

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

Before Commissioners: Andrew J. French, Chairperson  
Dwight D. Keen  
Annie Kuether

In the matter of the failure of Downing- ) Docket No.: 25-CONS-3153-CPEN  
Nelson Oil Co. Inc. (Operator) to comply with )  
K.A.R. 82-3-111 at the Ware #1 well in ) CONSERVATION DIVISION  
Pawnee County, Kansas. )  
\_\_\_\_\_) License No.: 30717

**PENALTY ORDER**

The Commission finds Operator has violated K.A.R. 82-3-111 regarding the captioned well, assesses a \$100 penalty, directs Operator to come into compliance, and further rules as more fully described below.

**I. JURISDICTION**

1. K.S.A. 74-623 provides the Commission exclusive jurisdiction and authority to regulate oil and gas activities in Kansas. K.S.A. 55-152 provides the Commission with jurisdiction to regulate the construction, operation, and abandonment of any well, and also the protection of the usable water of this state from any actual or potential pollution from any well. The Commission has licensing authority under K.S.A. 55-155.

2. K.S.A. 55-162 and K.S.A. 55-164 provide the Commission authority to issue penalty orders for violations of Chapter 55 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, or of any rule, regulation, or order of the Commission. Under K.S.A. 55-164, a penalty order may include a monetary penalty of up to \$10,000, the penalty must constitute a substantial and actual economic deterrent to the violation, and each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate violation.

3. K.A.R. 82-3-111 provides that within 90 days after operations cease on any well, the operator of that well shall plug the well, return the well to service, or file an application with

the Conservation Division requesting temporary abandonment (TA) status. If not plugged or returned to service, the operator must obtain TA approval; TA status may be denied by the Conservation Division if necessary to prevent pollution. A well shut-in for 10 years or more cannot be granted TA status without the operator filing an application for an exception pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-100 and approval from the Commission. K.A.R. 82-3-111(e) provides a TA exemption for certain wells fully equipped and capable of production.

## **II. FINDINGS OF FACT**

4. Operator is licensed to conduct oil and gas activities in Kansas and is responsible for the Ware #1 well (Subject Well), API #15-145-20164-00-01, located in Section 16, Township 23 South, Range 18 West, Pawnee County, Kansas.

5. On August 14, 2024, Commission records indicated the Subject Well had been inactive and unplugged for longer than the 90 days allowed by K.A.R. 82-3-111, that the well was not exempt pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-111(e), and that the well was not approved for TA status. Thus, Commission Staff sent a letter to Operator, requiring Operator to bring the Subject Well into compliance with K.A.R. 82-3-111 by September 11, 2024.<sup>1</sup>

6. On October 9, 2024, Commission Staff inspected the Subject Well, because the deadline in the letter had passed and the violation had not been resolved, verifying that the well continued to be inactive and unplugged.<sup>2</sup>

## **III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

7. The Commission has jurisdiction over Operator and this matter under K.S.A. 74-623 and K.S.A. 55-152.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit A.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit B.

8. Operator has committed one violation of K.A.R. 82-3-111 because the Subject Well has been inactive in excess of the time allowed by regulation without being plugged, returned to service, or approved for TA status.<sup>3</sup>

**THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

A. Operator shall pay a \$100 penalty.

B. Operator shall plug the Subject Well, or return the well to service, or obtain TA status for the well if eligible.

C. Commission Staff may require Staff-witnessed static fluid level measurements before a Subject Well is returned to service. A Subject Well may not be returned to service if (1) any measurement has shown fluid in the wellbore at or above the appropriate minimum surface casing requirement described in Table I of the Commission's August 1, 1991, Order in Docket 34,780, (2) any measurement has shown fluid in the wellbore at or above any salt formation or other corrosive formation, or (3) in the opinion of Staff, variation in measurements indicates the possibility of a casing leak. Provided, however, a Subject Well may be returned to service upon (a) passing a casing integrity test after issuance of this Penalty Order to the satisfaction of Staff, or (b) Staff providing written, well-specific authorization after issuance of this Penalty Order.

D. Operator may request a hearing on the above issues by submitting a written request, pursuant to K.S.A. 55-164, K.S.A. 77-537, and K.S.A. 77-542, to the Commission at 266 N. Main St., Suite 220, Wichita, Kansas 67202, within 30 days from the date of service of this Order. A request for hearing must comply with K.A.R. 82-1-219.

