









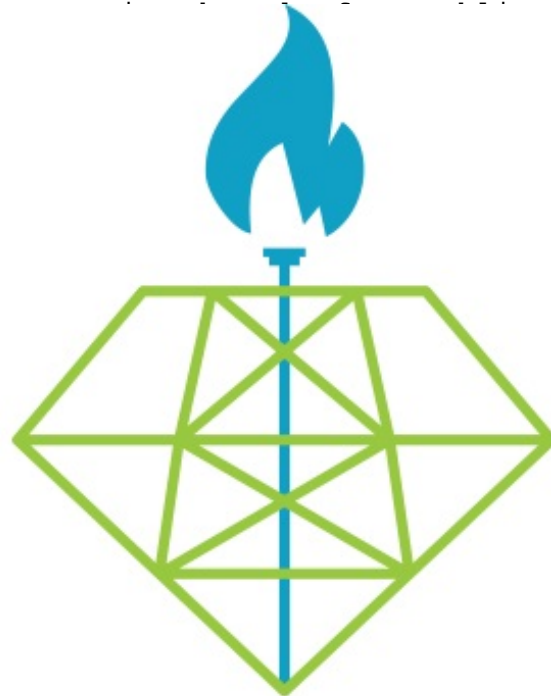


a representative of the public agency's risk manager or insurance provider at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement; or

(j) To consider labor contract matters authorized under section 74-206A (1)(a) and (b), Idaho Code.

(2) The exceptions to the general policy in favor of open meetings stated in this section shall be narrowly construed. It shall be a violation of this chapter to change the subject within the executive session to one not identified within the motion to enter the executive session or to any topic for which an executive session is not provided.

(3) No executive session may be held for the purpose of taking any final action or making any final decision.



# IDAHO OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
September 14, 2023  
Regular Agenda

SUBJECT

Appeal of Kauffman #1-9 inactive well status

BACKGROUND

The Idaho Department of Lands, Oil and Gas Division (“Department”) has not received production records for the Kauffman #1-9 well since October 2018. The Department inspected the well on the following dates:

- September 18, 2019
- April 2, 2020
- November 27, 2020
- November 29, 2021
- April 16, 2022
- August 4, 2022
- September 29, 2022

These inspections confirmed that the well was not being produced. In addition, well equipment has been removed rendering the well incapable of producing within the guidelines provided in Idaho Code.

IDAPA 20.07.02.501.01 states:

*01. “The Department shall declare a well inactive after twenty-four (24) continuous months of inactivity if the owner or operator has not received approval for an extension of active status, or after an owner or operator fails to submit an annual report for an active well. The Department will immediately notify an owner or operator of this determination by certified mail, and the owner or operator may appeal this determination to the Commission.”*

On December 15, 2022, the Department fulfilled this requirement by notifying the operator that the Kauffman #1-9 was declared inactive.

IDAPA 20.07.02.501.02-05 provides the following direction in addressing inactive wells:

*02. “Owner’s or Operator’s Responsibility for Inactive Wells. The owner or operator must plug and abandon an inactive well in accordance with Section 502 of these rules within six (6) months of being notified by the Department unless the owner or operator supplies the following information within the six-month time period:*

*a. A written request to extend inactive status;*

*b. An individual bond, as provided for in Subsection 220.03 of these rules, if the well was covered by a blanket bond; and*

c. A description of how the well is closed to the atmosphere with a swedge and valve, packer, or other approved method, and how the well is to be maintained.

03. *Inactive Review and Decision.* The Department shall review the request for approval, modification, or denial, and shall set the duration of the extension if approved. An extension shall not exceed three (3) years and may be renewed upon request.

04. *Testing of Inactive Wells.* In addition to the requirements of Section 320 of these rules, inactive wells shall have a mechanical integrity test performed within two (2) years after the date of last use in order to retain inactive status.

05. *Converting Inactive Wells to Active Wells.* The owner or operator must apply to the Department to change the status of a well from inactive to active. The Department shall review the request for approval, modification, or denial. A mechanical integrity test may be required by the Department if the well has been worked over or if a test has not been conducted for five (5) years or longer. If approved, the well may again be covered by a blanket bond.

The administrative record on appeal contains the following timeline of events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Support Documents</u>
12/15/2022	Letter submitted to SROG for Inactive Well declaration per IDAPA 20.07.02.501	20221215_11075200027_Kauffman1-9_InactiveWellStatus.pdf
12/16/2022	SROG submits results of MIT performed on Kauffman 1-9 12/16/2022	2022.12.16_Kauffman 1-9 MIT_chart.xlsx
12/21/2022	SROG sends response letter to IDL with AFE sheet for MIT on the Kauffman 1-9. Letter requests that the well be returned to Active status for 18 months, the estimated time for the CII to become operational.	20221221.LT Mick Thomas re Kauffman well status.pdf Kaufman 1-9 MIT Daily.pdf
12/23/2022	Clint Harman for SROG submits final Sundry Notice for MIT	2022.12.23_Kauffman 1-9 MIT_SUND09.pdf
12/29/2022	Deadline to appeal Inactive status to the Commission	IDAPA 20.07.02.501.01
1/20/2023	Deadline for IDL to respond to request to return Kauffman 1-9 to Active status. Response is for approval, modification or denial. New 14-day clock for appeal to 2/3/2023?	IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05
8/2/2023	IDL sends letter to SROG denying the 12/21/2022 request to return the well to active status, with a deadline of 8/16/2023 to file an appeal. With no appeal the deadline to P&A the well is 1/31/2024.	20230802 Kauffman 1-9 Denial of Active Status_Final.pdf
8/15/2023	IDL Division Administrator Thomas contacts Richard Brown and includes IDL Program Specialist Thum on the call. Mr. Brown provides a brief summary of a proposed workover plan to bring the Kauffman #1-9 back to production. The DA explains that the letter indicates SROG's next course of action is to file an appeal of the Department decision with the Commission.	Phone conversation approximately ten minutes.
8/16/2023	Reply letter from Michael Christian, legal representative for SROG to the denial letter sent 8/2/2023 is received by IDL.	20230816.SROG Appeal of 8.2.23 denial of request to return Kauffman 1-9 to active status.pdf



## DISCUSSION

Before December of 2022, the Department initially delayed the declaration of inactive status for the Kauffman #1-9 due to the possibility that the well may become economically viable when the Class II injection well was approved and came online. However, after favorable actions by the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Class II injection well, no apparent efforts were made by the operator to bring this well back to production. The Department notified the operator that the well was declared inactive. The timeline above and documents submitted in the record outline the communication between the operator and the Department, which culminated in this matter coming before the Commission.

