

MINUTE ITEM

19. PROPOSED OCEAN-FLOOR OIL-WELL COMPLETION, TEXACO INC., P.R.C. 2725.1,  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - W.O. 4035.

The attached Calendar Item 6 was presented to the Commission for informa-  
tion only, no Commission action being required.

Attachment

Calendar Item 6 (1 page)

CALENDAR ITEM

INFORMATIVE

6.

PROPOSED OCEAN-FLOOR OIL-WELL COMPLETION, TEXACO INC., P.R.C. 2725.1, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - W.O. 4035.

Texaco Inc., lessee under Oil and Gas Lease P.R.C. 2725.1, has submitted a drilling program for a well to be drilled into the leased land approximately 9,000 feet from shore in a water depth of 78 feet, using mobile marine equipment. If production is indicated, a dual completion is proposed by the installation of an oil-well-completion head, to be located on the ocean floor. To minimize possible damage to the subsea equipment, a protective dome of perforated steel sheeting is to be placed over this equipment. The completion equipment, including the protective dome, will extend approximately 17 feet above the ocean floor.

The dual-production tubing will be fitted with "fail-safe" type choke valves below the ocean floor, which will close automatically and shut in the well in the event any leak develops in the equipment above the ocean floor. The production well-head equipment will be controlled by "fail-safe" valves, which operate automatically in the event of any pressure leakage, or which can be operated by remote control from onshore. The "fail-safe" swabbing valves and annulus valve are not controlled by pressure from the control line. These valves are normally closed and are operated by individual controls, and then only when working on the well from a floating vessel. Most of the drilling and completion operations will be carried out without diver assistance. This design has been analyzed by a registered professional engineer in regard to maximum wave and current loading and possible seismic disturbances, and has been found to be of adequate strength to meet sea conditions known or anticipated in the Gaviota area. Pursuant to suggestions by the Commission's technical staff, Texaco has incorporated additional stress-monitoring features in this unit.

A Department of the Army permit, authorizing the placement of the production head on the ocean floor as a noninterference with navigation, has been issued by the Corps of Engineers. The Coast Guard has reported that the placement of the equipment at the selected location will not require their approval. After the drilling vessel leaves, the location will be marked at the surface by a spar buoy.

Production from the well will be transported to onshore storage through multiple assembly of ocean-floor pipe lines.