

2018-09-14 14:17:35
Kansas Corporation Commission
/s/ Lynn M. Retz

12 Sept., 2018

Lauren Wright, Kansas Corporation Commission
Conservation Division, 266 N. Main St., Ste. 220
Wichita, KS 67202-1513

Dear Ms. Wright:

I am writing to request a hearing in the matter of the application by Brian L. Birk dba Birk Petroleum, published Aug. 23, 2018 to commence disposal of saltwater into the Kansas City Formation at Merritt #5 located in the NW NW SW, and Merritt #10 located in the SW NE SW SW, all in Section 7, Township 23, Range 15E, Coffey County, KS, with a maximum operating pressure of 300 psi and a maximum injection rate of 100 bbls. per day.

My grounds for this request for hearing include the following:

These wells, located on local farmland within easy walking distance of North Creek and Big South Creek and are also located about 8 miles south of where my home is. The wells are located at elevation approximately 50 to 60 feet higher than that of the North and South Creeks and about 1500 feet higher than the point 7 miles east where the creeks feed into the Neosho River. As a result, I have serious concerns that such injection of saltwater could lead to pollution of the immediate vicinity through leakage or spillage, and, subsequently, violate water rights in the area to include local range and farmlands, and clean drinking water sources on which myself and the local Kansas citizens depend.

Saltwater disposal wells are also proven sources of earthquakes in Kansas, with areas of heavy saltwater disposal in central/south/western Kansas experience tremors on an almost daily basis and larger quakes are no longer a rare event or experience of the past. My home and property has damage resulting from the September 3, 2016 5.8M earthquake that originated 14 miles NW of Pawnee, Oklahoma. Pawnee is about 189 miles or about 3 ¼ hours from my home. That earthquake was felt as far north as Fargo, ND. A second Oklahoma quake event also affected my home on the following Nov. 6, 2016, when the 5.3 M earthquake occurred at Cushing which is located approximately 205 miles or about 3 ½ hours from my home. If my home can suffer damage from those events, what is to prevent damage from working saltwater disposal wells located just 8 miles down the road?

I believe that as a 5th generation, life-long resident of Kansas, I have inherent rights to the guarantee of clean drinking water, especially since this area of Kansas is currently in officially recognized extreme drought conditions and any threat to local clean water systems is contradictory to efforts to conserve and use water resources in wise and responsible ways. I also believe that my status as a citizen and the proposed location of these wells just 8 miles from my home gives me proximity and standing to file this protest. With this protest I charge the KCC, by its own mission statement, ***to protect correlative rights and environmental resources (of Kansas) in part by preventing waste and by enforcing regulations that provide guidelines of producing resources efficiently***, and, therefore, demand that the KCC place preserving the basic water needs of its human population first and foremost and high above those of the oil producing industry and set a public hearing in the matter of the application of Brian L. Birk dba Birk Petroleum, application to commence the disposal of saltwater into the Kansas City Formation at the Merritt #5 located in the NW NW SW, and the Merritt #10 located in the SW NE SW SW, all in Section 7, Township 23, Range 15E, Coffey County, KS, with a maximum operating pressure of 300 psi and a maximum injection rate of 100 bbls. per day.

Sincerely,

Susan Royd-Sykes
504 S. 6th St., Burlington, Ks 66839
moondrummer88@gmail.com

e-mailed to Lauren Wright, KCC, with hard copy following
cc. via regular mail to:
Brian L. Birk dba Birk Petroleum , 874 12th Rd, Burlington, KS 66839

Received
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

SEP 13 2018

CONSERVATION DIVISION
WICHITA, KS