



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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4 The Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino
House of Representatives

R Dear Mr. Lagomarsino:

In response to your request of March 5, 1975, and as agreed with your office, we have reviewed the following charges against the Department of the Interior and the Union Oil Company¹ by Mr. William Gesner.²

--The Union Oil Company of California violated Geological Survey Outer Continental Shelf Order No. 2 by not making a pressure test on October 1, 1970, on one of its wells in Santa Barbara channel.

--The record for the above test was falsified.

--The Department of the Interior investigator issued a fraudulent report on those charges.

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/ Regarding the first charge, Geological Survey officials said the pressure test which they required applied only to cemented liners and that Order No. 2 did not require testing the slotted or ported liners used in gravel packing operations. Since the pressure test was not required, there seems to be no reason to falsify it, as charged.

Because of the lack of documentation, we are unable to express an opinion on the adequacy of the Department's investigation. We reviewed the Department's investigative report and working papers and found that:

--Interviews were not documented.

--There was no record of an interview with a key individual mentioned in the second charge, or what efforts were made to contact him.

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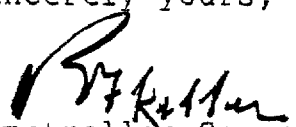
--Discrepancies between two versions of certain pertinent records were not resolved.

As you know, the charged incident took place about 5 years ago. The Department of the Interior investigator directly responsible for reviewing the charges is no longer employed by the Department, and other individuals involved in the charged incident would be difficult to locate to discuss some of the above matters. As agreed with your office, we did not further pursue this matter.

As requested by your office, we are sending a copy of this letter to your Santa Barbara office.

Sincerely yours,

Acting


Comptroller General
of the United States