

March 21, 2016

Jenna Keller
Keller Law LLC
P.O. Box 771222
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Re: Final Resolution – Complaints 200438285 and 200438287
Complainant: Paul W. Schroeder and Bradley D. Anderson
Logan J Sand Unit #4-17 (API #075-06176)

Dear Ms. Keller,

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) received the subject complaints filed via email on behalf of your clients, Mr. Paul W. Schroeder and Mr. Bradley D. Anderson. The complaints were regarding production reporting and an access road at Logan J Sand Unit #4-17 (API #075-06176). The subject complaints are documented in COGCC document numbers 200438285 and 200438287, which can be found on the “Complaints” page, off of our main website <http://cogcc.state.co.us/>. The COGCC investigated the complaints and documented the results in COGCC document numbers 200438746 and 200438365.

At the time that the complaint was filed, the operator of the locations, Benchmark Energy LLC (Benchmark) was already the subject of an ongoing investigation by the COGCC by which COGCC staff sought penalty enforcement action due to compliance violations and environmental impacts at several facilities.

The following actions were taken by COGCC staff to resolve conditions reported in the complaint, with some actions having been completed before receipt of the complaint:

- On 08/19/2015 COGCC Inspector Craig Quint conducted an inspection of the location and issued Field Inspection Report (FIR) #680000089 (attached) with a comment indicating access was via a dirt road through farm ground.
- COGCC Production Supervisor Teri Ikenoyue reviewed well status and production reports and determined that although the well file reported the well as in production, production reports had not been received since December of 2014. This finding typically would have resulted in a letter to the operator requesting production reports be submitted, but this action was not completed due to the pending enforcement action in the COGCC January 2016 hearing.
- Due to a perceived pattern of non-compliance and reporting violations at multiple locations, COGCC Staff pursued an Order Finding Violation (OFV) hearing against the operator.
- The OFV hearing was held on January 26, 2016 seeking penalty enforcement action against Benchmark for compliance issues and environmental impacts at several facilities. At the hearing the Commission ruled in favor of the relief recommended by staff, authorizing foreclosure on



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Benchmark's existing financial assurance and the use of funds from the Oil and Gas Conservation and Environmental Response Fund to address environmental impacts resulting from Benchmark's violations, after a thirty-day period granted to the operator to bring the facilities into compliance.

- On February 3, 2016 COGCC Director Matthew Lepore issued notice that Benchmark's Certificate of Clearance had been revoked, thereby suspending Benchmark's authority to sell or transport produced hydrocarbons from any of its permitted wells and locations in Colorado.

Complaint numbers 200438285 and 200438287 have been formally closed with the issuance of COGCC Order 1V-564, which can be found on the "Regulation" page of the COGCC website.

The COGCC is currently in the process of recovering the financial assurance on file for Benchmark. Once the financial assurance is recovered, the COGCC will create a plan for the proper plugging and abandonment of the wells in addition to the reclamation of impacted locations. Locations will be prioritized based on actual and threatened impact as well as the availability of personnel and equipment. Reclamation efforts will be scheduled according to the priority assigned to each location.

Please advise Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Anderson to feel free to contact the COGCC directly to discuss the reclamation schedule.

If you have questions regarding this complaint or the investigation, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Megan Adamczyk, Complaint Specialist
Phone: 888-235-1101
Email: dnr_cogcc.complaints@state.co.us

**FORM
INSP**Rev
05/11**State of Colorado
Oil and Gas Conservation Commission**1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 894-2100 Fax: (303) 894-2109

DE	ET	OE	ES
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Inspection Date:

08/19/2015

Document Number:

680000089

Overall Inspection:

SATISFACTORY**FIELD INSPECTION FORM**

Location Identifier	Facility ID	Loc ID	Inspector Name:	On-Site Inspection	
	<u>219322</u>	<u>312190</u>	<u>QUINT, CRAIG</u>	2A Doc Num:	

Operator Information:OGCC Operator Number: 10380Name of Operator: BENCHMARK ENERGY LLCAddress: PO BOX 8747City: PRATT State: KS Zip: 67124

