

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

NMOCD - ACOI 158

**IN THE MATTER OF MARATHON OIL CO.,**

**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 Marathon Oil Co. ("Operator") enter into this Agreed Compliance Order ("Order") under which Operator agrees to bring the 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 14021 for the following wells:

- |                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Indian Hills Unit #016             | 30-015-30703 |
| • Marathon Section 17 State Com #002 | 30-025-29941 |
| • North Indian Basin Unit #020       | 30-015-28384 |

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.”

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5. The wells identified in Findings Paragraph 3, above, have been inactive for a period in excess of one year plus ninety days and are neither plugged and abandoned nor on approved temporary abandonment status.
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 Findings Paragraph 3, above, are out of compliance with Rule 201.
3. As operator of the wells identified in Findings Paragraph 3, above, Operator is responsible for bringing the 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 each well identified in Findings Paragraph 3, above into compliance with OCD Rule 201 by June 15, 2007 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.
2. If Operator fails to bring all three wells identified in Findings Paragraph 3, above, into compliance by June 15, 2007, Operator agrees to pay a penalty of \$1000 for each well remaining out of compliance. In the event the Operator encounters unanticipated circumstances that prevent it from bringing the wells into

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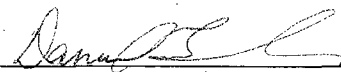
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compliance by June 15, 2007, Operator may file an administrative application with the OCD to request a waiver or reduction of the penalty. Operator shall serve the OCD's Enforcement and Compliance Manager with a copy of the application. If the Enforcement 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, Operator may request that the matter be set for hearing before an OCD Hearing Examiner.

3. On June 16, 2007 any well identified in Findings Paragraph 3, above, that remains out of compliance with Rule 201 will appear on the inactive well list kept pursuant to OCD Rule 40.F.
4. 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 wells identified in Findings Paragraph 3, above, to compliance with Rule 201 by June 15, 2007;
  - (c) agrees to pay penalties as set out in Ordering Paragraph 2 if it fails to return the wells identified in Findings Paragraph 3, above, to compliance by June 15, 2007;
  - (d) 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
  - (e) agrees that the Order may be enforced by OCD or Oil Conservation Commission, 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.
5. This Order applies only to the wells identified in Findings Paragraph 3, above. Other wells operated by Operator out of compliance with Rule 201 may be subject to immediate enforcement action under the Oil and Gas Act.
6. The Oil Conservation Division reserves the right to file an application for hearing to obtain authority to plug the wells identified in Findings Paragraph 3, above, and forfeit the applicable financial assurance if the well poses an immediate environmental threat.

Done at Santa Fe, New Mexico this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007

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

**ACCEPTANCE**

Marathon Oil Company, OGRID 14021, hereby accepts the foregoing Order, and agrees to all of the terms and provisions set forth in that Order.

Marathon Oil Company

By: 

(please print name) CRAIG T KENT

Title: SUBSURFACE MANAGER

Date: 2/20/07