

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

NMOCD - ACOI- 189

IN THE MATTER OF CROWNQUEST OPERATING, LLC,

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 CrownQuest Operating, LLC ("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 limited liability company operating wells in the state of New Mexico under OGRID 213190.
3. Operator is the operator of record of the wells identified in Exhibit "A."
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

8. The OCD has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter in this proceeding.
9. The wells identified in Exhibit “A” are 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.
10. As operator of the wells identified in Exhibit “A,” Operator is responsible for bringing those wells into compliance with Rule 201.
11. 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

12. Operator agrees to bring at least 3 of the wells identified in Exhibit “A” into compliance with OCD Rule 201 by September 30, 2008 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) [19.15.4.202(B)(2) NMAC] **and filing a C-103 describing the completed work; or**
- (c) placing the well on approved temporary abandonment status pursuant to OCD Rule 203 [19.15.4.203 NMAC].

Transfer of a well identified on Exhibit "A" to another operator does not count towards Operator's obligation to return 3 wells to compliance by **September 30, 2008** under the terms of this Order, but does reduce the number of wells for which Operator is responsible under the terms of this Order.

13. Operator shall file a compliance report by **September 30, 2008** 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).
14. When the OCD receives a timely compliance report indicating that Operator has returned at least 3 wells to compliance by **September 30, 2008** 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 return **at least 3 more of the wells identified on Exhibit "A"** to compliance and file an electronic compliance report by the end of that six-month period. OCD shall provide a copy of that amendment to Operator at Operator's address of record provided pursuant to OCD Rule 100.C. If, in any period covered by this Order Operator returns more than 3 wells to compliance, the wells in excess of the number required will count towards the Operator's requirements for the next six-month period.
15. If Operator continues to return wells to compliance at a rate of at least 3 wells each six-month period, OCD shall continue to issue amendments to this Order extending its term for an additional six-month period. The total length of this Agreed Compliance Order, including the initial six-month period and any amendments, **shall not exceed two years**. At the end of two years, Operator and the OCD may negotiate a new agreed compliance order.
16. If Operator fails to bring at least 3 wells into compliance by **September 30, 2008** or fails to bring at least 3 wells into compliance in any six-month period granted by an amendment to this Order, Operator agrees to pay a

penalty of \$1,000 times the number of wells it failed to bring into compliance under its schedule during the applicable six month period.

17. In the event the Operator encounters unanticipated circumstances that prevent it from meeting its 3-well goal, Operator may apply for a waiver or reduction of the penalty by making the request in writing to the OCD's Enforcement and Compliance Manager. If the Enforcement and Compliance Manager concurs with the Operator's request, the request for waiver or reduction of penalties may be granted administratively. If the Enforcement and Compliance Manager does not concur with the Operator's request or fails to respond within ten (10) days, the Operator may file an application for hearing on the request. Any application for hearing on a request for waiver or reduction of penalty must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date the compliance report is due. Once Operator pays the penalty or applies for a waiver or reduction of the penalty, the OCD may, in its discretion, issue an amendment to this Order extending its terms for an additional six-month period.

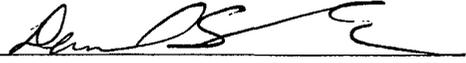
Example A: Operator X enters into an agreed compliance order under which it agrees to bring 5 wells into compliance in each six-month period. At the end of the first six-month period, Operator X has brought only 3 wells into compliance. Operator X pays the \$2000 penalty. The OCD exercises its discretion to issue an amendment extending the term of the agreed compliance order for a second six-month period, again requiring Operator X to bring at least 5 wells into compliance. During the second six-month period, Operator brings only one well into compliance. Operator X pays a \$4000 penalty. Although Operator X pays the \$4000 penalty, the OCD exercises its discretion and declines to issue an amendment to extend the terms of the agreed compliance order for a third six-month period.

Example B: Operator Y enters into an agreed compliance order under which it agrees to bring 10 wells into compliance in each 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 applies for a waiver of the \$7000 penalty. The Enforcement and Compliance Manager does not agree to waive the full amount of the penalty, and the Operator files an application for hearing on the request for waiver of penalty. While the application is pending, the OCD exercises its discretion and issues an amendment to extend the terms of the agreed compliance order for a second six-month period.

18. Thirty (30) days after the expiration of the term of this Order and any amendments to this Order, 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.

19. 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 3 of the wells identified in Exhibit "A" by September 30, 2008, and agrees to comply with the compliance deadlines set by any amendments to this Order;
 - (c) agrees to submit a compliance report as required in Ordering Paragraphs 12 and 13 and the deadline set by any amendments to this Order;
 - (d) agrees to pay penalties as set out in Ordering Paragraph 16 if it fails to return 3 wells to compliance under the deadlines set by this Order or any amendments to this Order;
 - (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 amendments to the Order 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.

Done at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 24th day of March, 2008.

By: 
Mark Fesmire, P.E.
Director, Oil Conservation Division

ACCEPTANCE

CrownQuest Operating, LLC hereby accepts the foregoing Order, and agrees to all of the terms and provisions set forth in that Order.

CrownQuest Operating, LLC

By: Cheryl Stunkler for Don Rogers
per phone call approval

(please print name) Don Rogers

Title: Special Projects Manager

Date: 3-24-08

CROWNQUEST ACOI - EXHIBIT A

<u>API</u>	<u>Well</u>
30-025-29915	JM HUBER STATE NCT 2 #001
30-025-01138	NEW MEXICO AN STATE #003
30-025-01139	NEW MEXICO AN STATE #004
30-025-01142	NEW MEXICO AN STATE #007
30-025-01143	NEW MEXICO AN STATE #008
30-025-28385	NEW MEXICO AN STATE #012
30-025-01131	NEW MEXICO AT STATE #003
30-025-20227	NEW MEXICO AT STATE #006
30-025-27912	NEW MEXICO AT STATE #008
30-025-28020	NEW MEXICO AT STATE #009
30-025-28386	NEW MEXICO AT STATE #012
30-025-28816	NEW MEXICO AT STATE #014
30-025-28913	NEW MEXICO AT STATE #015
30-025-21924	NEW MEXICO BG STATE NCT 1 #003
30-025-22020	NEW MEXICO BG STATE NCT 1 #004
30-025-28747	NEW MEXICO BG STATE NCT 1 #005
30-025-29474	NEW MEXICO BG STATE NCT 1 #008
30-025-01133	NEW MEXICO BG STATE NCT 2 #001
30-025-28629	NEW MEXICO BG STATE NCT 2 #003
30-025-28645	NEW MEXICO BG STATE NCT 2 #004
30-025-23429	NEW MEXICO DM STATE NCT 2 #001
30-025-22713	STATE 23 COM #001
30-025-28763	STATE 23 COM #002
30-025-28312	STATE 26 #004
30-025-22856	STATE 26 COM #003
30-025-28613	STATE 27 #003
30-025-22464	STATE 31 #001
30-025-22833	STATE 31 #002
30-025-23499	STATE 36 #002

Cheryl Shankler for Don Rogers per phone call approval
3-24-08