

**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

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT OF SETTLEMENT

This Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement (hereinafter, including all exhibits attached hereto and/or provided for herein referred to collectively as the “Settlement Agreement”) is entered into between Sally E. Rice, as trustee for the Winston Lawrence Rice Trust, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated (“Plaintiff”), and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP (“Defendant”). Plaintiff and Defendant are collectively referred to as the “Parties.” The settlement expressed in this Settlement Agreement is conditioned upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Settlement Agreement, including but not limited to the Court (1) approving this Settlement Agreement; and (2) entering the orders and judgments upon which this Settlement Agreement is conditioned, as more fully described below:

WHEREAS, a class action lawsuit was commenced by Plaintiff on August 25, 2020 (the “Litigation”), with the filing of Plaintiff’s Original Class Action Complaint (Doc. 2, the “Complaint”)) against Defendant in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma;

WHEREAS, Plaintiff has made certain claims against Defendant, as more fully described in Plaintiff’s Complaint (Doc. 2);

WHEREAS, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel have prosecuted the Litigation for more than two years, which has included discovery of documents and data, the taking of depositions, motion practice, research, accounting review and analysis, consultation by and with experts, settlement negotiations among counsel, damage modeling, and other investigations and preparation;

WHEREAS, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel acknowledge that, during the course of their prosecution of the Litigation, they have taken depositions of the personnel with Defendant, received, examined, and analyzed information, documents, and materials they deem necessary and appropriate to enable them to enter into this Settlement Agreement on a fully-informed basis, and after such examination and analysis, and based on the experience of Plaintiff's Counsel and their experts and consultants, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel have concluded that the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement are fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class and Plaintiff;

WHEREAS, Plaintiff agreed to settle the claims asserted against Defendant in the Litigation pursuant to this Settlement Agreement after considering: (1) the substantial benefits Class Members will receive from resolution of such claims, (2) the risks of litigating those claims, and (3) the desirability of permitting the Settlement to be consummated as provided by the terms of this Settlement Agreement;

WHEREAS, Defendant agrees that further prosecution and defense of the claims against it in this Litigation would be protracted and expensive. Defendant has taken into account the uncertainty and risks inherent in any such litigation and has determined that it is desirable to compromise and settle the claims against it in the Litigation;

WHEREAS, Defendant has adamantly denied, and continues to deny, Plaintiff's claims against it and any and all liability to Plaintiff and the Settlement Class, and has vigorously defended against those claims; and

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the payments, mutual promises, agreements, undertakings, releases, and other terms and provisions of this Settlement Agreement, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged by all Parties hereto, Defendant and Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Settlement Class, stipulate and agree as follows, subject to the approval of the Court, without admission of any liability or wrongdoing, and in consideration of the benefits set forth herein, that all Released Claims (defined below) shall be fully, finally, and forever compromised, settled, released, and discharged, and the Litigation shall be dismissed with prejudice, upon and subject to the following terms and conditions.

1. DEFINITIONS

As used throughout this Settlement Agreement and all other documents attached hereto, the following phrases and words will be given the meanings set forth below:

1.1. **"Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs"** means the reasonable and necessary fees, costs, and expenses charged by the Settlement Administrator agreed to by the Parties, JND Legal Administration (or any consultant retained by the Settlement Administrator with the approval of Plaintiff's Counsel), for fees, costs, and expenses generated or incurred in the administration, distribution, and notification of the Settlement, including: (a) fees, costs, and expenses incurred in making a reasonable attempt to identify the names, addresses, and tax identification numbers of Class Members (to the extent not contained in the records provided by Defendant under paragraph 3.3 below); (b) fees, costs, and expenses incurred to publish and mail the Notice of Settlement to the Settlement Class (such as the cost to print the Notices of Settlement, mail the Notices of Settlement, and publish the Notices of Settlement pursuant to the Plan of Notice); (c) fees, costs, and expenses to prepare, issue, and mail (and re-issue and re-mail, if necessary) the Distribution Checks to the Settlement Class; (d) fees, costs, and expenses to provide a reconciliation of the final amount of Residual Unclaimed Funds; (e) fees, costs, and expenses to calculate the amount each Class Member will receive under any Plan of Allocation;

and (f) fees, costs, and expenses to calculate the amount each Class Member who does not timely and properly submit a Request for Exclusion will receive under the Final Plan of Allocation. Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs also include the costs described in (a) through (f) above incurred by Plaintiff's Counsel and/or Plaintiff associated with experts, consultants, or other personnel retained for purposes of administration, distribution, and notification. Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs also includes any fees or costs charged by the Escrow Agent related to the Escrow Account. Subject to Court approval, all Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs will be paid from the Gross Settlement Fund.

1.2. **"Allocation Methodology"** means the methodology Plaintiff proposes to use to calculate the amount of the Net Settlement Fund to be sent to each Class Member who does not timely and properly submit a Request for Exclusion or who is not otherwise excluded from the Settlement Class by order of the Court.

1.3. **"Case Contribution Award"** means the award ordered by the Court, if any, to Plaintiff for the time, expense, and participation in this Litigation and in representing the Settlement Class.

1.4. **"Claim Period"** means all periods from and including August 25, 2014, to June 30, 2021.

1.5. **"Class Member"** is a person or entity belonging to the Settlement Class.

1.6. **"Court"** means the judge or any successor judge presiding over the Litigation.

1.7. **"Defendant"** is separately defined on page 1 of this Settlement Agreement.

1.8. **"Defendant's Counsel"** means the law firm of Haynes and Boone, LLP and the law firm of GableGotwals.

1.9. **"Distribution Check"** means a check payable to a Class Member who does not timely and properly submit a Request for Exclusion, or who is not otherwise excluded from the Settlement

Class by order of the Court, for the purpose of paying that Class Member's share of the Net Settlement Fund pursuant to the Allocation Methodology.

1.10. “**Effective Date**” means the first date by which all of the events and conditions specified in paragraph 9.2 below have occurred.

1.11. “**Escrow Account**” means an account maintained by the Escrow Agent.

1.12. “**Escrow Agent**” means the financial institution mutually agreed to by the Parties, subject to Court approval.

1.13. “**Escrow Agreement**” means the agreement(s) between Plaintiff's Counsel (on behalf of Plaintiff and the Settlement Class), Defendant, and the Escrow Agent, setting forth the terms under which the Escrow Agent shall maintain the Escrow Account in accordance with this Settlement Agreement. The Escrow Agreement shall be in the form agreed to by the Parties.

1.14. “**Final and Non-Appealable**” means thirty (30) days have elapsed following entry of the Judgment without the filing of: (i) any appeal or original action in any court challenging or seeking reconsideration, modification, or vacation of the Judgment, or otherwise seeking to interfere with or evade provisions of this Settlement Agreement and the settlement contemplated hereunder; or (ii) any motion that would extend the time to appeal from the Judgment, or which challenges or seeks reconsideration, modification, or vacation of the Judgment.

1.15. “**Final Fairness Hearing**” means the hearing set by the Court under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e)(2) to consider final approval of the Settlement.

1.16. “**Final Plan of Allocation**” means the final calculation of the Distribution Check that will be sent to each Class Member who has not timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion or otherwise been excluded from the Settlement Class by order of the Court.

1.17. “**Gross Settlement Fund**” means the total cash amount of \$4,000,000.00 to be paid by Defendant. Except as stated in paragraph 3.7, in no event shall Defendant or the Released Parties be required to pay more than the Gross Settlement Fund.

1.18. “**Gross Settlement Value**” means (1) the Gross Settlement Fund, and (2) all other terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

1.19. “**Judgment**” means the Order and Judgment Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement finally approving the Settlement between the Settlement Class and Defendant, which shall include provisions substantially the same as those set forth in paragraph 3.8 below and be in substantially the same form as Exhibit 2, attached hereto.

1.20. “**Litigation**” is separately defined on page 1 of this Settlement Agreement.

1.21. “**Litigation Expenses**” means the reasonable costs and expenses incurred by Plaintiff’s Counsel in commencing and prosecuting the Litigation.

1.22. “**Net Settlement Fund**” means the Gross Settlement Fund less: (a) any of Plaintiff’s Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation Expenses awarded by the Court; (b) any Case Contribution Award awarded by the Court; (c) any Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs; (d) any other costs and expenses that the Court orders to be deducted from the Gross Settlement Fund; and (e) the amount of money under the Allocation Methodology attributable to Class Members who timely and properly submitted Requests for Exclusion or who were otherwise excluded from the Settlement Class by order of the Court, as described in Section 6 below.

1.23. “**Notice of Settlement**” means the notice in substantially the same form as Exhibits 3 and 4, which will be mailed or posted on the website in accordance with the Plan of Notice as described in Section 3 below, and the notice in substantially the same form as Exhibit 5 attached hereto, which will be published in accordance with the Plan of Notice as described in Section 3 below.

1.24. “**Parties**” is separately defined on page 1 of this Settlement Agreement.

1.25. “**Plaintiff**” is separately defined on page 1 of this Settlement Agreement.

1.26. “**Plaintiff’s Attorneys’ Fees**” means the fees that may be awarded by the Court to Plaintiff’s Counsel with respect to their work on the Litigation.

1.27. “**Plaintiff’s Counsel**” means 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.

1.28. “**Plan of Allocation**” means the proposed plan of allocation and/or any order(s) entered by the Court authorizing and directing that the Net Settlement Fund be distributed, in whole or in part, to the members of the Settlement Class who do not timely opt-out of this Settlement, or who are not otherwise excluded by order of the Court.

1.29. “**Plan of Notice**” means the process described in paragraph 3.6 below for sending, posting, and publishing the Notice of Settlement.

1.30. “**Preliminary Approval Order**” means the order in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1 to be entered by the Court preliminarily approving the Settlement, certifying the class for settlement purposes only, and directing that Notice of Settlement be provided to the Settlement Class as set forth therein.

1.31. “**Released Claims**” means all claims and damages asserted in the Litigation (statutory, contract, tort, equitable, punitive, and other relief), and all claims, actions (including class actions), causes of action, choses in action, demands, debts, obligations, duties, liens, liabilities, and theories of liability and recovery of whatsoever kind and nature, whether in contract or tort, at law or in equity, under express or implied covenants or duties, known or unknown, accrued or unaccrued, contingent, prospective or matured, whether for actual, direct, indirect, consequential, treble, or punitive damages, disgorgement, interest, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, equitable relief, or any other type of relief, asserted or that could have been asserted in the Litigation or any regulatory proceeding against the

Released Parties, or any of them, arising out of or related to underpaid or unpaid interest for proceeds from North Dakota oil-and-gas production from checks or payments made or issued by Defendant and or any party on behalf of Defendant during the Claim Period.

The Released Claims do not include: (1) any and all claims accruing before or after the Claim Period; (2) any and all claims against Defendant arising out of or related to underpaid or unpaid statutory interest for proceeds from North Dakota oil-and-gas production held in suspense, but not yet paid by Defendant during the Claim Period; (3) any and all claims for the principal amount of proceeds for North Dakota oil-and-gas production made or issued by Defendant or still held in suspense; and (4) any other claims that Class Members may have against Defendant other than claims for interest or penalties on late payments on royalties under North Dakota law, as set out in this definition of Released Claims.

1.32. **“Released Parties”** means Defendant and its former or present parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates (entities which own an interest in Defendant, or in which Defendant owns an interest), whether direct or indirect, and any and all of its former or present officers, directors, employees, agents, attorneys, board members, successors, assigns, and consultants, including without limitation ConocoPhillips Company.

1.33. **“Releasing Parties”** means Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members who do not timely and properly opt-out or submit a request for exclusion from the Settlement, and who are not otherwise excluded from the Settlement Class by order of the Court. All members of the Settlement Class who do not timely and properly submit Requests for Exclusion and who are not otherwise excluded from the Settlement Class by order of the Court, and their heirs, successors, and assigns, will be enjoined by the Court in the Judgment from filing or prosecuting Released Claims.

1.34. **“Request for Exclusion”** means any request for exclusion from the Settlement Class pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 that meets the requirements set by the Court for exclusion.

1.35. “**Residual Unclaimed Funds**” means any portion of the Net Settlement Fund that has not been deposited, cashed or otherwise claimed by a Class Member, including but not limited to: (a) the total amount of Distribution Checks sent to Class Members who later cannot be located by the Settlement Administrator through reasonable efforts (as described in Section 6 below), along with any interest and returns that accrue on such amounts during the time they are in the Escrow Account or held by the Settlement Administrator; and (b) the amount of Distribution Checks sent to Class Members that are voided because they are not cashed or deposited within the time specified on the Distribution Check, along with any interest and returns that accrue on such amounts during the time they are in the Escrow Account or held by the Settlement Administrator.

1.36. “**Settlement**” means the Parties' agreement to resolve the Litigation as described herein.

