



# RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

## HEARINGS DIVISION

OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 02-0314341

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THE APPLICATION OF MATADOR PRODUCTION COMPANY FOR AN EXCEPTION TO STATEWIDE RULE 32 TO FLARE GAS FROM THE PAWELEK TB (COMMINGLE PERMIT NO. 5777), EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-2) FIELD, KARNES COUNTY, TEXAS.

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HEARD BY: Richard Eyster, P. G. – Technical Examiner  
Lynn Latombe – Administrative Law Judge

HEARING DATE: September 12, 2018

CONFERENCE DATE: October 16, 2018

**APPEARANCES:**

Davin McGinnis  
Glenn Stetson  
Kristin Welch

Matador Production Company

**EXAMINERS' REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

Matador production company (Matador) seeks an exception to Statewide Rule 32 (16 Tex. Admin. Code §3.32) to flare casinghead gas from the Pawelek TB Lease, (Commingle Permit No. 5777) Eagleville (Eagle Ford-2) Field, Karnes County, Texas. Matador seeks two-year authority to flare up to 100 MCF/D of Casinghead gas from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2020. The application is not protested and the Technical Examiner and the Administrative Law Judge (collectively the Examiners) recommend the exception be granted.

**DISCUSSION OF THE EVIDENCE**

Statewide Rule 32 governs the utilization of gas well gas and casinghead gas produced by oil and gas wells under the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission. Matador

received a 154 day administrative permit authorizing the flaring of up to 500 MCF/D of casinghead gas from August 11, 2016 through August 31, 2018. On 8/9/2018 Matador applied for a hearing to extend the flaring exception. Matador is requesting a flaring volume of 100 MCF/D for a period of two years. The current wells are connected to a sales pipeline. However, there is an ongoing need for intermittent flaring due to system upsets, maintenance, and pipeline capacity issues. A review of data from 07/2017 to 6/2018 indicated that Matador is, indeed, selling most of the gas produced and that the flaring authority is only needed on an emergency basis.

Therefore, Matador seeks a Commission final order granting two-year authority to flare up to 100 MCF/D from the Pawelek TB Lease, (Commingle Permit No. 5777) Eagleville (Eagle Ford-2) Field, Karnes County, Texas. from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2020. Matador stated that without additional flaring authority they will have to shut the wells in causing waste and perhaps harm to the reservoir.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Notice of this hearing was given to all parties entitled to notice at least ten days prior to the date of hearing.
2. Matador applied for a hearing to extend the flaring authority more than 21 days before the administrative permits expired.
3. Matador is requesting to flare 100 mcf/d of casinghead gas for two years from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2020.
4. There is an ongoing need for intermittent flaring due to system upsets, maintenance, and pipeline capacity issues.
5. Without a Final order authorizing the flaring, Matador will have to shut the wells in causing waste and possible harm to the reservoir.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Resolution of the subject application is a matter committed to the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Tex. Nat. Res. Code § 81.051.
2. All notice requirements have been satisfied. 16 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 1.43 and 1.45.
3. Matador Production Company has met the requirements in 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 3.32 for an exception to the limitations in that section regarding the requested authority to flare gas produced from the wells connected to the subject flare point.

**EXAMINERS' RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Examiners recommend the Commission enter an order approving the application as requested by Matador Production Company.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Eyster, P. G.  
Technical Examiner



Lynn Latombe  
Administrative Law Judge