

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
HEARINGS DIVISION**

OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 7B-0320201

COMPLAINT OF GREEN RANCH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP THAT RIPTIDE ENERGY LLC (712946) DOES NOT HAVE A GOOD FAITH CLAIM TO OPERATE THE WILLARDS WISH (170645) LEASE, WELL NO. 1, STEPHENS COUNTY REGULAR FIELD, STEPHENS COUNTY, TEXAS

OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 7B-0320202

COMPLAINT OF GREEN RANCH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP THAT RIPTIDE ENERGY LLC (712946) DOES NOT HAVE A GOOD FAITH CLAIM TO OPERATE THE ASPEN (167110) LEASE, WELL NO. 1, GREEN E. (MISS) FIELD, STEPHENS COUNTY, TEXAS

OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 7B-0320203

COMPLAINT OF GREEN RANCH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP THAT RIPTIDE ENERGY LLC (712946) DOES NOT HAVE A GOOD FAITH CLAIM TO OPERATE THE MARTIN TRUCKIN' (27872) LEASE, WELL NOS. 1, 2, AND 3, STEPHENS COUNTY REGULAR FIELD, STEPHENS COUNTY, TEXAS

OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 7B-0320204

COMPLAINT OF GREEN RANCH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP THAT RIPTIDE ENERGY LLC (712946) DOES NOT HAVE A GOOD FAITH CLAIM TO OPERATE THE CARMEL (27874) LEASE, WELL NO. 1, STEPHENS COUNTY REGULAR FIELD, STEPHENS COUNTY, TEXAS

OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 7B-0320205

COMPLAINT OF GREEN RANCH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP THAT RIPTIDE ENERGY LLC (712946) DOES NOT HAVE A GOOD FAITH CLAIM TO OPERATE THE WILLARDS WISH (170645) LEASE, WELL NO. 1, STEPHENS COUNTY REGULAR FIELD, STEPHENS COUNTY, TEXAS

OIL & GAS DOCKET NO. 7B-0320206

COMPLAINT OF GREEN RANCH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP THAT RIPTIDE ENERGY LLC (712946) DOES NOT HAVE A GOOD FAITH CLAIM TO OPERATE THE GREEN RANCH (29295) LEASE, WELL NO. Z2, GREEN – MARTIN (MISS) (36743500), STEPHENS COUNTY, TEXAS

FINAL ORDER

The Commission finds that after notice and opportunity for hearing, the operator of the captioned leases failed to respond, and the docket proceeded as a default. The proceeding having been duly submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas at conference held in its offices in Austin, Texas, the Commission makes the following Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Riptide Energy LLC ("Riptide") holds Form P-5 *Organization Report* Operator No. 712946. Riptide is the current Form P-4 *Certificate of Compliance and Transportation Authority* operator of record for the captioned leases and wells in Stephens County, Texas.
2. On or about May 10, 2019, Green Ranch Limited Partnership submitted to the Commission in each of the above-referenced dockets a complaint letter alleging that Riptide lacks authority to operate the captioned leases and wells.
3. Green Ranch Limited Partnership alleges that it owns real property rights where the subject leases and wells are located.
4. On or about July 11, 2019, the Administrative Law Judge requested in writing that Riptide either: (1) provide evidence that it holds a good faith claim to a continuing right to operate the captioned leases and wells; or (2) request a hearing on the matter on or before June 20, 2019. This writing expressly notified the operator that failure to timely request a hearing would constitute waiver of the opportunity to request a hearing on the matter.
5. All Commission correspondence to Riptide was sent via United States Postal Service first-class mail to the only address of record for Riptide, as set forth on Riptide's most recent Form P-5 Organization Report.
6. Riptide failed to submit any evidence for a good faith claim or to request a hearing.
7. Riptide's Form P-5 is delinquent. Riptide had a \$50,000.00 bond as its financial assurance at the time of the last Form P-5 annual renewal submission.
8. Riptide became the Form P-4 *Certificate of Compliance and Transportation Authority* operator of record for the captioned leases and wells in Stephens County, Texas, by filing a Form P-4 dated effective April 7, 2015. The last reported production from any of the above-referenced properties occurred April 2018.
9. A "good faith claim" is defined in Commission Statewide Rule 15(a)(5) as "a factually supported claim based on a recognized legal theory to a continuing possessory right in the mineral estate, such as evidence of a currently valid oil and gas lease or a recorded deed conveying a fee interest in the mineral estate." [16 Tex. Admin. Code § 3.15(a)(5)].
10. Riptide failed to file any evidence to demonstrate Riptide's "good faith claim" to a continuing right to operate the captioned leases and wells in Stephens County, Texas. Therefore, Riptide does not have a "good faith claim" to operate the captioned leases and wells.
11. Absent a "good faith claim" to operate, the captioned wells are not eligible for an extension to the plugging requirements of Statewide Rule 15(e)(3).

12. Absent eligibility for an extension to the plugging requirements of Statewide Rule 15(e)(3), any plugging extensions for the captioned wells should be cancelled pursuant to Statewide Rule 15(h).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Proper notice of hearing was timely issued to appropriate persons entitled to notice.
2. All things necessary to the Commission attaining jurisdiction have occurred.
3. Riptide does not have a "good faith claim" to operate the captioned leases and wells in Stephens County, Texas.
4. The captioned wells are not eligible for an extension to the plugging requirements of Statewide Rule 15(e)(3).
5. Any plugging extensions for the captioned wells should be cancelled pursuant to Statewide Rule 15(h).

THEREFORE, THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS HEREBY FINDS that Riptide Energy LLC (Operator No. 712946) does not have a "good faith claim" to operate the above-referenced properties, and **HEREBY ORDERS** that any plugging extensions for the subject leases in Stephens County, Texas, be cancelled, that a good-faith-claim hold be placed on any P-4 transfers for all such wells, and that Riptide Energy LLC shall plug and abandon the above-referenced wells located in Stephens County, Texas, in accordance with Statewide Rule 14.

It is **FURTHER ORDERED** by the Commission that this order shall not be final and effective until 25 days after the Commission's order is signed, unless the time for filing a motion for rehearing has been extended under Tex. Gov't Code § 2001.142, by agreement under Tex. Gov't Code § 2001.147, or by written Commission Order issued pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code § 2001.146 (e). If a timely motion for rehearing of an application is filed by any party at interest, this order shall not become final and effective until such motion is overruled, or if such motion is granted, this order shall be subject to further action by the Commission. Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code § 2001.146 (e), the time allotted for Commission action on a motion for rehearing in this case prior to its being overruled by operation of law is hereby extended until 100 days from the date Commission Order is signed. All pending motions and requests for relief not previously or herein granted are denied.

Done this 11th day of September 2019, Austin, Texas.

**Railroad Commission of Texas (Order approved
and signatures affixed by Hearings Division
Unprotested Master Order dated September 11,
2019)**