After the final decision not to return the well to active status the operator initiated an individual well bond for fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). The Department is evaluating this bond; however, the Department does not believe this amount is sufficient to cover plugging and abandonment of the Kauffman #1-9. An increase of this bond amount to one-hundred and fifty-thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) may be sufficient to provide for the plugging and abandonment of this well in the event the State becomes responsible for such action.

Per IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05, the operator may also make a new application for the well to return to active status. This application would be reviewed and decided on following the normal process.

## RECOMMENDATION

Evaluate the options for the operator and make a decision on whether to maintain the inactive status of the Kauffman #1-9 or return it to active well status.

## COMMISSION ACTION

## ATTACHMENT

1. Bates Numbered Administrative Record from December 15, 2022 – September 11, 2023

IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Table of Contents**  
**Administrative Record**

**Kauffman #1-9 – Appeal of Well Status**

<b>Bates #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document Name</b>
001-003	12/15/2022	Department letter to Snake River Oil and Gas – Notification of well status to “Inactive”
004-005	12/21/2022	Snake River Oil and Gas response to Department – Request to return well status to “Active”
006-014	12/23/2022	Mechanical Integrity Test, results, & daily reports
015	01/05/2023	Kauffman’s – Email to Department – objection to return well status to “Active”
016-017	01/09/2023	Kauffman’s – Email to Department – objection to return well status to “Active”, additional information
018-019	08/02/2023	Department letter to Snake River Oil and Gas – Denial of request to return well status to “Active”
020-027	08/16/2023	Snake River Oil and Gas response to Department and appeal to decision
028	08/23/2023	Text message – Kauffman and the Department
029-030	08/24/2023	Email Correspondence – Kauffman’s and the Department
031-034	08/25/2023	Email Correspondence – Kauffman’s and Deputy Attorney General
035-036	09/07/2023	Email – Notice of OGCC Public Meeting on September 14, 2023
037	09/07/2023	Kauffman’s - Written Statement
038-039	09/11/2023	Email – Agenda for the OGCC Public Meeting on September 14, 2023



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
300 N. 6th Street Suite 103  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0050  
Phone (208) 334-0200  
Fax (208) 334-5342



MICK THOMAS, DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR  
SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

IDAHO OIL AND GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Betty Coppersmith, Chair  
Ray Hinchcliff, Vice Chair  
Jim Classen  
Dustin Miller  
Jennifer Riebe

December 15, 2022

Nathan Caldwell  
Snake River Oil and Gas /NWGP  
Weiser Brown Operating  
117 E. Calhoun St. (Box 500)  
Magnolia, Arkansas 71753

*via e-mail:* [caldwell.nathan@weiser-brown.com](mailto:caldwell.nathan@weiser-brown.com)  
*via certified mail:* 7016 1370 0000 2329 6087

Re: Kauffman #1-9 (USWN 11-075-20027) Well Status

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

Monthly production records submitted by Snake River Oil & Gas, LLC indicates there has been no reported production for the Kauffman #1-9 well, USWN 11-075-20027, Payette County Idaho since October 2018. Inspections and well visits performed by Idaho Department of Lands on September 18, 2019, April 2, 2020, November 27, 2020, November 29, 2021, April 16, 2022, August 4, 2022 and September 29, 2022 indicated that this well was shut-in and not producing at the time of the inspections.

### Inactive Well Declaration

Per IDAPA 20.07.02.501.01 the "Department shall declare a well inactive after twenty-four (24) continuous months of inactivity if the owner or operator has not received approval for active status, ..." An inactive well is defined as an "unplugged well that has no reported production, disposal, injection, or other permitted activity for a period of greater than twenty-four (24) continuous months, and for which no extension has been granted." IDAPA 20.07.02.010.27. Based on Snake River's monthly production records and the Department's inspection records, the Department finds that the Kauffman #1-9 well has had no reported production or other permitted activity for greater than 24 months. Additionally, the Department has not received a request for an extension of active status, and thus has not approved any extension. Therefore, the Department hereby declares the Kauffman #1-9 well an inactive well. This letter serves as official notice of the Department's declaration of inactive status by certified mail as provided for in IDAPA 20.07.02.501.01.

You may appeal the Department's decision to the Commission. IDAPA 20.07.02.502.01. Appeals must be filed with the oil and gas administrator within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of issuance of this decision, which is December 29, 2022. Idaho Code § 47-328(4). Such appeal

shall include the reasons and authority for the appeal and shall identify any facts in the record supporting the appeal. Idaho Code § 47-328(4).

**Plugging and Abandoning Well / Providing Additional Information**

Further, IDAPA 20.07.02.501.02 states that “an owner or operator must plug and abandon an inactive well in accordance with Section 502 of these rules within six (6) months of being notified by the Department unless the owner or operator supplies the following information within the six-month time period:

- a. A written request to extend inactive status;
- b. An individual bond, as provided for in Subsection 220.03 of these rules, if the well was covered by a blanket bond; and
- c. A description of how the well is closed to the atmosphere with a swedge and valve, packer or other approved method, and how the well is to be maintained.”

Because you have only six months from the date of this letter to plug and abandon this well, please provide the above requested information to the Department within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter. Once the department has received the above requested information, we will notify you within thirty (30) days of a decision to deny the extension of inactive well status, modify the requested extension or approve the request to extend the inactive status for a period not to exceed three (3) years. See IDAPA 20.07.02.501.03.

**Application to Convert Well to Active Status**

Per IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05, an inactive well can be converted to active status by filing an application with the department. If this well has not had a Mechanical Integrity Test (MIT) performed under the requirements of IDAPA 20.07.02.320.01.c in the past five (5) years, an MIT will be required pursuant to that rule before the well will be declared active.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Nathan Caldwell  
December 15, 2022  
Page 3

Sincerely,



Mick Thomas  
Division Administrator  
Minerals, Navigable Waters, Oil & Gas  
Idaho Department of Lands

ecc: Richard Brown, Snake River Oil & Gas, LLC  
Michael Christian, Hardee Piñol & Kracke, PLLC  
James Thum, Idaho Dept. of Lands



IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LAW OFFICES

**HARDEE, PIÑOL & KRACKE PLLC**

1487 S. David Lane  
Boise, Idaho 83705

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DAVID R. KRACKE  
JOE M. HARRINGTON  
JAKE HARDEE

Of Counsel:  
BO DAVIES  
MICHAEL CHRISTIAN

December 21, 2022

Mick Thomas  
Division Administrator, Minerals, Navigable Waters, Oil & Gas  
Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 103  
Boise, ID 83702

