

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS**

**JAMES TUCKER AND  
MINDY TUCKER**

v.

**Case No. 1:11-cv-44-DPM**

**PLAINTIFFS**

**SOUTHWESTERN ENERGY COMPANY;  
CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORPORATION;  
AND BHP BILLITON PETROLEUM  
(FAYETTEVILLE) LLC**

**DEFENDANTS**

**PHILLIP BERRY AND  
PEGGY BERRY**

v.

**Case No. 1:11-cv-45-DPM**

**PLAINTIFFS**

**SOUTHWESTERN ENERGY COMPANY;  
CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CORPORATION;  
AND BHP BILLITON PETROLEUM  
(FAYETTEVILLE) LLC**

**DEFENDANTS**

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

The Court holds that the following procedures and provisions shall apply to discovery in the above-captioned civil action (the "Action") in order to protect information of a sensitive, confidential, proprietary and/or legally protected nature, and the privacy rights of the parties or certain non-parties. The entry of this Protective Order is not, and should not be construed as, a waiver by any party or non-party of any privilege or objection to any particular discovery request.

**I. DEFINITIONS**

A. "Party" means any current plaintiff or defendant in this Action (including those listed in the caption above), and any plaintiff, defendant, or other party that may be joined in this action.

B. “Non-Party” means any person or entity not a Party who produces documents or other information or provides testimony in response to a subpoena or other process in this Action.

C. “Material” is defined as documents, electronically stored information, records, tangible materials, testimony, responses to discovery, and other information produced by a Party or Non-Party in discovery in this Action.

D. “Confidential Material” is defined as Material that any Party or Non-Party considers in good faith to be confidential information relating to: trade secrets, research, development, strategic planning, financial, commercial, confidential, sensitive or proprietary business, or personal information which, if disclosed, might adversely affect the competitive position or business operations of the Party or Non-Party producing such materials, or invade the privacy rights of any person. Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Protective Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards.

E. The “Designator” is any Party or Non-Party who produces Material in this Action and designates any such Material as “CONFIDENTIAL” in conformity with Paragraph III.

F. “Non-Related Person” shall mean any person or entity whose ostensible need for access to Confidential Material is not directly related to furtherance of the judicial proceedings in this litigation. By way of example, this would include but not be limited to a party or Non-Party’s auditor or a regulatory agency (including AOGC or EPA).

## **II. DESIGNATION OF MATERIALS AS “CONFIDENTIAL”**

A. Any Party or Non-Party who produces Material in the course of discovery in this Action may designate such Material as Confidential Material if that Party or Non-Party believes

in good faith that the Material satisfies the definition of Confidential Material, as set forth in Paragraph I.D.

B. The Designator shall mark the word "CONFIDENTIAL" on the face of each document and each page so designated at the time it is produced or served, or, in the case of Confidential Material contained in or on media other than paper, by affixing such a label to the information or by using its best efforts to identify the information as Confidential Material.

C. In the event that a Party or Non-Party desires to designate specific answers or responses to interrogatories or requests for admission as Confidential Material, the Party or Non-Party shall insert the word "CONFIDENTIAL" in brackets at the beginning of the specific answer or response.

D. In the case of depositions, designation of the portion of the transcript (including exhibits) which contains Confidential Material shall be made within 15 business days after receipt of the transcript by stamping "CONFIDENTIAL" on the pages that contain Confidential Material and notifying all Parties and the deponent in writing of the page and line numbers which have been designated as Confidential Material. In the absence of an agreement on the record or in writing, or an order of the Court to the contrary, all deposition testimony shall be deemed Confidential Material until the expiration of the aforementioned 15 business days.

E. For purposes of this Action, no Party concedes that any Material designated by any other Designator as Confidential Material should be treated as Confidential Material. A Party shall not be obligated to challenge the propriety of the designation of Material as "CONFIDENTIAL" at the time made, and the failure to do so shall not preclude a subsequent challenge in this or any other action. If a Party challenges a designation, it shall give written notice to the Designator, and the Party and the Designator shall attempt to resolve any challenge

in good faith on an informal basis (“meet and confer”). If the challenge cannot be informally resolved, the Party challenging the designation may seek appropriate relief from the Court; however, the burden of proof shall be on the Designator. The Material shall continue to be treated as Confidential Material until the issue relating to the propriety of the designation has been resolved.

F. Any Designator may, at any time, withdraw the “CONFIDENTIAL” designation of any Material produced by that Designator.

G. The inadvertent failure to designate or withhold any Material as confidential will not be deemed to waive a later claim as to its confidential nature, or to preclude the producing Party or Non-Party from designating such Material as confidential at a later date in writing and with particularity. The Material shall be treated by the receiving Party as Confidential Material from the time the receiving Party is notified in writing of the change in the designation.

