

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

NMOCD – ACOI- 227

IN THE MATTER OF CIMAREX ENERGY CO. OF COLORADO,

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 Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado ("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 162683 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.”

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5. The wells identified in Exhibit "A"
 - (a) have been 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 not on approved temporary abandonment status in accordance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.12 NMAC through 19.15.25.14 NMAC.
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 and willfully violates any provision of the Oil and Gas Act or any rule or order adopted pursuant to the Act.
7. NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-33(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.
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. 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 6 wells identified in Exhibit "A" into compliance with OCD Rule 19.15.25.8 NMAC by April 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. 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, 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 April 18, 2011. The total length of this Agreed Compliance Order is six months.
4. If Operator fails to either bring 6 wells into compliance or file a compliance report by April 18, 2011, Operator agrees to pay a penalty of \$1000 times the number of wells it failed to bring into compliance, subject to the terms of this Order. In the event the Operator encounters unanticipated circumstances that prevent it from bringing 6 wells into compliance by April 18, 2011, 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.
5. 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.
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 6 wells identified in Exhibit "A" by April 18, 2011;
 - (c) agrees to submit a compliance report as required in Ordering Paragraph 3 by the April 18, 2011 compliance deadline set by this Order;
 - (d) agrees to pay penalties as set out in and limited by Ordering Paragraph 4 if it fails to either return 6 wells to compliance or file a compliance report by the April 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.
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 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 16th day of Nov., 2010

By: 

Mark Fesmire, P.E.

Director, Oil Conservation Division

ACCEPTANCE

Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado hereby accepts the foregoing Order, and agrees to all of the terms and provisions set forth in that Order.

Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado

By: 

(Please print name)

Stephen P Bell

Title:

Senior Vice President

Date:

11/15/2010

Exhibit A to Agreed Compliance Order for Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado


30-025-25399	CITGO LM STATE #001
30-025-08716	COLEMAN #001
30-025-11006	COURTLAND MYERS #002
30-025-25600	D B BOREN #003
30-015-23102	EMPIRE FEDERAL COM #001
30-025-24098	HUMBLE A STATE #001
30-025-09552	J W COOPER A #003
30-025-36524	KAREN 1 STATE #002
30-025-02775	LEA A STATE #002
30-025-02777	LEA A STATE #004
30-025-28165	LEA AQ STATE #001
30-025-34031	LUSK WEST DELAWARE UNIT #016
30-025-33589	MALLON 34 FEDERAL #015
30-025-23503	MESCALERO RIDGE UNIT #003
30-025-30985	MITCHELL 16 STATE #003
30-025-12024	MOBERLY C #003
30-025-27661	NEW MEXICO DA STATE #002
30-015-26374	NORTH SHUGART FEDERAL #001
30-015-22309	PALMILLO STATE COM #001
30-015-23818	PARKWAY C STATE COM #001
30-025-11967	RHODES FEDERAL UNIT #091
30-025-33205	RHODES FEDERAL UNIT #265
30-025-33248	RHODES FEDERAL UNIT #271
30-025-22261	ROCK ISLAND B STATE #001
30-015-24822	ROY RENFRO #001
30-025-06315	SHELL STATE #006
30-025-10616	SKELLY PENROSE A UNIT #032
30-025-10623	SKELLY PENROSE A UNIT #033
30-025-10596	SKELLY PENROSE A UNIT #038
30-025-10599	SKELLY PENROSE A UNIT #040
30-025-10698	SKELLY PENROSE A UNIT #053
30-025-10701	SKELLY PENROSE A UNIT #055
30-025-30095	STATE 2 #001

30-025-06192 STATE A-20 #002

30-025-32024 STATE A-20 #003

30-025-11034 TOBY #002

Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado

By: 

Title: Senior Vice President

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