

**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 Great Plains ) Docket No.: 25-CONS-3161-CPEN  
Petroleum, Inc. (Operator) to comply with )  
K.A.R. 82-3-120 and K.A.R. 82-3-133 by ) CONSERVATION DIVISION  
operating under a suspended license. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ ) License No.: 30163

**SHUT-IN ORDER**

The Commission finds Operator has violated K.A.R. 82-3-120 and K.A.R. 82-3-133 by conducting oil and gas operations under a suspended license, finds Operator has failed to comply with orders of the Commission, assesses a \$10,000 penalty, directs Commission Staff to seal all oil and gas operations of Operator, 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(a) provides 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. K.S.A. 55-162(e) provides that whenever an operator is in violation of subsection (a) of the statute, “agents of the commission may enter upon the lease or any other leases under the control of such operator and seal any well operated by the offending party.”

3. 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.

4. K.A.R. 82-3-120 provides that no operator shall operate any well without a current license. K.A.R. 82-3-133 provides that production of oil or gas in violation of a Commission regulation or order shall be deemed unlawful.

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

5. On November 7, 2023, the Commission issued a Final Order in Docket 23-CONS-3176-CSHO (Docket 23-3176) requiring Operator to plug, return to service, or obtain temporary abandonment status for the Stumps #4 well. In the event Operator failed to comply with the Final Order, the Commission directed Operator's license be suspended without further notice.<sup>1</sup>

6. On November 28, 2023, the Commission issued a Penalty Order in Docket 24-CONS-3143-CPEN (Docket 24-3143) for failure to comply with K.A.R. 82-3-111. The Commission found that six of Operator's wells had been inactive in excess of the time allowed by regulation without being plugged, returned to service, or approved for temporary abandonment (TA) status.<sup>2</sup> In the Penalty Order, the Commission directed Operator to pay a \$600 penalty and to plug the wells, return the wells to service, or obtain TA status for the wells.<sup>3</sup> In the event Operator failed to comply with the Penalty Order within 30 days, the Commission directed Commission Staff to suspend Operator's license until Operator achieved compliance.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Docket 23-CONS-3176-CSHO, *Final Order*, Ordering Clause A (Nov. 7, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Docket 24-CONS-3143-CPEN, *Penalty Order*, ¶ 8 (Nov. 28, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at Ordering Clauses A and B.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at Ordering Clauses D, E, and F.

7. On January 4, 2024, Staff suspended Operator's license for non-compliance with the Final Order in Docket 23-3176, and with the Penalty Order in Docket 24-3143. Staff notified Operator of the suspension in two Notice of License Suspension letters. In the letters, Staff informed Operator that if, after 10 days from the date of the letters, Staff discovered Operator performing oil and gas operations, Staff would recommend a Shut-In Order, as well as an additional \$10,000 monetary penalty.<sup>5</sup>

8. On January 16, 2024, the Commission issued a Penalty Order in Docket 24-CONS-3191-CPEN (Docket 24-3191) for Operator's failure to comply with K.A.R. 82-3-111 at two of its wells. On February 21, 2024, Staff suspended Operator's license for failure to comply with the Penalty Order and mailed Operator a Notice of License Suspension letter.<sup>6</sup>

9. On October 15, 2024, Staff found Operator actively operating the Angell M. E. #1-V well, API #15-119-20073-00-00, located in Section 20, Township 32 South, Range 29 West, Meade County, Kansas, under a suspended license.<sup>7</sup>

10. To date, Operator's license remains suspended in Dockets 23-3176, 24-3143, and 24-3191.

### **III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

11. The Commission has jurisdiction over Operator and this matter under K.S.A. 74-623, K.S.A. 55-152, K.S.A. 55-155, K.S.A. 55-162, and K.S.A. 55-164.

12. Operator has violated K.A.R. 82-3-120 by conducting oil and gas operations on a suspended license, resulting in unlawful production under K.A.R. 82-3-133. Operator has also

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<sup>5</sup> Exhibit A.

<sup>6</sup> Exhibit B.

<sup>7</sup> Exhibit C.

failed to comply with the Commission's orders in Dockets 23-3176, 24-3143, and 24-3191, and under K.S.A. 55-162(e), Staff may immediately seal any of Operator's wells.

**THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

A. Operator shall pay a \$10,000 penalty.

B. Commission Staff is directed to shut-in and seal all oil and gas operations of Operator until: (i) Operator complies with the Commission's orders in Dockets 23-3176, 24-3143, and 24-3191; and (ii) Operator's license is reinstated.

C. 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.

D. 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. 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. The notice and opportunity for a hearing on this Order shall constitute the notice required by K.S.A. 77-512 regarding license suspension. 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).

E. 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: 10/31/2024

*Lynn M. Retz*

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Lynn M. Retz  
Executive Director

Mailed Date: 10/31/2024

TSK

Conservation Division  
266 N. Main St., Ste. 220  
Wichita, KS 67202-1513



Phone: 316-337-6200  
Fax: 316-337-6211  
<http://kcc.ks.gov/>

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

Laura Kelly, Governor

January 4, 2024

Charles C. Steincamp  
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8301 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St. North, Suite 450  
Wichita, KS 67206-2936  
*Attorney for Great Plains Petroleum, Inc.*

Rod A. Phares  
Great Plains Petroleum, Inc.  
221 Circle Drive  
Wichita, KS 67218-1207

### NOTICE OF LICENSE SUSPENSION

**License No. 30163**

Docket No. 23-CONS-3176-CSHO

Operator:

Our records indicate that you are in violation of a Commission Order in the above Docket.

### **Your license is hereby suspended.**

Until your license is reinstated, it is illegal for you to conduct oil and gas operations in Kansas.

