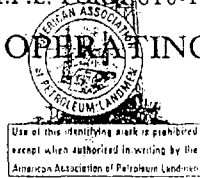


A.A.P.L. FORM 610-1982
MODEL FORM OPERATING AGREEMENT



OPERATING AGREEMENT

DATED

January 1, 1997

OPERATOR STEVENS & TULL, INC.

CONTRACT AREA SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

COUNTY OKMAY OF EDDY STATE OF NEW MEXICO

LITTLE BOX PROSPECT

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

BEFORE THE OIL CONSERVATION
DIVISION

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Case Nos. 12967 and 12968 Exhibit No. 8

Submitted by: Trilogy Operating Inc.

Hearing Date: January 9, 2003

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OPERATING AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into by and between Stevens & Tull, Inc., hereinafter designated and referred to as "Operator", and the signatory party or parties other than Operator, sometimes hereinafter referred to individually herein 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 "oil and gas" shall mean oil, gas, casinghead gas, gas condensate, and 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.

B. The terms "oil and gas lease", "lease" and "leasehold" shall mean the oil and gas leases covering tracts of land lying within the Contract Area which are owned by the parties to this agreement.

C. The term "oil and gas interests" shall mean unleased fee and mineral interests in tracts of land lying within the Contract Area which are owned by parties to this agreement.

D. The term "Contract Area" shall mean all of the lands, oil and gas leasehold interests and oil and gas interests intended to be developed and operated for oil and gas purposes under this agreement. Such lands, oil and gas leasehold interests and oil and gas interests are described in Exhibit "A".

E. 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 or as fixed by express agreement of the Drilling Parties.

F. The term "drillsite" shall mean the oil and gas lease or interest on which a proposed well is to be located.

G. 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.

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

I. (SEE DEFINITION BELOW)

Unless the context otherwise clearly indicates, words used in the singular include the plural, the plural includes the singular, and the neuter gender includes the masculine and the feminine.

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) Identification of lands subject to this agreement,
- (2) Restrictions, if any, as to depths, formations, or substances,
- (3) Percentages or fractional interests of parties to this agreement,
- (4) Oil and gas leases and/or oil and gas interests subject to this agreement,
- (5) Addresses of parties for notice purposes.

☐ B. Exhibit "B", Form of Lease.

☒ C. Exhibit "C", Accounting Procedure.

☒ D. Exhibit "D", Insurance.

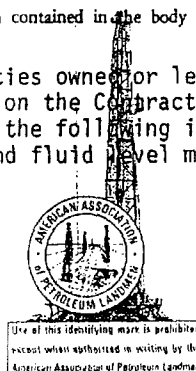
☒ E. Exhibit "E", Gas Balancing Agreement.

☐ F. Exhibit "F", Non-Discrimination and Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities.

☒ G. Exhibit "G", Tax Determination.

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

I. "Equipment and Facilities" shall mean any equipment or facilities owned or leased by Operator and utilized by Operator in conducting operations on the Contract Area. Equipment and Facilities shall include, but not be limited to the following items: communication system, well testing unit, trailers, vehicles and fluid level machines.



ARTICLE III. INTERESTS OF PARTIES

~~A. Oil and Gas Interests:~~

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

B. Interests of Parties in Costs and Production:

Unless changed by other provisions, all costs and liabilities incurred in operations under this agreement shall be borne and paid, and all equipment and materials acquired in operations on the Contract Area shall be owned, by the parties as their interests are set forth in Exhibit "A". In the same manner, the parties shall also own all production of oil and gas from the Contract Area subject to the payment of royalties to the extent of one-eighth (1/8th) which shall be borne as hereinafter set forth.

Regardless of which party has contributed the lease(s) and/or oil and gas interest(s) hereto on which royalty is due and payable, each party entitled to receive a share of production of oil and gas from the Contract Area shall bear and shall pay or deliver, or cause to be paid or delivered, to the extent of its interest in such production, the royalty amount stipulated hereinabove and shall hold the other parties free from any liability therefor. No party shall ever be responsible, however, on a price basis higher than the price received by such party, to any other party's lessor or royalty owner, and if any such other party's lessor or royalty owner should demand and receive settlement on a higher price basis, the party contributing the affected lease shall bear the additional royalty burden attributable to such higher price.

Nothing contained in this Article III.B. shall be deemed an assignment or cross-assignment of interests covered hereby.

C. Excess Royalties, Overriding Royalties and Other Payments:

Unless changed by other provisions, if the interest of any party in any lease covered hereby is subject to any royalty, overriding royalty, production payment or other burden on production in excess of the amount stipulated in Article III.B., such party so burdened shall assume and alone bear all such excess obligations and shall indemnify and hold the other parties hereto harmless from any and all claims and demands for payment asserted by owners of such excess burden.

D. Subsequently Created Interests:

If any party should hereafter create an overriding royalty, production payment or other burden payable out of production attributable to its working interest hereunder, or if such a burden existed prior to this agreement and is not set forth in Exhibit "A", or was not disclosed in writing to all other parties prior to the execution of this agreement by all parties, or is not a jointly acknowledged and accepted obligation of all parties (any such interest being hereinafter referred to as "subsequently created interest" irrespective of the timing of its creation and the party out of whose working interest the subsequently created interest is derived being hereinafter referred to as "burdened party"), and:

1. If the burdened party is required under this agreement to assign or relinquish to any other party, or parties, all or a portion of its working interest and/or the production attributable thereto, said other party, or parties, shall receive said assignment and/or production free and clear of said subsequently created interest and the burdened party shall indemnify and save said other party, or parties, harmless from any and all claims and demands for payment asserted by owners of the subsequently created interest; and,
2. If the burdened party fails to pay, when due, its share of expenses chargeable hereunder, all provisions of Article VII.B. shall be enforceable against the subsequently created interest in the same manner as they are enforceable against the working interest of the burdened party.

ARTICLE IV.

TITLES

A. Title Examination:

Title examination shall be made on the drillsite of any proposed well prior to commencement of drilling operations or, if the Drilling Parties so request, title examination shall be made on the leases and/or oil and gas interests included, or planned to be included, in the drilling unit around such well. The opinion will include the ownership of the working interest, minerals, royalty, overriding royalty and production payments under the applicable leases. At the time a well is proposed, each party contributing leases and/or oil and gas interests to the drillsite, or to be included in such drilling unit, shall furnish to Operator all abstracts (including federal lease status reports), title opinions, title papers and curative material in its possession free of charge. All such information not in the possession of or made available to Operator by the parties, but necessary for the examination of the title, shall be obtained by Operator. Operator shall cause title to be examined by attorneys on its staff or by outside attorneys. Copies of all title opinions shall be furnished to each party hereto. The cost incurred by Operator in this title program shall be borne as follows:

~~☐ Option No. 1: Costs incurred by Operator in procuring abstracts and title examination (including preliminary, supplemental, shut-in gas royalty opinions and division order title opinions) shall be a part of the administrative overhead as provided by Exhibit "C", and shall not be a direct charge, whether performed by Operator's staff attorneys or by outside attorneys.~~

ARTICLE IV
continued

☒ Option No. 2: Costs incurred by Operator in procuring abstracts and fees paid outside attorneys for title examination (including preliminary, supplemental, shut-in gas royalty opinions and division order title opinions) shall be borne by the Drilling Parties in the proportion that the interest of each Drilling Party bears to the total interest of all Drilling Parties as such interests appear in Exhibit "A". Operator shall make no charge for services rendered by its staff attorneys or other personnel in the performance of the above functions.

Each party shall be responsible for securing curative matter and pooling amendments or agreements required in connection with leases or oil and gas interests contributed by such party. Operator shall be responsible for the preparation and recording of pooling designations or declarations as well as the conduct of hearings before governmental agencies for the securing of spacing or pooling orders. This shall not prevent any party from appearing on its own behalf at any such hearing.

No well shall be drilled on the Contract Area until after (1) the title to the drillsite or drilling unit has been examined as above provided, and (2) the title has been approved by the examining attorney or title has been accepted by ~~all of the parties who are to participate in the drilling of the well.~~ ^{Operator for}

B. Loss of Title:

~~1. Failure of Title: Should any oil and gas interest or lease, or interest therein, be lost through failure of title, which loss results in a reduction of interest from that shown on Exhibit "A", the party contributing the affected lease or interest shall have ninety (90) days from final determination of title failure to acquire a new lease or other instrument curing the entirety of the title failure, which acquisition will not be subject to Article VIII.B., and failing to do so, this agreement, nevertheless, shall continue in force as to all remaining oil and gas leases and interests: and,~~

~~(a) The party whose oil and gas lease or interest is affected by the title failure shall bear alone the entire loss and it shall not be entitled to recover from Operator or the other parties any development or operating costs which it may have theretofore paid or incurred, but there shall be no additional liability on its part to the other parties hereto by reason of such title failure;~~

~~(b) There shall be no retroactive adjustment of expenses incurred or revenues received from the operation of the interest which has been lost, but the interests of the parties shall be revised on an acreage basis, as of the time it is determined finally that title failure has occurred, so that the interest of the party whose lease or interest is affected by the title failure will thereafter be reduced in the Contract Area by the amount of the interest lost;~~

~~(c) If the proportionate interest of the other parties hereto in any producing well theretofore drilled on the Contract Area is increased by reason of the title failure, the party whose title has failed shall receive the proceeds attributable to the increase in such interest (less costs and burdens attributable thereto) until it has been reimbursed for unrecovered costs paid by it in connection with such well;~~

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

~~(e) Any liability to account to a third party for prior production of oil and gas which arises by reason of title failure shall be borne by the party or parties whose title failed in the same proportion in which they shared in such prior production; and,~~

~~(f) No charge shall be made to the joint account for legal expenses, fees or salaries, in connection with the defense of the interest claimed by any party hereto, it being the intention of the parties hereto that each shall defend title to its interest and bear all expenses in connection therewith.~~

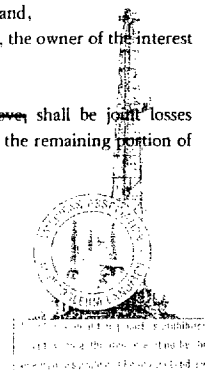
2. Loss by Non-Payment or Erroneous Payment of Amount Due: If, through mistake or oversight, any rental, shut-in well payment, minimum royalty or royalty payment, is not paid or is erroneously paid, and as a result a lease or interest therein terminates, there shall be no monetary liability against the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

(a) Proceeds of oil and gas, less operating expenses, theretofore accrued to the credit of the lost interest, on an acreage basis, up to the amount of unrecovered costs;

(b) Proceeds, less operating expenses, thereafter accrued attributable to the lost interest on an acreage basis, of that portion of oil and gas thereafter produced and marketed (excluding production from any wells thereafter drilled) which, in the absence of such lease termination, would be attributable to the lost interest on an acreage basis, up to the amount of unrecovered costs, the proceeds of said portion of the oil and gas to be contributed by the other parties in proportion to their respective interests; and,

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

3. Other Losses: All losses incurred, ~~other than those set forth in Articles IV.B.1. and IV.B.2. above,~~ shall be joint losses and shall be borne by all parties in proportion to their interests. There shall be no readjustment of interests in the remaining portion of the Contract Area.



ARTICLE V.
OPERATOR

A. Designation and Responsibilities of Operator:

STEVENS & TULL, INC. 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. It shall conduct all such operations in a good and workmanlike manner, but it shall have no 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 exists or is no longer in the Contract Area, or is no longer capable of serving as~~ becomes insolvent, bankrupt or is placed in receivership, Operator shall be deemed to have resigned without any action by Non-Operators, except the selection of a successor. Operator may be removed if it fails or refuses to carry out its duties hereunder, or ~~becomes insolvent, bankrupt or is placed in receivership,~~ by the affirmative vote of two (2) or more Non-Operators owning a majority interest based on ownership as shown on Exhibit "A" remaining after excluding the voting interest of Operator. 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, 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 fails to vote or votes only to succeed itself, 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" remaining after excluding the voting interest of the Operator that was removed.

C. Employees:

The number of employees 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 shall be the employees of Operator.

D. Drilling Contracts:

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.

**** if Stevens & Tull, Inc. and its successors and assigns, together, own less than 25.00% of the working interest in the Contract Area,**

ARTICLE VI.
DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Initial Well:

On or before the 1st day of August, 1997, Operator shall commence the drilling of a well for oil and gas at the following location: 1980' FSL and 1980' FEL of Section 36, T-20-S, R-21-E, Eddy County, New Mexico

and shall thereafter continue the drilling of the well with due diligence to a depth of 8,400 feet or a depth in Operator's opinion sufficient to test the Morrow formation, whichever is the lesser,

unless granite or other practically impenetrable substance or condition in the hole, which renders further drilling impractical, is encountered at a lesser depth, or unless all parties agree to complete or abandon the well at a lesser depth.

