

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) DOCKET NO. 25-CONS- 3220-CEXC
OF MERIT ENERGY COMPANY, LLC,)
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE 10-YEAR)
TIME LIMITATION OF K.A.R. 82-3-111) CONSERVATION DIVISION
FOR ITS MAUDE HANDS 2-4 WELL IN)
THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE)
NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE) LICENSE NO. 32446
SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE)
SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4,)
TOWNSHIP 26 SOUTH, RANGE 33)
WEST, FINNEY COUNTY, KANSAS.)
_____)

APPLICATION

COMES NOW, Merit Energy Company ("Merit"), by and through its attorney, Zach K. Wiggins, and in support of its Application in the above captioned matter states as follows:

1. Merit is authorized to do business in the State of Kansas, and has a street address of 13727 Noel Road, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas, 75240.
2. The Kansas Corporation Commission has issued Merit operator's license 32446, which expires on May 30, 2025.
3. Merit is the owner and operator of the Maude Hands 2-4 well, which is located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 26 South, Range 33 West, Finney County, Kansas, API # 15-055-22336-00-00. The subject well is located on an active oil and gas lease or unit comprising the following lands:

Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 26 South, Range
33 West, Finney County, Kansas.

4. The Maude Hands 2-4 was originally perforated in the Morrow and St. Genevieve Formations but was not actively produced and was shut-in as inactive. Pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-111, Merit sought and obtained temporary abandonment status for said well on or about November 5, 2014.

5. On or about November 27, 2024, the Kansas Corporation Commission notified Merit of the KCC's denial of renewal of temporary abandonment status for the well due to the limitation period of ten (10) years imposed by K.A.R. 82-3-111.

6. K.A.R. 82-3-111 imposes a 10-year limitation on the amount of time during which wells may be temporarily abandoned, but an exception to the 10-year limitation may be obtained pursuant to said regulation through an Application filed with the Commission pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-100. Applicant seeks such an exception.

7. Merit wishes to continue temporary abandonment status for the subject well because Merit intends to use the well as part of an enhanced oil recovery project. Merit is currently evaluating the enhanced oil recovery project which looks to have potential in the Chester Formation. The Maude Hands 2-4 well is currently unable to produce in economic quantities. With capital investment and unitization with other lease(s), an additional 70 Mbo of reserves could be recovered. Based on open-hole wireline logs, mudlogs, and offset production data, we believe there is EOR potential in the Chester with the Hands B lease. The scope of the EOR project is to repressure the Chester on the Maude Hands and Hands B leases. Based on the results of Merit's reservoir study, the Hands B2 would be permitted for UIC injection and converted to an

injector to support the Hands B1 and Maude Hands 2-4 as producers. Supply water would be drawn from Merit's Atkins Disposal system.

8. A Commission Staff-witnessed mechanical integrity test of the casing between the surface and a point within fifty (50) feet above the uppermost perforations is pending.

9. The Maude Hands 2-4 well is the only well on the lease. It would cost an estimated Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to plug this well. A current production rate for the lease is 0 BOEPD. A basic estimation of remaining reserves and an explanation of the basis is 70 MBO of developed, non-producing reserves. In order to reactivate the Maude Hands 2-4 well as part of an EOR project, it would cost approximately Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$280,000.00) based on current prices. It would cost an estimate of Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000.00) based on current prices to drill and complete a replacement well.

10. Merit has included a plat map, attached as Exhibit A, showing the locations of all producing, injection, temporarily abandoned, abandoned and plugged wells located on the same lease premises as the subject well.

11. Based on the foregoing, Merit requests the Commission grant an exception to the 10-year limitation, specifically to allow the Maude Hands 2-4 well to remain eligible for temporary abandonment status for three (3) years following the expiration of 10-year limitation. Merit understands that the exception would be valid for three (3) years, but Merit would still need to apply annually to the Conservation Division District Office for approval of an Application for temporary abandonment status.

