

STATE OIL AND GAS BOARD OF ALABAMA

NOVEMBER 5, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Testimony and proceedings before the
State Oil and Gas Board of Alabama in Regular
Session at the University of Alabama, W. B.
Jones Hall, 420 Hackberry Lane, Tuscaloosa,
Alabama, pursuant to adjournment, on November 5,
2024, before Sheri G. Connelly, CCR, RPR.

IN ATTENDANCE:

FOR THE STAFF:

S. Marvin Rogers.....Gen. Counsel/Hrg. Officer
Dr. Berry H. (Nick) Tew, Jr.....Sec./Supervisor
Kirk McQuillan.....Deputy Director
Butch Gregory.....Engineer
Elbert Patterson.....Geologist
Terry Burns.....Geologist
Jennifer Bridgmon.....Paralegal

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1 MR. ROGERS: It is now ten o'clock
2 a.m., November 5, 2024. This hearing is in
3 session.

4 Dr. Tew, have the items for the
5 November 5 and 7, 2024, meeting been properly
6 noticed?

7 DR. TEW: First of all, happy Election
8 Day, everyone. Let's all do our civic duty and
9 get out there and vote.

10 Mr. Rogers, the items on the November
11 5 and 7, 2024, meeting have been properly
12 noticed.

13 MR. ROGERS: All right. The Board's
14 staff and I have received and compiled the
15 proofs of publication for the items appearing on
16 the docket for the first time. These proofs of
17 publication for the items on the November 5 and
18 7, 2024, dockets are admitted into the record.
19 Furthermore, copies of the information posted on
20 the website of the Secretary of State announcing
21 these two meetings of the Oil and Gas Board of
22 November 5 and 7, 2024, and a confirmation of
23 successful postings from the Secretary of State

1 are also admitted into the record.

2 I have an order of the State Oil and
3 Gas Board appointing me as hearing officer to
4 conduct this hearing on behalf of the Board.
5 The order will be made a part of the record at
6 this time.

7 So at this point, Jennifer, we'll
8 stamp in the proofs of publication and the
9 copies of the information on the Secretary of
10 State's website and then the hearing officer
11 report.

12 The procedure for the meeting is as
13 follows: The hearing officer and the staff will
14 hear the -- will hear certain items on the
15 docket today. We will present recommendations
16 of the hearing officer to the Board. One -- two
17 items have been set for hearing on Thursday, so
18 we'll hear two items on Thursday. The rest of
19 the items will be heard today except for the
20 continued items.

21 All right. We have a number of
22 continued items. Item 3, Docket Number
23 9-17-24-03, petition by W and T Offshore,

1 Incorporated; Item 4, Docket Number 9-17-24-04,
2 petition by W and T; Item 5, Docket Number
3 9-17-24-05, petition by W and T; Item 6, Docket
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7 and T; Item 9, Docket Number 9-17-24-09,
8 petition by W and T; Item 10, Docket Number
9 9-17-24-10, petition by W and T; Item 11, Docket
10 Number 9-17-24-11, petition by W and T; and Item
11 12, Docket Number 9-17-24-12, petition by W and
12 T; and also Item 25, Docket Number 11-5-24-13,
13 petition by Land and Natural Resource
14 Development, Incorporated.

15 John, is that right on that one you've
16 got for continued?

17 MR. TYRA: That's correct, yes, sir.

18 MR. ROGERS: Any corrections on any of
19 those recommendations?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. ROGERS: All right. We have a
22 number of items to be heard today. The first
23 item is Item 13, Docket Number 11-5-24-01,

1 petition by Phoenix Natural Resources II
2 Operating Company, LLC.

3 Good morning.

4 MR. NIX: I have the originals of the
5 affidavits, the proof of publication, and the
6 exhibits here that I'll go ahead and hand over
7 so you can go through them.

8 MR. ROGERS: Is this several copies?

9 MR. NIX: No, it's just the one
10 original there of each one.

11 MR. ROGERS: Okay, all right. Go
12 ahead.

13 MR. NIX: Mr. Rogers, for the record,
14 my name is Jim Nix. I have one witness that I'd
15 like to have sworn in.

16 MR. ROGERS: Will you stand and state
17 your name and address.

18 MR. ENGLAND: My name is Chad
19 England. I'm in Houston, Texas, 14431
20 Briarhills Parkway.

21 MR. ROGERS: Raise your right hand.

22

23 CHAD ENGLAND,

1 being first duly sworn, was
2 examined and testified as follows:

3
4 MR. NIX: I represent Phoenix Natural
5 Resources II Operating Company, LLC, which is
6 the petitioner. For simplicity, I'll be just
7 referring to them as Phoenix throughout my
8 questions and answers that Mr. England gives
9 here today. The petition we have before the
10 Board is seeking to classify certain wells as
11 shut in or temporarily abandoned. These are all
12 relating to South Carlton Field in Clarke and
13 Baldwin counties. The prefiled affidavit of
14 notice in the docket -- the notice for the
15 hearing was published in The Clarke County
16 Democrat and also the Baldwin Times, the
17 newspapers having the largest circulation in
18 Clarke and Baldwin Counties respectfully, which
19 is more than ten days prior to the date of the
20 hearing.

21 MR. ROGERS: Let me interrupt you,
22 Jim. Let's see, on the affidavit here, look at
23 your affidavit of notice.

1 MR. NIX: Yes, sir.

2 MR. ROGERS: You've got South Carlton.
3 I assume you mean Phoenix.

4 MR. NIX: Oh, that's my typographical
5 error then. I apologize on that.

6 MR. ROGERS: Why don't you when we get
7 through, just go through and strike through
8 South Carlton and put -- yeah.

9 MR. NIX: You said that's in the
10 affidavit of notice? Oh, yes.

11 MR. ROGERS: You sent out the notice
12 properly but your affidavit's incorrect.

13 MR. NIX: I see, right.

14 MR. ROGERS: But the notice that you
15 published is correct; is that right?

16 MR. NIX: That is correct, yes, sir.

17 MR. ROGERS: Why don't you -- when you
18 get through, why don't you just strike through
19 that and put your initials by it and put the
20 proper name.

21 MR. NIX: I will. Thank you. I
22 apologize for that error.

23 I request that the affidavit of notice

1 will be corrected and the proofs of publication
2 be admitted into the record.

3 MR. ROGERS: The affidavit, when
4 correct, is admitted but as we said, it needs to
5 be corrected.

6 MR. NIX: That's correct.

7 MR. ROGERS: Okay. Proceed.

8 MR. NIX: We prefiled a number of
9 exhibits, which Mr. England will be discussing
10 very briefly.

11

12 EXAMINATION BY MR. NIX:

13 Q. Mr. England, are you familiar with the
14 petition filed in this docket?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Are you familiar with the rules and
17 regulations of this Board?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Have you previously testified before
20 the Board?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What is your position with Phoenix?

23 A. I'm the managing member of Phoenix

1 responsible for operations in the South Carlton
2 Field.

3 Q. Would you give a brief background of
4 your history here?

5 A. Yeah. I have 22 years of oil and
6 gas -- upstream oil and gas experience from
7 Conoco Phillips to Hilcorp to starting up
8 Phoenix originally that ultimately ended up
9 becoming EP Energy that we sold in 2022 and then
10 started up Phoenix again, so that's the basics
11 of my experience.

12 Q. Has an affidavit of your
13 qualifications been filed with this Board?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Have you previously been recognized as
16 an expert in the field of petroleum engineering?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 MR. NIX: I request that Mr. England
19 be recognized as an expert in the field of
20 petroleum engineering.

21 MR. ROGERS: He is recognized as an
22 expert.

23 Q. (By Mr. Nix) Are you familiar with

1 all of the temporarily abandoned and shut in
2 wells that are before the Board in this
3 petition?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Have you executed an affidavit in
6 support of your petition?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you personally prepare the
9 exhibits which we've submitted to the Board?

10 A. Yes, and under my supervision, but
11 yes.

12 Q. To the best of your knowledge,
13 information and belief, do each of these
14 exhibits accurately portray the matters and
15 facts shown thereon?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I direct your attention to Exhibit
18 Number 1. Would you briefly describe what's
19 depicted or shown on Exhibit Number 1?

20 A. So we have 68 wells total in the
21 field, 33 are producing, four are saltwater
22 disposal wells, pressure -- seven pressure
23 maintenance wells, and 23 temporarily abandoned

1 wells, and one shut-in well.

2 Q. Do each of the temporarily abandoned
3 and shut-in wells have substantial value to
4 Phoenix and the other owners in South Carlton
5 Field?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Please describe the current economic
8 conditions in the South Carlton Field.

9 A. Well, as y'all know, we took over the
10 field a year ago, basically one year exactly in
11 October of last year, and so when we took over
12 the field, the field was in pretty bad shape.
13 We've had to go in and since then, you know, our
14 biggest focus -- this is a waterflood and this
15 is a waterflood that's never actually been
16 waterflooded, which is the whole reason we
17 bought the field, but our intention buying the
18 field is to go out there and spend time and our
19 focus, you know, getting water where it needs to
20 be and getting more water where it needs to be
21 and getting pressures up. But unfortunately,
22 with the state of the field, we've been battling
23 just failures.

1 So our biggest issue has just been
2 failures, so when we took over this field, the
3 failure rate was probably greater than two --
4 well, I know it's greater than two so meaning --
5 I say a failure rate greater than two. I mean
6 every well fails more than two times a year,
7 which is unacceptable, right, and it's hard to
8 make any money doing that.

9 So what we've done and where our focus
10 has been over the last year is we ran a rig
11 continuously for a year and in some cases two
12 rigs for a year and so we spent a lot of money
13 fixing these wells to get our failure rate down
14 and so we're shooting for a .5 failure rate. We
15 need to see that we can achieve that. Frankly
16 that's a bad failure rate. That's a well
17 failing every two years. It really should be,
18 you know, every four to five years but in the
19 state of this field, we're currently shooting
20 for a .5 hopefully to achieve better than that.

21 And so, you know, we've -- we've spent
22 a lot of -- you know, a lot of money and I was
23 going to say a lot of money, we spent \$2.6

1 million on subsurface well work and all but
2 200 -- all but \$200,00 was spent restoring rate,
3 meaning there were wells that were producing
4 when we bought it, you know, hopefully they
5 wouldn't fail. We could use that money and that
6 cash to go in and do other things but we just
7 spent money redoing those wells and so -- but,
8 of all the wells that we've worked on, we've
9 only had one failure and it was a very minor
10 thing and it annoyed me, but we had one very
11 minor failure we fixed in a day for very little
12 money, so we are seeing a much better failure
13 rate, which we don't have to spend money fixing
14 wells, and our goal after that is going to be,
15 you know, focused on -- particularly next year
16 focused on getting water in the ground where it
17 needs to be to get our pressures up so we
18 actually have a real waterflood because it's not
19 a real waterflood and unfortunately, I'd say the
20 failure for us, it's like, we want more water to
21 go underground, get pressures up, so we can get
22 actually out a real waterflood because that's
23 the true -- to see the true potential of this

1 field, other than just repairing wells, what
2 we've done.

