



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

**Eric Vendel, Chief**

Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management  
2045 Morse Rd, Building F  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
Phone: (614) 265-6922; Fax: (614) 265-6910

## **ORDER BY THE CHIEF**

**January 9, 2023**

**ORDER NO. 2023-02**

**TO: Deeprock Disposal Solutions LLC  
637 State Street Route 821  
Marietta, OH 45750**

**RE: Warren Drilling No. 1 Well  
API # 34-121-2-3995-00-00  
SWIW No. 6  
Jackson Township, Noble County**

**Travis Unit No. 200405  
API # 34-121-2-4086-00-00  
SWIW No. 7  
Jackson Township, Noble County**

**SUBJECT: Suspension of Injection Operations**

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 1509.03 and Ohio Admin. Code 1501:9-3-07(N), the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management (“Chief” or “Division”) makes the following Findings and issues the following Order:

### **BACKGROUND:**

- (1) Deeprock Disposal Solutions LLC (“Deeprock”) is the “Class II disposal well owner,” as that term is defined in Ohio Adm.Code 1501:9-3-01(J), of the Warren Drilling No. 1 Well, API# 34-121-2-3995-00-00, SWIW No. 6, and Travis Unit Well No. 200405, API 34-121-2-4086-00-00, SWIW No. 7 (“Travis Well”), located in Jackson Township, Noble County, Ohio (collectively referred to as “the Wells”).
- (2) Pursuant to R.C. 1509.05, R.C. 1509.06, and R.C. 1509.22(D), on May 27, 2004 and August 11, 2008, the Division issued permits to Triad Resources Inc., authorizing Triad Resources Inc. to drill the Travis Well as a saltwater injection well and convert the Warren Drilling No. 1 Well to a saltwater injection well.

- (3) On January 5, 2021, Division records were updated to reflect that the Wells were transferred to Deeprook. Deeprook is the successor-in-interest to the permits for the Travis and Warren Drilling No. 1 Wells.
- (4) The Warren Drilling No. 1 Well is constructed to inject into the Clinton and Medina formations at a depth interval of 5764 feet to 5892 feet.
- (5) The Travis Well is constructed to inject into the Clinton and Medina formations at a depth interval of 5868 feet to 5981 feet.
- (6) On November 15, 2010, a flow of brine was encountered at the surface while removing downhole equipment at the Patrick F/MM-OVOC No. 3 Well, API# 34-121-2-4101-00-00, located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Warren Drilling No. 1 Well. The Patrick F/MM-OVOC No. 3 Well was drilled to produce from the Clinton formation at a depth interval of 6052 feet to 6134 feet.
- (7) On August 27, 2013, a flow of brine was encountered at the surface while beginning to plug an oil and gas production well known as the Raney H No. 81 Well, API# 34-121-2-3122-00-00, located approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the Warren Drilling No. 1 Well. The Raney H No. 81 Well was drilled to produce from the Clinton and Medina formations at a depth interval of 5895 feet to 5985 feet.
- (8) On April 23, 2019, an uncontrolled flow of brine occurred at the surface of the oil and gas production well known as the Schott No. 1 Well, API# 34-121-2-2117-00-00, located approximately 5 miles southwest of the Warren Drilling No. 1 Well. The Schott No. 1 Well was drilled to produce from the Clinton and Medina formations at a depth interval of 5564 feet to 5688 feet. The flow of brine ceased after setting of a bottom plug across the Clinton and Medina formations.
- (9) On January 24, 2021, an uncontrolled flow of brine began at the surface of the oil and gas production well known as the Ohio Power/Gant No. 17-69 Well, API# 34-121-2-3216-00-00, located approximately 2 miles southwest of the Warren Drilling No. 1 Well. The Ohio Power/Gant No. 17-69 Well was drilled to produce from the Clinton and Medina formations at a depth interval of 5889 feet to 6019 feet. The uncontrolled brine release continued for days until a plug could be set in the well. The land surface and adjacent stream were impacted by the release. This release caused environmental impacts. The Division incurred costs of \$1,279,608.03 to take corrective actions. The Division notified Deeprook of the impact of the Ohio Power/Gant No. 17-169 Well.
- (10) On January 7, 2023, a Division inspector received a report that brine was spraying from a hole in the production casing of the oil and gas production well known as the Virgil Porter #1 C Well, API # 34-121-2-3092-00-00. The Virgil Porter No. 1 C is located approximately 5.43 miles of the Travis and Warren Drilling No. 1 Wells and is drilled to produce from the Clinton and Medina formations at a depth interval of 5626 feet to 5778 feet. This spraying brine caused imminent health, safety, and environmental risk.
- (11) Also on January 7, 2023, the Division notified Deeprook of the Virgil Porter No. 1 Well impact and informed Deeprook that the Division would be issuing an order suspending

operations at the Wells. The Division also requested and Deeproch agreed to voluntarily suspend injection at the Wells pending the issuance of the suspension order.

