1	STATE OIL AND GAS BOARD OF ALABAMA
2	Tuscaloosa, Alabama
3	May 10, 2012
4	Testimony and proceedings before the State Oil and
5	Gas Board in Regular Session in the Board Room of the
6	State Oil and Gas Board Building, University of Alabama
7	Campus, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, pursuant to adjournment, on
8 .	this 10th day of May, 2012.
9	BOARD
10	Mr. James "Jim" GriggsChairman
11	Mr. Charles "Ward" PearsonMember
12	Mr. Barnett LawleyMember
13	ODICINIAL
13 14	STAFF ORIGINAL
	Dr. Berry H. (Nick) Tew, JrSecretary and
14	Dr. Berry H. (Nick) Tew, JrSecretary and
14	Dr. Berry H. (Nick) Tew, JrSecretary and MR
14 15 16	Dr. Berry H. (Nick) Tew, JrSecretary and MR Supervisor
14 15 16 17	Dr. Berry H. (Nick) Tew, JrSecretary and MR Supervisor Dr. David E. BolinDeputy Director
14 15 16 17 18	Dr. Berry H. (Nick) Tew, JrSecretary and Supervisor Dr. David E. BolinDeputy Director Mr. Kirk A. McQuillanGeologic Evaluations Manager
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1	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Let the record reflect the
2	State Oil and Gas Board is now in session. Dr. Tew, have
3	the items for this meeting been properly noticed?
4	DR. TEW: Chairman Griggs, Mr. Pearson,
5	Mr. Lawley, the items have been properly noticed. The Staff
6	prepared a docket for the Board's May 8 and May 10, 2012
7	meeting, and that docket was admitted into the record at the
8	Hearing Officer meeting on May 8, 2012.
9	Mr. Marvin Rogers, acting as Hearing Officer,
10	and the Staff heard various items at the Hearing Officer
11	meeting on May the 8th, and at this time Mr. Rogers will
12	make his report to the Board.
13	MR. ROGERS: Chairman Griggs, Mr. Pearson and
14	Mr. Lawley, I have a written report of the items heard by
15	the Hearing Officer and the Staff on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.
16	Copies of that report are available for members of the
17	public to review and study. I submit this Hearing Officer
18	report to the Board for approval.
19	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Is there a motion?
20	MR. PEARSON: Yes. I move that we approve the
21	Hearing Officer report and the recommendations therein.
22	MR. LAWLEY: Second.
23	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Got a motion and a second.
24	All in favor, say "aye."
25	MR. PEARSON: Aye.

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1	MR. LAWLEY: Aye.
2	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Ayes have it. The Hearing
3	Officer report is approved and the recommendations therein
4	are approved.
5	MR. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman, I recommend the
6	Hearing Officer report be admitted into the record.
7	(Whereupon, Hearing Officer report was
8	offered into evidence.)
9	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: It is admitted.
10	(Whereupon, Hearing Officer report was
11	received into evidence.)
12	DR. TEW: The Staff would recommend approval of
13	the minutes of the following meetings: February 7, 2012,
14	Hearing Officer meeting; February the 9th, 2012, a regular
15	Board meeting; March 27th, 2012, a Hearing Officer meeting.
16	MR. LAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would move that the
17	minutes be approved.
18	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: I have a motion and a second.
19	All in favor say "aye."
20	MR. PEARSON: Aye.
21	MR. LAWLEY: Aye.
22	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Ayes have it. They are
23	approved.
24	DR. TEW: The Staff has prepared an agenda of
25	the items to be heard by the Board today. And at this time,

