



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Guadalupe  
Ranger District

Federal Building, Room 159  
Carlsbad, NM 88220  
(505) 885-4181

File Code: 2820

Date: January 5, 2000

Bonita L. Limpus Jones  
J. O. Easley, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2691 882202-2601  
Sunwest Center  
Roswell, NM 88201



Ms. Bonita L. Limpus Jones,

This letter is in response to your two Sundry Notices dated December 12, 1999 and December 22, 1999.

**December 12, 1999 Sundry Notice:**

As discussed during the field meeting of December 10, 1999, the Forest Service is concerned over the close proximity of the drill hole to Forest Service Road #522. During the field trip, it was observed that an alternative drill hole had been surveyed and located approximately 40 feet north of the original drill site.

On December 15, 1999, J.R. Hogwood of the Bureau of Land Management and Richard L. Carlson of my staff did a site review of Indian Creek Federal #1. After evaluating the site, they proposed that the drill hole be moved further north of the original drill site. They moved the drill hole flags some 135 feet north of the original drill site.

On December 17, 1999, Bill Sweatt and Archie Tidwell of Sweatt Construction met with Richard L. Carlson of my staff at the Indian Creek Federal #1 site. In response to our concern over the drill hole location to Forest Service Road #522, Mr. Sweatt relocated the drill hole and pad so it would not interfere with the Forest Service Road. This location will still meet the requirements necessary to locate a drilling rig on the site as discussed. This location will also meet the following Conditions of Approval (COA) as attached to your Application for Permit to Drill (APD)

1. Location and Access Road

**D.** The drill location and pad for this well will be located in an area as not to block or require the relocation of Forest Service Road #522.

In response to your Sundry Notice requesting a change to your APD, part #22, paragraph 2, that references Existing Road Improvement, I refer to the Forest Service COA to address mitigating



measures for the Indian Creek Federal #1 project. I feel that the following COA's answer your concerns to change your APD.

1. Location and Access Road

**H.** Unless otherwise approved, the driving surface on all access roads must be limited to 20 foot in width. Maximum width of surface distance disturbance from construction will be limited to 30 feet, including turnouts.

**J.** Unless otherwise approved by the District Ranger, **vehicles turnouts will be required.** Turnouts will be located at 2,000 foot intervals, or the turnouts will be intervisible, whichever is less. Turnouts will conform to standard Forest Service turnout plan.

**L.** Drainage control shall be ensured over the entire Forest Service Road #522 reconstruction through the use of borrow ditches, outsloping, insloping, natural rolling topography, lead-off (turnout) ditches, or drainage dips.

**M.** Water bars will be constructed on the access road to the well location and will conform to surface management specifications. The maximum slope distance between water bars will be:

<u>% Slope</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Less than 1%	400 feet
1% -- 5%	300 feet
5% -- 15%	200 feet

Mr. Sweatt identified several locations on Forest Service Road #522 that would require a caliche base to improve the road surface. I agree with Mr. Sweatt and authorize him to use material from the caliche pit located just south of Forest Service Road #522. However, any future road improvements or pipeline access are contingent on the location of a viable productive well. These additional items will then be addressed at that time.

It has been identified that there are black plastic range water lines paralleling sections of Forest Service Road #522. So as not to cut or damage these lines, they will have to be moved to the side of the road out of the way of the construction.

Other COA'S that are applicable at this time are:

2. Revegetation and Abandonment

**J.** The Forest Service will monitor construction of this drill site. The operator or his contractor will contact the Forest Service representative at (505) 885-4181 three (3) days prior to construction activities.

3. Revegetation and Abandonment

**A.** Topsoil will be scraped and stockpiled separate from the trees and brush for reclamation needs.

The topsoil stockpile location will be identified by the on site Forest Service representative.

**B.** The operator is responsible for disposal of all the slash produced. Vegetation will be removed from the site or stockpiled and burned. The Forest Service will approve the location and burning. Large tree stumps can be buried in a spot located within the same area.

In reference to the above COA, the Forest Service has identified a disposal area in a closed caliche pit just south of Forest Service Road #522. All vegetation, including tree stumps from the road construction and site preparation will be deposited there. The Forest Service will then take responsibility to burn the slash at a later date.

**December 12, 1999 Sundry Notice:**

In response to the subject of drilling, I agree with your Sundry Notice request to drill the first 1600 feet of the well using a closed loop air drilling system. Upon reaching 1600', your APD proposal, part #2, number 7 should be used.

Method of Handling Waste Material:

**A.** Drill cuttings, drilling fluids and water produced during operations will be contained within the closed mud system.

  
MIKE BACA  
District Ranger