Re: Kauffman #1-9 (USWN 11-075-20027); Request to return well to active status

Dear Administrator Thomas:

On behalf of Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC, pursuant to IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05, I am writing to request to return the status of the Kauffman #1-9 well (USWN 11-075-20027) to active. The reasons for this request are:

1. The well is capable of production but shut in due to the lack of economic produced water disposal. Shut in payments have been made pursuant to the terms of the lease associated with the well.
2. Snake River has been diligently pursuing permitting of a Class II injection well for the disposal of produced water, by conversion of the existing DJS Properties #2-14 well. Notice of issuance of an aquifer exemption and issuance of a permit for the injection well (Final Permit ID-2D001-A) was issued by EPA Region 10 on November 3, 2022. The permit became effective on December 19, 2022. Snake River is diligently pursuing completion of the steps required under the permit for commissioning of the well as permitted and receipt of produced water for reinjection.
3. In accordance with IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05, a mechanical integrity test was successfully performed on the Kauffman #1-9 well on December 16, 2022. A copy of the results of that test are attached. I understand the testing method was approved by the Department.
4. Snake River believes that it will satisfy the Class II permit requirements and the DJS Properties #2-14 well will be available for receipt of produced water from the Kauffman #1-9 and other area wells within 12-18 months.

December 21, 2022

Page 2

Based on the above, Snake River requests that the Kauffman #1-9 well be returned to active status for 18 months (or, if produced water disposal by injection becomes available sooner and the well resumes production, in accordance with IDAPA 20.07.01.501).

Please let me or Snake River know if you have any questions or need additional information to evaluate this request.

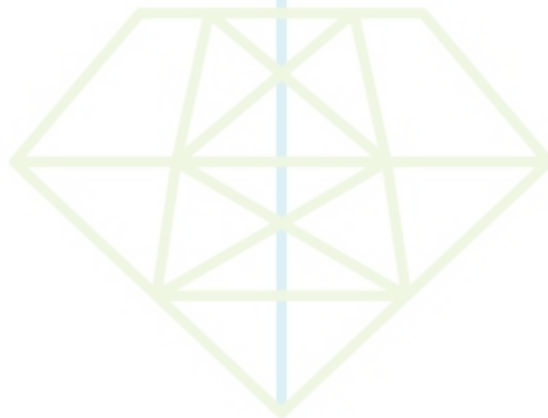
Very truly yours,  
HARDEE, PINOL & KRACKE, PLLC



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Michael Christian

Attachment: Kauffman #1-9 MIT results  
cc: Richard Brown, Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC



IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION



IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SUNDRY NOTICE

RECEIVED
jthum , 12/23/2022, 4:34:19 PM



NAME OF OPERATOR: SNAKE RIVER OIL AND GAS Date: December 15, 2022
Address: 117 East Calhoun St., P.O. Box 500
City: Magnolia State: AR Zip Code: 71753 Telephone: 870 234 3050
Contact Name: Nathan Caldwell Email Address: caldwell.nathan@weiser-brown.com
(secondary) Clint Harman - 713-822-3167 - clint.harman.cons@outlook.com
Well Permit Number: 11-075-20027 Lease and Well Name (if different): KAUFMAN 1-9
USWN / API Number: 11-075-20027 Type of Well: Oil Well Gas Well X Other
Field and Reservoir (if wildcat, so state): WILLOW County: Payette
Well Surface Location: Section: 9 Township: 8N Range: 4W (or block and survey)
(give footage from Section lines): 1325 FEL & 190 FNL of Section 9
Latitude/Longitude (Dec Degrees): N 44 03' 11.93667" / W,116 48' 58.9788 Datum: WGS84 NAD83 NAD27 X
Type of Submission: Notice of Intent Subsequent Report X Final Abandonment Notice
Type of Action: Acidize Alter Casing Casing Repair Change Plans Convert to Injection
Deepen New Construction Hydraulic Fracturing Plug and Abandon Plug Back
Production (Start/Resume) Reclamation Recompletion Stimulation Test
Temporarily Abandon Water Disposal Water Shut-off Well Integrity Test X Other

Describe the proposed or completed operation, clearly stating all pertinent details including estimated starting date of the proposed work and approximate duration thereof. If the proposal is to deepen directionally or recomplete horizontally, give subsurface locations and measured and true vertical depths of all pertinent markers and zones. Attach a copy of the Bond under which the work will be performed or provide the Bond No. on file with IDL. Required subsequent reports shall be filed within thirty (30) days following completion of the involved operations. Final Abandonment Notices shall be filed only after operations, and only after all requirements, including reclamation have been completed and the operator has determined that the site is ready for final inspection.

Per E-mails on Monday, December 19, 2022. Between Clinton Harman (SROG consultant) and James Thum (IDL), Snake River is providing results of Mechanical Integrity Test performed Friday, Dec.16, 2022 On the Kauffman 1-9 UT & LT dual completion.

The Annulus tested was the 7" production casing with the dual 2-3/8" production tubing strings inside.

Attached are the following:

Most recent available completion wellbore diagram.

The test pressures in tabular form.

The test pressure plotted vs time.

Submitted by Clint Harman, Consulting for Snake River Oil and Gas, Dec 23, 2002

Attach additional information as needed to support the application





IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
SUNDRY NOTICE



**CERTIFICATE:** I, the undersigned, state that I am the Operations Manager  
of Snake River Oil and Gas (company) and that I am  
authorized by said company to make this application and that this application was prepared under my supervision and direction  
and that the facts stated herein are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

//signed// Clinton Lee Harman for Nathan Caldwell 12/23/2022

This Sundry Notice shall be filed with the

Idaho Department of Lands  
Division of Minerals, Public Trust, Oil & Gas  
300 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
Boise, Idaho 83702

as per IDAPA 20.07.02 and Idaho Code § 47-3.

