

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

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 03-0238781**

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**ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY DAREL ALAN WAYHAN, SOLE PROPRIETOR, WAYHAN OIL COMPANY (902580), AS TO THE ADAMS & HAGGARTY FEE (08313) LEASE, WELL NOS. 3 AND 4, BIG HILL FIELD, AND THE ADAMS & HAGGARTY (18582) LEASE, WELL NO. 10, BIG HILL (HETEROSTEGINA) FIELD, JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

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**FINAL ORDER**

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on October 28, 2004, and that the respondent, Darel Alan Wayhan, Sole Proprietor, Wayhan Oil Company (902580), 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. Darel Alan Wayhan, Sole Proprietor, Wayhan Oil Company (902580), ("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 signed and returned to the Commission.
2. The returned certified receipt (green card) that was attached to the Original Complaint and the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing mailed to Respondent's most recent P-5 address was signed and returned to the Commission on August 31, 2004. The certified receipt has been on file with the Commission for 15 days, exclusive of the day of receipt and day of issuance.
3. Darel Alan Wayhan, as Sole Proprietor, was a person 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.
4. The violations of Commission rules committed by respondent are related to safety and the control of pollution.

5. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well Nos. 3 and 4 on the Adams & Haggarty Fee (08313) Lease and Well No. 10 on the Adams & Haggarty (18582) Lease ("subject wells"/"subject leases") by filing a Form P-4 (Producer's Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance) with the Commission effective on June 1, 1995 for both of the subject leases and subject wells.
6. According to Commission records the Respondent's Form P-5 (Organization Report) became delinquent on April 1, 2002. Respondent paid a \$750.00 as its financial assurance at the time of its last P-5 renewal.
7. Well Nos. 3 and 4 on the Adams & Haggarty Fee (08313) Lease ceased production on or before April 30, 1998. Well No. 10 on the Adams & Haggarty (18582) Lease ceased production on or before June 30, 1995.
8. The subject wells have not been properly plugged in accordance with, and are not otherwise in compliance with, Statewide Rule 14.
9. Usable quality groundwater 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 the public health and safety because of the probability of pollution.
10. The estimated cost to the State of plugging Well Nos. 3 and 4 on the Adams & Haggarty Fee (08313) Lease is \$32,420.00 and Well No. 10 on the Adams & Haggarty (18582) Lease is \$19,200.00.
11. Commission district office inspections were conducted on April 5, 2004 and September 20, 2004 on the Adams & Haggarty Fee (08313) Lease. The signs or identification required to be posted at the well sites did not display the information required.
12. A Commission district office inspections were conducted on April 5, 2004 and September 20, 2004 for the Adams & Haggarty (18582) Lease. The sign or identification required to be posted at the well site was missing.
13. Failure to properly identify a well 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 threat to the public health and safety.
14. The Respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed to plug or otherwise place the subject leases and subject 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 is in violation of Commission Statewide Rules 3(a) and 14(b)(2).
4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject leases in compliance with Statewide Rule 3(a), 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.
5. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject leases 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.
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 2001).
7. 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, Darel Alan Wayhan, 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.

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

1. Darel Alan Wayhan, Sole Proprietor, Wayhan Oil Company (902580), shall plug the Adams & Haggarty Fee (08313) Lease, Well Nos. 3 and 4, and the Adams & Haggarty (18582) Lease, Well No. 10, Big Hill (Heterostegina) Field, Jefferson County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and
2. Darel Alan Wayhan, Sole Proprietor, Wayhan Oil Company (902580), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$6,750.00)**.

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 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 13th day of January 2005.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated January 13, 2005)

MH/sa