

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

Civil Action No. 15-cv-00769-RM-NYW

ALAN EUGENE HUMPHREY, an individual, and
WYOMING GTL, LLC, a Wyoming Limited Liability Company,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ESCALERA RESOURCES CO., a Maryland Corporation, and
DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

~~**[PROPOSED]**~~ **STIPULATION AND ORDER PROTECTING CONFIDENTIALITY
OF DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION**

The Court, having reviewed the parties' Stipulation and Order Protecting Confidentiality of Documents and Information, being fully advised in the premises, and good cause appearing therefor, hereby ~~orders that the Stipulation is GRANTED,~~ and enters the following Order Protecting Confidentiality of Documents and Information ("Protective Order") on the terms set forth below:

1. In this action, the Plaintiff and the Defendants (collectively, the "Parties") anticipate producing and seeking production of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION (as defined in Paragraph 3 below) during discovery and that there will be questioning concerning CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION in the course of depositions. The Parties assert the disclosure of such information outside the scope of this litigation could result in significant injury to one or more of the Parties' business or privacy interests. The Parties request the Court

to enter the within Protective Order for the purpose of preventing the disclosure and use of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION except as set forth herein.

SCOPE:

2. This Protective Order governs the handling of all documents (within the meaning of Rule 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure), answers to interrogatories, testimony and all other information, including copies, excerpts, and summaries thereof produced in this action.

DEFINITIONS:

3. For purposes of this Protective Order, CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION means any business, financial, personal and proprietary information that is not generally known to the public and that the "Producing Party" would normally maintain in confidence and not reveal to the general public. Any information that is derived from CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION also constitutes CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION to the extent the derived information embodies, contains, or discloses any CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. The attorneys each agree not to designate material as "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION " unless an attorney of record has reviewed any document and/or information to be designated as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION and he or she is satisfied that they can demonstrate good faith reasons for treating the information in this fashion pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(g).

4. For purposes of this Protective Order, "Producing Party" means a party to this

action or any non-party on behalf of which information is furnished or produced during the course of this action.

5. For purposes of this Protective Order, "Receiving Party" means a party to this action or any non-party to which information is furnished or produced during the course of this action.

6. The term "documents" shall have the same meaning as set forth in Rule 34(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

DESIGNATION OF INFORMATION:

7. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION shall be designated as follows:

(a) Any Producing Party may stamp documents "CONFIDENTIAL" prior to production in this action.

(b) In the case of interrogatory answers, designation shall be made by starting a new page at the beginning of any answer containing CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION and placing a legend of "CONFIDENTIAL" on that page and each following page until the end of any such answer or answers which are deemed so designated. Following the end of an answer or answers containing CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, a new page shall be started.

(c) In the case of depositions, designation of the portion of the transcript, including exhibits, which contains CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, may be made by a statement to such effect on the record during the course of the deposition. When the designation is made during the course of the deposition, the reporter attending such deposition shall thereafter bind the transcript in separate portions containing the non-confidential material and the CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION and the reporter shall

place the appropriate legend on the cover of the CONFIDENTIAL portions of the transcript. Portions of deposition transcripts may also be designated as CONFIDENTIAL within 21 days after receipt of the transcript by counsel for the person whose CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION was disclosed at the depositions by serving on all other parties to the action a letter designating by page and line number the portion or portions of the deposition transcript containing CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. Until the 21-day period has expired, the full deposition testimony and transcript shall be treated in its entirety as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION covered by the Protective Order.

8. If any transcripts of depositions, answers to interrogatories, motions, briefs or other pleadings that are to be filed with the Court (a "Filing") include CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, such pleadings or other papers shall be filed with the Clerk of the Court pursuant D.C.COLO.LCivR 7.2 as a "restricted document" -- access limited to the parties and the Court for fourteen days -- with simultaneous service of a copy of the Filing to counsel for the parties in this action via the CM/ECF system as well as to the Producing Party via e-mail and overnight mail if such Producing Party is not a party to this case. Thereafter, within the time provided by D.C.COLO.LCivR 7.2, a Producing Party may file a motion pursuant to D.C.COLO.LCivR 7.2 to restrict access directed to the Filing. For purposes of use at trial, the parties shall remove the "CONFIDENTIAL" labels from the CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION; provided, however, that those materials shall not thereby lose their status as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. Nothing in this Order requires the court to restrict any document and/or information, even if such document and/or information has been designated CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION by the Parties.

9. Designation of any documents, things, or information as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION renders confidential any originals, copies, excerpts, summaries, quotations or paraphrases of such materials by the Receiving Party.

10. All material which is designated by the Producing Party as containing or comprising CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION shall be maintained in confidence according to the terms of this Protective Order by the Receiving Party and used solely in the preparation, prosecution, defense, or trial of this action.

