobbs News-Sun



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Tuesday, May 20, 2003

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## Second Westgate suit filed against Shell

RICHARD TROUT

NEWS-SUN

Three law firms representing 54 plaintiffs associated with the Westgate subdivision of Hobbs on Monday filed a complaint for damages against Shell Oil Co. and developer Los Cuatros Inc.

Also named as a defendant in the suit is Shell Western Exploration & Production Inc.

Among the attorneys representing the Westgate plaintiffs is Masry & Vititoe's Ed Masry, who represented the plaintiffs in the Erin Brockovich case, according to co-counsel Michael Newell of Heidel, Samberson, Newell, Cox & McMahon in Lovington.

Girardi & Keese of Los Angeles is the third law firm involved in the case. Masry & Vititoe is based in Westlake Village, Calif.

The lawsuit, filed in the 5th Judicial District Court of Lea County, is a separate suit from the Westgate suit filed in 1998 by 222 plaintiffs living or formerly living in the Westgate subdivision. The first Westgate suite is pending before Judge William Lynch of the 5th Judicial District in Roswell, Newell said.

The 54 plaintiffs in the second Westgate suit do not include plaintiffs from the first suit.

The new suit is similar, however, in accusing the Shell defendants of being negligent in the disposal of toxic substances in the Westgate subdivision in West Hobbs. It accuses Los Cuatros of being negligent in using the same property for residential development beginning in 1977.

"Both the Shell defendants and LCI knew, or by the exercise of ordinary care should have known, that toxic substances, which the Shell defendants did not contain, dispose of or otherwise properly clean up, could contaminate the subdivision," the complaint stated.

The suit also claims the negligent disposal of toxic substances caused health problems in the 54 plaintiffs who live or lived in the Westgate subdivision. The contamination includes a host of harmful chemicals in the air, soil, subsurface soil and environment, according to the suit.

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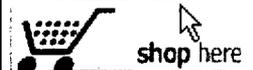
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"These toxic substances cause a variety of serious, short-term and long-term health problems, including but not limited to, respiratory disease, heart disease, cancer, genetic damage, immune system impairment, neurological damage and complications stemming from related health problems," the complaint stated.

The suit includes seven counts -- negligence and gross negligence, strict liability, nuisance, trespass, negligent infliction of emotional distress, punitive damages and damages. Under count three, nuisance, the suit accuses the Shell defendants of causing "a diminished market value for the plaintiffs' properties."

The defendants have 30 days to file an answer to the complaint for damages, Newell said, which will be followed by pre-trial dates for discovery and motions.

"Then it will be set for trial, and the trial will be sometime down the road," he said, adding that the trial would be held at the Lea County Courthouse.

Shell Exploration & Production conducted a Stage 2 Abatement Plan in the Westgate subdivision from April-October 2002, beating its November deadline set by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. The abatement project consisted of excavating and moving contaminated soil and hydrocarbon waste from an area near the intersection of Tasker Street and Berry Drive.

An air-tight, fabric structure on Tasker and Berry was the most visible element of Shell's cleanup project. Measuring 132 feet by 132 feet and 50 feet high, the tent-like structure was movable to allow the entire contaminated soil, roughly 300 feet by 115 feet, to be removed from the area.

The OCD approved Shell's cleanup plan in 2001.

Plaintiffs involved in the most recent Westgate suit include residents or former residents of various blocks, including San Andres, Gulf, Berry, San Mateo, Princess Jeanne, Pennington, MacKenzie, Tasker and Denson.

Shell and Los Cuatros could not be reached for comment Monday.

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NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and  
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**BILL RICHARDSON**

Governor

Joanna Prukop  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**

Director

Oil Conservation Division

February 28, 2003

Dr. Mack Sewell  
New Mexico Department of Health  
Office of Epidemiology  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-6110

**RE: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
SHELL GRIMES LEASE  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Dr. Sewell:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) is attempting to resolve an issue regarding oilfield-related petroleum contaminated soil underlying a house in a residential area in the Westgate Subdivision in Hobbs, New Mexico. The site is the former location of the W.D. Grimes # 8 well, an oil production well. In the past, Mr. Randy Merker with your office provided us assistance in evaluating health-based corrective action levels at the site. Shell E&P Company (Shell) has proposed health-based corrective action levels that Shell proposes to be used to justify allowing petroleum contaminated soils to remain under the residence.

The NMOCD previously requested assistance from your office but no response was received. Since this remediation plan proposes methods for protection of public health, the NMOCD requests that the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDH) provide the NMOCD with any comments or concerns that the NMDH may have regarding these proposals. Attached is a copy of the portions of the document relating to the calculation of the health-based action levels. If you are not able to provide assistance or have any questions, please contact me at (505) 476-3490.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Wayne Hamilton, Shell E&P Company  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International

75th year, No. 185

**THURSDAY**

October 17, 2002

# News-Sun



## ■ WESTGATE

# Excavation phase of cleanup finished

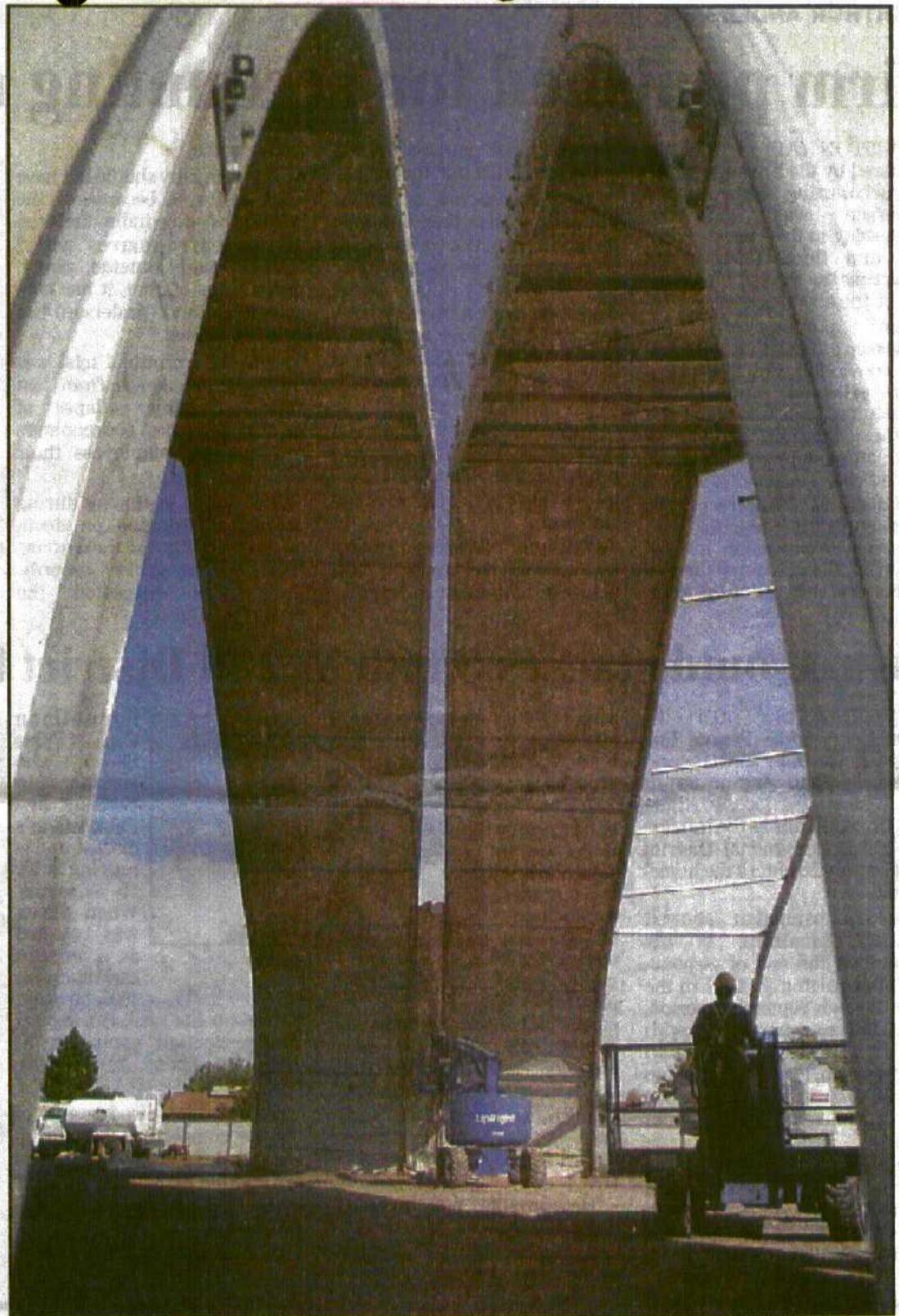
RICHARD TROUT  
NEWS-SUN

Shell Exploration & Production finished its Stage 2 Abatement Plan in the Westgate subdivision Wednesday, meeting its November deadline after removing several thousand cubic yards of dirt.

The abatement plan consisted of excavating and moving contaminated soil and hydrocarbon waste from an area near the intersection of Tasker Street and Berry Drive.

An air-tight, fabric structure on Tasker and Berry was the most visible element of Shell's cleanup project. Measuring 132 feet by 132 feet and 50 feet high, the tent-like structure was movable to allow the entire contaminated soil, roughly 300 feet by 115 feet, to be removed from the area.

See WESTGATE, Page 5



TAMMY MCKINLEY/NEWS SUN

A lone support beam was all that remained Wednesday of the large fabric tent that stood on Tasker and Berry Drive. Measuring 132 feet by 132 feet and 50 feet high, the air-tight structure was used to shield the

Westgate subdivision from the dust and noise of an abatement project by Shell Exploration & Production. Top left, Carlos Solis of Universal Fabric Structures disassembles the tent used in Shell's project.

# Westgate

from PAGE 1

"We're decommissioning the site, so the structure will be gone," said Cliff Brunson, president of BBC International Inc. of Hobbs, the project's contractor. "We removed a section of Tasker Street that will be replaced and repaved next week. Probably the week after that we will start taking the fence down."

The entire ~~factory~~ structure will be removed from the area by Saturday, he added.

Areas of the Westgate subdivision, the site of an old oil-field operation, were the subject of litigation against Shell in the late 1990s. Homeowners had sued Shell Oil then, saying the company had contaminated the neighborhood with oil-field chemicals over several decades.

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division approved a cleanup plan by Shell Oil in 2001.

BBC International fenced off the cleanup site in early March. Excavation of the contaminated soil and hydrocarbon waste started April 8, taking place from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday every week since then.

The purpose of the fabric structure and its air filtration system was to prevent dust and noise from entering the Westgate subdivision. The air filtration system used two 100-horsepower motors, which changed 600,000 cubic feet of air within the structure three times per hour.

The Westgate project also included two small buildings to monitor the air surrounding the structure 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Half of the air system went out (Wednesday) afternoon,

the other one will be loaded (Thursday)," Brunson said.

The excavator dug to a maximum depth of 10 feet, and several dump trucks took the waste material to a disposal facility in Eunice. Eight to 10 people worked on the Westgate project on a daily basis.

Once all the contaminated material was removed, Brunson said BBC International put down a layer of clay to cap the site. Ten feet of clean soil was then placed in the hole.

"Everything went according to our plan," Brunson said. "We had no complications and no problems. And we're right on track with our timeline that we had estimated."

Jim Robinson, manager of the health, safety and environmental department for Shell Exploration & Production in Houston, said in April that Shell is working with the City of Hobbs to create a park in the Westgate subdivision.



PHONE (505) 397-6388 • FAX (505) 397-0397 • 1324 W MARLAND • P O BOX 805 • HOBBS NM 88241 0805  
E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**  
**AIRBILL NUMBER: 7906 0093 8057**

September 17, 2002

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**RECEIVED**

**SEP 18 2002**

**ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

**SUBJECT: SUBMITTAL OF CHARACTERIZATION OF POTENTIAL AIR  
EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES  
NEAR THE WESTGATE SUBDIVISION,  
PHASE I FINAL AIR MONITORING REPORT**

Dear Mr. Olson:

BBC International, Inc. on behalf of Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) respectfully submits the enclosed Characterization Of Potential Air Emissions Associated With Remediation Activities Near The Westgate Subdivision, Phase I Final Air Monitoring Report.

This report details the baseline air quality monitoring and flux chamber air monitoring activities conducted in and around the Westgate subdivision in west Hobbs during July 2001. The purpose of the study was to document the baseline air quality in the area and to estimate the air quality during any future excavation and removal actions at the Westgate site.

A copy of this report is being delivered to you at your Santa Fe office and two copies are being delivered to the Hobbs OCD office. If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 397-6388 or via e-mail at [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com).

Sincerely,

BBC International, Inc.

Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
President

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Wayne Hamilton, Shell E & P Company

# Shell E&P Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**  
**AIRBILL NUMBER: 7927 2986 4700**

May 3, 2002

**RECEIVED**

**JUN 06 2002**

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

**SUBJECT: SUBMITTAL OF 2001 GROUNDWATER MONITORING  
REPORT, WESTGATE SUBDIVISION,  
GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) respectfully submits the enclosed 2001 Groundwater Monitoring Report for the Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road.

This report details the groundwater monitoring and free product recovery activities for the four quarters of 2001. Also included are summary data tables, original laboratory data, and isopleth maps.

SEPCo is hereby recommending revisions in the sampling program for the current year, 2002. The recommendation is to plug and abandon eight (8) monitoring wells and one (1) previously collapsed well based on more than eight (8) consecutive quarters of sample results below NMWQCC action levels.

SEPCo is requesting approval of this recommendation as soon as possible so that revisions and plugging activities may take place during the current site abatement activities.

I look forward to your response on this recommendation as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or Cliff Brunson at (505) 397-6388 or via e-mail to me at [wahamilton@shell.com](mailto:wahamilton@shell.com) or Cliff at [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com).

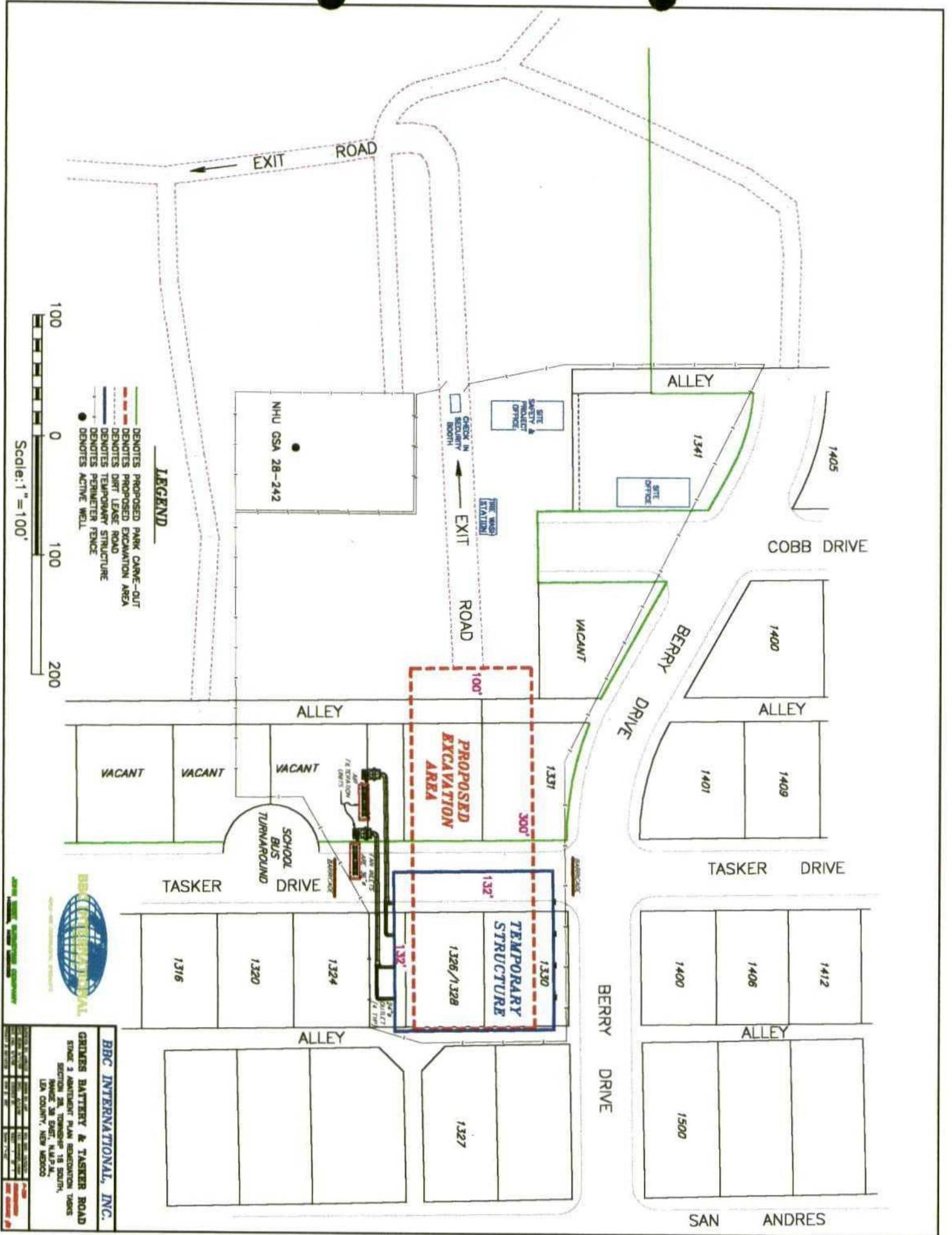
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cliff Brunson".

for

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Manager, Legacy Properties

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International, Inc.



**LEGEND**

- DENOTES PROPOSED PARK CARVE-OUT
- - - DENOTES PROPOSED EXCAVATION AREA
- - - DENOTES DIRT LEASE ROAD
- - - DENOTES TEMPORARY STRUCTURE
- - - DENOTES PERIMETER FENCE
- DENOTES ACTIVE WELL



**BHC INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

**GRIMES BATTERY & TASKER ROAD**

SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH,  
RANGE 28 EAST, N.M.P.M.,  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

DATE	BY	REVISION

AP-2

**Olson, William**

**From:** Cliff P. Brunson [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2002 4:30 PM  
**To:** William Olson  
**Subject:** Westgate-Press release/public notice of start of activities

Bill,

Attached is a copy of the press release/public notice that will be in Sunday's Hobbs paper and passed out in the neighborhood this weekend informing the neighborhood that work is commencing. Just wanted you to have a copy for your files. Any questions, give me a call.

Cliff

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

Cliff P. Brunson, President  
BBC International, Inc.  
World-Wide Environmental Specialists  
Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 805  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88241 USA  
Shipping Address:  
1324 W. Marland Blvd.  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240 USA  
Phone: (505) 397-6388  
Fax: (505) 397-0397  
E-mail: [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com)  
Web: [www.bbcinternational.com](http://www.bbcinternational.com)

\*\*\*\*\*



**Because we want you to know....**

- Shell will resume work in the Westgate subdivision this month, in accordance with the formal Stage 2 Abatement Plan approved by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.
- Starting the week of Feb. 25, a fence will be erected around the work area.
- In mid-March, a sturdy, air-locked fabric structure will be erected to help contain dust and odors. The fabric structure, which will cover the work area, will be located at the southeast and southwest corners of the intersection of Tasker and Berry Drive. Shell anticipates dirt removal to begin early to mid-April.
- While work is underway, part of Tasker Drive will be closed. The south side of the work area will have a turn-around for local traffic. The north portion of the work area will be blocked with road barricades. Local through traffic will be re-routed to the first street east of Tasker Drive, which is San Andres, and onto Berry Drive to access the Westgate Subdivision. Shell regrets any inconvenience this may cause residents.
- The re-routing of utilities in this area has been completed so no interruptions should occur as a result of these activities.
- The work should be completed by November.

**Shell Exploration & Production Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079  
1-800-498-8109**

**Feb. 23, 2002**



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Shell Exploration & Production Company  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

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# News Release

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## SHELL ENTERS FINAL PHASE OF WESTGATE ABATEMENT PROJECT

HOUSTON (Feb. 21, 2002) -- Shell Exploration & Production Company today announced it will begin implementing the formal Stage 2 Abatement Plan in the Westgate subdivision of West Hobbs. The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division approved the plan in 2001. This final step in the plan is scheduled to begin this month and will take most of the year to complete.

Shell will begin preparing the work area the week of Feb. 25 by erecting a fence around the entire work area. In mid-March a sturdy, air-locked fabric structure will be erected. The fabric structure, which will cover the work area, will be located at the southeast and southwest corners of the intersection of Tasker and Berry Drive. Shell anticipates that dirt removal will begin early to mid-April. The work should be completed by November.

While work is underway, part of Tasker Drive will be closed. The south side of the work area will have a turn-around for local traffic. The north portion of the work area will be blocked with road barricades. Local through traffic will be re-routed to the first street east of Tasker Drive, which is San Andres, and onto Berry Drive to access the Westgate Subdivision. Shell regrets any inconvenience this may cause residents.

The re-routing of utilities in this area has been completed so no interruptions should occur as a result of these activities.

###

### Media Contacts:

Stacy Hutchinson  
Billy Lynn Ratliff

281-544-5069  
281-544-5053

[slhutchinson@shell.com](mailto:slhutchinson@shell.com)  
[blratliff@shell.com](mailto:blratliff@shell.com)

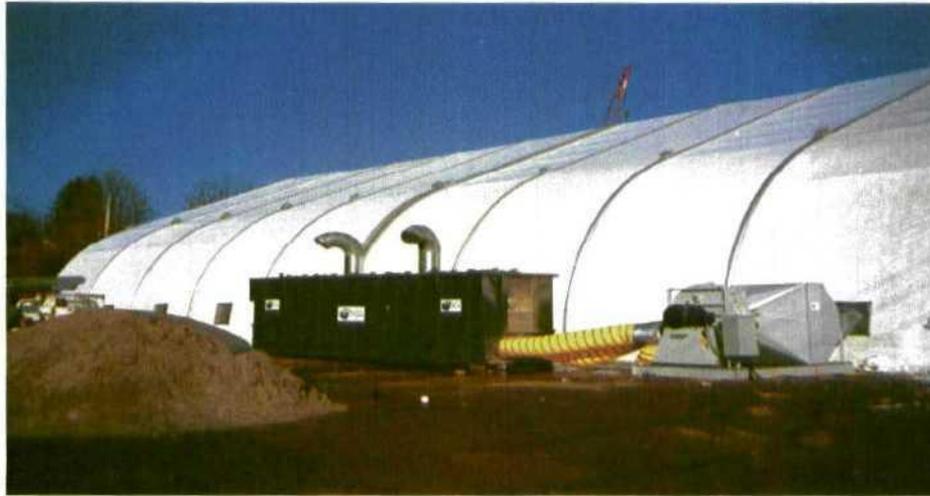
**This Is What The Fabric Structure Will Look Like – 132 Feet By 132 Feet By 50 Feet High**



**Construction Of Fabric Structure – Two Sections To Be Joined**



**This Is What The Air Treatment System Will Look Like – There Are Two Units Like This**



**Complete Air System**



**Air Handler and Pre-Filter Unit**



**Activated Carbon Adsorber Unit**

# Shell E&P Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

## RECEIVED

FEB 25 2002

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

*Fax received 2/20/02*

February 20, 2002

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**RE: Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road,  
Stage 2 Abatement Plan**

Dear Mr. Olson:

I am please to inform the NMOCD that on February 25, 2002 Shell E & P Company (SEPCo) will commence with the implementation of the Stage 2 Abatement Plan for the Westgate Subdivision.

As you may recall, after approval by the NMOCD, a determination was required as to the necessity of a discharge permit for the exhaust stack of the carbon air treatment system. The Air Quality Bureau of the NM Environment Department has determined that no permit is required.

Receipt of this letter from the Bureau completed the outstanding requirements prior to commencing the implementation of the Stage 2 Plan. Therefore, SEPCo is now proceeding with the abatement plan.

The fencing of the site, barricading, and closing of Tasker Street will begin on February 25, 2002. The closing of Tasker Street and re-routing of the local traffic will be completed with appropriate signage and in accordance with the requirements of the City of Hobbs.

The site should be fully fenced by the first week of March. The erection of the fabric structure will occur on or about March 18, 2002 and should be completed by April 1. The air treatment system will be installed during the installation of the structure.

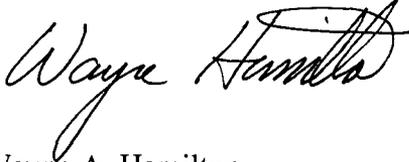
Dirt removal will commence on or about Monday, April 8, 2002. It is anticipated that all site activities and restoration will be completed by late October 2002.

Neighborhood informational flyers will be distributed prior to commencing the fencing and street closure as well as prior to the erection of the structure. Press releases will be submitted to the local newspaper at the same time.

After site restoration, all site activities will be documented and a final report with all required materials will be submitted to the NMOCD in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (281) 544-2322 or via e-mail at [wahamilton@shell.com](mailto:wahamilton@shell.com). In addition, you may contact Cliff Brunson of BBC at (505) 397-6388 or via e-mail at [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Manager, Legacy Properties

cc: Chris Williams – NMOCD-Hobbs



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**

Governor  
**Betty Rivera**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

February 7, 2002

Dr. Mack Sewell  
New Mexico Department of Health  
Office of Epidemiology  
1190 St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

**RE: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
SHELL GRIMES LEASE  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) is in receipt of a document from Shell E&P Company (Shell) which contains proposed health-based corrective action levels that Shell proposes to be used for remediation of oilfield contaminated soils underlying a residence at the site of the former W.D. Grimes # 8 well site in Hobbs, New Mexico. This well site is related to the abatement plan for the Shell Grimes Lease in Hobbs' Westgate Subdivision. Mr. Randy Merker of your office previously provided us with assistance in evaluating prior health-based corrective action levels at the site. Attached is a copy of the portions of the document relating to the calculation of the action levels. Since the plan proposes methods for protection of public health, the NMOCD requests that the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDH) provide the NMOCD with any comments or concerns that the NMDH may have regarding these proposals.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 476-3490.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Wayne Hamilton, Shell E&P Company  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International

**Olson, William**

**From:** Cliff P. Brunson [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 07, 2001 8:14 PM  
**To:** William Olson  
**Cc:** Paul Sheeley; Wayne Hamilton; Roger Anderson  
**Subject:** Westgate Remediation Activities

Bill,

Attached is the neighborhood flyer that we passed out prior to the excavation and backfilling activities. I have sent this to you for your files. If you have any questions, please give me or Wayne a call. We have had no problems or complaints to date with our activities. I will keep you informed.

Thanks,

Cliff

\*\*\*\*\*

Confidentiality Notice: This electronic transmission (and any attached documents) is intended only for the person to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender by e-mail or by collect telephone call to (505) 397-6388 for handling instructions. Any disclosure or distribution of the contents of this transmission by anyone other than the named recipient is strictly prohibited.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cliff P. Brunson, President  
BBC International, Inc.  
World-Wide Environmental Specialists  
Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 805  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88241 USA  
Shipping Address:  
1324 W. Marland Blvd.  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240 USA  
Phone: (505) 397-6388  
Fax: (505) 397-0397  
E-mail: [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com)  
Web: [www.bbcinternational.com](http://www.bbcinternational.com)

\*\*\*\*\*



**Because We Want You to Know**

- **Shell will resume work in the Westgate Subdivision on Tuesday, Sept. 4**, in accordance with the formal Stage 2 Abatement Plan recently approved by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD).
- First, Shell will **remove the foundations** of the four houses on Tasker and Cobb Streets that were previously removed.
- Second, Shell will **excavate about two-three feet of topsoil** from areas near the former Grimes Tank Battery just west of Tasker Street. Shell will backfill these areas and several previously excavated sites near the tank battery with topsoil.
- **All excavated material will be disposed of at an appropriate facility.** These first two steps will take about a month.
- Over the next several months, **various crews will be temporarily rerouting utilities in the alley just east of Tasker Road.** This work is in preparation for the overall abatement work that should begin this winter.

**Shell Exploration & Production Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079**

**August 31, 2001**

New Mexico Business Clipping Bureau  
2101 Wyoming NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112  
505-275-1241

Left  
Roger Willie

# Air-quality testing slated for contamination site

## Odor woes could be biggest problem in Westgate cleanup process

270  
MARK R. FLETCHER  
HOBBS NEWS-SUN

Another stage in cleaning up Hobbs' Westgate Subdivision begins this week as Shell Oil Co. begins setting up several air-quality monitoring stations to establish a baseline for normal odors.

Shell spokesman Rich Hansen says the company needs to establish a baseline before beginning excavation to remove layers of an asphalt-like substance which homeowners in the Westgate subdivision said contaminated their property.

Shell says the hazardous material is a substance left over from when the area was an oilfield pit.

Fifty years ago the standard procedure was to burn the pits, and that process left a tar-like residue at the bottom. The material left at the bottom is what the residents of the area said contaminated the soil around their houses, and the houses themselves.

Removing the material, however, may raise a stink with the neighbors — literally.

"It's old oil and old decaying hydrocarbons; it's kind of like a compost pit, when you open up and dig up a compost pit it can be pretty ripe," Hansen said. "It's just normal decomposition, but it's going to smell."

Hansen also said odor control just might present the biggest obstacle for the cleanup process.

"I think the odor is going to be potentially the most difficult part of it," Hansen said

Hansen said the company is taking every step it can to contain the odor, including setting up a large tent once actual excavation begins. Hansen expects that to be after the first of the year. The tent will contain the odors and has an airlock for trucks entering the site.

"We're going to do everything we can to vent the air so there's a

**'We're going to do everything we can to vent the air so there's a minimum of disturbance to the neighborhood.'**

**Rich Hansen**  
*Shell spokesman*

minimum of disturbance to the neighborhood," Hansen said.

The air-quality tests are required in the formal State 2 Abatement Plan approved by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division earlier this year.

Shell will begin monitoring the air through the neighborhood to determine a baseline for air quality prior to the commencement of construction work. The air monitoring stations will be comprised of chain-link enclosures with two to three air samplers.

The samplers will produce a sound similar to a vacuum cleaner and will run 24 hours a day for about seven days.

The second step will begin July 23 and will involve digging three test trenches east and west of Tasker Road where oilfield materials have been located, and will measure air emissions that may occur when soil is disturbed.

Monitoring results will be sent to independent laboratories for analysis. The laboratory information will be used to determine current air quality and to design air treatment equipment used during excavation.

The plan is intended to minimize unpleasant odors that might occur during remediation in the neighborhood.

The current state-approved pro-

posals provides for the construction of a large, air-locked tent over each area that will be excavated to capture and contain most vapors. Placement of the tent and actual work should begin the first of next year and could last up to six months.

The air-quality tests, follow the demolition of several houses in the subdivision. Demolishing the houses was a prelude to cleaning up the area that experts say has become contaminated with oil field waste.

Shell purchased several houses in the Westgate neighborhood as part of its work with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division in developing a soil cleanup program. Areas of the Westgate subdivision were the subject of litigation against Shell in the late 1990s, when homeowners sued Shell Oil saying the company had contaminated the neighborhood with oilfield chemicals over several decades.

Shell agreed to purchase several homes in the neighborhood and compensate the owners for lost property value.

Last fall, Shell removed three houses following several acts of vandalism and an attempted arson incident in one of them.

Hansen said the vandalism of the houses pushed their demolition up a bit, saying the state normally would have required that be done much later in the plan.

"There was vandalism in the houses, so the state gave us permission to go a head and remove them," Hansen said. "In theory we would not have been able to do that until the plan was approved, but they appreciate the reason why ought to be able to get rid of them sooner."

Contact Hobbs News-Sun report Mark R. Fletcher at 505-397-455 ext. 133, or via e-mail city@leaco.net

**Olson, William**

**From:** Hamilton, Wayne WA SEPCO [SMTP:wahamilton@Shell.Com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2001 7:18 AM  
**To:** 'Bill Olson, OCD'; 'Paul Sheeley'  
**Cc:** 'Cliff Brunson'  
**Subject:** Grimes Lease Work Activities: July 2001; Hobbs, New Mexico

Below you will find a time line as to Shell's Stage 2 Abatement plan activities on the Grimes lease in Hobbs, New Mexico.

I know that you are interested in seeing the flux chamber work. Therefore, I'd suggest you be on site, Wednesday, July 25 at 8:00. The test will take the full day to complete.

- Week of July 9<sup>th</sup>: Monday - Wednesday: BBC International starts installing temporary power poles and meters. Thursday - Saturday: Install chain link enclosures, wire power plugs inside enclosures, set sampling and stake down units, and start 24 hour security. Sunday - Air sampling consultant personnel arrive in Hobbs.
- Week of July 16: Monday: Calibrate and install air sampling devices. Tuesday - Sunday: Operate air sampling units and ship samples to laboratory.
- Week of July 23: Monday: continue air sampling. Tuesday: start and complete first flux chamber excavation on West Tasker, start dismantling air stations not needed for background during flux chamber pits. Wednesday: start and complete second flux chamber pit on West Tasker, and East Tasker trench for utility location, etc. Thursday: Start and complete third flux pit on East Tasker. Friday: Dismantle any remaining air stations and demobilize.

If you have any questions about the above work activities please give me call.

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Manager Retained Properties

Shell E&P Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
WCK Room 4154  
Houston, TX 77079

Voice: 281-544-2322  
FAX: 281-544-2238

E-Mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com)

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

COPY

CASE NO. 12,576

APPLICATION OF SHELL E & P FOR  
APPROVAL OF ITS STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN,  
GRIMES BATTERY/WESTGATE SUBDIVISION,  
CITY OF HOBBS, NEW MEXICO.

RECEIVED

MAY 1 2001

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

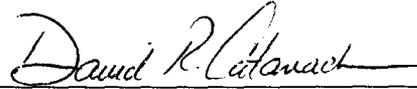
**ORDER DISMISSING HEARING**

**THIS MATTER** having come before the Designated Hearing Officer on request of parties who requested a hearing in this matter (hereinafter referred to as "the Requesting Parties") being represented by Michael Newell and Patrick B. McMahon (Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox), William G. Rosch, III (Rosch & Ross), and Craig Lewis and Andrew Sher (Gallagher, Young, Lewis, Hampton & Downey) to withdraw their request for hearing in this matter, and the Designated Hearing Officer, having reviewed the pleadings and noted the concurrence of attorneys representing the applicant, Shell Exploration & Production Company (hereinafter referred to as "Shell"), and the Oil Conservation Division,

**FINDS**, the Designated Hearing Officer has jurisdiction of the parties and the subject matter herein and the request of the Requesting Parties to withdraw the request for hearing is well-taken and should be granted and, in the absence of a hearing, the abatement plan of Shell should be forthwith approved by the Oil Conservation Division.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the hearing in this case shall be and hereby is vacated and the abatement plan of Shell shall be approved by the Division forthwith

**ORDERED THIS 1st DAY OF MAY, 2001.**



David R. Catanach, Hearing Examiner

**Approved:**

COUNSEL FOR SHELL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION:

**Approved 4-24-2001 by J. Scott Hall:**

J. Scott Hall  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson PA  
P.O. Box 1986  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Marte D. Lightstone  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson, P.A.  
P.O. Box 25687  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-5687

Michael Mazzone  
Dow, Cogburn & Friedman  
9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 2300  
Houston, Texas 77046

Kathleen Phillips  
Shell Exploration and Production Company  
P.O. Box 2463  
Houston, Texas 77252

COUNSEL FOR REQUESTING PARTIES:

**telephonically approved, 5-1-2001 by Andrew Sher:**

Craig Lewis  
Andrew Sher  
Gallagher, Lewis & Downey  
Bank of America Center  
700 Louisiana, 40th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
Chase Bank Building  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, Texas 77002

Thomas Girardi  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Michael Newell  
Patrick B. McMahon  
Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox  
311 N. First Street  
P.O. Box 1599  
Lovington, New Mexico 88620

COUNSEL FOR THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION:

**Approved 4-30-2001:**

Kurt Van Deren  
Assistant General Counsel  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
1220 South Saint Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

- Lifestyles
- Staff/Info
- Viewpoint
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Doris Craig was raised on a homestead her father bought in 1909.

*RICHARD TROUT/HOBBS NEWS-SUN*

## Remembering life on a homestead

Doris Craig has led a remarkable life. What's truly remarkable, however, is her ability to remember every event as if it happened yesterday.

continued



Walls come tumbling down at the hands of this bulldozer operator contracted by Shell Oil Co. to destroy a home at 1330 N. Tasker on Monday morning. The house is the latest to be razed in the wake of oilfield contamination found in the Westgate Subdivision.

**BIRTHPLACE:**  
Hobbs

**OCCUPATION:**  
Retired

**SPOUSE:** Sandra

**FAVORITE FOOD:**  
Steak

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** Pensacola Wings of Gold

**FAVORITE MUSIC:**  
Country

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TV Listings



♥ ♥ ♥  
**UPDATES  
VOICE  
PERSONALS**





# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

April 2, 2001

J. Scott Hall  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson PA  
P.O. Box 1986  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Marte D. Lightstone  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson, P.A.  
P.O. Box 25687  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-5687

Michael Mazzone  
Dow, Cogburn & Friedman  
9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 2300  
Houston, Texas 77046

Kathleen Phillips  
Shell Exploration and Production Company  
P.O. Box 2463  
Houston, Texas 77252

Craig Lewis  
Andrew Sher  
Gallagher, Lewis & Downey  
Bank of America Center  
700 Louisiana, 40th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
Chase Bank Building  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, Texas 77002

All Counsel  
April 2, 2001  
Page 2

Thomas Girardi  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Michael Newell  
Patrick B. McMahon  
Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox  
311 N. First Street  
P.O. Box 1599  
Lovington, New Mexico 88620

Kurt Van Deren  
Assistant General Counsel  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
1220 South Saint Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

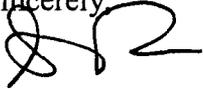
Re: Shell E&P Company's Proposed Stage 2 Abatement Plan  
Grimes Battery/Tasker Road, Hobbs, New Mexico

Dear Counsel,

Please find enclosed a proposed order of dismissal of this matter. Please review the order and indicate whether it is acceptable. If so, I would appreciate receiving your telephonic approval as soon as possible. I will forward each of you an executed copy of the Order.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely



Stephen C. Ross  
Assistant General Counsel

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**CASE NO. 12,576**

**APPLICATION OF SHELL E & P FOR  
APPROVAL OF ITS STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN,  
GRIMES BATTERY/WESTGATE SUBDIVISION,  
CITY OF HOBBS, NEW MEXICO.**

**ORDER DISMISSING HEARING**

**THIS MATTER** having come before the Designated Hearing Officer on request of parties who requested a hearing in this matter (hereinafter referred to as "the Requesting Parties") being represented by Michael Newell and Patrick B. McMahon (Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox), William G. Rosch, III (Rosch & Ross), and Craig Lewis and Andrew Sher (Gallagher, Young, Lewis, Hampton & Downey) to withdraw their request for hearing in this matter, and the Designated Hearing Officer, having reviewed the pleadings and noted the concurrence of attorneys representing the applicant, Shell Exploration & Production Company (hereinafter referred to as "Shell"), and the Oil Conservation Division,

**FINDS**, the Designated Hearing Officer has jurisdiction of the parties and the subject matter herein and the request of the Requesting Parties to withdraw the request for hearing is well-taken and should be granted and, in the absence of a hearing, the abatement plan of Shell should be forthwith approved by the Oil Conservation Division.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the hearing in this case shall be and hereby is vacated and the case dismissed. The abatement plan of Shell shall be approved forthwith

**ORDERED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF APRIL, 2001.**

---

David R. Catanach, Hearing Examiner

**Approved:**

COUNSEL FOR SHELL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION:

---

J. Scott Hall  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson PA  
P.O. Box 1986  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Marte D. Lightstone  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson, P.A.  
P.O. Box 25687  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-5687

Michael Mazzone  
Dow, Cogburn & Friedman  
9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 2300  
Houston, Texas 77046

Kathleen Phillips  
Shell Exploration and Production Company  
P.O. Box 2463  
Houston, Texas 77252

COUNSEL FOR REQUESTING PARTIES:

---

Craig Lewis  
Andrew Sher  
Gallagher, Lewis & Downey  
Bank of America Center  
700 Louisiana, 40th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
Chase Bank Building  
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1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
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Michael Newell  
Patrick B. McMahon  
Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox  
311 N. First Street  
P.O. Box 1599  
Lovington, New Mexico 88620

COUNSEL FOR THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION:

---

Kurt Van Deren  
Assistant General Counsel  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
1220 South Saint Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company

OIL CONSERVATION DIV.



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

01 APR 16 PM 2:55

**FAX Transmission: (505) 476-3471**

April 5, 2001

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: DEMOLITION OF HOME IN WESTGATE SUBDIVISION**

Dear Mr. Olson:

This letter is to confirm our phone conversation that Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) plans to demolish one house in the Westgate neighborhood. As discussed, SEPCo has purchased this house and it is the last house to be demolished prior to the start of remediation.

The house is located at 1330 Tasker. For safety reasons, the house needs to be demolished at this time. You may recall that three (3) houses were demolished in September 2000 because they had experienced vandalism and arson attempts prior to the demolition. The house will be removed down to the foundation, driveway, and sidewalks. The foundation will be removed during actual Stage 2 Abatement remediation activities. All trees, shrubs, and bushes will also be removed. All materials will be disposed of at an approved landfill for construction materials.

The demolition start date will be April 16, 2001 and should be completed within two to three days. A flyer will be distributed throughout the neighborhood on April 13, 2001 informing the residents of the activities. I have enclosed a copy of the flyer for your files.

If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or Cliff Brunson of BBC International at (505) 397-6388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne A. Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International, Inc.



## **Because We Want You to Know**

As you know, Shell has been working with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) in the Westgate Subdivision to develop a formal soil cleanup plan for the area.

As part of this project, one additional house on Tasker Street has been purchased by Shell and will be removed.

Here is what we plan to do:

- Beginning approximately (Monday, April 16, 2001), between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., the house will be demolished above ground level. The debris will be transported to an approved landfill. We expect to be finished in a few days.
- During this time, barriers will be constructed around the property for additional safety.
- The foundation will be removed at a later date once Shell's final soil cleanup plan is approved by OCD.

Although we plan to work as quickly as possible, we apologize in advance for any inconvenience that might be caused by the removal of this house. If you have any questions about what we're doing, please feel free to call us toll free at (800) 498-8109.

**Shell Oil Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079**

April 13, 2001

# Shell E&P Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**  
**AIRBILL NUMBER: 820412607823**

March 30, 2001

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**RECEIVED**

**APR 02 2001**

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

**SUBJECT: SUBMITTAL OF 2000 QUARTERLY GROUNDWATER  
MONITORING REPORT, WESTGATE SUBDIVISION,  
GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) respectfully submits the enclosed 2000 Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring Report for the Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road.

This report details the groundwater monitoring and free product recovery activities for the four quarters of 2000. Also included are summary data tables, original data, and isopleth maps.

If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or via electronic mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Brunson* / for Wayne A. Hamilton  
Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International, Inc.



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenberg**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

March 22, 2001

*Via Facsimile and First Class Mail*

Andrew Sher  
Gallagher, Lewis, Downey & Kim  
Bank of America Center  
700 Louisiana, 40th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: Shell E&P Company's Proposed Stage 2 Abatement Plan  
Grimes Battery/Tasker Road, Hobbs, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Sher,

Thank you for your letter of March 15. In your letter you propose to withdraw the request for hearing in this matter based on three assumptions which you described in the first paragraph.

It has been a bit difficult to evaluate your conditions because they distill down hundreds, if not thousands, of pages of documents to a few declarative statements. However, the Environmental Bureau appears to agree that the conditions numbered (2) and (3) are accurate.

However, the condition numbered (1) appears not to be accurate. I suggest you look at William C. Olson's letter of February 9, 2000 and Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan, dated May 4, 2000. Among many other things, Mr. Olson's letter indicates he is unhappy with Shell's proposal that soil be excavated to a depth of 8 feet; he asks for a revised excavation plan which will remove the bulk of the near surface contaminated soils from the pits. Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Report proposes to excavate to a depth of *10 feet* and also remove Tasker Road itself. Shell also proposes to leave the exact depth "subject to field judgment based on mutual discussions between Shell and NMOCD field

Mr. Andrew Sher  
March 22, 2001  
Page 2

representatives." Shell proposes to excavate an area of 300 feet by 80 feet instead of the two discrete excavations on either side of Tasker.

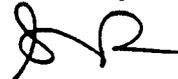
Please review the February 9 and May 4 documents and let me know as soon as possible whether you still wish to withdraw the request for hearing. If so, I will draft and circulate to counsel for approval a simple dismissal of the Commission case.

Until this issue is resolved, counsel need not submit the initial summaries, witness lists and exhibit lists.

The last paragraph of your letter requests the procedure for bringing areas of contamination you have identified to the attention of OCD. I have asked William C. Olson to respond to this inquiry on behalf of the Environmental Bureau.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Ross  
Assistant General Counsel

Cc: All counsel

**GALLAGHER, LEWIS, DOWNEY & KIM**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
700 LOUISIANA ST., 40<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
BANK OF AMERICA CENTER  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
PH: (713) 222-8080  
FAX: (713)222-0066

**FACSIMILE COVERSHEET**

March 15, 2001

<b>TO:</b>	<b><u>PHONE #</u></b>	<b><u>FAX #</u></b>
Mr. Steve Ross Oil Conservation Commission	(505) 476-3440	(505) 476-3462

**FROM:** Andrew Sher

**RE:** Shell E&P Company - Stage 2 Abatement Plan

**OUR FILE #:** 98-04-163

**TOTAL # OF PAGES:** 3

**MESSAGE:** Please see attached

If you do not receive 3 pages, please call 713-222-8080.

Unless otherwise indicated or obvious from the nature of the transmittal, the information contained in this facsimile message is attorney privileged and confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone and return the original message to Gallagher, Lewis & Downey at the above address via U.S. Postal Service at our expense. Thank you.

**GALLAGHER, LEWIS, DOWNEY & KIM**  
BANK OF AMERICA CENTER  
700 LOUISIANA, 40<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
CRAIG LEWIS

**ROSCH & ROSS**  
CHASE BANK BUILDING  
707 TRAVIS, SUITE 2100  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
WILLIAM G. ROSCH, III

**GIRARDI & KEESE**  
1126 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017  
THOMAS GIRARDI

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**  
311 N. FIRST STREET, P. O. BOX 88260  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
MICHAEL NEWELL

March 15, 2001

Mr. Stephen C. Ross  
Assistant General Counsel  
Oil Conservation Commission  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**VIA FACSIMILE (505) 476-3462**

Re: Shell E&P Company's Proposed Stage 2 Abatement Plan  
Grimes Battery/Tasker Road, Hobbs, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Ross:

Thank you for your February 28, 2001 clarification of the scope of the OCD hearing in the above-referenced matter. Pursuant to our telephone conversations and your letter, it is our understanding that (1) OCD will require Shell to fully delineate, both vertically and horizontally, the extent of contamination in and around the proposed excavation area as warranted by field conditions (ie. OCD will require Shell to excavate contaminated media encountered above action levels both deeper than the proposed 8 feet and wider than the defined excavation area based on field sampling and/or field observations); (2) Shell will maintain a remediation structure under negative air pressure, air monitoring and emergency notification procedures during excavation to prevent further exposures to residents; and (3) OCD approval of the Stage 2 Abatement Plan does affect Shell's obligation to investigate and address other areas of concern outside the defined Stage 2 excavation area.

Based on this clarification, it appears that the concerns made the basis of our request for a hearing on Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan have been addressed by the OCD. Accordingly, we hereby withdraw our request for an oral hearing in this matter and would request abatement activities to proceed. If we have misunderstood your clarification concerning items (1) through (3) above, please advise us immediately as we may need to reevaluate our position on the necessity of a hearing.

On behalf of the residents of the Westgate Subdivision, what is the proper procedure or vehicle for either the residents and/or the OCD to address objections to the adequacy of Shell's investigation and assessment of those areas outside the discrete boundaries of the excavation area set

Mr. Stephen C. Ross  
March 15, 2001  
Page 2

forth in Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan, but subsumed under the Grimes/Tasker Road site designation? Notwithstanding the OCD's orders, Shell has failed to adequately research or investigate contamination in other areas at the site. The Chandler residence is one example where Shell's investigation failed to identify contamination, while investigations by the OCD and the residents confirmed significant contamination. Likewise, additional testing at the expense of the residents has also revealed contamination at other locations both outside the boundaries of the excavation area set forth in Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan and where Shell failed to identify any contamination. Shell should have identified these areas as a part of their own investigations at the site; and the fact that Shell did not, renders Shell's investigation suspect at best. It should not be the responsibility of OCD and the victims of pollution to incur additional expenses to do Shell's work for them. In short, there is more than enough probable cause to require Shell to redo its investigations by adequately researching its historical operations at the site and conducting additional sampling activities with more precise laboratory detection limits.

Thank you for your courtesy and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Andrew Sher

AS:pb

FEB 28

LAW OFFICES

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL, COX & McMAHON**

C. GENE SAMBERSON  
MICHAEL T. NEWELL  
LEWIS C. COX, III  
PATRICK B. McMAHON

311 NORTH FIRST STREET  
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1599  
LOVINGTON, NM 88260  
TELEPHONE (505) 396-5303  
FAX (505) 396-5305

F.L. HEIDEL  
(1913-1985)

February 26, 2001

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
P.O. Box 6429  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**Re: Westgate; Shell #8**

Dear Mr. Olson,

Please find enclosed a copy of your letter to Arco Permian regarding Ms. Linda Foster and the W.D. Grimes #2 well. In your letter you requested that Arco provide you with "...all available information the locations and type of all tanks, pumps, pits, pipelines and spills related to the operation of the W.D. Grimes #2 well site."

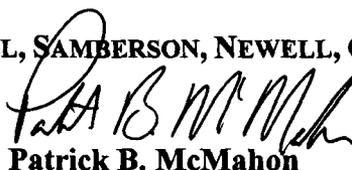
I am writing this letter to inquire as to whether you, or anyone at OCD, has made the same, or similar, request to Shell regarding the Shell #8 located on Cobb Street, in Hobbs, New Mexico. If this type of request has been made, would you please identify where I can locate a copy of Shell's response. If this type of request has not been made, would you please explain the reason(s) why, given the fact that this information was requested from Arco for a location in the very same area in Hobbs.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL, COX & McMAHON**

By:

  
**Patrick B. McMahon**

PBM:cd  
Enclosure



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

*Donna*

March 15, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-559-572-908**

Ms. Margaret Lowe  
Arco Permian  
P.O. Box 1610  
Midland, Texas 79702

**RE: W.D. GRIMES #2 WELL SITE  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Ms. Lowe:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has received a written complaint from Ms. Linda Foster regarding the site of the plugged and abandoned former Sinclair Oil & Gas Company W.D. Grimes #2 well in Unit F, Section 28, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, NMPM, Lea County New Mexico. Attached is a copy of Ms. Foster's correspondence with the OCD. The W.D. Grimes #2 well site is located on Ms. Foster's property at 1700 West Lorene Drive in Hobbs, New Mexico. Ms. Foster is concerned that there is contamination related to W.D. Grimes #2 in several areas of her property.

The OCD requires that Arco, the successor of the Sinclair Oil & Gas Company, submit to the OCD all available information regarding the locations and type of all tanks, sumps, pits, pipelines and spills related to the operation of the W.D. Grimes #2 well site. There is also a former water well located in the northwest corner on the Foster property. If this water well was related to Sinclair Oil & Gas Company's operations, the OCD requires that Arco supply all available information on the completion of the well and water well quality. Please submit this information to the OCD Santa Fe Office by April 17, 2000 with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,

William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

Attachment

xc w/o attachment: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Linda Foster

*OL*

**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**VIA: Federal Express**  
**Airbill No.: 8204 1260 8083**

March 8, 2001

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 09 2001**

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

**SUBJECT: SUBMITTAL OF THE W. D. GRIMES WELL NO. 8  
INVESTIGATION, ADDITIONAL STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN  
ACTIVITIES**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Per your December 21, 2000 letter, Shell Exploration and Production Company respectfully submits the attached W. D. Grimes Well No. 8 Investigation, Additional Stage 1 Abatement Plan Activities report.

The report addresses the requirements and conditions as set forth in your December 21, 2000 letter.

If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or via electronic mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Brunson* /for Wayne A. Hamilton  
Wayne Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: w/attachments  
Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies

**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**FAX Transmission: (505) 476-3471**

February 14, 2001

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1220 St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

**SUBJECT: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
GRIMES BATTERY/TASKER ROAD  
ABANDON WELL # 8—CHANDLER PROPERTY  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Olson:

This letter is in response to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division's (OCD) letter of December 21, 2000 concerning the sampling activities at the Chandler residence located at 1506 N. Cobb, Hobbs, New Mexico.

Shell requests an extension to March 9, 2001 to submit the sampling results and prepare a report of the site data. The additional time is needed to review analytical data plus complete a report documenting the site information.

Please acknowledge in writing your acceptance of the date extension.

If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322, Fax (281) 544-2238 or electronic mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wayne A. Hamilton", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

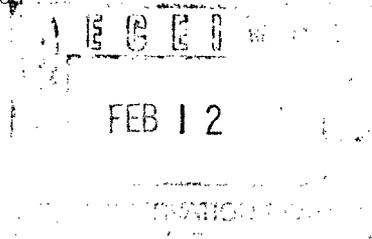
cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Cliff Brunson, BBC International

GALLAGHER, LEWIS, DOWNEY & KIM  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
40<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
BANK OF AMERICA CENTER  
700 LOUISIANA  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
Telephone: 713/222-8080  
Telecopy: 713/222-0066

Andrew Sher

Direct Line 713-238-7725

February 9, 2001



Mr. Bill Olsen  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Cause No. CV-99-00509-G; *Concepcion and Rosario Acosta, et al. vs. Shell Western E & P, Inc., et al.*; In the Fifth Judicial District Court, Lea County, New Mexico - Westgate Subdivision

Dear Mr. Olsen:

Please find enclosed, the lab results which we have received to date with regard to the sampling in the above referenced subdivision. Please note, we are missing page 16 of the lab results from October, which is Lab ID #0010061-04; client sample WSB-01. I am contacting E-Lab and when I am in receipt of this missing documentation, I will forward a copy to you.

In the interim, if you should have any questions regarding this transmittal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Sarah R. Leach  
Secretary for Andrew Sher

/srl  
Enclosure



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

January 26, 2001

J. Scott Hall  
Marte D. Lightstone  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson PA  
P.O. Box 1986  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Craig Lewis  
Andrew Sherr  
Gallagher, Lewis & Downey  
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Chase Bank Building  
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Thomas Girardi  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Michael Newell  
Patrick B. McMahan  
Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox  
311 N. First Street  
P.O. Box 1599  
Lovington, New Mexico 88620

Re: Shell Exploration and Production Proposed Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal

Counsel,

Please find enclosed a copy of the Scheduling Order issued today in this matter.

Counsel  
January 26, 2001  
Page 2

I note that not all of you have entered appearances in this matter and I will ask you to do so at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David R. Catanach". The signature is written in black ink and has a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David R. Catanach  
Hearing Examiner

Cc: Division Counsel  
Stephen C. Ross Esq., Counsel to the Oil Conservation Commission  
Commission Secretary

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**CASE NO. 12,576**

**APPLICATION OF SHELL E & P FOR  
APPROVAL OF ITS STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN,  
GRIMES BATTERY/WESTGATE SUBDIVISION,  
CITY OF HOBBS, NEW MEXICO.**

**SCHEDULING ORDER**

**THIS MATTER** having come before the Designated Hearing Officer during the pre-hearing conference December 20, 2000, and the applicant, Shell Exploration & Production Company (hereinafter referred to as "Shell"), being represented by J. Scott Hall and Marte D. Lighstone (Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson, P.A.), Michael Mazzone (Dow, Cogburn & Friedman, P.C.), and Kathleen Phillips (Shell), the Oil Conservation Division (hereinafter referred to as "OCD") being represented by Marilyn S. Hebert, Assistant General Counsel, and the parties who requested a hearing in this matter (hereinafter referred to as "the Requesting Parties") being represented by Michael Newell and Patrick B. McMahon (Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox), William G. Rosch, III (Rosch & Ross), and Craig Lewis (Gallagher, Young, Lewis, Hampton & Downey), and the Designated Hearing Officer, having reviewed the pleadings and noted that the Parties have been unable to agree upon the terms of a scheduling order,

**FINDS**, that entry of a scheduling order will substantially advance the proceedings by assisting the parties to prepare for the hearing and assisting the Oil Conservation Commission

(hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") to comprehend the evidence when presented, and that a Scheduling Order should be issued forthwith.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED**, as follows:

1. The Parties shall hereinafter adhere to the schedule of submissions set forth herein.
2. On or before March 16, 2001, the Parties shall serve on all Parties and file with the Commission Secretary a brief summary of its position with regard to the proposed abatement plan in this matter, including a brief summary of the evidence to be presented in support of this position.
3. On or before March 16, 2001, the Parties shall serve on all Parties and file with the Commission Secretary a list of the witnesses each Party intends to call to testify at the hearing together with a brief summary of the witness' testimony and whether or not the witness will give fact or opinion testimony.
4. On or before March 16, 2001, the Parties shall serve on all Parties and file with the Commission Secretary a list of exhibits each Party intends to introduce at the hearing of this matter.
5. On or before May 4, 2001, the Parties shall serve on all Parties and file with the Commission Secretary four (4) copies of prepared written direct testimony of each witness the Party intends to call to testify at the hearing. The pages of the prepared written testimony shall be paginated consecutively and shall contain line numbers on the left-hand side of the page. The prepared written testimony may be submitted electronically, but each Party should ensure that the Commission has received the submission and its format is compatible. The testimony should include copies of any exhibit referred to therein. Each witness must be present at the hearing to adopt, under oath, his prepared written testimony and submit to cross-examination.

6. Testimony of a rebuttal witness whose testimony becomes necessary as a result of submission of any other Party's prepared written testimony shall be identified to all Parties and the Commission Secretary as soon as practicable and prepared written rebuttal testimony shall be submitted as soon as practicable before the hearing.

7. A subpoena for witnesses or evidence will be issued by upon request, but Parties shall insure that ample time is allowed for processing and service.

8. Discovery shall be permitted only upon motion and good cause shown.

9. Pre-hearing motions shall be filed on or before May 18, 2001. Responses to pre-hearing motions must be filed within ten (10) days of the responding party's receipt of the motion to which a response is being filed. The Hearing Examiner will determine whether or not a hearing is required on any pre-hearing motion and, if so, the Hearing Examiner will schedule a hearing. The Hearing Examiner will attempt to rule on all pre-hearing motions at least seven (7) days before the first hearing in this matter.

10. The evidentiary hearing in this matter will be held in the Oil Conservation Division Hearing Room of the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, commencing at 9:00 a.m. on June 18, 2000. The Parties estimate the hearing to take three (3) days to complete.

11. The Parties should address the issue of burden of proof and order of presentation by way of pre-hearing motion, if necessary. Without having the benefit of submissions of the Parties on this issue, it appears that Shell, the applicant for the abatement plan, bears the burden of proving its proposed plan meets the criteria of the applicable statutes and regulations, and should therefore present evidence in support of its proposed plan, followed by the Requesting

Parties who oppose the proposed abatement plan, followed by the OCD. If the Parties believe this should be handled differently, an appropriate motion directed to this issue should be filed.

12. The scope of the Commission's review of this matter shall be limited to Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan (AP-2) for the Westgate Subdivision/Grimes Tank Battery/Tasker Road.

**ORDERED THIS 26TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2001.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David R. Catanach", written over a horizontal line.

David R. Catanach, Hearing Examiner

12/2000 Shell Westgate Prehearing Conference

Content of scheduling order

issues

- 1) length hearing
- 2) evidence to be presented
- 3) hearing date

OCD negligent  
Case not complete  
OCD - hearing date in April

Mar. 1

Lewis - Burden on Shell

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> - Protestants

Mar 15<sup>th</sup> - Shell, OCD

April 15<sup>th</sup> - motion

May ~~1<sup>st</sup>~~<sup>1<sup>st</sup> week</sup> - hearing

Rosch - Geographic area, ~~at~~ plan inadequate, needs to be expanded

- Pump station east of subdivision never sampled

1/5 deadline for submission of scheduling order

Location - Habbs 2

Protestants will respond by 12/25 - 30

# Shell E&P Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



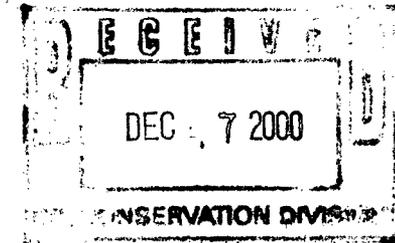
Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**  
**AIR WAYBILL NO. 821763159708**

December 6, 2000

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



**SUBJECT: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)**  
**GRIMES BATTERY/TASKER ROAD**  
**HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Olson:

This letter is in response to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division's (OCD) letter of November 1, 2000 concerning the split sampling activities at the Chandler residence located at 1506 N. Cobb, Hobbs, New Mexico. As requested, Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) plans to conduct the re-sampling of the soils at the Chandler residence and the following activities described below:

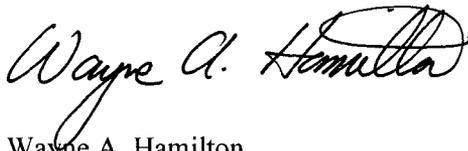
1. Please find enclosed a copy of SEPCo's laboratory analytical results and associated quality assurance/quality control data for the August 24, 2000 split sampling of soils from the Chandler residence located at 1506 N. Cobb.
2. SEPCo will perform additional soil sampling at approximately the same point on the north side of the Chandler residence as the OCD did on August 24, 2000 (Figure 1). A direct push split spoon sampling method will be utilized to extend the depth beneath the foundation of the Chandler residence. Two to three samples will be taken dependent upon equipment capability (approx. 1-2 feet, 4-6 feet, and 7-10 feet) and analyzed for TPH using 418.1, 8015 MOD, GRO/DRO, BTEX (8260B), and OCD metals (total). Additionally, hydrocarbon fractionations will be done for possible Risk Based Corrective Action (RBCA) soil cleanup concentrations. This information could then be included in the Stage 2 Abatement Plan, if warranted.
3. SEPCo will perform additional sampling near and around the abandoned well between the residences located at 1506 and 1510 N. Cobb using the direct push split spoon sampling method. The purpose of this sampling is to verify or disprove the data that was collected by SEPCo at a split-sampling event conducted by the Plaintiffs on October 12, 2000. The Plaintiffs conducted soil boring sampling near the abandoned well utilizing a trailer-mounted hollow stem auger rig. Because this rig had been used the day before at a split sampling event in the backyard of 1330 Tasker (Mrs. Rising's' residence) and had not been decontaminated before conducting the soil borings near the abandoned well, the analytical results received from this sampling are suspect. SEPCo's results (from samples split with

Plaintiffs) do show hydrocarbon detections, but we believe they could be the result of Plaintiffs' using a contaminated drill stem and equipment. We anticipate sampling in about three areas around the abandoned well (Figure 1). We will take two to three sample intervals based on equipment capability (approx. 1-2 feet, 4-6 feet, and 7-10 feet) and analyze for TPH using 418.1, 8015 MOD, GRO/DRO, BTEX (8260B), and OCD metals (total). Additionally, hydrocarbon fractionations will be done for possible RBCA soil cleanup concentrations. This information could then be included in the Stage 2 Abatement Plan, if warranted.

