

Mr. James A. Clark, Jr.  
Ass't. Area Director for Environmental Health, OCAO  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

March 11, 1975

OEH Field Office  
Tishomingo, Oklahoma

J. E. Oliver and Septic Tank Specifications Episode

This memo is to inform you of the recent inquiries made by Mr. J. E. Oliver of Oliver and Parrish Septic Tank Company, Lebanon, Oklahoma on the Indian Health Service specifications and recommended construction practices on individual septic tank and drainfield systems. The following is a chronological report of my contact and conversations with Mr. Oliver and Mr. Parrish.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1975

Mr. Oliver and Mr. Parrish came by the OEH Field Office late afternoon wanting to talk to the engineer. I introduced myself and asked them what I could do for them. They started out by accusing a Mr. Cobble of Aztec Development Company of providing Indians with a septic tank not within Indian Health Service specifications of a minimum of 1,000 gallon capacity. Mr. J. T. McConnell of Ada Septic Tank Company was also mentioned as not providing a 1,000 gallon tank. Mr. Oliver also stated that the installation of tanks and drainfields were not in accordance with the Indian Health Service specifications.

My assumption at that time was that Oliver and Parrish was one of our contractors and informed them that they had to follow our specifications. They never informed me as to what role they had with the Indian Health Service, or other contractors. I told them I was recently assigned and would check out the tanks and construction practices. Oliver and Parrish then went on to say they had spent \$1500.00 for their septic tank plans and other contractors were underbidding him for tanks. Their accusations were vague to me and the only thing I assumed was that they were questioning why they didn't get a contract from the developers working for the Housing Authority.

After Oliver and Parrish left, I found out from the construction inspectors that they were not in any way connected with our work. However, Mr. Hershel Denson, Construction Inspector, had already informed me, prior to that day, about the dimensions of Mr. Cobble's tanks. The tanks were within specifications, by calculations made by me, from tank measurements furnished by Mr. Denson. Mr. Denson was the one who pointed out that the Indian Health Service should be aware of the capacity of the tanks.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1975

Mr. Oliver and Mr. Parrish contacted Mr. J. B. Keel, Construction Inspector, and myself at "Our Place" and repeated most of the accusations from the