3 So keep in mind in repairing wells,
4 before we -- before we bought this, the average
5 rate in the field was about 250 barrels a day,
6 and so about the three-month average before we
7 bought it. The last three months we've been
8 averaging about 360 barrels a day, so we're up
9 40 percent, so take our three-month average
10 before and three-month average last, we're up
11 about 40 percent.

12 What does that mean to the State?
13 That equates to 100 -- an extra \$120,000 a year
14 in severance taxes and an additional \$40,000 a
15 year in royalty payments over a one-year period.
16 So -- and also at this rate at 360 barrels a day
17 is about the highest rate the field has been,
18 you know, in the last bunch of years and really
19 in its history. In its history it's never been
20 much above, so actually currently we're --
21 that's a three-month rate. We're up close to
22 400. Our goal is, you know, over 400 barrels a
23 day in the field at the end of this year just

1 continuing to do well work. In fact, we have a
2 well coming on today. It shows --

3 Q. The well that's coming on today, is
4 that one of the wells that we have covered by
5 this -- our petition asking for temporarily
6 abandoned status?

7 A. Yes, it is. It's actually one of the
8 wells that we're asking for temporary abandoned
9 status in here. It wasn't sure if we were going
10 to be able to get it back. Frankly it took a
11 little work. It's the Wall D-1. It's on this
12 list and we're actually bringing that well on
13 today, so we were able to get it -- get that
14 well fixed and cleaned out and bringing it on,
15 so that's actually supposed to be a pretty good
16 well for us historically in the field and that's
17 the reason we frankly spent the time and effort
18 to work on so much time on that well.

19 We've added three wells to the T and A
20 list over the last year, so that's the C. O.
21 Oswald 11-12 number five. We actually did put a
22 rig on that well. It does have some shallow
23 casing issues. It will require a squeeze job.

1 We do intend to go back and fix that -- I mean,
2 frankly, I've already spent all the money on
3 tubing and pump and everything else. I just
4 need to go back over there and work on that
5 well.

6 The other well is the Scott 9-16.
7 It's a cross-flow well. When I say cross-flow,
8 so a mixture -- this field -- the Pilot is the
9 reservoir we're trying to waterflood and there's
10 three main reservoirs, the Massive, the Pilot,
11 and the Utah, and two of them, the Massive and
12 the Utah, are strong water drive reservoirs.
13 The Pilot is the real upside in the field. It
14 has to -- it meets the waterflood and needs to
15 be pressurized. We need water coming out of the
16 Massive and the Utah to put back into the Pilot.

17 So -- but there are some wells
18 historically that have been completed in both
19 the Pilot and the Massive and those wells are
20 crossflow. I mean, if you leave it shut in, you
21 have -- you know, normally pressure 2,400 pounds
22 here and depending on where in the field you
23 are, you have anywhere from 300 pounds to 1,500

1 pounds here, it's going to crossflow and so
2 we're leaving that well currently shut in as
3 a -- as a crossflow well. We may at some point
4 in the future, I feel like almost certainly at
5 some point in the future, convert it to a Pilot
6 producer and attempt to -- and produce at that
7 well but for now, it's on the T and A list.
8 We're leaving it there as a crossflow well.

9 The other well was the Emma Williams
10 "B" one SWD well

11 MR. ROGERS: Jim, so are you just
12 going to take this well by well, is that --

13 MR. NIX: No, no, sir. Mr. England
14 just wanted to point out the three wells that
15 were not on last year's list that are now on
16 this year's list and explain why they were on
17 there.

18 MR. ENGLAND: Why, why, yeah.

19 MR. ROGERS: All right.

20 A. And so the Emma Williams "B" one SWD,
21 we put a rig on it. It does have some casing
22 issues and it's going to require a squeeze job.
23 We do intend to turn that well or fix that well

1 and put it back to an SWD well.

2 Q. Mr. England, I direct your attention
3 to Exhibit Number 2. It's on page 22 of the
4 exhibit book. Does Phoenix have plans for each
5 of the temporarily abandoned wells/shut-in well
6 that are listed -- that we're asking the Board
7 to consider today?

8 A. Yes. Our plans for each of these
9 wells are detailed in Exhibit 2. I'm happy to
10 talk about any one of them if you would like but
11 they're all detailed -- all of the plans are
12 detailed in Exhibit 2.

13 Q. I'll direct your attention to Exhibit
14 Number 3, which is on page 23 of the exhibit
15 book. What -- what's shown by this exhibit?

16 A. Exhibit 3 sets out their plans on the
17 temporarily abandoned and shut-in wells over the
18 next couple of years. So the same thing, our
19 plans are laid out here. I'm happy to discuss
20 any specific ones if -- if somebody would like
21 to.

22 Q. Would you discuss your plans for the
23 next couple of years -- the rest of 2024 and

1 2025 for these wells?

2 A. Yeah. So 2024, as I mentioned D-1,
3 which is one of the wells that's currently on
4 the list, we're bringing it on today. We have
5 the Barbour 16-11, which is currently on the
6 list. We expect to get it on this year in 2024
7 and then in 2025, our focus in 2025 as I talked
8 about it a minute ago is going to be
9 repressurization. So we fixed -- we fixed, you
10 know, a lot of wells and got them to get our
11 failure rate down so now we're just -- our focus
12 will be to -- our focus is going to be rate
13 restoration of the Pilot but we need water from
14 the Massive and Utah, and so there are some
15 specific projects that we want to do.

16 The Wall C-2, which was produced from
17 the Utah, we want to recomplete. We do have an
18 approved permit. There's some discussion around
19 that that's on the side but on the Wall C-3,
20 we're going to recomplete it down to the Massive
21 and then produce the Utah from the C-2 and then
22 take all of that water and move it to the south
23 side of the field to -- where the pressures are

1 the lowest pressure, repressure that up down
2 there, and then we're going to walk on that
3 Oswell 11-12 number five, which I mentioned we
4 worked on but had some casing issues.

5 We're going to work on the 10-1 -- the
6 Barbour 10-1 and the 9-16 and then we're going
7 to study the other 15 wells that make up the
8 list and make a well-by-well decision on each
9 one of them. Most of those wells -- most of
10 those wells will require fishing jobs and/or
11 squeeze work, so.

12 Q. Does Phoenix have any plans to plug
13 and abandon any wells within the next few years?

14 A. No. All of these wells have future
15 utility and it's premature to plug any of these
16 wells and it would constitute waste and the
17 reason is, if we work on a well and we detinue
18 it, we can't fix it, we will plug it but we
19 need -- we just need time to get out and look at
20 these wells and look at them because frankly,
21 the records -- the records from the prior
22 operator weren't very good and we -- when we get
23 on a well, we can figure out what's really going

1 on but we need a chance to actually put a rig on
2 it to figure out what the issues are and then
3 make a decision what to do with it going
4 forward.

5 Q. I direct your attention to Exhibits 4
6 and 5. What's shown on these two exhibits?

7 A. Exhibit 4 is a compilation of the data
8 for these wells required for the T and A shut-in
9 request questionnaires, including wellbore
10 schematics for each of the temporarily abandoned
11 and shut-in wells.

12 Q. Are the 23 wells for which we're
13 requesting temporarily abandoned status capable
14 of producing --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- other than that one well that you
17 think will be coming on today?

18 A. No. Each of the wells, we are
19 currently requesting T and A status for will
20 need a workover. As I've mentioned, most will
21 require fishing jobs. Some will require some
22 squeeze work. We need to get on each of these
23 wells with a rig and see what -- what we need to

1 do next.

2 Q. Do these 23 wells have future utility?

3 A. Yes. All of these wells -- we are
4 planning to repair 11 of these wells and place
5 them back under production. We are planning to
6 convert four of these wells for injection
7 purposes. We're planning to continue to
8 crossflow seven of these wells. Now, I do say
9 with the crossflow wells, that's going to change
10 over time, you know, we'll -- may let them
11 crossflow for a while and then eventually make
12 them an injector or producer and we're planning
13 to restore the Emma Williams "B" one SWD well to
14 an SWD well as I mentioned earlier and we're
15 planning to produce the Wall C-2 from the Utah
16 after we recomplete the Wall C-3 down to the
17 Massive.

18 Q. We've requested that the J. H. Wall
19 Estate, et al. C two well, permit number 16547
20 be classified as shut in. Is this well capable
21 of production?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Would you explain why it is not being

1 produced?

2 A. The Wall C-2, it was taken out of
3 service during April 2015 pursuant to the order
4 number 2015-33 to allow the Wall C-3 to produce
5 from the Utah Upper Tuscaloosa Sand oil pool.
6 Both of these wells are completed in the same
7 pool on the same 40-acre unit. Yeah, we would
8 love to produce both of them at the same time
9 but they're both in the same 40 acres, so that's
10 why we want to recomplete the C-3 counting to
11 the Massive so we can produce the C-2 and the
12 Utah.

13 Q. What are shown by Exhibits 5 through
14 28?

15 A. These exhibits are wellbore schematics
16 pertaining to the 24 temporary abandoned wells
17 and shut-in wells.

18 Q. Are each of the temporarily abandoned
19 and shut-in wells in safe condition and in
20 compliance with the rules and regulations of
21 this Board?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do any of these wells pose any hazard

1 to the environment in their current state?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Are the leases covering the units for
4 these wells still in force and effect?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Does Phoenix have a plugging bond on
7 file with the Board to ensure the proper
8 plugging and abandonment of these wells?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In your opinion, will the granting of
11 the relief requested in the petition filed in
12 this docket prevent the premature plugging of
13 this temporarily abandoned waste -- excuse me,
14 prevent the temporary plugging of these
15 temporarily abandoned and shut-in wells?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Will the granting of said relief
18 encourage the development, production, and
19 utilization of the natural resource of the state
20 of -- the oil and gas of the State of Alabama?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Will the granting of said relief
23 ultimately result in the recovery of more oil

1 and gas from the South Carlton Field?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Will the granting of the requested
4 relief prevent waste as defined by the Code of
5 Alabama and the rules and regulations of this
6 Board?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In your opinion, will the granting of
9 said relief safeguard, protect, and enforce the
10 correlative rights of all owners of hydrocarbons
11 in the field?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR. NIX: Mr. Rogers, that's all the
14 questions I have for this witness and I tender
15 him to the Board for further questions.

16 MR. ROGERS: Any questions from the
17 staff? Mr. Patterson.

18 MR. PATTERSON: I have two quick
19 questions. The first one is when you say when
20 you come to a well that cannot be fixed and
21 you'll P and A the well, will that be done right
22 then or later on?

23 MR. ENGLAND: It would probably --

1 that's a good question. I would say it wouldn't
2 be done right then because I'd like to probably
3 put a couple of wells together and then get out
4 some P and A work and then have them come in
5 there and do it all at one time, so I don't
6 think we would use the existing rig that we're
7 running down there to P and A that well
8 immediately. Does that make sense?

