

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 42
was submitted for information
only, no action thereon
being necessary.

INFORMATIVE
CALENDAR ITEM

42

12/80
Thompson

REVIEW OF PILOT SCALE DEMONSTRATION OF CAUSTIC
WATERFLOODING TECHNIQUES FOR ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY,
LONG BEACH UNIT, WILMINGTON OIL FIELD, LOS ANGELES COUNTY

This review covers the events of the Second and Third Quarters of 1980, in this cost-sharing project with the United States Department of Energy in the Ranger Zone of Fault Block VII of the Long Beach Unit. The contract between the City of Long Beach and the Federal Government provided for a 60/40 respective sharing of the originally estimated \$11.6 million contract demonstration costs and a similar sharing of revenue from any Federal contribution of costs. The DOE participation in the \$11.6 million contract amount ended in July 1980. There will be prepayment in this Fiscal Year for the alkaline chemicals required for the next five years of the project. This was approved in the First Modification of the Plan and Budget.

The project is intended to recover additional oil via a conditioning pre-flush of softened salt brine having a concentration of 1% by weight of sodium chloride (begun in April 1979, and completed in late March 1980), followed by an alkaline slug of sodium hydroxide (caustic) and sodium silicate to give about 0.4% by weight total sodium ortho-silicate in the softened brine (begun in late March 1980, and to continue for approximately six years) after which injection of regular water will be resumed.

In the alkaline injection stage, there has been some loss of injectivity which is restored by acidizing. Positive indications to date are that there is no evidence of any breakthrough of the injected alkaline mix into the producing wells and there is no evidence of pressure communication across the two faults that confine the project.

The staff will continue to report this project semiannually.

A 57, 58

S 27, 31