

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

NMOCD – ACOI- 273

IN THE MATTER OF APACHE CORPORATION,

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 Director of the Oil Conservation Division ("OCD") and Apache Corporation ("Operator") enter into this Inactive Well Agreed Compliance Order ("Order" or "ACOI"). Operator agrees to plug, or restore to production or other beneficial use the wells identified herein in accordance with the following agreed schedule and procedures, or face the possibility of no further agreed compliance orders. See 19.15.25.8 NMAC

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 the wells identified in Exhibit "A," attached.
4. 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."

5. The wells identified in Exhibit "A"

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- (a) have been (or soon will be) continuously inactive for a period of one year plus 90 days;
 - (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 no longer on approved temporary abandonment status in accordance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.12 NMAC through 19.15.25.14 NMAC.
6. An operator faces sanctions if it is out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC. Sanctions include possible denial of registration by operator or certain related entities (OCD Rule 19.15.9.8B NMAC), possible denial of change of operator that would transfer wells to the noncompliant operator (OCD Rule 19.15.9.9C.1 NMAC), mandatory denial of injection permits (OCD Rule 19.15.26.8A NMAC), possible revocation of injection permits after notice and hearing (OCD Rule 19.15.26.8A NMAC), possible denial of applications for a drilling permit (OCD Rule 19.15.14.10A NMAC), and mandatory denial of allowable and authorization to transport (OCD Rule 19.15.16.19A NMAC).
7. Operator will be out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.5.9.A(4) NMAC within a short period of time because it has too many wells that are currently in approved temporary abandonment status but said status will expire shortly. These currently approved temporarily abandoned wells will be out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC (the inactive well rule) and are not subject to an agreed compliance order setting a schedule for bringing the wells into compliance with the inactive well rule. See OCD Rule 19.15.5.9(A)(4) NMAC.
8. As the operator of record of 2785 wells, to be in compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.5.9.A(4) NMAC, Operator may have no more than 10 wells out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC (inactive well rule). See OCD Rule 19.15.5.9A(4)(b) NMAC. Based upon the number of wells on the inactive well list kept pursuant to OCD Rule 19.15.5.9(F) NMAC, and those that will shortly lose their temporarily abandoned status, Operator will have 12 wells out of compliance with the inactive well rule. Operator faces sanctions for being out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC.
9. Operator intends to seek privileges from the OCD that would be subject to sanction due to Operator being out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC. By placing the wells identified in Exhibit "A" under this Order, Operator will not face sanctions for being out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC.

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.
3. As operator of the wells identified in Exhibit "A," Operator is responsible for bringing those wells into compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC.
4. The OCD and Operator enter into this Order to ensure the wells identified in Exhibit "A" do not appear on the inactive well list kept pursuant to OCD Rule 19.15.5.9(F) NMAC. Operator remains subject to sanctions for being out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC IF Operator becomes out of compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC for any reason other than the inactive wells identified in Exhibit "A."

ORDER

1. Operator agrees to bring 9 wells identified in Exhibit "A" into compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC by March 28, 2014 via
 - (a) restoring the well to production or other OCD-approved beneficial use **and filing a C-115 documenting such production or use;** or
 - (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.**
2. Oil and gas produced during swabbing does not count as production for purposes of this Order.
3. 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.) 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 in charge of inactive well agreed compliance orders so that it is **received by** the compliance deadline of March 28, 2014. The total length of this Agreed Compliance Order is nine months.
4. Operator understands that if it fails to meet the terms of this Order, the OCD may decide not to enter into any further agreed compliance orders with Operator.

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5. This Order shall expire on April 28, 2014. At that time, 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, and will be considered when determining Operator's compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC.
6. 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 9 wells identified in Exhibit "A" by March 28, 2014;
 - (c) agrees to submit a compliance report as required in Ordering Paragraph 3 by the March 28, 2014 compliance deadline set by this Order;
 - (d) 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; and
 - (e) 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.
7. 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 which may be 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.
8. 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 15th day of July, 2013

By: Jami Bailey
Jami Bailey
Director, Oil Conservation Division

ACCEPTANCE

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


APACHE CORPORATION

By: Timothy R. Custer
(Please print name) Timothy R. Custer
Title: Attorney-in-Fact
Date: 7/8/13

not

Exhibit A to Agreed Compliance Order for ACOI-

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|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Bright Fed Gas Com #1 | 30-015-10386 |
| 2. Bright Fed Gas Com #2 | 30-015-28556 |
| 3. Bright Fed #4 | 30-015-31674 |
| 4. Bunnell Fed #2 | 30-015-25007 |
| 5. Bunnell Fed #3 SWD | 30-015-30701 |
| 6. Federal 28 #2 | 30-015-31180 |
| 7. Federal 28 #3 | 30-015-33256 |
| 8. Federal 28 #4 | 30-015-33402 |
| 9. W. Indian Basin Unit #1Y | 30-015-30945 |


By: Timothy R. Custer
Title: Attorney-in-Fact