Operator shall make reasonable tests of all formations encountered during drilling which give indication of containing oil and gas in quantities sufficient to test, unless this agreement shall be limited in its application to a specific formation or formations, in which event Operator shall be required to test only the formation or formations to which this agreement may apply.

ARTICLE V.
OPERATOR

A. Designation and Responsibilities of Operator:

STEVENS & TULL, INC.

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. It shall conduct all such operations in a good and workmanlike manner, but it shall have no 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~~ ^{becomes insolvent, bankrupt, or is placed in receivership,} Operator, Operator shall be deemed to have resigned without any action by Non-Operators, except the selection of a successor. Operator may be removed if it fails or refuses to carry out its duties hereunder, or ~~becomes insolvent, bankrupt or is placed in receivership,~~ ^{***} by the affirmative vote of two (2) or more Non-Operators owning a majority interest based on ownership as shown on Exhibit "A" remaining after excluding the voting interest of Operator. 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, 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 fails to vote or votes only to succeed itself, 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" remaining after excluding the voting interest of the Operator that was removed.

C. Employees:

The number of employees 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 shall be the employees of Operator.

D. Drilling Contracts:

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.

^{**} if Stevens & Tull, Inc. and its successors and assigns, together, own less than 25.00% of the working interest in the Contract Area.

ARTICLE VI.
DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Initial Well:

On or before the 1st day of April, 1997, Operator shall commence the drilling of a well for oil and gas at the following location: 1980' FSL and 1980' FEL of Section 36, T-20-S, R-21-E, Eddy County, New Mexico

and shall thereafter continue the drilling of the well with due diligence to a depth of 8,400 feet or a depth in Operator's opinion sufficient to test the Morrow formation, whichever is the lesser,

unless granite or other practically impenetrable substance or condition in the hole, which renders further drilling impractical, is encountered at a lesser depth, or unless all parties agree to complete or abandon the well at a lesser depth.

Operator shall make reasonable tests of all formations encountered during drilling which give indication of containing oil and gas in quantities sufficient to test, unless this agreement shall be limited in its application to a specific formation or formations, in which event Operator shall be required to test only the formation or formations to which this agreement may apply.

ARTICLE VI

continued

If, in Operator's judgment, the well will not produce oil or gas in paying quantities, and it wishes to plug and abandon the well as a dry hole, the provisions of Article VI.E.1. shall thereafter apply.

B. Subsequent Operations:

1. Proposed Operations: Should any party hereto desire to drill any well on the Contract Area other than the well provided for in Article VI.A., or to rework, deepen or plug back a dry hole drilled at the joint expense of all parties or a well jointly owned by all the parties and not then producing in paying quantities, the party desiring to drill, rework, deepen or plug back such a well shall give the Operator written notice of the proposed operation, specifying the work to be performed, the location, proposed depth, objective formation and the estimated cost of the operation. The parties receiving such a notice shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice within which to notify the Operator whether they elect to participate in the cost of the proposed operation. If a drilling rig is on location, notice of a proposal to rework, plug back or drill deeper may be given by telephone and the response period shall be limited to forty-eight (48) hours, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays. Failure of a party receiving such notice to reply within the period above fixed shall constitute an election by that party not to participate in the cost of the proposed operation. Any notice or response given by telephone shall be promptly confirmed in writing.

*Within 10 days after receiving such written notice, Operator shall give written notice to all parties of the proposed operation.

If all parties elect to participate in such a proposed operation, Operator shall, within ninety (90) days after expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as promptly as possible after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case may be), actually commence the proposed operation and complete it with due diligence at the risk and expense of all parties hereto; provided, however, said commencement date may be extended upon written notice of same by Operator to the other parties, for a period of up to thirty (30) additional days if, in the sole opinion of Operator, such additional time is reasonably necessary to obtain permits from governmental authorities, surface rights (including rights-of-way) or appropriate drilling equipment, or to complete title examination or curative matter required for title approval or acceptance. Notwithstanding the force majeure provisions of Article XI, if the actual operation has not been commenced within the time provided (including any extension thereof as specifically permitted herein) and if any party hereto still desires to conduct said operation, written notice proposing same must be resubmitted to the other parties in accordance with the provisions hereof as if no prior proposal had been made.

2. Operations by Less than All Parties: If any party receiving such notice as provided in Article VI.B.1. or VII.D.1. (Option No. 2) elects not to participate in the proposed operation, then, in order to be entitled to the benefits of this Article, the Operator giving the notice and such other parties as shall elect to participate in the operation shall, within ninety (90) days after the expiration of the notice period of thirty (30) days (or as promptly as possible after the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hour period when a drilling rig is on location, as the case may be) actually commence the proposed operation and complete it with due diligence. Operator shall perform all work for the account of the Consenting Parties; provided, however, if no drilling rig or other equipment is on location, and if Operator is a Non-Consenting Party, the Consenting Parties shall either: (a) request Operator to perform the work required by such proposed operation for the account of the Consenting Parties, or (b) designate one (1) of the Consenting Parties as Operator to perform such work. Consenting Parties, when conducting operations on the Contract Area pursuant to this Article VI.B.2., shall comply with all terms and conditions of this agreement.

If less than all parties approve any proposed operation, the Operator, immediately after the expiration of the applicable notice period, shall advise the Consenting Parties of the total interest of the parties approving such operation and its recommendation as to whether the Consenting Parties should proceed with the operation as proposed. Each Consenting Party, within forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) after receipt of such notice, shall advise the proposing party of its desire to (a) limit participation to such party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" or (b) carry its proportionate part of Non-Consenting Parties' interests, and failure to advise the Operator shall be deemed an election under (a). In the event a drilling rig is on location, the time permitted for such a response shall not exceed a total of forty-eight (48) hours (inclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays). The proposing party, at its election, may withdraw such proposal if there is insufficient participation and shall promptly notify all parties of such decision.

The entire cost and risk of conducting such operations shall be borne by the Consenting Parties in the proportions they have elected to bear same under the terms of the preceding paragraph. Consenting Parties shall keep the leasehold estates involved in such operations free and clear of all liens and encumbrances of every kind created by or arising from the operations of the Consenting Parties. If such an operation results in a dry hole, the Consenting Parties shall plug and abandon the well and restore the surface location at their sole cost, risk and expense. If any well drilled, reworked, deepened or plugged back under the provisions of this Article results in a producer of oil and/or gas in paying quantities, the Consenting Parties shall complete and equip the well to produce at their sole cost and risk,



ARTICLE VI

continued

and the well shall then be turned over to Operator and shall be operated by it at the expense and for the account of the Consenting Parties. Upon commencement of operations for the drilling, reworking, deepening or plugging back of any such well by Consenting Parties in accordance with the provisions of this Article, each Non-Consenting Party shall be deemed to have relinquished to Consenting Parties, and the Consenting Parties shall own and be entitled to receive, in proportion to their respective interests, all of such Non-Consenting Party's interest in the well and share of production therefrom until the proceeds of the sale of such share, calculated at the well, or market value thereof if such share is not sold, (after deducting production taxes, excise taxes, royalty, overriding royalty and other interests not excepted by Article III.D. payable out of or measured by the production from such well accruing with respect to such interest until it reverts) shall equal the total of the following:

(a) 300% of each such Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of any newly acquired surface equipment beyond the wellhead connections (including, but not limited to, stock tanks, separators, treaters, pumping equipment and piping), plus 100% of each such Non-Consenting Party's share of the cost of operation of the well commencing with first production and continuing until each such Non-Consenting Party's relinquished interest shall revert to it under other provisions of this Article, it being agreed that each Non-Consenting Party's share of such costs and equipment will be that interest which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party had it participated in the well from the beginning of the operations; and

(b) 300 % of that portion of the costs and expenses of drilling, reworking, deepening, plugging back, testing and completing, after deducting any cash contributions received under Article VIII.C., and 300 % of that portion of the cost of newly acquired equipment in the well (to and including the wellhead connections), which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party if it had participated therein.

An election not to participate in the drilling or the deepening of a well shall be deemed an election not to participate in any reworking or plugging back operation proposed in such a well, or portion thereof, to which the initial Non-Consent election applied that is conducted at any time prior to full recovery by the Consenting Parties of the Non-Consenting Party's recoupment account. Any such reworking or plugging back operation conducted during the recoupment period shall be deemed part of the cost of operation of said well and there shall be added to the sums to be recouped by the Consenting Parties one hundred percent (100%) of that portion of the costs of the reworking or plugging back operation which would have been chargeable to such Non-Consenting Party had it participated therein. If such a reworking or plugging back operation is proposed during such recoupment period, the provisions of this Article VI B. shall be applicable as between said Consenting Parties in said well.

During the period of time Consenting Parties are entitled to receive Non-Consenting Party's share of production, or the proceeds therefrom, Consenting Parties shall be responsible for the payment of all production, severance, excise, gathering and other taxes, and all royalty, overriding royalty and other burdens applicable to Non-Consenting Party's share of production not excepted by Article III.D.

In the case of any reworking, plugging back or deeper drilling operation, the Consenting Parties shall be permitted to use, free of cost, all casing, tubing and other equipment in the well, but the ownership of all such equipment shall remain unchanged; and upon abandonment of a well after such reworking, plugging back or deeper drilling, the Consenting Parties shall account for all such equipment to the owners thereof, with each party receiving its proportionate part in kind or in value, less cost of salvage.

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

ARTICLE VI

continued

If and when the Consenting Parties recover from a Non-Consenting Party's relinquished interest the amounts provided for above, the relinquished interests of such Non-Consenting Party shall automatically revert to it, and, from and after such reversion, such Non-Consenting Party shall own the same interest in such well, the material and equipment in or pertaining thereto, and the production therefrom as such Non-Consenting Party would have been entitled to had it participated in the drilling, reworking, deepening or plugging back of said well. Thereafter, such Non-Consenting Party shall be charged with and shall pay its proportionate part of the further costs of the operation of said well in accordance with the terms of this agreement and the Accounting Procedure attached hereto.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article VI.B.2., it is agreed that without the mutual consent of all parties, no wells shall be completed in or produced from a source of supply from which a well located elsewhere on the Contract Area is producing, unless such well conforms to the then-existing well spacing pattern for such source of supply.

The provisions of this Article shall have no application whatsoever to the drilling of the initial well described in Article VI.A. except (a) as to Article VII.D.1. (Option No. 2), if selected, or (b) as to the reworking, deepening and plugging back of such initial well after it has been drilled to the depth specified in Article VI.A. if it shall thereafter prove to be a dry hole or, if initially completed for production, ceases to produce in paying quantities.

3. Stand-By Time: When a well which has been drilled or deepened has reached its authorized depth and all tests have been completed, and the results thereof furnished to the parties, stand-by costs incurred pending response to a party's notice proposing a reworking, deepening, plugging back or completing operation in such a well shall be charged and borne as part of the drilling or deepening operation just completed. Stand-by costs subsequent to all parties responding, or expiration of the response time permitted, whichever first occurs, and prior to agreement as to the participating interests of all Consenting Parties pursuant to the terms of the second grammatical paragraph of Article VI.B.2, shall be charged to and borne as part of the proposed operation, but if the proposal is subsequently withdrawn because of insufficient participation, such stand-by costs shall be allocated between the Consenting Parties in the proportion each Consenting Party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all Consenting Parties.

4. Sidetracking: Except as hereinafter provided, those provisions of this agreement applicable to a "deepening" operation shall also be applicable to any proposal to directionally control and intentionally deviate a well from vertical so as to change the bottom hole location (herein called "sidetracking"), unless done to straighten the hole or to drill around junk in the hole or because of other mechanical difficulties. Any party having the right to participate in a proposed sidetracking operation that does not own an interest in the affected well bore at the time of the notice shall, upon electing to participate, tender to the well bore owners its proportionate share (equal to its interest in the sidetracking operation) of the value of that portion of the existing well bore to be utilized as follows:

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

(b) If the proposal is for sidetracking a well which has previously produced, reimbursement shall be on the basis of the well's salvageable materials and equipment down to the depth at which the sidetracking operation is initiated, determined in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit "C", less the estimated cost of salvaging and the estimated cost of plugging and abandoning.

In the event that notice for a sidetracking operation is given while the drilling rig to be utilized is on location, the response period shall be limited to forty-eight (48) hours, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays; provided, however, any party may request and receive up to eight (8) additional days after expiration of the forty-eight (48) hours within which to respond by paying for all stand-by time incurred during such extended response period. If more than one party elects to take such additional time to respond to the notice, stand-by costs shall be allocated between the parties taking additional time to respond on a day-to-day basis in the proportion each electing party's interest as shown on Exhibit "A" bears to the total interest as shown on Exhibit "A" of all the electing parties. In all other instances the response period to a proposal for sidetracking shall be limited to thirty (30) days.

