

State of Colorado
Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 894-2100 Fax: (303) 894-2109



Document Number:
401781684
Date Issued:
10/04/2018
Date Resolved:
03/10/2021

NOTICE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION - RESOLVED

Per Rule 522, the Director has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of the Act, or of any Commission rule, order, or permit has occurred, the Director will require the operator to remedy the violation and may commence an enforcement action seeking penalties by issuing a Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV). Per Rule 523, an operator who violates the Act, or a Commission rule, order, or permit may be subject to a penalty imposed by Commission order.

OPERATOR INFORMATION

OGCC Operator Number: 82440
Name of Operator: STEHLE OIL COMPANY
Address: P O BOX 1577
City: CRAIG State: CO Zip: 81626

Contact Name and Telephone:
Name: CARY STEHLE
Phone: (970) 824-6909 Fax: ()
Email: carystehle@gmail.com

Well Location, or Facility Information (if applicable):

API Number: 05-103-05906-00 Facility or Location ID: _____
Name: PINNACLE UNIT Number: 12-30
QtrQtr: NWSW Sec: 30 Twp: 3N Range: 86W Meridian: 6
County: RIO BLANCO

ALLEGED VIOLATION

Rule: 309
Rule Description: Operator's Monthly Report of Operations
Initial Discovery Date: _____ Was this violation self-reported by the operator? No
Date of Violation: _____ Approximate Time of Violation: _____
Was this a discrete violation of obvious duration? No

Description of Alleged Violation:

Pursuant to Rule 309., STEHLE OIL COMPANY ("Operator") shall report every existing oil and gas well that is not plugged and abandoned on the Operator's Monthly Report of Operations ("Form 7"), within 45 days after the end of each month. Operator shall report such well every month from the month it is spud until it has been reported for one month as abandoned. Operator is required to report each formation that is completed in a well every month from the time that it is completed until one month after abandonment.

COGCC Staff had reason to believe Operator had committed one or more violations of COGCC Rules, and issued Warning Letter No. 401590988 to Operator on March 29, 2018, requiring Operator to resolve Operator's Form 7 inadequacies by June 30, 2018.

On October 4, 2018, COGCC Staff conducted an audit of Operator's records for the well(s) in the attached table ("Well"), and found persistent inadequacies in Operator's Form 7 reporting, including that Operator had not submitted the required production reporting for June and July 2018.

Operator failed to submit Form 7, or filed incomplete or inaccurate Form 7 information, for at least one Well for one or more months, violating Rule 309.

Abatement or Corrective Action Required to be Performed by Operator: _____ Corrective Action Due Date: 11/05/2018

Proper and timely abatement does not preclude the assessment of penalties and an Order Finding Violation.

In its Rule 522.d.(2) Answer, due within 28 days of the Operator's receipt of the NOAV, Operator shall provide the following to COGCC:

- Operator shall perform an audit of its Form 7 reporting for all its wells in Colorado, and submit a summary of the number of late, missed, incomplete, and/or inaccurate Form 7 reports for each month starting twelve months prior to September 25, 2018 , through the most current month that was due as of NOAV issuance.

By the Corrective Action Due Date, Operator shall submit all delinquent Form 7 reports, and shall submit revised Form 7 reports with the correct information for any months identified in Operator's audit as incomplete or inaccurate.

Rule: 326.b

Rule Description: Shut-in Wells

Initial Discovery Date: _____

Was this violation self-reported by the operator? No

Date of Violation: _____

Approximate Time of Violation: _____

Was this a discrete violation of obvious duration? No

Description of Alleged Violation:

Pursuant to Rule 326.b., STEHLE OIL COMPANY ("Operator") is required to perform a Mechanical Integrity Test ("MIT") on Shut-in ("SI") wells within two (2) years of the initial shut-in date and then at five (5) year intervals after an initial successful MIT. COGCC Rules do not permit placing a well back on production to fulfill, or in lieu of, the requirements to conduct an MIT.

COGCC Staff had reason to believe Operator had committed one or more violations of COGCC Rules, and issued Warning Letter No. 401590988 to Operator on March 29, 2018 , requiring Operator to conduct MIT or plug and abandon delinquent wells by June 30, 2018 .

On September 25, 2018 , COGCC Staff conducted an audit ("Audit") of Operator's records for the well(s) in the attached table ("Well"). The Audit included reviewing records such as Operator's Form 7 Monthly Reports of Operations and Field Inspection Reports filed by COGCC Staff after inspecting the Well to determine the dates the Well was SI, and the COGCC database to determine whether Operator reported MIT(s) for the Well. Through this Audit, COGCC Staff determined that Operator did not conduct an MIT on the Well by the Warning Letter corrective action due date.

