

DAN S. COLLINS, CPL & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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May 9, 2007

Mr. Scott A. Angelle, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 94396
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9396

Via: Hand Delivered

Re: Big Bayou Pigeon Water Quality Project

Dear Mr. Angelle:

Today I delivered to Mr. Robert Benoit, Assistant Director of the Atchafalaya Basin Program the results of that Task Order dated April 20, 2007, pertaining to the identification of lands and limited mineral history within the Big Bayou Pigeon Water Quality Project situated in the Atchafalaya Basin. My firm also provided the land services regarding the first water quality project identified as the "Bayou Postillion Water Quality Project" which commenced prior to and pre-dated your tenure as Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.

As recent as February of this year, Mr. Benoit, Assistant Director, along with Ms. Sandra Thompson, Director of the Atchafalaya Basin Program were copied with correspondence between Mr. Ernie Gammon, Hydro Consultants, Inc. and myself dated February 15, 2007 and February 22, 2007 (copies enclosed for your reference). I felt as though I had to respond to Mr. Gammon's misrepresentations. Those letters dealt with the first water quality project (Bayou Postillion) that was funded entirely by the State of Louisiana. After carrying out the task for the proposed Big Bayou Pigeon Water Quality Project, just delivered to Mr. Benoit, I have concerns that certain parties may again individually profit at the expense of the State of Louisiana and the Public (citizens of Louisiana).

It is my understanding that numerous individuals and groups have voiced similar concerns to the Department of Natural Resources, various State of Louisiana Congressmen and Representatives and to Governor Kathleen Blanco whereby they stated that the original water quality project was, in their opinion, not actually for "water quality" but was in fact a canal dredged to access private oil and gas development and drilling opportunities for landowners. After a review of the Public Records and in addition to recently discovered documents and information, I believe the same arguments may be made by the public at Bayou Pigeon. My instant concern is further illustrated by the fact that at least

one of the identical landowners (Kyle-Peterman Landowners) at Bayou Pigeon was the sole beneficiary landowner in the first water quality project (Bayou Postillion Water Quality Project).

I have always supported the oil and gas industry and feel exploration and development certainly benefits our Louisiana economy. It is not my intention to hinder such activity. My present concern is the possible appearance of improper utilization of public funds by the Atchafalaya Basin Program under so-called “water quality improvement projects”.

In support of my statements and as encouraged by Mr. Gammon, I have included copies of information and documents recently discovered that I feel are relevant to my concerns. After review by your technical committee of the recently submitted report, I would be available to answer any questions you or they may have regarding either of the projects in addition to sharing knowledge regarding the recently discovered information and documentation.

As always it remains my pleasure to serve the department. My work history with the department has always been well-received in the past and I look forward to working with the department on other projects in the future.

Sincerely,

Dan S. Collins, CPL
Dan S. Collins, CPL & Associates, Inc.

cc: Ms. Toni Antoinette Debosier
Chairman, Secretary Technical Committee
Department of Natural Resources
(Cover Letter Only without Enclosures)

Enclosures:

1) February 15, 2007 and February 22, 2007 letters between Hydro Consultants, Inc. and Dan Collins, Dan S. Collins, CPL & Associates, Inc. with attachments (10 pages);

2) February 1-2, 2007 BLACKBIRD PROSPECT & FALCON PROSPECT
Promotional literature distributed by TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC. pertaining to oil and gas prospects located in East Bayou Postillion Field, Iberia Parish, Louisiana at N.A.P.E. (North American Prospect Exposition), Houston, Texas regarding \$11,113,250 and \$7,077,500 estimated project costs both areas accessed through lands recently dredged by State of Louisiana in addition to promotional literature regarding MACH ENERGY, LLC regarding prospect identified as **EAST BAYOU PIGEON PROSPECT**;

3) January 29, 2007 CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING– SECRETARY OF STATE OF LOUISIANA TORTUGA OPERATING COMPANY / TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC.

