

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
HEARINGS DIVISION**

**OIL & GAS DOCKET NO.
06-0301495**

**IN THE WILLOW SPRINGS (COTTON
VALLEY) FIELD, GREGG AND
UPSHUR COUNTIES, TEXAS**

**FINAL ORDER
AMENDING THE FIELD RULES
FOR THE WILLOW SPRINGS (COTTON VALLEY) FIELD,
GREGG AND UPSHUR COUNTIES, TEXAS**

The Commission finds that after statutory notice in the above-numbered docket heard on September 26, 2016, the presiding Examiners have 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 Examiners' 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 the field rules for the Willow Springs (Cotton Valley) Field (ID No. 97752 100) are hereby amended and presented in their entirety below:

RULE 1: The entire correlative interval from 8,962 feet to 10,598 feet as shown on the log of the WGSU 10 (Walke #4) Well No. 7 (API No. 42-183-31098), in the Marshall Mann Survey, A-256, Gregg County, Texas, shall be designated as a single reservoir for proration purposes and be designated as the Willow Springs (Cotton Valley) Field.

RULE 2: No well for gas shall hereafter be drilled nearer than THREE HUNDRED THIRTY (330) feet to any property line, lease line, or subdivision line and no well shall be drilled nearer than SIX HUNDRED (600) feet to any applied for, permitted or completed well in the same reservoir on the same lease, pooled unit or unitized tract. The aforementioned distances in the above rule are minimum distances 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 in either field. 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.

Notwithstanding the above, there shall be no minimum spacing requirement between horizontal and vertical wells.

Provided, however, that for purposes of spacing for horizontal wells, the following shall apply:

- a. No horizontal drainhole well for oil or gas shall hereafter be drilled such that the first and last take point are nearer than TWO HUNDRED (200) feet to any property line, lease line or subdivision line.
- b. For each horizontal drainhole well, the perpendicular distance from any take point on such horizontal drainhole between the first take point and the last take point to any point or any property line, lease line or subdivision line shall be a minimum of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY (330) feet.

In addition to the penetration point and the terminus of the wellbore required to be identified on the drilling permit application (Form W-1H) and plat, the first take point in the wellbore and all proposed take points within the minimum lease line spacing requirement must also be identified on the drilling permit application (remarks section) and plat. Operators shall file an as-drilled plat showing the path, penetration point, terminus and all take points of all drainholes in horizontal wells, regardless of allocation formula.

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.

A properly permitted horizontal drainhole will be considered to be in compliance with the spacing rules set forth herein if the as-drilled location falls within a rectangle established as follows:

- a. Two sides of the rectangle are parallel to the permitted drainhole and 50 feet on either side of the drainhole;
- b. The other two sides of the rectangle are perpendicular to the sides described in (a) above, with one of those sides passing through the first take point and the other side passing through the last take point.

Any take point of a horizontal drainhole outside of the described rectangle must conform to the permitted distance to the nearest property line, lease line or subdivision line.

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 are established hereby to be ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY (160) acres. No proration unit shall consist of more than ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY (160) 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 ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX (176) acres may be assigned. There is no maximum diagonal limitation in this field. Each proration unit containing less than ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY (160) acres shall be a fractional proration unit. All proration units shall consist of continuous and contiguous acreage which can reasonably be considered to be productive of gas. No double assignment of acreage will be accepted.

An operator, at his option, shall be permitted to form optional drilling units of FORTY (40) acres. A proportional acreage allowable credit will be given for a well on a fractional proration unit.

For the determination of acreage credit in this field, operators shall file for each 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. 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. Operators may, however, file such proration unit plats for individual wells in the field if they so choose. 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.

Notwithstanding the above, operators shall be required to file an as-drilled plat showing the path, penetration point and terminus of all drainholes in horizontal wells.

It is further ordered that the allocation formula for the field shall remain suspended. The allocation formula may be reinstated administratively, in accordance with the Commission's rules, if the market demand for gas in the Willow Springs (Cotton Valley) Field drops below 100% of deliverability.

RULE 4: The daily allowable production of gas from individual wells completed in a non-associated gas reservoir of 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 to such well for proration purposes bears to the summation of the acreage with respect to all proratable wells producing from the same reservoir.

It is further **ORDERED** by the Commission that this order shall not be final and effective until 25 days after the Commission's order is signed, unless the time for filing a motion for rehearing has been extended under Tex. Gov't Code §2001.142, by agreement under Tex. Gov't Code §2001.147, or by written Commission Order issued pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2001.146(e). If a timely motion for rehearing of an application 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 Commission Order is signed.

Done this 25th day of October, 2016.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

**(Order approved and signatures affixed by
Hearings Divisions' Unprotested Master Order
dated October 25, 2016)**