

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

MICKEY M. BENAVIDEZ

CIVIL ACTION

VERSUS

NO. 12-281-BAJ-DLD

**WOOD GROUP PRODUCTION
SERVICES, INC., ET AL**

ORDER

The court *sua sponte* notes the potential insufficiency of the removing defendant's allegation of the citizenship of the parties as follows;

1. ___ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must allege the *citizenship* rather than mere residence of an individual. In addition, see [28 U.S.C. §1332\(c\)\(2\)](#) for infants, minors and an incompetent. The *citizenship* of _____ is not provided.

2. ___ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must allege both the state of incorporation and principal place of business of each corporate party. See, e.g., [Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Co. v. Pargas, Inc., 706 F.2d 633 \(5th Cir. 1983\)](#). The state of incorporation and principal place of business of _____ is not provided.¹

3. X A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must allege both the state of incorporation and principal place of business of each corporate party. See, e.g., [Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Co. v. Pargas, Inc., 706 F.2d 633 \(5th Cir. 1983\)](#). **Even when a liability insurer takes on its insured's citizenship under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1), its own citizenship still is considered in determining whether complete diversity exists.** The state of incorporation and principal place of business of **St. Paul Surplus Lines Insurance Company** is not provided.²

4. X A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must properly allege the citizenship of a limited liability company. The citizenship of a limited liability company for diversity purposes is determined by the citizenship of **its members**. The citizenship of **all of the members** of a limited liability company must be properly alleged. In the event a member of a limited liability company is another limited liability company, the members of that limited liability

¹The phrase "principal place of business" in §1332(c)(1) refers to the place where a corporation's high level officers direct, control, and coordinate the corporation's activities, *i.e.*, its "nerve center," which will typically be found at its corporate headquarters. [Hertz Corp. v. Friend, 130 S.Ct. 1181, 175 L.Ed.2d 1029 \(2010\)](#)

²See footnote 1.


company must be properly alleged as well. is See [Harvey v. Grey Wolf Drilling Co.](#), 542 F.3d 1077, 1080 (5th Cir. 2008). The removing defendant states that the members of Energy XXI GOM, LLC are Texas citizens, but does not **identify** the members of Energy XXI GOM, LLC.; therefore, the complete citizenship of **Energy XXI GOM, LLC** is not provided.

5. _____ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must properly allege the citizenship of a general partnership and a limited liability partnership. For a general partnership, case law suggests that a partnership has the citizenship of each one of its partners. See [International Paper Co. v. Denkmann Assoc.](#), 116 F.3d 134, 137 (5th Cir. 1997). A limited liability partnership or L.L.P. also has the citizenship of each one of its partners, both general and limited. See [Carden v. Arkoma Associates](#), 494 U.S. 185, 110 S.Ct. 1014, 108 L.Ed.2d 157 (1990). The citizenship of _____ is not provided.
6. _____ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must properly allege the citizenship of Underwriters at Lloyd's, London. The citizenship of Underwriters at Lloyd's, London has not been provided. See [Corfield v. Dallas Glen Hills LP](#), 355 F.3d 853 (5th Cir. 2003), *cert. denied*, 541 U.S. 1073, 124 S.Ct. 2421, 158 L.Ed.2d 983 (2004).
7. _____ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must properly allege the citizenship of a sole proprietorship. A business entity cannot be both a corporation and sole proprietorship; therefore the court seeks to clarify the identity of plaintiff/defendant. Case law suggests that the citizenship of a sole proprietorship for diversity purposes is determined by the citizenship of its members and/or owners. See [Linder Enterprises v. Martinringle](#), 2007 WL 3095382 (N.D. Tex.). The citizenship of _____ is not provided.

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to [28 U.S.C. §1653](#), that, on or before **July 27, 2012**, the removing defendant shall file an amended notice of removal providing the citizenship of defendants, **Energy XXI GOM, LLC** and **St. Paul Surplus Lines Insurance Company**, by setting forth all citizenship particulars required to sustain federal diversity jurisdiction.

Signed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on July 12, 2012.



MAGISTRATE JUDGE DOCIA L. DALBY