**FOR IDL USE ONLY:**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION



**IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
SUNDRY NOTICE**



**Guidelines and Timeframes for Sundry Notices**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Timeframe</u></b>	<b><u>Rule or Statute</u></b>
Notices – General	Written notice must be given to the Department for any intention to do work and must be approved before work is done.	IDAPA 20.07.02.030
Hydraulic Fracturing	Operator will notify the Department twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the treatment.	IDAPA 20.07.02.211.03
Accidents and Fires	Operator will notify the Department within twenty-four (24) hours and submit a full report within fifteen (15) days.	IDAPA 20.07.02.211.03
Well Spud & Surface Casing	Operator will notify the Department in writing not less than seventy-two (72) hours in advance of planned spud activity for surface casing.	IDAPA 20.07.02.310.05(a)
Cementing Surface Casing	Operator will notify the Department in writing not less than twenty-for (24) hours in advance of planned cementing activity for surface casing.	IDAPA 20.07.02.310.05(e)
Cementing Intermediate Casing	Operator will notify the Department in writing not less than twenty-for (24) hours in advance of planned cementing activity for intermediate casing.	IDAPA 20.07.02.310.07(d)
Cementing Production Casing	Operator will notify the Department in writing not less than twenty-for (24) hours in advance of planned cementing activity for production casing.	IDAPA 20.07.02.310.08(b)
Mechanical Integrity Testing	Operator will notify the Department in writing not less than ten (10) days in advance of the scheduled date on which the test will be performed.	IDAPA 20.07.02.320.03

IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION



## Logging Report

### Calibrator Information

Model: ADT681  
 Serial Number: 211H215A0020  
 Span: ( 0 ~ 5000 ) psi  
 Version: DPGMV03.08  
 Manufacture Date: 2021-08-16  
 Data Logging: Available

### Calibration Results

Date	Time	Elapsed Minutes	Pressure	Unit	Temperature(°C)	Interval(s)
12/16/2022	11:32:43	0	0	psi	57.4	60
12/16/2022	11:33:43	1	448.8	psi	56.7	60
12/16/2022	11:34:43	2	324.6	psi	55.8	60
12/16/2022	11:35:43	3	31.8	psi	54.7	60
12/16/2022	11:36:43	4	293.6	psi	53.4	60
12/16/2022	11:37:43	5	314.4	psi	52.3	60
12/16/2022	11:38:43	6	307.9	psi	51.1	60
12/16/2022	11:39:43	7	302	psi	50.0	60
12/16/2022	11:40:43	8	296.2	psi	48.9	60
12/16/2022	11:41:43	9	290.5	psi	47.8	60
12/16/2022	11:42:43	10	284.9	psi	46.8	60
12/16/2022	11:43:43	11	279.4	psi	45.9	60
12/16/2022	11:44:43	12	7.9	psi	45.1	60
12/16/2022	11:45:43	13	-0.3	psi	44.4	60
12/16/2022	11:46:43	14	6.1	psi	43.7	60
12/16/2022	11:47:43	15	344.8	psi	43.0	60
12/16/2022	11:48:43	16	320.2	psi	42.3	60
12/16/2022	11:49:43	17	307.7	psi	41.5	60
12/16/2022	11:50:43	18	297	psi	40.8	60
12/16/2022	11:51:43	19	286.6	psi	40.1	60
12/16/2022	11:52:43	20	0.8	psi	39.6	60
12/16/2022	11:53:43	21	1	psi	39.0	60
12/16/2022	11:54:43	22	0.5	psi	38.5	60
12/16/2022	11:55:43	23	-0.1	psi	38.1	60
12/16/2022	11:56:43	24	-0.2	psi	37.6	60
12/16/2022	11:57:43	25	-0.3	psi	37.2	60
12/16/2022	11:58:43	26	-0.4	psi	36.9	60
12/16/2022	11:59:43	27	-0.6	psi	36.7	60
12/16/2022	12:00:43	28	-0.8	psi	36.3	60
12/16/2022	12:01:43	29	107.7	psi	36.1	60
12/16/2022	12:02:43	30	333.7	psi	35.8	60
12/16/2022	12:03:43	31	313	psi	35.6	60
12/16/2022	12:04:43	32	298.7	psi	35.4	60
12/16/2022	12:05:43	33	286.6	psi	35.2	60
12/16/2022	12:06:43	34	275.4	psi	34.9	60
12/16/2022	12:07:43	35	264.8	psi	34.9	60
12/16/2022	12:08:43	36	254.5	psi	34.5	60
12/16/2022	12:09:43	37	244.6	psi	34.3	60
12/16/2022	12:10:43	38	235.1	psi	34.2	60
12/16/2022	12:11:43	39	225.8	psi	34.0	60
12/16/2022	12:12:43	40	216.7	psi	33.6	60
12/16/2022	12:13:43	41	191	psi	33.6	60
12/16/2022	12:14:43	42	1.4	psi	33.3	60
12/16/2022	12:15:43	43	355.9	psi	33.1	60
12/16/2022	12:16:43	44	340.6	psi	32.9	60
12/16/2022	12:17:43	45	326.7	psi	32.7	60
12/16/2022	12:18:43	46	392.5	psi	32.7	60
12/16/2022	12:19:43	47	402.7	psi	32.5	60
12/16/2022	12:20:43	48	388.2	psi	32.5	60
12/16/2022	12:21:43	49	373.5	psi	32.5	60
12/16/2022	12:22:43	50	409	psi	32.5	60
12/16/2022	12:23:43	51	387.2	psi	32.4	60
12/16/2022	12:24:43	52	373.1	psi	32.4	60
12/16/2022	12:25:43	53	360	psi	32.4	60
12/16/2022	12:26:43	54	451.4	psi	32.2	60
12/16/2022	12:27:43	55	427	psi	32.2	60
12/16/2022	12:28:43	56	410.9	psi	32.2	60
12/16/2022	12:29:43	57	395.4	psi	32.0	60















**From:** [Mick Thomas](#)  
**To:** [External - Kristina Fugate](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to request to return Kauffman #1-9 (USWN 11-075-20027) well to active status.  
**Date:** Thursday, January 05, 2023 01:45:51 PM

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[REDACTED]

Mick Thomas  
Division Administrator  
Minerals, Navigable Waters, Oil & Gas  
Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N 6th Street, Ste 103, Boise ID 83702  
Office: (208) 334-0298  
Mobile: (208) 519-1387  
Email: [mthomas@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mthomas@idl.idaho.gov)  
<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/jhFsCwpwyrUXj7BETq0JfS?domain=idl.idaho.gov>  
<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/i0NsCxkxz1UKlyY5cYZO1K?domain=ogcc.idaho.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Randy Kauffman <[rkauffman25@icloud.com](mailto:rkauffman25@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 1:20 PM  
To: Mick Thomas <[mthomas@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mthomas@idl.idaho.gov)>  
Subject: Re: Objection to request to return Kauffman #1-9 (USWN 11-075-20027) well to active status.

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Mr. Thomas,

We have seen the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's inactive well declaration for the Kauffman #1-9 well; and, the Snake River Oil and Gas's request to return well to active status.

We, as the land/mineral owners of the Kauffman 1-9 well, object to the request to return the well to active status.

