

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING
CALLED BY THE OIL CONSERVATION
COMMISSION OF NEW MEXICO FOR
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 5406
Order No. R-4986

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY THE
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION ON ITS OWN MOTION
TO PERMIT OIL EXPLORATION, INC., GENERAL CASUALTY
COMPANY OF AMERICA AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES
TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY THE IRWIN WELL NO. 1,
LOCATED IN UNIT D OF SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH,
RANGE 36 EAST, UNION COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AND THE
IRWIN "A" WELL LOCATED IN UNIT D OF SECTION 29,
TOWNSHIP 21 NORTH, RANGE 36 EAST, UNION COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO, SHOULD NOT BE PLUGGED AND ABANDONED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH A COMMISSION-APPROVED PLUGGING
PROGRAM.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

This cause came on for hearing at 9 a.m. on February 5,
1975, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, before Examiner Richard L.
Stamets.

NOW, on this 25th day of March, 1975, the Commission,
a quorum being present, having considered the testimony, the
record, and the recommendations of the Examiner, and being
fully advised in the premises,

FINDS:

(1) That due public notice having been given as required
by law, the Commission has jurisdiction of this cause and the
subject matter thereof.

(2) That Oil Exploration, Inc., is the owner and operator
of the Irwin Well No. 1 and Irwin "A" Well, both located in
Unit D of Section 29, Township 21 North, Range 36 East, NMPM,
Union County, New Mexico.

(3) That both of said wells were drilled and abandoned
prior to 1960.

(4) That the Commission records of said wells do not
demonstrate that they were plugged and abandoned in such a
manner as to confine any oil, gas, or water in said wells
in the strata in which they were originally found.

Ex. A

(5) That the owner of the lands upon which the subject wells were drilled contends that said wells were properly plugged and abandoned, and that no further plugging operations are necessary.

(6) That the surface around said wells has been restored and that there is now no surface indication of the location or condition of said wells.

(7) That in order to prevent waste and protect fresh waters said Irwin Well No. 1 and Irwin "A" Well should be plugged and abandoned in accordance with a program approved by the Santa Fe District Office of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission on or before June 15, 1975, or any interested party should furnish proof that said wells have been properly plugged and abandoned.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

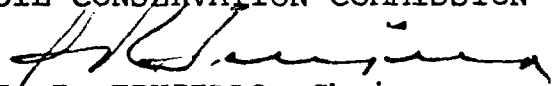
(1) That Oil Exploration, Inc. and General Casualty Company of America are hereby ordered to plug and abandon the Irwin Well No. 1 and Irwin "A" Well, both located in Unit D of Section 29, Township 21 North, Range 36 East, NMPM, Union County, New Mexico, on or before June 15, 1975, provided however, that the Secretary-Director of the Commission may rescind this order upon a satisfactory showing of proof that said wells have been adequately plugged.

(2) That Oil Exploration, Inc. and General Casualty Company of America, prior to plugging and abandoning the above-described wells, shall obtain from the Santa Fe Office of the Commission, a Commission-approved program for said plugging and abandoning, and shall notify said Santa Fe Office of the date and hour said work is to be commenced whereupon the Commission may, at its option, witness such work.


(3) That jurisdiction of this cause is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the day and year hereinabove designated.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION


I. R. TRUJILLO, Chairman


PHIL R. LUCERO, Member


A. L. PORTER, Jr., Member & Secretary

S E A L

dr/



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

JERRY APODACA
GOVERNOR

NICK FRANKLIN
SECRETARY

August 18, 1978

POST OFFICE BOX 2088
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
(505) 827-2434

Tramperos Livestock Corp.
1601 N. Prince Street
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

Re: Order No. R-4986
Irwin Well No. 1 and Irwin "A"
Well No. 1, Unit D, Sec. 29,
T-21-N, R-36-E, Union County

Gentlemen:

The above-referenced wells were drilled by Oil Exploration, Inc., in 1955 and 1956, and were never properly plugged. Until they are, there is the possibility that fresh waters will be contaminated and that gas or fluids will migrate to other strata or to the surface. The Division has attempted to locate this company with no success.

I am therefore considering hiring a contractor at the State's expense to plug these wells. If this is acceptable to you, I would appreciate written permission to enter your property for this purpose. Or, if you have already performed the work yourself, I would appreciate having a detailed account of the plugging program you followed.

As you may be aware, in March of 1975 the Oil Conservation Commission issued its Order No. R-4986 requiring these wells to be plugged on or before June 15, 1975, unless satisfactory proof was submitted that the wells were adequately plugged. Such proof has not been offered by either the operator or yourselves. A considerable period of time has elapsed, and I'm sure you are as anxious as we are to have the matter resolved.

I hope to hear from you as soon as is convenient.

