



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

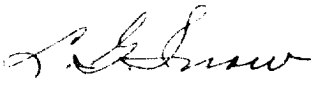
P. O. Box 997
Roswell, New Mexico,
March 6, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for Mr. J. A. Frost, Artesia.

Reference is made to notice of intention to change plans submitted in connection with Martin Yates III, et al well No. 2, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 30, T. 20 S., R. 29 E., L. C. 029012 approved by you March 1, 1945.

I cannot concur with you in approving a completion of this type, as what it amounts to is a gas well completed with only one string of pipe and that not cemented. I presume it is not much of a well but at the same time it certainly is not in accord with good operating practice to accept a well in this condition and if the 8-inch pipe has not been pulled I suggest that you advise the operator to leave this string in the hole, and if 8 and 10-inch are already pulled some reconditioning should be done particularly if there is water above the salt, also there is no control if gas should blow out around 7-inch.

Since our discussion Saturday in connection with casing programs in this general area I have gone over the matter with Mr. Barnett and it was not his understanding that both short strings would be pulled. In checking back I note that in a number of cases in the past a string of casing was cemented on top of the salt indicating that this can be done and unless additional information is furnished me to the contrary it is my opinion that we should go back to the old program of requiring that a string be cemented near the top of the salt; at least a string of pipe should be cemented below all water encountered above the salt and a dry hole test taken after reaching the salt. After talking to Barnett I question that the difficulties encountered by caving are as bad as indicated by some of the operators, which is further demonstrated by the fact that some of the strings supposed to be frozen have been pulled, and as operators in the past have been able to cement pipe above the salt I am convinced that we should continue this practice in order to insure proper protection of the salt. I certainly missed the information on some of the logs that the upper strings were being pulled and you are requested not to approve any more notices until a satisfactory casing plan has been worked out, and if you do not agree with my proposal for cementing a string near the top of the salt please prepare an alternative and submit for approval. It is probably a good idea to discuss the matter with the operators but at the same time it is up to us to protect the salt regardless of what the operators think about it, and I am inclined to require that a string of pipe be cemented at least below the last water above the salt. Possibly we can allow them to dump the cement, forcing it around with the tools or use a cement plug. At any rate I do not feel that we can depend upon a formation shut-off or that we can be sure that a satisfactory cement job has been obtained above the salt in cementing the oil string.


L. G. SNOW,
Supervisor.