9 MR. PATTERSON: It does.

10 MR. ENGLAND: Yeah.

11 MR. PATTERSON: My second question is:
12 Looking at your plan of workover activities for
13 '23-'24, you had 22 wells listed, which are the
14 same wells that are on your '24-'25 list for
15 planned over workover activities with the
16 addition of two but you have one back on
17 production today, so that's still a negative
18 loss of one. You explained why that -- why that
19 happened and -- but you told us last year that
20 you were going to put these wells on -- that was
21 your planned workover from last year.

22 MR. ENGLAND: That's right.

23 MR. PATTERSON: Now you're saying it's

1 your plan of workover for this year.

2 MR. ENGLAND: That's right.

3 MR. PATTERSON: So just for the next
4 year, we would like to see, you know, some
5 movement on these listed --

6 MR. ENGLAND: I want to see that too
7 because I -- I mean, frankly, it's -- we need
8 the production, right. We need to make more oil
9 and if I would have not gone down, we would have
10 been making more oil than we are. Now, we did
11 add oil rate, you know, we went from 250 barrels
12 a day to 360 barrels a day, right, so we
13 definitely added oil rate in the field but we
14 did go -- basically go backward one well and I
15 completely agree. I want to see improvement
16 myself and that is our goal.

17 MR. PATTERSON: All right. Just we're
18 keeping track of these.

19 MR. ENGLAND: Yeah, I understand.

20 MR. ROGERS: Any other questions,
21 Mr. Patterson?

22 MR. PATTERSON: No, sir.

23 MR. NIX: Mr. Rogers, we would request

1 that Exhibits 1 through 28 and the prefiled
2 affidavit of this witness be received in
3 evidence as part of the record of this
4 hearing.

5 MR. ROGERS: All right. The exhibits
6 are admitted except the affidavit of notice that
7 you're going to correct. All right. The staff
8 has no -- any other questions?

9 DR. TEW: No.

10 MR. ROGERS: If the staff has no other
11 questions, then we will review the evidence and
12 make a recommendation to the Board.

13 MR. NIX: Thank you.

14 MR. ROGERS: Here, why don't you --
15 let's just do this now.

16 MR. NIX: Yeah.

17 MR. ROGERS: So if you'll put the
18 correct name and initial it.

19 MR. NIX: I'll step over there so
20 y'all can continue on.

21 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, it shouldn't
22 take -- go ahead, you can step over there. You
23 shouldn't -- we'll just wait. I won't take but

1 a second.

2 MR. NIX: Okay.

3 MR. ROGERS: Chad, I hope you can get
4 time to vote. I don't know how you're handling
5 that.

6 MR. ENGLAND: Oh, I -- I've already
7 voted.

8 MR. ROGERS: You voted absentee?

9 MR. ENGLAND: No, I -- yeah, you know,
10 early --

11 MR. ROGERS: Early voting or whatever
12 they call it.

13 MR. ENGLAND: Yes, sir, early voting,
14 no problem.

15 DR. TEW: We also wish you luck with
16 everything. We want to see you get more oil out
17 of the ground too.

18 MR. ENGLAND: Yes, sir. No, I mean,
19 it's -- I wish we spent \$2.6 million moving
20 water instead of fixing wells to be -- to be
21 frank and so I intend to the next year, you
22 know, our goal is 400, you know, over 400 at the
23 end of this year and then next year I really

1 want to focus on doing what we intend to do,
2 which is prove -- you know, frankly disprove, I
3 hope that's not the case, our reservoir thesis
4 and actually get pressure back up in the field
5 and actually waterflood this field. I mean,
6 it's been there seven years and you just don't
7 see waterfloods that are, you know, six-,
8 eight-percent oil cut. That's unheard of. It
9 doesn't happen. I mean, you know, especially
10 that late in life, it's -- there's only one
11 reason it's still there is because it's very
12 hard to operate down there, right, and you know,
13 and the people that owned it in the past but the
14 oil is there. That's not the question. It's
15 just can we economically get it out and I
16 believe we can. That's why we, you know, bought
17 the field and frankly why we spent a lot of
18 money in the field and will continue to do so.

19 MR. ROGERS: That area flooded --
20 didn't it flood this last year? I know from
21 time to time --

22 MR. ENGLAND: Yes, sir, it was
23 flooded for about --

1 MR. ROGERS: -- it floods down there
2 it's so low to the Alabama River. It's right
3 out the -- just right out there next to it,
4 isn't it?

5 MR. ENGLAND: It is. We were -- we --
6 the only time we didn't run a rig last year was
7 about a two- to three-month period from about
8 mid-January to mid-March or so off and on, we
9 didn't -- we didn't run a rig. Other than that,
10 we were working the entire time spending money,
11 you know, getting -- you know, fixing things and
12 getting the rig up and it's not -- I'm talking
13 about subsurface stuff but man, you know, I'm
14 sure you've talked to Jeremy Williams and Josh
15 Young, the inspectors out there. We have done a
16 lot of surface work and work cleaned up. I
17 mean, I mentioned this last year, we hauled 450
18 gross tons of steel out of that, you know,
19 recycled. Luckily steel was a lot higher price
20 last year and we made some money off of it.
21 It's bad now.

22 MR. ROGERS: Do y'all barge the oil
23 out, is that how you do it?

1 MR. ENGLAND: We do, yeah. We barge
2 the oil out.

3 MR. ROGERS: The barge just comes
4 right up there to the --

5 MR. ENGLAND: It comes right up the
6 river, docks. We load it on the barge and it
7 goes down. It's been a -- I mean, frankly,
8 that's been a -- our issue recently is the
9 dang -- the water level has been so low, we've
10 had, you know, as everybody knows, no rain and
11 it's --

12 MR. ROGERS: It's pretty dry up there
13 now, isn't it?

14 MR. ENGLAND: Well, it's raining this
15 week but it's been dry, dry, which is frankly
16 good for work but it's hard to barge oil
17 whenever the river -- you know, the river has
18 been very low and that's been our biggest
19 challenge. Our ultimate goal is to build a
20 trucking station and we will. I think it will
21 be -- unfortunately, I think it will be a 2026
22 project but we're going to build a trucking
23 station. We're going to pipe everything --

1 basically eliminate all the surface facilities
2 down in the field, pipe it all up out of the
3 field and truck everything out of that field and
4 completely get off of -- get off of barge. So
5 that would be a huge win in that field, so thank
6 y'all for your time.

7 MR. ROGERS: Good luck with it.

8 DR. TEW: Thank you.

9 MR. ENGLAND: Yeah.

10 MR. NIX: Mr. Rogers, Dr. Tew, and the
11 staff, I apologize again for my typographical
12 error there. I apologize to all the members for
13 holding everybody up on that. 10:30 a.m.

14 MR. ROGERS: It's fine.

15 DR. TEW: Jim, I just now realized
16 you're a human.

17 MR. ENGLAND: I'll take it out of his
18 fees.

19 MR. ROGERS: Hey, Jim, I have a change
20 in the order I might as well leave you.

21 MR. NIX: Okay. Thank you and I'll
22 make that change with the Board and lumber.

23 MR. ROGERS: Just send it back by

1 email.

2 All right. The next item then is --
3 we've got a number of items by Land and Natural
4 Resource Development, Incorporated, Item 14,
5 Docket Number 11-5-24-02.

6 MR. WATSON: Mr. Rogers, I'm Tom
7 Watson representing Land and Natural Resources.
8 In this first item, I have a witness. I'd ask
9 that he be sworn in.

10 MR. ROGERS: All right. If you'll
11 stand and state your name and address.

12 MR. SANDERS: R. G. Sanders,
13 Tuscaloosa.

14 MR. ROGERS: Raise your right hand.

15
16 R. G. SANDERS,
17 being first duly sworn, was
18 examined and testified as follows:
19

20 MR. ROGERS: Thank you.

21 MR. WATSON: Mr. Rogers, can we
22 consolidate these contiguous items for our
23 hearing purposes and I'll go through each one of

1 them?

2 MR. ROGERS: We can just -- we'll say
3 they're consolidated.

4 MR. WATSON: All right.

5 MR. ROGERS: All the land items are
6 consolidated.

7 MR. WATSON: All right.

8

9 EXAMINATION BY MR. WATSON:

10 Q. Mr. Sanders, are you familiar with the
11 petitions that we have filed on behalf of Land
12 and Natural requesting the Board to extend the
13 temporary abandonment status of several wells in
14 several fields?

15 A. Yes, I am.

16 Q. Have you appeared before this Board
17 and have you on file an affidavit of your
18 qualifications as a petroleum engineer?

19 A. I have.

20 MR. WATSON: Mr. Rogers, I tender
21 Mr. Sanders as an expert witness for giving
22 testimony in these items.

23 MR. ROGERS: He is recognized as an

1 expert.

2 Just take them one at a time, Tom, so
3 we don't get too confused.

4 MR. WATSON: Jennifer, these are the
5 original ones. They are unstapled for your
6 scanning purposes. This is the first item
7 that's unstapled. Mr. Rogers, if you would take
8 one of these and pass them down.

9 MR. ROGERS: Why don't we just do one
10 at a time, Tom, so we don't have ten pieces --

11 MR. WATSON: I'm going to do one field
12 at a time.

13 MR. ROGERS: You've got two and then
14 three here.

15 MR. WATSON: Oh, okay, hand me that
16 one back.

17 MR. ROGERS: Oh, yeah, now so we're
18 going to hand -- we'll keep -- we'll keep this
19 one and one more and we'll hand out the rest.

20 MR. WATSON: Okay, sure. Thank you.
21 You have 02; correct?

22 MR. ROGERS: We do. We have 02.

23 MR. WATSON: All right, okay.

1 MR. ROGERS: The first item -- I'll
2 just call it out -- is petition by Land and
3 Natural requesting the Board to extend the
4 temporary abandoned status for the Gardner 4-15
5 well in Yellow Creek Field.

6 Q. (By Mr. Watson) All right,
7 Mr. Sanders. I've marked as an exhibit in this
8 particular docket item that Mr. Rogers has
9 called and he's named the well, the Gardner 4-15
10 number one, in the Yellow Creek Field. What is
11 the situation with that well and why are we
12 asking it be temporarily abandoned and the
13 continuation of that matter?

14 A. Well, it's uneconomic to produce due
15 to low production rates and low prices.

16 Q. And what are your plans for this well
17 and does it have future utility, Mr. Sanders?

18 A. Future utility, it has a plug back
19 possibility for the Chandler Sand.

20 Q. Okay. And what would it take to put
21 this well back on production?

22 A. Well, we would have to recomplete into
23 the Chandler and then equip it to pump to make

1 water.

2 Q. Okay. And do you have plans for that
3 and would it be premature to plug this well,
4 Mr. Sanders?

5 A. Say it again.

6 Q. Would it be premature to plug this
7 well?

8 A. Yes, it has -- it has future utility.

9 Q. Okay. And I will ask this question
10 one time and not have to repeat it each time on
11 each well: Will the granting of this extension
12 of the TA status of this well, the Gardner 4-15
13 number one, prevent waste and protect
14 correlative rights?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And is the well in a safe condition
17 and not a threat to the environment?

