

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
HEARINGS DIVISION**

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 03-0278248**

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**ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY QUANTUM ENERGY RESOURCES, INC. (684556), AS TO THE CHAS. W. FISHER, JR. ET AL (05006) LEASE, WELL NO. 1, SOUTH LIBERTY FIELD, LIBERTY 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 August 22, 2013, and that the respondent, Quantum Energy Resources, Inc. (684556), failed to appear or respond to the First Amended 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. Quantum Energy Resources, Inc. (684556), ("Respondent"), was given First Amended Notice of Opportunity for Hearing by certified mail, addressed to the most recent Form P-5 (Organization Report) address, which was never returned to Commission.
2. The returned certified receipt envelope containing the First Amended Original Complaint and the First Amended Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, was shipped by the United States Post Office on April 26, 2013, but the delivery status has never been returned to the Commission.
3. On February 9, 2012, Respondent, a Corporation, filed an Organization Report (Form P-5) with the Commission reporting that its officers consisted of the following individual(s): Spencer D. Jordan, President; and Stephen J. Smith, Vice-President.
4. Spencer D. Jordan, 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.
5. Stephen J. Smith, 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.

6. The violations of Commission rules committed by respondent are related to safety and the control of pollution.
7. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well No. 1 on the Chas. W. Fisher, Jr. Et Al (05006) Lease ("subject well"/"subject lease") by filing a P-4 Form (Producer's Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance) effective on December 1, 2006.
8. Respondent's P-5 (Organization Report) became delinquent on July 1, 2013. Respondent had a \$25,000 bond as its financial assurance at the time of its last P-5 renewal.
9. Production from Well No. 1 on the Chas. W. Fisher, Jr. Et Al (05006) Lease ceased in August 2003.
10. The subject well has not been properly plugged in accordance with, and is not otherwise in compliance with Statewide Rule 14.
11. The 14b2 plugging extension for Well No. 1 on the Chas. W. Fisher, Jr. Et Al (05006) Lease was denied on June 29, 2007 for an inactive P-5.
12. Usable quality groundwater is likely to be contaminated by migrations or discharges of saltwater and other oil and gas wastes from the subject well. Unplugged wellbores constitute a cognizable threat to the public health and safety because of the potential for pollution.
13. The estimated cost to the State for plugging Well No. 1 on the Chas. W. Fisher, Jr. Et Al (05006) Lease is \$82,307.00.
14. Commission records showed that Respondent failed to file an approved Commission Form H-15 (Test On An Inactive Well More Than 25 Years Old) for the Chas. W. Fisher, Jr. Et Al (05006) Lease, Well No. 1. Commission records further showed that the subject well was completed on October 10, 1976 and an H-15 was due in January 2012.
15. The Respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed to timely plug or otherwise place the subject lease and subject well 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 14(b)(2) and 15(l)(3).

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4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 15(l)(3), which requires that for each inactive well more than 25 years old and that has been inactive more than 10 years, the operator must perform either a fluid level test once every 12 months or a hydraulic pressure test once every five years and obtain the approval of the Commission or its delegate of the results of said test.
5. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease and subject well 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.
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, Spencer D. Jordan, 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.
8. 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, Stephen J. Smith, 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

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order becomes final:

1. Quantum Energy Resources, Inc. (684556), shall plug the Chas. W. Fisher Jr., Et Al (05006) Lease, Well No. 1, South Liberty Field, Liberty County, Texas; and
2. Quantum Energy Resources, Inc. (684556), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **THIRTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$13,745.00)**.

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 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated March 25, 2014)

MRC/sa