

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
OIL AND GAS SECTION**

OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 01-0220825

ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY CRYSTAL RESOURCES, INC. (191682), AS TO THE MORROW, T.C. (04733) LEASE, WELL NO. 1, AND THE JONES, G. (12653) LEASE, WELL NO. 1, PEARSALL (AUSTIN CHALK) FIELD, FRIO COUNTY, TEXAS

FINAL ORDER

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on December 13, 1999 and that the respondent, Crystal Resources, Inc. (191682), failed to appear or respond to the notice. Pursuant to § 1.49 of the Commission's General Rules of Practice and Procedure [Tex. R. R. Comm'n, 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.49] and after being duly submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas at conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Crystal Resources, Inc. (191682), ("respondent") was given Notice of Opportunity for Hearing by certified mail, addressed to the most recent P-5 address on the Form P-5 (Organization Report) address, which was returned to the Commission marked "moved left no forwarding address."
2. The returned certified receipt containing the Original Complaint and the Notice of Hearing Opportunity, was returned to the Commission marked "moved left no forwarding address" on October 20, 1999. The certified receipt has been on file with the Commission for 15 days, exclusive of the day of receipt and day of issuance.
3. On May 11, 1998, Respondent, a Corporation, filed an Organization Report (Form P-5) with the Commission reporting that its officers consisted of the following individual: Michael A. Furr; President.
4. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well No. 1 on the Morrow, T.C. (04733) Lease and Well No. 1 on the Jones, G. (12653) Lease ("subject wells"/subject leases") by filing a Form P-4 (Producer's Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance), effective on May 1, 1998 for both of the subject wells and subject leases.
5. The subject wells have been dry or inactive for a period in excess of one year. Commission

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inspection and/or production reports indicate that the subject wells ceased production on or before March 1, 1995 for Well No. 1 on the Morrow, T.C. (04733) Lease and May 1, 1997 for Well No. 1 on the Jones, G. (12653) Lease.

6. The subject wells have not been properly plugged in accordance with, and are not otherwise in compliance with, Statewide Rule 14.
7. Usable quality water in the area is likely to be contaminated by migrations or discharges of saltwater and other oil and gas wastes from the subject wells. Unplugged wellbores constitute a cognizable threat to public health and safety because of the probability of pollution.
8. The estimated cost to the State of plugging all of the subject wells is \$7,800.00 for Well No. 1 on the Morrow, T.C. (04733) Lease and \$10,000.00 for Well No. 1 on the Jones, G. (12653) Lease.
9. Commission district office inspections were conducted on November 18, 1998 September 28, 1999 for the Morrow, T.C. (04733) Lease. Respondent had not backfilled and compacted a basic sediment pit approximately 10' x 6' x 3'. Production was last reported for the Morrow, T.C. (04733) Lease, Well No. 1, February of 1995.
10. Unfilled pits constitute a hazard to public health and safety because of the potential for illegal dumping in the pits and the potential for surface run-off to collect in the pit and seep into subsurface waters.
11. The respondent did not demonstrate good faith since it failed to plug or otherwise place the subject wells and subject leases in compliance after being notified of the violations by the District Office and failed to appear at the hearing to explain its inaction.
12. The Respondent has a prior history of Commission rule violations including the following docket(s):

Docket No. 01-0219092; Final Order Served: February 12, 1999;
Docket No. 01-0219149; Final Order Served: March 26, 1999;
Docket No. 01-0219202; Final Order Served: March 12, 1999;
Docket No. 01-0219575; Final Order Served: March 12, 1999;
Docket No. 01-0219770; Final Order Served: March 26, 1999;
Docket No. 01-0219824; Final Order Served: July 30, 1999;
Docket No. 01-0219941; Final Order Served: February 12, 1999;
Docket No. 01-0220166; Final Order Served: May 28, 1999 and
Docket No. 01-0220413; Final Order Served: January 29, 1999.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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1. Proper notice was issued by the Railroad Commission to respondent and all other appropriate persons legally entitled to notice.
2. All things necessary to the Commission attaining jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties in this hearing have been performed or have occurred.
3. Respondent is in violation of Commission Statewide Rules 8(d)(4)(G)(i)(IV) and 14(b)(2).
4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Rule 8(d)(4)(G)(i)(IV), which requires basic sediment pits, flare pits, fresh mining water pits, and water condensate pits to be dewatered, backfilled and compacted within 120 days of final cessation of use of the pits.
5. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject wells and the subject lease in compliance with all applicable Statutes and Commission rules, specifically Statewide Rules 14, 58, and 79 and Chapters 89 and 91, Texas Natural Resources Code.
6. The documented violations committed by the respondent constitute acts deemed serious, a hazard to the public health, and demonstrate a lack of good faith pursuant to TEX. NAT. RES. CODE ANN. §81.0531(c) (Vernon 1993).

IT IS ORDERED THAT within 30 days from the day immediately following the date this order becomes final:

1. Crystal Resources, Inc. (191682), shall plug and or otherwise place the Morrow, T.C. (04733) Lease, Well No. 1, and the Jones, G. (12653) Lease, Well No. 1, Pearsall (Austin Chalk) Field, Frio County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and
2. Crystal Resources, Inc. (191682), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00)**.

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It is further **ORDERED** by the Commission that this order shall not be final and effective until 20 days after a party is notified of the Commission's order. A party is presumed to have been notified of the Commission's order three days after the date on which the notice is actually mailed. If a timely motion for rehearing is filed by any party at interest, this order shall not become final and effective until such motion is overruled, or if such motion is granted, this order shall be subject to further action by the Commission. Pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE § 2001.146(e), the time allotted for Commission action on a motion for rehearing in this case prior to its being overruled by operation of law, is hereby extended until 90 days from the date the order is served on the parties.

All requested findings of fact and conclusions of law which are not expressly adopted herein are denied. All pending motions and requests for relief not previously granted or granted herein are denied.

Noncompliance with the provisions of this order is subject to enforcement by the Attorney General and subject to civil penalties of up to \$10,000.00 per day per violation.

Done this 10th day of March, 2000.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated March 10, 2000)

MH/sa