

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

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4

5 In the Matter of the Application of TDR) Docket No. 19-CONS-3168-CUIC
6 Construction, Inc., to Authorize Injection)
7 of Saltwater into the Squirrel Formation) CONSERVATION DIVISION
8 at the Superior #I-1 Well, Located)
9 in Section 10, Township 16 South,) License No. 32218
10 Range 21 East, Franklin County, Kansas)

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12

PREFILED TESTIMONY OF SCOTT YEARGAIN

- 13 1. Q. Please state your name and address.
14 A. My name is Scott Yeargain; I reside at 2263 Nevada Road, Ottawa, Kansas
15 66067.
16 2. Q. Summarize your education and background.
17 A. My degrees are from the University of Missouri-Columbia: BA with
18 Honors; MA, and PhD. All degrees are in philosophy. The BA minors are
19 in chemistry and mathematics; the PhD minor is mathematics. I am
20 retired. I am 77 years of age. I taught philosophy in a college in Kansas
21 (Johnson County Community College) for 33 years (until retirement). I
22 held an assistantship in philosophy at the University of Missouri-
23 Columbia during graduate school. In addition, I was a bench-chemist,
24 part time, in the Pathology Department at the University of Missouri-
25 Columbia School of Medicine from 1967-1971. In my adult life I have
26 been involved in a family farming operation in Audrain county, Missouri.
27 In Kansas we own a small farm, 47 acres, in Franklin county. My wife is
28 involved in a family farming operation (1,000 acres) in Ouachita Parish,
29 Louisiana. In addition, my wife and I own rental properties in Prairie
30 Village, Kansas, Leawood, Kansas, and Franklin county, Kansas.
31
32 3. Q. Summarize your qualifications and experience which are relevant to this
33 testimony.

1 A. I was trained sufficiently in chemistry and mathematics to qualify for the
2 part-time chemistry position in the Pathology lab at the University of
3 Missouri-Columbia school of medicine. I did routine titrations, dilutions,
4 determinations of concentrations of substances (bilirubin in blood
5 serum, blood urea nitrogen in serum, and so on) in solution, and so on. I
6 held this position while in graduate school. Also, I was appointed by the
7 Kansas Water Office in 2014 to a position on the Governor’s 50-Year
8 Vision for Water in Kansas Committee; I was one of several people so-
9 appointed who set long-range goals for the Marais des Cygnes
10 watershed. Since 2016 I have been a member of the Regional Advisory
11 Committee for the Marais des Cygnes Watershed, a committee which
12 advises the Kansas Water Office regarding needs and goals for this
13 watershed. My training in philosophy helps also. Formal training in
14 philosophy teaches one to put a critical eye on complex argument
15 structures, mostly regarding logical coherence.

16 4. Q. What sponsors your interest in these dockets?

17 A. I’ll start with the Applicant’s pre-filed testimony. Mr. Town says “I am a
18 third generation oil producer and have been around the oil business my whole
19 life.” My thinking is that we cannot keep doing things our parents, grandparents,
20 great-grand parents did. This is what our progenitors have endowed us: we must
21 add increased amounts of fertilizer to field crops to produce paying yields. This is
22 related to diminished organic content in field soils. The mercury content in
23 bottom-feeding fish, like catfish, in Kansas farm ponds, like my pond, is
24 sufficiently high for Kansas Fish and Game to advise fishermen to curtail the
25 frequency by which they eat the fish from Kansas ponds and rivers. Algae blooms
26 in Kansas reservoirs and ponds are a chronic health and water quality issue for
27 KDHE because of nutrient migration into water bodies, largely nitrogen and
28 phosphate. These chronic blooms are related to heavy fertilizer loading to
29 compensate for diminished organic matter in soils. The fecal coliform content of
30 the Marais des Cygnes river above Franklin County Rural Water #6 is so high that
31 chorine is added in quantities which in turn cause violative TTHM and haloacetic
32 acid readings in that public water supply. These high fecal coliform issues are
33 linked to the large numbers of confined animal feeding operations in the
34 watershed. When the EPA mandated water body monitoring following passage of

