

Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Hearing Wrap-up Report October 2017



The Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission held its monthly hearing October 10, 2017 at 9 a.m. Commissioners present were Bridget Hill, Tom Drean and Mark Doelger. Also representing the WOGCC were Supervisor Mark Watson and Attorneys Eric Easton and Michael Armstrong.

Announcements:

The meeting opened with Commissioner Tom Drean announcing that October would be his last hearing as a WOGCC Commissioner since he will retire as the State Geologist Supervisor in November. All wished him the best and extended their appreciation of his service not only as a Commissioner but as Wyoming's State Geologist.

The October 2017 Hearing docket showed:

- 355 total applications
- 23 applications continued
- 18 applications withdrawn
- 48 returned for admin processing
- 233 examiner hearings
- 3 aquifers/units hearings
- 2 pit treatment hearings
- 13 applications to be heard by the Commission
- 9 preliminary matters

Preliminary Matters:

Docket 530-2017 and 531-2017 Legal counsel for EOG requested that their two filings be continued until November 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 611-2017 and 612-2017 Legal counsel for Navigation requested that their two filings be continued until November 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 850-2017 Legal counsel for Anadarko requested that their filing be continued until November 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 1183-2017, 1184-2017 and 1185-2017 Legal counsel for EOG requested that their two filings be continued until November 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 1209-2017 Legal counsel for Ultra Resources requested that their filing be continued until November 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 1747-2017 Legal counsel for Samson requested that their filing be continued until November 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 1726-2017 Legal counsel for Jonah Energy pointed out that this docket item should have been included in preliminary items and requested that their filing be continued to November 2017. It was approved by the Commission.

Docket 773-2017 and 923-2017 Legal counsel for Chipcore noted before the Commission that these two objections to these two docket items have been withdrawn and can be reassigned to the Examiners.

Docket 1669-2017, 1670-2017, 1671-2017 and 1672-2017 Legal counsel for Southland noted before the Commission that the objections to these four docket items were filed to preserve and protect Southland's interests and are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction and can therefore be processed administratively.

Before the Commission:

Docket 1272-2015 The required review of the 2015 flare approval for Black Hills was canceled since the company is now flaring below the 60 MCF limit.

Docket 1004-2017 Anschutz appeared before the Commission requesting authorization to flare 150 MCF per day until February 2018 from the Mooney Draw 1H well located in Campbell County, Wyoming. Request was approved by the Commission with Anschutz providing an update to the Commission at the February 2018 hearing.

*Docket 1996-2017 Merit Energy was fined \$15,000 for failure to call in a spud for the Gooseberry A-34-4 well in violation of Commission rules and regulations, Chapter 3, Section 22 and failure to obtain an approved APD for the Gooseberry A-34-4 wells prior to constructing a pad in violation of Chapter 3, Section 8; and for construction of pads for the Gooseberry A 91-33, Gooseberry A 28-33, Gooseberry A 38-33R, Gooseberry B 81-21 well pads prior to approval of applicable APD's; all in Hot Springs and Park Counties, Wyoming.

*Docket 1997-2017 Aethon Energy was fined \$25,000 for failure to call in a spud for the 26-13 well in violation of Commission rules and regulations, Chapter 3 Section 22; all in Fremont County, Wyoming. Other violations were self-reported by Aethon Energy once discovered. Aethon Energy reported before the Commission that improvements have been made to their processes to remedy this in the future.

Docket 1999-2017 Lodestone Operating was ordered to either provide idle well bonding or plug and abandon its well within 60 days. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiting of the company's bond and the WOGCC staff will plug the well.

Docket 2000-2017 Southern Oil LLC's bond was revoked and the company was ordered to plug their wells for failure to submit production in violation of Commission rules and regulations, Chapter 3, Section 13; and failure to conduct MIT's in violation of Chapter 3, Section 16; all in Campbell County, Wyoming.

Docket 2001-2017 Hewitt Operating was ordered to provide bonding within 90 days as required by Commission rules and regulations, Chapter 3, Section 4; and to submit conservation tax returns as required by the Commission rules and regulations, Chapter 3, Section 41 and Wyoming Statute 30-5-116(B); all in Uinta County, Wyoming. Hewitt Operating's bond will be revoked if they fail to comply with the Commission's order.

**Fines collected by the WOGCC are given to the school district where the violation occurred.*