

BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills/Kansas)
Gas Utility Company, LLC, d/b/a Black Hills Energy,) Docket No. 16-BHCG-_____-CON
for Approval of its Long Term Physical Gas Hedge)
Contract With Black Hills Utility Holdings, Inc.)

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
JOHN H. BENTON

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS	1
II.	PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY	2
III.	GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION INDUSTRY	2
IV.	BHEP'S ROLE IN THE COSG PROGRAM AND ITS BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE	17
V.	CONCLUSION	21

EXHIBITS

Exhibit JB-1

Exhibit JB-2

Exhibit JB-3

Well design diagram

Sample production decline curves

Sample joint operating agreement

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

2 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

3 A. John H. Benton, 1515 Wynkoop Street, Suite 500, Denver, CO 80202.

4 **Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?**

5 A. I am Vice President and General Manager, Black Hills Exploration and Production, Inc.
6 ("BHEP"), the oil and gas exploration and production subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation.
7 I am responsible for managing BHEP's existing producing assets as well as identifying,
8 acquiring, appraising, and developing new oil and gas opportunities to add to BHEP's
9 portfolio. I have overall responsibility for geology, engineering, accounting, permitting,
10 regulatory compliance, safety, and field operations.

11 **Q. FOR WHOM ARE YOU TESTIFYING?**

12 A. I am testifying on behalf of Black Hills/Kansas Gas Utility Company, LLC (the "Company").

13 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND BUSINESS BACKGROUND.**

14 A. I received a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Petroleum Engineering from the
15 Colorado School of Mines. I have more than 35 years of experience working on operations
16 and reservoir engineering projects throughout North America, Europe, South America and
17 Indonesia. I have served in leadership positions with Rex Energy, El Paso Exploration &
18 Production, Whiting Petroleum Corporation, Calver Resources, Conoco Canada, Gulf Canada
19 Resources Limited, and Westport Oil and Gas. Immediately prior to joining BHEP in 2011,
20 I served as Vice President and General Manager of Rex Energy's Rockies Division and was
21 responsible for developing its Niobrara Shale assets in Wyoming and Colorado. While at
22 BHEP I have focused on developing our Mancos Shale gas assets in Colorado and northwest

1 New Mexico and developing new oil and gas opportunities. I am a member of the Society of
2 Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and the Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers (SPEE). Since
3 my appointment in 2011 by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, I have served as a
4 Commissioner with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which is responsible
5 for regulating oil and gas exploration and production activities in Colorado.

6 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMISSION?**

7 A. No.

8 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

9 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

10 A. My testimony will describe (i) the oil and gas exploration and production business, including
11 common structures for acquiring the right to drill wells and produce gas and the typical costs
12 incurred in drilling and operating wells; and (ii) BHEP's role in the proposed Cost of Service
13 Gas Program ("COSG Program") and its qualifications for that role, including its experience
14 and expertise in acquiring and developing shale gas resources, and record of environmental
15 compliance and cost management.

16 **III. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION INDUSTRY**

17 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE EXPLORATION AND**
18 **PRODUCTION INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES?**

19 A. Oil and gas producers typically obtain the right to explore and produce oil and gas on a
20 particular property (called a "working interest" by the industry) through an oil and gas lease
21 from whomever owns the mineral rights in that property. The mineral owner may be a private
22 person or a government, and because mineral rights can be sold separately, the mineral owner

1 and the "surface" owner may be different. The lease gives the producer the exclusive right to
2 explore, drill, produce and sell the oil and gas on the property with the mineral owner being
3 paid a royalty on oil and gas produced from the property.

4 Oil and gas are slowly formed from organic matter trapped in sedimentary rock, buried
5 at great depths by geologic processes, and heated by the earth. Much of the oil and gas is
6 formed in black, organic rich mudstones or shales, referred to as "source rocks." Historically,
7 "conventional" oil and gas production has been from vertical wellbores drilled into folds and
8 faults in the rock formations that geologists have identified as being possible traps for oil and
9 gas slowly migrating from the source rocks through the sedimentary layers. Knowing where
10 to drill was a very difficult challenge in the early days of the industry. Eventually,
11 sophisticated geology and geophysics techniques were developed to increase the chances of
12 finding rich concentrations or "pools" of oil and/or gas, usually trapped by arches or faults in
13 the rock formations that were at most a few miles across. Even with these advances, the
14 success rate for exploration wells in conventional resources is approximately 1 in 5. After an
15 arch or fault containing oil and/or gas is discovered, development wells are drilled in that arch
16 or fault. Development wells have a success rate of about 8 in 10, and once the oil and/or gas
17 trapped in that arch or fault has been produced, the wells are plugged and abandoned. To
18 maintain or grow production levels, exploration for a similar structure is required to find new
19 oil and gas reserves.

20 Over the last 10 years, the combination of two established technologies - horizontal
21 drilling and hydraulic fracturing - has revolutionized the oil and gas industry, allowing the
22 development of enormous new shale or tight gas resources (also known as "unconventional"

1 resources), such as the Marcellus Shale that lies beneath large parts of several northeastern
2 states. Geologists have long known that certain shales were source rocks from which the oil
3 and gas had never left due to shale's very low permeability. Tight gas resources consist of fine
4 sand or silt formations that, like shale formations, have very low permeability. Traditional
5 vertical-well completion techniques were not viable because the lack of permeability meant
6 the oil and gas could not flow to the well. Horizontal drilling exposes thousands of feet of
7 low-permeability rock to the well, and hydraulic fracturing increases the permeability of the
8 rock near the well, allowing profitable development of these resources.

9 Unlike conventional resources, which require discovery of localized underground folds
10 and faults that trap oil and gas, shale or tight gas resources tend to be productive over tens or
11 even hundreds of miles. As a result, nearly all wells now drilled in shale or tight gas resources
12 are successful in terms of finding oil or gas. (Sometimes there may be a mechanical or
13 technical problem drilling a well or maintaining production from a well that ultimately means
14 the well does not produce as anticipated.) A horizontal shale well may also produce, in many
15 cases, significantly more oil and gas than a conventional vertical well. The end result is lower
16 risk and lower costs to develop shale or tight gas resources on a unit of gas basis.

17 A variety of relatively recent technological and management improvements have
18 enabled the industry to more efficiently develop shale or tight gas resources, which in turn has
19 helped to further lower the costs of developing these resources. The U.S. Energy Information
20 Agency's ("EIA") February 2013 Short-Term Energy Outlook Supplement summarizes these
21 improvements, such as multi-well drilling pads and "walking" drill rigs. Improvements in drill
22 bit and drilling fluids design have also significantly increased drilling penetration rates, which

1 have increased the productivity of drilling rigs by increasing the number of wells that one rig
2 can drill in a year, a key metric for drilling efficiency. These improvements continue as the
3 EIA's August 2015 Drilling Productivity Report for key shale resources shows that new
4 production per rig continues to increase. As Figure 2 in Julia Ryan's direct testimony
5 illustrates, the EIA projects that the vast majority of gas produced in the United States in
6 coming decades will be from shale or tight gas resources.

7 **Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROCESS OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING.**

8 A. Hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) is the process of pumping mostly water and sand (together
9 comprising 98% to 99.5% of the hydraulic fracturing fluid depending upon the target
10 formation) and other ingredients at high pressure into formations that have been drilled for oil
11 and gas production. The pressure of the fluids creates fissures in the rock increasing the
12 formation's permeability. The sand (called "proppant" by the industry) keeps the fissures open
13 when the pressure and hydraulic fracturing fluid is removed, allowing previously trapped oil
14 and gas to flow to the wellbore and be extracted. While some believe hydraulic fracturing is
15 a new practice, it has actually been safely conducted for 65 years on more than 1.2 million
16 wells.

17 **Q. DOES HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PRESENT MATERIAL OPERATIONAL OR**
18 **ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS?**

19 A. Like almost every human endeavor, there are risks, but producers and regulators have done an
20 excellent job assessing and avoiding these risks. Hydraulic fracturing has been done safely for
21 decades, and technological advances and regulatory oversight has kept pace with the
22 development of the technology. The key to risk mitigation is proper well construction,

1 because fresh water resources could be impacted if the integrity of the well is compromised
2 during hydraulic fracturing. Drilling permits require wellbore construction that protects fresh
3 water zones from potential contamination by hydraulic fracturing fluids. Producers design and
4 construct the wells to handle the flow rates and pressures associated with hydraulic fracturing.
5 This usually includes multiple strings of steel pipe, which is called casing, cemented in place
6 to protect the formations above the producing formation. Attached as Exhibit JB-1 is a simple
7 diagram showing a well design for hydraulic fracturing. In June, 2015, the U.S.
8 Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") released its long-awaited, draft assessment of the
9 potential impacts to drinking water resources from hydraulic fracturing. The assessment
10 recognized that there are mechanisms by which hydraulic fracturing could impact drinking
11 water resources, but "did not find evidence that these mechanisms have led to widespread,
12 systemic impacts on drinking water resources in the United States."

13 **Q. PLEASE COMMENT ON THE EPA'S RECENTLY PROPOSED RULES**
14 **REGARDING METHANE EMISSIONS FROM OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION.**

15 A. The EPA proposed rules in August 2015 concerning methane emissions from oil and gas
16 production, including from new wells that are hydraulically fractured. The goal is to reduce
17 methane emissions from oil and gas production by 40%-45% over the next decade, compared
18 to 2012 levels.

19 The state of Colorado adopted similar rules in February 2014 which in some areas are
20 more stringent than EPA's proposed rules. For example, Colorado's rule applies to both
21 existing and new sources while EPA's proposed rule only applies to new sources. In addition,
22 the frequency of leak detection under Colorado's rules is determined by volume of flow and

1 emissions and can be as frequent as a quarterly basis. In contrast, EPA's proposed rule calls
2 for semi-annual inspections and provides an opportunity to reduce to even a less frequent
3 schedule. Some operators, such as BHEP, already utilize operations and compliance standards
4 that meet or exceed EPA's proposed requirements.

5 Under EPA's proposed rule, it may be necessary in certain circumstances to obtain a
6 major source air permit under the Clean Air Act. Although additional time may be needed to
7 obtain these permits, the operating and emission requirements would not be significantly
8 different.

9 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE TYPICAL CAPITAL COSTS THAT ARE INCURRED WHEN**
10 **DRILLING A WELL.**

11 A. There are the following three major capital cost categories when drilling a well:

- 12 1. Drilling costs, which include permitting, location construction, drilling rig, drilling
13 tools (including bits), directional services, drilling fluids, logging, casing, cementing,
14 and well-site supervision;
- 15 2. Completion costs, which include production casing, cement, completion rig,
16 perforating, stimulation (e.g., hydraulic fracturing), equipment rentals, tubing,
17 wellhead, and well-site supervision; and
- 18 3. Tie in costs, which are the costs to connect the well to the gathering system and
19 include (depending on the components of the production stream from the well)
20 free-water knockouts, separators, heater treaters, line heaters, lease flow lines, meters,
21 various pumps, and tanks.

22 The costs to develop a well depend upon many factors and differ from field to field.

1 **Q. WHAT IS GAS GATHERING AND GAS PROCESSING?**

2 A. Gas gathering and gas processing occur between the well and the interstate pipeline system.
3 The gas gathering system is a collection of pipelines (known as gathering lines) within the
4 field that transport gas from wells to a processing facility, which is connected to an interstate
5 pipeline. Before gas enters the gathering system, oil that condenses out of the gas stream (*i.e.*,
6 condensate) and water are removed. The condensate is then sold. Other substances, such as
7 carbon dioxide and natural gas liquids (e.g. propane), are removed at the processing facility
8 (gas plant) so that the gas meets interstate pipeline quality specifications.

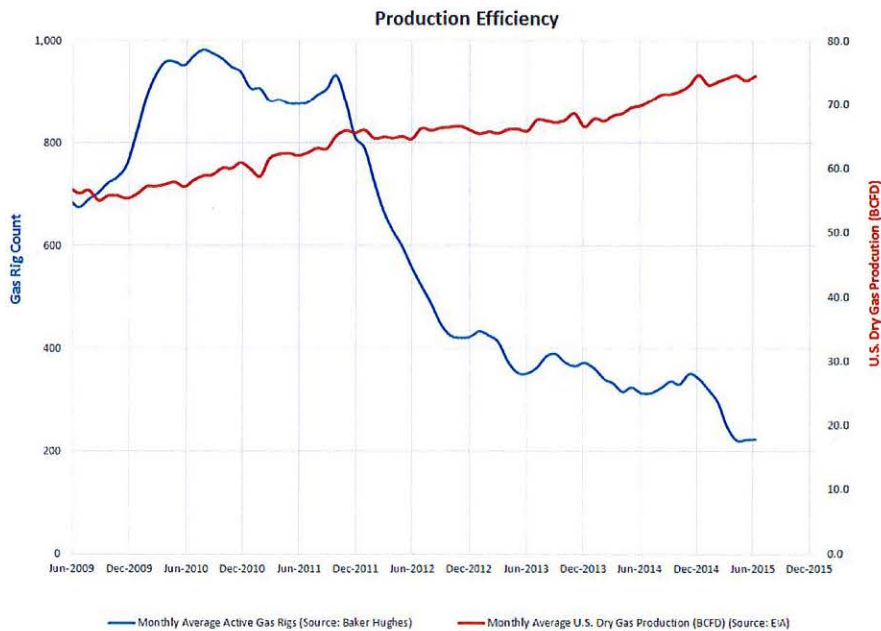
9 Gathering systems and processing plants may be owned by the working interest
10 owners, but are often developed and owned by third parties. Working interest owners in the
11 wells commit to deliver gas produced from certain properties to the gathering system and
12 processing facility. The owner of the gathering system is paid a fee to compress and move the
13 gas through the system to the processing facility. The owner of the processing facility may be
14 paid a fee or receive part or all of the natural gas liquids as compensation. If the working
15 interest owners retain any of the natural gas liquids, those are sold.

16 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE TYPICAL KINDS OF COSTS THAT ARE INCURRED**
17 **IN OPERATING A WELL.**

18 A. Well operating costs can include royalty payments to mineral rights owners, well supervision,
19 transportation, utilities, water disposal, surface equipment maintenance and repair, subsurface
20 workovers and repairs, gas measurement, gathering and processing, production taxes,
21 chemicals, environmental and regulatory compliance, location maintenance, and operator labor
22 and overhead costs.

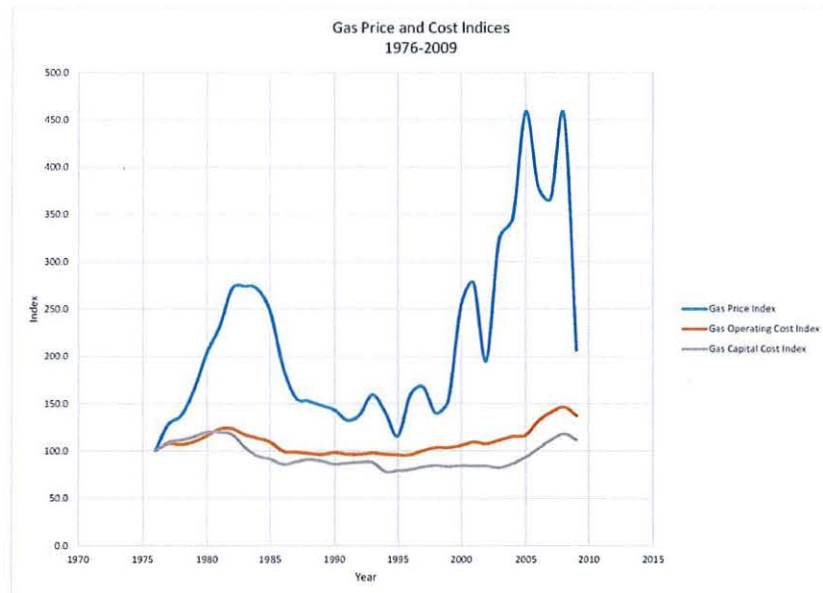
1 **Q. ARE THE COSTS OF DRILLING AND OPERATING A WELL RELATIVELY**
2 **PREDICTABLE AND STABLE?**

3 A. Yes. Although the costs to develop and operate wells differ to some extent from field to field,
4 the costs within a field tend to be relatively predictable and stable. The biggest risk of
5 fluctuation is in the cost of drilling wells, and the costs for drilling rigs and services can vary,
6 especially in times of high demand. As producers gain more and more experience in a
7 particular field, drilling becomes more and more efficient, which reduces the variability in
8 development costs. The figure below, based on production data reported by the EIA and rig
9 count data reported by Baker Hughes, illustrates drilling efficiencies realized for U.S. gas
10 development in the last six years. Production continues to increase as the number of wells
11 drilled per rig per year increases, which means less rigs are needed.



12 Operating costs tend to be relatively stable over the long-term particularly when
13 compared to the market price of gas. The figure below, based on numbers reported by the EIA

1 for operating costs from 1976 to 2009 (the last year such information is available),
2 demonstrates this.



3 **Q. HOW LONG WILL A GAS WELL CONTINUE TO PRODUCE?**

4 A. The typical life of a gas well depends upon field characteristics and operating decisions, but
5 on average a gas well will likely produce for over 20 years. However, most of the production
6 occurs in the first few years after the well is drilled and the production naturally declines over
7 time. For example, Exhibit JB-2 shows production decline curves for horizontal wells drilled
8 in the Mancos and Niobrara Shales in the Piceance Basin in western Colorado. Because well
9 production naturally declines with time, producers must continue to drill new wells each year
10 to maintain the same amount of production in a field.

11 **Q. HOW DOES A PRODUCER OBTAIN THE RIGHT TO PRODUCE NATURAL GAS**
12 **FROM A PROPERTY?**

13 A. As noted above, a producer typically obtains the right to produce natural gas from a property

1 (i.e., a working interest) through an oil and gas lease from the mineral owner. After a property
2 is leased, the producer may sell 100% or some smaller percentage of its working interest to
3 another producer for cash, just like other types of property transactions. In the alternative to
4 a cash sale, producers may enter into a joint development agreement through which one
5 producer agrees to pay for the cost to develop one or more new wells on the property in
6 exchange for an agreed-to percentage of the other producer's working interest in the property.
7 Both of these alternatives can involve existing producing wells, and both (or various
8 combinations of the two) could be employed in the COSG Program.

9 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE A JOINT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT IN MORE DETAIL.**

10 A. Joint development agreements may cover multiple oil and gas leases and address how the
11 parties will jointly develop the properties. These agreements are very flexible and can take
12 many forms, including "farm-in" or "farm-out" agreements, drilling and development
13 agreements, carry and earning agreements, and participation agreements. The producer
14 owning the working interest (the "farmor") will agree to assign a percentage of its working
15 interest to the other producer (the "farmee") in exchange for the farmee paying a
16 disproportionate share of the cost to develop one or more new wells on the property. There
17 may be an upfront cash payment for existing reserves. Sometimes the farmee only earns an
18 interest in the new well(s) drilled; in other deals the farmee also earns an interest in existing
19 producing wells or undrilled leases. Sometimes the farmee drills the well(s); in other deals
20 the farmor drills the well(s) using money from the farmee.

21 Many joint development agreements provide that the farmee will pay its own share of
22 drilling costs plus a percentage of the farmor's drilling costs. Paying a portion of the farmor's

1 drilling costs is referred to as a "carry." For example, the farmee might agree to pay 75% of
2 the cost of drilling new wells in return for a 50% working interest. In such a case, the farmee
3 is paying a 25% carry (*i.e.*, its 75% payment obligation minus the 50% working interest it will
4 receive).

5 **Q. HAVE OTHER UTILITIES AGREED TO PAY A CARRY WHEN ACQUIRING GAS**
6 **RESERVES THROUGH A JOINT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT?**

7 Yes. Northwest Natural Gas Company, an Oregon natural gas utility, agreed to pay a carry in
8 its 2011 "Carry and Earning Agreement" with Encana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc. for the
9 development of gas wells in Wyoming. Florida Power & Light Company also agreed to pay
10 a carry in its 2014 agreement with PetroQuest Energy, Inc. for the development of gas wells
11 in Oklahoma. Of course, utilities do not have to use joint development agreements to acquire
12 gas reserves. Earlier this year, Washington Gas, a Virginia natural gas utility, agreed to simply
13 pay cash for a large working interest in existing wells in Pennsylvania from Energy
14 Corporation of America.

15 **Q. WHAT IS A JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT?**

16 A. A joint operating agreement ("JOA") provides the governing structure for the development and
17 operation of jointly-owned oil and gas properties (e.g., selection of the "operator," how
18 decisions will be made and costs borne). There are standard industry JOA forms developed
19 by the American Association of Professional Landmen. A sample JOA form, including the
20 standard form accounting procedures (called the "COPAS" by the industry because it was
21 developed by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies), is attached to my testimony
22 as Exhibit JB-3. A form JOA is typically modified to address considerations specific to the

1 particular property, working interest owners, and other factors to ensure the property is
2 developed and managed appropriately. The working interest owner that is the "operator" under
3 the JOA has the day-to-day operating responsibility and is obligated to act as a reasonable and
4 prudent operator in accordance with good oilfield practice and in compliance with applicable
5 laws, rules, and regulations. Each working interest owner bears its proportionate share of the
6 operating costs. For example, if COSGCO were to have a 10% working interest in a property,
7 it would bear 10% of the operating costs, which the "operator" under the JOA would bill
8 through joint interest billings in accordance with the COPAS.

9 **Q. ARE JOAS USED IN CONNECTION WITH JOINT DEVELOPMENT**
10 **AGREEMENTS?**

11 A. Yes. Regardless of what form a joint development agreement might take, the parties will enter
12 into a JOA.

13 **Q. WHAT KIND OF DUE DILIGENCE IS TYPICALLY INVOLVED WHEN**
14 **ACQUIRING WORKING INTERESTS?**

15 A. Regardless of what structure an acquisition might take, due diligence typically involves (i)
16 assessing the property's reserves (e.g., obtaining a reserve report from a reservoir engineer),
17 operating costs, drilling costs, and state of operations (e.g., the condition of the property and
18 facilities) and (ii) reviewing the selling working interest owner's records, title to the assets,
19 lease files, permits and material contracts (e.g., gathering and processing agreements, surface
20 access agreements), and any pending or threatened litigation.

21 **Q. WHAT ARE THE KEY FACTORS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN**
22 **MAKING A GAS RESERVES INVESTMENT?**

1 A. The key factors are typically (i) the estimated amount of recoverable gas in the ground and the
2 reasonable probability that amount can be recovered, (ii) the anticipated capital costs to further
3 develop the reserves through drilling, (iii) the anticipated operating costs, and (iv) the forecast
4 market price for gas over the life of the reserves. The economics of investing in gas reserves
5 can change if one or more of these factors materially increase or decrease from what was
6 expected at the time of the acquisition (e.g., if the market price for natural gas decreases to an
7 amount less than the cost to drill and produce from the property).

8 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF "PROVEN" RESERVES?**

9 A. There are three different categories of reserves-proven, probable, and possible-that reflect the
10 reasonable probability of the gas being recovered given existing market, technologic, industry
11 and regulatory conditions. Proven reserves have the greatest probability of being recovered.
12 For example, the probability of recovering proved developed producing reserves-a subset of
13 proven reserves-is generally 90% or more. Under the COSG Program, COSGCO would
14 acquire working interests in properties that have proven reserves. See Exhibit IV-1 (COSG
15 Agreement, Ex. A, #1b).

16 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE PROVEN RESERVES IN MORE DETAIL.**

17 A. There are three subsets of proven reserves: (i) proved developed producing ("PDP"); (ii)
18 proved developed non-producing ("PDNP") or proved developed behind pipe ("PDBP"); and
19 (iii) proved undeveloped ("PUD"). PDPs are proven reserves that an existing well can produce
20 from geologic formations that are open for production (*i.e.*, the casing has been perforated so
21 that gas can flow into the well and be brought to the surface). In some cases, an existing well
22 may require expenditures for equipment replacement or remedial workovers to recover the

1 PDP reserves predicted from its historical performance.

2 PDNP/PDBP are proven reserves that can be produced from an existing well, but the
3 well's casing has not yet been perforated in the formation containing those proven reserves.
4 The probability of establishing production in the unperforated casing has to be established in
5 an analogous and usually adjacent well.

6 PUDs are proven reserves that require capital investment to extract the oil or gas and
7 bring it to the surface (e.g., drilling and completing a well). Using geologic and performance
8 information from nearby producing wells, geologists and reservoir engineers can infer that it
9 is reasonably certain that the gas will be recovered if PUDs are developed by drilling wells in
10 these locations. With shale or tight gas resources, these experts are often able to identify many
11 additional PUD locations based on experience with existing wells.

12 **Q. IS THERE A DIFFERENCE IN COST WHEN ACQUIRING PROVED DEVELOPED**
13 **PRODUCING RESERVES VERSUS NON-PRODUCING PROVEN RESERVES?**

14 A. Yes. Producers acquiring reserves will pay a higher value for producing reserves (*i.e.*, PDPs)
15 compared to proven reserves that are not yet producing (*i.e.*, PDNPs/PDBPs and PUDs).
16 There are two primary reasons for the difference in value. First, it costs money and takes time
17 to develop the non-producing proven reserves. Consequently, the price for the non-producing
18 proven reserves will be discounted to reflect the anticipated costs to drill, complete, and tie in
19 those future wells. Second, even though there is a high degree of confidence with both
20 producing and non-producing proven reserves that a certain volume of gas can be produced,
21 there is greater confidence when the reserves are already producing. To account for this risk,
22 the price for the non-producing proven reserves will typically be discounted by some

1 percentage based on the particulars of each property and the parties.

2 **Q. WHY DO PRODUCERS GENERALLY NOT ENTER INTO LONG-TERM,**
3 **FIXED-PRICE SUPPLY CONTRACTS?**

4 A. Producers are generally optimists. Producers believe the market price for gas will increase
5 over time for the reasons outlined in Julia Ryan's direct testimony. Plus, producers would like
6 to capture gains from price volatility. Producers do not want to miss the chance to make high
7 margins on production as prices increase. If a producer enters into long-term fixed-price
8 contracts at today's prices, it loses that opportunity. At a minimum, a producer willing to enter
9 into a long-term fixed-price contract would want to charge a premium over today's price in
10 return for missing future price increases. In addition, a long-term supply contract creates
11 counterparty risk for a producer as the buyer could default.

12 Some oil and gas leases also tie the royalty owed to the mineral owner to the market
13 price of gas, regardless of the price for which the producer has agreed to sell the gas. If a
14 producer were to enter into a long-term, fixed-price supply contract and market prices
15 increased, the producer would owe more royalties, which would reduce the producer's
16 profitability and is another reason producers avoid long-term, fixed-price supply contracts.

17 **Q. WHY THEN WOULD PRODUCERS BE INTERESTED IN SELLING GAS**
18 **RESERVES OR ENTERING INTO A JOINT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH**
19 **COSGCO?**

20 A. Producers regularly sell assets to reposition their portfolios. In today's low price environment,
21 a producer may have trouble servicing its debt, may not have sufficient capital on hand to
22 develop its leases by drilling new wells, or may choose to spend available capital on other

1 properties in its portfolio. In such situations, a sale or joint development agreement could be
2 attractive to the producer. A producer could also be interested in a joint development
3 agreement for other reasons. For example, the producer may be willing to reduce its interest
4 in a property in exchange for having new wells drilled to increase production from that
5 property. In addition, the long-term nature of the COSG Program could allow producers to
6 enter into long-term contracts (with more favorable price terms) with well drilling and service
7 companies, which would also improve the producer's economic return.

