

August 11, 1954

Sun Oil Company  
San Jacinto Building  
Beaumont, Texas

Attention: Mr. Herf M. Weinert

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 5, 1954, relative to the Gulf of Mexico County Boundaries.

In laying out the county boundary lines in the Gulf of Mexico, the system adopted was as follows: A line was projected South from the mouth of the Sabine River and one East from the mouth of the Rio Grande, intersecting at a point in the Gulf, the geographical value of which is approximately: Latitude  $25^{\circ} 27' 33''$  and Longitude  $93^{\circ} 50' 15''$ .

From this point, lines were projected to where they meet the county boundary lines where same are supposed to intersect the shore. In this way the county boundary lines in the Gulf were determined.

In Article 1582 of the Revised Civil Statutes 1925, it is set out, "That where ever it appears to the satisfaction of the County Court of any county, or notice shall be given such court by the Land Commissioner that the boundary or any part thereof of the county is not sufficiently definite and well defined, such court shall appoint an experienced and competent practical surveyor, whose duty it shall be to ascertain by actual survey the boundary or any part thereof of said county, and to make and establish the lines and corners in the manner herein prescribed. The court in the order making the appointment shall specify the line or lines to be run and the corners to be established and marked, and shall in all things conform to the law defining the boundaries of said county."

At a called meeting of the county judges of all the counties along the Gulf Coast held in Victoria several years ago, the method of determining the boundaries out in the Gulf as described above was approved by all the county judges present.

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So far, however, no actual survey has been attempted, and until a survey of the shore is made and the correct positions of the points where the county boundary lines intersect same, together with the x y coordinate values of same are known for each, we are unable to compute the exact course of the lines projected from the point in the Gulf to where they intersect the shore. Furthermore, the method in establishing the three marine league line has not been decided upon, and whether this line will be parallel to the shore with all its meanders or will follow along the boundary lines of the tracts through which it passes in a stair step, give and take system as shown on the sketch herewith enclosed, is still to be decided upon.

Sincerely yours,

BASCOM GILES, COMMISSIONER  
OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

WS:dm

Enc.

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CURRENT MISC. INF.

LTR TO SUN OIL CO

RE GULF OF MEXICO

CO BOUNDARIES.

AUG 11-1954

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# SUN OIL COMPANY

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GULF COAST DIVISION  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT  
SAN JACINTO BUILDING  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

August 5, 1954

RECEIVED  
AUG 10 1954  
REFERRED TO MAP

Mr. A. T. Mullins  
General Land Office  
Austin, Texas

RE: Gulf of Mexico County Boundaries.

Dear Mr. Mullins:

Can you advise us as to the status of county boundaries in the Submerged Lands area of the State of Texas in the Gulf of Mexico? On maps dated April, 1948, styled "Texas Gulf Coast Map, From the Sabine River to the Rio Grande as Subdivided for Mineral Development, General Land Office, Austin, Texas - Bascom Giles, Commissioner", which appeared in four sheets, there appear lines which are assumed to be projections seaward of the county boundaries. It is assumed that action may have been taken by the Commissioner of the General Land Office under the provisions of S.B. 338, Acts 50th Legislature (Regular Session), Chapter 287, Vernon's Ann. Civ. St. Art. 1592a. The portion with which we are concerned is as follows:

"Sec. 2. The Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby authorized and directed to have the area between the coast line of the Gulf of Mexico and the continental shelf compiled and platted, and fix and locate the boundary lines between the several coastal counties from the coast line to the continental shelf. The boundary lines from the coast line to the continental shelf between the counties shall be fixed and located by the Commissioner of the General Land Office in accordance with established engineering practice. The legal description of the boundary lines as fixed between the counties from the coast line to the continental shelf shall be filed and recorded in the office of the county clerk of the county affected thereby."

I am making this inquiry as to what the records of the Land Office may reflect with regard to the county boundary line portion of this act since the copies of the plat described above

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Mr. A. T. Mullins

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in our possession do not indicate a purpose to fix, engineering method, or legal description of the county lines. They also do not indicate what action was taken with respect to filing and recording of the legal description in the offices of the county clerks. Of course, I can undertake to verify the filing in the counties with which I am concerned, but it would be helpful to know what matter was prepared for filing.

I am incidentally interested to know whether your files will reflect the adoption of a principle of fixing the county boundaries in accordance with established engineering practice and what such principle was. Do you know whether any question has been raised as to the authority of the Legislature to delegate to an administrative officer the function of fixing county lines? I am likewise interested to know whether there is in your mind any question as to the applicability of this act, which seems clearly related to the possession of the entire Continental Shelf, under the present conditions in which the title of Texas is confined to a marginal belt which we hope and expect to maintain at three marine leagues. It is conceivable that the county line fixing is severable under the terms of the act from the platting and that a different principle of county boundary subdivision might have been followed if the irregular outer boundary of the Shelf had not been the assumed outer boundary of the county at the time.

I have done a good deal of work on the Louisiana-Texas gulf boundary problem since I last talked to you. It may be that the accumulation of these matters will make it necessary to come talk to you some time this Fall when we have the F.P.C. problems behind us momentarily.

Very truly yours,



HMW:mmc

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