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1	Mr. Rogers, would you please call the first item?
2	MR. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Board,
3	the first three items are related. They are Item 7, Docket
4	No. 3-27-12-18A, petition by Ankor E&P Holdings Corporation;
5	Item 8, Docket No. 3-27-12-19, petition by Ankor E&P
6	Holdings Corporation; and number 9, Docket No. 3-27-12-20,
7	petition by Ankor E&P Holdings Corporation.
8	MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I move that these
9	three items be continued.
10	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: I have a motion to continue
11	these items.
12	MR. LAWLEY: Second.
13	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Motion and a second. All in
14	favor say "aye."
15	MR. PEARSON: Aye.
16	MR. LAWLEY: Aye.
17	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Ayes have it. The items will
18	be continued to the June Oil and Gas Board meeting which
19	will be held in South Alabama.
20	MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next
21	item is Item 12, Docket No. 5-08-12-02, petition by Escambia
22	Operating Company, LLC.
23	MR. WATSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm Tom Watson
24	representing Escambia Operating Company, LLC. This matter
25	comes to you on the publication notice.
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1	(Passing out documents.)
2	Mr. Chairman, back when Escambia Operating came
3	into Alabama buying out Vintage Petroleum's operation and
4	Flomaton BEC and Fanny Church, this Board, because of a lack
5	of knowledge of Escambia Operating Company, required them to
6	post a \$2.5 million performance bond for their operations,
7	not only in Escambia County, but Big Escambia Creek,
8	Flomaton, Fanny Church, West Appleton, Northwest Smith
9	Church, South Burnt Corn Creek, all in Escambia County and
10	North Choctaw Ridge Field in Choctaw County.
11	That bond was posted and periodically over at
12	the end of each year, we have renewed that or the Board
13	has renewed that bond and we have agreed that that was
14	acceptable to the company.
15	I come today with a petition asking you to
16	consider reducing the amount of that bond from \$2.5 million,
17	and my suggested sum is \$1 million bond. That is, of
18	course, within your discretion as to what you do, if you do
19	anything.
20	What I wanted to do this morning, and I filed
21	an amended exhibit here yesterday or not yesterday, but
22	prior to this hearing. And in accordance with the
23	pre-filing requirements, I filed an exhibit that showed the
24	operating costs for Escambia Operating Company for these
25	fields since they took those over in 2006. And each field

1 is delineated and what they have spent, totalling \$85,647,715.00. 2 I was advised after filing this that there is a 3 replacement AFE for the sulfur recovery unit at Big Escambia 4 Creek. The estimated cost of that sulfur recovery unit is 5 \$20 million, so we are north of \$105 million in investments 6 7 since this company started operations in Alabama. I also, just for the record, would point out to 8 9 you the production characteristics of these plants in 10 Escambia County, and the fact that these investments have been made also indicates that there have been additional 11 12 drilling and additional work in the plants. And though you 13 can incorporate this by reference in the record, I have some 14 production charts for Big Escambia, Flomaton, and Fanny 15 Church that I would like for each of you to look at. Marvin, if it's not marked as an exhibit, you 16 can mark it as an exhibit. 17 As you know, at least these three fields that I 18 19 have referenced in the production curves, Big Escambia, Flomaton, and Fanny Church, are on decline. But operations 20 and part of this \$85 million that is invested has been to 21 try to extend the life of these fields, which otherwise may 22 23 have had a projected shorter life than we think they do now 24 because of the improvements that Escambia Operating Company has made in these -- in all the fields, but particularly in 25

these three	

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And you can see from these production curves that we have had some downtime due to plant turnarounds and other things, but the fields, though they are in decline, are still producing and still making profit for the company and for the royalty owners that participate in all of these fields.

Now, every operator will tell you that in the 8 9 old days we could buy bonds for posting a premium, paying a 10 premium annually with a good balance sheet. Today, you have 11 to post, in most cases, the capital equal to the amount of 12 the bond. That is \$2.5 million in this case. I think that 13 over the -- since 2006 to date, the record is clear that 14 this company is a responsible operating company. They 15 continue to do business in the state. There is -- knowing that this new \$20 million they are making at BEC on the 16 sulfur recovery unit, they intend to continue to operate in 17 the state, and I would certainly ask the Board in your 18 wisdom to review this bond and see if this is a just bond 19 for these folks to operate under. 20 They, to my knowledge, and the record would be 21 more accurate than my knowledge, they have not been before 22

23 the Board in a show cause hearing, they have complied with 24 your rules and regulations, and that was a big unknown when 25 they came in here in 2006. It was also unknown because you

