

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

OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 7C-0269851

ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY JIM LEVY, SOLE PROPRIETOR, HORIZON EXPLORATION SERVICES (400076), AS TO THE MCGOWAN-HENDERSON RANCH "A" (16967) LEASE, WELL NO. 2, WILDCAT FIELD, CONCHO COUNTY, TEXAS

FINAL ORDER

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on August 23, 2012, and that the respondent, Jim Levy, Sole Proprietor, Horizon Exploration Services (400076), failed to appear or respond to the Notice of 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. Jim Levy, Sole Proprietor, Horizon Exploration Services (400076), ("Respondent"), was given Notice of Hearing by certified mail, addressed to the most recent Form P-5 (Organization Report) address, which was returned to the Commission.
2. According to the United States Postal Service, a Certified Notice was left for the Respondent on July 25, 2012 and the return has not been processed. No first class mail has been returned to the Commission.
3. On March 19, 2010, Respondent, filed an Organization Report (Form P-5) with the Commission reporting that its sole proprietor consisted of the following individual(s): Jim Levy.
4. Jim Levy, 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.

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 No. 2 on the McGowan-Henderson Ranch "A" (16967) Lease ("subject well"/"subject lease") by filing a Form W-1 (Application to Drill, Re-Complete, or Re-Enter) or Form W-2 (Completion Report).
7. Respondent's P-5 (Organization Report) became delinquent on March 1, 2011. Respondent had a \$25,000 cash deposit as its financial assurance at the time of its last P-5 renewal.
8. The subject well has never produced.
9. The Statewide Rule 14(b)(2) plugging extension for Well No. 2 on the McGowan-Henderson Ranch "A" (16967) Lease was denied on February 26, 2010 for an inactive P-5.
10. The subject well has not been properly plugged in accordance with, and is not otherwise in compliance with Statewide Rule 14.
11. 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.
12. The estimated cost to the State for plugging Well No 2 on the McGowan-Henderson Ranch "A" (16967) Lease is \$10,400.00.
13. Commission District inspections were conducted on December 13, 2010 and February 22, 2011 for the McGowan-Henderson Ranch "A" (16967) Lease. Well No. 2 has casing exposed and open to the atmosphere.
14. 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.
15. The Respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed to timely plug or otherwise place all of 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.

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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 13(b)(1)(B) and 14(b)(2).
4. 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.
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, Jim Levy, 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. Jim Levy, Sole Proprietor, Horizon Exploration Services (400076), shall plug or otherwise place the McGowan-Henderson Ranch "A" (16967) Lease, Well No. 2, Wildcat Field, Concho County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and

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2. Jim Levy, Sole Proprietor, Horizon Exploration Services (400076), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000.00)**.

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 12th day of February 2013.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated February 12, 2013)

MFE/sa