The well is not capable of production regardless of the water situation. The well has lost all pressure, and has no pump jack. The well has not produced since October 2018 (4 years and 3 months); therefore we object to returning this well to active status.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Randy and Thana Kauffman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mick Thomas](#)  
**To:** [External - Kristina Fugate](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Additional explanation to objection to request to return Kauffman #1-9 (USWN 11-075-20027) well to active status.  
**Date:** Monday, January 09, 2023 11:04:27 AM

---

Kristina,



Mick

-----Original Message-----

From: Mick Thomas  
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 11:02 AM  
To: Randy Kauffman <[rkauffman25@icloud.com](mailto:rkauffman25@icloud.com)>  
Subject: RE: Additional explanation to objection to request to return Kauffman #1-9 (USWN 11-075-20027) well to active status.

Hi Randy,

Thank you for the additional information. This is confirmation that I have received your email(s).

Mick Thomas  
Division Administrator  
Minerals, Navigable Waters, Oil & Gas  
Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N 6th Street, Ste 103, Boise ID 83702  
Office: (208) 334-0298  
Mobile: (208) 519-1387  
Email: [mthomas@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mthomas@idl.idaho.gov)  
<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/jhFsCwpwyrUXj7BETq0JfS?domain=idl.idaho.gov>  
<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/i0NsCkxz1UKlyY5cYZO1K?domain=ogcc.idaho.gov>



-----Original Message-----

From: Randy Kauffman <[rkauffman25@icloud.com](mailto:rkauffman25@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 11:00 AM  
To: Mick Thomas <[mthomas@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mthomas@idl.idaho.gov)>  
Subject: Additional explanation to objection to request to return Kauffman #1-9 (USWN 11-075-20027) well to active status.

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Mr. Thomas,

We hope the following statements will further explain our objection to the request to return well to active status.

We've previously stated the Kauffman #1-9 well is not capable of production at this time, and has not been since October 2018. Six (6) months is a reasonable time for Snake River Oil and Gas to do whatever is necessary to bring the well back to production. Why should it be declared active at this point when the future of further production is uncertain. It is not unreasonable to expect Snake River to bring the well back to production capability before returning the well to active status.

Snake River justifies active status using our contract's shut-in clause. However, they are ignoring the clause requiring them to be in compliance with all laws and regulations. They have not been in compliance with the laws concerning inactive well status for over two years. We have a shut-in check now that we have not deposited, and don't intend to at this time.

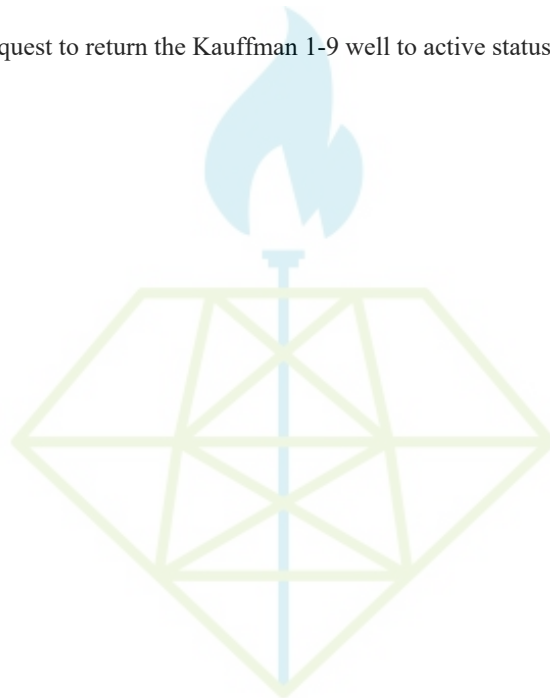
Please, let us see what progress is made in the next six (6) months toward the goals of the injection well, and bringing the 1-9 well back on line. We have had too many years of talk and no action. It's time for Snake River to start doing what needs to be done; therefore, six (6) months is a reasonable time to accomplish these goals.

We respectfully ask that the request to return the Kauffman 1-9 well to active status be denied.

Sincerely,

Randy and Thana Kauffman

Sent from my iPhone



IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**  
300 N. 6th Street Suite 103  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0050  
Phone (208) 334-0200  
Fax (208) 334-5342



MICK THOMAS, DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR  
SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

**IDAHO OIL AND GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
*Betty Coppersmith, Chair  
Ray Hinchcliff, Vice Chair  
Jennifer Riebe*

August 2, 2023

Michael Christian  
Hardee, Pinol & Kracke, PLLC  
1487 S David Lane  
Boise, ID 83705

*via e-mail: [mike@hpk.law](mailto:mike@hpk.law)  
and certified mail: 7016 1370 0000 2329 6063*

Re: Kauffman # 1-9 (USWN 11-075-20027) Well Status

Dear Mr. Christian:

On December 15, 2022, your client, Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC (SROG), was provided notice by the Idaho Department of Lands' (IDL) that the circumstances of the Kauffman # 1-9 well required declaration of its inactive well status. As explained in the December 15 Notice, the determination of inactive status is mandatory under IDAPA 20.07.02.501.01 when that well has been inactive for at least twenty-four continuous months and the operator has not received approval from IDL for an extension of active status.

On December 21, 2022, SROG provided a written request to return the Kauffman # 1-9 to active status. The reasoning provided related to the poor economics of the well in the absence of a Class II injection well for disposal of produced water. However, no guarantees could be made for when the Class II injection well will be brought online by SROG.

SROG's request to return the Kauffman # 1-9 to active status has been reviewed by IDL for approval, modification, or denial as required by IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05. Additionally, IDL has reviewed the annual reports and all other filings for the well and has considered the uncertain probability of the factors that SROG would deem necessary for the well to be economically viable. Finally, IDL recognizes that in the event SROG determines that the Kauffman # 1-9 can be economically viable, the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Act and IDAPA 20.07.02 provide procedure and methods for converting the inactive well to an active well.

Acting with the discretion authorized by Idaho law, SROG's request to return the Kauffman # 1-9 to active status is denied. SROG must plug and abandon the Kaufmann # 1-9 on or before January 31, 2024, in compliance with IDAPA 20.07.02.502 and complete surface reclamation in compliance with IDAPA 20.07.02.510.

