

15. (SUBMARINE GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION OPERATIONS - W.O. 354.) The Staff reported that to assure consideration of all pertinent data in the study as to bases of control of future submarine geophysical exploration permits as directed by the Commission February 9, 1954 (Minute Item 33, pages 2007-08) and March 26, 1954 (Minute Item 23, page 2024), all contemplated future submarine geophysical exploration schedules and industry reaction to questions on permit control, as presented to the Commission heretofore, were reviewed with representatives of 17 operating companies and one industry association. Specific questions as to the scope of exploration permit control were:

1. Why are submarine geophysical exploration permits not limited to one exploration per area instead of permitting repeated explorations?
2. Why are the results of submarine geophysical explorations not pooled and made available to any and all companies interested in the data, thereby also limiting repetitive exploration?

Many of the company statements of position relative to these questions stated general agreement with the analyses presented to the Commission on February 9, 1954, and, in addition, a letter statement from the Western Oil and Gas Association presented a general summary of the industry position on the foregoing questions.

Of 14 operating companies, 9 reported tentative programs for the conduct of submarine geophysical exploration operations during the balance of 1954, the proposed exploration areas ranging from the Mexican Border to the Oregon Border. Due to the wide distribution of the areas of interest, it was believed that it would not be possible to suggest joint operations by a group of companies for specific areas. However, joint participation in exploration of certain areas by as many as 8 companies has been indicated as under consideration in the development of applications for submarine geophysical exploration permits. Such joint operations are indicated as being predicated primarily on the requirement of spreading the high operating costs of offshore seismic crews, the results of such surveys generally to be considered as a reconnaissance subject to more detailed later individual evaluation by the participants in the group exploration.

Lieutenant Governor Powers read a telegram from the Western Oil and Gas Association requesting deferment of conclusions by the Commission on submarine geophysical exploration permit control to permit further study of the problem and a later presentation by the Western Oil and Gas Association.

District Attorney V. B. Thomas, Santa Barbara County, presented a recommendation for the establishment of the same offshore clearance limits for submarine geophysical exploration permits adjacent to the residence areas of Montecito and Hope Ranch, Santa Barbara County, as have been in effect for the City of Santa Barbara since October 27, 1953. This recommendation was supported by Councilman J. J. Callahan on behalf of the City of Santa Barbara. Mr. Thomas also presented letters in support of this position from the Federated Sportsmen of Santa Barbara, Inc., Mr. A. W. Robertson, and supporting resolutions by Hope Ranch Park Homes Association and the Montecito Protective and Improvement Association.

Mr. J. G. Leovy, as representative of Western Gulf Oil Company, applicants for new submarine geophysical exploration permit and extensions of existing permits, supported the request of the Western Oil and Gas Association for deferment of conclusions on additional exploration permit controls.

Mr. Frank S. Skillman, Planning Director of San Mateo County, presented a statement from the San Mateo Board of Supervisors requesting consideration of establishment of offshore protective limitations in future geophysical exploration permits issued in San Mateo County that would have the same effect as the clearance limits specified heretofore for Santa Barbara County.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, IT WAS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION OF BASES FOR CONTROL OF FUTURE SUBMARINE GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION PERMITS IS DEFERRED FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY AND PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE WESTERN OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION AT A LATER MEETING.

16. (APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF SUBMARINE GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION PERMIT, VENTURA COUNTY, WESTERN GULF OIL COMPANY - P.R.C. 821.1(A).) The Western Gulf Oil Company has made application for extension of the term of Submarine Geophysical Exploration Permit P.R.C. 821.1(A), authorized for operations offshore in Ventura County, to permit completion of the over-all exploration program which is in progress currently south of Point Conception. P.R.C. 821.1(A) was issued originally November 1, 1953, and an extension to May 1, 1954, was authorized February 9, 1954. The time extension now requested is for a 90-day period from May 1, 1954. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura were informed that this extension was to be considered. X
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UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, IT WAS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE AN EXTENSION OF SUBMARINE GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION PERMIT P.R.C. 821.1(A), IN CONFORMANCE WITH ALL OF THE OPERATING CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION, TO THE WESTERN GULF OIL COMPANY FOR THE CONDUCT OF SUBMARINE GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION OPERATIONS ON THOSE TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION LYING OFFSHORE IN VENTURA COUNTY, FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1 TO JULY 30, 1954, INCLUSIVE. ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE EXPLORATION PERMIT ARE TO REMAIN UNCHANGED AND THE EXTENSION IS TO BE EFFECTIVE ONLY AS LONG AS A CONCURRENT PERMIT BY THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION IS IN EFFECT FOR THE SAME OPERATING AREA.

17. (APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF SUBMARINE GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION PERMIT, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, WESTERN GULF OIL COMPANY - P.R.C. 821.1(B).) The Western Gulf Oil Company has made application for extension of the term of Submarine Geophysical Exploration Permit P.R.C. 821.1(B), authorized for operations offshore in Santa Barbara County, to permit completion of the over-all exploration program which is in progress currently southerly from Point Conception. Permit P.R.C. 821.1(B) was issued originally October 27, 1953, and extended February 9, 1954, to terminate May 14, 1954. Nonobjection to this extension was reported X
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