



IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO:

OFFICE OF  
**STATE GEOLOGIST**

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

**E. H. Wells**  
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STATE GEOLOGIST

April 26, 1932

Mr. J. D. Hunter,  
State Oil & Gas Inspector,  
Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Hunter:

This morning I discussed with Mr. J. F. Hinkle, State Land Commissioner the possible plugging of the Pioneer Well in Sec. 36, T. 20 S., R. 30 E.

Commissioner Hinkle agrees with me that this well should be plugged, if necessary at the expense of the Land Office, but it is our desire that any cost to the State be kept at as small an amount as possible.

Commissioner Hinkle is of the opinion that the casing can be used to defray the cost of plugging. You are requested to investigate the possibilities of doing the work on this basis. Possibly a contractor can be located, who will be willing to plug the well, following the program that you may outline, for the casing. Possibly a contract can be drawn up along these lines providing that the contractor assumes all the risk of salvaging the casing while guaranteeing to do a proper and complete plugging job.

I have a very hazy idea as to the probable value of the casing after salvaging and how this value will compare with the actual cost of a complete plugging job. Will you kindly give me some information in this connection?

If it is impossible to find a contractor willing to do the plugging on the above basis, both Commissioner Hinkle and I would be in favor of plugging only the part of the well below the inside string of casing, but of course this should be done in a manner which will adequately protect the potash bearing formations. It is my recollection that Mr. Steele thought this could be done for in the neighborhood of \$300.00. Please let me know what can be done in line with the above and your own recommendation in the matter.

Very truly yours,

E. H. Wells,  
State Geologist

EHW:AP  
cc: J. F. Hinkle