E. Failure to timely request a hearing will result in a waiver of Operator's right to a hearing. If no party timely requests a hearing, then this Order shall become final.

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<sup>3</sup> K.S.A. 55-164; K.A.R. 82-3-111(b).

F. If Operator is not in compliance with this Order and the Order is final, then Operator's license shall be suspended without further notice and shall remain suspended until Operator complies. If a Subject Well has been inactive for more than 10 years and Operator applies for an exception to the 10-year limit on TA status for the Subject Well prior to this Order becoming final, and Operator would be in compliance with this Order if the application were approved, then suspension shall not be enforced unless: (1) the application is denied, and (2) 30 days have elapsed since the denial. The notice and opportunity for a hearing on this Order shall constitute the notice required by K.S.A. 77-512 regarding license suspension.

G. A party may petition for reconsideration of a final order pursuant to the requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).<sup>4</sup>

H. Credit card payments may be made by calling the Conservation Division at 316-337-6200. Checks and money orders shall be payable to the Kansas Corporation Commission. Payments shall be mailed to the Kansas Corporation Commission at 266 N. Main St., Suite 220, Wichita, Kansas 67202. Payments must reference the docket number of this proceeding.

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

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 10/24/2024



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

Mailed Date: 10/24/2024

TSK

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<sup>4</sup> See K.S.A. 55-162; K.S.A. 55-164; K.S.A. 55-606; K.S.A. 55-707; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).



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

Corporation Commission

Laura Kelly, Governor

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

August 14, 2024  
KCC Lic.-30717

DOWNING-NELSON OIL CO INC  
PO BOX 1019  
HAYS KS 67601-1019

RE: **TEMPORARY ABANDONMENT**  
API Well No. 15-145-20164-00-01  
WARE 1  
16-23S-18W, NWSEWNE  
PAWNEE County, Kansas

Operator:

On August 14, 2024, a file review documented a probable violation of the following regulation at the referenced well:

- K.A.R. 82-3-111. Within 90 days after operations cease on a well, the operator must return the well to service, plug the well, or obtain approval for temporary abandonment status.

**Failure to remedy this violation  
by SEPTEMBER 11, 2024  
shall be punishable by a \$100 penalty.**

You may contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

ERIC MACLAREN  
KCC District # 1

# KCC OIL/GAS REGULATORY OFFICES

Date: 10/9/24

District: D1

Case #: \_\_\_\_\_

- New Situation
- Response to Request
- Follow-Up

- Lease Inspection
- Complaint
- Field Report

Operator License No: 30717

API Well Number: 15-145-20164-00-01

Op Name: Downing-Nelson Oil Co., Inc.

Spot: NW-SE-NW-NE Sec 16 Twp 23 S Rng 18  E /  W

Address 1: P.O. Box 1019

4612 Feet from  N /  S Line of Section

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

1958 Feet from  E /  W Line of Section

City: Hays

GPS: Lat: 38.05655 Long: 99.30258 Date: 10/9/24

State: KS Zip Code: 67601 -1019

Lease Name: Ware Well #: 1

Operator Phone #: (785) 621-2610

County: Pawnee

**Reason for Investigation:**

Request to check status.

**Problem:**

Inactive well.

**Persons Contacted:**

None.

**Findings:**

This well is fully-equipped with a gas engine powered pump jack, but not running. The casing valve is closed. The gas meter on location was last charted on 6/1/11, but KGS records show the last gas production from November 2015. Operator filed CP-1's on 11/1/23 & 9/18/24. Previous CP-111 expired on 7/4/23. This well is not producing.

**Action/Recommendations:**

Follow Up Required  Yes  No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send penalty recommendation for TA.