Michael Christian, Counsel, Snake River Oil & Gas  
August 2, 2023  
Page 2

SROG may appeal this decision denying the request to return the Kauffman # 1-9 to active status to the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Idaho Code § 47-328(4 and 5). The appeal must be filed with the oil and gas administrator within fourteen calendar days of the date of issuance of this decision, which is August 16, 2023. Idaho Code § 47-328(4). Such appeal shall include the reasons and authority for the appeal and shall identify any facts in the record supporting the appeal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mick Thomas  
Division Administrator  
Minerals, Navigable Waters, Oil & Gas  
Idaho Department of Lands

ec: James Thum, IDL: [jthum@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:jthum@idl.idaho.gov)  
Richard Brown, Snake River Oil & Gas, LLC: [richard@weiserbrown.email](mailto:richard@weiserbrown.email)  
Nathan Caldwell, SROG and NWGP: [caldwell.nathan@weiser-brown.com](mailto:caldwell.nathan@weiser-brown.com)  
Randy and Thana Kauffman: [rkauffman25@icloud.com](mailto:rkauffman25@icloud.com)

Sent Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested – 7016 1370 0000 2329 6063

IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LAW OFFICES

**HARDEE, PIÑOL & KRACKE PLLC**

1487 S. David Lane  
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(208) 433-3913  
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DANIEL R. HARDEE  
GREG K. HARDEE  
RICH M. PIÑOL  
DAVID R. KRACKE  
JOE M. HARRINGTON  
JAKE HARDEE

Of Counsel:  
BO DAVIES  
MICHAEL CHRISTIAN

Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
c/o Mick Thomas, Division Administrator, Minerals, Navigable Waters, Oil & Gas  
Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 103  
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Administrator Thomas:

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 47-328(4), Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC (“Snake River”) hereby appeals to the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission the determination in the Department’s letter dated August 2, 2023 denying Snake River’s request to return the Kauffman #1-9 well to active status. This appeal is based on the following:

1. A permit to drill was issued by the Department for the Kauffman #1-9 well on June 24, 2014. The well was spudded on July 31, 2014. An amended permit to allow a multiple-zone completion was issued by the Department on September 19, 2014. Completion reports were filed for the upper and lower zones between February and November 2016. The well was productive for both oil and gas. The well permits and completion reports are available in the Department’s online well file, at <https://ogcc.idaho.gov/well-files/uswn-11-075-20027-kauffman-1-9/>.

2. The Kauffman #1-9 well targeted two sands: An upper sand (“Sand 1”) that produced primarily gas, and a lower sand (“Sand 2”) that produced gas from its upper zone and oil from its lower zone. Production occurred through two tubing strings, initially designated the UT and the LT. Sand 1 was eventually depleted of gas. Oil eventually rose from the lower zone of Sand 2 and began being produced from its upper zone. Production of oil from the well eventually became uneconomical because of a combination of loss of well pressure, the increased volume of produced water in relation to the volume of oil produced, and the high cost to dispose of produced water.

3. Snake River shut the well in, paid shut in royalties, and pursued more economical water disposal options. Those efforts are ongoing. As the Commission is likely aware, while the State of Idaho had been delegated primacy by EPA for administration of an Underground Injection Control (“UIC”) program, Idaho did not have approved rules for the permitting and

operation of Class II injection wells. The Department engaged in an extensive effort with EPA to return primacy over Class II injection wells to EPA, and Snake River's predecessor operator eventually filed an application with EPA to permit a Class II injection well by converting a depleted gas well, the DJS Properties #2-14 well, to use as an injection disposal well. Snake River eventually acquired the interest of the predecessor operator in the wells and facilities in the area, and it was substituted as the applicant for the Class II permit. The processing of that permit application was lengthy. A final permit for a Class II injection disposal well was issued by EPA on November 3, 2022, and it became effective December 19, 2022, four days after the Department declared the Kauffman #1-9 well to be inactive. The permit includes substantial requirements to be completed before the injection well can be commissioned and accept produced water for reinjection. Snake River is continuing to work on completing those requirements and reducing their expense, as well as continuing to explore other interim options for produced water disposal, such as permitting and construction of evaporative ponds.

4. By letter to Snake River dated December 15, 2022, the Department declared the Kauffman #1-9 well to be inactive.

5. A mechanical integrity test was successfully performed on the Kauffman #1-9 well on December 16, 2022.

6. By letter dated December 21, 2022, Snake River requested that the Kauffman #1-9 well be returned to active status, to allow it time to complete the requirements for commissioning a Class II disposal well to handle produced water from the Kauffman #1-9 and other wells. A copy of that letter is attached.

7. By letter dated August 2, 2023, the Department denied Snake River's request. The letter states in pertinent part:

SROG's request to return the Kauffman # 1-9 to active status has been reviewed by IDL for approval, modification, or denial as required by IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05. Additionally, IDL has reviewed the annual reports and all other filings for the well and has considered the uncertain probability of the factors that SROG would deem necessary for the well to be economically viable. Finally, IDL recognizes that in the event SROG determines that the Kauffman # 1-9 can be economically viable, the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Act and IDAPA 20.07.02 provide procedure and methods for converting the inactive well to an active well.

Acting with the discretion authorized by Idaho law, SROG's request to return the Kauffman # 1-9 to active status is denied. SROG must plug and abandon the Kaufmann # 1-9 on or before January 31, 2024, in compliance with IDAPA 20.07.02.502 and complete surface reclamation in compliance with IDAPA 20.07.02.510.

8. IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05 provides:

Converting Inactive Wells to Active Wells. The owner or operator must apply to the Department to change the status of a well from inactive to active. The Department shall review the request for approval, modification, or denial. A mechanical integrity test may be required by the Department if the well has been worked over or if a test has not been conducted for five (5) years or longer. If approved, the well may again be covered by a blanket bond.

9. It is the opinion of Snake River's professional geology and well operations personnel and advisers that Sand 2 still contains substantial hydrocarbon reserves, based on previously reported production in 2018 (available at <https://ogcc.idaho.gov/monthly-and-annual-reports/>). Production was stopped largely due to a loss of well pressure, and secondarily due to the increase in produced water relative to oil production volumes, not because the oil reserves were depleted.

10. On or about August 14, 2023, Richard Brown of Snake River discussed with the Department's Oil and Gas Program staff a proposal for reentering the Kauffman #1-9 well and undertaking a modified gas lift procedure to reestablish oil production. Briefly, the procedure would involve injecting gas into the LT tubing to increase pressure and reestablish oil production through the UT tubing. A summary of the procedure is attached. If successful, Snake River would ultimately move to a conventional gas lift operation with gas injection into the wellbore to continue oil production. Snake River believes it can control water production through moderation of production rates until the injection disposal well is commissioned and production rates can be increased.

11. Snake River believes that the substantial remaining reserves in Sand 2 can be economically produced through (a) initially, increasing and supporting well pressure through gas lift and moderating production rates to limit associated water production, and (b) establishing economic water disposal, primarily through commissioning of the recently permitted Class II injection well and potentially also through permitting and construction of an evaporative pond facility in the interim. In the longer term, establishing a water flood unit to support well pressure and production may also be appropriate. However, Snake River believes that the Kauffman #1-9 well can be produced at economic rates immediately using the modified gas lift procedure. It expects that upon return of the well to active status, it can reenter the well and reestablish production within 30 days.