- 4) Louisiana Secretary of State, Commercial Division, Corporations Database, Blanchard 1986 LTD., A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (1 page);
- 5) Louisiana Secretary of State, Commercial Division, Corporations Database, Hine Operating Co. (1 page);
- 6) May 9, 1986 CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP – “BLANCHARD 1986 LTD.” Note: JOHN E. HINE – (Feb. 27, 1986 letter below attempted mineral purchase from Betty Blanchard, Park Plantation);
- 7) Louisiana Secretary of State, Commercial Division, Corporations Database, Tortuga Oil & Mineral Partnership (John E. Hine, General Partner, NOTE: CHARLES E. MINYARD, 600 JEFFERSON STREET, STE. 501, LAFAYETTE, LA 70501 (1 page) ;
- 8) Assignment of Overriding Royalty Interest, Linder Energy Company and Louisiana General Oil Company to TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC. of 2.0% of 8/8ths dated March 1, 1993, subject to unrecorded letter agreement dated March 10, 1993, Notarial dates September 14, 1995 and October 26, 1995, recorded January 29, 1996 (9 pages);
- 9) Sonrise Database, Tortuga Oil & Mineral, Wells for selected Organization, ALL WELLS SITUATED IN BAYOU LONG (1 page);
- 10) Sonrise Database, Tortuga Operating Company, Wells for selected Organization, ALL WELLS SITUATED IN JEANERETTE & BIG BAYOU PIGEON FIELDS (2 pages);
- 11) Sonrise Database, Tortuga Operating Company for selected Organization Name, Address Information, Organization Officers (John E. Hine, Vice President/Treasurer and P.L. Turbett, President) and ORGANIZATION RED FLAGS-AS NOTED THEREIN(2 pages);
- 12) Sonrise Database, Serial Number 65311, E.H. PETERMAN #7 Well (2 pages);
- 13) Sonrise Database, Serial Number 66790, E.H. PETERMAN #8 Well (2 pages);
- 14) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF LOUISIANA-COMPLIANCE ORDER NO. E-I&E-05-0233, – FC 4741, Jeanerette Field, St. Mary Parish, LA- TORTUGA OPERATING COMPANY-Lands of Park Plantation, LLC, Nancy Blanchard and Betty Blanchard, N. Jeanerette Field, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana (Note-Same lands identified within Affidavit dated March 14, 1988 executed by Thomas P. Hebert, Conservation Enforcement Agent Class I of the OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF LOUISIANA). Contamination Constituents: Barium, Nickel, Selenium, Arsenic, Lead;
- 15) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF LOUISIANA-COMPLIANCE ORDER NO. E-I&E-05-0252, – FC 4741, Jeanerette Field, St. Mary Parish, LA- TORTUGA OPERATING COMPANY-Lands of Park Plantation, LLC, Nancy Blanchard and Betty Blanchard, N. Jeanerette Field, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana (Note-Same lands

identified within Affidavit dated March 14, 1988 executed by Thomas P. Hebert, , Conservation Enforcement Agent Class I of the OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF LOUISIANA). Note: EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF CIVIL PENALTIES;

16) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF LOUISIANA-COMPLIANCE ORDER NO. E-I&E-05-0237 & 0238, – FC 4741, Jeanerette Field, St. Mary Parish, LA- TORTUGA OPERATING COMPANY-Lands of Park Plantation, LLC, Nancy Blanchard and Betty Blanchard, N. Jeanerette Field, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana (Note-Same lands identified within Affidavit dated March 14, 1988 executed by Thomas P. Hebert, Conservation Enforcement Agent Class I of the OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF LOUISIANA). Note: Reference to new terminology “ABEYANCE” until such time as “the litigation is resolved” regarding letter dated November 2, 2006 signed by JAMES H. WELSH, COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION;

17) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF LOUISIANA-COMPLIANCE ORDER NO. E-I&E-05-0276, FC 4741, Jeanerette Field , St. Mary Parish, LA- TORTUGA OPERATING COMPANY-Lands of Park Plantation, LLC, Nancy Blanchard and Betty Blanchard, N. Jeanerette Field, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana (Note-Same lands identified within Affidavit dated March 14, 1988 executed by Thomas P. Hebert , Conservation Enforcement Agent Class I of the OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF LOUISIANA). Note: Photographs and Civil Penalties;

18) March 14, 1988 AFFIDAVIT – THOMAS P. HEBERT, Conservation Enforcement Agent Class I of the OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE OF LOUISIANA

Note-Statements “that no pollution or damage associated therewith exists on the Blanchard or Heron properties” as result of his last inspection of the Blanchard and Heron Wells that occurred on “March 14, 1988”. Note-date of Affidavit signed “March 14, 1988” same date as alleged inspection. Notary date identical to inspection date. Author and Notary of document believed to be Russell J. Cremaldi, Esq. (Note: Same property operated and undivided lease ownership by ARCO, TORTUGA OPERATING CO. & TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC. / BLANCHARD 1986, ET AL)

19) June 17, 2005 Letter KEVIN E. HUDDALL, ESQ., JONES, VERRAS & FREIBERG, L.L.C. to SECRETARY MICHAEL MCDANIEL, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY and KEITH CASANOVA, ADMINISTRATOR, REMEDIATION SERVICES DIVISION, LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY regarding results of substantial groundwater concentrations of Radium 226 and 228 and investigation related for mercury contamination in soil of Park Plantation owned by NANCY & BETTY BLANCHARD (Note: Same property operated and undivided lease ownership by ARCO, TORTUGA OPERATING CO. & TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC. / BLANCHARD 1986, ET AL). Note: GROUNDWATER TESTING DATA;

**20) WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA PENDING LITIGATION
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 04-1864
LAFAYETTE-OPELOUSAS DIVISION
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

BLANCHARD 1986, LTD. TORTUGA OPERATING CO., TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC., JOHN E. HINE, PETER L. TURBETT, AND ATLANTIC, RICHFIELD COMPANY, a wholly owned subsidiary of BP Amoco, et al VERSUS PARK PLANTATION, LLC, NANCY BLANCHARD and BETTY BLANCHARD; * Note: Suit for specific performance regarding attempt by Plaintiff to purchase fee (surface & minerals) @ \$800.00/acre due to environmental contamination, despite plaintiff failing to remediate and restore property in excess of 20+/- years of operations;

**21) 24TH JDC, PARISH OF JEFFERSON PENDING LITIGATION
NO. 606-555, DIVISION "J"**

NANCY BLANCHARD, ET AL. VERSUS LINDER OIL COMPANY, a Partnership TORTUGA OPERATING CO. AND BLANCHARD 1986 LTD., a Limited Partnership;

*Counts-Environmental Damages, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIL COMPANY DEFENDANT'S CONDUCT AND THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; Attempted Forfeiture; Failure to Pay Royalties Properly; Demand for Release of Acreage; Drainage; Failure to Develop; Subsurface Damages;

22) May 21, 2006 Article WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

Daily Advertiser front page newspaper article by MIKE HASTENS regarding NANCY & BETTY BLANCHARD's property known as PARK PLANTATION, S. JEANERETTE FIELD, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana pertaining to environmental contamination and pollution including mercury contamination by ARCO, et al (TORTUGA OPERATING CO., TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC. & BLANCHARD 1986);

23) May 22, 2006 Article LANDOWNER FRUSTRATED IN BATTLE FOR CLEANUP

Shreveport Times newspaper article by MIKE HASTENS regarding NANCY & BETTY BLANCHARD's property known as PARK PLANTATION, S. JEANERETTE FIELD, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana pertaining to environmental contamination and pollution including mercury contamination by ARCO, et al (TORTUGA OPERATING CO., TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC. & BLANCHARD 1986);

