# RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS HEARINGS DIVISION

#### OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 7B-0308172:

SINGLE SIGNATURE P-4 FILING OF BORDERLINE OPERATING CORP. (OP. NO. 082999) FOR THE ASH (28944), LEASE, WELL NO 1, BRYLE (CADDO, UPPER) FIELD, THROCKMORTON COUNTY, TEXAS, TO CHANGE THE OPERATOR FROM POWELL-MCCARROLL PARTNERSHIP (OP. NO. 674803) TO BORDERLINE OPERATING CORP.

### FINAL ORDER

The Commission finds that after notice and opportunity for hearing, the prior operator of the captioned lease did not respond and the docket proceeded as a default. The proceeding having been duly submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas at conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas, the Commission makes the following Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law.

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. At least ten days notice was given to Powell-McCarroll Partnership, Operator No. 674803.
- 2. Powell-McCarroll Partnership is the operator of record for the Ash (28944), Lease, Well No 1, Bryle (Caddo, Upper) Field, Throckmorton County, Texas.
- 3. Borderline Operating Corp. holds Operator No. 082999 and holds title to the oil and gas lease covering the captioned tract and well.
- 4. On or about December 6, 2017, the Administrative Law Judge requested in writing that Powell-McCarroll Partnership either (1) provide evidence that it holds a good faith claim to a continuing right to operate the referenced property or (2) request a hearing on the matter on or before January 5, 2018. This writing expressly notified the operator that failure to timely request a hearing would constitute waiver of the opportunity to request a hearing on the matter.
- 5. A "good faith claim" is defined in Commission Statewide Rule (15)(a)(5) as "a factually supported claim based on a recognized legal theory to a continuing possessory right in the mineral estate, such as evidence of a currently valid oil and gas lease or a recorded deed conveying a fee interest in the mineral estate."

- 6. The Ash (28944), Lease, Well No 1, Bryle (Caddo, Upper) Field, Throckmorton County, Texas has been inactive and has no reported production for a period of over 30 months.
- 7. Powell-McCarroll Partnership failed to provide evidence that it holds a "good faith claim" to a continuing right to operate the referenced property and also failed to timely request a hearing.
- 8. Powell-McCarroll Partnership does not hold a "good faith claim" to operate the referenced property.
- 9. Pursuant to Tex. Gov'T Code §§ 2001.056 and 2001.062(e), the parties waived the opportunity to request a hearing on the matter.
- 10. Borderline Operating Corp. now asserts a "good faith claim" to a continuous right to operate the referenced property.
- 11. The Ash (28944), Lease, Well No 1, Bryle (Caddo, Upper) Field, Throckmorton County, Texas, should be transferred to Borderline Operating Corp. as operator of record.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. Proper notice of hearing was timely issued to appropriate persons entitled to notice.
- 2. All things necessary to the Commission attaining jurisdiction have occurred.
- 3. Resolution of this docket is a matter committed to the jurisdiction of the Commission. Tex. Gov't Code § 81.051.
- 4. Powell-McCarroll Partnership does not have a "good faith claim" to continue to operate the subject lease and well.
- 5. Borderline Operating Corp. does have a "good faith claim" to operate the subject lease and well.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the application of Borderline Operating Corp. for transfer of the Form P-4 "Certificate of Compliance and Transportation Authority" is hereby **APPROVED**, subject to the provisions of Tex. Nat. Res. Code §§ 91.107, 91.114, 91.142 and Tex. Admin. Code § 3.15.

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 100 days from the date Commission Order is signed.

All pending motions and requests for relief not previously or herein granted are denied.

Done this 13th day of February 2018, in Austin, Texas.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS (ORDER APPROVED AND SIGNATURES AFFIXED BY HEARINGS DIVISION UNPROTESTED MASTER ORDER DATED FEBRUARY 13, 2018)