18 A. It is, that's correct.

19 MR. WATSON: That's all we have on
20 this item, Mr. Rogers.

21 MR. ROGERS: We'll just go through
22 each one and see if we have questions.
23 Questions On this one, Mr. Burns?

1 Mr. McQuillan?

2 MR. MCQUILLAN: Mr. Sanders, the
3 questionnaire -- in the questionnaire you show
4 that last production was in October of 2012?

5 MR. SANDERS: Yes.

6 MR. MCQUILLAN: And what is your time
7 line to produce this well or recomplete it or
8 attempt to produce it.

9 MR. SANDERS: Well, it's on our list
10 to do and whenever we get down to it, we will.
11 I don't have a time line.

12 MR. MCQUILLAN: Nothing for sure right
13 here, yeah. So 12 years inactive, have you got
14 any clue? I mean, any -- are you thinking in
15 the next three years? Can you narrow that down?

16 MR. SANDERS: Well, I'll give you a
17 prospective date would be 2025, next year.

18 MR. MCQUILLAN: So hopefully in 2025,
19 all right. You, Terry?

20 MR. BURNS: I think for the record it
21 would be necessary to reference Exhibit 2, the
22 well inventory that was submitted on the back
23 here.

1 MR. WATSON: All right.

2 MR. BURNS: On the last page, it
3 states the summary of these statuses and it
4 shows the total of 175 wells. I just wanted to
5 point out there are 175 records that are shown
6 here but a good many of these are duplications.
7 For example, I assume this probably came from
8 our website; is that correct? If a well
9 produces -- say it's commingled, hypothetically
10 a Carter and a Lewis, when you do a -- when you
11 download, that will show the Carter as a well
12 and the Lewis as a well.

13 So just for the record, there's --
14 when it says 175 wells, that's really not 175
15 wellbores.

16 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, that is correct.

17 MR. BURNS: Okay. You don't -- do you
18 have a figure as to how many wellbores your
19 company operates?

20 MR. ROGERS: Is that something you
21 could do, Jerry, if you could make an exhibit
22 and just have just a number of wells where the
23 wellbores. That's what we're looking for on

1 that exhibit.

2 MR. SANDERS: Well, I thought we had
3 answered your question that you asked three or
4 four different times in different ways about
5 listing these wells but if there's other things
6 you need done, let us know, we'll try to go
7 through that. Of course, all of this
8 information is on y'all's website too.

9 MR. ROGERS: I know. We just -- when
10 you have a lot of wells with different
11 operators, we do like we did for Phoenix and
12 have them list -- tell us the total number of
13 wells so we have a shortcut so we'll know the
14 total number of wells, wellbores, and the other
15 information so.

16 DR. TEW: And there's an easy to do
17 that, just sort it on permit number and there
18 will be two permit numbers that are the same
19 like together and eliminate one of them.

20 MR. WATSON: Sure. If you're asking
21 for simplicity, we kind of did an overkill on
22 this exhibit; is that right, Dr. Tew?

23 DR. TEW: I was just following up on

1 what Mr. Burns said that there's an easy way to
2 sort it out.

3 MR. WATSON: Yeah.

4 MR. ROGERS: I guess you would call it
5 overkill.

6 DR. TEW: Duplications.

7 MR. WATSON: Yeah, yeah.

8 We will revise -- we will revise that
9 exhibit following your guide there, Dr. Tew, but
10 there's nothing wrong with this exhibit. It's
11 just not in the form that you want it.

12 DR. TEW: That's it.

13 MR. WATSON: And we'll --

14 DR. TEW: I'll just follow up.

15 MR. WATSON: And we'll stipulate to go
16 along with the suggestion that Mr. Burns has
17 made.

18 DR. TEW: Thank you.

19 MR. WATSON: Thank you.

20 MR. ROGERS: Anything else on this
21 item, Mr. Watson?

22 MR. WATSON: No, sir.

23 MR. ROGERS: Anything -- any other

1 questions you have?

2 MR. BURNS: No other questions.

3 MR. ROGERS: The staff will review the
4 evidence and make a recommendation to the Board.

5 The next item then is Item 15, Docket
6 Number 11-5-24-03, petition by Land and Natural
7 relating to the South Coal Fire Creek Oil Field.

8

9 EXAMINATION BY MR. WATSON:

10 Q. This petition, 11-5-24-03, is
11 requesting extension of the TA status in the
12 South Coal Fire Creek Field of the Ferguson
13 35-12 number one, Mr. Sanders. Tell us of
14 these -- tell us about the situation in this
15 well and what your plans are for this particular
16 well.

17 A. This well was drilled and logged and
18 the results from the log was suspect so its
19 completion was delayed and still is. The next
20 step we have to do is to run casing and make an
21 attempt at a completion under the Pottsville A.

22 Q. And Land and Natural has been
23 successful in going back into this Pottsville A

1 and making -- and making wells, have they not?

2 A. Yes, you have. As we've gone through
3 the years, we've learned lots of stuff about the
4 Pottsville A.

5 Q. And what is the time frame for this
6 particular well?

7 A. We'll do this in 2025.

8 MR. WATSON: All right, sir. I'd ask
9 that you receive this exhibit into the record of
10 this hearing on the South Coal Fire Creek
11 Ferguson 35-12 number one well, Mr. Rogers, and
12 tender the witness for any questions you have.

13 MR. ROGERS: All right. The exhibits
14 are admitted.

15 Any questions from the staff?

16 MR. BURNS: (Shakes head.)

17 MR. ROGERS: The staff has no more
18 questions. Anything Mr. Watson, anything else?

19 MR. WATSON: That's all.

20 MR. ROGERS: We will review the
21 evidence and make a recommendation to the Board.

22 The next item then will be, let's see,
23 Item 16, petition by Land related to McCracken

1 Mountain Field.

2 MR. WATSON: The McEvers 19-9 well in
3 McCracken Mountain Field is the subject of this
4 particular hearing.

5

6 EXAMINATION BY MR. WATSON:

7 Q. Mr. Sanders, let's look at your
8 exhibit questionnaire on the McEvers 19-9 well.

9 A. It's temporarily abandoned because
10 it's uneconomic to produce due to low production
11 rates and the price.

12 Q. Okay. And what are your plans for
13 this well for the future of this well,
14 Mr. Sanders?

15 A. We have -- it has potential for a plug
16 back to the Gilmer Sand, so that's what our plan
17 would be to move out of this on.

18 Q. All right. And what would it take to
19 put the well on production?

20 A. It will take a completion in the
21 Gilmer, which would require perforating,
22 fracking, and equipment to produce.

23 Q. And does the Gilmer have potential for

1 producing?

2 A. According to our geologist, it does.

3 Q. Okay. And when would be the time
4 frame for this work on this particular well,
5 Mr. Sanders?

6 A. 2025.

7 MR. WATSON: Okay. I submit the
8 questionnaire exhibit in this matter and submit
9 Mr. Sanders to the Board for any questions you
10 have.

11 MR. ROGERS: Any questions from the
12 staff about the well in McCracken Mountain
13 Field?

14 MR. BURNS: No.

15 MR. ROGERS: The staff has no
16 questions. We will review the evidence and make
17 a recommendation to the Board.

18 The next item then is petition by Land
19 and Natural Resource Development, Incorporated,
20 related to the Woolbank Creek Field, Item 17,
21 11-5-24-05.

22

23 EXAMINATION BY MR. SANDERS:

1 Q. Are you familiar with the Woolbank
2 Creek Field, Mr. Sanders?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. We have two wells in this field for
5 which you have submitted a questionnaire on and
6 let's take the A. R. Mack 13-12 number one well
7 first. What's the situation of this well?

8 A. Well, it's closed in. It's uneconomic
9 to produce due to low production rates and low
10 gas prices.

11 Q. Okay. And what do you have to do to
12 get this well back on production?

13 A. Well, it has plug back potential in
14 some of the Upper Pottsville Sand, which
15 according to the Oil and Gas Board, all of those
16 sands are allowed to be commingled, so it
17 requires adding some of those sands and testing
18 it.

19 Q. Okay. And when would you plan to do
20 that on this particular well?

21 A. 2025.

22 Q. All right, sir. The second well in
23 this field, Woolbank Field, is the W. B.

1 Robinson 11-15 number one. Tell us about the
2 status of that well.

3 A. It's closed in, uneconomic to produce
4 due to low production rates and gas prices.

5 Q. All right. And what is the plan for
6 this well?

7 A. It has potential plug backs into the
8 Upper Pottsville Sands, which we plan to do in
9 the year 2025.

10 MR. WATSON: All right, sir. That's
11 all we have on these two wells in the Woolbank
12 Creek Field, Mr. Rogers. Are there any
13 questions of Mr. Sanders?

14 MR. ROGERS: Any questions from the
15 staff on the Woolbank Creek wells.

16 MR. MCQUILLAN: Jerry, would that be
17 in 2025 also potentially?

18 MR. SANDERS: Yes.

19 MR. ROGERS: Mr. Burns.

20 MR. BURNS: That was my question
21 too.

22 MR. ROGERS: That's your question too,
23 okay.

1 Anything else, Mr. Watson?

2 MR. WATSON: No, sir.

3 MR. ROGERS: The exhibits are
4 admitted. The staff will review the evidence
5 and make a recommendation to the Board.

6 The next item then is Item 18, Docket
7 Number 11-5-24-06, and that is related to
8 Beaverton Field, petition by Land and Natural.

9
10 EXAMINATION BY MR. WATSON:

11 Q. There are two wells in the Beaverton
12 Field, Mr. Sanders, for which we have filed
13 questionnaires and let's go through those
14 starting with the Ogden 10-4 well. Tell us
15 about the status of that well.

16 A. The Ogden 10-4 is shut in. The
17 pipeline was disconnected by the purchaser of
18 the Northwest Gas District back a few years ago
19 when -- to put it back on production when we
20 need to combine it with the other well, install
21 compression and dehydration, and we're planning
22 to do that next year.

23 Q. Okay. And is the other well in this

1 field, the Delaney 11-5 that you referred to?

2 A. Yes, it is. They're close by
3 connected by a pipeline -- a common pipeline.

4 Q. Okay. And is this well -- you can't
5 produce the well because you don't have a
6 pipeline connection; right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. And what's the future of this well?

9 A. Connect it to -- connect it up to the
10 pipeline and continue to attempt to produce from
11 the same zone.

12 Q. What is the latest information from
13 the Northwest Alabama Gas District as to when
14 they might be connecting these wells?

15 A. They're waiting on us.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. They're ready for us to hook it up
18 again but they want both wells commingled -- not
19 commingled but combined so that there would be
20 one meter station servING both of them.

21 Q. So would we have to come to this Board
22 in order to commingle the production from those
23 wells?

1 A. No, it won't be commingled. It will
2 just be a single -- a sales point.

3 Q. A single sales point?

4 A. The wells would be monitored -- they
5 will be measured separately.

6 Q. All right. That was my point getting
7 to that point. So you can produce both wells to
8 a single sales point and allocate to each well
9 and the unit thereof the production from those
10 wells, thus protecting the coequal and
11 correlative rights -- when I say coequal -- the
12 correlative rights of those owners in those two
13 units; correct?

