

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
HEARINGS SECTION**

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET
NO. 09-0277359**

**IN THE SHORT GRASS PRAIRIE (CONG)
FIELD, HARDEMAN COUNTY, TEXAS**

**FINAL ORDER
APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF HOLMES EXPLORATION, LLC FOR A
NEW FIELD DESIGNATION AND TO ADOPT TEMPORARY FIELD RULES
FOR THE SHORT GRASS PRAIRIE (CONG) FIELD
HARDEMAN COUNTY, TEXAS**

The Commission finds that after statutory notice in the above-numbered docket heard on August 24, 2012, the presiding examiners have made and filed a report and recommendation containing findings of fact and conclusions of law, for which service was not required; that the proposed application is in compliance with all statutory requirements; and that this proceeding was duly submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas at conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas.

The Commission, after review and due consideration of the examiners' report and recommendation, the findings of fact and conclusions of law contained therein, hereby adopts as its own the findings of fact and conclusions of law contained therein, and incorporates said findings of fact and conclusions of law as if fully set out and separately stated herein.

Therefore, it is **ORDERED** by the Railroad Commission of Texas that the application of Holmes Exploration, LLC for a new field designation for its Spanky 2 Lease, Well No. 2H, is hereby approved. The new field shall be known as the Short Grass Prairie (Cong) Field (ID No. 83413 500), Hardeman County, Texas.

It is further **ORDERED** that the following Temporary Field Rules are hereby adopted for the Short Grass Prairie (Cong) Field, Hardeman County, Texas:

RULE 1: The entire correlative interval from 7,298 feet to 7,530 feet as shown on the log of the Sidwell Oil & Gas, Inc. - Wilson Trust Lease, Well No. 1 (API No. 42-197-30341), Section 2, HE&WT RR Co. Survey, A-1513, Hardeman County, Texas, shall be designated as a single reservoir for proration purposes and be designated as the Short Grass Prairie (Cong) Field.

RULE 2: No well for oil or gas shall hereafter be drilled nearer than FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN (467) feet to any property line, lease line or subdivision line and no well shall be drilled nearer than SIX HUNDRED SIXTY (660) feet to any applied for, permitted or completed well in the same reservoir on the same lease, pooled unit or unitized tract. The aforementioned distances in the above rule are minimum distances to allow an operator flexibility in locating a well, and the above spacing rule and the other

rules to follow are for the purpose of permitting only one well to each drilling and proration unit. Provided however, that the Commission will grant exceptions to permit drilling within shorter distances and drilling more wells than herein prescribed whenever the Commission shall have determined that such exceptions are necessary either to prevent waste or to prevent the confiscation of property. When exception to these rules is desired, application therefore shall be filed and will be acted upon in accordance with the provisions of Commission Statewide Rule 37 and 38, which applicable provisions of said rule are incorporated herein by reference.

In applying this rule the general order of the Commission with relation to the subdivision of property shall be observed.

Provided, however, that for purposes of spacing for horizontal wells, the following shall apply:

- a. A take point in a horizontal drainhole well is any point along a horizontal drainhole where oil and/or gas can be produced from the reservoir/field interval. The first take point may be at a different location than the penetration point and the last take point may be at a location different than the terminus point.
- b. No horizontal drainhole well for oil or gas shall hereafter be drilled such that the first and last take points are nearer than ONE HUNDRED (100) feet to any property line, lease line or subdivision line.
- c. For each horizontal drainhole well, the perpendicular distance from any take point on such horizontal drainhole between the first take point and the last take point to any point on any property line, lease line, or subdivision line shall be a minimum of FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN (467) feet.
- d. All take points in a horizontal drainhole well shall be a minimum distance of SIX HUNDRED SIXTY (660) feet from take points in any existing, permitted, or applied for horizontal drainhole well on the same lease, unit or unitized tract, with the exception that there shall be no minimum spacing requirement between horizontal and vertical wells or horizontal wells that are parallel or sub-parallel and do not overlap more than 500 feet.

For the purpose of assigning additional acreage to a horizontal drainhole well, the distance from the first take point to the last take point in the horizontal drainhole well shall be used in such determination, in lieu of the distance from penetration point to terminus.

In addition to the penetration point and the terminus of the wellbore required to be identified on the drilling permit application (Form W-1H) and plat, the first and last take points must also be identified on the drilling permit application (Remarks Section) and plat. Operators shall file an as-drilled plat showing the path, penetration point, terminus and the first and last take points of all drainholes in horizontal wells, regardless of allocation formula.

If the applicant has represented in the drilling application that there will be one or more no perf zones or "NPZs" (portions of the wellbore within the field interval without take points), then the as-drilled plat filed after completion of the well shall be certified by a person with knowledge of the facts pertinent to the application that the plat is accurately drawn to scale and correctly reflects all pertinent and required data. In addition to the standard required data, the certified plat shall include the as-drilled track of the wellbore, the location of each take point on the wellbore, the boundaries of any wholly or partially unleased tracts within a Rule 37 distance of the wellbore, and notations of the shortest distance from each wholly or partially unleased tract within a Rule 37 distance of the wellbore to the nearest take point on the wellbore.

