

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

**OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 08-0258280**

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**ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY REDHORN ENERGY, LLC (696960), AS TO THE STATE L (37383) LEASE, WELL NO. 2, TRIPLE-N (SAN ANDRES) FIELD, FW CONSOLIDATED #4 (37683) LEASE, WELL NO. E 1, TRIPLE-N (PENN. UPPER) FIELD, AND THE UNIVERSITY KK TR B LEASE, WELL NO. 3 (DRILLING PERMIT NO. 544871), EMMA (YATES) FIELD, ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS**

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**FINAL ORDER**

The Commission finds that after statutory notice the captioned enforcement proceeding was heard by the examiner on April 23, 2009, and that the respondent, Redhorn Energy, LLC (696960), failed to appear or respond to the Notice of Hearing. Pursuant to § 1.49 of the Commission's General Rules of Practice and Procedure [Tex. R. R. Comm'n, 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.49] and after being duly submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas at conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Redhorn Energy, LLC (696960), ("Respondent") was given Notice of Hearing by certified mail, addressed to the most recent P-5 address on the Form P-5 Organization Report, which was returned to the Commission marked "unclaimed."
2. The returned certified receipt containing the Original Complaint and the Notice of Hearing mailed to Respondents, most recent P-5 address, was returned to the Commission marked "unclaimed" on March 14, 2009. The certified receipt has been on file with the Commission for 15 days, exclusive of the day of receipt and day of issuance.
3. On March 13, 2006, Respondent filed an Organization Report (Form P-5) with the Commission reporting that its officers consisted of the following individual(s): Dennis Charles Kruse; President.
4. Dennis Charles Kruse, was a person in a position of ownership or control of respondent, as defined by Texas Natural Resources Code Section 91.114, during the time period of the violations of Commission rules committed by respondent.

5. The violations of Commission rules committed by respondent are related to safety and the control of pollution.
6. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well No. 2 on the State L (37383) Lease and Well No. E 1 on the FW Consolidated #4 (37683) Lease (“subject wells”/“subject leases”) by filing Form P-4’s (Producers Transportation Authority and Certificate of Compliance) with the Commission effective on September 5, 2004, for Well No. 2 on the State L (37383) Lease and May 5, 2005, for Well No. E 1 on the FW Consolidated #4 (37683) Lease..
7. Respondent designated itself to the Commission as the operator of Well No. 3 (Drilling Permit No. 544871) on the University KK Tr B Lease (“subject well”/“subject lease”) by filing a Form W-1 (Application to Drill, Deepen, Plug Back or Re-Enter) with the Commission on April 23, 2004.
8. According to Commission records the Respondent’s Form P-5 (Organization Report) became delinquent on April 1, 2007. Respondent had a \$25,000.00 Letter of Credit as its financial assurance at the time of its last P-5 renewal.
9. Commission District inspections were conducted on January 25, 2008 and March 3, 2008 for the State L (37383) Lease. The signs or identification required to be posted at the well and tank battery were missing.
10. A Commission District inspection conducted on May 7, 2008 for the State L (37383) Lease showed that the signs were posted.
11. Commission District inspections were conducted on November 29, 2007, January 25, 2008, March 2, 2008 and May 7, 2008 for the FW Consolidated #4 (37683) Lease. The signs or identification required to be posted at the well and the tank were missing.
12. Failure to properly identify a well by the posting of the sign required by Statewide Rule 3 has the potential for causing confusion and delay in remedying a violation or emergency and poses a threat to the public health and safety.
13. Well No. 2 on the State L (37383) Lease ceased production on or before August 31, 2006.
14. Well No. E 1 on the FW Consolidated #4 (37683) Lease ceased production on or before September 30, 2006.
15. Well No. 3 (Drilling Permit No. 544871) on the University KK Tr B Lease has never produced.
16. Usable quality groundwater in the area is likely to be contaminated by migrations or discharges of saltwater and other oil and gas wastes from the subject wells. Unplugged wellbores constitute a cognizable threat to the public health and safety because of the probability of pollution.

