

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

In the matter of the application of Merit Energy Company, LLC for an exception to the 10-year time limitation of K.A.R. 82-3-111 for its Gore D #1 well in the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 35 South, Range 41 West, Morton County, Kansas.)	Docket No.: 22-CONS-3319-CEXC
	CONSERVATION DIVISION
	License No.: 32446

In the matter of the application of Merit Energy Company, LLC for an exception to the 10-year time limitation of K.A.R. 82-3-111 for its Gore D #1 well in the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 35 South, Range 41 West, Morton County, Kansas.)	Docket No.: 22-CONS-3408-CEXC
	CONSERVATION DIVISION
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION ON APPLICATION

Comes now the Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Staff and Commission, respectively) and recommends the Commission issue an order granting the application submitted by Merit Energy Company, LLC (Operator) in Docket 22-CONS-3319-CEXC (Docket 22-3319). In support of Staff's recommendation, Staff states the following:

1. On February 25, 2022, Operator filed an application in Docket 22-3319 requesting an exception to the 10-year time limitation of K.A.R. 82-3-111 for its Gore D #1 well (Subject Well), API #15-129-10263 in Morton County, Kansas.

2. On March 29, 2022, Staff sent a letter to Operator requesting a satisfactory casing integrity test be performed on the Subject Well by April 29, 2022. Operator thereafter requested and was provided an extension to test the Subject Well by July 15, 2022.

3. On September 16, 2022, Staff motioned for a presiding officer to be assigned to Docket 22-3319 and a prehearing conference scheduled as Operator had not conducted a satisfactory casing integrity test on the Subject Well.

4. On September 27, 2022, the Commission issued an Order Consolidating Dockets, Designating Presiding Officer, and Setting Prehearing Conference, wherein Docket 22-3319 was consolidated with Docket 22-CONS-3408-CEXC (Docket 22-3408), Mr. Jonathan Myers was designated as presiding officer, and a prehearing conference was set for October 13, 2022.

5. On October 13, 2022, the parties agreed to continue these matters to a subsequent prehearing conference, scheduled for December 1, 2022.

6. On November 1, 2022, Operator filed a Motion to Withdraw Application for the Avery 2-28 Well Without Prejudice. On November 3, 2022, the Commission issued a Presiding Officer Order Granting Motion to Withdraw Application in Docket 22-3408.

7. On November 2, 2022, Operator successfully tested the Subject Well for casing integrity, indicating there is not a present threat to fresh and usable water.

8. Operator has verified that notice of the application was properly served and met the requirements of K.A.R. 82-3-135a.

9. Staff is satisfied the reasons articulated in the application and the results of the casing integrity test are sufficient to support the granting of the application.

In conclusion, for the reasons described above, Staff recommends approval of Operator's application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

22-CONS-3319-CEXC, 22-CONS-3408-CEXC

I, the undersigned, certify that a true and correct copy of the attached Staff Recommendation on Application has been served to the following by means of electronic service on November 8, 2022.

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/s/ Paula J. Murray

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