

18. (Request for Withdrawal of Bid - Oil and Gas Lease - Mouth of Santa Clara River - Ventura County - Richfield Oil Corporation, Jointly with Alphonzo E. Bell - W. O. 131) The Commission was informed that on September 19, 1947, pursuant to public advertising and bids filed, the Commission awarded a lease of certain tide and submerged lands at the mouth of the Santa Clara River, Ventura County to Richfield Oil Corporation, and Alphonzo E. Bell Company, as joint bidders. This bid was awarded subject only to approval of the award by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the stipulation entered into between the Attorney General of the United States and the Attorney General of California, in the case of the United States vs. California. On September 23, 1947, subsequent to the award, the Secretary of Interior was requested to approve the issuance of the lease pursuant to the stipulation. To date no approval has been forthcoming from the Secretary of Interior for this lease, so the lease has not been executed by the State.

The bidders now state that because of the long delay in the issuance of the lease their filed qualification to furnish drill sites is now void due to the fact that their agreement for such drill sites has expired and no new drill site agreement has been made. They further state that because of additional geological information about the area obtained from wells drilled recently in the upland, the following conditions prevail:

- (a) The tide and submerged lands, embraced in said bid, are not being drained of oil and gas at the present time;
- (b) There is little likelihood of oil being found in the area covered by the proposed lease;
- (c) If such area contains oil, it is located at such extreme depths or so far offshore that it cannot be feasibly exploited by means of slant drilling from on-shore drill sites.

The conditions enumerated in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) are concurred in by the Commission's Consulting Geologist and the Staff.

Messrs. Tom Rico, James West, Rollin Eckis, W. F. Foote for Richfield Oil Co. and D. F. Foote, Alphonzo Bell, Jr. for Alphonzo E. Bell Company, joint bidders, appeared before the Commission relative to this matter, as well as Assistant Attorney General Walter L. Bowers. Mr. Dean raised the question as to whether or not, since we had requested approval of the Department of the Interior for the issuance of this lease but had not received it, we might be doing the wrong thing to allow withdrawal at this time since permission might come later. Mr. Bowers advised that this was not the case and that approval of withdrawal might be safely given.

Thereupon, a motion was duly made and a resolution was unanimously adopted authorizing the bid withdrawal and cancellation of the authority heretofore given for the issuance of lease on State tide and submerged lands at the mouth of the Santa Clara River as awarded September 19, 1947, to the Richfield Oil Corporation and the Alphonzo E. Bell Company, as joint bidders.

19. (Geophysical Exploration Permit - Union Oil Company - P.R.C. 350) The Commission was informed that application has been received from the Union Oil Company for permission to extend the conduct of seismic work including the use of explosives under water to the area between Point Dume and Santa Barbara Breakwater for the period April 1 to June 6, 1948, in addition to the conduct of such work between Santa Barbara Breakwater and Point Conception, Santa Barbara County, as approved by the Commission on March 19, 1948, for the period February 1 through June 20, 1948. Additionally, time extension is requested as to this latter permission to permit the work to be continued until June 30, 1948, instead of June 20, as originally approved.

Upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, a resolution was adopted authorizing the Executive Officer to extend the letter permit heretofore granted to the Union Oil Company for the conduct of seismic work including the use of explosives under water to cover the tide and submerged lands under the jurisdiction of the Commission between Point Dume and Santa Barbara breakwater during the period April 1 to June 6, 1948, and the tide and submerged lands between Santa Barbara breakwater and Point Conception, Santa Barbara County for the period April 1 to June 30, 1948, said permit to be subject to a permit being issued for use of explosives by the Division of Fish and Game.

20. (Permits for Offshore Geophysical Survey Work) The Commission was informed that conduct of offshore geophysical survey work under permits authorized by the State Lands Commission frequently necessitates requests for revisions or extensions as to times and areas for the conduct of the work by the respective permit applicants.

Upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, a resolution was adopted authorizing the Executive Officer to approve any reasonable requests for extensions or modifications as to times and location for the conduct of offshore geophysical survey work where such requests are made as part of a continuing project under a permit originally authorized by the Commission, subject to a permit being issued for use of explosives by the Division of Fish and Game.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.