

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
OIL AND GAS SECTION**

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 7B-0222205**

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**ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY WESTERN RESERVES CORPORATION (912209), AS TO THE GOFORTH LEASE, WELL NO. 1 (448639), WILDCAT FIELD, PARKER 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 6, 2000 and that the respondent, Western Reserves Corporation (912209), 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. Western Reserves Corporation (912209), ("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) address, which was returned to the Commission marked "unclaimed."
2. The returned certified receipt containing the Original Complaint and the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, was returned to the Commission marked "unclaimed" on March 16, 2000. The certified receipt has been on file with the Commission for 15 days, exclusive of the day of receipt and day of issuance.
3. On May 12, 1999, Respondent, a Corporation, filed an Organization Report (Form P-5) with the Commission reporting that its officers consisted of the following individual: John Richard Parmer; President.
4. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well No. 1 (448639) on the Goforth Lease ("subject well"/"subject lease") by filing a Form W-1 (Application to Drill, Deepen, Plug Back or Re-Enter), issued on May 29, 1996.
5. The subject well has been dry or inactive for a period in excess of one year. Commission inspections and the lack of production reports indicate that subject well has never produced.
6. The subject well has not been properly plugged in accordance with, and is not otherwise in compliance with, Statewide Rule 14.

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7. Usable quality water in the area is likely to be contaminated by migrations or discharges of saltwater and other oil and gas wastes from the subject well. Unplugged wellbores constitute a cognizable threat to public health and safety because of the probability of pollution.
8. The estimated cost to the State of plugging the subject well is \$4,300.00.
9. Commission district office inspections were conducted on September 29, 1998, November 19, 1998, January 14, 1999, March 16, 1999, April 26, 1999, June 26, 1999 and December 28, 1999 for the Goforth Lease. Respondent had failed to backfill a workover pit. The pit is approximately 15' x 30' x 4'. Photographs and inspections of the well indicate that drilling operations have been completed and the well was completed with casing, tubing and valves.
10. Unfilled pits constitute a hazard to public health and safety because of the potential for illegal dumping in the pits and the potential for surface run-off to collect in the pit and seep into subsurface waters.
11. Commission district office inspections were conducted on September 29, 1998, November 19, 1998, January 14, 1999, March 16, 1999, April 26, 1999, June 7, 1999 and December 28, 1999 for the Goforth Lease. Well No. 1 (448639) has been completed with surface casing, tubing and valves, but Respondent has not filed the required completion report.
12. The respondent did not demonstrate good faith since it failed to plug or otherwise place the subject well and subject lease in compliance after being notified of the violations by the District Office and failed to appear at the hearing to explain its inaction.
13. The Respondent has a prior history of Commission rule violations including the following docket(s):  
  
Docket No. 7B-96199; Rule 8; Final Order Served: October 5, 1999;  
Docket No. 7B-0216422; Rule 8; Final Order Served: October 5, 1999;  
Docket No. 7B-0219112; Rule 8; Final Order Served: October 5, 1999;  
Docket No. 7B-0219287; Rule 8; Final Order Served: October 5, 1999;  
Docket No. 7B-0220349; Rule 8; Final Order Served: October 5, 1999.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Proper notice was issued by the Railroad Commission to respondent and 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 Rules 8(d)(4(G)(i)(III), 14(b)(2) and

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16(a).

4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Rule 8(d)(4)(G)(i)(III), which requires workover pits to be dewatered, filled and compacted within 120 days from completion of workover operations.
5. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Rule 16(a), which requires that the owner, or operator of an oil, gas or geothermal resource well, must within thirty days (30) after completion of such well, or the plugging of such well, if the well is a dry hole, shall file with the Commission the appropriate completion or plugging report.
6. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject well and the subject lease in compliance with all applicable Statutes and Commission rules, specifically Statewide Rules 14, 58, and 79 and Chapters 89 and 91, Texas Natural Resources Code.
7. 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) (Vernon 1993).

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

1. Western Reserves Corporation (912209), shall plug the Goforth Lease, Well No. 1 (448639), Wildcat Field, Parker County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and
2. Western Reserves Corporation (912209), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$8,500.00)**.

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 order is served on the parties.

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 otherwise 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.

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Done this 6th day of June, 2000.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order  
dated June 6, 2000)

MH/sa