Upon receipt of the laboratory analytical results of these sampling events, the data will be forwarded to the OCD.

If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or Cliff Brunson of BBC International at (505) 397-6388.

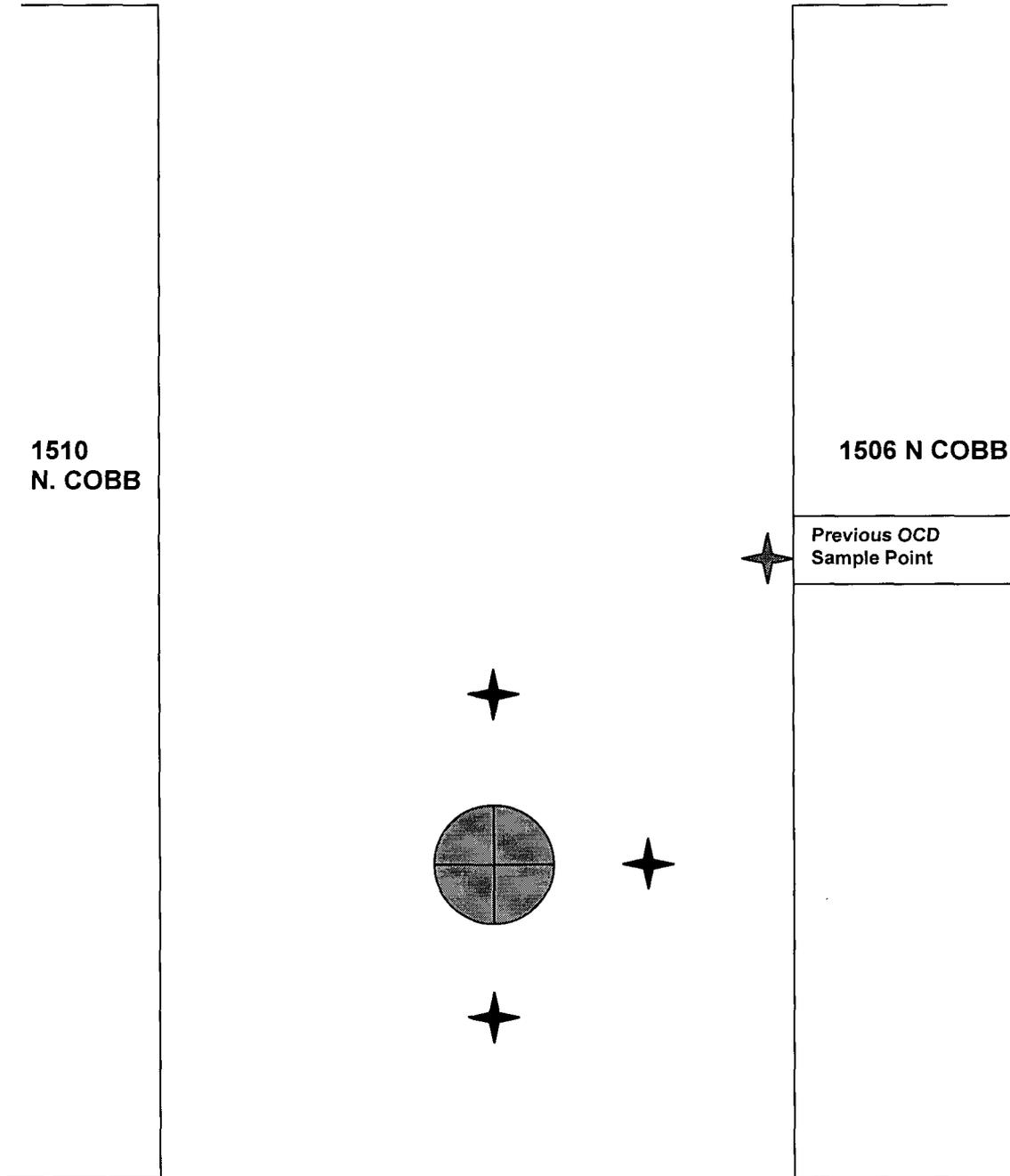
Sincerely,



Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

encl.

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International, Inc.



= ABANDONDED WELL



= PROPOSED SAMPLE POINT

<b>BBC INTERNATIONAL, INC.</b>	
<b>CHANDLER RESIDENCE - 1506 N. COBB &amp; ABANDONED WELL SAMPLING POINTS</b>	
Date: 11-30-00	Drawn by: CB
Disk:	File Name: Westgate-Chandler-Well 8 Sampling
Scale: Not to Scale	<b>FIGURE 1</b>



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
**Oil Conservation Division**

December 15, 2000

*Via Facsimile and First Class Mail*

J. Scott Hall  
Marte D. Lightstone  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson PA  
P.O. Box 1986  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Craig Lewis  
Gallagher, Lewis & Downey  
Bank of America Center  
700 Louisiana, 40th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
Chase Bank Building  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, Texas 77002

Thomas Girardi  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Michael Newell  
Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox  
311 N. First Street  
P.O. Box 1599  
Lovington, New Mexico 88620

Re: Shell Exploration and Production Proposed Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal

Counsel,

My previous notice failed to set out that the time set for the pre-hearing conference is 1:30 p.m. on December 20, 2000. If this creates difficulty for anyone, please let me know as soon as possible.

Shell E & P Application  
December 15, 2000  
Page 2

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Ross  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
Counsel, New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

Cc: Lori Wrotenbery, Director, OCD  
Mark Ashley, Hearing Examiner  
~~Roger C. Anderson, Chief, Environmental Bureau~~  
Lyn Hebert, Associate General Counsel, NMEMNRD  
Commission Secretary



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**L. Frotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation

December 11, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. 5051-3952**

Mr. William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
Chase Bank Building  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, Texas 77002

**RE: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN PROPOSAL  
FORMER SHELL GRIMES TANK BATTERY AND WESTGATE SUBDIVISION  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Rosch:

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) is in receipt of your October 16, 2000 correspondence requesting a public hearing on the above referenced Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal submitted by the Shell Oil Exploration & Production Company (Shell). The request for hearing has been referred to the Director's Office.

In addition, your correspondence states, in items 2, 3, 4, and 5, that hydrocarbon contamination exists at a number of locations which are not addressed under Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan. The correspondence also states that samples taken in these areas by your firm document the existence of this contamination. The OCD has no record of receiving this information for review during consideration of the abatement plan. The OCD requests that you provide all information related to the presence of oilfield wastes and hydrocarbon contamination at the locations identified in items 2, 3, 4 and 5 of your October 16, 2000 correspondence including:

1. A description of all known contaminated areas and any known information on the types of contamination existing at these locations.
2. A map showing the location of each contaminated area.
3. Copies of the analytical results of all field and laboratory sampling and associated quality assurance/quality control data.
4. A copy of the sampling and analysis plan employed during the investigations.

Mr. William G. Rosch, III  
December 11, 2000  
Page 2

Please provide this information to the OCD Santa Fe Office by January 12, 2000 with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office.

The OCD appreciates your input on all environmental and public health issues relating to the abatement plan. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 827-7152 or Bill Olson of my staff at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely:



Roger C. Anderson, Chief  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
Wayne A. Hamilton, Shell E&P Company  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

December 7, 2000

J. Scott Hall  
Marte D. Lightstone  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson PA  
P.O. Box 1986  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Craig Lewis  
Gallagher, Lewis & Downey  
Bank of America Center  
700 Louisiana, 40th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
Chase Bank Building  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, Texas 77002

Thomas Girardi  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Michael Newell  
Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox  
311 N. First Street  
P.O. Box 1599  
Lovington, New Mexico 88620

Re: Shell Exploration and Production Proposed Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal

Counsel,

A request has been made by Mr. Rosch to reschedule the pre-hearing conference in this matter to December 20, 2000. Unless anyone has a difficulty with this new date and time, I propose that we reschedule the conference for Mr. Rosch's convenience.

Shell E & P Application  
December 7, 2000  
Page 2

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Ross  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
Counsel, New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

Cc: Lori Wrotenbery, Director, OCD  
Mark Ashley, Hearing Examiner  
Roger C. Anderson, Chief, Environmental Bureau  
Lyn Hebert, Associate General Counsel, NMEMNRD  
Commission Secretary



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenberg**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

November 30, 2000

J. Scott Hall  
Marte D. Lightstone  
Miller, Stratvert & Torgerson PA  
P.O. Box 1986  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Craig Lewis  
Gallagher, Lewis & Downey  
Bank of America Center  
700 Louisiana, 40th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
Chase Bank Building  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, Texas 77002

Thomas Girardi  
Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Michael Newell  
Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox  
311 N. First Street  
P.O. Box 1599  
Lovington, New Mexico 88620

Re: Shell Exploration and Production Proposed Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal

Counsel,

A timely request for hearing has been made on the application of Shell Exploration and Production Company for approval of its Stage 2 abatement plan for contamination at the Shell Grimes Battery/Westgate Subdivision in the City of Hobbs, New Mexico. For reasons set forth in the attached Administrative Order, this matter has been referred to the

Shell E & P Application  
November 30, 2000  
Page 2

New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission for hearing pursuant to N.M.S.A. 1978, § 70-2-6(B).

Division Hearing Examiner Mark Ashley will be the hearing officer assigned to conduct the hearing on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Ashley will conduct a pre-hearing conference on December 19, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the offices of the Oil Conservation Division, 2040 S. Pacheco Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico. During the conference, the terms of the pre-hearing order will be discussed.

The pre-hearing order may contain any of the following, as necessary: (1) the date, location and duration of the hearing; (2) notice of the hearing; (3) a deadline for submitting witness and exhibit lists; (4) a summary of the contentions the parties expect to prove during the hearing; (5) a requirement that the parties submit pre-filed direct testimony and a deadline for submission of same; (6) a deadline for submission and disposition of pre-hearing motions; (7) provisions for discovery, if needed; and (8) provisions for pre-hearing motion practice, if needed. Please be prepared to discuss these matters during the pre-hearing conference.

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Ross  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
Counsel, New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission

Cc: Lori Wrotenbery, Director, OCD  
Mark Ashley, Hearing Examiner  
~~Roger C. Anderson, Chief, Environmental Bureau~~  
Lyn Hebert, Associate General Counsel, NMEMNRD  
Commission Secretary



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. MISL.-01

**IN RE: THE APPLICATION OF SHELL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION  
FOR APPROVAL OF ITS STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN, GRIMES  
BATTERY/WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, CITY OF HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

### ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

THIS MATTER having come before the Oil Conservation Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (hereinafter referred to as "the Division") upon request for hearing on the application of Shell Exploration and Production for approval of its Stage 2 abatement plan for contamination at the Grimes Battery/Westgate Subdivision in the City of Hobbs, New Mexico, and the Director of the Division, having reviewed the above-referenced request for hearing,

#### FINDS:

1. This hearing has the potential to attract the public interest. In addition, at least five attorneys have contacted this office about the matter, representing many potential parties. The matters are highly technical and will require the testimony of experts as well as lay persons. There could be dozens of witnesses to hear and a multitude of exhibits and technical information presented. Depending on the level of complexity attained, the hearing could take days to conclude.
2. Were the Division to hear this matter, any resulting order may be appealed to the Oil Conservation Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") *de novo* pursuant to Rule 1220; if that occurred in this case, the end result would be two long hearings instead of one, at great expense in time and resources to all concerned.
3. The Oil and Gas Act provides that the Director of the Division may refer matters for hearing to the Commission if the Director, in her discretion, determines that the Commission should hear the matter. *See* N.M.S.A. 1978, § 70-2-6(B).
4. Because of the potential that two hearings may ultimately be held in this matter instead of one, this matter should be referred directly to the Commission for hearing.

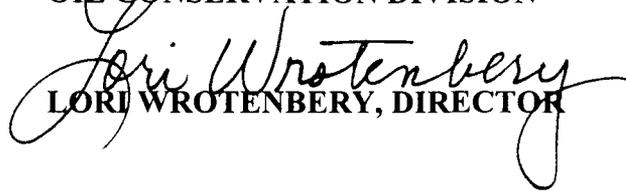
Administrative Order Misl.-01  
Shell E & P  
November 30, 2000  
Page 2

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, AS FOLLOWS:

This matter is hereby referred to the Oil Conservation Commission for docketing before that body.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 30th day of November, 2000.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

  
LORI WROTENBERY, DIRECTOR

SEAL

Cc: Parties and attorneys of record  
Roger C. Anderson, Chief, Environmental Bureau  
Counsel, Oil Conservation Commission  
Commission Secretary

**Olson, William**

**From:** Olson, William  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2000 10:44 AM  
**To:** 'Hamilton, Wayne WA SEPCO'  
**Subject:** RE: Extension Request: Stage 2: Abatement Plan (AP-2)--Chandler Property

The below extension request is approved.

-----  
**From: Hamilton, Wayne WA SEPCO [SMTP:WH195042@MSXSEPC.SHELL.COM]**  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2000 10:32 AM  
**To:** 'Bill Olson, OCD'  
**Subject:** Extension Request: Stage 2: Abatement Plan (AP-2)--Chandler Property

Per our telephone conversation on November 29, 2000, Shell requests a one week extension in submitting the work plan for the Chandler residence.

The new deadline would be Friday, December 8, 2000.

Your November 1, 2000 letter requested that Shell submit split sample data and work plan for the Chandler property.

The one week extension is needed to review data and determine best method to obtain soil samples.

Please send a confirmation e-mail that the extension has been granted.

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Manager Retained Properties

Shell E&P Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
WCK Room 4154  
Houston, TX 77079

Voice: 281-544-2322  
FAX: 281-544-2238

E-Mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com)

**CONFIDENTIAL NOTICE**

This electronic transmission/mail and any documents or other writings sent with it may contain privileged and/or confidential information. "Prepared in Anticipation of Litigation...Confidential and Privileged, Lawyer-Client Communication, Do Not Distribute or Copy, Do Not Place in Unprotected Files. Any dissemination, copying, or use of this e-mail by or to anyone other than the designated and intended recipient(s) is unauthorized.



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
**Oil Conservation Division**

November 1, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. 5051-3761**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
Rm. 4304 Woodcreek  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, Texas 77079

**RE: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
GRIMES BATTERY/TASKER ROAD  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

On August 24, 2000 the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) obtained soil samples from the Glenda Chandler residence at 1506 N. Cobb, Hobbs, New Mexico. Shell E&P Company (Shell) split these samples with the OCD. The sample from the south side of the house did not detect any oil or natural gas production related contaminants. The sample from the north side of the house detected very low levels of xylene and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). Shell verbally informed the OCD that xylene and TPH were not detected in the sample that the OCD had split with Shell.

As you are aware, this area has been identified by the intervenors as a possible area of oil and natural gas contamination. In order to resolve the conflicting sampling results, the OCD requires that Shell:

1. Provide the OCD with a copy of Shell's laboratory analytical results and associated quality assurance/quality control data for the August 24, 2000 split sampling of soils from the Chandler residence.
2. Provide a work plan to perform additional soil sampling at the Chandler residence to confirm whether oil and gas related petroleum contaminants are present in the soils in this area.

Wayne A. Hamilton  
November 1, 2000  
Page 2

The OCD requires that Shell submit the above information to the OCD Santa Fe Office by December 1, 2000 with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Olson of my staff at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International  
Glenda Chandler

RECEIVED

OCT 16 2000

GALLAGHER, LEWIS & DOWNEY  
BANK OF AMERICA CENTER  
700 LOUISIANA, 40TH FLOOR  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
CRAIG LEWIS

ROSCH & ROSS  
CHASE BANK BUILDING  
707 TRAVIS, SUITE 2100  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
WILLIAM G. ROSCH, III

GIRARDI & KEESE  
1126 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017  
THOMAS GIRARDI

HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX  
311 N. FIRST STREET, PO BOX 1599  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
MICHAEL NEWELL

October 16, 2000

**By Facsimile (505) 827-8177**  
**Electronic Mail and Overnight Delivery**

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
2040 South Pacheco Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This letter is in response to your letter to me of September 19, 2000, and consists of comments with regard to Shell E&P Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal.

Once again, Shell E&P Company's proposed plan for remediation, of the Westgate Subdivision contamination is inadequate and fails to adequately provide for the protection of the residents of the subdivision, both in planning and application.

1. The plan's provisions for the protection of the residents of the Westgate Subdivision are inadequate, not only in its technical approach but also in its recent application. No prophylactic approach was taken for the protection of the residents prior to the September 29, 2000, destruction of residences in the subdivision and during the time various earth-moving equipment and dump trucks were scattering, moving, and loading debris from the destruction. As a result, large plumes of fugitive contaminated dust particulate and noxious odors were created thereby increasing

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
October 16, 2000  
Page 2

exposure levels, as predicted, of the residents via inhalation, ingestion, and absorption. We suggested that this event, if not properly addressed, would occur and in fact it has. Accordingly, Shell E&P Company's proposed plan for remediation of the Westgate Subdivision contamination has proven to be one that provides merely a technical approach to the removal of highly contaminated soils as if those soils were in an unpopulated area.

The plan and its application wholly ignores the several extremely important issues raised in our December 10, 1999, letter to you that impact the health, safety, and welfare of the men, women, and children who live, work, and play in the subdivision. This insensitivity for the potential for exposure to residents of suspended particulate matter and deposition of that particulate on the soils, yards, roofs, automobiles, playground equipment, and toys of the residents downwind of these excavation sites is frankly, intolerable. Exposure to such is something that the plan, as anticipated, wholly failed to prevent. Accordingly, the consequences predicted in my letter of December 10, 1999, prove to be true and should be addressed in a public hearing.

2. Additionally, the plan fails to adequately address areas of contamination existing within the subdivision. By way of example, on October 11, 2000, at 1330 Tasker, oil field waste and hydrocarbon contamination was observed at 3-5 feet, 8-11 feet, and 20-23 feet. Samples were taken and the laboratory results will be available at a public hearing. The abatement plan does not address the remediation of contamination existing through those levels.
3. Approximately 25 feet northwest of monitor well No. 10 there are visible concentrations of hydrocarbon and oil field waste, just 18 inches below the surface, which is not addressed by Shell E&P Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan.
4. Additionally, approximately 70 feet west of monitor well No. 2 there is subsurface hydrocarbon waste and oil field waste.
5. Between 1510 and 1508 Cobb Street there is subsurface hydrocarbon and oil field waste not addressed by Shell E&P Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan.

We are ready, willing, and able to present, at a public hearing, our concerns and laboratory results of sampling done at the aforementioned sites.

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
October 16, 2000  
Page 3

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William G. Rosch, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

William G. Rosch, III

WGR/jla  
00:2:1087

**ROSCH & ROSS**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
A PARTNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS  
2100 CHASE BANK BUILDING  
707 TRAVIS  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

## FAX COVER SHEET

October 16, 2000

2:12 PM

Page 1 of 4

Fax No. 00 - 0303

<b>FROM:</b> William G. Rosch, III	<b>TO:</b> Mr. Roger C. Anderson
<b>PHONE NUMBER:</b> (713) 222-9595	<b>COMPANY/FIRM NAME:</b> New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
<b>FAX NUMBER:</b> (713) 222-0906	<b>PHONE NUMBER:</b> (505) 827-7131
<b>FAX OPERATOR:</b> Julie	<b>FAX NUMBER:</b> (505) 827-8177

### MESSAGE/REFERENCE

Re: Shell E&P Company Abatement Plan AP-2

If possible, please check transmission after last page. If you are not receiving clearly, or if you have any problems with the transmission, please telephone us immediately.

Unless otherwise indicated or obvious from the nature of the transmittal, the information contained in this facsimile message is attorney privileged and confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone and return the original message to Rosch & Ross at the above address via U.S. Postal Service at our expense. Thank you.

**GALLAGHER, LEWIS & DOWNEY**  
BANK OF AMERICA CENTER  
700 LOUISIANA, 40TH FLOOR  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
CRAIG LEWIS

**ROSCH & ROSS**  
CHASE BANK BUILDING  
707 TRAVIS, SUITE 2100  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
WILLIAM G. ROSCH, III

**GIRARDI & KEESE**  
1126 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017  
THOMAS GIRARDI

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**  
311 N. FIRST STREET, PO BOX 1599  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
MICHAEL NEWELL

October 16, 2000

**By Facsimile (505) 827-8177**  
**Electronic Mail and Overnight Delivery**

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
2040 South Pacheco Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This letter is in response to your letter to me of September 19, 2000, and consists of comments with regard to Shell E&P Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal.

Once again, Shell E&P Company's proposed plan for remediation, of the Westgate Subdivision contamination is inadequate and fails to adequately provide for the protection of the residents of the subdivision, both in planning and application.

1. The plan's provisions for the protection of the residents of the Westgate Subdivision are inadequate, not only in its technical approach but also in its recent application. No prophylactic approach was taken for the protection of the residents prior to the September 29, 2000, destruction of residences in the subdivision and during the time various earth-moving equipment and dump trucks were scattering, moving, and loading debris from the destruction. As a result, large plumes of fugitive contaminated dust particulate and noxious odors were created thereby increasing

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
October 16, 2000  
Page 2

exposure levels, as predicted, of the residents via inhalation, ingestion, and absorption. We suggested that this event, if not properly addressed, would occur and in fact it has. Accordingly, Shell E&P Company's proposed plan for remediation of the Westgate Subdivision contamination has proven to be one that provides merely a technical approach to the removal of highly contaminated soils as if those soils were in an unpopulated area.

The plan and its application wholly ignores the several extremely important issues raised in our December 10, 1999, letter to you that impact the health, safety, and welfare of the men, women, and children who live, work, and play in the subdivision. This insensitivity for the potential for exposure to residents of suspended particulate matter and deposition of that particulate on the soils, yards, roofs, automobiles, playground equipment, and toys of the residents downwind of these excavation sites is frankly, intolerable. Exposure to such is something that the plan, as anticipated, wholly failed to prevent. Accordingly, the consequences predicted in my letter of December 10, 1999, prove to be true and should be addressed in a public hearing.

2. Additionally, the plan fails to adequately address areas of contamination existing within the subdivision. By way of example, on October 11, 2000, at 1330 Tasker, oil field waste and hydrocarbon contamination was observed at 3-5 feet, 8-11 feet, and 20-23 feet. Samples were taken and the laboratory results will be available at a public hearing. The abatement plan does not address the remediation of contamination existing through those levels.
3. Approximately 25 feet northwest of monitor well No. 10 there are visible concentrations of hydrocarbon and oil field waste, just 18 inches below the surface, which is not addressed by Shell E&P Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan.
4. Additionally, approximately 70 feet west of monitor well No. 2 there is subsurface hydrocarbon waste and oil field waste.
5. Between 1510 and 1508 Cobb Street there is subsurface hydrocarbon and oil field waste not addressed by Shell E&P Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan.

We are ready, willing, and able to present, at a public hearing, our concerns and laboratory results of sampling done at the aforementioned sites.

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
October 16, 2000  
Page 3

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William G. Rosch, III", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William G. Rosch, III

WGR/jla  
00:2:1087



JAMES GILBERT/HOBBS NEWS-SUN

### ***Demolishing condemned homes***

Work crews under the guidance of BBC International demolish one of the three contaminated homes on Tasker Street in the Westgate subdivision. Two of the houses were torn down on Thursday morning. The remaining home will be destroyed today. The homes were purchased by Shell Oil Co. more than

a year ago because petroleum hydrocarbons above state standards were discovered near and under property. Shell said the only way to get rid of the contamination is to destroy the buildings.

*Hobbs News Sun  
9/29/00*

Hobbs News Sun 9/28/00

# Westgate homes set for demolition

## Shell Oil Co. says contaminated houses must be torn down

STARLA JONES  
HOBBS NEWS-SUN

Three homes in the contaminated Westgate subdivision will be demolished beginning today.

Purchased by Shell Oil Co. more than a year ago because petroleum hydrocarbons above state standards were discovered near and under property on which the structures are built, Shell said the only way to get rid of the contamination is to destroy the buildings.

"We were going to tear down them eventually," Shell spokesman Rich Hansen said on Wednesday. "But we moved it up because there's been just too many problems out there with vandalism. We don't think it's a safe situation."

In addition to vandalism reports to vacant homes at 1341 Cobb and 1331 Tasker and a duplex at 1326 and 1328 Tasker, there also has been an incident of attempted arson, Hansen said.

It'll take approximately one week to demolish the homes to ground level, then remove debris to approved landfills, according to Hansen. Foundations for the three houses will be removed after Shell's final soil cleanup plan is approved by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.

Site assessment to define the full extent of soil and ground-water contamination in Westgate began on July 27, 1998, after Shell Oil Co. officials admitted responsibility for an asphalt-like substance found at a modular home construction site on Tasker.

The 1997 discovery halted construction of the new homes and resulted in a public hearing in April of 1998 attended by about 100 alarmed residents.

The neighborhood is adjacent to the "Grimes Lease," an oil production property operated by Shell between the late 1920s and 1993, according to Hansen.

A total of 64 Westgate residents or former residents filed suit in District Court in October of 1999 alleging their health has suffered as a result of the contamination of their neighborhood.

The lawsuit is still pending.

In the meantime, Shell spent nearly a year conducting scientific and environmental tests, then submitted a detailed plan to OCD in October of 1999 outlining its plan for cleaning up the neighborhood.

Hansen said the OCD approved the cleanup plan last week but is waiting on attorneys involved in the case to determine whether a public hearing will be scheduled before remediation begins.

OCD officials in Hobbs were not available Wednesday afternoon to comment on Hansen's contention.

Hansen added that Shell is ready to be done with the project.

"We've submitted the plan; we've worked closely with the OCD and they've finally said 'Yeah, it's complete,'" Hansen said. "We can either clean it up or go through another six months of public debate."

OIL CONSERVATION DIV.

**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

00 SEP 28 AM 3:33

**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-574-359-005**

September 26, 2000

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: DEMOLITION OF HOMES IN WESTGATE SUBDIVISION**

Dear Mr. Olson:

This letter is to confirm our phone conversation about Shell Exploration and Production Company's (SEPCo) plans to demolish 3 homes in the Westgate neighborhood. As discussed, these homes have recently been subject to vandalism and arson attempts.

The homes are located at 1341 Cobb, 1331 Tasker, and 1326 and 1328 Tasker, the latter being a duplex. The need for demolition now is due to safety concerns for the residents in the neighborhood in the event of a fire or injury due to vandalism attempts. Since September 6<sup>th</sup>, Shell has maintained 24-hour security around the homes after discovering the vandalism and arson attempts. The homes will be removed down to the foundation, driveways, and sidewalks. The foundations will be removed during actual Stage 2 Abatement remediation activities. All trees, shrubs, and bushes will also be removed. All materials will be disposed of at an approved landfill for construction materials.

The start date will be September 28, 2000 and last approximately one week. A flyer will be distributed throughout the neighborhood prior to September 28<sup>th</sup> informing the residents of the activities. I have enclosed a copy of the flyer for your files.

If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or Cliff Brunson of BBC International at (505) 397-6388.

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Brunson* /for Wayne A. Hamilton

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International, Inc.



## **Because We Want You to Know**

As you know, Shell has been working with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) in the Westgate Subdivision to develop a formal soil cleanup plan for the area.

As part of this project, three houses on Cobb and Tasker Streets were purchased by Shell and are currently unoccupied. Unfortunately, these houses have recently been vandalized and, at one house, arson was also attempted. While Shell has initiated 24-hour security for these properties, the best way to protect the community is to remove the houses.

Here is what we plan to do:

- Beginning approximately Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., the houses at 1341 Cobb and 1331 Tasker, and a duplex at 1326 & 1328 Tasker will be demolished above ground level. The debris from this operation will be transported to approved landfills. We expect to be finished in about a week.
- During this time, barriers will be constructed around the properties for additional safety.
- The foundations of the homes will be removed at a later date once Shell's final soil cleanup plan is approved by OCD.

Although we plan to work as quickly as possible, we apologize in advance for any inconvenience that might be caused by the removal of these houses. If you have any questions about what we're doing, please feel free to call us toll free at (800) 498-8109.

**Shell Oil Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079**

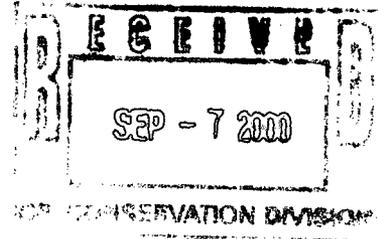
Sept. 27, 2000



PHONE (505) 397-6388 • FAX (505) 397-0397 • 1324 W. MARLAND • P.O. BOX 297 • HOBBS, NM 88241-0297  
E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**  
**AIRBILL NUMBER: 8187-0384-7377**

September 6, 2000



Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY**  
**STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)**  
**WESGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Following up our phone discussion of today, on behalf of Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo), I would like to inform the OCD of a couple of changes in the Stage 2 Abatement Plan (AP-2).

As we discussed, the changes to be made are located in Appendix III (Health & Safety Plan), page 10-4, Section 10.3 Action Levels, Table 10-1. The PEL action levels for Toluene and H<sub>2</sub>S have been changed from 200 ppm and 20 ppm to 100 ppm and 10 ppm respectively. These changes reflect a newer action level (1989) of 100 ppm for Toluene versus an older level of 200 ppm (1971). The H<sub>2</sub>S action level is being changed to standardize with the OCD's requirements of 711 facilities and normal operating practices. The new action level is 10 ppm versus 20 ppm.

I have included a copy of the new table reflecting these changes so that you may insert and replace this with the older page in the Abatement Plan.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 397-6388 or via electronic mail: [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cliff P. Brunson".

Cliff P. Brunson  
President

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies  
Wayne A. Hamilton, SEPCo

initially document the results of real-time air monitoring every 15 minutes. This frequency can be reduced or increased at the discretion of the SSS as conditions warrant.

### 10.3 ACTION LEVELS

Table 10-1 contains a list of the chemicals found in crude oil that will be monitored, and their OSHA permissible exposure limits (PELs). The OSHA PEL is an exposure limit for airborne contaminants and represent the average exposure concentration in air that should not be exceeded over any continuous 8-hr period (except for H<sub>2</sub>S). If daily average exposure for workers by inhalation could exceed these values, proper respiratory protection will be required. Details regarding the health effects of these chemicals are presented in the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) in Appendix B.

**Table 10-1. Chemical Hazards**

Constituent	PEL (ppm)
Benzene	1.0
Toluene	100
Ethylbenzene	100
Xylenes	100
Mercury	0.012
Hydrogen Sulfide (15 minute std.)	10

Only a few compounds emitted from the crude oil are expected to be found in detectable concentrations, especially since this is a highly weathered spill. Even when detected, those substances are expected to be in low concentrations. The potential chemicals of concern (COC) are volatile organic compounds (VOCs), mercury, hydrogen sulfide, and methane. Of these chemicals, aromatic BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylenes) are of most concern from a toxicity perspective at this site.

To be protective of worker and public health, action levels have been established for the site to ensure that the average ambient concentrations of the compounds of concern remain well below the OSHA PELs.

#### 10.3.1 Work Place Action Levels

Tables 10-2 through 10-7 present chemical or physical hazard criteria and a response guide that will serve as the basis for abatement actions and PPE selection during the remedial activities. Monitoring at active work locations will primarily be performed at employee breathing zones and the work location perimeter. Changing levels of protection, upgrading respiratory protection, or changing work practices is based on maintaining the upper limit of the action level for approximately 1 to 5 minutes (i.e., a non-transient reading) or at the discretion of the SSS. If changes are required, the SSS will document the changes using the Field Change Form. This will include both upgrades and downgrades to the posted protection levels.

The purpose of the real-time monitoring is to alert on-site personnel to the presence of elevated (above background) levels of organic vapors at the work site with the potential for occupation exposure to workers on-site or for the release and migration of vapors that could cause an odor in the adjacent community. The objective is to control vapor emissions such that vapor concentrations at the excavation site do not exceed 5 ppmv and vapor concentrations at the work site perimeter do not exceed 1.0 ppmv. The sensitivity of the PID instrument is 0.1 ppmv and this is sufficient for this task. If persistent (30-

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION

Telephone  Personal

Time  
approx 1000 hrs

Date 9/6/00

Originating Party

Other Parties

Bill Olson - Envir. Bureau

Cliff Brunson - BBC

Subject

Shell Westgate

Discussion

OCD question on 8/21/00 document. MSDS show PEL of 100 ppm for Toluene, but air action level in Stage 2 Plan (Table 10-1, pg 10-4) uses 200 ppm which appears to be a value used in 1971.

Also OCD uses H<sub>2</sub>S action level of 10 ppm for public health, not 20 ppm (as derived from OSHA ceiling concentration) as used for action level in Stage 2 (Table 10-1, pg 10-4)

Conclusions or Agreements

Shell will send letter correcting Toluene action level to 100 ppm and using OCD H<sub>2</sub>S action level of 10 ppm

Distribution

Chris Williams - OCD Hobbs

Signed

Will Olson

**OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

**2040 South Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
(505) 827-7133  
Fax: (505) 827-8177**



**(PLEASE DELIVER THIS FAX)**

**To:** Patrick McMahon - Heidel, Samberson, Nowell & Cox

**From:** Bill Olson

**Date:** 8/1/00

**Number of Pages (Includes Cover Sheet)** 3

**Message:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**If you have any trouble receiving this, please call:  
(505) 827-7133**

ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
BOX 2088  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Memo No. 4-78  
November 20, 1978

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: NEW MEXICO OPERATORS  
FROM: JOE D. RAMEY, DIRECTOR  
SUBJECT: PITS RELATED TO OIL FIELD OPERATIONS

The Division is attempting to determine the numbers and locations of all surface pits associated with oil and gas operations in the State. One phase of this study relates to oil and gas production where pits are normally found in association with oil tank batteries and gas wells.

We are asking that each operator in the State advise us as to the number and location of pits associated with his tank batteries and gas wells. To assist operators in responding to this request we are forwarding a computer listing of their tank batteries and gas wells upon which the required information is to be placed. The number of pits at any tank battery site or gas well site and the location of such pit(s) are to be shown opposite the battery or well listed and under the appropriate columns (see example on reverse side of this memorandum). This survey covers oil and gas producing facilities only. Any pit at the same site belonging to the oil or gas transporter should be included in the response. Emergency pits associated with any injection operations are not to be included.

After filling in the required data please RETURN THE PRINTOUT TO EDDIE SEAY, OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION, BOX 1980, HOBBS, NEW MEXICO 88240. The completed questionnaire is to be returned by January 31, 1979. If an extension of time to file is required, please contact Mr. Seay prior to that date.

Questions may be directed to Mr. R. L. Stamets in Santa Fe, phone 505 827-2434, or Mr. Eddie Seay in Hobbs, phone 505 393-6161.

fd/

LEASE, TRACT OR BATTERY

RECORD ON LSE

LSE OR BATT WELL COUNT

NO OF PIT AT LSE/BATT

LOCATION OF PITS U SEC TWP RGE

\*\*\* OIL SECTION \*\*\*

ARPCHEAD GRAYBURG \*\*\*\*\*

STATE M 2 L 36 21S 36E 2
STATE N 4 M 2 22S 36E 3

1
1

K 36-21-36
N 2-22-36

PLINEBRY OIL AND GAS \*\*\*\*\*

OWEN 7 I 35 21S 37E 3
BRUNSON B 6 M 3 22S 37E 3
STATE P CCM 1 F 32 22S 38E 1

2
1
1

E 36-21-37
M 3-22-37
F 32-22-38

BRUNSON ABC, SOUTH \*\*\*\*\*

STATE P 4 M 32 22S 38E 1

1

M 32-22-38

\*\*\* COMINGLED SECTION \*\*\*

MESCALEFC SAN ANDRES \*\*\*\*\*

STATE AD 10 B 23 10S 32E 7
DRINKARC \*\*\*\*\*

2

A 23-10-32

STATE P 2 L 32 22S 38E 3

1

K 32-22-38

TUPB (OIL) \*\*\*\*\*

STATE S 2 F 15 21S 37E 6

1

E 15-21-37

HALJAMAR GRAYBURG SAN ANDRES \*\*\*\*\*

WYATT A FEDERAL 4 D 33 17S 33E 5
STATE CC 1 K 32 17S 33E 4

2
1

O 33-17-33
K 32-17-33

\*\*\* GAS SECTION \*\*\*

BUFFALO VALLEY PENN. (PRORATED GAS) \*\*\*\*\*

BAETZ A 1 N 35 14S 27E 1

1

at well site

Gas wells only

BURTON FLAT ATOKA, NORTH (GAS) \*\*\*\*\*

GOVERNMENT AC 1 N 15 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT AC CCM 2 F 13 20S 28E 1

2

BURTON FLAT MORROW (PRORATED GAS) \*\*\*\*\*

STATE CP 1 J 9 21S 27E 1

1

GOVERNMENT AA 1 C 23 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT F CCM 1 K 14 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT T CCM 1 C 14 20S 28E 1

2

GOVERNMENT U CCM 1 G 22 20S 28E 1

1

TRACY A CCM 1 C 33 21S 27E 1

2

ELIZANDC A FEDERAL BATTERY 2 Y 2 K 21 21S 27E 1

2

CRAWLEY A CCM 1 K 28 21S 27E 1

2

GOVERNMENT Y 1 I 11 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT V CCM 1 N 22 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT Z 1 K 23 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT AC 1 C 21 21S 27E 1

1

IVES A CCM 1 J 30 21S 27E 1

2

K 30-21-27
at well site

C.D.M. A CCM 1 D 29 21S 27E 1

2

STATE CU 1 B 36 20S 27E 1

1

STATE Ch 1 F 19 20S 28E 1

2

ELIZANDC A FEDERAL 4 C 34 21S 27E 1

1

STATE CV CCM 1 E 16 20S 28E 1

1

ELIZANDC A FEDERAL 3 N 20 21S 27E 1

1

TRACY E CCM 1 E 30 21S 27E 1

1

BURTON FLATS WOLF CAMP, ND. (PRC GAS) \*\*\*\*\*

GOVERNMENT T 1 C 14 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT T 2 G 15 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT Z 1 K 23 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT AA 1 C 23 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT AB 4 L 9 20S 28E 1

2

STATE CT CCM 1 I 16 20S 28E 1

1

GOVERNMENT S 1 H 3 20S 28E 1

2

CARLEHEAD MORROW, SG. (PRORATED GAS) \*\*\*\*\*

STRACKBEIN A 1 E 32 22S 27E 1

1

MERLAND A CCM 1 O 14 22S 27E 1

2

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	Time	Date 7/31/00
---	-----------------------------------	------	--------------

<u>Originating Party</u>	<u>Other Parties</u>
Bill Olson - Envir. Bureau	Patricia McMahon - Heidel, Sumberson, Nawell + Cox

Subject  
6/30/00 correspondence

Discussion  
I located requestal 11/20/78 memo to operators  
OCD, Santa Fe office does not have the results of  
the 1978 pit survey. According to the memo to  
operators, they were to be filed with the OCD Hobbs  
Office.  
I contacted Eddie Seay the former OCD, Hobbs employee  
with whom they were filed. He said he saw them  
in the OCD, Hobbs Office about 1 month ago in a  
green notebook in the back misc. files

Conclusions or Agreements  
I will send him (fax) copy of 11/20/78 memo  
He will check with Hobbs Office for results of survey

Distribution Signed 



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

July 31, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. 5051-3365**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Company  
Rm. 4304 Woodcreek  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, Texas 77079

**RE: NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY  
STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
SHELL GRIMES LEASE**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell Exploration & Production Company's (Shell) May 4, 2000 "NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY, STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2), SHELL GRIMES LEASE". This document contains additional information regarding deficiencies in Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal for remediation of soil and ground water contamination related to the former Grimes Tank Battery located adjacent to the Westgate Subdivision in Hobbs, New Mexico. The deficiencies were identified in the OCD's February 9, 2000 correspondence with Shell.

Most of the deficiencies appear to have been addressed. However, the OCD has identified the following deficiencies in Shell's May 4, 2000 document:

1. At a previous meeting with Shell, the OCD discussed taking five discreet samples at the base of a proposed excavation on the west side of Tasker Road and five discreet samples at the base of a proposed excavation on the east side of Tasker Road. This was based upon Shell's plan to not excavate contaminated soils under Tasker Road. The current plan expands the prior soil excavation plan into a proposal to conduct multiple segmented

Wayne A. Hamilton

July 31, 2000

Page 2

excavations which include the soils under Tasker Road. The OCD believes that the proposed five discrete sample points across the base of the total excavated area is not adequate considering the size of the excavated area. The OCD requires that at a minimum Shell obtain 2 samples from the base of each segment. One soil sample shall be obtained from the center of each segment. The second soil sample shall be obtained from the area exhibiting the highest soil PID readings and/or visual contamination within that segment. Please provide a commitment to conduct this sampling.

2. The Appendix III Health & Safety Plan (page 10-4, Section 10.3 Action Levels) states that the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) containing the details of the health effects of chemicals for which action levels are proposed can be found in Appendix B. The OCD could not find the referenced MSDS's in Appendix B. Please provide this information.
3. The Appendix III Health & Safety Plan contains provisions for notification of the Site Safety Supervisor and the Project Director when action levels for airborne contaminants are exceeded or in the event of a hazardous spill or release. During implementation of any Stage 2 Abatement Plan action, the OCD requires that Shell immediately notify the OCD of any event which poses a threat to public health. Please provide a commitment to notify the OCD of these events.

In order to correct these deficiencies, please submit the above information to the OCD Santa Fe Office by August 30, 2000 with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International

*LAW OFFICES*

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**

C. GENE SAMBERSON  
MICHAEL T. NEWELL  
LEWIS C. COX, III

311 NORTH FIRST STREET  
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1599  
LOVINGTON, NM 88260  
TELEPHONE (505) 396-5303  
FAX (505) 396-5305

F.L. HEIDEL  
(1913-1985)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRICK B. MCMAHON

June 30, 2000

RECEIVED

JUL 06 2000

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Bill Olson  
NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 South Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**Re: November 20, 1978-Memorandum Re: Pits Related to Oilfield Operations**

Dear Mr. Olson,

Based on a review of documents at the Hobbs OCD office, it has come to my attention that the OCD had made an effort in the fall of 1978 to identify pits used in the production, transportation and refining of oil and gas.

Please find enclosed memorandums from Joe D. Ramey dated October 6, 1978 and October 24, 1978. These memorandums deal with identifying pits related to refineries/gas plants and the transportation of oil and gas, respectively. Also, please find enclosed a letter from C. Harvey Carr of Southland Royalty Company dated February 13, 1979. Mr. Carr's letter indicates that a memo dated November 20, 1978 was sent to oilfield operators requesting the location of pits relating to oilfield operations, as opposed to pits relating to transportation or refining.

As of this date I have been unable to locate both the November 20, 1978 memorandum and the presumed replies to that memorandum.

I am writing this letter to inquire as to where I would find a copy of the November 20, 1978 memorandum and the replies to that memorandum as well.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**

By:

  
**Patrick B. McMahon**

PBM:cd  
Enclosures



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

JERRY APODACA  
GOVERNOR

NICK FRANKLIN  
SECRETARY

POST OFFICE BOX 2088  
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501  
(505) 827-2434

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: NEW MEXICO REFINERS AND GASOLINE PLANT OPERATORS

FROM: JOE D. RAMEY, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PITS, PONDS, AND LAGOONS ASSOCIATED WITH REFINING  
AND GASOLINE PLANT OPERATIONS

To permit the Division to properly handle its responsibilities as a constituent agency of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission we are seeking to obtain certain data relative to the use of pits, ponds, lagoons, or any other surface impoundments associated with refining or gasoline plant operations in the State.

We are, therefore, asking that each operator of a refinery or gasoline plant supply the Division with the following:

- (1) A map (not necessarily to scale) showing the location and numbers of such pits. See example on the reverse side of this memorandum.
- (2) A tabulation showing each pit, its horizontal dimensions, depth, and lining material, if any.
- (3) Chemical analyses of the fluids placed in the pits.
- (4) Annual volumes of fluids placed in the pits.

Please forward all requested data to Eddie Seay, Oil Conservation Division, P.O. Box 1980, Hobbs, New Mexico 88240.

fd/  
October 6, 1978



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

ERRY APODACA  
GOVERNOR

NICK FRANKLIN  
SECRETARY

POST OFFICE BOX 2088  
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501  
(505) 827-2434

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: NEW MEXICO TRANSPORTERS OF OIL AND GAS

FROM: JOE D. RAMEY, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PITS RELATED TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF OIL AND GAS

The Division is attempting to determine the numbers and locations of surface pits associated with the transportation of oil and gas in the State. We are therefore asking that each transporter of oil and/or gas in the State supply the Division with a map or maps of their transportation facilities with the location and number of pits noted thereon in such a manner as to permit the Division to locate the same by Section, Township, and Range. An example of such a map is shown on the reverse side of this memorandum.

Pits at wells or leases should not be included on the map. Pits at pipeline stations, terminals, compressor stations, storage facilities, drips, etc. should be shown. If there are no associated pits, as in the case of oil trucked from a lease to a pipeline station owned by another party, please so advise the Division.

Please forward all requested maps and data to Mr. Eddie Seay, Oil Conservation Division, P. O. Box 1980, Hobbs, New Mexico 88240.

og/  
October 24, 1978



**Southland Royalty Company**

February 13, 1979

Mr. Eddie Seay  
Oil Conservation Division  
P.O. Box 1980  
Hobbs, NM 88240

Re: Pits Related to the Transportation  
of Oil and Gas

Gentlemen:

Your memo of October 24, 1978 requested location of surface pits associated with Transportation of Oil and Gas.

Please be advised that Southland Royalty Company is not a transporter of oil and gas and therefore do not have any pits relating to transportation.

You have been sent locations of pits relating to oil field operations as required by your memo of November 20, 1978. Another copy of that list is attached for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

C. Harvey Carr  
District Engineer

jh  
Enclosure

Posted  
No pits  
2/14/79

NEW MEXICO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**

J. Alex Valdez  
Secretary

Gary E. Johnson, Governor

Jack Callaghan, PhD  
Deputy Secretary

George Parascadola  
Deputy Secretary

Barak Wolff, MPH  
Interim Division Director

C. Mack Sewell, DrPH, MS  
State Epidemiologist

J. Alex Valdez  
JUN 21 2000

June 16, 2000

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
2040 South Pacheco St.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Subject: Shell Grimes Lease, Hobbs, NM, Stage 2 Abatement Plan (AP-2)  
Review by New Mexico Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the referenced abatement plan. We have focused our review on aspects of the plan which are designed to protect public health or have potential impact on public health. As a result, we have evaluated the risk-based screening levels for remediation of contaminated soils in the residential areas. We have also evaluated the aspects of the health and safety plan to be implemented to protect the health of community residents and visitors in the vicinity of the test excavations and clean-up excavations.

**Evaluation of Risk-Based Screening Levels**

Shell's approach to calculating the risk-based screening level that will be used to guide soil and sediment clean-up is based on both potential carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health effects of the compounds likely to be on-site as identified in samples collected from the site. The resulting risk-based screening level of 2,400 milligrams total petroleum hydrocarbon per kilogram of soil (2,400 mg TPH/ kg soil), that is to be applied throughout the site to guide clean-up activities, appears to be reasonable and appropriate. In evaluating the potential health effects and developing this screening level, Shell has used standard risk assessment methods and assumptions. They have used conservative exposure parameters by assuming a residential scenario and exposure of children. Shell's analysis of the occurrence of carcinogenic compounds, and the potential for exposure and adverse health effects after clean-up is completed, appears to have been based on reasonable and acceptable considerations (i.e., co-located TPH values in excess of 2,400 mg/kg will result in clean-up of the carcinogenic compounds and the duration of exposure

Office of Epidemiology  
Public Health Division  
1190 St. Francis Drive, N 1350  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87501-6110  
Phone (505) 827-0006 / Fax (505) 827-0013

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
Shell Westgate Abatement Plan  
June 14, 2000  
Page 2

to benzene will be limited due to the finite mass and the rate of biodegradation of benzene).

We have not evaluated the clean-up criteria for groundwater, as we assume you will be applying the standards of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission. We believe these standards to be adequate, especially since the groundwater at this site is not used as a source of drinking water, and any other exposure is unlikely.

**Evaluation of Health and Safety Plan and Protection of Community Residents and Visitors**

We understand that Shell plans to excavate three test pits prior to conducting full-scale clean-up excavation for purposes of characterizing the flux of contaminants and for designing the clean-up system. The three test pits will be excavated one at a time, on three consecutive days. We were told (personal communication with Walt Crow, U.S. Radian, 5/31/00 and 6/14/00) that each pit will be open for less than eight hours, and will not be left open over night (it is noted that the text of the abatement plan, Section 4.0, page 17, is not consistent with this and should be made so). The pits will be excavated to a maximum of 6 feet. The material excavated from the test pits will be covered with plastic. The pits will be designed with a slope so controlled entry will not be required. All material excavated from the test pits will be returned to the test pits after testing is completed.

During the course of excavation and while the test pits remain open, air quality will be monitored at the perimeter of the excavation site and in the community. The air quality will be monitored for total organic vapor concentration using a photo-ionization detector (PID) having a detection limit of 0.1 ppm. Should the PID readings at the perimeter or within the community exceed 5 ppm, Shell will initiate colorimetric tube screening for benzene. The detection limits of the colorimetric tube screening will be no higher than 0.5 ppm. If the colorimetric tube screening indicates a benzene concentration higher than 1 ppm, another sample will be analyzed for confirmation. If the benzene concentration is confirmed to be greater than 1 ppm, work will be stopped and the excavation will be covered. Also, if the PID readings exceed 25 ppm, regardless of benzene reading, work will be stopped and the excavation covered. Shell will then consult with OCD and take actions to reduce concentrations to less than 25 ppm total organic vapor and less than 1 ppm benzene. Additionally, air will be monitored at the perimeter of the excavations and within the community for the presence of hydrogen sulfide, mercury, and dust with action levels of 5 ppm, 0.01 ppm (0.083 mg/m<sup>3</sup>), and 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively. Should concentrations be detected and confirmed above these action levels, Shell will cease excavation and clean-up activities and implement actions necessary to reduce the levels to concentrations below the action levels.

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
Shell Westgate Abatement Plan  
June 14, 2000  
Page 3

Shell plans to use a large portable remediation structure (tent), and maintain negative pressure within the structure, during clean-up excavation. Air pumped out of this structure, for purposes of maintaining negative pressure, will be directed through a scrubbing system containing a fixed bed of activated carbon to reduce concentrations of dust and volatile organic compounds to meet regulatory levels. The discharge from the scrubbing system will be monitored for break-through of contaminants. If break-through is detected the clean-up will be stopped until corrective actions are implemented. Shell will acquire and maintain any necessary air discharge permits.

It is our opinion that public health will be protected during excavation of test pits and during clean-up by following the precautions described in the abatement plan and outlined above.

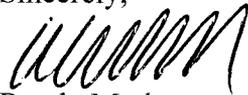
It is our understanding that Shell is responsible for complying with all applicable OSHA regulations and assuring worker health and safety. We have not evaluated the health and safety plan for worker health and safety or for OSHA compliance.

### Conclusions

It is our conclusion that the risk-based screening level of 2,400 mg/kg TPH proposed by Shell adequately considers potential carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health effects and will provide clean-up of soil and sediment that is protective of public health. It is also our conclusion that Shell's proposed plan for community air monitoring, and associated corrective actions, during excavation of the test pits will adequately protect public health.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 476-3586.

Sincerely,



Randy Merker  
Environmental Health Epidemiology Unit  
Office of Epidemiology

cc: C. Mack Sewell, State Epidemiologist  
Ron Voorhees, Deputy State Epidemiologist  
Evan Nelson, District IV Health Officer  
Retta Prophet, Program Manager



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Jennifer A. Salisbury**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

May 25, 2000

Mr. Randy Merker  
New Mexico Health Department  
Office of Epidemiology  
1190 St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

**RE: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
SHELL GRIMES LEASE  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) recently received Shell E&P Company's (Shell) proposed health and safety plan and risk based corrective action levels which Shell proposes to be used for remediation of contaminated soils at the Shell Grimes Tank Battery located in the Westgate Subdivision of Hobbs, New Mexico. Attached is a copy of this document. Since the plan proposes methods for protection of public health, the NMOCD requests that the New Mexico Health Department provide the NMOCD with any comments or concerns that the NMHD may have regarding these proposals. The NMOCD asks that the NMHD provide any comments by June 23, 2000 so that the NMOCD can complete a review of Shell's proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7152 or Bill Olson of my staff at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Wayne Hamilton, Shell E&P Company  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International

**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS:  
AIRBILL NO: 8187-0384-7540**

4 May 2000

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 05 2000**

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

**Attn.** Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY, STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
SHELL GRIMES LEASE**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Pursuant to your April 14, 2000 letter, Shell Exploration and Production Company submits the enclosed Stage 2 Abatement Plan.

The plan addresses the ten (10) deficiencies that you outlined in your letter.

If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or via electronic mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Brunson* / for Wayne Hamilton

Wayne Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: w/enclosures  
Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

April 14, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. 5051-2962**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Company  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, Texas 77079

**RE: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell E&P Technology Company's (SHELL) April 14, 2000 "RESPONSE TO THE STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN DEFICIENCY LETTER, WESTGATE SUBDIVISION". This document contains SHELL's request for an extension of the deadline for submission of the information requested in the OCD's February 9, 2000 notice of deficiency to May 5, 2000.

Due to the extensive information required to be submitted, the above extension request is approved.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,

William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International

## Shell E&amp;P Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

*Via Facsimile: (505) 827-8177*

April 14, 2000

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

***RE: Response to the Stage 2 Abatement Plan Deficiency Letter, Westgate Subdivision***

Dear Mr. Olson:

This letter is to respectfully request an extension to May 5, 2000 for the submittal of the Westgate Subdivision, Stage 2 Abatement Plan deficiency letter response.

As discussed in the meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>, this additional time is needed to respond to the NMOCD's questions and requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (281) 544-2322 or via electronic mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne A. Hamilton".

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Chris Williams – NMOCD Hobbs District

**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**VIA: Federal Express**  
**Airbill No.: 818703847296**

March 31, 2000

**RECEIVED**

**APR 03 2000**

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

**SUBJECT: SUBMITTAL OF 1999 QUARTERLY GROUNDWATER  
MONITORING REPORT, WESTGATE SUBDIVISION,  
GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Shell Exploration and Production Company respectfully submits the enclosed 1999 Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring Report for the Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road.

This report details the groundwater monitoring and free product recovery activities for the third and fourth quarters of 1999. Also included are summary data tables, original data, and isopleth maps.

If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or via electronic mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Johnson* / for Wayne A. Hamilton

Wayne Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

enclosure

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

March 15, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-559-572-907**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Company  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, Texas 77079

**RE: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell E&P Technology Company's (SHELL) March 8, 2000 "30 DAY EXTENSION REQUEST, NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY, STATE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2) SHELL GRIMES LEASE". This document contains SHELL's request for an extension of the deadline for submission of the information requested in the OCD's February 9, 2000 notice of deficiency regarding remediation of contamination related to the Grimes Lease and former unlined pits located in the Westgate residential subdivision of Hobbs, New Mexico. The document proposes extending the deadline from March 13, 2000 to April 17, 2000.

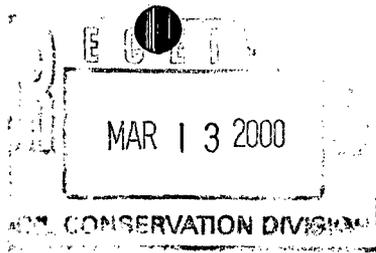
Due to the extensive information required to be submitted, the above extension request is approved.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,

William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International



Shell E&P Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

March 8, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL (Z 136 861 002)  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. William C. Olson  
State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Subject: 30-Day Extension Request  
Notice of Deficiency  
State 2 Abatement Plan (AP-2)  
Shell Grimes Lease**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Shell requests a 30-day extension to reply to your February 9<sup>th</sup> 2000, Notice of Deficiency letter.

In your February 9<sup>th</sup> letter, you stated that Shell needs to answer the ten deficiencies by March 13, 2000. Shell is currently writing a response to each of the issues you raised, but needs additional time to complete its response.

Therefore, Shell requests that the new deadline for responding to the deficiency letter would be April 17, 2000.

Please provide written response to my extension request at the address shown above. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 281-544-2322 or e-mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company

FEB 28 2000



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z574-359-014**

NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

February 24, 2000

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN, WESTGATE SUBDIVISION,  
GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Shell Exploration and Production Company (SEPCo) requests permission from OCD to backfill the existing Grimes Battery excavation. The area to be backfilled is that excavation inside the fenced area adjacent to the former tank battery.

The backfill remediation is described, in detail, in the October 1999, Stage 2 Abatement Plan Report, 4.1.2 Task 2--Grimes Battery section.

SEPCo requests permission from OCD to backfill the excavation because the fence surrounding the excavation is continually being vandalized. SEPCo, in order to prevent anyone from entering the excavated area, desires to conduct backfilling operations immediately.

After receipt of the OCD's approval of this request, Shell will notify the OCD when the site activities are to begin. The backfilling is planned to begin as soon as all equipment and materials are available.

I look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or via electronic mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Brunson* /for Wayne A. Hamilton  
Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

February 9, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-559-572-899**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Company  
Rm. 4304 Woodcreek  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, Texas 77079

**RE: NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY  
STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)  
SHELL GRIMES LEASE**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell Exploration & Production Company's (Shell) November 30, 1999 "WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE MAILING AFFIDAVIT AND MAILING LIST" and October 12, 1999 "SUBMITTAL OF STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN, WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD". These documents contain Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal for remediation of soil and ground water contamination related to the former Grimes Tank Battery located adjacent to the Westgate Subdivision in Hobbs, New Mexico. The documents also contain proof of public notification of the Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal.

The OCD has identified the following deficiencies in the above referenced documents:

1. It is not clear in the text nor in Appendix I how Shell derived the risk based total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) cleanup values. Please provide more detailed information clearly showing how these values were determined.
2. The text on page 1.5 of Appendix I states that the lower bound calculated risk based residential cleanup criteria of 2400 ppm of TPH was not considered since the low detection limits for that sample may have affected the mass fraction distributions. Since these calculations are designed to reflect the most conservative risk based cleanup levels, this value cannot be disregarded and must be considered as valid. Please modify the plan to include consideration of this calculated lower bound risk based TPH level.

Wayne A. Hamilton

February 9, 2000

Page 2

3. The risk based corrective action evaluation section contains calculated risk based non-residential, industrial cleanup levels for portions of the site. The tank battery, pit and contaminated areas are within a residential subdivision. Therefore, the use of non-residential, industrial cleanup levels are inappropriate for this site and will not be considered. Please modify the plan to reflect only residential use considerations.
4. The risk based corrective action evaluation section disregards cleanup of metals in soils because the average of the site soil metals concentrations are below regional United States Geological Survey (USGS) metals background concentrations. This approach is not acceptable. The section on metals cleanup levels needs to be reevaluated by comparing soils concentrations with actual site background data. Please perform this reevaluation of the metals in the soils.
5. The ground water section of Appendix I calculates risk based ground water ingestion levels which differ from the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) ground water standards. The OCD interprets this as setting alternate abatement standards. Please clarify the intent of this section. If Shell is proposing alternate abatement standards different than the WQCC standards, Shell must file a petition seeking approval of alternate abatement standards pursuant to OCD Rule 19.B.(6). If Shell is not proposing alternate abatement standards this section should be removed from the document to avoid confusion or modified to reflect compliance with WQCC standards.
6. The proposed plan does not address whether remaining soil contamination will cause an exceedance of the WQCC ground water standards through leaching in the foreseeable future. Please provide this information.
7. Based upon the size of the proposed excavation areas, the proposed five point composite soil confirmation sampling will be insufficient. Please submit a more comprehensive plan for final soil sampling of the excavated areas.
8. A review of the site soil data shows that the proposed practical excavation depth of 8 feet for the former Tasker Road pits will not remediate the bulk of the near surface soil contamination. Prior excavation work at the Grimes Tank Battery showed that it is practical to excavate in excess of 8 feet at the site. Please submit an amended excavation plan which will remove the bulk of the near surface contaminated soils from these pits.
9. The air monitoring, safety and health action plan appears to be geared only toward protection of site workers. Please provide a health and safety plan which will protect the health and safety of the public in the vicinity of and downgradient of the site from contaminated dusts and migration of volatilized organics in air during all excavation and remediation actions.

