



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 30, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dave Hubbard BY FAX
Chief, Economic Valuation Branch
Royalty Management
Minerals Management Service
Denver, Colorado

FROM: Robert A. Speir
Office of Oil Policy
Department of Energy

SUBJECT: Unpaid Royalty Collection Option Paper

Dave,

I am writing this partly because I will be occupied for most of today and tomorrow with other projects, and partly because I want to be clear about my views on the option paper. As you expect, I was somewhat amazed by your phone message stating that Cynthia Quarterman directed that we substantially abbreviate what we have been drafting for next week's decision meeting. According to your message, her main concern is preventing disclosure of our findings under the FOIA. But the records (drafts of the options paper, collectability estimates, etc.) have already been created and would be available for consideration under FOIA. Either you will, or will not release these documents if you get a FOIA request; the same goes for a decision paper.

rather, that needs what was asked
→ not our finding but prevent harm to

④ The only logic I can put to this is that Ms. Quarterman wants deniability. That is, she wants to be able to say that she and other management never saw what we created. Frankly, if that is the reason, it will not hold water. If asked, she would have to say she sat in a decision meeting where we discussed these issues and displayed charts that showed what we found. Further, the fact that she has redirected our writing indicates that someone took up the options paper subject with her prior to today and she elected to change what we document. After Mo Gonzales' emotional demand to eliminate the paper in our telecon Tuesday, and his direction to Howard Chalker to make sure Peter Schaumberg reviews it, it is not hard to imagine what trail the paper took to Ms. Quarterman.

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immediates

Yes, I am sorry to see this happen because we both have wasted a lot of time on this paper, and I think it would have been a good one. Worse yet, the fact that DOI seems to be attempting to pull down the shades on this issue indicates that the fix may be in again as in 1986 and as with your paper a couple of years ago.

(P)

cc: Burney Huber, DOJ
Len Coburn, DOE
Bernie Kritzer, DOC
Howard Chalker, DOI
Walt Rosenbush, DOI
Lee Helfrich, Lobel Novins