8 **Q. WHY IS AN EXPEDITED REVIEW OF COSGCO'S POTENTIAL ACQUISITIONS**
9 **AND DRILLING PROGRAMS NECESSARY?**

10 A. Participants in the oil and gas industry generally are not accustomed to utility regulatory
11 oversight and typically will not wait 6 to 12 months for regulatory approval from multiple
12 states as a condition to closing a transaction or entering into service contracts. Of course, a
13 limited number of producers might be willing to wait, particularly if the deal is sufficiently
14 advantageous for them. However, if COSGCO is limited to only doing deals with producers
15 that are willing to wait, it may miss many opportunities to make strategic acquisitions or
16 arrangements that may optimize the COSG Program and its benefit for the Company's
17 customers.

18 **IV. BHEP'S ROLE IN THE COSG PROGRAM AND ITS BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE**

19 **Q. WHAT IS BHEP'S ROLE IN THE COSG PROGRAM?**

20 A. As described in Ivan Vancas' direct testimony, BHUH will utilize BHEP's expertise and
21 experience in property acquisition, deal structuring, and drilling, completing and operating
22 natural gas properties. No matter the acquisition structure, BHEP would have a role in

1 advising COSGCO with regard to the evaluation of potential properties and proposed
2 operations. BHEP's subsequent role for each acquired property will likely vary. For example,
3 if COSGCO acquires 100% of the working interest in a property, BHEP would be COSGCO's
4 contract operator, or if COSGCO enters into a joint development agreement with BHEP,
5 BHEP would be the operator under the JOA for that property. Of course, the Commission will
6 be able to consider BHEP's subsequent role when particular proposed COSGCO acquisitions
7 are brought to the Commission as provided in the COSG Agreement.

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CORPORATE STRUCTURE OF BHEP.**

9 A. BHEP is a subsidiary of Black Hills Non-Regulated Holdings, LLC, which in turn is a
10 subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation. Black Hills Non-Regulated Holdings, LLC and BHEP
11 are separate and independent from BHUH and Black Hills Corporation's various gas and
12 electric utilities.

13 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE BHEP.**

14 A. BHEP has been drilling and operating oil and natural gas wells for more than 40 years. It
15 began drilling in the Powder River Basin in Wyoming in the 1970s and was acquired by Black
16 Hills Corporation in 1986. BHEP is still producing oil and gas from most of its early wells.
17 Headquartered in Denver, today BHEP operates almost 700 wells in Colorado, New Mexico,
18 and Wyoming. BHEP also has working interests in wells that are operated by third-parties in
19 California, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas. BHEP employs more
20 than 60 professional engineers, geologists, field personnel, land and title professionals,
21 petro-techs, and accountants.

22 At the end of the 2014, BHEP had proven reserves of 101.4 billion cubic feet

1 equivalent of natural gas, crude oil and natural gas liquids. During 2014, BHEP's operated net
2 gas production averaged approximately 20 million cubic feet per day. Associated with this
3 daily natural gas production are 920 barrels per day of oil production and 370 barrels per day
4 of natural gas liquids production.

5 BHEP has approximately 337,000 developed and undeveloped net acres under lease.
6 (The industry calculates "net" acres by multiplying a producer's working interest in particular
7 property by that property's number of acres, so a 75% working interest in a 10 acre property
8 results in 7.5 net acres.) One of BHEP's most significant assets is its 73,000 net acres in the
9 Mancos Shale, a shale resource in the Southern Piceance Basin on the western slope of the
10 Rocky Mountains in Colorado. This area contains 29.6 billion cubic feet equivalent of BHEP's
11 existing reserves, and BHEP engineers currently estimate approximately 2 trillion cubic feet
12 of gas resource potential within its Southern Piceance Basin assets.

13 BHEP has bought and sold working interests, entered into many joint development
14 agreements, and has operating experience on private, state, federal and Native American lands.
15 BHEP has experience drilling and operating wells with measured depths exceeding 20,000
16 feet, horizontal wells with lateral lengths of more than 9,000 feet, and four decades of
17 experience with hydraulic fracturing. With respect to environmental issues, BHEP has an
18 excellent reputation in the industry and with its regulators, and has never had a significant
19 environmental issue regarding its operations. BHEP is always looking for ways to be
20 proactive as it seeks to balance development and environmental stewardship. Every Black
21 Hills corporate employee (including BHEP's employees) must adhere to Black Hills
22 Corporation's code of business conduct, which assures responsible environmental stewardship.

1 BHEP has a history of supporting public policies that allow for responsible development of
2 energy resources through sound energy and environmental policy. For example, in 2010,
3 BHEP voluntarily entered into agreements with the Colorado Department of Wildlife
4 regarding minimizing, mitigating and avoiding impacts to wildlife resources throughout more
5 than 550 square miles in western Colorado.

6 **Q. WHAT IS THE SUCCESS RATE BHEP HAS ACHIEVED IN DRILLING WELLS**
7 **DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS?**

8 A. BHEP has achieved a 100% success rate in its gas appraisal and development drilling program,
9 which has been focused on its Mancos Shale properties.

10 **Q. HAS BHEP EXPERIENCED ANY IMPROVEMENT IN ITS DRILLING AND**
11 **COMPLETION EFFICIENCIES IN ITS MANCOS DRILLING PROGRAM?**

12 A. Yes. BHEP has realized improved efficiencies by, among other things, drilling more wells per
13 drilling pad, drilling longer horizontal laterals, and completing more hydraulic fracturing
14 stages per well. In addition, with the decline in crude oil prices in 2015, BHEP has seen
15 20-40% reductions in third-party service provider costs, enabling BHEP to obtain higher
16 quality services for the same or lower costs compared to previous years. Improvements in
17 drilling and completion efficiencies have materially reduced BHEP's gross finding and
18 development costs (which include drilling and completion costs) from over \$3.90 per thousand
19 cubic feet equivalent (MCFE) in 2011 to approximately \$1.50/MCFE today.

20 **Q. HOW DO BHEP'S OPERATIONAL COSTS COMPARE TO THE COSTS OF OTHER**
21 **OPERATORS IN THE INDUSTRY?**

22 A. BHEP has a history of being a low cost operator with a three-year average of annual lease

1 operating expenses of \$1.11/MCFE. By comparison, the industry average for lease operating
2 costs over this period in Rocky Mountain producing basins was \$1.47/MCFE, according to
3 Ponderosa Advisors, LLC. Lease operating expenses include the costs for operating and
4 maintaining productive wells, such as the cost of labor for operating and maintaining the
5 equipment on the lease, repairs and supplies, utilities, automobile and truck expenses,
6 insurance and overhead such as accounting and supervision, excluding gathering, compression
7 and processing costs and production taxes. In addition, based on its historical performance,
8 BHEP anticipates its operating expenses will remain stable for the foreseeable future.

9 **Q. IS BHEP QUALIFIED TO ASSIST BHUH UNDER THE COSG PROGRAM?**

10 A. Yes. As described above, BHEP has extensive experience in the oil and gas industry,
11 including the development and operation of shale or tight gas resources. Consequently, BHEP
12 is qualified and exceptionally well suited to assist BHUH under the COSG Program, including
13 assistance with property acquisition, deal structuring, drilling and production issues, and
14 operating properties.

15 **V. CONCLUSION**

16 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

17 A. Yes.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF Colorado)
)ss:
COUNTY OF Denver)

I, John H. Benton, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state that I am the witness identified in the foregoing Direct Testimony of John H. Benton; that I have read the testimony and am familiar with its contents; and that the facts set forth therein are true and correct.



John H. Benton

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 28 day of September,
2015.



Notary Public

Commission/Appointment Expires: 5/24/2019



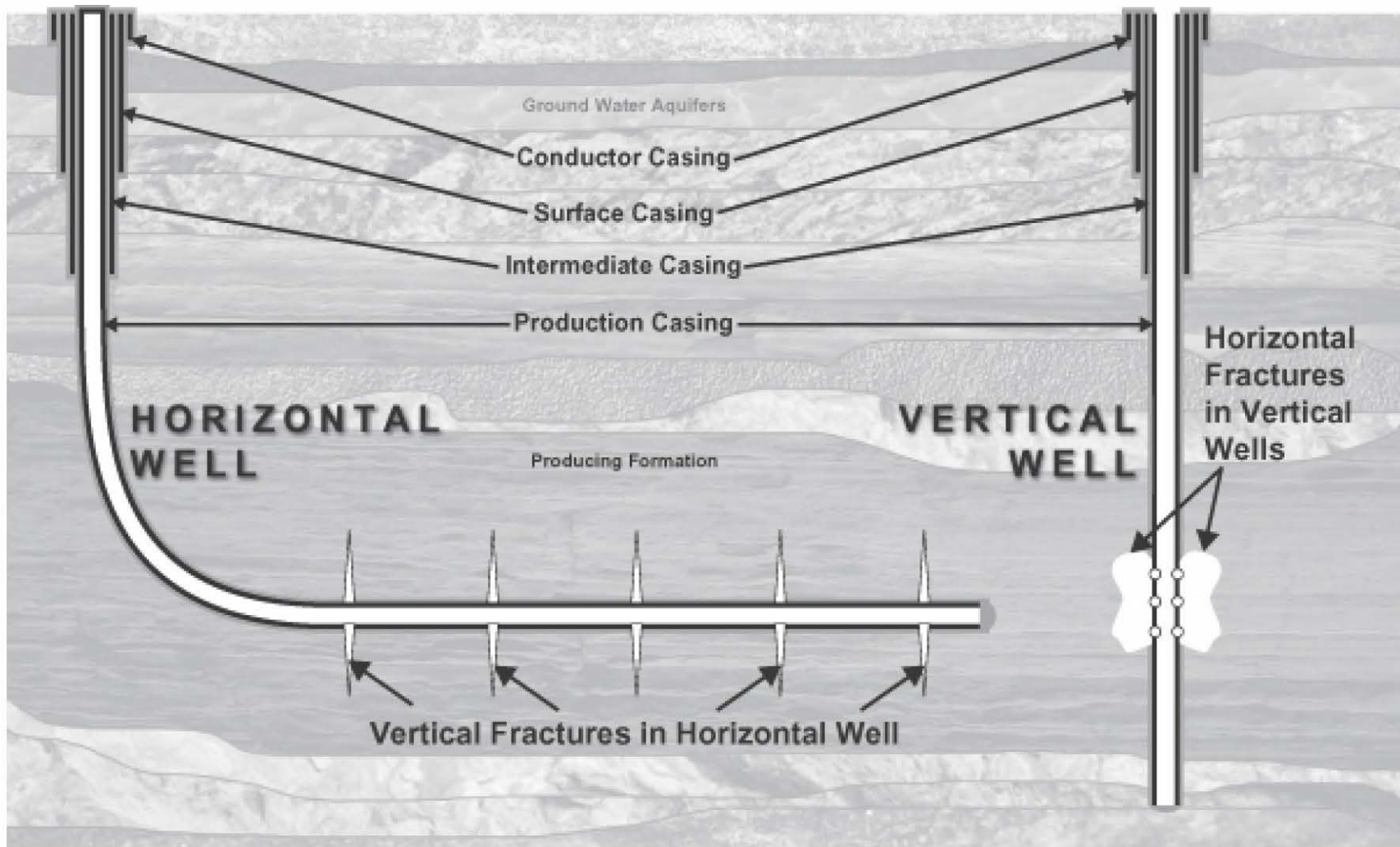
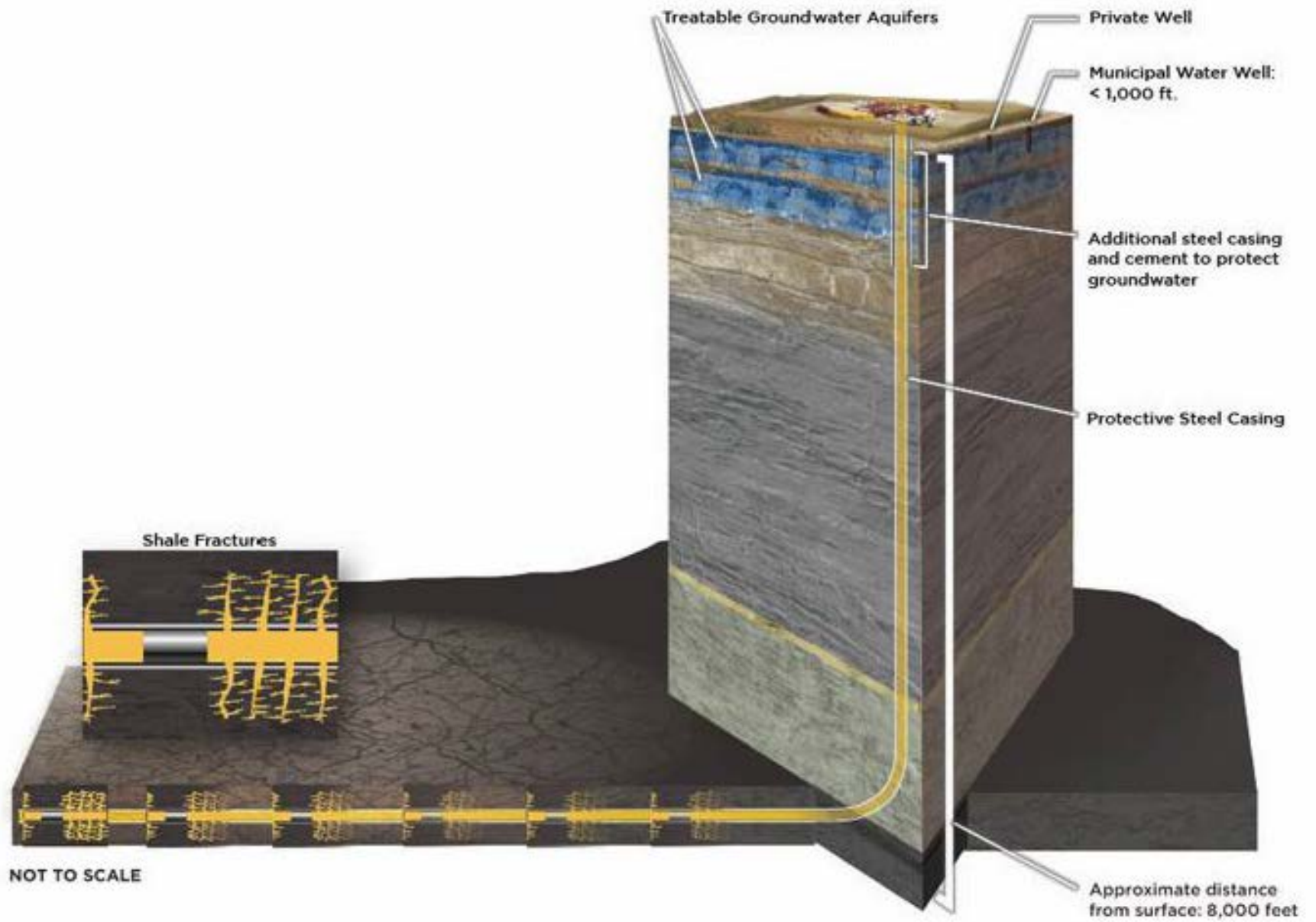
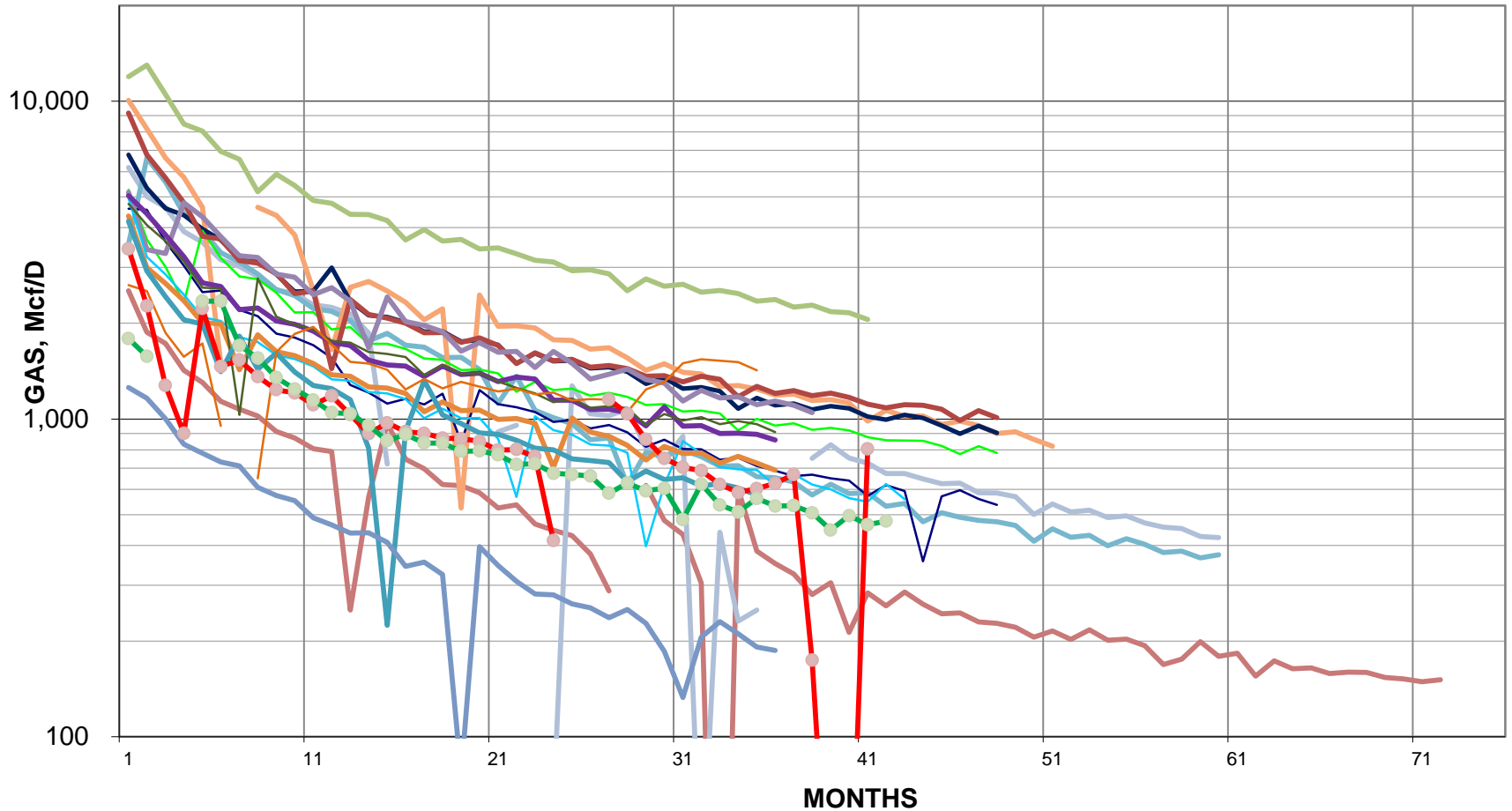


Exhibit JB-1



Niobrara/Mancos Horizontal Wells Daily Production History Piceance Basin, Colorado



Note: Each line represents daily production from one well over time. Sharp, short-term decreases represent periods a well was temporarily either not producing or producing at a reduced rate until the triggering production issue could be remedied.

A.A.P.L. FORM 610 - 1989

MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT

OPERATING AGREEMENT

DATED

_____, _____, _____
year

OPERATOR _____

CONTRACT AREA _____

COUNTY OR PARISH OF _____, STATE OF _____

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM
LANDMEN, 4100 FOSSIL CREEK BLVD.
FORT WORTH, TEXAS, 76137, APPROVED FORM.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article	Title	Page
I.	<u>DEFINITIONS</u>	1
II.	<u>EXHIBITS</u>	1
III.	<u>INTERESTS OF PARTIES</u>	2
	A. OIL AND GAS INTERESTS:	2
	B. INTERESTS OF PARTIES IN COSTS AND PRODUCTION:	2
	C. SUBSEQUENTLY CREATED INTERESTS:	2
IV.	<u>TITLES</u>	2
	A. TITLE EXAMINATION:	2
	B. LOSS OR FAILURE OF TITLE:	3
	1. Failure of Title	3
	2. Loss by Non-Payment or Erroneous Payment of Amount Due	3
	3. Other Losses	3
	4. Curing Title	3
V.	<u>OPERATOR</u>	4
	A. DESIGNATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OPERATOR:	4
	B. RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF OPERATOR AND SELECTION OF SUCCESSOR:	4
	1. Resignation or Removal of Operator	4
	2. Selection of Successor Operator	4
	3. Effect of Bankruptcy	4
	C. EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS:	4
	D. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF OPERATOR:	4
	1. Competitive Rates and Use of Affiliates	4
	2. Discharge of Joint Account Obligations	4
	3. Protection from Liens	4
	4. Custody of Funds	5
	5. Access to Contract Area and Records	5
	6. Filing and Furnishing Governmental Reports	5
	7. Drilling and Testing Operations	5
	8. Cost Estimates	5
	9. Insurance	5
VI.	<u>DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT</u>	5
	A. INITIAL WELL:	5
	B. SUBSEQUENT OPERATIONS:	5
	1. Proposed Operations	5
	2. Operations by Less Than All Parties	6
	3. Stand-By Costs	7
	4. Deepening	8
	5. Sidetracking	8
	6. Order of Preference of Operations	8
	7. Conformity to Spacing Pattern	9
	8. Paying Wells	9
	C. COMPLETION OF WELLS; REWORKING AND PLUGGING BACK:	9
	1. Completion	9
	2. Rework, Recomplete or Plug Back	9
	D. OTHER OPERATIONS:	9
	E. ABANDONMENT OF WELLS:	9
	1. Abandonment of Dry Holes	9
	2. Abandonment of Wells That Have Produced	10
	3. Abandonment of Non-Consent Operations	10
	F. TERMINATION OF OPERATIONS:	10
	G. TAKING PRODUCTION IN KIND:	10
	(Option 1) Gas Balancing Agreement	10
	(Option 2) No Gas Balancing Agreement	11
VII.	<u>EXPENDITURES AND LIABILITY OF PARTIES</u>	11
	A. LIABILITY OF PARTIES:	11
	B. LIENS AND SECURITY INTERESTS:	12
	C. ADVANCES:	12
	D. DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES:	12
	1. Suspension of Rights	13
	2. Suit for Damages	13
	3. Deemed Non-Consent	13
	4. Advance Payment	13
	5. Costs and Attorneys' Fees	13
	E. RENTALS, SHUT-IN WELL PAYMENTS AND MINIMUM ROYALTIES:	13
	F. TAXES:	13
VIII.	<u>ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE OR TRANSFER OF INTEREST</u>	14
	A. SURRENDER OF LEASES:	14
	B. RENEWAL OR EXTENSION OF LEASES:	14
	C. ACREAGE OR CASH CONTRIBUTIONS:	14

TABLE OF CONTENTS

D. ASSIGNMENT; MAINTENANCE OF UNIFORM INTEREST: 15
E. WAIVER OF RIGHTS TO PARTITION: 15
F. PREFERENTIAL RIGHT TO PURCHASE: 15
IX. INTERNAL REVENUE CODE ELECTION 15
X. CLAIMS AND LAWSUITS 15
XI. FORCE MAJEURE 16
XII. NOTICES 16
XIII. TERM OF AGREEMENT 16
XIV. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS 16
 A. LAWS, REGULATIONS AND ORDERS: 16
 B. GOVERNING LAW: 16
 C. REGULATORY AGENCIES: 16
XV. MISCELLANEOUS 17
 A. EXECUTION: 17
 B. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS: 17
 C. COUNTERPARTS: 17
 D. SEVERABILITY 17
XVI. OTHER PROVISIONS 17

OPERATING AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into by and between _____, hereinafter designated and referred to as "Operator," and the signatory party or parties other than Operator, sometimes hereinafter referred to individually as "Non-Operator," and collectively as "Non-Operators."

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the parties to this agreement are owners of Oil and Gas Leases and/or Oil and Gas Interests in the land identified in Exhibit "A," and the parties hereto have reached an agreement to explore and develop these Leases and/or Oil and Gas Interests for the production of Oil and Gas to the extent and as hereinafter provided,

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE I.
DEFINITIONS**

As used in this agreement, the following words and terms shall have the meanings here ascribed to them:

A. The term "AFE" shall mean an Authority for Expenditure prepared by a party to this agreement for the purpose of estimating the costs to be incurred in conducting an operation hereunder.

B. The term "Completion" or "Complete" shall mean a single operation intended to complete a well as a producer of Oil and Gas in one or more Zones, including, but not limited to, the setting of production casing, perforating, well stimulation and production testing conducted in such operation.

C. The term "Contract Area" shall mean all of the lands, Oil and Gas Leases and/or Oil and Gas Interests intended to be developed and operated for Oil and Gas purposes under this agreement. Such lands, Oil and Gas Leases and Oil and Gas Interests are described in Exhibit "A."

D. The term "Deepen" shall mean a single operation whereby a well is drilled to an objective Zone below the deepest Zone in which the well was previously drilled, or below the Deepest Zone proposed in the associated AFE, whichever is the lesser.

E. The terms "Drilling Party" and "Consenting Party" shall mean a party who agrees to join in and pay its share of the cost of any operation conducted under the provisions of this agreement.

F. The term "Drilling Unit" shall mean the area fixed for the drilling of one well by order or rule of any state or federal body having authority. If a Drilling Unit is not fixed by any such rule or order, a Drilling Unit shall be the drilling unit as established by the pattern of drilling in the Contract Area unless fixed by express agreement of the Drilling Parties.

G. The term "Drillsite" shall mean the Oil and Gas Lease or Oil and Gas Interest on which a proposed well is to be located.

H. The term "Initial Well" shall mean the well required to be drilled by the parties hereto as provided in Article VI.A.

I. The term "Non-Consent Well" shall mean a well in which less than all parties have conducted an operation as provided in Article VI.B.2.

J. The terms "Non-Drilling Party" and "Non-Consenting Party" shall mean a party who elects not to participate in a proposed operation.

K. The term "Oil and Gas" shall mean oil, gas, casinghead gas, gas condensate, and/or all other liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons and other marketable substances produced therewith, unless an intent to limit the inclusiveness of this term is specifically stated.

L. The term "Oil and Gas Interests" or "Interests" shall mean unleased fee and mineral interests in Oil and Gas in tracts of land lying within the Contract Area which are owned by parties to this agreement.

M. The terms "Oil and Gas Lease," "Lease" and "Leasehold" shall mean the oil and gas leases or interests therein covering tracts of land lying within the Contract Area which are owned by the parties to this agreement.

N. The term "Plug Back" shall mean a single operation whereby a deeper Zone is abandoned in order to attempt a Completion in a shallower Zone.

O. The term "Recompletion" or "Recomplete" shall mean an operation whereby a Completion in one Zone is abandoned in order to attempt a Completion in a different Zone within the existing wellbore.