Wayne A. Hamilton

February 9, 2000

Page 3

10. In the intervenor's December 13, 1999 request for a hearing on the Stage 2 Abatement Plan, they stated that a resident has identified contamination at the abandoned well location at 1506 N. Cobb Street. It is implied that the contamination is from former drilling and/or work-over pits associated with the well. The OCD has requested the intervenors to provide this information. The OCD also requests that Shell provide information on the use and location of any drilling and/or work-over pits associated with this abandoned well.

In order to correct these deficiencies, please submit the above information to the OCD Santa Fe Office by March 13, 2000 with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 South Pacheco Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
(505) 827-7131

February 8, 2000

Mr. William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, Texas 77002

**RE: FORMER SHELL GRIMES TANK BATTERY AND WESTGATE SUBDIVISION  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Rosch:

During a review of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division's (OCD) file on the Shell Oil Exploration & Production Company's abatement plan for the former Grimes Tank Battery and Westgate Subdivision, it was discovered that the cover of the OCD's January 13, 2000 correspondence with you errantly listed your address as 707 Travis, Suite 2100, Eunice, NM 88231 instead of 707 Travis, Suite 2100, Houston, Texas 77002. It appears that the envelope was correctly addressed and the OCD understands that you received the January 13, 2000 correspondence. Please correct this error on your copy of the correspondence. The OCD apologizes for this error.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 827-7152 or Bill Olson of my staff at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely:

Roger C. Anderson, Chief  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
Wayne A. Hamilton, Shell E&P Company  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

January 13, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-559-572-895**

Mr. William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Eunice, NM 88231

**RE: STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN PROPOSAL  
FORMER SHELL GRIMES TANK BATTERY AND WESTGATE SUBDIVISION  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Rosch:

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) received your December 13, 1999 request for a public hearing on the above referenced Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal submitted by the Shell Oil Exploration & Production Company. The OCD has included your name as an intervenor in this case so you will receive copies of all correspondence concerning the abatement plan.

The OCD will continue to process the abatement plan and comments received until the plan is determined to be administratively approvable or denied. If the abatement plan is administratively denied, the applicant will be notified and it will be its responsibility to request a hearing appealing the denial. If the abatement plan is determined to be administratively approvable, the OCD will notify the applicant and all intervenors of the conditions under which the plan would be approved. All intervenors will be allowed fifteen (15) days from receipt of the determination to submit final comments on the conditions or request a public hearing in lieu of administrative approval. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must include the reasons why a hearing should be held.

Your December 13, 1999 correspondence also stated that the proposed plan does not address contamination related to an abandoned well site at 1506 N. Cobb Street. Please provide the OCD with any information you have regarding the location of former pits or spills at this location and any information on the location and magnitude of any current contamination.

Mr. William G. Rosch, III  
January 13, 2000  
Page 2

The OCD appreciates your input on all environmental and public health issues relating to the abatement plan. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 827-7152 or Bill Olson of my staff at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely:



Roger C. Anderson, Chief  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
Wayne A. Hamilton, Shell E&P Company  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International

DEC 14 1999

Gallagher, Young, Lewis, Hampton & Downey  
700 Louisiana, 40<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Craig Lewis

Rosch & Ross  
Chase Bank Building  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, Texas 77002  
William G. Rosch

Girardi & Keese  
1126 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
Thomas Girardi

Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox  
311 First Street, P. O. Box 1599  
Lovington, New Mexico 88260  
Michael Newell

December 13, 1999

**Via Facsimile 505-827-8177  
and Overnight Delivery**

Director, Oil Conservation Division  
State of New Mexico  
2040 South Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Request for Public Hearing and Supplemental Comments to Shell Oil Company's  
Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal for the Former Grimes Tank Battery Site and  
Portions of the Westgate Subdivision.

Dear Sir:

This letter is intended to constitute a formal written request for an public hearing on all of the issues raised by the comments set forth in Mr. William G. Rosch's letter dated December 10, 1999 and the supplemental comments contained herein on behalf of our clients (see Exhibit "A") who are various present and former residents of the Hobbs, New Mexico, area and who reside or resided within the immediate geographical area of the Proposed Plan.

In addition, this letter is intended to supplement the December 10, 1999 comments in above referenced matter on behalf of our clients. (See Exhibit "A".) The following are comments in supplemental response to the notice issued by the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, State of New Mexico, with regard to Shell Oil Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal:

Director, Oil Conservation Division

State of New Mexico

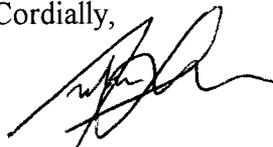
December 13, 1999

Page 2

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2. The Shell Proposed Plan does not attempt to identify contamination at abandoned drilling and/or work-over pit sites within the Westgate Subdivision. Instead, the Proposed Plan ignores the existence of these pit sites which would be necessarily associated with every abandoned well site, such as 1506 N. Cobb Street, within the Westgate Subdivision.

In short, the Shell Proposed Plan does not adequately identify and address all areas of concern required to protect the residents of the Westgate Subdivision. Therefore, a public hearing is necessary to adequately address the serious concerns raised by these comments.

Cordially,



Andrew Sher

## EXHIBIT A

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Acosta, Rosario  
Acosta, Adriana  
Acosta, Jorge M.  
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Alvarez, Tony  
Alvarez, Josie  
Aranda, Alonzo  
Aranda, Rosa  
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Aranda, David  
Aranda, Kathy  
Armendariz, Audrey  
Aranda, Nora  
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Bell, Pearl  
Bell, Matthew  
Bell, Justin  
Bell, Wanda  
Bingham, Mitchell  
Bingham, Sharon  
Bingham, Jordan  
Bridge, Darrell  
Bridge, Susan  
Brooks, Irene  
Brown, Willene Smith  
Buss, Patricia  
Smith, Frederick  
Castillo, David  
Castillo, Rhonda (Scoggins)  
Chan, Chih Hsien  
Chan, LiHwa  
Chandler, Greg  
Chevalier, Frank  
Chevalier, Renee  
Bowlby, Sonya  
Clay, Billie Ruth  
Cormier, Mary  
Acosta, Jasmine  
Cormier, Jody  
Mashaw, April  
Cortez, Ruben  
Cortez, Helen  
Cortez, Efren  
Cortez, Yolanda  
Cortez, Joshua  
Medrano, Brianna  
Crockett, Edna M.  
DeLaCruz, Nicolas  
DeLaCruz, Soraida  
DeLaCruz, Natalie  
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Dominguez, Eric  
Dominguez, Manny  
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Garland, Dorothy  
Gonzales, LeGina  
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Gonzales, Regina  
Gonzales, Johnny  
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Gonzales, Steven (minor)  
Green, Lydia  
Harguess, Felicia  
Hill, Barbara (Wood)  
Hobbs, Grady (d)  
Hobbs, Ruby  
Hudson, Sabrina  
Hutchings, Charles  
Hutchings, Patricia  
Hutchings, Patrick  
Hutchings, Breyana  
Jaques, Jaquelyn  
Jaques, Jose  
Jaques, Pat  
Jaques, Benjamin  
Johnson, Gary Don  
Johnson, Rebecca  
Johnson, Chestley  
Johnson, Lorien  
Jones, Lena M.  
Kautz, Paul  
Kautz, Lorretta

Kautz, Timothy  
King, Margaret  
King, Raymond  
Klotzbach, Pamela  
Thompson, Ryan  
Ledbetter, Gerald  
Ledbetter, Debrah  
Ledbetter, Andrew  
Ledbetter, Jared  
Levan, Steven  
Lewis, Janet  
Bueno, Angelina  
Little, Mary Helen  
Lumbley, Wayne  
Lumbley, Shirley  
Marquez, Dulces  
Marquez, Angelica  
Marquez, David  
Marqucz, Elias  
Marquez, Josephine  
Martinez, Albert  
Martinez, Donna  
Martinez, Phillip C.  
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(granddaughter)  
Martinez, Gemma  
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Martinez, Mary (d)  
Melendez, Gabriel  
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Melendez, Priscilla  
Melendez, Nicole  
Menchaca, Rafael  
Menchaca, Else  
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Menchaca, Erik  
Mendoza, Robert  
Mendoza, Vilma  
Mendoza, Robert, Jr.  
Mendoza, Rudy  
Miranda, Pete

Miranda, Cathy  
Serrano, Ashley  
Morales, Jessie  
Morales, Griselda  
Morales, Ariel  
Morales, Jesenia  
Morris, Miranda  
Neugent, Sue Della  
Nguyen, Alexander L.  
Patterson, Jubel  
Patterson, Tracie  
Patterson, Dannielle  
Patterson, Melanie  
Patterson, Summer  
Peterson, Craig  
Peterson, Rose  
Peterson, Chris  
Peterson, Heidi  
Pullings, Harold R.  
Pullings, Leta J.  
Quintana, Tori  
Quiroga, Alfonso  
Ramirez, Arlene  
Ramirez, Rubi  
Ramirez, Irene  
Ramirez, Damian  
Ramirez, Placido  
Ramirez, Ruth  
Rising, Evelyn  
Rising, Gregory (d)  
Walkins, Johnny  
Rising, Rahnon A.  
Rodriguez, Elizabeth  
Rodriguez, Lacy  
Rodriguez, Zachary  
Scoggins, James  
Scoggins, Joanna  
Sharp, Leslie  
Sharp, Connie  
Sharp, Brittany  
Sharp, Justin  
Sharp, Zachary  
Smith, Lyndsy  
Smith, Jesse Ray  
Sparenberg, Mark  
Sparenberg, Angela  
Sparenberg, Dante  
Sparenberg, Jan-luc  
Sparenberg, Jorrel  
Sparenberg, Marcus  
Stephens, Marianne (Brown)  
Lopez, Danielle

Stoker, Willie  
Stoker, Andrea  
Stoker, Charisa  
Stoker, Kalond  
Tarin, Elias  
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Vela, Iris Vickie  
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Volz, Frank  
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Volz, Krystal  
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Williams, Pamela  
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**GALLAGHER, YOUNG, LEWIS, HAMPTON & DOWNEY**

Attorneys at Law  
700 Louisiana St., 40th Fl.  
Bank of America  
Houston, TX 77002  
Ph: 713-222-8080  
Fax: 713-222-0066

Andrew Sher  
Direct dial numbers:  
713-238-7725 (ph)  
713-238-7888 (fax)

**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

**TO:** Director, Oil Conservation Division, State of New Mexico

**FAX NO.:** 505-827-8177

**CASE NO.:** 98-04-163

**FROM:** Andrew Sher

**DATE:** December 13, 1999

**RE:**

**# of pages (including cover sheet):** 5

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Gallagher, Young, Lewis, Hampton & Downey  
700 Louisiana, 40<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Craig Lewis

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Michael Newell

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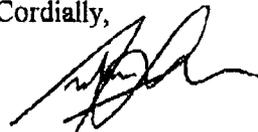
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Director, Oil Conservation Division  
State of New Mexico  
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 Peterson, Rose  
 Peterson, Chris  
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 Pullings, Leta J.  
 Quintana, Tori  
 Quiroga, Alfonso  
 Ramirez, Arlene  
 Ramirez, Rubi  
 Ramirez, Irene  
 Ramirez, Damian  
 Ramirez, Placido  
 Ramirez, Ruth  
 Rising, Evelyn  
 Rising, Gregory (d)  
 Watkins, Johnny  
 Rising, Rahmon A.  
 Rodriguez, Elizabeth  
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 Rodriguez, Zachary  
 Scoggins, James  
 Scoggins, Joanna  
 Sharp, Leslie  
 Sharp, Courde  
 Sharp, Brittany  
 Sharp, Justin  
 Sharp, Zachary  
 Smith, Lyndsy  
 Smith, Jesse Ray  
 Sparenberg, Mark  
 Sparenberg, Angela  
 Sparenberg, Dante  
 Sparenberg, Jan-luc  
 Sparenberg, Jorrel  
 Sparenberg, Marcus  
 Stephens, Marianne (Brown)  
 Lopez, Danielle

Stoker, Willie  
 Stoker, Andrea  
 Stoker, Charisa  
 Stoker, Kalond  
 Tarin, Elias  
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 Cabriales, Roseda  
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 Trevino, Tommy II  
 Valdez, Gabriel  
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 Valdez, Bianca  
 Vela, Iris Vickie  
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 Volz, Frank  
 Volz, Melody  
 Volz, Krystal  
 Volz, Lindsey  
 Walker, Jeffrey L.  
 Walker, Theresa  
 Wilks, Alvin Ray  
 Wilks, Doris  
 Williams, Pamela  
 Wilson, Lynda  
 Woo, Judy  
 Wood, Larry

DEC 13

**GALLAGHER, LEWIS & DOWNEY**  
**BANK OF AMERICA CENTER**  
**700 LOUISIANA, 40TH FLOOR**  
**HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002**  
**CRAIG LEWIS**

**ROSCH & ROSS**  
**CHASE BANK BUILDING**  
**707 TRAVIS, SUITE 2100**  
**HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002**  
**WILLIAM G. ROSCH, III**

**GIRARDI & KEESE**  
**1126 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD**  
**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017**  
**THOMAS GIRARDI**

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**  
**311 N. FIRST STREET, PO BOX 1599**  
**LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260**  
**MICHAEL NEWELL**

December 10, 1999

**By Facsimile (505) 827-8177**  
**and Overnight Delivery**

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State of New Mexico  
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**Comments On The Proposed Plan**

1. The Shell Proposed Plan for remediation of the Westgate Subdivision contamination provides merely a technical approach to the removal of highly contaminated soils as if those soils were in an unpopulated area. The Plan wholly ignores several extremely important issues that impact the health, safety, and welfare of the men, women, and children who live, work, and play in the Subdivision, and resolution of these issues is critically important prior to execution

of the Plan so that the aforementioned residents are not further exposed to the health-threatening contaminants.

2. The prevailing wind direction in the area of the Subdivision is from south to north. This wind pattern would necessarily carry with it the toxic vapors and suspended contaminated particulate matter released from each of the proposed excavated areas and transport those vapors and contaminated particulates across and, deposit upon, the remainder of the Subdivision, thereby exposing families and their properties to the released contaminants.
3. Although a monitoring program is provided for protection of the workers, as described in Section 6 of the Proposed Plan, there is no such program provided for the protection of the residents. The Proposed Plan suggests addressing the residents' concerns only on an "as needed" basis. It doesn't really take a critical eye to realize that this Plan, as it relates to the protection of the residents, does not provide for a prophylactic approach, an emergency evacuation plan, monitoring of enclosed spaces of the residents such as homes, garages, trailers, and the like, nor is there a contingency plan in place for the benefit of the residents. Simply put, Shell's Proposed Plan, while it expresses concern for its employees, does not adequately address the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of New Mexico residing in the Westgate Subdivision.

Moreover, due to the extended work schedule and the potential for continual exposure over the course of the work effort, scheduled for 185 days, the residents of the Westgate Subdivision are at far greater health risk than the Shell workers at the site. Indeed, levels of exposure via inhalation, ingestion, and absorption, for the young children who live and play in the area has not been addressed at all. It is well established that young children are particularly susceptible to contaminants of the type found in the contaminated Subdivision.

4. The Plan proposes the use of "odor-neutralizing agents" which are not identified. Until identification is made, no reasonable and prudent assessment can be made concerning the efficacy of the use of such "masking" agents.
5. Exposure to the heavy metals identified in the Proposed Plan such as arsenic and chromium, and exposure to hydrocarbons would necessarily, by virtue of the excavation process and the prevailing winds, be elevated above background in the Subdivision and therefore pose a significantly increased health risk to the citizens residing in the Westgate Subdivision.

Simply put, this Proposed Plan, as it relates to Shell's approach to the protection of the residents of the Westgate Subdivision, is insensitive to the needs of those residents and is reactive in nature and not proactive. Once the contaminants become airborne, preventing further exposure to these residents will be much like trying to unbreak an egg.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William G. Rosch, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William G. Rosch, III

WGR/mb  
Enclosure  
99:1:1111

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Acosta, Sammy	Brown, Willene Smith	Gandy, Teddy
Acosta, Juanita	Buss, Patricia	Gandy, Louise
Acosta, Candace	Smith, Frederick	Garland, Dorothy
Acosta, Samantha	Castillo, David	Gonzales, LeGina
Alvarez, Tony	Castillo, Rhonda (Scoggins)	Young, Brevin
Alvarez, Josie	Chan, Chih Hsien	Gonzales, Melissa
Aranda, Alonzo	Chan, LiHwa	Gonzales, Melony
Aranda, Rosa	Chandler, Greg	Gonzales, Regina
Aranda, Lilliana	Chevalier, Frank	Gonzales, Johnny
Aranda, Viviana	Chevalier, Renee	Gonzales, Viola
Aranda, David	Bowlby, Sonya	Gonzales, Steven (minor)
Aranda, Kathy	Clay, Billie Ruth	Green, Lydia
Armendariz, Audrey	Cormier, Mary	Harguess, Felicia
Aranda, Nora	Acosta, Jasmine	Hill, Barbara (Wood)
Aranda, Domingo	Cormier, Jody	Hobbs, Grady (d)
Aranda, Rick	Mashaw, April	Hobbs, Ruby
Baeza, Linda Benita	Cortez, Ruben	Hudson, Sabrina
Peacock, Jasper	Cortez, Helen	Hutchings, Charles
Baeza, Billy Clay	Cortez, Efen	Hutchings, Patricia
Baeza, Clarissa	Cortez, Yolanda	Hutchings, Patrick
Baeza, Roberto	Cortez, Joshua	Hutchings, Breyana
Peacock, Jasper	Medrano, Brianna	Jaques, Jaquelyn
Baeza, Socorro Carlos	Crockett, Edna M.	Jaques, Jose
Baeza, Ann	DeLaCruz, Nicolas	Jaques, Pat
Baeza, Karla	DelaCruz, Soraida	Jaques, Benjamin
Baeza, Monika	DeLaCruz, Natalie	Johnson, Gary Don
Baldwin, John Allen	DeLaCruz, Cynthia	Johnson, Rebecca
Barrera, Adriana	Dominguez, Eric	Johnson, Chestley
Barrera, Fernando Jr.	Dominguez, Manny	Johnson, Lorien
Barrera, Elisha	Dominguez, Manuel	Jones, Lena M.
Barrera, Fernando Sr.	Dominguez, Ernestina	Kautz, Paul
Barrera, Guadalupe	Dominguez, Matthew	Kautz, Lorretta

Kautz, Timothy  
King, Margaret  
King, Raymond  
Klotzbach, Pamela  
Thompson, Ryan  
Ledbetter, Gerald  
Ledbetter, Debrah  
Ledbetter, Andrew  
Ledbetter, Jared  
Levan, Steven  
Lewis, Janet  
Bueno, Angelina  
Little, Mary Helen  
Lumbley, Wayne  
Lumbley, Shirley  
Marquez, Dulces  
Marquez, Angelica  
Marquez, David  
Marquez, Elias  
Marquez, Josephine  
Martinez, Albert  
Martinez, Donna  
Martinez, Phillip C.  
Martinez, Claudio Jr.  
Martinez, Claudio Sr.  
Martinez, Aurora  
Martinez, Claudia  
(granddaughter)  
Martinez, Gemma  
Martinez, Joe B.  
Martinez, Josie  
Martinez, Michelle  
Martinez, Teresa  
Martinez, Thomas Sr.  
Martinez, Joseph (d)  
Martinez, Mary (d)  
Melendez, Gabriel  
Melendez, Jorrie  
Melendez, Jonathan  
Melendez, Olivia  
Melendez, Pilar  
Melendez, Priscilla  
Melendez, Nicole  
Menchaca, Rafael  
Menchaca, Else  
Menchaca, Edith  
Menchaca, Erik  
Mendoza, Robert  
Mendoza, Vilma  
Mendoza, Robert, Jr.  
Mendoza, Rudy  
Miranda, Pete

Miranda, Cathy  
Serrano, Ashley  
Morales, Jessie  
Morales, Griselda  
Morales, Ariel  
Morales, Jesenia  
Morris, Miranda  
Neugent, Sue Della  
Nguyen, Alexander L.  
Patterson, Jubel  
Patterson, Tracie  
Patterson, Dannielle  
Patterson, Melanie  
Patterson, Summer  
Peterson, Craig  
Peterson, Rose  
Peterson, Chris  
Peterson, Heidi  
Pullings, Harold R.  
Pullings, Leta J.  
Quintana, Tori  
Quiroga, Alfonso  
Ramirez, Arlene  
Ramirez, Rubi  
Ramirez, Irene  
Ramirez, Damian  
Ramirez, Placido  
Ramirez, Ruth  
Rising, Evelyn  
Rising, Gregory (d)  
Watkins, Johnny  
Rising, Rahmon A.  
Rodriguez, Elizabeth  
Rodriguez, Lacy  
Rodriguez, Zachary  
Scoggins, James  
Scoggins, Joanna  
Sharp, Leslie  
Sharp, Connie  
Sharp, Brittany  
Sharp, Justin  
Sharp, Zachary  
Smith, Lyndsy  
Smith, Jesse Ray  
Sparenberg, Mark  
Sparenberg, Angela  
Sparenberg, Dante  
Sparenberg, Jan-luc  
Sparenberg, Jorrel  
Sparenberg, Marcus  
Stephens, Marianne (Brown)  
Lopez, Danielle

Stoker, Willie  
Stoker, Andrea  
Stoker, Charlsa  
Stoker, Kalond  
Tarin, Elias  
Tarin, Silvia  
Cabriales, Roseda  
Tarin, Eduardo  
Tarin, Elias P., Jr.  
Tarin, Hector  
Telles, Ismael  
Telles, Socorro  
Thompson, Glen  
Thompson, Judy  
Townsend, Charles Jr.  
Townsend, Charles Sr.  
Townsend, Luciana  
Townsend, Lucas M.  
Townsend, Timothy  
Trevino, Leonard  
Trevino, Vicki  
Trevino, Desiree  
Trevino, Presha  
Trevino, Tommy  
Trevino, Pamela  
Trevino, Jennifer  
Trevino, Stephanie  
Trevino, Tommy II  
Valdez, Gabriel  
Valdez, Jennifer  
Valdez, Bianca  
Vela, Iris Vickie  
Vela, Henry  
Vela, Matthew  
Volz, Frank  
Volz, Melody  
Volz, Krystal  
Volz, Lindsey  
Walker, Jeffrey L.  
Walker, Theresa  
Wilks, Alvin Ray  
Wilks, Doris  
Williams, Pamela  
Wilson, Lynda  
Woo, Judy  
Wood, Larry

• ROSCH & ROSS • 707 TRAVIS, SUITE 2100 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

<b>DATE/TIME:</b>	<b>FAX NUMBER:</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PAGES:</b>
December 10, 1999 (2:02PM)	99-0515	Page 1 of 6
<b>FROM:</b>		
William G. Rosch, III		
<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER:</b>		
(713) 222-9595		
<b>FAX NUMBER:</b>	<b>FAX OPERATOR:</b>	
(713) 222-0906	Laurie	
<b>REFERENCE:</b>		
Westgate Subdivision		

TO	FAX NUMBER	COMPANY	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Director, Oil Conservation Division	(505) 827-8177	State of New Mexico	(505) 827-7131
Craig Lewis, Esq.	(713) 238-7888	Gallagher Young Lewis Hampton & Downey	(713) 238-7715
Tom Girardi, Esq.	(213) 481-1554	Girardi & Keese	(213) 977-0211
Michael Newell, Esq.	(505) 396-5305	Heidel Samberson Newell & Cox	(505) 396-5303

**MESSAGE:**

Please see attached **Comments to Shell Oil Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal for the Former Grimes Tank Battery Site and Portions of the Westgate Subdivision.**

- William G. Rosch, III

Unless otherwise indicated or obvious from the nature of the transmittal, the information contained in this facsimile message is attorney privileged and confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone and return the original message to Rosch & Ross at the above address via U.S. Postal Service at our expense. Thank you.

**GALLAGHER, LEWIS & DOWNEY**  
BANK OF AMERICA CENTER  
700 LOUISIANA, 40TH FLOOR  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
CRAIG LEWIS

**ROSCH & ROSS**  
CHASE BANK BUILDING  
707 TRAVIS, SUITE 2100  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
WILLIAM G. ROSCH, III

**GIRARDI & KEESE**  
1126 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017  
THOMAS GIRARDI

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**  
311 N. FIRST STREET, PO BOX 1599  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
MICHAEL NEWELL

December 10, 1999

**By Facsimile (505) 827-8177  
and Overnight Delivery**

Director, Oil Conservation Division  
State of New Mexico  
2040 South Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Re: Comments to Shell Oil Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal for the  
Former Grimes Tank Battery Site and Portions of the Westgate Subdivision.**

Dear Sir:

The following are comments in response to the notice issued by the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, State of New Mexico, with regard to Shell Oil Company's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal and on behalf of our clients (*see Exhibit "A"*) who are various present and former residents of the Hobbs, New Mexico, area and who reside or resided within the immediate geographical area of the Proposed Plan:

**Comments On The Proposed Plan**

1. The Shell Proposed Plan for remediation of the Westgate Subdivision contamination provides merely a technical approach to the removal of highly contaminated soils as if those soils were in an unpopulated area. The Plan wholly ignores several extremely important issues that impact the health, safety, and welfare of the men, women, and children who live, work, and play in the Subdivision, and resolution of these issues is critically important prior to execution

Director, Oil Conservation Division  
December 10, 1999  
Page 2

of the Plan so that the aforementioned residents are not further exposed to the health-threatening contaminants.

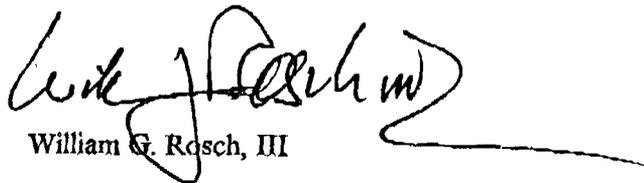
2. The prevailing wind direction in the area of the Subdivision is from south to north. This wind pattern would necessarily carry with it the toxic vapors and suspended contaminated particulate matter released from each of the proposed excavated areas and transport those vapors and contaminated particulates across and, deposit upon, the remainder of the Subdivision, thereby exposing families and their properties to the released contaminants.
3. Although a monitoring program is provided for protection of the workers, as described in Section 6 of the Proposed Plan, there is no such program provided for the protection of the residents. The Proposed Plan suggests addressing the residents' concerns only on an "as needed" basis. It doesn't really take a critical eye to realize that this Plan, as it relates to the protection of the residents, does not provide for a prophylactic approach, an emergency evacuation plan, monitoring of enclosed spaces of the residents such as homes, garages, trailers, and the like, nor is there a contingency plan in place for the benefit of the residents. Simply put, Shell's Proposed Plan, while it expresses concern for its employees, does not adequately address the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of New Mexico residing in the Westgate Subdivision.

Moreover, due to the extended work schedule and the potential for continual exposure over the course of the work effort, scheduled for 185 days, the residents of the Westgate Subdivision are at far greater health risk than the Shell workers at the site. Indeed, levels of exposure via inhalation, ingestion, and absorption, for the young children who live and play in the area has not been addressed at all. It is well established that young children are particularly susceptible to contaminants of the type found in the contaminated Subdivision.

4. The Plan proposes the use of "odor-neutralizing agents" which are not identified. Until identification is made, no reasonable and prudent assessment can be made concerning the efficacy of the use of such "masking" agents.
5. Exposure to the heavy metals identified in the Proposed Plan such as arsenic and chromium, and exposure to hydrocarbons would necessarily, by virtue of the excavation process and the prevailing winds, be elevated above background in the Subdivision and therefore pose a significantly increased health risk to the citizens residing in the Westgate Subdivision.

Simply put, this Proposed Plan, as it relates to Shell's approach to the protection of the residents of the Westgate Subdivision, is insensitive to the needs of those residents and is reactive in nature and not proactive. Once the contaminants become airborne, preventing further exposure to these residents will be much like trying to unbreak an egg.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William G. Rosch, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William G. Rosch, III

WGR/lmb  
Enclosure  
99:1:1111

## EXHIBIT A

Acosta, Concepcion	Barrera, Lucinda	Dominguez, Daniel
Acosta, Rosario	Basgall, Adam	Dominguez, Phillip
Acosta, Adriana	Basgall, Becky	Egans, Amber
Acosta, Jorge M.	Babcock, Emily	Egans, Robert Jr.
Acosta, Laura	Basgall, Matthew	Egans, Robert Sr.
Acosta, Rosario M.	Basgall, Pamela	Egans, Cynthia
Acosta, Cynthia M.	Basgall, Gary	Egans, Danisha
Acosta, Michael	Bell, Pearl	Escamilla, Jose
Acosta, Hope	Bell, Matthew	Escamilla, Else
Carrillo, Rachel	Bell, Justin	Fortner, Kerry
Carrillo, Steven	Bell, Wanda	Fortner, Alisha
Carrillo, Victoria	Bingham, Mitchell	Fortner, Nickolas
Acosta, Ramiro Jr.	Bingham, Sharon	Gandy, Rickey Don
Acosta, Melissa	Bingham, Jordan	Gandy, Rick
Acosta, Meghan	Bridge, Darrell	Gandy, Debra
Acosta, Ramiro Sr.	Bridge, Susan	Bates, Brett
Acosta, Estela	Brooks, Irene	Bates, Desirae
Acosta, Sammy	Brown, Willene Smith	Gandy, Teddy
Acosta, Juanita	Buss, Patricia	Gandy, Louise
Acosta, Candace	Smith, Frederick	Garland, Dorothy
Acosta, Samantha	Castillo, David	Gonzales, LeGina
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Aranda, Rick	Mashaw, April	Hobbs, Ruby
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Baeza, Billy Clay	Cortez, Efren	Hutchings, Patricia
Baeza, Clarissa	Cortez, Yolanda	Hutchings, Patrick
Baeza, Roberto	Cortez, Joshua	Hutchings, Breyana
Peacock, Jasper	Medrano, Brianna	Jaques, Jaquelyn
Baeza, Socorro Carlos	Crockett, Edna M.	Jaques, Jose
Baeza, Ann	DeLaCruz, Nicolas	Jaques, Pat
Baeza, Karla	DelaCruz, Soraida	Jaques, Benjamin
Baeza, Monika	DeLaCruz, Natalie	Johnson, Gary Don
Baldwin, John Allen	DeLaCruz, Cynthia	Johnson, Rebecca
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Barrera, Elisha	Dominguez, Manuel	Jones, Lena M.
Barrera, Fernando Sr.	Dominguez, Ernestina	Kautz, Paul
Barrera, Guadalupe	Dominguez, Matthew	Kautz, Lorretta

Kautz, Timothy  
 King, Margaret  
 King, Raymond  
 Klotzbach, Pamela  
 Thompson, Ryan  
 Ledbetter, Gerald  
 Ledbetter, Debrah  
 Ledbetter, Andrew  
 Ledbetter, Jared  
 Levan, Steven  
 Lewis, Janet  
 Bueno, Angelina  
 Little, Mary Helen  
 Lumbley, Wayne  
 Lumbley, Shirley  
 Marquez, Dulces  
 Marquez, Angelica  
 Marquez, David  
 Marquez, Elias  
 Marquez, Josephine  
 Martinez, Albert  
 Martinez, Donna  
 Martinez, Phillip C.  
 Martinez, Claudio Jr.  
 Martinez, Claudio Sr.  
 Martinez, Aurora  
 Martinez, Claudia  
 (granddaughter)  
 Martinez, Gemma  
 Martinez, Joe B.  
 Martinez, Josie  
 Martinez, Michelle  
 Martinez, Teresa  
 Martinez, Thomas Sr.  
 Martinez, Joseph (d)  
 Martinez, Mary (d)  
 Melendez, Gabriel  
 Melendez, Jorrie  
 Melendez, Jonathan  
 Melendez, Olivia  
 Melendez, Pilar  
 Melendez, Priscilla  
 Melendez, Nicole  
 Menchaca, Rafael  
 Menchaca, Else  
 Menchaca, Edith  
 Menchaca, Erik  
 Mendoza, Robert  
 Mendoza, Vilma  
 Mendoza, Robert, Jr.  
 Mendoza, Rudy  
 Miranda, Pete

Miranda, Cathy  
 Serrano, Ashley  
 Morales, Jessie  
 Morales, Griselda  
 Morales, Ariel  
 Morales, Jesenia  
 Morris, Miranda  
 Neugent, Sue Della  
 Nguyen, Alexander L.  
 Patterson, Jubel  
 Patterson, Tracie  
 Patterson, Dannielle  
 Patterson, Melanie  
 Patterson, Sumner  
 Peterson, Craig  
 Peterson, Rose  
 Peterson, Chris  
 Peterson, Heidi  
 Pullings, Harold R.  
 Pullings, Leta J.  
 Quintana, Tori  
 Quiroga, Alfonso  
 Ramirez, Arlene  
 Ramirez, Rubi  
 Ramirez, Irene  
 Ramirez, Damian  
 Ramirez, Placido  
 Ramirez, Ruth  
 Rising, Evelyn  
 Rising, Gregory (d)  
 Watkins, Johnny  
 Rising, Rahmon A.  
 Rodriguez, Elizabeth  
 Rodriguez, Lacy  
 Rodriguez, Zachary  
 Scoggins, James  
 Scoggins, Joanna  
 Sharp, Leslie  
 Sharp, Connie  
 Sharp, Brittany  
 Sharp, Justin  
 Sharp, Zachary  
 Smith, Lyndsy  
 Smith, Jesse Ray  
 Sparenberg, Mark  
 Sparenberg, Angela  
 Sparenberg, Dante  
 Sparenberg, Jan-Juc  
 Sparenberg, Jorrel  
 Sparenberg, Marcus  
 Stephens, Marianne (Brown)  
 Lopez, Danielle

Stoker, Willie  
 Stoker, Andrea  
 Stoker, Charlsa  
 Stoker, Kalond  
 Tarin, Elias  
 Tarin, Silvia  
 Cabriales, Rosceda  
 Tarin, Eduardo  
 Tarin, Elias P., Jr.  
 Tarin, Hector  
 Telles, Ismael  
 Telles, Socorro  
 Thompson, Glen  
 Thompson, Judy  
 Townsend, Charles Jr.  
 Townsend, Charles Sr.  
 Townsend, Luciana  
 Townsend, Lucas M.  
 Townsend, Timothy  
 Trevino, Leonard  
 Trevino, Vicki  
 Trevino, Desiree  
 Trevino, Presha  
 Trevino, Tommy  
 Trevino, Pamela  
 Trevino, Jennifer  
 Trevino, Stephanie  
 Trevino, Tommy II  
 Valdez, Gabriel  
 Valdez, Jennifer  
 Valdez, Bianca  
 Vela, Iri. Vickie  
 Vela, Henry  
 Vela, Matthew  
 Volz, Frank  
 Volz, Melody  
 Volz, Krystal  
 Volz, Lindsey  
 Walker, Jeffrey L.  
 Walker, Theresa  
 Wilks, Alvin Ray  
 Wilks, Doris  
 Williams, Pamela  
 Wilson, Lynda  
 Woo, Judy  
 Wood, Larry

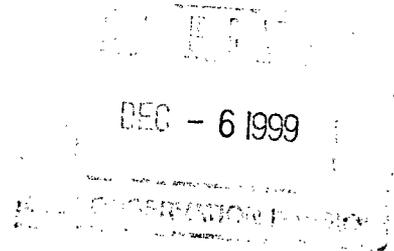


PHONE (505) 397-6388 • FAX (505) 397-0397 • 1324 W. MARLAND • P.O. BOX 297 • HOBBS, NM 88241-0297  
E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

*Certified Return Receipt No: Z574359213*

November 30, 1999

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



**SUBJECT: WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD  
STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE MAILING AFFIDAVIT  
AND MAILING LIST**

Dear Mr. Olson:

On behalf of Shell Exploration and Production Company, BBC International, Inc. respectfully submits the above referenced mailing affidavit per NMOCD Rule 19 requirements.

The affidavit contains a notarized Affidavit of Mailing, copies of the cover letter and public notice mailed to surface owners of record within a one mile radius of the Grimes Battery, a copy of the mailing list of all recipients, and copies of the published notices in the Albuquerque Journal, the Hobbs News-Sun, and the Lovington Daily Leader.

If you have any questions concerning this affidavit, please contact me at (505) 397-6388 or Wayne Hamilton at (281) 544-2322.

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Brunson*  
Cliff P. Brunson  
President

CPB: mo  
Encl.

cc: Chris Williams - Hobbs OCD District Supervisor  
Wayne Hamilton - Shell E & P Company

LAW OFFICES

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**

C. GENE SAMBERSON  
MICHAEL T. NEWELL  
LEWIS C. COX, III

311 NORTH FIRST STREET  
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1699  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
TELEPHONE (505) 396-5303  
FAX (505) 396-5305

F.L. HEIDEL  
(1913-1986)

RECEIVED  
NOV 22 1999  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Patrick B. McMahon

November 18, 1999

William C. Olson  
Hydrogeologist  
Environmental Bureau  
Oil Conservation Division  
Energy, Miners and Natural Resources Department  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**Re: Westgate Subdivision, Hobbs, New Mexico  
Stage 2 Abatement/30-Day Comment Period**

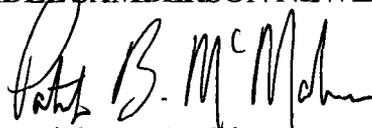
Dear Mr. Olson,

As per our telephone conversation on Wednesday, November 17, 1999, since the public notice of Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan was published in the Albuquerque Journal, Hobbs News-Sun and Lovington Leader on Friday, November 12, 1999, the thirty (30) day comment period regarding such would commence on Saturday, November 13, 1999. Also, according to your conversation with NMOCD's legal counsel, the thirtieth (30) day of the comment period would be Monday, December 13, 1999.

If I am mistaken, please contact me immediately.

Sincerely,

**HEIDEL SAMBERSON NEWELL & COX**

By:   
Patrick B. McMahon

PBM/cd

pc: Craig Lewis, Esq.  
William Rosch, Esq.

**Olson, William**

**To:** Cliff P. Brunson

**Subject:** RE: Westgate Stage 2 Public Notice

I expect that you will need to send 2 copies of the affidavit to the Hobbs Office because they are currently maintaining 2 identical files since correspondence was previously removed from the public file.

---

-----  
**From: Cliff P. Brunson [SMTP:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com]**

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 09, 1999 7:44 PM

**To:** Olson, William

**Cc:** Wayne Hamilton

**Subject:** Westgate Stage 2 Public Notice

Bill,

The Stage 2 public notice will be mailed to the one mile radius surface owners on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 1999 and the notice will be published in the Albuquerque Journal, the Lovington Leader, and the Hobbs News-Sun on Friday, November 12, 1999. I will send you the affidavit of mailing, copies of the notices, and the mailing list next week after the publishing of the notice.

Question: Will I need to supply two copies of the affidavit and list to the Hobbs office also?

Or does that not apply in this case? Please let me know.

Thanks,

Cliff P. Brunson  
President  
BBC International, Inc.

.....  
This electronic transmission/mail and any documents or other writings sent with it may contain privileged and/or confidential information.

"Prepared in Anticipation of Litigation...Confidential and Privileged, Lawyer-Client Communication, Do Not Distribute or Copy, Do Not Place In Unprotected Files. Any dissemination, copying or use of this e-mail by or to anyone other than the designated and intended recipient(s) is unauthorized!"  
.....

Cliff P. Brunson, President  
BBC International, Inc.  
World-Wide Environmental Specialists  
P. O. Box 805  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88241-0805  
Courier address:

1324 W. Marland  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240 USA  
Phone: (505) 397-6388  
Fax: (505) 397-0397  
e-mail: [cbrunson@bbcinternational.com](mailto:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com)  
Web site: [www.bbcinternational.com](http://www.bbcinternational.com)



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

October 29, 1999

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-274-520-724**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
Rm. 4304 Woodcreek  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, Texas 77079

**RE: GRIMES LEASE STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN (AP-2)**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell E&P Company's (Shell) October 12, 1999 "SUBMITTAL OF STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN, WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD". This document contains Shell's Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal for remediation of soil and ground water contamination related to the former Grimes Tank Battery located adjacent to the Westgate Subdivision in Hobbs, New Mexico.

The OCD has determined that the above referenced Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal is administratively complete. Before the OCD can complete a review of the Stage 2 proposal, the OCD requires that:

1. Shell issue by November 13, 1999 the attached public notice of the Stage 2 proposal in the Albuquerque Journal, Hobbs News-Sun and the Lovington Daily Leader pursuant to OCD Rule 19.G.
2. Prior to issuing the public notice, Shell shall issue written notice of the Stage 2 proposal pursuant to OCD Rule 19.G.(1). Please refer to the previously supplied 3.5" disk for a listing of "those persons, as identified by the Director, who have requested notification" pursuant to OCD Rule 19.G.(1).(d) and the contact for the New Mexico Trustee for Natural Resources.

Please provide the OCD with proof of notice as soon as possible upon completing issuance of the written and public notice.

Wayne A. Hamilton  
October 29, 1999  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Olson at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Sharon E. Hall, Arcadis Geraghty & Miller  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International

## **NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

### **STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Regulations, the following Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal has been submitted to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, Telephone (505) 827-7131:

Shell E&P Company, Wayne Hamilton, Project Manager, Telephone (800) 489-8109, 200 North Dairy Ashford, Houston, Texas 77079, has submitted a Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal for the former Grimes Tank Battery Site and portions of the Westgate Subdivision, located adjacent to the intersection of Tasker Drive and Berry Drive and the intersection of Berry Drive and Cobb Drive in the city of Hobbs, New Mexico. Shell E&P Company operated a crude oil tank battery at the site. Releases and disposal activities from former oil and gas production operations at the site have resulted in contamination of soils and ground water. The Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal presents Shell E&P Company's proposed methods for remediation of the site including remediation of contaminated soils; remediation of contaminated ground water; site maintenance activities; a monitoring and sampling plan for soils and ground water; an air monitoring, safety and health action plan; preparation of regular remediation reports; and a schedule for implementation of all remediation and monitoring activities

Any interested person may obtain further information from the Oil Conservation Division and may submit to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, at the address given above, written comments or a written request for a public hearing that include reasons why a hearing should be held. The Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal may be viewed at the above address or at the Oil Conservation Division Hobbs District Office, 1625 N. French Drive, Hobbs, New Mexico 88240, Telephone (505) 393-6161 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Prior to ruling on any proposed Stage 2 Abatement Plan Proposal, the Director of the Oil Conservation Division shall allow at least thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice during which written comments or a written request for a hearing may be submitted.



ALFRED HERNANDEZ/HOBBS NEWS-SUN

Shell Oil Co. has proposed demolishing this townhouse at 1326 N. Tasker as well as the home in the background as part of its plan to clean up oilfield contamination in the Westgate subdivision. A third house, located across the street, must also be torn down before contractors can clean the soil beneath it, according to the remediation plan.

10/21/99  
Hobbs News Sun

# Westgate plan submitted

## Two homes, a duplex to be torn down on Tasker Drive

STARLA JONES  
HOBBS NEWS-SUN

A plan to clean up oilfield debris in a west Hobbs neighborhood calls for the demolition of two homes and a duplex in the Westgate subdivision.

Following nearly a year of scientific and environmental testing in the neighborhood, Shell Oil Co. submitted an abatement plan to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division this week.

"Our process at this point, is they submit the remediation plan and we're looking at having it reviewed by the end of next week," William Olson, an OCD hydrologist out of Santa Fe, said on Wednesday.

Because petroleum hydrocarbons above state standards extend into the ground under the homes and duplex, Shell believes the only way to remove the debris is to remove the buildings, according to Shell spokesman Rich Hansen.

The company purchased a home at 1331 N. Tasker more than a year ago and now proposes to demolish a second home located across the street at 1330 North Tasker as well as a duplex at 1326 and 1328 Tasker.

In addition, hydrocarbons above state standards were discovered in groundwater near the Grimes tank battery. "Groundwater clean-up

wells have already been installed and are operating at the Grimes Battery," Hansen reported in a press release. "This may continue for several years."

Hydrocarbons in groundwater beneath private homes in the neighborhood were below state standards, Hansen added.

Once OCD determines that the Shell plan — which includes details of how to clean up the area as well as work schedules — is complete, it will advertise for public comments on the cleanup plan during a 30-day period, Olson said. Residents, if they desire, can ask for a public hearing on the cleanup plan, he added.

A detailed description of the proposed corrective actions has been provided to OCD and is available for public scrutiny. Once approved, Shell estimates it will take about six months to clean up the area.

The Grimes lease was oil production property operated by Shell between the late 1920s and 1983, according to Hansen, who said Altura Energy Ltd. currently operates the lease.

The suspected source for hydrocarbons found in the soil on Tasker Street are disposal pits related to the tank battery. Hydrocarbons found north

of the battery are the suspected result of spreading tank bottom residues on the ground.

"Use of disposal pits and spreading of tank bottoms were common and acceptable oilfield practices until the late 1960s," according to Hansen.

A total of 64 Westgate residents or former residents filed suit last week in District Court against Shell Western Exploration and Production Inc., Shell Oil Co. and developer Los Cuatros Inc., alleging their health has suffered as a result of the contamination of their neighborhood.

**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

*VIA: Federal Express*  
*Airbill No.: 809913507285*

October 12, 1999

**RECEIVED**

**OCT 13 1999**

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: SUBMITTAL OF STAGE 2 ABATEMENT PLAN, WESTGATE  
SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Per your August 13, 1999 letter Shell Exploration and Production Company submits the attached Stage 2 Abatement Plan.

The Plan addresses the selection and design of remedial actions for soil and ground water which will result in the attainment of the abatement standards and requirements set forth in Rule 19.B.

Please note that the Stage 2 Abatement Plan activities proposed in Task 5- East of Tasker are contingent on gaining access to the properties located at 1326, 1328 and 1330 Tasker. Shell currently does not have access to these properties.

If you have any questions, please call me at (281) 544-2322 or via electronic mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Brunson* /for Wayne Hamilton

Wayne Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: w/attachments  
Chris Williams, NMOCD District 1 Supervisor, 2 copies

# HOBBS News-Sun

Thursday

October 14, 1999

## Residents claim tainted soil led to medical woes

### NEWS-SUN STAFF REPORT

LOVINGTON — A high-profile Los Angeles attorney credited with multi-million dollar court victories filed suit here last week on behalf of 64 people who say their medical problems are related to the toxic oilfield substances discovered in their neighborhood.

Thomas Girardi represents current or former Westgate residents who seek compensation for illnesses they've suffered or fear they may suffer as a result of living in the Hobbs subdivision.

In 1996, Girardi settled a toxic pollution case against Pacific Gas & Electric for \$333 million, according to an Internet publication of the Metropolitan News Enterprise, a Los Angeles-area newspaper.

He also won a \$760 million punitive damage award in 1998 against chemical manufacturers Exxon, UNOCAL, Shell, Ashland and Dupont for failure to warn Lockheed Corporation workers about the toxic side effect of chemicals used in the building of the

Stealth bomber, the newspaper reported.

The Lea County lawsuit was filed last Friday afternoon in District Court against Shell Western Exploration and Production Inc., Shell Oil Co. and Los Cuatros Inc., a Hobbs development company.

Although Shell Public Affairs spokesman Rich Hansen had not yet seen a copy of the lawsuit on Wednesday, the Houston man said he is disappointed "they have to go to litigation to solve this problem. We've been working in good faith with the state to address the problem."

Plaintiffs include residents who have moved from the neighborhood — several to new states — as well as current Westgate residents who listed addresses on Gulf, Tasker, Berry, Princess Jeanne, San Andres and Cobb.

In addition to compensation for medical claims, those who still live in the neighborhood want reimbursement for the diminished market value of their home, plus the cost of relocating and purchasing another home, according to the 36-page lawsuit.

A similar lawsuit, brought by two Houston law firms as well as the Lovington firm of Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox, was filed in Santa Fe last year but dismissed because of improper venue.

The same Houston and Lovington law firms joined Girardi in filing last week's lawsuit, which lists less than a third of the previous suit's 222 plaintiffs.

The apparent difference is that the current plaintiffs reportedly suffer from medical conditions that include auto-immune disorders, neurological injury and damage, respiratory damage, cancer, fear of cancer, heat disease, genetic damage, kidney damage and liver damage.

The suit attributes the health problems to the companies' use and storage of a variety of toxic chemicals that were disposed of through evaporation, release and negligence during Shell operations that extended from 1946 until 1997 at the Grimes lease.

Shell "abandoned the toxic substances and allowed the toxic substances to remain on and under portions of the oil and gas properties that were subsequently transferred/sold to the developer for residential development," according to the civil complaint.

"The Shell defendants knew that the land they were abandoning to be developed as a residential subdivision contained unlined pits and other areas where toxic substances had been used, released and disposed," a fact that Los Cuatros also knew according to the suit, "or by the exercise of ordinary care, should have known..."

The suit accuses the companies of negligence, says they are strictly liable for past and present contamination and claims the contamination is a nuisance, causing annoyance, discomfort and inconvenience to residents.

A fourth count alleges that by allowing toxic substances to migrate into the aquifer under the plaintiffs' property, Shell trespassed.

The 62 plaintiffs are seeking punitive damages, to be determined by a Lea County jury, against each of the three defendants as well as the amount of current and future medical and health care costs, compensation for physical pain and mental anguish and the loss of any earnings.

In addition, current residents who can't sell their house want the cash market value of their homes, plus relocation costs. "Financial institutions have already applied (a) stigma to the homes within the subdivision, and already are limiting and restricting mortgages and on the refinancing of mortgages on homes within the subdivision," the suit alleges.

After spending nearly a year in the neighborhood boring holes, taking water samples and monitoring gas vapors, Shell Oil Co. provided the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division with results of the study in July. Both Shell and OCD said the results revealed no imminent health threat.

Hansen said he expects Shell to announce plans for final remediation in the neighborhood later this month.

"We've said from day one that if there's a problem at the Grimes battery — and there certainly appears to be — we'll take responsibility for it and correct it," Hansen said.

Site assessment to define the full extent of soil and ground water hydrogen carbons in Westgate began in July 1998 after Shell officials admitted responsibility for an asphalt-like substance found at a modular home construction site on Tasker.

The 1997 discovery halted construction of the new homes and resulted in a public hearing in April 1998 attended by about 100 alarmed residents. The neighborhood had a high incident of lupus as well as people who complained of headaches and noxious fumes, members of the audience said at the hearing.

While the New Mexico Department of Health dispatched teams who took door-to-door surveys, companies contacted by Shell moved into the neighborhood and conducted soil gas vapor surveys, drilled bore holes for soil samples and drilled water monitoring wells.

Studies have also targeted the site of the former Grimes tank battery, now a deep pit surrounded by chain-link fence east of Tasker.

Gary E. Johnson  
Governor

J. Alex Valdez  
Secretary

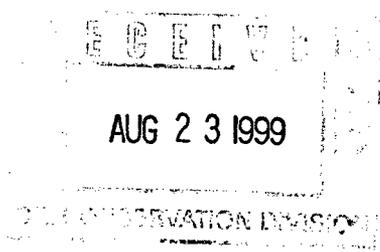


George Parascandola  
Deputy Secretary

Jack Callaghan  
Deputy Secretary

William H. Wiese, MD, MPH  
Division Director

C. Mack Sewell, DrPH, MS  
State Epidemiologist



August 20, 1999

Cliff Brunson  
BBC International  
P.O. Box 805  
Hobbs, NM 88241

Subject: Summary of health data from household survey conducted in the Westgate Community by New Mexico Department of Health, per your request.

Dear Mr. Brunson:

Per your request this week, I am sending you a copy of four graphs and two tables which provide summary data from the household survey conducted in the Westgate Community by the New Mexico Department of Health. Dr. Evan Nelson will transmit a summary of the environmental data (household hydrocarbon screening) collected by the New Mexico Department of Health in collaboration with the Oil Conservation Division and New Mexico Environment Department, under separate cover.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505)476-3586.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Merker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Randy Merker  
Environmental Health Epidemiology Unit  
Office of Epidemiology

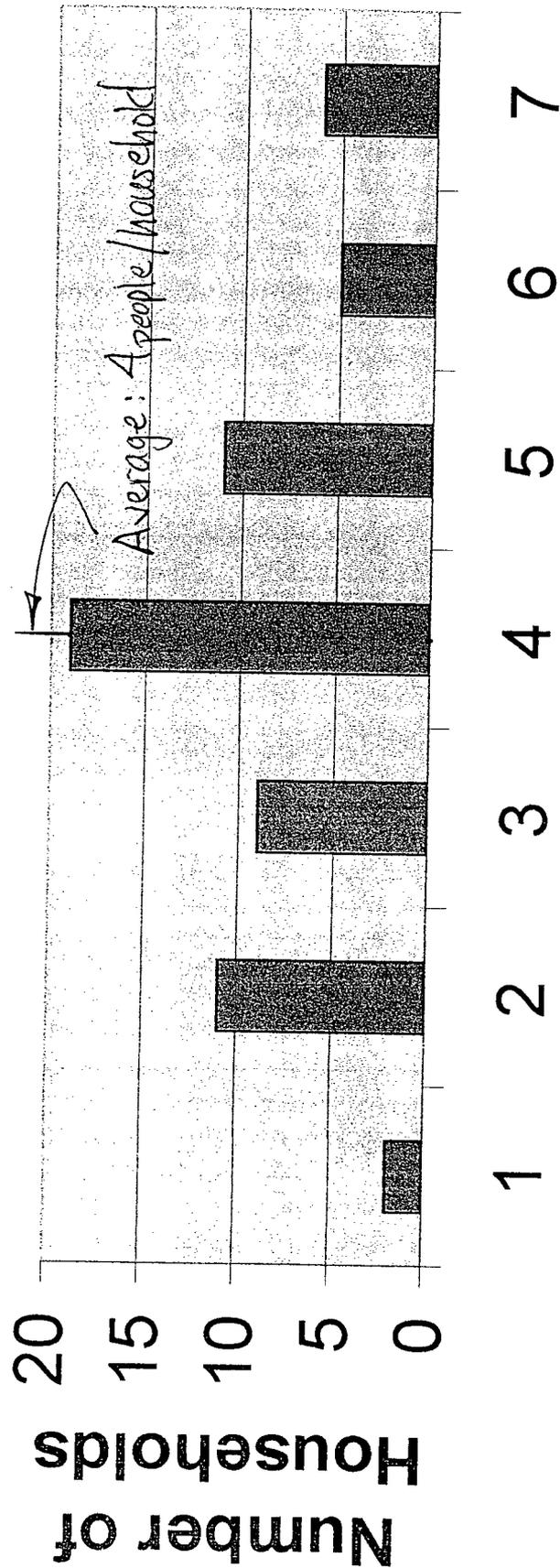
cc: Dr. Evan Nelson, NM Department of Health  
~~Bill Olson, Oil Conservation Division~~

OFFICE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
1190 St. Francis Drive • Room N1350  
Post Office Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110  
(505) 827-0006 • FAX: (505) 827-0013



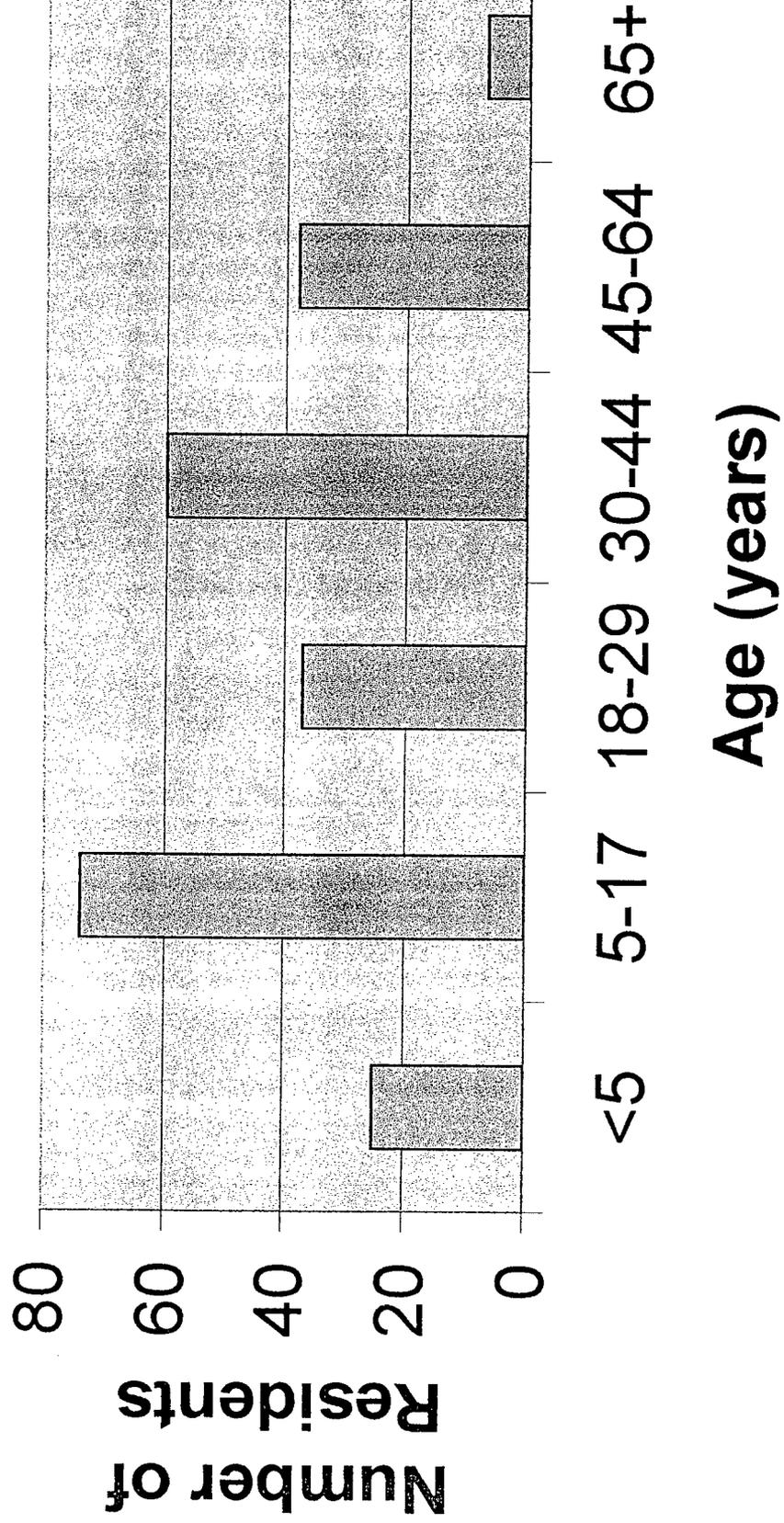
# Hobbs - Westgate Community

## Number of People in a Household



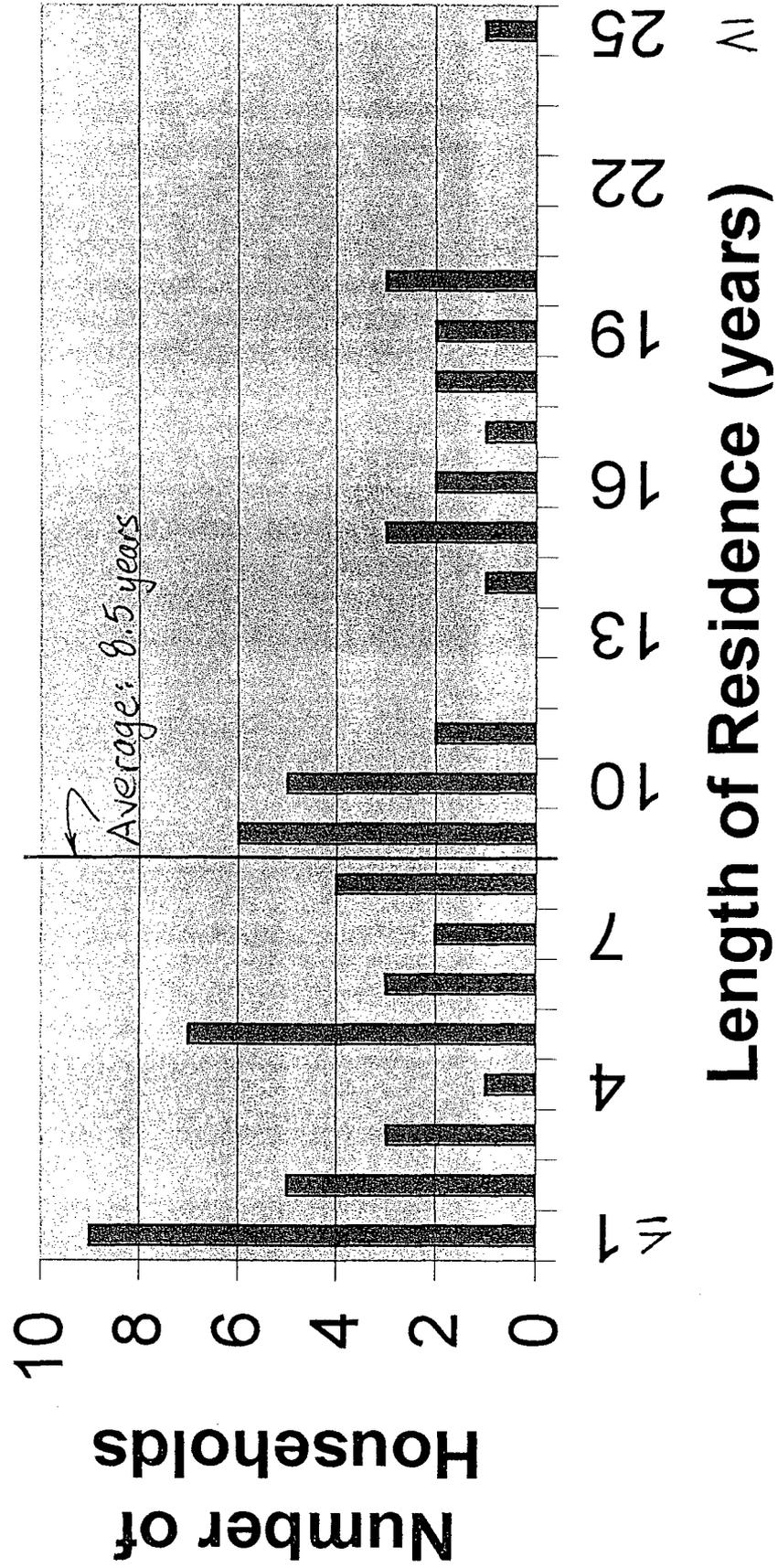
# Hobbs - Westgate Community

## Age of Residents

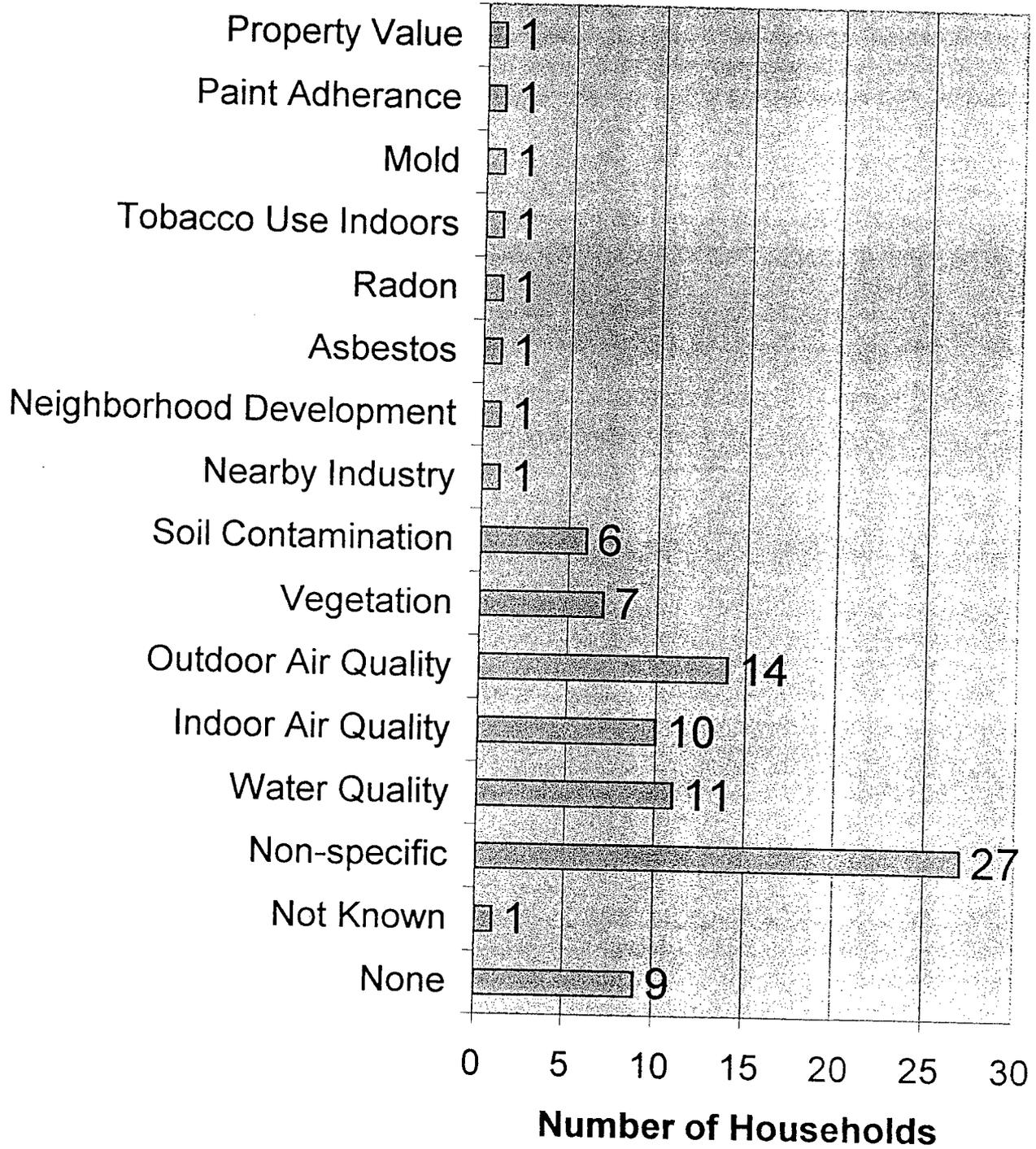


# Hobbs - Westgate Community

## Length of Residence (years)



# Hobbs - Westgate Community Environmental Concerns



<b>Hobbs - Westgate Community: Health Concerns</b>	
Concern	Number of Residents
Headaches / Migraine	24
Respiratory (n.o.s.)	15
Lethargy / Fatigue	15
allergies	14
None	10
skin rash	9
asthma	6
blood pressure	6
Chest Pains	5
Joint Pain / Stiffness	5
Non-specific	4
nose bleeds	4
Diabetes	4
Lupus	3
sore throats	3
Cancer (n.o.s.)	3
Depression	3
Stomach / Abdomen	3
Kidney Inflammation / Stones	3
sinus	2
Dizziness	2
Diarrhea	2
Eye Irritations	2
colds - chronic	1
throat infections	1
wheezing	1
Cardiovascular (n.o.s.)	1
heart disease	1
pulmonary embolism	1
lymphoma	1
skin cancer	1
Lumps / Benign Tumors	1
Skin (n.o.s.)	1
skin infections	1
Stress	1
Cold Sores	1
Miscarriage	1
Confusion / Disorientation	1
Numbness in Extremities	1
Stinging and Tingling	1
Constipation	1
Dyspepsia	1
Thyroid	1
Gynecologic	1
Fibromyalgia	1
Teeth (n.o.s.)	1
Feet (n.o.s.)	1
Cataracts	1
Pink Eye	1
Ear (n.o.s.)	1
ear infections	1

<b>Hobbs - Westgate Community: Health Concerns</b>	
<i>Concern</i>	<i>Number of Residents</i>
None	10
Non-specific	4
Lupus	3
Respiratory (n.o.s.)	15
asthma	6
allergies	14
colds - chronic	1
nose bleeds	4
sinus	2
sore throats	3
throat infections	1
wheezing	1
Cardiovascular (n.o.s.)	1
blood pressure	6
heart disease	1
pulmonary embolism	1
Chest Pains	5
Cancer (n.o.s.)	3
lymphoma	1
skin cancer	1
Lumps / Benign Tumors	1
Skin (n.o.s.)	1
skin rash	9
skin infections	1
Headaches / Migraine	24
Diabetes	4
Lethargy / Fatigue	15
Depression	3
Stress	1
Cold Sores	1
Miscarriage	1
Joint Pain / Stiffness	5
Dizziness	2
Confusion / Disorientation	1
Numbness in Extremities	1
Stinging and Tingling	1
Stomach / Abdomen	3
Constipation	1
Diarrhea	2
Dyspepsia	1
Thyroid	1
Kidney Inflammation / Stones	3
Gynecologic	1
Fibromyalgia	1
Teeth (n.o.s.)	1
Feet (n.o.s.)	1
Cataracts	1
Eye Irritations	2
Pink Eye	1
Ear (n.o.s.)	1
ear infections	1

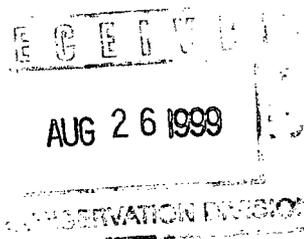
**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001



CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT NO. P-622-718-890

August 19, 1999

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**RE: WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD  
STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN REPORT  
(Site Assessment Investigation)**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Please find enclosed a replacement page for Table 2 – Soil Laboratory Results in the above referenced report submitted to your office on July 1, 1999. This is the page that was discussed at our meeting on August 12, 1999. The TRPHC results for TSB-23 (6”), TSB-27 (6”), TSB-32 (6”), TSB-39 (6”), TSB-42 (6”), and TSB-49 (6”) were inadvertently not included in the copy(s) you received. As discussed, these results were used in the interpretation and are posted on the maps, but were not posted in the table. Please insert this page in the proper place and dispose of the incorrect one.

