

A.A.P.L. FORM 610-1982

MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT

OPERATING AGREEMENT

DATED

December 16 , 19 99 ,

OPERATOR Ricks Exploration, Inc.

CONTRACT AREA SEE EXHIBIT "A"

COUNTY OR PARISH OF LEA STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM  
LANDMEN, 4100 FOSSIL CREEK BLVD., FORT  
WORTH, TEXAS, 76137-2791, APPROVED  
FORM. A.A.P.L. NO. 610 - 1982 REVISED

BEFORE THE  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
Case No. 13280 Exhibit No. 4  
Submitted By:  
Chesapeake Inc.  
Hearing Date: July 8, 2004

COPAS

## 2. Insurance

Net premiums paid for insurance required to be carried for the Joint Operations for the protection of the Parties. In the event Joint Operations are conducted in a state in which Operator may act as self-insurer for Worker's Compensation and/or Employers Liability under the respective state's laws, Operator may, at its election, include the risk under its self-insurance program and in that event, Operator shall include a charge at Operator's cost not to exceed manual rates.

## 3. Abandonment and Reclamation

Costs incurred for abandonment of the Joint Property, including costs required by governmental or other regulatory authority.

## 4. Communications

Cost of acquiring, leasing, installing, operating, repairing and maintaining communication systems, including radio and microwave facilities directly serving the Joint Property. In the event communication facilities/systems serving the Joint Property are Operator owned, charges to the Joint Account shall be made as provided in Paragraph 8 of this Section II.

## 5. Other Expenditures

Any other expenditure not covered or dealt with in the foregoing provisions of this Section II, or in Section III and which is of direct benefit to the Joint Property and is incurred by the Operator in the necessary and proper conduct of the Joint Operations.

## III. OVERHEAD

### Overhead - Drilling and Producing Operations

- i. As compensation for administrative, supervision, office services and warehousing costs, Operator shall charge drilling and producing operations on either:

( X ) Fixed Rate Basis, Paragraph 1A, or  
( ) Percentage Basis, Paragraph 1B

Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, such charge shall be in lieu of costs and expenses of all offices and salaries or wages plus applicable burdens and expenses of all personnel, except those directly chargeable under Paragraph 3A, Section II. The cost and expense of services from outside sources in connection with matters of taxation, traffic, accounting or matters before or involving governmental agencies shall be considered as included in the overhead rates provided for in the above selected Paragraph of this Section III unless such cost and expense are agreed to by the Parties as a direct charge to the Joint Account.

- ii. The salaries, wages and Personal Expenses of Technical Employees and/or the cost of professional consultant services and contract services of technical personnel directly employed on the Joint Property:

( ) shall be covered by the overhead rates, or  
( X ) shall not be covered by the overhead rates.

- iii. The salaries, wages and Personal Expenses of Technical Employees and/or costs of professional consultant services and contract services of technical personnel either temporarily or permanently assigned to and directly employed in the operation of the Joint Property:

( ) shall be covered by the overhead rates, or  
( X ) shall not be covered by the overhead rates.

### A. Overhead - Fixed Rate Basis

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

Drilling Well Rate \$ 7,023  
(Prorated for less than a full month)

Producing Well Rate \$ 702.29

- (2) Application of Overhead - Fixed Rate Basis shall be as follows:

#### (a) Drilling Well Rate

- (1) Charges for drilling wells shall begin on the date the well is spudded and terminate on the date the drilling rig, completion rig, or other units used in completion of the well is released, whichever