14 A. Correct, yes.

15 Q. And when might that occur,
16 Mr. Sanders?

17 A. Do that in year 2025.

18 MR. WATSON: All right. I have no
19 further questions of this witness on this item,
20 Mr. Rogers. I tender him for questions.

21 MR. ROGERS: Any questions about the
22 Ogden and Delaney wells? It's good news that
23 you're going to be able to produce those wells.

1 MR. WATSON: Yes. He said good news
2 if you're going to be able to produce those
3 wells.

4 MR. SANDERS: Hey, man, both of those
5 wells made lots of gas and there's still gas
6 there. I think we should.

7 MR. ROGERS: Just as an aside, we --
8 for about two years, we heard plenty about the
9 Ogden family and the Delaney wells. That was
10 the ones that Local and Steve Lewis family
11 owned.

12 MR. WATSON: Yes, yes.

13 MR. ROGERS: And we got to know a lot
14 of the Ogden family --

15 MR. WATSON: Yes.

16 MR. ROGERS: -- involved in that.

17 MR. WATSON: Yes.

18 MR. ROGERS: They're not hard to find.
19 Anything else, Mr. Watson?

20 MR. WATSON: No, sir.

21 MR. ROGERS: We will review the
22 evidence and make a recommendation to the Board.

23 The next item then would be Item 19,

1 Docket Number 11-5-24-07 and that relates to
2 Coal Fire Creek Field. Mr. Watson.

3 MR. WATSON: Let me find my separating
4 sheet.

5

6 EXAMINATION BY MR. WATSON:

7 Q. Mr. Sanders, we have one well in the
8 Coal Fire Creek Field for which we're asking for
9 temporary abandonment status and that's the
10 Shelton 17-8 number one well. What's the
11 situation of this well?

12 A. This well has been shut in because of
13 excess water production and also the pipeline
14 was broke in between it and the 12 point, we've
15 got to have that fixed, in an attempt to put the
16 well back on.

17 Q. How much gas has that well produced,
18 Mr. Sanders?

19 A. Four -- four billion feet.

20 Q. Four billion cubic feet of gas?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So it's safe to say that this well may
23 have other potential to produce more gas?

1 A. Yes, it does.

2 Q. Okay. And you are awaiting a pipeline
3 connection before you put that on. So what's
4 the determining factor as to when that pipeline
5 will be corrected in order to produce this well?

6 A. Well, it's just a matter of us
7 connecting it back to the pipeline. We will do
8 that next year.

9 Q. All right, sir. Even at these low gas
10 prices -- at that -- at those volumes, that's an
11 attractive well, is it not?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR. WATSON: I have no further
14 questions of this witness on this item,
15 Mr. Rogers. I tender him.

16 MR. ROGERS: Any questions from the
17 staff about the Coal Fire Creek Field well?

18 MR. MCQUILLAN: No.

19 MR. ROGERS: No questions. We will
20 review the evidence and make a recommendation to
21 the Board.

22 I'll just note that all the exhibits
23 that have been submitted on all the Land items

1 have been admitted and are admitted.

2 The next item then is Item 20, Docket
3 Number 11-05-24-08, related to McGee Lake Field.

4

5 EXAMINATION BY MR. WATSON:

6 Q. Mr. Sanders, McGee Lake Field has one
7 well that we're asking for TA status on. That's
8 the J. A. Stacy 19-13 number one. What's the
9 situation with the Stacy well?

10 A. Well, the Stacy well is going to
11 require some compression to put it back online
12 and that will be something we'll schedule to do
13 next year.

14 Q. Okay. Just putting a compressor on
15 the line?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And that's the only thing? The
18 pipeline is connected?

19 A. Yes, that's right.

20 Q. All right. So this well has future
21 utility and future economic benefits to all
22 parties as soon as that compressor can be put in
23 place; correct?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. And again, when do you plan to put
3 that compressor in?

4 A. 2025.

5 MR. WATSON: All right. I have
6 nothing further on this item, Mr. Rogers.

7 DR. TEW: Mr. Sanders, just a question
8 for clarification here on cumulative production,
9 you said 11.7 BCF; is that right?

10 MR. ROGERS: Wow.

11 MR. SANDERS: And there's a
12 considerable amount left.

13 MR. WATSON: That was the previous
14 well, Dr. Tew.

15 DR. TEW: What's that?

16 MR. WATSON: That was the previous
17 well. This well --

18 MR. BURNS: The Stacy?

19 MR. WATSON: The Stacy.

20 DR. TEW: The Stacy -- I'm looking at
21 the Stacy.

22 MR. WATSON: Oh, okay. I'm sorry,
23 11.7.

1 DR. TEW: 11.7 BCF.

2 MR. WATSON: The other one was BCFs
3 too.

4 MR. MCQUILLAN: I believe this well
5 set a record for North Alabama -- highest
6 producing gas well in North Alabama.

7 MR. WATSON: He said the highest
8 producing gas well in North Alabama.

9 MR. SANDERS: Yes, uh-huh. There's
10 got to be some left.

11 MR. ROGERS: Do you know this, Jerry,
12 back when we had those P over Zs, so I guess
13 when it was -- when the bottomhole pressures and
14 the estimated production must have been off the
15 chart. Do you know what it's -- what does it
16 anticipate originally to produce? Do you have
17 any idea?

18 MR. SANDERS: No, I have no idea. I
19 don't -- I didn't review that to see.

20 MR. ROGERS: That's all right. I was
21 just curious. It's a remarkable well, isn't it?

22 Anything else?

23 (No response.)

1 MR. ROGERS: The staff will review the
2 evidence and make a recommendation to the Board.

3 MR. WATSON: Referencing that P over Z
4 and process that we go about in setting the
5 allowables in North Alabama, it's sad to report
6 that the engineer that put forth that position,
7 Wayne Stafford, has left us, has passed away.

8 MR. ROGERS: I didn't know that.

9 DR. TEW: Oh, no.

10 MR. ROGERS: When was that, Tom?

11 MR. WATSON: Last -- earlier this year
12 or late --

13 MR. ROGERS: I guess maybe we did hear
14 about that.

15 DR. TEW: I didn't know that.

16 MR. ROGERS: Brilliant man, wasn't he?

17 MR. WATSON: He was.

18 MR. ROGERS: Pleasure to be around,
19 too.

20 All right. Let's see, that brings us
21 to Item 21, Docket Number 11-5-24-09, petition
22 by Land. This relates to the big unit Chicken
23 Swamp Branch Oil Unit. Mr. Watson.

1 Do you have copies, Tom, from 21,
2 yeah?

3 MR. WATSON: Chicken Swamp Branch.

4 MR. ROGERS: Take your time. We've
5 got plenty of paper up here.

6 MR. WATSON: Mr. McQuillan, that's my
7 point.

8 MR. MCQUILLAN: I see.

9 MR. WATSON: I trust that you would
10 cherish this paper and the love that was put in
11 it putting it together.

12 MR. ROGERS: East Alabama produces a
13 lot of paper. We're keeping our paper mills
14 busy.

15 MR. WATSON: On my birthday in 2017,
16 the Board promulgated the order unitizing
17 Chicken Swamp Branch. Here is that order.
18 That -- many of these wells in this petition
19 today are within the unit boundaries of this
20 field or this unit. The unit participation
21 factor approved for Chicken Swamp Branch is a
22 two-point factor: Poor volume and productivity
23 or production over a given period of time. Each

1 well in this unit is allocated a participation
2 factor, okay. Now, if we start plugging wells
3 inside this unit boundary, we change the
4 participation factors.

5 MR. ROGERS: I don't know, Tom, about
6 that. Who set it up? Wells get plugged. That
7 doesn't affect what each tract gets.

8 MR. WATSON: What do we do? Well,
9 okay, all right. I'm glad you stated that on
10 the record.

11 MR. ROGERS: It's good to state that
12 on the record.

13 MR. WATSON: So we do not have to do a
14 redetermination if we plug a well inside this
15 unit.

16 MR. ROGERS: That's right. That's the
17 last thing we'd want to do is reduce the tract's
18 interest because the well got plugged.

19 MR. WATSON: That's right. That's
20 right, so we're not advocating that. I just
21 wanted to point that out and let us all know
22 what's going on here, okay.

23 MR. ROGERS: That's right. The well

1 gets plugged in the unit. It doesn't change the
2 tract participation, good point.

3 MR. WATSON: All right. If it -- if
4 it did, we would have to do a redetermination
5 each time we plugged a well; right?

6 Okay. We have many wells -- 26 wells
7 to go through. We'll try to be as brief as we
8 possibly can and so just stop us if you have a
9 question.

10 MR. ROGERS: Proceed is I guess what
11 we'll say.

12

13 EXAMINATION BY MR. WATSON:

14 Q. The first of these wells, Mr. Sanders,
15 is the Windham 35-6 number two -- excuse me,
16 number two well. What's the situation with that
17 well?

18 A. It's shut in awaiting response to
19 secondary recovery.

20 Q. All right. And that's because your --
21 the order that I just held up was -- allowed
22 water injection and gas injection as a secondary
23 recovery mechanism for this field; correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Is this well in a situation -- is this
3 well configured and in a situation to detect the
4 water front or the gas injection as to when it
5 may be able to produce?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And do you have any estimate as
8 to when this repressurization front will reach
9 this well?

10 A. I do not.

11 Q. Okay. But this well has future
12 utility because it's part of the unit and it's
13 benefiting from the water and possibly gas
14 injection at some point --

15 A. Right.

16 Q. -- in accordance with that order?

17 A. Within a waterflood situation, of
18 course it does.

19 Q. Sure.

20 The next well is the Grace 35-3 number
21 three well. What's the situation with this
22 well, Mr. Sanders?

23 A. It's shut in awaiting response from

1 our secondary recovery effort.

2 Q. All right, sir. And the Grace 35-2
3 number two well?

4 A. Same situation.

5 Q. Awaiting response from secondary
6 recovery operation; correct?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And the Homan-Hagler 1-4 number one
9 well?

10 A. Well, it's -- it's shut in awaiting
11 response.

12 Q. All right. Do you have to change any
13 equipment on this well, Mr. Sanders?

14 A. Yes. It has -- has a hydraulic pump
15 installed. That would have to be changed out to
16 a rod pump.

17 Q. Oh, okay, all right. And again, as
18 you say, the well is awaiting response from the
19 waterflood?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. The Windham 35-10 number one well,
22 what's the situation with that?

23 A. It's closed in awaiting response to

1 the water injection.

2 Q. All right, sir. And the Cherie Reese
3 3-1 number one well?

4 A. It's -- it's being used as an
5 observation well. It's the most down dip well
6 in the field and that's kept -- kept in order to
7 monitor bottomhole pressure that far into the
8 field.