C. TAKING PRODUCTION IN KIND:

Each party shall have the right to take in kind or separately dispose of its proportionate share of all oil and gas produced from the Contract Area, exclusive of production which may be used in development and producing operations and in preparing and treating oil and gas for marketing purposes and production unavoidably lost. Any extra expenditure incurred in the taking in kind or separate disposition by any party of its proportionate share of the production shall be borne by such party. Any party taking its share of production in kind shall be

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ARTICLE VI

continued

required to pay for only its proportionate share of such part of Operator's surface facilities which it uses.

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

In the event any party shall fail to make the arrangements necessary to take in kind or separately dispose of its proportionate share of the oil produced from the Contract Area, Operator shall have the right, subject to the revocation at will by the party owning it, but not the obligation, to purchase such oil or sell it to others at any time and from time to time, for the account of the non-taking party at the best price obtainable in the area for such production. Any such purchase or sale by Operator shall be subject always to the right of the owner of the production to exercise at any time its right to take in kind, or separately dispose of, its share of all oil not previously delivered to a purchaser. Any purchase or sale by Operator of any other party's share of oil shall be only for such reasonable periods of time as are consistent with the minimum needs of the industry under the particular circumstances, but in no event for a period in excess of one (1) year.

In the event one or more parties' separate disposition of its share of the gas causes split-stream deliveries to separate pipelines and/or deliveries which on a day-to-day basis for any reason are not exactly equal to a party's respective proportionate share of total gas sales to be allocated to it, the balancing or accounting between the respective accounts of the parties shall be in accordance with any gas balancing agreement between the parties hereto, whether such an agreement is attached as Exhibit "E", or is a separate agreement.

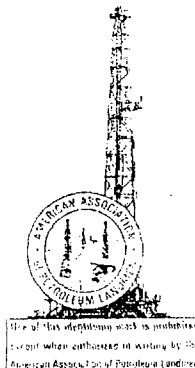
D. Access to Contract Area and Information:

Each party shall have access to the Contract Area at all reasonable times, at its sole cost and risk to inspect or observe operations, and shall have access at reasonable times to information pertaining to the development or operation thereof, including Operator's books and records relating thereto. Operator, upon request, shall furnish each of the other parties with copies of all forms or reports filed with governmental agencies, daily drilling reports, well logs, tank tables, daily gauge and run tickets and reports of stock on hand at the first of each month, and shall make available samples of any cores or cuttings taken from any well drilled on the Contract Area. The cost of gathering and furnishing information to Non-Operator, other than that specified above, shall be charged to the Non-Operator that requests the information.

E. Abandonment of Wells:

1. Abandonment of Dry Holes: Except for any well drilled or deepened pursuant to Article VI.B.2., any well which has been drilled or deepened under the terms of this agreement and is proposed to be completed as a dry hole shall not be plugged and abandoned without the consent of all parties. Should Operator, after diligent effort, be unable to contact any party, or should any party fail to reply within forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) after receipt of notice of the proposal to plug and abandon such well, such party shall be deemed to have consented to the proposed abandonment. All such wells shall be plugged and abandoned in accordance with applicable regulations and at the cost, risk and expense of the parties who participated in the cost of drilling or deepening such well. Any party who objects to plugging and abandoning such well shall have the right to take over the well and conduct further operations in search of oil and/or gas subject to the provisions of Article VI.B.

2. Abandonment of Wells that have Produced: Except for any well in which a Non-Consent operation has been conducted hereunder for which the Consenting Parties have not been fully reimbursed as herein provided, any well which has been completed as a producer shall not be plugged and abandoned without the consent of all parties. If all parties consent to such abandonment, the well shall be plugged and abandoned in accordance with applicable regulations and at the cost, risk and expense of all the parties hereto. If, within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice of the proposed abandonment of any well, all parties do not agree to the abandonment of such well, those wishing to continue its operation from the interval(s) of the formation(s) then open to production shall tender to each of the other parties its proportionate share of the value of the well's salvable material and equipment, determined in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit "C", less the estimated cost of salvaging and the estimated cost of plugging and abandoning. Each abandoning party shall assign the non-abandoning parties, without warranty, express or implied, as to title or as to quantity, or fitness for use of the equipment and material, all of its interest in the well and related equipment, together with its interest in the leasehold estate as to, but only as to, the interval or intervals of the formation or formations then open to production. ~~If the interest of the abandoning party is or includes an oil and gas interest, such party shall execute and deliver to the non-abandoning party or parties an oil and gas lease, limited to the interval or intervals of the formation or formations then open to production, for a term of one (1) year and so long thereafter as oil and/or gas is produced from the interval or intervals of the formation or formations covered thereby, such lease to be on the form attached as Exhibit~~



ARTICLE VI
continued

"B". The assignments or leases so limited shall encompass the "drilling unit" upon which the well is located. The payments by, and the assignments or leases to, the assignees shall be in a ratio based upon the relationship of their respective percentage of participation in the Contract Area to the aggregate of the percentages of participation in the Contract Area of all assignees. There shall be no readjustment of interests in the remaining portion of the Contract Area.

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

3. Abandonment of Non-Consent Operations: The provisions of Article VI.E.1. or VI.E.2. above shall be applicable as between Consenting Parties in the event of the proposed abandonment of any well excepted from said Articles; provided, however, no well shall be permanently plugged and abandoned unless and until all parties having the right to conduct further operations therein have been notified of the proposed abandonment and afforded the opportunity to elect to take over the well in accordance with the provisions of this Article VI.E.

ARTICLE VII.
EXPENDITURES AND LIABILITY OF PARTIES

A. Liability of Parties:

The liability of the parties shall be several, not joint or collective. Each party shall be responsible only for its obligations, and shall be liable only for its proportionate share of the costs of developing and operating the Contract Area. Accordingly, the liens granted among the parties in Article VII.B. are given to secure only the debts of each severally. It is not the intention of the parties to create, nor shall this agreement be construed as creating, a mining or other partnership or association, or to render the parties liable as partners.

B. Liens and Payment Defaults:

Each Non-Operator grants to Operator a lien upon its oil and gas rights in the Contract Area, and a security interest in its share of oil and/or gas when extracted and its interest in all equipment, to secure payment of its share of expense, together with interest thereon at the rate provided in Exhibit "C". To the extent that Operator has a security interest under the Uniform Commercial Code of the state, Operator shall be entitled to exercise the rights and remedies of a secured party under the Code. The bringing of a suit and the obtaining of judgment by Operator for the secured indebtedness shall not be deemed an election of remedies or otherwise affect the lien rights or security interest as security for the payment thereof. In addition, upon default by any Non-Operator in the payment of its share of expense, Operator shall have the right, without prejudice to other rights or remedies, to collect from the purchaser the proceeds from the sale of such Non-Operator's share of oil and/or gas until the amount owed by such Non-Operator, plus interest, has been paid. Each purchaser shall be entitled to rely upon Operator's written statement concerning the amount of any default. Operator grants a like lien and security interest to the Non-Operators to secure payment of Operator's proportionate share of expense.

If any party fails or is unable to pay its share of expense within sixty (60) days after rendition of a statement therefor by Operator, the non-defaulting parties, including Operator, shall, upon request by Operator, pay the unpaid amount in the proportion that the interest of each such party bears to the interest of all such parties. Each party so paying its share of the unpaid amount shall, to obtain reimbursement thereof, be subrogated to the security rights described in the foregoing paragraph.

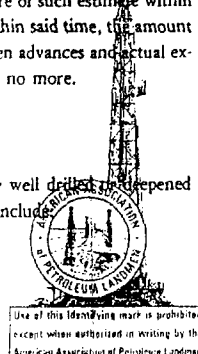
C. Payments and Accounting:

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.

Operator, at its election, shall have the right from time to time to demand and receive from the other parties payment in advance of their respective shares of the estimated amount of the expense to be incurred in operations hereunder during the next succeeding month, which right may be exercised only by submission to each such party of an itemized statement of such estimated expense, together with an invoice for its share thereof. ~~Each such statement and invoice for the payment in advance of estimated expense shall be submitted on or before the 20th day of the next preceding month.~~ ~~Each party shall pay to Operator its proportionate share of such estimate within fifteen (15) days after such estimate and invoice is received. If any party fails to pay its share of said estimate within said time, the amount due shall bear interest as provided in Exhibit "C" until paid. Proper adjustment shall be made monthly between advances and actual expense to the end that each party shall bear and pay its proportionate share of actual expenses incurred, and no more.~~ ~~Operator shall not demand payment in advance of its share of the estimated amount of the expense to be incurred in operations hereunder during the next succeeding month, which right may be exercised only by submission to each such party of an itemized statement of such estimated expense, together with an invoice for its share thereof. Each such statement and invoice for the payment in advance of estimated expense shall be submitted on or before the 20th day of the next preceding month. Each party shall pay to Operator its proportionate share of such estimate within fifteen (15) days after such estimate and invoice is received. If any party fails to pay its share of said estimate within said time, the amount due shall bear interest as provided in Exhibit "C" until paid. Proper adjustment shall be made monthly between advances and actual expense to the end that each party shall bear and pay its proportionate share of actual expenses incurred, and no more.~~

D. Limitation of Expenditures:

1. Drill or Deepen: Without the consent of all parties, no well shall be drilled or deepened, except any well drilled or deepened pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2. of this agreement. Consent to the drilling or deepening shall include



ARTICLE VII
continued

☐ Option No. 1: All necessary expenditures for the drilling or deepening, testing, completing and equipping of the well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities.

☒ Option No. 2: All necessary expenditures for the drilling or deepening and testing of the well. When such well has reached its authorized depth, and all tests have been completed, and the results thereof furnished to the parties, Operator shall give immediate notice to the Non-Operators who have the right to participate in the completion costs. The parties receiving such notice shall have forty-eight (48) hours (exclusive of Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays) in which to elect to participate in the setting of casing and the completion attempt. Such election, when made, shall include consent to all necessary expenditures for the completing and equipping of such well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities. Failure of any party receiving such notice to reply within the period above fixed shall constitute an election by that party not to participate in the cost of the completion attempt. If one or more, but less than all of the parties, elect to set pipe and to attempt a completion, the provisions of Article VI.B.2. hereof (the phrase "reworking, deepening or plugging back" as contained in Article VI.B.2.) shall be deemed to include "completing") shall apply to the operations thereafter conducted by less than all parties.

2. Rework or Plug Back: Without the consent of all parties, no well shall be reworked or plugged back except a well reworked or plugged back pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.B.2. of this agreement. Consent to the reworking or plugging back of a well shall include all necessary expenditures in conducting such operations and completing and equipping of said well, including necessary tankage and/or surface facilities.

3. Other Operations: Without the consent of all parties, Operator shall not undertake any single project reasonably estimated to require an expenditure in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$ 10,000.00) except in connection with a well, the drilling, reworking, deepening, completing, recompleting, or plugging back of which has been previously authorized by or pursuant to this agreement; provided, however, that, in case of explosion, fire, flood or other sudden emergency, whether of the same or different nature, Operator may take such steps and incur such expenses as in its opinion are required to deal with the emergency to safeguard life and property but Operator, as promptly as possible, shall report the emergency to the other parties. If Operator prepares an authority for expenditure (AFE) for its own use, Operator shall furnish any Non-Operator so requesting an information copy thereof for any single project costing in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$ 10,000.00) but less than the amount first set forth above in this paragraph.

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

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

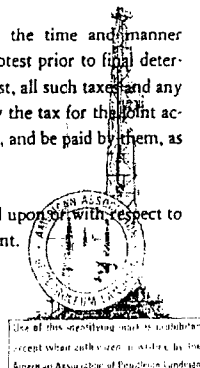
Operator shall notify Non-Operator of the anticipated completion of a shut-in gas well, or the shutting in or return to production of a producing gas well, at least five (5) days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays), or at the earliest opportunity permitted by circumstances, prior to taking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

F. Taxes:

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

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

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



ARTICLE VII
continued

G. Insurance:

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

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

ARTICLE VIII.
ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE OR TRANSFER OF INTEREST

A. Surrender of Leases:

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

However, should any party desire to surrender its interest in any lease or in any portion thereof, and the other parties do not agree or consent thereto, the party desiring to surrender shall assign, without express or implied warranty of title, all of its interest in such lease, or portion thereof, and any well, material and equipment which may be located thereon and any rights in production thereafter secured, to the parties not consenting to such surrender. ~~If the interest of the assigning party is or includes an oil and gas interest, the assigning party shall execute and deliver to the party or parties not 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 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".~~ Upon such assignment or lease, the assigning party shall be relieved from all obligations thereafter accruing, but not theretofore accrued, with respect to the interest assigned or leased and the operation of any well attributable thereto, and the assigning party shall have no further interest in the assigned or leased premises and its equipment and production other than the royalties retained in any lease made under the terms of this Article. The party assignee or lessee shall pay to the party assignor or lessor the reasonable salvage value of the latter's interest in any wells and equipment attributable to the assigned or leased acreage. The value of all material shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit "C", less the estimated cost of salvaging and the estimated cost of plugging and abandoning. If the assignment or lease is in favor of more than one party, the interest shall be shared by such parties in the proportions that the interest of each bears to the total interest of all such parties.