1 the Safe Drinking Water Act the KDHE began reporting water quality on all the
2 major watersheds in the state. In 2000, the date of the initial assessment for the
3 Marais des Cygnes watershed, The KDHE reported that 50.6% of the stream
4 segments in this watershed were impaired for their designated uses. You see the
5 narrative. Our farming practices, industrial practices are killing pollinators,
6 extinguishing species, filling our water impoundments with silt. I am not a third-
7 generation oil man who wants to keep doing the same thing my grandfather did.
8 Oil production is an extractive process, not sustainable, not regenerative. The
9 economic paradigm of oil production in my county, Franklin, is the economic
10 paradigm of small towns in Kansas, including Ottawa, the closest town to our
11 farm. The largest retailer in Ottawa is Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart extracts capital from
12 the town. It is a negative balance of payments for the town. The largest number
13 of restaurants are franchise operations: profits leave town. These are extractive
14 businesses. Like all extractive processes, operations continue until the thing is
15 used up. Measures of “used up” in this domestic population are drug use,
16 domestic abuse rates, household income, retirement savings, standardized test
17 scores, rates of teenage pregnancy. Really, a requirement for becoming a
18 commissioner at the KCC ought be to read Donald E. Worster’s Shrinking the
19 Earth: The Rise and Decline of American Abundance, Oxford University Press,
20 2016. Worster was the Hall Distinguished Professor of American History at the
21 University of Kansas and his book attributes the “greatness of America” to using
22 up the continent’s fisheries, forests, soils, waters, and grasses. Now we’re like
23 everyone else: fighting over what’s left. And that is what this docket is about.
24 Here’s what I know: all the protestants in this docket live in rural areas; we
25 believe we cannot keep doing “business as usual.” My wife and I, on a small scale,
26 the Mettenburgs, on a much larger scale, run cows and calves on pastures on
27 which we do not put fertilizers. We’ve stopped using back-pours on our cattle in
28 order to grow populations of scarab beetles, family *Scarabaeidae*, in the soil,
29 which, in turn, increase the organic content of the soil; when tith increases, water
30 run-off in heavy rain diminishes; the cow shit stays put because the beetles bury it
31 in the soil. These are not extractive processes. We still make money. I believe
32 Kansas will become a wasteland of salted soils, spoiled rivers, if we do business as
33 usual. If one examines the state of the aquifers, the water impoundments, the
34 watersheds I think the evidence supports my belief. Donald Worster also thinks
35 the evidence supports by belief.

1 5. Q. You make claims in your protest about the possibility of abandoned wells
2 existing in the vicinity of both the McCoy lease and the Superior lease. On what do
3 you base your claims?

4 A. The Kansas Corporation Commission, in its 2019 Abandoned Oil and Gas
5 Well Status, Annual Report, states that there exist 21,922 records of abandoned
6 wells in Kansas. 6,046 of these wells are designated as "Other." "Other" refers to
7 wells which have been removed from the list of "Wells Requiring Action." I make
8 an inference here with regard to which I cannot supply a metric and to which I
9 think the KCC cannot supply a metric: a percentage of these 6,046 wells "not
10 requiring action" actually require action. I make this inference because I believe
11 that abandoned well coordinators do, at times, "spot plug" abandoned wells. I
12 mean by this that the coordinator will cement the bottom 20 ft. of a string, the
13 top 20 ft. of a string, and the remaining string between the cemented portions
14 remains hollow or filled with water or debris. Affidavits from coordinators, field
15 notes, and a statistically accurate sampling methodology of the 6,046 wells might
16 disabuse me of such inference. If "spot plugged" does characterize a portion of
17 these 6,046 wells then such wells are a risk to fresh and usable waters by virtue
18 cathodic processes, increased pore pressure in surrounding geologic strata due to
19 pressurized EOR activities, and simple oxidation-reduction processes. Of 21,922
20 wells in the 2019 Annual Report, 19,325 of these wells are reported to be in
21 District 3, the district in which I live, my wife and I have a modest financial
22 investment (\$1.3-1.4 million, in two counties), and where our children and
23 grandchildren visit. In the section in which the Superior lease is located, the 2019
24 Annual Report indicates 5 Priority 1, Level B wells, which are a groundwater risk,
25 requiring action. In Miami county, section 3, township 16S, range 21E, the section
26 contiguous with the Franklin county section 10, township 16S, range 21 E, and
27 immediately to the east, one finds 9 abandoned wells, all groundwater threats, all
28 Priority 1, Level C wells. Here is KCC's definition of Priority 1, Level C,
29 groundwater-listed wells: "Wells located outside designated sensitive
30 groundwater areas which have potential impacts to groundwater supplies or loss
31 of water resources through downward drainage." Here is KCC's definition of
32 Priority 1, Level B, groundwater-risk wells: "Wells creating ongoing or potential
33 impacts to groundwater supplies through water quality degradation or loss of
34 water supplies through downward drainage. Wells may be located within a

1 designated sensitive groundwater area. Includes wells with impacts to
2 groundwater supplies outside of public water supply areas and cases of strong
3 potential for subsidence.”