1.37. “**Settlement Administrator**” means JND Legal Administration, subject to Court approval.

1.38. “**Settlement Class**” shall mean the below-described class that the Parties have agreed should be certified for settlement purposes only pursuant to the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order to be entered by the Court in the same or similar form attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The Settlement Class is to be specifically defined as follows:

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 persons the Parties have presently identified as members of the Settlement Class are those persons identified on the spreadsheet produced at in the Litigation as RICCP00043434. Except as expressly excluded from the Settlement Class as set forth above, the Parties intend the Settlement Class

to be construed as broadly as possible to include all persons or entities that otherwise meet the definition of the Settlement Class.

2. CONSIDERATION

2.1. The Parties agree to settle the Litigation as set forth herein. In exchange for Plaintiff's releases, covenants, and agreements in the Settlement, both on her behalf and on behalf of the Settlement Class, Defendant agrees to provide Plaintiff and the Settlement Class the Gross Settlement Value.

2.2. Within ten (10) business days following the date the Court enters the Preliminary Approval Order, Defendant agrees to pay \$4,000,000.00 (the Gross Settlement Fund) into the Escrow Account created pursuant to the Escrow Agreement. Except for Defendant's obligation to make the payment called for by the preceding sentence, neither the Released Parties nor Defendant's Counsel shall have any liability to Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, or the Settlement Class with respect to any aspect of the Gross Settlement Fund or its administration, including but not limited to, any distributions made by the Escrow Agent or Settlement Administrator. If Defendant fails to pay the Gross Settlement Fund into the Escrow Account within the time specified above, beginning on the date on which the payment is due, such amount will accrue interest at the effective federal funds rate, as posted by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, on the first business day of the calendar year in which the payment is due.

2.3. The Parties agree that the Settlement of the Released Claims is supported by adequate consideration and the Parties' agreements, releases, and covenants herein.

3. PLAN OF NOTICE AND COURT APPROVALS

3.1. Plaintiff will file a motion with the Court seeking preliminary approval of the Settlement on or before April 25, 2023, which shall include the proposed Preliminary Approval Order, in substantially the same form attached hereto as Exhibit 1, which will, *inter alia*: (a) certify the Settlement Class for the purposes of this Settlement only; (b) preliminarily approve the Settlement as set forth in this

Settlement Agreement; (c) approve the Notice of Settlement and Plan of Notice; and (d) direct the Settlement Administrator to provide the Notice of Settlement to the Settlement Class in accordance with the Plan of Notice or in any other manner the Court may direct in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

3.2. Plaintiff will request the Court enter the Preliminary Approval Order no later than thirty (30) days after the date the Settlement Agreement is executed (unless the Court requires a later date).

3.3. To the extent not already provided, but not later than ten (10) days after the Court enters the Preliminary Approval Order, Defendant shall provide Plaintiff's Counsel in electronic format the payment history data for the Settlement Class, the members of which the Parties have presently identified in a spreadsheet produced by Defendant, including: (a) for the Claim Period: (i) Owner ID; (ii) Name; (iii) DOI interest and type; (iv) last address known to Defendant; and (v) taxpayer identification numbers. These items may be provided in separate spreadsheets in connection with the pertinent Owner IDs. Defendant will cooperate with Plaintiff's Counsel by providing such other data as may be reasonably requested to aid in the allocation and payment of settlement proceeds to Settlement Class Members.

3.4. Defendant agrees to cooperate in providing this electronic data to Plaintiff's Counsel and understands that the deadlines set forth in this Settlement Agreement are based in part on Defendant's timely provision of this electronic data to Plaintiff's Counsel.

3.5. After the Preliminary Approval Order is entered and prior to sending the Notice of Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall make reasonable efforts to: (a) verify the last known addresses of potential Class Members provided by Defendant pursuant to paragraph 3.3, and (b) locate current addresses of any potential Class Members for whom Defendant has not provided an address.

3.6. No later than thirty (30) days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, or at such time as is ordered by the Court, the Settlement Administrator will mail (or cause to be mailed) the

postcard Notice of Settlement by mail (Exhibit 3) to all Class Members who have been identified after reasonable efforts to do so and will post on the settlement website the Notice of Settlement (Exhibit 4). The postcard Notice of Settlement (Exhibit 3) will be mailed to Class Members using the data described in paragraph 3.3 above and any updated addresses found by the Settlement Administrator. No later than ten (10) days after the Notice is mailed, or at such time as is ordered by the Court, the Settlement Administrator also shall publish (or cause to be published) the summary Notice of Settlement (Exhibit 5) one time in each of the following newspapers: (a) the Williston Daily Herald, a paper of general circulation in the relevant geographic area of North Dakota; and (b) the Bismarck Tribune, a paper of general circulation in North Dakota. Within ten (10) days after mailing the postcard Notice of Settlement and continuing through the date of the Final Fairness Hearing, the Settlement Administrator also will display (or cause to be displayed) on an Internet website dedicated to this Settlement the following documents: (a) the Notice of Settlement, (b) the Complaint, (c) this Settlement Agreement, (d) the Preliminary Approval Order; and (e) other publicly filed documents related to approval of the Settlement. Neither the Released Parties, Defendant's Counsel, Plaintiff, the Settlement Class, nor Plaintiff's Counsel shall have any liability for failure of the Notice of Settlement to reach any Class Member.

3.7. At its sole expense, Defendant shall issue the notice of settlement contemplated by the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA") in accordance with the deadlines provided by CAFA, but no later than ten (10) days after this Settlement Agreement is filed with the Court. Any failure or delay by Defendant to timely issue any CAFA notice shall not be sufficient reason to delay or continue the Final Fairness Hearing. The Final Fairness Hearing shall be scheduled for a date that will allow for the notice requirement of CAFA to be satisfied.

3.8. No later than twenty-eight (28) calendar days prior to the Final Fairness Hearing, if the Settlement has not been terminated pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff's Counsel and Plaintiff shall move for: (a) final approval of the Settlement pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure

23(e); (b) entry of a Judgment in substantially the same form as Exhibit 2 attached hereto; (c) final approval of the Allocation Methodology and Plan of Allocation; and (d) Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and a Case Contribution Award to Plaintiff. After Notice of Settlement is given in the manner directed by the Court, the Parties will request the Court to hold a Final Fairness Hearing as described in the Notice of Settlement, and to then enter Judgment, specifically approving all terms and provisions of the Settlement, including the Allocation Methodology and Plan of Allocation; provided however, that Defendant will take no position on the Allocation Methodology (or any Plan of Allocation implementing the Allocation Methodology) unless such matters affect Defendant's rights under this Settlement Agreement. The Judgment shall substantially:

- (i) Approve the Settlement between the Settlement Class and Defendant embodied in this Settlement Agreement, including any Allocation Methodology, as fair, reasonable and adequate to each Class Member within the meaning of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23;
- (ii) Dismiss the Released Claims with prejudice, but retain continuing jurisdiction to enter any orders as necessary to administer the Settlement Agreement and to interpret, construe, and enforce the Judgment;
- (iii) Adjudge that Class Members who have not timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion and who are not excluded from the Settlement Class by Order of the Court have conclusively released all the Released Claims that the Releasing Parties have against all Released Parties;
- (iv) Bar and permanently enjoin all Class Members who have not timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion and who are not excluded from the Settlement Class by order of the Court from prosecuting, commencing, or continuing any of the Released Claims against the Released Parties;
- (v) Find that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and was entered into between Defendant and the Settlement Class in good faith and without collusion;
- (vi) Find that, by agreeing to settle the Released Claims, Defendant does not admit, and specifically denies, any and all liability to the Settlement Class, Plaintiff, and Plaintiff's Counsel;

- (vii) Find that the Notice has been given as required by law, that all statutory and constitutional requirements have been met, and further, that Class Members have been afforded a reasonable opportunity to opt-out of or object to the Settlement;
- (viii) Order any Class Member who receives a Distribution Check that he/she/it is not legally entitled to receive to either (1) pay the appropriate portion(s) of the Distribution Check to the person(s) legally entitled to receive such portion(s) or (2) return the Distribution Check uncashed to the Settlement Administrator;
- (ix) Find and determine that there is no just reason to delay the finality of the Judgment and Order and expressly direct the filing of the Judgment as a Judgment and Order; and
- (x) Order that the Settlement may never be used for any purpose in any subsequent litigation against Defendant or any other Released Party other than to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

4. RELEASE, DISMISSAL, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE

4.1. Upon the Effective Date, the Released Parties, individually and collectively, shall be fully, finally, and forever released from the Released Claims of the Releasing Parties, and such Releasing Parties shall be enjoined from asserting or prosecuting any Released Claims against any Released Parties.

4.2. Upon the Effective Date and for the consideration provided for herein, the Releasing Parties (a) agree and covenant that, in addition to the foregoing release of the Released Claims, he, she, or it shall not, at any time, directly or indirectly, on the Releasing Parties' behalf, sue, institute, or assert against the Released Parties any claims or actions on or concerning the Released Claims, and (b) acknowledge that the foregoing covenant shall apply and have effect by virtue of this Settlement Agreement and by operation of the Judgment. The Releasing Parties and Plaintiff's Counsel further agree and acknowledge that the covenants not to sue provided for in this paragraph are made to inure to the benefit of, and are specifically enforceable by, each of the Released Parties.

4.3. The Judgment approving the Settlement Agreement shall dismiss the Released Claims with prejudice. However, any continuing obligations under this Settlement Agreement shall survive the entry of the Judgment. The Court, along with any appellate court with power to review the Court's

orders and rulings in the Litigation, will retain exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over this Litigation for purposes of administering this Settlement Agreement and any issues associated therewith.

5. ESCROW ACCOUNT AND PAYMENT OF TAXES

5.1. All funds held by the Escrow Agent or Settlement Administrator shall be deemed to be in the custody of the Court and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court until such time as the funds shall be distributed as contemplated by this Settlement Agreement and/or further order of the Court. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing between Defendant and Plaintiff's Counsel, the Escrow Agent shall invest any funds in excess of U.S. \$100,000 in United States Treasury Bills having maturities of 90 days or less, or money market mutual funds comprised of investments secured by the full faith and credit of the United States Government, or an account fully insured by the United States Government Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Any funds held in escrow in an amount less than U.S. \$100,000 may be held in an interest-bearing account insured by the FDIC or money market mutual funds comprised of investments secured by the full faith and credit of the United States Government or fully insured by the United States Government. All risks related to the investment of the Gross Settlement Fund and any risk of loss of the fund deposited in the Escrow Account shall be borne by the Gross Settlement Fund alone and not by Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, the Released Parties, Defendant's Counsel, or the Settlement Administrator.

5.2. The Parties agree that the Gross Settlement Fund is intended to be a qualified settlement fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-1 and that the Settlement Administrator, as administrator of the Escrow Account within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-2(k)(3), shall be solely responsible for timely filing or causing to be filed all informational and other tax returns as may be necessary or appropriate (including, without limitation, the returns described in Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-2(k)). All taxes on the income earned on the funds in the Escrow Account shall be paid out of the Escrow Account as provided herein and pursuant to the disbursement instructions set

forth in the Escrow Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall also be solely responsible for causing payment to be made from the Gross Settlement Fund of any taxes owed with respect to the Gross Settlement Fund. The Settlement Administrator, as administrator of the Gross Settlement Fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-2(k)(3), shall timely make such elections as are necessary or advisable to carry out this paragraph, including, as necessary, making a "relation back election," as described in Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-1 (j), to cause the qualified settlement fund to come into existence at the earliest allowable date, and shall take or cause to be taken all actions as may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith.

5.3. Any tax returns prepared for the Gross Settlement Fund (as well as the election set forth therein) shall be consistent with the Settlement Agreement and in all events shall reflect that all taxes (including any interest or penalties) on the income earned by the Gross Settlement Fund shall be paid out of the Gross Settlement Fund as provided herein. The Gross Settlement Fund shall indemnify and hold the Released Parties, Defendant's Counsel, Plaintiff, and Plaintiff's Counsel harmless for any taxes and related expenses of any kind whatsoever (including without limitation, taxes payable by reason of any such indemnification) on income earned while the Gross Settlement Fund (or any portion thereof) is in the Escrow Account. The Parties shall notify the Escrow Agent promptly if they receive any notice of any claim for taxes relating to the Gross Settlement Fund.

