

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

SALLY E. RICE, as trustee for the Winston  
Lawrence Rice Trust, on behalf of herself and  
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

BURLINGTON RESOURCES OIL  
& GAS COMPANY, LP,

Defendant.

Case No. 20-CV-431-GKF-SH

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT,  
MOTION FOR PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEYS’ FEES, COSTS  
CASE CONTRIBUTION AWARD, AND FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING**

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*A court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.*

***If you belong to the Settlement Class and this Settlement is approved, your legal rights will be affected whether you act or not.*** Read this Notice carefully to see what your rights and options are in connection with this Settlement.<sup>1</sup>

Because you may be a member of the Settlement Class in the Litigation captioned above and described below (“the Litigation”), the Court has directed this Notice to be posted to the settlement website ([www.rice-burlington.com](http://www.rice-burlington.com)). Defendant Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP’s (“Defendant” or “Burlington”) records show you are a royalty owner in North Dakota wells operated by Burlington. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Notice shall have the meanings attributed to those terms in the Settlement Agreement referred to below and available at [www.rice-burlington.com](http://www.rice-burlington.com).

This Notice generally explains the claims being asserted in the Litigation, summarizes the Settlement, and tells you about your rights to remain a Class Member or to timely and properly submit a Request for Exclusion (also known as an “opt out”) so that you will be excluded from the Settlement. This Notice provides information so you can decide what action you want to take with respect to the Settlement before the Court is asked to finally approve it. If the Court approves the Settlement and after the final resolution of any objections or appeals, the Court-appointed Settlement Administrator will issue payments to participating Class Members, without any further action from you. This Notice describes the lawsuit, the Settlement, your legal rights, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to get them.

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<sup>1</sup> This Notice summarizes and is qualified in its entirety by the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement (“Settlement Agreement”) and the documents referenced therein, which set forth the terms of the Settlement. Please refer to the Settlement Agreement for a complete description of the terms and provisions thereof. A copy of the Settlement Agreement is available at [www.rice-burlington.com](http://www.rice-burlington.com).

Questions? Visit [www.rice-burlington.com](http://www.rice-burlington.com) or call toll-free at 1-844-798-0742

The Settlement Class in the Litigation consists of the following individuals and entities:

All non-excluded persons or entities owning mineral interests in North Dakota wells who: (1) received untimely payments from Burlington for royalties in North Dakota wells during the Claim Period; and (2) whose payments did not include the 18% interest required by North Dakota law.

Excluded from the Class are: (1) Burlington, its affiliates, predecessors, and employees, officers, and directors; (2) agencies, departments, or instrumentalities of the United States of America or the State of North Dakota; and (3) any Indian tribe as defined at 30 U.S.C. §1702 (4) or Indian allottee as defined at 30 U.S.C. § 1702(2).

The Claim Period means all periods from and including August 25, 2014, to June 30, 2021. If you are unsure whether you are included in the Settlement Class, you may contact the Settlement Administrator at:

*Rice v. Burlington*  
c/o JND Legal Administration  
P.O. Box 91205  
Seattle, WA 98111  
**Call Toll-Free: 1-844-798-0742**

**TO OBTAIN THE BENEFITS OF THIS PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.**

**I. General Information About the Litigation**

The Litigation seeks damages for Burlington’s alleged failure to timely pay royalty proceeds on oil-and-gas production from North Dakota wells operated by Burlington. Burlington expressly denies all allegations of wrongdoing or liability with respect to the claims and allegations in the Litigation. The Court has made no determination with respect to the merits of any of the parties’ claims or defenses. A more complete description of the Litigation, its status, and the rulings made in the Litigation are available in the pleadings and other papers maintained by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma in the file for the Litigation.

**II. The Settlement, Plaintiff’s Attorneys’ Fees, Litigation Expenses, Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, a Case Contribution Award, And The Settlement Allocation And Distribution To The Settlement Class**

On May 8, 2023, the Court preliminarily approved a Settlement in the Litigation between Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Settlement Class, and Defendant. This approval and this Notice are not an expression of opinion by the Court as to the merits of any of the claims or defenses asserted by any of the parties to the Litigation, or of whether the Court will ultimately approve the Settlement Agreement.