9 Q. All right, okay. The Windham 35-8
10 number two well?

11 A. It's shut in awaiting response from
12 water injection.

13 Q. All right, sir. The Elliott 26-14
14 number two well?

15 A. Shut in awaiting response to the water
16 injection.

17 Q. The Holloway 2-2 number two well?

18 A. It's shut in awaiting response to the
19 secondary recovery effort.

20 Q. All right, sir. The Windham 35-12
21 number one well?

22 A. Shut in awaiting response to the water
23 injection.

1 Q. The Swedenburg 27-7 number one well?

2 A. Shut in awaiting response to water and
3 gas injection.

4 Q. All right. The Keating 35-16 number
5 one well?

6 A. It's shut in awaiting response to the
7 secondary recovery effort.

8 Q. The Newman White 2-7 number one well?

9 A. It's shut in awaiting response to the
10 secondary recovery effort.

11 Q. The Prater 27-4 number one well?

12 A. It's shut in awaiting response to the
13 secondary recovery effort.

14 Q. The Prater 27-10 number two well?

15 A. Shut in awaiting response to the
16 secondary recovery effort.

17 Q. The Prater 27-11 number one well?

18 A. It's shut in awaiting response to the
19 secondary recovery effort.

20 Q. The Richards 34-1 number one?

21 A. Shut in awaiting response to secondary
22 recovery effort.

23 Q. The Weyerhaeuser 28-8 number one?

1 A. Shut in awaiting response to secondary
2 recovery.

3 Q. The Bishop 35-15 number one well?

4 A. Shut in awaiting response to secondary
5 recovery.

6 Q. The Parham 26-16 -- the Parham 26-15
7 number one well?

8 A. That's not a unit well I don't think,
9 is it?

10 Q. No, that's a -- that's a wildcat
11 well -- the southwest quarter of the southeast
12 quarter of Section 28 Township 18 South Range 15
13 West.

14 MR. ROGERS: Which well is that,
15 Mr. Watson?

16 MR. WATSON: That's the Parham 26-15
17 number one well.

18 MR. ROGERS: Okay.

19 MR. WATSON: Okay.

20 A. Well, now it's uneconomic to produce
21 because of low rates.

22 Q. So what are your plans for that well,
23 Mr. Sanders?

1 A. That's being evaluated. It's -- we've
2 just drilled a new well in that same reservoir,
3 so depending on the results for that, we might
4 either re-enter this one or put it back on
5 production.

6 Q. So what is that -- what is that well
7 producing? What zone is it producing from?

8 A. It's Pottsville A.

9 Q. Pottsville A?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. So if the nearby well that has just
12 been drilled is productive to the Pottsville A
13 formation, would you -- you're telling the staff
14 that you would be looking at re-completing this
15 well in the Pottsville A?

16 A. It's in the Pottsville A already.
17 It's -- we considered putting it back on
18 production based on what we see from the new
19 well.

20 Q. Okay. And give us a time frame for
21 all of those events to fall into place.

22 A. The new well has just been drilled, so
23 in 2025.

1 Q. Okay. Do you know the -- remember the
2 name of that new well?

3 A. It's the Parham 23-15 number one, I
4 believe.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. It's an active well.

7 Q. All right, sir. The Windham 35-7
8 number two well? That's a unit --

9 A. The Windham 35-7 number two is a gas
10 injection well.

11 Q. And it's in the unit?

12 A. It is in the unit.

13 Q. All right. And it's being kept to
14 inject gas or is it present --

15 A. Yeah. Right now it's not been used
16 but the potential is it will be reinstated as a
17 gas injection well.

18 Q. That's because of its location in the
19 unit and its particular situation?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Okay. Near a -- is it a gas cap in
22 Chicken Swamp Branch?

23 A. There was -- we speculate that

1 there was a small one.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. And this should have -- this would be
4 in it.

5 Q. Would be in the gas cap so that any
6 gas injection would just repressure the gas cap,
7 thus pushing the oil down to the wellbores;
8 right?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. The Sanford 2-3 number one well?

11 A. It's awaiting response to secondary
12 recovery.

13 Q. It's a unit well, yes, sir.

14 The Keating 35-9 number one well is in
15 the unit. What's the situation on the Keating?

16 A. It's a gas -- this has been a gas
17 injection well and eventually will be put back
18 on as a gas injection well.

19 Q. Okay. And what's the source of the
20 gas from the gas injection well?

21 A. Well, that is unknown at this time.
22 Right now we don't have any gas to inject.

23 Q. Okay, all right. So should you

1 encounter a well in this further development
2 that has gas to produce, rather than selling
3 that gas --

4 A. Well, it's connected to our pipeline
5 so we can backflow gas over there.

6 Q. Oh, okay.

7 A. But we've got to have a source for it
8 though.

9 Q. Okay, all right. The Taylor 2-6
10 number one well, that's a unit well?

11 A. It's awaiting response to waterflood.

12 Q. All right, sir. And that's -- that's
13 all of the wells in the Chicken Swamp Branch,
14 Mr. Sanders.

15 A. Do we have a count? I counted 15 and
16 17, I think.

17 Q. All right. Whatever it is, it is.

18 A. Right.

19 Q. The number of wells that we've just
20 testified to.

21 A. Of all the wells we've got that we
22 operate, there's 37 of them that's on TA status
23 at this point in time after these are done.

1 Seventeen of them are at Chicken Swamp.

2 MR. WATSON: Okay. That's the kind of
3 information Dr. Tew is referring to that they
4 want in our well inventory. I have no further
5 questions on Chicken Swamp Branch.

6 MR. ROGERS: Any questions from the
7 staff about this unit and the field?
8 Mr. McQuillan.

9 MR. MCQUILLAN: Mr. Sanders, I
10 don't -- I don't mean to catch you off guard
11 here but do you have like a ballpark figure of
12 your daily injection volumes?

13 MR. SANDERS: They're not any water or
14 gas -- gas injection right now is not in effect.
15 We're not putting any gas in the ground right
16 now.

17 MR. MCQUILLAN: Okay. Yeah, you
18 stated --

19 MR. SANDERS: Water injection is
20 approximately 200 barrels a day.

21 MR. MCQUILLAN: And what kind of
22 pressure are you injecting that in?

23 MR. SANDERS: Well, the injection

1 wells are on the back end.

2 MR. MCQUILLAN: Back end, okay. And
3 how many injection wells in the unit do you
4 have?

5 MR. SANDERS: We have two water and
6 two gas.

7 MR. MCQUILLAN: Thank you.

8 Is that two gas, that's including the
9 two you're asking for TA status; right?

10 MR. SANDERS: The two gas -- the two
11 gas injection wells were in the TA list.

12 MR. MCQUILLAN: Right. Okay, right.

13 MR. GREGORY: So what is the source of
14 the water injection?

15 MR. SANDERS: It's produced water from
16 the field. We are injecting all of the field
17 water from any of our wells connected around
18 there.

19 MR. GREGORY: So you don't have any
20 makeup water?

21 MR. SANDERS: We have makeup water
22 from some fresh water wells we drilled but
23 they're not very effective.

1 MR. GREGORY: So I guess I have to ask
2 the question: Your response to a lot of these
3 wells was we're awaiting response of waterflood,
4 so if you don't ever put any -- put more water
5 into the ground than you produce, then how are
6 you going to see any response?

7 MR. SANDERS: We'll have to wait and
8 see, I guess. I mean, the waterflood is not --
9 not 100-percent effective all over the field.
10 It's effective in some wells, so we put 200
11 barrels of water in the ground and you have an
12 effect on a well, you know, three or four
13 locations over, it affects it and it could
14 affect any of these. This is not -- this is not
15 a repressurization.

16 MR. WATSON: It's a sweep.

17 MR. GREGORY: Sort of contrary to
18 your --

19 MR. SANDERS: I don't know what it is
20 really.

21 MR. GREGORY: -- to your testimony but
22 okay.

23 MR. SANDERS: Well, you find out --

1 you find out about your reservoir when you
2 inject water and see where it comes out and
3 we've had numerous wells that have responded to
4 the water injection that's not directly or not
5 right next to the injection wells, so.

6 MR. GREGORY: I think we'll have to go
7 back to when the field was unitized, I think the
8 testimony at that time was -- would be that the
9 reservoir is losing pressure, you're taking out
10 more than you're putting back in so -- and then
11 a lot of your responses to these TA requests was
12 that you're awaiting response of the waterflood.
13 So again, my conclusion is that if you don't
14 ever put more water in than you take out, then
15 you're not going to see any response, so we'll
16 go back to why the field was originally
17 unitized.

18 MR. SANDERS: Well, my question is why
19 not.

20 MR. WATSON: But Mr. Gregory --

21 Q. (By Mr. Watson) Mr. Sanders, how much
22 water is the unit producing?

23 A. Probably 150 barrels a day.

1 Q. So you're not disposing of any of that
2 water, you're putting all of the water back in
3 the reservoir; right?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. The point Mr. Gregory I think is
6 making is that's a 50-barrel differential. You
7 don't have any plans to build any source wells
8 or not oil and gas related for water input?

9 A. We drilled two freshwater wells on the
10 site of the injection wells but we've had poor
11 results from those and so as a result, we have
12 not had any extra makeup water.

13 Q. So is it your plan to try to find some
14 water sources in the area of the field so that
15 you can add to the water that's being injected
16 in the secondary recovery program?

17 A. We're perfectly satisfied with what
18 we're doing right now because we are maintaining
19 some evidence of pressure in the field and so
20 for us to spend any more money on injection or
21 find an injection water is not economic for us.

22 MR. WATSON: Okay.

23 MR. GREGORY: Thank you.

1 MR. MCQUILLAN: Mr. Sanders, just to
2 extend from that, I believe the original
3 testimony for the unit was to inject gas but
4 you're not doing that, so --

5 MR. SANDERS: That's right.

6 MR. MCQUILLAN: -- can you briefly
7 state why you discontinued that or never
8 started?

9 MR. SANDERS: Well, it was an economic
10 situation. First off, we didn't have any gas to
11 inject. There was no way to get it over there.
12 It is connected to the pipeline but the Gordo
13 facility where our pipeline terminates is
14 delivering three million a day to Southern
15 Natural and at one time, we were injecting a
16 million a day and we don't have the facilities
17 to move it back over there to inject it. It's
18 an economic situation.

19 If you're buying gas at \$4 and
20 spending a dollar to move it back over there,
21 well, it's not economic to do that at this
22 point. It could be -- in the future, it will
23 be. If we had some gas wells along the system

1 that would produce, that would be different. At
2 one time we didn't -- we did have, got three of
3 those Magna Creek wells that were good producers
4 and they were connected into our system and --
5 but they have declined over the years and so
6 it's not available right now.

7 MR. MCQUILLAN: You stated that the
8 water injection wasn't as -- from my own hearing
9 that it wasn't as successful as you had hoped
10 the water injection.

11 MR. SANDERS: Well, I think it has
12 been. It's the main thing for field
13 production -- productive.

14 MR. MCQUILLAN: Okay. So -- but you
15 don't have a source of water to inject more?

16 MR. SANDERS: Other than the field --
17 well, we're -- we're bringing all the water that
18 Land operates to the field when it comes but not
19 a lot though.

20 MR. MCQUILLAN: I see.

21 MR. WATSON: Mr. McQuillan, you can
22 correct me if I'm wrong but I think that the
23 order approved both gas and water injection in

1 this field.