P. The term "Rework" shall mean an operation conducted in the wellbore of a well after it is Completed to secure, restore, or improve production in a Zone which is currently open to production in the wellbore. Such operations include, but are not limited to, well stimulation operations but exclude any routine repair or maintenance work or drilling, Sidetracking, Deepening, Completing, Recompleting, or Plugging Back of a well.

Q. The term "Sidetrack" shall mean the directional control and intentional deviation of a well from vertical so as to change the bottom hole location unless done to straighten the hole or drill around junk in the hole to overcome other mechanical difficulties.

R. The term "Zone" shall mean a stratum of earth containing or thought to contain a common accumulation of Oil and Gas separately producible from any other common accumulation of Oil and Gas.

Unless the context otherwise clearly indicates, words used in the singular include the plural, the word "person" includes natural and artificial persons, the plural includes the singular, and any gender includes the masculine, feminine, and neuter.

**ARTICLE II.
EXHIBITS**

The following exhibits, as indicated below and attached hereto, are incorporated in and made a part hereof:

- _____ A. Exhibit "A," shall include the following information:
 - (1) Description of lands subject to this agreement,
 - (2) Restrictions, if any, as to depths, formations, or substances,
 - (3) Parties to agreement with addresses and telephone numbers for notice purposes,
 - (4) Percentages or fractional interests of parties to this agreement,
 - (5) Oil and Gas Leases and/or Oil and Gas Interests subject to this agreement,
 - (6) Burdens on production.
- _____ B. Exhibit "B," Form of Lease.
- _____ C. Exhibit "C," Accounting Procedure.
- _____ D. Exhibit "D," Insurance.
- _____ E. Exhibit "E," Gas Balancing Agreement.
- _____ F. Exhibit "F," Non-Discrimination and Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities.
- _____ G. Exhibit "G," Tax Partnership.
- _____ H. Other: _____

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1 If any provision of any exhibit, except Exhibits "E," "F" and "G," is inconsistent with any provision contained in
2 the body of this agreement, the provisions in the body of this agreement shall prevail.

3 **ARTICLE III.**
4 **INTERESTS OF PARTIES**

5 **A. Oil and Gas Interests:**

6 If any party owns an Oil and Gas Interest in the Contract Area, that Interest shall be treated for all purposes of this
7 agreement and during the term hereof as if it were covered by the form of Oil and Gas Lease attached hereto as Exhibit "B,"
8 and the owner thereof shall be deemed to own both royalty interest in such lease and the interest of the lessee thereunder.

9 **B. Interests of Parties in Costs and Production:**

10 Unless changed by other provisions, all costs and liabilities incurred in operations under this agreement shall be borne
11 and paid, and all equipment and materials acquired in operations on the Contract Area shall be owned, by the parties as their
12 interests are set forth in Exhibit "A." In the same manner, the parties shall also own all production of Oil and Gas from the
13 Contract Area subject, however, to the payment of royalties and other burdens on production as described hereafter.

14 Regardless of which party has contributed any Oil and Gas Lease or Oil and Gas Interest on which royalty or other
15 burdens may be payable and except as otherwise expressly provided in this agreement, each party shall pay or deliver, or
16 cause to be paid or delivered, all burdens on its share of the production from the Contract Area up to, but not in excess of,
17 _____ and shall indemnify, defend and hold the other parties free from any liability therefor.

18 Except as otherwise expressly provided in this agreement, if any party has contributed hereto any Lease or Interest which is
19 burdened with any royalty, overriding royalty, production payment or other burden on production in excess of the amounts
20 stipulated above, such party so burdened shall assume and alone bear all such excess obligations and shall indemnify, defend
21 and hold the other parties hereto harmless from any and all claims attributable to such excess burden. However, so long as
22 the Drilling Unit for the productive Zone(s) is identical with the Contract Area, each party shall pay or deliver, or cause to
23 be paid or delivered, all burdens on production from the Contract Area due under the terms of the Oil and Gas Lease(s)
24 which such party has contributed to this agreement, and shall indemnify, defend and hold the other parties free from any
25 liability therefor.

26 No party shall ever be responsible, on a price basis higher than the price received by such party, to any other party's
27 lessor or royalty owner, and if such other party's lessor or royalty owner should demand and receive settlement on a higher
28 price basis, the party contributing the affected Lease shall bear the additional royalty burden attributable to such higher price.

29 Nothing contained in this Article III.B. shall be deemed an assignment or cross-assignment of interests covered hereby,
30 and in the event two or more parties contribute to this agreement jointly owned Leases, the parties' undivided interests in
31 said Leaseholds shall be deemed separate leasehold interests for the purposes of this agreement.

32 **C. Subsequently Created Interests:**

33 If any party has contributed hereto a Lease or Interest that is burdened with an assignment of production given as security
34 for the payment of money, or if, after the date of this agreement, any party creates an overriding royalty, production
35 payment, net profits interest, assignment of production or other burden payable out of production attributable to its working
36 interest hereunder, such burden shall be deemed a "Subsequently Created Interest." Further, if any party has contributed
37 hereto a Lease or Interest burdened with an overriding royalty, production payment, net profits interests, or other burden
38 payable out of production created prior to the date of this agreement, and such burden is not shown on Exhibit "A," such
39 burden also shall be deemed a Subsequently Created Interest to the extent such burden causes the burdens on such party's
40 Lease or Interest to exceed the amount stipulated in Article III.B. above.

41 The party whose interest is burdened with the Subsequently Created Interest (the "Burdened Party") shall assume and
42 alone bear, pay and discharge the Subsequently Created Interest and shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the other
43 parties from and against any liability therefor. Further, if the Burdened Party fails to pay, when due, its share of expenses
44 chargeable hereunder, all provisions of Article VII.B. shall be enforceable against the Subsequently Created Interest in the
45 same manner as they are enforceable against the working interest of the Burdened Party. If the Burdened Party is required
46 under this agreement to assign or relinquish to any other party, or parties, all or a portion of its working interest and/or the
47 production attributable thereto, said other party, or parties, shall receive said assignment and/or production free and clear of
48 said Subsequently Created Interest, and the Burdened Party shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless said other party, or
49 parties, from any and all claims and demands for payment asserted by owners of the Subsequently Created Interest.

50 **ARTICLE IV.**
51 **TITLES**

52 **A. Title Examination:**

53 Title examination shall be made on the Drillsite of any proposed well prior to commencement of drilling operations and,
54 if a majority in interest of the Drilling Parties so request or Operator so elects, title examination shall be made on the entire
55 Drilling Unit, or maximum anticipated Drilling Unit, of the well. The opinion will include the ownership of the working
56 interest, minerals, royalty, overriding royalty and production payments under the applicable Leases. Each party contributing
57 Leases and/or Oil and Gas Interests to be included in the Drillsite or Drilling Unit, if appropriate, shall furnish to Operator
58 all abstracts (including federal lease status reports), title opinions, title papers and curative material in its possession free of
59 charge. All such information not in the possession of or made available to Operator by the parties, but necessary for the
60 examination of the title, shall be obtained by Operator. Operator shall cause title to be examined by attorneys on its staff or
61 by outside attorneys. Copies of all title opinions shall be furnished to each Drilling Party. Costs incurred by Operator in
62 procuring abstracts, fees paid outside attorneys for title examination (including preliminary, supplemental, shut-in royalty
63 opinions and division order title opinions) and other direct charges as provided in Exhibit "C" shall be borne by the Drilling
64 Parties in the proportion that the interest of each Drilling Party bears to the total interest of all Drilling Parties as such
65 interests appear in Exhibit "A." Operator shall make no charge for services rendered by its staff attorneys or other personnel
66 in the performance of the above functions.

67 Each party shall be responsible for securing curative matter and pooling amendments or agreements required in
68 connection with Leases or Oil and Gas Interests contributed by such party. Operator shall be responsible for the preparation
69 and recording of pooling designations or declarations and communitization agreements as well as the conduct of hearings
70 before governmental agencies for the securing of spacing or pooling orders or any other orders necessary or appropriate to
71 the conduct of operations hereunder. This shall not prevent any party from appearing on its own behalf at such hearings.
72 Costs incurred by Operator, including fees paid to outside attorneys, which are associated with hearings before governmental
73 agencies, and which costs are necessary and proper for the activities contemplated under this agreement, shall be direct
74 charges to the joint account and shall not be covered by the administrative overhead charges as provided in Exhibit "C."

A.A.P.L. FORM 610 - MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT - 1989

1 Operator shall make no charge for services rendered by its staff attorneys or other personnel in the performance of the above
2 functions.

3 No well shall be drilled on the Contract Area until after (1) the title to the Drillsite or Drilling Unit, if appropriate, has
4 been examined as above provided, and (2) the title has been approved by the examining attorney or title has been accepted by
5 all of the Drilling Parties in such well.

6 **B. Loss or Failure of Title:**

7 1. Failure of Title: Should any Oil and Gas Interest or Oil and Gas Lease be lost through failure of title, which results in a
8 reduction of interest from that shown on Exhibit "A," the party credited with contributing the affected Lease or Interest
9 (including, if applicable, a successor in interest to such party) shall have ninety (90) days from final determination of title
10 failure to acquire a new lease or other instrument curing the entirety of the title failure, which acquisition will not be subject
11 to Article VIII.B., and failing to do so, this agreement, nevertheless, shall continue in force as to all remaining Oil and Gas
12 Leases and Interests; and,

13 (a) The party credited with contributing the Oil and Gas Lease or Interest affected by the title failure (including, if
14 applicable, a successor in interest to such party) shall bear alone the entire loss and it shall not be entitled to recover from
15 Operator or the other parties any development or operating costs which it may have previously paid or incurred, but there
16 shall be no additional liability on its part to the other parties hereto by reason of such title failure;

17 (b) There shall be no retroactive adjustment of expenses incurred or revenues received from the operation of the
18 Lease or Interest which has failed, but the interests of the parties contained on Exhibit "A" shall be revised on an acreage
19 basis, as of the time it is determined finally that title failure has occurred, so that the interest of the party whose Lease or
20 Interest is affected by the title failure will thereafter be reduced in the Contract Area by the amount of the Lease or Interest failed;

21 (c) If the proportionate interest of the other parties hereto in any producing well previously drilled on the Contract
22 Area is increased by reason of the title failure, the party who bore the costs incurred in connection with such well attributable
23 to the Lease or Interest which has failed shall receive the proceeds attributable to the increase in such interest (less costs and
24 burdens attributable thereto) until it has been reimbursed for unrecovered costs paid by it in connection with such well
25 attributable to such failed Lease or Interest;

26 (d) Should any person not a party to this agreement, who is determined to be the owner of any Lease or Interest
27 which has failed, pay in any manner any part of the cost of operation, development, or equipment, such amount shall be paid
28 to the party or parties who bore the costs which are so refunded;

29 (e) Any liability to account to a person not a party to this agreement for prior production of Oil and Gas which arises
30 by reason of title failure shall be borne severally by each party (including a predecessor to a current party) who received
31 production for which such accounting is required based on the amount of such production received, and each such party shall
32 severally indemnify, defend and hold harmless all other parties hereto for any such liability to account;

33 (f) No charge shall be made to the joint account for legal expenses, fees or salaries in connection with the defense of
34 the Lease or Interest claimed to have failed, but if the party contributing such Lease or Interest hereto elects to defend its title
35 it shall bear all expenses in connection therewith; and

36 (g) If any party is given credit on Exhibit "A" to a Lease or Interest which is limited solely to ownership of an
37 interest in the wellbore of any well or wells and the production therefrom, such party's absence of interest in the remainder
38 of the Contract Area shall be considered a Failure of Title as to such remaining Contract Area unless that absence of interest
39 is reflected on Exhibit "A."

40 2. Loss by Non-Payment or Erroneous Payment of Amount Due: If, through mistake or oversight, any rental, shut-in well
41 payment, minimum royalty or royalty payment, or other payment necessary to maintain all or a portion of an Oil and Gas
42 Lease or interest is not paid or is erroneously paid, and as a result a Lease or Interest terminates, there shall be no monetary
43 liability against the party who failed to make such payment. Unless the party who failed to make the required payment
44 secures a new Lease or Interest covering the same interest within ninety (90) days from the discovery of the failure to make
45 proper payment, which acquisition will not be subject to Article VIII.B., the interests of the parties reflected on Exhibit "A"
46 shall be revised on an acreage basis, effective as of the date of termination of the Lease or Interest involved, and the party
47 who failed to make proper payment will no longer be credited with an interest in the Contract Area on account of ownership
48 of the Lease or Interest which has terminated. If the party who failed to make the required payment shall not have been fully
49 reimbursed, at the time of the loss, from the proceeds of the sale of Oil and Gas attributable to the lost Lease or Interest,
50 calculated on an acreage basis, for the development and operating costs previously paid on account of such Lease or Interest,
51 it shall be reimbursed for unrecovered actual costs previously paid by it (but not for its share of the cost of any dry hole
52 previously drilled or wells previously abandoned) from so much of the following as is necessary to effect reimbursement:

53 (a) Proceeds of Oil and Gas produced prior to termination of the Lease or Interest, less operating expenses and lease
54 burdens chargeable hereunder to the person who failed to make payment, previously accrued to the credit of the lost Lease or
55 Interest, on an acreage basis, up to the amount of unrecovered costs;

56 (b) Proceeds of Oil and Gas, less operating expenses and lease burdens chargeable hereunder to the person who failed
57 to make payment, up to the amount of unrecovered costs attributable to that portion of Oil and Gas thereafter produced and
58 marketed (excluding production from any wells thereafter drilled) which, in the absence of such Lease or Interest termination,
59 would be attributable to the lost Lease or Interest on an acreage basis and which as a result of such Lease or Interest
60 termination is credited to other parties, the proceeds of said portion of the Oil and Gas to be contributed by the other parties
61 in proportion to their respective interests reflected on Exhibit "A"; and,

62 (c) Any monies, up to the amount of unrecovered costs, that may be paid by any party who is, or becomes, the owner
63 of the Lease or Interest lost, for the privilege of participating in the Contract Area or becoming a party to this agreement.

64 3. Other Losses: All losses of Leases or Interests committed to this agreement, other than those set forth in Articles
65 IV.B.1. and IV.B.2. above, shall be joint losses and shall be borne by all parties in proportion to their interests shown on
66 Exhibit "A." This shall include but not be limited to the loss of any Lease or Interest through failure to develop or because
67 express or implied covenants have not been performed (other than performance which requires only the payment of money),
68 and the loss of any Lease by expiration at the end of its primary term if it is not renewed or extended. There shall be no
69 readjustment of interests in the remaining portion of the Contract Area on account of any joint loss.

70 4. Curing Title: In the event of a Failure of Title under Article IV.B.1. or a loss of title under Article IV.B.2. above, any
71 Lease or Interest acquired by any party hereto (other than the party whose interest has failed or was lost) during the ninety
72 (90) day period provided by Article IV.B.1. and Article IV.B.2. above covering all or a portion of the interest that has failed
73 or was lost shall be offered at cost to the party whose interest has failed or was lost, and the provisions of Article VIII.B.
74 shall not apply to such acquisition.

**ARTICLE V.
OPERATOR**

A. Designation and Responsibilities of Operator:

_____ shall be the Operator of the Contract Area, and shall conduct and direct and have full control of all operations on the Contract Area as permitted and required by, and within the limits of this agreement. In its performance of services hereunder for the Non-Operators, Operator shall be an independent contractor not subject to the control or direction of the Non-Operators except as to the type of operation to be undertaken in accordance with the election procedures contained in this agreement. Operator shall not be deemed, or hold itself out as, the agent of the Non-Operators with authority to bind them to any obligation or liability assumed or incurred by Operator as to any third party. Operator shall conduct its activities under this agreement as a reasonable prudent operator, in a good and workmanlike manner, with due diligence and dispatch, in accordance with good oilfield practice, and in compliance with applicable law and regulation, but in no event shall it have any liability as Operator to the other parties for losses sustained or liabilities incurred except such as may result from gross negligence or willful misconduct.

B. Resignation or Removal of Operator and Selection of Successor:

1. Resignation or Removal of Operator: Operator may resign at any time by giving written notice thereof to Non-Operators. If Operator terminates its legal existence, no longer owns an interest hereunder in the Contract Area, or is no longer capable of serving as Operator, Operator shall be deemed to have resigned without any action by Non-Operators, except the selection of a successor. Operator may be removed only for good cause by the affirmative vote of Non-Operators owning a majority interest based on ownership as shown on Exhibit "A" remaining after excluding the voting interest of Operator; such vote shall not be deemed effective until a written notice has been delivered to the Operator by a Non-Operator detailing the alleged default and Operator has failed to cure the default within thirty (30) days from its receipt of the notice or, if the default concerns an operation then being conducted, within forty-eight (48) hours of its receipt of the notice. For purposes hereof, "good cause" shall mean not only gross negligence or willful misconduct but also the material breach of or inability to meet the standards of operation contained in Article V.A. or material failure or inability to perform its obligations under this agreement.

Subject to Article VII.D.1., such resignation or removal shall not become effective until 7:00 o'clock A.M. on the first day of the calendar month following the expiration of ninety (90) days after the giving of notice of resignation by Operator or action by the Non-Operators to remove Operator, unless a successor Operator has been selected and assumes the duties of Operator at an earlier date. Operator, after effective date of resignation or removal, shall be bound by the terms hereof as a Non-Operator. A change of a corporate name or structure of Operator or transfer of Operator's interest to any single subsidiary, parent or successor corporation shall not be the basis for removal of Operator.

2. Selection of Successor Operator: Upon the resignation or removal of Operator under any provision of this agreement, a successor Operator shall be selected by the parties. The successor Operator shall be selected from the parties owning an interest in the Contract Area at the time such successor Operator is selected. The successor Operator shall be selected by the affirmative vote of two (2) or more parties owning a majority interest based on ownership as shown on Exhibit "A"; provided, however, if an Operator which has been removed or is deemed to have resigned fails to vote or votes only to succeed itself, the successor Operator shall be selected by the affirmative vote of the party or parties owning a majority interest based on ownership as shown on Exhibit "A" remaining after excluding the voting interest of the Operator that was removed or resigned. The former Operator shall promptly deliver to the successor Operator all records and data relating to the operations conducted by the former Operator to the extent such records and data are not already in the possession of the successor operator. Any cost of obtaining or copying the former Operator's records and data shall be charged to the joint account.

3. Effect of Bankruptcy: If Operator becomes insolvent, bankrupt or is placed in receivership, it shall be deemed to have resigned without any action by Non-Operators, except the selection of a successor. If a petition for relief under the federal bankruptcy laws is filed by or against Operator, and the removal of Operator is prevented by the federal bankruptcy court, all Non-Operators and Operator shall comprise an interim operating committee to serve until Operator has elected to reject or assume this agreement pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code, and an election to reject this agreement by Operator as a debtor in possession, or by a trustee in bankruptcy, shall be deemed a resignation as Operator without any action by Non-Operators, except the selection of a successor. During the period of time the operating committee controls operations, all actions shall require the approval of two (2) or more parties owning a majority interest based on ownership as shown on Exhibit "A." In the event there are only two (2) parties to this agreement, during the period of time the operating committee controls operations, a third party acceptable to Operator, Non-Operator and the federal bankruptcy court shall be selected as a member of the operating committee, and all actions shall require the approval of two (2) members of the operating committee without regard for their interest in the Contract Area based on Exhibit "A."

C. Employees and Contractors:

The number of employees or contractors used by Operator in conducting operations hereunder, their selection, and the hours of labor and the compensation for services performed shall be determined by Operator, and all such employees or contractors shall be the employees or contractors of Operator.

D. Rights and Duties of Operator:

1. Competitive Rates and Use of Affiliates: All wells drilled on the Contract Area shall be drilled on a competitive contract basis at the usual rates prevailing in the area. If it so desires, Operator may employ its own tools and equipment in the drilling of wells, but its charges therefor shall not exceed the prevailing rates in the area and the rate of such charges shall be agreed upon by the parties in writing before drilling operations are commenced, and such work shall be performed by Operator under the same terms and conditions as are customary and usual in the area in contracts of independent contractors who are doing work of a similar nature. All work performed or materials supplied by affiliates or related parties of Operator shall be performed or supplied at competitive rates, pursuant to written agreement, and in accordance with customs and standards prevailing in the industry.

2. Discharge of Joint Account Obligations: Except as herein otherwise specifically provided, Operator shall promptly pay and discharge expenses incurred in the development and operation of the Contract Area pursuant to this agreement and shall charge each of the parties hereto with their respective proportionate shares upon the expense basis provided in Exhibit "C." Operator shall keep an accurate record of the joint account hereunder, showing expenses incurred and charges and credits made and received.

3. Protection from Liens: Operator shall pay, or cause to be paid, as and when they become due and payable, all accounts of contractors and suppliers and wages and salaries for services rendered or performed, and for materials supplied on, to or in respect of the Contract Area or any operations for the joint account thereof, and shall keep the Contract Area free from

1 liens and encumbrances resulting therefrom except for those resulting from a bona fide dispute as to services rendered or
2 materials supplied.

3 4. Custody of Funds: Operator shall hold for the account of the Non-Operators any funds of the Non-Operators advanced
4 or paid to the Operator, either for the conduct of operations hereunder or as a result of the sale of production from the
5 Contract Area, and such funds shall remain the funds of the Non-Operators on whose account they are advanced or paid until
6 used for their intended purpose or otherwise delivered to the Non-Operators or applied toward the payment of debts as
7 provided in Article VII.B. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to establish a fiduciary relationship between Operator
8 and Non-Operators for any purpose other than to account for Non-Operator funds as herein specifically provided. Nothing in
9 this paragraph shall require the maintenance by Operator of separate accounts for the funds of Non-Operators unless the
10 parties otherwise specifically agree.

11 5. Access to Contract Area and Records: Operator shall, except as otherwise provided herein, permit each Non-Operator
12 or its duly authorized representative, at the Non-Operator's sole risk and cost, full and free access at all reasonable times to
13 all operations of every kind and character being conducted for the joint account on the Contract Area and to the records of
14 operations conducted thereon or production therefrom, including Operator's books and records relating thereto. Such access
15 rights shall not be exercised in a manner interfering with Operator's conduct of an operation hereunder and shall not obligate
16 Operator to furnish any geologic or geophysical data of an interpretive nature unless the cost of preparation of such
17 interpretive data was charged to the joint account. Operator will furnish to each Non-Operator upon request copies of any
18 and all reports and information obtained by Operator in connection with production and related items, including, without
19 limitation, meter and chart reports, production purchaser statements, run tickets and monthly gauge reports, but excluding
20 purchase contracts and pricing information to the extent not applicable to the production of the Non-Operator seeking the
21 information. Any audit of Operator's records relating to amounts expended and the appropriateness of such expenditures
22 shall be conducted in accordance with the audit protocol specified in Exhibit "C."

23 6. Filing and Furnishing Governmental Reports: Operator will file, and upon written request promptly furnish copies to
24 each requesting Non-Operator not in default of its payment obligations, all operational notices, reports or applications
25 required to be filed by local, State, Federal or Indian agencies or authorities having jurisdiction over operations hereunder.
26 Each Non-Operator shall provide to Operator on a timely basis all information necessary to Operator to make such filings.

27 7. Drilling and Testing Operations: The following provisions shall apply to each well drilled hereunder, including but not
28 limited to the Initial Well:

29 (a) Operator will promptly advise Non-Operators of the date on which the well is spudded, or the date on which
30 drilling operations are commenced.

31 (b) Operator will send to Non-Operators such reports, test results and notices regarding the progress of operations on the well
32 as the Non-Operators shall reasonably request, including, but not limited to, daily drilling reports, completion reports, and well logs.

33 (c) Operator shall adequately test all Zones encountered which may reasonably be expected to be capable of producing
34 Oil and Gas in paying quantities as a result of examination of the electric log or any other logs or cores or tests conducted
35 hereunder.

36 8. Cost Estimates: Upon request of any Consenting Party, Operator shall furnish estimates of current and cumulative costs
37 incurred for the joint account at reasonable intervals during the conduct of any operation pursuant to this agreement.
38 Operator shall not be held liable for errors in such estimates so long as the estimates are made in good faith.

39 9. Insurance: At all times while operations are conducted hereunder, Operator shall comply with the workers
40 compensation law of the state where the operations are being conducted; provided, however, that Operator may be a self-
41 insurer for liability under said compensation laws in which event the only charge that shall be made to the joint account shall
42 be as provided in Exhibit "C." Operator shall also carry or provide insurance for the benefit of the joint account of the parties
43 as outlined in Exhibit "D" attached hereto and made a part hereof. Operator shall require all contractors engaged in work on
44 or for the Contract Area to comply with the workers compensation law of the state where the operations are being conducted
45 and to maintain such other insurance as Operator may require.

46 In the event automobile liability insurance is specified in said Exhibit "D," or subsequently receives the approval of the
47 parties, no direct charge shall be made by Operator for premiums paid for such insurance for Operator's automotive
48 equipment.

49 **ARTICLE VI.**
50 **DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT**

51 **A. Initial Well:**

52 On or before the _____ day of _____, _____, Operator shall commence the drilling of the Initial
53 Well at the following location:

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60 and shall thereafter continue the drilling of the well with due diligence to

67 The drilling of the Initial Well and the participation therein by all parties is obligatory, subject to Article VI.C.1. as to participation
68 in Completion operations and Article VI.F. as to termination of operations and Article XI as to occurrence of force majeure.

69 **B. Subsequent Operations:**

70 1. Proposed Operations: If any party hereto should desire to drill any well on the Contract Area other than the Initial Well, or
71 if any party should desire to Rework, Sidetrack, Deepen, Recomplete or Plug Back a dry hole or a well no longer capable of
72 producing in paying quantities in which such party has not otherwise relinquished its interest in the proposed objective Zone under
73 this agreement, the party desiring to drill, Rework, Sidetrack, Deepen, Recomplete or Plug Back such a well shall give written
74 notice of the proposed operation to the parties who have not otherwise relinquished their interest in such objective Zone

A.A.P.L. FORM 610 - MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT - 1989

1 under this agreement and to all other parties in the case of a proposal for Sidetracking or Deepening, specifying the work to be
2 performed, the location, proposed depth, objective Zone and the estimated cost of the operation. The parties to whom such a
3 notice is delivered shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice within which to notify the party proposing to do the work
4 whether they elect to participate in the cost of the proposed operation. If a drilling rig is on location, notice of a proposal to
5 Rework, Sidetrack, Recomplete, Plug Back or Deepen may be given by telephone and the response period shall be limited to forty-
6 eight (48) hours, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays. Failure of a party to whom such notice is delivered to reply
7 within the period above fixed shall constitute an election by that party not to participate in the cost of the proposed operation.
8 Any proposal by a party to conduct an operation conflicting with the operation initially proposed shall be delivered to all parties
9 within the time and in the manner provided in Article VI.B.6.