- ☒ THIS IS A FOLLOW UP INSPECTION
- ☐ FOLLOW UP INSPECTION REQUIRED
- ☐ NO FOLLOW UP INSPECTION REQUIRED
- ☐ INSPECTOR REQUESTS FORM 42 WHEN CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ARE COMPLETED

Contact Information:

Contact Name	Phone	Email	Comment
Ferrin, Jeremy		jeremy.ferrin@state.co.us	
Nash, Jerry	(620) 672-9700	lferrell@profsecservices.com	
Murphy, Julie		julie.murphy@state.co.us	

Compliance Summary:QtrQtr: L10NE Sec: 1 Twp: 8N Range: 54W

Insp. Date	Doc Num	Insp. Type	Insp Status	Satisfactory /Action Required	PA P/F/I	Pas/Fail (P/F)	Violation (Y/N)
11/10/2014	667200649	SI	SI	ACTION REQUIRED			No
07/23/2014	668602900	PR	SI	ALLEGED VIOLATION			Yes
08/02/2012	663300360	TA	TA	SATISFACTORY	I		No
08/27/2007	200118780	MT	TA	SATISFACTORY			No
08/22/2002	200029793	MT	TA	SATISFACTORY		Pass	No
06/23/1997	500152905	ID	SI			Fail	Yes
01/08/1996	500152904	PR	SI			Pass	No

Inspector Comment:**Related Facilities:**

Facility ID	Type	Status	Status Date	Well Class	API Num	Facility Name	Insp Status	
219322	WELL	PR	11/24/2014	OW	075-06176	LOGAN J SAND UNIT 4-17	SI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Equipment:Location Inventory

Inspector Name: QUINT, CRAIG

Special Purpose Pits: _____	Drilling Pits: _____	Wells: _____	Production Pits: _____
Condensate Tanks: _____	Water Tanks: _____	Separators: _____	Electric Motors: _____
Gas or Diesel Mortors: _____	Cavity Pumps: _____	LACT Unit: _____	Pump Jacks: _____
Electric Generators: _____	Gas Pipeline: _____	Oil Pipeline: _____	Water Pipeline: _____
Gas Compressors: _____	VOC Combustor: _____	Oil Tanks: _____	Dehydrator Units: _____
Multi-Well Pits: _____	Pigging Station: _____	Flare: _____	Fuel Tanks: _____

Location

Lease Road:

Type	Satisfactory/Action Required	comment	Corrective Action	Date
Access	SATISFACTORY	DIRT ROAD THROUGH FARM GROUND		

Signs/Marker:

Type	Satisfactory/Action Required	Comment	Corrective Action	CA Date
WELLHEAD	SATISFACTORY	LEASE SIGN BY UNIT HAS BEEN UPDATED AS REQUIRED BY PREVIOUS INSPECTION		

Emergency Contact Number (S/A/V): SATISFACTORY

Corrective Date: _____

Comment: _____

Corrective Action: _____

Good Housekeeping:

Type	Satisfactory/Action Required	Comment	Corrective Action	CA Date
DEBRIS	SATISFACTORY	DEBRIS HAS BEEN REMOVED AS REQUIRED BY PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS		

Spills:

Type	Area	Volume	Corrective action	CA Date
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☐ Multiple Spills and Releases?

Equipment:

Type	#	Satisfactory/Action Required	Comment	Corrective Action	CA Date
Prime Mover	1	SATISFACTORY	ELEC		
Pump Jack	1	SATISFACTORY	CONVENTIONAL		
Deadman # & Marked	4	SATISFACTORY			
Ancillary equipment	1	SATISFACTORY	ELEC PANEL		

Venting:

Yes/No	Comment

Flaring:				
Type	Satisfactory/Action Required	Comment	Corrective Action	CA Date

Predrill

Location ID: 219322

Site Preparation:

Lease Road Adeq.: _____ Pads: _____ Soil Stockpile: _____

S/A/V: _____

Corrective Action: _____ Date: _____ CDP Num.: _____

Form 2A COAs:**S/A/V:** _____ **Comment:** _____**CA:** _____ **Date:** _____**Wildlife BMPs:****S/A/V:** _____ **Comment:** _____**CA:** _____ **Date:** _____**Stormwater:****Comment:** _____**Staking:****On Site Inspection (305):****Surface Owner Contact Information:**