Very truly yours,

(Ms.) LYNN TESCHENDORF
General Counsel

LT/dr

cc: Carl Ulvog

Ex. B



LARIAT

REALTY, Inc.

Ray Ballard, Qualifying Broker

Jim Irwin
BROKER

Farm and Ranch Properties
Financial Consultants
Ranch Management

Office: 505 769-1957
Branch: 505 762-3701

August 22, 1978

Lynn Teschendorf, General Counsel
Energy and Minerals Department
Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501

AUG 28 1978

Dear Ms. Teschendorf,

Referring to your letter addressed to Tramperos Livestock Corporation dated August 18, 1978, in which you refer to Irwin Well No. #1 and Irwin "A" Well No. #1, Unit D, Sec. 29, T-21-N, R-36-E, Union County. The statement that you make that these wells were never properly plugged arouses my curiosity.

May I please be advised by a detailed account, of the kind of plugging program which would be considered proper for these wells?

You mention also that an order was issued by Oil Conservation Commission requiring satisfactory proof to be submitted that the wells were adequately plugged, please explain what you consider satisfactory proof.

Please be assured Ms. Teschendorf, that I have every intention and desire to co-operate with you in this matter and bring it to a desirable conclusion.. Also, please be advised that in my best judgement the wells were capped in a proper manner and are safe and there is no existing danger that the fresh waters would be contaminated in any way from and by these wells. I will gladly furnish you any documentation that I might be able to scare up if you will explain to me what is needed.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Irwin
Jim Irwin

cc
pr/JI



1601 N. PRINCE

CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101

Ex. C



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

JERRY APODACA
GOVERNOR

NICK FRANKLIN
SECRETARY

August 25, 1978

POST OFFICE BOX 2088
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
(505) 827-2434

Mr. Jim Irwin
Lariat Realty, Inc.
1601 N. Prince
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Irwin:

.Thank you for your prompt response to my letter.
I appreciate your offer to furnish any documentation
you have relating to the plugging of these wells,
and would like to have the following information:
any materials pulled from the wells, and the depth
and length of any cement plugs set. Can you tell
me where the fresh water zones were in these wells?

Very truly yours,

(Ms.) LYNN TESCHENDORF
General Counsel

LT/dr

cc: Carl Ulvog

Ex. D



LARIAT

REALTY, Inc.

Ray Ballard, Qualifying Broker

Jim Irwin
BROKER

Farm and Ranch Properties
Financial Consultants
Ranch Management

Office: 505 769-1957
Branch: 505 762-3701

August 30, 1978

Lynn Teschendorf, General Counsel
Energy and Minerals Department
Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501

Dear Ms. Teschendorf,

The documentation that you state in your reply to me of August 25, 1978, that you would like to have can be quoted from me only by memory.

As I remember and I was present when these wells were drilled and was present when these wells were capped, all of the fresh water was cemented off at a depth of approximately 800 feet when these wells were drilled. Subsequent to that, the wells were finally bottomed out at about 8,000 feet. My remembrance is that there was considerable amount of cement pumped into the well in the depth zone of about 6,000 feet and then drilled through. There were numerous samples of material extracted from the well but all of the logs and all of the analysis of this material was never made available to me and was kept in the hands and the files of the oil exploration company.

The fresh water zone that you refer to in these wells would be from a depth of about 125 feet to a maximum of about 600 feet. When these wells were abandoned, they were fixed in the following manner; I believe some ten feet below the surface the casing was cut off and a steel cap welded on top of the casings to these wells, then a cap of cement was poured over this in the depth of one or two feet, then the surface was recovered. My belief at this time, is that it would be next to impossible to find the exact location of these wells except from memory or from an exact map which I have no record of. At the time that these wells were capped, I was satisfied in my mind as were other officials present, that the capping was done in an official manner and in a safe manner and there, in my opinion, at this time, is no risk to the pollution of any fresh water from these wells.



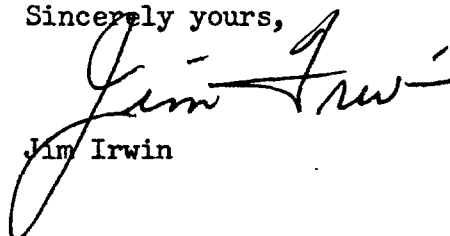
1601 N. PRINCE

CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101

Ex. E

My hope is that the above information will be useful to you in your efforts to finalize your files concerning these wells. If in the future I may be of any further help, please feel free to solicit.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Irwin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "Jim Irwin".

Jim Irwin

cc
pr/JI



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

JERRY APODACA
GOVERNOR

NICK FRANKLIN
SECRETARY

September 6, 1978

POST OFFICE BOX 2088
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILD
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87
(505) 827-2434

Mr. Jim Irwin
Lariat Realty, Inc.
1601 N. Prince
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

Dear Mr. Irwin:

We are unable to close our files on the basis of the information you were able to give us. We appreciate your efforts in detailing what was done to "cap" the wells, but in the interests of conservation and the protection of fresh waters, the wells should have been plugged as follows:

1. Irwin Well No. 1:

100 foot cement plug at total depth;
100 " " " from 775' to 675';
100 " " " " 475' to 375';
10 sack plug at the surface with a marker.