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1	didn't know where they were going with these field
2	operations to require a bond, and even though you had a \$2.5
3	million bond, that was in no way a sufficient amount if they
4	were to walk away to reclaim everything that they have,
5	wells, operating plants, et cetera.
6	But I think that they have demonstrated that
7	they are prudent operators. When a well needs to be
8	plugged, they plug it. When a plant needs to be revised and
9	updated, they have done that, hence the 85 and now
10	\$105 million investment. So they have shown a good faith
11	effort to develop in this state.
12	I would ask that you send them a message that
13	you accept them as a good operator, they have demonstrated
14	that to you, and the performance bond is certainly an
15	indication of your interest in their operation. But just as
16	sure as you're interested in their operation, they are
17	interested in doing business on a good-business-like-basis
18	in Alabama.
19	So the year is up, it's time to review the
20	bond, and I submit that information to you for your
21	consideration in either continuing the bond or reducing the
22	bond, and I would ask for a reduction. I'll answer any
23	questions you have, Mr. Chairman, but that is all I have.
24	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Dr. Tew, any questions by the
25	Staff?
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1	DR. TEW: No, sir.
2	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Questions by the Board?
3	MR. PEARSON: Mr. Watson, do you know what
4	the I understand about the posting of security equal to
5	the amount of the bond. Do you know what the cost of the
6	bond is?
7	MR. WATSON: In addition to that?
8	MR. PEARSON: Yeah, is it a percent, is it 1 or
9	2 percent?
10	MR. WATSON: Yes, sir, it's in excess it's a
11	5-figure number, I know that. I have heard it, but I can't
12	give it to you as a quote. I didn't have that written down.
13	MR. PEARSON: Thank you.
14	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Mr. Watson, we will admit the
15	revised Exhibit 1 into the record.
16	MR. WATSON: Yes, sir.
17	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: And the exhibit that you
18	the other exhibit, we will call Exhibit 2.
19	MR. WATSON: All right, sir.
20	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: We will admit that into the
21	record. And if before you leave, you will sign that
22	Exhibit 2.
23	MR. WATSON: I will.
24	(Whereupon, (Item 12) Exhibits 1 and 2 were
25	received into evidence.)

1	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Just to be sure we have our
2	record keeping correct. Is there any further discussion,
3	any questions by the Board?
4	MR. LAWLEY: I don't know if this is correct or
5	not, but it's hard for me to make a decision based on
6	unaudited expenses that are just on a cover sheet of paper,
7	there is no income statement, so we don't know what we are
8	taking this operating cost from.
9	MR. WATSON: I can give you their K-1.
10	MR. LAWLEY: Well, certainly the K-1 would be
11	how many LLCs they have, but
12	MR. WATSON: I can give you that.
13	MR. LAWLEY: Okay.
14	MR. WATSON: Mr. Lawley, you were not here in
15	2006, but I think that the real concern, though it may still
16	be shared today, was, you know, a company coming in taking
17	over H2S operations that the State knew nothing about, there
18	was some concern about authorizing them to operate, hence
19	the large bond. And so with all of that being said, I think
20	they have certainly demonstrated that they are a responsible
21	operator and I just ask the question I'm just going to
22	give you and you can introduce this into the record or I
23	will introduce it into the record, the stuff that I printed
24	off the Internet and stuff that they provided to me, but
25	they are a multi-facet company, and I have a flow chart here

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1	that will show you exactly where they stand in connection
2	with multiple companies that are involved in Eagle Rock, if
3	that will be of help to you.
4	MR. LAWLEY: Well, I am just saying we are
5	comparing we don't have anything to compare this to.
6	MR. WATSON: I understand.
7	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Let us introduce that as
8	Exhibit 3, Mr. Watson.
9	MR. WATSON: All right. That is the flow chart
10	of all the organizations.
11	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Okay.
12	(Whereupon, (Item 12) Exhibit 3 was received
13	into evidence.)
14	MR. WATSON: I only have one copy of this
15	May 2nd, 2012 report, but I'll make that an exhibit.
16	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Okay, the Exhibit 4.
17	MR. WATSON: Okay.
18	(Whereupon, (Item 12) Exhibit 4 was received
19	into evidence.)
20	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Okay. Mr. Watson, we are
21	admitting the flow chart as Exhibit 3 and the first quarter
22	of 2012 financial report for Eagle Rock as Exhibit 4.
23	MR. WATSON: All right, sir.
24	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Those four exhibits constitute
25	all the exhibits admitted into the record as of this time.

