



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

New Mexico State Office
1474 Rodeo Road
P. O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115

IN REPLY REFER TO:
3160(06200)
NM-14331

MAR 16 1999

CERTIFIED--RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
P 382 821 556

Texaco Exploration & Production Inc.
Attention: C. Wade Howard
P. O. Box 3109
Midland, TX 79702

RE: Bilbrey 30 Federal #3
NM-14331
1980' FNL & 660' FWL, Sec. 30, T21S, R32E
Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Howard:

Your proposed oil and gas well is located in the Secretary of the Interior's Potash Area as described by 1986 Secretarial Order. In accordance with the order, we have designated areas within the Potash Area as a Potash Enclave. The enclave contains measured potassium mineral resources of sufficient quality and quantity to be technologically and economically minable using standard mining practices.

Regrettably, your request for extension must be denied. Drilling at the proposed location would likely interfere with future potash mining and result in undue waste of known enclave reserves. In the future, it could also prove hazardous to the health and safety of potash miners.

Your copies of the application are being returned. Any party adversely affected by this decision may appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with 43 CFR 3165.4 and Form 1842-1 (enclosed).

Please contact our Carlsbad Resource Area Office Solid Minerals Staff at (505) 887-6544 should you have questions regarding alternative locations or need other assistance on matters involving potash mining.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Whitley

M. J. Chávez
State Director

2 Enclosures

bcc:
NM (932)
NM (060, A. Lopez)
NM (067, C. Cranston)
NM (067, L. Denniston)

30-025-31713
VD10
AUG 17 2001