Any assignment, lease or surrender made under this provision shall not reduce or change the assignor's, lessor's or surrendering party's interest as it was immediately before the assignment, lease or surrender in the balance of the Contract Area; and the acreage assigned, leased or surrendered, and subsequent operations thereon, shall not thereafter be subject to the terms and provisions of this agreement, but to the extent possible, it shall be governed by an agreement with provisions identical to this agreement.

B. Renewal or Extension of Leases:

If any party secures a renewal of any oil and gas lease subject to this agreement, all other parties shall be notified promptly, and shall have the right for a period of thirty (30) days following receipt of such notice in which to elect to participate in the ownership of the renewal lease, insofar as such lease affects lands within the Contract Area, by paying to the party who acquired it their several proper proportionate shares of the acquisition cost allocated to that part of such lease within the Contract Area, which shall be in proportion to the interests held at that time by the parties in the Contract Area.

If some, but less than all, of the parties elect to participate in the purchase of a renewal lease, it shall be owned by the parties who elect to participate therein, in a ratio based upon the relationship of their respective percentage of participation in the Contract Area to the aggregate of the percentages of participation in the Contract Area of all parties participating in the purchase of such renewal lease. Any renewal lease in which less than all parties elect to participate shall not be subject to this agreement, but to the extent possible, it shall be governed by an agreement with provisions identical to this agreement. Each party who participates in the purchase of a renewal lease shall be given an assignment of its proportionate interest therein by the acquiring party.

The provisions of this Article shall apply to renewal leases whether they are for the entire interest covered by the expiring lease or cover only a portion of its area or an interest therein. Any renewal lease taken before the expiration of its predecessor lease, or taken or contracted for within six (6) months after the expiration of the existing lease shall be subject to this provision; but any lease taken or contracted for more than six (6) months after the expiration of an existing lease shall not be deemed a renewal lease and shall not be subject to the provisions of this agreement.

The provisions in this Article shall also be applicable to extensions of oil and gas leases.

C. Acreage or Cash Contributions:

While this agreement is in force, if any party contracts for a contribution of cash towards the drilling of a well or any other operation on the Contract Area, such contribution shall be paid to the party who conducted the drilling or other operation and shall 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 the contribution is made shall promptly tender an assignment of the acreage, without warranty of title, to the Drilling Parties. ~~If the contribution~~

Use of this operating agreement is prohibited except when authorized in writing by the American Association of Petroleum Landowners

ARTICLE VIII

continued

1 said Drilling Parties shared the cost of drilling the well. Such acreage shall become a separate Contract Area and, to the extent possible, be
2 governed by provisions identical to this agreement. Each party shall promptly notify all other parties of any acreage or cash contributions
3 it may obtain in support of any well or any other operation on the Contract Area. The above provisions shall also be applicable to op-
4 tional rights to earn acreage outside the Contract Area which are in support of a well drilled inside the Contract Area.

5
6 If any party contracts for any consideration relating to disposition of such party's share of substances produced hereunder, such
7 consideration shall not be deemed a contribution as contemplated in this Article VIII.C.

D. Maintenance of Uniform Interest:

11 ~~For the purpose of maintaining uniformity of ownership in the oil and gas leasehold interests covered by this agreement, no~~
12 party shall sell, encumber, transfer or make other disposition of its interest in the leases embraced within the Contract Area and in wells,
13 equipment and production unless such disposition covers either:

- 14 1. the entire interest of the party in all leases and equipment and production; or
- 15 2. ~~an equal undivided interest in all leases and equipment and production in the Contract Area.~~

19 Every ~~such~~ sale, encumbrance, transfer or other disposition made by any party shall be made expressly subject to this agreement
20 and shall be made without prejudice to the right of the other parties.

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

E. Waiver of Rights to Partition:

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

F. ~~Preferential Right to Purchase:~~

37 ~~Should any party desire to sell all or any part of its interests under this agreement, or its rights and interests in the Contract~~
38 Area, it shall promptly give written notice to the other parties, with full information concerning its proposed sale, which shall include the
39 name and address of the prospective purchaser (who must be ready, willing and able to purchase), the purchase price, and all other terms
40 of the offer. The other parties shall then have an optional prior right, for a period of ten (10) days after receipt of the notice, to purchase
41 on the same terms and conditions the interest which the other party proposes to sell; and, if this optional right is exercised, the purchas-
42 ing parties shall share the purchased interest in the proportions that the interest of each bears to the total interest of all purchasing par-
43 ties. However, there shall be no preferential right to purchase in those cases where any party wishes to mortgage its interests, or to
44 dispose of its interests by merger, reorganization, consolidation, or sale of all or substantially all of its assets to a subsidiary or parent com-
45 pany or to a subsidiary of a parent company, or to any company in which any one party owns a majority of the stock.

ARTICLE IX.

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE ELECTION

50 This agreement is not intended to create, and shall not be construed to create, a relationship of partnership or an association
51 for profit between or among the parties hereto. Notwithstanding any provision herein that the rights and liabilities hereunder are several
52 and not joint or collective, or that this agreement and operations hereunder shall not constitute a partnership, if, for federal income tax
53 purposes, this agreement and the operations hereunder are regarded as a partnership, each party hereby affected elects to be excluded
54 from the application of all of the provisions of Subchapter "K", Chapter 1, Subtitle "A", of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as per-
55 mitted and authorized by Section 761 of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Operator is authorized and directed to ex-
56 ecute on behalf of each party hereby affected such evidence of this election as may be required by the Secretary of the Treasury of the
57 United States or the Federal Internal Revenue Service, including specifically, but not by way of limitation, all of the returns, statements,
58 and the data required by Federal Regulations 1.761. Should there be any requirement that each party hereby affected give further
59 evidence of this election, each such party shall execute such documents and furnish such other evidence as may be required by the
60 Federal Internal Revenue Service or as may be necessary to evidence this election. No such party shall give any notices or take any other
61 action inconsistent with the election made hereby. If any present or future income tax laws of the state or states in which the Contract
62 Area is located or any future income tax laws of the United States contain provisions similar to those in Subchapter "K", Chapter 1,
63 Subtitle "A", of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, under which an election similar to that provided by Section 761 of the Code is per-
64 mitted, each party hereby affected shall make such election as may be permitted or required by such laws. In making the foregoing elec-
65 tion, each such party states that the income derived by such party from operations hereunder can be adequately determined without the
66 computation of partnership taxable income.



This document is a model form and should be modified to meet the needs of each particular situation. It is not intended to constitute an offer of insurance or any other financial product. Please consult your attorney for more information.

ARTICLE X.
CLAIMS AND LAWSUITS

Operator may settle any single uninsured third party damage claim or suit arising from operations hereunder if the expenditure does not exceed TEN THOUSAND Dollars (\$ 10,000.00-----) and if the payment is in complete settlement of such claim or suit. If the amount required for settlement exceeds the above amount, the parties hereto shall assume and take over the further handling of the claim or suit, unless such authority is delegated to Operator. All costs and expenses of handling, settling, or otherwise discharging such claim or suit shall be at the joint expense of the parties participating in the operation from which the 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 hereunder over which such individual has no control because of the rights given Operator by this agreement, such party shall immediately notify all other parties, and the claim or suit shall be treated as any other claim or suit involving operations hereunder. All claims or suits involving title to any interest subject to this agreement shall be treated as a claim or suit against all parties hereto.

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 make money payments, 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 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.

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, 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.

ARTICLE XII.
NOTICES

All notices authorized or required between the parties and required by any of the provisions of this agreement, unless otherwise specifically provided, shall be given in writing by mail or telegram, postage or charges prepaid, or by telex or telecopier and addressed to the parties to whom the notice is given at the addresses listed on Exhibit "A". The originating notice given under any provision hereof shall be deemed given only when received by the party to whom such notice is directed, and the time for such party to give any notice in response thereto shall run from the date the originating notice is received. The second or any responsive notice shall be deemed given when deposited in the mail or with the telegraph company, with postage or charges prepaid, or sent by telex or telecopier. 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.

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 production of oil and/or gas in paying quantities, this agreement shall continue in force so long as any such well or wells produce, or are capable of production, and for an additional period of 180 days from cessation of all production; provided, however, if, prior to the expiration of such additional period, one or more of the parties hereto are engaged in drilling, reworking, deepening, plugging back, testing or attempting to 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 producing, or capable of producing oil and/or gas from the Contract Area, this agreement shall terminate unless drilling, deepening, plugging back or reworking operations are commenced within 180 days from the date of abandonment of said well.

It is agreed, however, that the termination of this agreement shall not relieve any party hereto from any liability which has accrued or attached prior to the date of such termination.

ARTICLE XIV.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

A. Laws, Regulations and Orders:

This agreement shall be subject to the conservation 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 orders promulgated under such laws in reference to oil, gas and mineral operations, including the location, operation, or production of wells, on tracts offsetting or adjacent to the Contract Area.

With respect to operations hereunder, Non-Operators agree to release Operator from any and all losses, damages, injuries, claims and causes of action arising out of, incident to or resulting directly or indirectly from Operator's interpretation or application of rules, rulings, regulations or orders of the Department of Energy or predecessor or successor agencies to the extent such interpretation or application was made in good faith. Each Non-Operator further agrees to reimburse Operator for any amounts applicable to such Non-Operator's share of production that Operator may be required to refund, rebate or pay as a result of such an incorrect interpretation or application, together with interest and penalties thereon owing by Operator as a result of such incorrect interpretation or application.

Non-Operators authorize Operator to prepare and submit such documents as may be required to be submitted to the purchaser of any crude oil sold hereunder or to any other person or entity pursuant to the requirements of the "Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act of 1980", as same may be amended from time to time ("Act"), and any valid regulations or rules which may be issued by the Treasury Department from time to time pursuant to said Act. Each party hereto agrees to furnish any and all certifications or other information which is required to be furnished by said Act in a timely manner and in sufficient detail to permit compliance with said Act.

ARTICLE XV.

OTHER PROVISIONS

A. Required Drilling Operations:

Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary herein, if a well is required to be drilled to (1) continue a lease or leases in force and effect, or (2) earn or preserve an interest in and to oil and gas rights which may be owned by a third party, or (3) comply with an order issued by a regulatory body having jurisdiction over the premises, failing in which certain oil and gas rights would terminate, the following shall apply: Should less than all of the parties hereto elect to participate and pay their proportionate share of the costs to be incurred in drilling a required well, each party desiring to participate (Drilling Party) shall have the right to do so at its sole cost, risk, and expense. Promptly following the conclusion of drilling a required well, each party that did not participate (Non-Drilling Party) shall execute and deliver an appropriate assignment(s) of its total interest in and to (a) the lease(s), operating rights, and other oil and gas rights which would have terminated but were otherwise preserved by virtue of drilling a required well and (b) the drilling unit assigned to the required well, excepting, however, wells theretofore completed and capable of producing in paying quantities. Such assignment(s) shall be delivered to the Drilling Parties in the proportion that they bore the expense attributable to the Non-Drilling Parties' interest.



B. Failure to Prepay:

Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary herein, in the event any Non-Operator hereto elects to participate in any operation proposed under

Article VI.B.1., but fails to timely pay an invoice submitted under Article VII.C. for the estimated amount of expenses to be incurred in such proposed operation, Operator shall give such Non-Operator notice by U.S. certified mail or telex or telecopier of its failure to pay, and such Non-Operator shall have five (5) business days after actual receipt of such notice within which to mail Operator the advance payment. If such Non-Operator does not timely tender the advance payment to Operator, such Non-Operator shall be deemed to have elected not to participate in the proposed operation, and such Non-Operator shall be a Non-Consenting Party, and such party's interest shall be subject to the provisions of Article VI.B.2.

C. Direct Charges:

Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary herein, the Operator shall be entitled to make a direct charge against the Joint Account for legal, accounting and consulting fees, and other actual costs and expenses incurred to comply with the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, and to comply with any laws administered by, or any rules and regulations promulgated by, through or under government agencies, including but not limited to the United States Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulator Commission (F.E.R.C.), and the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (N.M.O.C.D.). This agreement shall not be construed to provide that any party hereto shall be obligated to represent any other party hereto before any governmental agency. The Operator shall be entitled to charge the Joint Account, at competitive rates, for services rendered by Operator's employees and equipment and facilities provided by Operator for the benefit of Contract Area.

D. Marketing of Gas:

Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary herein, any party hereto shall have the right to market its share of the gas produced from the Contract Area under the Operator's gas contract subject to all of the terms and provisions provided for therein. Further, any party hereto shall not have to pay a marketing fee to the Operator or an affiliate or related party of the Operator.

