



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**GARY E. JOHNSON**  
Governor  
**Betty Rivera**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Lori Wrotenbery**  
Director  
Oil Conservation Division

1 April 2002

**Via Certified Mail**

George A. Chase Jr.  
P.O. Box 1618  
Artesia, New Mexico 88211

**RE: NOTICE OF VIOLATION: NMOCD Rule 201**  
George A. Chase Jr.  
Superior Federal # 1 F-20-16-31 API# 30-015-10751

Dear Sirs:

**This letter shall serve as a Notice of Violation of the rules of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.**

You were notified of this matter by letters dated 10-29-2001, 1-30-2002, and 2-15-2002. It was also discussed in telephone conversations with you on 1-3-2002 and 3-11-2002. During the phone conversation on 3-11-2002 you requested an extension of the deadline for compliance, which extension was granted. The new deadline was set as 3-29-2002. This certified letter is being sent in part because all of the foregoing directives have brought no response.

Rule 201 of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division provides as follows:

**201 WELLS TO BE PROPERLY ABANDONED**

201.A. The operator of any well drilled for oil, gas or injection; for seismic, core or other exploration, or for a service well, whether cased or uncased, shall be responsible for the plugging thereof. [7-12-90...2-1-96]  
201.B. A well shall be either properly plugged and abandoned or temporarily abandoned in accordance with these rules within ninety (90) days after:

- (1) A sixty (60) day period following suspension of drilling operations, or
- (2) A determination that a well is no longer usable for beneficial purposes, or
- (3) A period of one (1) year in which a well has been continuously inactive.

Your above referenced well has remained inactive for a considerably longer time than allowed under this Rule. Your failure to respond to OCD directives and failure to bring this well into compliance is a serious violation of the Rules and merit a severe sanction, up to and including abandonment and plugging.

**In the event that a satisfactory response is not received to this letter of direction by 25 April, 2002,** further enforcement will occur. Such enforcement may include this office applying to the Division for an order summoning you to a hearing before a Division Examiner in Santa Fe to show cause why you should not be ordered to permanently plug and abandon this well. Such a hearing may result in imposition of **CIVIL PENALTIES** for your violation of OCD rules.

Respectfully yours,

Tim Gum, District Supervisor, District II  
cc: OCD Legal