

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
HEARINGS DIVISION**

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET  
NO. 03-0298114**

**IN THE DEEP PINES (WDBN/AC) FIELD,  
WALKER AND SAN JACINTO  
COUNTIES, TEXAS**

**FINAL ORDER  
CONSOLIDATING THE DEEP PINES WEST (AUSTIN CHALK) FIELD AND THE  
DEEP PINES WEST (WOODBINE) FIELD INTO THE DEEP PINES (WDBN/AC)  
FIELD AND ADOPTING SPECIAL TEMPORARY FIELD RULES FOR THE DEEP  
PINES (WDBN/AC) FIELD, WALKER AND SAN JACINTO COUNTIES, TEXAS**

The Commission finds that after statutory notice in the above-numbered docket heard on October 27, 2015, the presiding examiners have 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 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 Deep Pines West (Austin Chalk) Field (ID No. 239 03500) and the Deep Pines West (Woodbine) Field (ID No. 239 03750) are hereby consolidated into the Deep Pines (WDBN/AC) Field, Walker and San Jacinto Counties, Texas.

Wells in the subject fields shall be transferred to the Deep Pines (WDBN/AC) Field without requiring new drilling permits and plats. Wells in the subject field shall be classified as gas wells for proration purposes.

It is further **ORDERED** by the Railroad Commission of Texas that the following Field Rules shall be adopted for the Deep Pines (WDBN/AC) Field, San Jacinto and Walker Counties, Texas:

**RULE 1:** The entire correlative interval and its stratigraphic equivalent from 12,435 feet to 13,272 feet as shown on the electric log of the SM Energy Company Horizon Properties Well No. 2H (API No. 42-407-30734), John L. Lynch Survey, A-197, San Jacinto County, Texas, shall be designated as a single reservoir for proration purposes and be designated as the Deep Pines (WDBN/AC) Field.

**RULE 2:** No well for oil or gas shall hereafter be drilled nearer than THREE HUNDRED THIRTY (330) feet to any property line, lease line, or subdivision line. There is no between well spacing limitation. 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 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.

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. No take point in a horizontal well shall be nearer than ONE HUNDRED (100) feet from any property line, lease line or subdivision line.
- c. For each horizontal drainhole well, the perpendicular distance from any take point on such horizontal drainhole between the first take point and the last take point to any point on any property line, lease line or subdivision line shall be a minimum of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY (330) feet.

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 pert zones or "NPZs" (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 tract 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 to the nearest property line, lease line or subdivision line.

For any well permitted in this field, the penetration point need not be located on the same lease, pooled unit or unitized 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 any mineral owner of the Offsite Tract objects 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.

**RULE 3a:** The acreage assigned to an individual vertical gas well for the purpose of allocating allowable 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; provided that, tolerance acreage of ten (10) percent shall be allowed for each standard proration unit so that an amount not to exceed a maximum of THREE HUNDRED FIFTY TWO (352) acres may be assigned. Each proration unit containing less than THREE HUNDRED TWENTY (320) acres shall be a fractional proration unit. All proration units shall consist of continuous and contiguous acreage which can reasonably be considered to be productive of gas. No double assignment of acreage will be allowed. There is no maximum diagonal limitation in this field.

Notwithstanding the above, the acreage assigned to a gas well which has been drilled as a horizontal drainhole may contain more than THREE HUNDRED TWENTY (320) acres providing that the following formula is utilized to determine the proper assignment of acreage:

$$A = (L \times 0.11488) + 320 \text{ acres}$$

Where: A = calculated area assignable, if available, to a horizontal drainhole for proration purposes rounded upward 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.

For the purpose of assigning additional acreage to a horizontal drainhole gas well pursuant to the formula above, 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.

**RULE 3b:** 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, in lieu of amended Form P-15's. 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. Operators may, however, file such proration unit plats for individual wells in the field if they so choose.

**RULE 4:** The subject field shall be classified as non associated-prorated. The daily allowable production of gas from individual gas wells completed in the subject field shall be determined by allocating the allowable production, after deductions have been

made for wells which are incapable of producing their gas allowables, among the individual wells in the following manner:

- a. NINETY FIVE percent (95%) of the field's total allowable shall be allocated among the individual wells in the proportion that the acreage assigned such well for allowable purposes bears to the summation of the acreage with respect to all prorable wells producing from this consolidated field.
- b. FIVE percent (5%) of the field's total allowable shall be allocated equally among all the individual prorable wells producing from the field.

