

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

NMOCD – ACOI- 111

**IN THE MATTER OF SAMSON RESOURCES COMPANY,**

**Respondent.**

**AGREED COMPLIANCE ORDER**

Pursuant to the New Mexico Oil and Gas Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 70-2-1 through 70-2-38, as amended ("Act"), the Director of the Oil Conservation Division ("OCD") and Samson Resources Company ("Operator") enter into this Agreed Compliance Order ("Order") under which Operator agrees to bring wells identified herein into compliance with the Act and OCD Rule 201 [19.15.4.201 NMAC] in accordance with the following agreed schedule and procedures, and agrees to pay penalties as set out below if it fails to meet the schedule set out in this Order.

**FINDINGS**

1. The OCD is the state division charged with administration and enforcement of the Act, and rules and orders adopted pursuant to the Act.
2. Operator is a corporation doing business in the state of New Mexico.
3. Operator is the operator of record under OGRID 20165 for the wells identified in Exhibit "A," attached.
4. OCD Rule 201 [19.15.4.201 NMAC] states, in relevant part:

"A. The operator of any of the following wells, whether cased or uncased, shall be responsible for the plugging thereof: wells drilled for oil or gas; or service wells including but not limited to seismic, core, exploration or injection wells.

B. A well shall be either properly plugged and abandoned or placed in approved temporary abandonment in accordance with these rules within 90 days after:

....

....

(3) a period of one year in which a well has been continuously inactive."

5. The wells identified in Exhibit "A" are currently out of compliance with Rule 201 or will fall out of compliance with Rule 201 in the next several months if no action is taken on the wells.
6. NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-31(A) authorizes the assessment of civil penalties of up to one thousand dollars per day per violation against any person who knowingly or willfully violates any provision of the Oil and Gas Act or any rule or order adopted pursuant to the Act.
7. NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-3(A) defines "person" in relevant part as  
  
"any individual, estate, trust, receiver, cooperative association, club, corporation, company, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate or other entity..."

### **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The OCD has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter in this proceeding.
2. The wells identified in Exhibit "A" are either out of compliance with Rule 201 or will fall out of compliance with Rule 201 in the next several months if they are not returned to production or other beneficial use, plugged and abandoned, or placed on approved temporary abandonment status.
3. As operator of the wells identified in Exhibit "A," Operator is responsible for bringing those wells into compliance with Rule 201.
4. Operator is a "person" as defined by OCD Rule 7.P(2) and may be subject to civil penalties for knowing and willful violations of the Oil and Gas Act or rules or orders adopted pursuant to the Act.

### **ORDER**

1. Operator agrees to bring at least 5 of the wells identified in Exhibit "A" into compliance with OCD Rule 201 by August 17, 2006 by
  - (a) restoring the well to production or other OCD-approved beneficial use and filing a C-115 documenting such production or use;
  - (b) causing the wellbore to be plugged in accordance with OCD Rule 202.B(2) and filing a C-103 describing the completed work; or
  - (c) placing the well on approved temporary abandonment status pursuant to OCD Rule 203.

Transfer of a well identified on Exhibit "A" to another operator does not count towards Operator's obligation to return 5 wells to compliance under the terms of

this Order, but will reduce the number of wells for which Operator is responsible for under this Order.

2. Operator shall file a compliance report by August 17, 2006 using the OCD's web-based on-line application, identifying each well returned to compliance, stating the date it was returned to compliance, and describing how the well was returned to compliance (restored to production or other approved beneficial use, plugged wellbore, approved temporary abandonment status).
3. When the OCD receives a timely compliance report indicating that Operator has returned at least 5 wells to compliance by August 17, 2006 and verifies the accuracy of that report, the OCD shall issue an amendment to this Order extending its terms for an additional six-month period and requiring Operator to bring any non-compliant wells remaining on Exhibit "A" still operated by Operator into compliance by February 17, 2007. OCD shall provide a copy of that amendment to Operator at Operator's address of record provided pursuant to OCD Rule 100.C.
4. If Operator fails to bring at least 5 wells into compliance by August 17, 2006, or if amendment is issued pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 3, above, and Operator fails to bring any non-compliant wells remaining on Exhibit "A" into compliance by February 17, 2007, Operator agrees to pay a penalty of \$1000 times the number of wells it failed to bring into compliance under its schedule during the applicable six month period. In the event the Operator encounters unanticipated circumstances that prevent it from meeting its August 17, 2006 or February 17, 2007 goals, Operator may file an administrative application with the OCD to request a waiver or reduction of the penalty, and serve the OCD's Enforcement and Compliance Manager with a copy of the application. If the Enforcement and Compliance Manager concurs with the Operator's request, the application may be granted administratively. If the Enforcement and Compliance Manager does not concur with the Operator's request, the application shall be set for hearing. If the Operator fails to bring at least 5 wells into compliance by August 17, 2006, but pays the applicable penalty or files an administrative application to request a waiver or reduction of the penalty, the OCD may, in its discretion, issue an amendment to this Order as provided in Ordering Paragraph 3.