12. During Richard Brown's conversation with Department staff on August 14, 2023, the Department advised him that Snake River should pursue further discussion of the proposed gas lift operation as part of an appeal of the Department's August 2, 2023 decision denying Snake River's December 21, 2022 request. Snake River confirmed on August 15, 2023 that the Department expected this process rather than a new request pursuant to IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05 to return the well to active status based on the new proposed gas lift operation.

13. Snake River has not had the opportunity to present the proposed gas lift procedure fully to the Department for technical evaluation and is filing this appeal in an exercise of caution.



While it believes it is proper to return the Kauffman #1-9 well to active status for the reasons discussed above, Snake River believes the most appropriate path is for it to submit a new request to the Department pursuant to IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05 for conversion of the well to active status based on its new proposal to conduct the gas lift procedure and reestablish oil production.

For the above reasons, Snake River requests that the Department's determination set forth in the Administrator's August 2, 2023 letter be reversed and the Kaufmann #1-9 well be returned to active status, subject to a reasonable time frame for carrying out the proposed operation and returning the well to production.

Alternatively, if the Commission determines that the proposed plan submitted by Snake River with this appeal should be evaluated by the Department, then this matter should be remanded to the Department for determination as a new request to return the well to active status pursuant to IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05. Similarly, if the Department determines that the proposal for a gas lift operation should be treated as a new request to return the well to active status, Snake River will withdraw this appeal, submit additional information to the Department as requested, and await the Department's determination regarding the new request.

Very truly yours,  
HARDEE, PINOL & KRACKE, PLLC



---

Michael Christian

- Attachments: 1. December 1, 2022 letter  
2. Summary of proposed operation

cc: Richard Brown, Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC

IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LAW OFFICES

**HARDEE, PIÑOL & KRACKE PLLC**

1487 S. David Lane  
Boise, Idaho 83705

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JAKE HARDEE

Of Counsel:  
BO DAVIES  
MICHAEL CHRISTIAN

December 21, 2022

Mick Thomas  
Division Administrator, Minerals, Navigable Waters, Oil & Gas  
Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 103  
Boise, ID 83702

Re: Kauffman #1-9 (USWN 11-075-20027); Request to return well to active status

Dear Administrator Thomas:

On behalf of Snake River Oil and Gas, LLC, pursuant to IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05, I am writing to request to return the status of the Kauffman #1-9 well (USWN 11-075-20027) to active. The reasons for this request are:

1. The well is capable of production but shut in due to the lack of economic produced water disposal. Shut in payments have been made pursuant to the terms of the lease associated with the well.
2. Snake River has been diligently pursuing permitting of a Class II injection well for the disposal of produced water, by conversion of the existing DJS Properties #2-14 well. Notice of issuance of an aquifer exemption and issuance of a permit for the injection well (Final Permit ID-2D001-A) was issued by EPA Region 10 on November 3, 2022. The permit became effective on December 19, 2022. Snake River is diligently pursuing completion of the steps required under the permit for commissioning of the well as permitted and receipt of produced water for reinjection.
3. In accordance with IDAPA 20.07.02.501.05, a mechanical integrity test was successfully performed on the Kauffman #1-9 well on December 16, 2022. A copy of the results of that test are attached. I understand the testing method was approved by the Department.
4. Snake River believes that it will satisfy the Class II permit requirements and the DJS Properties #2-14 well will be available for receipt of produced water from the Kauffman #1-9 and other area wells within 12-18 months.























**From:** [Kourtney Romine](#)  
**To:** [Mike Christian](#); [richard@weiserbrown.email](mailto:richard@weiserbrown.email); [caldwell.nathan@weiser-brown.com](mailto:caldwell.nathan@weiser-brown.com); [rkauffman25@icloud.com](mailto:rkauffman25@icloud.com); [Mick Thomas](#); [James Thum](#); [External - Joy M. Vega](#); [Hayden Marotz](#)  
**Subject:** Notice of OGCC meeting on 09/14/2023  
**Date:** Thursday, September 07, 2023 08:09:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [091423-notice-public-mtg-ogcc-special.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

Please see attached a Notice of Public Meeting for the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. This is a special meeting of the Commission to be held next Thursday, September 14, 2023 @ 1:00pm (MT). This Notice of Public Meeting has also been posted on the OGCC website and at the Idaho Department of Lands staff office.

The Commission will hear on the Appeal of the Well Status for the Kauffman #1-9 well.

While the notice states that no public comment will be accepted, Idaho Code 47-328(5) states that "The commission may take argument from, but not new testimony of, the appellant and other qualified participating persons at the hearing." Snake River Oil & Gas and Randy & Thana Kauffman are qualified participating persons and may provide oral argument to the Commission at the meeting.

If you cannot attend in person, please let me know and I can send you a Zoom link to participate via virtual means.

An agenda for the meeting will be sent out early next week.

Sincerely,

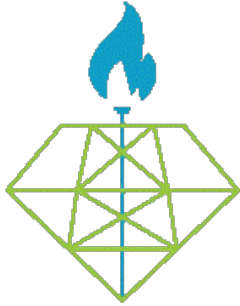
**Kourtney Romine**  
**Workflow Coordinator**

Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Email: [kromine@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:kromine@idl.idaho.gov)  
<https://www.idl.idaho.gov>



IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION



## IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Betty Coppersmith, Chair  
Ray Hinchcliff, Vice Chair  
Margaret Chipman, Commissioner  
Jennifer Riebe, Commissioner  
Vacant, Commissioner

Mick Thomas, Secretary to the Commission

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 2023

## IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

The Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at the State Capitol, House Hearing Room, (EW42), Lower Level, East Wing, 700 W Jefferson Street, Boise. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM (MT).

### **Topic: Appeal of Kauffman #1-9 well status**

The Commission may resolve into Executive Session upon commencement of the meeting pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206 (1)(f) - to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

**The Oil and Gas Conservation Commission will conduct this meeting in person and by virtual means.**

This meeting is open to the public. No public comment will be accepted at this meeting.

The meeting will be streamed live via IPTV: <https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/>

First Notice Posted: 09/07/2023-IDL Boise; 09/07/2023-IDL CDA

***The Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is established by Idaho Code § 47-314.***

*Idaho Department of Lands, 300 N 6th Street, Suite 103, Boise ID 83702*

This notice is published pursuant to § 74-204 Idaho Code. For additional information regarding Idaho's Open Meeting law, please see Idaho Code §§ 74-201 through 74-208.