E. Indemnification:

Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary herein, and without limiting any other provisions of this agreement including Article V.A., Operator shall not be liable to the other parties for any failure of Operator, except such failures as may result from gross negligence or willful misconduct, to comply with the requirements of any federal, state, or local ordinance, statute, law, rule, regulation or procedure, pertaining to the establishment of prices for oil, gas, or other minerals, or pertaining to the classification of wells for such purpose, or pertaining to any other matter related to the regulation of entitlements, supply, demand, allocation, delivery, and contracting for or pricing of oil, gas or other minerals, it being understood and agreed by all parties that compliance with current laws and regulations is subject to confusion and to numerous risks, uncertainties, conflicting opinions and burdensome filing requirements. Any liability for refund of sums obtained because the parties have been paid amounts in excess of lawful prices shall be borne severally by the parties to the same extent that such excess funds were paid to the parties.

During the period of time that the Contributing Party, Non-Drilling Parties and/or Non-Consenting Parties are not responsible and liable for paying for their working interest share of costs and expenses resulting from and arising out of operations conducted under this agreement, said parties shall not be responsible or liable for any and all claims of whatsoever character or description resulting from or arising out of said operations. Said operations shall be conducted at the sole cost, risk and expense of the Operator, Earning Parties, Drilling Parties and Consenting Parties who shall hold the Contributing Party, Non-Drilling Parties and/or Non-Consenting Parties harmless from any and all claims of whatsoever character or description resulting from or arising out of operations conducted during said period of time. The Operator, Earning Parties, Drilling Parties and Consenting Parties shall use their best efforts to comply with all of the terms and conditions of the oil and gas leases subject to this agreement and all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

ARTICLE XVI.
MISCELLANEOUS

This agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and to their respective heirs, devisees, legal representatives, successors and assigns.

This instrument may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original for all purposes. Operator is expressly granted the authority to compile the signature pages of the counterparts with the body of one counterpart for all purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement shall be effective as of the 1st day of January, 1997.

OPERATOR

STEVENS & TULL, INC.

By: [Signature]
Bob Stevens, President

NON-OPERATORS

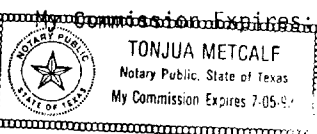
[Signature]
Scott E. Wilson

By: [Signature]
Print Name: Richard K. Barr
Company: _____
(if applicable)
Title: _____
Tax ID or SS#: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MIDLAND

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 13th day of January, 1997, by Bob Stevens, President of Stevens & Tull, Inc., a Texas corporation, on behalf of said corporation.



[Signature]
Notary Public

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MIDLAND

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 3rd day of February, 1997, by Scott E. Wilson and Richard K. Barr.

My Commission Expires:



[Signature]
Notary Public

RECEIVED FEB 11 1997

ARTICLE XVI.
MISCELLANEOUS

This agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and to their respective heirs, devisees, legal representatives, successors and assigns.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement shall be effective as of 1st day of January, 1997.

OPERATOR

STEVENS & TULL, INC.

By: Bob Stevens, President

NON-OPERATORS

NADEL AND GUSSMAN PERMIAN, L.L.C.

By: Tom Adelson James R. Bartel
Tom Adelson, Manager

David J. Andrews Dennis Corkran

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)
:ss.
COUNTY OF TULSA)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 7th day of February, 1997, by Tom Adelson, Manager for Nadel and Gussman, L.L.C., a limited liability company, on behalf of said company.

My commission expires:

8-8-98

David J. Andrews
Notary Public

STATE OF TEXAS)
:ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of February, 1997, by David J. Andrews and Dennis Corkran.

My commission expires:

Notary Public



ARTICLE XVI.
MISCELLANEOUS

This agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and to their respective heirs, devisees, legal representatives, successors and assigns.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement shall be effective as of 1st day of January, 1997.

OPERATOR

STEVENS & TULL, INC.

By: _____
Bob Stevens, President

NON-OPERATORS

NADEL AND GUSSMAN PERMIAN, L.L.C.

By: _____
Tom Adelson, Manager

James R. Bartel

David J. Andrews
David J. Andrews

Dennis Corkran
Dennis Corkran

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)
:ss.
COUNTY OF TULSA)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of February, 1997, by Tom Adelson, Manager for Nadel and Gussman, L.L.C., a limited liability company, on behalf of said company.

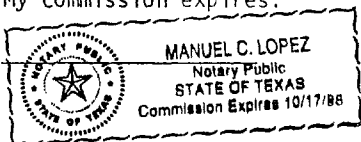
My commission expires:

Notary Public

STATE OF TEXAS)
:ss.
COUNTY OF TARRANT)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 4 day of February, 1997, by David J. Andrews and Dennis Corkran.

My commission expires:



Manuel C. Lopez
Notary Public

ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THE LITTLE BOX PROSPECT OPERATING AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 1, 1997, BETWEEN STEVENS & TULL, INC., AS OPERATOR, AND NON-OPERATORS, COVERING LANDS IN TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGES 20 & 23 EAST, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

NON-OPERATORS

Cannon Exploration Company

By Todd M. Wilson
Todd M. Wilson, President

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF TEXAS)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF MIDLAND)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 26th day of August, 1997, by Todd M. Wilson, President of Cannon Exploration Company, a New Mexico corporation, on behalf of said corporation.

My commission expires:

6-16-2001

Barbara Bingham
Notary Public

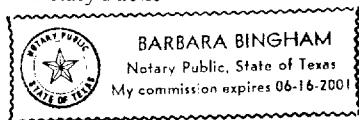


EXHIBIT "A"

**ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THAT CERTAIN OPERATING AGREEMENT,
DATED JANUARY 1, 1997, AS AMENDED BETWEEN ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY
(SUCCESSOR TO STEVENS & TULL, INC.), AS OPERATOR AND NADEL AND GUSSMAN
PERMIAN, L.L.C. ET AL, AS NON-OPERATORS**

I. CONTRACT AREA WITH DEPTH RESTRICTIONS:

All Lands in Eddy County, New Mexico

TRACT A

Township 20 South, Range 21 East, NMPM

Section 23: E/2 NW/4; SW/4 NW/4 & S/2 (Limited in depth from surface to 100' below deepest producing perforation)

TRACT B

Township 20 South, Range 21 East, NMPM

Section 26: NW/4 SE/4 (All Depths)

Section 26: W/2; NE/4; E/2 SE/4 & SW/4 SE/4 (Limited in depth from surface to 100' below deepest producing perforation)

Section 35: E/2 (Limited in depth from surface to 100' below deepest producing perforation)

Subject to: Conveyance of Operating Rights, dated effective 6/1/97 from Exxon Corporation to Stevens & Tull, Inc. et al, recorded Book 301, Page 382 of the records of Eddy County, New Mexico.

TRACT C

Township 20 South, Range 21 East, NMPM

Section 36: All (All Depths)

TRACT D

Township 20 South, Range 21 East, NMPM

Section 25: All (All Depths)

Township 20 South, Range 23 East, NMPM

Section 19: All (All Depths)

Section 30: All (All Depths)

Section 31: S/2 (All Depths)

II. INTERESTS OF THE PARTIES IN THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACTS SUBJECT TO THIS AGREEMENT:

<u>TRACT A:</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Working Interest %</u>
	Atlantic Richfield Company	41.000000
	Nadel and Gussman Permian, L.L.C.	15.000000
	Sutherland Family, L.L.C., a Texas Limited Liability Co.	10.000000
	Scott E. Wilson	6.000000
	Richard K. Barr	6.000000
	Jack Britain	5.000000
	D & D Partnership, a California partnership	4.000000
	Sid Cowan	3.000000
	David J. Andrews	2.000000
	Dennis Corkran	2.000000
	James R. Bartel	2.000000
	Cannon Exploration Company	2.000000
	Reber-Garrett Associations, a Pennsylvania partnership	1.000000
	Scott E. Meuhlbrad	1.000000

(REVISED EFFECTIVE 2/1/99)

EXHIBIT "A"

II. INTERESTS OF PARTIES

<u>TRACT B:</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Working Interest %</u>
	Atlantic Richfield Company	55.000000
	Nadel and Gussman Permian, L.L.C.	15.000000
	Sutherland Family, L.L.C., a Texas Limited Liability Co.	10.000000
	Jack Britain	5.000000
	D & D Partnership, a California partnership	4.000000
	Sid Cowan	3.000000
	David J. Andrews	2.000000
	Dennis Corkran	2.000000
	Cannon Exploration Company	2.000000
	Reber-Garrett Associations, a Pennsylvania partnership	1.000000
	Scott E. Meuhlbrad	1.000000

<u>TRACT C:</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Working Interest %</u>
	Atlantic Richfield Company	60.539596
	Nadel and Gussman Permian, L.L.C.	15.000000
	Sutherland Family, L.L.C., a Texas Limited Liability Co.	5.209275
	D & D Partnership, a California partnership	4.000000
	Jack Britain	2.604637
	Pat N. Wardlaw	2.604637
	David J. Andrews	2.000000
	Dennis Corkran	2.000000
	Cannon Exploration Company	2.000000
	Doralex Energy, Inc.	2.000000
	George W. Knox	1.041855
	Scott E. Meuhlbrad	1.000000

<u>TRACT D:</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Working Interest %</u>
	Atlantic Richfield Company	59.929363
	Nadel and Gussman Permian, L.L.C.	15.000000
	Sutherland Family, L.L.C., a Texas Limited Liability Co.	5.209275
	D & D Partnership, a California partnership	4.000000
	Randy Hall d/b/a Pogar Petroleum	3.714870
	Jack Britain	2.604637
	David J. Andrews	2.000000
	Dennis Corkran	2.000000
	Cannon Exploration Company	2.000000
	Doralex Energy, Inc.	2.000000
	George W. Knox	1.041855
	Scott E. Meuhlbrad	.500000

III. OIL & GAS LEASES SUBJECT TO THIS AGREEMENT:

- (A) Federal Oil & Gas Lease No. NM-25336, dated 6/1/75, covering E/2 NW/4, SW/4 NW/4 & S/2 of Section 23; NE/4, W/2, E/2 SE/4 & SW/4 SE/4 of Section 26 and E/2 of Section 35, T-20-S, R-21-E, Eddy Co., New Mexico.
- (B) Oil & Gas Lease, dated 7/29/97 from B. B. Armstrong et al and Oil & Gas Lease, dated 7/29/97 from Bill B. Armstrong et al covering NW/4 SE/4 of Section 26, T-20-S, R-21-E, Eddy Co., New Mexico.
- (C) New Mexico State Oil & Gas Lease No. VA-1541, dated 1/1/97, covering all of Section 36, T-20-S, R-21-E, containing 645.91 acres, more or less, Eddy Co., New Mexico.
- (D) Federal Oil & Gas Lease No. NM NM-93457, dated 9/1/94, covering all of Section 25, T-20-S, R-21-E, containing 650.45 acres, more or less, Eddy Co., New Mexico.

(REVISED EFFECTIVE 2/1/99)

EXHIBIT "A"

III. OIL & GAS LEASES

- (E) Federal Oil & Gas Lease No. NM NM-93460, dated 9/1/94, covering all of Section 19 & 30, T-20-S, R-23-E, containing 1,279.36 acres, more or less, Eddy Co., New Mexico.
- (F) Federal Oil & Gas Lease No. NM NM-93461, dated 9/1/94, covering S/2 of Section 31, T-20-S, R-23-E, containing 319.92 acres, more or less, Eddy Co., New Mexico.

IV. ADDRESSES OF PARTIES

Atlantic Richfield Company
600 N. Marienfeld
Midland, Texas 79702-1510

David J. Andrews
1001 Loop 360
South Building L-Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78746

Richard K. Barr
500 W. Texas-Suite 1220
Midland, Texas 79701

James R. Bartel
5606 Hillcrest
Midland, Texas 79707

Jack Britain
2519 Wooddale Circle
Waco, Texas 76710

Cannon Exploration Company
3608 SCR 1184
Midland, Texas 79706

Dennis Corkran
1001 Loop 360 South
Building L-Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78746

Sid Cowan
1010 South Main Street
P.O. Box 1448
Del Rio, Texas 78841-1448

D & D Partnership
830 East Big Briar Way
Lacanada, California 91011

Doralex Energy, Inc.
3619 South Jackson
San Angelo, Texas 76904-5598

Randy Hall d/b/a Pogar Petroleum
P.O. Box 10095
Midland, Texas 79702

George W. Knox
P.O. Box 7538
Midland, Texas 79708

Scott E. Muehlbrad
3403 Humble
Midland, Texas 79707

Nadel and Gussman Permian, L.L.C.
601 N. Marienfeld-Suite 508
Midland, Texas 79701

Reber-Garrett Associations
4629 State Road
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania 19026

Sutherland Family, L.L.C.
287 Supple Street
Pembroke, Ontario
Canada K8A 3H3

Pat N. Wardlaw
P.O. Box 7792
Waco, Texas 76714-7792

Scott E. Wilson
500 W. Texas-Suite 1220
Midland, Texas 79701

(REVISED EFFECTIVE 2/1/99)

EXHIBIT

" C "

Attached to and made a part of attached to and made a part of that certain Operating Agreement
dated January 1, 1997, between Stevens & Tull, Inc., as Operator, and Non-Operators

ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE
JOINT OPERATIONS

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Definitions

"Joint Property" shall mean the real and personal property subject to the agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached.

