

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

OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 09-0243188

ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY ABERNATHY AUTO, INC. (002611), AS TO THE TONI (30276) LEASE, WELL NO. 2 C, FLETCHER (CONGLOMERATE) FIELD, COOKE COUNTY, TEXAS

FINAL ORDER

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on August 10, 2006, and that the respondent, Abernathy Auto, Inc. (002611), 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. Abernathy Auto, Inc. (002611), ("Respondent") was given a Notice of 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 Hearing mailed to Respondent's most recent P-5 address was signed and returned to the Commission on June 26, 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. On June 6, 2005, Respondent, a Corporation, filed an Organization Report (Form P-5) with the Commission reporting that its officers consisted of the following individual(s): Charles Flowers; President and Vice-President.
4. Charles Flowers, 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.
5. The violations of Commission rules committed by respondent are related to safety and the control of pollution.

6. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well No. 2 C on the Toni (30276) Lease ("subject well"/"subject lease") by filing a Form P-4 (Producer's Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance) with the Commission effective on June 1, 2004.
7. According to Commission records the Respondent's Form P-5 (Organization Report) is active. Respondent has a \$50,000.00 bond as its financial assurance.
8. Commission district office inspections were conducted on December 9, 2004, January 3, 2005, January 17, 2005 and March 4, 2005 for the Toni (30276) Lease. Respondent had caused or allowed an unauthorized discharge of oil and gas waste to seep from the Reserve Pit affecting an undetermined area on the West and South sides of the pit.
9. No permit has been issued to the Respondent for the discharge of oil and gas wastes on or from the subject lease.
10. The unpermitted discharges of oil and gas wastes or other substances or materials on the subject lease constitute a hazard to public health and safety because leaks and spills of oil and produced waters onto soils can migrate into surface water bodies causing contamination or can leach into the ground and percolate through soils into groundwater supplies.
11. Commission district office inspections were conducted on September 22, 2004, November 3, 2004, December 9, 2004, January 3, 2005, January 17, 2005 and March 4, 2005 for the Toni (30276) Lease. Respondent had caused or allowed swabbed oil to be deposited into the Reserve Pit measuring approximately 255' x 150'.
12. Commission district office inspections were conducted on September 22, 2004, November 3, 2004, December 9, 2004, January 17, 2005 and March 4, 2005 for the Toni (30276) Lease. Respondent had caused or allowed a Reserve Pit containing fluid to remain open at Well No. 2C, although Commission records show that the well was completed on November 13, 2003.
13. Commission district office inspections were conducted on September 22, 2004, November 3, 2004, December 9, 2004, January 3, 2005, January 17, 2005 and March 4, 2005 for the Toni (30276) Lease. Respondent had caused or allowed a workover pit, containing fluid, measuring approximately 350' x 165' to remain open on the lease. Commission records indicated that the well was completed on November 13, 2003.
14. 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.
15. The Respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed to place the 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.

16. The Commission has received from Respondent a payment of administrative settlement penalties in the amount of **THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000.00)**.

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 Rules 8(d)(1), 8(d)(4)(A), 8(d)(4)(G)(i)(I) and 8(d)(4)(G)(i)(III).
4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 8(d)(1), which prohibits the discharge of oil and gas wastes without a permit.
5. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 8(d)(4)(A), which requires that a person shall not deposit or cause to be deposited into a reserve pit or mud circulation pit any oil field fluids or oil and gas wastes.
6. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 8(d)(4)(G)(i)(I), which requires reserve pits and mud circulation pits to be dewatered, backfilled and compacted within one year of cessation of drilling operations.
7. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide 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.
8. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease 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.
9. 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).

10. 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, Charles Flowers, 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. Abernathy Auto, Inc. (002611), shall place the Toni (30276) Lease, Well No. 2 C, Fletcher (Conglomerate) Field, Cooke County, Texas in compliance with Commission rules and regulations;
2. Abernathy Auto, Inc. (002611), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,000.00)**.

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 14th day of November 2006.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated November 14, 2006)

ME/sa