10 If all parties to whom such notice is delivered elect to participate in such a proposed operation, the parties shall be
11 contractually committed to participate therein provided such operations are commenced within the time period hereafter set
12 forth, and Operator shall, no later than ninety (90) days after expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as
13 promptly as practicable after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case
14 may be), actually commence the proposed operation and thereafter complete it with due diligence at the risk and expense of
15 the parties participating therein; provided, however, said commencement date may be extended upon written notice of same
16 by Operator to the other parties, for a period of up to thirty (30) additional days if, in the sole opinion of Operator, such
17 additional time is reasonably necessary to obtain permits from governmental authorities, surface rights (including rights-of-
18 way) or appropriate drilling equipment, or to complete title examination or curative matter required for title approval or
19 acceptance. If the actual operation has not been commenced within the time provided (including any extension thereof as
20 specifically permitted herein or in the force majeure provisions of Article XI) and if any party hereto still desires to conduct
21 said operation, written notice proposing same must be resubmitted to the other parties in accordance herewith as if no prior
22 proposal had been made. Those parties that did not participate in the drilling of a well for which a proposal to Deepen or
23 Sidetrack is made hereunder shall, if such parties desire to participate in the proposed Deepening or Sidetracking operation,
24 reimburse the Drilling Parties in accordance with Article VI.B.4. in the event of a Deepening operation and in accordance
25 with Article VI.B.5. in the event of a Sidetracking operation.

26 2. Operations by Less Than All Parties:

27 (a) Determination of Participation. If any party to whom such notice is delivered as provided in Article VI.B.1. or
28 VIC.1. (Option No. 2) elects not to participate in the proposed operation, then, in order to be entitled to the benefits of this
29 Article, the party or parties giving the notice and such other parties as shall elect to participate in the operation shall, no
30 later than ninety (90) days after the expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as promptly as practicable after the
31 expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case may be) actually commence the
32 proposed operation and complete it with due diligence. Operator shall perform all work for the account of the Consenting
33 Parties; provided, however, if no drilling rig or other equipment is on location, and if Operator is a Non-Consenting Party,
34 the Consenting Parties shall either: (i) request Operator to perform the work required by such proposed operation for the
35 account of the Consenting Parties, or (ii) designate one of the Consenting Parties as Operator to perform such work. The
36 rights and duties granted to and imposed upon the Operator under this agreement are granted to and imposed upon the party
37 designated as Operator for an operation in which the original Operator is a Non-Consenting Party. Consenting Parties, when
38 conducting operations on the Contract Area pursuant to this Article VI.B.2., shall comply with all terms and conditions of this
39 agreement.

40 If less than all parties approve any proposed operation, the proposing party, immediately after the expiration of the
41 applicable notice period, shall advise all Parties of the total interest of the parties approving such operation and its
42 recommendation as to whether the Consenting Parties should proceed with the operation as proposed. Each Consenting Party,
43 within forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays) after delivery of such notice, shall advise the
44 proposing party of its desire to (i) limit participation to such party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" or (ii) carry only its
45 proportionate part (determined by dividing such party's interest in the Contract Area by the interests of all Consenting Parties in
46 the Contract Area) of Non-Consenting Parties' interests, or (iii) carry its proportionate part (determined as provided in (ii)) of
47 Non-Consenting Parties' interests together with all or a portion of its proportionate part of any Non-Consenting Parties'
48 interests that any Consenting Party did not elect to take. Any interest of Non-Consenting Parties that is not carried by a
49 Consenting Party shall be deemed to be carried by the party proposing the operation if such party does not withdraw its
50 proposal. Failure to advise the proposing party within the time required shall be deemed an election under (i). In the event a
51 drilling rig is on location, notice may be given by telephone, and the time permitted for such a response shall not exceed a
52 total of forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays). The proposing party, at its election, may
53 withdraw such proposal if there is less than 100% participation and shall notify all parties of such decision within ten (10)
54 days, or within twenty-four (24) hours if a drilling rig is on location, following expiration of the applicable response period.
55 If 100% subscription to the proposed operation is obtained, the proposing party shall promptly notify the Consenting Parties
56 of their proportionate interests in the operation and the party serving as Operator shall commence such operation within the
57 period provided in Article VI.B.1., subject to the same extension right as provided therein.

58 (b) Relinquishment of Interest for Non-Participation. The entire cost and risk of conducting such operations shall be
59 borne by the Consenting Parties in the proportions they have elected to bear same under the terms of the preceding
60 paragraph. Consenting Parties shall keep the leasehold estates involved in such operations free and clear of all liens and
61 encumbrances of every kind created by or arising from the operations of the Consenting Parties. If such an operation results
62 in a dry hole, then subject to Articles VI.B.6. and VI.E.3., the Consenting Parties shall plug and abandon the well and restore
63 the surface location at their sole cost, risk and expense; provided, however, that those Non-Consenting Parties that
64 participated in the drilling, Deepening or Sidetracking of the well shall remain liable for, and shall pay, their proportionate
65 shares of the cost of plugging and abandoning the well and restoring the surface location insofar only as those costs were not
66 increased by the subsequent operations of the Consenting Parties. If any well drilled, Reworked, Sidetracked, Deepened,
67 Recompleted or Plugged Back under the provisions of this Article results in a well capable of producing Oil and/or Gas in
68 paying quantities, the Consenting Parties shall Complete and equip the well to produce at their sole cost and risk, and the
69 well shall then be turned over to Operator (if the Operator did not conduct the operation) and shall be operated by it at the
70 expense and for the account of the Consenting Parties. Upon commencement of operations for the drilling, Reworking,
71 Sidetracking, Recompleting, Deepening or Plugging Back of any such well by Consenting Parties in accordance with the
72 provisions of this Article, each Non-Consenting Party shall be deemed to have relinquished to Consenting Parties, and the
73 Consenting Parties shall own and be entitled to receive, in proportion to their respective interests, all of such Non-
74 Consenting Party's interest in the well and share of production therefrom or, in the case of a Reworking, Sidetracking,

A.A.P.L. FORM 610 - MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT - 1989

1 Deepening, Recompleting or Plugging Back, or a Completion pursuant to Article VI.C.1. Option No. 2, all of such Non-
2 Consenting Party's interest in the production obtained from the operation in which the Non-Consenting Party did not elect
3 to participate. Such relinquishment shall be effective until the proceeds of the sale of such share, calculated at the well, or
4 market value thereof if such share is not sold (after deducting applicable ad valorem, production, severance, and excise taxes,
5 royalty, overriding royalty and other interests not excepted by Article III.C. payable out of or measured by the production
6 from such well accruing with respect to such interest until it reverts), shall equal the total of the following:

7 (i) _____ % of each such Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of any newly acquired surface equipment
8 beyond the wellhead connections (including but not limited to stock tanks, separators, treaters, pumping equipment and
9 piping), plus 100% of each such Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of operation of the well commencing with first
10 production and continuing until each such Non-Consenting Party's relinquished interest shall revert to it under other
11 provisions of this Article, it being agreed that each Non-Consenting Party's share of such costs and equipment will be that
12 interest which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party had it participated in the well from the beginning
13 of the operations; and

14 (ii) _____ % of (a) that portion of the costs and expenses of drilling, Reworking, Sidetracking, Deepening,
15 Plugging Back, testing, Completing, and Recompleting, after deducting any cash contributions received under Article VIII.C.,
16 and of (b) that portion of the cost of newly acquired equipment in the well (to and including the wellhead connections),
17 which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party if it had participated therein.

18 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Article VI.B., if the well does not reach the deepest objective Zone
19 described in the notice proposing the well for reasons other than the encountering of granite or practically impenetrable
20 substance or other condition in the hole rendering further operations impracticable, Operator shall give notice thereof to each
21 Non-Consenting Party who submitted or voted for an alternative proposal under Article VI.B.6. to drill the well to a
22 shallower Zone than the deepest objective Zone proposed in the notice under which the well was drilled, and each such Non-
23 Consenting Party shall have the option to participate in the initial proposed Completion of the well by paying its share of the
24 cost of drilling the well to its actual depth, calculated in the manner provided in Article VI.B.4. (a). If any such Non-
25 Consenting Party does not elect to participate in the first Completion proposed for such well, the relinquishment provisions
26 of this Article VI.B.2. (b) shall apply to such party's interest.

27 (c) Reworking, Recompleting or Plugging Back. An election not to participate in the drilling, Sidetracking or
28 Deepening of a well shall be deemed an election not to participate in any Reworking or Plugging Back operation proposed in
29 such a well, or portion thereof, to which the initial non-consent election applied that is conducted at any time prior to full
30 recovery by the Consenting Parties of the Non-Consenting Party's recoupment amount. Similarly, an election not to
31 participate in the Completing or Recompleting of a well shall be deemed an election not to participate in any Reworking
32 operation proposed in such a well, or portion thereof, to which the initial non-consent election applied that is conducted at
33 any time prior to full recovery by the Consenting Parties of the Non-Consenting Party's recoupment amount. Any such
34 Reworking, Recompleting or Plugging Back operation conducted during the recoupment period shall be deemed part of the
35 cost of operation of said well and there shall be added to the sums to be recouped by the Consenting Parties _____% of
36 that portion of the costs of the Reworking, Recompleting or Plugging Back operation which would have been chargeable to
37 such Non-Consenting Party had it participated therein. If such a Reworking, Recompleting or Plugging Back operation is
38 proposed during such recoupment period, the provisions of this Article VI.B. shall be applicable as between said Consenting
39 Parties in said well.

40 (d) Recoupment Matters. During the period of time Consenting Parties are entitled to receive Non-Consenting Party's
41 share of production, or the proceeds therefrom, Consenting Parties shall be responsible for the payment of all ad valorem,
42 production, severance, excise, gathering and other taxes, and all royalty, overriding royalty and other burdens applicable to
43 Non-Consenting Party's share of production not excepted by Article III.C.

44 In the case of any Reworking, Sidetracking, Plugging Back, Recompleting or Deepening operation, the Consenting
45 Parties shall be permitted to use, free of cost, all casing, tubing and other equipment in the well, but the ownership of all
46 such equipment shall remain unchanged; and upon abandonment of a well after such Reworking, Sidetracking, Plugging Back,
47 Recompleting or Deepening, the Consenting Parties shall account for all such equipment to the owners thereof, with each
48 party receiving its proportionate part in kind or in value, less cost of salvage.

49 Within ninety (90) days after the completion of any operation under this Article, the party conducting the operations
50 for the Consenting Parties shall furnish each Non-Consenting Party with an inventory of the equipment in and connected to
51 the well, and an itemized statement of the cost of drilling, Sidetracking, Deepening, Plugging Back, testing, Completing,
52 Recompleting, and equipping the well for production; or, at its option, the operating party, in lieu of an itemized statement
53 of such costs of operation, may submit a detailed statement of monthly billings. Each month thereafter, during the time the
54 Consenting Parties are being reimbursed as provided above, the party conducting the operations for the Consenting Parties
55 shall furnish the Non-Consenting Parties with an itemized statement of all costs and liabilities incurred in the operation of
56 the well, together with a statement of the quantity of Oil and Gas produced from it and the amount of proceeds realized from
57 the sale of the well's working interest production during the preceding month. In determining the quantity of Oil and Gas
58 produced during any month, Consenting Parties shall use industry accepted methods such as but not limited to metering or
59 periodic well tests. Any amount realized from the sale or other disposition of equipment newly acquired in connection with
60 any such operation which would have been owned by a Non-Consenting Party had it participated therein shall be credited
61 against the total unreturned costs of the work done and of the equipment purchased in determining when the interest of such
62 Non-Consenting Party shall revert to it as above provided; and if there is a credit balance, it shall be paid to such Non-
63 Consenting Party.

64 If and when the Consenting Parties recover from a Non-Consenting Party's relinquished interest the amounts provided
65 for above, the relinquished interests of such Non-Consenting Party shall automatically revert to it as of 7:00 a.m. on the day
66 following the day on which such recoupment occurs, and, from and after such reversion, such Non-Consenting Party shall
67 own the same interest in such well, the material and equipment in or pertaining thereto, and the production therefrom as
68 such Non-Consenting Party would have been entitled to had it participated in the drilling, Sidetracking, Reworking,
69 Deepening, Recompleting or Plugging Back of said well. Thereafter, such Non-Consenting Party shall be charged with and
70 shall pay its proportionate part of the further costs of the operation of said well in accordance with the terms of this
71 agreement and Exhibit "C" attached hereto.

72 3. Stand-By Costs: When a well which has been drilled or Deepened has reached its authorized depth and all tests have
73 been completed and the results thereof furnished to the parties, or when operations on the well have been otherwise
74 terminated pursuant to Article VI.F., stand-by costs incurred pending response to a party's notice proposing a Reworking,

A.A.P.L. FORM 610 - MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT - 1989

1 Sidetracking, Deepening, Recompleting, Plugging Back or Completing operation in such a well (including the period required
2 under Article VI.B.6. to resolve competing proposals) shall be charged and borne as part of the drilling or Deepening
3 operation just completed. Stand-by costs subsequent to all parties responding, or expiration of the response time permitted,
4 whichever first occurs, and prior to agreement as to the participating interests of all Consenting Parties pursuant to the terms
5 of the second grammatical paragraph of Article VI.B.2. (a), shall be charged to and borne as part of the proposed operation,
6 but if the proposal is subsequently withdrawn because of insufficient participation, such stand-by costs shall be allocated
7 between the Consenting Parties in the proportion each Consenting Party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total
8 interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all Consenting Parties.

9 In the event that notice for a Sidetracking operation is given while the drilling rig to be utilized is on location, any party
10 may request and receive up to five (5) additional days after expiration of the forty-eight hour response period specified in
11 Article VI.B.1. within which to respond by paying for all stand-by costs and other costs incurred during such extended
12 response period; Operator may require such party to pay the estimated stand-by time in advance as a condition to extending
13 the response period. If more than one party elects to take such additional time to respond to the notice, standby costs shall be
14 allocated between the parties taking additional time to respond on a day-to-day basis in the proportion each electing party's
15 interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all the electing parties.

16 4. Deepening: If less than all parties elect to participate in a drilling, Sidetracking, or Deepening operation proposed
17 pursuant to Article VI.B.1., the interest relinquished by the Non-Consenting Parties to the Consenting Parties under Article
18 VI.B.2. shall relate only and be limited to the lesser of (i) the total depth actually drilled or (ii) the objective depth or Zone
19 of which the parties were given notice under Article VI.B.1. ("Initial Objective"). Such well shall not be Deepened beyond the
20 Initial Objective without first complying with this Article to afford the Non-Consenting Parties the opportunity to participate
21 in the Deepening operation.

22 In the event any Consenting Party desires to drill or Deepen a Non-Consent Well to a depth below the Initial Objective,
23 such party shall give notice thereof, complying with the requirements of Article VI.B.1., to all parties (including Non-
24 Consenting Parties). Thereupon, Articles VI.B.1. and 2. shall apply and all parties receiving such notice shall have the right to
25 participate or not participate in the Deepening of such well pursuant to said Articles VI.B.1. and 2. If a Deepening operation
26 is approved pursuant to such provisions, and if any Non-Consenting Party elects to participate in the Deepening operation,
27 such Non-Consenting party shall pay or make reimbursement (as the case may be) of the following costs and expenses.

28 (a) If the proposal to Deepen is made prior to the Completion of such well as a well capable of producing in paying
29 quantities, such Non-Consenting Party shall pay (or reimburse Consenting Parties for, as the case may be) that share of costs
30 and expenses incurred in connection with the drilling of said well from the surface to the Initial Objective which Non-
31 Consenting Party would have paid had such Non-Consenting Party agreed to participate therein, plus the Non-Consenting
32 Party's share of the cost of Deepening and of participating in any further operations on the well in accordance with the other
33 provisions of this Agreement; provided, however, all costs for testing and Completion or attempted Completion of the well
34 incurred by Consenting Parties prior to the point of actual operations to Deepen beyond the Initial Objective shall be for the
35 sole account of Consenting Parties.

36 (b) If the proposal is made for a Non-Consent Well that has been previously Completed as a well capable of producing
37 in paying quantities, but is no longer capable of producing in paying quantities, such Non-Consenting Party shall pay (or
38 reimburse Consenting Parties for, as the case may be) its proportionate share of all costs of drilling, Completing, and
39 equipping said well from the surface to the Initial Objective, calculated in the manner provided in paragraph (a) above, less
40 those costs recouped by the Consenting Parties from the sale of production from the well. The Non-Consenting Party shall
41 also pay its proportionate share of all costs of re-entering said well. The Non-Consenting Parties' proportionate part (based
42 on the percentage of such well Non-Consenting Party would have owned had it previously participated in such Non-Consent
43 Well) of the costs of salvable materials and equipment remaining in the hole and salvable surface equipment used in
44 connection with such well shall be determined in accordance with Exhibit "C." If the Consenting Parties have recouped the
45 cost of drilling, Completing, and equipping the well at the time such Deepening operation is conducted, then a Non-
46 Consenting Party may participate in the Deepening of the well with no payment for costs incurred prior to re-entering the
47 well for Deepening

48 The foregoing shall not imply a right of any Consenting Party to propose any Deepening for a Non-Consent Well prior
49 to the drilling of such well to its Initial Objective without the consent of the other Consenting Parties as provided in Article
50 VI.F.

51 5. Sidetracking: Any party having the right to participate in a proposed Sidetracking operation that does not own an
52 interest in the affected wellbore at the time of the notice shall, upon electing to participate, tender to the wellbore owners its
53 proportionate share (equal to its interest in the Sidetracking operation) of the value of that portion of the existing wellbore
54 to be utilized as follows:

55 (a) If the proposal is for Sidetracking an existing dry hole, reimbursement shall be on the basis of the actual costs
56 incurred in the initial drilling of the well down to the depth at which the Sidetracking operation is initiated.

57 (b) If the proposal is for Sidetracking a well which has previously produced, reimbursement shall be on the basis of
58 such party's proportionate share of drilling and equipping costs incurred in the initial drilling of the well down to the depth
59 at which the Sidetracking operation is conducted, calculated in the manner described in Article VI.B.4(b) above. Such party's
60 proportionate share of the cost of the well's salvable materials and equipment down to the depth at which the Sidetracking
61 operation is initiated shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit "C."

62 6. Order of Preference of Operations. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this agreement, if any party desires to
63 propose the conduct of an operation that conflicts with a proposal that has been made by a party under this Article VI, such
64 party shall have fifteen (15) days from delivery of the initial proposal, in the case of a proposal to drill a well or to perform
65 an operation on a well where no drilling rig is on location, or twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal
66 holidays, from delivery of the initial proposal, if a drilling rig is on location for the well on which such operation is to be
67 conducted, to deliver to all parties entitled to participate in the proposed operation such party's alternative proposal, such
68 alternate proposal to contain the same information required to be included in the initial proposal. Each party receiving such
69 proposals shall elect by delivery of notice to Operator within five (5) days after expiration of the proposal period, or within
70 twenty-four (24) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) if a drilling rig is on location for the well that is the
71 subject of the proposals, to participate in one of the competing proposals. Any party not electing within the time required
72 shall be deemed not to have voted. The proposal receiving the vote of parties owning the largest aggregate percentage
73 interest of the parties voting shall have priority over all other competing proposals; in the case of a tie vote, the
74

A.A.P.L. FORM 610 - MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT - 1989

1 initial proposal shall prevail. Operator shall deliver notice of such result to all parties entitled to participate in the operation
2 within five (5) days after expiration of the election period (or within twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday
3 and legal holidays, if a drilling rig is on location). Each party shall then have two (2) days (or twenty-four (24) hours if a rig
4 is on location) from receipt of such notice to elect by delivery of notice to Operator to participate in such operation or to
5 relinquish interest in the affected well pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2.; failure by a party to deliver notice within
6 such period shall be deemed an election not to participate in the prevailing proposal.

7 7. Conformity to Spacing Pattern. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article VI.B.2., it is agreed that no wells shall be
8 proposed to be drilled to or Completed in or produced from a Zone from which a well located elsewhere on the Contract
9 Area is producing, unless such well conforms to the then-existing well spacing pattern for such Zone.

10 8. Paying Wells. No party shall conduct any Reworking, Deepening, Plugging Back, Completion, Recompletion, or
11 Sidetracking operation under this agreement with respect to any well then capable of producing in paying quantities except
12 with the consent of all parties that have not relinquished interests in the well at the time of such operation.

13 **C. Completion of Wells; Reworking and Plugging Back:**

14 1. Completion: Without the consent of all parties, no well shall be drilled, Deepened or Sidetracked, except any well
15 drilled, Deepened or Sidetracked pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2. of this agreement. Consent to the drilling,
16 Deepening or Sidetracking shall include:

17 Option No. 1: All necessary expenditures for the drilling, Deepening or Sidetracking, testing, Completing and
18 equipping of the well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities.

19 Option No. 2: All necessary expenditures for the drilling, Deepening or Sidetracking and testing of the well. When
20 such well has reached its authorized depth, and all logs, cores and other tests have been completed, and the results
21 thereof furnished to the parties, Operator shall give immediate notice to the Non-Operators having the right to
22 participate in a Completion attempt whether or not Operator recommends attempting to Complete the well,
23 together with Operator's AFE for Completion costs if not previously provided. The parties receiving such notice
24 shall have forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) in which to elect by delivery of
25 notice to Operator to participate in a recommended Completion attempt or to make a Completion proposal with an
26 accompanying AFE. Operator shall deliver any such Completion proposal, or any Completion proposal conflicting
27 with Operator's proposal, to the other parties entitled to participate in such Completion in accordance with the
28 procedures specified in Article VI.B.6. Election to participate in a Completion attempt shall include consent to all
29 necessary expenditures for the Completing and equipping of such well, including necessary tankage and/or surface
30 facilities but excluding any stimulation operation not contained on the Completion AFE. Failure of any party
31 receiving such notice to reply within the period above fixed shall constitute an election by that party not
32 to participate in the cost of the Completion attempt; provided, that Article VI.B.6. shall control in the case of
33 conflicting Completion proposals. If one or more, but less than all of the parties, elect to attempt a Completion, the
34 provision of Article VI.B.2. hereof (the phrase "Reworking, Sidetracking, Deepening, Recompleting or Plugging
35 Back" as contained in Article VI.B.2. shall be deemed to include "Completing") shall apply to the operations
36 thereafter conducted by less than all parties; provided, however, that Article VI.B.2. shall apply separately to each
37 separate Completion or Recompletion attempt undertaken hereunder, and an election to become a Non-Consenting
38 Party as to one Completion or Recompletion attempt shall not prevent a party from becoming a Consenting Party
39 in subsequent Completion or Recompletion attempts regardless whether the Consenting Parties as to earlier
40 Completions or Recompletion have recouped their costs pursuant to Article VI.B.2.; provided further, that any
41 recoupment of costs by a Consenting Party shall be made solely from the production attributable to the Zone in
42 which the Completion attempt is made. Election by a previous Non-Consenting party to participate in a subsequent
43 Completion or Recompletion attempt shall require such party to pay its proportionate share of the cost of salvable
44 materials and equipment installed in the well pursuant to the previous Completion or Recompletion attempt,
45 insofar and only insofar as such materials and equipment benefit the Zone in which such party participates in a
46 Completion attempt.

47 2. Rework, Recomplete or Plug Back: No well shall be Reworked, Recompleted or Plugged Back except a well Reworked,
48 Recompleted, or Plugged Back pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2. of this agreement. Consent to the Reworking,
49 Recompleting or Plugging Back of a well shall include all necessary expenditures in conducting such operations and
50 Completing and equipping of said well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities.

51 **D. Other Operations:**

52 Operator shall not undertake any single project reasonably estimated to require an expenditure in excess of _____
53 _____ Dollars (\$ _____) except in connection with the
54 drilling, Sidetracking, Reworking, Deepening, Completing, Recompleting or Plugging Back of a well that has been previously
55 authorized by or pursuant to this agreement; provided, however, that, in case of explosion, fire, flood or other sudden
56 emergency, whether of the same or different nature, Operator may take such steps and incur such expenses as in its opinion
57 are required to deal with the emergency to safeguard life and property but Operator, as promptly as possible, shall report the
58 emergency to the other parties. If Operator prepares an AFE for its own use, Operator shall furnish any Non-Operator so
59 requesting an information copy thereof for any single project costing in excess of _____ Dollars
60 (\$ _____). Any party who has not relinquished its interest in a well shall have the right to propose that
61 Operator perform repair work or undertake the installation of artificial lift equipment or ancillary production facilities such as
62 salt water disposal wells or to conduct additional work with respect to a well drilled hereunder or other similar project (but
63 not including the installation of gathering lines or other transportation or marketing facilities, the installation of which shall
64 be governed by separate agreement between the parties) reasonably estimated to require an expenditure in excess of the
65 amount first set forth above in this Article VI.D. (except in connection with an operation required to be proposed under
66 Articles VI.B.1. or VI.C.1. Option No. 2, which shall be governed exclusively by those Articles). Operator shall deliver such
67 proposal to all parties entitled to participate therein. If within thirty (30) days thereof Operator secures the written consent
68 of any party or parties owning at least _____% of the interests of the parties entitled to participate in such operation,
69 each party having the right to participate in such project shall be bound by the terms of such proposal and shall be obligated
70 to pay its proportionate share of the costs of the proposed project as if it had consented to such project pursuant to the terms
71 of the proposal.

72 **E. Abandonment of Wells:**

73 1. Abandonment of Dry Holes: Except for any well drilled or Deepened pursuant to Article VI.B.2., any well which has
74 been drilled or Deepened under the terms of this agreement and is proposed to be completed as a dry hole shall not be

1 plugged and abandoned without the consent of all parties. Should Operator, after diligent effort, be unable to contact any
 2 party, or should any party fail to reply within forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) after
 3 delivery of notice of the proposal to plug and abandon such well, such party shall be deemed to have consented to the
 4 proposed abandonment. All such wells shall be plugged and abandoned in accordance with applicable regulations and at the
 5 cost, risk and expense of the parties who participated in the cost of drilling or Deepening such well. Any party who objects to
 6 plugging and abandoning such well by notice delivered to Operator within forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday,
 7 Sunday and legal holidays) after delivery of notice of the proposed plugging shall take over the well as of the end of such
 8 forty-eight (48) hour notice period and conduct further operations in search of Oil and/or Gas subject to the provisions of
 9 Article VI.B.; failure of such party to provide proof reasonably satisfactory to Operator of its financial capability to conduct
 10 such operations or to take over the well within such period or thereafter to conduct operations on such well or plug and
 11 abandon such well shall entitle Operator to retain or take possession of the well and plug and abandon the well. The party
 12 taking over the well shall indemnify Operator (if Operator is an abandoning party) and the other abandoning parties against
 13 liability for any further operations conducted on such well except for the costs of plugging and abandoning the well and
 14 restoring the surface, for which the abandoning parties shall remain proportionately liable.

15 2. Abandonment of Wells That Have Produced: Except for any well in which a Non-Consent operation has been
 16 conducted hereunder for which the Consenting Parties have not been fully reimbursed as herein provided, any well which has
 17 been completed as a producer shall not be plugged and abandoned without the consent of all parties. If all parties consent to
 18 such abandonment, the well shall be plugged and abandoned in accordance with applicable regulations and at the cost, risk
 19 and expense of all the parties hereto. Failure of a party to reply within sixty (60) days of delivery of notice of proposed
 20 abandonment shall be deemed an election to consent to the proposal. If, within sixty (60) days after delivery of notice of the
 21 proposed abandonment of any well, all parties do not agree to the abandonment of such well, those wishing to continue its
 22 operation from the Zone then open to production shall be obligated to take over the well as of the expiration of the
 23 applicable notice period and shall indemnify Operator (if Operator is an abandoning party) and the other abandoning parties
 24 against liability for any further operations on the well conducted by such parties. Failure of such party or parties to provide
 25 proof reasonably satisfactory to Operator of their financial capability to conduct such operations or to take over the well
 26 within the required period or thereafter to conduct operations on such well shall entitle operator to retain or take possession
 27 of such well and plug and abandon the well.

