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**NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

CONSERVATION DIVISION
DISTRICT II ARTESIA
811 S. FIRST ST. ARTESIA, NM 88210
(505) 748-1283
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Jennifer A. Salisbury
CABINET SECRETARY

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October 21, 1999

U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, NM 88221-3090

Attn: Beth Bennington-Environmental Program Manager
& Harold Johnson

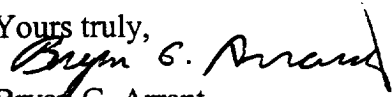
***Re: Bass Enterprises Production Company's Application to Drill the James Ranch
Unit # 31, located in Unit G of Section 36, Township 22 South, Range 30
East in Eddy County, New Mexico, NMPM.***

Dear Ms. Bennington and Mr. Johnson,

An application to drill for the above referenced well is enclosed for your review. The James Ranch well lies within 1 mile of the WIPP withdraw area. Per terms of the Joint Powers Agreement between the Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, the DOE and other agencies, this application is provided so that you may have the opportunity to develop and submit any comments thereon.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions about this matter or if I can provide any further additional information.

Yours truly,


Bryan G. Arrant
District II Geologist

Encl.

Cc:

New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Chris Wentz-
Coordinator of the N.M. Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force
New Mexico State Land Office Oil & Minerals Division, Joe Mraz-Geologist
U.S. Department of Energy, Doug Lynn-Land Use Coordinator
Bass Enterprises Production Company, W.R. Dannels-Drilling Superintendent.

CCD COPY