

Title 43

NATURAL RESOURCES

Part XIX. Office of Conservation—General Operations

Subpart 18. Statewide Order No. 29-S

Chapter 43. ~~Austin Chalk Formation~~ Unconventional Reservoir Development

§4301. Scope

A. This Statewide Order provides rules and regulations governing the drilling of horizontal wells in ~~the Austin Chalk Formation~~ unconventional reservoirs in the state of Louisiana.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:1 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, LR 24:102 (January 1998), Amended by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, LR 51: (December 2025).

§4303. Definitions

A. Unless the context otherwise requires, the words defined in §4303 shall have the following meaning when found in this Statewide Order.

Completed Interval—perforated or open hole section(s) within a well that will permit the flow of fluids from the reservoir.

Cross-Unit Well—a well with a completed interval in adjacent units.

First Take Point—the perforation within the defined reservoir that is closest to the vertical section of a cased and cemented wellbore or the penetration point of the defined reservoir in an open-hole wellbore.

~~Austin Chalk Formation~~ Horizontal Well—well with the wellbore drilled laterally at an angle of at least 80 degrees to the vertical and with a horizontal displacement of at least 50 feet in the ~~Austin Chalk~~ target F formation measured from the initial point of penetration into the ~~Austin Chalk~~ target formation.

Last Take Point—the perforation within the defined reservoir that is closest to the end of a cased and cemented wellbore or the exit point of the defined reservoir or terminus within the defined reservoir in an open-hole wellbore.

Unit Line Well—a well with at least 500 feet of completed interval, exclusive of the first take point and last take point, that is located within 330 feet of a unit boundary measured along a line perpendicular to the completed interval or to the tangent thereof.

Unit Line Units—adjacent units that are developed by a unit line well.

Unconventional Reservoir—oil and gas accumulations with very low permeability typically requiring development using horizontal wells and/or high-volume hydraulic fracturing methods for extraction.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:1 et seq.

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§4305. ~~Order~~Austin Chalk

A. – A.8. ...

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HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, LR 24:102 (January 1998), Amended by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, LR 51: (December 2025).

§4307. Haynesville Shale

A. From and after the effective date hereof, the following special rules shall apply to development of the Haynesville Shale Formation in the State of Louisiana employing the use of horizontal wells. The setback provisions contained herein shall supersede those contained in any Field Orders adopted prior to the effective date hereof, other than provisions which authorized exceptional well locations. Nothing herein shall prevent operators from obtaining exceptions to these rules for due cause after notice and hearing.

1. Setbacks

a. The distance from any point in the completed interval to any outer boundary of the unit, measured along a line perpendicular to the completed interval or to the tangent thereof, shall be a minimum of 330 feet.

b. The first and last take point of a horizontal well shall be no closer than 100 feet to any unit boundary unless the well is an authorized Cross-Unit Well.

2. Cross-Unit Wells

a. The party who owns or controls the majority working interest in the drilling units proposed for cross-unit development may obtain approval to drill cross-unit wells only after a 30-day notice public hearing. Such ownership or control shall be based on sworn testimony at the public hearing which authorizes the cross-unit wells.

b. Setback provisions of LAC 43:XIX.4307.1 do not apply to the common unit boundaries that are crossed by a cross-unit well.

c. A proposed cross-unit well that has less than 500 feet of perforated lateral in a unit may only be authorized if:

i. The pre-application notice and hearing application expressly set forth the right to object to the application; and

ii. There is no timely objection filed by an interested owner, interested party, or represented party as defined in LAC 43:XIX.3903, other than a mineral lessee, which owns an interest in the unit(s) with less than 500 feet of perforated lateral and, on the date of the application hearing, the short unit either is not producing or is producing only from one or more horizontal laterals with a combined length of perforated lateral less than five hundred feet.

d. Production from a cross-unit well shall be allocated to each unit in the same proportion as length of the completed interval located in each unit determined by an as-drilled survey.

e. Surface commingling of gas produced from cross-unit wells is authorized without further notice or application in exception to the requirements of LAC 43:XIX Chapter 15, provided that operators adhere to the following requirements:

i. All individual well production shall be metered for allocation purposes in accordance with the *American Petroleum Institute (API) Manual of Petroleum Measurement Standards, Chapter 20, Allocation Measurement*; and

ii. Allocation meters shall be calibrated on at least a quarterly basis;

iii. Within 90 days of initiating commingled production, a diagrammatic sketch of the mechanical installation along with a detailed explanation of gas flow, the procedures and frequency for calibration/proving of metering devices and the complete allocation formula to be utilized must be filed.

f. Supplemental production reports for each cross-unit well must be filed on a monthly basis.

3. Unit Line Wells

a. The party who owns or controls the majority working interest in the drilling units proposed for unit line well development may obtain approval to drill unit line wells only after a 30-day notice public hearing. Such ownership or control shall be based on sworn testimony at the public hearing which authorizes the unit line wells.

b. Setback provisions of LAC 43:XIX.4307.1 do not apply to the nearest unit boundary that is parallel to the completed interval of the unit line well.

c. Production from a unit line well should be allocated equally to each unit line unit in the same proportion as the length of the completed interval located within 330 feet of the common unit boundary determined by an as-drilled survey.

d. Surface commingling of gas produced from unit line wells is authorized without further notice or application in exception to the requirements of LAC 43:XIX Chapter 15, provided that operators adhere to the requirements of LAC 43:XIX.4307.2.e.i-iii.

e. Supplemental production reports for each unit line well must be filed on a monthly basis.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:1 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, LR 51:102 (December 2025).