If, after 10 days from the date of this letter (January 14, 2024), Commission Staff discovers you performing oil and gas operations, Staff will recommend a Shut-In Order, including an additional \$10,000 penalty. If you are already shut-in, you must remain shut-in.

Any outstanding monetary penalty may be sent to collections.

You may review the Commission Order, which was mailed to you, at the Commission's website. If you have questions, you may contact us at the phone number listed at the top of this page. If your license is reinstated it will be listed as "Active" at the following webpage: <https://www.kcc.ks.gov/kansas-oil-operators>.

Sincerely,

Legal Department Staff

Conservation Division  
266 N. Main St., Ste. 220  
Wichita, KS 67202-1513



Phone: 316-337-6200  
Fax: 316-337-6211  
<http://kcc.ks.gov/>

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

Laura Kelly, Governor

January 4, 2024

Rod A. Phares  
Great Plains Petroleum, Inc.  
221 Circle Drive  
Wichita, KS 67218-1207

### NOTICE OF LICENSE SUSPENSION

**License No. 30163**

Docket No. 24-CONS-3143-CPEN

Operator:

Our records indicate that you are in violation of a Commission Order in the above Docket.

### **Your license is hereby suspended.**

Until your license is reinstated, it is illegal for you to conduct oil and gas operations in Kansas.

If, after 10 days from the date of this letter (January 14, 2024), Commission Staff discovers you performing oil and gas operations, Staff will recommend a Shut-In Order, including an additional \$10,000 penalty. If you are already shut-in, you must remain shut-in.

Any outstanding monetary penalty may be sent to collections.

You may review the Commission Order, which was mailed to you, at the Commission's website. If you have questions, you may contact us at the phone number listed at the top of this page. If your license is reinstated it will be listed as "Active" at the following webpage: <https://www.kcc.ks.gov/kansas-oil-operators>.

Sincerely,

Legal Department Staff

Conservation Division  
266 N. Main St., Ste. 220  
Wichita, KS 67202-1513



Phone: 316-337-6200  
Fax: 316-337-6211  
<http://kcc.ks.gov/>

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

Laura Kelly, Governor

February 21, 2024

Rod Phares  
Great Plains Petroleum, Inc.  
221 Circle Drive  
Wichita, KS 67218-1207

**NOTICE OF LICENSE SUSPENSION**  
**License No. 30163**  
Docket No. 24-CONS-3191-CPEN

Operator:

Our records indicate that you are in violation of a Commission Order in the above Docket.

**Your license is hereby suspended.**

Until your license is reinstated, it is illegal for you to conduct oil and gas operations in Kansas.

If, after 10 days from the date of this letter (March 2, 2024), Commission Staff discovers you performing oil and gas operations, Staff will recommend a Shut-In Order, including an additional \$10,000 penalty. If you are already shut-in, you must remain shut-in.

Any outstanding monetary penalty may be sent to collections.

You may review the Commission Order, which was mailed to you, at the Commission's website. If you have questions, you may contact us at the phone number listed at the top of this page. If your license is reinstated it will be listed as "Active" at the following webpage: <https://www.kcc.ks.gov/kansas-oil-operators>.

Sincerely,

Legal Department Staff



# KCC OIL/GAS REGULATORY OFFICES

Date: 10/15/24

District: D1

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

- New Situation
- Response to Request
- Follow-Up

- Lease Inspection
- Complaint
- Field Report

Operator License No: 30163

API Well Number: 15-119-20073-00-00

Op Name: Great Plains Petroleum Inc.

Spot: NE-SE NE SW Sec 20 Twp 32 S Rng 29  E /  W

Address 1: 221 Circle DR

1979 Feet from  N /  S Line of Section

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

2943 Feet from  E /  W Line of Section

City: Wichita

GPS: Lat: 37.24766 Long: 100.49948 Date: 10/15/24

State: KS Zip Code: 67218 -1207

Lease Name: Angell M. E. Well #: 1-V

Operator Phone #: (316) 685-8800

County: Meade

**Reason for Investigation:**

Verify production.

**Problem:**

Operator's license is suspended and the well is producing.

**Persons Contacted:**

None

**Findings:**

# 1-V: Is a producing flowing gas well. Tank battery and meter run are located southeast of the well on the half section line. Tank battery consists of an unused 200 bbl fiberglass produced water tank and 2- unused 210 bbl steel stock tanks that have the clean out plates removed. Produced water was trucked off location. South of the battery is a meter run, electronic meter shows production. No one has been to this lease for several months, the lease is overgrown with weeds.

No leaks or spills

**Action/Recommendations:**

Follow Up Required  Yes  No

Date: 12/16/24

Unsatisfactory, send penalty letter for producing while suspended.

**Verification Sources:**

- RBDMS
- T-I Database
- KGS
- District Files
- TA Program
- Courthouse
- Other: On site inspection

Photos Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Max Ball

Retain 1 Copy District Office  
Send 1 Copy to Conservation Division

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



Date: 10/15/2024.

Operator: Great Plains Petroleum Inc.

Lease Name: Angell M.E. 1-V

Legals: NE-SE-NE-SE section 20-32s-29w Meade County.

Description: Meter showing 14.7 mcf/day Production.



Date: 10/15/2024.

Operator: Great Plains Petroleum Inc.

Lease Name: Angell M.V. 1-V.

Legals: NE-SE-NE-SE section 20-32s-29w Meade County

Description: Wellhead showing open flow line valve.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

25-CONS-3161-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 10/31/2024.

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

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DODGE CITY, KS 67801  
frederic.maclaren@ks.gov

ROD A. PHARES  
GREAT PLAINS PETROLEUM, INC.  
221 CIRCLE DR  
WICHITA, KS 67218-1207  
gprod@cox.net

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  
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KCC Docket Room