

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

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET  
NOS. 09-0262736 AND  
09-0262846**

**IN THE NEWARK, EAST (BARNETT  
SHALE) FIELD, VARIOUS COUNTIES,  
TEXAS**

**FINAL ORDER  
AMENDING THE FIELD RULES FOR THE  
NEWARK, EAST (BARNETT SHALE) FIELD  
VARIOUS COUNTIES, TEXAS**

The Commission finds that after statutory notice in the above-numbered docket heard on September 16, 2009, the presiding examiner has made and filed a report and recommendation containing findings of fact and conclusions of law, for which service was not required; that the proposed application is in compliance with all statutory requirements; and that this proceeding was duly submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas at conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas.

The Commission, after review and due consideration of the examiner's report and recommendation, the findings of fact and conclusions of law contained therein, hereby adopts as its own the findings of fact and conclusions of law contained therein, and incorporates said findings of fact and conclusions of law as if fully set out and separately stated herein.

Therefore, it is ordered by the Railroad Commission of Texas that Rules 3 and 4 of the field rules for the Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Field are amended. The field rules for the Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Field are set out in their entirety as follows:

**RULE 1:** The entire correlative interval from 6,672 feet to 7,166 feet as shown on the log of the Mitchell Energy Corporation - W. C. Young Well No. 2, API No. 497-32613, W. Ritchey Survey, A-704, Wise County, Texas, shall be designated as a single reservoir for proration purposes and be designated as the Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Field.

**RULE 2:** No well shall hereafter be drilled nearer than THREE HUNDRED THIRTY (330) feet to any property line, lease line, or subdivision line. No minimum between well spacing requirement shall apply in this field. The aforementioned distance in the above rule is a minimum distance to allow an operator flexibility in locating a well, and the above spacing rule and the other rules to follow are for the purpose of permitting only one well to each drilling and proration unit. Provided however, that the Commission will grant exceptions to permit drilling within shorter distances and drilling more wells than herein prescribed whenever the Commission shall have determined that such exceptions are necessary either to prevent waste or to prevent the confiscation of property. When exception to these rules is desired, application therefore shall be filed and will be acted upon in accordance with the provisions of Commission Statewide Rules 37 and 38, which

applicable provisions of said rules are incorporated herein by reference. Provided, however, that for purposes of the lease line spacing requirement for horizontal wells, the following shall apply:

1. Where the horizontal portion of the well is cased and cemented back above the top of the Barnett Shale formation, the distance to any property line, lease line or subdivision line will be calculated based on the distance to the nearest perforation in the well, and not based on the penetration point or terminus. Both the penetration point and the uppermost or first perforation point in the wellbore shall be identified on the drilling permit application and plat.
2. Where an external casing packer is placed in the well and cement is pumped above the external casing packer to a depth above the top of the correlative interval for the field, the distance to any property line, lease line or subdivision line will be calculated based on the location of the external casing packer or the closest open hole section in the Barnett Shale, and not on the penetration point. However, if perforations are added above the external casing packer, the perforations must comply with the spacing provisions, as described in paragraph number 1 of this Rule 2.
3. For any well permitted in this field configured as the above described wells, the penetration point need not be located on the same lease, pooled unit, unitized tract or production sharing agreement tract on which the well is permitted and may be located on an Offsite Tract. When the penetration point is located on such Offsite Tract, the applicant for such a drilling permit must give 21 days notice by certified mail, return receipt requested to the mineral owners of the Offsite Tract. For the purposes of this rule, the mineral owners of the Offsite Tract are (1) the designated operator; (2) all lessees of record for the Offsite Tract where there is no designated operator; and (3) all owners of unleased mineral interests where there is no designated operator or lessee. In providing such notice, applicant must provide the mineral owners of the Offsite Tract with a plat clearly depicting the projected path of the entire wellbore. In the event the applicant is unable, after due diligence, to locate the whereabouts of any person to whom notice is required by this rule, the applicant must publish notice of this application pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. If the mineral owners of the Offsite Tract object to the location of the penetration point, the applicant may request a hearing to demonstrate the necessity of the location of the penetration point of the well to prevent waste or to protect correlative rights. Notice of Offsite Tract penetration is not required if (a) written waivers of objection are received from all mineral owners of the Offsite Tract; or, (b) the applicant is the only mineral owner of the Offsite Tract. To mitigate the potential for well collisions, applicant shall promptly provide copies of any directional surveys to the parties entitled to notice under this section, upon request.

