

CHRISTI CRADDICK, *CHAIRMAN*  
RYAN SITTON, *COMMISSIONER*  
WAYNE CHRISTIAN, *COMMISSIONER*



RANDALL D. COLLINS, *DIRECTOR*

# RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

## HEARINGS DIVISION

OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 02-0308824

---

THE APPLICATION OF ALTA MESA SERVICES, LP TO CONSOLIDATE THE BRANDT (WILCOX 11100); BRANDT, S. (WILCOX 12200); EMMA HAYNES (11,300 WILCOX); EMMA HAYNES (11,400 WILCOX); EMMA HAYNES (12,650 WILCOX); AND FRANKE (WILCOX 11,400) FIELDS INTO THE PROPOSED BRANDT (MID WILCOX CONS.) FIELD, AND TO ADOPT PROPOSED FIELD RULES FOR THE BRANDT (MID WILCOX CONS.) FIELD, VARIOUS COUNTIES, TEXAS

---

**HEARD BY:** Richard Eyster - Technical Examiner  
Kristi M. Reeve - Administrative Law Judge

**HEARING DATE:** March 14, 2018

**APPEARANCES:**

Frank Muser

**REPRESENTING:**

Alta Mesa Services L.P.

### EXAMINERS' REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

#### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Alta Mesa is seeking to Consolidate the Brandt (Wilcox 11100); Brandt, S. (Wilcox 12200); Emma Haynes (11,300 Wilcox); Emma Haynes (11,400 Wilcox); Emma Haynes (12,650 Wilcox); and Franke (Wilcox 11,400) Fields into the Proposed Brandt (Mid Wilcox Cons.) Field, and to adopt Field Rules for the Brandt (Mid Wilcox Cons.) Field, in various counties, Texas. Alta Mesa has demonstrated that the proposed field consolidation and proposed field rules will prevent waste, protect correlative rights, and promote the orderly development of the field. The application is not protested. The Technical Examiner and Administrative Law Judge (collectively "Examiners") recommend that the field rules be amended, and that the field be designated as a UFT field, as requested by Alta Mesa.

### **DISCUSSION OF THE EVIDENCE**

Alta Mesa is proposing to adopt the following field rules for the Brandt (Mid Wilcox Cons.) Field;

1. The entire correlative interval from 10,500 feet to 13,800 feet as shown on the Induction Electrolog of the Flint Interests, LLC, Dornburg #1 Well (API No. 42-175-34055), located in the A. Berry Survey, A-59, Goliad County, Texas, shall be designated as a single reservoir for proration purposes and be designated as the Brandt (Mid Wilcox Cons.) Field.

2. 467 feet lease line spacing/ 1,200 feet between well spacing.
3. 40 acre proration unit with 20 acre tolerance with no diagonal,
4. NINETY-FIVE percent (95%) of the total field allowable shall be allocated among the individual wells in the proportion that the deliverability of such well, as evidenced by the most recent G-10 test filed with the Railroad Commission, bears to the summation of the deliverability of all proratable wells producing in this field. FIVE percent (5%) of the field's total allowable shall be allocated among all the individual proratable wells producing in the field.

Alt Mesa is also requesting that for the determination of acreage credit in this field, operators shall file for each gas well in this field Form P-15 Statement of Productivity of Acreage Assigned to Proration Units, or Form P-16 Data Sheet Acreage Designation and that the allocation formula for gas wells in the Brandt (Mid Wilcox Cons.) Field be suspended.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Notice of this hearing was given to all parties entitled to notice at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing.
2. The White Oak (Cotton Valley Sand) Field was discovered on July 20, 1991 at a depth of 10,580 feet.
3. The field is a non-associated gas field.
4. There are currently 133 wells in the field.
5. Field rules were adopted on July 18, 1995 (in Docket No. 06-0208741) and were amended on March 20, 2012 (in Docket No. 06-0274442).
6. The current field rules include provisions for 160-acre standard proration units and 40-acre optional proration units.

7. The field was originally developed with vertical wells, but operators now are preparing for future drilling and development with horizontal wells.
8. The field is immediately nearby another similar Cotton Valley Sand field, the Willow Springs (Cotton Valley) Field, with recent development with horizontal wells, and field rules to facilitate horizontal drilling and development.
9. The field rules for other Cotton Valley gas reservoirs in the area have similar density provisions (160-acre or larger standard units with 40-acre options) and dual lease line spacing provisions of 200/330 feet, and those rules will promote recovery of hydrocarbons to prevent waste and protect correlative rights in this field. Drainage calculations support the proposed unit rules. The proposed acreage allocation formula is appropriate for this reservoir.
10. The requested field rule amendments (50' box rule, no maximum diagonal, filing of Form P-16, no required filing of proration unit plats) have become standard for fields developed with horizontal wells and for UFT fields under Statewide Rule 86.
11. The *in situ* permeability of the Cotton Valley formation within this field is 0.1 millidarcy or less. Numerous other Cotton Valley fields in the area are designated as UFT fields under Statewide Rule 86.
12. Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracture treatment must be used in order to recover the resources from all or a part of the field, and UFT designation will promote orderly development of the field.
13. The proposed field rules amendments will reduce waste, protect correlative rights, and promote the orderly development of the field.


#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Resolution of the subject application is a matter committed to the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Tex. Nat. Res. Code § 81.051.
2. All notice requirements have been satisfied. 16 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 1.43 and 1.45.
3. The propose field rule amendments and UFT designation will reduce waste, protect correlative rights, and promote the orderly development of the field.

**EXAMINERS' RECOMMENDATION**

Based in the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Examiners recommend the Commission enter an order granting the application of Alta Mesa Services, L.P. to amend the field rules for the White Oak (Cotton Valley Sand) Field and to designate the field as an Unconventional Fracture Treated field pursuant to Statewide Rule 86.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Eyster, P.G.  
Technical Examiner



Kristi M. Reeve  
Administrative Law Judge