

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

2016-09-22 11:25:32
Kansas Corporation Commission
/s/ Amy L. Green

Before Commissioners: Jay Scott Emler, Chairman
 Shari Feist Albrecht
 Pat Apple

In the matter of an Order to Show Cause)	Docket No.: 17-CONS-3129-CSHO
issued to William T. Wax ("Operator"))	
regarding responsibility under K.S.A. 55-179)	CONSERVATION DIVISION
for unplugged wells on an expired license.)	
)	License No.: 3473

**MOTION FOR AN ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE, THE DESIGNATION OF A
PREHEARING OFFICER, AND THE SCHEDULING OF A PREHEARING
CONFERENCE**

For the following reasons, Commission Staff moves for an Order to Show Cause, the designation of a prehearing officer, and the scheduling of a prehearing conference in this matter:

I. JURISDICTION & LEGAL STANDARD

1. The Commission has jurisdiction to regulate oil and gas production in Kansas under Chapter 55 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated and the General Rules and Regulations for the Conservation of Crude Oil and Natural Gas, K.A.R. 82-3-100 *et seq.*
2. K.S.A. 55-162 provides the Commission with jurisdiction to institute proceedings to enforce the laws of Kansas and Commission rules, regulations, and orders.
3. K.S.A. 55-179 provides the Commission with jurisdiction to determine the persons legally responsible for the proper care and control of oil and gas wells, including the responsibility to plug the wells.
4. K.S.A. 55-179(b) provides that a person who is legally responsible for the proper care and control of an abandoned well shall include one or more of the following:
 - a. Any operator of a waterflood or other pressure maintenance program deemed to be causing pollution or loss of usable water;

- b. the current or last operator of the lease upon which such well is located, irrespective of whether such operator plugged or abandoned such well;
- c. the original operator who plugged or abandoned such well; and
- d. any person who without authorization tampers with or removes surface equipment or downhole equipment from an abandoned well.

5. K.S.A. 55-180 gives the Commission a cause of action against responsible parties for the reasonable plugging costs of abandoned wells.

6. K.A.R. 82-3-120 provides that no Operator shall conduct activities at a well without a current license.

II. STAFF'S ALLEGATION OF FACTS

7. The wells listed on the attached Exhibit A are unplugged. As the wells are listed on Operator's license, which is expired, the wells appear to be abandoned. Pursuant to Kansas statutes and Commission regulations, Operator appears to be responsible for plugging the wells.

8. If Operator does not bring these wells into compliance with Commission regulations, then Operator's license should be suspended and any injection authority associated with the unplugged wells should be revoked.

III. CONCLUSION

9. Based on the above, Staff requests that an Order to Show Cause be issued, designating a prehearing officer and scheduling a prehearing conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan R. Myers, #25975
Litigation Counsel
Kansas Corporation Commission

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Exhibit A

Wax, William T.
License: 3473

<u>Unplugged Wells on Operator's License</u>			
API Well #	Lease Name / Well #	Well Location	County
15-037-21487-00-00	MULLEN J70	1-31S-21E, NENESE	CRAWFORD
15-037-21555-00-00	GROTHER 1	7-29S-24E, NENW	CRAWFORD
15-037-21556-00-00	WIDNER 1	6-29S-24E, NESESW	CRAWFORD
15-037-21582-00-00	ULBRICH 1	19-29S-24E, NWSNW	CRAWFORD
15-037-21881-00-00	MULLEN J81	1-31S-21E, E2E2NESE	CRAWFORD
15-099-23287-00-00	CZAPANSKY 5	8-32S-21E, NENW	LABETTE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on 9/22/16, I caused a complete and accurate copy of this Motion to be served via United States mail, with the postage prepaid and properly addressed to the following:

Jon R. Viets
Suite 604, Professional Building
PO Box 1176
Independence, KS 67301

/s/ Paula J. Murray
Paula J. Murray
Legal Assistant
Kansas Corporation Commission