In applying this rule, the general order of the Commission with relation to the subdivision of property shall be observed.

**RULE 3:** The acreage assigned to the individual gas well for the purpose of allocating allowable gas production thereto shall be known as a proration unit. The standard drilling and proration units for gas wells are established hereby to be THREE HUNDRED TWENTY (320) acres. No proration unit shall consist of more than THREE HUNDRED TWENTY (320) acres; provided that, tolerance acreage of ten (10) percent shall be allowed for each standard proration unit so that an amount not to exceed a maximum of THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO (352) acres may be assigned. Each proration unit containing less than THREE HUNDRED TWENTY (320) acres shall be a fractional proration unit. All proration units shall consist of acreage which can be reasonably be considered to be productive of gas. No double assignment of acreage will be accepted.

The acreage assigned to the individual oil well for the purpose of allocating allowable oil production thereto shall be known as a proration unit. The standard drilling and proration units for oil wells are established hereby to be FORTY (40) acres. No proration unit shall consist of more than FORTY (40) acres except as hereinafter provided. All proration units shall consist of continuous and contiguous acreage which can reasonably be considered to be productive of oil. No double assignment of acreage will be accepted.

An operator, at his option, shall be permitted to form optional drilling units of TWENTY (20) acres for oil or gas wells, with a proportional acreage allowable credit for a well on a fractional proration unit.

For the determination of acreage credit in this field, operators shall file for each oil or gas well in this field a Form P-15 Statement of Productivity of Acreage Assigned to Proration Units. On that form or an attachment thereto, the operator shall list the number of acres that are being assigned to each well on the lease or unit for proration purposes.

For oil wells, operators shall be required to file, along with the Form P-15, a plat of the lease, unit or property; provided that such plat shall not be required to show individual proration units.

When the allocation formula in the gas field is suspended, operators shall not be required to file plats with the Form P-15 for gas wells. When the allocation formula is in effect in the gas field, operators shall be required to file, along with the Form P-15, a plat of the lease, unit or property; provided that such plat shall not be required to show individual proration units.

Provided further, that if the acreage assigned to any well has been pooled, the operator shall furnish the Commission with such proof as it may require as evidence that interests in and under such proration unit have been so pooled. Operators in this field are exempt from the requirements of Rule 86(f)(4) entitled Proration Unit Plat; however operators must, for each horizontal drainhole, file a plat showing the as-drilled path, penetration point, terminus and, if applicable, perforations or external casing packer, for

that horizontal drainhole and, for wells treated as stacked laterals, operators must file the plats required by paragraph number 6 of Rule 5. All plats referred to in this paragraph may be either a surveyor's plat or a certified plat, at the operator's option.

For the purpose of assigning additional acreage to a horizontal well pursuant to Rule 86, the distance from first perforation to last perforation in the horizontal drainhole shall be used in such determination, in lieu of the distance from penetration point to terminus.

**RULE 4a:** The daily allowable production of gas from individual wells completed in the subject field shall be determined by allocating the allowable production, after deductions have been made for wells which are incapable of producing their gas allowables, among the individual wells in the proportion that the acreage assigned such well for proration purposes bears to the summation of the acreage with respect to all proratable wells producing from the same reservoir.

The allocation formula for the field is currently suspended. The allocation formula may be reinstated administratively if the market demand for gas in the Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Field drops below 100% of deliverability.

**RULE 4b:** The maximum daily oil allowable for an oil well in the field shall be determined by multiplying 800 BOPD by a fraction, the numerator of which is the acreage assigned to the well for oil proration purposes and the denominator of which is the maximum acreage authorized by these field rules for a vertical well for oil proration purposes, exclusive of tolerance acreage. The daily oil allowable for a well in the field shall be adjusted in accordance with Statewide Rule 49(a) when applicable.

Each oil well in the Newark, East (Barnett Shale) is allowed to produce under increased gas-oil ratio authority with a daily gas limit of 3,000 MCF per well. Oil allowables shall not be penalized due to high gas-oil ratios.

