

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

In the matter of the application of Merit Energy) Docket No.: 24-CONS-3008-CUNI
Company, LLC, for an Order authorizing the)
Unitization and Unit Operation of the Black) CONSERVATION DIVISION
Knight Unit to be located in Haskell County,)
Kansas.) License No.: 32446

RESPONSE TO OPERATOR'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS

Comes now Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission (Staff and Commission, respectively) in response to the Motion for Summary Proceedings filed on behalf of Merit Energy Company, LLC (Operator) on August 21, 2023. In support, Staff states the following:

1. On July 21, 2023, Operator filed its Application requesting an order authorizing the unitization and unit operation of the Black Knight Unit in Haskell County, Kansas, pursuant to K.S.A. 55-1301, et seq.¹

2. Notice was properly served and met the requirements of K.S.A. 55-1310, K.S.A. 55-605, and K.A.R. 82-3-135a. No protests or objections have been submitted to the Commission in this matter.

3. On August 1, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Designating Presiding Officer and Setting Prehearing Conference, wherein a prehearing conference was scheduled for August 24, 2023.²

4. On August 21, 2023, Operator filed a Motion for Summary Proceedings (Motion) in lieu of an evidentiary hearing as provided by the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act (KAPA).³

¹ Merit Energy Application (July 21, 2023).

² Order Designating Presiding Officer and Setting Prehearing Conference (Aug. 1, 2023).

³ Motion for Summary Proceedings (Aug. 21, 2023).

5. Staff has reviewed Operator's Application in this matter. Staff is satisfied that the grant of such Application complies with the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. Thus, Staff has no objection to the Motion because it appears the KAPA notice and hearing requirements mandated by K.S.A. 55-1303 and K.S.A. 55-1304 are met, and Operator's application qualifies for summary proceedings under K.S.A. 77-537.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons described above, Staff recommends approval of Operator's Application authorizing the unitization of the Black Knight Unit as it appears granting the Application will prevent waste, protect correlative rights, and that there does not appear to be any current pollution threat.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kelcey Marsh
Kelcey A. Marsh, #28300
Litigation Counsel | Kansas Corporation Commission
266 N. Main, Suite 220 | Wichita, Kansas 67202-1513
Phone: 316-337-6200 | Email: k.marsh@kcc.ks.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

24-CONS-3008-CUNI

I, the undersigned, certify that a true and correct copy of the attached Response to Operator's Motion for Summary Proceedings has been served to the following by means of electronic service on September 15, 2023.

JAKE EASTES, GEOLOGIST SPECIALIST
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
266 N. Main St., Ste. 220
WICHITA, KS 67202-1513
j.eastes@kcc.ks.gov

KELCEY MARSH, LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
CENTRAL OFFICE
266 N. MAIN ST, STE 220
WICHITA, KS 67202-1513
k.marsh@kcc.ks.gov

JONATHAN R. MYERS, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
266 N. Main St., Ste. 220
WICHITA, KS 67202-1513
j.myers@kcc.ks.gov

JONATHAN A. SCHLATTER, ATTORNEY
MORRIS LAING EVANS BROCK & KENNEDY CHTD
300 N MEAD STE 200
WICHITA, KS 67202-2745
jschlatter@morrislaing.com

/s/ Paula J. Murray

Paula J. Murray