

2370 Highway 161
Bird City, KS 67731
785-426-2092

20-CONS-3283-CUIC

April 20, 2020

**Kansas Corporation
Conservation Division (Oil & Gas)**

266 N. Main St., Ste. 220
Wichita, KS 67202-1513
Phone: (316) 337-6200
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Kansas Corporation Conservation:

We the undersigned object to the Murfin Drilling Co., Inc. application for a permit to authorize the disposal of saltwater into the Mississippi formation at the Culwell 'J' #2-19, located in NE/4 Sec. 19, Township 2S, Range 37W, Cheyenne County, Kansas, with a maximum operating pressure of 1000 psi and maximum rate of 3000 barrels per day.

We object on the grounds that permitting the saltwater disposal poses a threat to usable, quality groundwater. We further object on the grounds that permitting the saltwater disposal can cause an increase in seismic activity and poses a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

First, we object because permitting the application for saltwater disposal poses a threat to usable, quality groundwater. We are concerned about what other contaminants may be in the saltwater disposal. We are also concerned about what efforts Murfin Drilling Co., Inc. has taken to ensure the fluids injected into the disposal will be isolated from the surrounding groundwater.

Second, we object because permitting the application for saltwater disposal can cause an increase in seismic activity, which poses a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of people in Cheyenne County, Kansas. The number of small to moderate-sized earthquakes in much of the central and eastern United States began to increase markedly around 2009. Some of this seismicity appears to be associated with increases in saltwater. The consensus within the scientific community is that the recent increase in seismicity is generally related to increases in the disposal of saltwater produced along with oil and gas.

Restricting saltwater disposal has been effective in other areas of Kansas at reducing seismic activity. In Docket No. 15-CONS-770-CMSC, the Kansas Corporation Commission restricted saltwater injection rates in Harper and Sumner Counties due to an increase in seismic activity that posed an immediate danger to the health, safety,

and welfare of public. Since the implementation of the order, seismic activity is trending downward in the area. While we understand the results are not conclusive, they are encouraging evidence that by continuing to restrict saltwater injection the Kansas Corporation Commission can further reduce the seismic activity that is endangering the public.

Due to the dangers posed by granting the application for saltwater disposal, we respectfully request the Kansas Corporation Commission prohibit the disposal of saltwater at this location in this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darren & Tana Dale".

Darren & Tana Dale

785-426-2092
dales@bwtelcom.net