4 5. Q. The wells referenced in section 4 above are not in the Superior lease.
5 Hence, what is your concern?

6 A. My concern is this: abandoned wells exist which are not on “the list,” i.e., not
7 in the KCC’s 2019 Report. Here is an instance of such: If one looks at KGS records
8 for well API # 15-059-26584 in the Jensen lease in Franklin county it is described
9 as “producing.” The last production noted at the KGS for this well is 2016. In
10 Docket No. 17-CONS-3633-CPEN the KCC describes this well as “abandoned.” This
11 well does not appear on any abandoned well listed reported to the legislature.
12 Further, in a formal complaint to the KCC, 19-CONS-3204-CMSC, received by the
13 KCC on December 6th, 2018, Judith L. Wells states that “The January 2018
14 Abandoned Wells Report required by K.S.A. 55-194 did not include any of the 483
15 wells that Butler Petroleum abandoned.” (Section 3) Also, I do not find these
16 wells in the 9019 report to the legislature.

17 Here is further evidence of abandoned wells which fail to appear in the
18 KCC’s annual report to the legislature regarding. On January 9, 2018 I protested
19 an application for injection permits for Blunk I-10 and I-11 wells in Franklin
20 county. The docket in this protest is 18-CONS-3273-CUIC. On March 15, 2018 this
21 docket was closed due the withdrawal by JTC, Inc., the applicant, of the request
22 for permit. Today, March 11, 2019, on the KGS interactive map, the status of
23 Blunk I-10 and Blunk I-11 is describe as “UIC application withdrawn.” The wells
24 appear on no report to the legislature as “abandoned.” My conclusion is that the
25 KCC is in violation of its fiduciary responsibilities to declare these wells as
26 “abandoned” since they have been idle for a year. I see no evidence of a permit
27 request by JCT for a temporary abandonment permit or for a permit to plug these
28 wells. My evidence is that these wells are “de facto” abandoned but not so
29 reported.

30 In addition, the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission’s 2008 “Orphaned
31 Well Survey Data” revised 02/19/2010 (Attachment A) indicates
32 undocumented/unidentified orphan wells at 20,000-40,000. KCC’s 2019 Annual
33 Report identifies 21,922 such wells which is in the range of the IOGCC’s survey

1 data but in the bottom 10% of the range. If one were to pick the midpart of
2 IOGCC's survey data, one discovers the number of undocumented and orphaned
3 wells in Kansas to be 30,000, which is 36.8% higher than the KCC's 2019 Report
4 indicates. I attempted to find the provenance of IOGCC's data by a phone call to
5 the Commission's offices in Oklahoma. I did not get the answer. It's not
6 unreasonable to think that the provenance of such data regarding Kansas'
7 orphaned wells is the KCC since Kansas is a member state of the IOGCC and since
8 the KCC is the state agency authorized by statute to monitor, regulate, inventory,
9 and supervise plugging of such wells. If one examines the age of the leases and
10 the spudding dates of the wells in the sections in which the wells for which permit
11 is sought in these two dockets one can reasonably conclude that
12 undocumented/unidentified orphan wells may exist in these sections.

13 6. Q: Are there other concerns regarding risk to fresh and usable water in the
14 McCoy and Superior leases?

