

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION	)	DOCKET NO. 26-CONS- <u>3023</u> -CEXC
OF MERIT ENERGY COMPANY, LLC,	)	
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE 10-YEAR	)	
TIME LIMITATION OF K.A.R. 82-3-111	)	CONSERVATION DIVISION
FOR ITS LONGBOTHAM 8 WELL IN THE	)	
NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE	)	
SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE	)	LICENSE NO. 32446
SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE	)	
SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 3,	)	
TOWNSHIP 30 SOUTH, RANGE 32	)	
WEST, HASKELL COUNTY, KANSAS.	)	
_____	)	

**APPLICATION**

COMES NOW, Merit Energy Company ("Merit"), by and through its attorney, Zach K. Wiggins, and in support of its Application in the above captioned matter states as follows:

1. Merit is authorized to do business in the State of Kansas, and has a street address of 13727 Noel Road, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas, 75240.
2. The Kansas Corporation Commission has issued Merit operator's license 32446, which expires on May 30, 2026.
3. Merit is the owner and operator of the Longbotham 8 well, which is located in the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 30 South, Range 32 West, Haskell County, Kansas, API # 15-081-21962-01. The subject well is located on an active oil and gas lease or unit comprising the following lands:

Southeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 30 South, Range  
32 West, Haskell County, Kansas.

4. The Longbotham 8 was originally perforated in the St. Louis Formation but was not actively produced and was shut-in as inactive.

5. Pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-111, Merit sought and obtained temporary abandonment status for said well on or about December 9, 2011, and on May 19, 2022.

6. On or about June 5, 2025, the Kansas Corporation Commission notified Merit of the KCC's denial of renewal of temporary abandonment status for the well due to the limitation period of ten (10) years imposed by K.A.R. 82-3-111.

7. K.A.R. 82-3-111 imposes a 10-year limitation on the amount of time during which wells may be temporarily abandoned, but an exception to the 10-year limitation may be obtained pursuant to said regulation through an Application filed with the Commission pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-100. Applicant seeks such an exception.

8. Merit wishes to continue temporary abandonment status for the subject well because Merit intends to use the well as part of an enhanced oil recovery project. The subject wells to the EOR pattern have cummed 108 MBO/1.477 BCF/42 MBNGL since 2010 out of the Chester & St. Louis. Using a conservative secondary to primary ration of 0.5 S/P the estimated recoverable reserves would be 70.5 MBO of oil and condensate. Estimated peak rate would be 50 BOPD. The Longbotham 8 was tested in the St. Louis but it had just a trace of oil after acidizing because it was low to the offset wells. It has not been tested in the Chester, which is likely also wet. The plan is to convert the Longbotham 8 well to an injector to support the Longbotham 6, Longbotham 7, Longbotham 4 and Longbotham 5.

9. On July 3, 2025, the subject well passed a Commission Staff-witnessed mechanical integrity test of the casing between the surface and a point within fifty (50) feet above the uppermost perforations.

10. There are six (6) wells on the lease including five (5) active wells and one (1) temporarily abandoned well. It would cost an estimated Two Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$210,000.00) to plug this well and the remaining wells on the lease. A current 30-day average production rate for the lease is 7 BOPD, 25 MCFD, and 3 NGLPD. A basic estimation of gross remaining reserves is 25.798 MBO and 91.233 MMCF and 9.867 MBNGL. In order to convert the Longbotham 8 well as part of an EOR project, it would cost approximately One Hundred Fifty Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) based on current prices. It would cost an estimate of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) based on current prices to drill and complete a replacement well.

11. Merit has included a plat map, attached as Exhibit A, showing the locations of all producing, injection, temporarily abandoned, abandoned and plugged wells located on the same lease premises as the subject well.

12. Based on the foregoing, Merit requests the Commission grant an exception to the 10-year limitation, specifically to allow the Longbotham 8 well to remain eligible for temporary abandonment status for three (3) years following the expiration of 10-year limitation. Merit understands that the exception would be valid for three (3) years, but Merit would still need to apply annually to the Conservation Division District Office for approval of an Application for temporary abandonment status.