Our apologies for the inconvenience this may have caused. If you have any questions, please contact me at (281) 544-2333 or via e-mail at: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Beeman for Wayne Hamilton*  
Wayne Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Chris Williams-OCD Hobbs District Supervisor

Table 2 - Soil Laboratory Results

Analyte	Method	TSB-13 8-10'	TSB-13 23-25'	TSB-15 13-15'	TSB-15 23-25'	TSB-16 18-20'	TSB-16 63-66'	TSB-16 63-66D	TSB-17 13-15'	TSB-17 40-42'	TSB-18 33-35'	TSB-18 43-45'	TSB-18 8-10'	TSB-19 38-40'	TSB-19 6-8"	TSB-23 6-8"	TSB-27 6-8"	TSB-32 6-8"	TSB-39 6-8"	TSB-42 6-8"	TSB-49 6-8"
	Sample: 106626	Sample: 106627	Sample: T118243	Sample: T118244	Sample: 118710	Sample: 118711	Sample: 118712	Sample: 119130	Sample: 119131	Sample: 119627	Sample: 119628	Sample: 119629	Sample: 119630	Sample: 126285	Sample: 126286	Sample: 126287	Sample: 126288	Sample: 126289	Sample: 126290		
Molybdenum	S 6010B	1.8	1.8			1.8	ND	ND	ND												
Nickel	S 6010B	6.1	6			36	22	14	9.0	ND	1.3	0.93	3.2	1.4	7.7	6.9	6.5	7.2	6.4	6.9	
Cyanide	Sm 4500 CN,CE	ND	ND			ND	ND														
Fluoride	E 300.0	9	4			2.6	1.5	1.4	6.1	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.3							
Nitrate	E 300.0	1.7	2.3			ND	ND	ND	4.4	1.6	2.1	1.9	6.1	1.5							
Chloride	E 300.0	14	320			15	22	18	140	100	12	10	1,100	31							
Sulfate	E 300.0	56	500			7.7	9.4	6.7	240	84	50	38	1,900	22							
TDS	E 160.1	440	1500			192	500	380	830	370	240	265	4,400	220							
pH	E 150.1	8.6	8.7			8.9	9.1	9.1	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.8	8.0	8.7							
TRPHC	S 418.1	6250	ND	ND	ND	17,200	51.7	ND	3450	1780	346	867	333	1810							
Total Phenols	SM 5530 A,D	1.5	4.2			ND	ND	0.609	ND	0.627	ND	0.697	ND	ND							
Total Activity	E 901.1M	8.19	1.11			2.49	2.09	1.68	3.21	0.20	0.21	1.70	2.02	5.65							

ND = Not Detected. See Laboratory Analysis in Appendix IV for detection limits.



PHONE (505) 397-6388 • FAX (505) 397-0397 • 1324 W. MARLAND • P.O. BOX 297 • HOBBS, NM 88241-0297  
E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

July 1, 1999

RECEIVED

JUL 01 1999

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD  
STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN REPORT  
(Site Assessment Investigation)**

Dear Mr. Olson:

On behalf of Shell Exploration and Production Company, BBC International, Inc. and Arcadis Geraghty & Miller respectfully submit the above referenced report. The report describes field activities conducted during the period of January 25, 1999 through March 1, 1999 and May 17, 1999 through May 21, 1999. The activities consisted of additional assessment of the Westgate Subdivision and adjacent undeveloped properties.

The work involved soil vapor surveys with mobile laboratory analysis, drilling and sampling of 13 soil borings, installation of 3 monitor wells, sampling of 16 monitor wells, free product removal from one monitor well, assessment-remediation of soils, and near surface soil sampling. All field activities were performed in accordance with the Stage I Abatement Plan (Site Assessment Investigation) as modified and approved by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.

If you have any questions concerning the report, please contact Wayne Hamilton at 281-544-2322 or myself at 505-397-6388.

Sincerely,  
**BBC International, Inc.**

Cliff P. Brunson  
President



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Lori Wrotenbery, Director  
**FROM:** William C. Olson, Water Resource Engineering Specialist II *WCO*  
**DATE:** June 29, 1999  
**RE:** SHELL GRIMES LEASE/WESTGATE SUBDIVISION

Following is the status of the recent activities related to Abatement Plan (AP-2) for the Shell Grimes Lease in the Westgate Subdivision in Hobbs, New Mexico.

- November 16, 1998 - Shell submits Stage 1 Interim Report .
- December 15, 1998 - OCD issues notice of deficiency on Stage 1 Interim Report and requires additional information and work plans.
- January 14, 1999 - Shell submits information and work plans required by OCD.
- January 22, 1999 - OCD conditionally approves of work plans.
- February 1999 - Shell begins implementing work plans.
- February 11, 1999 - OCD inspects site investigation activities and splits monitor well samples with Shell.
- February 17, 1999 - Shell submits modification of work plans for additional boreholes and monitor wells.
- February 22, 1999 - OCD approves modifications.
- April 28, 1999 - OCD meets with Shell on results of recent investigations.
- April 30, 1999 - OCD requests information from attorneys for Westgate residents on any investigations conducted by residents and any known or potential sources of contamination in the residential areas.
- May 5, 1999 - Shell submits work plan for additional investigations as a result of 4/28/99 meeting.

- May 11, 1999 - OCD conditionally approves of additional investigations.
- May 20, 1999 - OCD inspects additional investigations and splits soil samples with Shell from residents back yards.
- May 24, 1999 - Shell requests extension of report deadline from June 15, 1999 to July 1, 1999 due to additional actions required in OCD's 5/11/99 conditions.
- June 14, 1999 - OCD approves report deadline extension.

The OCD initially required an abatement plan for the Grimes Lease/Westgate Subdivision on March 23, 1998. Shell has implemented the work plans and the OCD is currently awaiting submission of a report on the results of the Stage 1 investigation actions which is due on July 1, 1999. If the investigation actions are complete the OCD will require submission of a Stage 2 remediation plan. The investigations have taken a little over a year to implement due to the large scope of work at the site.

**Olson, William**

---

**From:** Olson, William  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 1999 10:09 AM  
**To:** 'Hamilton, Wayne WA SEPCO'  
**Subject:** RE: Press Release: Second Site Assessment Report  
**Importance:** High

The following press release that you submitted on submission of the stage 1 investigation report looks ok.

---

-----  
**From:** Hamilton, Wayne WA SEPCO[SMTP:WH195042@MSXSEPC.SHELL.COM]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 1999 7:59 AM  
**To:** Olson, William  
**Subject:** Press Release: Second Site Assessment Report

<<File: SHELL COMPLETES SECOND SITE ASSESSMENT.doc>>  
Any comments on the following press release?

<<SHELL COMPLETES SECOND SITE ASSESSMENT.doc>>

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Manager Retained Properties

Shell E&P Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
WCK Room 4134  
Houston, TX 77079

Voice: 281-544-2322 FAX: 281-544-2238  
E-Mail: wahamilton@shellus.com

**Olson, William**

---

**From:** Hamilton, Wayne WA SEPCO[SMTP:WH195042@MSXSEPC.SHELL.COM]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 1999 7:59 AM  
**To:** Olson, William  
**Subject:** Press Release: Second Site Assessment Report



SHELL COMPLETES  
SECOND SITE ASSESSMENT.d

Any comments on the following press release?

<<SHELL COMPLETES SECOND SITE ASSESSMENT.doc>>

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Manager Retained Properties

Shell E&P Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
WCK Room 4134  
Houston, TX 77079

Voice: 281-544-2322 FAX: 281-544-2238  
E-Mail: wahamilton@shellus.com

## **SHELL COMPLETES SECOND SITE ASSESSMENT AROUND GRIMES BATTERY IN WESTERN HOBBS**

**HOUSTON, TX (July 1, 1999) – Shell has presented a follow-up “site assessment” to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) for the former Grimes Tank Battery and related facilities on the west side of Hobbs. The study began in January, pursuant to a plan approved by the OCD after an original site assessment was submitted in November, 1998.**

**The site assessment will assist Shell and the OCD in the design of a Stage II Abatement Plan to address areas where residual oil field products were discovered. Soil and groundwater sampling occurred throughout the Westgate area, with hydrocarbon concentrations in the soil predominantly appearing in two areas – the Grimes Battery, and former oil field pits on Tasker Drive.**

**Primary field activities during the follow-up assessment included: conducting a soil gas vapor survey where about 100 samples were taken from five to ten feet deep probes; drilling 13 boreholes to depths of 20-40 feet for soil samples; drilling three additional water monitoring wells (and taking water samples from all 16 monitoring wells now operating in the area), and locating, investigating and removing some oil field residues north and south of the Grimes Battery.**

**Most of the work was performed north and south of the Grimes Battery, as well as on five private properties in the Westgate area.**

Complete copies of the report, including both the initial and follow-up assessments, are available from the OCD in Hobbs or Sante Fe. The soil and water analytical work was performed using EPA methods in accordance with the OCD approved work plan.

Contact: Rich Hansen (281) 544-2020

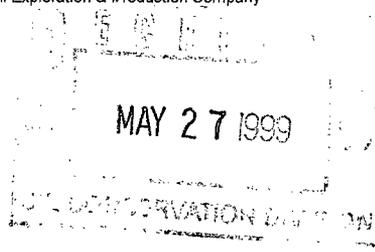
**Shell E&P Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001



CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT NO. P-622-718-889

May 24, 1999

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

SUBJECT: Grimes Lease/Tasker Drive Stage I Investigation-Report Submission  
Deadline Extension

Dear Mr. Olson:

In response to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) letter dated May 11, 1999, (*Grimes Lease/Tasker Drive Contamination Stage 1 Investigation Modifications*) Shell E&P Company (Shell) requests an extension of the deadline for submission of the Stage 1 Investigation Report to July 1, 1999. This extension is required in order for the additional analytical work requested by OCD to be completed and included in the report.

Shell requests OCD's written concurrence with the requested deadline extension.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (281) 544-2333 or e-mail [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

*Chris P. Beaman / for Wayne Hamilton*  
Wayne Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Chris Williams-OCD Hobbs District Supervisor

# Shell E&P Technology Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

MAY 10 1999

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT NO. P-622718888

May 5, 1999

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**SUBJECT: Westgate Subdivision, Stage 1 Abatement Plan Modification-Additional Soil Vapor Survey**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Pursuant to our discussions on April 28, 1999, it is our understanding that the following additional soil vapor work will be required by the Oil Conservation Division ("OCD") in the Westgate Subdivision, East of Tasker Drive and South Cobb Drive.

**Figure 1** shows the location of the proposed soil vapor survey and auger points on Tasker Drive.

- Four soil vapor sample points will be taken around the home on 1330 Tasker Drive and four soil vapor sample points will be taken around each duplex on 1326 and 1328 Tasker Drive. The sample intervals will be 1', 3', 5', and 10'. An additional incline sample will be taken under the foundation at or near each sample point.
- Near surface hand auger assessments will be conducted in the backyards of the same residences. The spacing will be approximately 5-10 feet depending upon obstructions in the yards. The purpose of the hand auger assessment is to determine the presence and/or absence of near surface hydrocarbons. At least one soil sample from each backyard will be submitted for TPH and BTEX analyses.

**Figure 2** shows the location of the proposed soil vapor survey points on Cobb Drive.

- Four soil vapor sample points will be taken around the home on 1341 Cobb Drive. The sample intervals will be 1', 3', 5', and 10'. An additional incline sample will be taken under the foundation at or near each sample point.

The soil vapor survey is scheduled to begin on May 17, 1999 utilizing field probes and a mobile laboratory. The sampling protocol methodology and analytes will be the same as previous soil vapor surveys.

In addition, Shell requests that the Stage 1 Abatement Plan Report due date be extended to June 15, 1999. The due date extension is necessary to gain property access, complete the vapor survey, and complete the report. **The report due date is contingent upon receiving property access.** Shell will make every effort to gain private and public property access to conduct the soil vapor survey and auger assessment.

Shell requests OCD's written concurrence with this Stage 1 Abatement Plan Modification.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 281-544-2333 or e-mail [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,



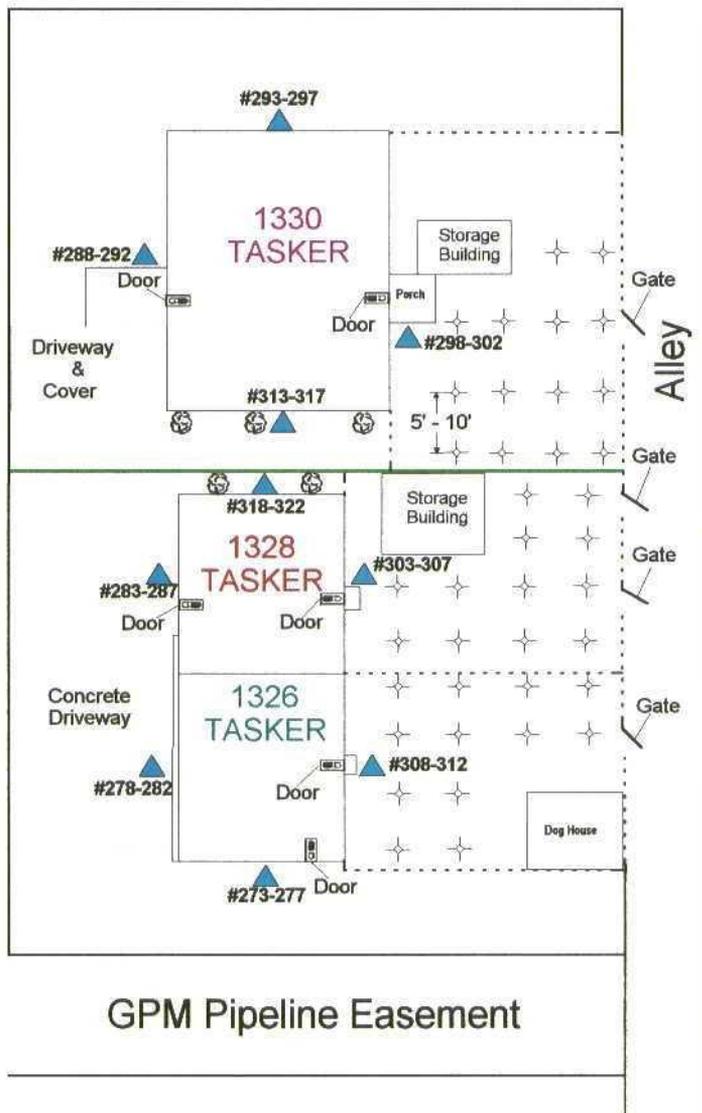
Wayne Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Chris Williams – Hobbs OCD office



Berry Drive

Tasker Drive



GPM Pipeline Easement

**Soil Vapor Survey and Hand Auger Assessment**  
**Tasker Drive**

- ▲ Soil Probe Location
  - a) Depth: Vertical - 1', 3', 5', 10'
  - b) Incline Probe under house foundation 3-5'

✦ Approximate Hand Auger Location  
(Approx. 5'-10' spacing)

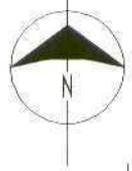
---- Fence

🌿 Bush Schematic Drawing Not to Scale

BBC International, Inc.  
Hobbs, NM

Drawn By: M. Osborne  
May 4, 1999

**Figure 1**



BERRY DRIVE

Alley

COBB DRIVE

Dog Pen  
Concrete Driveway

Gate

#333-337

Door

Door

1341  
COBB

#338-342

#328-332

Storage

Building

#323-327

Soil Vapor Survey - Cobb Drive

- ▲ Soil Probe Location
  - a) Depth: Vertical - 1', 3', 5', 10'
  - b) Incline Probe under house foundation 3-5'

--- Fence

Schematic Drawing Not to Scale

BBC International, Inc.  
Hobbs, NM

Drawn By: M. Osborne  
May 4, 1999

**Figure 2**



**Shell E&P Technology Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration &amp; Production Company

Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT NO. P-622718888

May 5, 1999

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505**SUBJECT: Westgate Subdivision, Stage 1 Abatement Plan Modification-Additional  
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Shell requests OCD's written concurrence with this Stage 1 Abatement Plan Modification.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 281-544-2333 or e-mail [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Johnson for Wayne Hamilton*

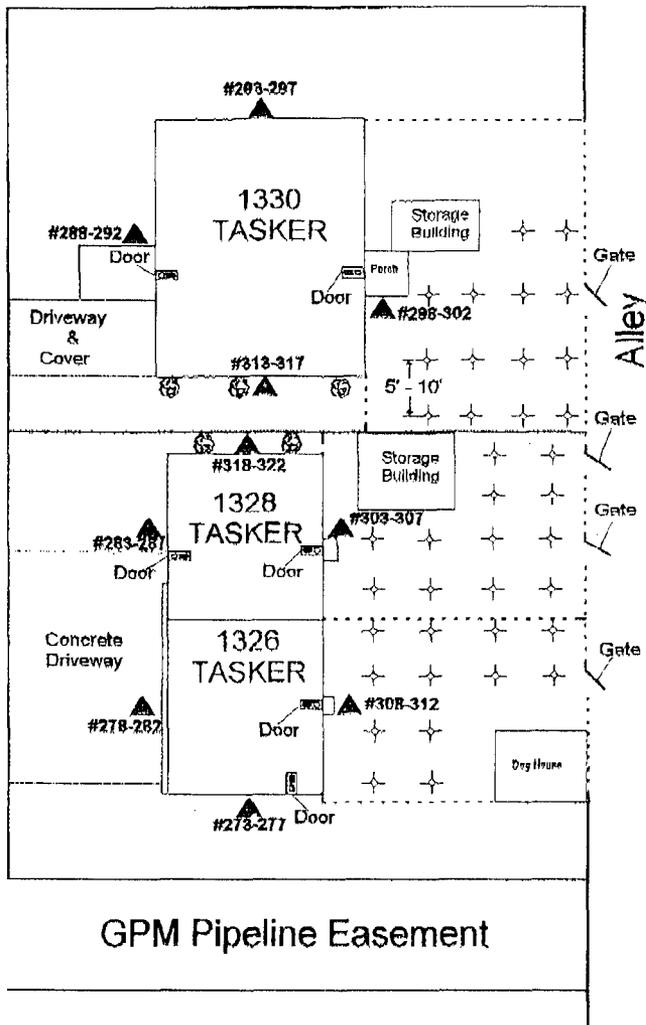
Wayne Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Chris Williams - Hobbs OCD office



Berry Drive

Tasker Drive



GPM Pipeline Easement

**Soil Vapor Survey and Hand Auger Assessment  
Tasker Drive**

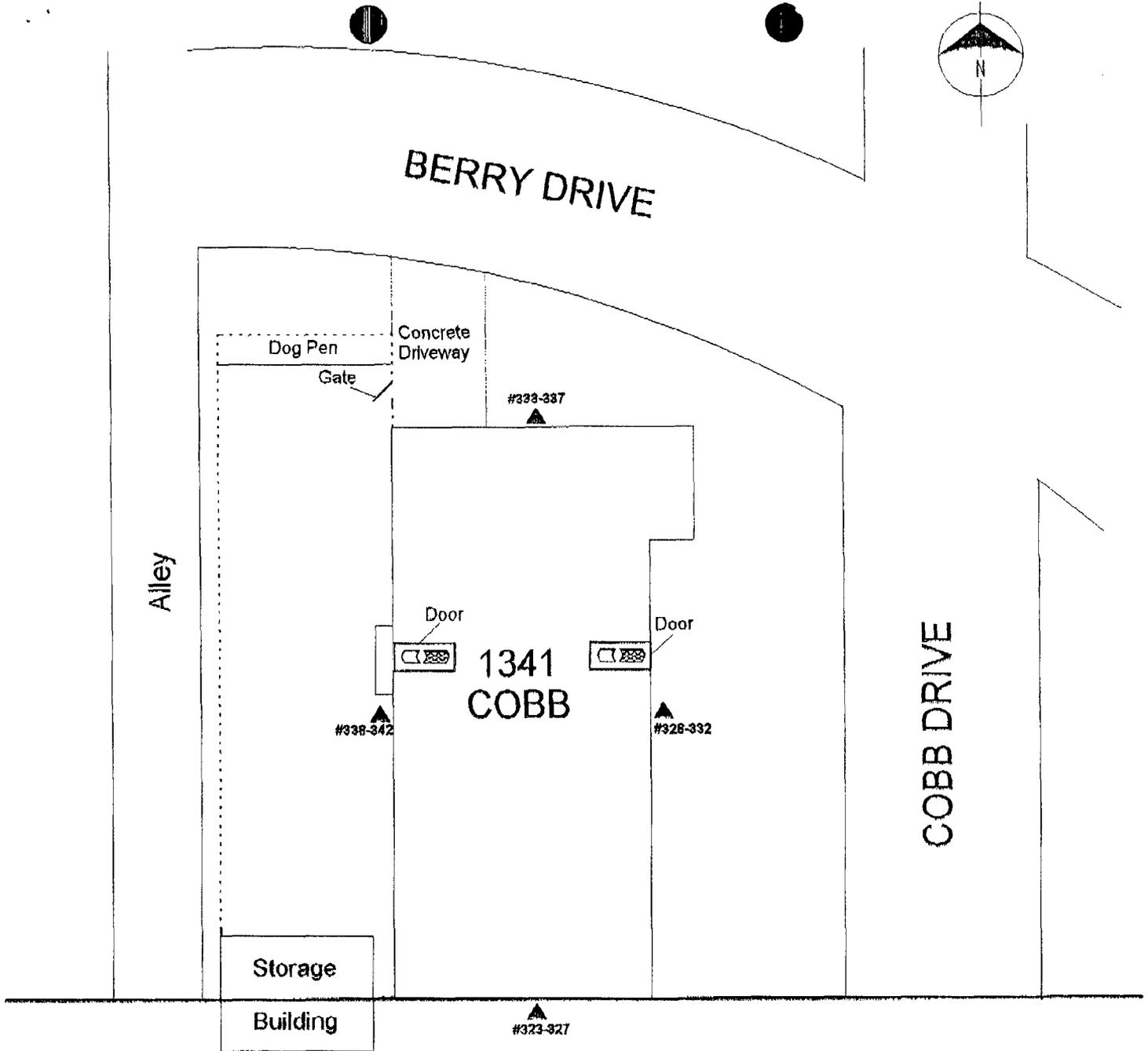
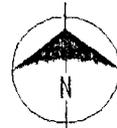
- ▲ Soil Probe Location
  - a) Depth: Vertical - 1', 3', 5', 10'
  - b) Incline Probe under house foundation 3-5'
- ✦ Approximate Hand Auger Location  
(Approx. 5'-10' spacing)
- Fence
- ⊗ Bush

Schematic Drawing Not to Scale

BBC International, Inc.  
Hobbs, NM

Drawn By: M. Osborne  
May 4, 1999

**Figure 1**



<u>Soil Vapor Survey - Cobb Drive</u>	
▲ Soil Probe Location	
a) Depth: Vertical - 1', 3', 5', 10'	
b) Incline Probe under house foundation 3-5'	
--- Fence	
Schematic Drawing Not to Scale	
BBC International, Inc.	
Hobbs, NM	
Drawn By: M. Osborne	
May 4, 1999	
<b>Figure 2</b>	



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

April 30, 1999

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-274-520-645**

Mr. William G. Rosch, III  
Rosch & Ross  
Chase Bank Building  
707 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, TX 77002

**RE: SHELL GRIMES LEASE/TASKER ROAD SITE  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Rosch:

In previous correspondence related to the above named site you stated that your firm represents a number of residents who reside or have resided in the immediate vicinity of Shell Oil Company's (Shell) Grimes Lease in the Westgate Subdivision in Hobbs, New Mexico. As you know the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has required Shell to investigate the extent of contamination related to Shell's Grimes Lease and former unlined pit on Tasker Road within the Westgate Subdivision. The OCD expects to be receiving a report on Shell's investigations in the near future. The OCD understands that the residents may also have conducted some investigations into the nature of the contamination at the site. The OCD requests that you provide the OCD with any laboratory analytical data or information on the extent and potential sources of contamination linked to Shell's adjacent oilfield operations that the residents may have collected at the site or in the residential areas. This information will allow the OCD to be able to fully assess potential public health impacts and public exposure to contaminants at the site.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,

William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Wayne A. Hamilton, Shell E&P Technology Company  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision

Z 274 520 E45

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### Because We Want You to Know

As you know, Shell has been working at the Grimes Tank Battery and related facilities on the west side of Hobbs for much of 1998. We wanted you to know where this project stands.

Shell completed its initial "site assessment" of this property and submitted the report to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) in November, 1998.

Since then, Shell and the OCD have been discussing steps for future site activities. As a result of these conversations, the OCD has authorized Shell to:

- **Further investigate**, locate and remove oil field residues both north and south of the Grimes Battery. Backhoes and dump trucks will begin this work on Monday, Jan. 25. Soil samples will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. The soil will be disposed of at an OCD approved landfill.
- **Conduct about 20 additional Soil Vapor Analysis tests.** A pickup truck-mounted hammer will install the 5-10 foot deep probes. This work will begin during the first week of February and last three or four days.
- **Drill nine more 20-60 foot deep holes** to further evaluate soil and groundwater conditions in the vicinity of the Grimes Battery. The "borings" will be drilled during the first two weeks of February at selected locations in the Westgate subdivision.

Copies of the "site assessment" report are available in both in the Hobbs and Santa Fe OCD offices.

Thank you for your patience. If you have additional questions about Shell's plans, please call toll free (800) 489-8109.

Shell Oil Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

January 22, 1999

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	1/21/99	# of pages	▲
To	Olson	From	Hamilton		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	281-544-2322		
Fax #	505 827-8177	Fax #			



PHONE (505) 397-6388 • FAX (505) 397-0397 • 1324 W. MARLAND • P.O. BOX 297 • HOBBS, NM 88241-0297  
E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

# Memo

RECEIVED

JAN 06 1999

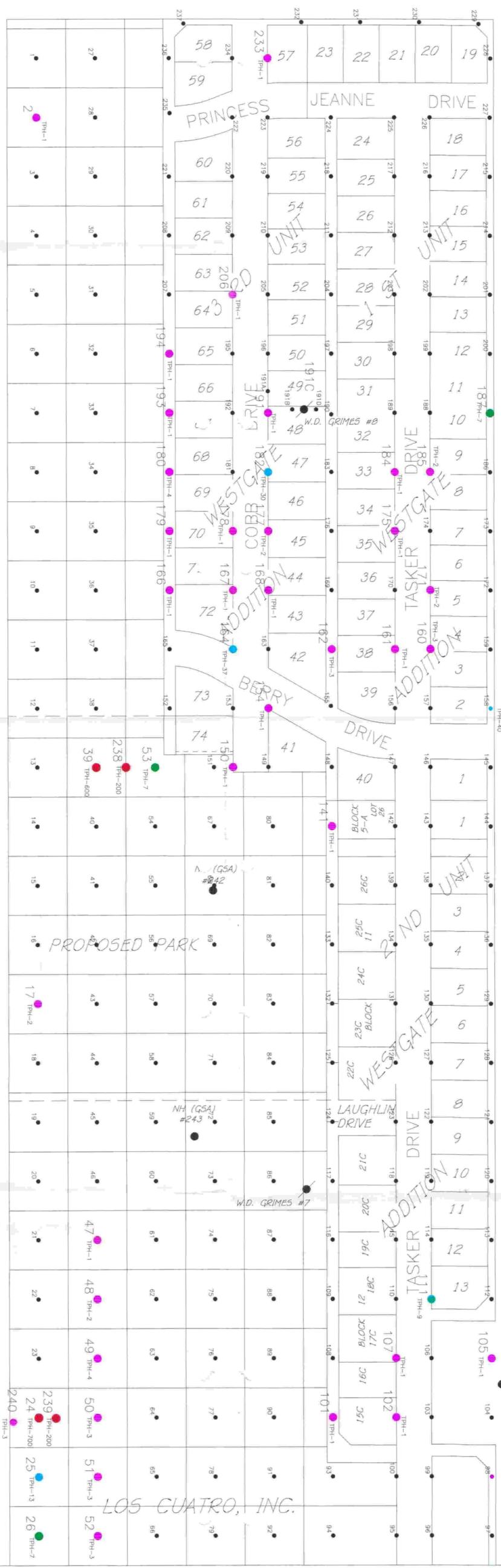
ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

**To:** Bill Olson  
**From:** Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
**Subject:** Westgate Project  
**Date:** December 31, 1998

Bill,

Please find enclosed the soil vapor map that plots the points that TPH was detected. Also, included is the groundwater gradient map generated with the data from all 13 monitor wells. We can use these in our discussion and meeting with you on Thursday morning the 7<sup>th</sup>. These are two of the maps that you requested in your letter of December 15, 1998.

Cliff



NOTE:  
 THE INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP ARE PRELIMINARY. THE MAP INTERPRETATION MAY CHANGE WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DATA IS DEVELOPED.

LEGEND  
 SOIL VAPOR TPH CONCENTRATION

- = 1-5 PPM
- = 6-10 PPM
- = 11-100 PPM
- = > 100



RECEIVED  
 JAN 06 1999  
 ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION



BBC INTERNATIONAL INC.

SOIL VAPOR SURVEY SAMPLE POINTS - 100 FOOT GRID SPACING  
 FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD UNITS OF WESTGATE ADDITIONS  
 LOCATED IN THE WEST HALF OF SECTION 26,  
 TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH, RANGE 38 EAST, N.M.P.M.,  
 LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Surveyed By: LAG/255	Drawn By: JAV/002	Plot Date: 5/9/99	Scale: 1"=90'
Date: 5/11/98	Date: 5/12/98	Drawn: JAV	Sheet: 01
Drawn: JAV	Approved By:	Checked: JAV	Figure: 14
Project #: 981103M	Revision: 02B-02		

SANGER STREET



JOHN WEST SURVEYING COMPANY  
 HOBBS, NEW MEXICO



**Olson, William**

---

**To:** Wayne Hamilton - Shell  
**Subject:** December 15, 1998 OCD correspondence  
**Importance:** High

There is an error in item B.5. of the OCD's December 15, 1998 correspondence on the Shell Grimes site. The date for submittal of the work plan for additional investigations in item B.5. should be the same as the date for submittal of the deficiencies in item A. The actual date for submittal of the work plan for additional investigations in item B.5. is January 15, 1998 and not January 11, 1998 as listed.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

December 15, 1998

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-274-520-581**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
P.O. Box 576  
Houston, Texas 77001-0576

**RE: NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY**  
**GRIMES LEASE STAGE 1 INTERIM REPORT**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell Exploration & Production Technology Company's (Shell) November 16, 1998 "WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN INTERIM REPORT; LABORATORY RESULTS UPDATE" and November 6, 1998 "WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN INTERIM REPORT (SITE ASSESSMENT INVESTIGATION)". These documents contain the results of Shell's recent Stage 1 Abatement Plan investigations of the magnitude and extent of contamination related to a former unlined pit located in the Westgate residential subdivision at 1329 Tasker Road Hobbs, New Mexico, a former unlined pit at the adjacent Grimes Tank Battery and other areas of the Grimes Lease. The documents also contain Shell's recommendations for additional investigative actions.

The OCD's review of these documents is contained below.

- A. The OCD has identified a number of deficiencies in the above referenced documents. Shell will submit information to the OCD by January 15, 1999 which will correct the following deficiencies:
1. The report does not contain a ground water potentiometric map showing the direction and magnitude of the hydraulic gradient at the site as required in OCD's July 24, 1998 approval of the Stage 1 Abatement Plan Proposal. Therefore, the OCD cannot provide any comments on the adequacy of the recent ground water investigations or on the need for additional ground water investigation actions.
  2. The report does not contain any interpretation of the analytical results of the soil gas, soil borings or ground water investigations.

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton

December 15, 1998

Page 2

3. The report needs to include a soil gas map which plots the results of the soil vapor survey. OCD plotted the soil vapor total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations listed in the report onto the available map. When this data is plotted, the map clearly shows that 4 distinct cluster patterns of TPH soil gas vapor were observed throughout the survey area as follows:
    - a. A cluster of high concentrations of TPH soil gas with accompanying benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX) soil gas located at the former Grimes Tank Battery and the former pit area on Tasker Drive.
    - b. A cluster of high concentrations of TPH soil gas in the far southwest corner of the soil gas survey area (SV-24, SV-25, SV-26, SV-47, SV-48, SV-49, SV-50, SV-51, SV-52, SV-239, SV-240).
    - c. A cluster of low concentrations of TPH soil gas in the far southeast corner of the soil gas survey area (SV-98, SV-101, SV-102, SV-105, SV-107,).
    - d. A cluster of low to moderate concentrations of TPH soil gas in the subdivision areas on Cobb Drive and Tasker Drive north of the Perry residence (SV-154, SV-161, SV-162, SV-164, SV-166, SV-167, SV-168, SV-171, SV-175, SV-177, SV-178, SV-179, SV-180, SV-182, SV-184, SV-185, SV-191, SV-193, SV-194, SV-206).
  4. Map sample locations for soil gas sample points SV-297, TSV-O, TSV-P and TSV-Q could not be found on figure 4 and figure 5.
  5. Soil gas sample analytical results for sample points SV-67, SV-82, SV-126, SV-133, SV-160, SV-187, TSV-D, TSV-S and TSV-W could not be found in Table 2.
  6. The sample depths for the "CSS" samples could not be found in either the text or in Table 3.
  7. The full suite analytical sampling data for CSS #6 could not be found in Table 3.
- B. The recommendations for additional investigation actions are approved with the following conditions:
1. Shell will submit a vapor monitoring and contingency plan to the OCD for approval prior to excavating any soils from the Task 2 and 3 areas identified in Shell's November 6, 1998 correspondence. The plan will be designed to prevent magration of vapor emissions from the site and into the residential subdivision.

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
December 15, 1998  
Page 3

2. Confirmation samples from the assessment areas defined in Task 2 and 3 of Shell's November 6, 1998 correspondence will be taken as individual discrete samples across the excavated areas and not as composite samples.
3. All soil samples will be field preserved with methanol.
4. All wastes generated during the investigation will be disposed of at an OCD approved facility.
5. Shell will submit to the OCD by January 11, 1998 a work plan for additional investigation of the following areas:
  - a. The extent of contamination in the areas of potential soil contamination identified by the OCD in item A.3. listed above.
  - b. The extent of soil contamination found in the area in monitor well GMW-9.
  - c. The western extent of soil contamination at the Tasker Road pit.

Please be advised that OCD approval does not limit SHELL to the proposed work plan should the investigation actions fail to adequately define the extent of contamination, or if contamination exists which is outside the scope of the work plan. In addition, OCD approval does not relieve SHELL of responsibility for compliance with any other federal, state or local laws and regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Olson of my staff at (505) 827-7154 .

Sincerely,



Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief

xc: Lori Wrotenberg, Director, OCD  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Department of Health  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross  
Sharon E. Hall, Philip Services  
Cliff P. Brunson, BBC International

Z 274 520 581

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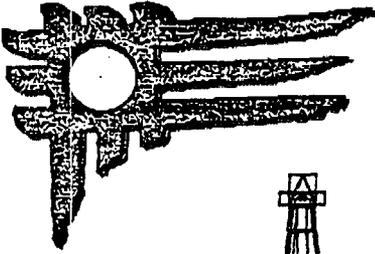
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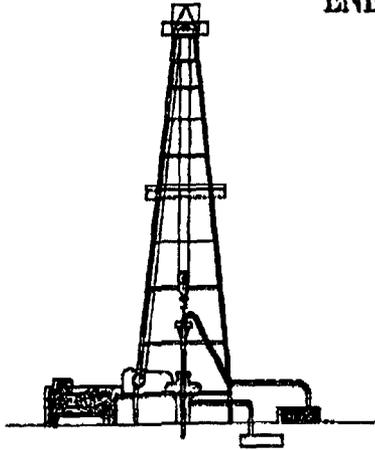
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PS Form 3800, April 1995



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
HOBBS DISTRICT OFFICE

(505) 393-6161 FAX (505) 393-0720

TO: Bill Olson + Lorie Whotenberg  
FROM: Chris Williams  
DATE: 11/15/98

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## WEST TEXAS INTERMEDIATE



	Price	Change
Spot	\$12.45	-.37
Posted	\$10.00	-.25
Sour	\$ 7.00	-.25
Natural Gas	\$2.279	-.026

Source: Scurlock Permian



**SPOT PRICES** are based on the New York Stock Exchange futures market, which trades oil months in advance.

**POSTED PRICES** are the amount an oil company would receive if it sold a barrel of oil that day.

**SOUR PRICES** are the same as posted prices, except a lower grade of crude. Sour crude is common in Southeast New Mexico.

### School lunch menu

**IN HOBBS THURSDAY:** Pizza at College Lane and Jefferson; or chicken patty sandwich, ranch beans, pickle spears, fruit mix, choice of milk.

### On TV tonight

**6:00 P.M.:** Channel 4, Dharma & Gregg; Channel 5, Nanny; Channel 12, Beverly Hills 90210

**7:00 P.M.:** Channel 4, Drew Carey; Channel 5, To Have and to Hold; Channel 8, Garth Brooks: Double Live

**8:00 P.M.:** Channel 4, 20/20; Channel 6, Party of Five; Channel 8, Dateline

**9:00 P.M.:** Channel 10, Chicago Hope; Channel 8, Law & Order; Channel 21, Dawson's Creek

### On the inside

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# Westgate probe continues

STARLA JONES  
HOBBS NEWS-SUN

Results of a four-month study analyzing oilfield contamination in the Westgate subdivision are in, fill three binders and will take weeks to sift through, according to the state's lead investigator for the case.

"I would look at this as a first phase," according to William Olson, a hydrologist for the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, who said that additional soil and water tests are necessary before a final determination is made about the extent and danger of contamination discovered last winter in the Hobbs neighborhood.

In the meantime, Olson — who was in Hobbs on several occasions this summer to conduct field inspections of the testing process — said the contamination poses no immediate risk.

"From the preliminary work that they were showing me out in the field, we did not see any imminent health threat," Olson said on Tuesday.

Shell Oil Co., responsible for analyzing and then removing the contamination, also sees no cause for alarm.

"Although Shell sampled extensively in both the developed and undeveloped areas (of the neighborhood), the oilfield residues were confined to areas where they were anticipated," Shell Public Affairs Representative Rich Hansen wrote in a press release.

However, the Houston attorney who filed suit on behalf of 222 Westgate residents and claims illnesses are up in the neighborhood while property values are down,



New Mexico  
Mexico Tra  
mission is t  
first Spanis

## Johr trad

DANIEL WOO  
ASSOCIATED P  
MADRID,  
Gov. Gary  
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Leading a  
officials at  
Johnson ca  
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Spanish set

Please see WESTGATE, Page 5

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1998

From the fro

# Westgate

from PAGE 1

questioned those statements.

"There are numerous chemicals out there, many of which have adverse effects on human health," said William G. Rosch III, who has not yet read the Shell report but commissioned a private soil analysis of the neighborhood.

Rosch said yesterday that he bases his conclusion not only on results from his own study, but readings obtained by OCD and Shell itself.

Shell's site assessment report — available for public viewing at the Hobbs OCD office at 1000 W. Broadway — indicates that iron, aluminum, fluoride, manganese, cobalt and chromium in levels above drinking-water standards were detected in groundwater samples while xylenes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and phenols were also above state standards.

Westgate residents, however, are supplied water through the city's filtered system, not private wells.

Benzene, toluene and ethylbenzene were not detected above standards in

any of the water samples and "75 percent of analytes analyzed were not detected" in this soil vapor samples, according to the report.

Site assessment to define the full extent of soil and ground water contamination began July 27 after Shell Oil Co. officials admitted responsibility for an asphalt-like substance found at a modular construction site on Tasker.

The study was designed to determine if any remaining oilfield products were near a tank battery that was in use from 1946 until 1993. During the course of this summer's investigation, Shell purchased one house on Tasker in order to obtain samples from beneath it.

The survey involved placing 268 vapor probes to a depth of about 5 feet in the ground throughout the subdivision — Tasker and Cobb streets were targeted — as well as drilling deeper soil borings. In addition, engineers drilled 14 ground water monitoring wells.

Shell's Nov. 6 report, which

includes the detailed lab findings, proposes conducting more ground water tests, taking more samples from ground both north and south of the battery location and drilling soil borings at a home on Cobb and on the east side of Tasker. The proposal requests further studies despite OCD's agreement to extend the original deadline for the site assessment report from Sept. 25 to November.

"The pit was a little bigger than Shell thought it was," Olson said of the extension. "A lot of times you don't really know how much you're going to have to do until you really start doing it."

Acting in cooperation with the Hobbs office, Olson said he will review the report and proposal for further studies, then issue a decision about how to proceed in December.

In addition to the Shell-proposed studies, OCD has the option of also requesting additional field studies. Following state satisfaction with the assessment, Shell and OCD will develop a remediation plan subject to public review and comment.

# Levy

from PAGE 1

wants to enter into a four-year plan, with the high school being one of the top priorities.

■ Approved paying \$20,600 to TAOS Inc. out of Mesa, Ariz, to make gym bleacher repairs at Tasker Arena and to have an annual maintenance con-

tract with the junior high gyms.

■ Heard a review on the state department accreditation visit from Rounds, who said "all in all, we are going to declare victory."

■ Approved its 1997-98 audit from Johnson and Miller. James Francis

of Johnson and Miller called Hobbs a low-risk district.

■ Heard the annual review on the Title I program.

■ Honored the third-place Lady Eagles cross country team.

# Mission

from PAGE 1

secondary school levels.

Johnson will also sign an accord establishing a sister-city relationship between Santa Fe and the Spanish town of Santa Fe de la Vega in southern Granada province.

U.S. Ambassador Edward Romero, a New Mexico native, will accompany the state delegation on a side trip

to Toledo province that will include a visit to the town to which Romero has traced his roots, Corral de Malaguez, about an hour's drive southeast of Madrid.

Traveling with the governor is Earl Salazar, governor of the San Juan Pueblo Indian settlement in New Mexico.

On the cultural side, the visit features an exhibit of Native American jewelry, pottery and rugs at a Madrid hotel.

The visit also kicks off art exhibits that trace New Mexico's history from pre-historic culture to the arrival of the Spaniards in the New World to contemporary Native American and Hispanic artists.

MBER 18, 1998

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Orlando Sentinel

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Central Region

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NOV 17 1998

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

November 16, 1998

Mr. William Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
Environmental Bureau  
2040 S. Pachecho  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD  
STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN INTERIM REPORT, LABORATORY  
RESULTS UPDATE**

Dear Mr. Olson,

Enclosed you will find corrected *Analytical Results Reports* and *Table 3-Soil Laboratory Results*. The corrected Table 3 and analytical reports include the missing analytical results (as shown by an asterisk in Table 3) in the report submitted to you on November 9, 1998. Please replace Table 3 and the attached analytical reports in your copy (copies) of the report. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. I received the final copies of this data today.

If you have any questions concerning these corrections, please call Wayne Hamilton (Shell) at (281) 544-2322 or me at (915) 563-0118.

Sincerely,

**PHILIP SERVICES CORPORATION**

*Sharon E. Hall*

Sharon E. Hall  
Operations Manager

cc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs (2 copies)  
Wayne Hamilton, Shell  
Dave Owens, Dow, Cogburn and Friedman

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**Shell E&P Technology Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT No. 298 304 401**

October 6, 1998

OCT 26 1998

Mr. William C. Olson  
Environmental Bureau  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road Stage 1  
Abatement Plan**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Per our discussion on October 3, 1998, Shell requests that the Westgate Subdivision Abatement Plan be submitted to the Oil Conservation Division on November 9, 1998.

The justification for this new date is:

- Installation of a new monitor well on September 29, 1998
- Groundwater sampling on October 1, 1998
- Free product groundwater sampling October 7, 1998
- Laboratory groundwater analyses due on October 23, 1998.

With this additional information, Shell will submit a report with all the current groundwater data. If you have any questions, please contact me at (281) 544-2322 or e-mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wayne A. Hamilton", is written over a horizontal line.

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Dave Owens – Dow, Cogburn, & Friedman  
Chris Williams – OCD Hobbs District Supervisor (two copies)  
Cliff Brunson – BBC International  
Sharon Hall – Philip Environmental

**Shell E&P Technology Company**

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

OCT 12 1998

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT No. 298 304 401**

October 6, 1998

Mr. William C. Olson  
Environmental Bureau  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wayne A. Hamilton", is written over a horizontal line.

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Dave Owens – Dow, Cogburn, & Friedman  
Chris Williams – OCD Hobbs District Supervisor (two copies)  
Cliff Brunson – BBC International  
Sharon Hall – Philip Environmental



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

October 5, 1998

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-274-520-561**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
Room 4304 Woodcreek  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, Texas 77079

**RE: GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATIONS**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell E&P Technology Company's (Shell) September 21, 1998 "WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN - ADDENDUM". This document contains Shell's plan for further Stage 1 Abatement Plan investigations related to former Shell E&P Technology Company's (SHELL) Grimes Lease.

Since the OCD is scheduled to receive a report on the investigations in the near future, the OCD defers comment on the above referenced plan until the OCD reviews the results of the current Stage 1 investigations. Shell recommendations for additional site investigation work should accompany the Stage 1 investigation report.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Olson".

William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Jennifer A. Salisbury, Secretary, NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Lori Wrotenbery, Director, OCD  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Department of Health  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross

Z 274 520 561

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PS Form 3800, April 1995

# Shell E&P Technology Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



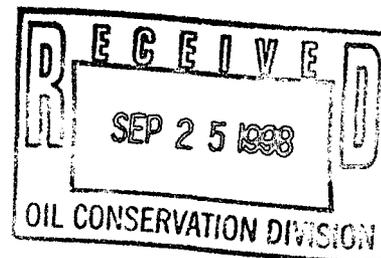
Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT No. 298 304 400**

September 21, 1998

Mr. William C. Olson  
Environmental Bureau  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



**SUBJECT: Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road Stage 1  
Abatement Plan-Addendum**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Pursuant to our meeting on September 8, 1998 and your September 16, 1998 correspondence, Shell submits this Stage 1 Abatement addendum for further site investigation activities.

At the Tasker Site, Shell will install an additional source monitor well down gradient from the former Tasker Road Pit (Figure 1). This monitor well will be placed east of the southern wall of the Perry's house at the Tasker Road sidewalk. The monitor well will be drilled, constructed and sampled according to the OCD's approved Stage 1 Abatement Plan.

Also, Shell proposes to drill one soil boring (TSB-14) approximately 30 feet east of TSB-13 in the front yard of 1328 Tasker (Figure 1).

The sampling protocol will consist of sampling every five feet until zero PID readings with a minimum depth of 20 feet. Samples representing the highest PID reading and bottom of the boring will be submitted for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH-USEPA Method 418.1) and for compounds listed in 20 NMAC 6.2 3103 and 1101 laboratory analysis of these compounds will be performed using USEPA methods 8260, 8270, 8080, 8081A, 150.1, 160.1, 200.7, 245.1, 335.2 340.2, and 353.3.

If field observations necessitate additional soil borings, we will commit up to two additional soil borings in areas to be determined by the field results. The same sampling protocols will be followed. We have obtained the property owner's permission to conduct these activities.

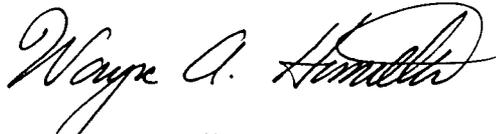
At the Grimes Battery Site area, Shell proposes to drill three soil borings (GSB-12, GSB-13, & GSB-14) around and in the Casey home property in an attempt to delineate the eastern, southern, and northern edge of the contamination found at Grimes soil boring #7 (GSB-7) (Figure 2).

The sampling protocol will consist of sampling every five feet until zero PID readings with a minimum depth of 20 feet. Samples representing the highest PID reading and bottom of the boring will be submitted for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH-USEPA Method 418.1) and for compounds listed in 20 NMAC 6.2 3103 and 1101 laboratory analysis of these compounds will be performed using USEPA methods 8260, 8270, 8080, 8081A, 150.1, 160.1, 200.7, 245.1, 335.2 340.2, and 353.3.

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We request your review and concurrence of these activities. If you have any questions, please contact me at (281) 544-2322.

Sincerely,

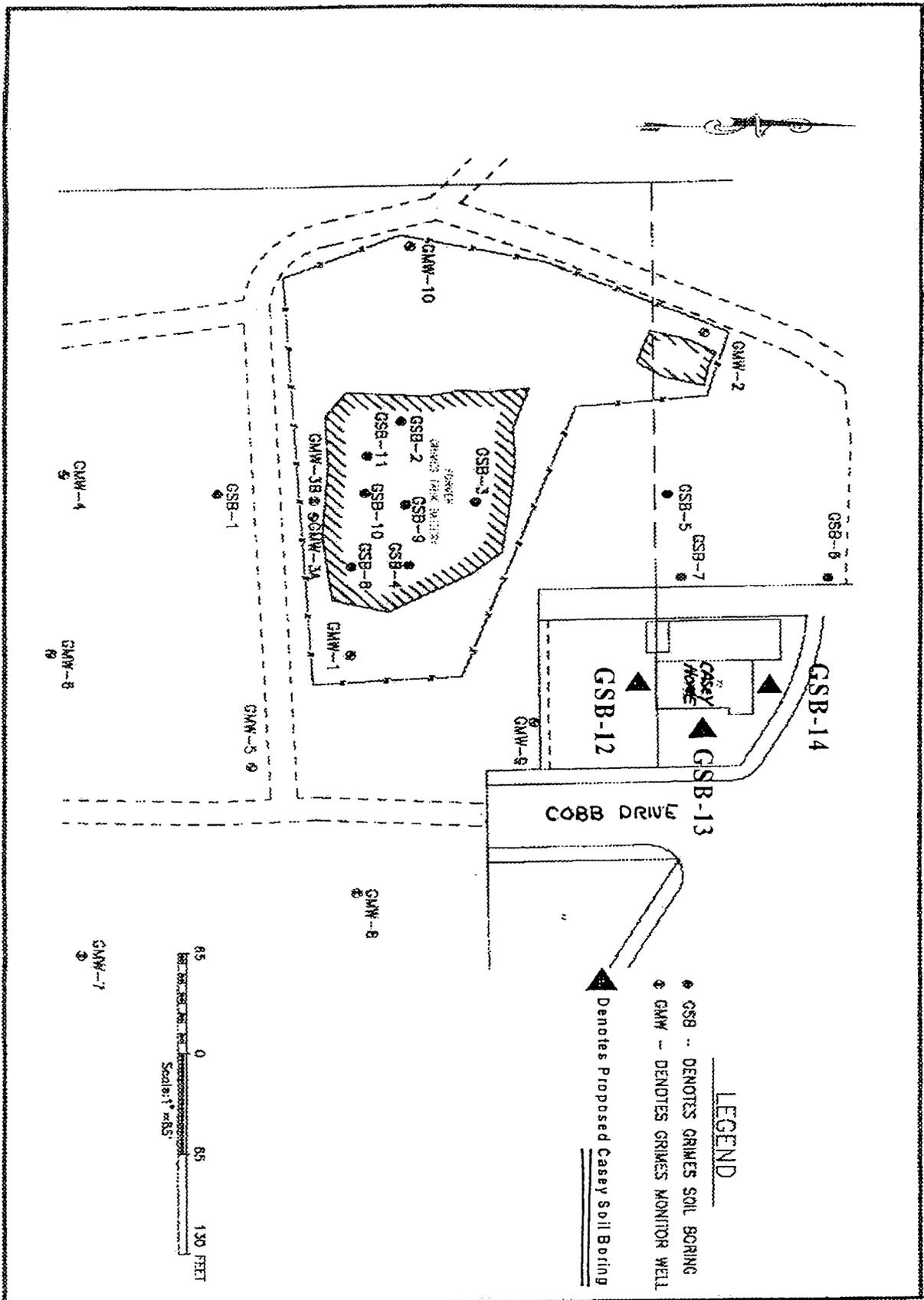


Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Dave Owens – Dow, Cogburn, & Friedman  
Chris Williams – OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Cliff Brunson – BBC International  
Sharon Hall – Philip Environmental



Figure 2  
 CASEY SITE



# Shell E&P Technology Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT No. 298 304 400**

September 21, 1998

Mr. William C. Olson  
Environmental Bureau  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To	Bill Olson	From	Wayne Hamilton
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	281-544-2322
Fax #	505-827-8177	Fax #	

**SUBJECT: Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road Stage 1  
Abatement Plan-Addendum**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Pursuant to our meeting on September 8, 1998 and your September 16, 1998 correspondence, Shell submits this Stage 1 Abatement addendum for further site investigation activities.

At the Tasker Site, Shell will install an additional source monitor well down gradient from the former Tasker Road Pit (Figure 1). This monitor well will be placed east of the southern wall of the Perry's house at the Tasker Road sidewalk. The monitor well will be drilled, constructed and sampled according to the OCD's approved Stage 1 Abatement Plan.

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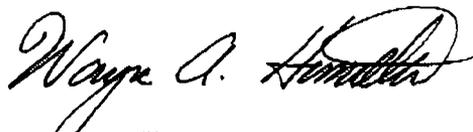
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We request your review and concurrence of these activities. If you have any questions, please contact me at (281) 544-2322.

