

# Spudding? Reworking? What are 'Operations' Under an Oil and Gas Lease?

## *Insight*

Gray Reed's Energy & the Law blog discusses an energy lease that featured some dueling provisions that resulted in a lawsuit in a Texas court.

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# Gas Well Operator's Injunction Against Texas Town is Dissolved

## *News*

Gray Reed's Energy & the Law blog tells the story of *Town of Flower Mound v. Eagle Ridge Operating LLC*, in which an operator's injunction against enforcement of a local ordinance was dissolved.

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# LIBOR Phase-Out: Considerations for Oil & Gas

# Companies

## **Insight**

Oil and gas companies are encouraged to consider the impact of the phase-out to their organization and take steps to assess existing agreements and carefully monitor the execution of new agreements.

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## **Water: The Hot Commodity in the Permian and Elsewhere**

### **Insight**

Operators should be proactive in addressing water ownership issues, writes Charles Sartain of Gray Reed & McGraw. A simple contract negotiation at the front-end could save future headaches as disputes over groundwater escalate.

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## **Texas Businessman Lost \$6 Million Investing in BP Litigation. Now He's Blaming His Ex-Lawyers**

### **News**

The litigation investment firm's money evaporated into an allegedly fraudulent scheme to manufacture tens of thousands

of plaintiffs.

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## When is a Hydraulically Fractured Well ‘Complete?’

### *Insight*

Typically, most leases contain savings provisions that extend the lease beyond the primary term when the lessee ‘continuously prosecutes’ drilling operations, explains J. Mark Robinette.

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## Offshore Worker Wins Settlement in Platform Explosion Case

### *News*

Lawyers with Houston-based Heard Law Firm achieved a settlement for an offshore pipeline technician who was injured in a 2017 accident in the Gulf of Mexico.

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# Thompson & Knight Counsels Conflicts Committee of American Midstream Partners in Going-Private Merger with ArcLight

## **News**

Thompson & Knight LLP advised the Conflicts Committee of American Midstream Partners, LP in its merger with an affiliate of ArcLight Energy Partners Fund V.

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# Suspended Lawyer Ordered to Pay \$3.4M in Attorney Fees to Chevron As Contempt Sanction

## **News**

A federal judge ordered New York lawyer Steven Donziger to pay the attorney fees for “intransigence” that blocked Chevron’s “considerable efforts” to get at the facts.

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# Houston Oil Executive Gets 18 Years in Prison for Defrauding Investors

## *News*

The *Houston Chronicle* reports that a Houston oil executive was sentenced to state prison for defrauding investors who thought they were paying for the drilling and testing of wells – but instead paid the executive's mortgage.

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# 'Express Written Consent' Means Express Written Consent—No More, No Less

## *Insight*

When drafting contracts, you should say what you mean and mean what you say, and reliance on oral representations directly contrary to the terms of a written agreement between sophisticated parties is not justifiable.

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# Supreme Court Holds State

# Wage and Hour Laws are Inapplicable to Offshore Drilling Platforms

## **News**

A Liskow & Lewis blog post discusses a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that could have far-reaching implications concerning wage-and-hour laws for workers on oil and gas platforms located in open water on the Outer Continental Shelf.

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# Fracking Companies Lost on Trespassing, But a Court Just Gave Them a Different Win

## **News**

A week after the West Virginia Supreme Court unanimously upheld the property rights of landowners battling one natural gas giant, the same court tossed out a challenge filed by another group of landowners against a different natural gas company.

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# ***Burlington v. Texas Crude* – Another Texas Supreme Court Case on Post-Production Costs**

## ***News***

The Texas Supreme Court has denied motion for rehearing of its opinion in a case that addresses deductibility of oil and gas post-production costs in the context of an overriding royalty.

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# **Groundwater Law Can Bring Some Unwelcome Surprises to Property Owners**

## ***Insight***

Gray Reed provides some analysis of the state of groundwater law in Texas and discusses some of the effects of a Texas Supreme Court case that should now be a concern to land purchasers in every transaction.

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# **Thompson & Knight Successfully Defends BP in**

# Landmark Texas Oil and Gas Lease Cases

## *News*

A Thompson & Knight trial team earned a unanimous verdict for BP America Production Company in a retrial of a 12-year-old lease termination dispute.

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## Strip-And-Gore Leads to 30 Acres of Minerals Underlying a Highway

### *Insight*

Several reported cases in recent years have involved title to minerals underlying roadways, points out Austin Brister for the McGinnis Lochridge Oil and Gas Law Digest.

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## Texas Court Addresses the Use of Contract Operators

### *Insight*

A recent Texas ruling illustrates the problems that can arise when parties to a joint operating agreement elect to have a non-owner serve as the operator, points out Austin Brister in the McGinnis Lochridge Oil and Gas Law Digest.



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# Broad Settlement Discharges Mineral Liens

## *Insight*

When you prepare, review and/or sign settlement agreements you sometimes pay less attention than you should to the details of those “standard” releases, writes Charles Sartain in Gray Reed’s Energy & the Law blog.

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# Landowners, Energy Companies Seek to Capture Court’s Ruling in Historic Hydraulic Fracking Case

## *News*

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has agreed to hear a case to consider whether the rule of capture applies to hydraulic fracking, reports The Hydraulic Fracking Blog of Norton Rose Fulbright.