13. Listed in attached Exhibit B are the names and addresses of the following persons:

- A. Each operator of each oil and gas lease covering lands within one-half (1/2) mile radius of the subject well; and
- B. Each person who owns any mineral interest of record in and under any lands located within one-half (1/2) mile radius of the subject well if unleased.

14. That the Applicant has sent by regular mail a copy of this Application and Notice of Pending Application to all persons listed on the attached Exhibit B.

15. Notice of this Application will be published pursuant to K.A.R. 82-3-135a.

16. WHEREFORE, Merit prays that this matter be granted administratively without a hearing, or in the alternative be set for hearing, and upon hearing that the Commission grant Merit's request for an exception to the K.A.R. 82-3-111 10-year limitation, to allow the subject well to remain temporarily abandoned for three (3) years, subject to annual approval by the Conservation Division District Office of an application for temporary abandonment status.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN, PRINGLE, OLIVER, WALLACE  
& BAUER, L.L.P.

By 


Zach K. Wiggins  
645 East Douglas, Suite 100  
Wichita, KS 67202  
(316) 265-9311  
*Attorney for Merit Energy Company*

## VERIFICATION

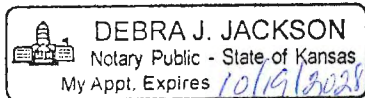
STATE OF KANSAS       )  
                                  ) ss:  
COUNTY OF SEDGWICK )

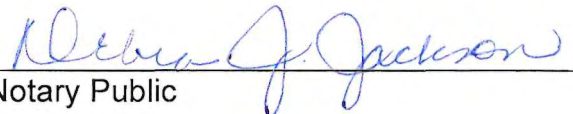
Zach K. Wiggins, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, upon oath states:

That he is the attorney for Merit Energy Company, applicant herein; that he has read the above and foregoing Application of Merit Energy Company and is familiar with the contents thereof; and, that the statements made therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

