

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

OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 09-0256188

ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY ALCO OIL & GAS CO., LLC (011204), AS TO THE KATIE AHRENS "A" (23020) LEASE, WELL NO. 4, ARCHER COUNTY REGULAR FIELD, AND THE PHILLIPS-MOSS (26370) LEASE, WELL NO. 2, HULL-SILK-SIKES FIELD, ARCHER COUNTY, TEXAS

FINAL ORDER

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on August 14, 2008, and that the respondent, Alco Oil & Gas Co., LLC (011204), 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. Alco Oil & Gas Co., LLC (011204), ("Respondent") was given Notice of 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 Hearing mailed to Respondents, most recent P-5 address, was signed and returned to the Commission on July 10, 2008. 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 August 6, 2007, Respondent, a Corporation, filed an Organization Report (Form P-5) with the Commission reporting that its officers consisted of the following individual(s): Ashvin Macarenhas; Manager.
4. Ashvin Macarenhas, 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. 4 on the Katie Ahrens "A" (23020) Lease and Well No. 2 on the Phillips-Moss (26370) Lease ("subject wells"/"subject leases") by filing a Form P-4 (Producer's Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance) with the Commission effective on February 1, 2003 for both of the subject wells and subject leases.
7. According to Commission records the Respondent's Form P-5 (Organization Report) became delinquent on July 10, 2008. Respondent had a \$250,000.00 cash deposit as its financial assurance at the time of its last P-5 renewal.
8. Commission District office inspections were conducted on November 15, 2005 and January 8, 2008 for the Katie Ahrens "A" (23020) Lease. The sign or identification required to be posted at the well did not display the information required, the incorrect operator was listed.
9. A Commission District inspection was conducted on February 13, 2008 for the Phillips-Moss (26370) Lease. The sign or identification required to be posted at the well was missing.
10. 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 a threat to the public health and safety.
11. Injection from Well No. 4 on the Katie Ahrens "A" (23020) Lease ceased injection on or before December 31, 1995.
12. Injection from Well No. 2 on the Phillips-Moss (26370) Lease ceased on or before January 31, 1998.
13. The Statewide Rule 14(b)(2) plugging extension for Well No. 4 on the Katie Ahrens "A" (23020) Lease was denied on June 23, 2003 for an H-5 issue.
14. The Statewide Rule 14(b)(2) extension for Well No. 2 on the Phillips-Moss (26370) Lease was denied on November 14, 2005 for an H-5 issue.
15. 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.
16. The total estimated cost to the State of plugging Well No. 4 on the Katie Ahrens "A" (23020) Lease is \$2,600.00.
17. The total estimated cost to the State of plugging Well No. 2 on the Phillips-Moss (26370) Lease is \$5,700.00.
18. A Commission District inspection conducted on February 13, 2008 for the Phillips-Moss (26370) Lease. Well No. 2 had tubing open to the atmosphere.
19. 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.

20. A Commission District inspection was conducted on November 15, 2007 for the Katie Ahrens "A" (23020) Lease, Well No. 4. The subject well did not have a cast iron bridge plug at 888' in depth, which is a specific condition of the injection permit dated May 31, 1995.
21. A Commission District inspection was conducted on November 15, 2007 for the Katie Ahrens "A" (23020) Lease. The subject well had failed a mechanical integrity test (Form H-5) dated August 25, 2003, and was delinquent on a retest.
22. A Commission District inspection was conducted on February 13, 2008 for the Phillips-Moss (26370) Lease. The subject well never had a mechanical integrity test (Form H-5).
23. The Respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed to timely 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.
24. The Respondent has a prior history of Commission rule violations including the following docket(s):

Docket No. 09-0247273; Final Order Served: October 9, 2007.

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, 13(b)(1)(B), 14(b)(2), 46(a) and 46(j).
4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease 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.
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 Statewide Rule 46(a), which requires that any person who engages in fluid injection operations in reservoirs productive of oil, gas or geothermal resources must obtain a permit from the Commission.
7. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 46(j), which requires that the mechanical integrity of an injection well shall be evaluated by conducting pressure tests to determine whether the well, tubing, packer or casing have sufficient mechanical integrity.
8. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject leases 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.
9. 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).
10. 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, Ashvin Macarenhas, 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. Alco Oil & Gas Co., LLC (011204), shall plug the Katie Ahrens "A" (23020) Lease, Well No. 4, Archer County Regular Field, and the Phillips-Moss (26370) Lease, Well No. 2, Hull-Silk-Sikes Field, Archer County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and
2. Alco Oil & Gas Co., LLC (011204), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **ELEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$11,500.00)**.

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 16th day of December 2008.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated December 16, 2008)

ME/sa