17. The total estimated cost to the State of plugging Well No. 2 on the State L (37383) Lease is \$37,400.00, Well No. E 1 on the FW Consolidated #4 (37683) Lease is \$37,400.00 and Well No. 3 on the University KK Tr B Lease is \$37,400.00.
18. Commission District inspections were conducted on November 29, 2007, January 25, 2008, March 3, 2008, May 7, 2008 and June 2, 2008 for the University KK Tr B Lease, Well No. 3. There was a spill at the old battery site. The area was highly concentrated with oil and affected an area approximately 15' x 15'.
19. No permit has been issued to the Respondent for the discharge of oil and gas wastes on or from the subject lease.
20. The unpermitted discharges of oil and gas wastes or other substances or materials on the subject lease constitute a hazard to public health and safety because leaks and spills of oil and produced waters onto soils can migrate into surface water bodies causing contamination or can leach into the ground and percolate through soils into groundwater supplies.
21. Commission District inspections were conducted on November 29, 2007, January 25, 2008, March 2, 2008, May 7, 2008 and June 2, 2008 for the University KK Tr B Lease, Well No. 3 (Drilling Permit No. 544871). Well No. 3 has been completed, but Respondent has not filed the required completion report.
22. The Respondent has not demonstrated good faith since it failed to timely plug or otherwise place the subject leases and subject wells in compliance after being notified of the violations by the District Office and failed to appear at the hearing to explain its inaction.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Proper notice was issued by the Railroad Commission to respondent and to all other appropriate persons legally entitled to notice.
2. All things necessary to the Commission attaining jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties in this hearing have been performed or have occurred.
3. Respondent is in violation of Commission Statewide Rules 3, 8(d)(1), 14(b)(2) and 16(a).
4. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 3, which requires that each property that produces oil, gas or geothermal resources and each oil, gas or geothermal resources well and tank, or other approved crude oil measuring facility shall post signs or identification.
5. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 8(d)(1), which prohibits the discharge of oil and gas wastes without a permit.

6. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject lease in compliance with Statewide Rule 16(a), which requires that the owner, or operator of an oil, gas or geothermal resource well, must within thirty days after the completion of such well, or the plugging of such well, if the well is a dry hole, shall file with the Commission the appropriate completion or plugging report.
7. Respondent is responsible for maintaining the subject leases and subject wells in compliance with all applicable Commission rules according to Statewide Rules 14, 58, and 79 and Chapters 89 and 91 of the Texas Natural Resources Code.
8. The documented violations committed by the respondent constitute acts deemed serious, a hazard to the public health, and demonstrate a lack of good faith pursuant to TEX. NAT. RES. CODE ANN. §81.0531(c).
9. As a person in a position of ownership or control of respondent at the time respondent violated Commission rules related to safety and the control of pollution, Dennis Charles Kruse, and any other organization in which he may hold a position of ownership or control, shall be subject to the restrictions of Texas Natural Resource Code Section 91.114(a)(2) for a period of no more than seven years from the date the order entered in this matter becomes final, or until the conditions that constituted the violations herein are corrected or are being corrected in accordance with a schedule to which the Commission and the organization have agreed; and all administrative, civil, and criminal penalties and all cleanup and plugging costs incurred by the State relating to those conditions are paid or are being paid in accordance with a schedule to which the Commission and the organization have agreed, whichever is earlier.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT** within 30 days from the day immediately following the date this order becomes final:

1. Redhorn Energy, LLC (696960), shall plug or otherwise place the State L (37383) Lease, Well No. 2, Triple-N (San Andres) Field, the FW Consolidated #4 (37683) Lease, Well No. E 1, Triple-N (Penn. Upper) Field, and the University KK Tr B Lease, Well No. 3 ( Drilling Permit No. 544871), Emma (Yates) Field, Andrews County, Texas in compliance with applicable Commission rules and regulations; and
2. Redhorn Energy, LLC (696960), shall pay to the Railroad Commission of Texas, for disposition as provided by law, an administrative penalty in the amount of **EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$8,100.00)**.

It is further **ORDERED** by the Commission that this order shall not be final and effective until 20 days after a party is notified of the Commission's order. A party is presumed to have been notified of the Commission's order three days after the date on which the notice is actually mailed. If a timely motion for rehearing is filed by any party at interest, this order shall not become final and effective until such motion is overruled, or if such motion is granted, this order shall be subject to further action by the Commission. Pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE § 2001.146(e), the time allotted for Commission action on a motion for rehearing in this case prior to its being overruled by operation of law, is hereby extended until 90 days from the date the parties are notified of the order.

All requested findings of fact and conclusions of law which are not expressly adopted herein are denied. All pending motions and requests for relief not previously granted or granted herein are denied.

Noncompliance with the provisions of this order is subject to enforcement by the Attorney General and subject to civil penalties of up to \$10,000.00 per day per violation.

Done this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2009.

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

(Signatures affixed by Default Master Order dated May 19, 2009)

ME/sa