**RULE 5:** For oil and gas wells, Stacked Lateral Wells within the correlative interval for the field that are drilled from different wellbores may be considered a single well for regulatory purposes, at an operator's discretion, as provided below:

1. A horizontal drainhole well qualifies as a Stacked Lateral Well under the following conditions:
  - a. There are two or more horizontal drainhole wells on the same lease or pooled unit within the correlative interval for the field;
  - b. Horizontal drainholes are drilled from different surface locations;
  - c. All take points of a Stacked Lateral Well's horizontal drainholes shall be within a rectangular area the width of which is SIX HUNDRED SIXTY (660) feet, and the length of which is 1.1 times the distance from the first and last take points of the Record Well;
  - d. There shall be no maximum or minimum distance limitations between horizontal drainholes of a Stacked Lateral Well in a vertical direction;
  - e. All horizontal drainholes must be tested independently and as a result have the same wellbore classification (i.e., gas or oil); and
  - f. The first horizontal drainhole will be identified as the "Record Well." An operator may change the Record Well designation to another wellbore by filing the appropriate Commission forms.
2. A Stacked Lateral Well, including all surface locations and horizontal drainholes comprising such Stacked Lateral Well, shall be considered as a single well for density and allowable purposes.

- a. The requirements of Statewide Rule 86(d)(4) shall not apply to stacked lateral wells.
  - b. For the purpose of assigning additional acreage to the Stacked Lateral Well pursuant to Field Rule 3 or Statewide Rule 86 as applicable, the horizontal drainhole displacement shall be calculated based on the distance from the first take point to the last take point in the horizontal drainhole for the Record Well, regardless of the horizontal drainhole displacement of other horizontal drainholes of the Stacked Lateral Well.
3. Each surface location of a Stacked Lateral Well must be permitted separately and assigned an API number. In permitting a Stacked Lateral Well, the operator shall identify each surface location of such well as a Stacked Lateral Well on the Form W-1 drilling permit application. The operator shall also identify on the plat any other existing, or applied for, horizontal drainholes comprising the Stacked Lateral Well being permitted.
4. To be a regular location, each horizontal drainhole of a Stacked Lateral Well must comply with (i) the field's minimum spacing distance as to any lease, pooled unit or property line, and (ii) the field's minimum between well spacing distance as to any different well, including all horizontal drainholes of any other Stacked Lateral Well, on the same lease or pooled unit in the field. Operators may seek exceptions to Rules 37 and 38 for Stacked Lateral Wells in accordance with the Commission's rules, or any applicable rule for this field.
5. Operators shall file separate completion forms for each surface location of the Stacked Lateral Well. Operators shall also file a certified as-drilled location plat for each surface location of a Stacked Lateral Well showing each horizontal drainhole from that surface location, confirming the well's qualification as a Stacked Lateral Well and showing the maximum distances in a horizontal direction between each horizontal drainhole of the Stacked Lateral Well.
6. In addition to the Record Well, each surface location of a Stacked Lateral Well will be listed on the proration schedule, but no allowable shall be assigned for an individual surface location. Each surface location of a Stacked Lateral Well shall be required to have a separate G-10 or W-10 test and the sum of all horizontal drainhole test rates shall be reported as the test rate for the Record Well.
7. Operators shall report all production from horizontal drainholes included as a Stacked Lateral Well on Form PR to the Record Well. Production

reported for a Record Well is the total production from the horizontal drainholes comprising the Stacked Lateral Well. Operators shall measure the production from each surface location of a Stacked Lateral Well. Operators may measure full well stream with the measurement adjusted for the allocation of condensate based on the gas to liquid ratio established by the most recent G-10 well test rate for that surface location. The gas and condensate production will be identified by individual API number and recorded and reported on the "Supplementary Attachment to Form PR".

8. If the field's 100% AOF status should be removed, the Commission's Proration Department shall assign a single gas allowable to each Record Well classified as a gas well. The Commission's Proration Department shall also assign a single oil allowable to each Record Well classified as an oil well. The assigned allowable may be produced from any one, all, or combination of the horizontal drainholes comprising the Stacked Lateral Well.
9. Operators shall file an individual Form W-3A Notice of Intention to Plug and Abandon and Form W-3 Well Plugging Report for each horizontal drainhole comprising the Stacked Lateral Well as required by Commission rules.
10. An operator may not file Form P-4 to transfer an individual surface location of a Stacked Lateral Well to another operator. P-4's filed to change the operator will only be accepted for the Record Well if accompanied by a separate P-4 for each surface location of the Stacked Lateral Well.

It is further **ORDERED** by the Railroad Commission of Texas that the allocation formula for the Deep Pines (WDBN/AC) Field be suspended. The allocation formula may be reinstated administratively if the market demand for gas in the Deep Pines (WDBN/AC) Field drops below 100% of deliverability. If the market demand for gas in the Deep Pines (WDBN/AC) Field drops below 100% of deliverability while the allocation formula is suspended, the operator shall immediately notify the Commission and the allocation formula shall be immediately reinstated.

It is further **ORDERED** that these rules are temporary and effective until September 27, 2018, or until Commission staff evaluates appropriate data after notice and opportunity for hearing as offered by the Commission prior to the expiration of the rules. After this notice and opportunity for hearing, should the evidence evaluated during review be insufficient to sustain spacing or proration unit rules, these temporary rules, on the Commission's own motion, may be modified or terminated.

Done this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

**(Order approved and signatures affixed by  
Hearings Divisions' Unprotected Master Order  
dated September 27, 2016)**