

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL	
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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>FAULKNER STEPHEN L JR</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>521 E. 2ND STREET, SUITE 1000</u>  (Street) <u>TULSA OK 74120</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>04/01/2024</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Vital Energy, Inc. [ VTLE ]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <u>VP &amp; CAO</u>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date				

Explanation of Responses:

**Remarks:**

Exhibit 24.1: Power of Attorney

No securities are beneficially owned.

/s/ Mark D Denny, as attorney-in-fact for Stephen L. Faulkner, Jr.

04/03/2024

\*\* 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 5 (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, Stephen L. Faulkner, Jr., hereby constitutes and appoints Mark D. Denny with full power of substitution and resubstitution, to have full power and authority to act in her 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 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 1st day of April, 2024.

By: /s/ Stephen L.  
Faulkner, Jr.  

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Stephen L. Faulkner,  
Jr.

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