### **III. USE AND HANDLING OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

A. Confidential Material shall be used only for purposes of preparing for and litigating this Action (including appeals) and not for any other action or other purpose.

B. Access to Confidential Material shall be closely controlled and limited to individuals who have a demonstrable and bona fide need to review it. Confidential Material shall not be revealed or disclosed, directly or indirectly, in any manner or in any form, to any person, entity, or judicial tribunal other than:

1. Counsel of record and any other counsel for the Parties in this Action, including counsel for insurers for the claims involved in this Action; members of their firms and associates, associate attorneys, contract lawyers, paralegals, clerical and other employees or agents of such counsel who are assisting in the conduct and/or management of this action, insurers and reinsurers of any Party who have a need with respect to this specific litigation to review such information. Should any Party or Non-Party receive a request or subpoena to voluntarily provide

Confidential Material, designated by a Party or Non-Party other than itself, to a Non-Related Person, then that Party or Non-Party shall immediately give notice to the Designator and, to the extent appropriate, allow the Designator to respond to the request or subpoena. In the event a Party or Non-Party believe a voluntary disclosure to a Non-Related Person is necessary, such Party and the Designator shall confer, after which either party may object to the Court.

2. In-house counsel of any Party, and paralegal, clerical, and other employees assisting in-house counsel;
3. Party deponents and litigation control group personnel for this Action;
4. The United States District Court, the Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court of the United States, court personnel, court reporters, and any jury empanelled in this Action;
5. Third party deponents and trial witnesses in this Action and their counsel to the extent necessary for purposes of this Action;
6. Consultants, experts, and outside litigation support personnel retained by counsel for any Party to this Action to assist the Party in the preparation and/or litigation of this Action;
7. Any mediator retained by the Parties or appointed by the Court, and employees of such mediator who are assisting in the conduct of the mediation;
8. The person or entity that wrote or received the document or gave the testimony designated as "CONFIDENTIAL"; and
9. Others, if the Designator so agrees in writing or, for good cause shown, the Court so permits.

C. Before any person described in Paragraphs III.B.1, III.B.5, III.B.6, and III.B.9 is given access to Confidential Material, the person shall review the Protective Order and agree in writing (by signing the Acknowledgement attached hereto as Exhibit A) to be bound by this Protective Order. A copy of the Acknowledgement, together with a list of Confidential Material disclosed to the person and the date of disclosure, shall be retained by counsel disclosing Confidential Material until the conclusion of this litigation, including all appeals.

D. If Confidential Material is to be disclosed during a deposition or trial, the agreement to be bound and consent to jurisdiction may be made on the record and under oath, rather than in writing. No person to whom Confidential Material is disclosed may disclose such Confidential Material to any person other than those persons described in Paragraph III.B., above.

E. All persons who have access to Confidential Material at any time shall take all precautions necessary to prohibit access to such Confidential Material other than as provided for herein.

F. Any summaries or copies of Confidential Material shall bear the appropriate legend set forth in Paragraph II.B., above, and shall be subject to the terms of this Protective Order to the same extent as the information or document from which such summary or copy is made.

G. No Party or Non-Party shall file with the Court in this action documents, quotations from documents, or summaries or tabulations of documents, which have been designated as Confidential Material without first obtaining leave of Court to file such Confidential Material under seal, or written agreement of the Designator. Written agreement of the Designator(s) may be given to the receiving Party to file a document containing Confidential Material not under seal, in a redacted form, if the Designator(s) identifies in writing the Confidential Material to be redacted, and the receiving Party redacts all such Confidential Material prior to filing the document. The Parties acknowledge that this Protective Order creates no entitlement to file Confidential Material under seal. If any Party wishes to file Material under seal with the Court that incorporates or discloses Confidential Material, said Party must obtain leave of Court before these documents may be filed under seal. After receiving Court approval,

such Party shall submit such pleadings or other submissions under seal.

#### **IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

A. Nothing contained in this Protective Order shall restrict or limit any Party's right to present Confidential Material to a jury or a court during a trial or other hearing in this Action, and the Parties and Non-Parties shall take reasonable steps to maintain the confidentiality of such information at a hearing or at trial in such manner as the Court may direct. The use of Confidential Material at trial shall be governed by the pretrial order.

B. If any Party receives a subpoena or order demanding the production of any Material designated in this Action as "CONFIDENTIAL," the Party receiving such subpoena or order shall, within five (5) business days of the receipt of such request and not less than 10 days prior to the production of any Confidential Material, notify the Designator of such subpoena or order.

