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Mr. Victor Gregoire Mr. Alan Berteau Attorneys at Law Kean Miller One American Place, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Mr. Gregoire

### Introduction:

information and data reviewed to date, and my education, training and experience conjunction with that report. This report addresses new information along with the supplemental report of Charles Norman, dated January 15, 2015 and the affidavit of Further, it incorporates my original report dated June 13, 2010 and is to be viewed in et al. on the Vermilion Parish School Board property in the East White Lake Field. styled State of Louisiana vs The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company, Charles Norman dated October 27, 2014. The following comments are based on the The following supplemental report deals with certain aspects of the matter

## Information and Data:

Attachment "A", which is attached to and made a part of this report New information and data that has been provided to date is listed on

# Norman's Supplemental Report

topics addressed in Mr. Norman's supplemental report deal with issues which were extent discussed in his supplemental report. not develop or did not discuss in his initial report on the East White Lake Field to the noted from the original information provided in this matter The supplemental report of Mr. Norman discusses issues which he either did However, it appears that certain of the

known and accepted methods for the handling of produced water at the time they efforts to handle the produced water. All of these procedures would have been processing, discharge and the shutting in of high water rate wells as part of its beginning in 1948, Unocal used a combination of SWD wells, pit/tank storage for established in 1948. In fact the documents cited by Mr. Norman show that were primarily used as emergency production pits after water injection was and data available at the time of the original reports along with certain new part of the water processing mechanisms employed at the EWL field. were done documents support that fact. The materials provided show that the production pits White Lake (EWL) Field. As noted at the time of my original report pits were Mr. Norman cites certain documents that show the use of pits in the East Information

review of La SCC documents available indicates that the La SCC was aware of personnel and La OOC personnel were responsible for reporting problems to their aware of any problems associated with water storage and discharge. The La WF inspectors with site responsibility, as well as others who would be onsite. Both Nothing reviewed indicates that the La SCC had any problems or issues with Unocal's handling of produced water in the EWL Field as early as May 1943 respective agencies and the Louisiana Stream Control Commission (La SCC). A and gas operations have been conducted in the EWL Field. The Louisiana Office of responsibility for oil and gas operations, for a significant portion of the time that oil were allowed by the applicable governmental agencies, which had oversight surface discharge operations were open and observable to the various state prohibition to water storage in pits and discharge either into SWD wells or surface Fisheries (La WF) were in the EWL field at various times and would have been Conservation (La OOC) as well as the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and water bodies capable of handling such releases at the EWL Field. Earthen pits and During the time period covered by the documents cited, there was

with the VPSB A tank battery and the La Furs tank battery were closed by Unocal the tank battery was dismantled. Unocal as a result of the water discharge in the EWL Field. The pits associated The pit associated with the VPSB B tank battery was closed in 1985 when

not result in oil and noxious gas exceedances or cause harm to the local frame involved, provided such release complied with existing regulations and did found on discharging produced water into the waters around EWL for the time any regulatory body had any issue with the discharge. reviewed that indicates any issues were noted at the time with the discharge or that approval for the new SWD well. Nothing has been noted in the information dumping salt water into the canal at the EWL Field. The obvious aim is to get well which contains a statement that Unocal was in regulatory violation for presented by Mr. Norman is a 1965 AFE associated with adding an addition SWD developed by reviewing any and all available materials on the topic. One example language certainly should be considered, the issue it is discussing should be fully recipient to provide authorization for the work being requested. While AFE report. environment Mr. Norman references wording found in certain AFEs in his supplemental AFE wording is often strongly phrased in an attempt to motivate the There was no prohibition

components that were available to it under the existing regulatory scheme of the and wear and tear over the life of the system. are mechanical by nature and do have mechanical failures related to issues of usage underwent customary types of repairs and maintenance. cited reflect a history of an active SWD system in a large field which was used and that resulted in the use of production pits and overboard discharge." The AFEs Mr. Norman states that numerous AFEs show "problems with SWD wells It appears that Unocal utilized the These types of systems

discharge as part of its SWD system as necessary. time in the EWL Field; such as water injection and utilizing pits coupled with