15 A: Yes. In the Superior lease, I examined the plugging report of well #1 in the
16 Dorsey lease. This well was plugged by a KCC technician on or about January 8,
17 2007. No spud date exists for this well. The technician washed the 1" string to 15
18 ft. He then moved in a drill rig and drilled to 260 ft. There he says "hit steel." He
19 then ran 1" pipe to 260 ft and pumped Portland cement to surface; he then pulled
20 the 1" pipe and topped off the well. (See Attachment B) Here is my conclusion.
21 Well #1 in the Dorsey lease had concrete pumped to 260 ft. in January of 2007.
22 Below 260 ft. the condition of the well's stringer is unknown. I'll assume a 5"
23 drilling bit drilled out the cement hit at 15' and drilled to 260 ft. Now, these
24 questions: did the cement hit at 15' depth indicate that the well had already
25 been plugged? No one knows. Using some elementary math one finds that a 5"
26 diameter column at 260 ft is 35.6 cu. ft. Assuming one 80 lb. sack of Portland
27 cement produces 0.6 cu. ft. of concrete, one can conclude that 59.3 sacks of
28 Portland will fill the column. So, where did the remaining 102.7 sacks go? 162
29 sacks will fill a 5" dia. 710 ft. in length, assuming 1 sack yields 0.6 cu. ft. Can we
30 safely assume 102.7 sacks filled the old stringer and then poured into the old
31 producing zone? Probably not no one knows the condition of the steel found at
32 260 ft. If this steel were sufficiently oxidized then a 1,000 psi concrete pump may
33 have ripped open the old stringer at any place and the concrete have just poured
34 into a zone adjacent to the stringer. Or, at the 260 ft. depth the old stringer may

1 have been plugged and the 102.7 sacks of Portland simply was forced into the
2 surrounding geologic strata. Know one knows. These are the unknowns which
3 characterize the “protection of fresh and usable water” under the current
4 protocols in the Superior and McCoy lease. In the application for I-1 in Superior
5 applicant indicates 200 ft. in the section “Deepest Usable Water.” I conclude,
6 based on the technician’s description of the plugging experience with the Dorsey
7 #1 well, that the old Dorsey #1 stringer may be within 60 vertical ft. of the
8 deepest usable water. The Superior I-1 well lies 63 ft. east of the Dorsey #1 well
9 and 219 ft. north of Dorsey #1. At 650 psig, the pressure for which applicant
10 seeks permit, no one knows what will happen at the old Dorsey #1. Staff in the
11 Conservation Division will make a guess. Here is a more interesting plugging
12 report close to the Superior I-1 well. Lying 230.85 ft. to the south-south east of
13 Superior I-1 is well 1-A in the Deitche lease. API is 15-059-01210-00-00. The
14 plugging report was received by the KCC on July 20, 2009. The proposal was
15 received from a Richard Hermann with C&R Well Service. The proposed action
16 was “Fill well with cement from bottom to surface.” Here is the actual plugging
17 report: “Run 1-inch tubing into well and fill full with 10 sacks of Portland cement
18 from 30 feet to surface. Top off well with cement and cut off casing below
19 surface.” I conclude that this well is plugged to 30 ft. below surface. This well
20 includes no report regarding its original depth. The plugging apparently was not
21 supervised by a KCC technician. I see no data to suggest that this well was
22 originally a dry hole 30 ft. in depth. My conclusion is that no one knows what’s
23 below the 30 ft. concrete column into which C&R Well service placed 10 sacks of
24 Portland cement. In this circumstance, a permit by TDR to pressure Superior I-1
25 at 650 psig for 500 bbls/day in perpetuity is an unacceptable risk to fresh and
26 usable water, most especially the waters of Hickory Creek, a tributary of the
27 Marais des Cygnes, and the intake pipe of RWD6 public water supply.

28 7. Q. Do you have concerns regarding the Mechanical Integrity Test required by
29 the KCC?

30 A. Yes. KCC regulations mandate a MIT test of 300 psig. Applicant requests a
31 pressure of 600 psig for the McCoy lease and a pressure of 650 psig in the
32 Superior lease. I have never witnessed a scientific protocol in which the
33 experimental conditions were outside the approved range of the testing protocol.
34 Stated another way: here is are applications for permits for a procedure for

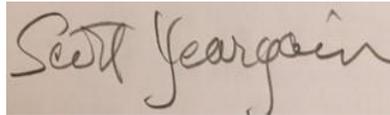
1 which no tests are conducted. No tests are conducted for the mechanical
2 integrity of the pressurized string beyond 300 psig. This is bad science. Look, for
3 instance at the State of Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Form 21.
4 Item #4 in the protocols for the MIT test states: "New injection wells must be
5 tested to maximum requested injection pressure." (Attachment C) Or look at
6 Form H-5 of the Railroad Commission of Texas, Oil and Gas Division (Pressure Test
7 Report). In the instructions section, #4 (c) one reads "The casing test pressure
8 must be at least equal to the maximum authorized injection pressure or 500 psig,
9 whichever is less, but no less than 200 psig." (Attachment D) I conclude that the
10 KCC is not just out of conformity with good scientific practice, but the MIT
11 protocol is much less rigorous than those of two other oil-producing states.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Scott Yeargain
2263 Nevada Road
Ottawa, Kansas 66067
785-418-7615

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

24

25 I certify that a true copy of the above and foregoing was served to the following
26 parties electronically on February 28th, 2019.

