

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

NMOCD – ACOI-231

IN THE MATTER OF APACHE CORP,

Respondent.

INACTIVE WELL
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") and OCD Rule 19.15.5.10(E) NMAC, the Acting Director of the Oil Conservation Division ("OCD") and Apache Corporation ("Apache Corp" or "Operator") enter into this Inactive Well Agreed Compliance Order ("Order" or "ACOI") under which Operator agrees to plug, place on approved temporary abandonment status or restore to production or other beneficial use the wells identified herein pursuant to the Act and OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 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 873 for wells #1-2 identified in Exhibit "A."
4. Operator has acquired and seeks to become designated operator of wells #3-18 identified in Exhibit "A." BP America Production Company (OGRID 778) is the current designated operator of these wells.
5. OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC states, in relevant part:
 - A. The operator of wells drilled for oil or gas or services wells including seismic, core, exploration or injection wells, whether cased or uncased, shall plug the wells as Subsection B of 19.15.25.8 NMAC requires.
 - B. The operator shall either properly plug and abandon a well or place the well in approved temporary abandonment in accordance with 19.15.25 NMAC within 90 days after:

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

6. The wells identified in Exhibit “A”
 - (a) have been continuously inactive for a period of one year plus 90 days (or within the next six months will become continuously inactive for a period of one year plus 90 days if no action is taken on the wells);
 - (b) are not plugged or abandoned in accordance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.9 NMAC through 19.15.25.11 NMAC; and
 - (c) are not on approved temporary abandonment status in accordance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.12 NMAC through 19.15.25.14 NMAC.
7. 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 and willfully violates any provision of the Oil and Gas Act or any rule or order adopted pursuant to the Act.
8. NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-33(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 out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC or will fall out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC in the next six 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 wells #1-2 identified in Exhibit “A,” Operator is responsible for bringing those wells into compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC. Operator is responsible for bringing wells #3-18 identified in Exhibit “A” into compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC once it becomes the designated operator of those wells.
4. Operator is a “person” as defined by NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-33(A) 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 9 of the wells identified in Exhibit "A" into compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC by July 18, 2011 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 19.15.25.10(B) NMAC **and filing a C-103 describing the completed work;** or
 - (c) placing the well on approved temporary abandonment status in accordance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.12 NMAC through 19.15.25.14 NMAC.

2. Operator **must bring** wells **EMPIRE ABO UNIT #035A** (API #30-015-01715) and **EMPIRE ABO UNIT #341** (API #30-015-21797), into compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC by July 18, 2011. Operator may count these 2 wells towards the 9 wells it must bring into compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC by July 18, 2011.

3. Oil and gas produced during swabbing does not count as production for purposes of this Order.

4. Operator shall file a compliance report 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.) Transfer of a well identified on Exhibit "A" to another operator does not count towards Operator's obligation to return wells to compliance under the terms of this Order, but does reduce the total number of wells for which Operator is responsible under the terms of this Order. The written compliance report must be mailed or e-mailed to the OCD's Enforcement and Compliance Manager and to the OCD attorney in charge of inactive well agreed compliance orders so that it is **received by** the compliance deadline of July 18, 2011. The total length of this Agreed Compliance Order is six months.

5. If Operator either fails to bring the required wells into compliance by July 18, 2011 as provided by Ordering Paragraphs 1-2, or file a compliance report by July 18, 2011, Operator agrees to pay a penalty of \$1000 times the number of wells it failed to report or bring into compliance by July 18, 2011 as provided by Ordering Paragraphs 1-2, subject to the terms of this Order. In the event the Operator encounters unanticipated circumstances that prevent it from bringing the required wells into compliance by July 18, 2011 as provided by Ordering Paragraphs 1-2, 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 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 30 days of the date the compliance report is due.

6. Thirty days after the compliance deadline set by this Order, any wells on Exhibit "A" not in compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC will appear on the inactive well list kept pursuant to OCD Rule 19.15.5.9(F) NMAC.
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 the required wells into compliance by July 18, 2011 as provided by Ordering Paragraphs 1-2;
 - (c) agrees to submit a compliance report as required in Ordering Paragraph 4 by the July 18, 2011 compliance deadline set by this Order;
 - (d) agrees to pay penalties as set out in and limited by Ordering Paragraph 5 if it fails to either return the required wells into compliance by July 18, 2011 as provided by Ordering Paragraphs 1-2, or file a compliance report by the July 18, 2011 compliance deadline set out in the Order;
 - (e) waives any right, pursuant to the Oil and Gas Act or otherwise, to an appeal from this Order, or to a hearing either prior to or subsequent to the entry of this Order other than a hearing on a request for waiver or reduction of penalties; and
 - (f) agrees that 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.
8. This Order applies only to the enforcement of OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC against those wells identified in Exhibit "A." Other wells operated by Operator out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC may be subject to immediate enforcement action under the Oil and Gas Act and OCD Rules. Wells identified in Exhibit "A" that are out of compliance with the Oil and Gas Act or OCD Rules other than OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC may be subject to immediate enforcement action under the Oil and Gas Act and OCD Rules.
9. The OCD 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 11th day of January 2011

By: 
Daniel Sanchez
Acting OCD Director

ACCEPTANCE

Apache Corp hereby accepts the foregoing Order, and agrees to all of the terms and provisions set forth in that Order.

Apache Corp

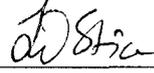
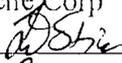
By: 
(Please print name) TRAVIS D STICE
Title: PERMIAN REGION PRODUCTION MANAGER
Date: 1/7/11

Exhibit A to Agreed Compliance Order for Apache Corp

- 1) 30-015-34435 EAST TURKEY TRACK 3 FEDERAL #001
- 2) 30-025-36312 SOUTH LUSK 33 FEDERAL #001
- 3) 30-025-06029 BARBER GAS COM #004
- 4) 30-015-00918 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #004C
- 5) 30-015-00910 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #008E
- 6) 30-015-00856 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #011F
- 7) 30-015-00852 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #012E
- 8) 30-015-00855 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #012F
- 9) 30-015-01692 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #031A
- 10) 30-015-01715 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #035A
- 11) 30-015-01716 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #035B
- 12) 30-015-01555 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #040
- 13) 30-015-21852 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #111
- 14) 30-015-22098 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #122B
- 15) 30-015-21394 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #331
- 16) 30-015-21797 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #341
- 17) 30-015-22927 EMPIRE ABO UNIT #364
- 18) 30-025-11283 WM,H HARRISON D WN COM #001

Apache Corp
By: 
Title: PERMIAN REGION PROD MGR