the regulations of the day then no violations would have occurred the first SWD well. Again, as long as the method of discharge was consistent with released from the pit area in 1943. This time period was prior to the installation of term leakage but does indicate the state's knowledge about the manner of water was being filtered into the marsh or leaked into the marsh from pits. To date the document I noted on this issue was a La SCC document that did not use the Reference is made by Mr. Norman to documents that indicate produced water

the La Furs A #4 well, produced water for the field was sent to VPSB SWD wells A #4 continued disposing produced water until mid-1976. After the abandonment of Louisiana coastal operations resources from the field. Utilizing a central facilities concept was routine for south the VPSB tract, minimized the impact felt by all parties in the development of the that shared SWD operations to develop the field, including the La Furs tract utilizing a centralized facilities concept. As noted in my initial report, Unocal's operations for the EWL Field were conducted water being disposed of on both the La Furs tract and the VPSB tract. the only SWD in the field. At that time it disposed of both VPSB and La Furs SWD wells. Between February 1948 and May 1965 (17 years) the La Furs A #4 was Norman discusses the disposal of La Furs produced water into VPSB In mid-1965 the VPSB A #12 was converted to a SWD well with Utilizing a centralized facilities concept The La Furs

such returning it to the subsurface strata below the field would simply be placing it strata that underlaid the field and was not specific to any one surface tract. from the EWL Field was subsurface water that was common to the subsurface As was also discussed in my initial report, the water that was being produced

injection point back into the environment from which it came regardless of the location of the

agreement between VPSB and Unocal. The fee arrangement for 1994 was 1995 or the NCPI for the time also provided for an escalation of the injection fee based on either 4% starting in any one time. The total amount give in the agreement was \$14,400. The agreement \$5000/year/well and \$2000/year/acre for the pad; with a limit of two SWD wells at The documents provided include the 1994 Surface and Saltwater Injection

14C level substantially above any regulatory requirements in the EWL Field. offshore production facilities safety system indicates that Unocal was operating at API RP14C for onshore production facilities. The fact that Unocal was using an OCS production facilities. The state of Louisiana has not adopted compliance with reference under the Federal regulations for many years and is mandated on Federal flow line pilots indicates the usage of a production safety system at EWL. 16, 1991 that supplied information about pilot settings on flow lines. The usage of examples. covers offshore production facilities safety systems. MrOne example utilized by Mr. Norman was a Unocal PIP dated September Norman claims there were mechanical integrity issues and provides five It has been adopted by

pit poses any environmental threat to either the La Furs or VPSB property. The La memo does not address any issue on the VPSB lease and does not conclude cited by Mr. Norman as an example of failed mechanical integrity. Furs tank battery was taken out of service 1986 A memo dated October 17, 1984 concerning the La Furs tank battery pit is However, this that the

the VPSB property. A review of Mr. Norman's cited documents indicates that cited by Mr. Norman are not spills or leaks and some of the documents are not on experienced by Unocal between 1970 and 1995 (25 years). Some of the documents Mr. Norman cites documents that he alleges are evidence of over 70 spills

and diverse as the EWL Field and repairs would hardly be considered an excessive amount for a field as old, large consistent with aging infrastructure operations. The number and diversity of leaks leaks were relatively small indicating quick detection. The leaks and spills appear and in fact some wells and equipment never leaked. one well or area was noted to have an unusually high concentration of incidences that were noted appear to be relatively diverse and spread-out across the field. Unocal handled the leaks in a routine and customary manner. The leaks and spills Furthermore, the majority of

interaction with the state on some pit and spill issues possible for such events. As discussed in my initial report Unocal did have penalties accessed, as required by regulation, were on the lower end of the sale any final assessed penalties. It appears the incidents involved limited quantities provided indicates that Unocal complied with the reporting requirements and paid notification of the agencies with oversight of such matters. which indicates quick detection. The documents reviewed indicates that the noted by Mr. Norman some of the spills were of oil that required The information

