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O. C. C.
ARTESIA, OFFICE

October 31, 1979

U.S.G.S.
P. O. Drawer U
Artesia, New Mexico 88210

RE: Report of Undesirable Event at Nash Unit #7, Eddy County, New Mexico

1. The following report is submitted in accordance with NTL-3A concerning the death of Dennis Wayne Ables, an employee of Warton Drilling Company.
 - A. The fatality occurred between the hours of 0200 and 0400 on October 22, 1979. Notice was given to Charlie Flaherty of the U.S.G.S. (Artesia) at 0925 the same day.
 - B. The fatality occurred adjacent to the fuel storage area for Warton Drilling Company's Rig #3 on the working pad of Mesa Petroleum Co's Nash Unit #7 well, Lease No. NM-19246, located 685' FNL and 1295' FWL, Sec 18, T23S, R30E, Eddy County, New Mexico, seven miles east-southeast of the intersection of State Roads #128 and #31 (location is approximately 10 miles east of Loving, New Mexico).
 - C. Dennis Wayne Ables, a motorman for Warton Drilling Company, apparently was filling his personal butane tank located on the rear of his pickup truck when he was overcome by fumes and subsequently frozen to death by the vapors which filled the camper shell where he was found. His father, Clarence Eugene Ables, discovered the body at approximately 0400 on October 22, 1979 and suffered freeze burns on his hands and arms when he turned off the valves and tried to remove his son.
 - D. Dennis Wayne Ables was pronounced dead on the scene by the Medical Examiner Marilyn Sullivan at 0600 on October 22, 1979.
 - E. The butane was secured at approximately 0400 hours after flowing for approximately two hours. No cleanup action was necessary.