24) December 11, 2006 Letter NANCY BLANCHARD to MR. CHARLES C. FOTI, JR., ATTORNEY GENEREAL, STATE OF LOUISIANA-OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL regarding conflict of interest issues for member on Ad Hoc Committee to help Office of Conservation draft proposed rules to implement the provisions of Act 312 of 2006;

25) December 4, 2006 Letter NANCY BLANCHARD to MR. JAMES H. WELSH, COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES conflict of interest issues for member regarding undivided interest owner of TORTUGA OPERATING CO. & TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC. / BLANCHARD 1986 on Ad Hoc Committee to help Office of Conservation draft proposed rules to implement the provisions of Act 312 of 2006;

26) December 22, 2005 Letter PAUL MACLEAN, MACLEAN LAND SERVICES, INC. to MR. MICHAEL D. MCDANIELS, PHD, SECRETARY, LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY regarding environmental contamination and pollution including mercury contamination by ARCO, et al (TORTUGA OPERATING CO. & TORTUGA

INTERESTS, INC. / BLANCHARD 1986) at Park Plantation owned by NANCY & BETTY BLANCHARD;

27) October 21, 2005 Letter PAUL MACLEAN, MACLEAN LAND SERVICES, INC. to MR. MICHAEL D. MCDANIELS, PHD, SECRETARY, LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY regarding environmental contamination and pollution including mercury contamination by ARCO, et al (TORTUGA OPERATING CO. & TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC. / BLANCHARD 1986) at Park Plantation owned by NANCY & BETTY BLANCHARD;

28) DEPOSITION OF JOHN E. HINE (COPY), as designated representative of **TORTUGA OPERATING CO., TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC. AND BLANCHARD 1986, LTD.** With supporting **EXHIBITS (COPY)** (multiple pages);

29) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 04-1864, BLANCHARD 1986, LTD., TORTUGA OPERATING CO., TORTUGA INTERESTS, INC., JOHN E. HINE, PETER L. TURBETT and ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY, a wholly owned subsidiary of BP AMOCO, ET AL vs PARK PLANTATION, LLC, NANCY BLANCHARD and BETTY BLANCHARD; UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, LAFAYETTE-OPELOUSAS DIVISION Answer to Third Party Complaint with supporting Exhibits A-S filed July 22, 2005 (101 pages) including the following exhibits:

Exhibit A- Letter sent from Paul Maclean to Warren McFatter, District Landman, Atlantic Richfield Company dated May 5, 1989 addressing environmental conditions on Park Plantation.

Exhibit B- Letter sent certified mail from Paul Maclean to Lodwick Cook, CEO, Atlantic Richfield Company dated October 4, 1989 addressing environmental conditions on Park Plantation.

Exhibit C- Letter from Warren D. McFatter, District Land Manager, Atlantic Richfield Company dated December 5, 1989 responding to Paul Maclean letter dated October 4, 1989.

Exhibit D- Letter sent by certified mail from Paul Maclean to Lodwick Cook, CEO, Atlantic Richfield Company dated May 9, 1991 addressing environmental conditions on Park Plantation.

Exhibit E- Letter sent by Federal Express from Paul Maclean to Lodwick Cook, CEO, Atlantic Richfield Company dated October 18, 1993 addressing environmental conditions on Park Plantation.

Exhibit F- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality public records (5 pages) addressing contaminated environmental conditions on Park Plantation that remained as late as November 3, 2004.

Exhibit G- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality public records (4 pages) addressing contaminated environmental conditions on Park Plantation that remained as late as April 18, 2005.

Exhibit H- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality public records (19 pages) addressing contaminated environmental conditions on Park Plantation that remained as late as June 17, 2005.

Exhibit I- Letter from Newman Trowbridge, Jr. to ARCO dated February 7, 1986 attempting to acquire the Park Plantation lease for clients other than Betty Blanchard while his law firm represented Betty Blanchard with regard to Park Plantation.