**Verification Sources:**

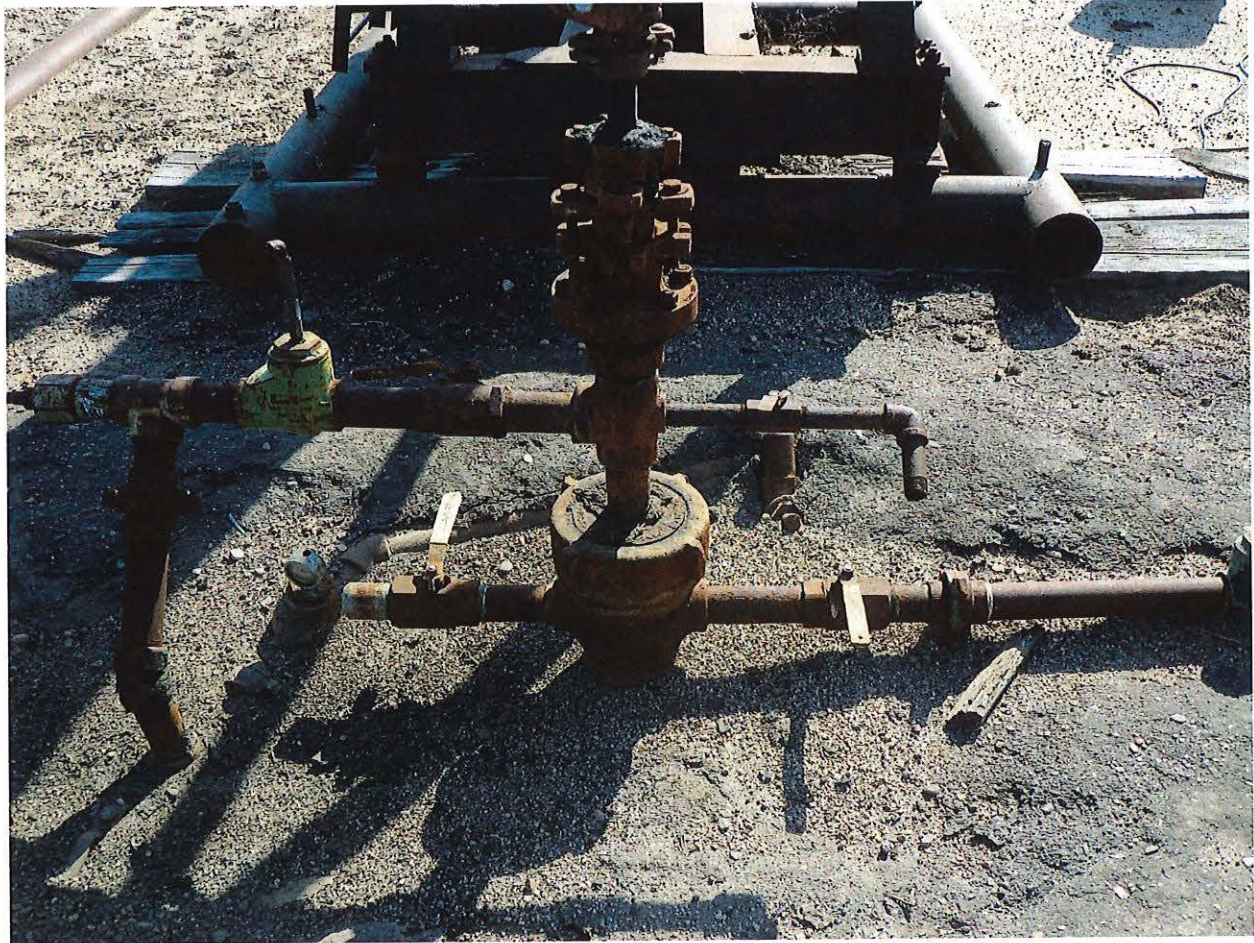
Photos Taken: 2

- |   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RBDMS                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KGS | <input type="checkbox"/> TA Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> T-I Database                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> District Files | <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>On-site inspection.</u> |   |                                     |

