



New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez

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Daniel Sanchez
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Oil Conservation Division



March 2, 2011

Apache Corp.
6120 S. Yale, Suite 1500
Tulsa, OK 74136

Apache Corp.
Attn: Reesa Holland
303 Veterans Airpark Lane, Suite 3000
Midland, TX 79705

DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR ALLOWABLE AND AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSPORT

Re: Apache Corp., OGRID #873

- USA Howse #2, API #30-025-39839, Lea County, NM
- V Laughlin #8, API #30-025-39899, Lea County, NM
- V Laughlin #5, API #30-025-36675, Lea County, NM
- Northeast Drinkard Unit #166, API #30-025-39916, Lea County, NM

Dear Operator:

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) **denies** your request for allowable and authorization to transport for the wells identified above because your company is out of compliance with 19.15.5.9(A) NMAC [Part 5.9(A)]. See 19.15.16.19(A)(4) NMAC.

Your company is out of compliance with Part 5.9(A) on the following ground(s):

XXXX Financial assurances. Your company is in violation of the financial assurance requirements for well plugging set out in 19.15.8.9 NMAC. See 19.15.5.9(A)(1) NMAC. Specifically, your company has not posted the single-well financial assurances required for state or fee wells which have been inactive for more than two years. The wells requiring single-well financial assurances are identified in the attached sheet.



_____ **Corrective action.** Order _____, issued on _____ after notice and hearing, found your company to be in violation of an order requiring corrective action. See 19.15.5.9(A)(2) NMAC.

_____ **Unpaid penalties.** Your company has not paid the penalties assessed against your company in _____, issued on _____. More than 70 days have passed since the issuance of the order assessing the penalty. See 19.15.5.9(A)(3) NMAC.

XXXX Inactive wells. According to the attached inactive well list, your company has too many wells in violation of the inactive well rule (19.15.25.8 NMAC) that are not subject to an inactive well agreed compliance order. See 19.15.5.9(A)(4) NMAC. As an operator of **2518** wells, your company may have no more than **10** wells in violation of the inactive well rule. Your company has **15** wells in violation of the inactive well rule. In addition,

I have enclosed an information sheet explaining the requirements of Part 5.9. You may re-submit your request after your company has returned to compliance with Part 5.9.

Respectfully yours,



Daniel Sanchez
Acting Division Director
Division Compliance and Enforcement Manager

Ec: Theresa Duran-Saenz, Legal Assistant, Santa Fe
Larry "Buddy" Hill, District 1 Supervisor
Randy Dade, District 2 Supervisor
Charlie Perrin, District 3 Supervisor
Ed Martin, District 4 Supervisor
Donna Mull, Compliance Officer

Inactive Well Additional Financial Assurance Report

873 APACHE CORP

Total Well Count: 2518

Printed On: Wednesday, March 02 2011

Well Name	Lea se Typ e	ULSTR	OCD Unit Lett er	API	We ll Ty pe	Last Prod/I nj	Inactive Additional Bond Due	Measu red Depth	Requir ed Bond Amou nt	Bond Requir ed Now	Bon d In Pla ce	In Violati on
NORTHEAST DRINKARD UNIT #133	P	5-2 -21S- 37E	E	30-025- 34600	O	02/20 09	03/01/2 011	6980	1198 0	Y	0	Y

