

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
HEARINGS SECTION**

OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 01-0264886

ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY PARK AVENUE RESOURCES, INC (639570), AS TO THE NATAL, DELORES G. (08017) LEASE, WELL NOS. 1, 2, 3 AND 6, FAIRFIELD FIELD, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

FINAL ORDER

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on January 6, 2011 and that the respondent, Park Avenue Resources, Inc. (639570), failed to appear or respond to the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. 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. Park Avenue Resources, Inc. (639570), ("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, which was returned to the Commission marked "unclaimed."
2. The returned certified receipt containing the Original Complaint and the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing mailed to Respondent's most recent P-5 address, was returned to the Commission marked "unclaimed" on December 20, 2010. 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 July 13, 2010, Respondent, a Corporation, filed an Organization Report (Form P-5) with the Commission reporting that its officers consisted of the following individual(s): William G. Priest, Jr.; President.

4. William G. Priest, Jr., was in a position of ownership or control of respondent, as defined by Texas Natural Resources Code Section 91.114, during the time period of the violations of Commission rules committed by respondent.
5. The violations of Commission rules committed by respondent are related to safety and the control of pollution.
6. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 6 on the Natal, Delores G. (08017) Lease ("subject wells"/"subject lease") by filing a P-4 Form (Producers Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance) with the Commission effective on March 1, 2004.
7. Commission records indicate that Respondent's Form P-5 (Organization Report) is active. Respondent has a \$50,000.00 cash as its financial assurance.
8. Commission District inspections were conducted on February 8, 2010, February 9, 2010 and February 10, 2010 for the Natal, Delores G. (08017) Lease. The signs or identification required to be posted at Well Nos. 1 and 6 were missing.
9. Failure to properly identify a lease, well or tank battery by the posting of the sign required by Statewide Rule 3 has the potential for causing confusion and delay in remedying a violation or emergency and poses a threat to the public health and safety.
10. A Commission inspection conducted on January 4, 2011 indicated the signs are in compliance.
11. A Commission District inspection was conducted on February 8, 2010 and February 9, 2010 for the Natal, Delores G. (08017) Lease. There was an oil spill around Well No. 1 in an area 20' x 50' with approximately 3 to 5 barrels of live oil on the ground and the spill continued through the grass and across the fence onto the adjacent landowner's property approximately 25' with minimal saturation on ground. In addition, the spill appeared to be in a sensitive area with a flowing creek approximately 150' from Well No. 1 and contamination was approximately 50' from the creek. A Commission District inspection was conducted on February 10, 2010 indicating a crew had begun to clean up around Well No. 1 and on adjacent property with State Funded money. This clean up was completed June 30, 2010 at a cost of \$676.00.
12. No permit has been issued to the Respondent for the discharges of oil and gas wastes on or from the subject lease.
13. The unpermitted discharges of oil and gas wastes or other substances or materials on the subject lease constitute a hazard to public health and safety because leaks and spills of oil and produced waters onto soils can migrate into surface water

bodies causing contamination or can leach onto the ground and percolate through soils into groundwater supplies.

14. The Respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed to timely plug or otherwise place the subject lease and wells in compliance after being notified of the violations by the District Office and failed to appear at the hearing to explain its inaction.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Proper notice was issued by the Railroad Commission to Respondent and to 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 was in violation of Commission Statewide Rule 3.
4. Respondent was in violation of Commission Statewide Rule 8(d)(1).
5. Respondent was responsible for maintaining the subject leases in compliance with Statewide Rule 3, which requires that each property that produces oil, gas or geothermal resources and each oil, gas or geothermal resource well and tank, or other approved crude oil measuring facility shall post signs or identification.
6. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 8(d)(1), which prohibits the discharge of oil and gas wastes without a permit.
7. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease and subject wells in compliance with all applicable Commission rules according to Statewide Rules 14, 58, and 79 and Chapters 89 and 91 of the Texas Natural Resources Code.
8. 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.
9. As a person in a position of ownership or control of respondent at the time respondent violated Commission rules related to safety and the control of pollution, William G. Priest, Jr. and any other organization in which he may hold a position of ownership or control, shall be subject to the restrictions of Texas Natural Resource Code Section 91.114(a)(2) for a period of no more than seven years from the date the order entered in this matter becomes final, or until the conditions that constituted

the violations herein are corrected or are being corrected in accordance with a schedule to which the Commission and the organization have agreed; and all administrative, civil, and criminal penalties and all cleanup and plugging costs incurred by the State relating to those conditions are paid or are being paid in accordance with a schedule to which the Commission and the organization have agreed, whichever is earlier.

10. Respondent is the person responsible for cleaning up the discharges on the subject lease under TEX. NAT. RES. CODE ANN. §91.113(b), and the Commission may recover from Respondent all costs incurred in cleaning up the subject lease pursuant to TEX. NAT. RES. CODE ANN. §91.113(f).

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

1. Park Avenue Resources, Inc. (639570), shall place the Natal, Delores G. (08017) Lease, Well Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 6, Fairfield Field, Bexar County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations;
2. Park Avenue Resources, Inc. (639570), shall pay the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$2,150.00) less SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$675.00) already received.**
3. Park Avenue Resources, Inc. (639570), shall reimburse the Railroad Commission of Texas **SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX DOLLARS (\$676.00)** for cleanup costs incurred.

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. GOVT. 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 parties are notified of the order.

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 5th day of April 2011.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated April 5, 2011)

JMD/sa