

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
HEARINGS DIVISION**

OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 03-0303066

ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ABEL OIL & EXPLORATION, INC. (OPERATOR NO. 001430) FOR A VIOLATION OF A STATEWIDE RULE ON THE HERMANN LEASE, WELL NO. 1 (DRILLING PERMIT NO. 735233), CLAY CREEK FIELD, WASHINGTON COUNTY, TEXAS

FINAL ORDER

The Railroad Commission of Texas ("Commission") finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by a Commission Administrative Law Judge on April 25, 2017, and that the respondent, Abel Oil & Exploration, Inc., 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, 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.49, and after being duly submitted to the Commission at a conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Abel Oil & Exploration, Inc. ("Respondent"), Operator No. 001430, was sent the Original Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing by certified and first-class mail, addressed to the most recent Commission Form P-5 (Organization Report) ("Form P-5") address: Abel Oil & Exploration, Inc., PO Box 1132, Pinehurst, TX 77362. Respondent's officers as identified on the Form P-5—Archie Ray Abel, President and Robert Alan Coleman, Vice President—were sent the Original Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing by certified and first-class mail, addressed to their last known address: Archie Ray Abel, President, Abel Oil & Exploration, Inc., 30734 High Meadow Dr., Magnolia, TX 77354 and Robert Alan Coleman, Vice President, Abel Oil & Exploration, Inc., 943 Keystone Dr., Bryan, TX 77807.
2. The United State Postal Service was unable to locate the delivery information on the certified mail envelope containing the Original Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing addressed to the Respondent. The Certified Mail envelope addressed to Robert Alan Coleman was received on March 25, 2017. The Certified Mail envelope addressed to Archie Ray Abel was returned to the Commission unopened on April 27, 2017. The first-class mail envelopes were not returned. Record of the delivery and return of certified mail has been on file with the Commission for more than 15 days, exclusive of the day of receipt and day of issuance. Respondent was given more than 30 days' notice of the Original Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. Respondent has not entered into an agreed settlement order, filed an answer, or requested a hearing.

3. Respondent filed its first Form P-5 with the Commission in 2012. On February 24, 2012, Respondent, a Corporation, filed a Form P-5 with the Commission reporting that its officers consist of the following individuals: Archie Ray Abel and Robert Alan Coleman.
4. Wainwright, Glenn Clinton, Jr was in a position of ownership or control of Respondent, as defined in TEX. NAT. RES. CODE § 91.114, during the time period of the violations of Commission rules committed by Respondent.
5. Robert Alan Coleman was in a position of ownership or control of Respondent, as defined in section TEX. NAT. RES. CODE § 91.114, during the time period of the violations of Commission rules committed by Respondent.
6. Respondent's Form P-5 is delinquent. Respondent has no financial security with the Commission.
7. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of the Hermann Lease, Well No. 1 (Drilling Permit No. 735233), by filing a Commission Form W-1 (Application for Permit to Drill, Recomplete, or Re-Enter), received March 2, 2012, issued March 2, 2012.
8. Commission inspection reports made on April 25, 2012, June 26, 2012, July 9, 2012, and February 4, 2013, for the Hermann Lease, show that Well No. 1 (Drilling Permit No. 735233) was completed in the Spring of 2012. District Office inspector witnessed Respondent setting casing cement April 25, 2012, and the Commission inspection report made of February 4, 2013 indicates drilling operations were completed prior that that inspection. Respondent has not filed the required completion report within ninety days after completion of the well.
9. Should a well need to be re-entered for any reason, the wellbore documentation provided in completion and plugging reports as set forth in Statewide Rule 16(b) is necessary to safely and efficiently carry out the replugging, recompletion, reworking, or other action.
10. The Respondent has no prior history of violations of Commission Rules.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Proper notice was issued by the Commission to Respondent and all other appropriate persons legally entitled to notice.
2. All things necessary to the Commission attaining jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties have been performed or have occurred.
3. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with all applicable Commission rules and TEX. NAT. RES. CODE, Chapters 89 and 91.

4. Respondent is in violation of Statewide Rule 16(b). 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 3.16(b).
5. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 16(b), which requires proper completion and plugging reports to be filed timely.
6. The documented violations committed by Respondent constitute acts deemed serious, and a hazard to the public health, and demonstrate a lack of good faith pursuant to TEX. NAT. RES. CODE § 81.0531(c).
7. Pursuant to TEX. NAT. RES. CODE § 81.0531, the Commission may assess administrative penalties against Respondent for the subject violations of up to \$10,000 per day for each violation, with each day such violations continued constituting a separate violation.
8. An assessed administrative penalty in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00)** is justified considering the facts and violations at issue; consisting of one violation of Statewide Rule 16(b).
9. As persons in positions of ownership or control of Respondent at the time Respondent violated Commission rules related to safety and the control of pollution, Archie Ray Abel and Robert Alan Coleman, and any other organization in which these individuals may hold a position of ownership or control, is subject to the restriction in TEX. NAT. RES. CODE § 91.114(a)(2).

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

1. Abel Oil & Exploration, Inc. (Operator No. 001430) shall place the Hermann Lease, Well No. 1 (Drilling Permit No. 735233), in compliance with Statewide Rule 16(b), and any other applicable Commission rules and statutes.
2. Abel Oil & Exploration, Inc. (Operator No. 001430) shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00)**.

It is further **ORDERED** that as persons in positions of ownership or control of Respondent at the time Respondent violated Commission rules related to safety and the control of pollution, Archie Ray Abel and Robert Alan Coleman, and any other organization in which these individuals may hold a position of ownership or control, **shall be subject to the restriction in TEX. NAT. RES. CODE § 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.

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 the Commission Order is signed.

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 23th day of May, 2017.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

(Signatures affixed by Default Master
Order dated May 23, 2017)

CJH/dac