"Joint Operations" shall mean all operations necessary or proper for the development, operation, protection and maintenance of the Joint Property.

"Joint Account" shall mean the account showing the charges paid and credits received in the conduct of the Joint Operations and which are to be shared by the Parties.

"Operator" shall mean the party designated to conduct the Joint Operations.

"Non-Operators" shall mean the Parties to this agreement other than the Operator.

"Parties" shall mean Operator and Non-Operators.

"First Level Supervisors" shall mean those employees whose primary function in Joint Operations is the direct supervision of other employees and/or contract labor directly employed on the Joint Property in a field operating capacity.

"Technical Employees" shall mean those employees having special and specific engineering, geological or other professional skills, and whose primary function in Joint Operations is the handling of specific operating conditions and problems for the benefit of the Joint Property.

"Personal Expenses" shall mean travel and other reasonable reimbursable expenses of Operator's employees.

"Material" shall mean personal property, equipment or supplies acquired or held for use on the Joint Property.

"Controllable Material" shall mean Material which at the time is so classified in the Material Classification Manual as most recently recommended by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies.

2. Statement and Billings

Operator shall bill Non-Operators on or before the last day of each month for their proportionate share of the Joint Account for the preceding month. Such bills will be accompanied by statements which identify the authority for expenditure, lease or facility, and all charges and credits summarized by appropriate classifications of investment and expense except that items of Controllable Material and unusual charges and credits shall be separately identified and fully described in detail.

3. Advances and Payments by Non-Operators

A. Unless otherwise provided for in the agreement, the Operator may require the Non-Operators to advance their share of estimated cash outlay for the succeeding month's operation within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the billing or by the first day of the month for which the advance is required, whichever is later. Operator shall adjust each monthly billing to reflect advances received from the Non-Operators.

B. Each Non-Operator shall pay its proportion of all bills within fifteen (15) days after receipt. If payment is not made within such time, the unpaid balance shall bear interest monthly at the prime rate in effect at ~~on the first day of the month in which delinquency occurs plus 1% or the~~ maximum contract rate permitted by the applicable usury laws in the state in which the Joint Property is located, ~~whichever is the lesser,~~ plus attorney's fees, court costs, and other costs in connection with the collection of unpaid amounts.

4. Adjustments

Payment of any such bills shall not prejudice the right of any Non-Operator to protest or question the correctness thereof; provided, however, all bills and statements rendered to Non-Operators by Operator during any calendar year shall conclusively be presumed to be true and correct after twenty-four (24) months following the end of any such calendar year, unless within the said twenty-four (24) month period a Non-Operator takes written exception thereto and makes claim on Operator for adjustment. No adjustment favorable to Operator shall be made unless it is made within the same prescribed period. The provisions of this paragraph shall not prevent adjustments resulting from a physical inventory of Controllable Material as provided for in Section V.

5. Audits

A. A Non-Operator, upon notice in writing to Operator and all other Non-Operators, shall have the right to audit Operator's accounts and records relating to the Joint Account for any calendar year within the twenty-four (24) month period following the end of such calendar year; provided, however, the making of an audit shall not extend the time for the taking of written exception to and the adjustments of accounts as provided for in Paragraph 4 of this Section I. Where there are two or more Non-Operators, the Non-Operators shall make every reasonable effort to conduct a joint audit in a manner which will result in a minimum of inconvenience to the Operator. Operator shall bear no portion of the Non-Operators' audit cost incurred under this paragraph unless agreed to by the Operator. The audits shall not be conducted more than once each year without prior approval of Operator, except upon the resignation or removal of the Operator, and shall be made at the expense of those Non-Operators approving such audit.

B. The Operator shall reply in writing to an audit report within 180 days after receipt of such report.

6. Approval By Non-Operators

Where an approval or other agreement of the Parties or Non-Operators is expressly required under other sections of this Accounting Procedure and if the agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached contains no contrary provisions in regard thereto, Operator shall notify all Non-Operators of the Operator's proposal, and the agreement or approval of a majority in interest of the Non-Operators shall be controlling on all Non-Operators.

II. DIRECT CHARGES

Operator shall charge the Joint Account with the following items:

1. Ecological and Environmental

Costs incurred for the benefit of the Joint Property as a result of governmental or regulatory requirements to satisfy environmental considerations applicable to the Joint Operations. Such costs may include surveys of an ecological or archaeological nature and pollution control procedures as required by applicable laws and regulations.

2. Rentals and Royalties

Lease rentals and royalties paid by Operator for the Joint Operations.

3. Labor

A. (1) Salaries and wages of Operator's field employees directly employed on the Joint Property in the conduct of Joint Operations.

(2) Salaries of First Level Supervisors in the field.

(3) Salaries and wages of Technical Employees directly employed on the Joint Property if such charges are excluded from the overhead rates.

(4) Salaries and wages of Technical Employees either temporarily or permanently assigned to and directly employed in the operation of the Joint Property if such charges are excluded from the overhead rates.

B. Operator's cost of holiday, vacation, sickness and disability benefits and other customary allowances paid to employees whose salaries and wages are chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraph 3A of this Section II. Such costs under this Paragraph 3B may be charged on a "when and as paid basis" or by "percentage assessment" on the amount of salaries and wages chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraph 3A of this Section II. If percentage assessment is used, the rate shall be based on the Operator's cost experience.

C. Expenditures or contributions made pursuant to assessments imposed by governmental authority which are applicable to Operator's costs chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraphs 3A and 3B of this Section II.

D. Personal Expenses of those employees whose salaries and wages are chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraph 3A of this Section II.

4. Employee Benefits

Operator's current costs of established plans for employees' group life insurance, hospitalization, pension, retirement, stock purchase, thrift, bonus, and other benefit plans of a like nature, applicable to Operator's labor cost chargeable to the Joint Account under Paragraphs 3A and 3B of this Section II shall be Operator's actual cost not to exceed the percent most recently recommended by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies.

1 5. Material

2
3 Material purchased or furnished by Operator for use on the Joint Property as provided under Section IV. Only such
4 Material shall be purchased for or transferred to the Joint Property as may be required for immediate use and is
5 reasonably practical and consistent with efficient and economical operations. The accumulation of surplus stocks shall be
6 avoided.

7
8 6. Transportation

9
10 Transportation of employees and Material necessary for the Joint Operations but subject to the following limitations:

- 11
12 A. If Material is moved to the Joint Property from the Operator's warehouse or other properties, no charge shall be
13 made to the Joint Account for a distance greater than the distance from the nearest reliable supply store where like
14 material is normally available or railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property unless agreed to by the Parties.
15
16 B. If surplus Material is moved to Operator's warehouse or other storage point, no charge shall be made to the Joint
17 Account for a distance greater than the distance to the nearest reliable supply store where like material is normally
18 available, or railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property unless agreed to by the Parties. No charge shall be
19 made to the Joint Account for moving Material to other properties belonging to Operator, unless agreed to by the
20 Parties.
21
22 C. In the application of subparagraphs A and B above, the option to equalize or charge actual trucking cost is
23 available when the actual charge is \$400 or less excluding accessorial charges. The \$400 will be adjusted to the
24 amount most recently recommended by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies.
25

26 7. Services

27
28 The cost of contract services, equipment and utilities provided by outside sources, except services excluded by Paragraph
29 10 of Section II and Paragraph i, ii, and iii, of Section III. The cost of professional consultant services and contract
30 services of technical personnel directly engaged on the Joint Property if such charges are excluded from the overhead
31 rates. The cost of professional consultant services or contract services of technical personnel not directly engaged on the
32 Joint Property shall not be charged to the Joint Account unless previously agreed to by the Parties.
33

34 8. Equipment and Facilities Furnished By Operator

- 35
36 A. Operator shall charge the Joint Account for use of Operator owned equipment and facilities at rates commensurate
37 with costs of ownership and operation. Such rates shall include costs of maintenance, repairs, other operating
38 expense, insurance, taxes, depreciation, and interest on gross investment less accumulated depreciation not to
39 exceed twelve percent (12.00 %) per annum. Such rates shall not exceed average commercial
40 rates currently prevailing in the immediate area of the Joint Property.
41
42 B. In lieu of charges in paragraph 8A above, Operator may elect to use average commercial rates prevailing in the
43 immediate area of the Joint Property less 20%. For automotive equipment, Operator may elect to use rates
44 published by the Petroleum Motor Transport Association.
45

46 9. Damages and Losses to Joint Property

47
48 All costs or expenses necessary for the repair or replacement of Joint Property made necessary because of damages or
49 losses incurred by fire, flood, storm, theft, accident, or other cause, except those resulting from Operator's gross
50 negligence or willful misconduct. Operator shall furnish Non-Operator written notice of damages or losses incurred as
51 soon as practicable after a report thereof has been received by Operator.
52

53 10. Legal Expense

54
55 Expense of handling, investigating and settling litigation or claims, discharging of liens, payment of judgements and
56 amounts paid for settlement of claims incurred in or resulting from operations under the agreement or necessary to
57 protect or recover the Joint Property, except that no charge for services of Operator's legal staff or fees or expense of
58 outside attorneys shall be made unless previously agreed to by the Parties. All other legal expense is considered to be
59 covered by the overhead provisions of Section III unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, except as provided in Section
60 I, Paragraph 3.
61

62 11. Taxes

63
64 All taxes of every kind and nature assessed or levied upon or in connection with the Joint Property, the operation thereof,
65 or the production therefrom, and which taxes have been paid by the Operator for the benefit of the Parties. If the ad
66 valorem taxes are based in whole or in part upon separate valuations of each party's working interest, then
67 notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, charges to the Joint Account shall be made and paid by the Parties
68 hereto in accordance with the tax value generated by each party's working interest.
69
70

12. 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.

13. Abandonment and Reclamation

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

14. 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.

15. 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

1. 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:

(XX) 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~~
(XX) 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~~
(XX) 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 \$ 4,300.00
(Prorated for less than a full month)

Producing Well Rate \$ 450.00

- (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

is later, except that no charge shall be made during suspension of drilling or completion operations for fifteen (15) or more consecutive calendar days.

- (2) Charges for wells undergoing any type of workover or recompletion for a period of five (5) consecutive work days or more shall be made at the drilling well rate. Such charges shall be applied for the period from date workover operations, with rig or other units used in workover, commence through date of rig or other unit release, except that no charge shall be made during suspension of operations for fifteen (15) or more consecutive calendar days.

(b) Producing Well Rates

- (1) An active well either produced or injected into for any portion of the month shall be considered as a one-well charge for the entire month.
- (2) Each active completion in a multi-completed well in which production is not commingled down hole shall be considered as a one-well charge providing each completion is considered a separate well by the governing regulatory authority.
- (3) An inactive gas well shut in because of overproduction or failure of purchaser to take the production shall be considered as a one-well charge providing the gas well is directly connected to a permanent sales outlet.
- (4) A one-well charge shall be made for the month in which plugging and abandonment operations are completed on any well. This one-well charge shall be made whether or not the well has produced except when drilling well rate applies.
- (5) All other inactive wells (including but not limited to inactive wells covered by unit allowable, lease allowable, transferred allowable, etc.) shall not qualify for an overhead charge.
- (3) The well rates shall be adjusted as of the first day of April each year following the effective date of the agreement to which this Accounting Procedure is attached. The adjustment shall be computed by multiplying the rate currently in use by the percentage increase or decrease in the average weekly earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers for the last calendar year compared to the calendar year preceding as shown by the index of average weekly earnings of Crude Petroleum and Gas Production Workers as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or the equivalent Canadian index as published by Statistics Canada, as applicable. The adjusted rates shall be the rates currently in use, plus or minus the computed adjustment.

~~B. Overhead - Percentage Basis~~

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

(a) Development

_____ Percent (_____ %) of the cost of development of the Joint Property exclusive of costs provided under Paragraph 10 of Section II and all salvage credits.

(b) Operating

_____ Percent (_____ %) of the cost of operating the Joint Property exclusive of costs provided under Paragraphs 2 and 10 of Section II, all salvage credits, the value of injected substances purchased for secondary recovery and all taxes and assessments which are levied, assessed and paid upon the mineral interest in and to the Joint Property.

