

100 Ex-Oilmen Staff the FEO

By Tim O'Brien

Washington Post Staff Writer

More than 100 former oil-industry employees are holding jobs in the Federal Energy Office, the agency that regulates industry prices and oversees government oil policy.

Sixty-two of the FEO employees were with the oil industry within the past four years.

Fifty-nine of them hold key jobs with the civil service rank of GS-13, -14 or -15 — jobs paying between \$20,000 and \$36,000 a year.

Ten are in top-grade policy jobs, with ranks of GS-16 to GS-18, earning between \$32,000 and \$36,000 a year.

Some of the employees once held executive-level positions in the oil industry. Four of them are taking part in a "Presidential Interchange" program.

The great majority hold non-clerical positions in the agency.

The positions filled by the former oil people cut a wide vertical swath through the agency's hierarchy: assistant administrator of policy, planning and regulation; special assistant to FEO Director William E. Simon; deputy assistant administrator for policy analysis; director of the division of oil and gas statistics.

On lower levels, they are economists, industrial specialists, consultants, trade specialists, transportation specialists.

They come from a broad spectrum of companies—big ones such as Mobil, Phillips, Skelly, Gulf, Shell, Exxon, Sun, Humble, Continental and British Petroleum—and smaller companies such as Ashland Oil and Refining, Marathon Oil Co., Drillwell Oil Co., and Creole Petroleum.

Other employees come from industry trade groups such as the American Petroleum Institute, the National Petroleum Refiners Association, and the National Petroleum Council.

The list of the 102 employees was prepared by the energy office at the request of Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D-N.Y.). It adds 44 names to an earlier preliminary listing of former oil people em-



REP. B. ROSENTHAL
... represents legislatures



MARTIN LOBEL
... requests list



WILLIAM E. SIMON
... energy office chief

ployed by the FEO.

An energy office spokesman said the former industry people were hired "because we have to get the expertise to handle the complexities of regulating oil."

"You wouldn't want to go to a hospital that's not staffed by doctors, would you?" the spokesman said.

Martin Lobel, a Washing-

ton lawyer representing five state legislatures and attorneys general on energy matters, said the FEO can "easily find 100 academicians and perfectly competent economists and specialists to fill those jobs, without turning to the very industry that's being regulated."

"You don't have to turn to the conspiracy theory," Lobel said. "It's an environmental thing. Many of these guys will return to the industry, and you don't foul your own nest."

The FEO employs 2,030 people. But the office has not said how many of those jobs carry the rank of GS-13 or above—jobs that are held by 69 former oil industry employees.

Among those on the list are:

- Marmaduke R. Ligon, assistant administrator for policy, planning and regulation. From May to December, 1971, Ligon was executive assistant to the corporate vice president of Continental Oil Co. In 1972, he became executive assistant to the president of Kayo Oil Co.

- Robert Bowen, a "consultant" who attends top policy meetings at the FEO. Taking part in the "Presidential Interchange program, Bowen left Phillips Petroleum in 1973. He was with Phillips from 1966 to 1973.

- Melvin A. Conant, deputy assistant administrator for international trade and commerce. Conant came to the FEO after 10 years with Exxon, where he worked as a "senior government relations counselor for the Middle East and Asia."

- Clement Malin, deputy director of the office of producer country affairs and emergency supply, a 10-year veteran of Mobil Oil Co.

- Philip L. Essley, deputy assistant administrator. A veteran of the oil industry, Essley worked for Marathon Oil Co., Skelly Oil Co., Sinclair Research Laboratories, and Sinclair International.

- J. R. Goodearle, acting chief of contingency division in the FEO's Office of Allocation Policy. From 1960 to 1969, Goodearle was vice president of Midland Production Corp. of Houston, Tex.

- James R. Gill, administrative director, Office of Allocation Policy. He joined the federal government in May, 1973, coming from a position as president of the Gill Oil Co., which he held since 1958.

Not on the list is John W. Weber, FEO assistant administrator for operations and compliance. From 1960 to 1971, Weber was with the management consulting firm of McKinsey and Co. in Chicago.

In an interview, Weber said he did consulting work for Texaco and Sun Ray oil companies, specializing in "cost reduction analysis at the refinery level."

"I wish I'd been closer to the oil business," Weber said. "You need to understand the oil industry, because we're imposing terrible demands on these guys. We could use the expertise, but on the other hand I see the problem of conflict of interest."