**RULE 5:** For oil and gas wells, Stacked Lateral Wells within the correlative interval for the field that are drilled from different wellbores may be considered a single well for regulatory purposes, as provided below:

1. A horizontal drainhole well qualifies as a Stacked Lateral Well under the following conditions:
  - a) There are two or more horizontal drainhole wells on the same lease or pooled unit within the correlative interval for the field;
  - b) Each horizontal drainhole is drilled from a different surface location on the same lease or pooled unit;
  - c) There shall be no more than 200 feet between the surface locations of horizontal drainholes qualifying as a Stacked Lateral Well.

- d) Each point of a Stacked Lateral Well's horizontal drainhole shall be no more than 200 feet in a horizontal direction from any point along any other horizontal drainhole of that same Stacked Lateral Well. This distance is measured perpendicular to the orientation of the horizontal drainhole and can be illustrated by the projection of each horizontal drainhole in the Stacked Lateral Well into a common horizontal plane as seen on a location plat; and
- e) There shall be no maximum or minimum distance limitations between horizontal drainholes of a Stacked Lateral Well in a vertical direction.
2. Each horizontal drainhole drilled as a Stacked Lateral Well must be permitted separately and assigned an API number. A Stacked Lateral Well, including all horizontal drainholes comprising such Stacked Lateral Well, shall be considered as a single well for density and allowable purposes.
  3. In permitting a proposed Stacked Lateral Well, the operator shall identify in the "Remarks" of the Form W-1 drilling permit application that the horizontal drainhole is to be a Stacked Lateral Well. The operator shall also identify on the plat any other existing, or applied for, horizontal drainholes comprising the Stacked Lateral Well being permitted.
  4. To be a regular location, each horizontal drainhole of a Stacked Lateral Well must comply with (i) the field's minimum spacing distance as to any lease, pooled unit or property line, and (ii) the field's minimum between well spacing distance as to any different well, including all horizontal drainholes of any other Stacked Lateral Well, on the same lease or pooled unit in the field. Operators may seek exceptions to Rules 37 and 38 for Stacked Lateral Wells in accordance with the Commission's rules.
  5. For each Stacked Lateral Well, the operator must file Form G-1 or Form W-2 for the Commission's Proration Department to build a fictitious "Record" well for the Stacked Lateral Well. This Record Well will be identified with the words "SL Record" included in the lease name. This Record Well will be assigned an API number and Gas Well ID or Oil lease number.
  6. Operators shall file separate completion forms, including directional surveys, for each horizontal drainhole of the Stacked Lateral Well. Operators shall also file a certified plat for each horizontal drainhole of a Stacked Lateral Well confirming the well's qualification as a Stacked Lateral Well and showing the maximum distances in a horizontal direction between each horizontal drainhole of the Stacked Lateral Well.
  7. Each horizontal drainhole of a Stacked Lateral Well will be listed on the proration schedule, but no allowable shall be shown for an individual

horizontal drainhole. Each horizontal drainhole of a Stacked Lateral Well shall be required to have a separate G-10 or W-2 test and the sum of all horizontal drainhole test rates shall be reported as the test rate for the Record well.

8. Operators shall report all production from horizontal drainholes included as a Stacked Lateral Well on Form PR to the Stacked Lateral Record Well. Production reported for a Stacked Lateral Record Well is the total production from the horizontal drainholes comprising the Stacked Lateral Well.
9. If the field's 100% AOF status should be removed, the Commission's Proration Department shall assign a single gas allowable to each Stacked Lateral Record Well classified as gas well. The Commission's Proration Department shall also assign a single oil allowable to each Stacked Lateral Record Well classified as an oil well. The assigned allowable may be produced from any one or all of the horizontal drainholes comprising the Stacked Lateral Well.
10. Operators shall file an individual Form W-3A Notice of Intention to Plug and Abandon and Form W-3 Form Plugging Report for each horizontal drainhole comprising the Stacked Lateral Well as required by Commission rules.
11. An operator may not file Form P-4 to transfer an individual horizontal drainhole of a Stacked Lateral Well to another operator. P-4's filed to change the operator will only be accepted for the Record well if accompanied by a separate P-4 for each horizontal drainhole of the Stacked Lateral Well.

Done this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

**(Order approved and signatures affixed  
by OGC Unprotested Master Order dated  
September 29, 2009)**