Inactive Well List

Total Well Count: 2518 Inactive Well Count: 15

Printed On: Wednesday, March 02 2011

District	API	Well	ULSTR	OCD Unit	OGRID	Operator	Lease Type	Well Type	Last Production	Formation/Notes	Status	TA Exp Date
1	30-025-04132	J R PHILLIPS GAS COM #003	G-1 -20S-36E	G	873	APACHE CORP	P	G	08/2009	YATES SEVEN RIVER QUEEN		
1	30-025-10766	NEW MEXICO BZ STATE NCT-8 #008	D-16-23S-37E	D	873	APACHE CORP	S	I	08/2009			
1	30-025-05807	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #002	B-33-19S-37E	B	873	APACHE CORP	P	O	06/1993		T	2/24/2011
1	30-025-04162	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #004	4-2 -20S-36E	D	873	APACHE CORP	P	O	05/1984		T	2/21/2011
1	30-025-04068	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #004	D-25-19S-36E	D	873	APACHE CORP	P	G	03/1992		T	2/21/2011
1	30-025-05875	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #006	F-3 -20S-37E	F	873	APACHE CORP	P	O	05/1995	GRAYBURG SAN ANDRES	T	2/24/2011
1	30-025-05930	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #008	H-6 -20S-37E	H	873	APACHE CORP	P	G	02/1992		T	2/24/2011
1	30-025-05813	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #010	J-33-19S-37E	J	873	APACHE CORP	P	O	12/1995		T	2/24/2011
1	30-025-24166	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #010	J-36-19S-36E	J	873	APACHE CORP	S	O	02/1988		T	2/21/2011
1	30-025-05889	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #013	M-4 -20S-37E	M	873	APACHE CORP	P	O	06/1995	GRAYBURG SAN ANDRES	T	2/24/2011
1	30-025-05810	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #015	O-33-19S-37E	O	873	APACHE CORP	P	O	12/1992		T	2/24/2011
1	30-025-05817	NORTH MONUMENT G/SA UNIT #015	O-34-19S-37E	O	873	APACHE CORP	P	O	11/1995	GSA	T	2/24/2011
1	30-025-06371	STATE SECTION 2 #005	L-2 -21S-37E	L	873	APACHE CORP	S	O	12/1987	ABO / RECOMPL FROM HARE;SIMPSON	T	11/2/2010
1	30-025-06489	STATE SECTION 2 #021	L-2 -21S-37E	T	873	APACHE CORP	S	O	12/1992	SAN ANDRES DENIED TA RENEWAL ELG 12/1/10	T	12/5/2010
1	30-025-06758	TURNER #016	M-22-21S-37E	M	873	APACHE CORP	P	G	11/2001	SA INT TO PA 02/22/2011	T	1/19/2011

WHERE Ogrid:873, County:All, District:All, Township:All, Range:All, Section:All, Production(months):15, Excludes Wells Under ACOI, Excludes Wells in Approved TA Period

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PART 5.9

Oil Conservation Division (OCD) Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC, commonly known as “Part 5.9,” requires operators to meet certain minimum compliance standards for the wells they already operate before they can drill, acquire, produce or inject into additional wells. If an operator is out of compliance as defined by Part 5.9, the OCD:

- May deny registration by the operator or certain related entities. See 19.15.9.8(B) NMAC.
- May deny applications for change of operator that would transfer wells to the operator. See 19.15.9.9(C) NMAC.
- Must deny injection permits. See 19.15.26.8(A) NMAC.
- May deny APDs. See 19.15.14.10(A) NMAC.
- Must deny allowable and authorizations to transport. See 19.15.16.19(A) NMAC.

In addition, the OCD may, after notice and hearing, revoke previously issued injection permits if the operator is out of compliance with Part 5.9. See 19.15.26.8(A) NMAC.

To stay in compliance with Part 5.9, an operator must:

- Keep current with the financial assurance requirements for well plugging. See 19.15.5.9(A)(1) NMAC.
- Comply with orders requiring corrective action. See 19.15.5.9(A)(2) NMAC.
- Pay properly assessed penalties. See 19.15.5.9(A)(3) NMAC.
- Have no more than a certain number of wells out of compliance with the inactive well rule. See 19.15.5.9(A)(4) NMAC.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE REQUIREMENTS: The OCD’s financial assurance requirements for well plugging are set out in 19.15.8.9 NMAC. The OCD requires all state or fee wells to be covered by a financial assurance. The OCD does not require financial assurances for Federal or Indian wells.