1 Is there anything further? 2 MR. PEARSON: Mr. Watson, am I correct that the general overall operations of Escambia Operating Company are 3 or consistent with approximately 30 wells and two processing 4 plants along with associated gathering lines? 5 6 MR. WATSON: Yes, sir. MR. PEARSON: The Board, having discussed this 7 matter -- first off, I would like to say for the record, the 8 9 Board recognizes that Escambia Operating Company is an 10 excellent operator and has a good track record for all the 11 operations, and their activities and operations have been 12 well received by the Board and the Staff. 13 Being mindful, though, of the purpose of the 14 security bond, which is to ensure at the end of such 15 operations, that there are at least some assets available in regard to plugging and the liability associated with that, 16 Mr. Chairman, I would move that we deny the petition to 17 18 reduce the bond, but that we keep the bond in place at the same amount with the condition that we waive the annual 19 necessity of reporting to the Board. 20 CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Okay. We have a motion as 21 Is there a second? 22 stated. 23 MR. LAWLEY: I second that. 24 CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: We've got a motion and a second. All in favor say "aye." 25

1	MR. PEARSON: Aye.
2	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Ayes have it.
3	MR. WATSON: Thank you.
4	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Thank you, Mr. Watson.
5	MR. ROGERS: The next item is Item 18, Docket
6	No. 5-8-12-08, petition by Spooner Petroleum, Incorporated.
7	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Mr. Tyra.
8	MR. TYRA: Yes, sir. John Tyra here on behalf
9	of Spooner. I would move that Item 18 be dismissed. That
10	was a petition to force pool without risk compensation. We
11	have found all the parties with an interest and it is no
12	longer needed.
13	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: It is dismissed without
14	prejudice.
15	MR. TYRA: Thank you, sir.
16	MR. ROGERS: Then the last item is Item 19,
17	Docket No. 5-8-12-09, petition by Spooner.
18	MR. TYRA: Mr. Chairman, again, I'm John Tyra
19	here on behalf of Spooner Petroleum Company. We have filed
20	a petition requesting the approval of an exceptional
21	location for the proposed Reaves 19-7 No. 1 Well to be
22	drilled in Choctaw County, Alabama on a unit consisting of
23	the Northeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 11 North,
24	Range 2 West. The location of the well, one of the
25	locations is 516 feet from the South line, which it is an

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1	exception to the rule, the Special Field Rules of the
2	Thornton Springs Field, which requires all locations to be
3	at least 660 feet off the boundaries. I have one witness to
4	be sworn in, please.
5	MR. ROGERS: Stand and state your name and
6	address.
7	MR. SPOONER: Harry Spooner, Ridgeland,
8	Mississippi.
9	(The Hearing Attorney swears in the witness.)
10	MR. TYRA: Mr. Chairman, I have pre-filed an
11	Affidavit of Notice that I would ask to be made a part of
12	the record at this time.
13	(Whereupon, (Item 19) pre-filed Affidavit of
14	Notice was offered into evidence.)
15	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: It is admitted to the record,
16	Mr. Tyra.
17	(Whereupon, (Item 19) Affidavit of Notice was
18	received into evidence.)
19	MR. TYRA: Mr. Spooner, your qualifications as a
20	petroleum geologist are on file with this Board; is that
21	correct?
22	MR. SPOONER: That is correct.
23	MR. TYRA: And you have testified before this
24	Board several times; is that correct?
25	MR. SPOONER: Yes, that is correct.
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1	MR. TYRA: Are you familiar with the allegations
2	contained in the petition filed in this matter?
3	MR. SPOONER: Yes.
4	MR. TYRA: And have you prepared or caused to be
5	prepared exhibits in support of those allegations?
6	MR. SPOONER: Yes.
7	MR. TYRA: I would ask that Mr. Spooner be
8	recognized as an expert witness in this matter.
9	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: He is recognized as an expert
10	petroleum geologist.
11	MR. TYRA: Thank you so much.
12	
13	HARRY SPOONER,
14	having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified
15	as follows:
16	
17	(ITEM 19) DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. TYRA:
18	Q. If you would, turn to your Exhibit 1 and explain what
19	this shows, please.
20	A. Exhibit 1 is a location plat prepared by Engineering
21	Service for the well. It shows the well is located 516 feet
22	from the South line and 769 feet from the West line of the
23	proposed unit and 2,690 feet from the one producing well in
24	Thornton Springs Field.
25	Q. So that field right now consists of just the Bolinger

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19-16 well; is that correct?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. All right, sir. Your Exhibit 2, please, explain what4 that shows.

