

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

In the matter of the application of Hawkins Oil,) Docket No.: 23-CONS-3270-CHOR
LLC for order permitting its Marsh #16)
horizontal well to be drilled in Section 6,) CONSERVATION DIVISION
Township 26 South, Range 5 East, Butler)
County, Kansas.) License No.: 32693

STAFF RECOMMENDATION ON AMENDED APPLICATION

Comes now Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission with a recommendation that the Commission grant Operator's application. In support of Staff's recommendation, Staff states the following:

1. On April 14, 2023, Hawkins Oil, LLC (Operator) filed an application pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-103a to drill the captioned well.
2. On June 16, 2023, Operator filed affidavits of publication from The Wichita Eagle and Butler County Times Gazette.
3. On August 18, 2023, Operator provided a map with offset operators around the captioned well.
4. On September 12, 2023, Commission Staff motioned for the designation of a presiding officer and the scheduling of a prehearing conference based on a lack of sufficient information which would allow Staff to recommend an order granting the application.
5. On September 19, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Designating Presiding Officer and Setting Prehearing Conference, wherein, a prehearing conference was scheduled for October 12, 2023.
6. On October 12, 2023, Operator filed an amended application. Operator proposes to drill the captioned well at a surface location of 2047 feet from the North line and 1145 feet from

the East line of Section 6, Township 26 South, Range 5 East, Butler County, Kansas. From there, Operator intends to drill vertically to 600 feet, then kickoff southwesterly at 3 degrees until reaching approximately 26.36 degrees of deviation at 1378.62 feet. Continuing southwesterly at 26.36 degrees, Operator expects to enter the top of the Arbuckle formation at a depth of 2550 feet. Then, Operator intends to drill through the Arbuckle formation to a bottom-hole location approximately 2886 feet from the South line and 2060 from the East line, at about 2681 feet total vertical depth.¹

7. The captioned well's deviation from surface to the top of the producing formation exceeds seven degrees; accordingly, K.A.R. 82-3-103a(b) requires application and notice pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-135a for Operator to obtain Commission approval to drill the well.²

8. Staff has had the opportunity to completely review Operator's Amended Application in this matter. Staff believes Operator has provided sufficient information to allow Staff the ability to recommend approval of its Amended Application to drill the captioned well. While the captioned well will be drilled nearer than 330 feet to offsetting lease boundary lines, Operator has obtained a Commission Order granting a well location exception for the well in Docket 23-CONS-3126-CWLE.³ Operator's amended application appears to meet all necessary requirements for a deviated wellbore pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-103a.⁴ Staff believes granting Operator's Amended Application will prevent waste and be protective of correlative rights. Staff also believes that granting the Amended Application raises no pollution issues.

¹ Amended Application, ¶¶ 4-6 (Oct. 12, 2023).

² See K.A.R. 82-3-103a.

³ To the extent that Operator's well location exception does not cover the captioned well's path, Staff recommends that the Commission interpret Operator's Amended Application as a request for both a deviated wellbore and for a well location exception.

⁴ Paragraph 12 of Operator's Amended Application states that Operator will proceed to publish notice of its application as required by K.A.R. 82-3-135a(d). If such notice is required, then Staff recommends granting the application after the appropriate affidavits of publication have been filed in the docket and the protest period has passed.

Wherefore, for the reasons described above, Staff recommends granting Operator's Amended Application. Staff also recommends the captioned well be assigned a full allowable and that the captioned well have a standard drilling unit, except reduced as described in Docket 23-CONS-3126-CWLE.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kelcey A. Marsh
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

23-CONS-3270-CHOR

I, the undersigned, certify that a true and correct copy of the attached Staff Recommendation on Amended Application has been served to the following by means of electronic service on November 13, 2023.

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/s/ Paula J. Murray

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