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

For the purpose of determining charges on a percentage basis under Paragraph 1B of this Section III, development shall include all costs in connection with drilling, redrilling, deepening, or any remedial operations on any or all wells involving the use of drilling rig and crew capable of drilling to the producing interval on the Joint Property; also, preliminary expenditures necessary in preparation for drilling and expenditures incurred in abandoning when the well is not completed as a producer, and original cost of construction or installation of fixed assets, the expansion of fixed assets and any other project clearly discernible as a fixed asset, except Major Construction as defined in Paragraph 2 of this Section III. All other costs shall be considered as operating.

2. Overhead - Major Construction

To compensate Operator for overhead costs incurred in the construction and installation of fixed assets, the expansion of fixed assets, and any other project clearly discernible as a fixed asset required for the development and operation of the Joint Property, Operator shall either negotiate a rate prior to the beginning of construction, or shall charge the Joint

~~Account for overhead based on the following rates for any Major Construction project in excess of \$~~

- A. _____ % of first \$100,000 or total cost if less, plus
B. _____ % of costs in excess of \$100,000 but less than \$1,000,000, plus
C. _____ % of costs in excess of \$1,000,000.

Total cost shall mean the gross cost of any one project. For the purpose of this paragraph, the component parts of a single project shall not be treated separately and the cost of drilling and workover wells and artificial lift equipment shall be excluded.

3. Catastrophe Overhead

To compensate Operator for overhead costs incurred in the event of expenditures resulting from a single occurrence due to oil spill, blowout, explosion, fire, storm, hurricane, or other catastrophes as agreed to by the Parties, which are necessary to restore the Joint Property to the equivalent condition that existed prior to the event causing the expenditures, Operator shall ~~either negotiate a rate prior to charging the Joint Account or shall charge the Joint Account for overhead based on the following rates:~~

- A. _____ % of total costs through \$100,000, plus
B. _____ % of total costs in excess of \$100,000 but less than \$1,000,000, plus
C. _____ % of total costs in excess of \$1,000,000.

Expenditures subject to the overheads above will not be reduced by insurance recoveries, and no other overhead provisions of this Section III shall apply.

4. Amendment of Rates

The overhead rates provided for in this Section III may be amended from time to time only by mutual agreement between the Parties hereto if, in practice, the rates are found to be insufficient or excessive.

IV. PRICING OF JOINT ACCOUNT MATERIAL PURCHASES, TRANSFERS AND DISPOSITIONS

Operator is responsible for Joint Account Material and shall make proper and timely charges and credits for all Material movements affecting the Joint Property. Operator shall provide all Material for use on the Joint Property; however, at Operator's option, such Material may be supplied by the Non-Operator. Operator shall make timely disposition of idle and/or surplus Material, such disposal being made either through sale to Operator or Non-Operator, division in kind, or sale to outsiders. Operator may purchase, but shall be under no obligation to purchase, interest of Non-Operators in surplus condition A or B Material. The disposal of surplus Controllable Material not purchased by the Operator shall be agreed to by the Parties.

1. Purchases

Material purchased shall be charged at the price paid by Operator after deduction of all discounts received. In case of Material found to be defective or returned to vendor for any other reasons, credit shall be passed to the Joint Account when adjustment has been received by the Operator.

2. Transfers and Dispositions

Material furnished to the Joint Property and Material transferred from the Joint Property or disposed of by the Operator, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties, shall be priced on the following basis exclusive of cash discounts:

A. New Material (Condition A)

(1) Tubular Goods Other than Line Pipe

- (a) Tubular goods, sized 2 3/8 inches OD and larger, except line pipe, shall be priced at Eastern mill published carload base prices effective as of date of movement plus transportation cost using the 80,000 pound carload weight basis to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property for which published rail rates for tubular goods exist. If the 80,000 pound rail rate is not offered, the 70,000 pound or 90,000 pound rail rate may be used. Freight charges for tubing will be calculated from Lorain, Ohio and casing from Youngstown, Ohio.

- (b) For grades which are special to one mill only, prices shall be computed at the mill base of that mill plus transportation cost from that mill to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property as provided above in Paragraph 2.A.(1)(a). For transportation cost from points other than Eastern mills, the 30,000

1 pound Oil Field Haulers Association interstate truck rate shall be used.

2
3 (c) Special end finish tubular goods shall be priced at the lowest published out-of-stock price, f.o.b. Houston,
4 Texas, plus transportation cost, using Oil Field Haulers Association interstate 30,000 pound truck rate,
5 to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property.

6
7 (d) Macaroni tubing (size less than 2 3/4 inch OD) shall be priced at the lowest published out-of-stock prices
8 f.o.b. the supplier plus transportation costs, using the Oil Field Haulers Association interstate truck rate
9 per weight of tubing transferred, to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property.

10
11 (2) Line Pipe

12
13 (a) Line pipe movements (except size 24 inch OD and larger with walls 3/4 inch and over) 30,000 pounds or
14 more shall be priced under provisions of tubular goods pricing in Paragraph A.(1)(a) as provided above.
15 Freight charges shall be calculated from Lorain, Ohio.

16
17 (b) Line pipe movements (except size 24 inch OD and larger with walls 3/4 inch and over) less than 30,000
18 pounds shall be priced at Eastern mill published carload base prices effective as of date of shipment,
19 plus 20 percent, plus transportation costs based on freight rates as set forth under provisions of tubular
20 goods pricing in Paragraph A.(1)(a) as provided above. Freight charges shall be calculated from Lorain,
21 Ohio.

22
23 (c) Line pipe 24 inch OD and over and 3/4 inch wall and larger shall be priced f.o.b. the point of
24 manufacture at current new published prices plus transportation cost to the railway receiving point
25 nearest the Joint Property.

26
27 (d) Line pipe, including fabricated line pipe, drive pipe and conduit not listed on published price lists shall
28 be priced at quoted prices plus freight to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property or at
29 prices agreed to by the Parties.

30
31 (3) Other Material shall be priced at the current new price, in effect at date of movement, as listed by a reliable
32 supply store nearest the Joint Property, or point of manufacture, plus transportation costs, if applicable, to the
33 railway receiving point nearest the Joint Property.

34
35 (4) Unused new Material, except tubular goods, moved from the Joint Property shall be priced at the current
36 new price, in effect on date of movement, as listed by a reliable supply store nearest the Joint Property, or
37 point of manufacture, plus transportation costs, if applicable, to the railway receiving point nearest the Joint
38 Property. Unused new tubulars will be priced as provided above in Paragraph 2.A.(1) and (2).

39
40 B. Good Used Material (Condition B)

41
42 Material in sound and serviceable condition and suitable for reuse without reconditioning:

43
44 (1) Material moved to the Joint Property

45
46 At seventy-five percent (75%) of current new price, as determined by Paragraph A.

47
48 (2) Material used on and moved from the Joint Property

49
50 (a) At seventy-five percent (75%) of current new price, as determined by Paragraph A, if Material was
51 originally charged to the Joint Account as new Material or

52
53 (b) At sixty-five percent (65%) of current new price, as determined by Paragraph A, if Material was
54 originally charged to the Joint Account as used Material.

55
56 (3) Material not used on and moved from the Joint Property

57
58 At seventy-five percent (75%) of current new price as determined by Paragraph A.

59
60 The cost of reconditioning, if any, shall be absorbed by the transferring property.

61
62 C. Other Used Material

63
64 (1) Condition C

65
66 Material which is not in sound and serviceable condition and not suitable for its original function until
67 after reconditioning shall be priced at fifty percent (50%) of current new price as determined by
68 Paragraph A. The cost of reconditioning shall be charged to the receiving property, provided Condition
69 C value plus cost of reconditioning does not exceed Condition B value.

(2) Condition D

Material, excluding junk, no longer suitable for its original purpose, but usable for some other purpose shall be priced on a basis commensurate with its use. Operator may dispose of Condition D Material under procedures normally used by Operator without prior approval of Non-Operators.

(a) Casing, tubing, or drill pipe used as line pipe shall be priced as Grade A and B seamless line pipe of comparable size and weight. Used casing, tubing or drill pipe utilized as line pipe shall be priced at used line pipe prices.

(b) Casing, tubing or drill pipe used as higher pressure service lines than standard line pipe, e.g. power oil lines, shall be priced under normal pricing procedures for casing, tubing, or drill pipe. Upset tubular goods shall be priced on a non upset basis.

(3) Condition E

Junk shall be priced at prevailing prices. Operator may dispose of Condition E Material under procedures normally utilized by Operator without prior approval of Non-Operators.

D. Obsolete Material

Material which is serviceable and usable for its original function but condition and/or value of such Material is not equivalent to that which would justify a price as provided above may be specially priced as agreed to by the Parties. Such price should result in the Joint Account being charged with the value of the service rendered by such Material.

E. Pricing Conditions

(1) Loading or unloading costs may be charged to the Joint Account at the rate of twenty-five cents (25¢) per hundred weight on all tubular goods movements, in lieu of actual loading or unloading costs sustained at the stocking point. The above rate shall be adjusted as of the first day of April each year following January 1, 1985 by the same percentage increase or decrease used to adjust overhead rates in Section III, Paragraph 1.A.(3). Each year, the rate calculated shall be rounded to the nearest cent and shall be the rate in effect until the first day of April next year. Such rate shall be published each year by the Council of Petroleum Accountants Societies.

(2) Material involving erection costs shall be charged at applicable percentage of the current knocked-down price of new Material.

3. Premium Prices

Whenever Material is not readily obtainable at published or listed prices because of national emergencies, strikes or other unusual causes over which the Operator has no control, the Operator may charge the Joint Account for the required Material at the Operator's actual cost incurred in providing such Material, in making it suitable for use, and in moving it to the Joint Property; provided notice in writing is furnished to Non-Operators of the proposed charge prior to billing Non-Operators for such Material. Each Non-Operator shall have the right, by so electing and notifying Operator within ten days after receiving notice from Operator, to furnish in kind all or part of his share of such Material suitable for use and acceptable to Operator.

4. Warranty of Material Furnished By Operator

Operator does not warrant the Material furnished. In case of defective Material, credit shall not be passed to the Joint Account until adjustment has been received by Operator from the manufacturers or their agents.

V. INVENTORIES

The Operator shall maintain detailed records of Controllable Material.

1. Periodic Inventories, Notice and Representation

At reasonable intervals, inventories shall be taken by Operator of the Joint Account Controllable Material. Written notice of intention to take inventory shall be given by Operator at least thirty (30) days before any inventory is to begin so that Non-Operators may be represented when any inventory is taken. Failure of Non-Operators to be represented at an inventory shall bind Non-Operators to accept the inventory taken by Operator.

2. Reconciliation and Adjustment of Inventories

Adjustments to the Joint Account resulting from the reconciliation of a physical inventory shall be made within six months following the taking of the inventory. Inventory adjustments shall be made by Operator to the Joint Account for

overages and shortages, but, Operator shall be held accountable only for shortages due to lack of reasonable diligence.

3. Special Inventories

Special inventories may be taken whenever there is any sale, change of interest, or change of Operator in the Joint Property. It shall be the duty of the party selling to notify all other Parties as quickly as possible after the transfer of interest takes place. In such cases, both the seller and the purchaser shall be governed by such inventory. In cases involving a change of Operator, all Parties shall be governed by such inventory.

4. Expense of Conducting Inventories

- A. The expense of conducting periodic inventories shall not be charged to the Joint Account unless agreed to by the Parties.
- B. The expense of conducting special inventories shall be charged to the Parties requesting such inventories, except inventories required due to change of Operator shall be charged to the Joint Account.

EXHIBIT "D"

ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THAT CERTAIN JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT
DATED January 1, 1997, BETWEEN STEVENS & TULL, INC., AS
OPERATOR, AND NON-OPERATORS.

COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

BODILY INJURY & PROPERTY DAMAGE: \$500,000.00 EACH OCCURRENCE
(Minimum Limits) \$500,000.00 AGGREGATE

AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE
FOR OWNED AND NON-OWNED VEHICLES

BODILY INJURY & PROPERTY DAMAGE: \$500,000.00 COMBINED SINGLE
LIMIT

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

STATUTORY LIMITS

ALL POLICIES SHALL CONTAIN THE EXCLUSIONS OPERATOR DEEMS APPROPRIATE,
AND ALL PARTIES SHALL BE BOUND BY SUCH EXCLUSIONS. OPERATOR IS NOT
REQUIRED TO CARRY BLOWOUT OR WELL CONTROL INSURANCE FOR THE JOINT
ACCOUNT, BUT MAY PURCHASE SAME FROM TIME TO TIME.

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EXHIBIT "E"

ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THAT CERTAIN OPERATING AGREEMENT DATED January 1, 1997
BETWEEN Stevens & Tull, Inc., AS OPERATOR, AND NON-OPERATORS.

