

DELTA DRILLING COMPANY

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TYLER, TEXAS 75710

July 11, 1978

RECEIVED

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D. C. C.
ARTESIA, OFFICE

State of New Mexico
Oil Conservation Commission
P. O. Box 2088
Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: South Culebra Bluff Unit Well
No. 1, Eddy County, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to Form C-104 previously filed by Delta Drilling Company, Operator, in connection with the transportation and marketing of natural gas from the well referred to in the caption hereof. Such Form C-104 was approved by the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission for a six-month period ending July 26, 1978.

For the reasons set forth below, Delta Drilling Company, as Operator of such well ("Delta"), respectfully requests that the authorization granted by the Oil Conservation Commission be extended until September 26, 1978.

At the time of filing of Form C-104, Delta anticipated, based on the data then available, that the reservoir pressure would decline during such six-month period to a pressure at which the well could be safely killed and a more conventional completion performed. However, data now available indicates, in the opinion of Delta, that such reservoir pressure will not be less than 6227 psi on July 26, 1978, and that such completion effort should be delayed approximately forty to sixty days. The basis of Delta's opinion is as follows:

(1) Delta is of the opinion that salt water of the same composition as used when drilling should be the first fluid used to suppress the well, and if possible achieve the kill, for these reasons:

- (a) There is less chance of encountering well bore instability with the same fluid as that to which the well has been previously exposed.