2 MR. MCQUILLAN: Right, that's what I'm
3 getting at. Why -- I think you did start some
4 gas injection at one time.

5 MR. SANDERS: We did.

6 MR. WATSON: Yes.

7 MR. MCQUILLAN: What did you find out,
8 it wasn't -- it wasn't affecting it?

9 MR. SANDERS: No. We had some good
10 response from gas injection but the point was we
11 ran out of gas to inject.

12 MR. MCQUILLAN: Okay.

13 MR. SANDERS: It was an economic
14 situation as it affects everything. The
15 economic does play a role.

16 MR. MCQUILLAN: I was getting the
17 impression that perhaps the water wasn't as
18 effective because it didn't have the
19 permeability you needed but then gas you would
20 think would help in that case, you just don't
21 have the gas.

22 MR. SANDERS: Well, according to
23 bottomhole pressure records, the gas injection

1 was working.

2 MR. MCQUILLAN: Okay. Butch, any
3 other questions?

4 MR. ROGERS: No other questions? Go
5 ahead.

6 MR. GREGORY: I guess, yeah, for the
7 record, I just want to clear up, you know, if --
8 again, a lot of the responses were you're
9 waiting -- you're awaiting response from the
10 waterflood and my point being from a reservoir
11 engineering standpoint, if you never put more
12 water in it than you take out, then you won't
13 ever see a response and you won't ever -- you
14 won't ever increase your bottomhole pressure.

15 MR. SANDERS: Well, I dispute that,
16 Butch, because you do see some response. It may
17 not be overall in the field but it is helping
18 some of the wells; right?

19 MR. WATSON: They have the records.
20 He can answer that question. He's not on the
21 stand but he would acknowledge that your
22 statement would be true.

23 MR. MCQUILLAN: I'm assuming you're

1 saying there is a -- you're seeing an effect in
2 the wells near where -- the injection wells but
3 not overall in the field?

4 MR. SANDERS: That's correct.

5 MR. MCQUILLAN: Okay.

6 MR. SANDERS: You know, selective
7 wells around the injection well have shown
8 response. Average production from the field is
9 probably five barrels a day or two barrels for
10 the wells that are producing and some of these
11 that are closer to the injection wells are at 15
12 barrels a day, so I mean, it's obvious that they
13 are helping that situation.

14 MR. MCQUILLAN: And one last question:
15 Is that your continued plan for 2025, the status
16 quo?

17 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, we're continuing
18 to operate like we're doing, yes.

19 MR. GREGORY: Again, my -- to clarify
20 what I'm trying to say for the record: This
21 hearing is to determine TA status, you know,
22 what the status is for these -- these wells that
23 are inactive, so -- but -- but the testimony is

1 you're awaiting response from the waterflood, so
2 again, those wells that are producing you may
3 see a response but these wells right here that I
4 don't think you'll ever see a response unless
5 you put more water in than you take out.

6 MR. WATSON: Well, that's always an
7 option, yes, sir. We understand that.

8 MR. SANDERS: Are you suggesting we
9 should plug all these wells?

10 MR. WATSON: No, he's not suggesting
11 that at all.

12 MR. SANDERS: I know he's not because
13 that's a unit. (Inaudible due to crosstalk.)

14 MR. GREGORY: I'm not suggesting
15 that --

16 MR. SANDERS: We're not considering
17 plugging these wells.

18 MR. GREGORY: What I'm suggesting is
19 is that we do a proper waterflood but.

20 MR. SANDERS: Well, it could be.
21 Maybe somebody one of these days will come out
22 there and do a proper one but we're doing all we
23 can do right now.

1 MR. GREGORY: Okay, thank you.

2 MR. ROGERS: Okay. Any more questions
3 on that Chicken Swamp Branch?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. ROGERS: The next one -- the last
6 one is Item 22. This involves the wildcat
7 wells, I believe, 11-05-24-10.

8 MR. WATSON: Mr. Rogers, these next
9 wells, the three wells that we'll name, are
10 wildcat wells in Pickens County.

11 MR. ROGERS: Yes, sir.

12

13 EXAMINATION BY MR. WATSON:

14 Q. The first one is the Leslie Williamson
15 1-5 number three. Mr. Sanders, tell us the
16 situation of that well.

17 A. That well was drilled and cased down
18 to 1,400 foot intermediate strength and drilled
19 all the way down through the Pottsville A Sand.
20 The Pottsville A Sand appeared to be wet when we
21 drilled it and when we logged it, it shows
22 potential, so its situation right now is that
23 we're waiting to determine whether or not to run

1 casing and to complete the well in the
2 Pottsville A.

3 Q. Okay. And when do you anticipate
4 doing that, Mr. Sanders?

5 A. 2025.

6 Q. All right, sir. The next well is the
7 Joe Cook 27-12 number two well. As again it's a
8 wildcat well. What's the situation of that
9 well?

10 A. It's shut in. It's not -- it's
11 uneconomic to produce from the zone. It's
12 producing from it right now but it does have
13 potential to go back to the Pottsville A Sand.

14 Q. Okay. And what would you have to do
15 to produce the Pottsville A Sand in that
16 wellbore?

17 A. You would have to squeeze the existing
18 zone off and then go back and perforate and frac
19 the lower -- the Pottsville A, which is lower.

20 Q. Okay. And do you have a time frame
21 for that, Mr. Sanders?

22 A. 2025.

23 Q. And the last of the wildcats is the

1 Winters 19-5 number one well. What's the
2 situation of that well?

3 A. It's capable of production but at high
4 water rates and I guess we could use the water
5 over in Chicken Swamp Branch if we could get it
6 over there.

7 Q. Okay. And what -- what zone has a
8 potential in that wellbore, Mr. Sanders?

9 A. It's producing from the Pottsville A.

10 Q. Okay. And do you have another zone
11 that has potential in that well?

12 A. Our geologist says that the Mason Sand
13 is -- should be productive, so we may attempt
14 that.

15 Q. Okay. So what -- what are the plans
16 for this well other than the production or the
17 lack thereof from the Pottsville A, what are the
18 plans for the Mason Sand?

19 A. It will be attempted next year.

20 MR. WATSON: All right. Now, any
21 questions on these wells -- these wildcat wells?

22 MR. ROGERS: Any questions on these
23 three wells from the staff?

1 DR. TEW: No.

2 MR. ROGERS: No questions.

3 Q. (By Mr. Watson) Mr. Sanders, I'm
4 going to ask you since we consolidated all of
5 these items for hearing purposes and before we
6 close down: Are these wells that you've just
7 described, do these wells have potential or
8 future utility for your company?

9 A. They do, every one.

10 Q. Are these wells assets for your
11 company, meaning they have potential for revenue
12 production?

13 A. They do.

14 Q. Okay. Are any of these wells in an
15 unsafe condition?

16 A. No, they are not. They are all in
17 good condition.

18 Q. And are all of these wells in
19 compliance with the Board's rules and
20 regulations?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And would the status that we're
23 requesting, the temporary abandonment status of

1 these wells, protect the correlative rights of
2 both the operator and the royalty interest
3 owners and the State through its severance tax
4 collections?

5 A. Yes, they would.

6 MR. WATSON: I tender the witness for
7 any questions -- further questions that you have
8 from this witness.

9 MR. ROGERS: All of the exhibits
10 submitted by Land are admitted.

11 First I'm just going to mention that
12 we -- the Oil and Gas Board, the staff, we're
13 all pleased as can be that you continue to
14 operate wells, Jerry, because you now operate as
15 many wells as anybody in the State outside of
16 the coalbed methane area and you are pretty much
17 the only game in town in Northwest Alabama
18 except for Buddy Simonis so far as I know.

19 MR. MCQUILLAN: Jebsco.

20 MR. ROGERS: Jebsco, there are a few
21 others. We did note, however, that there were
22 five wells that had -- that were -- hadn't
23 produced in more than ten years. Frequently,

1 when that comes up, we raise those issues with
2 other operators when you have wells that hadn't
3 produced in so long because you question whether
4 they have any potential, and you know, we don't
5 want to have so many wells that -- that -- just
6 if wells are due to be plugged, they ought to be
7 plugged.

8 Any thoughts about plugging any wells
9 that you operate, Mr. Sanders, with Land and
10 Natural?

11 MR. SANDERS: Well, we've been
12 discussing with y'all some of those.

13 MR. ROGERS: That's right. We've been
14 discussing this.

15 MR. SANDERS: It's quite a bit of
16 expense to plug a well in the Warrior Basin is
17 excessive compared to what it needs to be, so we
18 would like to enjoin y'all in some discussion
19 about what rules we need to change so we can
20 plug these wells economically because it doesn't
21 make any sense to go spend \$35,000 to go plug a
22 well which has some potential use when you could
23 if you're -- if you weren't required to plug

1 them, you could do it for, like, 10,000 or
2 12,000.

3 MR. ROGERS: What would be the
4 simplest way to save money in plugging the well?

5 MR. SANDERS: The biggest expense of
6 plugging right now is the cementing cost and
7 right now the procedures require about three
8 plugs -- three or four plugs to be set inside
9 four -- inside your production stream and -- but
10 anyway, we'll carry on that discussion with
11 Butch later.

12 MR. ROGERS: All right. Well, we
13 appreciate your cooperation.

14 MR. SANDERS: By the way, for the
15 record, Land has probably plugged more wells in
16 the State of Alabama than anybody. Don't forget
17 Moundville.

18 MR. ROGERS: That's true. I forgot
19 about Moundville.

20 DR. TEW: I remember Moundville
21 well.

22 MR. SANDERS: So do I.

23 DR. TEW: That one was in my lap when

1 I came into this job.

2 MR. ROGERS: All right. Anything
3 else?

4 MR. WATSON: That's all we have.

5 MR. ROGERS: We will review the
6 evidence and make a recommendation to the Board
7 on all of those items.

8 The next item then is Item 23, Docket
9 Number 11-5-24-11, petition by Alog, LLC.

10 MR. WATSON: Mr. Rogers, there are two
11 wells in this petition for Alog, LLC -- the
12 Appleton 2-16 number one well and the D. W.
13 McMillan number five saltwater disposal well in
14 Escambia County in the Appleton Field unit.

15 As you have heard from me before
16 today, the operator, Alog, plans to plug these
17 wells within the next 12 months and I should say
18 as Mr. -- the operator tells me unless oil jumps
19 to over \$100 a barrel, we will get these wells
20 plugged within the next 12 months. Otherwise,
21 we would come back and ask for relief if we
22 don't see oil going over \$100 a barrel in the
23 next 12 months but let's -- you would not want

1 us to plug wells that are producing anyway if
2 they are making that kind of money but anyway,
3 the -- both of those wells are scheduled to be
4 and will be plugged.

5 Roger Chapman pointed out to me that
6 we are facing the holiday season and the rig
7 that he has to get to plug these wells will not
8 be available until after the first of the year,
9 so if we said we were going to plug it at such
10 and such time, we have to take into account when
11 he can get the rig but within the 12-month
12 period and earlier on rather than later on
13 they're planning to plug these two wells.

