THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Before Commissioners:

Shari Feist Albrecht, Chair Jay Scott Emler Pat Apple

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In the matter of the failure of Steve A. Becker dba A & A Well Service ("Operator") to comply with K.A.R. 82-3-107 and K.A.R. 82-3-130 at the D J Daniels #1-14, Nelson #2-14, Nelson #3-14, Williams #1-14 and Williams #2-14 in Allen County, Kansas.

Docket No. 15-CONS-371-CPEN

CONSERVATION DIVISION

License No. 31813

PRE-FILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

RENE STUCKY

1 Q. Have you reviewed Mr. Becker's pre-filed testimony in this docket?

2 A. Yes.

Q. In Mr. Becker's pre-filed testimony, Page 3, Lines 36-43, Mr. Becker describes emails
advising that the KCC had returned his ACO-1's, and the emails are attached to his
testimony as his Exhibits 1 through 5. Does Staff have a position regarding the emails?

A. Yes. The October 3, 2014, notice of violation letters sent by Staff clearly state that "If an
ACO-1 is returned to you as incomplete, you do not have additional time – the deadline
above [October 24] governs." The automated emails Mr. Becker received did not extend
the deadline. They notified the operator that the forms would be deleted from KOLAR if
they were not resubmitted within 30 days.

Mr. Becker admits that he knows complete, accurate Well Completion ("ACO-1") Reports must be filed within 120 days of spudding a well. He does not deny that the five ACO-1 Reports at issue here were due by September 5, 2014. He admits that he received the notice of violation letter, which as a courtesy gave an extended deadline and said that no additional time would be given. And he admits that he missed that deadline.

16 Q. Did Staff make any settlement offers to Mr. Becker?

A. Yes. After the Commission vacated its default order against Mr. Becker after he failed to attend the prehearing conference, Staff offered a settlement reducing the penalty from \$2,500 to \$1,250. Mr. Becker rejected the settlement. Staff then offered a settlement reducing the number of violations from five down to two, so that Mr. Becker would not be affected by the financial assurance requirements of K.A.R. 82-3-120, but with a \$2,000 penalty. Mr. Becker also rejected that settlement. Then Staff offered a settlement with the number of violations reduced from five down to two, but with a \$1,000 penalty.

As of right now, Mr. Becker has not accepted that settlement offer, either.

25 Q. Do you still believe the Penalty Order in this docket should be affirmed?

A. Yes, with no penalty reduction. Staff reached out to Mr. Becker and tried to settle, but
 Mr. Becker appears unwilling to accept any responsibility for his clear violation of
 Commission regulations. The Commission routinely issues penalty orders when operators
 fail to comply with Commission regulations. Mr. Becker should be treated no differently
 just because he insisted on taking this matter to hearing.

31 Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony as of this date, June 15, 2015?

32 A. Yes.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Paula Murray, certify that on <u>Serve</u> 15, 2015, I did cause a true and correct copy of the Pre-Filed Rebuttal Testimony of Rene Stucky to be served by United States mail, first class, postage prepaid to the following:

Bret A. Heim Immel & Heil, P.A. Four East Jackson Iola, Kansas 66749 *Attorney for Steve A. Becker*

Paula Murray

Paula Murray Legal Assistant Kansas Corporation Commission