Operator failed to conduct timely MIT(s) for at least one SI Well, violating Rule 326.b.

Abatement or Corrective Action Required to be Performed by Operator: _____

Corrective Action Due Date: 11/05/2018

Proper and timely abatement does not preclude the assessment of penalties and an Order Finding Violation.

In its Rule 522.d.(2) Answer, due within 28 days of the Operator's receipt of the NOAV, Operator shall provide the following to COGCC:

- Operator shall perform an audit of its Mechanical Integrity Testing and MIT reporting for all its wells in Colorado. Operator shall submit a detailed report to COGCC which shows the following information for each of its wells which has been in SI or TA status for at least one month starting 24 months prior to September 25, 2018 . Operator shall email a copy of this report as an unlocked (editable) spreadsheet to the COGCC Enforcement email address indicated in the Answer section below.

(1.) API and Well name

(2.) SI or TA status by month, for each month the Well was SI or TA

(3.) Date of last MIT ("n/a" if no MIT performed for that Well)

(4.) Due date of next required MIT, according to Rules 319 and 326. If the Well is delinquent on required MIT as of NOAV issuance, indicate the due date of the most recent missed MIT.

(5.) Date Operator has scheduled to resolve the delinquency (such as by MIT or plug and abandon), if applicable. ("n/a" if the Well is not delinquent; "none" if Well is delinquent, but Operator has not yet scheduled operations to resolve the delinquency)

(6.) (If TA) Whether Operator is current on the Form 4 TA Sundry submittal required by Rule 319.b.(1) & (3).

- A proposed compliance plan to resolve all delinquencies identified in Operator's audit. The proposed compliance plan will be subject to modification by the COGCC Engineering unit.

Rule: 326.f

Rule Description: All Wells Shall Maintain Mechanical Integrity

Initial Discovery Date: _____

Was this violation self-reported by the operator? No

Date of Violation: _____

Approximate Time of Violation: _____

Was this a discrete violation of obvious duration? No

Description of Alleged Violation:

Pursuant to Rule 326.f., all wells shall maintain mechanical integrity, and STEHLE OIL COMPANY ("Operator") shall repair or plug and abandon ("P&A") any non-injection well which lacks mechanical integrity, as determined through a Mechanical Integrity Test ("MIT") or other means. If Operator has not performed the MIT within the required timeframes in Rules 326.b.(1) and 326.c.(1), Operator will not be given an additional six months to make repairs or P&A the Well in the event of an unsuccessful test.

COGCC Staff had reason to believe Operator had committed one or more violations of COGCC Rules, and issued Warning Letter No. 401590988 to Operator on March 29, 2018, requiring Operator to conduct an MIT or plug and abandon delinquent wells by June 30, 2018.

On July 26, 2018, Operator submitted an MIT Report (Document No. 2302732, "Form 21") documenting a failed MIT performed on July 10, 2018, on the PINNACLE UNIT #12-30 (API No. 103-05906, "Well"). The Well was the subject of the March 2018 Warning Letter, and was subject to the June 30, 2018, corrective action due date.

On October 4, 2018, COGCC Staff conducted an audit ("Audit") of Operator's records for the Well. Through this Audit, COGCC Staff determined that Operator had not conducted an MIT on the Well within the required timeframes in Rules 326.b.(1) and 326.c.(1) or by the corrective action deadline given by the Warning Letter. COGCC Staff further determined that, as of October 4, 2018, Operator had not submitted any of the forms required prior to making repairs or P&A (e.g., Forms 6 or 42).

The Well failed the MIT performed on July 10, 2018, after the required timeframes, meaning Operator was required to make repairs or P&A the Well without an allowance of six months from the date of the unsuccessful test. Two and a half months after the unsuccessful test, Operator had neither performed repairs/P&A, nor requested COGCC approval for plans to perform such actions, violating Rule 326.f.

Abatement or Corrective Action Required to be Performed by Operator: Corrective Action Due Date: 07/10/2018

Proper and timely abatement does not preclude the assessment of penalties and an Order Finding Violation.

In its Rule 522.d.(2) Answer, due within 28 days of the Operator's receipt of the NOAV, Operator shall provide the following to COGCC:

- Operator shall perform an audit of its Mechanical Integrity Testing and MIT reporting for all its wells in Colorado. Operator shall submit a detailed report to COGCC which shows the following information for each of its wells which has been without hydrocarbon production for at least one month starting 24 months prior to September 25, 2018. Operator shall email a copy of this report as an unlocked (editable) spreadsheet to the COGCC Enforcement email address indicated in the Answer section below.