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Operator Rep. Contact Information:

Landman Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Date Onsite Request Received: _____ Date of Rule 306 Consultation: _____

Request LGD Attendance: _____

LGD Contact Information:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Agreed to Attend: _____

Summary of Landowner Issues:

Summary of Operator Response to Landowner Issues:

Onsite Inspection Memorandum Summarizing Discussions at Inspection as Attachment:

Facility

Facility ID: 219322 Type: WELL API Number: 075-06176 Status: PR Insp. Status: SI

Idle WellPurpose: ☒ Shut In ☐ Temporarily Abandoned Reminder: _____

S/A/V: _____ CA Date: _____

CA: _____

Comment: WELL IS SHUT IN, OPERATOR IS IN PROCESS OF CHANGING OUT ELEC MOTOR.

Environmental**Spills/Releases:**

Type of Spill: _____ Description: _____ Estimated Spill Volume: _____
 Comment: _____
 Corrective Action: _____ Date: _____
 Reportable: _____ GPS: Lat _____ Long _____
 Proximity to Surface Water: _____ Depth to Ground Water: _____

Water Well:

Lat _____ Long _____
 DWR Receipt Num: _____ Owner Name: _____ GPS : _____

Field Parameters:

Sample Location: _____

Emission Control Burner (ECB): _____

Comment: _____

Pilot: _____ Wildlife Protection Devices (fired vessels): _____

Reclamation - Storm Water - Pit**Interim Reclamation:**

Date Interim Reclamation Started: _____ Date Interim Reclamation Completed: _____

Land Use: _____

Comment: _____

1003a. Debris removed? Pass CM _____ CA _____ CA Date _____
 Waste Material Onsite? Pass CM _____ CA _____ CA Date _____
 Unused or unneeded equipment onsite? Pass CM _____ CA _____ CA Date _____
 Pit, cellars, rat holes and other bores closed? Pass CM _____ CA _____ CA Date _____
 Guy line anchors removed? _____ CM _____ CA _____ CA Date _____
 Guy line anchors marked? Pass CM _____ CA _____ CA Date _____

1003b. Area no longer in use? _____ Production areas stabilized ? _____

1003c. Compacted areas have been cross ripped? _____

1003d. Drilling pit closed? _____ Subsidence over on drill pit? _____

Cuttings management: _____

1003e. Areas no longer needed for drilling or subsequent operations for have been re-vegetated to 80% of pre-existing? _____

Production areas have been stabilized? _____ Segregated soils have been replaced? _____

Inspector Name: QUINT, CRAIG

RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION

Cropland

Top soil replaced _____

Recontoured _____

Perennial forage re-established _____

Non-Cropland

Top soil replaced _____

Recontoured _____

80% Revegetation _____

1003 f. Weeds Noxious weeds? _____

Comment: _____

Overall Interim Reclamation _____

Final Reclamation/ Abandoned Location:

Date Final Reclamation Started: _____

Date Final Reclamation Completed: _____

Final Land Use: _____

Reminder: _____

Comment: _____

Well plugged _____

Pit mouse/rat holes, cellars backfilled _____

Debris removed _____

No disturbance /Location never built _____

Access Roads Regraded _____

Contoured _____

Culverts removed _____

Gravel removed _____

Location and associated production facilities reclaimed _____

Locations, facilities, roads, recontoured _____

Compaction alleviation _____

Dust and erosion control _____

Non cropland: Revegetated 80% _____

Cropland: perennial forage _____

Weeds present _____

Subsidence _____

Comment: _____

Corrective Action: _____ Date _____

Overall Final Reclamation _____

Well Release on Active Location ☐

Multi-Well Location ☐

Storm Water:

Loc Erosion BMPs	BMP Maintenance	Lease Road Erosion BMPs	Lease BMP Maintenance	Chemical BMPs	Chemical BMP Maintenance	Comment
Compaction	Pass	Compaction	Pass			

S/A/V: SATISFACTOR Y Corrective Date: _____

Comment: _____

CA: _____

Pits: ☒ NO SURFACE INDICATION OF PIT