12. Listed in attached Exhibit B are the names and addresses of the following persons:

A. Each operator of each oil and gas lease covering lands within one-half (1/2) mile radius of the subject well; and

B. Each person who owns any mineral interest of record in and under any lands located within one-half (1/2) mile radius of the subject well if unleased.

13. That the Applicant has sent by regular mail a copy of this Application and Notice of Pending Application to all persons listed on the attached Exhibit B.

14. Notice of this Application will be published pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-135a.

15. WHEREFORE, Merit prays that this matter be granted administratively without a hearing, or in the alternative be set for hearing, and upon hearing that the Commission grant Merit's request for an exception to the K.A.R. 82-3-111 10-year limitation, to allow the subject well to remain temporarily abandoned for three (3) years, subject to annual approval by the Conservation Division District Office of an application for temporary abandonment status.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN, PRINGLE, OLIVER, WALLACE
& BAUER, L.L.P.

By 

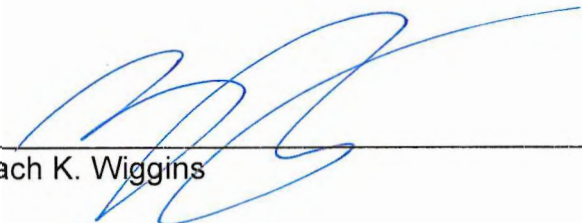
Zach K. Wiggins
645 East Douglas, Suite 100
Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 265-9311
Attorney for Merit Energy Company

VERIFICATION

STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
COUNTY OF SEDGWICK)

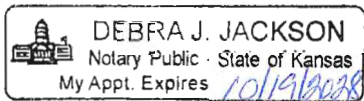
Zach K. Wiggins, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, upon oath states:

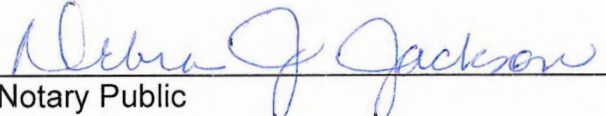
That he is the attorney for Merit Energy Company, applicant herein; that he has read the above and foregoing Application of Merit Energy Company and is familiar with the contents thereof; and, that the statements made therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.



Zach K. Wiggins

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 2nd day of January, 2025.