5.4. All income taxes, if any, incurred on the part of Class Members in connection with the implementation of this Settlement Agreement shall be reported and paid by the individual Class Members to the extent of their individual tax liability on proceeds they individually receive. Except for any amounts withheld for tax purposes by the Settlement Administrator, the individual Class Members are solely responsible for the payment of any taxes attributable to payments to them under this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, the Released Parties, Defendant's Counsel, the Gross Settlement Fund, and the Settlement Administrator shall have no responsibility or liability whatsoever for

any such taxes. Each Class Member will indemnify the Released Parties as to any losses, liabilities, costs, or expenses, including attorneys' fees, arising out of or relating to any taxes attributable to such Class Member arising out of or relating to the payment of any portion of the Gross Settlement Fund to such Class Member. Neither the Released Parties, Defendant's Counsel, nor the Settlement Class will bear any responsibility for any taxes due on Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, any reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, or any Case Contribution Award, and such taxes will not be paid from the Escrow Account.

5.5. All distributions shall be subject to any required federal or state income tax withholding, which the Settlement Administrator shall be entitled to withhold and pay to the appropriate taxing authorities. The Settlement Administrator shall provide IRS Form 1099s or other explanations of payments to Class Members sufficient to allow Class Members to know that proper tax payments have been or can be made or to allow them to submit requests for refunds. In the event Distribution Checks are not cashed or are returned to the Settlement Administrator, such that Class Members do not receive payment of the amounts distributed, the Settlement Administrator shall make reasonable efforts to identify a correct address for such Class Members and shall request a refund to the taxing authority to whom any withheld taxes were paid on behalf of the Class Member who did not receive payment. The Parties, the Released Parties, and their Counsel shall have no liability for any filed IRS Form 1099s. The Gross Settlement Fund shall indemnify and hold all Released Parties, Defendant's Counsel, Plaintiff, and Plaintiff's Counsel harmless for any penalties and related expenses of any kind whatsoever associated with any filed IRS Form 1099s. The Parties shall notify the Escrow Agent and Settlement Administrator promptly if they receive any notice of any claim for penalties relating to a filed IRS Form 1099.

5.6. The Parties agree that the Released Parties, Defendant's Counsel, Plaintiff, and Plaintiff's Counsel have no responsibility or liability for any severance taxes or other taxes that may be due on the amounts disbursed to the Class Members from the Escrow Account.

5.7. In the event the Released Parties are required to pay any taxes or assessments attributable to the Settlement Class, including any applicable interest or penalties, each Class Member will indemnify the Released Parties as to the taxes, assessments, interest, and penalties attributable to such Class Member paid by the Released Parties and any other losses, liabilities, costs, or expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by the Released Parties arising out of or relating to any such taxes, assessments, interest, or penalties attributable to such Class Member. Without limitation of the foregoing, the Released Parties shall be entitled to recover from each Class Member that portion of such taxes or assessments, interest, and penalties attributable to the portion of the Net Settlement Fund allocated to such Class Member by any lawful means available to the Released Parties, including deduction or offset from any future payments to the Class Member, and the Class Members waive any challenge to the right to offset from future payments to recover such amounts. the Released Parties shall also be entitled to immediately recover any such taxes from the Residual Unclaimed Funds without affecting the Released Parties' ability to recover such amount directly from the Class Member or affecting the amount of any refund to be paid to Defendant pursuant to paragraph 6.6. Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendant's Counsel shall not have any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any taxes or assessments, interest, or penalties on amounts distributed to a Class Member. Plaintiff shall not have any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any taxes or assessments, interest, or penalties on amounts distributed to any other Class Member.

5.8. Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, the Released Parties, Defendant's Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator do not provide any tax advice whatsoever and shall have no liability whatsoever for any taxes or assessments due, if any, on the Gross Settlement Fund, and make no representation or warranty regarding the tax treatment of any amount paid or received under this Settlement. Any Class Member with tax questions or concerns is urged to immediately contact his/her/its own tax adviser. the Released Parties will have no input in determining the amount of taxes payable by the Settlement Class

or how the taxes will be paid from the Gross Settlement Fund and likewise will not be bound in any respect by such determination or be attributed with any agreement as to whether the taxes paid by the Settlement Class are due or payable.

5.9. The Released Parties shall have no responsibility for, interest in, or liability whatsoever with respect to the maintenance, investment, or distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, the establishment or maintenance of the Escrow Account, the payment or withholding of any taxes, or any other expenses or losses in connection with such matters.

5.10. Before making any distribution of the Gross Settlement Fund, the Settlement Administrator and/or Plaintiff's Counsel must request and receive approval from the Court. The request for distribution shall include the amount of the distribution, a breakdown of the line items included in the proposed distribution, and any supporting information necessary for the Court to verify that the amount comports with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and any applicable Court order.

6. CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION, ALLOCATION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF NET SETTLEMENT FUND

6.1. The Allocation Methodology is a matter separate and apart from the proposed Settlement between Plaintiff and Defendant and is to be determined solely by Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, and the Court, and is to be considered by the Court separately from the Court's consideration of the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of this Settlement. Provided that none of the terms of the Settlement are modified by such decision, any decision by the Court concerning the Allocation Methodology shall not affect the validity or finality of the Settlement or operate to terminate or cancel this Settlement or affect the finality of the Judgment. Further, after the issuance of any notice contemplated by this Settlement Agreement or ordered by the Court, the Allocation Methodology may be modified without any further notice being required, provided the modification is approved by the Court and provided the modification does not affect Defendant's rights under this Settlement Agreement.

6.2. Plaintiff's Counsel shall, subject to Court approval, allocate the Net Settlement Fund to individual Class Members proportionately based on the amount of statutory interest owed on the original underlying payment that allegedly occurred outside the time periods required by North Dakota law, with due regard for the production date, the date the underlying payment was made, the amount of the underlying payment, the time periods set forth by North Dakota law, and the distribution of small amounts that may exceed the cost of the distribution (\$5.00). This allocation is subject to modification by Plaintiff's Counsel and final approval by the Court. The Released Parties shall have no responsibility for the allocation and distribution of the Gross Settlement Fund, shall not be liable for any claims by, through, or under any Class Member or any third party relating to the allocation or distribution of the Gross Settlement Fund, including but not limited to any claims that a Class Member should have been allocated and distributed a different amount of the Gross Settlement Fund than it actually received or than provided by the Plan of Allocation. The Released Parties will be indemnified by any Class Member asserting any such claims (or by, through, or under whom such claims are asserted) from and against any losses, liabilities, costs, and expenses, including attorneys' fees, arising out of or relating to the assertion of any such claims.

6.3. Distributions will not be made to Class Members who would otherwise receive a distribution of less than \$5.00 under the Plan of Allocation. This *de minimis* threshold, subject to Court approval, will be used in order to preserve the overall Net Settlement Fund from the costs of claims that are likely to exceed the value of those claims. A Class Member that falls into this category may request to be excluded from this Litigation as described in this Settlement Agreement or otherwise will be bound by the Settlement Agreement and all provisions thereof despite receiving no payment under the Final Plan of Allocation. In the event the Court does not approve a *de minimis* payment threshold, that will not be grounds to disturb or terminate the Settlement Agreement by any Party; instead, Plaintiff's

Counsel will submit an alternative plan of allocation that does not include a *de minimis* payment provision as described in this paragraph.

6.4. This allocation is subject to modification by Plaintiff's Counsel and final approval by the Court. Neither the Released Parties nor Defendant's Counsel are responsible or liable for any aspect of the Allocation Methodology or any plan of allocation implementing that methodology.

6.5. No later than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the Final Fairness Hearing, Plaintiff's Counsel will provide a Plan of Allocation to Defendant, subject to extension if Defendant has not provided all of the electronic data it is obligated to provide pursuant to paragraph 3.3 above. The Plan of Allocation will reflect the amount of the Distribution Check to be sent to each Class Member based upon (a) the electronic data provided by Defendant pursuant to paragraph 3.3 above; (b) the assumption that no Class Member timely and properly submits a Request for Exclusion from the Settlement Class or is excluded from the Settlement Class by other order of the Court; and (c) the assumption that Plaintiff's Counsel's application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and Case Contribution Award will be approved. Plaintiff's Counsel may rely on the electronic data provided by Defendant pursuant to paragraph 3.3 and other data provided by Defendant in the Litigation for purposes of the Plan of Allocation and is under no obligation to independently verify such data. Plaintiff will submit for approval by the Court the Plan of Allocation based on the provisions of this section as part of or in conjunction with the Final Fairness Hearing.

6.6. Within thirty (30) days after the Final Fairness Hearing, the Settlement Administrator will (a) refund to Defendant the net amount attributable to Class Members, under the Initial Plan of Allocation described in paragraph 6.5, who timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion or who were otherwise excluded from the Settlement Class by order of the Court, and (b) provide Defendant with the detail necessary for Defendant to verify the Settlement Administrator's calculation of the

refund amount. The terms of this provision may only be altered or amended by written agreement signed by Defendant and Plaintiff's Counsel.

6.7. Within sixty (60) days after the Effective Date, Plaintiff will file and seek approval of a distribution order with the Court assuming the Plan of Allocation has been approved by the Court. The distribution order will indicate the proportionate amount of the Net Settlement Fund to be paid to each Class Member pursuant to the Allocation Methodology and the Plan of Allocation.

6.8. The Settlement Administrator shall administer the Settlement and distribute the Net Settlement Fund under Plaintiff's Counsel's supervision in accordance with this Settlement Agreement and subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. Plaintiff, Defendant, and their respective Counsel shall cooperate in the administration of the Settlement to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate its terms. The Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed to Class Members who have not timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion and who are not excluded from the Settlement Class according to the Plan of Allocation, as determined by Plaintiff's Counsel, or according to such other plan of allocation and distribution order(s) as the Court approves. Further, to the extent Defendant has not provided the taxpayer identification number for a Class Member, the Settlement Administrator shall make reasonable efforts to obtain the Class Member's tax identification number, including making reasonable inquiry and sending a form W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification to the best reasonably obtainable address of the Class Member.

6.9. The Parties agree that, other than the potential refund described in paragraph 6.6, no part of the Gross Settlement Fund will be distributed until the Effective Date. If the Settlement is not finally approved in a Final and Non-Appealable Judgment, the full Gross Settlement Fund and any accrued interest or returns earned in the Escrow Account will be refunded to Defendant pursuant to paragraphs 7.1 and 9.3 below.

6.10. After Court approval of the Plan of Allocation and entry of a distribution order, the Settlement Administrator will make prompt distribution of funds to those ordered by the Court to receive those funds. The Settlement Administrator will only make distributions based on the Plan of Allocation and distribution order approved by the Court. It is contemplated that distributions may be made in waves, where using that approach is more efficient for the Settlement Administrator, so that payments to readily identified owners are not unduly delayed. The Settlement Administrator will make a diligent effort to mail the first wave of Distribution Checks within ninety (90) days after the Court approves the Final Plan of Allocation and enters a distribution order. The remainder of the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to Class Members who have not timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion and who are not excluded from the Settlement Class within six (6) months after entry of such an order. Any portion of the Net Settlement Fund remaining in the Escrow Account six (6) months after the Settlement Administrator sends the final wave of Distribution Checks will be Residual Unclaimed Funds.

6.11. The Settlement Administrator will use commercially reasonable efforts, subject to review and approval by Plaintiff's Counsel, to distribute the Net Settlement Fund. Defendant will provide all reasonably accessible information in its possession to assist in locating Class Members who have not timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion and who are not excluded from the Settlement Class by Order of the Court. If the information needed to send a Distribution Check cannot be obtained through such efforts, the portion of the Net Settlement Fund attributable to such Class Member will be considered Residual Unclaimed Funds.

6.12. If a Distribution Check is returned to the Settlement Administrator under circumstances suggesting the Class Member did not receive the Distribution Check (e.g., a mailed item returned due to an incorrect, insufficient, or outdated address), the Settlement Administrator and/or consultants working with the Settlement Administrator will use commercially reasonable methods to locate an

updated address and will re-issue and re-mail the Distribution Check within thirty (30) days. If the second Distribution Check is returned and the Class Member cannot be located through commercially reasonable efforts, the portion of the Net Settlement Fund attributable to them will be considered Residual Unclaimed Funds.

6.13. Included with each Distribution Check shall be an enclosure that includes the following notice (or, if a change is required by the Court, a notice substantially the same as the following):

Class Member: The enclosed check represents a share of the Net Settlement Fund in the Settlement of the class action entitled *Rice v. Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP*, No. 20-CV-431-GKF-SH, United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. You are receiving this distribution and check because you have been identified as a Class Member in this action. If you are not legally entitled to the proceeds identified on the check, the Court has entered an Order that requires you to pay these proceeds to persons legally entitled thereto or return this check uncashed to the sender.

The person to whom this check was originally made payable, and anyone to whom the check has been assigned by that person, has accepted this payment pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Notice of Settlement, and Judgment related thereto, which releases, *inter alia*, Defendant and the other Released Parties (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) from any and all Released Claims (as defined in the Settlement Agreement). Pursuant to the Order of the Court, it is the duty of the payee of the check to ensure that the funds are paid to the Class Member(s) entitled to the funds, and the release by Class Member(s) entitled to the funds shall be effective regardless of whether such Class Member(s) receive some, all, or none of the proceeds paid to a payee of a settlement check.