11. Subject to the provisions of this Protective Order, CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION shall not, without the consent of the Producing Party or further Order of the Court, be disclosed *except that* such CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION may be disclosed to:

- (a) attorneys actively working on this case;
- (b) persons regularly employed or associated with the attorneys actively working on this case whose assistance is required by said attorneys in the preparation for trial, at trial, or at other proceedings in this case;
- (c) the parties, including the parties' respective officers, directors, and employees whose assistance is required by the parties' respective attorneys for preparation, trial, or other proceedings in this case;
- (d) consultants and expert witnesses retained in connection with this proceeding, to the extent such disclosure is necessary for preparation, trial, or other proceedings in this case;
- (e) the Court and its employees ("Court Personnel");
- (f) stenographic reports who are engaged in proceedings necessarily incident to the conduct of this action;

(g) deponents, witnesses, or potential witnesses;

(h) copy or other document service providers hired to assist counsel in this

litigation;

(i) mock jurors, focus group members and the like selected by trial consultants, jury consultants or by counsel in preparation for trial; and

(j) other persons by written agreement of the parties.

12. Prior to disclosing any CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION to any person listed in Subparagraphs 11(d), (g), (h), (i), and (j) above, counsel shall provide such person with a copy of this Protective Order and obtain from such person a written acknowledgment in the form attached as Exhibit A to this Protective Order stating that he or she has read this Protective Order and agrees to be bound by its provisions. All acknowledgments shall be retained by such counsel and shall be subject to *in camera* review by the Court if good cause for review is demonstrated by opposing counsel.

EXCEPTIONS:

13. CONFIDENTIAL designations shall not apply to:

(a) any information which at the time of disclosure is available to the general public; or

(b) any information which (i) was already known to the Receiving Party from legitimate sources outside of any business relationship the Receiving Party may have had with the Producing Party, (ii) was independently developed by the Receiving Party, or (iii) was received after the time of disclosure hereunder from a third party having the right to make such disclosure and was not required to be held in confidence.

Before any CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION is excepted from this Protective Order, the Receiving Party must first identify in writing to the Producing Party the specific information to be excepted and the specific reason or reasons for the exception.

If no objection is made by the Producing Party within 14 calendar days after it receives this identification from the Receiving Party, the identified information will be excepted from this Protective Order. If a timely objection is made, the Receiving Party may seek relief from the Court within 14 calendar days after the objection. If the Receiving Party seeks relief from the Court, the identified information will continue to be covered by this Protective Order as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION unless the Court resolves the objection in favor of the Receiving Party. The burden shall be on the Producing Party to prove the grounds for the designation as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION and the burden shall be on the Receiving Party to prove the grounds for any exceptions as set forth in Subparagraphs 13(a) & (b) herein. If the Receiving Party does not seek relief from the Court, the identified information will continue to be covered by this Protective Order as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

14. The receipt of any document, thing, pleading, or response to any interrogatory designated as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION by a party shall not be construed as an agreement by any party that any such document, thing, pleading, or response to an interrogatory is in fact confidential, and shall not operate as a waiver of any party's right to challenge any such designation as provided herein.

15. If the Receiving Party objects to the designation of certain information as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, he or she shall inform the Producing Party's counsel, in writing, of the specific grounds of the objections to the designations. All counsel shall then in good faith and on an informal basis attempt to resolve such disputes. If the parties cannot resolve the dispute, the Producing Party must file an appropriate motion with the Court within 20

days of the date the negotiations are terminated and request to maintain the confidentiality of the disputed material. If the Producing Party does not timely submit the motion to the Court, the designation will be deemed null and void. If timely submitted, the material shall continue to have CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION status from the time it is produced until the ruling by the Court. The Producing Party shall have the burden of establishing the propriety of the designation and the burden shall be on the Receiving Party to prove the grounds for any exceptions as set forth in Subparagraphs 13(a) & (b) herein.

16. No party shall be obligated to challenge the propriety or correctness of the designation of information as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION and a failure to do so shall not preclude a subsequent challenge of a designation.

17. Neither the taking of nor the failure to take any action to challenge any designation of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION pursuant to this Protective Order or to enforce the provisions of this Protective Order shall constitute a waiver of any right, claim, or defense by any party in this action or any other action.

INFORMATION INADVERTENTLY DISCLOSED:

18. If a Producing Party inadvertently discloses to a Receiving Party any document, thing, or information containing information that the Producing Party deems CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION without designating it as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, the Producing Party shall promptly upon discovery of such inadvertent disclosure inform the Receiving Party in writing and the Receiving Party shall thereafter treat the document, thing, or information as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION under this Protective Order. To the extent such document, thing, or information may have been disclosed to persons other than authorized persons

described in this Protective Order, the Receiving Party shall make every reasonable effort to retrieve the document, thing, or information promptly from such persons and to prevent any further disclosure to unauthorized persons.