Sincerely,



Wayne A. Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

cc: Dave Owens – Dow, Cogburn, & Friedman  
Chris Williams – OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Cliff Brunson – BBC International  
Sharon Hall – Philip Environmental

FIGURE 1

Tasker Site

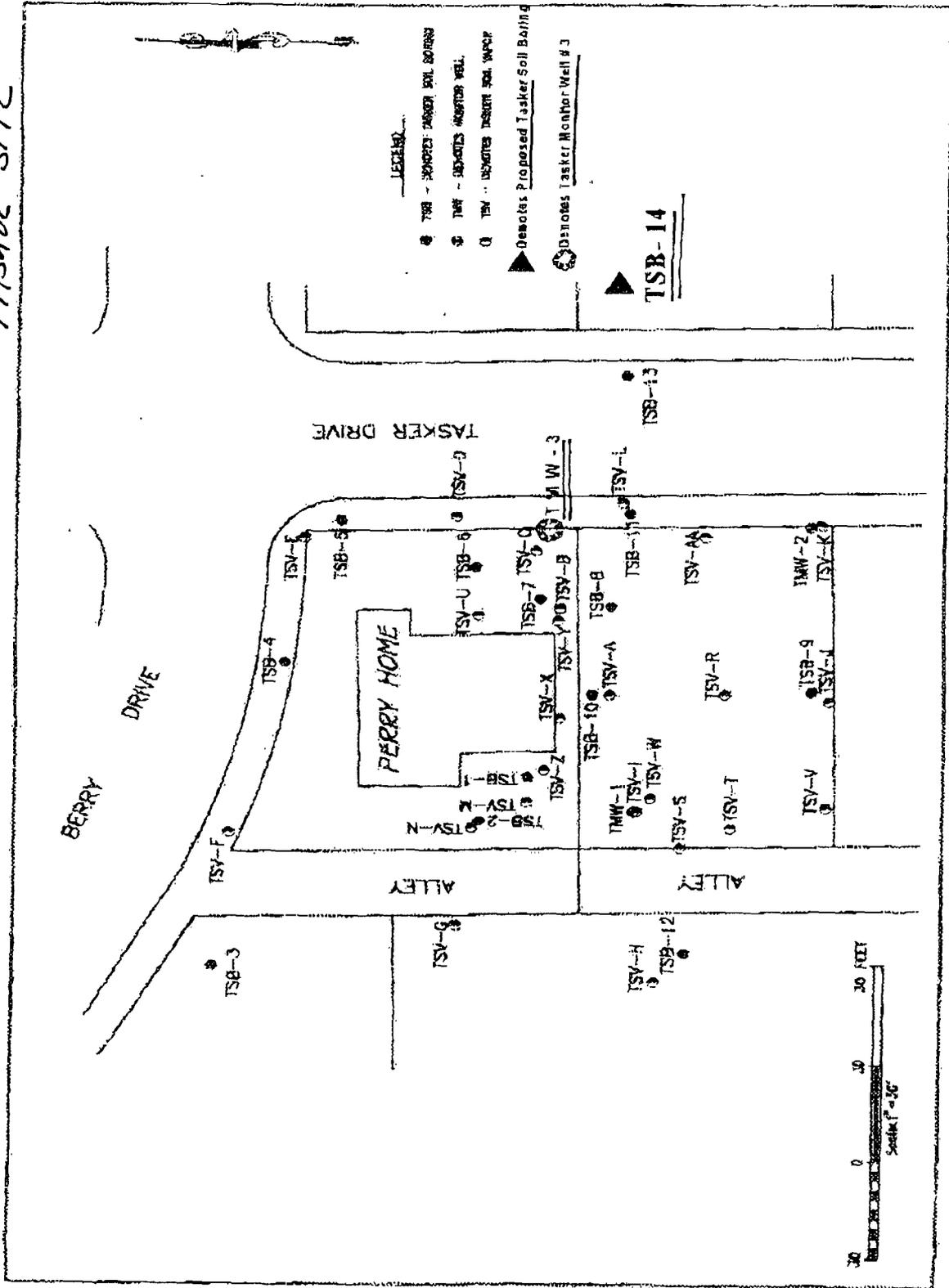
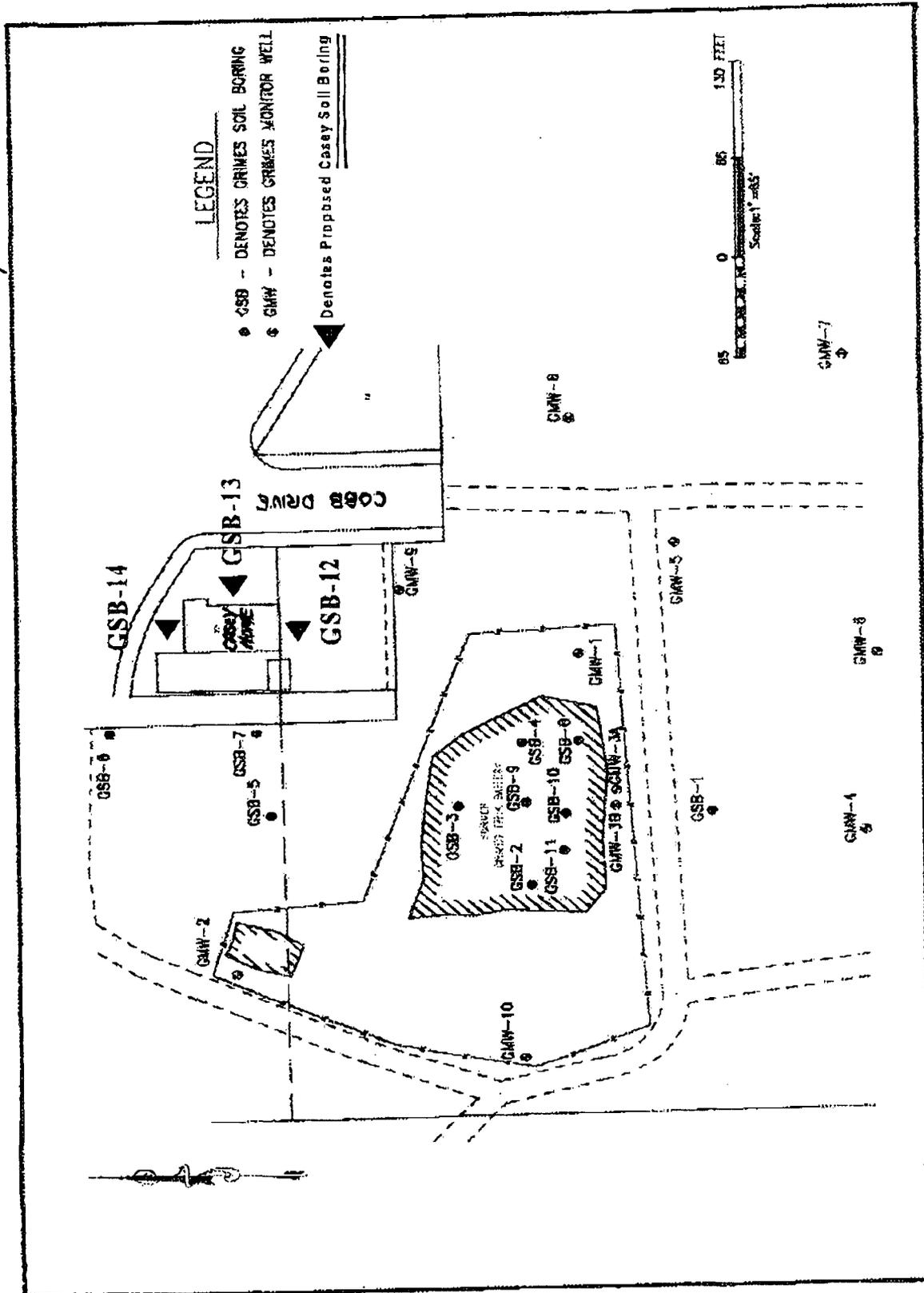


Figure 2  
Casey Site





STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

September 16, 1998

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-274-520-558**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
Room 4304 Woodcreek  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, Texas 77079

**RE: GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATIONS**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) met with you on September 8, 1998 to discuss the preliminary results of the Stage 1 Abatement Plan soil and ground water investigations related to former Shell E&P Technology Company's (SHELL) Grimes Lease. Based upon the preliminary results and the eastern direction of the hydraulic gradient at the site, the OCD requires that Shell install an additional source area monitor well downgradient from the former Tasker Road pit. As we discussed, this monitor well will be placed east of the southern wall of the Perry house at the Tasker Road sidewalk. The monitor well will be drilled, constructed and sampled according to the OCD's approval of the Stage 1 Abatement Plan work plan. The well will be installed by September 25, 1998. The comprehensive ground water quality sampling event of all of the monitor wells will commence the week of September 28, 1998.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,

William C. Olson  
Hydrogeologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Jennifer A. Salisbury, Secretary, NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Lori Wrotenbery, Director, OCD  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Department of Health  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross

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PS Form 3800, April 1995



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

TO: Bill Olsen

FROM: Chris Williams

DATE: 9/1/98

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For Release



Shell Continental Companies  
200 N. Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77078

## News Release

### SHELL NEARS COMPLETION OF SITE ASSESSMENT AROUND GRIMES BATTERY IN WESTERN HOBBS

HOUSTON, TX (Aug. 31, 1998) – Shell has completed nearly 90 percent of its "site assessment" on the former Grimes Tank Battery and related facilities on the far west side of Hobbs. Shell began the work in July, pursuant to a plan approved by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD), following identification of oil field products in the area late last year.

The site assessment is designed to scientifically define the extent of any remaining oil field products near the former tank battery site. In addition, the New Mexico Health Department has requested an area-wide soil gas vapor survey to determine if any hydrocarbon vapors are present in the soil.

The soil gas vapor survey includes about 250 small probes placed to a depth of about five feet, throughout the Westgate addition, in front yards and alleys. The undeveloped Los Cuatra property to the west also has been sampled.

At the site of the former Grimes Tank Battery, about a dozen soil borings have been drilled to depths of 30-60 feet to determine the extent of hydrocarbons in the soil. Twelve to 15 groundwater-monitoring wells are also being drilled to 75-foot depths to measure changes in the water quality, with 11 of these wells already in place.

**SHELL page two**

**Along Tasker Street, a former oil field pit is being investigated. About 12 soil borings already have been drilled in and around the pit area, with several more to come, in addition to three groundwater-monitoring wells. Part of the pit lies under the former home of Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Perry. Because of its unique location, Shell has purchased this home and helped the Perrys to relocate in order to facilitate a complete site assessment and eventual remediation.**

**While the site assessment work progresses, laboratory analysis of completed work is underway. The original deadline for finalizing the total site assessment report was Sept. 25. However, since the original scope of the project has been expanded, this deadline is now extended to Oct. 26.**

**Once the OCD reviews the initial site assessment, it is possible that they will request additional field studies. Following state satisfaction with the assessment, Shell and the OCD will develop a remediation plan, subject to public review and comment. Actual field remediation may not begin until mid- to late-1999, depending on the timing of OCD approval.**

**#####**

**Contact: Rich Hansen (281) 544-2020**

## **Olson, William**

---

**From:** Price, Wayne  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 1998 2:16 PM  
**To:** Bill Olson  
**Cc:** Chris Williams; Roger Anderson  
**Subject:** Shell-Westgate Project: Field report up-date:

It appears from recent soil borings that the old pit located on Tasker St. is actually larger in the east-west direction. Shell is going to request from the City of Hobbs that they be allowed to place a soil boring in the middle of the street. Also they found contamination in the soil boring on the west side of the alley. This contamination was found about 13 feet deep and diminished at about 50 feet. The same was found on the street side of the lot. This is very preliminary field info at this time.

NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
FIELD TRIP REPORT

≈ 9 AM

Name WAYNE PRICE Date 8-20-98 Miles \_\_\_\_\_ District I  
Time of Departure 7 AM Time of Return 4 PM Car No. G 047

In the space below indicate the purpose of the trip and the duties performed, listing wells or leases visited and any action taken.

Signature [Signature]

SHELL-NESTGATE PROJECT

TOURNA SITE WITH BILL OLSON- NMOCAD  
+ SHELL-REP. WAYNE HAMILTON

WITNESS SOIL VAPOR SURVEY + SOIL  
BORINGS AT 1329 + 1331 TRISMAN ST.

SEE ATTACHED PHOTOS + COMMENTS!

NOTE: HIGH PID READING UNDER PERRY HOUSE  
TSV-X ≈ 654 PPM PID, LAB RESULTS REFLECTED  
10-11 PPM BENZENE.

<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Per Diem</u>	<u>Hours</u>
UIC _____	UIC _____	UIC _____
RFA _____	RFA _____	RFA _____
Other _____	Other _____	Other _____

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AUG 31 1998

ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

TYPE INSPECTION PERFORMED

- H = Housekeeping
- P = Plugging
- C = Plugging Cleanup
- T = Well Test
- R = Repair/Workover
- F = Waterflow
- M = Mishap or Spill
- W = Water Contamination
- O = Other

INSPECTION CLASSIFICATION

- U = Underground Injection Control - Any inspection of or related to injection project, facility, or well or resulting from injection into any well. (SWD, 2ndry injection and production wells, water flows or pressure tests, surface injection equipment, plugging, etc.)
- R = Inspections relating to Reclamation Fund Activity
- O = Other - Inspections not related to injection or The Reclamation Fund
- E = Indicates some form of enforcement action taken in the field (show immediately below the letter U, R or O)

NATURE OF SPECIFIC WELL OR FACILITY INSPECTED

- D = Drilling
- P = Production
- I = Injection
- C = Combined prod. inj. operations
- S = SWD
- U = Underground Storage
- G = General Operation
- F = Facility or location
- M = Meeting
- O = Other

Photos

8/20/98

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NM 87505



**NMOCID: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 & 1329 Tasker St  
Subject: Soil vapor & soil borings  
Looking NE.**



MOBILE ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

NMOCID: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: TEG Mobile Lab.  
Subject:



NMOCID: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 Tasker St.-Perry Res.  
Subject: Perry backyard TSB#1  
Strong odors

eg  
WWC-514  
#4912M



**NMOCD: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 Tasker St.-Perry Res.  
Subject: Soil Vapor survey TSU-X  
OCD PID field reading 654 ppm**

**NMOCD: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 Tasker St.-Perry Res.  
Subject: Soil Vapor survey TSU-X  
3 ft. deep & 10" inside of foundation**



LADOTD WWC-514  
TNRCC #4912M



NMOCID: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 Tasker St.-Perry Res.  
Subject: Perry house. Soil Vapor  
rig.



NMOCB: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 Tasker St.-Perry Res.  
Subject: TSB#1 backyard Eades  
drill rig.



NMOCB: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 Tasker St.-Perry Res.  
Subject: Perry house. Soil Vapor  
rig.



NMOCID; ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 Tasker St.-Perry Res.  
Subject: TSB# 3-5 ft split spoon  
sample. strong odor & stained.



NMOCID: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 & 1329 Tasker St  
Subject: Soil vapor & soil borings  
Looking NE.



NMOCID: ID#, 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: 1331 & 1329 Tasker St  
Subject: Soil vapor & soil borings  
Looking NE.



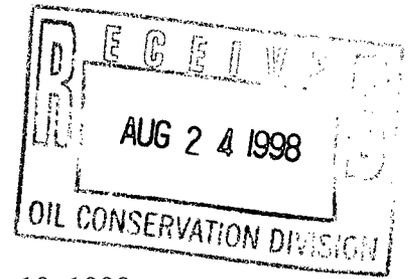
NMOCB: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: TEG Mobile Lab.  
Subject: GC Equipment.  
Operator-Richard Rodriguez Chemist



**NMOCID: ID#. 716788 By: W Price  
Date/Time: Aug 20, 1998 9am  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project  
Location: TEG Mobile Lab.  
Subject: GC Equipment.-witness by  
Bill Olson-NMOCID**



Environmental Services Group  
Southern Region



August 19, 1998

Mr. William Olson  
Environmental Bureau  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pachecho  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Subject: Grimes Lease, Hobbs New Mexico- Submittal of Stage 1 Abatement Plan Report**

Dear Mr. Olson,

Philip Services Corporation (Philip) respectfully submits this letter confirming our telephone conversation August 18, 1998. Pursuant to that conversation, Philip requested an extension of the September 25, 1998, deadline to submit the above-referenced report. As we discussed, an extension of this deadline is necessary because field activities at this site are expected to continue for another two weeks, and receipt of analytical results is not expected until three weeks after receipt of the final samples. The report will be submitted on October 26, 1998 as we discussed.

Thank you for your consideration in allowing the necessary time to complete the work and prepare a report detailing field activities and results.

Sincerely,

**PHILIP SERVICES CORPORATION**

Sharon E. Hall  
Operations Manager

cc: Wayne Hamilton, Shell E&P Technology Company  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor (2 copies)





Environmental Services Group  
Southern Region

August 19, 1998

Mr. William Olson  
Environmental Bureau  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pachecho  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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Sincerely,

**PHILIP SERVICES CORPORATION**

*Sharon E. Hall*

Sharon E. Hall  
Operations Manager

cc: Wayne Hamilton, Shell E&P Technology Company  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor (2 copies)



**Shell E&P Technology Company**

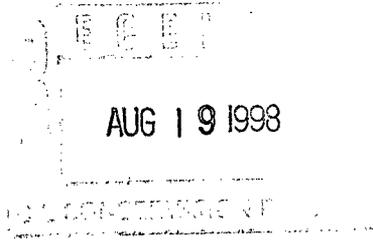
A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Woodcreek  
200 N Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

**CERTIFIED MAIL** P 298 304 397



August 12, 1998

Mr. William C. Olson  
Environmental Bureau  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: GRIMES LEASE STAGE 1 ABATEMENT WORK PLAN, HOBBS  
NEW MEXICO**

This is in reply to your July 7, 1998 letter where you requested under part D. General Requirements, number 4, that Shell conduct a soil gas survey at a "former tank battery off of Lorraine Street northwest of the Westgate Subdivision".

After reviewing the site, lease records and unitization agreement our conclusion is that Shell is not responsible for oil field activities related to Sinclair W.D. Grimes # 9 in T18S-R38E, Section 28, NW/4.

This conclusion is based on the following:

- Abandoned well marker designates the well as Sinclair Oil
- History of Leaseholder Ownership indicates the mineral lease is not a Shell lease (Attachment A)
- The Unit Agreement and Unit Operating Agreement does not indicate conveyance of the Sinclair W.D. Grimes # 9 well into the unit (Attachment B).

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call me at 281-544-2322 or e-mail: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com).

Sincerely,

Wayne Hamilton  
Retained Properties Manager

Cc Chris Williams and Wayne Price - CERTIFIED MAIL P 298 304 398  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
1000 W. Broadway  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Roger Anderson - CERTIFIED MAIL P 298 304 399  
Environmental Bureau  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Attachment A

**NORTH HOBBS (GRAYBURG-SAN ANDRES) UNIT AREA**

**HISTORY OF LEASEHOLD OWNERSHIP**

**LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

**SECTION 28, T18S-R38E**

**NW/4** - Grayburg-San Andres formation (3,698' to 4,500'):

		<u>vol/page</u>
The Prairie Oil & Gas Co. -----	07/29/26 to 03/31/32	6/472 (O&G)
Repollo Oil Co. -----	03/31/32 to 05/31/49	23/159 (O&G)
Sinclair Oil & Gas Co. -----	05/31/49 to 09/30/68	116/466 (Deed) copy attached
Sinclair Oil Corp. -----	09/30/68 to 03/04/69	274/663 (Misc.)
Atlantic Richfield Co. -----	03/04/69 to 03/29/90	461/736 (O&G) copy attached
Sun Operating Ltd. Partnership -----	03/29/90 to Present	450/553 (O&G) copy attached

**NW/4** - All depths, LESS AND EXCEPT the Grayburg-San Andres formation:

The Prairie Oil & Gas Co. -----	07/29/26 to 03/31/32	6/472 (O&G)
Repollo Oil Co. -----	03/31/32 to 05/31/49	23/159 (O&G)
Sinclair Oil & Gas Co. -----	05/31/49 to 09/30/68	116/466 (Deed) copy attached
Sinclair Oil Corp. -----	09/30/68 to 03/04/69	274/663 (Misc.)
Atlantic Richfield Co. -----	03/04/69 to 03/29/90	461/736 (O&G) copy attached

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Attachment B Page 1 of 2

EXHIBIT B  
 ATTACHED TO UNIT AGREEMENT  
 NORTH HOBBS (GRAYBURG-SAN ANDRES) UNIT  
 LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

(EXHIBIT B, CONT'D)

Tract No.	Description of Land (Operator & Lease Name)	No. Acres	Serial No. & Expiration Date of Lease	Basic Royalty Ownership and Percentage	Lessee of Record	Overriding Royalty Owner & Percentage	Working Interest Owner & Percentage
45	T18S-R38E, Sec. 30: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Getty-H. D. McKinley)	160	Fee HBP 06/21/26	W. C. McBride - Silurian Oil Company, et al* 12.5%	Getty Oil Company 100%	Cities Service Company 1.17187%	Getty Oil Company 100%
50	T18S-R38E, Sec. 29: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Exxon-W. D. Grimes)	40	Fee HBP 06/23/28	Exxon Corporation, et al* 12.5%	Exxon Corporation 75% Cities Service Company 25% 100%	Continental Oil Company (net profit interest) 25%	Exxon Corporation 75% Cities Service Company 25% 100%
52	T18S-R38E, Sec. 29: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ & NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SP $\frac{1}{4}$ (Getty-W. D. Grimes)	80	Fee HBP 03/10/28	Lillian Mlyko, et al* 12.5%	H. V. Craig 100%	None	Getty Oil Company 100%
54	T18S-R38E, Sec. 28: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (Atlantic-W. D. Grimes SOC)	160	Fee HBP 06/10/26	Cities Service Company, et al* 12.5%	Sinclair Oil & Gas Company 100%	None	Atlantic Richfield Company 100%
55	T18S-R38E, Sec. 28: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (Samedan-Moon A)	80	Fee (7) HBP 10/03/34	George H. Etz, Jr., Trustee of the George H. Etz, Sr. Trust, et al* 12.5%	Samedan Oil Corporation 100%	None	John F. Cusack, Jr. 25%



EXHIBIT A  
NORTH HOBBS (GRAYBURG - SAN ANDRES) UNIT  
Lee County, New Mexico



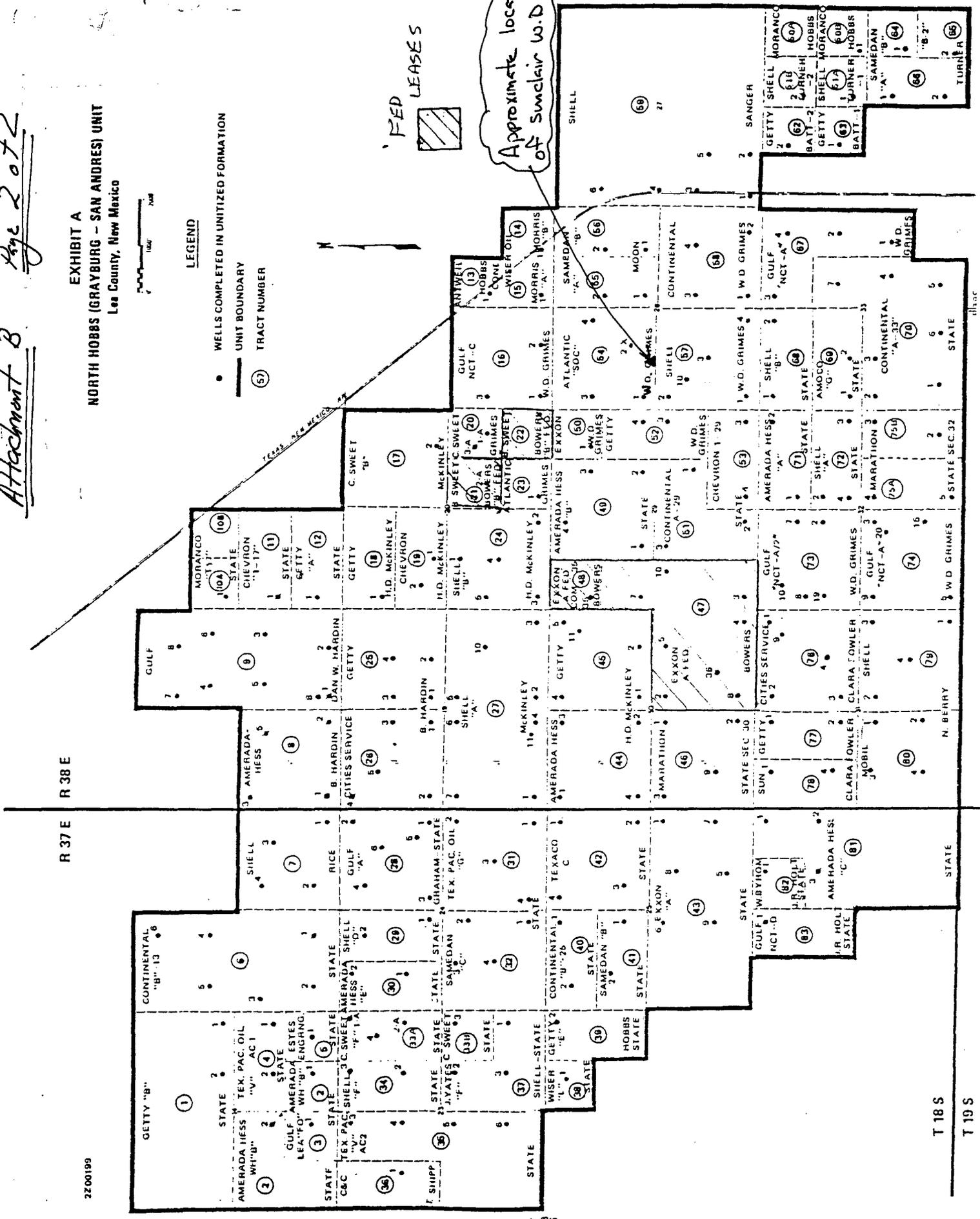
LEGEND

- WELLS COMPLETED IN UNITIZED FORMATION
- UNIT BOUNDARY
- (57) TRACT NUMBER

FED LEASES



Approximate location of Sinclair W.D. Grimes #9



R 37 E R 38 E

2200199

T 18 S T 19 S

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Wayne Price - OCD Hobbs  
**From:** Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
**Subject:** Soil Vapor Survey  
**Date:** August 4, 1998  
**CC:** Wayne Hamilton-Shell



Wayne,

This memo is to confirm our discussion of Monday, August 3 concerning the backfilling of plugging of the holes created by the soil vapor probe. When we are in the front yards of the residents, the holes will be backfilled with bentonite to 6" below the surface, hydrated, then backfilled with top soil to surface to ensure grass growth. While in the alleys and field, the holes will be backfilled with bentonite to surface and hydrated.

Regards,

*Cliff P. Brunson*

Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS

President



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

July 24, 1998

fixed  
to  
District  
for  
distribution

Dear Westgate Residents:

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has required Shell Oil Company (Shell) to conduct a soil vapor survey within the Westgate subdivision. The survey consists of inserting a one inch diameter pipe into the ground to a depth of about two to three feet and analyzing the gasses that are present. Survey points will be located throughout the subdivision on public and private property. A representative of the OCD will be present during the survey.

Thank you for your cooperation during the survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger C. Anderson for".

Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

July 7 1998

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-235-437-305**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
P.O. Box 576  
Houston, Texas 77001-0576

**RE: GRIMES LEASE STAGE 1 ABATEMENT WORK PLAN  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell Exploration & Production Technology Company's (SHELL) May 1998 "WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN (SITE ASSESSMENT INVESTIGATION)". These documents contain SHELL's Stage 1 Abatement Plan Proposal for investigating the magnitude and extent of contamination related to a former unlined pit located in the Westgate residential subdivision at 1329 Tasker Road Hobbs, New Mexico and a former unlined pit at the adjacent Grimes Tank Battery.

Upon a review of the above referenced documents and subsequent public comments, the OCD has the following comments, requirements and requests for information:

**A. Westgate Subdivision**

1. In order to effectively evaluate potential health threats to residents of the subdivision from the Grimes Lease, the OCD requires that the soil gas sampling station locations be modified as follows:
  - a. The soil gas sample locations will be spaced at 100 foot intervals. ✓
  - b. Within the developed residential areas of the subdivision, the soil gas samples will be taken just outside of the sidewalks on each side of Cobb Drive and Tasker Road and down the center of each alley behind residences, including the alley east of Tasker Road. ✓
2. The OCD requires that soil gas samples be taken from a depth interval of 2-3 feet below the ground surface. ✓
3. Please provide information on how soil gas samples will be collected and analyzed. ✓

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
July 7, 1998  
Page 2

**B. Grimes Battery Pit**

1. In addition to the sample intervals proposed, samples from the soil boring in the backyard of the 1341 North Cobb Street residence will also be collected from the lowermost interval of the boring and analyzed for the same constituents as the other samples. ✓

**C. Tasker Road Pit**

1. The text refers to the installation of ten boreholes at this site. However, eleven boreholes are depicted on Figure 9. Please clarify this discrepancy. ✓
2. The OCD requires that an additional monitor well be installed directly outside the southeast corner of the former pit (see enclosed figure 9 for monitor well location). ✓
3. The document does not contain information on sampling and analysis of ground water from the monitor wells at this location. The OCD requires that Shell sample and analyze the ground water for the compounds listed in New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) regulations Title 20, Chapter 6, Part 2 sections 3103 and 1101 according to EPA approved methods and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures. ✓
4. In response to your request that the OCD supply Shell with acceptable soil detection limits for each compound to be analyzed, enclosed you will find a copy of the detection limits which can be achieved by the OCD's contract laboratory. ✓

**D. General Requirements**

1. The "Quality Assurance" section is too brief. Please provide a detailed QA/QC plan which covers all types of media to be sampled and analyzed. The plan should include how soil, soil gas and water samples are to be obtained such that they represent defensible data about actual site conditions. ✓
2. In order to reduce the potential loss of volatile organics between sample collection and analysis, the OCD requires that all soil samples for analysis of volatile organics be field preserved with methanol. ✓
3. All monitor wells will be surveyed such that their exact location can be determined and maps of the direction and magnitude of the ground waters hydraulic gradient can be produced. ✓

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
July 7, 1998  
Page 3

4. Due to citizen complaints that unlined pits were buried at a former tank battery off of Lorraine Street northwest of the Westgate subdivision, the OCD requires that the soil gas survey include this former tank battery location. ✓
5. The OCD requires that Shell provide a contingency plan to continue with the installation of additional soil borings and ground water monitoring wells in the event that the extent of soil and ground water contamination is not defined with the work plan as proposed. ✓

The OCD requires that SHELL submit to the OCD, by July 22, 1998, the above required plans and information and a commitment to abide by the above requirements. Please provide this information to the OCD Santa Fe Office and a copy to the OCD Hobbs District Office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Jennifer A. Salisbury, Secretary, NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Lori Wrotenbery, Director, OCD  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Department of Health  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
William G. Rosch, III, Rosch & Ross

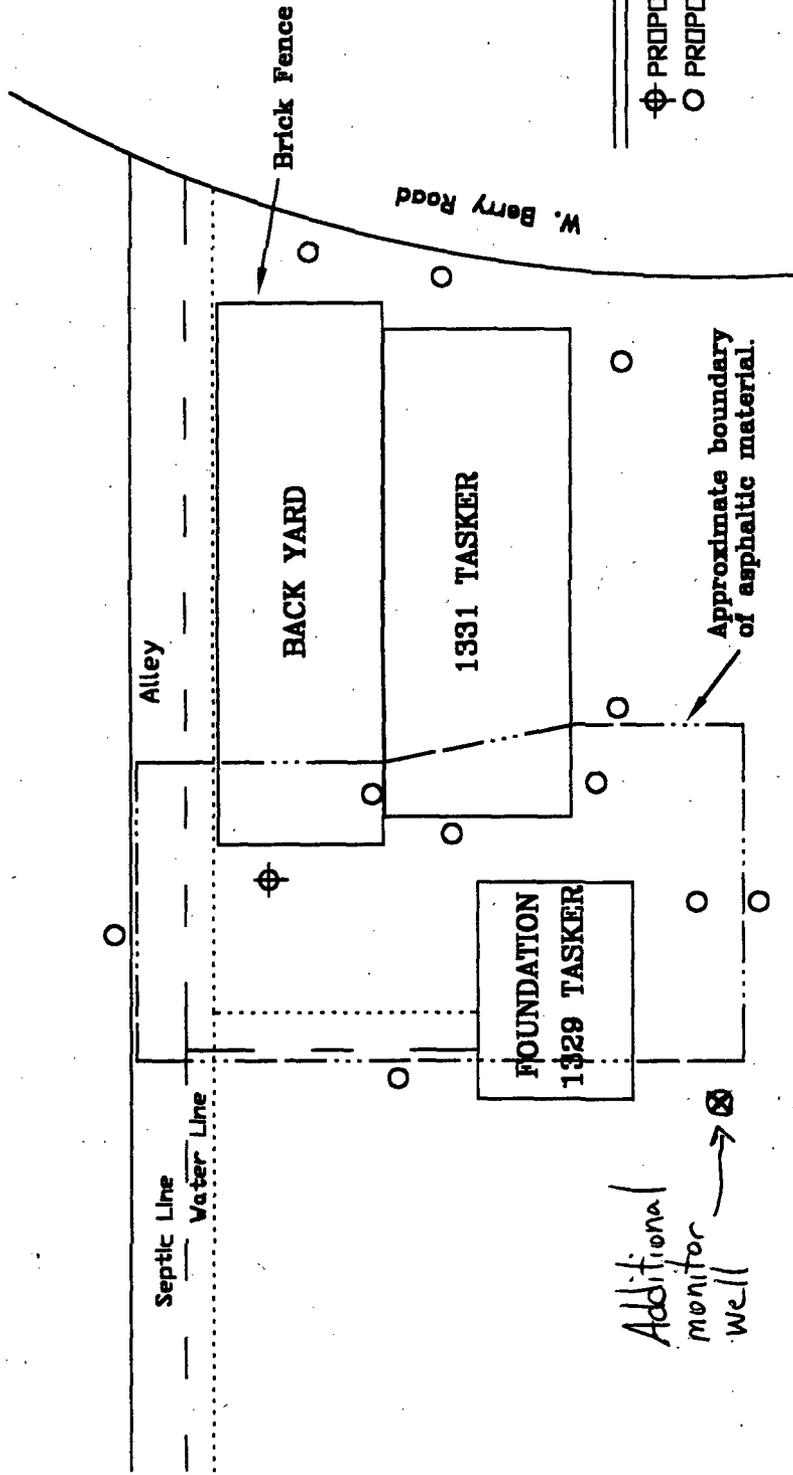
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Postmark or Date	



LEGEND

- ⊕ PROPOSED MONITOR WELL
- PROPOSED BOREHOLES



APPROXIMATE GRAPHIC SCALE  
FEET

	TITLE: Shell Exploration & Technology Company Westgate, grimes, Tasker Stage 1 Abatement Workplan Proposed Monitor Well & Borehole Locations				PROJECT NO.: 19350 Tasker Road Hobbs, New Mexico	FIGURE: 9
	DATE: May 1988	CHECK: seh	DESIG: seh	DRAWN: Jwk	DATE: May 1988	



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

June 26, 1998

Ms. Chase Casey  
1341 North Cobb  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

**RE: SOIL ANALYSES**

Dear Ms. Casey:

On March 18, 1998 the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) took samples of a greasy material and underlying soils from an area outside your backyard fence. Approximately three weeks later, on April 8, 1998, the OCD also took soil samples from a hard black layer approximately 1 foot below the surface within your backyard. Enclosed you will find copies of these sample analyses.

The April 8, 1998 samples from the hard black layer in your backyard contain elevated levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons and low levels of several semivolatiles. These contaminants are possibly related to oilfield activities. Due to the hardness of this layer the OCD was not able to penetrate this layer and obtain further samples.

The March 18, 1998 samples taken outside your backyard fence appear to be unrelated to the soil samples taken in your backyard. The greasy material at a 6 to 8 inch depth contains some low levels of aromatic hydrocarbons. The physical nature of the material, the rags mixed with the material and the presence of molybdenum, a common constituent of automotive grease, are all indicative that this soil is contaminated with some type of automotive lubricating grease not related to oil and gas production. This material was found buried at a 6 to 8 inch depth in only one small area outside the fence. The soils below this did not contain these contaminants.

Due to the possibility that the contamination from hard black layer in your backyard is related to oilfield activities from the Grimes Lease, the OCD is requiring that Shell perform additional investigations at your residence to determine the nature and extent of this contamination.

Ms Chase Casey  
June 26, 1998  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

enclosure

xc: Lori Wrotenbery, Director, OCD  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision  
Wayne Hamilton, Shell E&P Technology Company

**GALLAGHER, LEWIS & DOWNEY**  
**NATIONSBANK CENTER**  
**700 LOUISIANA, 40TH FLOOR**  
**HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002**  
**CRAIG LEWIS**

**ROSCH & ROSS**  
**CHASE BANK BUILDING**  
**707 TRAVIS, SUITE 2100**  
**HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002**  
**WILLIAM G. ROSCH, III**

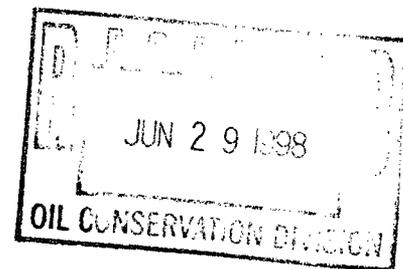
**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**  
**311 N. FIRST STREET, PO BOX 1599**  
**LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260**  
**MICHAEL NEWELL**

**TRENCHARD & BUCKINGHAM**  
**608 EAST AUSTIN, PO BOX 799**  
**KERMIT, TEXAS 79745**  
**KENT BUCKINGHAM**

June 26, 1998

**By Facsimile (505) 827-8177**  
**and Overnight Delivery**

Director, Oil Conservation Division  
State of New Mexico  
2040 South Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



**Re: Comments to Shell Oil Company's Stage 1 Abatement Plan (Site Assessment) Proposal for the Former Grimes Tank Battery Site, Tasker Road Site, and Portions of the Westgate Subdivision.**

Dear Sir:

The following are comments in response to the notice issued by the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, State of New Mexico, with regard to Shell Oil Company's Stage 1 Abatement Plan and on behalf of our clients (*see* attached Exhibit "A") who are various present and former residents of the Hobbs, New Mexico, area and who reside or resided within the immediate geographical area of the proposed Site Assessment.

**Comments On The Proposed Plan**

1. Under OCD Rule 19.F., the area residents request that the State of New Mexico's Natural Resources Trustee be one of the authorized representatives of the Director to perform such activities as are set forth in OCD Rule 19.F. within the Natural Resources Trustee's powers and duties, as set forth in the Natural Resources Trustees Act [75-7-1 *et seq.*, NMSA 1978].

2. Under OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(b), a site investigation work plan must define:
  - (1.) Site geology and hydrology, the vertical and horizontal extent and magnitude of vadose zone and groundwater contamination, subsurface hydraulic parameters including hydraulic conductivity, transmissivity, storativity, and rate and direction of contaminant migration, inventory of water wells inside and within one (1) mile from the perimeter of the three-dimensional body where the standards set forth in Subparagraph B(2) are exceeded, and location and number of such wells actually or potentially affected by the pollution; and
  - (2.) Surface water hydrology, seasonal stream flow characteristics, groundwater/surface water relationships, the vertical and horizontal extent and magnitude of contamination and impacts on surface water and stream sediments. The magnitude of contamination and surface water impacts may be, in part, defined by conducting a biological assessment of fish, benthic macro invertebrates and other wildlife population. Seasonal variations should be accounted for when conducting these assessments.

Accordingly, area residents would request the following modifications to the Stage 1 Abatement Plan as it relates to site hydrology and geology:

Westgate Subdivision

- (1.) The proposed soil gas survey is not adequately defined in order to determine the vertical extent and magnitude of vadose zone and groundwater contamination in at least the following areas:
  - (A.) The depth of the proposed probes is not adequately defined and/or not to be placed in adequate proximity to the groundwater (i.e., as proposed, the probe could be placed in fill material, too close to the grade level and not in close proximity to the groundwater).
  - (B.) Soil/saturated soil samples should also be submitted for laboratory analysis that would, at least, include for the detection of TPH, BTEX, halogenated hydrocarbons, and chlorinated solvents (i.e., PCE has already been detected in the area according to Shell's test data).
  - (C.) Quality assurance can be enhanced for the soil gas survey as we have set out in detail under Section 3.(2)(A) of these comments.

Grimes Battery Site

- (1.) Either the well locations, or a point on the five proposed monitoring wells should be leveled by survey and referenced to mean sea level.
- (2.) Because OCD Rule 19 references the conductivity, transmissivity, storativity, and direction of flow of contaminates, and such information is not only appropriate but critical to an accurate site assessment at this location, the Stage 1 site assessment should make provision for aquifer performance tests as well as the calculation of the rate and direction of groundwater flow.
- (3.) Because the Ogallala Formation was deposited on an erosional surface, that formation has been shown to exhibit unique geologic characteristics including buried paleo-stream channels. The frequent presence of these channels in southeastern New Mexico has often had strong influence on the velocity as well as the direction of groundwater flow in a given area, such that a proper analysis of contaminant migration cannot be undertaken with reasonable certainty based solely on a three-point solution. As such, seismic reflection, earth conductivity, or thermonic methods should be undertaken to accurately assess both the rate and direction of groundwater flow as enumerated in OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(b)(i).

Tasker Road Site

- (1.) While Philip Services Inc. has proposed only one monitor well at the Tasker Road location, this is inadequate to determine direction of flow and the gradient to the ground water table as required under OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(b). Accordingly, at least three (3) non-collinear monitoring wells should be developed at this site in order to properly determine the data requested by the OCD Rules, and necessary to make an accurate assessment of the Tasker Road Site.
- (2.) Furthermore, as noted above in relation to the Grimes Battery Site, Aquifer Performance Tests should be undertaken at this site as well in order to determine the velocity of ground water flow at this location.

**3. Comments On the Necessary Quality Assurance**

OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(d) requires that a responsible party present within a Stage 1 site assessment a "Quality assurance plan, consistent with the sampling and analytical techniques listed in 20 NMAC 6.3107.B and with Section 1103 of the Water Quality Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Streams in New Mexico (20 NMAC 6.1) for all work to be conducted pursuant to the abatement plan."

- (1.) Consistent with this requirement residents of the Westgate Subdivision request that Philip Services Inc. and Shell Oil Company enumerate and list those necessary portions of their Stage 1 Site Assessment which relate to quality assurance, testing procedures, sampling procedures and test scope and methodology.
- (2.) Furthermore, in response to the sampling methods that were described in the current Stage 1 proposal the residents request the following changes in order that the Stage 1 assessment result in more accurate and useful results.
  - (A.) By letter of May 1, 1998, Shell E&P was ordered to undertake a plan for conducting an area wide soil gas survey of the subdivision. However, the present response prepared by Philip Services Inc. that provides for the PID screening of soils is wholly inadequate to effectuate that request. With regard to the Soil Gas Survey, a more appropriate and accurate sample may be obtained if, in addition to using a PID meter to screen soil gas in a baggie, a real soil gas sample is obtained through the use of a probe and a vacuum. The gas may be collected in glass bulbs w/ Teflon stop cocks and tedlar bags, and should be analyzed with the use of a gas chromatograph either in the field or in a laboratory. Such a procedure is necessary due to the fact that PCE has already been detected in the area according to Shell test data, and that compound cannot be detected with the use of a PID meter.
  - (B.) With regard to the soil sampling protocols, the residents would suggest that the quality of the soil sampling procedure would be greatly increased by the preservation of the soil samples with methanol immediately after sampling and not after the use of a PID meter in a plastic bag. Quality assurance would further be increased by methanol preservation of soil samples taken for volatile organics in soil, rather than the suggested air rotary unit.
  - (C.) Furthermore, a chlorinated hydrocarbon screen should be done on the soil samples collected in order to detect the previously identified PCE in area soil.

4. **General Comments**

- (1.) Because the groundwater has been already documented as contaminated at, or near, all sites to be addressed by the Stage 1 Abatement Plan, and such contamination may be hazardous to nearby residents that receive water via a private water well, the Stage 1 site assessment should further inventory area water wells within the one square mile notice area defined around the three dimensional zone of contamination as clearly stated by OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(b)(i).
- (2.) Should the Stage 1 plan uncover the migration of water contamination beyond the defined sites in question, the notice area should properly be expanded as contemplated by OCD Rule 19.G.(1)(g) in order that newly implicated properties and residents may properly comment on the expanded abatement area.
- (3.) Finally, should the Stage 1 plan determine that water contamination has migrated beyond the extent of the planned monitor well locations, provision for the installation of additional monitor wells as needed to determine the extent of such migration as contemplated by OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(c).

5. **Comments on Necessary Clarifications**

Furthermore, local residents request the following clarifications with regard to Philip Services Inc.'s Stage 1 site assessment in order that they may properly review the procedures to be undertaken by that organization:

- (1.) With regard to the soil gas survey to be undertaken by Philip, please clarify as to how the samples will be gathered, containerized, and preserved for analysis.
- (2.) With regard to groundwater sampling, please enumerate and clarify the procedures and methods to be used for both the collection and preservation of groundwater samples at both the Grimes battery and Tasker road sites

Cordially,



William G. Rosch, III

## EXHIBIT "A"

Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. Acosta  
Ms. Sabrina Hudson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ramiro Acosta, Sr  
Mr. & Mrs. Ramiro Acosta, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Acosta  
Mr. & Mrs. Alonzo Aranda  
Ms. Linda Baeza  
Ms. Adriana Barrera  
Mr. Fernando Barrera, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Fernando Barrera, Sr.  
Ms. Pamela Basgall  
Ms. Pearl Bell  
Ms. Wanda Bell  
Ms. Marianne Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Casey  
Mrs. Rhonda Castillo  
Mr. & Mrs. Ruben Cortez  
Ms. Theresa Dean  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas DeLaCruz  
Mr. & Mrs. Jose Escamilla  
Mr. & Mrs. Dominguez  
Mr. & Mrs. Egans  
Mr. & Mrs. Fortner  
Mr. & Mrs. Teddy Gandy  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Gandy  
Ms. Melony Gonzales  
Ms. Regina Gonzales  
Mr. Johnny Gonzales  
Mr. & Mrs. Jose Jaques  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kautz  
Ms. Margaret King  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ledbetter  
Ms. Janet Lewis  
Mr. & Mrs. Dulces Marquez  
Ms. Josephine Marquez  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Martinez  
Mr. & Mrs. Claudio Martinez, Sr.  
Ms. Gemma Martinez  
Ms. Michelle Martinez  
Ms. Teresa Martinez  
Mr. Thomas Martinez, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Melendez

Mr. & Mrs. Rafael Menchaca  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mendoza  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Miranda  
Mr. & Mrs. Jessie Morales  
Ms. Miranda Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Jubel Patterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Peterson  
Ms. Arlene Ramirez  
Ms. Irene Ramirez  
Mr. & Mrs. Placido Ramirez  
Mrs. Evelyn Rising  
Ms. Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Ms. Lacy Rodriguez  
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Sharp  
Mr. & Mrs. Ismael Telles  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Thompson  
Mr. Charles Townsend, Jr.  
Ms. Luciana Townsend  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Trevino  
Mr. Tommy Trevino, II  
Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Valdez  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Volz  
Ms. Pamela Williams  
Mrs. Lynda Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. James Scoggins  
Ms. Mary Cormier  
Mr. Lucas Townsend  
Mr. Jeffrey Walker  
Charles D. Townsend, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Barbara Woods  
Ms. Patricia Buss  
Ms. Irene Brooks  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Baeza

ROSCH & ROSS  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
A PARTNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS  
2100 TEXAS COMMERCE BANK BUILDING  
707 TRAVIS  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

## FAX COVER SHEET

June 26, 1998  
3:35 PM

Page 1 of 7  
Fax No. 98 - 0362

<b>FROM:</b> William G. Rosch, III	<b>TO:</b> Director
<b>PHONE NUMBER:</b> (713) 222-9595	<b>COMPANY/FIRM NAME:</b> Oil Conservation Division, State of New Mexico
<b>FAX NUMBER:</b> (713) 222-0906	<b>PHONE NUMBER:</b> (505) 827-7131
<b>FAX OPERATOR:</b> Laurie	<b>FAX NUMBER:</b> (505) 827-8177

### MESSAGE/REFERENCE

**Re: Comments to Shell Oil Company's Stage 1 Abatement Plan (Site Assessment)  
Proposal for the Former Grimes Tank Battery Site, Tasker Road Site, and Portions of  
the Westgate Subdivision.**

If possible, please check transmission after last page. If you are not receiving clearly, or if you have any problems with the transmission, please telephone us immediately.

Unless otherwise indicated or obvious from the nature of the transmittal, the information contained in this facsimile message is attorney privileged and confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone and return the original message to Rosch & Ross at the above address via U.S. Postal Service at our expense. Thank you.

**GALLAGHER, LEWIS & DOWNEY**  
NATIONS BANK CENTER  
700 LOUISIANA, 40TH FLOOR  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
CRAIG LEWIS

**ROSCH & ROSS**  
CHASE BANK BUILDING  
707 TRAVIS, SUITE 2100  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
WILLIAM G. ROSCH, III

**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**  
311 N. FIRST STREET, PO BOX 1599  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
MICHAEL NEWELL

**TRENCHARD & BUCKINGHAM**  
608 EAST AUSTIN, PO BOX 799  
KERMIT, TEXAS 79745  
KENT BUCKINGHAM

June 26, 1998

**By Facsimile (505) 827-8177  
and Overnight Delivery**

Director, Oil Conservation Division  
State of New Mexico  
2040 South Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Re: Comments to Shell Oil Company's Stage 1 Abatement Plan (Site Assessment)  
Proposal for the Former Grimes Tank Battery Site, Tasker Road Site, and  
Portions of the Westgate Subdivision.**

Dear Sir:

The following are comments in response to the notice issued by the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, State of New Mexico, with regard to Shell Oil Company's Stage 1 Abatement Plan and on behalf of our clients (*see* attached Exhibit "A") who are various present and former residents of the Hobbs, New Mexico, area and who reside or resided within the immediate geographical area of the proposed Site Assessment.

**Comments On The Proposed Plan**

1. Under OCD Rule 19.F., the area residents request that the State of New Mexico's Natural Resources Trustee be one of the authorized representatives of the Director to perform such activities as are set forth in OCD Rule 19.F. within the Natural Resources Trustee's powers and duties, as set forth in the Natural Resources Trustees Act [75-7-1 *et seq.*, NMSA 1978].

Director, Oil Conservation Division  
June 26, 1998  
Page 2

2. Under OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(b), a site investigation work plan must define:
  - (1.) Site geology and hydrology, the vertical and horizontal extent and magnitude of vadose zone and groundwater contamination, subsurface hydraulic parameters including hydraulic conductivity, transmissivity, storativity, and rate and direction of contaminant migration, inventory of water wells inside and within one (1) mile from the perimeter of the three-dimensional body where the standards set forth in Subparagraph B(2) are exceeded, and location and number of such wells actually or potentially affected by the pollution; and
  - (2.) Surface water hydrology, seasonal stream flow characteristics, groundwater/surface water relationships, the vertical and horizontal extent and magnitude of contamination and impacts on surface water and stream sediments. The magnitude of contamination and surface water impacts may be, in part, defined by conducting a biological assessment of fish, benthic macro invertebrates and other wildlife population. Seasonal variations should be accounted for when conducting these assessments.

Accordingly, area residents would request the following modifications to the Stage 1 Abatement Plan as it relates to site hydrology and geology:

Westgate Subdivision

- (1.) The proposed soil gas survey is not adequately defined in order to determine the vertical extent and magnitude of vadose zone and groundwater contamination in at least the following areas:
  - (A.) The depth of the proposed probes is not adequately defined and/or not to be placed in adequate proximity to the groundwater (i.e., as proposed, the probe could be placed in fill material, too close to the grade level and not in close proximity to the groundwater).
  - (B.) Soil/saturated soil samples should also be submitted for laboratory analysis that would, at least, include for the detection of TPH, BTEX, halogenated hydrocarbons, and chlorinated solvents (i.e., PCE has already been detected in the area according to Shell's test data).
  - (C.) Quality assurance can be enhanced for the soil gas survey as we have set out in detail under Section 3.(2)(A) of these comments.

Director, Oil Conservation Division  
June 26, 1998  
Page 3

Grimes Battery Site

- (1.) Either the well locations, or a point on the five proposed monitoring wells should be leveled by survey and referenced to mean sea level.
- (2.) Because OCD Rule 19 references the conductivity, transmissivity, storativity, and direction of flow of contaminants, and such information is not only appropriate but critical to an accurate site assessment at this location, the Stage 1 site assessment should make provision for aquifer performance tests as well as the calculation of the rate and direction of groundwater flow.
- (3.) Because the Ogallala Formation was deposited on an erosional surface, that formation has been shown to exhibit unique geologic characteristics including buried paleo-stream channels. The frequent presence of these channels in southeastern New Mexico has often had strong influence on the velocity as well as the direction of groundwater flow in a given area, such that a proper analysis of contaminant migration cannot be undertaken with reasonable certainty based solely on a three-point solution. As such, seismic reflection, earth conductivity, or thermionic methods should be undertaken to accurately assess both the rate and direction of groundwater flow as enumerated in OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(b)(i).

Tasker Road Site

- (1.) While Philip Services Inc. has proposed only one monitor well at the Tasker Road location, this is inadequate to determine direction of flow and the gradient to the ground water table as required under OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(b). Accordingly, at least three (3) non-collinear monitoring wells should be developed at this site in order to properly determine the data requested by the OCD Rules, and necessary to make an accurate assessment of the Tasker Road Site.
- (2.) Furthermore, as noted above in relation to the Grimes Battery Site, Aquifer Performance Tests should be undertaken at this site as well in order to determine the velocity of ground water flow at this location.

Director, Oil Conservation Division  
June 26, 1998  
Page 4

### 3. Comments On the Necessary Quality Assurance

OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(d) requires that a responsible party present within a Stage 1 site assessment a "Quality assurance plan, consistent with the sampling and analytical techniques listed in 20 NMAC 6.3107.B and with Section 1103 of the Water Quality Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Streams in New Mexico (20 NMAC 6.1) for all work to be conducted pursuant to the abatement plan."

- (1.) Consistent with this requirement residents of the Westgate Subdivision request that Philip Services Inc. and Shell Oil Company enumerate and list those necessary portions of their Stage 1 Site Assessment which relate to quality assurance, testing procedures, sampling procedures and test scope and methodology.
- (2.) Furthermore, in response to the sampling methods that were described in the current Stage 1 proposal the residents request the following changes in order that the Stage 1 assessment result in more accurate and useful results.
  - (A.) By letter of May 1, 1998, Shell E&P was ordered to undertake a plan for conducting an area wide soil gas survey of the subdivision. However, the present response prepared by Philip Services Inc. that provides for the PID screening of soils is wholly inadequate to effectuate that request. With regard to the Soil Gas Survey, a more appropriate and accurate sample may be obtained if, in addition to using a PID meter to screen soil gas in a baggie, a real soil gas sample is obtained through the use of a probe and a vacuum. The gas may be collected in glass bulbs w/ Teflon stop cocks and tedlar bags, and should be analyzed with the use of a gas chromatograph either in the field or in a laboratory. Such a procedure is necessary due to the fact that PCE has already been detected in the area according to Shell test data, and that compound cannot be detected with the use of a PID meter.
  - (B.) With regard to the soil sampling protocols, the residents would suggest that the quality of the soil sampling procedure would be greatly increased by the preservation of the soil samples with methanol immediately after sampling and not after the use of a PID meter in a plastic bag. Quality assurance would further be increased by methanol preservation of soil samples taken for volatile organics in soil, rather than the suggested air rotary unit.
  - (C.) Furthermore, a chlorinated hydrocarbon screen should be done on the soil samples collected in order to detect the previously identified PCE in area soil.

Director, Oil Conservation Division  
June 26, 1998  
Page 5

**4. General Comments**

- (1.) Because the groundwater has been already documented as contaminated at, or near, all sites to be addressed by the Stage 1 Abatement Plan, and such contamination may be hazardous to nearby residents that receive water via a private water well, the Stage 1 site assessment should further inventory area water wells within the one square mile notice area defined around the three dimensional zone of contamination as clearly stated by OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(b)(i).
- (2.) Should the Stage 1 plan uncover the migration of water contamination beyond the defined sites in question, the notice area should properly be expanded as contemplated by OCD Rule 19.G.(1)(g) in order that newly implicated properties and residents may properly comment on the expanded abatement area.
- (3.) Finally, should the Stage 1 plan determine that water contamination has migrated beyond the extent of the planned monitor well locations, provision for the installation of additional monitor wells as needed to determine the extent of such migration as contemplated by OCD Rule 19.E.(3)(c).

**5. Comments on Necessary Clarifications**

Furthermore, local residents request the following clarifications with regard to Philip Services Inc.'s Stage 1 site assessment in order that they may properly review the procedures to be undertaken by that organization:

- (1.) With regard to the soil gas survey to be undertaken by Philip, please clarify as to how the samples will be gathered, containerized, and preserved for analysis.
- (2.) With regard to groundwater sampling, please enumerate and clarify the procedures and methods to be used for both the collection and preservation of groundwater samples at both the Grimes battery and Tasker road sites

Cordially,



William G. Rosch, III

WGR/lmb  
Enclosure  
98:1:0073

## EXHIBIT "A"

Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. Acosta  
Ms. Sabrina Hudson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ramiro Acosta, Sr  
Mr. & Mrs. Ramiro Acosta, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Acosta  
Mr. & Mrs. Alonzo Aranda  
Ms. Linda Baeza  
Ms. Adriana Barrera  
Mr. Fernando Barrera, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Fernando Barrera, Sr.  
Ms. Pamela Basgall  
Ms. Pearl Bell  
Ms. Wanda Bell  
Ms. Marianne Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Casey  
Mrs. Rhonda Castillo  
Mr. & Mrs. Ruben Cortez  
Ms. Theresa Dean  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas DeLaCruz  
Mr. & Mrs. Jose Escamilla  
Mr. & Mrs. Dominguez  
Mr. & Mrs. Egans  
Mr. & Mrs. Fortner  
Mr. & Mrs. Teddy Gandy  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Gandy  
Ms. Melony Gonzales  
Ms. Regina Gonzales  
Mr. Johnny Gonzales  
Mr. & Mrs. Jose Jaques  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kautz  
Ms. Margaret King  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ledbetter  
Ms. Janet Lewis  
Mr. & Mrs. Dulces Marquez  
Ms. Josephine Marquez  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Martinez  
Mr. & Mrs. Claudio Martinez, Sr.  
Ms. Gemma Martinez  
Ms. Michelle Martinez  
Ms. Teresa Martinez  
Mr. Thomas Martinez, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Melendez  
Mr. & Mrs. Rafael Menchaca  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mendoza  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Miranda  
Mr. & Mrs. Jessie Morales  
Ms. Miranda Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Jubel Patterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Peterson  
Ms. Arlene Ramirez  
Ms. Irene Ramirez  
Mr. & Mrs. Placido Ramirez  
Mrs. Evelyn Rising  
Ms. Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Ms. Lacy Rodriguez  
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Sharp  
Mr. & Mrs. Ismael Telles  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Thompson  
Mr. Charles Townsend, Jr.  
Ms. Luciana Townsend  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Trevino  
Mr. Tommy Trevino, II  
Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Valdez  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Volz  
Ms. Pamela Williams  
Mrs. Lynda Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. James Scoggins  
Ms. Mary Cormier  
Mr. Lucas Townsend  
Mr. Jeffrey Walker  
Charles D. Townsend, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Barbara Woods  
Ms. Patricia Buss  
Ms. Irene Brooks  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Baeza

NMOCD INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Bill Olson-Environmental Bureau, Santa Fe, NM  
From: Wayne Price-Environmental Engineer *W.P.*  
Date: June 23, 1998  
Reference: Shell-Westgate  
Subject: Sampling results

Comments:

Dear Bill,

Please find enclosed the analyticals for the following:

1722 Lorene St. (Spalding Water Well)  
1804 Lorene St. (Barber Woods Res. Water Well)  
1329 Tasker St. (Under concrete foundations)

Please give Roger the Invoices for payment.

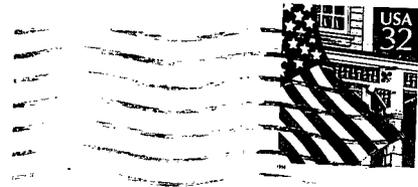
Please note I am taking additional samples at the two residences on Lorene St since the lab failed to run our general chemistry.

I am providing copies of these results to the owners of the water wells and placing all copies in our District files.

cc: Chris Williams-NMOCD District I Supervisor

file: wp98/wes  
attachments-

Virginia Meskins  
1101 N. Llano Dr.  
Hobbs, N.M. 88240



RECEIVED  
JUN 14 1988

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Director of the Oil Conservation Division  
2040 South Pacheco  
Santa Fe, N.M. 87505

Gary E. Johnson  
Governor

J. Alex Valdez  
Secretary

Larry A. Martinez  
Deputy Secretary

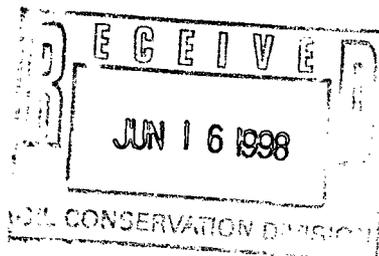
Pat Cleaveland  
Deputy Secretary

William H. Wiese, MD, MPH  
Division Director

C. Mack Sewell, DrPH, MS  
State Epidemiologist



June 15, 1998



Roger Anderson, Chief  
Environmental Bureau  
Oil Conservation Division  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Subject: Grimes Battery / Tasker Road - Stage 1 Abatement Plan, May 1998

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I have reviewed the referenced abatement plan and offer the following comments.

- 1) I am concerned that the horizontal grid spacing in the soil gas survey (250 feet between sample locations) may be too coarse. The dimensions of the current area of contamination at the Grimes Tank Battery are approximately 75' x 125'. The dimensions of the current area of contamination at the Tasker Road pit are approximately 60' x 100'. I am concerned that areas of similar dimension, and as of yet unidentified, could be overlooked during the course of the soil gas survey. One way to avoid such a problem would be to reduce the grid spacing to approximately 100'.
- 2) I notice that the proposed location for the monitor well in the vicinity of the Tasker Road pit is to the northwest. It is my understanding that ground water flow direction in the area of the site is to the southeast. If this is true, it seems the monitor well would be better located to the southeast.
- 3) During one of the public meetings, I recall residents expressing concern about household water quality. While I think this is a less likely route of exposure than inhalation, I think it would be prudent to conduct some household water screening. One method for accomplishing this may be to ask the New Mexico Environment Department to offer this service through a water fair and using a photo-ionization instrument or portable gas chromatograph.