27

1 Jonathan R. Myers
2 j.myers@kcc.ks.gov

Lauren Wright
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3

4

5 Keith A. Brock
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ATTACHMENT C

1
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FORM 21
Rev 9/14

1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver, Colorado 80203 (303)-894-2100 Fax: (303)-894-2110

Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

MECHANICAL INTEGRITY TEST

Handwritten: Bob K...
Click here to reset the form

1. Duration of the pressure test must be a minimum of 15 minutes.
2. An original pressure chart must accompany this report if this test was not witnessed by a OGCC representative.
3. For production wells, test pressures must be at minimum of 300 psig.
4. New injection wells must be tested to maximum requested injection pressure.
5. For injection wells, test pressures must be at least 300 psig or average injection pressure, whichever is greater.
6. A minimum 300 psi differential pressure must be maintained between the tubing and tubing/casing annulus pressure.
7. Do not use this form if submitting under provisions of Rule 326, a (1) B, or C.
8. OGCC notification must be provided 30 days prior to the test via Form 42.
9. Packers or bridge plugs, etc., must be set within 100 feet of the perforated interval to be considered a valid test.

OGCC Operator Number: _____ **Contact Name:** _____

Name of Operator: _____ **City:** _____

Address: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** _____

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ATTACHMENT D

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Attachment D

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oil and Gas Division
Disposal/Injection Well
Pressure Test Report

Form H-5
06/03/95

1. OPERATOR'S NAME		2. RRC OPERATOR NO.	
3. WITNESS		4. RRC DISTRICT NO.	
5. COUNTY		6. API NO.	
7. FIELD NO.	8. OIL LEASE NO.	9. GAS ID NO.	10. WELL NO.
11. REASON FOR TEST Initial Test Prior to Injection After Workover Annual Test Required By Permit Five-Year Test Required By Rule Other (Specify):		12. DATE OF TEST	13. RETEST? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <small>if YES, see instruction No. 1</small>
14. WELL COMPLETION Surface Casing _____ size _____ depth set _____ Long Spring Casing _____ Tubing _____		15. PACKER MAKE AND MODEL	
16. AUTHORIZED INJECTION PRESSURE (PSIG)		17. DEPTH SET	
18. COMPLETED INJECTION INTERVAL Top _____ Bottom _____		19. COMPLETED INJECTION INTERVAL Top _____ Bottom _____	
20. TEST PRESSURE (PSIG) (see instructions 4(c) and 4(d)) TUBING CASING SURFACE CSG. TIME TUBING CASING SURFACE CSG. 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____		21. CHARACTERISTICS OF ANNEULUS FLUID (see instructions 4 (e) and 4(f)) _____ _____	
22. WITNESSED BY RRC? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <small>(see instruction 4(a))</small> Name of RRC Representative _____		23. WERE OTHER TESTS/SURVEYS PERFORMED AT THIS TIME? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO IF YES, List: _____	
24. OTHER COMMENTS ON TEST (attach separate sheet if necessary)			

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WHERE TO FILE - File in duplicate, including any attachments, with the appropriate District Office.