C. This Protective Order shall not apply to information or tangible items obtained by means independent of production by a Party or Non-Party through discovery or other proceedings in this Action or in some other lawful manner. The restrictions set forth in this Protective Order shall not apply to any Material which, at the time of production, is within the public domain, or which the Designator subsequently released into the public arena.

D. Neither this Protective Order, production or disclosure of Material under this Protective Order, nor designation or failure to designate Material under this Protective Order, shall constitute a waiver of the right of the Designator to maintain the trade secret status or confidentiality of that Material in other contexts.

E. This Protective Order may be modified or amended by agreement of the Parties with the approval of the Court. To the extent that the Parties fail to agree on a modification

proposed by any Party or Non-Party, nothing contained herein shall be deemed to preclude any Party or Non-Party from moving the Court, for good cause shown, for a ruling that modifies this Protective Order in any respect.

F. This Protective Order shall not be construed as waiving any right to assert a claim of privilege or objection as to relevance, admissibility or other grounds for not producing Material.

G. This Protective Order shall survive and continue to be binding after the conclusion of this Action, and this Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this Protective Order.

H. This Protective Order shall operate retroactively to the inception of this Action. Any Material produced prior to the signing of this Protective Order shall be treated as Confidential upon designation as set forth above.

**V. INADVERTENT DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED OR PRIVILEGED INFORMATION**

A. The inadvertent disclosure of Material covered by the attorney-client privilege or work-product protection shall be governed by Federal Rule of Evidence 502 and this Protective Order.

B. If, in connection with the pending litigation, a Party or Non-Party (the "Disclosing Party") inadvertently discloses information subject to a claim of attorney-client privilege or work-product protection ("Inadvertently Disclosed Information"), the disclosure of the Inadvertently Disclosed Information shall not constitute or be deemed a waiver or forfeiture of any claim of privilege or work-product protection that the Disclosing Party would otherwise be entitled to assert with respect to the Inadvertently Disclosed Information and its subject matter.



C. If a claim of inadvertent disclosure is made by a Disclosing Party with respect to Inadvertently Disclosed Information, the Parties shall, within five (5) business days, return or destroy all copies of the Inadvertently Disclosed Information and provide a certification of counsel that all such Inadvertently Disclosed Information has been returned or destroyed.

D. Within 21 days of the notification that such Inadvertently Disclosed Information has been returned or destroyed, or within a different time upon written agreement of the Parties or order of the Court, the Disclosing Party shall produce a privilege log with respect to the Inadvertently Disclosed Information.

E. Nothing in this Protective Order shall limit the right of any Party to petition the Court for an order compelling production of such Inadvertently Disclosed Information, or for an in-camera review of the Inadvertently Disclosed Information.

#### VI. LIMITS OF THIS PROTECTIVE ORDER

Nothing contained in this Protective Order, and no action taken pursuant to it, shall prejudice the right of any Party or Non-Party to contest the alleged relevancy, admissibility, or discoverability of the Material sought. Nor shall this Protective Order prevent any Party or Non-Party from objecting to discovery that it believes to be otherwise improper.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December, 2011.

  
United States District Court Judge

**Exhibit A**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROTECTIVE ORDER  
AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I hereby acknowledge that I, \_\_\_\_\_, am about to receive information that is being supplied by one or more of the parties in the case of *Tucker, et al. v. Southwestern Energy Company, et al.*, pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Northern Division. I understand that the information is or may be subject to the terms of a Protective Order entered by the Court in said case. I hereby certify my understanding that such information is being provided to me pursuant to the terms and restrictions of the Protective Order. I have been given a copy of said Protective Order, have read it, and agree to be bound by its terms. I understand that information and any documentary material covered by the Protective Order (which includes any notes or other record that I make of such material) shall not be disclosed to others, except those listed in paragraph III.B. of the Protective Order and under the terms set forth therein.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

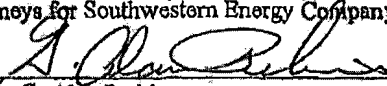
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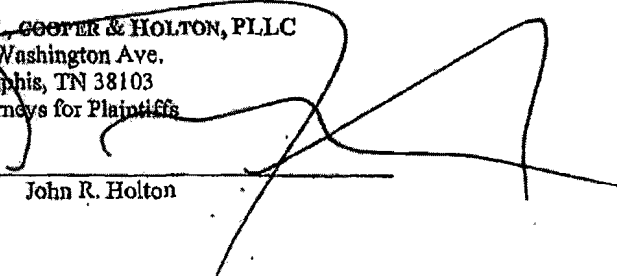
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