OFFICE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
1190 St. Francis Drive • Room N1350  
Post Office Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110  
(505) 827-0006 • FAX (505) 827-0013



Roger Anderson  
June 15, 1998  
Page 2

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this abatement plan. If you have questions or comments, please call me at (505) 476-3588.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Merker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Randy Merker

cc: C. Mack Sewell, State Epidemiologist  
Evan Nelson, Public Health Officer  
Retta Prophet, Office of Epidemiology



STATE OF  
 NEW MEXICO  
 OR  
 CONSERVATION  
 DIVISION

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	Time 0830	Date 6/9/98
---	-----------------------------------	-----------	-------------

<u>Originating Party</u>	<u>Other Parties</u>
Roger Anderson - Envir. Bureau	Kim McNeill - AEN

Subject  
 Shell - Trolcer Analyses - Casey SS-1 & SS-2

Discussion  
 Metals analyses have high detection limits  
 Kim will call Connecticut Lab and try to get  
 lower detection limit

Conclusions or Agreements

Distribution Files

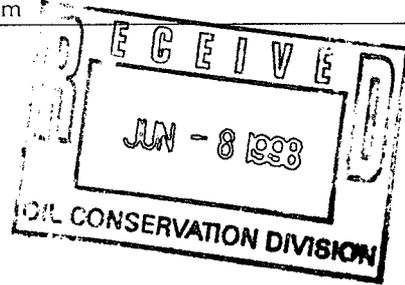
Signed 



PHONE (505) 397-6388 • FAX (505) 397-0397 • 1324 W. MARLAND • P.O. BOX 297 • HOBBS, NM 88241-0297  
E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

June 4, 1998

William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505



**RE: Grimes Battery & Tasker Road Stage 1 Abatement Work Plan Public Notice Mailing Affidavit and Mailing List**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Please find enclosed an original notarized copy of the Affidavit of Mailing for the mailing of the public notice required for the above mentioned sites.

Also included are copies of the published public notices in the Albuquerque Journal and the Hobbs News-Sun that appeared on June 1, 1998.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the above numbers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cliff P. Brunson".

Cliff P. Brunson  
President

CPB:mo

enclosure

**Olson, William**

---

**From:** Cliff P. Brunson[SMTP:cbrunson@bbcinternational.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 1998 7:35 PM  
**To:** Olson, William  
**Cc:** wahamilton@shellus.com; cd199485@shellus.com; richhanse@shellus.com;  
mmazzone@dcf.com; djowens@dcf.com  
**Subject:** Public Notice-Paper & Mailing

Bill,

RE: Grimes Battery/Tasker Road Site Public Notice

The public notice was mailed on Friday, May 29th to a total of 1,713 recipients (one mile radius). It will appear on Monday, June 1, 1998 in both the Albuquerque Journal and the Hobbs News-Sun. I will send to you and the Hobbs office this week a copy of the mailing list and a signed affidavit of the mailings per the OCD's requirements. If you have any questions, please contact me. Please forward this information on to Rodger for me. Thanks.

Regards,

Cliff

\*\*\*\*\*

**"Prepared in Anticipation of Litigation...Confidential and Privileged,  
Lawyer-Client Communication, Do Not Distribute or Copy, Do Not Place In Unprotected  
Files."**

**This electronic mail may contain privileged  
And/or confidential information.  
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E-mail by or to anyone other than the  
Designated and intended recipient(s) is unauthorized!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Cliff P. Brunson, President  
BBC International, Inc.  
World-Wide Environmental Specialists  
P. O. Box 297  
Hobbs, NM 88241  
Courier address:  
1324 W. Marland  
Hobbs, NM 88240 USA  
Phone: (505) 397-6388  
Fax: (505) 397-0397  
e-mail: cbrunson@bbcinternational.com

\*\*\*\*\*



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
DISTRICT I Hobbs  
PO BOX 1980  
Hobbs, NM 88241-1981  
(505) 393-6161

Jennifer A. Salisbury  
CABINET SECRETARY

May 21, 1998

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Co. (SEPTC)  
P.O. 576  
Houston, Tx 77001

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 26 1998  
Environmental Bureau  
Oil Conservation Division

Re: Shell Westgate

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) District I is requesting that SEPTC and any consultants send a minimum of two copies on all future correspondence to the NMOCD District I office. This is required so as the public information file in Hobbs, NM will be as complete as the NMOCD working file and the Santa Fe file.

We do not have the ability to make quality copies of such items as pictures, aerial photos, etc.

Please start by sending us an additional copy of the complete proposal called "Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road Stage 1 Abatement Plan (Site Assessment Investigation) dated May 1998 in red binder. Please send complete with aerial photos etc.

Also any correspondence to NMOCD Santa Fe also needs to be copied to NMOCD District I in duplicate.

If you require any further information or assistance please do not hesitate to call (505-393-6161) or write this office.

Sincerely Yours,

Chris Williams-NMOCD District I Supervisor

cw/wp:file shwgmemo

cc: Roger Anderson-Environmental Bureau Chief, Santa Fe, NM  
Bill Olson-Environmental Bureau, Santa Fe, NM  
Cliff Brunson- BBC INTL.  
Sharon Hall- Phillip Envr.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

May 21, 1998

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-235-437-272**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
P.O. Box 481  
Houston, Texas 77001-0481

**RE: STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN PROPOSAL  
GRIMES LEASE  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

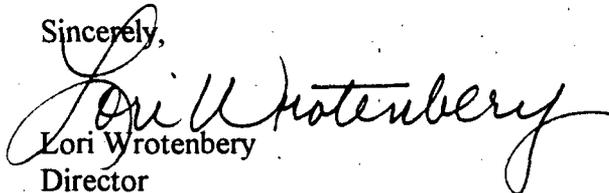
Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) is in receipt of Shell E&P Technology Company's (SHELL) May 1998 "WESTGATE SUBDIVISION, GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD STAGE 1 ABATEMENT PLAN" and May 18, 1998 proposed "NOTICE OF PUBLICATION". These documents contain SHELL's Stage 1 Abatement Plan Proposal for investigating the magnitude and extent of contamination related to a former unlined pit located in the Westgate residential subdivision at 1329 Tasker Road, Hobbs, New Mexico and a former unlined pit at the adjacent Grimes Tank Battery.

Upon a review of the above referenced documents, the OCD has determined that the Stage 1 Abatement Plan is administratively complete. The OCD requires that SHELL issue the May 18, 1998 proposed "NOTICE OF PUBLICATION" pursuant to OCD Rule 19.G. Enclosed you will find a 3.5" disk containing a "WordPerfect" listing of those persons, as identified by the Director, who have requested notification pursuant to OCD Rule 19.G.(1).(d).

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Olson of my staff at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,

  
Lori Wrottenbery  
Director

xc: Jennifer A. Salisbury, Secretary, NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Rand Carroll, OCD Legal Counsel  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision

Z 235 437 272

US Postal Service

**Receipt for Certified Mail**

No Insurance Coverage Provided.

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Post Office, State, & ZIP Code	
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Certified Fee	
Special Delivery Fee	
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt Showing to Whom & Date Delivered	
Return Receipt Showing to Whom, Date, & Addressee's Address	
<b>TOTAL Postage &amp; Fees</b>	<b>\$</b>
Postmark or Date	

PS Form 3800, April 1995

## NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Regulations, the following Stage 1 Abatement Plan (site investigation) proposal has been submitted to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, 2040 South Pacheco, Sante Fe, New Mexico 87505, Telephone (505) 827-7131:

Shell Oil Company, Wayne Hamilton, (800) 489-8109, 200 North Dairy Ashford, Houston, Texas 77079, has submitted a Stage 1 Abatement Plan (Site Assessment) proposal for the former Grimes Tank Battery site, Tasker Road site and portions of the Westgate Subdivision. Portions of the sites contain petroleum residues from former oil and gas operations. The abatement plan addresses: a) Site history, b) Proposed work in the Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road locations, c) Quality assurance, d) Work schedule, e) Health and Safety Plan and, f) References. The Stage 1 Abatement Plan (site assessment) will define petroleum in the soil and groundwater to prepare a Stage 2 Abatement Plan (site remediation).

Any interested person may obtain further information from the Oil Conservation Division and may submit written comments to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division at the address given above. The Stage 1 Abatement Plan (Site assessment) proposal may be viewed at the above address or at the Oil Conservation Division District 1 Office, 1000 W Broadway, Hobbs, New Mexico 88240, Telephone (505) 393-6161, between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Prior to ruling on any proposed Stage 1 Abatement (site investigation) plan, the Director of the Oil Conservation Division shall allow at least thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice during which comments may be submitted.

May 18, 1998

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To	Bill Olson	From	Wayne Hamilton
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	281-544-2322
Fax #	505-827-8177	Fax #	

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Regulations, the following Stage 1 Abatement Plan (site investigation) proposal has been submitted to the Director of the Oil Conservation Division, 2040 South Pacheco, Sante Fe, New Mexico 87505, Telephone (505) 827-7131;

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Portions of the sites contain petroleum residues from former oil and gas operations. The abatement plan addresses: a) Site history, b) Proposed work in the Westgate Subdivision, Grimes Battery and Tasker Road locations, c) Quality assurance, d) Work schedule, e) Health and Safety Plan and, f) References. The Stage 1 Abatement Plan (site assessment) will define petroleum in the soil and groundwater to prepare a Stage 2 Abatement Plan (site remediation).

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300

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To	Bill Olson	From	Wayne Hamilton
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	281-544-2322
Fax #	505-827-8177	Fax #	

May 15, 1998

5/18/98  
Called Wayne Hamilton about above corrections.  
Bill Olson

# American Environmental Network

## FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DELIVER TO: Roger Haderson PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMPANY: OCD FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PAGES BEING SENT: 5 (INCLUDING THIS PAGE)

From: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 5/11/98  
 H. Mitchell Rubenstein, Ph.D., General Manager Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Kimberly D. McNeill, Project Manager  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Francine J. Torivio, Administrative Assistant  
 \_\_\_\_\_ John Caldwell, Sample Control FAX NUMBER:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Christopher Froehlich, QA Coordinator (505) 344-4413

This information contained in this Facsimile message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the designated recipients named above. This message may be proprietary confidential information of a client, and as such is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or any agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us by mail. Thank you.....

COMMENTS: Here are the solid detection limits -

\*\*\* means ~~was~~ analyzed as TIC

TIC = tentatively Id Compd by computer search

If you did not receive all pages of this transmission or if you experience Fax Transmission problems. Please call (505) 344-3777, as soon as possible after the receipt.

## COMMUNICATION TO ROGER ANDERSON OCD

METHOD	
CONSTITUENT	MG/KG

	<u>8081</u>
Aldrin	0.0017
alpha-BHC	0.0017
beta-BHC	0.0017
delta-BHC	0.0017
gamma-BHC	0.0017
Chlordane	0.0017
4,4'-DDT	0.0033
Dieldrin	0.0033
Endosulfan I	0.0017
Endosulfan II	0.0033
Endosulfan Sulfate	0.0033
Endrin	0.0033
Heptachlor	0.0017
Toxaphene	0.0082
PCB's	0.033

CONSTITUENT	MG/KG
	<u>8260</u>
Acetone	0.005
Acrylonitrile	**
Acrolein	**
Benzene	0.005
Bis (chloromethyl ether)	**
Bromodichloromethane	0.005
Bromoform	0.005
Methyl Bromide	0.005
Carbon Tetrachloride	0.005
Chlorobenzene	0.005
Chloroform	0.005
Methyl Chloride	0.005
o-Dichlorobenzene	0.005
m-Dichlorobenzene	0.005
p-Dichlorobenzene	0.005
Dichlorodifluoromethane	0.005
1,1-Dichloroethane	0.005
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.005
1,1-Dichloroethylene	0.005
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.005
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.005
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	0.005
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	0.005
Ethyl Benzene	0.005
Hexachlorobutadiene	0.005
Hexachloroethane	**
Methylene Chloride	0.005
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	0.005
Tetrachloroethylene (0.0005)	0.005
Toluene	0.005
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0.005
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	0.005
Trichloroethylene	0.005
Trichlorofluoromethane	0.005
Vinyl Chloride (0.0004)	0.005
Xylene (Total)	0.005
Ethylene Dibromide	0.005

\*\*\*standard not available- will be analyzed as TI

CONSTITUENT	MG/KG
	<u>8270</u>
Anthracene	0.330
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0.330
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0.330
Fluoranthene	0.330
Fluorene	0.330
1-Methylnaphthalene	0.330
2-Methylnaphthalene	0.330
Naphthalene	0.330
Phenanthrene	0.330
Pyrene	0.330
Benzidine	0.330
Hexachlorobenzene	0.330
Pentachlorobenzene	0.330
1,2,4,5-Tetrachlorobenzene	0.330
2,4-Dichlorophenol	0.330
2,4,5-Trichlorophenol	1.650
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	0.330
Bis(2-chloroethyl) ether	0.330
Bis(2-chloro-1-methylethyl)ether	***
3,3'Dichlorobenzidine	0.330
2,4-Dinitrotoluene	0.330
Diphenylhydrazine	0.330
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	0.330
Isophorone	0.330
Nitrobenzene	0.330
o-Nitrophenol	0.330
p-Nitrophenol	0.660
4,6-Dinitro-o-cresol	***
N-Nitrosodi-n-butylamine	0.330
N-Nitrosodiethylamine	***
N-Nitrosodimethylamine	0.330
N-Nitrosodiphenylamine	0.330
N-Nitrosopyrrolidine	***
Pentachlorophenol	0.990
Phenol	0.330
Di-n-butyl phthalate	0.330
Diethyl Phthalate	0.330
Dimethyl Phthalate	0.330
Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	0.330
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.330

\*BaP Recommended by 8270 only for soils

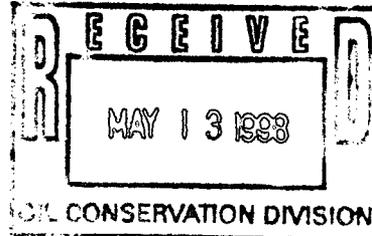
CONSTITUENT	MG/KG METALS
Aluminum	10.0
Barium	0.5
Boron	10
Chromium	0.5
Cobalt	0.5
Copper	1.0
Iron	2.0
Manganese	1.0
Molybdenum	1.0
Nickel	0.5
Silver	0.5
Zinc	2.0
Arsenic	0.5
Cadmium	0.1
Lead	0.3
Selenium	0.5
Mercury	0.1
Uranium	
Cyanide	0.25
Chloride	50.0
Fluoride	4
Nitrate	2.0
Phenols	0.5
Sulfate	200.0
TDS	N/A
pH	N/A
Ra226/Ra228	



PHONE (505) 397-6388 • FAX (505) 397-0397 • 1324 W. MARLAND • P.O. BOX 297 • HOBBS, NM 88241-0297  
E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

May 8, 1998

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



**RE: Grimes Lease/Tasker Road Site Maintenance**

Dear Mr. Olson:

On behalf of Shell Petroleum Exploration and Technology Company, BBC International, Inc. submits this report of site activities conducted on the above mentioned sites pursuant to your approval letter of April 23, 1998.

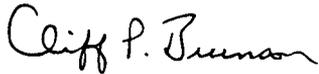
Below is the summary of the activities conducted:

1. **Perry Residence:** The Perry's yard was maintained and cleaned of all previous site sampling debris and new top soil added for future sod replacement. The contaminated soil debris was placed on the lot to the south of the Perry home with the other previous sampling debris to be removed and disposed of later. These activities were conducted on April 27<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1998.
2. **Grimes Battery:** A 6' high chain link fence with a locked gate was installed around the excavated pit for site security. These activities were conducted on April 29<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1998.
3. **Concrete Foundation (Cobb property):** The concrete foundation was removed with a front end loader. No excavation was conducted. Air quality monitoring was conducted at all times using a photo ionization detector (PID) and all results were data-logged (see attached data-logs/graphs). A site safety and air quality plan was submitted to Mr. Wayne Price, Hobbs OCD office, for approval prior to the start of activities (see attached). After approval was given, removal and monitoring activities commenced. Visual observation of the soils beneath and around the foundation were consistent with what was observed in the earlier site sampling. Split samples were taken by Mr. Price and BBC for analysis for volatiles, semi-volatiles, and TPH. After removal of the foundation, the hole was backfilled with clean top soil for seeding of grass, pending remediation. The air monitoring

showed no readings unless the PID was placed right next the contaminated soils. Periodic walk around monitoring was conducted and no significant readings were observed. Occasionally, a small spike would appear, which could be attributed to the heavy machinery's exhaust. This was observed and concurred by Mr. Price. At no time during this procedure was the health of the public impacted. Constant watering of the site was conducted for dust control. Air monitoring of site was conducted the evening of May 6<sup>th</sup>, per Mr. Price's instructions, to check for any emissions. None were detected (see attached data-logs). A total of 38 cubic yards of clean concrete debris was disposed off at the public land fill. A total of 10 cubic yards of contaminated concrete debris and the previous sampling debris that was scraped from the surface around the foundation was disposed of at the OCD-approved Sundance Services Parabo Facility in Eunice, NM. Final site activity included the tilling in of grass seed. The site will be watered occasionally for dust control and grass growth. All activities were monitored by Mr. Price. These activities were conducted on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

If you have any questions, please contact myself or Mr. Wayne Hamilton, Shell E & P Technology Company at (281) 544-2322.

Sincerely,



Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
President

CPB:mo

cc: Wayne Hamilton-Shell E & P Technology Company  
Chris Williams-OCD, Hobbs  
Wayne Price-OCD, Hobbs

attachments

# American Environmental Network

## FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DELIVER TO: Roger Haderson PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: OCD FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PAGES BEING SENT: 5 (INCLUDING THIS PAGE)

From:  H. Mitchell Rubenstein, Ph.D., General Manager Date: 5/11/98

Kimberly D. McNeill, Project Manager Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Francine J. Torivio, Administrative Assistant

John Caldwell, Sample Control FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Christopher Froehlich, QA Coordinator (505) 344-4413

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## COMMUNICATION TO ROGER ANDERSON OCD

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Heptachlor	0.0017
Toxaphene	0.0092
PCB's	0.033

CONSTITUENT	MG/KG
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1,1-Dichloroethane	0.005
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2,4-Dinitrotoluene	0.330
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Isophorone	0.330
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o-Nitrophenol	0.330
p-Nitrophenol	0.660
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N-Nitrosodiethylamine	***
N-Nitrosodimethylamine	0.330
N-Nitrosodiphenylamine	0.330
N-Nitroopyrrolidine	***
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Molybdenum	1.0
Nickel	0.5
Silver	0.5
Zinc	2.0
Arsenic	0.5
Cadmium	0.1
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Selenium	0.5
Mercury	0.1
Uranium	
Cyanide	0.25
Chloride	50.0
Fluoride	4
Nitrate	2.0
Phenols	0.5
Sulfate	200.0
TDS	N/A
pH	N/A

Ra226/Ra228

## **Olson, William**

---

**From:** Price, Wayne  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 06, 1998 9:21 AM  
**To:** Bill Olson; Roger Anderson  
**Cc:** Chris Williams  
**Subject:** Shell Westgate Concrete foundation removal.

Dear Roger & Bill:

Please note yesterday at 4:15 pm Cliff Brunson with BBC called to notify me that they were going to remove the concert foundations next to the Perry house. BBC indicated this has been approved by NMOCD SF letter dated April 23, 1998 Olson-Hamilton.

7:30 am Today I requested from Cliff Brunson information concerning on-site safety and air monitoring. Mr. Brunson indicated they do not have any written plan.

I recommended to BBC to put together a written plan to include action limits & emergency plans on how they were going to protect the public before starting work. I ask them to call me when they get ready to start work. Mr. Brunson Indicated he would.

cc: Cliff Brunson-BBC  
Wayne Hamilton-Shell



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
DISTRICT I Hobbs  
PO BOX 1980  
Hobbs, NM 88241-1981  
(505) 393-6161

Jennifer A. Salisbury  
CABINET SECRETARY

NMOCD INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Shell-Westgate File  
From: Wayne Price-Environmental Engineer  
Date: May 06, 1998  
Reference: Foundation Removal at 1329 Tasker St.  
Subject: Site Inspection & Air Monitoring

**RECEIVED**

MAY 21 1998

Environmental Bureau  
Oil Conservation Division

Comments:

Witness foundation removal and performed limited air monitoring with PID.

Collected samples of "Hot Spot" found near the NE corner of foundation area. Ran field PID headspace on sample, reading was noted at 835 ppm, moderate to strong aromatic hydrocarbon olfactory smell noted. Sample was a vary tar like substance pliable. Took Photos.

Performed spot checks on air monitoring. Wind blowing from SSW to West at 15-25 mph temp 88 deg F. 11% Hum. Party Cloudy.

The following Maximum readings were noted between 2 pm-5pm.

- \*\* West of project .5 ppm
  - \*\* Close proximately (within 10 feet) to exposed contaminated soil 13 ppm (Slight odor).
  - \*\* Near SE Corner of Perry's house 1.1 ppm.
  - \*\* Across Tasker St downwind of site 1.8 ppm. No noticeable odor.
- None of the above readings were sustained at these levels.

W. Price (NMOCD) & Cliff Brunson (BBC) made area house calls checked with Mrs. Perry (1330 Tasker) and Scott Mckee (1326) neither party indicated they smelled anything during excavation & reported no complaints.

NMOCD did receive a complaint from the area residence citizen group committee member Mr. Jose Jaques. Mr. Jaques complained about the smell when he drove by about 2:30-3 pm and again at about 3:30pm.

NMOCD gave BBC permission to work after 4pm in order to complete foundation removal and since contamination was found so it could be covered thus reducing any possible exposure to area residences. Instructed BBC to spot check & monitor air quality that night. NMOCD monitored the site between 8:30 pm-10:20 pm. There was a very slight hydrocarbon odor next to the site but the PID recorded a non-detect.

cc: Chris Williams-NMOCD District I Supervisor  
Bill Olson-Environmental Bureau, Santa Fe, NM

attachments- Photos & Sampling Chain-of-Custody



**NMOCD: ID#. 046787 By: W Price #1-7  
Date/Time: May 06, 1998 3 pm  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate  
Location: Tasker St. 1329  
Subject: Foundation removal. Looking  
NNW. Found Black tar substance.**



Stained Gloves

"HOT Spot" Black  
oily substance  
aromatic smell

NMOCD: ID#. 046787 By: W Price #6-7  
Date/Time: May 06, 1998 3 pm  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate  
Location: Tasker St. 1329  
Subject: Foundation removal. Looking  
SE. Found Black tar substance.

SHADED AREAS ARE FOR LAB USE ONLY.

PLEASE FILL THIS FORM IN COMPLETELY.

<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b> COMPANY: <u>AMOC D</u> ADDRESS: <u>P.O. #980</u> <u>HOBBS NM 88241</u> PHONE: <u>505-393-6161</u> FAX: _____ BILL TO: <u>AMOC D - SAB</u> COMPANY: <u>ATZ QUARRY PRICE</u> ADDRESS: _____		<b>ANALYSIS REQUEST</b> Petroleum Hydrocarbons (418.1) TRPH (MOD.8015) Diesel/Direct/Inject (M8015) Gas/Purge & Trap Gasoline/BTEX & MTBE (M8015/8020) BTXE/MTBE (8020) BTEX & Chlorinated Aromatics (602/8020) BTEX/MTBE/EDC & EDB (8020/8010/Short) Chlorinated Hydrocarbons (601/8010) 504 EDB <input type="checkbox"/> / DBCP <input type="checkbox"/> Polynuclear Aromatics (610/8310) <u>8270</u> Volatile Organics (624/8240) GC/MS Volatile Organics (8260) GC/MS Pesticides/PCB (608/8080) Herbicides (615/8150) Base/Neutral/Acid Compounds GC/MS (625/8270) <u>8270</u> General Chemistry: Priority Pollutant Metals (13) Target Analyte List Metals (23) RCRA Metals (8) RCRA Metals by TCLP (Method 1311) Metals: <u>TOTAL (AMOC D)</u>	
<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b> PROJECT NAME: <u>SWELL INVESTIGATE</u> PROJ. NO.: <u>TRASKER ST (1329)</u> P.O. NO.: _____ SHIPPED VIA: _____ SAMPLE RECEIPT: _____ NO. CONTAINERS: _____ CUSTODY SEALS: <u>V/N/A</u> RECEIVED INTACT: _____ BLUE ICE: _____		<b>PRIOR AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED FOR RUSH PROJECTS</b> (RUSH) <input type="checkbox"/> 24hr <input type="checkbox"/> 48hr <input type="checkbox"/> 72hr <input type="checkbox"/> 1 WEEK CERTIFICATION REQUIRED: <input type="checkbox"/> NM <input type="checkbox"/> SDWA <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER METHANOL PRESERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS: <u>FIXED FEE <input type="checkbox"/></u> <u>* MATRIX - SOIL / TRK SUBSTANCE</u> <u>2 - 2oz TMS STOPPED ON ICE.</u> <u>SAMPLE COLLECTED IN 3' DEEP UNDER</u> <u>FOUNDATIONS AT 1329 TRASKER ST.</u> <u>SEE FIELD LOG &amp; PICTURES.</u>	
<b>RELINQUISHED BY:</b> Signature: _____ Printed Name: <u>AMOC D</u> Date: <u>5/27/98</u> Company: <u>AMOC D</u>		<b>RELINQUISHED BY:</b> Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____ Company: _____	
<b>RECEIVED BY:</b> Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____ Company: _____		<b>RECEIVED BY: (LAB)</b> Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____ Company: American Environmental Network (NM), Inc.	
SAMPLE ID: <u>9805061520</u>		DATE: <u>5/26/98</u> TIME: <u>3:29PM</u> MATRIX: <u>*</u> LAB I.D.: _____	
NUMBER OF CONTAINERS: <u>2</u>		_____	



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

May 1, 1998

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-235-437-265**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
P.O. Box 481  
Houston, Texas 77001-0481

**RE: STAGE 1 ABATEMENT WORK PLAN  
GRIMES LEASE  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell E&P Technology Company's (SHELL) April 1998 "GRIMES BATTERY AND TASKER ROAD STAGE 1 ABATEMENT WORK PLAN" and April 28, 1998 "GRIMES BATTERY, TASKER ROAD, HOBBS, NM, STAGE 1 ABATEMENT WORK PLAN ADDENDUM". These documents contain SHELL's Stage 1 Abatement Plan Proposal for investigating the magnitude and extent of contamination related to a former unlined pit located in the Westgate residential subdivision at 1329 Tasker Road Hobbs, New Mexico and a former unlined pit at the adjacent Grimes Tank Battery.

Upon a review of the above referenced documents, the OCD has the following comments and requirements:

**A. Westgate Subdivision**

As you are aware a number of residents in the Westgate Subdivision have complained of adverse health effects as a result of oil field activities on the Grimes Lease. In order to effectively evaluate potential health threats to residents of the subdivision from the Grimes Lease, the OCD requires that the Stage 1 Abatement Plan Proposal include:

1. A map showing all oil and gas lease holders within 1 mile of the Grimes Tank Battery.
2. A map showing the location of all existing and plugged and abandoned oil and gas wells within 1 mile of the Grimes Tank Battery.
3. All available aerial photographs of the Grimes Lease spanning the time period during which the lease has been operable.
4. A plan for conducting an area wide soil gas survey of the subdivision.

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
May 1, 1998  
Page 2

**A. Grimes Battery Pit**

1. The investigation of the area north of the tank battery needs to include investigation of the dense hydrocarbon layer in the soil approximately 1 foot below the surface within the backyard of the Casey residence. The OCD observed this contamination area during an April 8, 1998 site inspection. Please provide a plan for investigation of this area.
2. The plan recommends investigating the area north of the tank battery where the OCD observed stained soils and paraffins on the ground surface. However, the plan does not specify the proposed soil intervals from which samples will be taken. Please provide this information.
3. The borehole pit sampling needs to include sampling of soils 2-3 feet below the surface of the excavated area in order to assess the final contaminant concentrations remaining in the base of the excavation. In addition, the 2-3 foot borehole soil samples needs to include analysis for all of the compounds listed in the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) standards of sections 1101 and 3103, NMAC 6.2. Please provide a commitment to perform this sampling.
4. The OCD requires that total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) in soils from the boreholes be analyzed using EPA method 418.1 to get a conservative quantification of TPH in soil. Please provide a commitment to perform this sampling.
5. All boreholes need to be plugged from total depth to the surface with a cement grout containing 3-5% bentonite.
6. The plan defers installation of source area monitor wells until the remedial design phase of the project. The OCD requires that source area wells be installed during Stage 1 investigations. Please provide a plan for installation of source area monitor wells.
7. The OCD requires that 2 additional ground water monitoring wells be installed in the locations shown on Figure 4 (attached) to determine the extent of ground water contamination. Please provide a commitment to install these wells.
8. The plan does not contain the proposed monitor well construction details. Please provide this information.

**B. Tasker Road Pit**

1. In order to adequately determine the lateral and vertical extent of soil contamination from the pit, the borehole and monitor well soil sampling plan needs to include sampling of soils from the 2-3 foot and 5 foot interval below the surface in addition to the sample intervals proposed. Please provide a commitment to perform this sampling.

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton

May 1, 1998

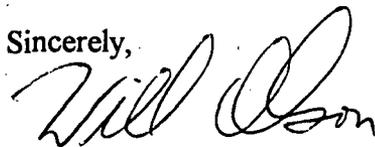
Page 3

2. The OCD requires that the pit monitor well be installed at the location of former soil sample location SS-2.
3. The OCD requires that an additional borehole be drilled at the location shown on Figure 5 (attached) in order to fully characterize the vertical extent of contamination in the pit.
4. The OCD believes that trenching is not an appropriate method for sampling volatile organics in soils at the proposed sampling locations adjacent to the Perry residence. In addition, the OCD requires that samples from each of these 3 locations also include soil samples from the 5 and 10 foot depth intervals. Please provide an alternate method for insitu sampling of soils from these locations and a commitment to collect the additional soil samples.
5. The OCD requires that the soil sample locations for determining background metals concentrations in soils be located upgradient of both the Grimes Tank Battery and the Tasker Road pit. Please provide an alternate location for determining background soil metals concentrations.
6. The OCD requires that Shell provide a site health and safety plan for the activities to be conducted in association with the Tasker Road Pit, the Grimes Tank Battery Pit and the Westgate Subdivision.

The OCD requires that SHELL submit a 2nd draft of the Stage 1 abatement plan proposal which incorporates the above requirements. The 2nd draft will be submitted to the OCD Santa Fe Office by May 18, 1998 with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson  
Hydrologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Jennifer A. Salisbury, Secretary, NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Lori Wrotenbery, Director, OCD  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision

Z 235 437 265

US Postal Service

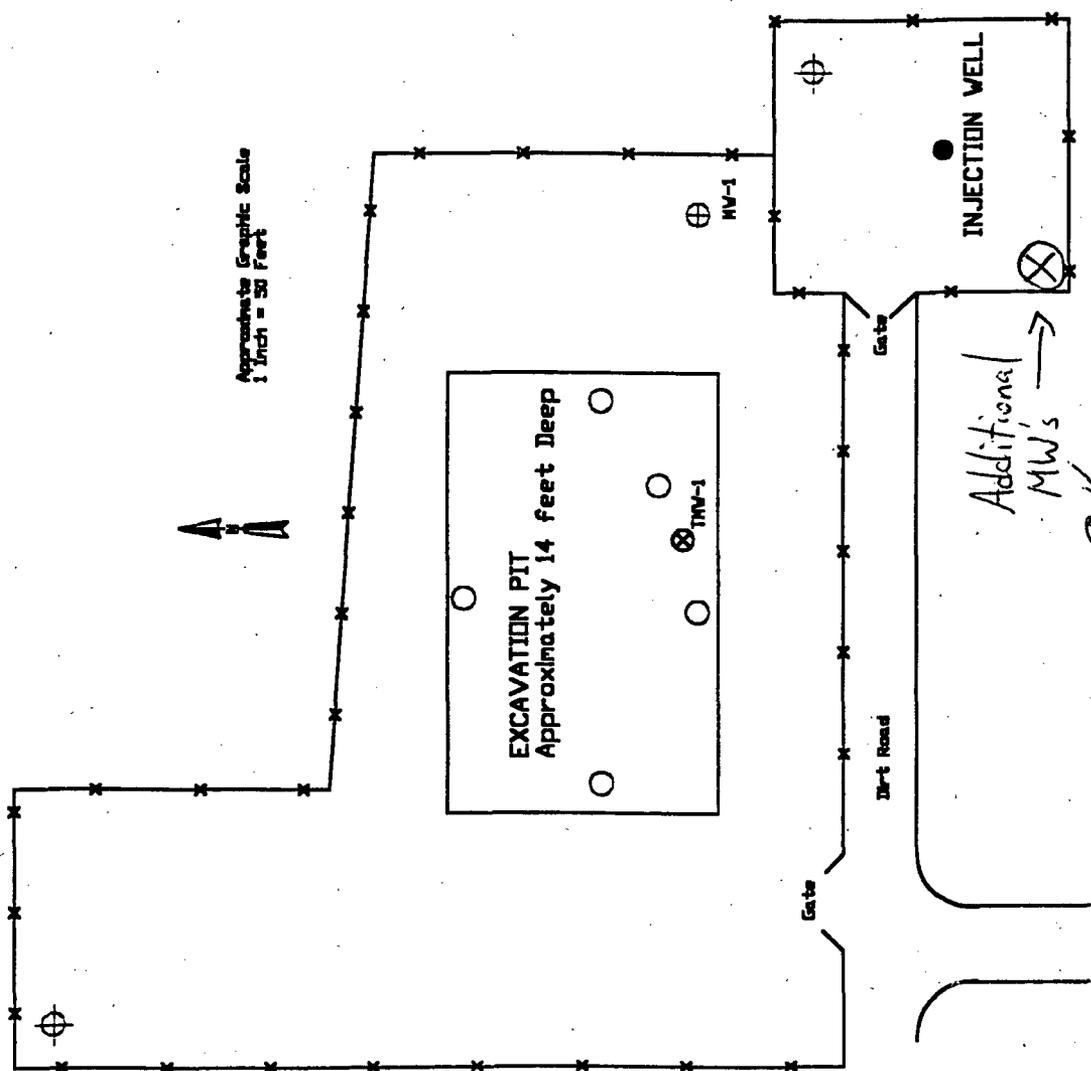
**Receipt for Certified Mail**

No Insurance Coverage Provided.

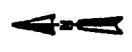
Do not use for International Mail (See reverse)

Sent to	
Street & Number	
Post Office, State, & ZIP Code	
Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Special Delivery Fee	
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt Showing to Whom & Date Delivered	
Return Receipt Showing to Whom, Date, & Addressee's Address	
<b>TOTAL Postage &amp; Fees</b>	<b>\$</b>
Postmark or Date	

PS Form 3800, April 1995



Approximate Graphic Scale  
1 Inch = 50 Feet



EXCAVATION PIT  
Approximately 14 feet Deep

MW-1

MW-1

INJECTION WELL

34th Road

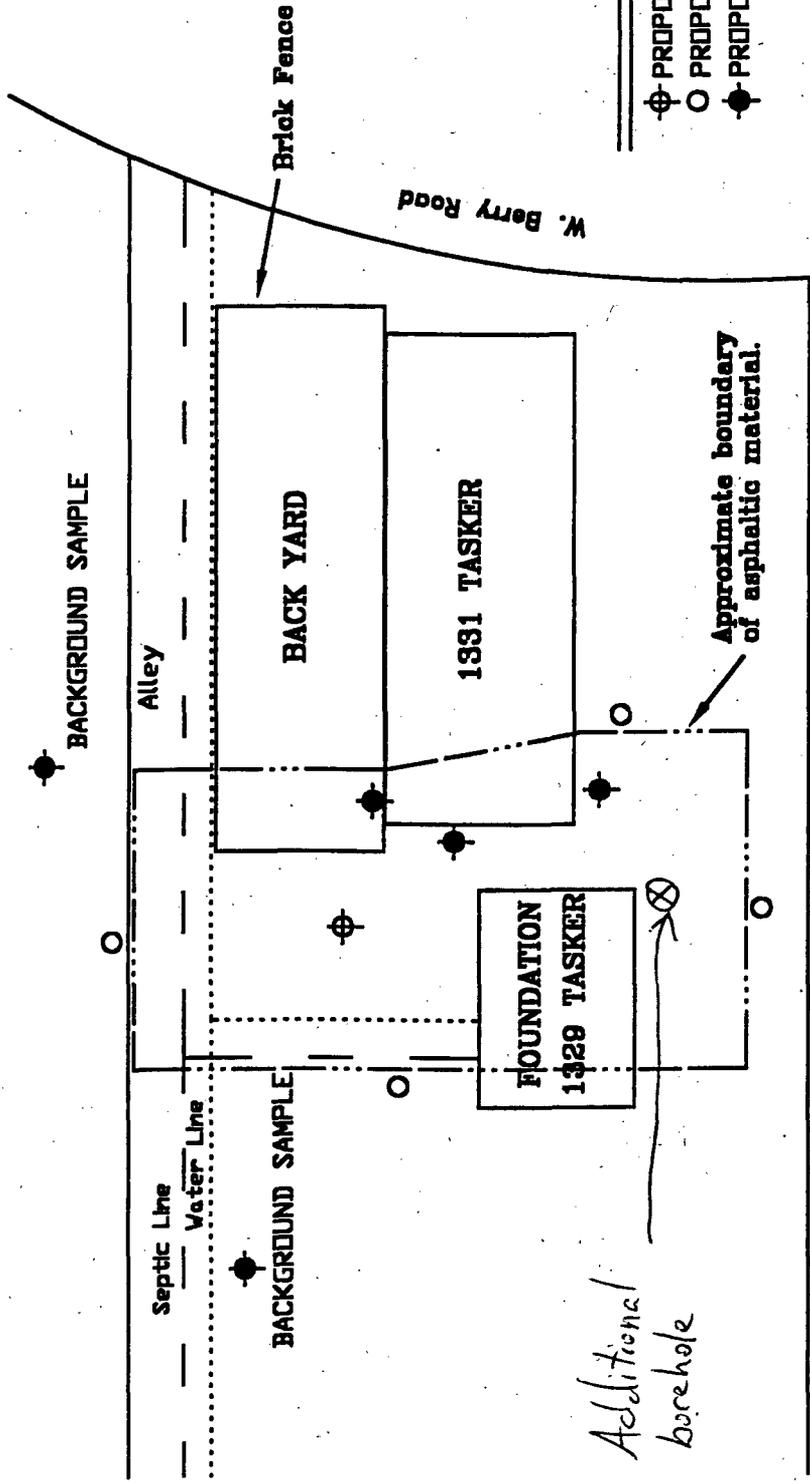
Gate

Gate

Additional  
MW's →

- ⊕ PROPOSED MONITOR WELLS
- PROPOSED BOREHOLES

	<b>TITLE</b> SHELL EXPLORATION & TECHNOLOGY COMPANY GRIMES BATTERY Proposed Monitor Well & Borehole Locations				<b>PROJECT NO.:</b> 19350
	<b>DRAWN:</b> seh	<b>DESIGN:</b> seh	<b>TASKER ROAD</b> Hobbs, NM		<b>FIGURE:</b> 4
<b>CHECKED:</b> seh	<b>APPROVED:</b> seh				
<b>DATE:</b> Mar. 1988	<b>REVISION:</b> 5				



**LEGEND**

- ⊕ PROPOSED MONITOR WELL
- PROPOSED BOREHOLES
- ⊗ PROPOSED SAMPLE



APPROXIMATE GRAPHIC SCALE

PROJECT NO.: 19350	
TASKER ROAD Hobbs, New Mexico	
DESIGNER: jwk	DATE: 2
APPROVED: seh	REVISED: 2
DATE: Jan 1988	

**SHELL EXPLORATION & TECHNOLOGY COMPANY**  
**TASKER ROAD**  
**PROPOSED SAMPLE LOCATIONS**





INDUSTRIAL SERVICES  
GROUP

Central Region

April 28, 1998

Mr. Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pachecho  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Anderson,

As requested in your letter to Mr. Wayne Hamilton, Shell Exploration and Production Technology Company, attached is the November 1997 Grimes Battery pit sample analysis. Apparently this data was not included in your copy of *Grimes Battery Site Assessment Report*, Appendix II. I apologize for any inconvenience this missing information may have caused.

Sincerely,

**PHILIP SERVICES CORPORATION**

*Sharon E. Hall*  
Sharon E. Hall  
Operations Manager

*Helping Clients Attain a Competitive Advantage in a Global Market*



**APPENDIX I**  
**LABORATORY ANALYSIS**



**ARDINAL**  
LABORATORIES

PHONE (915) 673-7001 • 2111 BEECHWOOD • ABILENE, TX 79603

PHONE (505) 393-2328 • 101 E. MARLAND • HOBBS, NM 88240

ANALYTICAL RESULTS FOR  
SHELL OIL CO.  
ATTN: DONNIE ANDERSON  
1017 W. STANOLIND  
HOBBS, NM 88240  
FAX TO: 505-397-8204

Receiving Date: 11/17/97  
Modified Reporting Date: 11/25/97  
Reporting Date: 11/19/97  
Project Number: NOT GIVEN  
Project Name: TASKER SITE  
Project Location: EAST OF GRIMES BATTERY  
Laboratory No.: H3320-1  
Sample ID: COMPOSITE OF #1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Analysis Date: 11/19/97  
Sampling Date: 11/17/97  
Sample Type: SOIL & WASTE  
Sample Condition: COOL & INTACT  
Sample Received By: GP  
Analyzed By: BC

MODIFIED REPORT

Compounds Detected (GC/MS Scan)

n-Alkanes, C13 through C40, maximum @ n-Pentacosane (C25) (Total n-Alkanes=92.2mg/Kg);  
2,6,10,14-Tetramethylpentadecane (7.4mg/Kg) and 2,6,10,14-Tetramethylheptadecane (10.9mg/Kg);  
Numerous branched alkanes and cyclic hydrocarbons (unresolved mixture) (4122mg/Kg);  
Naphthalene (0.7mg/Kg), 1- and 2-Methylnaphthalene (2.1mg/Kg).

Methods: SW-846 8270 and 8015 modified

NOTE: Sample has chromatographic characteristics of weathered oil.

*Bryan J. Leth*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chemist

*11/25/97*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**ARDINAL  
LABORATORIES**

PHONE (916) 873-7001 • 2111 BEECHWOOD • ABILENE, TX 79603

PHONE (505) 393-2326 • 101 E. MARLAND • HOBBS, NM 88240

**ANALYTICAL RESULTS FOR  
SHELL OIL COMPANY  
ATTN: DONNIE ANDERSON  
1017 W. STANOLIND  
HOBBS, NM. 88240  
FAX TO: 505-397-8204**

Receiving Date: 11/17/97  
Reporting Date: 11/18/97  
Project Number: NOT GIVEN  
Project Name: TASKER SITE  
Project Location: EAST OF GRIMES BATTERY

Sampling Date: 11/17/97  
Sample Type: SOIL  
Sample Condition: INTACT & COOL  
Sample Received By: GP  
Analyzed By: GP

LAB NO.	SAMPLE ID	BENZENE (mg/Kg)	TOLUENE (mg/Kg)	ETHYL BENZENE (mg/Kg)	TOTAL XYLENES (mg/Kg)
	ANALYSIS DATE	11/17/97	11/17/97	11/17/97	11/17/97
H3320-1	COMPOSITE OF 5 SAMPLES	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	0.017
	Quality Control	101	99	91	306
	True Value QC	100	100	100	300
	% Recovery	101	99	91	102
	Relative Percent Difference	0.8	2.6	9.4	5.4

METHOD: EPA SW 846-8021B, 5030, 5021 Gas Chromatography

*Ray W. Patten*  
Chemist

11/18/97  
Date

PLEASE NOTE: Liability and Damages. Cardinal's liability and client's exclusive remedy for any claim arising, whether based in contract or tort, shall be limited to the amount paid by client for analyses. All claims shall be barred by negligence and any other cause whatsoever shall be deemed waived unless made in writing and received by Cardinal within thirty (30) days after completion of the applicable service. In no event shall Cardinal be liable for incidental or consequential damages, including, without limitation, business interruptions, loss of use, or loss of profits incurred by client, its subsidiaries, affiliates or successors arising out of or related to the performance of services hereunder by Cardinal, regardless of whether such claim is based upon any of the above-stated reasons or otherwise.



**CARDINAL**  
LABORATORIES

PHONE (815) 673-7001 • 2111 BEECHWOOD • ABILENE, TX 79603

PHONE (505) 393-2326 • 101 E. MARLAND • HOBBS, NM 88240

ANALYTICAL RESULTS FOR  
SHELL OIL COMPANY  
ATTN: DONNIE ANDERSON  
1017 W. STANOLIND  
HOBBS, NM. 88240  
FAX TO: 505-397-8204

Receiving Date: 11/17/97  
Reporting Date: 11/18/97  
Project Number: NOT GIVEN  
Project Name: TASKER SITE  
Project Location: EAST OF GRIMES BATTERY

Analysis Date: 11/17/97  
Sampling Date: 11/17/97  
Sample Type: SOIL  
Sample Condition: COOL & INTACT  
Sample Received By: GP  
Analyzed By: AH

LAB NUMBER	SAMPLE ID	Cl <sup>-</sup> (mg/Kg)
H3320-1	COMPOSITE OF 5 SAMPLES	128
Quality Control		480
True Value QC		500
% Accuracy		96
Relative Percent Difference		4
METHOD: STANDARD METHODS 4500.CI B		325.3

*Gayle A. Potter*  
Gayle A. Potter, Chemist

11/19/97  
Date

PLEASE NOTE: Liability and Damages. Cardinal's liability and client's exclusive remedy for any claim arising, whether based in contract or tort, shall be limited to the amount paid by client for analyses. All claims shall be barred by negligence and any other cause whatsoever shall be deemed waived unless made in writing and received by Cardinal within thirty (30) days after completion of the applicable service. In no event shall Cardinal be liable for incidental or consequential damages, including, without limitation, business interruptions, loss of use, or loss of profits incurred by client, its subsidiaries, affiliates or successors arising out of or related to the performance of services hereunder by Cardinal, regardless of whether such claim is based upon any of the above-stated reasons or otherwise.



# ARDINAL LABORATORIES

PHONE (815) 873-7001 • 2111 BEECHWOOD • ABILENE, TX 79603

PHONE (505) 393-2328 • 101 E. MARLAND • HOBBS, NM 88240

ANALYTICAL RESULTS FOR  
SHELL OIL COMPANY  
ATTN: DONNIE ANDERSON  
1017 W. STANOLIND  
HOBBS, NM. 88240  
FAX TO: 505-397-8204

Receiving Date: 11/17/97  
Reporting Date: 11/21/97  
Project Number: NOT GIVEN  
Project Name: TASKER SITE  
Project Location: EAST OF GRIMES BATTERY

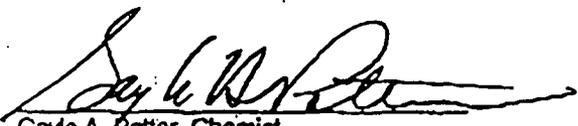
Sampling Date: 11/17/97  
Sample Type: SOIL  
Sample Condition: COOL & INTACT  
Sample Received By: GP  
Analyzed By: GP

### TCLP METALS

LAB NO.	SAMPLE ID	As ppm	Ag ppm	Ba ppm	Cd ppm	Cr ppm	Pb ppm	Hg ppm	Se ppm
---------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

ANALYSIS DATE:	11/20/97	11/20/97	11/20/97	11/20/97	11/20/97	11/20/97	11/21/97	11/20/97
EPA LIMITS:	5	5	100	1	5	5	0.2	1
H3320-1 COMPOSITE OF 5 SAMPLES	<1.0	<1.0	<5.0	<0.1	<1.0	<1.0	<0.02	<0.1
Quality Control	0.085	5.02	9.9	1.010	1.00	5.03	0.0101	0.108
True Value QC	0.100	5.00	10.0	1.000	1.00	5.00	0.0100	0.100
% Recovery	95	101	99	101	100	101	101	108
Relative Standard Deviation	3.9	0.4	1.8	0.5	1.1	0.7	3.7	6.4

METHODS: EPA 1311, 600/4-9	206.2	272.1	208.1	213.1	218.1	239.1	245.1	270.2
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Gayle A. Potter, Chemist

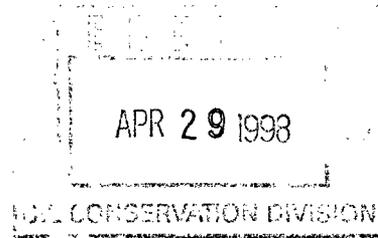
11/21/97  
Date



PHONE (505) 397-6388 • FAX (505) 397-0397 • 1324 W. MARLAND • P.O. BOX 297 • HOBBS, NM 88241-0297  
E-MAIL: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

April 28, 1998

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
Environmental Bureau  
2040 S. Pachecho  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



Subject: Grimes Battery, Tasker Road, Hobbs, NM, Stage 1 Abatement Work Plan Addendum

Dear Mr. Olson:

On behalf of Shell E & P Technology Company (SEPTCo), BBC International, Inc. (BBC) submits an Addendum to the April 24, 1998, Stage 1 Abatement Work Plan.

The purpose of the addendum is to provide a Phase II assessment work plan for the remaining Los Cuatro, Inc. property.

If you have any questions, please call Wayne Hamilton (SEPTCo) at 281-544-2322 or Cliff Brunson (BBC) at 505-397-6388.

Sincerely,

BBC International, Inc.

Cliff P. Brunson  
President

cc: Wayne Hamilton, SEPTCo  
Chris Williams, NMOCD-Hobbs

# Shell submits test plan

## Samples to test for contamination

STARLA JONES  
HOBBS NEWS-SUN

Complying with a Friday deadline, Shell Oil Co. submitted a plan to the state last week to test for further contaminants in a west Hobbs neighborhood.

The "Stage 1 Abatement Workplan" delivered to the Oil Conservation Division's Santa Fe office Friday morning outlines a proposal to drill more bore holes and monitor wells to test for further water contamination in the Westgate Subdivision.

The action comes after the smell of excessive odors on Tasker and Cobb streets in West Hobbs last year led to OCD's discovery of oilfield contamination at two locations.

Shell has already excavated 4,259 cubic yards of soil from an oilfield tank battery site that was in operation from 1945 until 1993. Groundwater contamination was also discovered at the location just south of Cobb Street near an occupied house.

About 100 yards away, workers found an asphalt-like layer 1 to 2 feet beneath the surface while constructing a modular-home subdivision along Tasker.

A home less than 80 feet away also was found to have contaminated soil in both the back and front yards, OCD officials said.

Under Shell's workplan, four boreholes will be drilled at the Tasker site with samples taken at 5-foot intervals.

"Soil samples will be screened for volatile organic compounds and sampling will continue until no (bio-toxification) readings, staining and odor are observed, according to the Shell proposal.

In addition, the extent of hydrocarbon materials "will be sampled using an auger, trenching or excavating

# HOBBS News-Sun

Sunday  
April 26, 1998

## Test plan

from PAGE 1

of the occupied residence as practicable." A monitor well will also be installed in the Tasker area to test groundwater.

In the meantime, five boreholes will be drilled in the excavated pit near Cobb Street with samples again taken at 5-foot intervals until no readings or smells are noted, Shell said. An additional four wells will be installed to detail the path of groundwater contamination while a backhoe or other equipment will screen a field north of the tank battery site for "naturally occurring radioactive material ..."

The testing will take a minimum of 10 days working from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, Shell said. Results of the tests and recommendations for the sites will then be submitted to OCD within 60 days as part of the Stage 2 Abatement Workplan.

Shell Company officials are scheduled to discuss Stage 1 with OCD personnel in Santa Fe next Friday, according to Shell Public Affairs Representative Rich Hansen, who said it's still the company's plan to excavate contaminated dirt from the area.

The public can request a hearing on the abatement plan, something Hansen said is likely judging from the turnout of more than 100 residents at a April 8 meeting where concerns regarding health problems in the neighborhood were aired.

During a sometimes-heated meeting that night at New Mexico Junior College, several people complained that rates of lupus and cancer are above normal in the area, an issue that will be addressed when the Public Department of Health conducts a door-to-door health survey tentatively scheduled to begin May 7.

"It appears to me that there's probably a pretty good chance that somebody will ask for a public hearing on it," Hansen said of the proposal, which can be obtained at the Hobbs OCD office. "There are rules and regulations on how things are supposed to be done. You want to make sure it's done right the first time."

Meanwhile, Shell has contacted city officials about the possibility of locating a park, baseball field or other recreational area along Tasker once the cleanup is complete.

"We would like to see a green area out there for the benefit of the entire community," Sam Cobb said on Friday. "We don't have any predetermined ideas of what to do out there ... If that entails soccer fields, baseball fields, a walk area or whatever. We're basically providing funds for design and construction."

Cobb is a partner in Monumental Develop Co., the business that was developing the 20-home modular home subdivision when the contamination was discovered. Los Cuatro, a company in which his father has a financial interest, would be paid a lease fee during the remediation period, then would deed the land to the city, Cobb said.

But remediation is the first priority, Shell officials say.

"I think you've got to do first things first," Hansen said on Friday from his Houston office. "The first thing Shell has to do is clean up what it's left behind from its oilfield

operations. Until it's cleaned up, all the rest is sort of academic. ... The safety of our employees and the people in the community and the quality in the environment is our priority right now."

# of pages	7671
Date	
From	Walter Hamilton
Co.	
Phone #	
Fax #	915-863-9526
Post-it Fax Note	To Sharon Hall
Co./Dept.	
Phone #	
Fax #	



# FAX TRANSMISSION

**BBC INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
World-Wide Environmental Specialists  
P. O. Box 297  
1324 W. Marland Blvd.  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88241  
505-397-6388  
Fax: 505-397-0397  
E-Mail: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

**To:** Bill Olson **Date:** April 24, 1998  
**Company:** Oil Conservation Division **Pages:** 2, including this cover sheet.  
**Fax #:** 1-505-827-8177  
**From:** Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
**Subject:** Grimes Bat./Tasker Street

**COMMENTS:**

Dear Mr. Olson:

Please find a copy of a fax to the Hobbs office concerning the activities scheduled for the Grimes/Tasker site.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cliff P. Brunson".

Cliff P. Brunson  
President



# FAX TRANSMISSION

**BBC INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
World-Wide Environmental Specialists  
P. O. Box 297  
1324 W. Marland Blvd.  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88241  
505-397-6388  
Fax: 505-397-0397  
E-Mail: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

**To:** Chris William/Wayne Price      **Date:** April 24, 1998  
**Company:** OCD-Hobbs      **Pages:** 2, including this cover sheet.  
**Fax #:** 393-0720  
**From:** Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
**Subject:** Grimes Bat./Tasker Street-Shell

**COMMENTS:**

Dear Mr. Williams and Mr. Price:

The following is the neighborhood flyer that Shell has created and has been approved by Roger Anderson and Bill Olson for distribution. We will be starting to pass this out among the neighborhood around 10:00 a.m. Monday morning, the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The clean up and yard maintenance of the Perry's home will begin on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The removal of the concrete foundation immediately south of the Perry home should commence on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated to start the construction of the fence around the Grimes Battery pit site on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. After the removal of the concrete foundation the scraping and raking of the lot will be done with the top soil and seeding activities afterwards. All activities will be performed according to the letter to Shell from Bill Olson dated April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Everything on this schedule is tentative except for the Perry home clean up and maintenance. We will confirm to you on Monday of the final schedule. Thank you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Cliff P. Brunson*  
Cliff P. Brunson

President

cc: Bill Olson-OCD; Wayne Hamilton-Shell E & P



# FAX TRANSMISSION

**BBC INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
World-Wide Environmental Specialists  
P. O. Box 297  
1324 W. Marland Blvd.  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88241  
505-397-6388  
Fax: 505-397-0397  
E-Mail: [bbc@bbcinternational.com](mailto:bbc@bbcinternational.com)

**To:** Bill Olson **Date:** April 24, 1998  
**Company:** Oil Conservation Division **Pages:** 2, including this cover sheet.  
**Fax #:** 1-505-827-8177  
**From:** Cliff P. Brunson, CEI, CRS  
**Subject:** Grimes Bat./Tasker Street Hobbs

## COMMENTS:

Bill,

The following is the flyer that Wayne had read to you. We will be starting to pass this out among the neighborhood around 10:00 a.m. Monday morning, the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoyed the visit this morning and thank you for faxing me your letter to Wayne. We will inform Chris and Wayne here of all activities beforehand.

Any questions, give me a call. Look forward to seeing you on Friday, May 1.

Regards,

*Cliff*



**Because We Want You to Know**

- **Shell operated the Grimes Lease** (North and West of Sanger and Tasker Streets) as part of the North Hobbs Unit for over 50 years.
- **Oil Field Products** have been found at the site of Shell's former Grimes Tank Battery and along Tasker Street.
- **Shell will correct the problem.** Shell is working closely with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) to develop a cleanup plan for these two properties. Shell will clean up the properties in line with OCD standards.
- **Shell will make several immediate temporary steps to improve the safety and appearance of the area.**

Shell will build a six-foot high chain link fence around the Grimes Battery excavation site with a locked gate to improve the safety of the location.

Shell will clean up Roland and Virginia Perry's front and back yards where soil, rocks and asphalt have been left from the earlier soil sampling on the Perry property. We will fill in the disturbed areas with clean top soil and plant sod.

Shell will remove Monument Development's concrete foundation just south of the Perry property. We will rake this property to clean up the soil, rocks and asphalt left from taking soil samples. We will temporarily fill the area with clean topsoil, level it, seed and water the area to provide a grass cover

- **These are temporary visual improvements** but are not intended to be permanent solutions. Shell is committed to working with the New Mexico OCD to follow their cleanup guidelines for these two sited.
- **Thank you for your patience.** For more information on Shell's cleanup plans, please call toll free (800) 489-8109.

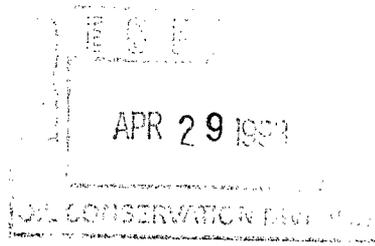


**Shell Oil Company  
200 North Dairy Ashford  
Houston, TX 77079**

**April 27, 1998**



April 24, 1998



Roger Anderson, Chief  
Environmental Bureau  
Oil Conservation Division  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

This letter is being written concerning the Westgate neighborhood in Hobbs, New Mexico which is currently being investigated for contamination and its potential health effects on the citizens. A work group established to further define the potential health risks in the community is quite concerned about safety hazards presented by the open pit at the former site of the Grimes Tank Battery. At this time there are reportedly numerous children who are playing in this area which potentially places them at risk from injury as well as the at this time unknown environmental contamination that could occur. In addition, there are potential injury hazards from exposed trenches, open foundations at the unfinished building site adjacent to the Perry residence, and by a pile of dirt behind a recently completed modular home near the Perry residence.

The Department of Health strongly recommends that these hazards be minimized. The secure fencing of the Grimes Tank Battery area should be done as quickly as possible to minimize the above health risks. At the present time, the barbed wire does not secure the area and is easily passed through by the children in the neighborhood. The other areas in question that pose a risk to personal injury of the residents in the area should also be addressed as quickly as possible.

We are contacting your agency because of its knowledge of the situation and with the detailed information and understanding of who is responsible for this type of remediation. Thank you for your consideration to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Nelson".

Evan Nelson MD (505)627-6960  
District Health Officer

Randy Merker MS (505) 827-3709 A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Merker".  
Environmental Health Specialist - Epidemiology

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
DISTRICT IV  
2909 W. 2ND STREET, SUITE A  
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO 88201  
(505) 627-8277  
FAX: (505) 627-7445



Thursday

April 23, 1998

# HOBBSS NEWS-SUN

## Health survey planned where contamination found

STARBUCKS  
HOBBSS NEWS-SUN

Public Health Department officials have made tentative plans to conduct a door-to-door health survey in a Hobbs neighborhood where contaminated soil and water were discovered last winter.

The discovery halted construction of a modular-home subdivision and fueled concerns about what residents say is an unusually high incidence of lupus, cancer and upper-respiratory infections.

"The survey would give us a better idea of the health concerns within the community," said Dr. Ewan Nelson, public health officer for this district. "This is kind of a preliminary survey to focus additional resources and effort."

Plans for the survey — tentatively scheduled for May 7-9 — were made during a Tuesday meeting between neighborhood residents, city and state officials.

The meeting was closed to the media at the request of residents, according to

Randy Merker, a state epidemiologist who said he was disappointed that only six residents showed up.

"There were fewer people there than we had hoped," Merker said on Wednesday. Although the 2 p.m. meeting time barred some people from attending because of work schedules, others were advised by their lawyers not to attend, according to Merker.

"Some people probably didn't not come as a result of that advice," Merker said. "It's something I need to look into, to call the attorney to see if he won't cooperate in completing this survey."

For the survey, Merker has drafted questions that not only ask what health problems residents have, but also how to get in touch with people who have moved from the neighborhood.

Contamination was discovered in the Westgate subdivision last year at two sites: a modular-home housing development on Tasker and a former tank battery

site 100 yards away near Cobb Street. In addition, water table contamination was discovered about 60 feet below the tank battery site, prompting City of Hobbs Water Department personnel to be present at Tuesday's meeting.

During an April 8 public meeting attended by more than 100 neighborhood residents, several voiced complaints that the area is plagued by high cancer and lupus rates.

The health survey will address those allegations and be administered in homes by specially-trained Public Health Department workers, according to Merker.

Other questions to be answered include whether homeowners have identified any environmental concerns on their property or in their neighborhood.