In settlement of the Released Claims, Defendant has agreed to pay Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) in cash (“Gross Settlement Fund”). In exchange for the payment noted above, the Settlement Class shall release the Released Claims (as defined in the Settlement Agreement available for review and download at [www.rice-burlington.com](http://www.rice-burlington.com)) against the Released Parties (as defined in the Settlement Agreement). The \$4,000,000.00 cash payment is referred to as the “Gross Settlement Fund.” The Gross Settlement Fund, less Plaintiff’s Attorneys’ Fees, a Case Contribution Award, and Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and any other costs approved by the Court (the “Net Settlement Fund”), will be distributed to participating Class Members pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

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Class Counsel intends to seek an award of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees of not more than 40% of the Gross Settlement Fund. Co-Lead Counsel, Reagan E. Bradford and Ryan K. Wilson of Bradford & Wilson PLLC, and Additional Class Counsel Brady L. Smith of Brady Smith Law, PLLC have been litigating this case without any payment whatsoever, advancing thousands of dollars in expenses. At the Final Fairness Hearing, Plaintiff's Counsel will also seek reimbursement of the Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs incurred in connection with the prosecution of this Litigation and that will be incurred through final distribution of the Settlement, which is estimated to be approximately \$300,000.00. In addition, Plaintiff intends to seek a case contribution award for its representation of the Settlement Class, which amount will not exceed \$80,000.00, to compensate Plaintiff for the time, expense, risk, and burden as serving as Class Representative.

The Court must approve the Allocation Methodology, which describes how the Settlement Administrator will allocate the Net Settlement Fund. The Net Settlement Fund will be distributed by the Settlement Administrator after the Effective Date of the Settlement. The Effective Date requires the exhaustion of any appeals, which may take a year or more after the entry of Judgment. The Settlement may be terminated on several grounds, including if the Court does not approve or materially modifies the terms of the Settlement. If the Settlement is terminated, the Litigation will proceed as if the Settlement had not been reached, as further described in the Settlement Agreement.

This Notice does not and cannot set out all the terms of the Settlement Agreement, which is available for review and download at [www.rice-burlington.com](http://www.rice-burlington.com). This website will eventually include this Notice, the Initial Plan of Allocation, and Plaintiff's Counsel's application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, and Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs. You may also receive information about the progress of the Settlement by visiting the website at [www.rice-burlington.com](http://www.rice-burlington.com), or by contacting the Settlement Administrator at the address set forth above.

### **III. Class Settlement Fairness Hearing**

The Final Fairness Hearing will be held on August 25, 2023, beginning at 1:30 p.m. before the Honorable Gregory K. Frizzell for the Northern District of Oklahoma, 333 West Fourth Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103. Please note that the date of the Final Fairness Hearing is subject to change without further notice. You should check [www.rice-burlington.com](http://www.rice-burlington.com) to confirm no change to the date and time of the hearing has been made. At the Final Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate; (b) any timely and properly raised objections to the Settlement; (c) the Allocation Methodology; (d) the application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs; and (e) the application for a Case Contribution Award for the Class Representative.

**A CLASS MEMBER WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT AND DOES NOT SUBMIT A VALID REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION DOES NOT NEED TO APPEAR AT THE FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT.**

#### **IV. What Are Your Options As A Class Member?**

##### **A. You Can Participate in the Class Settlement by Doing Nothing**

By taking no action, your interests will be represented by Plaintiff as the Class Representative and Plaintiff's Counsel. As a Class Member, you will be bound by the outcome of the Settlement, if finally approved by the Court. The Class Representative and Plaintiff's Counsel believe that the Settlement is in the best interest of the Settlement Class, and, therefore, they intend to support the proposed Settlement at the Final Fairness Hearing. As a Class Member, if you are entitled to a distribution pursuant to the Allocation Methodology, you will receive your portion of the Net Settlement Fund and you will be bound by the Settlement Agreement and all orders and judgments entered by the Court regarding the Settlement. If the Settlement is approved, unless you exclude yourself from the Settlement Class, neither you nor any other Releasing Party will be able to start a lawsuit or arbitration, continue a lawsuit or arbitration, or be part of any other lawsuit against any of the Released Parties based on any of the Released Claims.

##### **B. You May Submit a Request for Exclusion to Opt Out of the Settlement Class**

If you do not wish to be a member of the Settlement Class, then you must exclude yourself from the Settlement Class. All Requests for Exclusion must include: (i) the Class Member's name, address, telephone number, and notarized signature; (ii) a statement that the Class Member wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class in *Rice v. Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP*; and (iii) a description of the Class Member's interest in any wells for which it has received payments from Defendant, including the name, well number, county in which the well is located, and the owner identification number. Requests for Exclusion must be served on the Settlement Administrator, Defendant's Counsel, and Plaintiff's Counsel by certified mail, return receipt requested and received no later than **5 p.m. CT on July 20, 2023**. Requests for Exclusion may be mailed as follows:

