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P.O. Box 10969
Bozeman, MT 59719-0969
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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

Date: March 12, 2021

To: **Mr. Jim Halvorson – Board of Oil & Gas Conservation State of Montana**

From: Uriah Price

Re: ***Equinor Energy LP – Demands for Opportunity to be Heard concerning Bison Oil & Gas II, LLC's Applications for Permits to Drill***

Fax: **1-406-652-5305**

Pages: 11, Including cover page

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ATTORNEYS

Uriah J. Price
1915 South 19th Avenue
P. O. Box 10969
Bozeman, MT 59719
Telephone: 406.522.4548
Fax: 406.556.1433
uprice@crowleyfleck.com

March 12, 2021

E-MAIL AND FAX

Mr. Jim Halvorson
Administrator
Board of Oil & Gas Conservation
State of Montana
2535 St. John's Avenue
Billings, Montana 59102-4693
Fax No. (406) 652-5305

Re: Equinor Energy LP – Demands for Opportunity to be Heard concerning Bison Oil & Gas III, LLC's Applications for Permits to Drill.

Dear Jim:

Pursuant to A.R.M. § 36.22.601, enclosed please find two Demands for Opportunity to be Heard, filed on behalf of Equinor Energy LP, and concerning numerous APDs filed by Bison Oil & Gas III, LLC. Certificates of Service are attached to the Demands.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions.

Best Regards,


Uriah J. Price

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

<p>REGARDING BISON OIL AND GAS III, LLC'S APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL OIL AND GAS WELLS, IN A PROPOSED OVERLAPPING SPACING UNIT COMPRISED OF TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 58 EAST, SECTIONS 12 & 13, AS PUBLISHED IN THE SIDNEY HERALD AND THE HELENA INDEPENDENT ON MARCH 3, 2021</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DEMAND FOR OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD CONCERNING BISON OIL AND GAS III, LLC'S APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL</p>
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Pursuant to Montana Administrative Rule § 36.22.601, Equinor Energy LP, 6300 Bridge Point Parkway Suite 100, Austin, TX 78730, Phone No. 713-579-9862 ("Equinor"), demands an opportunity to be heard concerning four applications for permits to drill shown in the Notices of Intention to Apply for Permit to Drill Oil and Gas Well, published by Bison Oil and Gas III, LLC ("Bison") in the Sidney Herald and the Helena Independent on March 3, 2021 ("APDs"). The APDs are for wells to be drilled within an overlapping temporary spacing unit, as proposed by Bison, comprised of Sections 12 & 13, Township 26 North, Range 58 East ("Proposed Overlapping TSU"). This demand is timely per A.R.M. § 36.22.601(6)(d). *Enclosed is a copy of Bison's Published Notice in the Sidney Herald with the Section 12 and 13 APD Notices highlighted.*

1. Equinor established an underlying permanent spacing unit, comprised of Sections 13 and 24, Township 26 North, Range 58 East via Board Order 148-2013 ("PSU"), and currently operates the Shirley 13-24 1H well located within the PSU ("Well"). Equinor currently owns greater than 77% working interest in the PSU.
2. Upon information and belief, Bison currently owns 0% working interest in the PSU.
3. Bison filed an application with the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation ("Board") to create the Proposed Overlapping TSU, along with an application requesting approval to drill an additional 3 wells within the Proposed Overlapping TSU. Both applications are docketed for the April 8, 2021 Board hearings. *Docket Nos. 20-2021 & 21-2021.* The Proposed Overlapping TSU overlaps the north section – Section 13 – of the PSU, but fails to include Section 24.
4. Equinor requests a hearing regarding the issuance of Bison's permits to drill for specific reasons that include:
 - a. Equinor must ensure that its leasehold interests and its Well are protected. Based on the information provided in the Notices, Equinor has significant concerns regarding the development proposed by Bison, and the impact those operations will have on Equinor's rights in the PSU, the Well, its current operations, and future operations in the PSU.
 - b. To ensure that the field is developed in an orderly manner that promotes maximum efficient recovery. Equinor is equally concerned about the irregular development pattern illustrated by the surface and bottom hole locations provided in the Notices. For example, Bison apparently intends to drill two wells that will extend a little over 1-mile with bottom hole locations in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13, and in close proximity to the Well and wellpad.

