

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

OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 7B-0249439

ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY HOWDLE, SHARRON HOPE, SOLE PROPRIETOR, S&V OPERATING (741631), AS TO THE KENNEDY, C.E. (26301) LEASE, WELL NO. 2, COLEMAN COUNTY FIELD, AND THE KENNEDY, C.E. (01290) LEASE, WELL NOS. 1, 3 AND 4, TALPA, NORTH (SERRATT) FIELD, COLEMAN COUNTY, TEXAS

FINAL ORDER

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on July 19, 2007, and that the respondent, Howdle, Sharron Hope, Sole Proprietor, S&V Operating (741631), 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. Howdle, Sharron Hope, Sole Proprietor, S&V Operating (741631), ("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 Opportunity for Hearing was signed and returned to the Commission on December 11, 2006. The certified receipt has been on file with the Commission for 15 days, exclusive of the day of receipt and day of issuance.
3. Sharron Hope Howdle, as sole proprietor, was a person in a position of ownership or control of respondent, as defined by Texas Natural Resource Code Section 91.114, during the time period of the violations of Commission rules committed by respondent.

4. The violations of Commission rules committed by respondent are related to safety and the control of pollution.
5. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well No. 2 on the Kennedy, C.E. (26301) Lease and Well Nos. 1, 3 and 4 on the Kennedy, C.E. (01290) Lease (“subject wells”/“subject leases”) by filing a Form P-4 (Producer’s Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance) with the Commission effective on January 1, 2005 for both of the subject leases and subject wells.
6. According to Commission records the Respondent’s Form P-5 (Organization Report) is active. Respondent has a \$50,000.00 Bond as its Financial Assurance.
7. Commission records reflect that on May 23, 2005, the Commission gave Respondent notice by certified mail of the alleged facts or conduct of the Respondent in the operation, or production, of oil or gas from the Kennedy, C.E. (26301) Lease that appeared to violate the oil and gas conservation laws of this state, or rules or orders of the Commission adopted under those laws, to warrant the cancellation of the certificate of compliance. Said notice gave Respondent an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of law for retention of the certificate of compliance.
8. Commission records reflect that Respondent did not timely show compliance with all requirements of law for retention of the certificate of compliance and, as a result, the certificate of compliance for the Kennedy, C.E. (26301) Lease was cancelled, and Respondent given notice of such cancellation, on June 22, 2005.
9. Production reports filed by Respondent with the Commission for the Kennedy, C.E. (26301) Lease, from July 2005 to February 2006, show Respondent produced an approximate total of 8 barrels of oil from the Kennedy, C.E. (26301) Lease, after the certificate of compliance had been cancelled and before a new certificate of compliance had been issued.
10. Commission records reflect that on July 6, 2005, the Commission gave Respondent notice by certified mail of the alleged facts or conduct of the Respondent in the operation, or production, of oil or gas from the Kennedy, C.E. (01290) Lease that appeared to violate the oil and gas conservation laws of this state, or rules or orders of the Commission adopted under those laws, to warrant the cancellation of the certificate of compliance. Said notice gave Respondent an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of law for retention of the certificate of compliance.
11. Commission records reflect that Respondent did not timely show compliance with all requirements of law for retention of the certificate of compliance and, as a result, the certificate of compliance for the Kennedy, C.E. (01290) Lease was cancelled, and Respondent given notice of such cancellation, on August 5, 2005.
12. Production reports filed by Respondent with the Commission for the Kennedy, C.E. (01290) Lease from September 2005 to February 2006 show Respondent produced an approximate total of 6 barrels of oil from the Kennedy, C.E. (01290) Lease after the certificate of compliance had been cancelled and before a new certificate of compliance had been issued.

13. On August 10, 2006, Respondent filed a Monthly Production Report showing 41 MCF of casinghead gas produced in the month of June 2006 from Well No. 2 on the Kennedy, C.E. (26301) Lease. Said production report was certified by Respondent to have been prepared by it or under its supervision and direction and to contain true, correct and complete information to the best of its knowledge.
14. On May 19, 2006, the Commission placed a seal on Well No. 2 of the Kennedy, C.E. (26301) Lease (Tubing Seal No. 20649 and Casing Seal No. 20149). Follow up inspections conducted on June 2, 2006, July 3, 2006 and August 22, 2006 showed the well remained sealed thereby making production from the well in June 2006 impossible.
15. By submitting the Commission PR (Monthly Production Report) showing production for June 2006 from the Kennedy, C.E. (26301) Lease, Respondent knowingly submitted a form containing information which was false or untrue in a material fact thereby violating TEX. NAT. RES. CODE ANN. §91.143(a)(1).
16. The respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed to 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 Statewide Rules 73(i) and Tex. Nat. Res. Code Ann. § 91.143.
4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 73(i), which makes it unlawful for an operator of wells to produce oil, gas, or geothermal resources from the wells after notice from the Commission has been provided to the operator that the certificate of compliance for the wells has been cancelled and before a new certificate of compliance with respect to the wells has been issued by the Commission.
5. Respondent violated Tex. Nat. Res. Code §91.143, by filing with the Commission Forms PR knowing that the forms were false or untrue in a material fact.

6. 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, Sharron Hope Howdle, and any other organization in which she 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 sooner, if 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.
7. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease 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).

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

1. Howdle, Sharron Hope, Sole Proprietor, S&V Operating (741631), shall place the Kennedy, C.E. (26301) Lease, Well No. 2, Coleman County Field, and the Kennedy, C.E. (01290) Lease, Well Nos. 1, 3 and 4, Talpa, North (Serratt) Field, Coleman County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and
2. Howdle, Sharron Hope, Sole Proprietor, S&V Operating (741631), shall pay the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$3,500.00)**.

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 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 9th day of October 2007.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order
dated October 9, 2007)

JD/sa