 Lt. Col. L. H. Hewitt  
United States District Engineer  
Galveston, Texas  

Dear Col. Hewitt:

The writer has received notice of the United States Engineer Office in Galveston of an application by the Standard Oil Company of Texas and the Salt Dome Oil Company of Houston of proposals to drill in Galveston Bay on Tracts Nos. 92, 94, 117, 118, 119, 120, 125, 126, 127, 128, 208, 209, 210 and 211 in the area lying between Red Bluff, Houston Point and Morgan Point.

Our study of this proposal indicates that some of these locations fall within the 2,500 foot line established by your office inside of which and toward the Houston Ship Channel no drilling is to be permitted on the surface.

We wish to renew the protests which we have made against these proposed drillings inside of the 2,500 foot line because of their effects on safe navigation on the Houston Ship Channel.

We respectfully call your attention to the blowout which occurred several months ago and which, if it had been inside of the 2,500 foot line, would undoubtedly have stopped navigation on the Houston Ship Channel.

This office has hoped for the data which I understood would be furnished by the Land Office as a result of a hearing held in Austin on January 22nd of this year, at which hearing, if I recall correctly, instructions were given the Engineers of the Railroad Commission to
Lt. Col. L. H. Hewitt
October 30, 1941

determine the economical angle of directional drilling; however, we have not received any studies on this detail but for our part we have found information which indicates that their proposal to secure the oil, if any, under the Houston Ship Channel can be economically done by directional drilling, and we shall continue to urge and beg your office not to ignore the navigation damage which would result from a blowout too close to the Houston Ship Channel for safety to the vessels operating thereon.

We, therefore, renew our urgent request that no drilling be permitted inside of the 2,500 foot line.

For your information I am sending you under separate cover picture of the blowout which occurred June 16th.

Respectfully submitted
HARRIS COUNTY HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL NAVIGATION DISTRICT

By
Director of the Port

JRW:EH

cc - Mr. Bascom Giles,
Texas State Land Commissioners.

Messrs:
J. W. Evans
R. J. Cummins
W. A. Sherman
W. W. Strong
Tom H. Elliott
D. A. Simmons
H. L. Washburn