TEST REQUIREMENTS -

- (a) A pressure recorder must be used for all tests. The pressure recording chart must be signed by the operator's field representative. The pressure recording chart must be filed with this form for any test not witnessed by a Railroad Commission representative. The maximum range of the pressure recording chart must be such that the casing test pressure falls within 30-70% of full scale. If a circular pressure recording chart is used, the clock on the pressure recorder must not exceed 24 hours.
- (b) A pressure gauge must be used when taking pressure readings to be entered in Item 19. The maximum range of the pressure gauge must be such that the casing test pressure falls within 30-70% of full scale. The precision of the pressure gauge must be such that the minimum pressure increment is no more than 5% of the test pressure required by instruction 4(c).
- (c) The casing test pressure must be at least equal to the maximum authorized injection pressure or 500 psig, whichever is less, but no less than 200 psig. For wells equipped for injection through tubing and packer, a pressure differential of at least 200 psig must exist between the tubing-casing annulus pressure and any tubing pressure.
- (d) The test must be conducted for a period of no less than 30 minutes. A longer test may be required at the discretion of the District Office. For longer tests, pressure readings must be taken at least every 30 minutes. Pressure readings must be entered in Item 19.
- (e) If any pressure anomaly occurs during the pressure test, list the characteristics (such as temperature and specific gravity) of the injection fluid (Item 20) and the fluid in the annulus (Item 21) necessary to explain the anomaly.
- (f) If the annulus is not loaded with fluid for the test, explain in Item 21.

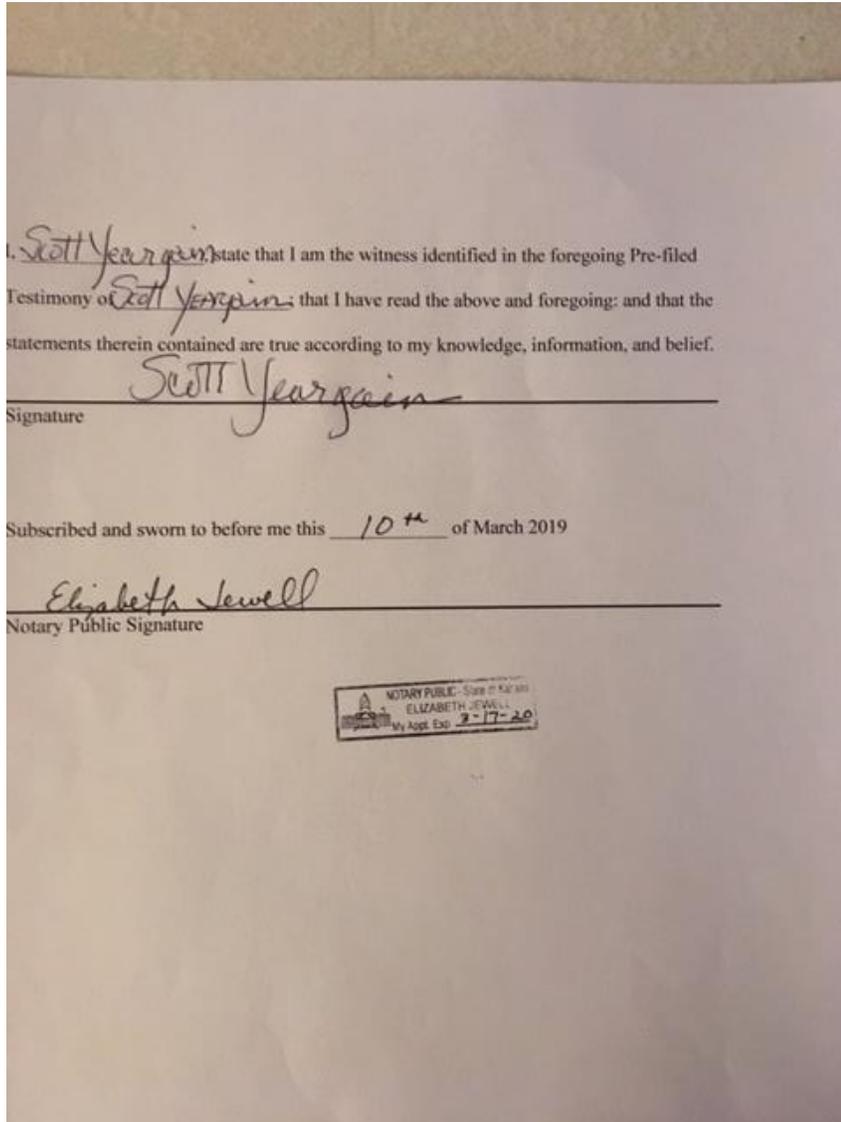
RETEST REQUIREMENTS - If a retest is being performed as a result of a previous test failure, give the date of last unsuccessful test and explain any remedial action that was taken to prepare the well for retest (casing repair, tubing and/or packer replacement, etc.). Explain in Item 24.

REFERENCE: Statewide Rules 9 and 46

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VERIFICATION

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