

BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

UPON THE APPLICATION OF WHITE ROCK OIL & GAS, LLC TO APPROVE AND CERTIFY THE FOLLOWING WELLS IN RICHLAND COUNTY, MONTANA, AS HORIZONTALLY RECOMPLETED WELLS (RECOMPLETED EXISTING HORIZONTAL DRAIN HOLES) ENTITLED TO APPLICABLE SEVERANCE TAX REDUCTIONS THROUGH THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TO CERTIFY PRODUCTION DECLINE RATES TO BE USED IN THE CALCULATION OF INCREMENTAL PRODUCTION.

ORDER 113-2023

API NUMBER	WELL NAME	LOCATION	RECOMPLETION DATE (REFRAC)
25-083-22382	BR 41-33H 52	T25N-R52E-33	FEBRUARY 2023
25-083-22103	BR 14-29H	T24N-R54E-29	SEPTEMBER 2023
25-083-22346	BR 34-13H 54	T25N-R54E-13	SEPTEMBER 2023
25-083-22108	BR 41-19H	T25N-R53E-19	SEPTEMBER 2023
25-083-22090	BR 44-15H 52	T25N-R52E-15	SEPTEMBER 2023

Docket No. 128-2023

Report of the Board

The above entitled cause came on regularly for hearing on December 7, 2023, at the Board's hearing room at 2535 St. Johns Avenue in Billings, Montana, pursuant to the order of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana, hereinafter referred to as the Board. At this time and place testimony was presented, statements and exhibits were received, and the Board then took the cause under advisement; and, the Board having fully considered the testimony, statements, exhibits, and all things and matters presented to it for its consideration by all parties in the Docket, and being well and fully advised in the premises, finds and concludes as follows:

Findings of Fact

1. Due, proper and sufficient notice was published and given of this matter, the hearing hereon, and of the time and place of said hearing, as well as the purpose of said hearing; all parties were afforded an opportunity to present evidence, oral and documentary.
2. No protest to the application of White Rock Oil & Gas, LLC was made.
3. The evidence indicates that granting the application will serve to protect correlative rights and be in the interest of conservation of oil and gas in the State of Montana.

Conclusions of Law

The Board concludes that the applicant demonstrated the requirements of ARM 36-22-1704 have been met.

Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Board that the application of White Rock Oil & Gas, LLC is granted as applied for.

BOARD ORDER NO. 113-2023

Done and performed by the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana at Billings, Montana, this 7th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Steven Durrett, Chairman

Paul Gatzemeier, Vice-Chairman

Roy Brown, Board Member

Mac McDermott, Board Member

W. John Tietz, Board Member

Corey Welter, Board Member

Jeff Wivholm, Board Member

ATTEST:

Jennifer Breton, Program Specialist

BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

UPON THE APPLICATION OF EMEP OPERATING, LLC TO APPROVE AND CERTIFY THE FOLLOWING WELLS IN RICHLAND COUNTY, MONTANA, AS HORIZONTALLY RECOMPLETED WELLS (RECOMPLETED EXISTING HORIZONTAL DRAIN HOLES) ENTITLED TO APPLICABLE SEVERANCE TAX REDUCTIONS THROUGH THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TO CERTIFY PRODUCTION DECLINE RATES TO BE USED IN THE CALCULATION OF INCREMENTAL PRODUCTION.

ORDER 114-2023

API NUMBER	WELL NAME	LOCATION	RECOMPLETION DATE (REFRAC)
25-083-22638	ANDERSEN 1-4H	22N-59E-4	SEPTEMBER 2023
25-083-22431	BURNING TREE-PETHEY 36-3-25-H	25N-54E-36	NOVEMBER 2022
25-083-22210	CAROLINE 1-32H	26N-53E-32	MAY 2023
25-083-22414	DORIGHT ALFRED 26-4H	25N-54E-26	SEPTEMBER 2022
25-083-22178	DOUBLE V 1-21H	25N-53E-21	MAY 2023
25-083-22244	FOSS RANCH 1-34H	26N-53E-34	SEPTEMBER 2023
25-083-22351	GABE 1-18H	23N-58E-18	JUNE 2023
25-083-22249	HOEFLE 2-22H	25N-54E-22	AUGUST 2023
25-083-22315	IRIGOIN 2-23H	25N-53E-23	OCTOBER 2023
25-083-21962	STEPPLER 14-21H	25N-54E-21	OCTOBER 2023
25-083-22040	STOCKADE-GUNDERSON 2-7H	24N-54E-02	JUNE 2023

