

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

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 06-0243739**

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**ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY ATKINS OIL, L.C. (036061), AS TO THE EMILY SOMERVILLE (12245) LEASE, WELL NOS. 1 AND 1D, I & L (PALUXY) FIELD, RED RIVER 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 February 9, 2006, and that the respondent, Atkins Oil, L.C. (036061), 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. Atkins Oil, L.C. (036061), ("Respondent") was given First Amended Notice of Hearing by certified mail, addressed to the most recent P-5 address on the Form P-5 Organization Report, which was returned to the Commission marked "unclaimed."
2. The returned certified receipt containing the Original Complaint and the Notice of Hearing mailed to Respondent's most recent P-5 address was returned to the Commission on December 28, 2005. The returned certified receipt (green card) that was attached to the Original Complaint and the Notice of Hearing mailed to Respondent's Resident Agent, William W. Bramlett, was signed and returned to the Commission on January 3, 2006. The certified receipt has been on file with the Commission for 15 days, exclusive of the day of receipt and day of issuance.
3. Billy Jack Atkins, 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 Nos. 1 and 1D on the Emily Somerville (12245) Lease ("subject wells"/"subject lease") by filing a Form P-4 (Producers Transportation of Authority and Certificate of Compliance ) with the Commission effective on July 19, 2000.
6. According to Commission records the Respondent's Form P-5 (Organization Report) is active. Respondent has a \$25,000 Letter of Credit as its financial assurance.
7. A Commission district office inspection was conducted on October 18, 2002 for the Emily Somerville (12245) Lease. Well Nos. 1 and 1D were plugged and abandoned on or about September 17, 2002, but no plugging reports have been filed.

### **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 was in violation of Commission Statewide Rule 14(b)(1).
4. Respondent was responsible for maintaining the subject lease and 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.
5. 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).
6. 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, Billy Jack Atkins, 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. Atkins Oil, L.C. (036061), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00)**.

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 11th day of April 2006.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated April 11, 2006)

ME/sa