<b>Settlement Administrator</b>	<b>Co-Lead Counsel</b>
Rice v. Burlington Settlement c/o JND Class Action Administration, Settlement Administrator P.O. Box 91205 Seattle, WA 98111	Reagan E. Bradford Ryan K. Wilson Bradford & Wilson PLLC 431 W. Main Street, Suite D Oklahoma City, OK 73102
<b>Defendant's Counsel</b>	
Craig L. Stahl Jeffrey T. Kuehnle Haynes and Boone, LLP 10001 Woodloch Forest Dr., Suite 200 The Woodlands, Texas 77380	Garrett Martin Haynes and Boone, LLP 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 4000 Houston, Texas 77010

**If you do not follow these procedures—including mailing the Request for Exclusion so that it is received by the deadline set out above—you will not be excluded from the Settlement Class, and you will be bound by all of the orders and judgments entered by the Court regarding the Settlement, including the release of claims.** You must exclude yourself even if you already have a pending case against any of the Released Parties based upon any Released Claims during the Claim Period. You cannot exclude yourself on the website, by telephone, facsimile, or by e-mail. If you validly

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request exclusion as described above, you will not receive any distribution from the Net Settlement Fund, you cannot object to the Settlement, and you will not have released any claim against the Released Parties. You will not be legally bound by anything that happens in the Litigation.

**C. You May Remain a Member of the Settlement Class, but Object to the Settlement, Allocation Methodology, Plan of Allocation, Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Expenses, Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, or Case Contribution Award**

Any Class Member who wishes to object to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement, any term of the Settlement, the Allocation Methodology, the Plan of Allocation, the request for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Expenses, and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, or the request for a Case Contribution Award to Class Representative may file an objection. An objector must file with the Court and serve upon Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendant's Counsel a written objection containing the following: (a) a heading referring to *Rice v. Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP*; (b) a statement as to whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Fairness Hearing, either in person or through counsel, and, if through counsel, counsel must be identified by name, address, and telephone number; (c) a detailed statement of the specific legal and factual basis for each and every objection; (d) a list of any witnesses the objector may call at the Final Fairness Hearing, together with a brief summary of each witness's expected testimony (to the extent the objector desires to offer expert testimony and/or an expert report, any such evidence must fully comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, and the Local Rules of the Court); (e) a list of and copies of any exhibits the objector may seek to use at the Final Fairness Hearing; (f) a list of any legal authority the objector may present at the Final Fairness Hearing; (g) the objector's name, current address, current telephone number, and all owner identification numbers with Defendant; (h) the objector's signature executed before a Notary Public; (i) identification of the objector's interest in wells with Defendant (by well name, payee well number, and county in which the well is located) during the Claim Period and identification of any payments by date of payment, date of production, and amount; and (j) if the objector is objecting to any portion of the Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs sought by Plaintiff or Plaintiff's Counsel on the basis that the amounts requested are unreasonably high, the objector must specifically state the portion of such requests he/she/it believes is fair and reasonable and the portion that is not. Such written objections must be filed with the Court and served on Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendant's Counsel, via certified mail return receipt requested, and received no later than 5 p.m. CT by July 20, 2023, at the addresses set forth above. Any Class Member that fails to timely file the written objection statement and provide the required information will not be permitted to present any objections at the Final Fairness Hearing. Your written objection must be timely filed with the Court at the address below:

Clerk of the Court  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma  
333 West Fourth St., Room 411  
Tulsa, OK 74103

**UNLESS OTHERWISE ORDERED BY THE COURT, ANY SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBER WHO DOES NOT OBJECT IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED HEREIN WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE WAIVED ANY OBJECTION AND SHALL BE FOREVER FORECLOSED FROM MAKING ANY OBJECTON TO THE SETTLEMENT (OR ANY PART THEREOF) AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PRESENT ANY OBJECTIONS AT THE FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING.**

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**D. You May Retain Your Own Attorney to Represent You at the Final Fairness Hearing**

You have the right to retain your own attorney to represent you at the Final Fairness Hearing. If you retain separate counsel, you will be responsible to pay his or her fees and expenses out of your own pocket.

**V. Availability of Filed Papers And More Information**

This Notice summarizes the Settlement Agreement, which sets out all of its terms. You may obtain a copy of the Settlement Agreement with its exhibits, as well as other relevant documents, from the settlement website for free at [www.rice-burlington.com](http://www.rice-burlington.com), or you may request copies by contacting the Settlement Administrator as set forth above. In addition, the pleadings and other papers filed in this Action, including the Settlement Agreement, are available for inspection in at the Office of the Clerk of the Court, set forth above, and may be obtained by the Clerk's office directly. The records are also available on-line for a fee through the PACER service at [www.pacer.gov/](http://www.pacer.gov/).

If you have any questions about this Notice, you may consult an attorney of your own choosing at your own expense or consult Plaintiff's Counsel.

**PLEASE DO *NOT* CONTACT THE JUDGE OR THE COURT CLERK ASKING FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS NOTICE.**