

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Andrew J. French, Chairperson
 Dwight D. Keen
 Annie Kuether

In the matter of the application of Raymond Oil) Docket No. 24-CONS-3340-CEXC
Company, Inc. for an exception to the pit)
closure time requirement of K.A.R. 82-3-602) CONSERVATION DIVISION
for the Hazel Thomas #20-2 Twin well located)
in the NW/4 of Section 20, Township 32 South,) License No. 5046
Range 22 West, Clark County, Kansas.)

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION

The Commission rules as follows:

I. JURISDICTION

1. K.S.A. 74-623 provides the Commission exclusive jurisdiction and authority to regulate oil and gas activities in Kansas. K.A.R. 82-3-100 provides that the Commission may grant an exception to any regulation after application and notice, and after considering whether the exception will prevent waste, protect correlative rights, and prevent pollution.

2. K.A.R. 82-3-602(a)(2) provides that any operator may request a pit permit extension of not more than three months, and the request may be granted by the director. An extension may be granted due to pit conditions or for other good cause shown by the operator. Any pit permit extension may be renewed upon additional request by the operator, but no pit permit extension shall be extended beyond six months after the original deadline.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

3. Raymond Oil Company, Inc. (Operator) is licensed to conduct oil and gas activities in Kansas and is responsible for the drilling pit located at the Hazel Thomas #20-2 Twin (Subject Pit), API #15-025-21621.

4. On May 1, 2024, Operator filed an Application requesting an exception to the time limitations for pit closures set out in K.A.R. 82-3-602(a)(2) for Subject Pit.

5. Operator has already received the two extensions allowed by K.A.R. 82-3-602(a)(2),¹ but pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-100(b) requests an additional 120-day extension due to the wet conditions present at the Subject Pit.

6. The extension of time to close the Subject Pit will cause no environmental harm, and closing the Subject Pit prior to it drying out could lead to collapse or an unintended sump.²

7. Operator has verified that notice has been properly served and published, as required under K.A.R. 82-3-135a. No protest was filed under K.A.R. 82-3-135b.

8. The reasons articulated in Operator's Application are sufficient to support the administrative grant of Operator's Application.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

9. The Commission has jurisdiction over Operator and Operator's Application. Operator's Application was filed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission and in accordance with Kansas statutes. Operator properly served and published notice.

10. Based on the above facts, Operator's Application should be granted. Operator has demonstrated good cause that the pit conditions should improve before the Subject Pit is closed. There is no present indication that granting Operator's Application will cause waste, cause pollution, or affect correlative rights.

THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

A. Operator's Application for an exception to the pit closure requirements of K.A.R. 82-3-602(a) is granted. Operator shall have until August 29, 2024, to close the Subject Pit.

¹ To reach this finding, the Commission takes administrative notice of its records. *See* K.A.R. 82-1-230(h).

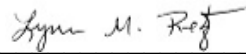
² *See* Application, ¶ 6 (May 1, 2024).

B. Operator's Application is being granted via summary proceedings; thus, this Order does not take effect until after the time for requesting a hearing has expired.³ Any party may request a hearing on the above issues by submitting a written request setting forth the specific grounds upon which relief is sought, to the Commission at 266 N. Main, Suite 220, Wichita, Kansas 67202, within 15 days from the date of service of this Order.⁴ If a hearing is not requested, then this Order shall become effective upon expiration of the time for requesting hearing.⁵ If this Order becomes effective, then any party may file and serve a petition for reconsideration pursuant to the requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).⁶

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 07/30/2024



Lynn M. Retz
Executive Director

Mailed Date: 07/30/2024

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³ See K.S.A. 77-537.

⁴ See K.S.A. 77-542.

⁵ See K.S.A. 77-537.

⁶ See K.S.A. 55-606; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

24-CONS-3340-CEXC

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of first class mail and electronic service on 07/30/2024.

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