

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

ARTHUR H. BARBECK
Chief Engineer



AUSTIN, TEXAS

August 6, 1969

COMMISSIONERS
BEN RAMSEY
Chairman
BYRON TUNNELL
JIM C. LANGDON
FRED OSBORNE, Secretary

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSION: DOCKET NO. 6-59,437

RE: Commission called hearing pertaining to the proper plugging of two wells on the Joe B. Holcomb, Clayton Lease, East Texas Field, Gregg County, Texas

DATE OF HEARING: June 30, 1969

APPEARANCES: Stanley Hornsby for Gulf Oil Corp.;
Lloyd Lochridge for Humble Oil & Refining Company

This is one of several hearings called by the Commission to consider plugging requirements for wells in the East Texas Field, the permits for which were set aside by court order. The two wells subject to this hearing were granted in separate applications, one as the second well on a 3.7 acre lease, and the other as the second well on a 2.7 acre lease. Court finding in the subsequent attack on the permits were that a .45 acre tract separating the two tracts was, in effect, an illegal subdivision, and that the two tracts were not entitled to either separate development or compensatory offsets to the well drilled on the .45 acre tract.

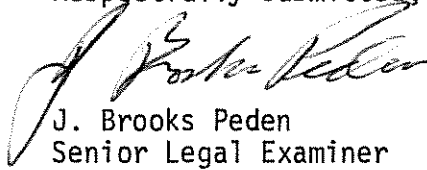
The wells were granted in 1941, and were cancelled in 1943 after the wells had been drilled and on production for two years. Reapplication for both wells was made in 1946 and the permits were denied. Last Commission action was dated June 26, 1947, at which time the wells were sealed and have apparently remained sealed to the present.

There were no appearances in behalf of the operator, but a letter from Elmer Evans was submitted, stating that they would like to have permission to keep the two closed in wells in their present condition indefinitely, in case one or both of the existing wells on the lease, which is now carried on our records as a single lease with four wells, two of which are carried with the CO symbol, and the other two of which are carried as top allowable wells, should need to be replaced.

There is no indication in the record of any foreseeable necessity for the use of either of these wells, and it is noted that as replacement wells, one would be a minimum of 189 feet from the well being replaced, and the other would be a minimum of 210 feet from the well being replaced, both of which would require special exception to our replacement well rule.

It is the recommendation of the writer that the operator be given a period of time, not to exceed 60 days, within which to either make definite application for the use of one or both of these wells, or to file intent to plug forms.





Respectfully submitted,


J. Brooks Peden
Senior Legal Examiner

JBP:da

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

RECOMMENDATION DENIED:

	Chief Engineer	_____
	Chairman	_____
	Commissioner	_____
	Commissioner	_____

DCA _____

EFFECTIVE _____