

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
HEARINGS SECTION**

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 02-0249141**

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**ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY URBANOVSKY, STEVE, SOLE PROPRIETOR, TBC PETROLEUM (840290), AS TO THE FRIAR, A. LEASE, WELL NO. 5 (148215), HELEN GOHLKE W. (YEGUA LOWER) FIELD, THE FRIAR, A. (00639) LEASE, WELL NO. 6, HELEN GOHLKE, W. (WILCOX) FIELD, THE FRIAR, A. LEASE, WELL NO. 7 (152585), HELEN GOHLKE (YEGUA K) FIELD, AND THE FRIAR, A. (07412) LEASE, WELL NO. 2, HELEN GOHLKE, W. (B-1 SD.) FIELD, VICTORIA COUNTY, TEXAS**

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**FINAL ORDER**

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on April 12, 2007, and that the respondent, Urbanovsky, Steve, Sole Proprietor, TBC Petroleum (840290), failed to appear or respond to the notice. Pursuant to § 1.49 of the Commission's General Rules of Practice and Procedure [Tex. R. R. Comm'n, 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.49] and after being duly submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas at conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Urbanovsky, Steve, Sole Proprietor, TBC Petroleum (840290), ("Respondent") was given Notice of Opportunity for Hearing by certified mail, addressed to the most recent P-5 address on the Form P-5 Organization Report, which was signed and returned to the Commission.
2. The returned certified receipt (green card) that was attached to the Original Complaint and the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing mailed to Respondent's most recent P-5 address was signed and returned to the Commission on March 13, 2007. The certified receipt has been on file with the Commission for 15 days, exclusive of the day of receipt and day of issuance.
3. Steve Urbanovsky, as sole proprietor, was a person in a position of ownership or control of respondent, as defined by Texas Natural Resources Code Section 91.114, during the time period of the violations of Commission rules committed by respondent.

4. The violations of Commission rules committed by respondent are related to safety and the control of pollution.
5. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well No. 5 (148215) on the Friar, A. Lease, Well No. 6 on the Friar, A. (00639) Lease, Well No. 7 (152585) on the Friar, A. Lease and Well No. 2 on the Friar, A. (07412) Lease (“subject wells”/“subject leases”) by filing Form P-4's (Producers Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance) with the Commission effective on November 1, 2003 for all of the subject leases and wells.
6. According to Commission records the Respondent's Form P-5 (Organization Report) is active. Respondent has \$50,000.00 Letter of Credit as its financial assurance.
7. Commission records indicate that Well No. 5 (148215) on the Friar, A. Lease was first completed in September 1953, is more than 25 years old, inactive, unplugged and subject to testing requirements. According to Commission records, a Commission Form H-15 (Test On An Inactive Well More Than 25 Years Old) was due to be filed for the subject well in July 2004. Respondent has failed to test the well or file an approved Form H-15 with the Commission.
8. Commission records indicate that the API Number (469-00066) for Well No. 6 of the Friar, A. (00639) Lease was in existence in 1968 and the well is, therefore, more than 25 years old. Further, the subject well is inactive and unplugged and subject to testing requirements. According to Commission records, a Commission Form H-15 (Test On An Inactive Well More Than 25 Years Old) was due to be filed for the subject well in July 2005. Respondent has failed to test the well or file an approved Form H-15 with the Commission.
9. Commission records indicate that Well No. 7 (152585) on the Friar, A. Lease was initially completed in 1974, is more than 25 years old, inactive, unplugged and subject to testing requirements. According to Commission records, a Commission Form H-15 (Test On An Inactive Well More Than 25 Years Old) was due to be filed for the subject well in July 2004. Respondent has failed to test the well or file an approved Form H-15 with the Commission.
10. Commission records indicate that Well No. 2 on the Friar, A. (07412) Lease was initially completed in 1973, is more than 25 years old, inactive, unplugged and subject to testing requirements. A Commission Form H-15 (Test On An Inactive Well More Than 25 Years Old) was due to be filed for the subject well in July 2004. Respondent has failed to test the well or file an approved Form H-15 with the Commission.
11. The subject wells have not been properly plugged in accordance with, and are not otherwise in compliance with, Statewide Rule 14.
12. Usable quality groundwater in the area is likely to be contaminated by migrations or discharges of saltwater and other oil and gas wastes from the subject wells. Unplugged wellbores constitute a cognizable threat to the public health and safety because of the probability of pollution.

13. The Respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed to perform required H-15 tests or plug or otherwise place the subject leases and subject wells in compliance after being notified of the violations by the District Office and failed to appear at the hearing to explain its inaction.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Proper notice was issued by the Railroad Commission to respondent and to all other appropriate persons legally entitled to notice.
2. All things necessary to the Commission attaining jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties in this hearing have been performed or have occurred.
3. Respondent is in violation of Commission Statewide Rule 14(b)(3).
4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject leases in compliance with Statewide Rule 14(b)(3), which requires that the operator of any well more than 25 years old that becomes inactive shall plug or test such well to determine whether the well poses a threat of harm to natural resources, including surface and subsurface water, oil and gas.
5. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject leases and subject wells in compliance with all applicable Commission rules according to Statewide Rules 14, 58, and 79 and Chapters 89 and 91 of the Texas Natural Resources Code.
6. The documented violations committed by the respondent constitute acts deemed serious, a hazard to the public health, and demonstrate a lack of good faith pursuant to TEX. NAT. RES. CODE ANN. §81.0531(c).
7. As a person in a position of ownership or control of respondent at the time respondent violated Commission rules related to safety and the control of pollution, Steve Urbanovsky, and any other organization in which he may hold a position of ownership or control, shall be subject to the restrictions of Texas Natural Resource Code Section 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, whichever is earlier.

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

1. Urbanovsky, Steve, Sole Proprietor, TBC Petroleum (840290), shall place the Friar, A. Lease, Well No. 5 (148215), Helen Gohlke W. (Yegua Lower) Field, the Friar, A. (00639) Lease, Well No. 6, Helen Gohlke, W. (Wilcox) Field, the Friar, A. Lease, Well No. 7 (152585), Helen Gohlke (Yegua K) Field, and the Friar, A. (07412) Lease, Well No. 2, Helen Gohlke, W. (B-1 SD.) Field, Victoria County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and
2. Urbanovsky, Steve, Sole Proprietor, TBC Petroleum (840290), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,000.00)**.

It is further **ORDERED** by the Commission that this order shall not be final and effective until 20 days after a party is notified of the Commission's order. A party is presumed to have been notified of the Commission's order three days after the date on which the notice is actually mailed. If a timely motion for rehearing 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 parties are notified of the order.

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 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2007.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated May 15, 2007)

JD/sa