**From:** [Randy Kauffman](#)  
**To:** [Kourtney Romine](#)  
**Subject:** SROG Appeal of Kauffman 1-9 Inactive Status  
**Date:** Thursday, September 07, 2023 08:46:10 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Commissioners,

We are Randy and Thana Kauffman. We are the land and mineral interest owners of the Kauffman 1-9 well. Please consider our position in reaching a decision for SROG's appeal.

In early 2017, water was a problem on our wells (Kauffman 1-9 and Kauffman 1-34). Therefore, we had a meeting with Richard Brown and Dale Hayes. We viewed a site on our property and agreed it was a good site for an evaporation pond. We entered into negotiations. We personally obtained an estimate for the dirt work and information for the pond liner. The operator failed to follow through with these plans. We were very disappointed because we thought we had reached a solution to the water problem which was beneficial to all parties. About the same time, the operator began the lengthy process of applying for a class II injection well permit. The permit was eventually granted in December 2022. At that time Richard Brown assured us his engineers were ready to hit the ground running and the project would be completed within six months. As of this date, SROG has not provided a plan or timeline for completion of this project.

According to IDAPA 20.07.02.501.01, legally IDL should have declared the Kauffman 1-9 well inactive more than 4 years ago. The operator has had more than enough time and opportunity to solve their water problem. According to SROG's appeal, they have a plan to bring the 1-9 well into production which can be accomplished within 30 days. Therefore, it is unnecessary SROG be granted further time. Furthermore, we object to giving SROG another 12 to 18 months as requested.

Therefore, we formally request the Commission keep the January 31, 2024 deadline to plug and abandon the well, and in the meantime allow SROG to execute their plan in an attempt to bring the 1-9 well into production. If their attempt is successful; and, they are able bring the well into economically viable production; then, the well can be declared active. However, if SROG is not successful in producing the well; or, if the production is not economically viable; then, the well should be plugged and abandoned by January 31, 2024.

The Commission has the authority to approve, modify, or deny SROG's appeal. Please consider our above request as a modification resulting in a fair and reasonable solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Randy and Thana Kauffman

IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**From:** [Kourtney Romine](#)  
**To:** [Mike Christian](#); [Richard Brown](#); [Nathan Caldwell](#); [Randy Kauffman](#); [Mick Thomas](#); [James Thum](#); [External - Joy M. Vega](#); [Hayden Marotz](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda for OGCC meeting on 09/14/2023  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2023 12:46:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [091423-final-agenda-ogcc-special.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

Please see attached an agenda for the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission special meeting being held this Thursday. This agenda has also been posted on the OGCC website and at the Idaho Department of Lands staff office.

Sincerely,

**Kourtney Romine**

**Workflow Coordinator**

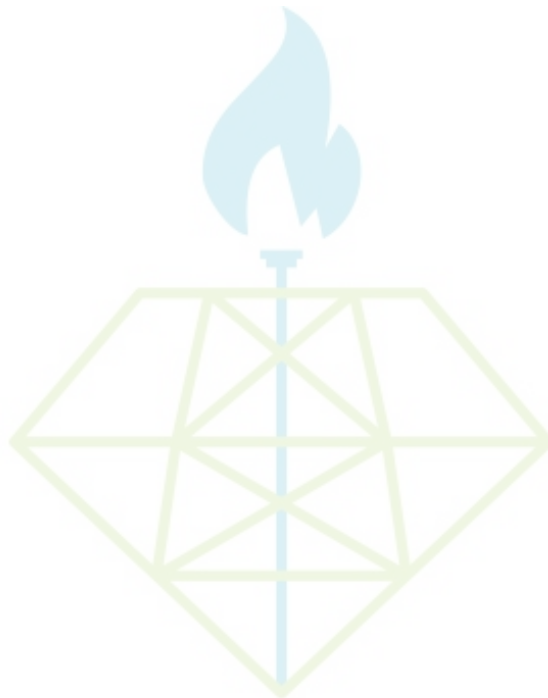
Idaho Department of Lands

300 N 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103

Boise, Idaho 83702

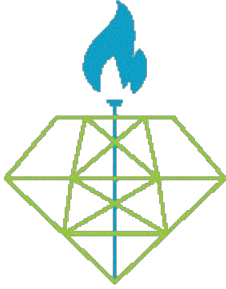
Email: [kromine@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:kromine@idl.idaho.gov)

<https://www.idl.idaho.gov>



**IDAHO OIL & GAS**  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION





IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Betty Coppersmith, Chair  
Ray Hinchcliff, Vice Chair  
Margaret Chipman, Commissioner  
Jennifer Riebe, Commissioner  
Vacant, Commissioner

Mick Thomas, Secretary to the Commission

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Final Agenda

Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Special Meeting

September 14, 2023 – 1:00 PM (MT)

State Capitol, House Hearing Room, (EW42), Lower Level, East Wing, 700 W Jefferson Street, Boise

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*Please note meeting location.*

**The Oil and Gas Conservation Commission will conduct this meeting in person and by virtual means.**

This meeting is open to the public. No public comment will be accepted at this meeting.

The meeting will be streamed live via IPTV: <https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/>

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- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Welcome new Commissioner Margaret Chipman.*

*No public comment will be accepted at this meeting.*

- **Executive**

- A. Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f) - to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. [TOPIC: Appeal of Kauffman #1-9 well status]

- **REGULAR – ACTION ITEM(S)**

- 1. Appeal of Kauffman #1-9 well status**

- 2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman** – Presented by Mick Thomas, Division Administrator – Minerals, Navigable Waters, and Oil & Gas

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Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Final Agenda

Special Meeting (Boise) – September 14, 2023

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IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
September 14, 2023  
Regular Agenda

SUBJECT

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

BACKGROUND

As per Idaho Code § 47-314(2):

*“The commission shall annually elect a chairman and a vice chairman from its membership. Such officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors are elected. If a vacancy occurs in either office, the commission shall elect a member to fill such office for the remainder of the term.”*

DISCUSSION

As per Idaho Code § 47-314(2), the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (Commission) shall elect a member annually to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman. Historically, the Commission has elected officers in August for the following 12 months. The meeting in August 2023 got rescheduled to September 2023. At the August 16, 2022, regular meeting, the Commission elected Betty Coppersmith as Chairman and Ray Hinchcliff as Vice Chairman.

The elected Chairman and Vice Chairman will serve in their respective positions until August of 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Commission to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

COMMISSION ACTION

IDAHO OIL & GAS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION