

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
WESTERN DIVISION

PANHANDLE OIL AND GAS INC.

PLAINTIFF

v.

No. 4:17-cv-379-DPM

BHP BILLITON PETROLEUM  
(FAYETTEVILLE) LLC and BP AMERICA  
PRODUCTION COMPANY

DEFENDANTS

ORDER

BP's unopposed motion to file four documents under seal is tentatively granted. *No. 12*. The Court directs the Clerk to accept these papers and hold them under seal. The Court would appreciate counsel providing a courtesy copy to chambers. The grant is tentative, though, because the Court can't tell without reviewing the documents whether a sufficient reason exists to close these important papers to the public. *See, e.g., Sheppard v. Maxwell*, 384 U.S. 333, 350 (1966); *Arkansas Department of Human Services v. Hardy*, 316 Ark. 119, 123, 871 S.W.2d 352, 355 (1994). If practicable, redaction is better than sealing; it should be the preferred route, not just an option. Compare Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2 with the Agreed Protective Order at III(G). If any party wants to be heard on this issue, it should file a brief by 26 June 2017.

So Ordered.

D.P. Marshall Jr.  
D.P. Marshall Jr.  
United States District Judge

15 June 2017