



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
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KENNETH R. FAERBER  
COMMISSIONER

DOE/DO&G-0356

May 29, 1987

Mr. Dave Flannery  
Robinson and McElwee  
600 Kanawha Banking & Trust Center  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Re: Letter of May 25, 1987

Dear Dave:

This is in response to your request for further information on West Virginia damage case number WV 17. I have enclosed copies of our file in this case.

I would like to point out that WV Code 22B-1-20 requires an operator to cement a string of casing 30 feet below all fresh water zones. At the time the permit was issued concerning this well the Division had no knowledge that the Pittsburg sand was a fresh water source. This is because in certain areas oil and gas is produced from the Pittsburg. With this case however, the division discovered the problem and took the following steps to remedy the situation: 1) We had a geologist map the Pittsburg sand in the Roane and Jackson county area so that our permits group and enforcement group knew where that sand could be found. 2) We required every well drilled in the area to have casing cemented up over the Pittsburg sand. This in itself added eight per cent to the total cost of drilling a well in the area.

I hope this helps clarify the situation and if you have any further questions feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ted M. Streit  
Deputy Director  
Inspection and Enforcement  
Division of Oil and Gas

TMS:las

Encls. (as stated)