28 Parties taking over a well as provided herein shall tender to each of the other parties its proportionate share of the value of
 29 the well's salvable material and equipment, determined in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit "C," less the estimated cost
 30 of salvaging and the estimated cost of plugging and abandoning and restoring the surface; provided, however, that in the event
 31 the estimated plugging and abandoning and surface restoration costs and the estimated cost of salvaging are higher than the
 32 value of the well's salvable material and equipment, each of the abandoning parties shall tender to the parties continuing
 33 operations their proportionate shares of the estimated excess cost. Each abandoning party shall assign to the non-abandoning
 34 parties, without warranty, express or implied, as to title or as to quantity, or fitness for use of the equipment and material, all
 35 of its interest in the wellbore of the well and related equipment, together with its interest in the Leasehold insofar and only
 36 insofar as such Leasehold covers the right to obtain production from that wellbore in the Zone then open to production. If the
 37 interest of the abandoning party is or includes an Oil and Gas Interest, such party shall execute and deliver to the non-
 38 abandoning party or parties an oil and gas lease, limited to the wellbore and the Zone then open to production, for a term of
 39 one (1) year and so long thereafter as Oil and/or Gas is produced from the Zone covered thereby, such lease to be on the form
 40 attached as Exhibit "B." The assignments or leases so limited shall encompass the Drilling Unit upon which the well is located.
 41 The payments by, and the assignments or leases to, the assignees shall be in a ratio based upon the relationship of their
 42 respective percentage of participation in the Contract Area to the aggregate of the percentages of participation in the Contract
 43 Area of all assignees. There shall be no readjustment of interests in the remaining portions of the Contract Area.

44 Thereafter, abandoning parties shall have no further responsibility, liability, or interest in the operation of or production
 45 from the well in the Zone then open other than the royalties retained in any lease made under the terms of this Article. Upon
 46 request, Operator shall continue to operate the assigned well for the account of the non-abandoning parties at the rates and
 47 charges contemplated by this agreement, plus any additional cost and charges which may arise as the result of the separate
 48 ownership of the assigned well. Upon proposed abandonment of the producing Zone assigned or leased, the assignor or lessor
 49 shall then have the option to repurchase its prior interest in the well (using the same valuation formula) and participate in
 50 further operations therein subject to the provisions hereof.

51 3. Abandonment of Non-Consent Operations: The provisions of Article VI.E.1. or VI.E.2. above shall be applicable as
 52 between Consenting Parties in the event of the proposed abandonment of any well excepted from said Articles; provided,
 53 however, no well shall be permanently plugged and abandoned unless and until all parties having the right to conduct further
 54 operations therein have been notified of the proposed abandonment and afforded the opportunity to elect to take over the well
 55 in accordance with the provisions of this Article VI.E.; and provided further, that Non-Consenting Parties who own an interest
 56 in a portion of the well shall pay their proportionate shares of abandonment and surface restoration cost for such well as
 57 provided in Article VI.B.2.(b).

58 **F. Termination of Operations:**

59 Upon the commencement of an operation for the drilling, Reworking, Sidetracking, Plugging Back, Deepening, testing,
 60 Completion or plugging of a well, including but not limited to the Initial Well, such operation shall not be terminated without
 61 consent of parties bearing ____% of the costs of such operation; provided, however, that in the event granite or other
 62 practically impenetrable substance or condition in the hole is encountered which renders further operations impractical,
 63 Operator may discontinue operations and give notice of such condition in the manner provided in Article VI.B.1, and the
 64 provisions of Article VI.B. or VI.E. shall thereafter apply to such operation, as appropriate.

65 **G. Taking Production in Kind:**

66 **Option No. 1: Gas Balancing Agreement Attached**

67 Each party shall take in kind or separately dispose of its proportionate share of all Oil and Gas produced from the
 68 Contract Area, exclusive of production which may be used in development and producing operations and in preparing and
 69 treating Oil and Gas for marketing purposes and production unavoidably lost. Any extra expenditure incurred in the taking
 70 in kind or separate disposition by any party of its proportionate share of the production shall be borne by such party. Any
 71 party taking its share of production in kind shall be required to pay for only its proportionate share of such part of
 72 Operator's surface facilities which it uses.

73 Each party shall execute such division orders and contracts as may be necessary for the sale of its interest in
 74 production from the Contract Area, and, except as provided in Article VII.B., shall be entitled to receive payment

1 directly from the purchaser thereof for its share of all production.
 2 If any party fails to make the arrangements necessary to take in kind or separately dispose of its proportionate
 3 share of the Oil produced from the Contract Area, Operator shall have the right, subject to the revocation at will by
 4 the party owning it, but not the obligation, to purchase such Oil or sell it to others at any time and from time to
 5 time, for the account of the non-taking party. Any such purchase or sale by Operator may be terminated by
 6 Operator upon at least ten (10) days written notice to the owner of said production and shall be subject always to
 7 the right of the owner of the production upon at least ten (10) days written notice to Operator to exercise at any
 8 time its right to take in kind, or separately dispose of, its share of all Oil not previously delivered to a purchaser.
 9 Any purchase or sale by Operator of any other party's share of Oil shall be only for such reasonable periods of time
 10 as are consistent with the minimum needs of the industry under the particular circumstances, but in no event for a
 11 period in excess of one (1) year.

12 Any such sale by Operator shall be in a manner commercially reasonable under the circumstances but Operator
 13 shall have no duty to share any existing market or to obtain a price equal to that received under any existing
 14 market. The sale or delivery by Operator of a non-taking party's share of Oil under the terms of any existing
 15 contract of Operator shall not give the non-taking party any interest in or make the non-taking party a party to said
 16 contract. No purchase shall be made by Operator without first giving the non-taking party at least ten (10) days
 17 written notice of such intended purchase and the price to be paid or the pricing basis to be used.

18 All parties shall give timely written notice to Operator of their Gas marketing arrangements for the following
 19 month, excluding price, and shall notify Operator immediately in the event of a change in such arrangements.
 20 Operator shall maintain records of all marketing arrangements, and of volumes actually sold or transported, which
 21 records shall be made available to Non-Operators upon reasonable request.

22 In the event one or more parties' separate disposition of its share of the Gas causes split-stream deliveries to separate
 23 pipelines and/or deliveries which on a day-to-day basis for any reason are not exactly equal to a party's respective proportion-
 24 ate share of total Gas sales to be allocated to it, the balancing or accounting between the parties shall be in accordance with
 25 any Gas balancing agreement between the parties hereto, whether such an agreement is attached as Exhibit "E" or is a
 26 separate agreement. Operator shall give notice to all parties of the first sales of Gas from any well under this agreement.

27 **Option No. 2: No Gas Balancing Agreement:**

28 Each party shall take in kind or separately dispose of its proportionate share of all Oil and Gas produced from
 29 the Contract Area, exclusive of production which may be used in development and producing operations and in
 30 preparing and treating Oil and Gas for marketing purposes and production unavoidably lost. Any extra expenditures
 31 incurred in the taking in kind or separate disposition by any party of its proportionate share of the production shall
 32 be borne by such party. Any party taking its share of production in kind shall be required to pay for only its
 33 proportionate share of such part of Operator's surface facilities which it uses.

34 Each party shall execute such division orders and contracts as may be necessary for the sale of its interest in
 35 production from the Contract Area, and, except as provided in Article VII.B., shall be entitled to receive payment
 36 directly from the purchaser thereof for its share of all production.

37 If any party fails to make the arrangements necessary to take in kind or separately dispose of its proportionate
 38 share of the Oil and/or Gas produced from the Contract Area, Operator shall have the right, subject to the
 39 revocation at will by the party owning it, but not the obligation, to purchase such Oil and/or Gas or sell it to others
 40 at any time and from time to time, for the account of the non-taking party. Any such purchase or sale by Operator
 41 may be terminated by Operator upon at least ten (10) days written notice to the owner of said production and shall
 42 be subject always to the right of the owner of the production upon at least ten (10) days written notice to Operator
 43 to exercise its right to take in kind, or separately dispose of, its share of all Oil and/or Gas not previously delivered
 44 to a purchaser; provided, however, that the effective date of any such revocation may be deferred at Operator's
 45 election for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days if Operator has committed such production to a purchase
 46 contract having a term extending beyond such ten (10)-day period. Any purchase or sale by Operator of any other
 47 party's share of Oil and/or Gas shall be only for such reasonable periods of time as are consistent with the
 48 minimum needs of the industry under the particular circumstances, but in no event for a period in excess of one (1)
 49 year.

50 Any such sale by Operator shall be in a manner commercially reasonable under the circumstances, but Operator
 51 shall have no duty to share any existing market or transportation arrangement or to obtain a price or transportation
 52 fee equal to that received under any existing market or transportation arrangement. The sale or delivery by
 53 Operator of a non-taking party's share of production under the terms of any existing contract of Operator shall not
 54 give the non-taking party any interest in or make the non-taking party a party to said contract. No purchase of Oil
 55 and Gas and no sale of Gas shall be made by Operator without first giving the non-taking party ten days written
 56 notice of such intended purchase or sale and the price to be paid or the pricing basis to be used. Operator shall give
 57 notice to all parties of the first sale of Gas from any well under this Agreement.

58 All parties shall give timely written notice to Operator of their Gas marketing arrangements for the following
 59 month, excluding price, and shall notify Operator immediately in the event of a change in such arrangements.
 60 Operator shall maintain records of all marketing arrangements, and of volumes actually sold or transported, which
 61 records shall be made available to Non-Operators upon reasonable request.

62 **ARTICLE VII.**

63 **EXPENDITURES AND LIABILITY OF PARTIES**

64 **A. Liability of Parties:**

65 The liability of the parties shall be several, not joint or collective. Each party shall be responsible only for its obligations,
 66 and shall be liable only for its proportionate share of the costs of developing and operating the Contract Area. Accordingly, the
 67 liens granted among the parties in Article VII.B. are given to secure only the debts of each severally, and no party shall have
 68 any liability to third parties hereunder to satisfy the default of any other party in the payment of any expense or obligation
 69 hereunder. It is not the intention of the parties to create, nor shall this agreement be construed as creating, a mining or other
 70 partnership, joint venture, agency relationship or association, or to render the parties liable as partners, co-venturers, or
 71 principals. In their relations with each other under this agreement, the parties shall not be considered fiduciaries or to have
 72 established a confidential relationship but rather shall be free to act on an arm's-length basis in accordance with their own
 73 respective self-interest, subject, however, to the obligation of the parties to act in good faith in their dealings with each other
 74 with respect to activities hereunder.

1 **B. Liens and Security Interests:**

2 Each party grants to the other parties hereto a lien upon any interest it now owns or hereafter acquires in Oil and Gas
3 Leases and Oil and Gas Interests in the Contract Area, and a security interest and/or purchase money security interest in any
4 interest it now owns or hereafter acquires in the personal property and fixtures on or used or obtained for use in connection
5 therewith, to secure performance of all of its obligations under this agreement including but not limited to payment of expense,
6 interest and fees, the proper disbursement of all monies paid hereunder, the assignment or relinquishment of interest in Oil
7 and Gas Leases as required hereunder, and the proper performance of operations hereunder. Such lien and security interest
8 granted by each party hereto shall include such party's leasehold interests, working interests, operating rights, and royalty and
9 overriding royalty interests in the Contract Area now owned or hereafter acquired and in lands pooled or unitized therewith or
10 otherwise becoming subject to this agreement, the Oil and Gas when extracted therefrom and equipment situated thereon or
11 used or obtained for use in connection therewith (including, without limitation, all wells, tools, and tubular goods), and accounts
12 (including, without limitation, accounts arising from gas imbalances or from the sale of Oil and/or Gas at the wellhead),
13 contract rights, inventory and general intangibles relating thereto or arising therefrom, and all proceeds and products of the
14 foregoing.

15 To perfect the lien and security agreement provided herein, each party hereto shall execute and acknowledge the recording
16 supplement and/or any financing statement prepared and submitted by any party hereto in conjunction herewith or at any time
17 following execution hereof, and Operator is authorized to file this agreement or the recording supplement executed herewith as
18 a lien or mortgage in the applicable real estate records and as a financing statement with the proper officer under the Uniform
19 Commercial Code in the state in which the Contract Area is situated and such other states as Operator shall deem appropriate
20 to perfect the security interest granted hereunder. Any party may file this agreement, the recording supplement executed
21 herewith, or such other documents as it deems necessary as a lien or mortgage in the applicable real estate records and/or a
22 financing statement with the proper officer under the Uniform Commercial Code.

23 Each party represents and warrants to the other parties hereto that the lien and security interest granted by such party to
24 the other parties shall be a first and prior lien, and each party hereby agrees to maintain the priority of said lien and security
25 interest against all persons acquiring an interest in Oil and Gas Leases and Interests covered by this agreement by, through or
26 under such party. All parties acquiring an interest in Oil and Gas Leases and Oil and Gas Interests covered by this agreement,
27 whether by assignment, merger, mortgage, operation of law, or otherwise, shall be deemed to have taken subject
28 to the lien and security interest granted by this Article VII.B. as to all obligations attributable to such interest hereunder
29 whether or not such obligations arise before or after such interest is acquired.

30 To the extent that parties have a security interest under the Uniform Commercial Code of the state in which the
31 Contract Area is situated, they shall be entitled to exercise the rights and remedies of a secured party under the Code.
32 The bringing of a suit and the obtaining of judgment by a party for the secured indebtedness shall not be deemed an
33 election of remedies or otherwise affect the lien rights or security interest as security for the payment thereof. In
34 addition, upon default by any party in the payment of its share of expenses, interests or fees, or upon the improper use
35 of funds by the Operator, the other parties shall have the right, without prejudice to other rights or remedies, to collect
36 from the purchaser the proceeds from the sale of such defaulting party's share of Oil and Gas until the amount owed by
37 such party, plus interest as provided in "Exhibit C," has been received, and shall have the right to offset the amount
38 owed against the proceeds from the sale of such defaulting party's share of Oil and Gas. All purchasers of production
39 may rely on a notification of default from the non-defaulting party or parties stating the amount due as a result of the
40 default, and all parties waive any recourse available against purchasers for releasing production proceeds as provided in
41 this paragraph.

42 If any party fails to pay its share of cost within one hundred twenty (120) days after rendition of a statement therefor by
43 Operator, the non-defaulting parties, including Operator, shall upon request by Operator, pay the unpaid amount in the
44 proportion that the interest of each such party bears to the interest of all such parties. The amount paid by each party so
45 paying its share of the unpaid amount shall be secured by the liens and security rights described in Article VII.B., and each
46 paying party may independently pursue any remedy available hereunder or otherwise.

47 If any party does not perform all of its obligations hereunder, and the failure to perform subjects such party to foreclosure
48 or execution proceedings pursuant to the provisions of this agreement, to the extent allowed by governing law, the defaulting
49 party waives any available right of redemption from and after the date of judgment, any required valuation or appraisalment
50 of the mortgaged or secured property prior to sale, any available right to stay execution or to require a marshaling of assets
51 and any required bond in the event a receiver is appointed. In addition, to the extent permitted by applicable law, each party
52 hereby grants to the other parties a power of sale as to any property that is subject to the lien and security rights granted
53 hereunder, such power to be exercised in the manner provided by applicable law or otherwise in a commercially reasonable
54 manner and upon reasonable notice.

55 Each party agrees that the other parties shall be entitled to utilize the provisions of Oil and Gas lien law or other lien
56 law of any state in which the Contract Area is situated to enforce the obligations of each party hereunder. Without limiting
57 the generality of the foregoing, to the extent permitted by applicable law, Non-Operators agree that Operator may invoke or
58 utilize the mechanics' or materialmen's lien law of the state in which the Contract Area is situated in order to secure the
59 payment to Operator of any sum due hereunder for services performed or materials supplied by Operator.

60 **C. Advances:**

61 Operator, at its election, shall have the right from time to time to demand and receive from one or more of the other
62 parties payment in advance of their respective shares of the estimated amount of the expense to be incurred in operations
63 hereunder during the next succeeding month, which right may be exercised only by submission to each such party of an
64 itemized statement of such estimated expense, together with an invoice for its share thereof. Each such statement and invoice
65 for the payment in advance of estimated expense shall be submitted on or before the 20th day of the next preceding month.
66 Each party shall pay to Operator its proportionate share of such estimate within fifteen (15) days after such estimate and
67 invoice is received. If any party fails to pay its share of said estimate within said time, the amount due shall bear interest as
68 provided in Exhibit "C" until paid. Proper adjustment shall be made monthly between advances and actual expense to the end
69 that each party shall bear and pay its proportionate share of actual expenses incurred, and no more.

70 **D. Defaults and Remedies:**

71 If any party fails to discharge any financial obligation under this agreement, including without limitation the failure to
72 make any advance under the preceding Article VII.C. or any other provision of this agreement, within the period required for
73 such payment hereunder, then in addition to the remedies provided in Article VII.B. or elsewhere in this agreement, the
74 remedies specified below shall be applicable. For purposes of this Article VII.D., all notices and elections shall be delivered

A.A.P.L. FORM 610 - MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT - 1989

1 only by Operator, except that Operator shall deliver any such notice and election requested by a non-defaulting Non-Operator,
2 and when Operator is the party in default, the applicable notices and elections can be delivered by any Non-Operator.
3 Election of any one or more of the following remedies shall not preclude the subsequent use of any other remedy specified
4 below or otherwise available to a non-defaulting party.

5 1. Suspension of Rights: Any party may deliver to the party in default a Notice of Default, which shall specify the default,
6 specify the action to be taken to cure the default, and specify that failure to take such action will result in the exercise of one
7 or more of the remedies provided in this Article. If the default is not cured within thirty (30) days of the delivery of such
8 Notice of Default, all of the rights of the defaulting party granted by this agreement may upon notice be suspended until the
9 default is cured, without prejudice to the right of the non-defaulting party or parties to continue to enforce the obligations of
10 the defaulting party previously accrued or thereafter accruing under this agreement. If Operator is the party in default, the
11 Non-Operators shall have in addition the right, by vote of Non-Operators owning a majority in interest in the Contract Area
12 after excluding the voting interest of Operator, to appoint a new Operator effective immediately. The rights of a defaulting
13 party that may be suspended hereunder at the election of the non-defaulting parties shall include, without limitation, the right
14 to receive information as to any operation conducted hereunder during the period of such default, the right to elect to
15 participate in an operation proposed under Article VI.B. of this agreement, the right to participate in an operation being
16 conducted under this agreement even if the party has previously elected to participate in such operation, and the right to
17 receive proceeds of production from any well subject to this agreement.

18 2. Suit for Damages: Non-defaulting parties or Operator for the benefit of non-defaulting parties may sue (at joint
19 account expense) to collect the amounts in default, plus interest accruing on the amounts recovered from the date of default
20 until the date of collection at the rate specified in Exhibit "C" attached hereto. Nothing herein shall prevent any party from
21 suing any defaulting party to collect consequential damages accruing to such party as a result of the default.

22 3. Deemed Non-Consent: The non-defaulting party may deliver a written Notice of Non-Consent Election to the
23 defaulting party at any time after the expiration of the thirty-day cure period following delivery of the Notice of Default, in
24 which event if the billing is for the drilling a new well or the Plugging Back, Sidetracking, Reworking or Deepening of a
25 well which is to be or has been plugged as a dry hole, or for the Completion or Recompletion of any well, the defaulting
26 party will be conclusively deemed to have elected not to participate in the operation and to be a Non-Consenting Party with
27 respect thereto under Article VI.B. or VI.C., as the case may be, to the extent of the costs unpaid by such party,
28 notwithstanding any election to participate theretofore made. If election is made to proceed under this provision, then the
29 non-defaulting parties may not elect to sue for the unpaid amount pursuant to Article VII.D.2.

30 Until the delivery of such Notice of Non-Consent Election to the defaulting party, such party shall have the right to cure
31 its default by paying its unpaid share of costs plus interest at the rate set forth in Exhibit "C," provided, however, such
32 payment shall not prejudice the rights of the non-defaulting parties to pursue remedies for damages incurred by the non-
33 defaulting parties as a result of the default. Any interest relinquished pursuant to this Article VII.D.3. shall be offered to the
34 non-defaulting parties in proportion to their interests, and the non-defaulting parties electing to participate in the ownership
35 of such interest shall be required to contribute their shares of the defaulted amount upon their election to participate therein.

36 4. Advance Payment: If a default is not cured within thirty (30) days of the delivery of a Notice of Default, Operator, or
37 Non-Operators if Operator is the defaulting party, may thereafter require advance payment from the defaulting
38 party of such defaulting party's anticipated share of any item of expense for which Operator, or Non-Operators, as the case may
39 be, would be entitled to reimbursement under any provision of this agreement, whether or not such expense was the subject of
40 the previous default. Such right includes, but is not limited to, the right to require advance payment for the estimated costs of
41 drilling a well or Completion of a well as to which an election to participate in drilling or Completion has been made. If the
42 defaulting party fails to pay the required advance payment, the non-defaulting parties may pursue any of the remedies provided
43 in the Article VII.D. or any other default remedy provided elsewhere in this agreement. Any excess of funds advanced remaining
44 when the operation is completed and all costs have been paid shall be promptly returned to the advancing party.

45 5. Costs and Attorneys' Fees: In the event any party is required to bring legal proceedings to enforce any financial
46 obligation of a party hereunder, the prevailing party in such action shall be entitled to recover all court costs, costs of
47 collection, and a reasonable attorney's fee, which the lien provided for herein shall also secure.

48 **E. Rentals, Shut-in Well Payments and Minimum Royalties:**

49 Rentals, shut-in well payments and minimum royalties which may be required under the terms of any lease shall be paid
50 by the party or parties who subjected such lease to this agreement at its or their expense. In the event two or more parties
51 own and have contributed interests in the same lease to this agreement, such parties may designate one of such parties to
52 make said payments for and on behalf of all such parties. Any party may request, and shall be entitled to receive, proper
53 evidence of all such payments. In the event of failure to make proper payment of any rental, shut-in well payment or
54 minimum royalty through mistake or oversight where such payment is required to continue the lease in force, any loss which
55 results from such non-payment shall be borne in accordance with the provisions of Article IV.B.2.

56 Operator shall notify Non-Operators of the anticipated completion of a shut-in well, or the shutting in or return to
57 production of a producing well, at least five (5) days (excluding Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays) prior to taking such
58 action, or at the earliest opportunity permitted by circumstances, but assumes no liability for failure to do so. In the event of
59 failure by Operator to so notify Non-Operators, the loss of any lease contributed hereto by Non-Operators for failure to make
60 timely payments of any shut-in well payment shall be borne jointly by the parties hereto under the provisions of Article
61 IV.B.3.

62 **F. Taxes:**

63 Beginning with the first calendar year after the effective date hereof, Operator shall render for ad valorem taxation all
64 property subject to this agreement which by law should be rendered for such taxes, and it shall pay all such taxes assessed
65 thereon before they become delinquent. Prior to the rendition date, each Non-Operator shall furnish Operator information as
66 to burdens (to include, but not be limited to, royalties, overriding royalties and production payments) on Leases and Oil and
67 Gas Interests contributed by such Non-Operator. If the assessed valuation of any Lease is reduced by reason of its being
68 subject to outstanding excess royalties, overriding royalties or production payments, the reduction in ad valorem taxes
69 resulting therefrom shall inure to the benefit of the owner or owners of such Lease, and Operator shall adjust the charge to
70 such owner or owners so as to reflect the benefit of such reduction. If the ad valorem taxes are based in whole or in part
71 upon separate valuations of each party's working interest, then notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, charges to
72 the joint account shall be made and paid by the parties hereto in accordance with the tax value generated by each party's
73 working interest. Operator shall bill the other parties for their proportionate shares of all tax payments in the manner
74 provided in Exhibit "C."

A.A.P.L. FORM 610 - MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT - 1989

1 If Operator considers any tax assessment improper, Operator may, at its discretion, protest within the time and manner
2 prescribed by law, and prosecute the protest to a final determination, unless all parties agree to abandon the protest prior to final
3 determination. During the pendency of administrative or judicial proceedings, Operator may elect to pay, under protest, all such taxes
4 and any interest and penalty. When any such protested assessment shall have been finally determined, Operator shall pay the tax for
5 the joint account, together with any interest and penalty accrued, and the total cost shall then be assessed against the parties, and be
6 paid by them, as provided in Exhibit "C."

7 Each party shall pay or cause to be paid all production, severance, excise, gathering and other taxes imposed upon or with respect
8 to the production or handling of such party's share of Oil and Gas produced under the terms of this agreement.

9 **ARTICLE VIII.**

10 **ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE OR TRANSFER OF INTEREST**

11 **A. Surrender of Leases:**

12 The Leases covered by this agreement, insofar as they embrace acreage in the Contract Area, shall not be surrendered in whole
13 or in part unless all parties consent thereto.

14 However, should any party desire to surrender its interest in any Lease or in any portion thereof, such party shall give written
15 notice of the proposed surrender to all parties, and the parties to whom such notice is delivered shall have thirty (30) days after
16 delivery of the notice within which to notify the party proposing the surrender whether they elect to consent thereto. Failure of a
17 party to whom such notice is delivered to reply within said 30-day period shall constitute a consent to the surrender of the Leases
18 described in the notice. If all parties do not agree or consent thereto, the party desiring to surrender shall assign, without express or
19 implied warranty of title, all of its interest in such Lease, or portion thereof, and any well, material and equipment which may be
20 located thereon and any rights in production thereafter secured, to the parties not consenting to such surrender. If the interest of the
21 assigning party is or includes an Oil and Gas Interest, the assigning party shall execute and deliver to the party or parties not
22 consenting to such surrender an oil and gas lease covering such Oil and Gas Interest for a term of one (1) year and so long
23 thereafter as Oil and/or Gas is produced from the land covered thereby, such lease to be on the form attached hereto as Exhibit "B."
24 Upon such assignment or lease, the assigning party shall be relieved from all obligations thereafter accruing, but not theretofore
25 accrued, with respect to the interest assigned or leased and the operation of any well attributable thereto, and the assigning party
26 shall have no further interest in the assigned or leased premises and its equipment and production other than the royalties retained
27 in any lease made under the terms of this Article. The party assignee or lessee shall pay to the party assignor or lessor the
28 reasonable salvage value of the latter's interest in any well's salvable materials and equipment attributable to the assigned or leased
29 acreage. The value of all salvable materials and equipment shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit "C," less
30 the estimated cost of salvaging and the estimated cost of plugging and abandoning and restoring the surface. If such value is less
31 than such costs, then the party assignor or lessor shall pay to the party assignee or lessee the amount of such deficit. If the
32 assignment or lease is in favor of more than one party, the interest shall be shared by such parties in the proportions that the
33 interest of each bears to the total interest of all such parties. If the interest of the parties to whom the assignment is to be made
34 varies according to depth, then the interest assigned shall similarly reflect such variances.

