

BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

CASE NO. 20692
(CONTINUED)
ORDER NO. 22997

IN THE MATTER OF A HEARING CALLED ON
A MOTION OF THE COMMISSION TO
CONSIDER THE APPLICATION OF SAMSON
RESOURCES CO. FOR AN ORDER PURSUANT
TO NDAC § 43-02-03-88.1 POOLING ALL
INTERESTS FOR WELLS DRILLED ON THE
OVERLAPPING SPACING UNIT DESCRIBED
AS SECTIONS 27 AND 34, T.163N., R.99W.,
AMBROSE-BAKKEN POOL, DIVIDE COUNTY,
ND, AS PROVIDED BY NDCC § 38-08-08 BUT
NOT REALLOCATING PRODUCTION FOR
WELLS PRODUCING ON OTHER SPACING
UNITS AND SUCH OTHER RELIEF AS IS
APPROPRIATE.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION FINDS:

(1) This cause originally came on for hearing at 9:00 a.m. on the 31st day of July, 2013. At that time, counsel for Samson Resources Company (Samson) requested this case be continued to the regularly scheduled hearing in August, 2013. There were no objections, the hearing officer granted the request, and this case was scheduled for hearing on August 29, 2013.

(2) Pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) Section 43-02-03-88.1, the Director is authorized to sign, on behalf of the Commission, orders relating to, inter alia, pooling under North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 38-08-08.

(3) The applicant is the owner of an interest in an oil and gas leasehold estate in a spacing unit described as all of Sections 27 and 34, Township 163 North, Range 99 West, Ambrose-Bakken Pool, Divide County, North Dakota.

(4) Said spacing unit was created in accordance with an order of the Commission and there are separately owned tracts and/or separately owned interests in the spacing unit, and some of the owners thereof have not voluntarily pooled their interest for the development and operation of said spacing unit.

(5) The Commission makes no findings with regard to the specific acreage or percentage attributed to separately owned tracts or interests.

(6) Counsel for applicant requests an order of the Commission pooling all interests in the spacing unit, as provided by NDCC Section 38-08-08, but not reallocating production for wells producing on other spacing units and such other relief as is appropriate.

(7) There were no objections to this application.

(8) NDCC Section 38-08-08 requires the Commission to enter a pooling order upon application when two or more separately owned tracts are embraced within a spacing unit, or there are separately owned interests in all or a part of a spacing unit, in the absence of voluntary pooling. The section further provides that working interest owners in the spacing unit shall pay their share of the reasonable actual cost of drilling and operating the well plus a reasonable charge for supervision. In addition to such costs and charges, nonparticipating lessees may be required to pay a risk penalty of 200 percent and unleased mineral interest owners may be required to pay a risk penalty of 50 percent of their share of the reasonable actual cost of drilling and completing the well. The requirements for imposition of a risk penalty are set forth in NDCC Section 38-08-08 and NDAC Section 43-02-03-16.3.

(9) Order No. 23099 dated September 27, 2013, established the 1280-acre spacing unit which is the subject of this case.

(10) The sole purpose of this order is to pool the 1280-acre spacing unit established by Order No. 23099 for the development and operation of the spacing unit.

(11) This application should be granted in order to prevent waste and protect correlative rights.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

(1) All oil and gas interests in a spacing unit described as all of Sections 27 and 34, Township 163 North, Range 99 West, Ambrose-Bakken Pool, Divide County, North Dakota, are hereby pooled for the development and operation of the spacing unit.

(2) This pooling shall not determine or establish the specific acreage to be attributed to separately owned tracts, or specific interests attributed to separately owned interests in such tracts or stratigraphic intervals.

(3) The operator of the well(s) for the spacing unit shall conduct operations in a manner so as to protect correlative rights of all interested parties.

(4) All owners of interests shall recover or receive, without unnecessary expense, their just and equitable share of production from the spacing unit in the proportion as their interest may appear in the spacing unit.

(5) The working interest owner shall reimburse the operator for their proportionate share of the reasonable actual cost of drilling and operating said well(s), plus a reasonable charge for supervision.

(6) In the event of any dispute as to such costs the Commission shall determine the proper cost.

(7) In the event the size of the spacing unit pooled herein is modified by the Commission, this order shall terminate as of the date of such order.

(8) This order is limited to pooling the spacing unit described above for the development and operation of such spacing unit by the horizontal well(s) authorized for such spacing unit by order of the Commission. This order does not modify, amend or alter previous pooling orders for other spacing units or require the reallocation of production allocated to separately owned tracts within any spacing unit by any existing pooling orders or any pooling agreements.

(9) This order shall be effective from the date of first operations within the spacing unit, and shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

Dated this 27th day of November, 2013.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

By the Director, on behalf of the Commission

/s/ Lynn D. Helms, Director