

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

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 05-0230183**

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**ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY WARD D. CAMPBELL (128561), AS TO THE C.O. WRIGHT (01799) LEASE, WELL NOS. 1, 1A, 4 AND 6, REITER (950) FIELD, FREESTONE 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 March 11, 2002, and that the respondent, Ward D. Campbell (128561), 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. Ward D. Campbell (128561), ("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 "undeliverable as addressed, forwarding order expired."
2. The returned certified receipt containing the Original Complaint and the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was returned to the Commission marked "undeliverable as addressed, forwarding order expired" on January 10, 2002. The certified receipt has been on file with the Commission for 15 days, exclusive of the day of receipt and day of issuance.
3. Respondent's Form P-5 (Organization Report), according to Commission records became delinquent on August 22, 1996.
4. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well Nos. 1, 1A, 4 and 6 on the C.O. Wright (01799) Lease ("subject wells"/ "subject lease") by filing a Form P-4 (Producer's Transportation of Authority and Certificate of Compliance) with the Commission, effective on August 5, 1996.
5. The subject wells have been dry or inactive for a period in excess of one year. Commission inspections and the lack of production reports indicate that Well Nos. 1 and 4 ceased production on or before October 31, 1996. Well No. 1A ceased disposal on or before April 1, 1993 and Well No. 5 ceased injection on or before March 31, 1995.
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 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.
8. The total estimated cost to the State of plugging all of the subject wells is \$8,800.00.
9. Commission district office inspections were conducted on October 22, 1998, July 9, 2001, September 4, 2001 and October 9, 2001 for the C.O. Wright (01799) Lease. The signs and or identification required to be posted at the lease entrance and Well No. 4 were missing and at Well Nos. 1, 1A, and 6 the signs displayed the incorrect information.
10. Commission district office inspections were conducted on July 9, 2001, September 4, 2001 and October 9, 2001 for the C.O. Wright (01799) Lease. Well Nos. 1 and 6 do not have wellhead assemblies and have tubing and casing open to the atmosphere.
11. Maintenance of surface control by wellhead assemblies is necessary to prevent the discharge of oil and gas wastes on the subject lease constituting a hazard to public health and safety because the discharges of oil and gas wastes onto land surface can migrate into surface or subsurface waters.
12. The Respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed plug the subject wells or otherwise place the subject lease 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), 13(b)(1)(B) and 14(b)(2).
4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with 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 lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 13(b)(1)(B), which requires that surface control of all wells be maintained with wellhead assemblies.
6. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with all

applicable Commission rules and for properly plugging the subject wells according to Statewide Rules 14, 58, and 79 and Chapters 89 and 91 of the Texas Natural Resources Code.

7. 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).

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

1. Ward D. Campbell (128561), shall plug the C.O. Wright (01799) Lease, Well Nos. 1, 1A, 4 and 6, Reiter (950) Field, Freestone County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and
2. Ward D. Campbell (128561), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **ELEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$11,250.00)**.

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 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 21st day of May 2002.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated May 21, 2002)

MH/sa