This check shall be null and void if not endorsed and negotiated within ninety (90) days after its date. The release of claims provided in the Settlement shall be effective regardless of whether this check is cashed.

6.14. The Released Parties, Defendant's Counsel, the Settlement Administrator, Plaintiff, and Plaintiff's Counsel shall have no liability to any Class Member for mis-payments, overpayments, or underpayments of the Net Settlement Fund.

6.15. If any Class Member has been paid any portion of the Net Settlement Fund for any period of time for which that Class Member was not entitled to receive that payment, and some other person or entity who owned or claims they owned the right to assert the Released Claims and asserts a claim against any of the Released Parties for payment of all or a portion of the Net Settlement Fund or

any other Released Claim, then the Class Member who received an excess share shall be liable for any overpayment amount to the person who is determined to have been properly owed that amount, and that Class Member shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless any of the Released Parties, Plaintiff's Counsel, Defendant's Counsel, or any other Class Member.

6.16. Upon completing all distributions of the Net Settlement Fund to Class Members (including any necessary supplemental distributions), complying with the Court's order(s) in furtherance of this Settlement, and paying the Residual Unclaimed Funds as ordered by the Court, the Settlement Administrator will have satisfied all obligations relating to the payment and distribution of the Net Settlement Fund.

6.17. To the extent not specifically addressed above, any other amount of the Net Settlement Fund that remains in the Escrow Account or with the Settlement Administrator six (6) months after the Settlement Administrator sends the final wave of Distribution Checks and for which further distribution is not economically reasonable, shall be considered Residual Unclaimed Funds.

6.18. Within six (6) months after the Settlement Administrator sends the final wave of Distribution Checks, the Settlement Administrator shall send a reconciliation of the Residual Unclaimed Funds to Plaintiff's Counsel. The reconciliation must include (a) a detail of each distribution made from the Escrow Account; (b) the detail of any interest or other returns earned; (c) the total Residual Unclaimed Funds and detail sufficient to verify that total; and (d) detail showing the total amount of the Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs paid.

6.19. Following receipt of this information, Plaintiff's Counsel will move the Court for distribution of the Residual Unclaimed Funds, and, in that motion, Plaintiff's Counsel will make a recommendation to the Court for a recipient of the Residual Unclaimed Funds as *cy pres*. Defendant shall not oppose such motion and shall not otherwise take any position on such motion. The Settlement

Administrator will distribute the Residual Unclaimed Funds pursuant to the Court's order following that motion.

6.20. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to determine any issues relating to the payment and distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, and any claims relating thereto shall be determined by the Court alone, and shall be limited to a determination of the claimant's entitlement to any portion of the Net Settlement Fund, and no consequential, punitive, or other damages, fees, interest, or costs shall be awarded in any proceeding regarding any such determination.

6.21. The Release, Dismissal, and Covenant Not to Sue shall be effective as provided in this Settlement Agreement, regardless of whether or not particular members of the Settlement Class did or did not receive payment from the Net Settlement Fund and regardless of whether or not any Class Member who was obligated pursuant to the Judgment to pay some or all of the distributed funds to another Class Member in fact made such payment to such other member of the Settlement Class. The failure of a Class Member to receive a payment from the Net Settlement Fund or the failure of a Class Member to make payment to another Class Member pursuant to the payment obligations of the Judgment shall not be a defense to enforcement of the Release of the Released Claims against the Released Parties or the Covenant Not to Sue, as to any Class Member.

6.22. Except in the case of willful and intentional malfeasance of a dishonest nature directly causing such loss, Plaintiff's Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Settlement Class shall have no liability for loss of any portion of the Gross Settlement Fund under any circumstances and, in the event of such malfeasance, only the party whose malfeasance directly caused the loss has any liability for the portion of the Gross Settlement Fund lost.

7. PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS' FEES, LITIGATION EXPENSES, ADMINISTRATION, NOTICE, AND DISTRIBUTION COSTS, AND CASE CONTRIBUTION AWARD

7.1. No later than twenty-eight (28) calendar days prior to the Final Fairness Hearing, Plaintiff's Counsel may apply to the Court for an award of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution

Award to Plaintiff, and for reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs. Defendant has no obligation for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, which shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Fund. Therefore, Defendant shall not take any position with respect to the applications; the amount of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs sought; or with respect to whether the Court should make any or all such awards except that Defendant may contest an application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees in excess of 40% of the Gross Settlement Fund, but have no such right to contest an application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees up to and including 40% of the Gross Settlement Fund. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement and as set forth in paragraph 11.8, any award of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees will be governed by federal common law. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel agree to seek any award of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award to Plaintiff, and Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs exclusively from the Gross Settlement Fund. The Released Parties shall have no responsibility for and shall take no position with respect to the allocation among Plaintiff's Counsel of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees or Litigation Expenses or Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, nor will they encourage anyone to object thereto. To the extent that the Gross Settlement Fund is refunded pursuant to paragraph 9.3, Plaintiff's Counsel shall bear all responsibility for Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs and such refund will not be reduced by any claim asserted pursuant to this paragraph.

7.2. Subject to the conditions and qualifications set forth below, any Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs that are awarded to Plaintiff's Counsel by the Court shall be paid to Plaintiff's Counsel from the Gross Settlement Fund, to the extent practicable through reasonably diligent efforts by the Escrow Agent, one (1) business day following the date the Judgment becomes Final and Non-Appealable. The terms of

this provision may only be altered or amended by written agreement signed by Defendant and Plaintiff's Counsel.

7.3. Any Case Contribution Award that is awarded by the Court shall be paid to Plaintiff with the Court's approval from the Gross Settlement Fund, one (1) business day following the date the Judgment becomes Final and Non-Appealable.

7.4. An award of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs is not a necessary term of this Settlement Agreement and is not a condition of this Settlement Agreement. No decision by the Court or any court on any application for an award of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs shall affect the validity or finality of the Settlement. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel may not cancel or terminate the Settlement Agreement, or the Settlement based on this Court's or any other court's ruling with respect to Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs.

8. REQUESTS FOR EXCLUSION

8.1. Plaintiff shall not submit a Request for Exclusion and neither Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, Defendant, Defendant's Counsel, nor anyone acting on behalf of said persons or entities, shall encourage anyone else to submit a Request for Exclusion. Nevertheless, this Settlement Agreement does not prohibit Plaintiff's Counsel from counseling any Class Member as to his, her, or its legal rights under this Settlement Agreement or prohibit any Class Member who seeks such counsel from electing to file a Request for Exclusion from the Settlement Class in accordance with the Court's orders on the subject.

8.2. Any putative Class Member who timely and properly submits a valid Request for Exclusion, as described below, shall have no right to object to the Settlement in any way, including but

not limited to, the fairness, reasonableness, and/or amount of any aspect of the Settlement, Notice of Settlement, Plaintiff's Counsel's request for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, a Case Contribution Award, the Allocation Methodology, any Plan of Allocation using the Allocation Methodology, or any distribution of the Net Settlement Fund or Residual Unclaimed Funds.

8.3. All Requests for Exclusion must be served on Defendant's Counsel, Plaintiff's Counsel, and the Settlement Administrator by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, in compliance with any and all requirements imposed on Requests for Exclusion as contained in the Preliminary Approval Order and the Notice of Settlement, in the manner set by the Court at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the Final Fairness Hearing, unless such deadline is changed or altered by Order of the Court.

8.4. All Requests for Exclusion must include: (a) the Class Member's name, address, telephone number, and notarized signature; (b) a statement that the Class Member wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class in *Rice v. Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company, LP*, Case No. 20-CV-431-GKF-SH; and (c) 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 may not be submitted through the website or by telephone, facsimile, or e-mail.

9. TERMINATION

9.1. If (a) the Court enters an order denying the motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement or expressly declines to enter the Preliminary Approval Order; (b) the Court refuses to approve this Settlement Agreement; (c) the Court denies the motion for final approval or declines to enter the Judgment in substantially the same form and content attached hereto as Exhibit 2; or (d) the Judgment is modified or reversed and such modification or reversal becomes Final and Non-Appealable, this

Settlement Agreement shall terminate, and the Parties shall revert to the positions they occupied before this Settlement Agreement was executed; provided, however, that any court decision, ruling, or order solely with respect to an application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, or to the Allocation Methodology (or any Plan of Allocation using the Allocation Methodology) shall not be grounds for termination.

Defendant shall also have the right and option, in its sole discretion, to terminate this Settlement if Class Members who have claims which, in the aggregate exceed 15% of the Net Settlement Fund under the Initial Plan of Allocation, elect to opt-out of this Settlement. Within five (5) days after the opt-out period ends, the Settlement Administrator shall determine whether the aforesaid threshold for opt-outs has been met and will notify Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendant's Counsel in writing regarding the results of that determination and simultaneously provide a list of the Class Members who have opted out. Defendant must elect to terminate this Settlement by written notice delivered to Plaintiff's Counsel on or before the expiration of five (5) days following the date on which the Settlement Administrator provides the above-referenced written notice of the threshold determination for opt-outs. If Defendant does not exercise its right to terminate on or before the expiration of that five (5) day period, Defendant's right to terminate as a result of the opt-out threshold shall expire. If Defendant timely and properly exercises its option to terminate this Agreement as a result of the opt-out threshold, this Agreement shall become null and void, and the Parties shall revert to the positions they occupied before this Settlement Agreement was executed, and all orders of the Court preliminarily or otherwise certifying the Settlement Class shall be vacated and the Parties shall be returned to the status quo that existed in the Litigation before the Parties had agreed to propose this Settlement.

9.2. The Effective Date, defined in paragraph 1.10, shall be the first business day on which all of the following shall have occurred:

- a) Defendant has fully paid, or caused to be fully paid, the Gross Settlement Fund, as required above;
- b) the Settlement Agreement has not terminated under paragraph 9.1 hereof;
- c) the Court has approved the Settlement as described herein and entered the Judgment in substantially the same form and content attached hereto as Exhibit 2; and
- d) such Judgment has become Final and Non-Appealable, as set forth in paragraph 1.14.

9.3. If the Settlement Agreement terminates under paragraph 9.1 hereof:

- a) the Effective Date shall not occur;
- b) Plaintiff and Defendant shall be restored to their respective positions as of the day before the Settlement Agreement was executed;
- c) the terms and provisions of this Settlement Agreement shall have no further force and effect with respect to Plaintiff, Defendant, or any Class Member and shall not be used in the Litigation or in any other proceeding;
- d) any Judgment or other order, including any order certifying the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only, entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement, shall be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*;
- e) within ten (10) business days after any such termination, the Gross Settlement Fund (including accrued interest or returns thereon) shall be refunded by the Escrow Agent to Defendant; and
- f) the Litigation shall proceed as if the Settlement Agreement and any orders or motions entered to further the Settlement were never entered.

10. OBJECTIONS

10.1. The Notice of Settlement shall require that any objection to the Settlement, this Settlement Agreement, or to the application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and Case Contribution Award be in writing and comply with all the requirements set forth herein and by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order and Notice of Settlement.

10.2. If the Court determines that the Settlement, including the Allocation Methodology, the Plan of Allocation, and the awards of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, and

Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs are fair, adequate, and reasonable to the Settlement Class, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel shall represent the Settlement Class as a whole in all future proceedings in district court or on appeal, even if Class Members have objected to the Settlement and those objectors are severed for purposes of appeal, consistent with paragraph 10.3.

10.3. The Parties entered into the Settlement to provide certainty and finality to an ongoing dispute. Any Class Member wishing to remain a Class Member, but objecting to any part of the Settlement, can do so only as set forth herein and in the Notice of Settlement documents in substantially the same form as Exhibits 3-5, attached hereto. If, after hearing the objection(s), the Court determines that the Settlement, including but not limited to, the Allocation Methodology, the Plan of Allocation, and the awards of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, any Case Contribution Award, and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, is fair, adequate and reasonable to the Class as a whole, then either or both Plaintiff and Defendant (each in their sole discretion) may request that the Court require each objecting Class Member to preserve their appellate rights as follows (prior to filing a Notice of Appeal): move for severance and separate appellate review of the Court's rulings on objections relating solely to one or more of the following: the Plan of Allocation, the award of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs; provided, however, that none of the Parties shall file a motion for severance and separate appellate review of any objections to the fairness or approval of the Settlement Agreement.

10.4. If the Court determines that the Settlement, including but not limited to, the Allocation Methodology, the Plan of Allocation, and the awards of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, is fair, adequate, and reasonable to the Class as a whole, then either or both Plaintiff and Defendant (each in their sole discretion) may request the Court to require any objecting Class Member, as a

prerequisite to pursuing appeal, to put up a cash bond in an amount sufficient to reimburse (a) the appellate fees of Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendant's Counsel and (b) the amount of lost interest to the nonobjecting Class Members caused by any delay in distribution of the Net Settlement Fund that is caused by appellate review of the objection.

