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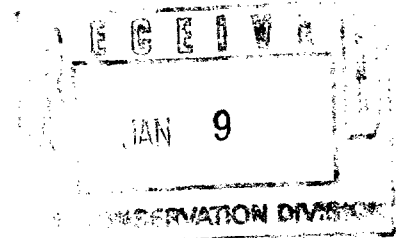
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January 9, 2001

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Lori Wrotenbery, Director  
Oil Conservation Division  
New Mexico Department of Energy,  
Minerals and Natural Resources  
2040 South Pacheco Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

DC



**Re: New Mexico Oil Conservation Division Case No. 12574; Application of Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C. for Compulsory Pooling for Grama Ridge 23 State Com Well #1, Section 23, T21S, R34E, Lea County, New Mexico.**

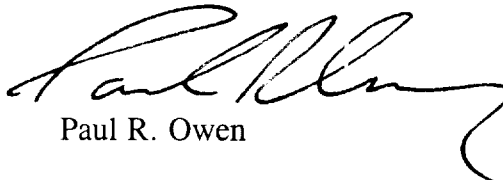
Dear Ms. Wrotenbery,

Nearburg Exploration Company, L.L.C., applicant in the above-referenced case, hereby requests that the hearing in this matter, currently scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2001, be continued until the next regularly-scheduled hearing of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, on January 25, 2001.

The above-referenced case seeks the compulsory pooling of acreage in Section 23, Township 21 South, Range 34 East, Lea County, New Mexico. Also currently to be heard by the Division on the January 11, 2001, docket, is Case No. 12565, the Application of BTA Oil Producers for Compulsory Pooling, Lea County, New Mexico. That case concerns the same acreage which is the subject of Nearburg's case. We understand that BTA will be seeking a two-week continuance of Case No. 12565 as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Paul R. Owen

cc: Duke Roush  
Scott Hall, Esq.