19. If the Producing Party inadvertently discloses to a Receiving Party information that is privileged or otherwise immune from discovery, the Producing Party shall promptly upon discovery of such disclosure so advise the Receiving Party in writing and request that the item or items of information be returned, and no party to this action shall hereafter assert that such disclosure waived any privilege or immunity. It is further agreed that the Receiving Party will make every reasonable effort to return such inadvertently produced item or items of information, and all copies thereof, within ten (10) days of receiving a written request for the return of such item or items of information. The party having returned such inadvertently produced item or items of information may thereafter seek production of any such documents, things, or information in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

20. It is understood that no person or party shall incur liability with respect to any disclosure by the Receiving Party of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION that was inadvertently disclosed without proper designation by the Producing Party, provided the disclosure by the Receiving Party occurred prior to the receipt by the Receiving Party of a written notice of the inadvertent disclosure without proper designation.

21. If CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION is disclosed in violation of this Order, the party who caused, permitted, or was otherwise responsible for the disclosure shall immediately inform the other party to this action of all pertinent facts relating to the disclosure, and shall make

every effort to prevent any further disclosure, including any disclosure by any person who received any CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION in violation of this Order.

TERMINATION OF LITIGATION OR SETTLEMENT:

22. Within 90 days of the conclusion or final settlement of this action and any appeal, all persons subject to the terms hereof shall destroy or assemble and return to the party who produced the CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, all such CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, including depositions and deposition exhibits designated as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, and all copies thereof; and shall destroy any outlines, summaries, abstracts, compilations, memoranda, documents and the like which constitute, embody, contain, or disclose the contents of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION; except that counsel for the parties may retain one archival copy of court filings and attorney work-product containing CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, which materials will otherwise remain subject to this Protective Order. The parties shall notify and advise the producing party whether they plan to destroy or assemble and return to the producing party the CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

ADDITIONAL PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:

23. Nothing in the foregoing provisions of the Protective Order shall be deemed to preclude any party from seeking and obtaining, on an appropriate showing, additional protection with respect to the confidentiality of documents or other discovery material, or relief from this Protective Order with respect to particular material designated hereunder.

PRODUCTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY NON-PARTIES:

24. The production of any CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION by non-parties shall be subject to all the terms and conditions of this Protective Order. Pursuant to this Protective Order, a non-party shall be considered to be a Producing Party and shall have the same rights as the parties to designate information as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION and the same rights to object to disclosures of their CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION to individuals or businesses other than those set forth herein.

25. Any CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION produced by non-parties shall be designated by the Receiving Party with a unique bates label code reflecting the identity of the non-party.

OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES:

26. If another court, administrative agency, or any person or entity subpoenas or orders production or disclosure of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION which a party has obtained under the terms of this Protective Order, such party shall within three (3) business days notify in writing the Producing Party (either directly or through counsel) who produced the CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION of the pending subpoena or order. The person or party subject to the subpoena or other request shall not produce or disclose the requested CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION without consent of the producing or designating party or non-party until ordered to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction. Nothing in this Protective Order shall be construed as prohibiting production of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION covered by this Protective Order in response to a lawful Court Order.

27. Each of the parties named above and their counsel of record undertake to abide by and be bound by its provisions and to use due care to see that its provisions are known and adhered to by those under their supervision or control.

28. Nothing in this Protective Order shall bar counsel from rendering advice to their client with respect to this litigation and, in the course thereof, relying upon any CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, provided counsel does not disclose CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION in a manner not specifically authorized under this Protective Order.

29. This Protective Order shall not abrogate or diminish any contractual, statutory, or other legal privilege or protection of any party or person with respect to any CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. The fact that any materials have been designated CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION pursuant to this Protective Order shall not affect or operate as a means of objection to the admissibility of any such material; nor shall such designation constitute the authentication of such material or a waiver of any right to challenge the relevance, confidentiality, or admissibility of such material. The fact that materials are designated as CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION pursuant to the Protective Order shall not affect what a trier of fact in this litigation or any other proceeding may find to be confidential or proprietary.

EFFECT OF ORDER:

30. This Protective Order shall remain in full force and effect unless modified by an Order of the Court. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Protective Order shall survive or remain in full force and effect after the termination of this litigation. Nothing in this Protective Order shall limit or preclude any party from applying to the Court for relief from this Protective Order, or for such further or additional protective orders as the Court may deem

appropriate. The Court shall require the Parties to submit any dispute relating to or arising under the terms of this Protective Order to the Court for resolution.

31. Stipulations may be made, between counsel for the respective parties and Producing Parties, as to the application of this Protective Order to specific situations (e.g. documents which are so voluminous that it would be overly burdensome to mark each page thereof individually) provided that such stipulations are recorded in writing or contained in the record of any oral proceeding. As set forth above, nothing in this Order binds the court regarding accepting any Stipulation made by the Parties as to voluminous documents, and any Party seeking to restrict any document and/or paper and/or summary must comply with D.C.COLO.LCivR 7.2.

32. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over this Protective Order and the parties for purposes of enforcing the terms of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED, with the consent of the parties.

DATED this 31st day of August, 2015.

BY THE COURT:

s/Nina Y. Wang

Nina Y. Wang, Magistrate Judge