

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

OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 09-0257793

ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY AMERICAN PETROLEUM CORP. (018909), AS TO THE COWAN-MCKINNEY "C" (18323) LEASE, WELL NO. 2, ARCHER COUNTY REGULAR FIELD, ARCHER COUNTY, TEXAS

FINAL ORDER

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on October 30, 2008, and that the respondent, American Petroleum Corp. (018909), failed to appear or respond to the 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. American Petroleum Corp. (018909), ("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 Hearing mailed to Respondent's, most recent P-5 address, was signed and returned to the Commission on September 19, 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 July 28, 2008, Respondent, a Corporation, filed an Organization Report (Form P-5) with the Commission reporting that its officers consisted of the following individual(s): Rafael Pinedo; President.
4. Rafael Pinedo, 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 Cowan-McKinney "C" (18323) Lease ("subject well"/"subject lease") by filing a Form P-4 (Producer's Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance) with the Commission effective on August 1, 2004.
7. According to Commission records the Respondent's Form P-5 (Organization Report) is active. Respondent had a \$25,000.00 Bond as its financial assurance at the time of its last P-5 renewal.
8. Well No. 2 of the Cowan-McKinney "C" (18323) Lease is a permitted disposal well. According to Commission records, the subject well was completed on July 25, 2007. Commission records further indicate Respondent has failed to file a complete record of the well showing the well's current completion. Although Respondent did file a Commission Form W-2, the information regarding perforations and packers was either missing or incorrect.
9. Well No. 2 of the Cowan-McKinney "C" (18323) Lease is a permitted disposal well. Commission records indicate Respondent failed to file the Annual Disposal/Injection Well Report (Form H-10) for Well No. 2 on the Cowan-McKinney "C" (18323) Lease for the 2007/2007 cycle.
10. On October 8, 2008, Respondent, filed a Commission Form H-10 for Well No. 2 on the Cowan-McKinney "C" (18323) Lease.
11. 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 well. Unplugged wellbores constitute a cognizable threat to the public health and safety because of the potential for pollution.
12. The Respondent did not demonstrate 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 Rule 9(10).
4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 9(10), which requires that within 30 days after the completion or conversion of a disposal well, the operator shall file in duplicate in the District Office a complete record of the well on the appropriate form which shows the current completion.

5. Respondent was in violation of Statewide Rule 9(11)(B) from July 2008 until October 9, 2008.
6. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 9(11)(B), which requires that the results of the monitoring shall be reported annually to the Commission on the prescribed form.
7. 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.
8. 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).
9. 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, Rafael Pinedo, 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. American Petroleum Corp. (018909), shall place the Cowan-McKinney "C" (18323) Lease, Well No. 2, Archer County Regular Field, Archer County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and
2. American Petroleum Corp. (018909), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)**.

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 11th day of March 2009.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated March 11, 2009)

MH/sa