

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR OF WELLS

IN THE MATTER OF:

THE PETITION OF WHITING OIL AND GAS)
CORPORATION FOR AN ORDER FROM THE)
SUPERVISOR OF WELLS APPROVING A SECONDARY) ORDER NO. (A) 4-9-93
RECOVERY OPERATION AND A PLAN OF)
UNITIZATION FOR RECOVERY OF OIL, GAS, AND)
RELATED HYDROCARBONS FROM THE WEST)
BRANCH AMHERSTBURG RICHFIELD UNIT IN PART)
OF SECTION 26, WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP,)
OGEMAW COUNTY.)

AMENDED OPINION AND ORDER

at a session of the Department of Environmental Quality
held at Lansing, Michigan, on June 1, 2012,
Harold R. Fitch, Assistant Supervisor of Wells, Presiding

On April 30, 2012, Petitioner, Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation (Whiting), filed a Motion to Amend Order No. (A) 4-9-93. Order No. (A) 4-9-93, dated October 29, 1993, created the West Branch Amherstburg Richfield Unit identified as the SW ¼ of Section 26, T22N, R2E, West Branch Township, Ogemaw County.

Petitioner, in its Motion to Amend Order No. (A) 4-9-93, states that Whiting holds all drilling permits and is currently the Unit Operator. Order No. (A) 4-9-93 authorized the Unit Operator to inject produced water into the Unitized Formation. The wells in the unit have produced continuously since 1993 to enhance the ultimate recovery of oil, gas, and related hydrocarbons. Petitioner proposes to inject fresh water into the Unitized Formation for purposes of secondary recovery and has drilled a proposed fresh water supply well located at the Buckingham 6-26 well facility in the SE ¼ of NW ¼ of SW ¼, Section 26, T22N, R2E, West Branch Township, Ogemaw County.

Petitioner filed a Hydrogeologic Investigation Report, along with its Motion to Amend Order No. (A) 4-9-93, which concluded that sustained pumping at a rate of 60 gallons per minute will have no adverse impact on either the nearest surface or ground waters. Department of Environmental Quality staff has reviewed this report and concurs with its findings.

The Assistant Supervisor of Wells (Supervisor) requested Petitioner serve its motion, by first-class mail, on all surface land owners within one-half mile of the outside

Hydrogeologic Investigation Report were made available upon request. The noticed parties were given an opportunity to comment on the motion; however, no comments were received.

DETERMINATION AND ORDER

I have reviewed the motion by the Petitioner, along with the Hydrogeologic Investigation Report, and determined Order No. (A) 4-9-93 should be amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

That Section 7 of the original Determination and Order of the Opinion and Order, Order No. (A) 4-9-93, be amended as follows:

7. The Supervisor hereby grants permission to the Unit Operator to inject either produced water or fresh water into the Unitized Formation. Fresh water shall be withdrawn from the water supply well at a rate of 60 gallons per minute or less.

All other provisions of original Order No. (A) 4-9-93 are reaffirmed.

Dated: June 11, 2012


HAROLD R. FITCH
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