14 MR. ROGERS: All right.

15 MR. WATSON: So I submit the affidavit
16 of testimony that I prefiled for Roger Chapman,
17 who is qualified as a petroleum geologist before
18 this Board who has on file an affidavit of his
19 qualifications as a petroleum geologist and is,
20 in fact, the operating executive by Alog, LLC.
21 I'd ask that you receive that into the record,
22 Mr. Rogers.

23 MR. ROGERS: All right. So we'll

1 admit into the record the affidavit of
2 publication, Exhibit A; Exhibit B is the
3 affidavit of testimony; and then attached to
4 Exhibit B, the affidavit, are Exhibits 1 and 2,
5 so all of those exhibits are admitted.

6 MR. WATSON: Yes, sir, thank you.

7 MR. ROGERS: Anything else,
8 Mr. Watson?

9 MR. WATSON: No, sir.

10 MR. ROGERS: The staff will review the
11 evidence and make a recommendation to the Board.

12 Item 24, Docket Number 11-5-24-12,
13 petition by Natural Gas and Oil, Incorporated.

14 MR. TYRA: Mr. Rogers, would you swear
15 me in, please, sir.

16 MR. ROGERS: Stand and state your name
17 and address.

18 MR. TYRA: I'm John Tyra, 3496 Fire
19 Thorn Lane, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

20

21 JOHN TYRA,

22 being first duly sworn, was

23 examined and testified as follows:

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MR. TYRA: Mr. Rogers and Dr. Tew and staff, this is Docket Number 11-05-24-12, which is a request by Natural Gas and Oil to approve a temporary abandoned status for a well in the McGee Lake Field in Lamar County, that well being the Ellen Rogers 25-1 number one well. I am an attorney in Alabama, have been practicing here for about 43 years and have been representing Natural Gas and Oil for, gosh, 30 of those 43 years, so Phil Newton has previously filed the TA request and let me just sort of tell you what's going on here.

This Ellen Rogers 25-1 number one well, which is permit number 2976, is located in the north half of Section 25, Township 16 South, Range 16 West, in the McGee Lake Field, which is in Lamar County. Last year on March 13th, 2023, that well received a shut-in status for one year and of course, that year has -- has passed. Natural Gas and Oil is requesting a temporary abandoned status for the well for an additional one-year period.

1 Now, the Ellen Rogers 25-1 number one
2 well produced from the Carter Sand oil pool and
3 it has potential for other uphole sands,
4 specifically Mr. Newton would like to test the
5 Pottsville A Sand before making a decision
6 whether to -- to plug this well or not for its
7 potential future utility. They intend -- he
8 intends to test the well in the Pottsville A and
9 recomplete it if it's productive and if not,
10 then this well will be plugged and abandoned.

11 At this point, the tubing has been
12 removed from the well. In order to reactivate
13 it, Natural Gas and Oil will set a bridge plug
14 and then perforate in the potential sand and
15 stimulate if necessary.

16 Natural Gas and Oil indicates that the
17 well is in a safe condition. It poses no threat
18 to the environment and that the downhole
19 condition of the well is good and sound and also
20 that Natural Gas and Oil owns 100 percent of the
21 rights to drill and produce the hydrocarbons.
22 It is our opinion that the granting of the
23 petition will prevent waste and also prevent the

1 drilling of unnecessary wells while protecting
2 correlative rights.

3 I've also submitted a list of
4 exhibits. The first Exhibit A is the TA SI
5 request questionnaire completed by Mr. Newton
6 for Natural Gas and Oil. That is followed by
7 the affidavit of legal notice from the West
8 Alabama Gazette as well as a tear sheet, Exhibit
9 C, showing what was actually published by that
10 newspaper and I would ask that this matter be
11 approved based upon the TA status questionnaire
12 that Mr. Newton has previously filed with the
13 Board.

14 MR. ROGERS: All those exhibits are
15 admitted. Any questions from the staff?
16 Mr. McQuillan.

17 MR. MCQUILLAN: So I assume because he
18 did not answer the question when he expected to
19 commence such operation, John, that he doesn't
20 know or did he tell you?

21 MR. TYRA: He said no date is
22 scheduled. He's waiting on market conditions to
23 improve on the questionnaire.

1 MR. MCQUILLAN: Okay.

2 MR. TYRA: I would say 2025.

3 MR. MCQUILLAN: 2025. Yeah, a lot of
4 people leave that blank, which, you know, it's
5 probably a -- you know, it's an important
6 question to us.

7 MR. TYRA: Which question is that?

8 MR. MCQUILLAN: It's in the middle of
9 the page on page two.

10 MR. TYRA: Right.

11 MR. MCQUILLAN: A date when the --

12 MR. TYRA: Oh, yeah, yeah, that's
13 where answered it, yeah. No date is currently
14 scheduled, waiting for market conditions. Yeah,
15 I see what -- no date is not a date is what
16 you're saying. I understand.

17 MR. MCQUILLAN: In the future if you
18 could get him to actually put something in
19 there, I'd appreciate it.

20 MR. TYRA: Sure, I understand.

21 MR. ROGERS: Anything else?

22 MR. MCQUILLAN: No.

23 MR. ROGERS: The staff will review the

1 evidence and make a recommendation to the Board.

2 MR. TYRA: Thank you.

3 MR. ROGERS: The last item then is
4 Item 26, Docket Number 11-5-24-14, petition by
5 Fletcher Petroleum requesting temporarily
6 abandoned status for certain wells in Brooklyn
7 Field. Mr. Scogin.

8 MR. SCOGIN: Yes, sir, Mr. Rogers, my
9 name is Mark Scogin and I represent Fletcher
10 Petroleum Corporation. This is a petition
11 requesting the extension of temporarily
12 abandoned status for two wells, the Pate 2-13
13 number one sidetrack well, permit number
14 17323-B-1, and the Pate 12-12 number one well,
15 permit number 17316-B, both of them located in
16 the Brooklyn Oil Unit II, Brooklyn Field,
17 Conecuh County, Alabama. I have prefiled a set
18 of exhibits. The originals were actually
19 prefiled last week but I've handed up additional
20 exhibits showing the questionnaires, schematic,
21 and the affidavit of testimony and the copy of
22 the proof of publication and I would ask that
23 those exhibits be admitted.

1 MR. ROGERS: They're admitted.

2 MR. SCOGIN: I have one witness to be
3 sworn in.

4 MR. ROGERS: Will you state your name
5 and address?

6 MR. OWEN: Alex Owen, 25 Spring Run
7 Drive, Fairhope, Alabama.

8 MR. ROGERS: Raise your right hand.

9
10 ALEX OWEN,
11 being first duly sworn, was
12 examined and testified as follows:

13
14 MR. ROGERS: Thank you.

15
16 EXAMINATION BY MR. SCOGIN:

17 Q. Mr. Owen, what is your position with
18 Fletcher Petroleum?

19 A. I am the executive vice president as
20 well as overseeing exploration and operations.

21 Q. Have you previously testified before
22 the Board as an expert petroleum geologist?

23 A. I have.

1 Q. And an affidavit of your
2 qualifications are on record with the Board?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. SCOGIN: I would ask that Mr. Owen
5 be recognized an expert for purposes of this
6 hearing.

7 MR. ROGERS: He is so recognized.

8 Q. (By Mr. Scogin) Are you familiar with
9 the petition that has been filed by Fletcher
10 Petroleum requesting the inspection of TA status
11 for the two wells that I just identified?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you've prepared exhibits, which we
14 have just handed up to the staff?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. And is the information
17 contained in the exhibit packet true and
18 accurate to the best of your knowledge,
19 information, and belief?

20 A. That is right.

21 Q. Would you give the staff a little
22 history concerning the two subject wells for
23 which we're here today and the future plans for

1 those wells?

2 A. Sure. So the Pate 12-12 number one
3 well was originally drilled by Ventex. It was
4 thereby transferred to us when we unitized this
5 field back in 2021. That well was never
6 completed. It was -- it entered the Smackover
7 formation at noncommercial quantities so that
8 well was never completed or never plugged for
9 possible future utility. We see that well being
10 either, one, used as a water source well
11 potentially but more reasonably it could
12 potentially be sidetracked for another take
13 point in the reservoir.

14 The Pate 2-13 sidetrack was drilled
15 roughly about -- I think about two years ago.
16 That well also did not encounter commercial
17 quantities of the Smackover. It is in a much
18 better location for a potential water source
19 well in the future. It is close to our water
20 injection well so it could be used as a water
21 source well but it also could be sidetracked
22 again to be another take point in the field.

23 Q. Okay. So in your opinion, do both of

1 those wells have future utility for the
2 operations of Fletcher in that field?

3 A. Yes, I believe so.

4 Q. And in your opinion, are those well or
5 wellbores a threat to the environment?

6 A. No, I do not.

7 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the term
8 waste as that term is defined by the
9 conservation statutes of the State of Alabama?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In your opinion, would the granting of
12 this petition prevent waste and protect the
13 rights of the owners of the wells?

14 A. Yes.

15 MR. SCOGIN: I would submit Mr. Owen
16 for any questions by the staff.

17 MR. ROGERS: The question I have:
18 Where do you stand, Alex, on the injection? I
19 know for some time the unit was -- there was no
20 injection.

21 MR. OWEN: Yes. This past summer, the
22 water injection well went down. It took us a
23 little while to get a rig mobilized to that part

1 of the state and it has been fixed now and
2 injecting again.

3 MR. ROGERS: Okay. Any questions from
4 the staff?

5 MR. GREGORY: You do have a current
6 water source well?

7 MR. OWEN: Yes, that's the Pate 3-9 is
8 the current water source and it is currently
9 making enough water to properly supply that
10 water injection.

11 MR. ROGERS: I'll mention this, Alex,
12 that our agent has said that from time to time
13 Fletcher hasn't been responsive to requests for
14 information or just requests for this -- phone
15 calls that she's made or the staff has made in
16 Mobile or here and we expect reasonable response
17 from Fletcher and we would appreciate your
18 looking into that and addressing that.

19 MR. OWEN: Absolutely, yeah. I
20 recently spoke to Ms. Leigh Blake and gave her
21 my personal cell phone number to make sure she
22 can reach me whenever she needs to. I apologize
23 if there's been any delays in communications.

1 We've had some turnover in our office here this
2 past year but that's not an excuse. We will
3 make sure to have our systems in place, make
4 sure no reports are late, and things such of
5 those matters.

6 MR. ROGERS: Anything else?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. ROGERS: The exhibits are
9 admitted. We will review the evidence and make
10 a recommendation to the Board.

11 MR. SCOGIN: Thank you.

12 MR. ROGERS: Anything else for the
13 hearing?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. ROGERS: The time is 11:45 and the
16 hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

17

18 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned
19 at 11:45 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ALABAMA

AT LARGE

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing deposition was taken down by me in stenotype and the questions and answers thereto were transcribed by means of computer-aided transcription and that the foregoing represents a true and correct transcript of the testimony given by said witness upon said deposition.

I further certify that I am neither of counsel, nor of kin to the parties to the action, nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said cause.

This the 4th day of December, 2024.



SHERI G. CONNELLY, RPR

ACCR No. 439, Expires 9/30/2025

Notary Commission Exp.: 1/25/2027

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