Example A: Operator X enters into an agreed compliance order under which it agrees to bring 5 wells into compliance in a six-month period. At the end of the six-month period, Operator X has brought only 3 wells into compliance. Operator X pays the \$2000 penalty. The OCD exercises its discretion to issue an amendment extending the term of the agreed compliance order for an additional six-month period, again requiring Operator X to bring at least 5 wells into compliance.

Example B: Operator Y enters into an agreed compliance order under which it agrees to bring 10 wells into compliance in a six-month period. Although Y has

made arrangements for plugging the 10 wells, due to adverse weather conditions and mechanical difficulties with the available plugging rig, Y is able to plug only 3 wells. Y files an administrative application for hearing seeking to waive the \$7000 penalty, and serves the Enforcement and Compliance Manager with a copy of the application. The Enforcement and Compliance Manager does not concur with the application's request to waive the full amount of the penalty, so the application is set for hearing. The OCD exercises its discretion and issues an amendment to extend the terms of the agreed compliance order for an additional six-month period.

6. Thirty days after the expiration of the term of this Order and any amendment to this Order issued pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 3, any wells on Exhibit "A" not in compliance with OCD Rule 201 will appear on the inactive well list kept pursuant to OCD Rule 40.F.
7. By signing this Order, Operator expressly:
  - (a) acknowledges the correctness of the Findings and Conclusions set forth in this Order;
  - (b) agrees to return to compliance 5 of the wells identified in Exhibit "A" by August 17, 2006, and if an amendment is issued pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 3, agrees to bring any non-compliant wells remaining on Exhibit "A" into compliance by February 17, 2007;
  - (c) agrees to submit a compliance report as required in Ordering Paragraph 2;
  - (d) agrees to pay penalties as set out in Ordering Paragraph 5 if it fails to meet the compliance deadline set by this Order and any amendment issued pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 3;
  - (e) waives any right, pursuant to the Oil and Gas Act or otherwise, to a hearing either prior to or subsequent to the entry of this Order or to an appeal from this Order; and
  - (f) agrees that the Order and any amendment to the Order issued pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 3 may be enforced by OCD or Oil Conservation Commission Order, by suit or otherwise to the same extent and with the same effect as a final Order of the OCD or Oil Conservation Commission entered after notice and hearing in accordance with all terms and provisions of the Oil and Gas Act.
8. This Order applies only to those wells identified in Exhibit "A." Other wells operated by Operator out of compliance with Rule 201 may be subject to immediate enforcement action under the Oil and Gas Act.
9. The Oil Conservation Division reserves the right to file an application for hearing to obtain authority to plug any well identified in Exhibit "A" and forfeit the applicable financial assurance if the well poses an immediate environmental threat.

10. This Order is effective February 17, 2006.

Done at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 14<sup>th</sup> day of Feb, 2006

By: 

Mark Fesmire, P.E.

Director, Oil Conservation Division

### ACCEPTANCE

Samson Resources Company hereby accepts the foregoing Order, and agrees to all of the terms and provisions set forth in that Order.

Samson Resources Company

By: 

Title: General Manager

Date: 2-13-06

### Exhibit A

#### To Agreed Compliance Order for Samson Resources Company

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. 30-025-20895  | CS Caylor SR Estate #007 |
| 2. 30-025-21931  | Federal 11 20 34 #002    |
| 3. 30-015-23729  | Loving 1 State #001      |
| 4. 30-025-30956  | Phillips State #001      |
| 5. 30-025-36458  | Rawhide 29 State #001    |
| 6. 30-025-01032  | State BD #001            |
| 7. 30-025-01039  | State BD #002            |
| 8. 30-025-35662  | State BD #004            |
| 9. 30-025-01038  | State C AC 1 #005        |
| 10. 30-025-08321 | State C AC 1 #006        |

Samson Resources Company

By: 