35 Any assignment, lease or surrender made under this provision shall not reduce or change the assignor's, lessor's or surrendering
36 party's interest as it was immediately before the assignment, lease or surrender in the balance of the Contract Area; and the acreage
37 assigned, leased or surrendered, and subsequent operations thereon, shall not thereafter be subject to the terms and provisions of this
38 agreement but shall be deemed subject to an Operating Agreement in the form of this agreement.

39 **B. Renewal or Extension of Leases:**

40 If any party secures a renewal or replacement of an Oil and Gas Lease or Interest subject to this agreement, then all other parties
41 shall be notified promptly upon such acquisition or, in the case of a replacement Lease taken before expiration of an existing Lease,
42 promptly upon expiration of the existing Lease. The parties notified shall have the right for a period of thirty (30) days following
43 delivery of such notice in which to elect to participate in the ownership of the renewal or replacement Lease, insofar as such Lease
44 affects lands within the Contract Area, by paying to the party who acquired it their proportionate shares of the acquisition cost
45 allocated to that part of such Lease within the Contract Area, which shall be in proportion to the interest held at that time by the
46 parties in the Contract Area. Each party who participates in the purchase of a renewal or replacement Lease shall be given an
47 assignment of its proportionate interest therein by the acquiring party.

48 If some, but less than all, of the parties elect to participate in the purchase of a renewal or replacement Lease, it shall be owned
49 by the parties who elect to participate therein, in a ratio based upon the relationship of their respective percentage of participation in
50 the Contract Area to the aggregate of the percentages of participation in the Contract Area of all parties participating in the
51 purchase of such renewal or replacement Lease. The acquisition of a renewal or replacement Lease by any or all of the parties hereto
52 shall not cause a readjustment of the interests of the parties stated in Exhibit "A," but any renewal or replacement Lease in which
53 less than all parties elect to participate shall not be subject to this agreement but shall be deemed subject to a separate Operating
54 Agreement in the form of this agreement.

55 If the interests of the parties in the Contract Area vary according to depth, then their right to participate proportionately in
56 renewal or replacement Leases and their right to receive an assignment of interest shall also reflect such depth variances.

57 The provisions of this Article shall apply to renewal or replacement Leases whether they are for the entire interest covered by
58 the expiring Lease or cover only a portion of its area or an interest therein. Any renewal or replacement Lease taken before the
59 expiration of its predecessor Lease, or taken or contracted for or becoming effective within six (6) months after the expiration of the
60 existing Lease, shall be subject to this provision so long as this agreement is in effect at the time of such acquisition or at the time
61 the renewal or replacement Lease becomes effective; but any Lease taken or contracted for more than six (6) months after the
62 expiration of an existing Lease shall not be deemed a renewal or replacement Lease and shall not be subject to the provisions of this
63 agreement.

64 The provisions in this Article shall also be applicable to extensions of Oil and Gas Leases.

65 **C. Acreage or Cash Contributions:**

66 While this agreement is in force, if any party contracts for a contribution of cash towards the drilling of a well or any other
67 operation on the Contract Area, such contribution shall be paid to the party who conducted the drilling or other operation and shall
68 be applied by it against the cost of such drilling or other operation. If the contribution be in the form of acreage, the party to whom
69 the contribution is made shall promptly tender an assignment of the acreage, without warranty of title, to the Drilling Parties in the
70 proportions said Drilling Parties shared the cost of drilling the well. Such acreage shall become a separate Contract Area and, to the
71 extent possible, be governed by provisions identical to this agreement. Each party shall promptly notify all other parties of any
72 acreage or cash contributions it may obtain in support of any well or any other operation on the Contract Area. The above
73 provisions shall also be applicable to optional rights to earn acreage outside the Contract Area which are in support of well drilled
74 inside Contract Area.

1 If any party contracts for any consideration relating to disposition of such party's share of substances produced hereunder,
2 such consideration shall not be deemed a contribution as contemplated in this Article VIII.C.

3 **D. Assignment; Maintenance of Uniform Interest:**

4 For the purpose of maintaining uniformity of ownership in the Contract Area in the Oil and Gas Leases, Oil and Gas
5 Interests, wells, equipment and production covered by this agreement no party shall sell, encumber, transfer or make other
6 disposition of its interest in the Oil and Gas Leases and Oil and Gas Interests embraced within the Contract Area or in wells,
7 equipment and production unless such disposition covers either:

- 8 1. the entire interest of the party in all Oil and Gas Leases, Oil and Gas Interests, wells, equipment and production; or
- 9 2. an equal undivided percent of the party's present interest in all Oil and Gas Leases, Oil and Gas Interests, wells,
10 equipment and production in the Contract Area.

11 Every sale, encumbrance, transfer or other disposition made by any party shall be made expressly subject to this agreement
12 and shall be made without prejudice to the right of the other parties, and any transferee of an ownership interest in any Oil and
13 Gas Lease or Interest shall be deemed a party to this agreement as to the interest conveyed from and after the effective date of
14 the transfer of ownership; provided, however, that the other parties shall not be required to recognize any such sale,
15 encumbrance, transfer or other disposition for any purpose hereunder until thirty (30) days after they have received a copy of the
16 instrument of transfer or other satisfactory evidence thereof in writing from the transferor or transferee. No assignment or other
17 disposition of interest by a party shall relieve such party of obligations previously incurred by such party hereunder with respect
18 to the interest transferred, including without limitation the obligation of a party to pay all costs attributable to an operation
19 conducted hereunder in which such party has agreed to participate prior to making such assignment, and the lien and security
20 interest granted by Article VII.B. shall continue to burden the interest transferred to secure payment of any such obligations.

21 If, at any time the interest of any party is divided among and owned by four or more co-owners, Operator, at its discretion,
22 may require such co-owners to appoint a single trustee or agent with full authority to receive notices, approve expenditures,
23 receive billings for and approve and pay such party's share of the joint expenses, and to deal generally with, and with power to
24 bind, the co-owners of such party's interest within the scope of the operations embraced in this agreement; however, all such co-
25 owners shall have the right to enter into and execute all contracts or agreements for the disposition of their respective shares of
26 the Oil and Gas produced from the Contract Area and they shall have the right to receive, separately, payment of the sale
27 proceeds thereof.

28 **E. Waiver of Rights to Partition:**

29 If permitted by the laws of the state or states in which the property covered hereby is located, each party hereto owning an
30 undivided interest in the Contract Area waives any and all rights it may have to partition and have set aside to it in severalty its
31 undivided interest therein.

32 **F. Preferential Right to Purchase:**

33 (Optional; Check if applicable.)

34 Should any party desire to sell all or any part of its interests under this agreement, or its rights and interests in the Contract
35 Area, it shall promptly give written notice to the other parties, with full information concerning its proposed disposition, which
36 shall include the name and address of the prospective transferee (who must be ready, willing and able to purchase), the purchase
37 price, a legal description sufficient to identify the property, and all other terms of the offer. The other parties shall then have an
38 optional prior right, for a period of ten (10) days after the notice is delivered, to purchase for the stated consideration on the
39 same terms and conditions the interest which the other party proposes to sell; and, if this optional right is exercised, the
40 purchasing parties shall share the purchased interest in the proportions that the interest of each bears to the total interest of all
41 purchasing parties. However, there shall be no preferential right to purchase in those cases where any party wishes to mortgage
42 its interests, or to transfer title to its interests to its mortgagee in lieu of or pursuant to foreclosure of a mortgage of its interests,
43 or to dispose of its interests by merger, reorganization, consolidation, or by sale of all or substantially all of its Oil and Gas assets
44 to any party, or by transfer of its interests to a subsidiary or parent company or to a subsidiary of a parent company, or to any
45 company in which such party owns a majority of the stock.

46 **ARTICLE IX.**

47 **INTERNAL REVENUE CODE ELECTION**

48 If, for federal income tax purposes, this agreement and the operations hereunder are regarded as a partnership, and if the
49 parties have not otherwise agreed to form a tax partnership pursuant to Exhibit "G" or other agreement between them, each
50 party thereby affected elects to be excluded from the application of all of the provisions of Subchapter "K," Chapter 1, Subtitle
51 "A," of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"), as permitted and authorized by Section 761 of the Code and
52 the regulations promulgated thereunder. Operator is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of each party hereby affected
53 such evidence of this election as may be required by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States or the Federal Internal
54 Revenue Service, including specifically, but not by way of limitation, all of the returns, statements, and the data required by
55 Treasury Regulation §1.761. Should there be any requirement that each party hereby affected give further evidence of this
56 election, each such party shall execute such documents and furnish such other evidence as may be required by the Federal Internal
57 Revenue Service or as may be necessary to evidence this election. No such party shall give any notices or take any other action
58 inconsistent with the election made hereby. If any present or future income tax laws of the state or states in which the Contract
59 Area is located or any future income tax laws of the United States contain provisions similar to those in Subchapter "K," Chapter
60 1, Subtitle "A," of the Code, under which an election similar to that provided by Section 761 of the Code is permitted, each party
61 hereby affected shall make such election as may be permitted or required by such laws. In making the foregoing election, each
62 such party states that the income derived by such party from operations hereunder can be adequately determined without the
63 computation of partnership taxable income.

64 **ARTICLE X.**

65 **CLAIMS AND LAWSUITS**

66 Operator may settle any single uninsured third party damage claim or suit arising from operations hereunder if the expenditure
67 does not exceed _____ Dollars (\$ _____) and if the payment is in complete settlement
68 of such claim or suit. If the amount required for settlement exceeds the above amount, the parties hereto shall assume and take over
69 the further handling of the claim or suit, unless such authority is delegated to Operator. All costs and expenses of handling settling,
70 or otherwise discharging such claim or suit shall be a the joint expense of the parties participating in the operation from which the
71 claim or suit arises. If a claim is made against any party or if any party is sued on account of any matter arising from operations
72 hereunder over which such individual has no control because of the rights given Operator by this agreement, such party shall
73 immediately notify all other parties, and the claim or suit shall be treated as any other claim or suit involving operations hereunder.

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**ARTICLE XI.
FORCE MAJEURE**

If any party is rendered unable, wholly or in part, by force majeure to carry out its obligations under this agreement, other than the obligation to indemnify or make money payments or furnish security, that party shall give to all other parties prompt written notice of the force majeure with reasonably full particulars concerning it; thereupon, the obligations of the party giving the notice, so far as they are affected by the force majeure, shall be suspended during, but no longer than, the continuance of the force majeure. The term "force majeure," as here employed, shall mean an act of God, strike, lockout, or other industrial disturbance, act of the public enemy, war, blockade, public riot, lightning, fire, storm, flood or other act of nature, explosion, governmental action, governmental delay, restraint or inaction, unavailability of equipment, and any other cause, whether of the kind specifically enumerated above or otherwise, which is not reasonably within the control of the party claiming suspension.

The affected party shall use all reasonable diligence to remove the force majeure situation as quickly as practicable. The requirement that any force majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes, lockouts, or other labor difficulty by the party involved, contrary to its wishes; how all such difficulties shall be handled shall be entirely within the discretion of the party concerned.

**ARTICLE XII.
NOTICES**

All notices authorized or required between the parties by any of the provisions of this agreement, unless otherwise specifically provided, shall be in writing and delivered in person or by United States mail, courier service, telegram, telex, telecopier or any other form of facsimile, postage or charges prepaid, and addressed to such parties at the addresses listed on Exhibit "A." All telephone or oral notices permitted by this agreement shall be confirmed immediately thereafter by written notice. The originating notice given under any provision hereof shall be deemed delivered only when received by the party to whom such notice is directed, and the time for such party to deliver any notice in response thereto shall run from the date the originating notice is received. "Receipt" for purposes of this agreement with respect to written notice delivered hereunder shall be actual delivery of the notice to the address of the party to be notified specified in accordance with this agreement, or to the telecopy, facsimile or telex machine of such party. The second or any responsive notice shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the United States mail or at the office of the courier or telegraph service, or upon transmittal by telex, telecopy or facsimile, or when personally delivered to the party to be notified, provided, that when response is required within 24 or 48 hours, such response shall be given orally or by telephone, telex, telecopy or other facsimile within such period. Each party shall have the right to change its address at any time, and from time to time, by giving written notice thereof to all other parties. If a party is not available to receive notice orally or by telephone when a party attempts to deliver a notice required to be delivered within 24 or 48 hours, the notice may be delivered in writing by any other method specified herein and shall be deemed delivered in the same manner provided above for any responsive notice.

**ARTICLE XIII.
TERM OF AGREEMENT**

This agreement shall remain in full force and effect as to the Oil and Gas Leases and/or Oil and Gas Interests subject hereto for the period of time selected below; provided, however, no party hereto shall ever be construed as having any right, title or interest in or to any Lease or Oil and Gas Interest contributed by any other party beyond the term of this agreement.

- Option No. 1: So long as any of the Oil and Gas Leases subject to this agreement remain or are continued in force as to any part of the Contract Area, whether by production, extension, renewal or otherwise.
- Option No. 2: In the event the well described in Article VI.A., or any subsequent well drilled under any provision of this agreement, results in the Completion of a well as a well capable of production of Oil and/or Gas in paying quantities, this agreement shall continue in force so long as any such well is capable of production, and for an additional period of ____ days thereafter; provided, however, if, prior to the expiration of such additional period, one or more of the parties hereto are engaged in drilling, Reworking, Deepening, Sidetracking, Plugging Back, testing or attempting to Complete or Re-complete a well or wells hereunder, this agreement shall continue in force until such operations have been completed and if production results therefrom, this agreement shall continue in force as provided herein. In the event the well described in Article VI.A., or any subsequent well drilled hereunder, results in a dry hole, and no other well is capable of producing Oil and/or Gas from the Contract Area, this agreement shall terminate unless drilling, Deepening, Sidetracking, Completing, Re-completing, Plugging Back or Reworking operations are commenced within _____ days from the date of abandonment of said well. "Abandonment" for such purposes shall mean either (i) a decision by all parties not to conduct any further operations on the well or (ii) the elapse of 180 days from the conduct of any operations on the well, whichever first occurs.

The termination of this agreement shall not relieve any party hereto from any expense, liability or other obligation or any remedy therefor which has accrued or attached prior to the date of such termination.

Upon termination of this agreement and the satisfaction of all obligations hereunder, in the event a memorandum of this Operating Agreement has been filed of record, Operator is authorized to file of record in all necessary recording offices a notice of termination, and each party hereto agrees to execute such a notice of termination as to Operator's interest, upon request of Operator, if Operator has satisfied all its financial obligations.

**ARTICLE XIV.
COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

A. Laws, Regulations and Orders:

This agreement shall be subject to the applicable laws of the state in which the Contract Area is located, to the valid rules, regulations, and orders of any duly constituted regulatory body of said state; and to all other applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and orders.

B. Governing Law:

This agreement and all matters pertaining hereto, including but not limited to matters of performance, non-performance, breach, remedies, procedures, rights, duties, and interpretation or construction, shall be governed and determined by the law of the state in which the Contract Area is located. If the Contract Area is in two or more states, the law of the state of _____ shall govern.

C. Regulatory Agencies:

Nothing herein contained shall grant, or be construed to grant, Operator the right or authority to waive or release any rights, privileges, or obligations which Non-Operators may have under federal or state laws or under rules, regulations or

1 orders promulgated under such laws in reference to oil, gas and mineral operations, including the location, operation, or
2 production of wells, on tracts offsetting or adjacent to the Contract Area.

3 With respect to the operations hereunder, Non-Operators agree to release Operator from any and all losses, damages,
4 injuries, claims and causes of action arising out of, incident to or resulting directly or indirectly from Operator's interpretation
5 or application of rules, rulings, regulations or orders of the Department of Energy or Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
6 or predecessor or successor agencies to the extent such interpretation or application was made in good faith and does not
7 constitute gross negligence. Each Non-Operator further agrees to reimburse Operator for such Non-Operator's share of
8 production or any refund, fine, levy or other governmental sanction that Operator may be required to pay as a result of such
9 an incorrect interpretation or application, together with interest and penalties thereon owing by Operator as a result of such
10 incorrect interpretation or application.

11 **ARTICLE XV.**
12 **MISCELLANEOUS**

13 **A. Execution:**

14 This agreement shall be binding upon each Non-Operator when this agreement or a counterpart thereof has been
15 executed by such Non-Operator and Operator notwithstanding that this agreement is not then or thereafter executed by all of
16 the parties to which it is tendered or which are listed on Exhibit "A" as owning an interest in the Contract Area or which
17 own, in fact, an interest in the Contract Area. Operator may, however, by written notice to all Non-Operators who have
18 become bound by this agreement as aforesaid, given at any time prior to the actual spud date of the Initial Well but in no
19 event later than five days prior to the date specified in Article VI.A. for commencement of the Initial Well, terminate this
20 agreement if Operator in its sole discretion determines that there is insufficient participation to justify commencement of
21 drilling operations. In the event of such a termination by Operator, all further obligations of the parties hereunder shall cease
22 as of such termination. In the event any Non-Operator has advanced or prepaid any share of drilling or other costs
23 hereunder, all sums so advanced shall be returned to such Non-Operator without interest. In the event Operator proceeds
24 with drilling operations for the Initial Well without the execution hereof by all persons listed on Exhibit "A" as having a
25 current working interest in such well, Operator shall indemnify Non-Operators with respect to all costs incurred for the
26 Initial Well which would have been charged to such person under this agreement if such person had executed the same and
27 Operator shall receive all revenues which would have been received by such person under this agreement if such person had
28 executed the same.

29 **B. Successors and Assigns:**

30 This agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs,
31 devisees, legal representatives, successors and assigns, and the terms hereof shall be deemed to run with the Leases or
32 Interests included within the Contract Area.

33 **C. Counterparts:**

34 This instrument may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original for all
35 purposes.

36 **D. Severability:**

37 For the purposes of assuming or rejecting this agreement as an executory contract pursuant to federal bankruptcy laws,
38 this agreement shall not be severable, but rather must be assumed or rejected in its entirety, and the failure of any party to
39 this agreement to comply with all of its financial obligations provided herein shall be a material default.

40 **ARTICLE XVI.**
41 **OTHER PROVISIONS**

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A.A.P.L. FORM 610 - MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT - 1989

1 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement shall be effective as of the _____ day of _____,
2 _____.
3 _____, who has prepared and circulated this form for execution, represents and warrants
4 that the form was printed from and, with the exception(s) listed below, is identical to the AAPL Form 610-1989 Model Form
5 Operating Agreement, as published in computerized form by Forms On-A-Disk, Inc. No changes, alterations, or
modifications, other than those made by strikethrough and/or insertion and that are clearly recognizable as changes in
Articles _____, have been made to the form.

6 **ATTEST OR WITNESS:**

OPERATOR

7 _____
8 _____ By _____
9 _____
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NON-OPERATORS

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Note: The following forms of acknowledgment are the short forms approved by the Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.

The validity and effect of these forms in any state will depend upon the statutes of that state.

Individual acknowledgment:

State of _____)

_____) ss.

County of _____)

This instrument was acknowledged before me on

_____ by _____

(Seal, if any) _____

Title (and Rank) _____

My commission expires: _____

Acknowledgment in representative capacity:

State of _____)

_____) ss.

County of _____)

This instrument was acknowledged before me on

_____ by _____ as

_____ of _____.

(Seal, if any) _____

Title (and Rank) _____

My commission expires: _____

EXHIBIT “ ” ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE JOINT OPERATIONS

1 Attached to and made part of _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

7
8 **IF THE PARTIES FAIL TO SELECT EITHER ONE OF COMPETING “ALTERNATIVE” PROVISIONS, OR SELECT ALL THE**
9 **COMPETING “ALTERNATIVE” PROVISIONS, ALTERNATIVE 1 IN EACH SUCH INSTANCE SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE**
10 **BEEN ADOPTED BY THE PARTIES AS A RESULT OF ANY SUCH OMISSION OR DUPLICATE NOTATION.**

11
12 **IN THE EVENT THAT ANY “OPTIONAL” PROVISION OF THIS ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE IS NOT ADOPTED BY THE**
13 **PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT BY A TYPED, PRINTED OR HANDWRITTEN INDICATION, SUCH PROVISION SHALL NOT**
14 **FORM A PART OF THIS ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE, AND NO INFERENCE SHALL BE MADE CONCERNING THE INTENT**
15 **OF THE PARTIES IN SUCH EVENT.**

16 1. DEFINITIONS

17
18 All terms used in this Accounting Procedure shall have the following meaning, unless otherwise expressly defined in the Agreement:

19
20
21 **“Affiliate”** means for a person, another person that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with that person. In this
22 definition, (a) control means the ownership by one person, directly or indirectly, of more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting securities
23 of a corporation or, for other persons, the equivalent ownership interest (such as partnership interests), and (b) “person” means an
24 individual, corporation, partnership, trust, estate, unincorporated organization, association, or other legal entity.

25
26 **“Agreement”** means the operating agreement, farmout agreement, or other contract between the Parties to which this Accounting
27 Procedure is attached.

28
29 **“Controllable Material”** means Material that, at the time of acquisition or disposition by the Joint Account, as applicable, is so classified
30 in the Material Classification Manual most recently recommended by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies (COPAS).

31
32 **“Equalized Freight”** means the procedure of charging transportation cost to the Joint Account based upon the distance from the nearest
33 Railway Receiving Point to the property.

34
35 **“Excluded Amount”** means a specified excluded trucking amount most recently recommended by COPAS.

36
37 **“Field Office”** means a structure, or portion of a structure, whether a temporary or permanent installation, the primary function of which is
38 to directly serve daily operation and maintenance activities of the Joint Property and which serves as a staging area for directly chargeable
39 field personnel.

40
41 **“First Level Supervision”** means those employees whose primary function in Joint Operations is the direct oversight of the Operator’s
42 field employees and/or contract labor directly employed On-site in a field operating capacity. First Level Supervision functions may
43 include, but are not limited to:

- 44 • Responsibility for field employees and contract labor engaged in activities that can include field operations, maintenance,
45 construction, well remedial work, equipment movement and drilling
- 46 • Responsibility for day-to-day direct oversight of rig operations
- 47 • Responsibility for day-to-day direct oversight of construction operations
- 48 • Coordination of job priorities and approval of work procedures
- 49 • Responsibility for optimal resource utilization (equipment, Materials, personnel)
- 50 • Responsibility for meeting production and field operating expense targets
- 51 • Representation of the Parties in local matters involving community, vendors, regulatory agents and landowners, as an incidental
52 part of the supervisor’s operating responsibilities
- 53 • Responsibility for all emergency responses with field staff
- 54 • Responsibility for implementing safety and environmental practices
- 55 • Responsibility for field adherence to company policy
- 56 • Responsibility for employment decisions and performance appraisals for field personnel
- 57 • Oversight of sub-groups for field functions such as electrical, safety, environmental, telecommunications, which may have group
58 or team leaders.

59
60
61 **“Joint Account”** means the account showing the charges paid and credits received in the conduct of the Joint Operations that are to be
62 shared by the Parties, but does not include proceeds attributable to hydrocarbons and by-products produced under the Agreement.

63
64 **“Joint Operations”** means all operations necessary or proper for the exploration, appraisal, development, production, protection,
65 maintenance, repair, abandonment, and restoration of the Joint Property.
66

1 **“Joint Property”** means the real and personal property subject to the Agreement.
2

3 **“Laws”** means any laws, rules, regulations, decrees, and orders of the United States of America or any state thereof and all other
4 governmental bodies, agencies, and other authorities having jurisdiction over or affecting the provisions contained in or the transactions
5 contemplated by the Agreement or the Parties and their operations, whether such laws now exist or are hereafter amended, enacted,
6 promulgated or issued.
7

8 **“Material”** means personal property, equipment, supplies, or consumables acquired or held for use by the Joint Property.
9

10 **“Non-Operators”** means the Parties to the Agreement other than the Operator.
11

12 **“Offshore Facilities”** means platforms, surface and subsea development and production systems, and other support systems such as oil and
13 gas handling facilities, living quarters, offices, shops, cranes, electrical supply equipment and systems, fuel and water storage and piping,
14 heliport, marine docking installations, communication facilities, navigation aids, and other similar facilities necessary in the conduct of
15 offshore operations, all of which are located offshore.
16

17 **“Off-site”** means any location that is not considered On-site as defined in this Accounting Procedure.
18

19 **“On-site”** means on the Joint Property when in direct conduct of Joint Operations. The term “On-site” shall also include that portion of
20 Offshore Facilities, Shore Base Facilities, fabrication yards, and staging areas from which Joint Operations are conducted, or other
21 facilities that directly control equipment on the Joint Property, regardless of whether such facilities are owned by the Joint Account.
22

23 **“Operator”** means the Party designated pursuant to the Agreement to conduct the Joint Operations.
24

25 **“Parties”** means legal entities signatory to the Agreement or their successors and assigns. Parties shall be referred to individually as
26 “Party.”
27

28 **“Participating Interest”** means the percentage of the costs and risks of conducting an operation under the Agreement that a Party agrees,
29 or is otherwise obligated, to pay and bear.
30

31 **“Participating Party”** means a Party that approves a proposed operation or otherwise agrees, or becomes liable, to pay and bear a share of
32 the costs and risks of conducting an operation under the Agreement.
33

34 **“Personal Expenses”** means reimbursed costs for travel and temporary living expenses.
35

36 **“Railway Receiving Point”** means the railhead nearest the Joint Property for which freight rates are published, even though an actual
37 railhead may not exist.
38

39 **“Shore Base Facilities”** means onshore support facilities that during Joint Operations provide such services to the Joint Property as a
40 receiving and transshipment point for Materials; debarkation point for drilling and production personnel and services; communication,
41 scheduling and dispatching center; and other associated functions serving the Joint Property.
42

43 **“Supply Store”** means a recognized source or common stock point for a given Material item.
44

45 **“Technical Services”** means services providing specific engineering, geoscience, or other professional skills, such as those performed by
46 engineers, geologists, geophysicists, and technicians, required to handle specific operating conditions and problems for the benefit of Joint
47 Operations; provided, however, Technical Services shall not include those functions specifically identified as overhead under the second
48 paragraph of the introduction of Section III (*Overhead*). Technical Services may be provided by the Operator, Operator’s Affiliate, Non-
49 Operator, Non-Operator Affiliates, and/or third parties.
50

51 2. **STATEMENTS AND BILLINGS** 52

53 The Operator shall bill Non-Operators on or before the last day of the month for their proportionate share of the Joint Account for the
54 preceding month. Such bills shall be accompanied by statements that identify the AFE (authority for expenditure), lease or facility, and all
55 charges and credits summarized by appropriate categories of investment and expense. Controllable Material shall be separately identified
56 and fully described in detail, or at the Operator’s option, Controllable Material may be summarized by major Material classifications.
57 Intangible drilling costs, audit adjustments, and unusual charges and credits shall be separately and clearly identified.
58

59 The Operator may make available to Non-Operators any statements and bills required under Section I.2 and/or Section I.3.A (*Advances*
60 *and Payments by the Parties*) via email, electronic data interchange, internet websites or other equivalent electronic media in lieu of paper
61 copies. The Operator shall provide the Non-Operators instructions and any necessary information to access and receive the statements and
62 bills within the timeframes specified herein. A statement or billing shall be deemed as delivered twenty-four (24) hours (exclusive of
63 weekends and holidays) after the Operator notifies the Non-Operator that the statement or billing is available on the website and/or sent via
64 email or electronic data interchange transmission. Each Non-Operator individually shall elect to receive statements and billings
65 electronically, if available from the Operator, or request paper copies. Such election may be changed upon thirty (30) days prior written
66 notice to the Operator.