By: Eric Maclaren

Retain 1 Copy District Office  
Send 1 Copy to Conservation Division

Form: \_\_\_\_\_



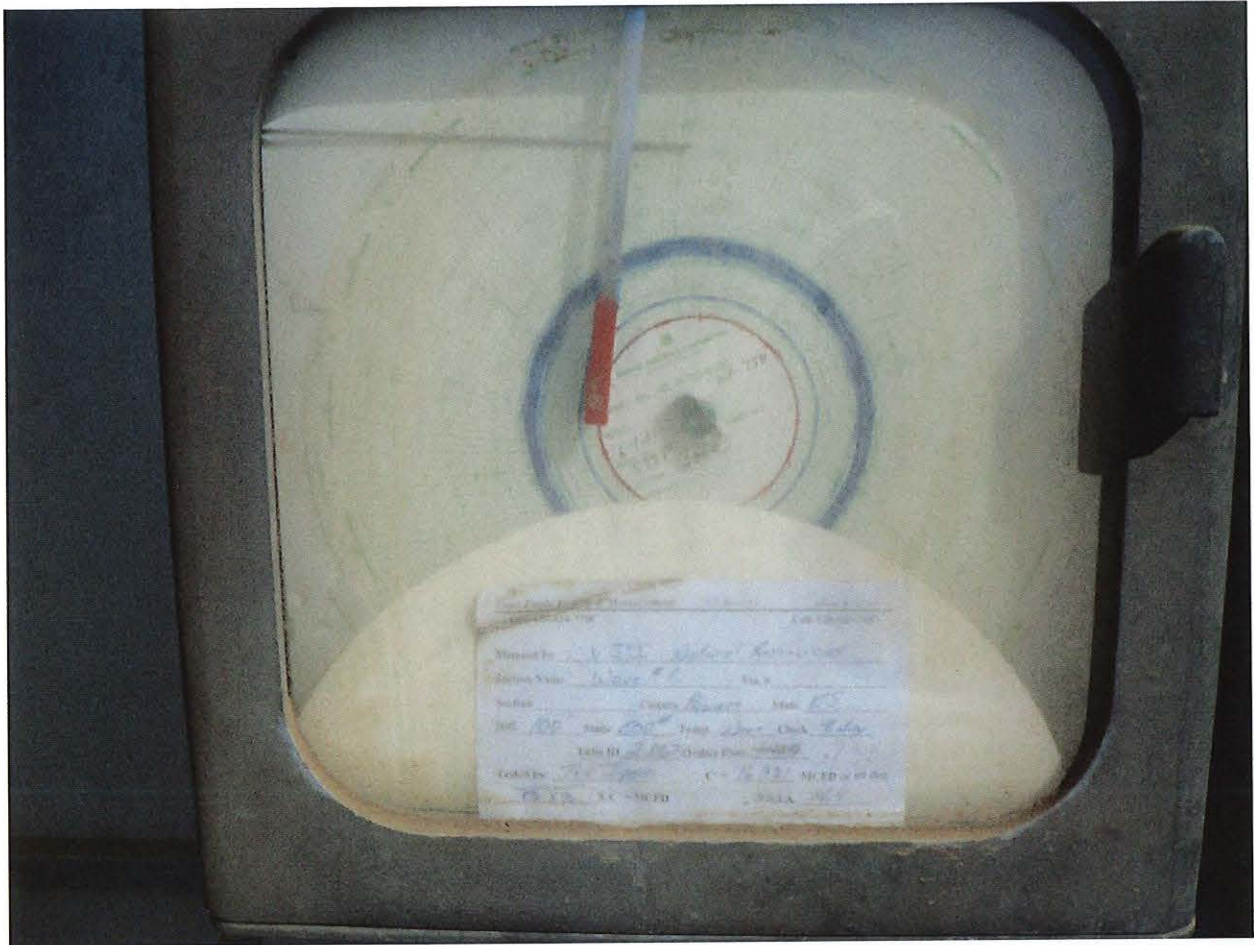
10/9/24

Downing-Nelson Oil Co., Inc.

Ware #1

NE 16-23S-18W, Pawnee County

Picture of closed casing valve, facing East.



10/9/24

Downing-Nelson Oil Co., Inc.

Ware #1

NE 16-23S-18W, Pawnee County

Picture of gas chart, facing North.



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

25-CONS-3153-CPEN

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 10/24/2024.

TRISTAN KIMBRELL, LITIGATION COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
CENTRAL OFFICE  
266 N. MAIN ST, STE 220  
WICHITA, KS 67202-1513  
tristan.kimbrell@ks.gov

FRED MACLAREN  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 1  
210 E. FRONTVIEW SUITE A  
DODGE CITY, KS 67801  
frederic.maclaren@ks.gov

RON NELSON, PRESIDENT  
DOWNING-NELSON OIL CO., INC.  
PO BOX 1019  
HAYS, KS 67601-1019  
rcnelson33@gmail.com

KENNY SULLIVAN, DISTRICT #1 SUPERVISOR  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 1  
210 E. FRONTVIEW SUITE A  
DODGE CITY, KS 67801  
kenny.sullivan@ks.gov

/S/ KCC Docket Room  
KCC Docket Room