# BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of Darrah Oil	)	Docket No. 25-CONS-3342-CWLE
Company, LLC for a well location exception	)	
for its Drummond 1 Well, to be located in the	)	CONSERVATION DIVISION
S/2 SE/4 of Section 26, Township 33 South,	)	
Range 5 East, Cowley County, Kansas	)	License No. 35615

### **NOTICE OF PROTEST**

## COME NOW, the following persons:

James O. Brown and Thomas R. Brown, Trustees of the Second Restatement of the George D. Brown Revocable Trust dated January 14, 2003 11923 252<sup>nd</sup> Road Winfield, Kansas 67156

Thomas R. Brown 30427 101<sup>st</sup> Road Arkansas City, Kansas 67005 T. Ronny Brown, Trustee of the T. Ronny Brown Revocable Trust Agreement dated January 30, 2018 30427 101<sup>st</sup> Road Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

James O. Brown, individually, and as Trustee fo the James O. Brown Revocable Trust Agreement dated January 30, 2018 11923 252<sup>nd</sup> Road Winfield, Kansas 67156

(hereinafter, "Protesters"), and for their Protest of the Application of Darrah Oil Company, LLC ("Applicant") in the captioned docket, state as follows:

- 1. Protesters are owners of fractional undivided interests in and to all surface and mineral rights associated with the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section 35, Township 33 South, Range 5 East, Cowley County, Kansas, described as the "Offset Lease" in the captioned Application, and therefore have a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding.
- 2. Applicant requests an exception to the 330 foot setback requirement prescribed by K.A.R. 82-3-108(a) for its Drummond 1 Well to be drilled on its Muret Lease at a location 100 feet

from the South line and 650 feet from the East line (100 ft. FSL & 650 ft. FEL) of Section 26, Township 33 South, Range 5 East, Cowley County, Kansas, in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW/4 SE/4 SE/4) of said Section, or 100 feet from the North boundary of the Offset Lease. Applicant contends that this exception is necessary in order to effectively drain reserves from the Mississippi formation untapped by other wells previously drilled in the vicinity, and because Protesters have refused to modify the Offset Lease to allow for unitization, which is their right.

- 3. Mapping of the area shows that four Mississippian wells have been drilled at legal locations on the Muret Lease in the South Half of the Southeast Quarter (S/2 SE/4) of said Section 26 and on the Offset Lease in the North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N/2 NE/4) of said Section 35. The two wells on the Muret Lease (Muret 5 and 6 Wells), are producing oil wells currently operated by Zenith Drilling Corporation. The two wells located on the Offset Lease (Brown 1 and 3 Wells) are apparently depleted and have been plugged and abandoned. The area in which Applicant seeks to drill its Drummond 1 well has therefore been fully tested and developed.
- 4. Protesters object to drilling of the Drummond 1 Well at its proposed location as unnecessary, resulting in waste. If the well is successful, it will violate Protesters' correlative rights by causing undue drainage between developed leases. Granting of this Application will penalize Protesters because Applicant is unwilling to move its proposed well to a legal location on its Muret Lease to the North in order to avoid interference with production from existing wells. Applicant should not be permitted to encroach upon, and draw undue production from, the mineral rights of Protesters because its lease is incapable of achieving its production potential from wells drilled in compliance with Commission regulations. Denial of the Application will preserve established well spacing requirements, and based on those requirements, should not result in physical waste.

WHEREFORE, Protesters request that the Commission accept their Protest, set the Application herein for hearing, permit Protesters to present evidence in opposition to the Application, and grant to Protesters such other and further relief as the Commission may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

### /s/Thomas M. Rhoads

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**Attorney for Protesters** 

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025 he caused the above and foregoing Notice of Protest to be filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission, Conservation Division electronically, and a copy thereof to be served in the same manner upon the following person at the email address indicated:

Jonathan A. Schlatter Morris Laing Law Firm 300 N. Mead, Suite 200 Wichita, Kansas 67202-2745 jschlatter@morrislaing.com

Attorney for Applicant, Darrah Oil Company, LLC

/s/Thomas M. Rhoads

Thomas M. Rhoads