As a result, despite the 1280 acre Proposed Overlapping TSU, at least 2 of the proposed wells will be approximately 1-mile laterals. This, combined with the apparent 2-mile lateral and the 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile lateral proposed in the west half of the Proposed Overlapping TSU will undoubtedly hinder future development in an orderly fashion, especially from Equinor's existing wellpad. The proposal is not in the best interest of conservation or protection of correlative rights. Finally, it appears that due to the location of various federal mineral tracts, Bison is unable to drill into Section 24 and therefore did not include Section 24 in the Proposed Overlapping TSU. Thus, despite the 1280 PSU, Section 24 will have to be developed at least in part with 1-mile laterals which will hinder future development.

- c. Equinor currently operates the Well, has an established surface location, and is familiar with operations in the PSU and the field. Equinor owns a 77.83% working interest in the PSU – in relation to Bison's 0% – and has made significant investments in the PSU. If Bison's permits are approved and the Proposed Overlapping TSU is developed, Equinor's, or its successor's, ability to develop the majority leasehold interest in the PSU while protecting its capital investments will be adversely impacted.

WHEREFORE, Equinor respectfully requests the following relief:

1. That Bison's APDs be referred to the Board for notice and public hearing as required per A.R.M. § 36.22.601(4)(a).
2. That after hearing the Board enter an Order denying Bison's permits.
3. For such other relief as the Board may deem appropriate.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2021.

Equinor Energy LP

By 

Uriah J. Price, Its Attorney

CROWLEY FLECK PLLP
1915 South 19th Avenue
P.O. Box 10969
Bozeman, MT 59719
(406) 522-4548
E-Mail: uprice@crowleyfleck.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, URIAH J. PRICE, in accordance with A.R.M. § 36.22.601(6)(e), hereby certify that the foregoing demand for opportunity to be heard was served on this 12th day of March, 2021 on the following:

By FAX to:

Montana Board of Oil & Gas
Conservation
Attn: Mr. Jim Halvorson
2535 St. Johns Avenue
Billings, MT 59102
Fax No. (406) 652-5305

*With a copy sent via electronic mail to
Mr. Jim Halvorson at: jhalvorson@mt.gov*

By Certified Mail to:

Bison Oil & Gas III, LLC
518 17th St. Suite 1800
Denver, CO 80202

*With a copy sent via electronic mail to
Bison's legal counsel Ms. Kelley Huemoeller Lewis
at: klh@klhadvisors.com*

By:  _____
Uriah J. Price

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Public Notice
 BEFORE THE BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF [Name] FOR PERMIT TO DRILL AN OIL AND GAS WELL

1. Name and address of Applicant: [Name], L.L.C., 511 17th St SW, Denver, CO 80202

2. Legal Description including County and Approximate Location of Proposed Well: [Description]

3. Total Depth Proposed to be Drilled: [Depth]

Notice is hereby given that an application for permit to drill an oil and gas well at the surface location and depth shown in the above-mentioned public notice has been filed with the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation. Pursuant to Rules 66-2201 and 66-2204, Administrative Rules of Montana, an interested party may demand an opportunity to be heard by the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation concerning the application. Each DENIAL FOR HEARING MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE MONTANA BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION AT THE ADDRESS OF [Name], L.L.C. for a hearing on [Date] at [Time].

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Public Notice

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

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CHERYL VANEVRY

Legal

In the Matter of the application of JAMES D. GILBERT, LLC for a permit to drill an oil and gas well.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR PERMIT TO DRILL OIL AND GAS WELL.

1. Name and address of Applicant:
JAMES D. GILBERT, LLC
618 17th St Suite 1000
Denver, CO 80202

2. Legal Description including County and Approximate Footage of Surface Location of Proposed Oil and Gas Well (and projected bottom-hole location, if a description of horizontal well):
Barbours Lot: NW/4 SW/4 Section 18, T18N, R18E, H46E, Hillman County, MT. Fasting # 404 FWL, 2117 FWL, 2123 FWL, 2129 FWL, 2135 FWL, 2141 FWL, 2147 FWL.