10.5. Only a person or entity who remains a member of the Settlement Class shall have the right to object to the Settlement, the Settlement Agreement, or the application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Expenses, Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and a Case Contribution Award. In order for an objection to be valid, the written objection must be (a) filed with the Court and served on Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendant's Counsel by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the Final Fairness Hearing, unless such deadline is extended or altered by Order of the Court and (b) contain the following:

- (i) A heading referring to *Rice v. Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP*, Case No. 20-CV-431-GKF-SH, and to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma;
- (ii) 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, identifying counsel by name, address, and telephone number;
- (iii) A detailed statement of the specific legal and factual basis for each and every objection;
- (iv) A list of any witnesses the objector wishes to 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);
- (v) A list of and copies of any exhibits the objector may seek to use at the Final Fairness Hearing;
- (vi) A list of any legal authority the objector may present at the Final Fairness Hearing;
- (vii) The objector's name, current address, current telephone number, and all owner identification numbers with Defendant;
- (viii) The objector's signature executed before a Notary Public or other officer authorized by law to administer oaths in the jurisdiction where the objector executes the signature;

- (ix) Identification of the objector's interest in wells for which the objector has received payments made by or on behalf of Defendant (by well name, payee well number, and county in which the well is located) during the Claim Period and identification of such payments by date of payment, date of production, and amount; and
- (x) 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 each such requests he/she/it believes is fair and reasonable and the portion that is not.

Any Class Member who fails to timely file such written statement and provide the required information will not be permitted to present any objections at the Final Fairness Hearing and such failure will render any such attempted objection untimely and of no effect. All presentations of objections will be further limited by the information listed. A Class Member's mere compliance with the foregoing requirements does not in any way guarantee a Class Member the ability to present evidence or testimony at the Final Fairness Hearing. The decision whether to allow any testimony, argument, or evidence, as well as the scope and duration of any and all presentations of objections at the Final Fairness Hearing, will be in the sole discretion of the Court.

10.6. The Parties will not object to the fairness, adequacy, or reasonableness of the Settlement on appeal. Nor will Defendant take any position on appeal regarding Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees (as long as such fee request does not exceed 40% pursuant to paragraph 7.1), any Case Contribution Award, any reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, or the Allocation Methodology (or any Plan of Allocation using the Allocation Methodology), however, for purposes of clarity, Defendant retains the right to a refund of the Gross Settlement Fund without diminution for any Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs in accordance with paragraphs 6.9 and 9.3.

11. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

11.1. Defendant expressly denies all allegations of wrongdoing or liability with respect to the claims and allegations in the Litigation and denies that the Litigation could have been properly maintained as a class action. It is expressly agreed that neither this Settlement, the Settlement Agreement, any document referred to herein, nor any action taken to carry out the Settlement is, may be construed as, or may be used as, evidence of or an admission or concession by Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever with respect to the claims and allegations in the Litigation, or class certification, and Defendant expressly does not admit any allegations or facts in the Complaint. There has been no final determination by any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal regarding the claims and allegations made in this Litigation. By agreeing to settle the claims of the Settlement Class in the Litigation, Defendant does not admit that the Litigation could have been properly maintained as a contested class action and the Settlement Class does not admit any deficiency in the merits of their claims. Defendant asserts it has valid defenses to Plaintiff's and the Class Members' claims and it is entering into the Settlement solely to compromise the disputed claims and avoid the risk and expense of continued litigation.

11.2. Entering into or carrying out the Settlement Agreement, and any negotiations or proceedings related thereto, and the Settlement Agreement itself, are not, and shall not be construed as, or deemed to be evidence of, an admission or concession by any of the Parties to the Settlement Agreement and shall not be offered or received in evidence in any action or proceeding by or against any party hereto in any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal for any purpose whatsoever other than to enforce the provisions of the Settlement between Defendant and any Class Member(s), the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, or the Judgment, or to seek an Order barring or precluding the assertion of Released Claims in any proceeding. Further, Plaintiff and Defendant agree that any judgment

approving this Settlement Agreement shall not give rise to any collateral estoppel effect as to the certifiability of any class in any other proceeding.

11.3. Plaintiff and Defendant shall use their best efforts to encourage and obtain approval of the Settlement. Plaintiff and Defendant also agree to use their best efforts to promptly prepare and execute all documentation as may be reasonably required to obtain final approval by the Court of this Settlement and to carry out the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

11.4. Within thirty (30) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator distributes the Residual Unclaimed Funds: (a) each Party, each Party's counsel, each Party's consultants, each Party's experts, and any other persons who have hard copy or electronic documents or computer disks of documents produced by the other Party that were designated confidential in the Litigation or documents or information derived from documents the other Party designated as confidential in the Litigation will (at their sole expense) return or destroy all such hard copy or electronic documents and computer disks, and will erase or otherwise delete any and all data stored on computer or on computer disks of such documents or information or the data from such documents or information; (b) each Party, upon request in writing by another Party, will certify in writing to the other Party's counsel that such documents, disks, data and information have been destroyed, returned, erased, or deleted; (c) Plaintiff and any person or entity to whom Plaintiff has provided such documents will (at their sole expense) destroy, return, delete, or erase any hard copy or electronic copy of transcripts of depositions or trial testimony or other sworn statements of Defendant's witnesses and any exhibits to any transcripts or statements; and (d) Plaintiff's Counsel will, upon written request by Defendant, certify in writing to Defendant's Counsel that such documents were destroyed, returned, deleted, or erased. Neither Party will be obligated to destroy, return, erase, or delete: (e) any documents previously filed in the public record during the course of the Litigation; (f) any documents Plaintiff and Defendant may agree are not to be considered confidential; (g) any documents subject to a prior agreement between Plaintiff and Defendant allowing

their use in other litigation; or (h) transcripts of depositions or trial testimony or other sworn statements of witnesses or exhibits to any transcripts or statements or to any documents filed in the public record. Any protective order on file in this Litigation will survive any Judgment issued by the Court and any documents or other information not destroyed in accordance with this paragraph will remain subject to any protective order and all remedies thereunder.

11.5. Except as otherwise provided herein or by a writing signed by all the signatories hereto, the Settlement Agreement shall constitute the entire agreement among Plaintiff and Defendant related to the Settlement of the Litigation, and no representations, warranties, or inducements have been made to any party concerning the Settlement other than the representations, warranties, and covenants contained and memorialized in this Settlement Agreement. Further, none of the Parties have relied upon any representations, warranties, or covenants made by any other Party other than those expressly contained and memorialized in the Settlement Agreement. This Settlement Agreement may not be modified or amended, nor may any of its provisions be waived, except by a writing signed by all signatories hereto or their successors-in-interest.

11.6. This Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, including by facsimile or imaged signatures. Facsimile or imaged signatures will have the same force and effect as original signatures. All executed counterparts taken together shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument. Counsel for the Parties shall exchange among themselves signed counterparts of this Settlement Agreement and Plaintiff will file a complete copy of the Settlement Agreement that has been executed by all Parties with the Court.

11.7. Plaintiff and Defendant and their respective counsel have mutually contributed to the preparation of the Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, no provision of the Settlement Agreement shall be construed against any party on the grounds that one of the parties or its counsel drafted the provision. Plaintiff and Defendant are each represented by competent counsel who have advised their respective

clients as to the legal effects of this Settlement, and neither Plaintiff nor Defendant have received or relied upon advice from opposing counsel. Except as otherwise provided herein, each party shall bear its own costs in connection with the Settlement and preparation of the Settlement Agreement.

11.8. To promote certainty, predictability, the full enforceability of this Settlement Agreement as written, and its nationwide application, this Settlement Agreement shall be governed solely by federal law, both substantive and procedural, as to due process, class certification, judgment, collateral estoppel, res judicata, release, settlement approval, allocation, case contribution award, the right to and reasonableness of attorneys' fees and expenses, and all other matters for which there is federal procedural or common law, including federal law regarding federal equitable common fund class actions. If the provisions of this paragraph 11.8 (or any portion thereof) are held unenforceable in any jurisdiction, then such provisions shall be severable, and the Parties agree that the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement (or remaining portions of this paragraph) shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

11.9. The Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors, trustees, and assigns of the Parties hereto.

11.10. Plaintiff and Defendant intend this Settlement to be a final and complete resolution of all disputes asserted or that could be asserted with respect to the Released Claims. Accordingly, Defendant agrees not to file a claim against Plaintiff or Plaintiff's Counsel based upon an assertion that the Litigation was brought by Plaintiff or Plaintiff's Counsel in bad faith or without a reasonable basis. Similarly, Plaintiff agrees not to file a claim against Defendant or Defendant's Counsel based upon an assertion that the Litigation was defended by Defendant or Defendant's Counsel in bad faith or without a reasonable basis. Plaintiff and Defendant agree that the amount paid, and the other terms of this Settlement were negotiated at arm's length and in good faith, and reflect a settlement that was reached voluntarily after consultation with experienced legal counsel. Neither Plaintiff nor Defendant shall

assert any claims that the other violated the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or any other law or rule governing litigation conduct in the maintenance or defense of the Litigation.

11.11. The headings in the Settlement Agreement are used for the purpose of convenience only and are not meant to have legal effect.

11.12. All disputes and proceedings with respect to the administration of the Settlement and enforcement of the Judgment shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. Plaintiff, the Settlement Class Members, and Defendant waive any right to trial by jury of any dispute arising under or relating to this Settlement Agreement or the Settlement.

11.13. To the extent non-material modifications of this Settlement Agreement are necessary, such modification may be made by written agreement among Plaintiff and Defendant after the Execution Date without further notice to the Settlement Class as provided herein. This Settlement Agreement and attached exhibits represent the entire, fully integrated agreement between the Parties with respect to the Settlement of the Litigation and may not be contradicted by evidence of prior or contemporaneous oral agreements between the Parties. This Settlement Agreement cancels and supersedes any and all prior agreements, understandings, representations, and negotiations concerning this Settlement. No additional obligations or understandings shall be inferred or implied from any of the terms of this Settlement Agreement, as all obligations, agreements, and understandings with respect to the subject matter hereof are solely and expressly set forth herein. It is understood and agreed that the Parties rely wholly on their own respective judgment, belief and knowledge of the facts relating to the making of this Settlement, which is made without reliance upon any statement, promise, inducement, or consideration not recited herein.

11.14. All counsel and any other persons executing this Settlement Agreement and any of the exhibits hereto or any related Settlement documents, warrant and represent that they have the full authority to do so and that they have the authority to take appropriate action required or permitted to be

taken pursuant to the Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms. Plaintiff and each member of the Settlement Class is deemed to represent and warrant that he, she, or it holds the claims being released in the Settlement and that he, she, or it has full authority to release such claims.

11.15. Plaintiff and Defendant stipulate and agree that (a) all activity in the Litigation, except that contemplated in the Settlement Agreement, the Preliminary Approval Order, the Notice of Settlement, and the Judgment shall be stayed, and (b) all hearings, deadlines, and other proceedings except the preliminary approval hearing (if any), and the Final Fairness Hearing, shall be taken off the calendar.

11.16. If any Party is required to give notice to the other Party under this Settlement Agreement, such notice shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given upon receipt by hand delivery or electronic mail to all the individuals named in the signature blocks below.

11.17. The Parties agree the Litigation and the Settlement do not relate to the offering of goods or services to persons in the European Union or the monitoring of behavior of persons residing in the European Union; thus, the Parties and their Counsel are not subject to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by virtue of anything related to this Settlement.

11.18. No delay or omission by any Party in exercising any rights under this Agreement will operate as a waiver of that or any other right. A waiver or consent given by a Party on any one occasion is effective only in that instance and will not be construed as a bar or waiver of any right on any other occasion, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

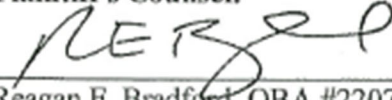
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties and their counsel have executed this Agreement, in several, as of April 25, 2023.

