IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

JERRY D. ENNIS)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) Case No. 07-CV-436 CVE-PJC
WELL RENEWAL, INC., an Oklahoma))
Suspended corporation and WELL)
RENEWAL, INC., a Delaware corporation,)
)
Defendants.)

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO ISSUE WRIT OF EXECUTION ON PERSONAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT LOCATED ON THE OIL AND GAS LEASE KNOWN AS THE ROSS LEASE

This matter has been referred to the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge for Report and Recommendation as to plaintiff's Motion to Issue Writ of Execution on Personal Property and Equipment Located on the Oil and Gas Lease Known as the Ross Lease ("Motion to Issue Writ"). [Dkt. # 58].

BACKGROUND

On August 10, 2007, Plaintiff filed his Complaint seeking, <u>inter alia</u>, to enforce and foreclose a mechanic's lien against various assets alleged to be owned by Defendant. Certain of those assets are the subject of the Motion to Issue Writ. [Dkt. # 58]. Approximately a year after filing the Complaint, the parties resolved their dispute and on August 29, 2008, the Court entered a Stipulated Journal Entry of Judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants in the amount of One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000.00). [Dkt. # 34]. Costs in the amount of \$425.00 were awarded Plaintiff on October 28, 2008, and attorneys' fees in the amount of \$22,708.16 were awarded Plaintiff on December 4, 2008. [Dkt. # 44]. The total principal amount of Plaintiffs' judgment against Defendants is \$183,133.16.

In the Motion to Issue Writ, Plaintiff asserts that his judgment has not been satisfied and that the full amount of \$183,133.16 remains due and unpaid. Defendants' deadline for responding to the Motion to Issue Writ was January 6, 2009. No response has been filed. The Tenth Circuit has found that motions seeking the issuance of a Writ of Execution are case dispositive. <u>U.S. v. Thompson</u>, 285 Fed.Appx. 522 (10th Cir. 2008). Thus, the Motion to Issue Writ cannot be deemed confessed under Local Rule 7.2, and an independent review of the merits must be conducted.

MERITS REVIEW

Pursuant to the Stipulated Journal Entry of Judgment, the allegations contained in Plaintiff's August 10, 2007 Complaint are to be taken as true. [Dkt. # 34 at \P 2]. The allegations in the Complaint, if taken as true, establish that:

- a. Plaintiff provided Defendants with the use of certain oil field equipment, referred to as a pulling unit, which was used to service wells on the Ross Lease during the period April 2006 through March 16, 2007, [Dkt. # 2 at ¶ 6-7];
- b. At the time that the equipment was used on the Ross Lease, the lease was owned and operated by Defendants, [Dkt. # 2 at ¶ 8];
- c. Defendants failed to pay for the use of the pulling unit after the last date that the pulling unit was supplied to the Defendants, [Dkt. # 2 at ¶ 9]; and
- d. Plaintiff timely filed, on May 24, 2007, a mechanic's lien with the Clerk for the County of Rogers, State of Oklahoma, at Book 1870, Pages 716-719, against numerous oil and gas leases, including the Ross Lease, [Dkt. # 2 at ¶ 12].

In the Stipulated Journal Entry of Judgment, the Court likewise found that Plaintiff's judgment is ". . . secured by a Mechanic's or Materialmen's Lien that plaintiff filed on May 24, 2007 with the Clerk for the County of Rogers, State of Oklahoma, said lien being recorded at Book 1870, Page 719, and which constitutes a valid lien upon the oil and gas leases hereinafter

described." [Dkt. #34 at ¶ 3]. The Court also (1) adjudged that the lien "constitutes a valid lien upon the oil and gas leases hereinafter described[,]" (2) stated that the oil and gas leases subject to the lien include the Ross Lease, and (3) described the Ross Lease as "East Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (E/2 SW/4 SE/4) and the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW/4 SW/4 SE/4) of "Section 7", Township 24 North, Range 17 East, Rogers County, State of Oklahoma." [Dkt. # 34 at ¶ (D), (emphasis added)]. The Stipulated Journal Entry of Judgment further ordered that the Ross Lease be foreclosed and that special execution and order of sale issue out of the office of the Court Clerk of this Court directing the U.S. Marshal to levy and execute thereon and sell the interest and apply the proceeds to the satisfaction of Plaintiff's judgment. [Dkt. # 34 at 3].

Here, Plaintiff seeks a Writ of Execution, not on the Ross Lease, but on the personal property located on the Ross Lease. More importantly, Plaintiff's Motion to Issue Writ describes the Ross Lease as being located in Section 2, Township 24 North, Range 17, not in "Section 7", Township 24 North, Range 17, as the lease is described in the Stipulated Judgment and in the Complaint, and as admitted in the Answer. [Dkt. # 2, # 11, and # 34]. Thus, prior to the filing of the Motion to Issue Writ, there was no evidence in the record that the parties to this lawsuit had been given notice of Plaintiff's desire to execute on a the Ross Lease, as that lease is described in the Motion to Issue Writ, or any personal property located on such a lease. Further, nothing in the record establishes Plaintiff's rights in a Ross Lease that is located in Section 2. Likewise, nothing in the record establishes Plaintiff's rights in personal property located on a Ross Lease that is in Section 2.

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¹ The undersigned does not doubt that it was Plaintiff's intention to execute on the Ross Lease and to describe that lease as being located in Section 2. Unfortunately, there is no evidence in the record of that intention. Had the Motion to Issue Writ sought the same relief with respect to the Ross Lease as described in the Stipulated Judgment, this recommendation would have been to grant the Motion to Issue Writ.

Accordingly, I **RECOMMEND** that Plaintiff's Motion to Issue Writ be **DENIED**.

OBJECTIONS

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b), a party may file specific written objections to this Report and Recommendation. Objections must be filed with the Clerk of the District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma within ten (10) days of being served with a copy of this Report and Recommendation. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 6 (as to computation of time periods). If specific written objections are timely filed, the district judge assigned to this case will:

make a *de novo* determination upon the record, or after additional evidence, of any portion of the magistrate judge's disposition to which specific written objection has been made in accordance with this rule. The district judge may accept, reject, or modify the recommended decision, receive further evidence, or recommit the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); see 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).

The Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit has adopted a "firm waiver rule" in connection with appeals from orders adopting a Magistrate Judge's report and recommendation. "[T]he failure to make timely objections to the magistrate's findings or recommendations waives appellate review of factual and legal questions." <u>United States v. One Parcel of Real Property</u>, 73 F.3d 1057, 1059 (10th Cir. 1996) (quoting <u>Moore v. United States</u>, 950 F.2d 656, 659 (10th Cir. 1991)). Thus, a timely, specific and written objection is necessary to preserve an issue for *de novo* review by the assigned district judge and for appellate review by the court of appeals. See Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); <u>Haney v. Addison</u>, 175 F.3d 1217 (10th Cir. 1999); and <u>Talley v. Hesse</u>, 91 F.3d 1411 (10th Cir. 1996).

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2009.

T. Lane Wilson

United States Magistrate Judge