Docket No. 129-2023

Report of the Board

The above entitled cause came on regularly for hearing on December 7, 2023, at the Board's hearing room at 2535 St. Johns Avenue in Billings, Montana, pursuant to the order of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana, hereinafter referred to as the Board. At this time and place testimony was presented, statements and exhibits were received, and the Board then took the cause under advisement; and, the Board having fully considered the testimony, statements, exhibits, and all things and matters presented to it for its consideration by all parties in the Docket, and being well and fully advised in the premises, finds and concludes as follows:

Findings of Fact

1. Due, proper and sufficient notice was published and given of this matter, the hearing hereon, and of the time and place of said hearing, as well as the purpose of said hearing; all parties were afforded an opportunity to present evidence, oral and documentary.
2. No protest to the application of EMEP Operating, LLC was made.
3. The evidence indicates that granting the application will serve to protect correlative rights and be in the interest of conservation of oil and gas in the State of Montana.

Conclusions of Law

The Board concludes that the applicant demonstrated the requirements of ARM 36-22-1704 have been met.

BOARD ORDER NO. 114-2023

Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Board that the application of EMEP Operating, LLC is granted as applied for.

Done and performed by the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana at Billings, Montana, this 7th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Steven Durrett, Chairman

Paul Gatzemeier, Vice-Chairman

Roy Brown, Board Member

Mac McDermott, Board Member

W. John Tietz, Board Member

Corey Welter, Board Member

Jeff Wivholm, Board Member

ATTEST:

Jennifer Breton, Program Specialist

BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

UPON THE BOARD'S OWN MOTION TO REQUIRE MIDWAY
ENERGY, LLC TO APPEAR AND PROVIDE AN UPDATE OF ITS
ACTIONS TAKEN TO REDUCE ITS PLUGGING LIABILITY.

ORDER 109-2023

Docket No. 134-2023

Report of the Board

The above entitled cause came on regularly for hearing on December 7, 2023, at the Board's hearing room at 2535 St. Johns Avenue in Billings, Montana, pursuant to the order of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana, hereinafter referred to as the Board. At this time and place testimony was presented, statements and exhibits were received, and the Board then took the cause under advisement; and, the Board having fully considered the testimony, statements, exhibits, and all things and matters presented to it for its consideration by all parties in the Docket, and being well and fully advised in the premises, finds and concludes as follows:

Findings of Fact

1. Due, proper and sufficient notice was published and given of this matter, the hearing hereon, and of the time and place of said hearing, as well as the purpose of said hearing; all parties were afforded an opportunity to present evidence, oral and documentary.
2. Scotti Gray, attorney, and Colin Moody, co-owner and managing member, appeared on behalf of Midway Energy, LLC (Midway).
3. Since the June hearing, Midway has plugged the ECA Federal 3H well and is currently plugging the Tyler Orr 2 well.
4. Midway will transfer the Burlington Northern 4-3 well to the surface owner for use as a water well.
5. Midway plans to plug the Keller 3 well, Hunt Creek 1-H well, and the J. Orr 1 well in 2024.
6. Staff recommended the docket be continued to the December 5, 2024, public hearing and requested the authority to dismiss the docket if the three well are plugged prior to the public hearing.
7. The evidence indicates that taking the following action will serve to protect correlative rights and be in the interest of conservation of oil and gas in the State of Montana.

Conclusions of Law

The Board concludes that taking the following action is appropriate.

Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Board that Docket 134-2023 is continued until the December 5, 2024, public hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Board staff has the authority to dismiss the docket if the Keller 3 well, API # 25-095-21150, Hunt Creek 1-H well, API # 25-009-21301, and the J. Orr 1 well, API # 25-095-05012, are plugged prior to the December 5, 2024, public hearing.

BOARD ORDER NO. 109-2023

Done and performed by the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana at Billings, Montana, this 7th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Steven Durrett, Chairman

Paul Gatzemeier, Vice-Chairman

Roy Brown, Board Member

Mac McDermott, Board Member

W. John Tietz, Board Member

Corey Welter, Board Member

Jeff Wivholm, Board Member

ATTEST:

Jennifer Breton, Program Specialist

BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

UPON THE BOARD'S OWN MOTION TO REQUIRE
YELLOWSTONE PETROLEUMS, INC. TO APPEAR AND SHOW
CAUSE, IF ANY IT HAS, WHY IT SHOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY
PLUG AND ABANDON ITS WELLS IN CARBON, GLACIER,
PONDERA, AND TOOLE COUNTIES, MONTANA.

ORDER 110-2023

Docket No. 135-2023

Report of the Board

The above entitled cause came on regularly for hearing on December 7, 2023, at the Board's hearing room at 2535 St. Johns Avenue in Billings, Montana, pursuant to the order of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana, hereinafter referred to as the Board. At this time and place testimony was presented, statements and exhibits were received, and the Board then took the cause under advisement; and, the Board having fully considered the testimony, statements, exhibits, and all things and matters presented to it for its consideration by all parties in the Docket, and being well and fully advised in the premises, finds and concludes as follows:

Findings of Fact

1. Due, proper and sufficient notice was published and given of this matter, the hearing hereon, and of the time and place of said hearing, as well as the purpose of said hearing; all parties were afforded an opportunity to present evidence, oral and documentary.
2. Don Lee, attorney, appeared on behalf Yellowstone Petroleum, Inc (Yellowstone).
3. At the October 4, 2023, business meeting, Yellowstone was brought to the Board's attention for its 26 wells that have not produced in over two years.
4. Yellowstone requested additional time to come into compliance.
5. The evidence indicates that taking the following action will serve to protect correlative rights and be in the interest of conservation of oil and gas in the State of Montana.

Conclusions of Law

The Board concludes that taking the following action is appropriate.

Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Board that Yellowstone Petroleum, Inc must provide staff a detailed well plan with a timeline and benchmarks for reactivating, transferring, or plugging its inactive wells and file any necessary amended production reports prior to March 7, 2024, hearing deadline, or is subject to a \$200 fine for each day after the deadline that the well plan and timeline and amended reports have not been received. The fine will remain in effect until the April 11, 2024, public hearing or until the detailed well plan and any necessary amended reports are submitted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Docket 135-2023 is continued until the April 11, 2024, public hearing.

BOARD ORDER NO. 110-2023

Done and performed by the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana at Billings, Montana, this 7th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Steven Durrett, Chairman

Paul Gatzemeier, Vice-Chairman

Roy Brown, Board Member

Mac McDermott, Board Member

W. John Tietz, Board Member

Corey Welter, Board Member

Jeff Wivholm, Board Member

ATTEST:

Jennifer Breton, Program Specialist

BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

UPON THE BOARD'S OWN MOTION TO REQUIRE BLACK GOLD ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, LLC TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE, IF ANY IT HAS, WHY PENALTIES SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FAILURE TO REMEDY VIOLATIONS AT ITS INDIAN MOUND 1 WELL, SECTION 15, T23N-R55E, RICHLAND COUNTY, MONTANA.