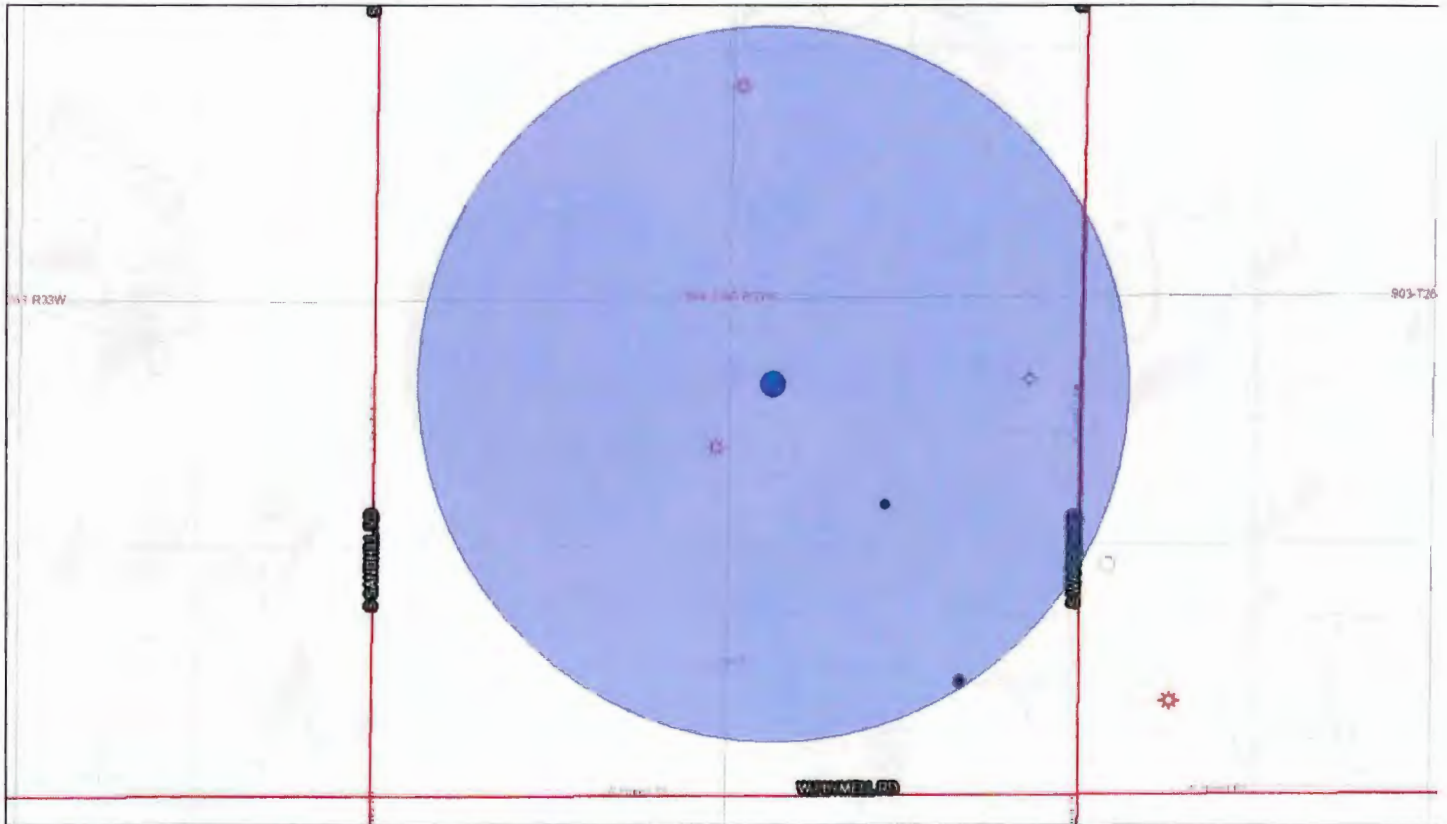




Notary Public

My Appointment Expires:
10/19/2028

Maude Hand 2-4 1/2 Mile Radius - KGS Map



12/23/2024, 3:32:07 PM

Oil and Gas Wells

◇ Dry and Abandoned



Gas

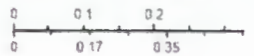


Location



Oil

1:11,049



ENR HERE: Gamm, MACPHERSON
METI/ASA EPA, USDA

EXHIBIT B

None

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SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE)
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TOWNSHIP 26 SOUTH, RANGE 33)
WEST, FINNEY COUNTY, KANSAS.)
_____)

NOTICE OF PENDING APPLICATION

THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

TO: ALL OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS, UNLEASED MINERAL INTEREST OWNERS, LANDOWNERS, AND ALL PERSONS WHOMSOEVER CONCERNED:

YOU, and each of you, are hereby notified that Merit Energy Company has filed an Application for an exception to the ten-year time limitation of K.A.R. 82-3-111 for the Maude Hands 2-4 well, located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 26 South, Range 33 West, Finney County, Kansas, API # 15-055-22336-00-00.

YOU are further notified that unless written protest is received by the State Corporation Commission within fifteen (15) days after publication of this Notice, the Application in this matter can be granted by administrative approval after said 15 day period. Any such protest should be mailed to the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas, Conservation Division, 266 North Main, Suite 220, Wichita, Kansas, 67202, and to the Applicant at the address shown.

All parties in any wise interested or concerned shall take notice of the foregoing and govern themselves accordingly.

Merit Energy Company.
By: Idania Mendina
Regulatory Analyst
13727 Noel Road, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75240
(972) 628-1446