[signature pages to follow]

Plaintiff:


SALLY E. RICE, as trustee for the Winston Lawrence
Rice Trust


Plaintiff's Counsel:


Reagan E. Bradford, OBA #22072
Ryan K. Wilson, OBA #33306
Bradford & Wilson PLLC
431 W. Main Street, Suite D
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Telephone: (405) 698-2770
reagan@bradwil.com
ryan@bradwil.com

-and-

Brady L. Smith, OBA #30727
Brady Smith Law, PLLC
One Leadership Sq., Ste. 1320
211 N. Robinson Ave.
brady@blsmithlaw.com

Defendant:


Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP

By: Drew J. Brown
Its: Vice President

Defendant's Counsel:


Craig L. Stahl
Texas Bar No. 19006700
Jeffrey T. Kuehnle
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~~—and—~~

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tragsdale@gablelaw.com
tbarrett@gablelaw.com

Attachments:

Exhibit 1: Preliminary Approval Order
Exhibit 2: Judgment
Exhibit 3: Notice of Settlement (for Mailing)
Exhibit 4: Notice of Settlement (for Website)
Exhibit 5: Notice of Settlement (for Publication)

Exhibit 1

**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

**ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT,
CERTIFYING THE CLASS FOR SETTLEMENT PURPOSES, APPROVING FORM AND
MANNER OF NOTICE, AND SETTING DATE FOR FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING**

This is a class action lawsuit brought by Plaintiff, Sally E. Rice, as trustee for the Winston Lawrence Rice Trust, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated (“Plaintiff”), against Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP (“Defendant”) for the alleged late payment of oil-and-gas proceeds from North Dakota oil-and-gas wells. On April __, 2023, the Parties executed a Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement (the “Settlement Agreement”) finalizing the terms of the Settlement.¹ The Settlement Agreement, together with the documents referenced therein and exhibits thereto, sets forth the terms and conditions for the proposed Settlement of the Litigation. In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff now presents the Settlement to the Court for preliminary approval under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

¹ Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement.

After reviewing the pleadings and Plaintiff's Motion to Certify the Class for Settlement Purposes, Preliminarily Approve Class Action Settlement, Approve Form and Manner of Notice, and Set Date for Final Fairness Hearing ("Motion for Preliminary Approval"), the Court has preliminarily considered the Settlement to determine, among other things, whether the Settlement warrants the issuance of notice to the Settlement Class. Upon reviewing the Settlement and the Motion for Preliminary Approval, it is hereby **ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** as follows:

1. For purposes of this Order, the Court adopts all defined terms as set forth in the Settlement Agreement unless otherwise defined herein.

2. The Court finds the Settlement Class should be certified for the purposes of this Settlement, as the Settlement Class meets all certification requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 for a settlement class.

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).

3. The Court finds the above-defined Settlement Class satisfies all prerequisites of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) for purposes of the proposed class settlement:

a. *Numerosity*. Plaintiff has demonstrated "[t]he class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1). The Tenth Circuit has not adopted a set number as presumptively sufficient to meet this burden, and there is "no set formula to determine if the class is so numerous that it should be so certified." *Trevizo v. Adams*, 455 F.3d 1155, 1162 (10th Cir. 2006). Whether a class satisfies the numerosity requirement is "a fact-specific inquiry" that district courts have "wide latitude" when determining. *In re Cox Enters.*,

Inc., No. 12-ML-2048-C, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 2459, *13 (W.D. Okla. Jan. 9, 2014) (quoting *Trevizo*, 455 F.3d at 1162). Here, the Settlement Class consists of thousands of owners. Therefore, the Court finds the numerosity prerequisite is undoubtedly met.

b. *Commonality*. Plaintiff has also demonstrated “[t]here are questions of law or fact common to the class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2).

c. *Typicality*. Plaintiff has also shown “[t]he claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3).

d. *Adequacy*. Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s Counsel have demonstrated “[t]he representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4).

In addition, because the Court finds Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s Counsel to be adequate representatives of the Settlement Class, the Court hereby appoints Plaintiff as Class Representative; Plaintiff’s Counsel, Reagan E. Bradford and Ryan K. Wilson of Bradford & Wilson PLLC as Co-Lead Class Counsel, and Brady L. Smith of Brady Smith Law, PLLC as Additional Class Counsel.

4. The Court also finds the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) are met:

a. *Predominance*. Class Representative has shown “questions of law or fact common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).

b. *Superiority*. Class Representative has also established “that a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).

In sum, the Court finds all prerequisites and requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)-(b) are satisfied, and the Settlement Class is hereby certified for the purposes of this Settlement. The Settlement Class is certified for settlement purposes only. In determining whether the requirements

of Rule 23 have been satisfied for purposes of certifying the above class for settlement purposes, the Court has taken into account the fact of settlement and its impact upon the factors required for certification of the Settlement Class. Among other impacts of settlement, the Court need not inquire whether the case, if tried, would present intractable case management problems, as the result of settlement is that there will be no trial. Because this case has been settled at this stage of the proceedings, the Court does not reach, and makes no ruling either way, as to the issue of whether the Settlement Class certified by agreement here for settlement purposes could have ever been certified in this case as a class for litigation purposes.

5. The Court preliminarily finds: (a) the proposed Settlement resulted from extensive arm's-length negotiations; (b) the proposed Settlement was agreed to only after Class Counsel had conducted legal research and discovery regarding the strengths and weakness of Class Representative's and the Settlement Class's claims; (c) Class Representative and Class Counsel have concluded that the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate; and (d) the proposed Settlement is sufficiently fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant sending notice of the proposed Settlement to the Settlement Class.

6. Having considered the essential terms of the Settlement under the recognized standards for preliminary approval as set forth in the relevant jurisprudence, the Court preliminarily approves the Settlement, subject to the right of any member of the Settlement Class to challenge the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of any part of the Settlement, Settlement Agreement, Allocation Methodology, or proposed Plan of Allocation or Final Plan of Allocation (or any other Plan of Allocation), and to show cause, if any exists, why a final Judgment dismissing the Litigation based on the Settlement Agreement should not be ordered after adequate notice to the Settlement Class has been given in conformity with this Order. As such, the Court finds that those Class Members whose claims would be

settled, compromised, dismissed, and released pursuant to the Settlement should be given notice and an opportunity to be heard regarding final approval of the Settlement and other matters.

7. The Court further preliminarily approves the form and content of the proposed Notices, which are attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibits 3-5, and finds the Notices are the best notice practicable under the circumstances, constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to receive such notice, and fully satisfy the requirements of applicable laws, including due process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. The Court finds the form and content of the Notices fairly and adequately: (a) describe the terms and effect of the Settlement; (b) notify the Settlement Class of the time and place of the Final Fairness Hearing; (c) describe the options for requesting exclusion from the Settlement or objecting to the Settlement or any part thereof; and (d) direct potential Class Members to where they may obtain more detailed information about the Settlement.

8. The Court also preliminarily approves the proposed manner of communicating the Notices to the Settlement Class, as set out below, and finds it is the best notice practicable under the circumstances, constitutes due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to receive such notice, and fully satisfies the requirements of applicable Constitutional standards and other applicable laws, including due process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23:

a. No later than [Month] [Day], 2023, the Settlement Administrator will mail (or cause to be mailed) the Notice (Exhibit 3) by first class mail to all potential Class Members who have been identified after reasonable efforts to do so. The Notice (Exhibit 3) will be mailed to potential Class Members using the payment history data described in paragraph 3.3 of the Settlement Agreement, the last-known addresses for each payee, and any updated addresses found by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will also publish the Notice (Exhibit 5) as described below. It is not reasonable or economically practical for the Parties to do more to determine the names and addresses of Class Members.

b. No later than [Month] [Day], 2023, or at such time as is ordered by the Court, the Settlement Administrator also shall publish (or cause to be published) the Notice (Exhibit 5) one time in each of the following newspapers: (a) the Williston Daily Herald, a paper of general circulation in the relevant geographic area of North Dakota; and (b) the Bismarck Tribune, a paper of general circulation in North Dakota.

c. Prior to mailing the first notice and continuing through the Final Fairness Hearing, the Settlement Administrator will also display (or cause to be displayed) on an Internet website dedicated to this Settlement the following documents: (i) the Notice (Exhibit 4), (ii) the Complaint, (iii) the Settlement Agreement, (iv) this Order, and (v) other publicly filed documents related to the Settlement.

d. Upon request from a Class Member, the Settlement Administrator will directly mail a copy of the Notice (Exhibit 4) to the Class Member.

e. The Gross Settlement Fund shall bear any Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs.

9. Class Counsel is authorized to act on behalf of the Settlement Class with respect to all acts required by, or which may be given pursuant to, the Settlement Agreement, or such other acts that are reasonably necessary to consummate the proposed Settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

10. The Court appoints JND Legal Administration to act as Settlement Administrator and perform the associated responsibilities set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will receive and process any Requests for Exclusion and, if the Settlement is finally approved by the Court, will supervise and administer the Settlement in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, the Judgment, and the Court's Plan of Allocation order(s) authorizing distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Class Members. The Parties and their Counsel shall not be liable for any act or omission of the Settlement Administrator.

11. Upon selection by the Parties of an Escrow Agent, the Escrow Agent is authorized and directed to act in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and Escrow Agreement. Except as set forth in paragraph 6.22 of the Settlement Agreement, the Parties and their Counsel shall not be liable for any act or omission of the Escrow Agent or loss for the funds in the Escrow Account.

12. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e), a Final Fairness Hearing shall be held on [Month] [Day], 2023 at [Time] in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, the Honorable Gregory K. Frizzell, presiding, to, among other related matters:

- a. determine whether the Settlement should be approved by the Court as fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interests of the Settlement Class;
- b. determine whether the notice method utilized: (i) constituted the best practicable notice under the circumstances and applicable legal standards; (ii) constituted notice reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Class Members of the pendency of the Litigation, the Settlement, their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement, their right to object to the Settlement, and their right to appear at the Final Fairness Hearing; (iii) was reasonable and constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to such notice; and (iv) met applicable Constitutional standards and all applicable requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any other applicable law;
- c. determine whether a final Judgment should be entered pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, *inter alia*, ending the Litigation against Defendant and extinguishing, releasing, barring, and dismissing with prejudice all Released Claims against all Released Parties in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, and making the other findings and rulings provided therein, all in accordance with the Settlement Agreement;

d. determine the proper method of allocation and distribution of the Net Settlement Fund among participating Class Members who are not excluded from the Settlement Class by virtue of a timely and properly submitted Request for Exclusion or other order of the Court;

e. determine whether the applications for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and a Case Contribution Award to Class Representative are fair and reasonable and should be approved; and

f. rule on such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.

13. The Court reserves the right to adjourn, continue, and reconvene the Final Fairness Hearing, or any aspect thereof, including the consideration for the application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, without further notice to the Settlement Class. The Settlement Administrator will update the website maintained pursuant to paragraph 8(c) of this Order to reflect the current information about the date and time for the Final Fairness Hearing.

14. The Court reserves the right to continue the Final Fairness Hearing to a later date than the date provided for in the formal notices to the Settlement Class, and to approve the Settlement at or after the Final Fairness Hearing without further notice to the Settlement Class.

15. Class Members wishing to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e)(4) must submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion. 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. CDT on [Month] [Day], 2023.

Requests for Exclusion must be mailed as follows:

Settlement Administrator:

Rice v. Burlington Resources Settlement
c/o JND Legal Administration
P.O. Box 91205
Seattle, WA 98111

Co-Lead Class Counsel:

Reagan E. Bradford
Ryan K. Wilson
Bradford & Wilson PLLC
431 W. Main Street, Suite D
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Defendant's Counsel:

Craig L. Stahl
Jeffrey T. Kuehnle
Haynes and Boone, LLP
10001 Woodloch Forest Dr., Suite 200
The Woodlands, Texas 77380

Garrett S. Martin
Haynes and Boone, LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 4000
Houston, Texas 77010

Requests for Exclusion may not be submitted through the website or by telephone, facsimile, or email.

Any Class Member that has not timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion shall be included in the Settlement and shall be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement in the event it is finally approved by the Court.

16. Any participating Class Member who wishes to object to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement, any term of the Settlement, the Allocation Methodology, any Plan of Allocation, the request for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees and 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, identifying counsel 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 wishes to 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 from which the objector has received payments by or on behalf of Defendant (by well name, payee well number, and county in which the well is located) during the Claim Period and identification of such payments by date of payment, date of production, and amount; and (j) if the objector is objecting to any portion of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, a Case Contribution Award, or Litigation Expenses or 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. CDT on [Month] [Day], 2023, at the addresses set forth in paragraph 15 above.

Any Class Member who fails to timely file and serve such written statement and provide the required information will not be permitted to present any objections at the Final Fairness Hearing and such failure will render any such attempted objection untimely and of no effect. All presentations of objections will be further limited by the information listed. Either or both Party's counsel may file any reply or response to any objections no later than [Month] [Day], 2023. The procedures set forth in this paragraph do not supplant, but are in addition to, any procedures required by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

17. Any objector who timely files and serves a valid written objection in accordance with the above paragraph may also appear at the Final Fairness Hearing, either in person or through qualified counsel retained at the objector's expense. Objectors or their attorneys intending to present any objection at the Final Fairness Hearing must comply with the Local Rules of this Court in addition to the requirements set forth in paragraph 16 above.

