

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

Before Commissioners: Susan K. Duffy, Chair  
Shari Feist Albrecht  
Dwight D. Keen

In the matter of a general investigation into ) Docket No: 20-CONS-3218-CINV  
increased seismic activity in Reno County, )  
Kansas. ) CONSERVATION DIVISION  
 )  
 ) License No: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ORDER OPENING GENERAL INVESTIGATION**

This matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission). Having examined its files and records, and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission finds the following:

**I. Jurisdiction and Background**

1. The Commission has exclusive jurisdiction and authority to regulate oil and gas activities in the state of Kansas.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the Commission has jurisdiction to investigate whether and to what extent increased seismic activity may be caused by oil and gas activities.

2. At a January 30, 2020, Commission meeting, following a presentation by Conservation Division Director Ryan A. Hoffman, the Commission voted to open a general investigatory docket regarding increased seismic activity occurring in Reno County, Kansas.

**II. Findings of Fact**

3. The Commission finds this general investigatory docket should be opened for the purposes of: (1) keeping the public and the Commission apprised of the investigation of Commission Staff into the causes of increased seismic activity occurring in Reno County; and (2) providing a

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<sup>1</sup> K.S.A. 74-623(a).

forum by which the Commission may take any advisable action as it relates to increased seismic activity in Reno County.

4. The Commission finds Commission Staff should have wide discretion to file information in this docket to keep the Commission and the public apprised of its investigation.

5. The Commission finds that each Commission-licensed operator of a Class II injection well, who could be directly affected by any action the Commission may take in this docket, should be apprised of the existence of this docket.

### **III. Conclusions of Law**

6. The Commission concludes it should issue an order in accordance with its findings.

#### **THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

A. This general investigatory docket is opened for the purposes of: (1) keeping the public and the Commission apprised of the investigation of Commission Staff into the causes of increased seismic activity occurring in Reno County; and (2) providing a forum by which the Commission may take any advisable action as it relates to increased seismic activity in Reno County.

B. Commission Staff may file any informative data in this docket at any time. Commission Staff may also file a report and recommendation in this docket at any time.

C. Until further notice, Commission Staff shall file quarterly reports in this docket, with Staff's first report due by March 31, 2020.

D. Commission Staff shall serve a copy of this order on each Commission-licensed operator with a permit for disposal into the Arbuckle formation via a Class II injection well located within 15 miles of the 2019 Reno County earthquake cluster. Commission Staff shall file data visually depicting the 15-mile radius within seven days of the issuance of this order.

E. Commission Staff shall serve a copy of this order on each member of the advisory committee on regulation of oil and gas activities, as described in K.S.A. 55-153.


F. Each filing in this docket shall be served upon: Commission Staff, each intervener, and each person with a pending petition to intervene.

G. Any person may petition to intervene in this docket pursuant to K.A.R. 82-1-225. Similarly-situated persons are encouraged to submit joint, rather than individual, petitions.

**BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Duffy, Chair; Albrecht, Commissioner; Keen, Commissioner

Dated: 02/06/2020 \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn M. Retz  
Executive Director

Mailed Date: 02/06/2020 \_\_\_\_\_

JRM

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

20-CONS-3218-CINV

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of first class mail and electronic service on 02/06/2020.

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