

OCD Case No. 15589

Application for Compliance Order Against McKay Oil Corp., OGRID 14424

Exhibit 4: Relevant OCD Rules

19.15.5.9 COMPLIANCE:

A. An operator is in compliance with Subsection A of 19.15.5.9 NMAC if the operator:

- (1) currently meets the financial assurance requirements of 19.15.8 NMAC;
- (2) is not subject to a division or commission order, issued after notice and hearing, finding the operator to be in violation of an order requiring corrective action;
- (3) does not have a penalty assessment that is unpaid more than 70 days after issuance of the order assessing the penalty; and
- (4) has no more than the following number of wells out of compliance with 19.15.25.8 NMAC that are not subject to an agreed compliance order setting a schedule for bringing the wells into compliance with 19.15.25.8 NMAC and imposing sanctions if the schedule is not met:
 - (a) two wells or 50 percent of the wells the operator operates, whichever is less, if the operator operates 100 wells or less;
 - (b) five wells if the operator operates between 101 and 500 wells;
 - (c) seven wells if the operator operates between 501 and 1000 wells; and
 - (d) 10 wells if the operator operates more than 1000 wells.

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19.15.8.9 FINANCIAL ASSURANCE FOR WELL PLUGGING:

A. A person who has drilled or acquired, is drilling or proposes to drill or acquire an oil, gas or injection or other service well on privately-owned or state-owned lands within this state shall furnish a financial assurance acceptable to the division in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, plugging insurance policy, or cash or surety bond running to the state of New Mexico conditioned that the well be plugged and abandoned and the location restored and remediated in compliance with division rules.

B. A financial assurance shall be conditioned for well plugging and abandonment and location restoration and remediation only, and not to secure payment for damages to livestock, range, crops or tangible improvements or any other purpose.

C. The division accepts three forms of financial assurance: a one-well financial assurance that covers a single well, a blanket financial assurance that covers multiple wells, and a blanket plugging financial assurance for wells in temporarily abandoned status. The operator shall cover a well that has been in temporary abandonment for more than two years by either a one-well financial assurance or a blanket plugging financial assurance for wells in temporarily abandoned status, except that the division may waive the requirement of a one-well financial assurance for a well that is shut-in because of the lack of a pipeline connection. The division may release the one-well financial assurance upon the operator's or surety's written request after the well is returned to production if a blanket financial assurance covers the well. The division may release a blanket plugging financial assurance for wells in temporarily abandoned status upon the operator's or surety's written request after the wells are plugged and

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abandoned in accordance with 19.15.25 NMAC or are returned to production if a blanket financial assurance covers the wells or if the operator files a one-well financial assurance for each well of the operator's wells in temporarily abandoned status; upon the operator's or surety's written request, the amount of the operator's blanket financial assurance for wells held in temporarily abandoned status may be reduced in accordance with the number of wells the operator elects to cover by said financial assurance.

D. Amounts.

(1) A blanket financial assurance shall be in the amount of \$50,000 covering all oil, gas or service wells drilled, acquired or operated in this state by the principal on the bond.

(2) A one-well financial assurance shall be in the amounts stated below in accordance with the well's depth and location.

(a) Chaves, Eddy, Lea, McKinley, Rio Arriba, Roosevelt, Sandoval and San Juan counties, New Mexico: \$5000 plus \$1 per foot of projected depth of proposed well or measured depth of existing well.

(b) All other counties in the state: \$10,000 plus \$1 per foot of projected depth of proposed well or measured depth of existing well.

(3) The appropriate division district office may approve revised plans for an actively drilling well for drilling as much as 500 feet deeper than the depth stated on the well's financial assurance. A well to be drilled more than 500 feet deeper than the depth stated on the well's financial assurance shall be covered by a new financial assurance in the amount prescribed for the new projected depth.

(4) The amount of the one-well financial assurance required for an intentionally deviated well shall be determined by the well's measured depth, and not its true vertical depth.

(5) If an operator elects to cover wells held, or which may be held, in temporary abandonment by a blanket plugging financial assurance for wells in temporarily abandoned status, the operator shall do so in the amounts stated below in accordance with the number of wells covered by the blanket plugging financial assurance for wells in temporarily abandoned status.

(a) A blanket financial assurance for the first five wells shall be in the amount of \$150,000.

(b) A blanket financial assurance for the six to 10 wells shall be in the amount of \$300,000.

(c) A blanket financial assurance for the 11 to 25 wells shall be in the amount of \$500,000.

(d) A blanket financial assurance for more than 25 wells shall be in the amount of \$1,000,000.

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E. Operators who have on file with the division a blanket financial assurance that does not cover additional wells shall file additional single well bond financial assurance for any wells not covered by the existing blanket bond or, in the alternative, may file a replacement blanket bond.

19.15.25.8 WELLS TO BE PROPERLY ABANDONED:

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:

- (1)** a 60 day period following suspension of drilling operations;
- (2)** a determination that a well is no longer usable for beneficial purposes; or
- (3)** a period of one year in which a well has been continuously inactive.