environment, for 55 years. During the earlier years of the field, and as wells and leaks would have occurred during the earlier years but were simply undocumented wear and tear on the infrastructure the greater the likelihood of mechanical issues 30 years with the infrastructure aging. The older the field and the more usage and facilities were added, the equipment and facilities would have been new and less It should be noted that Unocal operated at the EWL Field, which was in a coastal likely to have mechanical issues. By 1970 operations would have been ongoing for Mr. Norman further opines that these leaks are evidence that many more

inspection protocol. were conducted daily, which included looking and listening for leaks. The documents review indicate Unocal had an equipment and flowline Testimony by Unocal field personnel indicates that inspections Repairs were

provided training on leak detection and prevention, with mock cleanup drills also had practice drills that simulated spills that tested field personnel's responses flyovers for the field to look for leaks or other problems. and repairing or replacing flow lines. Periodically Unocal would have airplane corrosion that could lead to leaks. Unocal responded to spills by shutting in wells rayed, tested and inspected 62 vessels in the EWL Field. Furthermore Unocal also refurbished or replaced as necessary. initiated timely once an issue was found. Many of the vessels and flowlines were to those mock spills Unocal had an established corrosion inhibition program designed to prevent By way of example in March 1990 Unocal x-As noted above,

earlier times were not kept in compliance with industry standards and regulatory requirements of today. This erroneously implies that operations conducted in regulatory oil and gas practices of prior times with the more stringent practices indicate that Unocal installed, operated and maintained its facilities within the requirements does not distinguish the accepted and required operational, engineering and norms of accepted engineering and operational practices of the time. design, maintenance and operating practices. The documents reviewed appear to Further, Mr. Norman asserts that Unocal did not follow good engineering Mr. Norman

permits required for the time information reviewed indicates that Unocal had the necessary La DEQ discharge permit violations is the lack of adequate La DEQ discharge permits. to any mechanical integrity permit violations. The one example Mr. Norman uses of violations. Nothing was noted in the review that indicates Unocal's operations led Mr. Norman discusses violations of mechanical integrity and permit The

document cited by Mr. Norman with bates number 4074021-0014356 references Norman also references "casing problems in specific wells".

initiated once the problem was detected. The casing issues that were noted in the reaching the surface. The documents reviewed indicated that workover plans were the VPSB #16 SWD, had an issue with a shallow hole in the casing with water with the casing was noted. materials appeared to be dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner tubing to casing communication which would indicate a tubing issue. A review of the documents did indicate that one well, No problem

still leave stained soil behind any spilled oil present would be removed timely. However, removal of the oil would of the facility's life. Testimony of Unocal field personnel reviewed indicates that clean and the stained soil removed once the header was decommissioned at the end system of wear and tear usage that could be expected for the time frame as the header large header system that had been in place for many years. This would be the type header system. Oil stained soil below a header complex would not be unusual for a and moisture or possibly could be stained soil from leakage of oil from repairs to the It may be associated with marsh soil and be a combination of decayed vegetation discoloration below the header system. The origin of this discoloration is unknown. Tank Battery Facility in 1985. The photographs reviewed does show soil would not be decommissioned after each event but instead the area would be Norman discusses photographs dealing with the manifold at the Unocal

eliminating marsh no mention about a producing wellbore being the source of the methane or between one or more producing wells and the Unocal's camp potable water. gas related due to the lack of other associated hydrocarbon gases. The documents the potable water in 1994 and found that in its opinion the methane was not oil and there is a discussion on methane being detected in the Unocal documents, there is Mr.Norman cites documents that he indicates shows communication gas as being a potential source of the methane. While

to a methane being in the potable water supply was note reviewed indicate that the potable water system was repaired. No other references

industry procedure of first injecting the slurred pit material down a well, then bring in the process known as land farming in fill and mixing the remaining material with the fill before spreading the mixture property. means for handing pit material. Mr. Norman indicates that land farming of pit solids occurred on the Land farming is one of the methods recognized by the State of Louisiana It appears that Unocal utilized a standard

