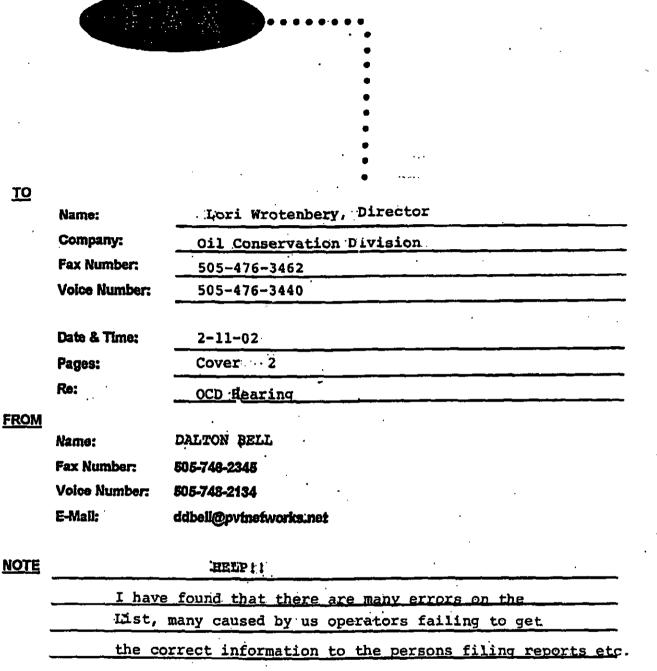
<u>TO</u>



DALTON BELL



ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO .88210 811 BULLOCK AVE, '505-748-2134' FAX 505-746-2345

Feb. 8,2001

ATTN LORI WROTENBER,

New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept. Santa Fe, NM, Attn: Betty Rivera, Secretary

Let Me congratulate on your appointment as Secretary of the Department of Energy. To us in this area it is probably the most important Department in the State.

I am a very small producer in S.E. New Mexico but I feel compelled ask for help on the matter of the hearing set for Feb. 22 in Santa Fe concerning the many wells that are out of compliance with the rules of the Oil Conservation Division, which incedentaly are very necessary.

The reason that I feel qualified to ask for a postponement of this Hearing, or at least to have it held in owr area, is the fact that I am dealing daily with Stripper Production. Strippers, as you know do not produce much each but overall are a respectable percentage of the gross production in the whole Nation.

In the last few years I have purchased a number of this type Wells. At one time I was involved with approximately 35 Wells which were not in compliance. Now that number is down to 12 and if allowed to proceed I will have them all either plugged or producing.

If I have to go to Santa Fe, hirs a lawyer and waste this much Money and time will it serve any purpose that I am not already working on? I can make the inecassary repairs to at least ones Well if allowed to do so instead of this trip.

If you impose fines against us some of us will have to declare Bankruptcy. Then what will the State do with these Wells? They still have to be plugged at accost to the State. Would it not be better to help us accomplish this at our expense?

I am enclosing a copy of some actual run statements which are of similar dates and on the same Lease and the same purchaser. for a three year span. I believe you can understand why we may be in the situation we are. Just imagine that your salary was cut by 75%, then run back up, then cut by 50%. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Dalton_Bell_

C. Various persons