1 **3. ADVANCES AND PAYMENTS BY THE PARTIES**

2
3 A. Unless otherwise provided for in the Agreement, the Operator may require the Non-Operators to advance their share of the estimated
4 cash outlay for the succeeding month's operations within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the advance request or by the first day of
5 the month for which the advance is required, whichever is later. The Operator shall adjust each monthly billing to reflect advances
6 received from the Non-Operators for such month. If a refund is due, the Operator shall apply the amount to be refunded to the
7 subsequent month's billing or advance, unless the Non-Operator sends the Operator a written request for a cash refund. The Operator
8 shall remit the refund to the Non-Operator within fifteen (15) days of receipt of such written request.

9
10 B. Except as provided below, each Party shall pay its proportionate share of all bills in full within fifteen (15) days of receipt date. If
11 payment is not made within such time, the unpaid balance shall bear interest compounded monthly at the prime rate published by the
12 *Wall Street Journal* on the first day of each month the payment is delinquent, plus three percent (3%), per annum, or the maximum
13 contract rate permitted by the applicable usury Laws governing the Joint Property, whichever is the lesser, plus attorney's fees, court
14 costs, and other costs in connection with the collection of unpaid amounts. If the *Wall Street Journal* ceases to be published or
15 discontinues publishing a prime rate, the unpaid balance shall bear interest compounded monthly at the prime rate published by the
16 Federal Reserve plus three percent (3%), per annum. Interest shall begin accruing on the first day of the month in which the payment
17 was due. Payment shall not be reduced or delayed as a result of inquiries or anticipated credits unless the Operator has agreed.
18 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Non-Operator may reduce payment, provided it furnishes documentation and explanation to the
19 Operator at the time payment is made, to the extent such reduction is caused by:

- 20
21 (1) being billed at an incorrect working interest or Participating Interest that is higher than such Non-Operator's actual working
22 interest or Participating Interest, as applicable; or
23 (2) being billed for a project or AFE requiring approval of the Parties under the Agreement that the Non-Operator has not approved
24 or is not otherwise obligated to pay under the Agreement; or
25 (3) being billed for a property in which the Non-Operator no longer owns a working interest, provided the Non-Operator has
26 furnished the Operator a copy of the recorded assignment or letter in-lieu. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Non-Operator
27 shall remain responsible for paying bills attributable to the interest it sold or transferred for any bills rendered during the thirty
28 (30) day period following the Operator's receipt of such written notice; or
29 (4) charges outside the adjustment period, as provided in Section I.4 (*Adjustments*).

30
31 **4. ADJUSTMENTS**

32
33 A. Payment of any such bills shall not prejudice the right of any Party to protest or question the correctness thereof; however, all bills
34 and statements, including payout statements, rendered during any calendar year shall conclusively be presumed to be true and correct,
35 with respect only to expenditures, after twenty-four (24) months following the end of any such calendar year, unless within said
36 period a Party takes specific detailed written exception thereto making a claim for adjustment. The Operator shall provide a response
37 to all written exceptions, whether or not contained in an audit report, within the time periods prescribed in Section I.5 (*Expenditure*
38 *Audits*).

39
40 B. All adjustments initiated by the Operator, except those described in items (1) through (4) of this Section I.4.B, are limited to the
41 twenty-four (24) month period following the end of the calendar year in which the original charge appeared or should have appeared
42 on the Operator's Joint Account statement or payout statement. Adjustments that may be made beyond the twenty-four (24) month
43 period are limited to adjustments resulting from the following:

- 44
45 (1) a physical inventory of Controllable Material as provided for in Section V (*Inventories of Controllable Material*), or
46 (2) an offsetting entry (whether in whole or in part) that is the direct result of a specific joint interest audit exception granted by the
47 Operator relating to another property, or
48 (3) a government/regulatory audit, or
49 (4) a working interest ownership or Participating Interest adjustment.

50
51 **5. EXPENDITURE AUDITS**

52
53 A. A Non-Operator, upon written notice to the Operator and all other Non-Operators, shall have the right to audit the Operator's
54 accounts and records relating to the Joint Account within the twenty-four (24) month period following the end of such calendar year in
55 which such bill was rendered; however, conducting an audit shall not extend the time for the taking of written exception to and the
56 adjustment of accounts as provided for in Section I.4 (*Adjustments*). Any Party that is subject to payout accounting under the
57 Agreement shall have the right to audit the accounts and records of the Party responsible for preparing the payout statements, or of
58 the Party furnishing information to the Party responsible for preparing payout statements. Audits of payout accounts may include the
59 volumes of hydrocarbons produced and saved and proceeds received for such hydrocarbons as they pertain to payout accounting
60 required under the Agreement. Unless otherwise provided in the Agreement, audits of a payout account shall be conducted within the
61 twenty-four (24) month period following the end of the calendar year in which the payout statement was rendered.

62
63 Where there are two or more Non-Operators, the Non-Operators shall make every reasonable effort to conduct a joint audit in a
64 manner that will result in a minimum of inconvenience to the Operator. The Operator shall bear no portion of the Non-Operators'
65 audit cost incurred under this paragraph unless agreed to by the Operator. The audits shall not be conducted more than once each year
66 without prior approval of the Operator, except upon the resignation or removal of the Operator, and shall be made at the expense of

1 those Non-Operators approving such audit.
2

3 The Non-Operator leading the audit (hereinafter “lead audit company”) shall issue the audit report within ninety (90) days after
4 completion of the audit testing and analysis; however, the ninety (90) day time period shall not extend the twenty-four (24) month
5 requirement for taking specific detailed written exception as required in Section I.4.A (*Adjustments*) above. All claims shall be
6 supported with sufficient documentation.
7

8 A timely filed written exception or audit report containing written exceptions (hereinafter “written exceptions”) shall, with respect to
9 the claims made therein, preclude the Operator from asserting a statute of limitations defense against such claims, and the Operator
10 hereby waives its right to assert any statute of limitations defense against such claims for so long as any Non-Operator continues to
11 comply with the deadlines for resolving exceptions provided in this Accounting Procedure. If the Non-Operators fail to comply with
12 the additional deadlines in Section I.5.B or I.5.C, the Operator’s waiver of its rights to assert a statute of limitations defense against
13 the claims brought by the Non-Operators shall lapse, and such claims shall then be subject to the applicable statute of limitations,
14 provided that such waiver shall not lapse in the event that the Operator has failed to comply with the deadlines in Section I.5.B or
15 I.5.C.
16

17 B. The Operator shall provide a written response to all exceptions in an audit report within one hundred eighty (180) days after Operator
18 receives such report. Denied exceptions should be accompanied by a substantive response. If the Operator fails to provide substantive
19 response to an exception within this one hundred eighty (180) day period, the Operator will owe interest on that exception or portion
20 thereof, if ultimately granted, from the date it received the audit report. Interest shall be calculated using the rate set forth in Section
21 I.3.B (*Advances and Payments by the Parties*).
22

23 C. The lead audit company shall reply to the Operator’s response to an audit report within ninety (90) days of receipt, and the Operator
24 shall reply to the lead audit company’s follow-up response within ninety (90) days of receipt; provided, however, each Non-Operator
25 shall have the right to represent itself if it disagrees with the lead audit company’s position or believes the lead audit company is not
26 adequately fulfilling its duties. Unless otherwise provided for in Section I.5.E, if the Operator fails to provide substantive response
27 to an exception within this ninety (90) day period, the Operator will owe interest on that exception or portion thereof, if ultimately
28 granted, from the date it received the audit report. Interest shall be calculated using the rate set forth in Section I.3.B (*Advances and*
29 *Payments by the Parties*).
30

31 D. If any Party fails to meet the deadlines in Sections I.5.B or I.5.C or if any audit issues are outstanding fifteen (15) months after
32 Operator receives the audit report, the Operator or any Non-Operator participating in the audit has the right to call a resolution
33 meeting, as set forth in this Section I.5.D or it may invoke the dispute resolution procedures included in the Agreement, if applicable.
34 The meeting will require one month’s written notice to the Operator and all Non-Operators participating in the audit. The meeting
35 shall be held at the Operator’s office or mutually agreed location, and shall be attended by representatives of the Parties with
36 authority to resolve such outstanding issues. Any Party who fails to attend the resolution meeting shall be bound by any resolution
37 reached at the meeting. The lead audit company will make good faith efforts to coordinate the response and positions of the
38 Non-Operator participants throughout the resolution process; however, each Non-Operator shall have the right to represent itself.
39 Attendees will make good faith efforts to resolve outstanding issues, and each Party will be required to present substantive information
40 supporting its position. A resolution meeting may be held as often as agreed to by the Parties. Issues unresolved at one meeting may
41 be discussed at subsequent meetings until each such issue is resolved.
42

43 If the Agreement contains no dispute resolution procedures and the audit issues cannot be resolved by negotiation, the dispute shall
44 be submitted to mediation. In such event, promptly following one Party’s written request for mediation, the Parties to the dispute
45 shall choose a mutually acceptable mediator and share the costs of mediation services equally. The Parties shall each have present
46 at the mediation at least one individual who has the authority to settle the dispute. The Parties shall make reasonable efforts to
47 ensure that the mediation commences within sixty (60) days of the date of the mediation request. Notwithstanding the above, any
48 Party may file a lawsuit or complaint (1) if the Parties are unable after reasonable efforts, to commence mediation within sixty (60)
49 days of the date of the mediation request, (2) for statute of limitations reasons, or (3) to seek a preliminary injunction or other
50 provisional judicial relief, if in its sole judgment an injunction or other provisional relief is necessary to avoid irreparable damage or
51 to preserve the status quo. Despite such action, the Parties shall continue to try to resolve the dispute by mediation.
52

53 E. (*Optional Provision – Forfeiture Penalties*)

54 *If the Non-Operators fail to meet the deadline in Section I.5.C, any unresolved exceptions that were not addressed by the Non-*
55 *Operators within one (1) year following receipt of the last substantive response of the Operator shall be deemed to have been*
56 *withdrawn by the Non-Operators. If the Operator fails to meet the deadlines in Section I.5.B or I.5.C, any unresolved exceptions that*
57 *were not addressed by the Operator within one (1) year following receipt of the audit report or receipt of the last substantive response*
58 *of the Non-Operators, whichever is later, shall be deemed to have been granted by the Operator and adjustments shall be made,*
59 *without interest, to the Joint Account.*
60

61 **6. APPROVAL BY PARTIES**

62 **A. GENERAL MATTERS**

63
64
65 Where an approval or other agreement of the Parties or Non-Operators is expressly required under other Sections of this Accounting
66 Procedure and if the Agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached contains no contrary provisions in regard thereto, the

1 Operator shall notify all Non-Operators of the Operator's proposal and the agreement or approval of a majority in interest of the
2 Non-Operators shall be controlling on all Non-Operators.

3
4 This Section I.6.A applies to specific situations of limited duration where a Party proposes to change the accounting for charges from
5 that prescribed in this Accounting Procedure. This provision does not apply to amendments to this Accounting Procedure, which are
6 covered by Section I.6.B.

7
8 **B. AMENDMENTS**

9
10 If the Agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached contains no contrary provisions in regard thereto, this Accounting
11 Procedure can be amended by an affirmative vote of _____ (_____) or more Parties, one of which is the Operator,
12 having a combined working interest of at least _____ percent (_____%), which approval shall be binding on all Parties,
13 provided, however, approval of at least one (1) Non-Operator shall be required.

14
15 **C. AFFILIATES**

16
17 For the purpose of administering the voting procedures of Sections I.6.A and I.6.B, if Parties to this Agreement are Affiliates of each
18 other, then such Affiliates shall be combined and treated as a single Party having the combined working interest or Participating
19 Interest of such Affiliates.

20
21 For the purposes of administering the voting procedures in Section I.6.A, if a Non-Operator is an Affiliate of the Operator, votes
22 under Section I.6.A shall require the majority in interest of the Non-Operator(s) after excluding the interest of the Operator's
23 Affiliate.

24
25 **II. DIRECT CHARGES**

26
27 The Operator shall charge the Joint Account with the following items:

28
29 **1. RENTALS AND ROYALTIES**

30
31 Lease rentals and royalties paid by the Operator, on behalf of all Parties, for the Joint Operations.

32
33 **2. LABOR**

34
35 A. Salaries and wages, including incentive compensation programs as set forth in COPAS MFI-37 ("Chargeability of Incentive
36 Compensation Programs"), for:

- 37
38 (1) Operator's field employees directly employed On-site in the conduct of Joint Operations,
39
40 (2) Operator's employees directly employed on Shore Base Facilities, Offshore Facilities, or other facilities serving the Joint
41 Property if such costs are not charged under Section II.6 (*Equipment and Facilities Furnished by Operator*) or are not a
42 function covered under Section III (*Overhead*),
43
44 (3) Operator's employees providing First Level Supervision,
45
46 (4) Operator's employees providing On-site Technical Services for the Joint Property if such charges are excluded from the
47 overhead rates in Section III (*Overhead*),
48
49 (5) Operator's employees providing Off-site Technical Services for the Joint Property if such charges are excluded from the
50 overhead rates in Section III (*Overhead*).

51
52 Charges for the Operator's employees identified in Section II.2.A may be made based on the employee's actual salaries and wages,
53 or in lieu thereof, a day rate representing the Operator's average salaries and wages of the employee's specific job category.

54
55 Charges for personnel chargeable under this Section II.2.A who are foreign nationals shall not exceed comparable compensation paid
56 to an equivalent U.S. employee pursuant to this Section II.2, unless otherwise approved by the Parties pursuant to Section
57 I.6.A (*General Matters*).

58
59 B. Operator's cost of holiday, vacation, sickness, and disability benefits, and other customary allowances paid to employees whose
60 salaries and wages are chargeable to the Joint Account under Section II.2.A, excluding severance payments or other termination
61 allowances. Such costs under this Section II.2.B may be charged on a "when and as-paid basis" or by "percentage assessment" on the
62 amount of salaries and wages chargeable to the Joint Account under Section II.2.A. If percentage assessment is used, the rate shall
63 be based on the Operator's cost experience.

64
65 C. Expenditures or contributions made pursuant to assessments imposed by governmental authority that are applicable to costs
66 chargeable to the Joint Account under Sections II.2.A and B.

- 1 D. Personal Expenses of personnel whose salaries and wages are chargeable to the Joint Account under Section II.2.A when the
2 expenses are incurred in connection with directly chargeable activities.
3
- 4 E. Reasonable relocation costs incurred in transferring to the Joint Property personnel whose salaries and wages are chargeable to the
5 Joint Account under Section II.2.A. Notwithstanding the foregoing, relocation costs that result from reorganization or merger of a
6 Party, or that are for the primary benefit of the Operator, shall not be chargeable to the Joint Account. Extraordinary relocation
7 costs, such as those incurred as a result of transfers from remote locations, such as Alaska or overseas, shall not be charged to the
8 Joint Account unless approved by the Parties pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*).
9
- 10 F. Training costs as specified in COPAS MFI-35 (“Charging of Training Costs to the Joint Account”) for personnel whose salaries and
11 wages are chargeable under Section II.2.A. This training charge shall include the wages, salaries, training course cost, and Personal
12 Expenses incurred during the training session. The training cost shall be charged or allocated to the property or properties directly
13 benefiting from the training. The cost of the training course shall not exceed prevailing commercial rates, where such rates are
14 available.
15
- 16 G. Operator’s current cost of established plans for employee benefits, as described in COPAS MFI-27 (“Employee Benefits Chargeable
17 to Joint Operations and Subject to Percentage Limitation”), applicable to the Operator’s labor costs chargeable to the Joint Account
18 under Sections II.2.A and B based on the Operator’s actual cost not to exceed the employee benefits limitation percentage most
19 recently recommended by COPAS.
20
- 21 H. Award payments to employees, in accordance with COPAS MFI-49 (“Awards to Employees and Contractors”) for personnel whose
22 salaries and wages are chargeable under Section II.2.A.
23

24 3. MATERIAL

25
26 Material purchased or furnished by the Operator for use on the Joint Property in the conduct of Joint Operations as provided under Section
27 IV (*Material Purchases, Transfers, and Dispositions*). Only such Material shall be purchased for or transferred to the Joint Property as
28 may be required for immediate use or is reasonably practical and consistent with efficient and economical operations. The accumulation
29 of surplus stocks shall be avoided.
30

31 4. TRANSPORTATION

- 32
33 A. Transportation of the Operator’s, Operator’s Affiliate’s, or contractor’s personnel necessary for Joint Operations.
34
- 35 B. Transportation of Material between the Joint Property and another property, or from the Operator’s warehouse or other storage point
36 to the Joint Property, shall be charged to the receiving property using one of the methods listed below. Transportation of Material
37 from the Joint Property to the Operator’s warehouse or other storage point shall be paid for by the Joint Property using one of the
38 methods listed below:
39
- 40 (1) If the actual trucking charge is less than or equal to the Excluded Amount the Operator may charge actual trucking cost or a
41 theoretical charge from the Railway Receiving Point to the Joint Property. The basis for the theoretical charge is the per
42 hundred weight charge plus fuel surcharges from the Railway Receiving Point to the Joint Property. The Operator shall
43 consistently apply the selected alternative.
44
- 45 (2) If the actual trucking charge is greater than the Excluded Amount, the Operator shall charge Equalized Freight. Accessorial
46 charges such as loading and unloading costs, split pick-up costs, detention, call out charges, and permit fees shall be charged
47 directly to the Joint Property and shall not be included when calculating the Equalized Freight.
48

49 5. SERVICES

50
51 The cost of contract services, equipment, and utilities used in the conduct of Joint Operations, except for contract services, equipment, and
52 utilities covered by Section III (*Overhead*), or Section II.7 (*Affiliates*), or excluded under Section II.9 (*Legal Expense*). Awards paid to
53 contractors shall be chargeable pursuant to COPAS MFI-49 (“Awards to Employees and Contractors”).
54

55 The costs of third party Technical Services are chargeable to the extent excluded from the overhead rates under Section III (*Overhead*).
56

57 6. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FURNISHED BY OPERATOR

58
59 In the absence of a separately negotiated agreement, equipment and facilities furnished by the Operator will be charged as follows:
60

- 61 A. The Operator shall charge the Joint Account for use of Operator-owned equipment and facilities, including but not limited to
62 production facilities, Shore Base Facilities, Offshore Facilities, and Field Offices, at rates commensurate with the costs of ownership
63 and operation. The cost of Field Offices shall be chargeable to the extent the Field Offices provide direct service to personnel who
64 are chargeable pursuant to Section II.2.A (*Labor*). Such rates may include labor, maintenance, repairs, other operating expense,
65 insurance, taxes, depreciation using straight line depreciation method, and interest on gross investment less accumulated depreciation
66 not to exceed _____ percent (_____ %) per annum; provided, however, depreciation shall not be charged when the

1 equipment and facilities investment have been fully depreciated. The rate may include an element of the estimated cost for
2 abandonment, reclamation, and dismantlement. Such rates shall not exceed the average commercial rates currently prevailing in the
3 immediate area of the Joint Property.

- 4
5 B. In lieu of charges in Section II.6.A above, the Operator may elect to use average commercial rates prevailing in the immediate area
6 of the Joint Property, less twenty percent (20%). If equipment and facilities are charged under this Section II.6.B, the Operator shall
7 adequately document and support commercial rates and shall periodically review and update the rate and the supporting
8 documentation. For automotive equipment, the Operator may elect to use rates published by the Petroleum Motor Transport
9 Association (PMTA) or such other organization recognized by COPAS as the official source of rates.

10 11 **7. AFFILIATES**

- 12
13 A. Charges for an Affiliate's goods and/or services used in operations requiring an AFE or other authorization from the Non-Operators
14 may be made without the approval of the Parties provided (i) the Affiliate is identified and the Affiliate goods and services are
15 specifically detailed in the approved AFE or other authorization, and (ii) the total costs for such Affiliate's goods and services billed
16 to such individual project do not exceed \$ _____. If the total costs for an Affiliate's goods and services charged to such
17 individual project are not specifically detailed in the approved AFE or authorization or exceed such amount, charges for such
18 Affiliate shall require approval of the Parties, pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*).

- 19
20 B. For an Affiliate's goods and/or services used in operations not requiring an AFE or other authorization from the Non-Operators,
21 charges for such Affiliate's goods and services shall require approval of the Parties, pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*), if the
22 charges exceed \$ _____ in a given calendar year.

- 23
24 C. The cost of the Affiliate's goods or services shall not exceed average commercial rates prevailing in the area of the Joint Property,
25 unless the Operator obtains the Non-Operators' approval of such rates. The Operator shall adequately document and support
26 commercial rates and shall periodically review and update the rate and the supporting documentation; provided, however,
27 documentation of commercial rates shall not be required if the Operator obtains Non-Operator approval of its Affiliate's rates or
28 charges prior to billing Non-Operators for such Affiliate's goods and services. Notwithstanding the foregoing, direct charges for
29 Affiliate-owned communication facilities or systems shall be made pursuant to Section II.12 (*Communications*).

30
31 If the Parties fail to designate an amount in Sections II.7.A or II.7.B, in each instance the amount deemed adopted by the Parties as a
32 result of such omission shall be the amount established as the Operator's expenditure limitation in the Agreement. If the Agreement
33 does not contain an Operator's expenditure limitation, the amount deemed adopted by the Parties as a result of such omission shall be
34 zero dollars (\$ 0.00).

35 36 **8. DAMAGES AND LOSSES TO JOINT PROPERTY**

37
38 All costs or expenses necessary for the repair or replacement of Joint Property resulting from damages or losses incurred, except to the
39 extent such damages or losses result from a Party's or Parties' gross negligence or willful misconduct, in which case such Party or Parties
40 shall be solely liable.

41
42 The Operator shall furnish the Non-Operator written notice of damages or losses incurred as soon as practicable after a report has been
43 received by the Operator.

44 45 **9. LEGAL EXPENSE**

46
47 Recording fees and costs of handling, settling, or otherwise discharging litigation, claims, and liens incurred in or resulting from
48 operations under the Agreement, or necessary to protect or recover the Joint Property, to the extent permitted under the Agreement. Costs
49 of the Operator's or Affiliate's legal staff or outside attorneys, including fees and expenses, are not chargeable unless approved by the
50 Parties pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*) or otherwise provided for in the Agreement.

51
52 Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph, costs for procuring abstracts, fees paid to outside attorneys for title examinations (including
53 preliminary, supplemental, shut-in royalty opinions, division order title opinions), and curative work shall be chargeable to the extent
54 permitted as a direct charge in the Agreement.

55 56 57 **10. TAXES AND PERMITS**

58
59 All taxes and permitting fees of every kind and nature, assessed or levied upon or in connection with the Joint Property, or the production
60 therefrom, and which have been paid by the Operator for the benefit of the Parties, including penalties and interest, except to the extent the
61 penalties and interest result from the Operator's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

62
63 If ad valorem taxes paid by the Operator are based in whole or in part upon separate valuations of each Party's working interest, then
64 notwithstanding any contrary provisions, the charges to the Parties will be made in accordance with the tax value generated by each Party's
65 working interest.

1 Costs of tax consultants or advisors, the Operator's employees, or Operator's Affiliate employees in matters regarding ad valorem or other
2 tax matters, are not permitted as direct charges unless approved by the Parties pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*).

3
4 Charges to the Joint Account resulting from sales/use tax audits, including extrapolated amounts and penalties and interest, are permitted,
5 provided the Non-Operator shall be allowed to review the invoices and other underlying source documents which served as the basis for
6 tax charges and to determine that the correct amount of taxes were charged to the Joint Account. If the Non-Operator is not permitted to
7 review such documentation, the sales/use tax amount shall not be directly charged unless the Operator can conclusively document the
8 amount owed by the Joint Account.

10 **11. INSURANCE**

11
12 Net premiums paid for insurance required to be carried for Joint Operations for the protection of the Parties. If Joint Operations are
13 conducted at locations where the Operator acts as self-insurer in regard to its worker's compensation and employer's liability insurance
14 obligation, the Operator shall charge the Joint Account manual rates for the risk assumed in its self-insurance program as regulated by the
15 jurisdiction governing the Joint Property. In the case of offshore operations in federal waters, the manual rates of the adjacent state shall be
16 used for personnel performing work On-site, and such rates shall be adjusted for offshore operations by the U.S. Longshoreman and
17 Harbor Workers (USL&H) or Jones Act surcharge, as appropriate.

19 **12. COMMUNICATIONS**

20
21 Costs of acquiring, leasing, installing, operating, repairing, and maintaining communication facilities or systems, including satellite, radio
22 and microwave facilities, between the Joint Property and the Operator's office(s) directly responsible for field operations in accordance
23 with the provisions of COPAS MFI-44 ("Field Computer and Communication Systems"). If the communications facilities or systems
24 serving the Joint Property are Operator-owned, charges to the Joint Account shall be made as provided in Section II.6 (*Equipment and*
25 *Facilities Furnished by Operator*). If the communication facilities or systems serving the Joint Property are owned by the Operator's
26 Affiliate, charges to the Joint Account shall not exceed average commercial rates prevailing in the area of the Joint Property. The Operator
27 shall adequately document and support commercial rates and shall periodically review and update the rate and the supporting
28 documentation.

30 **13. ECOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SAFETY**

31
32 Costs incurred for Technical Services and drafting to comply with ecological, environmental and safety Laws or standards recommended by
33 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other regulatory authorities. All other labor and functions incurred for
34 ecological, environmental and safety matters, including management, administration, and permitting, shall be covered by Sections II.2
35 (*Labor*), II.5 (*Services*), or Section III (*Overhead*), as applicable.

36
37 Costs to provide or have available pollution containment and removal equipment plus actual costs of control and cleanup and resulting
38 responsibilities of oil and other spills as well as discharges from permitted outfalls as required by applicable Laws, or other pollution
39 containment and removal equipment deemed appropriate by the Operator for prudent operations, are directly chargeable.

41 **14. ABANDONMENT AND RECLAMATION**

42
43 Costs incurred for abandonment and reclamation of the Joint Property, including costs required by lease agreements or by Laws.

45 **15. OTHER EXPENDITURES**

46
47 Any other expenditure not covered or dealt with in the foregoing provisions of this Section II (*Direct Charges*), or in Section III
48 (*Overhead*) and which is of direct benefit to the Joint Property and is incurred by the Operator in the necessary and proper conduct of the
49 Joint Operations. Charges made under this Section II.15 shall require approval of the Parties, pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*).

52 **III. OVERHEAD**

53
54 As compensation for costs not specifically identified as chargeable to the Joint Account pursuant to Section II (*Direct Charges*), the Operator
55 shall charge the Joint Account in accordance with this Section III.

