

# EXHIBIT 8

## MERRION

OIL & GAS

NMOCD Examiner Hearing  
April 16, 1998  
Docket No. 10-98  
Case No. 11963  
Exhibit #8

March 13, 1998

To: Working Interest Owners

Re: **Vine Com #1 Pictured Cliffs Well**  
**NW/4 Section 15, T29N, R13W**  
**San Juan County, New Mexico**

You have been identified as owning a working interest as to the Pictured Cliffs Formation in a small tract of land in the NW/4 of Section 15, T29N, R13W located within the City of Farmington. Merrion Oil & Gas Corp. (Merrion) desires to pool all the interests in the NW/4 of Section 15 and drill a Pictured Cliffs well on 160 acre spacing. We plan to drill the well on a tract of land which would be purchased from the City. However, even though we won't be drilling directly on your lease, your lease makes up a small portion of the 160 acre proration unit. Because you own a working interest in that lease, you have rights to a small interest in the well. This letter outlines your options in regard to the proposed well and how your interest can be handled.

- 1.) You could sell your working interest to Merrion for \$400 per percent (assumes 87.5% NRI).
- 2.) You could join us in the drilling of the well. To that end, enclosed are:
  - a.) An AFE (Authority For Expenditure) showing your ownership in the well and your estimated share of the drilling costs;
  - b.) An Operating Agreement outlining the terms and conditions under which Merrion proposes to drill and operate the well;
- 3.) Merrion could "force pool" your interests in the well. Merrion would temporarily "own" your working interest in the well until we recovered our costs plus a penalty, upon which time your working interest in the well would revert to you. Enclosed in that regard is an Application Merrion sent to the State of New Mexico requesting a force pooling hearing.

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If you wish to sell, please call me at (505) 327-9801, ext. 102. If you wish to join us in drilling the well, please sign and return the AFE and the Operating Agreement signature sheet. If you fail to choose one of the other options, then you will be force pooled by default.

We apologize for the barrage of paperwork, but due to the large number of small mineral owners, we are trying to expedite the process. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the well or about any of the choices presented to you.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crystal Williams". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Crystal Williams  
Landman