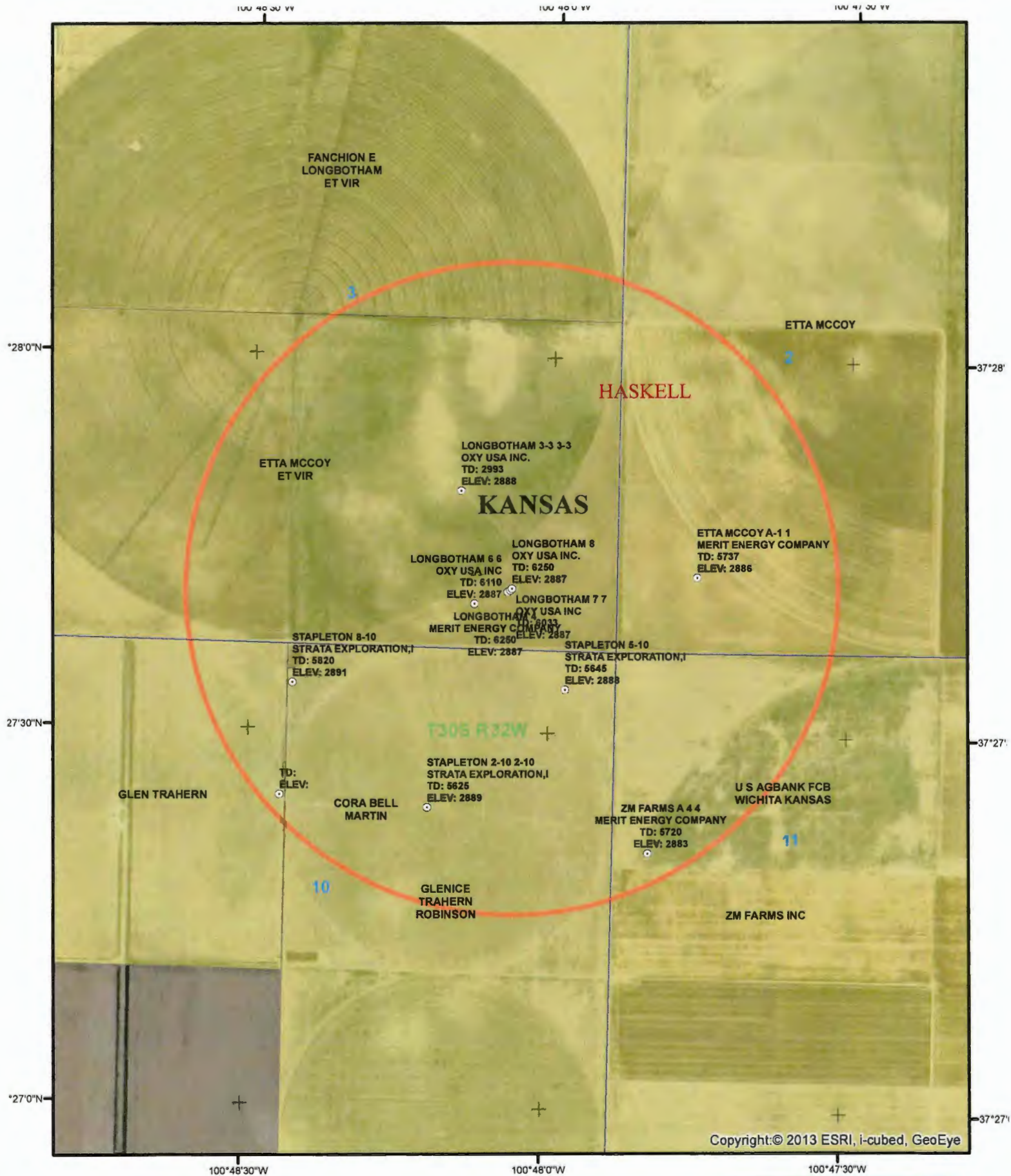
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Zach K. Wiggins

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 11th day of July, 2025.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Appointment Expires:  
10/19/2028



	<b>EXHIBIT A</b>
	<b>MERIT ENERGY COMPANY</b>
	<b>LONGBOTHAM 8</b>
	<b>W/ HALF MILE BUFFER</b>
<b>HASKELL CO., KANSAS</b>	
Map by: Jordan Watts	
Date: JANUARY 31, 2022	
PROJECTION:	
NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane Kansas South FIPS 1602 Ft US	

## **EXHIBIT B**

Strata Exploration  
201 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fairfield, IL 62837



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TOWNSHIP 30 SOUTH, RANGE 32	)	
WEST, HASKELL COUNTY, KANSAS.	)	
_____	)	

**NOTICE OF PENDING APPLICATION**

THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

TO: ALL OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS, UNLEASED MINERAL INTEREST OWNERS, LANDOWNERS, AND ALL PERSONS WHOMSOEVER CONCERNED:

YOU, and each of you, are hereby notified that Merit Energy Company has filed an Application for an exception to the ten-year time limitation of K.A.R. 82-3-111 for the Longbotham 8 well, located in the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 30 South, Range 32 West, Haskell County, Kansas, API # 15-081-21962-01.

YOU are further notified that unless written protest is received by the State Corporation Commission within fifteen (15) days after publication of this Notice, the Application in this matter can be granted by administrative approval after said 15 day period. Any such protest should be mailed to the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas, Conservation Division, 266 North Main, Suite 220, Wichita, Kansas, 67202, and to the Applicant at the address shown.

All parties in any wise interested or concerned shall take notice of the foregoing and govern themselves accordingly.

Merit Energy Company.  
By: Idania Mendina  
Regulatory Analyst  
13727 Noel Road, Suite 1200  
Dallas, Texas 75240  
(972) 628-1446