

State Rules Addressing Vacuum Operations

1/31/2001

Rules in New Mexico: The only NMOCD rule that deals with a vacuum on producing formations is 19.15.5.307 entitled "Use of Vacuum Pumps" which states "vacuum pumps or other devices shall not be used for the purpose of creating a partial vacuum in any stratum containing oil or gas."

Rules in Other States: Here is a summary of rules governing "vacuum" in other states:

Texas: *The installation of a vacuum pump or other device for the purpose of putting vacuum on any gas or oil-bearing formation, or the application of any vacuum to any gas or oil-bearing formation is prohibited, except as follows.*

(1) If casinghead gas is utilized in a casinghead-gas plant, vacuum may be used, but no more than is sufficient to gather the gas and deliver it at the plant. In no event shall more than two points of vacuum (two inches of mercury) be used at the casinghead.

(2) In a field which is depleted or practically depleted vacuum may be used, but no vacuum pump shall be installed or used without a permit from the commission obtained upon application after notice to adjacent lease owners and operators and a public hearing on such application.

Oklahoma: 48) **Form 1022A - Application to operate vacuum pump:** Operator shall file one copy of Form 1022A with the required attachments to the Technical Department of the Conservation Division. No filing fee will be required for application to operate a vacuum pump. Notice requirements as set out in OAC 165:5-7-25 shall apply.

And

165:10-3-31. Use of vacuum

(a) **Prohibited without an order.** Imposing vacuum on an oil or gas bearing formation is prohibited without an order of the Commission.

(b) **Requirement.** A vacuum shall not be permitted unless it can be shown that to use a vacuum as permitted will prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

(c) **Application for an order.** Each application for an order authorizing use of vacuum on a common source of supply shall be made according to 165:5-7-25.

(d) Records required to be kept by the operator.

(1) If an operator obtains an order authorizing use of vacuum, the operator shall make a record on a monthly basis of:

(A) The vacuum imposed in pounds per square inch or inches of mercury.

(B) The amount of gas, oil and water production per day.

(2) Any record required to be kept under this Section shall be made available to the Conservation Division upon request.

Colorado: 331.

VACUUM PUMPS ON WELLS

The installation of vacuum pumps or other devices for the purpose of imposing a vacuum at the wellhead or on any oil or gas bearing reservoir may be approved by the Director upon application therefore, except as herein provided. The application shall be accompanied by an exhibit showing the location of all wells on adjacent premises and all offset wells on adjacent lands, and shall set forth all material facts involved and the manner and method of installation proposed. Notice of the application shall be given by the applicant by registered or certified mail, or by delivering a copy of the application to each producer within one-half (1/2) mile of the installation.

In the event no producer within one-half (1/2) mile of the installation or the Commission itself files written objection or complaint to the application within fifteen (15) days of the date of application, then the application shall be approved, but if any producer within one-half (1/2) mile of said installation or the Commission itself files written objection within fifteen (15) days of the date of application, then a hearing shall be held as soon as practicable.

Kansas: 82-3-131. Vacuum and high volume pumps; Application and approval.

(a) Upon application, the installation and use of vacuum pumps in fields which are nearly depleted and the installation and use of high volume pumps may be permitted by the commission. A high volume pump is one which is capable of producing total fluids in excess of 2500 barrels per day. No application for commission approval shall be required for the installation and use of vacuum or high volume pumps in a field which is unitized for secondary recovery operations.

(b) The original and one copy of the application shall be filed with the conservation division. The application shall contain the following information:

(1) The applicant's license number;

(2) the name, location, and producing formation of the well or wells to be pumped;

(3) a plat map showing the subject well or wells, the location of all oil and gas wells on the lease, and the location of all offset wells within a 1/2 mile radius of the subject well or wells and their operators' names;

(4) the anticipated maximum daily production of oil, water, and gas;

(5) for vacuum pump applications, an estimate of the remaining recoverable hydrocarbon reserves underlying the subject lease;

(6) for high volume pump applications, the size and capacity of the pump to be used and the estimated oil-water ratio; and

(7) any additional information the commission may require.

(c) Each applicant shall provide notice of the application pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-135a(b).

(Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1989 Supp. 55-604; effective, T-83-44, Dec. 8, 1982; effective May 1, 1983; amended May 1, 1987; amended May 1, 1988; amended April 23, 1990.)

Louisiana: No rules governing vacuum;

Utah: No rules governing vacuum;