A properly permitted horizontal drainhole will be considered to be in compliance with the spacing rules set forth herein if the as-drilled location falls within a rectangle established as follows:

- a. Two sides of the rectangle are parallel to the permitted drainhole and 50 feet on either side of the drainhole;
- b. The other two sides of the rectangle are perpendicular to the sides described in (a) above, with one of those sides passing through the first take point and the other side passing through the last take point.

Any point of a horizontal drainhole outside of the described rectangle must conform to the permitted distance to the nearest property line, lease line or subdivision line.

For any well permitted in this field, the penetration point need not be located on the same lease, pooled unit or unitized tract on which the well is permitted and may be located on an Offsite Tract. When the penetration point is located on such Offsite Tract, the applicant for such a drilling permit must give 21 days notice by certified mail, return receipt requested to the mineral owners of the Offsite Tract. For the purposes of this rule, the mineral owners of the Offsite Tract are (1) the designated operator; (2) all lessees of record for the Offsite Tract where there is no designated operator; and (3) all owners of unleased mineral interests where there is no designated operator or lessee. In providing such notice, applicant must provide the mineral owners of the Offsite Tract with a plat clearly depicting the projected path of the entire wellbore. In the event the applicant is unable, after due diligence, to locate the whereabouts of any person to whom notice is required by this rule, the applicant must publish notice of this application pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. If any mineral owner of the Offsite Tract objects to the location of the penetration point, the applicant may request a hearing to demonstrate the necessity of the location of the penetration point of the well to prevent waste or to protect correlative rights. Notice of Offsite Tract penetration is not required if (a) written waivers of objection are received from all mineral owners of the Offsite Tract; or, (b) the applicant is the only mineral owner of the Offsite Tract. To mitigate the potential for well collisions, applicant shall promptly provide copies of any directional surveys to the parties entitled to notice under this section, upon request.

RULE 3: : The acreage assigned to an individual well for the purpose of allocating allowable production thereto shall be known as a proration unit. The standard drilling and proration units are established hereby to be ONE HUNDRED SIXTY (160) acres. No proration unit shall consist of more than ONE HUNDRED SIXTY (160) acres except as hereinafter provided. The two farthestmost points in any proration unit shall not be in excess of FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (4,500) feet removed from each other; provided however, that in the case of long and narrow leases or in cases where because of the shape of the lease such is necessary to permit the utilization of tolerance acreage, the Commission may after proper showing grant exceptions to the limitations as to the shape of proration units as herein contained.

If after the drilling of the last well on any lease and the assignment of acreage to each well thereon in accordance with the regulations of the Commission there remains an additional unassigned acreage of less than ONE HUNDRED SIXTY (160) acres, then and in such event the remaining unassigned acreage up to and including a total of FORTY (40) acres may be assigned as tolerance acreage to the last well drilled on such lease or may be distributed among any group of wells located thereon, so long as the proration units resulting from the inclusion of such additional acreage meet the limitations prescribed by the Commission.

For the purpose of allocating allowable oil production, acreage may be assigned to each Horizontal Drainhole Well up to the acreage determined by the following formula:

$$A = (L \times 0.15) + 160 \text{ acres}$$

Where A is the acreage assignable to the well and L is the horizontal drainhole distance measured in feet between the first take point and the last take point.

The two farthestmost points in any horizontal drainhole well proration unit shall be determined by the formula:

$$\text{Maximum Diagonal} = 475.933 \sqrt{A}$$

Where A is the acres actually assigned to the proration unit.

All proration units shall consist of continuous and contiguous acreage which can reasonably be considered to be productive. No double assignment of acreage will be accepted.

Operators shall file with the Commission certified plats of their properties in said field, which plats shall set out distinctly all of those things pertinent to the determination of the acreage credit claimed for each well; provided that if the acreage assigned to any proration unit has been pooled, the operator shall furnish the Commission with such proof as it may require as evidence that interests in and under such proration unit have been so pooled.

RULE 4: The maximum daily oil allowable for each well in the subject field shall be the 1965 Yardstick Allowable of 353 barrels of oil per day. The maximum daily oil allowable for a well in the field shall be determined by multiplying the applicable yardstick allowable for a well in the field by a fraction, the numerator of which is the acreage assigned to the well for proration purposes and the denominator of which is the maximum acreage authorized by these field rules for proration purposes, exclusive of tolerance acreage. The daily oil allowable for a well in the field shall be adjusted in accordance with Statewide Rule 49(a) when applicable.

It is further **ORDERED** that these rules are temporary and effective until October 2, 2014, or until Commission staff evaluates appropriate data after notice and opportunity for hearing as offered by the Commission prior to the expiration of the rules. After this notice and opportunity for hearing, should the evidence evaluated during review be insufficient to sustain spacing or proration unit rules, these temporary rules, on the Commission's own motion, will be terminated and the field will revert to Statewide spacing and density rules.

Done this 2nd day of October, 2012.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

**(Order approved and signatures affixed by
OGC Unprotested Master Order dated
October 2, 2012)**