3. Total Depth Proposed to be Drilled:
14,157' Measured Depth, 14,422' TVD

MONICA WATERS

Legal

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Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
2555 N. Johns Avenue
Billings, MT 59102
Office: (406) 555-4015
FAX: (406) 555-4015
MAYALP - Published
March 3, 2021 3735042

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

REGARDING BISON OIL AND GAS III, LLC'S APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL OIL AND GAS WELLS, IN A PROPOSED OVERLAPPING SPACING UNIT COMPRISED OF TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 59 EAST, SECTIONS 18 & 19, AS PUBLISHED IN THE SIDNEY HERALD AND THE HELENA INDEPENDENT ON MARCH 3, 2021

**DEMAND FOR OPPORTUNITY
TO BE HEARD CONCERNING
BISON OIL AND GAS III, LLC'S
APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS
TO DRILL**

Pursuant to Montana Administrative Rule § 36.22.601, Equinor Energy LP, 6300 Bridge Point Parkway Suite 100, Austin, TX 78730, Phone No. 713-579-9862 ("Equinor"), demands an opportunity to be heard concerning four applications for permits to drill shown in the Notices of Intention to Apply for Permit to Drill Oil and Gas Well, published by Bison Oil and Gas III, LLC ("Bison") in the Sidney Herald and the Helena Independent on March 3, 2021 ("APDs"). The APDs are for wells to be drilled within an overlapping temporary spacing unit, as proposed by Bison, comprised of Sections 18 & 19, Township 26 North, Range 59 East ("Proposed Overlapping TSU"). This demand is timely per A.R.M. § 36.22.601(6)(d). *Enclosed is a copy of Bison's Published Notice in the Sidney Herald with the Section 18 and 19 APD Notices highlighted.*

1. Equinor established an underlying permanent spacing unit, comprised of Sections 19 and 30, Township 26 North, Range 59 East via Board Order 65-2011 ("PSU"), and currently operates the Johnson 30-19 1H well located within the PSU ("Well"). Equinor currently owns greater than 80% working interest in the PSU.
2. Upon information and belief, Bison currently owns 0% working interest in the PSU.
3. Bison filed an application with the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation ("Board") to create the Proposed Overlapping TSU, along with an application requesting approval to drill an additional 3 wells within the Proposed Overlapping TSU. Both applications are docketed for the April 8, 2021 Board hearings. *Docket Nos. 22-2021 & 23-2021.* The Proposed Overlapping TSU overlaps the north section – Section 19 – of the PSU, but fails to include Section 30.
4. Equinor requests a hearing regarding the issuance of Bison's permits to drill for specific reasons that include:
 - a. Equinor must ensure that its leasehold interests and its Well are protected. Based on the information provided in the Notices, Equinor has significant concerns regarding the development proposed by Bison, and the impact those operations will have on Equinor's rights in the PSU, the Well, its current operations, and future operations in the PSU.
 - b. To ensure that the field is developed in an orderly manner that promotes maximum efficient recovery. Equinor is equally concerned about the irregular development pattern illustrated by the surface and bottom hole locations provided in the Notices. For example, Bison apparently intends to drill two wells that will extend less than 1-mile with bottom hole locations in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18. As a result, despite the 1280-acre Proposed

Overlapping TSU, at least 2 of the proposed wells will be less than 1-mile laterals. This, combined with the apparent 2-mile lateral and the 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile lateral proposed in the west half of the Proposed Overlapping TSU will undoubtedly hinder future development in an orderly fashion, including from Equinor's existing wellpad. The proposal is not in the best interest of conservation or protection of correlative rights. Finally, it appears that due to the location of various federal mineral tracts, Bison is unable to currently drill multiple wells into Section 30 and therefore did not include Section 30 in the Proposed Overlapping TSU. Thus, despite the 1280 PSU, Section 30 will have to be developed at least in part with 1-mile laterals which will hinder future development.

- c. Equinor currently operates the Well, has an established surface location, and is familiar with operations in the PSU and the field. Equinor owns more than 80% of the working interest in the PSU – in relation to Bison's 0% – and has made significant investments in the PSU. If Bison's permits are approved and the Proposed Overlapping TSU is developed, Equinor's, or its successor's, ability to develop the majority leasehold interest in the PSU while protecting its capital investments will be adversely impacted.


WHEREFORE, Equinor respectfully requests the following relief:

1. That Bison's APDs be referred to the Board for notice and public hearing as required per A.R.M. § 36.22.601(4)(a).
2. That after hearing the Board enter an Order denying Bison's permits.
3. For such other relief as the Board may deem appropriate.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2021.

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*With a copy sent via electronic mail to
Bison's legal counsel Ms. Kelley Huemoeller
Lewis at: klh@klhadvisors.com*

By: 
Uriah J. Price

