



*File Case  
2208*

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE ENGINEER OFFICE

SANTA FE

S. E. REYNOLDS  
STATE ENGINEER

February 10, 1961

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P. O. BOX 1079  
SANTA FE, N. M.

Mr. A. L. Porter, Jr.  
Secretary-Director  
Oil Conservation Commission  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Porter:

Reference is made to the application of Great Western Drilling Company submitted under date of February 3, 1961 to the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission seeking permission to dispose of produced salt water from the Great Western Drilling Company Federal MM #1 well located in Section 8, Township 9 South, Range 37 East in Lea County, New Mexico.

At my request, Mr. Hampton has submitted a copy of the schematic diagram which accompanied his application to you. I have consulted, at some length, with our geologists and hydrologists with reference to the proposed method of disposing of this water and we have reached the conclusion that the single wall of the 7 5/8" casing which will be the only protection afforded the Santa Rosa formation is inadequate and recommend that the Commission deny this application, unless adequate protection is provided for the Santa Rosa formation.

I am sure you are aware that the Santa Rosa formation is a fresh water bearing formation in several different localities and that any brines which might escape into this formation, even though it be barren at that specific point, could migrate to the areas where the fresh water exists and thereby cause contamination. It is still our position, as it has been in the past, that disposal should be into a zone of permian age, or older, and that all zones above the permian should be adequately protected.

Very truly yours,

S. E. Reynolds  
State Engineer

FEI/ma

cc-F. H. Hennighausen  
Great Western Drilling Co.  
Attn. John T. Hampton

By:

*Frank E. Irby*  
Frank E. Irby

Chief  
Water Rights Division