18. No later than 5:00 p.m. CDT on [Month] [Day], 2023, if the Settlement has not been terminated pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff's Counsel and Plaintiff shall move for: (a) final approval of the Settlement pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e); (b) entry of a Judgment in substantially the same form as Exhibit 2 to the Settlement Agreement; (c) final approval of the Allocation Methodology and Initial Plan of Allocation; and (d) Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and/or a Case Contribution Award.

19. If the Settlement is not approved by the Court, is terminated in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement, or a Judgment approving it is entered that does not become Final and Non-Appealable for any reason whatsoever, the Settlement, Settlement Agreement, and any actions to be taken in connection therewith (including this Order and any Judgment entered herein), shall be terminated and become void and of no further force and effect as described in the Settlement Agreement

(including, but not limited to paragraph 9.3 of the Settlement Agreement). Any obligations or provisions relating to the refund of Plaintiff's Attorney's Fees, Litigation Expenses, and the Gross Settlement Amount; the payment of Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs already incurred; and any other obligation or provision in the Settlement Agreement that expressly pertains to the termination of the Settlement or events to occur after the termination, shall survive termination of the Settlement Agreement and Settlement.

20. All proceedings in the Litigation, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to carry out the terms and conditions of the Settlement, are hereby stayed and suspended until further order of this Court. Pending final approval of the Settlement, Class Representative and all Class Members are barred, enjoined, and restrained from commencing, prosecuting, continuing, or asserting in any forum, either directly or indirectly, on their own behalf or on the behalf of any other person or class, any Released Claim against Released Parties.

21. Entering into or carrying out the Settlement Agreement, and any negotiations or proceedings related thereto, is not, and shall not be construed as, or deemed to be evidence of, an admission or concession by any of the Parties to the Settlement Agreement and shall not be offered or received in evidence in any action or proceeding by or against any Party in any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal for any purpose whatsoever other than to enforce the provisions of the Settlement between Defendant and any Class Member(s), the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, or the provisions of any related agreement, order, judgment or release. This Order shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing, breach, liability, or the propriety of maintaining this Litigation as a contested class action and Defendant specifically denies any such fault, wrongdoing, breach, liability, and allegation regarding certification for litigation (as opposed to settlement) purposes. This Order shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against Class Representative or the Settlement Class that their

claims lack merit or that the relief requested in the Litigation is inappropriate, improper, or unavailable. This Order shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, declaration, or waiver by any Party of any arguments, defenses, or claims he, she, or it may have with respect to the Litigation in the event the Settlement is terminated. Moreover, the Settlement and any proceedings taken pursuant to the Settlement are for settlement purposes only.

22. The Court, along with any appellate court with power to review the Court's orders and rulings in the Litigation, hereby retains jurisdiction over this Litigation to consider all further matters arising out of or connected with the Settlement reflected in the Settlement Agreement, including enforcement of the releases provided for in the Settlement Agreement. The Court, along with any appellate court with power to review the Court's orders and rulings in the Litigation, also hereby retains jurisdiction over this Litigation to administer all other matters related to the enforcement of the Settlement Agreement and Settlement and the orders of the Court related thereto.

23. The Court may, for good cause shown, extend any of the deadlines set forth in this Order without further written notice to the Settlement Class.

IT IS SO ORDERED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

GREGORY K. FRIZZELL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Approved as to Form:

/s/ Reagan E. Bradford

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CLASS COUNSEL

/s/ Craig L. Stahl

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COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT

Exhibit 2

**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

**ORDER AND JUDGMENT GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL
OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

This is a class action lawsuit brought by Plaintiff, Sally E. Rice, as trustee for the Winston Lawrence Rice Trust, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated (“Plaintiff”), against Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP (“Defendant”) for the alleged late payment of oil-and-gas proceeds from North Dakota oil-and-gas wells. On April __, 2023, the Parties executed a Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement (the “Settlement Agreement”) finalizing the terms of the Settlement. (Doc. __).¹

On [Month] [Day], 2023, the Court preliminarily approved the Settlement and issued an Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, Certifying the Class for Settlement Purposes, Approving Form and Manner of Notice, and Setting Date for Final Fairness Hearing (the “Preliminary Approval Order”) (Doc. __). In the Preliminary Approval Order, the Court, *inter alia*:

¹ Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement.

- a. certified the Settlement Class for settlement purposes, finding all requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 have been satisfied with respect to the proposed Settlement Class;
- b. appointed Plaintiff as Class Representative;
- c. appointed Reagan E. Bradford and Ryan K. Wilson of Bradford & Wilson PLLC as Co-Lead Class Counsel and Brady L. Smith of Brady Smith Law, PLLC as Additional Class Counsel;
- d. preliminarily found: (i) the proposed Settlement resulted from extensive arm's-length negotiations; (ii) the proposed Settlement was agreed to only after Class Counsel had conducted legal research and discovery regarding the strengths and weaknesses of Class Representative's and the Settlement Class's claims; (iii) Class Representative and Class Counsel have concluded that the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate; and (iv) the proposed Settlement is sufficiently fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant sending notice of the proposed Settlement to the Settlement Class;
- e. preliminarily approved the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interest of the Settlement Class;
- f. preliminarily approved the form and manner of the proposed Notices to be communicated to the Settlement Class, finding specifically that such Notices, among other information: (i) described the terms and effect of the Settlement; (ii) notified the Settlement Class that Plaintiff's Counsel will seek Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and a Case Contribution Award for Class Representative's services; (iii) notified the Settlement Class of the time and place of the Final Fairness Hearing; (iv) described the procedure

for requesting exclusion from the Settlement; and (v) described the procedure for objecting to the Settlement or any part thereof;

- g. instructed the Settlement Administrator to disseminate the approved Notice to potential members of the Settlement Class, to publish the Notice, and to display documents related to the Settlement on an Internet website in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and in the manner approved by the Court;
- h. provided for the appointment of a Settlement Administrator;
- i. provided for the appointment of an Escrow Agent;
- j. set the date and time for the Final Fairness Hearing as [Month] [Day], 2023 at [Time] in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma; and
- k. set out the procedures and deadlines by which Class Members could properly request exclusion from the Settlement Class or object to the Settlement or any part thereof.

After the Court issued the Preliminary Approval Order, due and adequate notice by means of the Notices was given to the Settlement Class, notifying them of the Settlement and the upcoming Final Fairness Hearing. On [Month] [Day], 2023, in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order and the Notice, the Court conducted a Final Fairness Hearing to, *inter alia*:

- a. determine whether the Settlement should be approved by the Court as fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interests of the Settlement Class;
- b. determine whether the notice method utilized by the Settlement Administrator: (i) constituted the best practicable notice under the circumstances; (ii) constituted notice reasonably calculated under the circumstances to apprise Class Members of the pendency of the Litigation, the Settlement, their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement, their right to object to the Settlement or any part thereof, and their right to appear at the Final Fairness Hearing; (iii) was reasonable and constituted due,

adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to such notice; and (iv) meets all applicable requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any other applicable law;

c. determine whether to approve the Allocation Methodology, the Plan of Allocation, and distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Class Members who did not timely submit a valid Request for Exclusion or were not otherwise excluded from the Settlement Class by order of the Court;²

d. determine whether a Judgment should be entered pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, *inter alia*, ending the Litigation and dismissing the Released Claims against Defendant with prejudice and extinguishing, releasing, and barring all Released Claims against all Released Parties in accordance with the Settlement Agreement;

e. determine whether the applications for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and a Case Contribution Award to Class Representative are fair and reasonable and should be approved;³ and

f. rule on such other matters as the Court deems appropriate.

The Court, having reviewed the Settlement, the Settlement Agreement, and all related pleadings and filings, and having heard the evidence and argument presented at the Final Fairness Hearing, now **FINDS, ORDERS, and ADJUDGES as follows:**

1. The Court, for purposes of this Final Judgment (the "Judgment"), adopts all defined terms as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and incorporates them as if fully set forth herein.

2. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Litigation and all matters relating to the Settlement, as well as personal jurisdiction over Defendant and Class Members.

² The Court will issue a separate order pertaining to the allocation and distribution of the Net Settlement Fund among Class Members (the "Initial Plan of Allocation Order").

³ The Court will issue a separate order pertaining to Plaintiff's Counsel's request for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Expenses, a Case Contribution Award, and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs.

3. The Settlement Class, which was certified in the Court’s Preliminary Approval Order, is defined as follows:

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 Court finds that the above-defined Settlement Class has been properly certified for the purposes of this Settlement. The Court finds that the persons and entities identified in the attached Exhibit 1 have submitted timely and valid Requests for Exclusion and are hereby excluded from the foregoing Settlement Class, will not participate in or be bound by the Settlement, or any part thereof, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, and will not be bound by or subject to the releases provided for in this Judgment and the Settlement Agreement.

4. As used in this Judgment, the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement, which are incorporated herein by reference: “Released Claims,” “Released Parties,” “Releasing Parties,” and “Claim Period.”

5. At the Final Fairness Hearing on [Month] [Day], 2023, the Court fulfilled its duties to independently evaluate the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of, *inter alia*, the Settlement and the Notice of Settlement provided to the Settlement Class, considering not only the pleadings and arguments of Class Representative and Defendant and their respective Counsel, but also the concerns of any objectors and the interests of all absent Class Members. In so doing, the Court considered arguments that could reasonably be made against, *inter alia*, approving the Settlement and the Notice of Settlement, even if such argument was not actually presented to the Court by pleading or oral argument.

6. The Court further finds that due and proper notice, by means of the Notices, was given to the Settlement Class in conformity with the Settlement Agreement and Preliminary Approval Order. The form, content, and method of communicating the Notices disseminated to the Settlement Class and published pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and the Preliminary Approval Order: (a) constituted the best practicable notice under the circumstances; (b) constituted notice reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Class Members of the pendency of the Litigation, the Settlement, their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement, their right to object to the Settlement or any part thereof, and their right to appear at the Final Fairness Hearing; (c) was reasonable and constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to such notice; and (d) met all applicable requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution, and any other applicable law. Therefore, the Court approves the form, manner, and content of the Notices used by the Parties. The Court further finds that all Class Members have been afforded a reasonable opportunity to request exclusion from the Settlement Class or object to the Settlement.

7. Pursuant to and in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, the Settlement, including, without limitation, the consideration paid by Defendant, the covenants not to sue, the releases, and the dismissal with prejudice of the Released Claims against the Released Parties as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, is finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interests of the Settlement Class. The Settlement Agreement was entered into between the Parties at arm's-length and in good faith after substantial negotiations free of collusion, including with the aid of a mediator. The Settlement fairly reflects the complexity of the Claims, the duration of the Litigation, the extent of discovery, and the balance between the benefits the Settlement provides to the Settlement Class and the risk, cost, and uncertainty associated with further litigation and trial. Serious questions of law and fact remain contested between the parties. The Settlement provides a means of gaining immediate valuable and reasonable compensation and forecloses the prospect of uncertain results after many

more months or years of additional discovery and litigation. The considered judgment of the Parties, aided by experienced legal counsel, supports the Settlement.

8. By agreeing to settle the Litigation, Defendant does not admit, and instead specifically denies, that the Litigation could have otherwise been properly maintained as a contested class action, and specifically denies any and all wrongdoing and liability to the Settlement Class, Class Representative, and Plaintiff's Counsel.

9. The Court finds that on [Month] [Day], 2023, Defendant caused notice of the Settlement to be served on the appropriate state official for each state in which a Class Member resides, and the appropriate federal official, as required by and in conformance with the form and content requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1715. In connection therewith, the Court has determined that, under 28 U.S.C. 28 § 1715, the appropriate state official for each state in which a Class Member resides was and is the State Attorney General for each such state, and the appropriate federal official was and is the Attorney General of the United States. Further, the Court finds it was not feasible for Defendant to include on each such notice the names of each of the Class Members who reside in each state and the estimated proportionate share of each such Class Members to the entire Settlement as provided in 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b)(7)(A); therefore, each notice included a reasonable estimate of the number of Class Members residing in each state and the estimated proportionate share of the claims of such Class Members to the Settlement. No appropriate state or federal official has entered an appearance or filed an objection to the entry of final approval of the Settlement. Thus, the Court finds that all requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1715 have been met and complied with and, as a consequence, no Class Member may refuse to comply with or choose not to be bound by the Settlement and this Court's Orders in furtherance thereof, including this Judgment, under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1715.