- (1.) API and Well name
- (2.) SI or TA status by month, for each month the Well was SI or TA (or other status, if appropriate)
- (3.) Date of last MIT ("n/a" if no MIT performed for that Well)
 - (3.a.) Pass/Fail results of last MIT.
- (4.) Due date of next required MIT, according to Rules 319 and 326. If the Well is delinquent on required MIT as of NOAV issuance, indicate the due date of the most recent missed MIT.
- (5.) Date Operator has scheduled to resolve the delinquency (such as by MIT or plug and abandon), if applicable. ("n/a" if the Well is not delinquent; "none" if Well is delinquent, but Operator has not yet scheduled operations to resolve the delinquency)
 - (5.a.) (If last MIT was Failed) Length of time (in calendar days) Well lacked mechanical integrity: starting with the date of the failed MIT (or the date of discovery of lacking mechanical integrity, if prior to the MIT); and ending with the date the well was repaired or P&A, or the date of Operator's audit if the Well still lacks mechanical integrity.
- (6.) (If TA) Whether Operator is current on the Form 4 TA Sundry submittal required by Rule 319.b.(1) & (3).

- A proposed compliance plan to resolve all delinquencies identified in Operator's audit, including an aggressive repair/P&A schedule for all wells lacking mechanical integrity. The proposed compliance plan will be subject to modification by the COGCC Engineering unit.

PENALTY

Penalties for violations alleged in this NOAV will be calculated pursuant to Rule 523, with daily penalties accruing pursuant to Section 34-60-121(1), C.R.S.

ANSWER

Pursuant to Rule 522.d.(2), the operator must file an Answer to this NOAV within 28 days of its receipt, or a default judgement may be entered. An answer will, at a minimum, discuss the allegations contained in the NOAV, responding to each; identify corrective actions taken in response to the NOAV, if any; and identify facts known to the operator at the time that are relevant to the operator's response to the alleged violations. Hard copy answers are filed with the Commission Secretary at the Commission's Denver office and should also be emailed to dnr_cogccenforcement@state.co.us.

NOAV ISSUED

NOAV Issue Date: <u>10/04/2018</u>	
COGCC Representative Signature: _____	
COGCC Representative: <u>Kira Gillette</u>	Title: <u>NOAV Specialist</u>
Email: <u>kira.gillette@state.co.us</u>	Phone Num: <u>(303) 894-2100</u>

CORRECTIVE ACTION COMPLETED

Rule: <u>309</u>	
Rule Description: <u>Operator's Monthly Report of Operations</u>	
Corrective Action Start Date: _____	Corrective Action Complete Date: _____
Has corrective action for this violation been performed as required? <u>No</u>	
Description of Actual Corrective Action Performed by Operator	
<u>NOAV closed pursuant to Order 1V-693.</u>	

Rule: <u>326.b</u>	
Rule Description: <u>Shut-in Wells</u>	
Corrective Action Start Date: _____	Corrective Action Complete Date: _____
Has corrective action for this violation been performed as required? <u>No</u>	
Description of Actual Corrective Action Performed by Operator	
<u>NOAV closed pursuant to Order 1V-693.</u>	

Rule: <u>326.f</u>	
Rule Description: <u>All Wells Shall Maintain Mechanical Integrity</u>	
Corrective Action Start Date: _____	Corrective Action Complete Date: _____
Has corrective action for this violation been performed as required? <u>No</u>	
Description of Actual Corrective Action Performed by Operator	
<u>NOAV closed pursuant to Order 1V-693.</u>	

FINAL RESOLUTION

Cause #: <u>1V</u>	Order #: <u>693</u>	Docket #: <u>190400259</u>
Enforcement Action: <u>Order Finding Violation</u>	Final Resolution Date: <u>08/01/2019</u>	
Final Resolution Comments:		
<u>NOAV closed pursuant to Order 1V-693.</u>		

ATTACHMENT LIST

View Attachments in Imaged Documents on COGCC website (<http://ogccweblink.state.co.us/>) - Search by Document Number.

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
401781684	NOAV APPROVED
401784402	NOAV CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT
401784404	NOAV COVER LETTER
401784405	NOAV DOCUMENTATION
401784951	NOAV ISSUED
401785571	NOAV IN PROCESS
401970511	NOAV CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT

Total Attach: 7 Files