ORDER 111-2023

Docket No. 108-2021

Report of the Board

The above entitled cause came on regularly for hearing on December 7, 2023, at the Board's hearing room at 2535 St. Johns Avenue in Billings, Montana, pursuant to the order of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana, hereinafter referred to as the Board. At this time and place testimony was presented, statements and exhibits were received, and the Board then took the cause under advisement; and, the Board having fully considered the testimony, statements, exhibits, and all things and matters presented to it for its consideration by all parties in the Docket, and being well and fully advised in the premises, finds and concludes as follows:

Findings of Fact

1. Due, proper and sufficient notice was published and given of this matter, the hearing hereon, and of the time and place of said hearing, as well as the purpose of said hearing; all parties were afforded an opportunity to present evidence, oral and documentary.
2. Don Lee, attorney, and Chris Blount, president, appeared on behalf of Black Gold Energy Resource Development, LLC (Black Gold).
3. Black Gold had reached the statutory maximum fine of \$125,000 and was on a monthly payment plan of \$10,500 for twelve months. Black Gold paid the first six payments, totaling \$63,000.
4. Per an agreement between Black Gold and the Board, Black Gold increased its plugging and reclamation bond from \$20,000 to \$40,000 that in turn reduced the total fine from \$125,000 to \$105,000. The remaining payment of \$42,000 was suspended until the Board evaluated Black Gold's compliance at the December 7, 2023, public hearing.
5. At the time of hearing, the outstanding field compliance issues have been resolved at the Indian Mound 1 well location.
6. Staff recommended the remaining outstanding fine of \$42,000 be waived.
7. The evidence indicates that taking the following action will serve to protect correlative rights and be in the interest of conservation of oil and gas in the State of Montana.

Conclusions of Law

The Board concludes that taking the following action is appropriate.

BOARD ORDER NO. 111-2023

Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Board that the remaining outstanding \$42,000 fine is waived.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Docket 108-2021 is dismissed.

Done and performed by the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana at Billings, Montana, this 7th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Steven Durrett, Chairman

Paul Gatzemeier, Vice-Chairman

Roy Brown, Board Member

Mac McDermott, Board Member

W. John Tietz, Board Member

Corey Welter, Board Member

Jeff Wivholm, Board Member

ATTEST:

Jennifer Breton, Program Specialist

BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

UPON THE BOARD'S OWN MOTION TO REQUIRE INTERSTATE EXPLORATIONS, LLC TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE, IF ANY IT HAS, WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A PLAN AND TIMELINE FOR THE PLUGGING AND ABANDONMENT OF ITS INACTIVE WELLS IN DAWSON AND WIBAUX COUNTIES, MONTANA.

ORDER 112-2023

Docket No. 104-2023

Report of the Board

The above entitled cause came on regularly for hearing on December 7, 2023, at the Board's hearing room at 2535 St. Johns Avenue in Billings, Montana, pursuant to the order of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana, hereinafter referred to as the Board. At this time and place testimony was presented, statements and exhibits were received, and the Board then took the cause under advisement; and, the Board having fully considered the testimony, statements, exhibits, and all things and matters presented to it for its consideration by all parties in the Docket, and being well and fully advised in the premises, finds and concludes as follows:

Findings of Fact

1. Due, proper and sufficient notice was published and given of this matter, the hearing hereon, and of the time and place of said hearing, as well as the purpose of said hearing; all parties were afforded an opportunity to present evidence, oral and documentary.
2. Scotti Gray, attorney, appeared on behalf of Interstate Explorations, LLC (Interstate).
3. Prior to this hearing, Interstate plugged the Michels 1-3-10H and Nelson 10-1 wells and partially plugged the Nelson 2-1 well so that it can be converted to a water well.
4. Interstate testified that it was working with a landowner for a surface use agreement to begin using the permitted SWD well and requested additional time to work out an agreement.
5. The evidence indicates that taking the following action will serve to protect correlative rights and be in the interest of conservation of oil and gas in the State of Montana.

Conclusions of Law

The Board concludes that taking the following action is appropriate.

Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Board that Docket 104-2023 is continued until the June 13, 2024, public hearing.

BOARD ORDER NO. 112-2023

Done and performed by the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation of the State of Montana at Billings, Montana, this 7th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Steven Durrett, Chairman

Paul Gatzemeier, Vice-Chairman

Roy Brown, Board Member

Mac McDermott, Board Member

W. John Tietz, Board Member

Corey Welter, Board Member

Jeff Wivholm, Board Member

ATTEST:

Jennifer Breton, Program Specialist