2. Irwin "A" Well No. 1:

100 foot cement plug at total depth;
100 " " " from 7250' to 7150';
100 " " " " 7000' to 6900';
100 " " " " 1400' to 1300';
100 " " " " 200' to 100';
10 Sack plug at the surface with a marker.

We will therefore have to hire a contractor to perform this work, and would appreciate any direction you could give us as to the location of these wells. We would also appreciate having the permission of Tramperos Livestock Corporation to enter its property for this purpose.

Very truly yours,

LYNN TESCHENDORF
General Counsel

LT/dr
cc: Carl Ulvog

Ex. F



LARIAT

REALTY, Inc.

Ray Ballard, Qualifying Broker

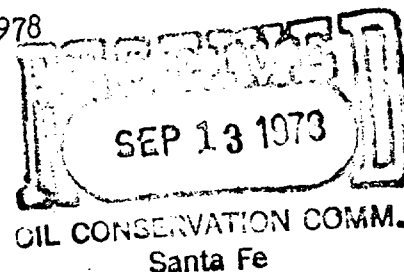
Jim Irwin
BROKER

Farm and Ranch Properties
Financial Consultants
Ranch Management

Office: 505 769-1957
Branch: 505 762-3701

September 12, 1978

Ms. Lynn Teschendorf, General Counsel
Energy and Minerals Department
Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501



Dear Ms. Teschendorf,

In response to your latest communication September 6, 1978, apparently you have information available to you relating to the logs of the well which I do not have in my possession at this time. You outline the method in which the wells should have been plugged and I'm going to say from my remembrance that probably this procedure was followed relatively closely at the time of abandoning the wells. You realize of course that I have no way of knowing whether or not this information would be accurate.

Because of financial difficulties involved with Tramperos Livestock, Inc. I am not at this time in possession of that property. Negotiations are now on going which more than likely will return the possession of that property to me within the near future, in the event that this happens I shall be most happy to co-operate with you in any undertaking which you may desire. In the event possession of the property is not restored to me then if you must hire a contractor to perform the work as outlined quite possibly I can be instrumental in helping you to acquire such a contractor. The idea even crosses my mind that I might become a contractor under your direction. In any event I shall be glad to maintain communication with you and help in any manner which I may.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Irwin

cc
pr/JI



1601 N. PRINCE

CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101

Ex. G



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

JERRY APODACA
GOVERNOR

NICK FRANKLIN
SECRETARY

September 14, 1978

POST OFFICE BOX 2088
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
(505) 827-2434

Ms. Lora Lee Irwin, President
Tramperos Livestock Corp.
Grenville, New Mexico 88424

Re: Irwin Well No. 1 and Irwin "A"
Well No. 1, Unit D, Sec. 29,
T-21-N, R-36-E, Union County

Dear Ms. Irwin:

According to the records of the tax assessor in Union County, the property upon which the above-referenced wells are located belongs to Tramperos Livestock Corporation. I have asked permission of Mr. Jim Irwin of Clovis to enter the property for the purpose of plugging these old wells, but he has told me that he is not in possession of it at this time. Since you are the president of the company, perhaps you are in a position to give me permission, or could at least give me the name and address of someone who can. The wells will be plugged at the State's expense, so there will be no effect on your company at all.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

(Ms.) LYNN TESCHENDORF
General Counsel

LT/dr

Ex. H



LARIAT

REALTY, Inc.

Ray Ballard, Qualifying Broker

Jim Irwin
BROKER

SEP 25 1978

Farm and Ranch Properties
Financial Consultants
Ranch Management

Santa Fe

Office: 505 769-1957
Branch: 505 762-3701

September 22, 1978

Lynn Teschendorf, General Counsel
State of New Mexico Energy and Minerals Department
Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088
State Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501

Dear Ms. Teschendorf,

Of any virtues you might possess persistence and perseverance has to be number #1 as reflected by the latest communication from you to Tramperos Livestock, Inc., addressed to Lora Lee Irwin, President, Grenville, New Mexico. Ms. Teschendorf, in my last letter to you I thought I exhibited a sufficient amount of courtesy to at least have gained a response from you. Instead you took the liberty of "going around me" instead of responding directly to me.

In my confused state of understanding of your exact purposes I am inclined to withdraw my offer of co-operation with your office. As much as you have offered no compensation to me whatever, I herewith respectfully deny my permission for you to enter any lands owned by Tramperos Livestock Corporation.

Very truly yours,

Jim Irwin
Jim Irwin

cc
pr/JI



1601 N. PRINCE

CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO 88101

Ex. I