Exhibit 2 is a portion of the USGS topographic map 5 Α. showing the location of the well and the proposed unit. And 6 7 it shows that the -- a legal location 660 would be, you know, a hundred and however many feet that is further North which 8 9 is on the edge -- you can see on the topographic map that 10 there is a little low area that comes in, curls in North of 11 the well, and we originally staked it at the 660, but that is 12 not a -- it's an intermittent stream. In wet weather and 13 rainstorms, it gets real wet, and so we moved the location 14 South a little bit. Any other direction, you know, we would 15 have been getting off of our geology, we felt like, so -and, really, we just kind of moved across the location. The 16 locations, of course, are more than 200-feet wide, so we just 17 moved across the location a little bit to get on a high spot 18 there. 19 All right, sir. So you originally attempted at 20 Ο. 660 feet off of the South line, but that was determined to be 21 in the wetlands? 22 23 Α. The Board's field agent determined that it would be 24 wetlands if we -- you know, if the Corps of Engineers looked

1	Q. Okay, sir. If you would then, turn to your Exhibit 3
2	and explain what that shows.
3	A. Exhibit 3 is a Smackover structure map. The
4	objective of the well is a Smackover formation. That is what
5	produces in the Bolinger 19-16 well. We think that well is
6	probably producing from a stratigraphic trap and it we
7	think that there is likely some more oil in there. The well
8	has held up for a long time with almost no decline in
9	production and so we are just trying to see if we can develop
10	a strat trap in here, and this shows the structural geology
11	in the area.
12	Q. All right, sir. Considering the topographical issues
13	that you have, is it your opinion that the proposed location
14	is the optimum geologic and topographic location to test that
15	formation?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. All right. Is it also your opinion that the granting
18	of this petition would prevent waste and protect correlative
19	rights?
20	A. Yes.
21	MR. TYRA: I would tender Mr. Spooner to the
22	Board for any questions that you may have.
23	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Dr. Tew, any questions by the
24	Staff of Mr. Spooner?
25	(No questions.)

1	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: What about Board members?
2	(No questions.)
3	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Mr. Spooner, this is a
4	vertical well and you are proposing the bottomhole
5	MR. SPOONER: That is correct.
6	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: and the surface location at
7	the same spot?
8	MR. SPOONER: Right. You know, we would have to
9	drill directionally to get to the legal location which would
10	cost us probably \$150,000, so that is waste.
11	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Yes, sir.
12	MR. LAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that
13	we approve.
14	MR. PEARSON: Second.
15	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: We've got a motion and a
16	second. All in favor say "aye."
17	MR. LAWLEY: Aye.
18	MR. PEARSON: Aye.
19	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Ayes have it. It is approved.
20	MR. TYRA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: Entertain a motion to adjourn.
22	MR. PEARSON: Move we adjourn.
23	CHAIRMAN GRIGGS: We stand adjourned.
24	
25	(The proceedings were concluded at 10:34 a.m.)

1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF ALABAMA)
4	JEFFERSON COUNTY)
5	
6	I hereby certify that the above and foregoing
7	proceeding was taken down by me in stenotype, and the
8	questions and answers thereto were reduced to typewriting
9	under my supervision, and that the foregoing represents a
10	true and correct transcript of the proceeding given by
11	said witness upon said hearing.
12	I further certify that I am neither of counsel
13	nor of kin to the parties to the action, nor am I in
14	anywise interested in the result of said cause.
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	/s/ Teresa Turquitt Davis
20	TERESA TURQUITT DAVIS, CCR, RPR
21	CCR #162, Expires 09/30/12
22	Commissioner for the
23	State of Alabama at Large
24	My Commission Expires: 12/03/12
25	

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