caused mercury to be present in the limited specific areas around the meter being gas sales line from the EWL Field to Transco. However the document cited only and cites a document that he claims shows Unocal operated the gas metering and mercury when they tested during 2014. was located at the VPSB A facility. station was remediated for mercury. around the glycol unit was remediated for BTEX and an area around the meter areas that they had identified earlier in the area known as the base camp. An area building - not throughout the field. In September 1995, Envico remediated two Mercury [sic] in canals and soils throughout the property." Mr. Norman states in his report "that the Envico reports...show the presence of Envico in early 1995 shows the presence of mercury in isolated areas of the field. repaired. meter at the gas custody transfer point. Any gas meter storage or repair may have gas lift meters and check meter(s). Transco would have operated the gas sales Nevertheless, Unocal would have operated several gas meters including test meters. deals with one well (the VPSB #35) drilled in 1980 and 500' of a 2-1/2" pipeline Envico Phase II showed levels of mercury exceeding 29-B limits near the meter A Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) performed by Norman discusses issues with mercury in the soil on the VPSB property IES did not find any 29-B exceedances of IES found one 29-B exceedance in 2010. The results of the

prepared in February 1995 – prior to Unocal selling the property to Resource occurred in the field and they have been reported and handled prudently and as per and mercury remediation performed by Unocal during September 1995 regulatory requirements." Acquisition Corporation (RAC). The report states that "Only minor spills have ever Envico report, the Titan report and the Newpark report. Mr. Norman discusses environmental reports done during the 1990s – the As noted above, the Envico ESA resulted in the BTEX The Envico ESA was

including the EWL field. indicate that the EWL field surface facilities had been well maintained issues but no major problems. A review of the attached photographs to the report remediated the mercury and BTEX exceedances. The Highlander ESA noted minor ESA. Resources in September 1997 covering multiple oil and gas properties Highlander Environmental Corporation (Highlander) prepared an ESA for The report stated that onsite personnel stated that Unocal had Unocal was not operating the EWL Field at the time of

facility is minimal..." and commented on a "recent spill event" property, NES noted that "[t]he level of visible soil staining at the field production However the EWL Carrollton property was operated by RAC. prepared for Phoenix Oil and Gas for properties owned by Carrollton Resources days of visual examination covering nine oil and gas properties. The ESA was some 5 years after Unocal sold the property. The ESA was performed based on two Newpark Environmental Services (NES) performed an ESA in April 1999; For the EWL

proper disposal." time Unocal operated the field into the production process, and filters are drained and transported to shore for materials. NES stated that in the EWL field "...used oils are collected and recycled be attributable to the EWL field such as glycol filters and accumulations of oil Norman quotes general statements in the Newpark report that may not The NES report does not identify any problems that relate to the

indicate that these materials are contemporaneous with or postdate the time period when Louisiana was moving toward or requiring the closure of earthen pits knowledge concerning soil and ground water issues. Unocal's knowledge base increased as did other companies Certainly, as environmental knowledge and detection capabilities increased Mr. Norman refers to materials that he indicates shows Unocal level of The materials reviewed

scale available and were paid by Unocal. were levied as required by regulation they were noted to be on the lower end of the and production operations, leaks and other mechanical problems can and do occur. applicable industry standards and government regulations. subject property in a reasonably prudent manner, generally in keeping with discussed in previous report, Unocal conducted its oil and gas operations on the the appropriate regulatory agencies and responding appropriately. When fines when such incidents occurred at the EWL Field Unocal responded timely, notifying unreasonable or imprudent operations. The information previewed indicates that The simple fact that such incidents may or may not occur is not indicative of fluids at well sites, production facilities and along flowline or pipeline right of ways Often times such situations can allow releases of oil, gas, salt water and/or other Based on all of the available information and documents reviewed, and as During normal drilling

### Additional Issues

### Flow Line Removal

were removed as far out into the marsh as they could be pulled from the waterway. areas flowlines are generally left in place unless they are causing a direct problem flowlines so as to limit the impact on the marsh. In my experience, in such remote No attempt was made to enter the marsh with equipment to remove old abandoned (Peak) removed old out-of-service flowlines that crossed waterways. Additional information provided indicates that Peak Operating Company These flowlines

should be left in place practicable to do so. Certainly if removal of the abandoned flowlines is going to end of operations, such request should be evaluated and executed if possible and removal, if performed, is part of the decommissioning of the field once operations or their removal is required under the agreements in place. Typically, flowline cause more damage to the environment than leaving them in place, the flowlines have ended. However, if such removal is requested by the landowner prior to the

