

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan for the purchase or sale of equity securities of the issuer that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Driver John</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>521 E. 2ND STREET, SUITE 1000</u>  (Street) <u>TULSA OK 74120</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Vital Energy, Inc. [ VTLE ]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>10/31/2024</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					
Deferred Stock Units	(I)	10/31/2024		A		1,467		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	\$0	6,803	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- These shares are granted under the Issuer's Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan and represent partial payment of the director's retainer and director fees.
- These deferred stock units are granted under the Issuer's Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan and represent partial payment of the director's retainer and director fees. Each deferred stock unit represents the right to receive one share of common stock of the Issuer.

**Remarks:**

Exhibit 24.1: Power of Attorney

/s/ Mark D. Denny as attorney-in-fact for John Driver 11/04/2024

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

### For Executing Forms 3, 4 and 5

The undersigned, John Driver, hereby constitutes and appoints Mark D. Denny and Wendy Brooks, each, individually or jointly, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, to have full power and authority to act in his name, place and stead and on the undersigned's behalf to:

1. execute and deliver for and on behalf of the undersigned Forms 3, 4 and 5 (including any amendments, corrections, supplements or other changes thereto) in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "*Exchange Act*"), and the rules thereunder, but only to the extent each form relates to the undersigned's beneficial ownership of securities of Vital Energy, Inc. or any of its subsidiaries;
2. do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned that may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4 or 5 and timely file such form with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any stock exchange, self-regulatory association or any other authority; and
3. take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing, which, in the opinion of each such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required of, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve, in his discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary and proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as such attorney-in-fact might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that the attorneys-in-fact, or his substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Power of Attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is Vital Energy, Inc. assuming, (i) any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with the requirements of the Exchange Act or any liability for the undersigned's failure to comply with such requirements or (ii) any obligation or liability that the undersigned incurs for profit disgorgement under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 (including any amendments, corrections, supplements or other changes thereto) with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by Vital Energy, Inc. unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October 2024.

By: /s/ John Driver  
John Driver

*Signature Page to Power of Attorney for Executing Forms 3, 4 and 5*