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PATRICK H. LYONS
COMMISSIONER

State of New Mexico
Commissioner of Public Lands

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SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-1148

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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September 4, 2008

Mr. Glenn von Gonten
Senior Hydrologist
Environmental Bureau
Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: New Mexico Salt Water Disposal Company Station #11

Dear Mr. von Gonten:

Commissioner Lyons has received an inquiry on the Phase I Site assessment for the above-captioned disposal well. The Land Office's oil and gas lease position in the Permian Basin is significant and disposal facilities are critical to oil and gas operations.

It is my understanding that there have been delays in the permitting process due to staffing shortages but that the Oil Conservation Division has recently hired a hydrologist who can focus on applications such as this one. We all understand the staffing issue in state government and are encouraged that the OCD has made this recent hire so that the backlog can be considered. The applicant cannot move forward until its permit is granted so the ongoing review is critical. Any expedited consideration that can be given to the back-log will go a long way toward resolving the matter.

If you have any questions about this letter please contact me at 827-4489.

Very truly yours,

John H. Bemis

John H. Bemis
Assistant Commissioner for Oil, Gas and Minerals

cc: Mr. Charles B. Read

*Called 10/3/08
w/ Price JP*

-State Land Office Beneficiaries -

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