#### Canals

require the dredging of a borrow canal along the roadway and a borrow pit at expensive and impractical in my opinion. away from canal locations, and the roads to support such locations, would have systems were routinely used to develop oil and gas fields in such marsh areas. canals and pits would have been more intrusive to the marsh that just the canals in the field. location area, which still would have created canals, borrow ditches and borrow pits develop the field given the local conditions. The use of land based locations in areas the field progressed additional canals and dredged well locations were needed to A system of canals was used to explore and develop the EWL Field. A network of built up roads, built up site locations, borrow ditches or Using fill dirt from the area would Canal

### SWD Injection

accepted method of handling produced water in coastal Louisiana during that time both in my initial report and this report, surface discharge was still a viable and in and that impoundment and surface discharge may have been utilized. As noted frame was not noted in the documents available at the time the initial report was and October of 1967. The method of handling the produced water during this time of produced water were injected into the Unocal SWD wells between June of 1966 Injection records available at the time of my initial report showed that 0 Bbls But the lack of injected volume data suggested the SWD wells were shut

that the well system was not shut in but was operational; suggesting that the that produced water was injected into Unocal SWD well system in 1967 indicating error Injection Reports for the June 1966 to October 1967 time frame may have been in However, documents produced since the time of my initial report indicate

### **Current Operations**

property. Any canals deemed necessary to further current and future operations and 2 wells that are shut-in with future utility on the VPSB property. In addition La DNR data shows that there are currently 6 producing wells, 2 active SWD wells would need to be left open Peak maintains a central facility, campsite and multiple flowlines on the VPSB drilled 7 wells in the EWL Field. Five of those wells have been on the VPSB lease. Peak continues to actively operate the EWL Field. Since 2010, Peak has

that a field SWD system has been in place since 1948, indicates the practicality of deemed necessary. using such an onsite system in the event that a ground water related cleanup was Given the fact that Peak currently operates a field SWD system, and the fact

subject property in a reasonably prudent manner, generally in keeping with when such incidents occurred at the EWL Field Unocal responded timely, notifying unreasonable or imprudent operations. The information previewed indicates that The simple fact that such incidents may or may not occur is not indicative of fluids at well sites, production facilities and along flowline or pipeline right of ways Often times such situations can allow releases of oil, gas, salt water and/or other and production operations, leaks and other mechanical problems can and do occur applicable industry standards and government regulations. During normal drilling discussed in previous report, Unocal conducted its oil and gas operations on the Based on all of the available information and documents reviewed, and as

scale available and were paid by Unocal. were levied as required by regulation they were noted to be on the lower end of the the appropriate regulatory agencies and responding appropriately. When fines

operating properties, designing and installing facilities, negotiating leases, science course work. Over the course of the past +/- 45 years, I have worked in in Petroleum Engineering and 30 plus hours of graduate level environmental industry. I am a Registered Professional Petroleum Engineer with two (2) degrees agreements and contracts, P&A'ing wells and restoring sites. drilling and completing wells, working over and maintaining wells; producing wells; date and my education, training, knowledge and experience in the oil and gas many aspects of the oil and gas industry, including time spent designing wells These remarks and conclusions are based on the information furnished to

know. With kind regards, I remain If you have any questions or if I can be of any further assistance please let me

Sincerely,

Calvin Barnhill, P.E.

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#### Attachment A

# Supplemental Documents

- A. Unocal documents - Bates Numbers
  1. C4074021 0000001 - C4074021 0068541
- ₽. Pisani Documents
- KM EWL PISANI surface 1-325
- Ω. LLE Documents
  1. ROGERS 1-1577
  2. WILLIAMS 1-752
- D. Plaintiff's Documents received on 11/14/2014
- Ţ Depositions
- Steve Miller Julius Gregorie
- Dale Meche
- Ħ Supplemental Reports
- Charles Norman, with documents Icon, with exhibits
- Paul Templet
- G. Carrollton Environmental Report dated 4/1999