The operator must either post a blanket financial assurance in the amount of \$50,000 to cover its state or fee wells, or post single-well financial assurances for each state or fee well in the amount set by the rule.

If the operator chooses to post a blanket financial assurance, it must also post single-well financial assurances for each state or fee well that has been inactive for more than two years that has not been plugged and released. Note that a single-well financial assurance is required even if the well is on approved temporary abandonment status, and even if the wellbore of the well has been plugged. To check compliance with this requirement, go to www.emnrd.state.nm.us/OCD, OCD Online, E-Permitting, Compliance, Financial Assurance. Insert the operator name or OGRID, and hit “Get Report.” The report will list all the wells for that operator that have not been plugged and released. Wells currently in violation of the single-well financial assurance requirement will have a “Y” in the far right column, titled “In Violation.”

For information on how to post financial assurances, please contact OCD Financial Assurance Administrator Dorothy Phillips, (505) 476-3461, Dorothy.phillips@state.nm.us.

CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUIREMENTS: If an operator fails to take an action required by a hearing order or an agreed compliance order, the OCD may go to hearing to obtain a formal order finding the operator “in violation of an order requiring corrective action.” Once such an order is issued and becomes final, the operator will be out of compliance with Part 5.9 until that order is lifted. To lift the order, the operator must

complete the corrective action required, and file a motion to declare the order satisfied. The Oil Conservation Division or the Oil Conservation Commission, as appropriate, may grant the motion without hearing or may set the matter for hearing.

UNPAID PENALTIES: An operator with a penalty assessment unpaid more than 70 days after issuance of the order assessing the penalty will be in violation of Part 5.9 until that penalty is paid. Penalties may be assessed by the district court, or may be agreed to by the operator under an agreed compliance order entered into to resolve a compliance action.

INACTIVE WELLS: The inactive well rule, 19.15.25.8 NMAC, requires any well that has been inactive for a period of more than 15 months to be plugged and abandoned, placed on approved temporary abandonment status, or returned to production or other beneficial use. An operator will be out of compliance with Part 5.9 if it has too many wells in violation of the inactive well rule; the number of non-compliant wells allowed depends on the size of the operator. Under Part 5.9, if an operator operates:

- 1 well, it may have no wells out of compliance;
- 2 or 3 wells, it may have no more than 1 well out of compliance;
- 4 to 100 wells, it may have no more than 2 wells out of compliance;
- 101 to 500 wells, it may have no more than 5 wells out of compliance;
- 501 to 1000 wells, it may have no more than 7 wells out of compliance; and
- 1000 or more wells, it may have no more than 10 wells out of compliance.

To check compliance with 5.9 as to inactive wells, go to www.emnrd.state.nm.us/OCD, OCD Online, E-Permitting, Compliance, Inactive Well List. Do not change the default search terms. Insert the operator name or OGRID, and hit "Get Report." The report will identify the wells that -- according to OCD records -- have been inactive for 15 months, are not on approved temporary abandonment status, do not have a plugged wellbore, and are not subject to an inactive well agreed compliance order. For purposes of Part 5.9, if a well appears on this list, there is a rebuttable presumption that the well is in violation of the inactive well rule. The heading of the list will also identify the total well count for the operator, and the total number of non-compliant inactive wells, so you can determine if the operator is in compliance with Part 5.9.

If your company has more non-compliant wells than allowed under Part 5.9, you will need to return wells to compliance by returning them to production or other beneficial use, placing them on approved temporary abandonment status, or plugging the wellbore. In some limited circumstances, the OCD may be willing to enter into an inactive well agreed compliance order setting a schedule for returning the wells to compliance and imposing sanctions if that schedule is not met. Wells covered by an inactive well agreed compliance order are not included when calculating Part 5.9 compliance. For information on inactive well agreed compliance orders, contact OCD Attorney Sonny Swazo at (505) 476-3463, Sonny.swazo@state.nm.us.