But the question of who and how many residents will be surveyed still remains. "The only number I have heard is about

### Survey

from PAGE 1

200 people living in the neighborhood," Merker said. "I guess there is some debate about what is the neighborhood. ... One of the tasks is trying to pull together different lists of names."

In addition to the survey, Nelson said the Health Department has made tentative plans to send a mobile clinic to the neighborhood to screen for high blood pressure, diabetes, provide immunizations, TB testing and other needed services. Residents who don't have a doctor or want medical information will also be referred

to appropriate sources.

And officials will address the question of air quality by arranging testing through the Environmental Department.

"I do think that whatever it is they come up with, it'll take a while to get in place and probably will be a longer-term survey," Merker said.

"(Air quality) in their homes isn't always the same. Some days it smells worse than other days. They were concerned in checking it once, it might be a day that we check it and it doesn't smell."

In addition, the health department said it will take steps to insure the tank battery area is fenced and open

Please see SURVEY, Page 7

holes or other potential hazards covered at the construction site.

A meeting to firm up details of the survey is scheduled for 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. April 30 at the Hobbs Public Library and is open to the public.

Marshaling personnel — some bilingual — to conduct a survey within the next two weeks is an "ambitious" undertaking, according to Merker.

"I think it was prompted by the community's concern that they wanted to see something now," the environmental specialist explained. "They're hearing a lot about, 'We're going to do this and we're going to do that,' and they're worried right now."



DIANE TRACHTHOBS INC.

Discovery of contaminated soil and water has health concerns in the neighborhood near this location. A health survey is the next step in the investigation.

WAK  
Copy**Shell Continental Companies**

A Division of Shell Western E&amp;P Inc.

P.O. Box 576  
Houston, TX 77001

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To	Bill Olson	From	Wayne Hamilton
Co./Dept.		Co.	J
Phone #		Phone #	281-544-2322
Fax #	505-827-8177	Fax #	

April 17, 1998

Mr. Chris Williams  
 Mr. Wayne Price  
 New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
 1000 W. Broadway  
 Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Gentlemen:

**SUBJECT: TASKER STREET SITE AND GRIMES BATTERY SITE**

This letter is to advise OCD of the following actions Shell and BBC International, Inc. would like to commence on the above mentioned sites. We plan to proceed with this work immediately unless you advise us otherwise.

We propose to secure the Grimes Battery Site and to clean the Tasker Street site to improve the safety and appearance of both the Cobb's property (where the Monument foundation is) and the Perry's yard (where the previous sampling was conducted).

The actions proposed are:

1. Build a standard 6 foot high chain link fence around the Grimes Battery excavation site with a gate that will be locked when site activities are not ongoing. This will replace the current temporary fence and improve site safety and security.
2. Remove rocks, asphalt, and soil relating to past sampling activities from both the front and back yard of the Perry's home and replace with clean top soil. There will be no major excavation and we will only be removing enough soil to allow for grass to grow. A backhoe will be used in the backyard to remove the mounded soil that was excavated in the earlier sampling process. All contaminates will be disposed of properly at an OCD-approved disposal facility.

Messrs Williams &amp; Price

April 17, 1998

Page 2

3. Scrape and rake the surface of the Cobb property directly south of the Perry's home where additional sampling was done to remove the asphalt clods from the surface. Thereafter we will spread clean top soil and grass seed, and water to improve site appearance. All contaminated soils will be disposed of properly at an OCD-approved disposal facility. There will be no excavation activities conducted.
4. Remove and dispose of the existing, unused concrete foundation and backfill with clean topsoil to allow for grass to grow.

Shell Oil proposes the above work to improve the safety and appearance of the area. Shell acknowledges that these are not final abatement remediation efforts. We are working on our remediation plan and will provide that to you soon. BBC International personnel will walk the neighborhood, prior to any activities, and attempt to inform homeowners on both Tasker and Cobb streets of the proposed activities. Additionally, a flyer describing the actions will be passed out to all homeowners and the OCD. It is not anticipated that any offensive odors will be released by these temporary measures.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



W. A. Hamilton  
Manager Retained Properties

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	Time 11:30	Date 4/13/98
<u>Originating Party</u> Roger Anderson		<u>Other Parties</u> Cecilia Williams 7-0042 Bureau Chief - Air Quality	
<u>Subject</u> Air Monitoring @ Westgate subdivision			

Discussion

Informed Cecilia of the Westgate residents desire to have their air quality monitored. She said Erik had filled her in on our conversation. Cecilia informed me they do not have standards to enforce for volatiles and do not have the instruments to conduct monitoring.

Conclusions or Agreements

NMED Air Quality will not be able to assist us in determining air contaminants from the contamination.

Distribution

File  
OCD Hobbs

Signed

R. Anderson

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	Time 11:00	Date 4/10/98
<u>Originating Party</u> Roger Anderson		<u>Other Parties</u> Erik Aaboe 7-0040 Air Quality	
<u>Subject</u> Air Monitoring @ Westgate subdivision			

Discussion

Informed Erik of the Westgate residents desire to have their air quality monitored for volatiles.

Conclusions or Agreements

He said he would inform Cecilia Williams - Bureau Chief

Distribution

File  
OCD-Hobbs

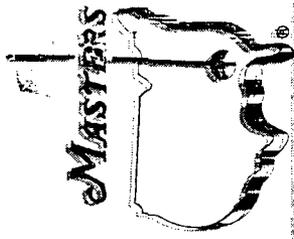
Signed

*[Signature]*

# HOBBS News-Sun

Serving Hobbs, Lea County and West Texas

**TIGER TEES IT UP**  
*Can Tiger Woods repeat? Masters drama begins today.*  
Page 9



16 Pages 50 cents

## Residents question area's safety

### Worried homeowners want answers

**STARLA JONES**  
HOBBS NEWS-SUN

Holding a charcoal-size chunk of contaminated ground in his bare hand, a Shell Oil Co. official last night claimed the substance dug up from a west Hobbs neighborhood is inert and nonvolatile.

The same couldn't be said of a standing-room-only crowd frightened by what they maintain are alarmingly high lupus and cancer rates on streets where they say houses will soon be unmarketable.

And the biggest question of the night appeared to be whether inhaling petroleum fumes for years or liv-



Wayne Hamilton, an environmental activist.



STARLA JONES  
HOBBS NEWS-SUN

Hoarding a charcoal-size chunk of contaminated ground in his bare hand, a Shell Oil Co. official last night claimed the substance dug up from a west Hobbs neighborhood is inert and nonvolatile.

The same couldn't be said of a standing-room-only crowd frightened by what they maintain are alarming: high lupus and cancer rates on streets where they say houses will soon be unmarketable.

And the biggest question of the night appeared to be whether inhaling petroleum fumes for years or living above water contaminated by oil produces a harmful result that can't be measured by state scientists or held in a bare hand.

"Would either one of you buy land on Tasker or Cobb and move in and raise your family there?" a woman in the audience of more than 100 people asked oil company officials who propose cleaning up the mess.

"Yes, I would," Shell Public Affairs Representative Rich Hansen told concerned residents and several lawyers who packed a New Mexico Junior College lecture hall for nearly three hours last night. "I don't see a problem. But I'm not an epidemiologist."

Contamination was discovered in the Westgate Subdivision last fall at two locations: a modular-home housing development on Tasker and at a former tank battery site 100 yards away near Cobb Street.

Shell Environmental Engineer Wayne Hamilton explained that the property was leased in 1928 by Shell and was the site of oil well production for the ensuing seven decades.

During that time, the ground may have been contaminated when tank bottoms were discarded and water may have been polluted when a pit went unlined, part of "normal, legal practices" in the oilfield at that time.

"No one was hiding anything," Hamilton said. "This is the way my father's generation did things. It isn't a waste dump."

Test wells earlier this year revealed that the tank battery contamination extended to the water table



Wayne Hamilton, an environmental engineer with Shell Oil Co., holds up a piece of "hardpan," the substance discovered more than a foot below ground level at a housing construction site on Tasker. Hamilton compared the material to the "asphalt you play basketball on."

Chief Roger Anderson.

In response to a petition filed by Westgate residents, OCD officials from Santa Fe were in town for last night's meeting as were health specialists.

"Aromatic" compounds found at the Tasker site included ethylbenzenes, xylenes and toluenes, according to environmental specialist Randy Merker, a state epidemiologist.

"When you've inhaled this stuff, the effect is immediate," Merker said. "Headaches, dizziness, drowsiness and unconsciousness are things that you could experience."

Naphthalene, another substance found at the site, destroys red blood cells at high levels, causing fatigue and nausea, he added.

And benzene, detected in two groundwater samples, can cause cancer, typically leukemia.

"But (benzene's) occurrence was



Merker

Pat Buss angrily questions Shell Oil Co. contamination in a neighborhood she moved from Environmental Engineer Wayne Hamilton about because of health concerns.

JOEL RAFKIN/NEWS-SUN PHOTOS

# Park offered; answers sought

STARLA JONES  
HOBBS NEWS-SUN

Shell Oil Co. has proposed building an eight-acre park at the location of oilfield contamination it hopes to have cleaned up in a matter of

'Do you really

think people will want to

"When I first started working with Shell, I was planning on having a battle," Cobb said. "But to date, Shell has been very amicable. ... and they understand we need to resolve the issue."

# Contamination

from PAGE 1

200 people.

"Fifteen cases?" Merker said. "This is something new to me."

The range for the disease — which attacks the body's autoimmune system and varies in severity — is from one in 3,000 people to one in 17,000 people, according to the Santa Fe scientist.

"I think our first responsibility is to remove the problem we've created," Hansen said. "If there's a health problem, then the health people have to determine what it is."

"Should I be concerned six or seven blocks east of where you are now?" another resident asked.

"It's not mobile. It's a hard asphalt. We're not talking about an underground river of stuff flowing," Hamilton replied.

One man wanted to know why an air-quality study hasn't been done. "I think that's what most of us are worried about."

Anderson, who lives in Santa Fe, said he will contact the environmental department about such a study when he returns home this week.

What are the long-term health effects for her children, one mother asked.

"While symptoms could be aggravated over a period of years, they wouldn't change," Merker said, adding that if chemical levels are high enough, they could cross the placenta in pregnant women.

During the time Shell works on a plan to clean up both sites, its chemists, along with state scientists, will do further sampling and testing on compounds found in the neighborhood. The first of two abatement plans is due April 24.

In the meantime, Merker and District Health Officer Dr. Evan Nelson will be back in Hobbs on April 21 when they hope to meet with a core group of Westgate residents and take steps to launch a survey of health problems in the neighborhood.

The state can help people obtain diagnostic services, can provide information about particular illnesses and can provide therapy or group support.

"If you don't have insurance, we can try and find services that may be available to you," Merker said.

However, during a visit to both contamination sites on Wednesday, Merker said he was unable to detect benzene, a substance he said most people receive their highest exposure to while pumping gas.

"Are we to believe that our breath-



JOEL RAFKIN/HOBBS NEWS-SUN

**Placido Ramirez points as he questions Shell officials during last night's meeting. For the past six years, Ramirez has lived at 1412 Tasker Drive. Oil contamination of the soil was found across the street from his home last fall.**

ing this type of air is no more dangerous than pumping gas?" Robert Egans asked. "You have to understand that we don't pump gas eight to 10 hours a day."

"You go home and you fall asleep unwilling — like you've been drugged," Egans' wife, Cynthia, would say later in the meeting. "It may not be there now, but over the years, the gas was there, inside the home."

"I took my family out of there because of the health problems we were experiencing," said Buss, who moved from her home on Cobb in January. "We couldn't wait."

"I've had cancer," said another man, apparently in his mid-30s, during the often emotionally charged meeting.

"You don't need tests to tell these housewives that they've got oily rings in their toilet bowls," Buss added. "You guys aren't listening to the people. We have a bigger problem than the ones you are describing. ... and that's why we are angry."

"I hear a lot of fear in this room," Shell's Hamilton said while circling the lecture hall with the "hard-pan" sample held high in his hand. "Here it is. It's asphalt. It's old weathered oil. It's like the asphalt that you play basketball on."

Shell plans to bulldoze the material out of the area on Tasker and has already extracted 4,000 yards of contaminated soil from the tank battery, Hansen said.

Before Shell's remediation plan is accepted, the public can demand a public hearing where its own specialists and consultants can question the

procedure, Anderson said.

And although Shell officials last night said they planned only to dig out the "hardpan" on Tasker, Anderson rose to his feet to contradict that statement.

"Whether they just remove the asphalt layer or go 25 feet (below the asphalt layer) will be determined by OCD," Anderson said. "We'll tell them what to do. They don't tell us what they're going to do."

While many residents were angry, Virginia Perry — whose home is closest to the contaminated area and may be built on top of an abandoned pit — urged calm heads to prevail.

"I'm not as emotional as a bunch of people," Perry said. "I've lived in the oilfield 40 years. There's wells all over town. Every well has a pit. ... This has become not only a very economic, but a very emotional problem for the people who live out there."

"I think people need to be calmer and give OCD a chance to show that they are really looking out for our best interests."

To do that, Anderson advised residents to call if they found contamination on their property. To let OCD know of any old capped oil wells in the area. And to ask questions that don't yet have answers.

"Where do you draw the line?" one man asked. "Where do you say, 'this is where you start worrying about this?'"

Whether it's a health risk, I can't say," Anderson would say later in the meeting. "But it's serious. If there's contamination above standards, it's serious."

**Merker** destroys red blood cells at high levels, causing fatigue and nausea, he added.

And benzene, detected in two groundwater samples, can cause cancer, typically leukemia.

"But (benzene's) occurrence was very limited," Merker cautioned.

Although they exceed allowable EPA limits, it hasn't yet been determined if compounds found at the Tasker and Cobb sites are at a level high enough to cause a threat to public health, the epidemiologist added.

"Site characterization is incomplete," Merker said. "There's more work that needs to be done."

"We've had a heck of a malignant cancer rate in the area and autoimmune diseases," Pat Buss complained. "We've got women with lupus. We've even got men with lupus."

One man in the audience estimated the lupus rate at 15 to 20 cases out of 100.

**Please see CONTAMINATION, Page 5**

...may have been polluted when a pit went unlined, part of "normal, legal practices" in the oilfield at that time.

"No one was hiding anything," Hamilton said. "This is the way my father's generation did things. It isn't a waste dump."

Test wells earlier this year revealed that the tank battery contamination extended to the water table 60 feet below the ground. Those results "showed some evidence of a sheen, hydrocarbons in the water," said OCD hydrologist Bill Olson.

The Westgate Subdivision, however, is located within the city limits and residents receive their water from city supplies.

The contamination on Tasker Street, in the meantime, is about a foot below the surface, ranges in thickness from a foot to 2 feet and covers just over a 100-square-foot area.

In addition, there is unidentified hydrocarbon contamination beneath what has been described as an "asphaltine layer" on Tasker, according to OCD Environmental Bureau

# Tornado kills 20 in Alabama

**JAY REEVES ASSOCIATED PRESS BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** — Rescue crews frantically searched through the rubble of homes for survivors today after a tornado ripped through one town after another just outside Birmingham. At least 20 people were killed.

The same storm system was also blamed for at least four deaths in Georgia, including one at sprawling Fort Stewart, and one death in Mississippi.

Hardest hit was Alabama's

STARLA JONES HOBBS NEWS-SUN Shell Oil Co. has proposed building an eight-acre park at the location of oilfield contamination it hopes to have cleaned up in a matter of months.

That disclosure came last night not from Shell, but Monument Development Co. partner Sam Cobb — who was in the process of building his own 20-home subdivision in west Hobbs last fall when the-contamination discovery brought construction to a halt.

The park would be located on a portion of the planned subdivision including the site where one house is now complete and workers have poured two concrete foundations.

"This would not be a drive-by park. This would be a community park to be adopted by the City of Hobbs," Cobb said of the project, which Shell officials made no comment on.

# Park offered; answers sought

"When I first started working for Shell, I was planning on having a title," Cobb said. "But to date, there has been very amicable ... an understanding we need to resolve this issue."

Referring to professionally drawn maps and illustrations projected on an overhead screen, Cobb pointed out the park's proposed location at the site of expanded housing.

"How much is Shell paying for one audience member asked Cobb. "I make money if I sell houses," Hobbs businessman responded.

"Are you moving one of those houses?" another person wanted to know. "I'll be glad to move into one of them," Cobb replied.

In addition to the park and updated modular homes, Shell will notify real estate agents who sell property against future lawsuits and disclosure of contamination.

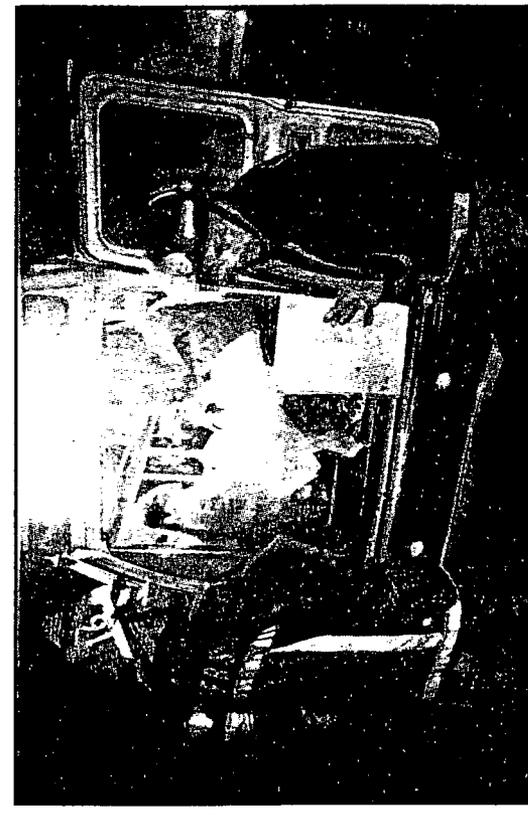
**Please see PARK.**

**'Do you really think people will want to move in after they've heard about all this contamination?'**

**Resident's comment at contamination hearing**

The park would enhance the Westgate neighborhood and make houses more marketable, according to the developer.

In addition, Cobb said he plans to recommend work on the subdivision — and improve it by adding brick siding to modular homes — once the cleanup is done.



**Firefighters help people into the back of an ambulance at the Open Door Church, which was completely destroyed when a tornado touched down Wednesday in west Birmingham, Ala.**

Two others died in St. Clair County and Carson, 4, in Wednesday night's storm. They were killed as they hid

# Board balks at paying bulletin board costs

**LANCE JACOBS HOBBS NEWS-SUN** You can probably call Jerry Reynolds a cheerleader and get away with it, but don't try to dress him in a skirt and hand him any pom-poms. It just doesn't work.

Reynolds is a member of the Hobbs Lodgers' Tax Board, which met Wednesday and which, for better or worse, is often viewed as the city's cheerleading squad.

After all, the Lodgers' Tax Board takes tax money generated by lodgers and, in conjunction with the Hobbs Chamber of Commerce, disburses it to various groups and entities that promise to use the money to bring more lodgers to town — thus spreading the cash here in Hobbs. Lodger groups have had funding slashed for failing to do just that. No one has counted the number of out-towners passing by the streets of Grimes and Turner. So should pay for the community bulletin board at the corner of Grimes and Turner — the board.

A flashing home-team score that tells passing motorists something from time and tempera the latest Hobbs happenings days a week, 24 hours a day.

**SHELL GRIMES TANK BATTERY/TASKER STREET**  
**SUMMARY OF EVENTS**  
(April 7, 1998)

- September 17, 1997 - citizen complaints of odors from Grimes Tank Battery
  - OCD inspection - Shell cleaning Grimes Tank Battery
  - - OCD required soil remediation plan
- September 18, 1997 - Shell submits Grimes Tank Battery soil remediation plan
- September 20, 1997 - OCD conditionally approves Shell plan
- September 1997 - Shell removes tank battery contaminated soils
- November 3, 1997 - Shell notifies OCD that Sam Cobb discovered soil contamination during footing construction on Tasker St.
- November 19, 1997 - OCD/Shell meeting on Tasker Street and Grimes Battery
- December 2, 1997 - Shell submits Tasker St. remediation plan
- December 5, 1997 - OCD inspects site with Shell and Sam Cobb
- December 8, 1997 - Shell notifies OCD of ground water contamination at Grimes Battery
- December 9, 1997 - OCD receives petition from Residents of Westgate reporting high incident of health problems and requesting an environmental survey of subdivision and Health Department survey of residents.
- December 12, 1997 - OCD notifies Health Department of residents petition
- December 15, 1997 - Shell submits modified site assessment work plan for Tasker St.
- December 30, 1997 - OCD conditionally approves site assessment plan
- January 14, 1998 - Shell submits requested schedule modification, OCD approves
- January 20, 1997 - OCD splits soil samples with Shell at Tasker St during assessment
- February 23, 1998 - Shell submits reports on Tasker St and Grimes Battery investigations
- March 12, 1998 - OCD meets with Shell to discuss investigations
- March 18, 1998 - OCD samples soils at Cobb St. residence from citizen complaint
- March 23, 1998 - OCD requires Shell to submit comprehensive abatement plan
- March 26, 1998 - OCD meets with Health Department

4/8/98 OCD Teske St. Public Meeting 7:00 pm

Chris Williams - Intro

Bill Olson - presentation of site investigations

Randy Merker - Health Dept presentation

- can help on identifying concerns, health effects
- can compile health effects of area
- clearinghouse of health data

- high incidence of cancer, auto immune diseases

Evin Nelson - 5 to 10 people need to meet on April 21<sup>st</sup> to assist to set up study on

JEX - similar effect,  
Naphthalene - destroys red blood cells  
Benzene - carcinogen

- concerned about leaks in water supply pipelines picking up contaminants
- concerned about arsenic in vegetables

attny (Mike Nawell?)

lupus & cancer in neighborhood

lupus range 1 in 17,000 to 1 in 3000

10-15 cases lupus ?

health effects on pregnant women ?

\* concerns about air quality exposure

\* soil gas survey

\* air monitoring of remedial actions

~~the~~ residents want water samples from every house to determine if leaky water lines are picking up contaminants

vapors in houses reported by 1-2 residents

Why were houses built on contaminated areas ?

Sam Cobb Jr. - Monument Development

- what about existing houses ?

- shell will enter into agreement to indemnify landowner

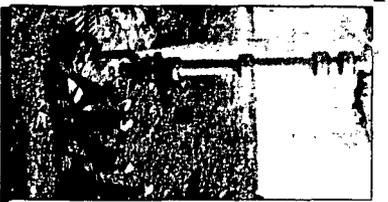
Cobb

What about remaining property?

- proposes to develop all around site
- make site a park (city) - doesn't include Perry, ~~Casey~~ Casey homes
- face homes with brick
- each <sup>house</sup> site have Phase II investigation

what about compensation of existing landowners?

1320 Tinsken vapors from drain



**WELLFIRE WARFARE**  
Capping a blown-out well is not for the weak of heart.  
Page 17

Vol. 71, No. 22

**Sunday**

April 5, 1998

**Fair to cloudy.**  
West to SW winds,  
10-15 mph. P2



**NAME:** Ruth Ann Borrego  
**AGE:** 35  
**COMMUNITY:** Denver City, Texas  
**BIRTHPLACE:** San Antonio, Texas  
**OCCUPATION:** Bus driver  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** Spanish soap operas  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Chicken Fried Steak  
**FAVORITE MUSIC:** Pop  
**PERSON I MOST ADMIRE:** Selena  
**FAVORITE SAYING:** "What comes around, goes around"

**Inside today**

**THE SPECIAL ELECTION** to fill New Mexico's vacant congressional seat will be held June 23, and political parties are gearing up to choose their nominees. P3.  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM UDALL** is proposing a crackdown on what he calls "dubious price discounts" for Indian souvenirs such as Kachina dolls, pottery and silver-and-turquoise jewelry. P6.  
**SO THE DOW** twice rose above 9,000 Friday, and each time fell back down.

# NEWS-SUN

HOBBS



**NIGHT ON LAMBE!**  
Hobbs golfers tearing up fairways.  
Page 9

Serving Hobbs, Lea County and West Texas



It's time to check your air conditioner.  
Page 25

32 Pages \$1.00

## Contamination targeted

### Experts to answer questions about one neighborhood's pollution woes



DUANE TINKER/HOBBS NEWS-SUN

**Discovery of asphalt-like material at a proposed modular home subdivision in west Hobbs halted construction last winter. State experts will be in town Wednesday to address health concerns.**

**STARLA JONES**  
HOBBS NEWS-SUN  
State officials will be in Hobbs next week to answer questions about contamination found last winter in a west Hobbs neighborhood.

The public meeting — set for 7 p.m. Wednesday at New Mexico Junior College's Bob Moran Hall — comes after the Oil Conservation Division's discovery of groundwater contamination at the site of an abandoned oil tank battery just west of Tasker and Cobb Streets.

The two streets are located in the Westgate subdivision north of Sanger.

In addition, nearby construction of a manufactured housing subdivision is on hold after authorities found an asphalt-like substance two to three feet below the soil surface.

The same material was located in the front and back yard of a home on Tasker and a separate,

"greasy-like substance," was located outside the back yard fence of a house on Cobb, according to OCD District Supervisor Chris Williams.

"So far, what we've seen doesn't appear to be hazardous, but we're not through sampling," Williams said on Friday.

In response to a petition signed last December by about 20 concerned residents of the neighborhood, OCD is coordinating Wednesday's meeting.

State epidemiologists, along with other technical experts, will be present to address health concerns and questions of Westgate residents.

But Williams said he'll be asking some questions of his own.

Whether homeowners have private water wells for instance.

"A lot of people used to have them," Williams said. "They may be using them just to water their grass."

Westgate's water table is located 60 to 80 feet below the ground but residents receive their water supply from city-owned wells that aren't affected by the contamination.

Oilfield operations in the area during the mid 1940s included several oil wells, flow lines and crude oil storage tank batteries.

Owned by Shell Oil Co., the Grimes battery was moved in the early 1960s and the company dug a 25-foot-deep pit last year in an attempt to remove oil-stained dirt.

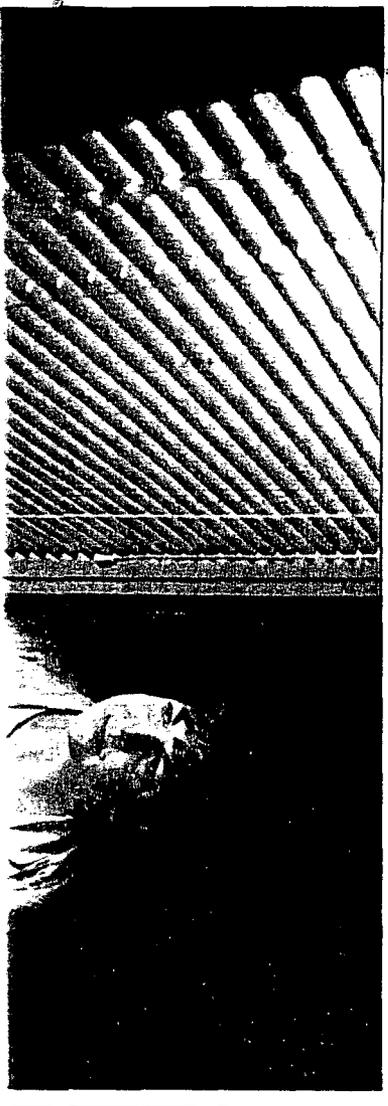
It was while responding to complaints of excessive oil smell in the area, that Williams and a co-worker said they discovered Shell had submitted no remediation plan for the abandoned tank battery.

And a walk to the nearby construction site where trenching was taking place resulted in

Please see **CONTAMINATION**, Page 5

## Teen pregnancy

Rate declines, but still high in county



...cities, like Albuquerque, a  
 ...sents voices are not as  
 ...al.

...ds said a district's size plays  
 Parents voices are more like-  
 ...heard in smaller districts.  
 ...querque, there are health  
 ...s on campuses that offer  
 ...on options.

...n said if she were to go before  
 ...ool Board to ask for an on-  
 ...ealth center, birth control  
 ...not be offered because there  
 ...o many other things that  
 ...be offered.

...king about it discourages  
 ...d activity — not encourages  
 ...arnish said.

...son said abstinence is still the  
 ...ference for birth control.

...you choose not to choose abste-  
 ...e, protection of yourself  
 ...nt pregnancy and disease  
 ...t be done on an individual  
 ...," Moon said.

**...ing programs**

...obbs Superintendent Stan-  
 ...nds said the district has two  
 ...ams for students.

...ne program, called sex respect,  
 ...ters around abstinence.

...it prepares and presents an  
 ...tinance message," he said. This  
 ...gram is a three-week intensive  
 ...rogram for seventh-graders,  
 ...ns said.

...his program takes place after  
 ...th-graders receive information  
 ...ut biological functions about  
 ...th genders.

...Another program, called the  
 ...by Think It Over program, has

There also is some informal  
 ...selling to students who are ex-  
 ...ing at the high school, Rounds  
 ...

"I feel like the two programs we  
 have are in response to the (per-  
 centage) rate and are making a dif-  
 ference," Rounds said.

The Lovington school district has  
 three programs in place that focus  
 around abstinence.

For seventh-graders, there is a  
 sex-respect program, and for junior  
 high students a program called  
 "Taking Charge" has been imple-  
 mented.

For high school students, who are  
 already teen mothers, there is a  
 GRADS program at the school that  
 provides child care and mandatory  
 training for the student.

Harnish said more things need to  
 be done.

"We have to take a driving test  
 before we drive a car," she said.  
 "There's no prerequisite for being a  
 parent. We can prepare them for all  
 types of vocations, but what differ-  
 ence does it make?"

**Why get pregnant?**

A lot of the teen pregnancies are  
 the result of the teenagers' mentali-  
 ty.

A "magical mind," which  
 Harnish said, deals with teens  
 believing they are invincible is part  
 of the problem. If you don't think it  
 will happen, it will," she said.  
 "Ignorance is not bliss."

Ortega, who became pregnant at  
 age 17, said she never thought she  
 would become a teen mother. "I  
 just didn't think it would happen to  
 me," Ortega said.

...they are disappointed they are  
 not pregnant," Moon said. "They  
 want something to love them." She  
 also said they look at it as a way to  
 strengthen relationships with  
 boyfriends.

"It's illogical thinking," Moon  
 said.

Frances Shipp, a nurse practi-  
 tioner in Hobbs, said there are sev-  
 eral reasons why teens want to  
 become mothers.

"It's an attainable goal. They are  
 not succeeding in high school, and  
 they look at it as a way to become an  
 adult."

Teenagers, as a secondary goal,  
 also might view pregnancy as a  
 way to drop out of school, Shipp  
 said.

Rounds said younger students  
 are being exposed to this type of  
 activity through movies, television  
 and now the Internet. Hollywood  
 views it as glamorous, and younger  
 students take this to heart because  
 they need role models.

"It may set a standard for some  
 parents because it's a role-model  
 thing," Rounds said.

"More and more of their (stu-  
 dents) time is spent in nonactivity  
 activities such as watching televi-  
 sion or going to movies," Rounds  
 said.

Rounds said he does not have a  
 handle on this issue, but is talking  
 about forming a study group to  
 determine what the district's role is  
 with teen parents.

"We want to get better detail on  
 this," Rounds said.

Moon said there are a multitude  
 of programs that work.

...view from her fellow students.

"I was pretty happy but nervous  
 for how my family was going to  
 respond to it," she said. "I was happy  
 I was pregnant. I wanted a child."  
 Cynthia said she had to quit her part-  
 time job because of the pregnancy.  
 Monique said she was shocked and

**Contamination**  
 from PAGE 1

Williams and a co-worker's discov-  
 ery of the "asphaltine layer," he said.

Today, only one modular home  
 stands at the 20-lot subdivision.

In response to an OCD investiga-  
 tion, Shell provided a 1951 aerial pho-  
 tograph that indicated a portion of  
 the construction site and contaminat-  
 ed house on Tasker may have once  
 been the site of an oilfield pit,  
 Williams said.

Material in the pit could have been  
 burned, a standard practice years ago  
 at "blow-down" areas where sludge  
 from tank bottoms was blown on the  
 ground, then set on fire, according to  
 a source.

The process, when repeated year  
 after year, often solidified the materi-  
 al.

The substance present at the con-  
 struction site has been compared to  
 asphalt, a petroleum-product used as  
 road-cover after it's been heated.

Tests on the "hard-pan" material  
 continue as scientists attempt to  
 determine levels or existence of sub-  
 ingredients like benzene and ethyl-  
 benzene and whether the product is  
 "oilfield (related) or something else."

The investigation remains in the  
 preliminary stage, according to the

parents were hurt by the news.  
 Monique said her father refused to  
 speak to her for about a week and a  
 half.

When the teens were asked if their  
 free time had been cut, Kasie  
 answered for her fellow students.  
 "We have no free time," she said.

OCD manager.

"There's going to be much more  
 extensive sampling over the next few  
 months," Williams said.

In the meantime, Shell has drilled  
 monitor wells near the abandoned  
 tank battery to determine the thick-  
 ness and amount of "free-floating"  
 product in the water supply.

The most common solution to elim-  
 inating the pollution is to pump the  
 liquid off the water table and reinject  
 the water.

"It's alarming," Williams said of the  
 contamination, "but at the same  
 time, it's something that's happened  
 (in the oilfield) before."

While OCD generally doesn't fine  
 companies for water contamination,  
 it does monitor the clean-up process.

Remediation at both the tank-bat-  
 tery site and contaminated area on  
 Tasker is still several months away,  
 according to Williams. Which is the  
 reason for Wednesday's meeting.

"It's to tell (residents) what we're  
 doing and how far we're going to go  
 with it," the OCD manager said.

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**CASH FIVE**  
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 2 6 20 31 37  
 4/3/98  
 2 5 70 25 32

**Broadmoor Shopping Center & Mall**  
 presents  
**Spring Fashion Show 1998**  
 11:30 am & 3:00 pm April 11th

**Easter Egg Coloring Contest**  
 Categories: 10 yrs & under & Family Entry  
 Start bringing Eggs at 10:00 am on April 11th  
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Mailed from the Lea County Assessor's Office on Monday,

Notice of Valuation  
 Family or Veteran's Exemption and it is not listed on your notice or

**"The foundation of any organization or business is the ability of top management to be competent enough to administer the financial and personnel departments. Tom Peveler's years of administrative experience and training with the sheriff's department is just one of his strong areas. Please join me in supporting Tom Peveler for Sheriff."**

**- Randy Owensby**

**ELECT**

*Florencia!*

# FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO | OFFICE OF THE

## SECRETARY OF STATE

STEPHANIE GONZALES

# 1998

Time Stamp

- ▶ Please type or print legibly with BLACK INK ONLY.
- ▶ Please read the INSTRUCTIONS before completing the form.
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### 1. REPORTING INDIVIDUAL

FULL NAME	Last Name			First Name			Middle					
	WILLIAMS			JAMES			CHRISTOPHER					
RESIDENT ADDRESS	Street Address or Description											
	409 W. TUCKER											
	City			State			Zip			Phone # (not required)		
	Hobbs			NM			88240			505-392-2499		
MAILING ADDRESS	P.O. Box or Street Address											
	City			State			Zip					

### Filing Status (please check the appropriate box and fill in the requested information)

<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate for	office
<input type="checkbox"/> Incumbent in	office
<input type="checkbox"/> Official appointed to	board or commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Head of	agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Public officer with	agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employee of	agency ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT. - OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

### Employer Information

Full Name							
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT. - OGD							
P.O. Box or Street Address							
P.O. BOX 1980							
City		State		Zip		Phone # (not required)	
HOBBS		NM		88241-1980		505-393-6161	
Title or Position Held				Nature of Business or Occupation			
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR				REGULATORY - OIL & GAS			

2. SPOUSE			
FULL NAME	Last Name	First Name	Middle
	<i>N/A</i>		
EMPLOYER	Name		
	P.O. Box or Street Address		
	City	State	Zip
	Spouse's Title or Position Held		Nature of Business or Occupation

3. SOURCES OF GROSS INCOME OVER \$5,000 (actual dollar amount not required)	
Category	Received by
<i>INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT</i>	<i>JAMES C. WILLIAMS</i>

4. LOBBYIST'S CLIENTS (of spouse or firm, if applicable)	
Name	Address
<i>NONE</i>	

5. REAL ESTATE IN NEW MEXICO (other than personal residence)		
Owner	County	General Description
<i>NONE</i>		

6. OTHER BUSINESS INTERESTS IN NEW MEXICO OF \$10,000 OR MORE			
Name of Business	Position Held	By Whom	Purpose of Business
<i>NONE</i>			

**7. MEMBERSHIPS OR BOARDS OF FOR-PROFIT BUSINESSES (if any)**

Name of Business	Member
NONE	

**8. PROFESSIONAL LICENSES IN NEW MEXICO (if any)**

Type	Licensee
NONE	

**9. BUSINESS WITH STATE AGENCIES OVER \$5,000 (if any)**

Agency	Seller
NONE	

**10. REPRESENTATION BEFORE STATE AGENCIES (other than a court)**

Agency	Representative
NONE	

**11. Additional Information**

*This conflict of interest form is being submitted to provide information to the public that I was once employed by SHELL WESTERN E&P IN THE HOBBS, NEW MEXICO AREA AND OTHER LOCATIONS. IN THE EVENT THAT LAWSUITS ENSUE BETWEEN SHELL AND THE WESTGATE SUBDIVISION PARTICIPANTS <sup>MY EMPLOYMENT WITH SHELL</sup> I WILL NOT AFFECT HOW I TREAT THE SITUATION.*

Signature:

*Chris Williams*

Date:

*4/1/98*

Printed Name:

*CHRIS WILLIAMS*

**Price, Wayne**

---

**From:** Price, Wayne  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 1998 12:07 PM  
**To:** Bill Olson  
**Cc:** Chris Williams  
**Subject:** Shell-Westgate Pictures of Sampling event on March 18, 1998

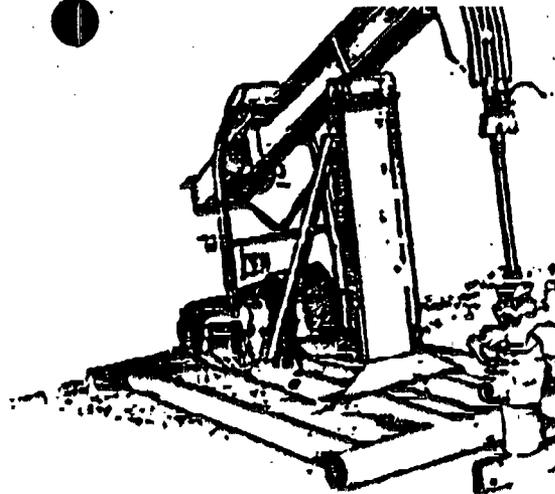
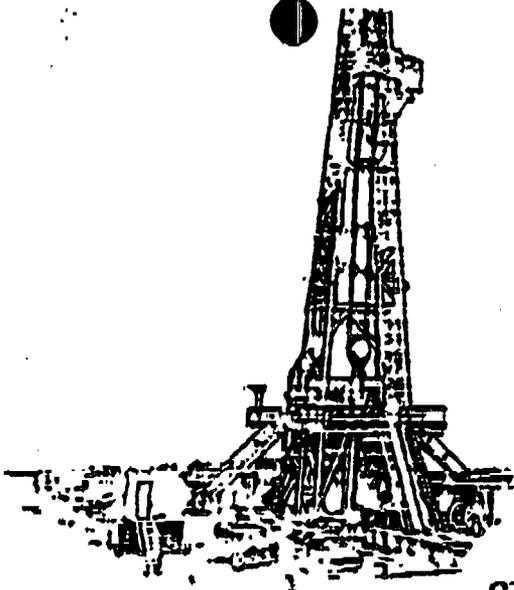
Dear Bill,

I am dropping in the mail today a set of the pictures I took on March 18, 1998.

**RECEIVED**

APR 02 1998

Environmental Bureau  
Oil Conservation Division



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

PHONE: (505) 393-6161

FAX: (505) 393-0720

SHOULD YOU HAVE TROUBLE RECEIVING THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CALL (505) 393-6161.

TO:

*Roger Anderson, Lori Waterberg*

COMPANY:

FROM:

*Chris Williams*

DATE:

*3/30/98*

PAGES INCLUDING COVER PAGE:

*2*

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NEW MEXICO ENERGY MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT.  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
DISTRICT 1  
P.O. BOX 1980  
HOBBS, NM 88241  
(505)393-6161 FAX (505)393-0720**

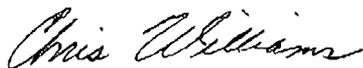
March 30, 1998

Mr. Jose Jaques  
1620 Cobb  
Hobbs, NM 88240

Dear Mr. Jaques:

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) would like to meet with Westgate residents concerning the Tasker Street and Grimes Battery sampling and our plans for site work. A representative of the State Epidemiologist Office will attend and be available for questions along with members of the OCD Environmental Bureau from Santa Fe. The meeting will be held at 7:00 PM April 8, 1998, at the Bob Moran Building on the New Mexico Junior College Campus. We need your help in getting this information to the correct people in the Westgate Subdivision.

Sincerely,



Chris Williams  
District 1 Supervisor

OCD/Epidemiology Meeting on Shell Grimes 3/26/98

participants - Bill Olson - OCD Environmental Bureau  
Rosa Anderson - "  
Lori Wrotenberg - OCD Director  
Randy Merker - Health Dept. Office Epidemiology  
on conference call ← Chris Williams - OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Ron Voorhees - Health Dept, Office of Epidemiology

OCD wants meeting with residents to discuss  
Grimes Battery and health issues

Epidemiological sites typically need - large population  
- reference population

May not be large enough population for study  
Health Dept. willing to meet with residents of OCD  
\* Wed April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting date set for public meeting  
7:00 pm at Hobbs

Evin Nelson - HD District Health Office also needs  
to be involved



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

March 23, 1998

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT NO. Z-235-437-246**

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
P.O. Box 481  
Houston, Texas 77001-0481

**RE: GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATIONS**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Shell E&P Technology Company's (SHELL) February 1998 "GRIMES BATTERY SOIL AND GROUNDWATER ASSESSMENT REPORT" and February 1998 "TASKER ROAD SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT" which were received by the OCD on February 23, 1998. These documents contain the results of SHELL's investigations of the magnitude of contamination related to a former unlined pit located in the Westgate residential subdivision at 1329 Tasker Road Hobbs, New Mexico and a former unlined pit at the adjacent Grimes Tank Battery.

The OCD has the following comments on the above referenced documents:

**A. Grimes Battery Pit Report**

1. The report does not address residual soil contaminant concentrations in the base and sidewalls of the excavated pit. A March 18, 1998 OCD site inspection also observed contaminated soils north of the tank battery which are not addressed in the report.
2. The investigations have not completely defined the downgradient extent of ground water contamination which is in excess of New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) ground water standards. In addition, permanent monitoring wells need to be installed in the pit area in order to be able to monitor ground water contaminant concentrations in the source area.

**B. Tasker Road Pit Report**

1. Section 2.0 on page 1 references Appendix II as containing the results of the November 1997 pit sample analyses, but the analyses cannot be found in this appendix.
2. The background concentrations of metals in soil need to be determined in order to properly evaluate the potential impacts of pit contaminants.

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton

March 23, 1998

Page 2

3. A review of the metals analytical data from the OCD's split soil samples show some discrepancies in the detections of metals in soils (see OCD's March 6, 1998 letter of transmittal to SHELL). The OCD's sample analyses show that arsenic, boron, chromium, cobalt, copper and lead were also detected in soils at sample locations SS-1 and SS-2. None of these constituents were detected in SHELL's analyses. It appears that SHELL's laboratory analyses have higher detection limits than those conducted by OCD. The true concentrations of metals in the soils need to be addressed.
4. A review of the acid and base neutrals analytical data from the OCD's split soil samples show some discrepancies in the detection of naphthalenes in soils (see OCD's March 6, 1998 letter of transmittal to SHELL). The OCD's sample analyses show that elevated levels of naphthalene and 2-methylnaphthalene were also detected in soils at sample locations SS-1 and SS-2. The true concentrations of naphthalenes in the soils need to be addressed.
5. While the investigations conducted to date address the type of contamination at the source, additional investigations need to be conducted to completely define the vertical and lateral extent and magnitude of contamination at the site. These investigations need to include the magnitude of contamination under the Perry residence and areas adjacent to the tank battery.
6. The aerial photos in Figures 1-A, 1-B, and 1-C are difficult to interpret due to the quality of the reproductions. Original copies of all aerial photos need to be provided.

Due to the nature of the impacts to ground water and the potential for public health impacts, the OCD requires that SHELL submit an abatement plan for the Grimes Tank Battery pit and Tasker Road pit in accordance with OCD Rule 19 (19 NMAC 15.A.19). To initiate the abatement plan process, the OCD requires that SHELL submit a Stage 1 abatement plan proposal to the OCD pursuant to Rule 19.E.1. and 3. The Stage 1 plan will be submitted to the OCD by April 24, 1998. The OCD's above comments will need to be addressed in the plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Olson at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



Roger C. Anderson  
Environmental Bureau Chief

xc: Jennifer A. Salisbury, Secretary, NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Lori Wrotenbery, Director, OCD  
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Randy Merker, Office of Epidemiology, NM Health Department  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision

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2040 South Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Att: Bill Olson

*Photos*

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**NMOCD: ID#. 138817 By: W Price**  
**Date/Time: March 18, 1998**  
**Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project.**  
**Location: 1341 N. Cobb st. Hobbs, NM**  
**Subject: Sampling event by Bill Olson**  
**& Martyne Kieling-NMOCD Santa Fe**



NMOCID: ID#. 138818 By: W Price  
Date/Time: March 18, 1998 3pm  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project.  
Location: 1341 N. Cobb st. Hobbs, NM  
Subject: Sampling event by Bill Olson  
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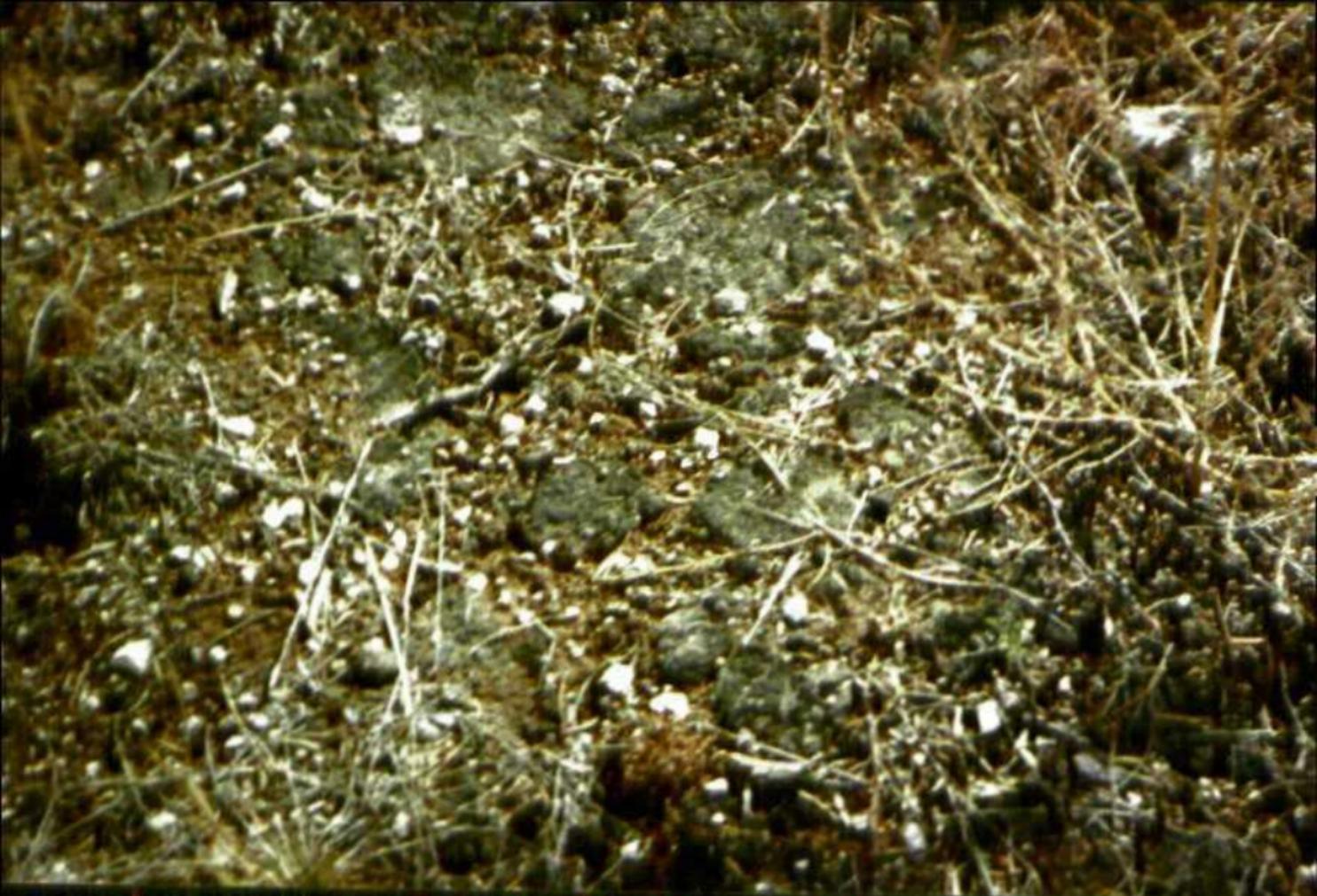
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Date/Time: March 18, 1998 3pm  
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& Martyne Kieling-NMOCOD Santa Fe



**NMOCB: ID#. 138818 By: W Price  
Date/Time: March 18, 1998 3pm  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project.  
Location: 1341 N. Cobb st. Hobbs, NM  
Subject: Sampling event by Bill Olson  
& Martyne Kieling-NMOCB Santa Fe**



**NMOCDC: ID#. 138818 By: W Price  
Date/Time: March 18, 1998 3pm  
Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project.  
Location: 1341 N. Cobb st. Hobbs, NM  
Subject: Sampling event by Bill Olson  
& Martyne Kieling-NMOCDC Santa Fe**



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Date/Time: March 18, 1998 3pm  
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Location: 1341 N. Cobb st. Hobbs, NM  
Subject: Sampling event by Bill Olson  
& Martyne Kieling-NMOCD Santa Fe



MMOCD: ID#, 138817 By: W Price

Date/Time: March 18, 1998

Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project,

Location: 1341 N. Cobb st. Hobbs, NM

Subject: Sampling event by Bill Olson

& Martyne Kieling-MMOCD Santa Fe



NMOCID: ID#. 138817 By: W Price

Date/Time: March 18, 1998

Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project.

Location: 1341 N. Cobb st. Hobbs, NM

Subject: Sampling event by Bill Olson

& Martyne Kieling-NMOCID Santa Fe



NMOCID: ID#, 138817 By: W Price

Date/Time: March 18, 1998

Site/Co. Shell-Westgate Project.

Location: 1341 N. Cobb st. Hobbs, NM

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& Martyne Kieling-NMOCID Santa Fe



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& Martyne Kieling-NMOCD Santa Fe**



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
DISTRICT I HOBBS  
PO BOX 1980, Hobbs, NM 88241  
(505) 393-6161  
FAX (505) 393-0720

Jennifer A. Salisbury  
CABINET SECRETARY

March 20, 1998

Lori Wrotenbery  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S Pacheco Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Potential conflict of interest

Ms Wrotenbery

I am submitting to you in accordance with department procedures a financial disclosure statement because a potential conflict of interest may exist or appear to exist. I have also submitted copies to Jennifer Salisbury, Secretary of EMNRD and to the Ethics Administration of the Office of the Secretary of State. My family and I live in the Westgate subdivision of Hobbs, New Mexico. In this subdivision at least two contamination sites have been discovered. Word of these sites has already affect property values and doctors have indicated that these sites may have contributed medical problems in my family. I have retained legal counsel in order to protect my home investment and medical situations.

I want to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest. I have done this by not taking part in the investigation. My supervisor and others in the Hobbs office have agreed not to discuss the investigation in my presences. Therefore, hopefully any appearance of a conflict of interest might be avoided.

Yours very truly,

Paul F. Kautz  
District I, Geologist

# FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF THE

## SECRETARY OF STATE

STEPHANIE GONZALES

~~1996~~ 1998

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- ▶ Please keep a copy for your records.

1. REPORTING INDIVIDUAL			
FULL NAME	Last Name <b>KAUTZ</b>	First Name <b>PAUL</b>	Middle <b>FREDERICK</b>
RESIDENT ADDRESS	P.O. Box or Street Address <b>1610 N COBB</b>		
	City <b>HOBBS</b>	State <b>NM</b>	Zip <b>88240</b>
MAILING ADDRESS	P.O. Box or Street Address <b>1610 N COBB</b>		
	City <b>HOBBS</b>	State <b>NM</b>	Zip <b>88240</b>

Filing Status (please check the appropriate box and fill in the requested information)	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Incumbent in	office
<input type="checkbox"/> Official appointed to	board or commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Head of	agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Public officer with	agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employee of	agency <b>ENERGY, MINERALS, NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT</b>

Employer Information			
Full Name <b>ENERGY MINERALS NATURAL RESOURCES DEPT - OCD</b>			
P.O. Box or Street Address <b>PO BOX 1980</b>			
City <b>HOBBS</b>	State <b>NM</b>	Zip <b>88240</b>	Phone (not required)
Title or Position Held <b>GEOLOGIST III</b>		Nature of Business or Occupation <b>GOVERNMENT (STATE)</b>	

7. MEMBERSHIPS ON BOARDS OF FOR-PROFIT BUSINESSES (If any)

Name of Business	Member
NONE	

8. PROFESSIONAL LICENSES IN NEW MEXICO (If any)

Type	Licenses
NONE	

9. BUSINESS WITH STATE AGENCIES OVER \$5,000 (If any)

Agency	Seller
NONE	

10. REPRESENTATION BEFORE STATE AGENCIES (other than a court)

Agency	Representative
NONE	

11. Additional Information

In the subdivision where my family and I live, there has been at least two contamination sites discovered. The Oil Conservation Division District office for which I work is presently investigating these sites. My family as well as other neighbors have retained legal counsel. Since I live in the subdivision I have not taken part in the investigation and my supervisor has agreed that I should not take part in any discussions or in any part of the investigation. I want to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest by remaining apart form any investigation.

Signature: Paul F. Kautz

Date: 3/18/98

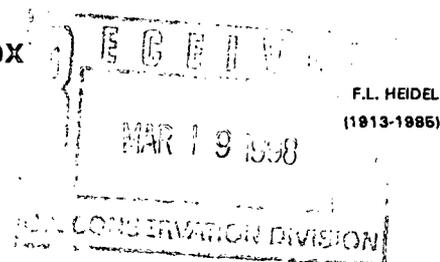
Printed Name: PAUL F KAUTZ

C. GENE SAMBERSON  
MICHAEL T. NEWELL  
LEWIS C. COX, III

Patrick B. McMahon

LAW OFFICES  
**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**

311 NORTH FIRST STREET  
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1588  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
TELEPHONE (505) 396-5303  
FAX (505) 396-5305



March 17, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE/MAIL

William C. Olson  
Hydrogeologist  
Environmental Bureau  
Oil Conservation Division  
Energy, Miners and Natural Resources Department  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Grimes Lease Contamination - Hobbs, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Olson,

Thank you for your letter dated March 11, 1998. The request made in this firm's letter of February 12, 1998, was per the instruction of OCD personnel. This firm has been requested to look into the situation on behalf of homeowners and residents in the adjoining area. It was viewed that providing copies of documents to this firm would facilitate and expedite the flow of information to the affected community.

Please understand that people living near these contamination sites have a great deal of anxiety. The information vacuum which exists is being filled with unsubstantiated rumors. To date none of the promised meetings with Shell and the OCD to address concerns of the community have taken place. Instead, people hear on the news that your office is meeting with Shell in Santa Fe. Such actions obviously foster suspicion in absence of hard facts.

From the file in Hobbs it appears that residents are complaining about illnesses which they are concerned may be related. It also appears the state epidemiologist has been contacted. Can you advise as to the status of these efforts.

Finally, please make the file available in the morning. I will review same while in Santa Fe. Thank you.

Sincerely,

HEIDEL SAMBERSON NEWELL & COX

By:



Michael Newell

MTN/cd  
pc: Chris Williams

(LAW OFFICES)  
**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**

C. GENE SAMBERSON  
MICHAEL T. NEWELL  
LEWIS C. COX, III

311 NORTH FIRST STREET  
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1609  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
TELEPHONE (505) 396-5303  
FAX (505) 396-5305

F.L. HEIDEL  
(1913-1986)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS LEGALLY PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY NAMED BELOW. IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPY OF THIS TELECOPY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS TELECOPY IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY US BY TELEPHONE AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US AT THE ADDRESS SET FORTH ABOVE VIA THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

TELECOPY TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE TRANSMITTED: March 17, 1998 TIME: 10:15

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

William C. Olson  
Environmental Bureau - AD  
Energy, Mines + Natural Resources Department

RE: Crimes Base Contamination  
Hobbs, New Mexico

FAX NUMBER: (505) 827-8177

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 3 PAGES OF COPY, INCLUDING THIS COVER PAGE. PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY AT (505) 396-5303 IF NOT RECEIVED PROPERLY.

- FOR YOUR COMMENTS
- AS YOU REQUESTED
- PLEASE CALL ME ABOUT THIS
- AS WE DISCUSSED

IF CHECKED ORIGINAL WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU BY:

- Federal Express
- Regular mail

Thank you,

HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX

by: Michael Newell

LAW OFFICES  
HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COXC. GENE SAMBERSON  
MICHAEL T. NEWELL  
LEWIS C. COX, III311 NORTH FIRST STREET  
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1500  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
TELEPHONE (505) 398-5303  
FAX (505) 398-5305F.L. HEIDEL  
(1813-1006)

Patrick B. McMahon

March 17, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE/MAIL

William C. Olson  
Hydrogeologist  
Environmental Bureau  
Oil Conservation Division  
Energy, Miners and Natural Resources Department  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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From the file in Hobbs it appears that residents are complaining about illnesses which they are concerned may be related. It also appears the state epidemiologist has been contacted. Can you advise as to the status of these efforts.

Finally, please make the file available in the morning. I will review same while in Santa Fe. Thank you.

Sincerely,

HEIDEL SAMBERSON NEWELL & COX

By:   
Michael Newell

MTN/cd  
pc: Chris Williams

**Olson, William**

---

**From:** Price, Wayne  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 1998 4:00 PM  
**To:** Bill Olson; Martyne Kieling  
**Cc:** Chris Williams  
**Subject:** Shell Westgate

Dear Bill:

I have set-up a sampling event at the Casey residence between 1-2pm on Wensday March 18, 1998.

OCD/Shell Meeting 3/12/98 8:30 am

attendees - Bill Olson - OCD Envir. Bureau  
Roger Anderson - " " "  
Wayne Price - OCD Hobbs  
Wayne Hamilton - Shell  
Rich Hanson - "  
George DeVull - "

Wayne Hamilton presentation (see handout #1)

- Grimes battery pit last used in approx. 1993
- Tesker pit believed to be blow down pit
- Shell lease encompasses Tesker + Cobb rds at subdivision  
need to check with landman for exact lease area

Perry's at current residence since 1976

Perry's lived in other part at subdivision from 1950's - 70's

George DeVull presentation (see handout #1)

- RBCA risk assessment approach

\* Cut copies of TPH Working Group publications  
\* ~~cut~~ copies of overheads (handout #2)

provided - ASTM RBCA slides E-1739-95  
- RBCA video

Bill Olson - ~~see~~ OCD review of reports  
will be in letter to shell in next week

Craig Lewis attorney from Texas working with residents.

OCD planning on holding a public meeting

Site needs to be investigated + remediated under framework of abatement regulation (Rule 19)



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S. PACHECO  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505  
(505) 827-7131

March 11, 1998

Mr. Michael Newell  
Heidel, Samberson, Newell & Cox  
P.O. Drawer 1599  
Lovington, New Mexico 88260

RE: GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO

Dear Mr. Newell:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) is in receipt of your February 12, 1998 correspondence requesting that the OCD put your law firm on the mailing list to receive documents that the OCD acquires in reference to the Shell Oil Company Grimes Lease.

The OCD has no such mailing list. All documents received by the OCD are public information and are available to be reviewed and copied by the public. If you wish to review or make copies of this information, please make an appointment to inspect and copy any information that you feel is relevant.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 827-7154

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William C. Olson".

William C. Olson  
Hydrogeologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor



OFFICE OF  
 ENERGY  
 AND  
 MINERALS  
 DIVISION

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	Time 0920	Date 3/11/98
<u>Originating Party</u>		<u>Other Parties</u>	
Bill Olson - Envir. Bureau		Ron Vorhees - Office of Epidemiology 827 - 2980	

Subject

Shell - Tasker St 3/12/98 Meeting

Discussion

Requested that Epidemiology Office provide staff member to attend 3/12/98 meeting with Shell

Told him that Shell will be bringing risk assessment expert to address health threats to residents in house overlooking the Tasker St. pit.

Conclusions or Agreements

He will try to have representative present

Distribution

file  
 Ryan Anderson - Envir. Bureau Chief

Signed

Bill Olson



REPORT OF  
 MEETING  
 TO  
 SUPERVISOR

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING OR CONVERSATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	Time approx. 0830	Date 3/17/98
---	-----------------------------------	----------------------	-----------------

<u>Originating Party</u>	<u>Other Parties</u>
Randy Merker - Office of Epidemiology (827-3709)	Bill Olson - Environmental Bureau

subject  
 Shell - Tasker St.