- (12) The above-referenced brine flows occurred at oil and gas production wells along a linear trend from the Wells as depicted in the attached Exhibit A.
- (13) The volumes and pressures of the brine flows described above do not occur naturally in Clinton wells drilled decades ago and can only be originating from a nearby injection well or wells.
- (14) The only nearby injection wells that inject brine at volumes large enough to migrate to the above-referenced impacted production wells are the Travis and Warren Drilling No. 1 Wells. The Wells are also the only injection wells on the linear trend where documented instances of brine flow to surface through production wells have occurred. Any other nearby injection wells have also not been in operation long enough to be the cause of these brine flows.
- (15) The impacts to production wells on this linear trend extend outside the area of review for the Travis and Warren Drilling No. 1 Wells.
- (16) Ohio Revised Code 1509.22(A) provides, in pertinent part, that “[n]o person shall . . . cause to be placed . . . on the land or discharge or cause to be discharged in surface water brine . . . or other fluids associated with the exploration, development, well stimulation, production operations, or plugging of oil and gas resources that causes or could reasonably be anticipated to cause damage or injury to public health or safety or the environment.”
- (17) Ohio Administrative Code 1501:9-1-07(A) provides that “[a]ll persons engaged in any phase of operation of any well or wells shall conduct such operation or operations in a manner which will not contaminate or pollute the surface of the land, or water on the surface[.]”
- (18) Ohio Administrative Code 1501:9-3-07(N)(1) states, in pertinent part, that “[t]he chief may immediately suspend, by order, operations of a class II disposal well or surface facility under any of the following circumstances:
  - (a) A class II disposal well is causing or likely to cause contamination of the land, surface waters, or subsurface waters; \* \* \*
  - (f) The chief determines that operation or continued operation of the well . . . is likely to endanger public health or safety;
  - (g) The chief determines that brine or other waste substances from class II disposal well injection operations may be outside of the permitted injection zone or area of review; [and] \* \* \*
  - (k) Any violation of Chapter 1509. of the Revised Code or division 1501:9 of the Administrative Code.”

**FINDINGS:**

- (1) The Chief finds that Deeprook's operations of the Wells violates R.C. 1509.22(A), and Ohio Admin. Code 1501:9-1-07(A).
- (2) The Chief finds that the operation of the Wells has and is impacting nearby production wells and that such impacts endanger and are likely to endanger public health, safety, or the environment.
- (3) The Chief finds that if the Wells continue to operate, additional impacts may occur in the future and are likely to contaminate the land, surface waters, or subsurface waters. Thus, the continued operation of the Wells presents an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public and is likely to result in immediate substantial damage to the natural resources of the state.
- (4) The Chief finds that brine or other waste substances from operation of the Wells are outside of the area of review.
- (5) The Chief finds that the Wells should be immediately suspended under Ohio Admin. Code 1501:9-3-07(N).

**ORDERS:**

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

- (1) Deeprook shall immediately suspend all operations at the Wells.
- (2) Deeprook shall submit a plan in accordance with Ohio Admin. Code 1501:9-3-07(O)(1).
- (3) Injection operations at the Wells shall not resume until the Chief or his authorized representative determines that the conditions that caused the suspensions have been corrected and this Order is terminated.

1/9/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Andrew Adgate* For  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Vendel, Chief  
Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management

Pursuant to R.C. 1509.224(B), addressee is hereby notified that this action is a preliminary order of the Chief and becomes a final order 30 days after its issuance unless the person to whom the preliminary order is directed submits to the Chief a written request for an informal hearing before the Chief within that 30-day period.

If no informal review is requested within 30 days after the issuance of this order, this order is deemed final and may be appealed pursuant to R.C. 1509.36 and 1509.37 of the Ohio Revised Code. If the Order is appealed to the Ohio Oil and Gas Commission, the appeal must be in writing and must set forth the Orders complained of and the grounds upon which the appeal is based. Such appeal must be filed with the Oil and Gas Commission within 30 days after the date upon which the order becomes final and sent to the following address: 2045 Morse Road, Building E-1 Office 103, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693.

In addition, within three days after the appeal is filed with the Oil and Gas Commission, notice of the filing must be submitted to Eric Vendel, Chief, Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, 2045 Morse Road, Building F, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693.

CERTIFIED MAIL No: 9489009000276346811450

Enclosure:

Exhibit A

# EXHIBIT A

Noble County Wells

Townships (ODOT)

Counties (ODOT)

Injection Wells

Impacted Wells

Producing Clinton

Trendline buffer 500 ft





February 23, 2023

Dear sandra Evans:

The following is in response to your request for proof of delivery on your item with the tracking number:  
**9489 0090 0027 6346 8114 50.**

**Item Details**

<b>Status:</b>	Delivered, Left with Individual
<b>Status Date / Time:</b>	January 11, 2023, 2:35 pm
<b>Location:</b>	MARIETTA, OH 45750
<b>Postal Product:</b>	First-Class Mail®
<b>Extra Services:</b>	Certified Mail™ Return Receipt Electronic

**Shipment Details**

<b>Weight:</b>	2lb, 9.3oz
----------------	------------

**Recipient Signature**

Signature of Recipient:	<i>Sandra Evans</i>
Address of Recipient:	<i>637 Street 871</i>

Note: Scanned image may reflect a different destination address due to Intended Recipient's delivery instructions on file.

Thank you for selecting the United States Postal Service® for your mailing needs. If you require additional assistance, please contact your local Post Office™ or a Postal representative at 1-800-222-1811.

Sincerely,  
United States Postal Service®  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004