

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Staff

FROM: E. C. Sprotte

SUBJECT: California Well Sample Repository

January 7, 1976

The Division for many years has supported the concept of assembling and making available for public use a collection of rock samples best representative of the geologic history, stratigraphic sequences, rock properties and mineral resources of the State of California. Many of you have been involved in this lengthy project attempt and by your interest and efforts have contributed significantly to the achievement of this objective. Recently, through the cooperative effort of the petroleum industry, professional geologic societies, higher education and state and federal government, the California Well Sample Repository has been established on the campus of California State College, Bakersfield.

While some operational details have yet to be resolved and the facility is not yet ready for public use, the following summary outline is intended to inform all staff of the existence, purposes, administration, funding and operation of the Repository. Please ignore some necessary redundancy and repetition.

Name and Location

The facility was established July 24, 1975, by the California Well Sample Repository Advisory Board and shall be called "California Well Sample Repository." Location of this facility will be on the campus of California State College, Bakersfield, California.

Ordered and scheduled for early construction is a 6,000 square foot prefabricated steel building (100'x60'x16') which will serve as storage space for rock materials and as a nucleus for the Repository.

Purposes of the Repository

The bylaws adopted by the Advisory Board specify that, "The purposes of this facility are to collect, classify or process, store, and make available to bona fide investigators, representative samples of California rocks, especially subsurface rocks from oil wells, and other subsurface information."

Collection emphasis will be on subsurface rocks and initial acquisitions will consist of cores and well cuttings from many of the 100,000 oil and gas wells that have been drilled onshore California. Partial or total content of several oil company core house collections have been committed to the Repository. Provision will also be made for acceptance and preservation of representative rock sample suites from mining districts, significant outcrop samples, foundation boring samples, mineral commodity collections and offshore bottom sampling, etc., as available. Ancillary data including well logs and histories, rock property measurements and analyses, thin sections, fossil mounts, geologic maps, cross sections and reports will be collected, as available.

Onshore California oil well rock materials appear to be amply available; the problem will probably be one of selectivity, preserving the most representative material and disposing of duplicate material. Acquisition of rock materials other than oil well materials may be more difficult. It is in this area that you can contribute to the total value of the Repository by directing such rock materials to the Repository.

Rock sample selection and retention criteria for the Repository will probably be largely discretionary, however the following preliminary guidelines reflect an optimistic collection objective.

1. Productive oil and gas fields; a representative suite of samples, surface to maximum depth drilled, each oil and gas field.
2. Exploratory oil and gas wells outside of productive fields; a representative suite of samples, surface to maximum depth drilled, ± one (1) per township.
3. Offshore wells; all.
4. Offshore bottom samples, etc.; all.
5. Mine cores and samples; a representative suite per mining district.
6. Mineral commodity samples; discretionary, presumably samples offered would represent a collection of a particular mineral.
7. Foundation boring samples; discretionary, probably all.
8. Ancillary data; when accepting rock materials an effort will be made to obtain related descriptive material and records such as electrical surveys, core descriptions and analyses, ditch descriptions and mud logs, paleontologic determinations, thin sections, test results, engineering test properties, etc.

#### Administration of the Repository

The California Well Sample Repository Advisory Board has been instrumental in consummating the Repository and is initially composed of member representation as follows

Industry: Western Oil and Gas Association  
 Education: California State College, Bakersfield  
 University of Southern California  
 Professional Geologic Societies: American Association of Petroleum Geologists  
 Association of Independent Professional Geologists  
 Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists  
 State Government: Division of Mines and Geology  
 Division of Oil and Gas  
 State Lands Division  
 Federal Government: U. S. Geological Survey

The California State College, Bakersfield Foundation, will provide the personnel, equipment and facilities for the establishment and operation of the Repository. The Foundation is a "trustee group" which receives outside monies and donations and administers these for a specific purpose. The Repository is, then, a center of the Foundation.

A Project Director will act for the Foundation and be a member of the Advisory Board. Initially, Dr. John R. COASH, Dean, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is the Project Director and will be in overall charge of the operation of the Repository. Dr. H. Victor CHURCH has been appointed a Research Associate of the Foundation and hired as a consultant to the Director and Curator of the Repository.

#### Funding of the Repository

A grant of \$42,900 from Western Oil and Gas Association provides for the purchase and installation of a prefabricated steel building (6,000 square feet), utilities, parking apron, etc., and probably some overage to purchase steel shelving. Sustaining funds to operate the Repository have been committed on an annual basis for the first three years of operation by the U.S.G.S., \$12,000; D.O.G., \$5,000; D.M.G., \$2,000; and State Lands, \$2,000. These operating funds are dedicated largely to salaries (Curator and student assistants) and, to a lesser amount, equipment purchase.

Of concern to the Advisory Board is the self-sustaining capability of the Repository beyond the initial three year financial commitments (seed money) by State and Federal government. User fees may provide some income but without experience this possible



income source cannot be assessed or relied upon. Possible means of obtaining future sustaining income which are being considered include sustaining memberships, endowment and governmental subsidy. A part of "Project Independence," the federal program for energy self-sufficiency, is the establishment and maintenance of core repositories. Current support by the U.S.G.S. is in part due to this program; Keith Fisher, Chief Core Libraries Project, has been extremely helpful and cooperative as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Advisory Board. The majority of the Advisory Board is opposed to overwhelming government subsidy (and supervision). The solution appears to be in the area of industrial and professional support; you can help by publicizing the existence and public benefits of the Repository. The energy and mineral resource development based on investigative studies of earth materials assembled at this Repository will result in manifold benefits to the people of California.

#### Operation of the Repository

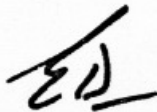
It is anticipated that the Repository building will be ready for use early in 1976, say prior to March. Receipt of well sample materials and the processing and cataloging of these materials will then commence. When the Repository becomes operational (probably mid-year, 1976), access to collected materials will be available to all interested persons on a nominal fee basis; "nominal fee" is not yet determined. Qualified students may be accorded free access. As purchasing funds become available (little is in sight) or equipment donations are made it is planned that binocular and petrographic microscopes, cameras, ultra-violet lights, rock saws and other examination and processing equipment will be available for use at the Repository. This is another area in which you may be able to assist by publicizing the Repository and the need for donated processing and examination equipment.

When the Repository is operational the facility will be open for use during regular daylight hours; special other hour use may be permitted. Initially materials will be available for examination only at the Repository; later out-of-house loan arrangements may be initiated. It is intended that a preliminary Repository contents catalog will be made available by mid-year, 1976.

As the Repository project progresses and significant changes occur all staff will be advised. Questions, ideas, comments and suggestions that you have may be directed to me; I will do the best I can or obtain the necessary help.

Public inquiries, donations, etc., relating directly to the California Well Sample Repository should be directed to:

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#### APPROVAL:

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