

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

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET
NO. 06-0263967**

**IN THE HARDWOOD (COTTON
VALLEY) FIELD, HARRISON
COUNTY, TEXAS**

**FINAL ORDER
AMENDING THE FIELD RULES
FOR THE HARDWOOD (COTTON VALLEY) FIELD
HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS**

The Commission finds that after statutory notice in the above-numbered docket heard on January 7, 2010, the presiding examiner has made and filed a report and recommendation containing findings of fact and conclusions of law, for which service was not required; that the proposed application is in compliance with all statutory requirements; and that this proceeding was duly submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas at conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas.

The Commission, after review and due consideration of the examiners' report and proposal for decision, the findings of fact and conclusions of law contained therein, and any exceptions and replies thereto, hereby adopts as its own Findings of Fact Nos. 1 through 5, with the exception of Nos. 6 through 9 and Conclusions of Law Nos. 1 through 3, with the exception of No. 4, and incorporates said findings of fact and conclusions of law as if fully set out and separately stated herein. The Commission adopts the following substitute Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

Substitute Findings of Fact:

6. Allowing "internal" no take point segments or NPZ's will not cause waste as it will encourage drilling laterals in areas where leases can not be obtained along the entire length of the lateral and will produce reserves that will not be produced by other means.
7. Field rules that allow internal no take point segments or NPZ's have been approved in approximately 56 other fields that are undergoing horizontal development.
8. The addition of no take point intervals or NPZ's for the purpose of negating an otherwise required exception to SWR 37 will expedite the issuance of drilling permits there by encouraging development of the field.
9. The addition of no take points intervals or NPZ's, for the purpose of negating an otherwise required exception to SWR 37 will protect correlative rights by encouraging the mineral development of tracts of leased mineral owners.

Substitute Conclusions of Law:

4. Amending the field rules for the Hardwood (Cotton Valley) Field to authorize no perf zones will prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

Therefore, it is ordered by the Railroad Commission of Texas that Rule 2 of the field

rules adopted in Final Order No. 06-0255790, effective April 24, 2008, for the Hardwood (Cotton Valley) Field, Harrison County, Texas, is hereby amended as follows:

RULE 2: No well for oil or gas shall hereafter be drilled nearer than FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN (467) feet to any property line, lease line or subdivision line and no well shall be drilled nearer than SIX HUNDRED (600) feet to any other applied for, permitted or completed well in the same reservoir on the same lease, pooled unit or unitized tract. There is no minimum spacing requirement 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 in either field. 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 therefore 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.

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. All take points in a horizontal drainhole well shall be a minimum of FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN (467) feet from the property line, lease line, or subdivision line. A permit or an amended permit is required for any take point closer to the lease line than the lease line spacing distance, including any perforations added in the vertical portion or the curve of a horizontal drainhole well.
- c. All take points in a horizontal drainhole well shall be a minimum distance of SIX HUNDRED (600) feet from take points in any existing, permitted, or applied for horizontal drainhole well on the same lease, unit or unitized tract.
- d. For any well permitted in this field configured as the above described wells, the penetration point need not be located on the same lease, pooled unit, unitized tract or production sharing agreement 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 designated 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 the mineral owners of the Offsite Tract object 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.

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.

If the applicant has represented in the drilling application that there will be one or more no perf zones or "NPZ's" (portions of the wellbore within the field interval without take points), then the as-drilled plat filed after completion of the well shall be certified by a person with knowledge of the facts pertinent to the application that the plat is accurately drawn to scale and correctly reflects all pertinent and required data. In addition to the standard required data, the certified plat shall include the as-drilled track of the wellbore, the location of each take point on the wellbore, the boundaries of any wholly or partially unleased tracts within a Rule 37 distance of the wellbore, and notations of the shortest distance from each wholly or partially unleased tract within a Rule 37 distance of the wellbore to the nearest take point on the wellbore.

For the purpose of assigning additional acreage to a horizontal well, 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 applying this rule, the general order of the Commission with relation to the subdivision of property shall be observed.

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.

This order will 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 in accordance with TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.144.

Done this 14th day of September , 2010.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

CHAIRMAN VICTOR G. CARRILLO

COMMISSIONER ELIZABETH A. JONES

COMMISSIONER MICHAEL L. WILLIAMS

ATTEST:

Secretary