Exhibit J- Letter from John E. Hine (Newman Trowbridge's partner and Houston, Texas business associate) to Betty Blanchard dated February 27, 1986 attempting to buy her mineral interest on Park Plantation.

Exhibit K- Letter from William F. Wessel to Newman Trowbridge, Jr. dated November 14, 1986 investigating conflicts of interest between Newman Trowbridge, Jr. and his client, Betty Blanchard with regard to Park Plantation.

Exhibit L- Letter from Newman Trowbridge, Jr. to William F. Wessel dated December 2, 1986 responding to William F. Wessel letter dated November 14, 1986.

Exhibit M- Secretary of State of Texas public records on Blanchard 1986 Ltd. (evidences Newman Trowbridge, Jr., partner).

Exhibit N- Affidavit from Betty Blanchard dated October 5, 2000 attesting to a multitude of facts concerning Newman Trowbridge, Jr. and his law firm while she was their client.

Exhibit O- Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit Judgment dated April 29, 1991 reversing and remanding District Judge Richard T. Haik's Summary Judgment on behalf of The Released Parties, the plaintiffs and/or the plaintiffs-in-intervention.

Exhibit P- Letter, Power of Attorney and Agency contractual agreements between Paul Maclean and Betty Blanchard dated May 2, 1986.

Exhibit Q- Statement between Paul Maclean and Betty Blanchard dated July 25, 1989 and July 26, 1989 attesting to issues surrounding the 1986 litigation matter and the general responsibilities, obligations, duties and/or understandings of each party as to their earlier contractual relationship established in writing on May 5, 1986.

Exhibit R- Affidavit from Betty Blanchard dated September 15, 2000 attesting to facts surrounding the revocation of Paul Maclean's Power of Attorney and Agency by John D. Conery, Attorney, on December 13, 1994.

Exhibit S- Affidavit from Betty Blanchard dated August 31, 2000 attesting to facts surrounding the actions of certain attorneys that represented Betty Blanchard during Blanchard I.

30) April 10, 2007 LCPA-WEST, letter to Office of Governor, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco regarding "Water Quality Projects" in the Atchafalaya Basin regarding Bayou Postillion Project (2 pages);

31) April 11, 2007 Article published by The Lafayette Advertiser written by Mike Hasten entitled CRAWFISH GROUP TO FIGHT PROJECTS SOME SAY BASIN PLANS PROMOTE OIL, GAS DRILLING (1 page);

32) Louisiana Secretary of State, Commercial Division, Corporations Database, Biggs, Supple, Cremaldi & Curet, L.L.P. formerly Biggs, Trowbridge, Supple, Cremaldi & Curet, L.L.P. – Partner Newman Trowbridge, Jr. (1 page);

33) DNR CONTRACT(S) FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES REGARDING MULTIPLE YEARS for Biggs, Trowbridge, Supple & Cremaldi and Biggs, Trowbridge Supple, Cremaldi & Curet, L.L.P.;

34) Various dates within 2002: ACT OF PROCURATION (multiple documents)
Numerous documents by many individual Principal(s) placing Agent to negotiate and enter into one or more agreements with the State of Louisiana for and on behalf of Principal providing for 1) the dredging of Bayou Postillion as it traverses along and through Principal's lands...2) the disposal of spoil from such dredging on the Property.....Agent is authorized....in his sole and uncontrolled discretion, to be desirable, requisite or necessary in connection....in Agent's sole discretion, appropriate. Principal releases Agent from any and all liability to Principal and Principal's heirs, successors and assigns, arising out of any acts of omissions of Agent, except for willful misconduct or gross negligence (numerous pages);

35) NEWS RELEASE, May 23, 2005, State Completes Bayou Postillion Project in Iberia Parish & Photograph (2 Pages);

36) BLANCO'S BULLETIN, April 5, 2007, Governor Blanco Approves Water Quality/Water Access projects (1 page)