56
57 Functions included in the overhead rates regardless of whether performed by the Operator, Operator's Affiliates or third parties and regardless
58 of location, shall include, but not be limited to, costs and expenses of:

- 59
60
- 61 • warehousing, other than for warehouses that are jointly owned under this Agreement
 - 62 • design and drafting (except when allowed as a direct charge under Sections II.13, III.1.A(ii), and III.2, Option B)
 - 63 • inventory costs not chargeable under Section V (*Inventories of Controllable Material*)
 - 64 • procurement
 - 65 • administration
 - 66 • accounting and auditing
 - gas dispatching and gas chart integration

- 1 • human resources
- 2 • management
- 3 • supervision not directly charged under Section II.2 (*Labor*)
- 4 • legal services not directly chargeable under Section II.9 (*Legal Expense*)
- 5 • taxation, other than those costs identified as directly chargeable under Section II.10 (*Taxes and Permits*)
- 6 • preparation and monitoring of permits and certifications; preparing regulatory reports; appearances before or meetings with
- 7 governmental agencies or other authorities having jurisdiction over the Joint Property, other than On-site inspections; reviewing,
- 8 interpreting, or submitting comments on or lobbying with respect to Laws or proposed Laws.

9
10 Overhead charges shall include the salaries or wages plus applicable payroll burdens, benefits, and Personal Expenses of personnel performing
11 overhead functions, as well as office and other related expenses of overhead functions.

12
13 **1. OVERHEAD—DRILLING AND PRODUCING OPERATIONS**

14
15 As compensation for costs incurred but not chargeable under Section II (*Direct Charges*) and not covered by other provisions of this
16 Section III, the Operator shall charge on either:

- 17 (Alternative 1) Fixed Rate Basis, Section III.1.B.
- 18 (Alternative 2) Percentage Basis, Section III.1.C.

19
20
21 **A. TECHNICAL SERVICES**

22
23 (i) Except as otherwise provided in Section II.13 (*Ecological Environmental, and Safety*) and Section III.2 (*Overhead – Major*
24 *Construction and Catastrophe*), or by approval of the Parties pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*), the salaries, wages,
25 related payroll burdens and benefits, and Personal Expenses for **On-site** Technical Services, including third party Technical
26 Services:

- 27 (Alternative 1 – Direct) shall be charged direct to the Joint Account.
- 28 (Alternative 2 – Overhead) shall be covered by the overhead rates.

29
30
31 (ii) Except as otherwise provided in Section II.13 (*Ecological, Environmental, and Safety*) and Section III.2 (*Overhead – Major*
32 *Construction and Catastrophe*), or by approval of the Parties pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*), the salaries, wages,
33 related payroll burdens and benefits, and Personal Expenses for **Off-site** Technical Services, including third party Technical
34 Services:

- 35 (Alternative 1 – All Overhead) shall be covered by the overhead rates.
- 36 (Alternative 2 – All Direct) shall be charged direct to the Joint Account.
- 37 (Alternative 3 – Drilling Direct) shall be charged direct to the Joint Account, only to the extent such Technical Services
38 are directly attributable to drilling, re-drilling, deepening, or sidetracking operations, through completion, temporary
39 abandonment, or abandonment if a dry hole. Off-site Technical Services for all other operations, including workover,
40 recompletion, abandonment of producing wells, and the construction or expansion of fixed assets not covered by Section
41 III.2 (*Overhead - Major Construction and Catastrophe*) shall be covered by the overhead rates.

42
43 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section III, Technical Services provided by Operator's Affiliates are subject to limitations
44 set forth in Section II.7 (*Affiliates*). Charges for Technical personnel performing non-technical work shall not be governed by this Section
45 III.1.A, but instead governed by other provisions of this Accounting Procedure relating to the type of work being performed.

46
47
48
49
50
51 **B. OVERHEAD—FIXED RATE BASIS**

52
53 (1) The Operator shall charge the Joint Account at the following rates per well per month:

54 Drilling Well Rate per month \$ _____ (prorated for less than a full month)

55
56 Producing Well Rate per month \$ _____

57
58
59 (2) Application of Overhead—Drilling Well Rate shall be as follows:

60
61 (a) Charges for onshore drilling wells shall begin on the spud date and terminate on the date the drilling and/or completion
62 equipment used on the well is released, whichever occurs later. Charges for offshore and inland waters drilling wells shall
63 begin on the date the drilling or completion equipment arrives on location and terminate on the date the drilling or completion
64 equipment moves off location, or is released, whichever occurs first. No charge shall be made during suspension of drilling
65 and/or completion operations for fifteen (15) or more consecutive calendar days.

- 1 (b) Charges for any well undergoing any type of workover, recompletion, and/or abandonment for a period of five (5) or more
2 consecutive work-days shall be made at the Drilling Well Rate. Such charges shall be applied for the period from date
3 operations, with rig or other units used in operations, commence through date of rig or other unit release, except that no charges
4 shall be made during suspension of operations for fifteen (15) or more consecutive calendar days.
5
- 6 (3) Application of Overhead—Producing Well Rate shall be as follows:
7
- 8 (a) An active well that is produced, injected into for recovery or disposal, or used to obtain water supply to support operations for
9 any portion of the month shall be considered as a one-well charge for the entire month.
10
- 11 (b) Each active completion in a multi-completed well shall be considered as a one-well charge provided each completion is
12 considered a separate well by the governing regulatory authority.
13
- 14 (c) A one-well charge shall be made for the month in which plugging and abandonment operations are completed on any well,
15 unless the Drilling Well Rate applies, as provided in Sections III.1.B.(2)(a) or (b). This one-well charge shall be made whether
16 or not the well has produced.
17
- 18 (d) An active gas well shut in because of overproduction or failure of a purchaser, processor, or transporter to take production shall
19 be considered as a one-well charge provided the gas well is directly connected to a permanent sales outlet.
20
- 21 (e) Any well not meeting the criteria set forth in Sections III.1.B.(3) (a), (b), (c), or (d) shall not qualify for a producing overhead
22 charge.
23
- 24 (4) The well rates shall be adjusted on the first day of April each year following the effective date of the Agreement; provided,
25 however, if this Accounting Procedure is attached to or otherwise governing the payout accounting under a farmout agreement, the
26 rates shall be adjusted on the first day of April each year following the effective date of such farmout agreement. The adjustment
27 shall be computed by applying the adjustment factor most recently published by COPAS. The adjusted rates shall be the initial or
28 amended rates agreed to by the Parties increased or decreased by the adjustment factor described herein, for each year from the
29 effective date of such rates, in accordance with COPAS MFI-47 (“Adjustment of Overhead Rates”).
30

31 **C. OVERHEAD—PERCENTAGE BASIS**
32

- 33 (1) Operator shall charge the Joint Account at the following rates:
34
- 35 (a) Development Rate _____ percent (_____) % of the cost of development of the Joint Property, exclusive of costs
36 provided under Section II.9 (*Legal Expense*) and all Material salvage credits.
37
- 38 (b) Operating Rate _____ percent (_____) % of the cost of operating the Joint Property, exclusive of costs
39 provided under Sections II.1 (*Rentals and Royalties*) and II.9 (*Legal Expense*); all Material salvage credits; the value
40 of substances purchased for enhanced recovery; all property and ad valorem taxes, and any other taxes and assessments that
41 are levied, assessed, and paid upon the mineral interest in and to the Joint Property.
42
- 43 (2) Application of Overhead—Percentage Basis shall be as follows:
44
- 45 (a) The Development Rate shall be applied to all costs in connection with:
46
- 47 [i] drilling, re-drilling, sidetracking, or deepening of a well
48 [ii] a well undergoing plugback or workover operations for a period of five (5) or more consecutive work-days
49 [iii] preliminary expenditures necessary in preparation for drilling
50 [iv] expenditures incurred in abandoning when the well is not completed as a producer
51 [v] construction or installation of fixed assets, the expansion of fixed assets and any other project clearly discernible as a
52 fixed asset, other than Major Construction or Catastrophe as defined in Section III.2 (*Overhead-Major Construction*
53 *and Catastrophe*).
54
- 55 (b) The Operating Rate shall be applied to all other costs in connection with Joint Operations, except those subject to Section III.2
56 (*Overhead-Major Construction and Catastrophe*).
57

58 **2. OVERHEAD—MAJOR CONSTRUCTION AND CATASTROPHE**
59

60 To compensate the Operator for overhead costs incurred in connection with a Major Construction project or Catastrophe, the Operator
61 shall either negotiate a rate prior to the beginning of the project, or shall charge the Joint Account for overhead based on the following
62 rates for any Major Construction project in excess of the Operator’s expenditure limit under the Agreement, or for any Catastrophe
63 regardless of the amount. If the Agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached does not contain an expenditure limit, Major
64 Construction Overhead shall be assessed for any single Major Construction project costing in excess of \$100,000 gross.
65
66

1 Major Construction shall mean the construction and installation of fixed assets, the expansion of fixed assets, and any other project clearly
2 discernible as a fixed asset required for the development and operation of the Joint Property, or in the dismantlement, abandonment,
3 removal, and restoration of platforms, production equipment, and other operating facilities.
4

5 Catastrophe is defined as a sudden calamitous event bringing damage, loss, or destruction to property or the environment, such as an oil
6 spill, blowout, explosion, fire, storm, hurricane, or other disaster. The overhead rate shall be applied to those costs necessary to restore the
7 Joint Property to the equivalent condition that existed prior to the event.
8

9 A. If the Operator absorbs the engineering, design and drafting costs related to the project:
10

- 11 (1) _____% of total costs if such costs are less than \$100,000; plus
- 12
- 13 (2) _____% of total costs in excess of \$100,000 but less than \$1,000,000; plus
- 14
- 15 (3) _____% of total costs in excess of \$1,000,000.
- 16

17 B. If the Operator charges engineering, design and drafting costs related to the project directly to the Joint Account:
18

- 19 (1) _____% of total costs if such costs are less than \$100,000; plus
- 20
- 21 (2) _____% of total costs in excess of \$100,000 but less than \$1,000,000; plus
- 22
- 23 (3) _____% of total costs in excess of \$1,000,000.
- 24

25 Total cost shall mean the gross cost of any one project. For the purpose of this paragraph, the component parts of a single Major
26 Construction project shall not be treated separately, and the cost of drilling and workover wells and purchasing and installing pumping
27 units and downhole artificial lift equipment shall be excluded. For Catastrophes, the rates shall be applied to all costs associated with each
28 single occurrence or event.
29

30 On each project, the Operator shall advise the Non-Operator(s) in advance which of the above options shall apply.
31

32 For the purposes of calculating Catastrophe Overhead, the cost of drilling relief wells, substitute wells, or conducting other well operations
33 directly resulting from the catastrophic event shall be included. Expenditures to which these rates apply shall not be reduced by salvage or
34 insurance recoveries. Expenditures that qualify for Major Construction or Catastrophe Overhead shall not qualify for overhead under any
35 other overhead provisions.
36

37 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Section III.2 and the provisions of Sections II.2 (*Labor*), II.5 (*Services*), or II.7
38 (*Affiliates*), the provisions of this Section III.2 shall govern.
39

40 3. AMENDMENT OF OVERHEAD RATES 41

42 The overhead rates provided for in this Section III may be amended from time to time if, in practice, the rates are found to be insufficient
43 or excessive, in accordance with the provisions of Section I.6.B (*Amendments*).
44

45 IV. MATERIAL PURCHASES, TRANSFERS, AND DISPOSITIONS 46

47 The Operator is responsible for Joint Account Material and shall make proper and timely charges and credits for direct purchases, transfers, and
48 dispositions. The Operator shall provide all Material for use in the conduct of Joint Operations; however, Material may be supplied by the Non-
49 Operators, at the Operator's option. Material furnished by any Party shall be furnished without any express or implied warranties as to quality,
50 fitness for use, or any other matter.
51

52 1. DIRECT PURCHASES 53

54 Direct purchases shall be charged to the Joint Account at the price paid by the Operator after deduction of all discounts received. The
55 Operator shall make good faith efforts to take discounts offered by suppliers, but shall not be liable for failure to take discounts except to
56 the extent such failure was the result of the Operator's gross negligence or willful misconduct. A direct purchase shall be deemed to occur
57 when an agreement is made between an Operator and a third party for the acquisition of Material for a specific well site or location.
58 Material provided by the Operator under "vendor stocking programs," where the initial use is for a Joint Property and title of the Material
59 does not pass from the manufacturer, distributor, or agent until usage, is considered a direct purchase. If Material is found to be defective
60 or is returned to the manufacturer, distributor, or agent for any other reason, credit shall be passed to the Joint Account within sixty (60)
61 days after the Operator has received adjustment from the manufacturer, distributor, or agent.
62
63
64
65
66

1 **2. TRANSFERS**

2
3 A transfer is determined to occur when the Operator (i) furnishes Material from a storage facility or from another operated property, (ii) has
4 assumed liability for the storage costs and changes in value, and (iii) has previously secured and held title to the transferred Material.
5 Similarly, the removal of Material from the Joint Property to a storage facility or to another operated property is also considered a transfer;
6 provided, however, Material that is moved from the Joint Property to a storage location for safe-keeping pending disposition may remain
7 charged to the Joint Account and is not considered a transfer. Material shall be disposed of in accordance with Section IV.3 (*Disposition of*
8 *Surplus*) and the Agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached.

9
10 **A. PRICING**

11
12 The value of Material transferred to/from the Joint Property should generally reflect the market value on the date of physical transfer.
13 Regardless of the pricing method used, the Operator shall make available to the Non-Operators sufficient documentation to verify the
14 Material valuation. When higher than specification grade or size tubulars are used in the conduct of Joint Operations, the Operator
15 shall charge the Joint Account at the equivalent price for well design specification tubulars, unless such higher specification grade or
16 sized tubulars are approved by the Parties pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*). Transfers of new Material will be priced
17 using one of the following pricing methods; provided, however, the Operator shall use consistent pricing methods, and not alternate
18 between methods for the purpose of choosing the method most favorable to the Operator for a specific transfer:

- 19
20 (1) Using published prices in effect on date of movement as adjusted by the appropriate COPAS Historical Price Multiplier (HPM)
21 or prices provided by the COPAS Computerized Equipment Pricing System (CEPS).
22
23 (a) For oil country tubulars and line pipe, the published price shall be based upon eastern mill carload base prices (Houston,
24 Texas, for special end) adjusted as of date of movement, plus transportation cost as defined in Section IV.2.B (*Freight*).
25
26 (b) For other Material, the published price shall be the published list price in effect at date of movement, as listed by a Supply
27 Store nearest the Joint Property where like Material is normally available, or point of manufacture plus transportation
28 costs as defined in Section IV.2.B (*Freight*).
29
30 (2) Based on a price quotation from a vendor that reflects a current realistic acquisition cost.
31
32 (3) Based on the amount paid by the Operator for like Material in the vicinity of the Joint Property within the previous twelve (12)
33 months from the date of physical transfer.
34
35 (4) As agreed to by the Participating Parties for Material being transferred to the Joint Property, and by the Parties owning the
36 Material for Material being transferred from the Joint Property.

37
38 **B. FREIGHT**

39
40 Transportation costs shall be added to the Material transfer price using the method prescribed by the COPAS Computerized
41 Equipment Pricing System (CEPS). If not using CEPS, transportation costs shall be calculated as follows:

- 42
43 (1) Transportation costs for oil country tubulars and line pipe shall be calculated using the distance from eastern mill to the
44 Railway Receiving Point based on the carload weight basis as recommended by the COPAS MFI-38 ("Material Pricing
45 Manual") and other COPAS MFIs in effect at the time of the transfer.
46
47 (2) Transportation costs for special mill items shall be calculated from that mill's shipping point to the Railway Receiving Point.
48 For transportation costs from other than eastern mills, the 30,000-pound interstate truck rate shall be used. Transportation costs
49 for macaroni tubing shall be calculated based on the interstate truck rate per weight of tubing transferred to the Railway
50 Receiving Point.
51
52 (3) Transportation costs for special end tubular goods shall be calculated using the interstate truck rate from Houston, Texas, to the
53 Railway Receiving Point.
54
55 (4) Transportation costs for Material other than that described in Sections IV.2.B.(1) through (3), shall be calculated from the
56 Supply Store or point of manufacture, whichever is appropriate, to the Railway Receiving Point

57
58 Regardless of whether using CEPS or manually calculating transportation costs, transportation costs from the Railway Receiving Point
59 to the Joint Property are in addition to the foregoing, and may be charged to the Joint Account based on actual costs incurred. All
60 transportation costs are subject to Equalized Freight as provided in Section II.4 (*Transportation*) of this Accounting Procedure.

61
62 **C. TAXES**

63
64 Sales and use taxes shall be added to the Material transfer price using either the method contained in the COPAS Computerized
65 Equipment Pricing System (CEPS) or the applicable tax rate in effect for the Joint Property at the time and place of transfer. In either
66 case, the Joint Account shall be charged or credited at the rate that would have governed had the Material been a direct purchase.

1 D. CONDITION
2

3 (1) Condition "A" – New and unused Material in sound and serviceable condition shall be charged at one hundred percent (100%)
4 of the price as determined in Sections IV.2.A (*Pricing*), IV.2.B (*Freight*), and IV.2.C (*Taxes*). Material transferred from the
5 Joint Property that was not placed in service shall be credited as charged without gain or loss; provided, however, any unused
6 Material that was charged to the Joint Account through a direct purchase will be credited to the Joint Account at the original
7 cost paid less restocking fees charged by the vendor. New and unused Material transferred from the Joint Property may be
8 credited at a price other than the price originally charged to the Joint Account provided such price is approved by the Parties
9 owning such Material, pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*). All refurbishing costs required or necessary to return the
10 Material to original condition or to correct handling, transportation, or other damages will be borne by the divesting property.
11 The Joint Account is responsible for Material preparation, handling, and transportation costs for new and unused Material
12 charged to the Joint Property either through a direct purchase or transfer. Any preparation costs incurred, including any internal
13 or external coating and wrapping, will be credited on new Material provided these services were not repeated for such Material
14 for the receiving property.

15
16 (2) Condition "B" – Used Material in sound and serviceable condition and suitable for reuse without reconditioning shall be priced
17 by multiplying the price determined in Sections IV.2.A (*Pricing*), IV.2.B (*Freight*), and IV.2.C (*Taxes*) by seventy-five percent
18 (75%).

19
20 Except as provided in Section IV.2.D(3), all reconditioning costs required to return the Material to Condition "B" or to correct
21 handling, transportation or other damages will be borne by the divesting property.

22
23 If the Material was originally charged to the Joint Account as used Material and placed in service for the Joint Property, the
24 Material will be credited at the price determined in Sections IV.2.A (*Pricing*), IV.2.B (*Freight*), and IV.2.C (*Taxes*) multiplied
25 by sixty-five percent (65%).

26
27 Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties that paid for such Material, used Material transferred from the Joint Property that was
28 not placed in service on the property shall be credited as charged without gain or loss.

29
30 (3) Condition "C" – Material that is not in sound and serviceable condition and not suitable for its original function until after
31 reconditioning shall be priced by multiplying the price determined in Sections IV.2.A (*Pricing*), IV.2.B (*Freight*), and IV.2.C
32 (*Taxes*) by fifty percent (50%).

33
34 The cost of reconditioning may be charged to the receiving property to the extent Condition "C" value, plus cost of
35 reconditioning, does not exceed Condition "B" value.

36
37 (4) Condition "D" – Material that (i) is no longer suitable for its original purpose but useable for some other purpose, (ii) is
38 obsolete, or (iii) does not meet original specifications but still has value and can be used in other applications as a substitute for
39 items with different specifications, is considered Condition "D" Material. Casing, tubing, or drill pipe used as line pipe shall be
40 priced as Grade A and B seamless line pipe of comparable size and weight. Used casing, tubing, or drill pipe utilized as line
41 pipe shall be priced at used line pipe prices. Casing, tubing, or drill pipe used as higher pressure service lines than standard line
42 pipe, e.g., power oil lines, shall be priced under normal pricing procedures for casing, tubing, or drill pipe. Upset tubular goods
43 shall be priced on a non-upset basis. For other items, the price used should result in the Joint Account being charged or credited
44 with the value of the service rendered or use of the Material, or as agreed to by the Parties pursuant to Section 1.6.A (*General*
45 *Matters*).

46
47 (5) Condition "E" – Junk shall be priced at prevailing scrap value prices.
48

49 E. OTHER PRICING PROVISIONS
5051 (1) Preparation Costs
52

53 Subject to Section II (*Direct Charges*) and Section III (*Overhead*) of this Accounting Procedure, costs incurred by the Operator
54 in making Material serviceable including inspection, third party surveillance services, and other similar services will be charged
55 to the Joint Account at prices which reflect the Operator's actual costs of the services. Documentation must be provided to the
56 Non-Operators upon request to support the cost of service. New coating and/or wrapping shall be considered a component of
57 the Materials and priced in accordance with Sections IV.1 (*Direct Purchases*) or IV.2.A (*Pricing*), as applicable. No charges or
58 credits shall be made for used coating or wrapping. Charges and credits for inspections shall be made in accordance with
59 COPAS MFI-38 ("Material Pricing Manual").

60 (2) Loading and Unloading Costs
61

62
63 Loading and unloading costs related to the movement of the Material to the Joint Property shall be charged in accordance with
64 the methods specified in COPAS MFI-38 ("Material Pricing Manual").
65
66

1 **3. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS**

2
3 Surplus Material is that Material, whether new or used, that is no longer required for Joint Operations. The Operator may purchase, but
4 shall be under no obligation to purchase, the interest of the Non-Operators in surplus Material.

5
6 Dispositions for the purpose of this procedure are considered to be the relinquishment of title of the Material from the Joint Property to
7 either a third party, a Non-Operator, or to the Operator. To avoid the accumulation of surplus Material, the Operator should make good
8 faith efforts to dispose of surplus within twelve (12) months through buy/sale agreements, trade, sale to a third party, division in kind, or
9 other dispositions as agreed to by the Parties.

10
11 Disposal of surplus Materials shall be made in accordance with the terms of the Agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is
12 attached. If the Agreement contains no provisions governing disposal of surplus Material, the following terms shall apply:

- 13
14 • The Operator may, through a sale to an unrelated third party or entity, dispose of surplus Material having a gross sale value that
15 is less than or equal to the Operator's expenditure limit as set forth in the Agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is
16 attached without the prior approval of the Parties owning such Material.
- 17
18 • If the gross sale value exceeds the Agreement expenditure limit, the disposal must be agreed to by the Parties owning such
19 Material.
- 20
21 • Operator may purchase surplus Condition "A" or "B" Material without approval of the Parties owning such Material, based on
22 the pricing methods set forth in Section IV.2 (*Transfers*).
- 23
24 • Operator may purchase Condition "C" Material without prior approval of the Parties owning such Material if the value of the
25 Materials, based on the pricing methods set forth in Section IV.2 (*Transfers*), is less than or equal to the Operator's expenditure
26 limitation set forth in the Agreement. The Operator shall provide documentation supporting the classification of the Material as
27 Condition C.
- 28
29 • Operator may dispose of Condition "D" or "E" Material under procedures normally utilized by Operator without prior approval
30 of the Parties owning such Material.

31
32 **4. SPECIAL PRICING PROVISIONS**

33
34 **A. PREMIUM PRICING**

35
36 Whenever Material is available only at inflated prices due to national emergencies, strikes, government imposed foreign trade
37 restrictions, or other unusual causes over which the Operator has no control, for direct purchase the Operator may charge the Joint
38 Account for the required Material at the Operator's actual cost incurred in providing such Material, making it suitable for use, and
39 moving it to the Joint Property. Material transferred or disposed of during premium pricing situations shall be valued in accordance
40 with Section IV.2 (*Transfers*) or Section IV.3 (*Disposition of Surplus*), as applicable.

41
42 **B. SHOP-MADE ITEMS**

43
44 Items fabricated by the Operator's employees, or by contract laborers under the direction of the Operator, shall be priced using the
45 value of the Material used to construct the item plus the cost of labor to fabricate the item. If the Material is from the Operator's
46 scrap or junk account, the Material shall be priced at either twenty-five percent (25%) of the current price as determined in Section
47 IV.2.A (*Pricing*) or scrap value, whichever is higher. In no event shall the amount charged exceed the value of the item
48 commensurate with its use.

49
50 **C. MILL REJECTS**

51
52 Mill rejects purchased as "limited service" casing or tubing shall be priced at eighty percent (80%) of K-55/J-55 price as determined in
53 Section IV.2 (*Transfers*). Line pipe converted to casing or tubing with casing or tubing couplings attached shall be priced as K-55/J-
54 55 casing or tubing at the nearest size and weight.

55
56
57 **V. INVENTORIES OF CONTROLLABLE MATERIAL**

58
59
60 The Operator shall maintain records of Controllable Material charged to the Joint Account, with sufficient detail to perform physical inventories.

61
62 Adjustments to the Joint Account by the Operator resulting from a physical inventory of Controllable Material shall be made within twelve (12)
63 months following the taking of the inventory or receipt of Non-Operator inventory report. Charges and credits for overages or shortages will be
64 valued for the Joint Account in accordance with Section IV.2 (*Transfers*) and shall be based on the Condition "B" prices in effect on the date of
65 physical inventory unless the inventorying Parties can provide sufficient evidence another Material condition applies.

1 **1. DIRECTED INVENTORIES**

2
3 Physical inventories shall be performed by the Operator upon written request of a majority in working interests of the Non-Operators
4 (hereinafter, "directed inventory"); provided, however, the Operator shall not be required to perform directed inventories more frequently
5 than once every five (5) years. Directed inventories shall be commenced within one hundred eighty (180) days after the Operator receives
6 written notice that a majority in interest of the Non-Operators has requested the inventory. All Parties shall be governed by the results of
7 any directed inventory.
8

9 Expenses of directed inventories will be borne by the Joint Account; provided, however, costs associated with any post-report follow-up
10 work in settling the inventory will be absorbed by the Party incurring such costs. The Operator is expected to exercise judgment in keeping
11 expenses within reasonable limits. Any anticipated disproportionate or extraordinary costs should be discussed and agreed upon prior to
12 commencement of the inventory. Expenses of directed inventories may include the following:
13

- 14 A. A per diem rate for each inventory person, representative of actual salaries, wages, and payroll burdens and benefits of the personnel
15 performing the inventory or a rate agreed to by the Parties pursuant to Section I.6.A (*General Matters*). The per diem rate shall also
16 be applied to a reasonable number of days for pre-inventory work and report preparation.
17
18 B. Actual transportation costs and Personal Expenses for the inventory team.
19
20 C. Reasonable charges for report preparation and distribution to the Non-Operators.
21

22 **2. NON-DIRECTED INVENTORIES**

23
24 A. OPERATOR INVENTORIES
25

26 Physical inventories that are not requested by the Non-Operators may be performed by the Operator, at the Operator's discretion. The
27 expenses of conducting such Operator-initiated inventories shall not be charged to the Joint Account.
28

29 B. NON-OPERATOR INVENTORIES
30

31 Subject to the terms of the Agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached, the Non-Operators may conduct a physical
32 inventory at reasonable times at their sole cost and risk after giving the Operator at least ninety (90) days prior written notice. The
33 Non-Operator inventory report shall be furnished to the Operator in writing within ninety (90) days of completing the inventory
34 fieldwork.
35

36 C. SPECIAL INVENTORIES
37

38 The expense of conducting inventories other than those described in Sections V.1 (*Directed Inventories*), V.2.A (*Operator*
39 *Inventories*), or V.2.B (*Non-Operator Inventories*), shall be charged to the Party requesting such inventory; provided, however,
40 inventories required due to a change of Operator shall be charged to the Joint Account in the same manner as described in Section
41 V.1 (*Directed Inventories*).
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