GAS BALANCING AGREEMENT

I. Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement, the terms set forth below shall be defined as follows:

- a. "Operator" is the Operator so designated under the terms of the Operating Agreement.
- b. "Party" or "Parties" are the entities which have executed this Agreement and have an ownership working interest in the Gas rights underlying the area covered by the Operating Agreement.
- c. "Gas" includes casinghead Gas (which is all Gas produced with crude oil) and natural Gas from Gas wells, but shall not include liquid hydrocarbons recovered by lease equipment.
- d. "Balance" is the condition occurring when a Party has utilized or sold the same percentage of the cumulative Gas production from a particular Well (exclusion of gas used in lease operations, vented or lost) as such Party's Percentage Ownership (as described in Paragraph II below).
- e. "Overproduced" is the condition occurring when a Party has utilized or sold a greater volume of Gas from a particular Well at any give time (individually or through its Gas purchaser) than if such Party were in Balance.
- f. "Underproduced" is the condition occurring when a Party has utilized or sold a lesser volume of Gas from a particular Well at any given time (individually or through its Gas purchaser) than if such Party were in Balance.
- g. "Well" is defined as each Well subject to the Operating Agreement that also produces Gas or is allocated a share of Gas production. If a single Well is completed in two or more reservoirs, such Well will be considered a separate Well with respect to, but only to, each reservoir from which the Gas production is not commingled in the wellbore. If this Agreement covers a fieldwide unit, "Well" for the purpose of this Agreement shall refer to gas production from the unit separately accounted for by NGPA category. If this Agreement covers a property (other than a fieldwide unit) having casinghead Gas production that is not taken or marketed by each Party in volumes proportionate to each Party's percentage ownership in the property, and if the property is in a State where the applicable State regulatory body does not require reporting of casinghead Gas production on an individual well level, "Well" for the purposes of this Agreement shall refer to the smallest area from which production is required to be reported by Operator to said regulatory authority.

II. Percentage of Ownership of Parties

The Parties to the Operating Agreement own the working interest in the Gas rights underlying the area covered by the Operating Agreement in accordance with the percentages or shares of participation ("Percentage Ownership") as set forth in the Operating Agreement.

III. Right to Produce and Market Gas; Effective Date of this Agreement

In accordance with the terms of the Operating Agreement, each Party thereto has specific rights relating to the taking and disposition of Gas produced, including the right to take in kind its share of Gas produced from the applicable area and to market or otherwise dispose of same. In the event any Party is not at any time taking or marketing its share of Gas, or has contracted to sell its share thereof to a purchaser which does not at any time while said Operating Agreement is in effect take the full share of Gas attributable to the Percentage Ownership of such contracting Party, then the terms of this Agreement shall automatically become effective. If an Operating Agreement is already in place, the effective date shall be the date of first Gas sale(s) by any Party from any Well(s) in the applicable area.

IV. Overproduction

During any period when any Party hereto is not making or otherwise disposing of or utilizing its Percentage Ownership of Gas produced from any Well within the applicable area, the other Parties hereto shall be entitled to produce, in addition to their own Percentage Ownership of production, that portion of such other Party's Percentage Ownership of production which said Party is not marketing or otherwise disposing of and shall be entitled to take such Gas production and deliver same to its or their purchaser(s) in accordance with Paragraph VI below; however, cumulative production by an Overproduced Party shall not exceed such Overproduction Party's Percentage Ownership of the recoverable reserves of the Well unless approved by respective Ownership Interest. All the Parties shall share in and own the liquid hydrocarbons recovered from such Gas by lease equipment in accordance with their respective Percentage Ownership and subject to the Operating Agreement to which this Agreement is attached, but the Party or Parties taking such Gas shall own all of the Gas delivered to its or their Gas purchaser(s) or taken for their own use subject to the terms of this Agreement.

V. Accounting for Overproduction and Underproduction

Each Party taking Gas shall furnish or cause to be furnished to the Operator a monthly statement of all Gas volumes taken from each Well and the disposition of those volumes (contract purchase, spot sales, own use, other and the price received therefore). In the event any party fails to provide such information as required hereunder, Operator shall notify the party of such failure. If the information is not provided within fifteen (15) days of notice, Operator may curtail further delivery of gas to such party's purchaser until the required information is received by the Operator. Based upon the information so provided the Operator will establish and maintain currently a Gas account to show the Gas balance which exists between/among all the parties and will furnish each of these parties a monthly statement showing the total quantity of Gas produced and sold, the quantity taken by any Party for its own use, the quantity of gas delivered by any party to market, the price received for such gas and the monthly and cumulative over and under account of each Party. The monthly statement shall clearly and accurately specify the monthly and cumulative quantity of Gas each party is Underproduced or Overproduced, or shall clearly and accurately specify if any party is in Balance.

VI. Right of Underproduced Party to Balance

- a. Production Balancing. Thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice to Operator, any Underproduced Party shall be entitled to take during any month its full percentage interest share of gas plus a make-up volume equal to its

Cumulative Underproduction, provided that such make-up volume shall never exceed 50% of the total volume or gas which the other parties would otherwise be entitled to take during the month according to their percentage interests. If two or more Underproduced Parties are to make-up Cumulative Underproduction during the same month and the volume available for make-up is inadequate, the volume available for make-up shall be shared by such Underproduced Parties in proportion to their Percentage Ownership Interest. The volume of gas taken by the Underproduced Parties for makeup during the month shall be deducted from the volumes the other parties hereto would otherwise be entitled to take hereunder, subject to the aforementioned 50% limitation, in proportion to the Cumulative Overproduction of such parties. It is agreed that any underproduction credited from time to time against any Overproduced Party shall be applied against such Party's overproduction in the order in which such overproduction occurred.

- b. Periodic Cash Balancing. If at the end of each calendar year this Operating Agreement is in effect, the parties hereto have failed to achieve balance under paragraph (a) above, or upon transfer of interest by an Overproduced party to a non-affiliated entity, then each Underproduced Party, on an individual basis, may elect to effect a periodic balance through a cash settlement (without interest) which shall be coordinated by Operator between Overproduced Parties and Underproduced Parties upon request of an Underproduced Party, which request must be made in writing to the Operator no later than 30 days after the end of such calendar year. As to gas production through December 31, of the calendar year, Operator shall request each Overproduced Party to pay Operator a cash sum equal to (i) the Overproduced Parties' volume of Cumulative Overproduction multiplied by the price per unit volume actually received by the Overproduced Party for such gas (including all components removed other than by lease equipment), minus all applicable taxes and other payments in fact paid on the overproduced volume on behalf of the Underproduced Party(ies) who are cash balancing. If there was no such price per unit volume because the Overproduced Party took such gas for its own purposes instead of selling it, the price used in the above calculation shall be prevailing wellhead price in the field at the time (or closest to the time) such gas was taken by the Overproduced Party. After all Overproduced parties have paid Operator as hereinabove provided, Operator shall distribute the aggregate sum received to the Underproduced Parties in proportion to their Cumulative Underproduction.

VII. Settlement When Production is Permanently Discontinued

When production from a well is permanently discontinued, the Operator will furnish to all the Parties: (1) notice that production from the Well is permanently discontinued, and (2) a final statement showing the Gas balance which exists between/among all the Parties, and there shall be a cash settlement between/among the Parties hereto for the volume of Gas, if any, remaining imbalance. In making such cash settlement, each Overproduced Party shall remit to the Operator, within ninety (90) days after the receipt from Operator of: (1) notice that production from a Well is permanently discontinued and (2) the final Gas balance statement for the well, a sum of money attributable to the amount actually or constructively received by such Overproduced Party from the sale or utilization of overproduction which remains accrued to such Party, which sum shall equal the Overproduced Parties volume of Cumulative

overproduction multiplied by the price per unit volume actually received by the Overproduced Party for such gas (including all components removed other than by lease equipment), minus all applicable taxes and other payments in fact paid on the overproduced volume on behalf of the Underproduced Party(ies). If there was no such price per unit volume because the Overproduced Party took such gas for its own purposes instead of selling in the price used in the above calculation shall be the prevailing wellhead price in the field at the time (or closest to the time) such gas was taken by the Overproduced Party.

The Operator shall distribute within thirty (30) days after the end of the above referenced ninety (90) day remittance period of the total of such amounts so collected during said remittance period among Underproduced Parties in the proportion of such latter Parties' underproduction. Furthermore, the Operator shall distribute any additional remittance collected from overproduced Parties subsequent to the end of the ninety (90) day remittance period among Underproduced Parties in the proportion of such latter Parties underproduction within thirty (30) days after receipt by Operator of such remittance. If remittance by an Overproduced Party or distribution with a cash settlement for the volume of Gas, if any, remaining imbalance is not made within the time limits specified in this paragraph, the unpaid or undistributed balance will bear interest monthly at the prime rate in effect on the first day of the month in which delinquency occurs plus 1%, or the maximum contract rate permitted by the applicable usury laws in the state in which the Well is located, whichever is the lesser, plus attorney's fees, court costs and other costs in connection with the collection of unpaid or undistributed amounts. It is recognized that there may have been some changes in the price received by Overproduced Parties for overproduction sold or otherwise utilized. It is therefore agreed that any underproduction credited from time to time against any Overproduced Party shall be applied against such Party's overproduction in the order in which such overproduction occurred. The "amount actually or constructively received" shall then be that overproduction remaining following application of the above rule and valued at the price in effect at the time such overproduction occurred. If a portion of a Party's Gas is taken for its own use and a portion thereof is sold, the Gas value for accounting between/among the Parties will be based on the price received simultaneously by such Party for Gas sold from the Well. During periods in which a Party is taking Gas for its own use and making no sales, Gas so taken will be valued at the maximum price which such Party could have received for such Gas if actually delivered under such Party's contract or if none, the weighted average price received simultaneously by all other Parties for Gas sold from all wells. In either such instance, the value so determined for Gas so used will be deemed to have been constructively received by such using Party. In the event refunds are later required by any governmental authority, each Party shall be accountable for such refunds on the basis of its share of Gas produced and finally balances hereunder.

VIII. Audits

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this or any other Agreement, any Underproduced Party shall have the right for a period of two (2) years after the date that Gas accounts are settled, to audit an Overproduced Party's records as to volumes and prices received for Gas produced from the applicable area, and any Overproduced Party shall have the right for a period of two (2) years after the Gas accounts are settled, to audit any Underproduced Party's records as to volumes.

IX. Payment of Royalties; Indemnity for Royalty Settlements

Unless otherwise provided in the Operating Agreement (or

otherwise required in lease agreements), each Party taking or disposing of gas shall pay all royalty due on such gas and will cause settlement to be made with the royalty owners to whom said Party is accountable, just as if each Party were taking, delivering to a purchaser or otherwise disposing of its share, and its share only, of such Gas production exclusive of gas used in lease operations, vented or lost. Each Party agrees to indemnify and hold each and every other Party harmless from any and all claims for royalty payments asserted by royalty owners to whom each indemnifying Party is accountable. The term "royalty owner" shall include owners of standard royalties, excess royalties, overriding royalties, production payments and similar interests. Further, in the event any party loses title to its leasehold interest subject to this agreement by virtue of failure to properly pay royalty owners, said loss shall be deemed to be an individual loss pursuant to Article IV B(2) and AAPL Form 610-1982 Model Form Operating Agreement.

X. Payments of Production Taxes

Unless otherwise provided in the Operating Agreement (or otherwise required in lease agreements), each Party producing, taking and delivering to its Gas purchaser or otherwise disposing of Gas, shall pay or cause to be paid any and all production taxes due on such Gas.

XI. Deliverability Tests

Nothing herein contained shall be construed as denying any Party the right, from the time to time, and with at least thirty (30) days written notice to Operator, subject to the concurrence of all Gas purchasers, to produce and take or deliver to its purchaser its full share of the allowable Gas production to meet the deliverability tests required by its Gas purchaser.

XII. Costs and Expenses

Regardless of the volume of gas actually taken by any party hereto, each party shall bear costs and expenses as otherwise provided in this Operating Agreement.

XIII. Other Minerals

Regardless of the volume of gas actually taken by any party hereto, each such party shall share in the production of crude oil, condensate and other minerals separated from the gas in normal lease facilities, as otherwise provided in this Operating Agreement.

XIV. Scope and Term of Agreement

This Agreement shall constitute a separate agreement as to each well, or if production from more than one well is measured through a single meter, then as to each meter within the applicable area of the Operating Agreement. It shall insure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Parties hereto, their successors, legal representatives and assigns. It shall become effective in accordance with its terms and shall remain in force and effect as long as the Operating Agreement to which it is attached remains in effect or until all Gas imbalances within the Operating Agreement's contract area are settled, whichever date is later. This Agreement shall be binding on all Parties who approve it, regardless of whether it is approved by any of the other Parties. Operator shall have no liability to Non-Operator for its performance or non-performance hereunder absent gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Operator.