

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

OIL AND GAS DOCKET  
NO. 08-0273212

IN THE LOWE (ATOKA) FIELD,  
ANDREWS AND MARTIN COUNTIES,  
TEXAS

FINAL ORDER  
ADOPTING FIELD RULES FOR THE  
LOWE (ATOKA) FIELD  
ANDREWS AND MARTIN COUNTIES, TEXAS

The Commission finds that after statutory notice in the above-numbered docket heard on December 1, 2011, 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 examiner's report and recommendation, the findings of fact and conclusions of law contained therein, hereby adopts as its own the findings of fact and conclusions of law contained therein, and incorporates said findings of fact and conclusions of law as if fully set out and separately stated herein.

Therefore, it is **ORDERED** by the Railroad Commission of Texas that the following rules shall be adopted for the Lowe (Atoka) Field, Andrews and Martin Counties, Texas.

**RULE 1:** The entire correlative interval from 11,210 feet and 11,716 feet as shown on the log of the Cactus Drilling Mabee JE Well No. 1A, Block 39, Section 11, G&MMB&A Survey, API 42-003-10475, Andrews County, Texas, shall be designated as a single reservoir for proration purposes and be designated as the Lowe (Atoka) Field.

**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. There is no minimum between well spacing requirement. 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. 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 therefor 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.

In applying this rule, the general order of the Commission with relation to the subdivision of property shall be observed.

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 any property line, lease line, or subdivision line. A permit or an amended permit is required for all take points closer to the property line, lease line, or subdivision line than the lease line spacing distance, including any perforations added in the vertical portion or the curve of a horizontal drainhole well.

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.

A properly permitted horizontal drainhole will be considered to be in compliance with the spacing rules set forth herein if the as-drilled location falls within a rectangle established as follows:

- a. Two sides of the rectangle are parallel to the permitted drainhole and 50 feet on either side of the drainhole;
- b. The other two sides of the rectangle are perpendicular to the sides described in (a) above, with one of those sides passing through the first take point and the other side passing through the last take point.

Any point of a horizontal drainhole outside of the described rectangle must conform to the permitted distance of the property line, lease line or subdivision line.

**RULE 3:** The acreage assigned to the individual oil or gas well for the purpose of allocating allowable oil or gas production thereto shall be known as a proration unit. The standard drilling and proration units are established hereby to be THREE HUNDRED TWENTY (320) acres. No proration unit shall consist of more than THREE HUNDRED TWENTY (320) acres except as hereinafter provided. All proration units shall consist of continuous and contiguous acreage which can reasonably be considered to be productive of oil or gas. No double assignment of acreage will be accepted.

If after the drilling of the last well on any lease and the assignment of acreage to each well thereon in accordance with the regulations of the Commission there remains an additional unassigned acreage of less than THREE HUNDRED TWENTY (320) acres, then and in such event the remaining unassigned acreage up to and including a total of FORTY (40) acres may be assigned as tolerance acreage to the last well drilled on such lease or may be distributed among any group of wells located thereon, so long as the proration units resulting from the inclusion of such additional acreage meet the limitations prescribed by the Commission.

An operator, at his option, shall be permitted to form optional drilling and fractional proration units of FORTY (40) acres, with a proportional acreage allowable credit for a well on fractional proration units.

For the purpose of assigning additional acreage to a well which has been drilled as a horizontal drainhole, an operator may assign more than THREE HUNDRED TWENTY (320) acres providing that the following formula is utilized to determine the proper assignment of acreage:

$$A = (L \times 0.16249) + 320 \text{ acres}$$

Where: A = calculated area assignable, if available, to a horizontal drainhole for proration purposes rounded up to the next whole number evenly divisible by 40 acres;

L = the horizontal drainhole distance measured in feet between the first take point and the last take point, in lieu of the distance from penetration point to terminus.

The acreage assigned to a horizontal drainhole well shall not exceed 640 acres plus tolerance acreage for the last well on the lease.

For the determination of acreage credit in this field, operators shall file for each oil or gas well in this field a Form P-15 Statement of Productivity of Acreage Assigned to

Proration Units. On that form or an attachment thereto, the operator shall list the number of acres that are being assigned to each well on the lease or unit for proration purposes. For oil or gas wells, operators shall be required to file, along with the Form P-15, a plat of the lease, unit or property; provided that such plat shall not be required to show individual proration units.

**RULE 4:** The maximum daily oil allowable for each well in the subject field shall be based on the 1967 yardstick allowable and the actual allowable for an individual well shall be determined by the sum total of the two following values:

- a. Each well shall be assigned an allowable equal to the top allowable established for a well having a proration unit containing the maximum acreage authorized exclusive of tolerance acreage multiplied by 50% and by then multiplying this value by a fraction, the numerator of which is the acreage assigned to the well and the denominator of which is the maximum acreage authorized for a proration unit exclusive of tolerance acreage.
- b. Each well shall be assigned an allowable equal to 50% of the maximum daily oil allowable above.

It is further **ORDERED** that the allocation formula for gas wells in the Lowe (Atoka) Field will remain suspended. The allocation formula may be reinstated administratively, in accordance with the Commission's rules, if the market demand for gas in the Lowe (Atoka) Field drops below 100% of deliverability.

Done this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

**(Order approved and signatures affixed by  
OGC Unprotested Master Order dated  
February 7, 2012)**