

**BEFORE THE
OHIO AND GAS BOARD OF REVIEW**

ROBERT L. & SARA S. RATCHFORD,	:	Appeal No. 557.
	:	
Appellants,	:	
	:	
-vs-	:	Review of Chief's Order 94-83
	:	
DONALD L. MASON, Chief,	:	
Division of Oil & Gas,	:	
	:	
	:	<u>ENTRY</u>
	:	
Appellee.	:	

Appearances: Robert L. Ratchford, Jr., Counsel for Appellants Robert L. Ratchford, deceased, & Sara S. Ratchford; Ray Studer, Assistant Attorney General, Counsel for Appellee Division of Oil & Gas; William W. Vaughn, III, Counsel for Interested Person The New Albany Company.

Rendered: April 27, 1995

BACKGROUND

This matter came before the Oil & Gas Board of Review ["Board"] upon appeal by Robert L. Ratchford, deceased, and Sara S. Ratchford from Chief's Order 94-83. Chief's Order 94-83 required the plugging of two permitted gas wells.

On April 27, 1995, this cause came on for hearing at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Complex, Columbus, Ohio. Following the presentation of evidence, the Board deliberated upon this matter, and announced the following findings, conclusions and order:

FINDINGS AND ORDER

The Board **FINDS** that Chief's Order 94-83 is unlawful and unreasonable as to Sara S. Ratchford, because there is no evidence on the Record that she was the owner when the wells drilled pursuant to permits 18 and 23 became incapable of producing gas.

The Board also **FINDS** that Robert L. Ratchford was the permit holder for permits 18 and 23. And, there is sufficient evidence presented to find that there is no transfer of record pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §1509.31. And, there is sufficient evidence that Robert died in 1985, and that his estate may have been the successor-in-interest to the permits.

And the Board, on the basis of the evidence presented, **AGREES** with the findings in the Chief's Order that The New Albany Company is the current owner of the property. And, there is sufficient evidence to find that the wells drilled pursuant to permits 18 and 23 are incapable of producing gas.

The Board further **FINDS** that the Chief's Order is reasonable and lawful as to Robert L. Ratchford, deceased, and his successors, assigns and agents.

THEREFORE, the Board **REVERSES** the Chief's Order with respect to Sara S. Ratchford. The Board **AFFIRMS** the Chief's Order with respect to Robert L. Ratchford, deceased, and his successors, assigns and agents.



WILLIAM J. TAYLOR, Chairman

BENITA KAHN, Secretary

JAMES H. CAMERON

JOHN A. GRAY

GAIL IGNATZ-HOOVER

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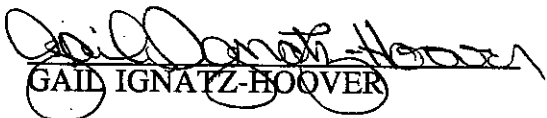
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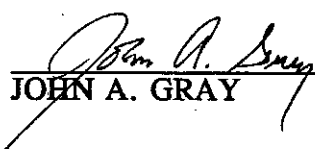
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APPEAL NO. 557

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