Discussion

He will not be able to attend 3/12/98 meeting  
 He is a contract employee and was informed that all  
 contracts are temporarily on hold  
 He suggested that I call Ron Vorhees - Deputy Epidemiologist  
 (827-2980)  
 to supply a representative for the meeting

Conclusions or Agreements

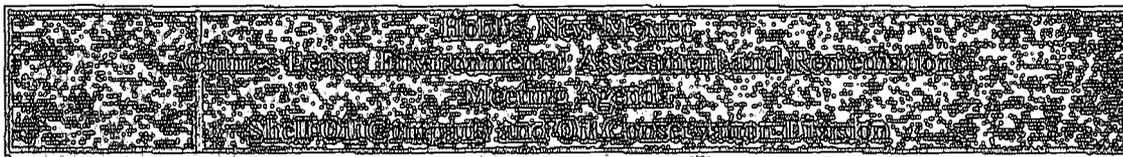
I will contact Ron Vorhees

Distribution

file  
 Roger Anderson - Envir. Bureau Chief

Signed

Bill Olson



Date: March 12, 1998, Thursday

Location: Oil Conservation Division, Santa Fee, New Mexico

Time: 8:30-10:30

Materials needed

Viewgraph machine and screen

Meeting Purpose

Discuss Grimes Lease assessment and remediation activities

Meeting Agenda

- o Discussion of Current Activities
- o Discuss of Future Issues
- o Summary
- o Conclusions

Post-it™ Fax Note	7671	Date	3/5/98	# of pages	1
To	Bill Olson	From	Wayne Hamilton		
Co./Dept.	OCD	Co.	Shell		
Phone #		Phone #	713 245-7782		
Fax #	505-827-8177	Fax #			

LAW OFFICES  
**HEIDEL, SAMBERSON, NEWELL & COX**

311 NORTH FIRST STREET  
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1588  
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260  
TELEPHONE (505) 396-5303  
FAX (505) 396-5305

F.L. HEIDEL  
(1913-1985)

*CW*  
*Wayne*

C. GENE SAMBERSON  
MICHAEL T. NEWELL  
LEWIS C. COX, III

February 12, 1998

Chris Williams  
District 1 Supervisor  
State of New Mexico  
Oil Conservation Division  
P.O. Box 1980  
Hobbs, NM 88240

*[Faint handwritten notes and stamps]*  
FEB 27 1998  
*[Faint stamp]*

Dear Mr. Williams,

This letter is to request that this firm be put on the mailing list to receive documents that the OCD acquires in reference to the Shell Oil Company - Grimes Lease matter.

Your attention in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

HEIDEL SAMBERSON NEWELL & COX

By: *Michael Newell*  
Michael Newell

MTN/cd



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 South Pacheco Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
(505) 827-7131

March 6, 1998

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
P.O. Box 481  
Houston, Texas 77001-0481

RE: GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Enclosed you will find copies of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division's (OCD) laboratory analytical results of soil samples that the OCD split with Shell on January 20, 1998.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 827-7154

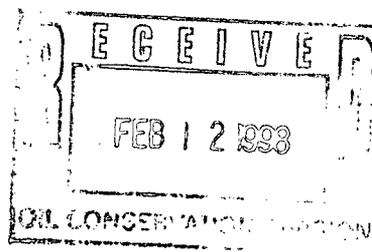
Sincerely,

William C. Olson  
Hydrogeologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc w/enclosures: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision

Price, Wayne

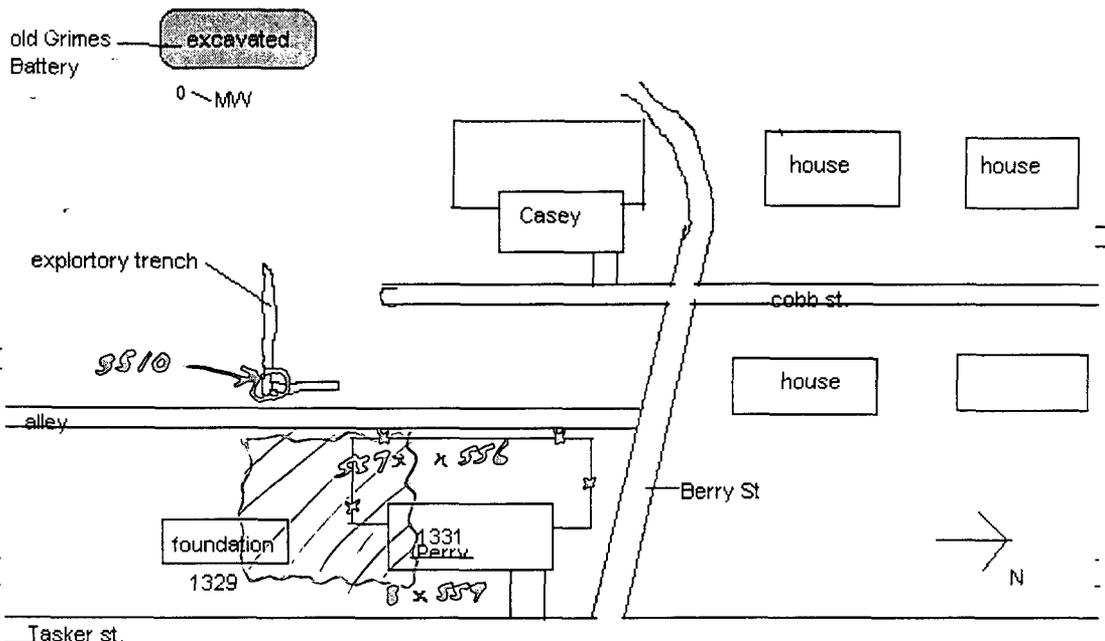
**From:** Price, Wayne  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 1998 2:25 PM  
**To:** Bill Olson  
**Cc:** Chris Williams  
**Subject:** Westgate Field Report for Jan 26, 1998



Dear Bill:

I am dropping in the mail today another field report with pictures: This was when we delineated the old pit under the Perry House. Looks like approximately the South 1/3 of this house sits on top of the old pit area.

# DELINEATION of OLD SHELL PILE



Shell Oil Westgate Investigation

Area Sketch-By Wayne Price NMOCD Jan 26, 1998 Pictures attached ID 024605

No scale

ss soil sample points MW- Monitor Well

SS6 - CLEAN 25' FROM S FENCE (u) NO OIL, DARK HUMK SOIL PID=8.9ppm

SS7 - 4'3" DEEP ≈ 18' FROM S. FENCE

FOUND CONTAMINATION, 2-3' DEEP DARK BS OILY

4'3" CALICHE ROCKS HAS PLEX OILS  
 NO VISUAL, 11 PA(PID)

SS8 &

SS9 - 1' DEEP FOUND DARK BS OILY, FOUND EDGE of  
 CONTAMINATION TO NORTH of TRENCH 4'  
 DEEP of ≈ 5'

SS10 - 46' DEEP CLEAN HAS WHITE CALICHE

EXPLORTORY  
 TRENCH

CLEAN HOLD!

CONCLUSION:

CONTAMINATION FOUND IN BOTH FRONTS OF  
 YARD of PERRY HOUSE, PROBABLY GOES UNDER  
 HOUSE. ≈ 5 1/3 of HOUSE ON CONTAMINATION!

W. Price

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
P O BOX 1980  
HOBBS NM 88241

*Photos*

Bill Olson  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 S PACHECO  
Santa Fe, NM 87505



NMOCID: ID#.024605 By: W Price #6  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 11 am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 Tasker St. Front yard  
Subject: Delineating contamination.  
looking SW.



NMDCD: ID#.024605 By: W Price #5  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 11 am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 Tasker St. Front yard  
Subject: Delineating contamination.



**NMOCD: ID#.024605 By: W Price #1  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 9:30 am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 & 1329 Tasker St.  
Subject: Alley behind 1331 Tasker ST.  
Digging in Perry's bachyard. look NNE**

**NMOCD: ID#.024605 By: W Price #1  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 9:30 am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 & 1329 Tasker St.  
Subject: Excavating to delineate  
contamination.**



**NMOCID: ID#.024605 By: W Price #3  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 10 am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 Tasker St. Backyard  
Subject: Excavating to delineate area  
15-25' N of S fence. Pos ID look W.**



NMOCID: ID#.024605 By: W Price #4  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 10 am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 Tasker St. Backyard  
Subject: Same as #3 found contami-  
nation approx 20' from S fence.



NMDCD: ID#.024605 By: W Price #2  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 9:30 am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 Tasker St. Backyard  
Subject: Excavating to delineate area  
25' N of S fence. NO here. look S.



**NMOCID: ID#.024605 By: W Price #9**  
**Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 11 am**  
**Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM**  
**Location: Lot west of alley behind**  
**Tasker 1331&1329, Trench.**  
**Subject: very small layer of blk soil.**



**NMOCB: ID#.024605 By: W Price #11  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 11:30am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: Lot west of alley behind  
Tasker 1331&1329. Looking NW.  
Subject: Bkgd shows Cobbs ST.**



NMDCD: ID#.024605 By: W Price #8  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 11 am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: Lot west of alley behind  
Tasker 1331&1329.  
Subject: Exploratory Trench



NMOCDD: ID#.024605 By: W Price #?  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 11 am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 Tasker St. Front yard  
Subject: Black contaminated soil  
found in front yard near dead tree.



NMOCID: ID#.024605 By: W Price #10  
Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 11:30am  
Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM  
Location: Lot west of alley behind  
Tasker 1331&1329. Looking west.  
Subject: Bkgd shows Grimes Tk Batt



**NMDCD: ID#.024605 By: W Price #12**  
**Date/Time: Jan 26, 1998 11:30am**  
**Site/Co.Shell Oil-Westgate, Hobbs, NM**  
**Location: Lot west of alley behind**  
**Tasker 1331&1329. Looking North.**  
**Sub\_ject: 5-6' deep trench-Clean hole**



## **Price, Wayne**

---

**From:** Price, Wayne  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 24, 1998 1:52 PM  
**To:** Bill Olson  
**Cc:** Roger Anderson; Chris Williams  
**Subject:** Shell Oil Tasker St- Westgate Hobbs

Dear Bill:

I am dropping in the mail a copy of my field report and pictures for the split sampling event that was conducted on Jan 20, 1998.

We are schedule to sample again on Jan 26, to determine the northern and western extent. This will mainly be in the front and back yard of Mr. Rolland Perry house at 1331 Tasker St.

Also I had an opportunity to visit the residence located at 1341 N. Cobb st. I talked to a Chase Casey she indicated they have experienced the same type of material that we are finding on Tasker St. She said her husband was digging and found what appeared to be a heavy grease.

They would like to be included in the investigation. The house is closest to the Grimes Batt. I have marked pictures for you for orientation reference.

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TRACKING NUMBER

USE THIS AIRBILL FOR SHIPMENTS WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL U.S.A., ALASKA AND HAWAII.  
USE THE INTERNATIONAL AIR WAYBILL FOR SHIPMENTS TO PUERTO RICO AND ALL NON U.S. LOCATIONS.  
QUESTIONS? CALL 800-238-5355 TOLL FREE.

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**3058282430**

**SENDER'S COPY**

Sender's Federal Express Account Number  
**3058282430**

Date  
**1/2/04**

From (Your Name) Please Print  
**WAYNE PRICE**

Company  
**NM OCD**

Street Address  
**1000 W BROADWAY**

City  
**HOBBS**

State  
**NM**

ZIP Required  
**88240**

To (Recipient's Name) Please Print  
**ALL MITCH-LAB**

Company  
**AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK**

Exact Street Address (No Corner Deliver to P.O. Boxes or P.O. Zip Codes)  
**2709-D PAN AMERICAN FREEWAY**

City  
**NE ALBUQUERQUE**

State  
**NM**

ZIP Required  
**87107**

Department/Floor No.  
**505 344-3777**

Recipient's Phone Number (Very Important)

**YOUR INTERNAL BILLING REFERENCE INFORMATION (First 24 characters will appear on invoice.)**

IF HOLD FOR PICK-UP, Print FEDEX Address Here

Street Address  
City  
State  
ZIP Required

**3 PAYMENT**  Bill Sender  Bill Recipient's FedEx Acct. No.  Bill 3rd Party FedEx Acct. No.  Bill Credit Card  
 Cash/Check  Credit Card  
 Account Number below (req'd) **1584-34-63-6** Fill in Credit Card No. below (req'd)

**4 SERVICES** (Check only one box)  
 Standard Overnight (Delivery by next business day)  
 YOUR PRIORITY PACKAGING  YOUR PRIORITY PACKAGING  
 FEDEX LETTER  FEDEX LETTER  
 FEDEX PAK  FEDEX PAK  
 FEDEX BOX  FEDEX BOX  
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 ECONOMY  GOVT LETTER  
 GOVT PACKAGE  
 Freight Service (See FedEx.com for details)  
 OVERNIGHT  TWO-DAY  
 FREIGHT  FREIGHT  
 \*Declared value limit \$100  
 † Delivery commitment may be later in some areas. \*\* Call to delivery schedule

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 OTHER SPECIAL SERVICE  
 SATURDAY PICK-UP (if in business)  
 HOLIDAY DELIVERY (if observed)  
 DIM SHIPMENT (Chargeable Weight)  lbs  
 RECEIVED AT  
 Regular Stop  Drop Box  
 On-Car Stop  Station

**6 PACKAGES**  
 HEIGHT (in inches)    
 WEIGHT (in pounds)    
 YOUR DECLARED VALUE (in dollars)    
 Total

**7 SERVICE CONDITIONS, DECLARED VALUE AND LIMIT OF LIABILITY**  
 Use of this airbill constitutes your agreement to the service conditions in our Service Guide. For information, Service conditions may vary by Government Oversight Service. See U.S. Government Service Guide for details.  
 We will not be responsible for any claim in excess of \$100 per package, whether the result of loss, damage, delay, non-delivery, misdelivery, or mis-information, unless you declare a higher value, pay an additional charge, and document your actual loss for a timely claim. Limitations found in the current Federal Express Service Guide apply. You agree to receive the actual Federal Express Service Guide for details. The maximum declared value for Federal Express is \$1000. The maximum declared value for FedEx Letter and FedEx Pak packages is \$1000.  
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 Sender authorizes Federal Express to collect for this shipment without obtaining a delivery signature and shall be liable for any and hold harmless Federal Express from any claims resulting therefrom.  
 Release Signature **Wayne Price** Date/Time  
 FedEx E-Track No.  
 Release Date/Time

**8 REVISION DATE 4/97**  
**FORMAT #082**  
**082**  
 PRINTED IN U.S.A.

**SENDER'S COPY**  
**DROP OFF YOUR PACKAGE AND SAVE**

NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
FIELD TRIP REPORT

INSPECTION  
 CLASSIFICATION  
 FACILITY  
 HOURS  
 QUARTER  
 HOURS

Name WAYNE PRICE Date 1/20/98 Miles \_\_\_\_\_ District I  
 Time of Departure 7 AM Time of Return 4 PM Car No. G 04721

In the space below indicate the purpose of the trip and the duties performed, listing wells or leases visited and any action taken.

Signature Wayne Price

SHELL OIL CO TASHEN SL PROJECT (1329 + 1331)

MEET SHARON HALL PHILLIP ENGR -

WITNESS + SPLITE SOIL SAMPLES

TOOK PICTURES - SEE ATTACHED COC

	PTD	CLARITY	PTD	VISUAL
PTD READINGS:	PHOOD	CLARITY	SHELL/PHILIP	VISUAL
<del>SHELL/PHILIP</del> 55-1 2-3'		SLIGHT		YES BLACK HAZ CREAM COLO SLIGHT ODR
<del>OCA</del> 55-1 5'	110 MM		50 MM	AK SAE OILY BS&W.
55-2 2-3'			346 MM	VERY STRONG VOC ODR
STRONG COORS - 55-2 6'	1652 MM	VERY STRONG VOC ODR	511 MM	BLACK VISUAL BS&W!
55-3 2-3'		YES	189 MM	VOC ODR MOD/YES
55-3 5.5'	212 MM	YES	178 MM	
55-4 2-3'				
55-4				
55-5 2'			60 MM	
55-5 5'			320 MM	

HOT SPOT  
 ODCAS +  
 250MM  
 RTRK 6'

VISITED CASEY RESIDENCE AT 1341 N COBS

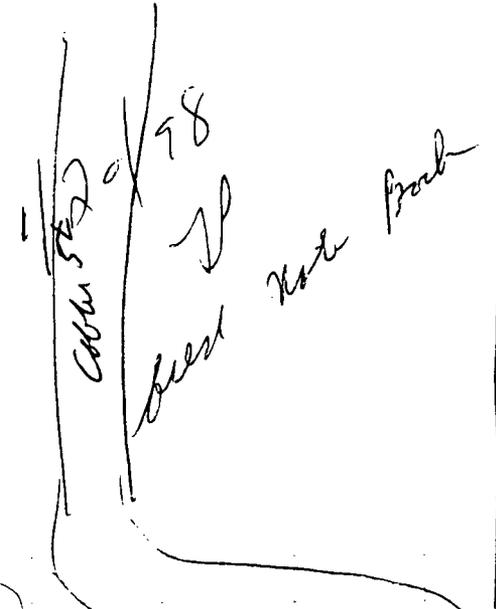
CONTAMINATION IN BACK YARD!

Mileage _____	Per Diem _____	Hours _____
UIC _____	UIC _____	UIC _____
RFA _____	RFA _____	RFA _____
Other _____	Other _____	Other _____

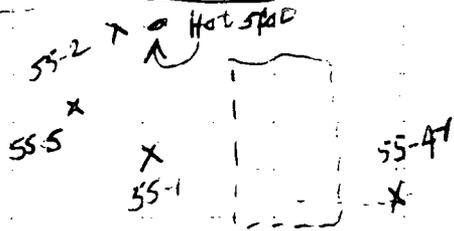
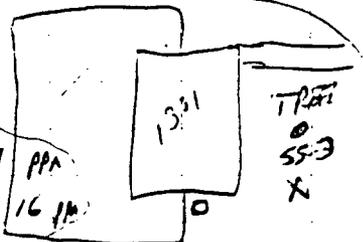
- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>TYPE INSPECTION PERFORMED</b>   | <b>INSPECTION CLASSIFICATION</b>  | <b>NATURE OF SPECIFIC WELL OR FACILITY INSPECTED</b>  |
| H = Housekeeping<br>P = Plugging<br>C = Plugging Cleanup<br>T = Well Test<br>R = Repair/Workover<br>F = Waterflow<br>N = Mishap or Spill<br>W = Water Contamination<br>O = Other | U = Underground Injection Control - Any inspection of or related to injection project, facility, or well or resulting from injection into any well. (SWD, 2ndry injection and production wells, water flows or pressure tests, surface injection equipment, plugging, etc.)<br>R = Inspections relating to Reclamation Fund Activity<br>O = Other - Inspections not related to injection or the Reclamation Fund<br>E = Indicates some form of enforcement action taken in the field (other immediately below the letter U, R or O) | D = Drilling<br>P = Production<br>I = Injection<br>C = Combined prod. inj. operations<br>S = SWD<br>U = Underground Storage<br>G = General Operation<br>F = Facility or location<br>H = Hoisting<br>O = Other |

(SHELL) OLA GRINGS BAYE

1341 COOK ST



UNACD  
 PIA  
 RAW  
 1/21/58  
 55-1-5, 110ppm  
 55-2-6, 1652-19 ppm  
 55-3-5, 212-16 ppm



55-5  
 55-1  
 55-4  
 55-AA  
 13'  
 5pm y  
 13'  
 13'

55-5 2' = 60 ppm  
 5' = 320 ppm

11  
12

COOK ST House 11.24  
 = 3  
 Intels  
1341 N COOK  
 1973 - 5 year  
 Mike Chapman  
 Contaminated in Park yard  
 Request report to Dept.

**SHADED AREAS ARE FOR LAB USE ONLY**

**PLEASE FILL THIS FORM IN COMPLETELY.**

PROJECT INFORMATION		PRIOR AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED FOR RUSH PROJECTS		RELINQUISHED BY: 1		RELINQUISHED BY: 2	
PROJ NO.	PROJ NAME	(RUSH) <input type="checkbox"/> 24hr <input type="checkbox"/> 48hr <input type="checkbox"/> 72hr <input type="checkbox"/> 1 WEEK	CERTIFICATION REQUIRED: <input type="checkbox"/> NM <input type="checkbox"/> SDWA <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	Signature:	Time:	Signature:	Time:
9801201049	SHELL OIL CO.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Signature]	2:30pm	[Signature]	
9801201127	THICKER ST-HOOPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Signature]	1/20/98	[Signature]	
9801201157	THICKER ST-HOOPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Signature]		[Signature]	
9801201208	THICKER ST-HOOPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Signature]		[Signature]	

COMPANY:	ADDRESS:	PHONE:	FAX:	BILL TO:	COMPANY:	ADDRESS:
AMOC	PO 1980	88241	505-393-6161	AMOCO-ALL PAPER ANALYSIS	AMOCO	2040 S PACHECO

SAMPLE ID	DATE	TIME	MATRIX	LAB ID	ANALYSIS REQUEST
98-1 2-3' DEEP	1-20-98	1:47pm	SOIL		Petroleum Hydrocarbons (418.1) TRPH (MOD.8015) Diesel/Direct/Inject  (M8015) Gas/Purge & Trap Gasoline/BTEX & MTBE (M8015/8020) BTXE/MTBE (8020) BTEX & Chlorinated Aromatics (602/8020) BTEX/MTBE/EDC & EDB (8020/8010/Short) Chlorinated Hydrocarbons (601/8010)  504 EDB <input type="checkbox"/> / DBCP <input type="checkbox"/> Polynuclear Aromatics (610/8310) Volatile Organics (624/8240) GC/MS Volatile Organics (8260) GC/MS  Pesticides/PCB (608/8080) Herbicides (615/8150) Base/Neutral/Acid Compounds GC/MS (626/8270)  General Chemistry:  Priority Pollutant Metals (13) Target Analyte List Metals (23) RCRA Metals (8) RCRA Metals by TCLP (Method 1311) Metals: +CR, Hg, Se
98-1 5' DEEP	1-20-98	11:27am	SOIL		X
98-2 2-3' DEEP	1-20-98	11:57am	SOIL		X
98-2 6' DEEP	1-20-98	12:08pm	SOIL		X
98-2 1208					X

4/1/96 AEN Inc.: American Environmental Network (NM), Inc. • 2709-D Pan American Freeway, NE • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107  
 DISTRIBUTION: White - Canary - AEN Pink - ORIGINATOR

Client: NM - OCD  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fri AM**

Date Needed: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm  
 Pick up by Client  
 Deliver to client  
 Kit Prepared by:  John  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Wayne Price

## SAMPLE KIT

PARAMETER	HOODING TIME	BOHEE DESCRIPTION					
		WATER-PRESERVATIVE		SOIL-PRESERVATIVE			
VOLATILES	624 (8240)	14 DAYS	3X40ML VOA	HCL/HgCl <sub>2</sub>	(4)	1 X 4 oz Jar	4 <sup>oc</sup>
	601/602		3X40ML VOA	HCL/HgCl <sub>2</sub>		1 X 4 oz Jar	4 <sup>oc</sup>
	8010/8020		3X40ML VOA	HCL/HgCl <sub>2</sub>		1 X 4 oz Jar	4 <sup>oc</sup>
	_____		3X40ML VOA	HCL/HgCl <sub>2</sub>		1 X 4 oz Jar	4 <sup>oc</sup>
	504		3X40ML VOA	Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		NA	NA
FUELS	8015 (TPH)	14 DAYS	3X40ML VOA	HCL/HgCl <sub>2</sub>		1 X 4 oz Jar	4 <sup>oc</sup>
	8015/8020	14 DAYS	3X40ML VOA	HCL/HgCl <sub>2</sub>			
	+18.1	28 DAYS	2X500ML AMB.	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>			
ORGANICS	625 (8270)	7 DAYS	_____	_____	(4)	1 X 4 oz Jar	4 <sup>oc</sup>
	608 (8080)		_____	4 <sup>oc</sup>			
	615 (8150)		2 X 1L	_____			
	610(8310)		AMBER	_____			
TOC TOX	28 DAYS	1X250ML AMB.	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>		1 X 4 oz Jar	4 <sup>oc</sup>	
	7 DAYS	1X250ML AMB.	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>				
METALS	6 MONTHS	1X _____ ML PL.	HNO <sub>3</sub>		1 X 4 oz Jar	4 <sup>oc</sup>	
		1X _____ ML PL.					
		1X _____ ML PL.					
GEN. CHEM.	14 DAYS	1X _____ ML PL.	4 <sup>oc</sup>		1 X 4 oz Jar	4 <sup>oc</sup>	
		1X _____ ML PL.					
		1X _____ ML PL.					
6010 + cr, H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>				(4)	4oz 8oz Jar		
TRIP BLANK	14 DAYS	1X40ML VOA	HCL/HgCl <sub>2</sub>		NA	NA	
AIR: _____	3 DAYS	1 X 1L TEDLAR AIR BAG VALVE: STAINLESS STEEL/POLYPROPYLENE					
METHANOL PRESERVED		2 X 60ML Amber Preweight, 2 X 10ML Methanol Vials, 1 X 2oz jar (4oz jar for diesel)					

- COC
- BLUE ICE
- LABELS
- SEALS
- PENS/GLOVES

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State of New Mexico

**ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

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2040 South Pacheco

P.O. Box 6429

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-5472

Photos



**NMDCD: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #8  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 11:27 am  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1329 Tasker SS-2 location  
Subject: Asphaltic layer from SS-2  
Sample 2 feet deep. Soaf, Oil Sat.**



1998-01-20 11:27 AM

**NMOCID: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #7  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 11:27 am  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate Hobbs,NM  
Location: 1329 Tasker SS-2 location  
Subject: Asphaltic layer from SS-1.  
Found approx. 2 feet deep.**

2000-10



022517

**NMOCID: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #5  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 10:49 am  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate Hobbs,NM  
Location: 1329 Tasker SS-1 location  
Subject: Shows hard asphaltic layer.**

022517



2/2/98 10:00 AM

NMOCID: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #9  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 ~~11:27 am~~  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1329 Tasker SS-2 location  
Subject: Contaminated soil from SS-2  
Sample 6 feet deep. High VOC smell.

2/2/98 11:45 AM

12:08 PM

OLD GRIMES BAZZ  
SITE & PIT

1341 N COBR



SS-1



NMOCID: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #3  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 ~~9:45 am~~  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 & 1329 Tasker St.  
Subject: 1329 st. Taking Soil Samples  
SS-1, Look West. BkGd. Old Grimes Bat

≈ 10:49 AM



11/20/98 11:27 AM

**NMOCID: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #6  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 11:27 am  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate Hobbs,NM  
Location: 1329 Tasker SS-2 location  
Subject: Looking NW.**

11/20/98 11:27 AM



10/11/98 10:58 AM  
NMOCID: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #11  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 appx. 12:30p  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 Tasker Front yard.  
Soil Sample SS-3. 2 feet deep, oily  
blk. contaminated soil. Near Dead tree  
10/11/98 10:58 AM







00011 11/11/98

**NMDCD: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #10  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 ~~11:27 am~~  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1329 Tasker SS-2 location  
Subject: Soil Sample ss-2 hole.**

00011 11/11/98

**12:08 PM**



NMOCB: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #2  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 ~~9:15 am~~  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate ,Hobbs,NM  
Location: 1331 & 1329 Tasker St.  
Subject: 1329 st. SS-1 location.  
Pic. Look NE. BkGd. 1331 Tasker St.

~ 10:49 AM



1998 JAN 20

NMOCID: ID#, 022517 By: W Price #12  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 appx. 12:30p  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate Hobbs, NM  
Location: 1331 Tasker Front yard.  
Soil Sample SS-3, 6 feet deep, oily  
contaminated soil. Mod. oily smell.

1998 JAN 20

1341 N COBB ST

1331 TASKER



1329 TASKER  
55-1



Stack - 201001  
NMOCD: ID#. 022517 By: W Price #1  
Date/Time: Jan 20, 1998 9:15 am  
Site/Co. Shell Oil-Westgate ,Hobbs,NM  
Location: 1331 & 1329 Tasker St.  
Subject: 1329 st. SS-1 location.  
Pic. Look NW. BGKG 1341 N Cobb ST.  
S 1 0010 0002



Central Region

January 14, 1998

Mr. William C. Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
Environmental Bureau  
2040 S. Pachecho  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Subject: Grimes Lease, Tasker Road, Hobbs, New Mexico Sampling Plan**

Dear Mr. Olson,

Pursuant to my telephone conversation with Mr. Roger Anderson and you yesterday, Philip Services Corporation (Philip) respectfully submits this revised work plan on behalf of Shell Exploration and Production Technology Company (SEPTCO) for sampling of the above-referenced site. This revised plan replaces the letter submitted to you by Mr. Wayne Hamilton of SEPTCO on January 9, 1998.

Philip representatives will be on site January 20, 1998 to perform sampling activities. Two samples will be collected at each of five sample locations. The sample locations will consist of each of the four corners and the center of the suspected area of asphaltic material impact. One sample will be collected from the asphaltic material at each location, and one sample will be collected from soils beneath the asphaltic material at an anticipated depth of five feet below ground surface. Each of the soil samples (a total of ten) will be submitted for laboratory analysis for the constituents listed in 20 NMAC 6.2.3103 and 20 NMAC 6.2.1101.

The anticipated schedule for providing you with results of the sampling activities is as follows:

Laboratory analysis, Organic Constituents and Metals	January 23, 1998
Laboratory analysis, Inorganic Constituents	February 10, 1998
Laboratory analysis, Radioactive Constituents	February 17, 1998

This schedule is based on the time required by the laboratory to perform these analyses.

A report of these activities will be submitted to you by February 23, 1998 and will include the information you requested in your letter dated December 30, 1997.

Your approval of this revised plan will be appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Wayne Hamilton (SEPTCO) at 713 245-7782 or me at 915 563-0118.

Sincerely,  
**PHILIP SERVICES CORPORATION**

*Sharon E. Hall*  
Sharon E. Hall  
Operations Manager

cc: Wayne Price, NMOCD  
Wayne Hamilton, SEPTCO

*Helping Clients Obtain a Competitive Advantage in a Global Market*

7904 I-20 WEST, MIDLAND, TEXAS 79706, MAIN (915) 563-0118 FAX (915) 563-9526

***Please Deliver This Fax To:***

*Ms Ellen Kenney*

---

---

***From:***

*Roger Anderson*

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***Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
(505) 827-7131 Office  
(505) 827-8177 Fax***

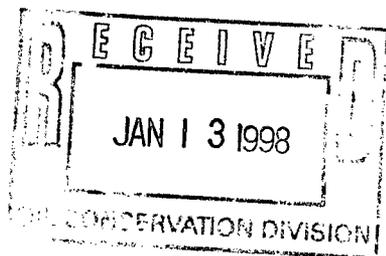
***Date:*** 1/14/97

***Pages:*** 8

***Subject:*** \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you have trouble receiving this fax, please call the phone number above.)*

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* P. 01 \*  
 \* TRANSACTION REPORT \*  
 \* JAN-14-98 WED 04:14 PM \*  
 \* SEND(M) \*  
 \* DATE START RECEIVER TX TIME PAGES TYPE NOTE M# \*  
 \*-----\*  
 \* JAN-14 04:11 PM 70013 2'05" 8 SEND ( M) OK 045 \*  
 \*-----\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*



## Shell E&P Technology Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Bellaire Technology Center  
P.O. Box 481  
Houston, TX 77001-0481

3737 Bellaire Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77025

January 9, 1998

Certified Mail  
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. William C. Olson  
Environmental Bureau  
State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheoc  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**SUBJECT: GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Olson:

This letter is in reply to December 30, 1997 letter concerning the assessment work plan for 1329 Tasker Road, New Mexico.

I request that Tasker Road and Grimes Battery investigation reports be submitted to the OCD within 45 days of receipt of your letter or on February 20, 1998.

Since I did not receive the letter until January 7, 1998 it is not possible to conduct the assessment, obtain the analytical results and write the report in nine days. However, Shell will submit the analytical data to OCD once it is received prior to the assessment report. Shell is committed to conducting assessment work in a scientifically acceptable manner but, time is necessary to provide a quality report.

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com) or (713) 245-7782.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Environmental Engineer

# Shell E&P Technology Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Bellaire Technology Center  
P.O. Box 481  
Houston, TX 77001-0481

3737 Bellaire Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77025

January 9, 1998

Certified Mail  
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. William C. Olson  
Environmental Bureau  
State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheoc  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Post-it™ Fax Note	7671	Date	1 9 98	# of pages	1
To	Bill Olson	From	Wayne Hamilton		
Co./Dept.	Env. Division	Co.	Shell E&P Tech.		
Phone #	505	Phone #	713 245-7782		
Fax #	505 827-8177	Fax #			

**SUBJECT: GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Olson:

This letter is in reply to December 30, 1997 letter concerning the assessment work plan for 1329 Tasker Road, New Mexico.

I request that Tasker Road and Grimes Battery investigation reports be submitted to the OCD within 45 days of receipt of your letter or on February 20, 1998.

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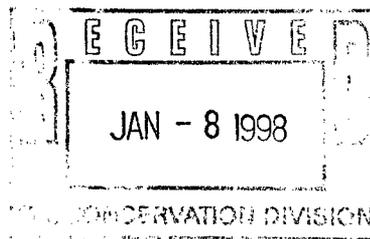
If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at: [wahamilton@shellus.com](mailto:wahamilton@shellus.com) or (713) 245-7782.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Environmental Engineer

January 5, 1998

Mr. William Olsen  
Environmental Bureau  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department  
2040 South Pacheco  
P.O. box 6429  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-5472



Mr. Olsen:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your letter dated December 30. Our concern on the Grimes Lease Contamination seems to be justified. I only hope the results received will be beneficiary to everybody concerned. I have had several residents of Westgate subdivision ask me for results from the petition taken last month. I was very pleased to receive your letter regarding the duties of Shell E&P, as the residents of Westgate can perceive what is being done on this matter. I ask for your continued cooperation and at the same time I thank you for it.

I would also like to take the time to mention the cooperation of your District 1 supervisor, a Mr. Chris Williams. Though we have not met personally, through his written contacts, Mr. Williams has demonstrated his willingness to cooperate in this matter. I think Mr. Williams is to be lauded for his professional attitude.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Jose Jaques



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 South Pacheco Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
(505) 827-7131

March 6, 1998

Mr. Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E&P Technology Company  
P.O. Box 481  
Houston, Texas 77001-0481

**RE: GRIMES LEASE CONTAMINATION  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Enclosed you will find copies of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division's (OCD) laboratory analytical results of soil samples that the OCD split with Shell on January 20, 1998.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 827-7154

Sincerely,

William C. Olson  
Hydrogeologist  
Environmental Bureau

xc w/enclosures: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Supervisor  
Jose Jaques, Westgate Subdivision



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
2040 South Pacheco Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
(505) 827-7131

MEMORANDUM

TO: JENNIFER A. SALISBURY, SECRETARY  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

THRU: WILLIAM J. LEMAY, DIRECTOR  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

FROM: ROGER C. ANDERSON, BUREAU CHIEF *RA*  
ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU

SUBJECT: HOBBS TASKER ST. & GRIMES CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATION

DATE: DECEMBER 29, 1997

The contamination investigations for the Shell Grimes Lease and the Tasker Street pit were referred to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau on December 16, 1997. On December 16, the OCD was notified of potential groundwater contamination from activities at the Grimes lease tank battery. The contamination was discovered as a result of work performed in accordance with a work plan approved by the Hobbs District office. The OCD is waiting on analytical results of the groundwater. If the results of the analyses show contaminants exceed groundwater standards, the OCD will require Shell to submit an abatement plan pursuant to OCD Rule 19.

The Tasker Street pit appears to be an old burn pit or emergency pit. Shell has submitted an investigation plan to determine the extent of contamination. The OCD has reviewed the plan and will approve it with conditions. Once the constituents in the source of the contamination are determined, Shell will be required to determine the extent of contamination in the residential area. Based on the petition from the Tasker street residents the State Epidemiologist has been contacted for their assistance.

**Price, Wayne**

**From:** Price, Wayne  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 1997 2:45 PM  
**To:** Roger Anderson  
**Cc:** Chris Williams  
**Subject:** Shell E & P Westgate Tasker St Plan

Dear Roger:

Per our telephone conf. I am dropping in the mail today the Assessment Work Plan submitted by Shell!

Please let us know how we may assist you, thanks!



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
DISTRICT I HOBBS  
PO BOX 1980, Hobbs, NM 88241  
(505) 393-6161  
FAX (505) 393-0720

Jennifer A. Salisbury  
CABINET SECRETARY

December 17, 1997

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Shell E & P Technology Company (SE&PTC)  
P.O. Box 481  
Houston, Tx 77001-0481

Re: Assessment Work Plan  
1329 Tasker Road  
Hobbs, New Mexico  
Dated: December 15, 1997

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) District I is in receipt of the above referenced plan submitted by Philip Services Corp. (PSC). Due to the complexity of this situation the NMOCD Environmental Bureau in Santa Fe, NM will be the lead agency in this matter. Please be advised this work plan is being forward to Roger Anderson Environmental Bureau Chief located at 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Please feel free to contact Mr. Roger Anderson at 505-827-7152 concerning this issue.

The NMOCD respectfully request that (SE&PTC) copy the NMOCD District I on all correspondence concerning this matter. If you require any further information or assistance please do not hesitate to call (505-393-6161) or write this office.

Sincerely Yours,

Wayne Price-Environmental Engineer

cc: Chris Williams-NMOCD District I Supervisor  
Roger Anderson-Environmental Bureau Chief, Santa Fe, NM  
Sharon Hall-Philip Services Corp. (PSC)  
7904 Interstate 20 West,  
Midland, Tx 79706



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
DISTRICT I HOBBS  
PO BOX 1980, Hobbs, NM 88241  
(505) 393-6161  
FAX (505) 393-0720

Jennifer A. Salisbury  
CABINET SECRETARY

NMOCD INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Roger Anderson-Environmental Bureau Chief, Santa Fe, NM  
From: Wayne Price-Environmental Engineer  
Date: December 15, 1997  
Reference: Shell Oil Co. WD Grimes lease near Westgate Sub-division, Hobbs, NM.  
Subject: Chronological summary for the above referenced project.

Comments:

On September 17, 1997 OCD received calls from residences located on Cobb & Tasker St. concerning dust and odors. OCD District Sup. Chris Williams and Field Sup. Gary Wink investigated. They found Altura-Shell was dismantling and cleaning up the old WD Grimes tank battery located in UL N-Sec 28-T18s-R38e.

After further investigation Altura indicated they had discovered quite a bit of contaminated soil and were planning to landfarm on-site. NMOCD discovered this site was going to be located nearby and/or part of a new housing project. NMOCD requested that Altura submit a site investigation and clean-up work plan for approval.

Shell submitted the plan on Sep. 18, 1997, NMOCD approved the plan with conditions on September 20, 1997. Altura-Shell excavated several hundred yards of soil that has been disposed of off-site at an NMOCD approved facility.

Between Sep. 18, & Nov 3, 1997 there were resultant site visits, telephone calls, and meetings, between NMOCD District & SF, Altura-Shell, and Sam & SG Cobb (Monument Dev. Corp).

Nov. 19, 1997: Shell requested a meeting concerning the contamination found by Sam Cobb on Tasker ST. and at the closure site of the Tank Battery project.

Nov. 25, 1997: Shell sent the Hobbs News Sun Paper press release at the request of the newspaper. As of this date there has not been an article published.

Dec. 3, 1997: NMOCD received (fax) Shells\PSC work plan and analytical results for the Tasker Site.

Dec 5, 1997: An on site meeting was requested by Sam Cobb & Shell.

Shell presented historical photos and street over-lays showing that some other existing residences might be impacted by the contamination. Shells notified an existing adjacent residence at 1331 Tasker St. about possible contamination under their house. Ground Water contamination was found at the battery site. Cobb indicated there was rumor that the house at 1341 Cobb St. which is the nearest house to the old tank battery site, has contamination in the backyard. Since it was only rumor Shell's Rep. Wayne Hamilton did not feel comfortable notifying the owner. The NMOCD indicated they would check it out.

Dec 9, 1997: Shell canceled their Tasker St. Plan and will re-submit. This was primarily due to the complex issues concerning possible risk to public health and how to properly approach this problem. Also, Shell is still in the process of auditing the property and lease ownership.

Dec 9, 1997: NMOCD received a written complaint from Residents of Westgate.

Dec 11, 1997: NMOCD Conf: Call District I to SF. NMOCD Environmental Bureau will contact the appropriate agencies concerning the possible public health issue and take over the clean-up of the old tank battery site since groundwater has been impacted.

Dec 15, 1997: NMOCD notified Residents of Westgate we are in receipt of their petition.

cc: Chris Williams-NMOCD District I Supervisor  
attachments- Complete CC of NMOCD I file & pictures.



Central Region

December 16, 1997

Mr. William Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Subject: Written Notification of Potential Groundwater Impacts, Shell Grimes Lease, Hobbs, New Mexico**

Dear Mr. Olson,

On behalf of Shell E&P Technology Company (SEPTCO) Philip Services Corporation (Philip) respectfully submits this written notification of potential groundwater impacts at the above referenced lease. Verbal notification was provided to the NMOCD on December 5 and 8, 1997.

On December 5, 1997 a four-inch borehole was installed in a former tank battery location. The borehole was drilled to a depth of 65 feet below ground surface (bgs), ten feet below where groundwater was encountered. The groundwater observed on the augers had a hydrocarbon odor and sheen. Since the borehole had been installed in the bottom of an excavation, a decision was made to convert the borehole to a 2-inch temporary well, sample, and subsequently plug the temporary well. Mr. Wayne Price and Mr. Chris Williams of the NMOCD Hobbs office were on-site.

A second monitor well was installed on December 8, 1997. A 4-inch monitor well was drilled to a depth of 75 feet bgs, and groundwater was encountered at a depth of 65 feet bgs. The groundwater had a hydrocarbon odor.

The initial well was completed as a 2-inch temporary monitor well on December 8, 1997. Both wells were developed, and groundwater samples were obtained from each, and submitted for laboratory analysis. Free-phase hydrocarbons were not observed in either well. Analytical results have not been received as of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please call Wayne Hamilton (SEPTCO) at 713 245-7782 or Sharon Hall (Philip) at 915 563-0118.

Sincerely,

**PHILIP SERVICES CORPORATION**

Sharon E. Hall  
Operations Manager

cc: Wayne Hamilton, SEPTCO  
Wayne Price, NMOCD

*Helping Clients Obtain a Competitive Advantage in a Global Market*



Central Region

December 16, 1997

Mr. William Olson  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
2040 S. Pacheco  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Subject: Written Notification of Potential Groundwater Impacts, Shell Grimes Lease,  
Hobbs, New Mexico**

Dear Mr. Olson,

On behalf of Shell E&P Technology Company (SEPTCO) Philip Services Corporation (Philip) respectfully submits this written notification of potential groundwater impacts at the above referenced lease. Verbal notification was provided to the NMOCD on December 5 and 8, 1997.

On December 5, 1997 a four-inch borehole was installed in a former tank battery location. The borehole was drilled to a depth of 65 feet below ground surface (bgs), ten feet below where groundwater was encountered. The groundwater observed on the augers had a hydrocarbon odor and sheen. Since the borehole had been installed in the bottom of an excavation, a decision was made to convert the borehole to a 2-inch temporary well, sample, and subsequently plug the temporary well. Mr. Wayne Price and Mr. Chris Williams of the NMOCD Hobbs office were on-site.

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If you have any questions, please call Wayne Hamilton (SEPTCO) at 713 245-7782 or Sharon Hall (Philip) at 915 563-0118.

Sincerely,

**PHILIP SERVICES CORPORATION**

  
Sharon E. Hall  
Operations Manager

cc: Wayne Hamilton, SEPTCO  
Wayne Price, NMOCD

*Helping Clients Obtain a Competitive Advantage in a Global Market*





NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
DISTRICT 1 Hobbs  
PO BOX 1980  
Hobbs, NM 88241-1981  
(505) 393-6161

Jennifer A. Salisbury  
CABINET SECRETARY

*Wayne*

December 15, 1997

Mr. Jose Jaques  
1620 Cobb  
Hobbs, NM 88240

Dear Mr. Jaques:

We are in receipt of the letter and petition from the residents of Westgate Sub-division. The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) is currently in preliminary investigation and evaluation of the sites near the sub-division. The NMOCD is consulting with division personnel to develop a course of action to be pursued.

At the present time, we do not have enough technical data to come to any conclusions. The specific testing and agencies that need to be alerted will be determined as quickly as possible to establish if and where problems may exist.

If there are any questions please contact myself or Wayne Price-Environmental Engineer NMOCD-Hobbs at (505)-393-6161. We will keep you informed as information becomes available.

Sincerely,

*Chris Williams*

Chris Williams  
District 1 Supervisor

DATE: 12/10/97

To ROGER ANDERSON - NMOCD  
BILL OLSON -

-827-8177

From

WAYNE PRICE - ENVIRONMENTAL ENGR. - NMOCD. DISTRICT I

**Energy & Minerals Department**

Telephone Number 505-393-6161 Fax # 505-393-0720

- For Your Files
- Prepare a Reply for My Signature
- For Your Review and Return
- For Your Information
- For Your Handling
- For Your Approval
- As Per Your Request
- For Your Signature
- Please Advise
- For Your Attention

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SHELL OIL / WESTGATE (HOBBS, NM)

TOTAL # of PAGES INCL COVER 6

## Residents of Westgate

Oil Conservation District  
P. O. Box 1980  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Dear Sir (s):

Over the past 17 years, there has been what many believe to be a high incidence of cancers and immune system diseases over the blocks of Tasker and Cobb which make up the Westgate Addition. Recently, when Mr. Cobb tried to expand the development on Tasker, so much oilfield contamination was found that Shell Oil could not properly clean it up and development stopped. We have heard the rumors that Shell Oil is currently buying back that land from Sam Cobb's son.

We are deeply concerned that this contamination is on our own home sites and is the cause of some serious and potentially debilitating health problems in this area. Many of the original home owners have moved to away due to health problems or deaths in their families. Newer, younger families are moving in and the concern is more acute for the young children being exposed to potentially crippling environmental hazards. Many long term residents want answers to continuing health problems as well.

We respectfully request an environmental survey which will include surveys for the presence of toxic gases/particulates in the air, background radiation, water quality at each home site and soil contaminants inclusive of heavy metals and hydrocarbon saturation. Further, we request a study be conducted by the Health Department so determine if the incidence of cancer and auto-immune diseases in this area exceed what would randomly be found in the general population. We need your help to resolve these issues and insure that we are not exposing our families to health hazards in our environment.

Attached are the signatures of the homeowners within the Westgate Addition requesting this assistance. Thank you for your help in this matter. Please address all replies to this issue to: Mr. Jose Jaques, 1620 Cobb, telephone (505) 397-6078, or Mr. Gerald Ledbetter, 1614 Cobb, telephone (505) 397-2234.

Thank You.  
The Residents of Westgate

Attachments (2):

1. Signatures, Residents of Cobb Dr.
2. Signatures, Residents of Tasker Dr.

ATTACHMENT 1 : SIGNATORIES COBB DR.

PRINTED NAME  
SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

1. Jane Kaytz

1610 Cobb

~~J. Jane Kaytz~~

2. LEONARDO & VICKI TREVINO

1601 Cobb DR.

3. Daniel Bridge

1513 Cobb DR.

4. Laeise Gandy Lewis Gandy

1301 Cobb Dr.

5. David Gutierrez David Gutierrez

1421 Cobb Dr

RAFAEL MENCHACA

6. Rafael Marchaca

1415 N. COBB.

Gerard Ledbetter

7.

1614 North Cobb

Dedra Ledbetter

8. Anders On John

1610 Pines Lane

9. John Brewer

1500 Cobb

~~John Brewer~~

10. ~~Stacy Thompson~~

~~1514 N. Cobb Dr.~~

~~Stacy Thompson~~

11. Robert Mendoza

1514 N. Cobb Dr.

Robert Mendoza

ATTACHMENT 1 : SIGNATORIES COL. DR. (Pg 2)

PRINTED NAME  
SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

12. CHARLES HUTCHINGS  
*Charles Hutchings*

1520 COBB - HOBBS, NM 88240

13. Blanca Quiroga  
*Blanca Quiroga*

1600 Cobb Hobbs NM 8824

14. Dulces Marquez  
*Dulces Marquez*

1607 n Cobb Hbbs NM. 8  
92

15. Alan K Thompson  
*Alan K Thompson*

1617 N Cobb Hobbs

16. Joe Jacques  
*Joe Jacques*

1620 N Cobb

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

ATTACHMENT 2 : SIGNATORIES TASKER

PRINTED NAME  
SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

1. Manuel Velasquez

1605 TASKER

Manuel Velasquez

2. Jeany Velasquez

1605 TASKER

Jeany Velasquez

3. Glenna Chapman

11611 Tasker

4. Pelm Malady

1600, Tasker

5. Lupe Barrera

1592 Tasker

6. Patricia Luna

1527 Tasker

7. Mark C. Hogan

all over

8. Jimmy Lewino

1513 Tasker

9. Harold Banks

1425 TASKER

10. Don R. Sturell

1419 TASKER

11. Aurora Martinez

1418 Tasker

ATTACHMENT 2: SIGNATORIES TABLE (Pg 2)

PRINTED NAME  
SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

12. Elsa Escamilla

1400 N. Tasker

Elsa Escamilla

13. Donna Housby

1415 N. Tasker

14. Rev. Tina Dominguez

1401 Tasker

15. Manuel Dominguez

1401 Tasker

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

# Shell E&P Technology Company

A Division of Shell Exploration & Production Company



Bellaire Technology Center  
P.O. Box 481  
Houston, TX 77001-0481

3737 Bellaire Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77025

December 9, 1997

Mr. Wayne Price  
Environmental Engineer  
State of New Mexico  
Energy and Minerals Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
POB 1980  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

**SUBJECT: HOBBS, NEW MEXICO; TASKER STREET SITE: REMEDIATION  
WORKPLAN**

Dear Mr. Price:

Based on our conversations of December 5 and 9, Shell will modify the Remediation Workplan: Shell E&P Technology Grimes Lease; Hobbs New Mexico, submitted by Philip Services on December 2, 1997.

The new workplan will include site delineation, additional analytical work and a description of site remediation.

Shell will send the modified remediation workplan to you by December 15, 1997.

All the above work is depend upon Shell's land review to determine who is responsible and accountable for the hydrocarbons at the this location.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 713-245-7782.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne A. Hamilton".

Wayne A. Hamilton  
Staff Environmental Engineer

NMOCD INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: File of Altura/Shell Oil Co.  
From: Wayne Price-Environmental Engineer   
Date: December 05, 1997  
Reference: WD Grimes lease tank battery site and Tasker street project.  
Subject: Minutes of meeting and site visit findings.  
Comments:

Wayne Hamilton of Shell E&P Technology Co. (Houston) office requested an on-site meeting concerning the remediation work plans submitted for the above referenced sites.

Personal present: Wayne Hamilton- Shell Donnie Anderson-Altura; Sharon Hall- PSC Environmental consultant; Sam & SG Cobb, Jody Taylor Monument developers; Wayne Price & Chris Williams-NMOCD.

**Tasker Street Location:** Toured Tasker street lot where developer found a dark hard visual layer of unknown substance when excavating the footers and trenches for the new house. This lot is just south of an existing house located at 1331 Tasker Street, located in the west side of Hobbs, NM.

On site discussions included various sampling, testing, and remediation plans. NMOCD District I will evaluate submitted plan by Shell and seek input from the NMOCD Environmental Bureau. Due to the close proximity of nearby residences the NMOCD expressed concerns for public health.

Shell had an old aerial photo and a street overlay of the area and it appears there may also be a possible problem for the residence just north of this site. Shell is planning on notifying the people who live at 1331 Tasker.

The developers expressed their concern concerning the timing of the clean-up and the negative impact to the overall housing project.

**Grimes Tank Battery:**

Shell/PSC drilled a soil boring to determine vertical extent in the old pit area. Preliminary results (elevated PID readings) were found all the way down to the water table (approx. 54'). Shell will complete as a monitor well and sample for WQCC constituents.

Discussions included another possible problem at a nearby residence located at 1341 Cobb St. The NMOCD will contact the owners to see if there is a problem.

Housing developers requested that Altura/Shell maintain better security in the area. There were two nearby E&P locations that the gates were either open or not working.

**Agreements:** Shell to provide copy of aerial photo and street overlay to NMOCD files.;

**Requirements from NMOCD:** Altura will up-grade security in area and provide H2S and other applicable warning signs.

cc: Chris Williams-NMOCD District I Supervisor  
Roger Anderson-Environmental Bureau Chief, Santa Fe, NM  
Wayne Hamilton-Shell  
Sam Cobb-Monument Dev.  
Altura Hobbs office- Gary Bullock, Donnie Anderson  
NMOCD Environmental File.



DATE: 12/17/97 PAGES (including cover): 2

TO: Bill Olson

COMPANY:

FAX #: 505 827-8177 PHONE #:

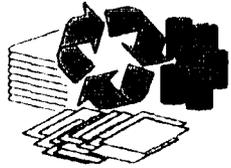
FROM:

SHARON HALL, OPERATIONS MANAGER
7904 INTERSTATE 20 WEST, MIDLAND, TX 79706
TELEPHONE:(915) 563-0118 FAX (915) 563-9526

MESSAGE:

Written notification of possible impacts to groundwater. Hard copy will follow in overnight mail.

Sharon Hall



CONFIDENTIALITY CAUTION

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and contains information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communications is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the address at our cost.



## Roger Anderson

**From:** Williams, Chris  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 1997 8:56 AM  
**To:** William Lemay  
**Cc:** Roger Anderson; Wayne Price  
**Subject:** Pits and other items

Bill, just trying to keep you up to date on a couple of issues that have come up recently.

A.

1) I met with a Shell Oil Co. representative last Wednesday Nov 19th on the clean up and remediation of the old Shell Grimes Battery. Shell is currently working to delineate the vertical extent of the contamination from the the battery site. Horizontal extent appears to be delineated. They are currently working on options to monitor the groundwater since it may have been impacted.

2) Since our meeting with Shell, Sam Cobb a local builder has become involved. Mr. Cobb owns the land where the Grimes Battery and adjacent properties sit. Shell and Mr. Cobb are negotiating on the sites. I believe that Mr. Cobb thinks that the battery clean up has put his housing development at risk. He wants to be able to inform his financiers that the possible contamination has made it impossible to continue and that it is the NMOCD orders that have caused the problem. Wayne and I have told him that how he handles his negotiations with his financiers is up to him. We don't have the authority to tell him to shut down, but we do have the authority to see that the site is remediated.

3. Since that conversation, I believe Mr. Cobb decided to talk to the local newspaper and they have subsequently called the office. Ms. Starla Jones of the Hobbs News Sun contacted me 11/24/97 and ask me about the situation. I told her that we are working with Shell Oil Co. on the site remediation and at this time without testing we are not sure of the type of contamination that exist at the old battery. At that point she asked if I had any complaints about health issues in that area. I told her we have had no formal complaints about health issues and if one were to be made then it would probably have to be handled by NMED since they primarily deal with public health issues. I'm sure this will hit the papers here soon. When it does I will send a copy of the article to Santa Fe.

**HOBBS SUN INQUIRY****GRIMES LEASE**

Shell's environmental engineering group learned of the asphalt-like layer at the construction site west of Hobbs several weeks ago. We visited the location on Tasker Road, took a number of samples of the material and discussed the situation with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. The material is about one inch thick and is buried about one foot below the soil surface.

The asphalt-like substance appears to be oil that was probably spread on the ground under then-normal operating practices about 50 years ago. We analyzed the samples and it is our opinion that they present no threat to human health. We looked for hydrocarbons, salts, metals and radioactive materials and found them all to be below levels believed to be hazardous.

While the layer does not present a health hazard, it does create a nuisance for gardening and other construction. Therefore, Shell will take immediate action to remove the material.

Nov. 25, 1997

▲  
NOV 25 1997  
**Received**  
Hobbs  
OCD

**Meeting Minutes:**  
**November 19th, 1997**  
**Shell Oil Company and State of New Mexico: Oil Conservation Division**  
**Remediation Planning: Grimes Lease**

**Attendees**

Wayne Hamilton, Shell E&P Technology Company  
Donnie Anderson, Altura

Wayne Price, OCD  
Paul Kautz, OCD  
Chris Williams, OCD

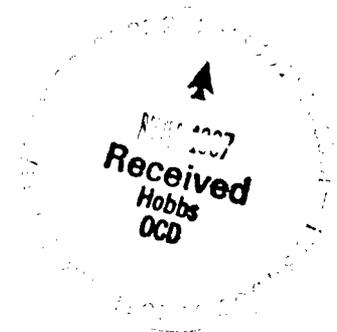
**Subject: Assessment and Remediation Activities: Grimes Lease**

**Meeting Purpose**

Inform and discuss Shell's assessment and remediation proposal with regulatory agency.

**Meeting Action Items**

- 1) Obtain samples of hydrocarbon "hardpan" for analyses of: TPH, BTEX, Metals, Chloride and NORM. Based on chemical analyses Shell will propose remediation plan for OCD review.
  
- 2) Drill a boring next to former tank battery to determine vertical extent of hydrocarbons. Hydrocarbon analyses to include: TPH, BTEX and Chloride. Once chemical analyses are received Shell will propose remediation plan to OCD for review.



## Price, Wayne

**From:** Price, Wayne  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 1997 11:15 AM  
**To:** Chris Williams  
**Cc:** Roger Anderson; Rand Carroll  
**Subject:** Meeting with Altura-Shell

Memorandum of Telephone Conversation:

Date/Time: Nov 17, 1997 9am

**Subject: W.D. Grimes Lease/ Future site of new housing project on Tasker St. west side of Hobbs, NM.**

Shell's Envr. Engr. Mr. Wayne Hamilton has requested to met with NMOCD this Wednesday Nov. 19, 1997 at 10 am MST to discuss their site investigation plans for the above mentioned site. Shell has made a preliminary environmental audit of the area and has determined that the contamination found by the housing project developers might be related to an old Shell lease. Shell is concerned about both possible groundwater contamination and future public health issues for people living in the area.

Altura/Shell also wants to discuss closure of the nearby old tank battery site in which they already submitted a site investigation and work plan to NMOCD.



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
DISTRICT I HOBBS  
PO BOX 1980, Hobbs, NM 88241  
(505) 393-6161  
FAX (505) 393-0720

Jennifer A. Salisbury  
CABINET SECRETARY

NMOCD INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: File of Altura Energy LTD  
From: Wayne Price-Environmental Engineer *Wayne Price*  
Date: November 3, 1997 10:40am  
Reference: Memorandum of telephone conversation.  
Donnie Anderson-Altura to W. Price-NMOCD  
Subject: W.D. Grimes lease.

Comments:

Mr. Anderson gave NMOCD progress report on above lease. They are waiting on Shell's environmental representative, Mr. Wayne Hamilton to tour site on Nov. 19, 1997. They will then make a determination as to how to check vertical extent and to properly close site.

I advised Mr. Anderson that the land owner (Mr. Sam Cobb) had made an inquiry concerning closure of the above referenced site and about some contamination they have found during excavating trenches and footers for their new housing project in this area on Tasker St. They were concerned about the large hole at the old tank battery and public access to the site. They indicated the fence was down.

I recommended to Mr. Anderson to ensure that the site was properly isolated and signs were installed to protect & inform the public. I also requested Mr. Anderson to call Mr. Cobb (393-1490) to coordinate Altura's clean-up with Mr. Cobb's new housing project. Mr. Anderson indicated he will call and meet them at the site.

cc: Chris Williams-NMOCD District I Supervisor  
Sam Cobb- Monument Development  
801 N. Grimes  
Hobbs, NM 88240  
tele; 505-393-1490; fax 505-393-9576 \*51

Donnie Anderson- Altura Energy LTD  
1017 W. Stanolind RD  
Hobbs, NM 88240  
tele; 397-8205; mobile 390-9299

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State of New Mexico

**ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

---

2040 South Pacheco

P.O. Box 6429

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-5472

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291245

**NMOCID: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #10  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WD Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts18s-R38e.  
Subject: looking NE-Contaminated soil  
pile. Bkgd shows houses on Cobb ST.**

**ON OLD PIT?**



291245

**NMOCB: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #4  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WD Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts18s-R38e.  
Subject: Looking East-Bkgd shows  
house on old pit 1331 Tasker St.**



291245

NMOCID: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #5  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WD Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts18s-R38e.  
Subject: Looking East



291245

NMDCD: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #6  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell W/D Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts18s-R38e.  
Subject: Looking NE-BKgd shows  
house on 1341 Cobb St.



291245

NMOCID: ID#, 291245 By: W Price #2  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WD Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts10s-R38e.  
Subject: Standing south of Batt.  
looking NW.



291245

**NMOCID: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #7  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WD Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts18s-R38e.  
Subject: looking North**

**EMER PIT**



LOOKING SE (TASHER SE)  
BACKGROUND

291295

NMOCID: ID#, 291245 By: W Price #12  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WJ Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts18s-R38e.  
Subject: Excavated area looking SE  
area where Old Emer. Pit located

Altura ENERGY LTD.  
NORTH HOBBS (G/SA) UNIT  
NO: 28-242  
UNIT N SEC. 28-T18S-R38E  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

12  
ACR  
IC

29/245

HMOCID: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #1  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WD Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts10s-R30e.  
Subject: Location sign just SE of  
Old Battery location.



291245

NMOCID: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #3  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WJ Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts10s-R30e.  
Subject: Looking NE- house in back-  
ground is 1341 Cobb St.



291245

NMOC: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #8  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WD Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts18s-R38e.  
Subject: looking NW-Contractor, bkgd  
shows diluted soil pile.



291245

NMOCD: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #9  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WD Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts18s-R38e.  
Subject: looking NW-Contractor, bkgd  
shows diluted soil pile.



291245

**NMDCD: ID#. 291245 By: W Price #11  
Date/Time: Sept. 17, 1997 11am  
Site/Co. Altura-Shell WD Grimes Lse.  
Location: UL N-Sec 28-Ts18s-R38e.  
Subject: Excavated area looking East  
new houses to be built in bkgd.**