

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES**

*** DOCKET NO. 2025-11681-DENR**

IN THE MATTER OF

**PAUL M. LEVERT *ET AL.* v.
CHEVRON U.S.A., INC., AND KEY
PRODUCTION COMPANY, INC.**

COMMISSIONER’S CONFERENCE REPORT AND SCHEDULING ORDER

Pursuant to the request of the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Commissioner of Conservation, the Division of Administrative Law shall administer a public hearing, in the above matter, in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R.S.) 30:29; Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 43:XIX.601 *et seq.*; and Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Art. 1563.

A Commissioner’s Conference was held by telephone on June 30, 2025, before the undersigned. Participating in the conference were Jonathan Rice, counsel for DENR; Stephen Olivier, panel coordinator and petroleum scientist; Kevin Huddell and Andrew Jacoby, counsels for Paul M. Levert *et al.* (Paul Levert); Victor Gregoire, John Funderburk, and Dylan Scully, counsels for Chevron U.S.A., Inc. (Chevron); Demarcus Gordon and Jane Jackson, counsels for Key Production Company, Inc. (Key Production Company.); Mark Deethardt, counsel for Union Texas International Corporation and Atlantic Richfield; and Paul Adkins, counsel for NOVA Chemicals Olefins, LLC.

The parties moved without objection to hold an in-person hearing at the Division of Administrative Law’s (DAL) Baton Rouge office in courtroom 1. The hearing is scheduled to

begin August 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., August 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., and if necessary, August 14, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., ending no later than 5:00 p.m., each day, if possible.

The undersigned will conduct the hearing. Four panel members will render the decision. The panel members have not been named. Stephen Olivier of DENR will be the panel coordinator. Based on estimates given during the conference, there will be about 33 people attending the hearing. The parties reported there are no outstanding motions at this time.

Chevron and Key Petroleum Company plan to present their case in one and a half days. Union Texas International Corporation, Atlantic Richfield, and NOVA Chemicals Olefins, LLC, will present their scientific basis for their filed comments in 15 minutes. Paul Levert plans to ask questions, perform cross and rebuttal for about a half an hour for each witness. Paul Levert has no witnesses other than possible rebuttal.

Chevron is responsible for arranging the services of a court reporter. The court reporter or any party may call **Diab Haddad, the IT manager for the Division of Administrative Law, at (225) 342-1800**, if they have any questions, need help setting up for the hearing, or would like to visit DAL courtroom 1 to prepare technical equipment for the hearing.

Deadlines for the exchange of witness lists, exhibit lists, exhibits, and legal authority as well as deadlines for the filing of motions were chosen with the consent of the parties. The parties may call the **Division of Administrative Law's clerk's office at (225) 342-1800** if they have any questions or need assistance filing documents with the Division of Administrative Law. Documents can be filed by U.S. Mail, email, fax, or in person. All video and audio recordings that are offered as evidence during the hearing must be submitted on one of the following: CD, DVD, or flash drive. Audio and video evidence must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Division of Administrative Law.

The Division of Administrative Law's mailing address is **P.O. Box 44033, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4033**. The physical address is **1020 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA**. The fax number is **(225) 342-1812**. The email address for this case is **OALProcessing@adminlaw.la.gov**. DAL's website address is WWW.adminlaw.la.gov. Motions to enroll and motions for continuances may be filed through the website.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that an **in-person hearing** shall be held at the Division of Administrative Law, in courtroom 1, commencing on **August 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., August 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., and August 14, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**, if necessary. The hearing will end at 5:00 p.m. each day. (There is free parking behind the Division of Administrative Law's building. The entrance is also behind the building).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the parties shall exchange Witness Lists by **July 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadline for requesting a witness subpoena from the Division of Administrative Law is **July 21, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the parties shall exchange Exhibit Lists, exhibits, and supporting legal authority by **July 28, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a **Motion Hearing** is scheduled to be held by **Zoom videoconference** on **August 5, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** Instructions for participating in the Zoom videoconference hearing are attached.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadline for filing pretrial motions for the August 5, 2025, Zoom videoconference hearing is **July 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadline for filing an opposition brief to any motion is **July 25, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadline for filing a reply brief to an opposition brief is **July 31, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadline for filing the **Joint Pre-hearing Order** is **August 6, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** The Joint Pre-hearing Order shall contain any stipulations, a Witness List, an Exhibit List, contentions of the parties, and supporting legal authority.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadline for submitting **Power Point presentations** is **August 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**, for the August 12, 2025, presentation; **August 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**, for the August 13, 2025, presentation, and **August 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**, for the August 14, 2025, presentation.

Rendered and signed July 1, 2025, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

NOTICE OF TRANSMISSION OF DECISION OR ORDER

I certify that on Tuesday, July 01, 2025, I have sent a copy of this decision/order to all parties of this matter.

Clerk of Court
Division of Administrative Law



Charles Perrault
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Administrative Law

Video Conference/Hearing Instructions

You are required to attend a video conference/hearing.

Join the Zoom hearing by clicking this link:

<https://adminlaw-la-gov.zoom.us/j/88543156314?pwd=SGp5WVNFM0FGL3RjZHRvRzh0TnBqQT09>

Meeting ID: 885 4315 6314

Passcode: 9194

1. You will need a camera and microphone to participate in the hearing.
2. Choose a quiet room or location to participate in the hearing. No television or radio on in the background. Do not sit with a window behind you, as the glare can interfere with the video.
3. Dress appropriately as you would for court.
4. It is important that you not speak over someone talking. The judge will instruct you on when it is your turn to speak and ask questions.
5. The hearing's audio will be recorded.
6. Any improper behavior will result in the judge removing the offender from the video hearing room and may be considered by the judge as a waiver of your participation in the hearing.

If you have difficulty joining the hearing, or if the judge has not joined after 5 minutes, immediately contact DAL at (225) 342-1800 for further instructions.