10. The Released Claims are dismissed with prejudice as to the Released Parties and the Litigation is terminated, other than acts required to carry out this Judgment and administer the

Settlement. All Class Members who have not validly and timely submitted a Request for Exclusion to the Settlement Administrator as directed in the Notice and Preliminary Approval Order (a) are hereby deemed to have finally, fully, and forever conclusively released, relinquished, and discharged all of the Released Claims against the Released Parties and (b) are barred and permanently enjoined from, directly or indirectly, on any Class Member's behalf or through others, suing, instigating, instituting, or asserting against the Released Parties any claims or actions on or concerning the Released Claims. Neither Party will bear the other's Party's litigation costs, costs of court, or attorney's fees. The Court orders that Residual Unclaimed Funds will be distributed as *cy pres* at the time specified in the Settlement Agreement and with the recipient(s) to be later-determined by the Court upon motion of Class Representative.

11. The Court also approves the efforts and activities of the Settlement Administrator, JND Legal Administration, and the Escrow Agent in assisting with certain aspects of the administration of the Settlement, and directs them to continue to assist Class Representative in completing the administration and distribution of the Settlement in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, this Judgment, any Plan of Allocation approved by the Court, and the Court's other orders.

12. Nothing in this Judgment shall bar any action or claim by Class Representative or Defendant to enforce or effectuate the terms of the Settlement Agreement or this Judgment.

13. In accordance with the timeline provided in the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Administrator or Escrow Agent is directed to refund to Defendant the amount attributable to Class Members under the Initial Plan of Allocation who timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion or who were otherwise excluded from the Settlement Class by order of the Court.

14. Neither this Settlement, the Settlement Agreement, any document referred to herein, nor any action taken to carry out the Settlement is, may be construed as, or may be used as, evidence of or an admission or concession by Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever with respect

to the claims and allegations in the Litigation, or class certifiability. Entering into or carrying out the Settlement Agreement, and any negotiations or proceedings related thereto, and the Settlement Agreement itself, are not, and shall not be construed as, or deemed to be evidence of, an admission or concession by any of the Parties to the Settlement Agreement and shall not be offered or received in evidence in any action or proceeding by or against any party hereto in any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal for any purpose whatsoever other than to enforce the provisions of the Settlement between Defendant and any Class Member(s), the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, or the Judgment, or to seek an Order barring or precluding the assertion of Released Claims in any proceeding. Further, this Judgment shall not give rise to any collateral estoppel effect as to the certifiability of any class in any other proceeding.

15. As separately set forth in detail in the Court's Initial Plan of Allocation Order(s), the Allocation Methodology, the Plan of Allocation, and distribution of the Net Settlement Fund among Class Members who were not excluded from the Settlement Class by timely submitting a valid Request for Exclusion or other order of the Court are approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and Class Counsel and the Settlement Administrator are directed to administer the Settlement in accordance with the Plan of Allocation Order(s) entered by the Court.

16. The Court finds that Class Representative, Defendant, and their Counsel have complied with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as to all proceedings and filings in this Litigation. The Court further finds that Class Representative and Plaintiff's Counsel adequately represented the Settlement Class in entering into and implementing the Settlement.

17. Neither Defendant nor Defendant's Counsel shall have any liability or responsibility to Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, or the Settlement Class with respect to the Gross Settlement Fund or its administration, including but not limiting to any distributions made by the Escrow Agent or Settlement Administrator. Except as described in paragraph 6.22 of the Settlement Agreement, no Class Member

shall have any claim against Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Counsel, the Settlement Administrator, the Escrow Agent, or any of their respective designees or agents based on the distributions made substantially in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, the Court's Plan of Allocation Order(s), or other orders of the Court.

18. Any Class Member who receives a Distribution Check that he/she/it is not legally entitled to receive is hereby ordered to either (a) pay the appropriate portion(s) of the Distribution Check to the person(s) legally entitled to receive such portion(s) or (b) return the Distribution Check uncashed to the Settlement Administrator.

19. All matters regarding the administration of the Escrow Account and the taxation of funds in the Escrow Account or distributed from the Escrow Account shall be handled in accordance with Section 5 of the Settlement Agreement.

20. Any order approving or modifying any Plan of Allocation Order, the application by Class Counsel for an award of Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees or reimbursement of Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, or the request of Class Representatives for a Case Contribution Award shall be handled in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and the documents referenced therein (to the extent the Settlement Agreement and documents referenced therein address such an order).

21. Plaintiff's Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Settlement Class will only be liable for loss of any portion of the Escrow Account as described in paragraph 6.22 of the Settlement Agreement. Defendant shall have no liability for any such loss.

22. In the event the Settlement is terminated as the result of a successful appeal of this Judgment or does not become Final and Non-Appealable in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement for any reason whatsoever, then this Judgment and all orders previously entered in connection with the Settlement shall be rendered null and void and shall be vacated. The provisions of the

Settlement Agreement relating to termination of the Settlement Agreement shall be complied with, including the refund of amounts in the Escrow Account to Defendant and the refund by Plaintiff's Counsel into the Escrow Account of any amounts previously paid to them from the Escrow Account.

23. [reserved for addressing objections, if any]

24. Without affecting the finality of this Judgment in any way, the Court (along with any appellate court with power to review the Court's orders and rulings in the Litigation) reserves exclusive and continuing jurisdiction to enter any orders as necessary to administer the Settlement Agreement, including jurisdiction to determine any issues relating to the payment and distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, to issue additional orders pertaining to, *inter alia*, Class Counsel's request for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees and reimbursement of reasonable Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs and Class Representative's request for a Case Contribution Award, and to enforce this Judgment. Notwithstanding the Court's jurisdiction to issue additional orders in this Litigation, this Judgment fully disposes of all claims as to Defendant and is therefore a final appealable judgment. The Court further hereby expressly directs the Clerk of the Court to file this Judgment as a final order and final judgment in this Litigation.

IT IS SO ORDERED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

GREGORY K. FRIZZELL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Approved as to Form:

/s/ Reagan E. Bradford

Reagan E. Bradford
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/s/ Craig L. Stahl

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COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT

Exhibit 3

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

**If You Are or Were a Royalty Owner Paid by
Burlington Resources for Oil-and-Gas
Proceeds from a North Dakota Oil-and-Gas
Well, You Could Be a Part of a Proposed
Class Action Settlement.**

Who Is Included?

You are a member of the Settlement Class if, from August 25, 2016, to June 30, 2021, you (1) received untimely payments from Burlington Resources for royalties in North Dakota wells; and (2) your payment did not include the 18% interest required by North Dakota law. "Burlington Resources" means Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP. The Settlement Class has been preliminarily approved for settlement only. There are exclusions.

Rice-Burlington Resources Settlement
c/o JND Legal Administration
PO Box 91205
Seattle, WA 98111

ID: «CF_PRINTED_ID»

«CF_NAME1»
«CF_NAME2»
«CF_CARE_OF_NAME»
«CF_ADDRESS_1»
«CF_ADDRESS_2»
«CF_CITY»«CF_STATE»«CF_ZIP»
«CF_COUNTRY»

There is a proposed Settlement in a putative class action lawsuit filed against Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP ("Defendant") called *Rice v. Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP*, Case No. 20-CV-431-GKF-SH, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. The Lawsuit claims Defendant failed to pay statutory interest on royalty payments made outside the time periods of North Dakota law for oil-and-gas production proceeds from wells in North Dakota.

Why am I receiving this notice?

Defendant's records indicate you may be a member of the Settlement Class.

What does the settlement provide?

The proposed Settlement provides monetary benefits of \$4,000,000.00 that will be distributed according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the documents referenced in and exhibits to the Settlement Agreement, and orders from the Court. Plaintiffs' Counsel will seek attorneys' fees up to 40% of the Gross Settlement Fund, plus reimbursement of litigation expenses and administration costs, all to be paid from the Settlement. Plaintiff will seek a contribution award of up to \$80,000.00 from the Settlement.

What are my legal rights?

You do not have to do anything to stay in the Settlement Class and receive the benefits of the proposed Settlement. If you stay in the Settlement Class, you may also object to the proposed Settlement by following the instructions from the Court (available on the website) by _____, 2023. If you stay in the Settlement Class, you will be bound by all orders and judgments of the Court, and you will not be able to sue, or continue to sue, Defendant or others identified in the Settlement Agreement from claims described therein. You may appear through an attorney if you so desire.

What are my other options?

If you do not wish to participate in or be legally bound by the proposed Settlement, you may exclude yourself by opting out no later than _____, 2023, by following the instructions from the Court (available on the website). If you opt out, you will not receive any benefits from the Settlement and will not be bound by it or the judgment in this case.

When will the Court decide whether to approve the proposed Settlement?

A Final Fairness Hearing has been scheduled for _____, 2023, at ____:00 __.m. CT at the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, 333 West Fourth St., Tulsa, OK 74103. You are not required to attend the hearing, but you or your lawyer may do so if you wish.

THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY. TO GET A COPY OF THE LONG-FORM NOTICE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.RICE-BURLINGTON.COM OR CALL TOLL-FREE 1-844-798-0742

Exhibit 4

**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

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

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.¹

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). 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.

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

¹ 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

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.

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 [Month] [Date], 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) 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.

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. 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, 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 [Month] [Date], 2023, beginning at [Time], 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 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 [Month] [Date], 2023. Requests for Exclusion may be mailed as follows:

Settlement Administrator:

Rice v. Burlington Resources Settlement
c/o JND Legal Administration
P.O. Box 91205
Seattle, WA 98111

Co-Lead Class Counsel:

Reagan E. Bradford
Ryan K. Wilson
Bradford & Wilson PLLC
431 W. Main Street, Suite D

Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Defendant's Counsel:

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 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. CDT by [Month] [Date], 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.

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, 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/.

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.

Exhibit 5

If You Are or Were a Royalty Owner Paid by Burlington Resources for Oil-and-Gas Proceeds from a North Dakota Oil-and-Gas Well, You Could Be a Part of a Proposed Class Action Settlement

The Settlement Class includes:

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, subject to the terms of the Settlement Agreement regarding Released Claims. The Litigation seeks damages for Defendant's alleged failure to pay statutory interest on allegedly late payments under North Dakota law. Defendant expressly denies all allegations of wrongdoing or liability with respect to the claims and allegations in the Litigation. The Court did not decide which side is right. Defendant or Burlington means Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP.

On [Month] [Date], 2023, the Court preliminarily approved a Settlement in which Defendant has agreed to pay Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) in cash (the "Gross Settlement Fund"). From the Gross Settlement Fund, the Court may deduct Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses, a Case Contribution Award, and any settlement Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs. The remainder of the fund (the "Net Settlement Fund") will be distributed to participating Class Members as provided in the Settlement Agreement. Complete information on the benefits of the Settlement, including information on the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund, can be found in the Settlement Agreement posted on the website listed below. In exchange, Class Members will release Defendant and others identified in the Settlement Agreement from the claims described in the Settlement Agreement.

The attorneys and law firms who represent the Class are Reagan E. Bradford and Ryan K. Wilson of Bradford & Wilson PLLC as Co-Lead Class Counsel, and Brady L. Smith of Brady Smith Law, PLLC as Additional Class Counsel. You may hire your own attorney, if you wish. However, you will be responsible for that attorney's fees and expenses.

What Are My Legal Rights?

- **Do Nothing, Stay in the Class, and Receive Benefits of the Settlement:** If the Court approves the proposed Settlement, you or your successors, if eligible, will receive the benefits of the proposed Settlement.

- **Stay in the Settlement Class, But Object to All or Part of the Settlement:** You can file and serve a written objection to the Settlement and appear before the Court. Your written objection must contain the information described in the Notice of Settlement found at the website listed below and must be filed with the Court and served on Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendant's Counsel no later than [Month] [Date], 2023, at 5 p.m. CT.
- **Exclude Yourself from the Settlement Class:** To exclude yourself from the Settlement Class, you must serve by certified mail a written statement to the Settlement Administrator, Plaintiff's Counsel, and Defendant's Counsel. Your Request for Exclusion must contain the information described in the Notice of Settlement found at the website listed below and must be received no later than [Month] [Date], 2023, at 5 p.m. CT. You cannot exclude yourself on the website, by telephone, or by email.

The Court will hold a Final Fairness Hearing on [Month] [Date], 2023, at _____.m. CT at the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. At the Hearing, the Court will consider whether the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court will also consider the application for Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses and other costs, including a Case Contribution Award and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs. If comments or objections have been submitted in the manner required, the Court will consider them as well. Please note that the date of the Final Fairness Hearing is subject to change without further notice. If you plan to attend the Final Fairness Hearing, you should check www.rice-burlington.com to confirm no change to the date and time of the Final Fairness Hearing has been made.

This notice provides only a summary. For more detailed information regarding the rights and obligations of Settlement Class Members, read the Notice of Settlement, Settlement Agreement and other documents posted on the website or contact the Settlement Administrator.

Visit: www.rice-burlington.com

Call Toll-Free: 1-844-798-0742

Or write to: *Rice v. Burlington Resources*

c/o JND Legal Administration

P.O. Box 91205

Seattle, WA 98111