

March 24, 2000

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

Attn: Beth Bennington-Environmental Program Manager
& Harold Johnson

Re: 1) Bass Enterprises Production Company's Application to Drill the James Ranch Unit # 34, located in Unit P of Section 36, Township 22 South, Range 30 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.

2) Bass Enterprises Production Company's Application to Drill the James Ranch Unit # 66, located in Unit M of Section 36, Township 22 South, Range 30 East, Eddy County, New Mexico.

Dear Ms. Bennington and Mr. Johnson,

The applications to drill for the above referenced wells are enclosed for your review. The James Ranch Unit wells 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, these application are 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, Bill Mackey -
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, Bill Dannels-Drilling Superintendent.