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

Before Commissioners:

Andrew J. French, Chairperson Dwight D. Keen Annie Kuether

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In the matter of the application of Hawkins Oil, LLC) for order permitting its Marsh #16 horizontal well to) be drilled in Section 6, Township 26 South, Range 5 East, Butler County, Kansas.

Docket No: 23-CONS-3270-CHOR

CONSERVATION DIVISION

License No: 32693

ORDER DESIGNATING PRESIDING OFFICER AND SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE

The Commission rules as follows:

1. On April 14, 2023, Hawkins Oil, LLC (Operator) filed an application as described in the above caption. On August 18, 2023, Commission Staff motioned for the designation of a presiding officer and the scheduling of a prehearing conference, citing insufficient information for it to recommend approval of the application.

2. Under K.S.A. 77-551(c), the Commission finds a Presiding Officer should be designated in this proceeding to determine procedural matters that may arise prior to a hearing on the merits, including but not limited to conducting prehearing conferences.¹

3. The Commission finds a prehearing conference should be scheduled.

4. Under K.A.R. 82-1-228(d)(1), any party may either "appear before the Commission and be heard in person on that party's own behalf," or appear before the Commission through a licensed attorney. Because Operator is an artificial entity, it cannot appear in person.² Thus, Commission regulations require artificial entities such as Operator to appear before the Commission

¹ See also K.S.A. 77-516 and K.S.A. 77-517.

² See State ex rel. Stephan v. Williams, 246 Kan. 681, 691 (1990).

via counsel. Even if Commission regulations did not require counsel in this matter, the Commission finds it would be in the public interest to require counsel via order.³

THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

A. The Presiding Officer for prehearing matters in this proceeding shall be Jonathan R. Myers, Assistant General Counsel, Kansas Corporation Commission, 266 N. Main Street, Suite 220, Wichita, Kansas, 67202-1513, telephone number (316) 337-6245, email address j.myers@kcc.ks.gov. The Commission may designate other Staff members to serve in this capacity.

B. A prehearing conference is scheduled for **Thursday**, **October 12**, **2023**, **at 3:00 p.m.** by telephone. The conference call information is: telephone number (253) 205-0468, Meeting ID 5248125436.⁴ **Operator must appear via a licensed attorney. Prior to the prehearing conference**, **Operator's attorney must file an entry of appearance**, **comporting with the pleading requirements of K.A.R. 82-1-219 and identifying the filer as a licensed attorney**.

C. At the prehearing conference, parties shall be prepared to discuss deadlines for filing testimony and briefs, discovery procedures, scheduling of a hearing with the Commission, and any other issues that will promote the orderly and prompt resolution of this proceeding. At the prehearing conference, without further notice, this proceeding may be converted into a conference hearing or a summary proceeding for disposition of this matter as provided by the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act (KAPA). Any party that fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference, hearing, or other stage of this proceeding may be held in default under the KAPA.⁵

D. Although a Presiding Officer is designated, parties are still required to file pleadings with the Commission, and filings shall be made with the Commission's Docket Room. Any filing

³ The administration of justice is efficiently furthered by requiring persons licensed to practice law and familiar with procedure to represent artificial entities. *See In re Arnold*, 274 Kan. 761, 770 (2002). *See also* K.S.A. 77-515(c) ("A state agency may require a corporation or other artificial person to participate by counsel.").

⁴ If prompted, there is no Participant ID; just press pound to continue.

⁵ K.S.A. 77-506; K.S.A. 77-516(c)(7)-(8).

received after 5:00 p.m. shall be considered filed the next business day. In addition, any late filing

shall be accompanied by a Motion to File Out-of-Time. The Commission directs electronic service

of all filings in the docket to include service on the Presiding Officer and mailed service of all

filings to be directed to the Presiding Officer's attention.

E. The attorney designated to appear on behalf of the agency in this proceeding is Kelcey

Marsh, Litigation Counsel, telephone number (316) 337-6200, k.marsh@kcc.ks.gov.

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Keuther, Commissioner

Dated: <u>09/19/2023</u>

Lynn M. Ref

Lynn M. Retz Executive Director

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

23-CONS-3270-CHOR

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 09/19/2023

DAN FLOWERS HAWKINS OIL, LLC 427 S BOSTON AVE STE 915 TULSA, OK 74103-4114 sonomare@outlook.com J. HUNT HAWKINS HAWKINS OIL, LLC 427 S BOSTON AVE STE 915 TULSA, OK 74103-4114

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/S/ KCC Docket Room KCC Docket Room