

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**  
**HEARINGS DIVISION**

**OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 06-0308079**

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**APPLICATION OF VALENCE OPERATING COMPANY (881167) TO AMEND FIELD RULES FOR THE GIRLIE CALDWELL (GOODLAND LM) FIELD, SMITH, HENDERSON AND VAN ZANDT COUNTIES, TEXAS**

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**FINAL ORDER**

The Railroad Commission ("RRC" or "Commission") finds that after statutory notice in the above-docketed case, heard on January 22, 2018 and April 3, 2018, the presiding Technical Examiner and Administrative Law Judge have made and filed a Proposal for Decision containing findings of fact and conclusions of law, which was served on all parties of record, and that this proceeding was duly submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas at a conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas.

The Commission, after review and due consideration of the Proposal for Decision and the findings of fact and conclusions of law contained therein, and any exceptions and replies thereto, hereby adopts as its own the findings of fact and conclusions of law contained therein, and incorporates those findings of fact and conclusions of law as if fully set out and separately stated herein.

It is **ORDERED** by the Railroad Commission of Texas that the application of Valence Operating Company to consider amending the lease line or subdivision line spacing from 330 feet to 200 feet for the Girlie Caldwell (Goodland LM) Field, Smith County, Texas, is hereby **DENIED**. Each exception to the Examiners' proposal for decision not expressly granted herein is overruled. 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.

It is further **ORDERED** by the Railroad Commission of Texas that the Field Rules, for the Girlie Caldwell (Goodland Lm) Field, (ID No. 35060500), Smith County, Texas are hereby amended. The amended Field Rules are set out in their entirety as follows:

**RULE 1:** The entire correlative interval from 9,050 feet to 9,290 feet as shown on the log of the Valence Operating Company – Katherine Luscombe Gas Unit Well # 5 (Luscombe # 5). (API No. 42-423-32263), T. Quevado Survey A-18, Smith County, Texas, shall be designated as a single reservoir for proration purposes and be designated as the Girlie Caldwell (Goodland Lm) Field.

**RULE 2:** No oil well shall hereafter be drilled nearer than THREE HUNDRED AND 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. There is no minimum between well spacing limitation between horizontal and vertical wells. 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. 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 therefor 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.

In applying this rule, the general order of the Commission with relation to the subdivision of property shall be observed.

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

- a. A take point in a horizontal drainhole well is any point along a horizontal drainhole where oil and/or gas can be produced into the wellbore from the reservoir/field interval. The first take point may be at a different location than the penetration point and the last take point may be at a location different than the terminus point.
- b. No horizontal drainhole well for oil shall hereafter be drilled such that the first and last take point are nearer than ONE HUNDRED (100) feet to any property line, lease line or subdivision line.
- c. 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 on any property line, lease line or subdivision line shall be a minimum of THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY (330) feet.

For the purpose of assigning additional acreage to a horizontal well pursuant to Rule 86, the distance from the first take point to the last take point in the horizontal drainhole shall be used in such determination, in lieu of the distance from penetration point to terminus.

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 and last take points 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 the first and last take points of all drainholes in horizontal wells, regardless of allocation formula.

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 point of a horizontal drainhole outside of the described rectangle must conform to the

permitted distance of the nearest property line, lease line or subdivision line measured perpendicular from the wellbore.

For any well permitted in this field, the penetration point need not be located on the same lease, pooled unit or unitized 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 designed 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 any mineral owner of the Offsite Tract objects 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.

**RULE 3:** The acreage assigned to the individual oil well for the purpose of allocating allowable oil production thereto shall be known as a proration unit. The standard drilling and proration units are established hereby to be FORTY (40) acres for a vertical well. No proration unit shall consist of more than FORTY (40) acres for a vertical well except as hereinafter provided. Additional acreage may be assigned to a horizontal well pursuant to Rule 86, and the distance from the first take point to the last take point in the horizontal drainhole shall be used in such determination, in lieu of the distance from penetration point to terminus. All proration units shall consist of continuous and contiguous acreage which can reasonably be considered to be productive of oil. No double assignment of acreage will be accepted. Operators may elect to not file plats of the acreage assigned to proration units. Instead of filing proration unit plats operators may file Form P-16 listing wells and the acreage assigned to each well.

**RULE 4:** The maximum daily oil allowable for a well in the field shall be determined by multiplying the applicable yardstick allowable for a well in the field by a fraction, the numerator of which is the acreage assigned to the well for proration purposes and the denominator of which is the maximum acreage authorized by these field rules for a vertical well for proration purposes, exclusive of tolerance acreage.

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) and 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.149(c), 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 the Commission Order is signed.

Each exception to the Proposal for Decision not expressly granted herein is overruled. 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.

ENTERED in Austin, Texas on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2018.


RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

  
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CHAIRMAN CHRISTI CRADDICK

  
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COMMISSIONER RYAN SITTON

  
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COMMISSIONER WAYNE CHRISTIAN

ATTEST

  
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SECRETARY

