

12/07/2015

## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

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IN RE:	
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RAAM GLOBAL ENERGY COMPANY, et al.

CASE NO. 15-35615 (Chapter 11)

**DEBTORS.** 

JOINTLY ADMINISTERED

## ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR MONTHLY AND INTERIM COMPENSATION AND <u>REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR CASE PROFESSIONALS</u>

On December  $\_\_$ , 2015, the Court considered the Debtors' Motion to Establish Procedures for Monthly and Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for Case Professionals [Docket No. [[]] (the "Motion")<sup>1</sup> filed by the above-referenced debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors").<sup>2</sup> The Court finds that (a) it has jurisdiction over the matters raised in the Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b), (b) this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2), (c) venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § § 1408 and 1409, (d) the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors and their respective estates, creditors, and equity security holders, (e) proper and adequate notice of the Motion and hearing thereon has been given and that no other or further notice is necessary, and (f) good and sufficient cause exists for the granting of the relief requested in the Motion after having given due deliberation upon the Motion and all of the proceedings had before the Court in connection with the Motion. Therefore, it is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meaning given to them in the Motion.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Debtors are RAAM Global Energy Company [2973], Century Exploration New Orleans, LLC [4948], Century Exploration Houston, LLC [9624], and Century Exploration Resources, LLC [7252].

**ORDERED** that, except as may otherwise be provided in Court orders authorizing the retention of specific professionals, the Professionals may seek monthly and interim compensation in accordance with the following procedures:

- a. Each Professional (which shall be deemed to include, without limitation, any and all professionals retained by the Debtors and the Committee pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §§ 327, 328, and 1103, as applicable) may serve invoices by electronic mail showing services rendered and expenses incurred during a prior month ("<u>Monthly Fee Statement</u>") upon (i) the Debtors, (ii) the Debtors' counsel, (iii) counsel to the Committee, (iv) counsel for Highbridge Principal Strategies, LLC; and (v) the Office of the United States Trustee. The invoices may be reasonably redacted to preserve attorney-client privileges and protect confidential information. Each party receiving an invoice will have fourteen (14) days after the date of receipt of such invoice(s) (the "<u>Objection Period</u>") to raise written objections, if any. At the expiration of the Objection Period, the Debtors shall promptly pay eighty percent (80%) of the fees and one hundred percent (100%) of the out-of-pocket expenses requested in each Monthly Fee Statement, except such fees or expenses to which an objection has been served by one of the parties.
- b. In the event that one of the parties has an objection to a Monthly Fee Statement, such party shall, within the Objection Period, serve upon the parties a written notice of objection ("Objection Notice"), setting forth the precise nature of the objection and the amount at issue. Thereafter, the objecting party and the Professional to whose Monthly Fee Statement an objection has been served shall attempt to reach an agreement regarding the correct payment to be made. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement on the objection within ten (10) days after receipt of such objection, the Professional whose Monthly Fee Statement is subject to an objection shall have the option of (i) filing the objection, together with a request for payment of the disputed amount, with the Court, or (ii) foregoing payment of the disputed amount until the next interim fee application hearing, at which time the Court will consider and dispose of the objection if payment of the disputed amount is requested. However, the Debtors will be required to pay promptly any portion of the fees and disbursements requested that are not the subject of an Objection Notice.
- c. Any Professional who fails to file a Monthly Fee Statement for a particular month or months may subsequently submit a consolidated Monthly Fee Statement for such month(s).
- d. Approximately every four (4) months, each of the Professionals may file with the Court an application for interim approval and allowance, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code § 331, of compensation and reimbursement of expenses incurred during the prior four (4) months ("Interim Fee Application"). Interim Fee Applications for

all attorneys who have been or are hereafter retained pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §§ 327 or 1103, unless an ordinary course professional is required to file a fee application under such Court order or Bankruptcy Local Rule, or who have been authorized to receive compensation from the Debtors' estates and who have been designated by order of the Court as being subject to the *Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under United States Code by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases* (the "Complex Chapter 11 Guidelines"), shall comply with the following procedures set forth in the Complex Chapter 11 Guidelines:

- (i) Electronic Billing Records: The billing records (detailed time and service entries) substantiating the application should be provided in an open and searchable electronic data format, such as ASCII .txt delimited format aka LEDES: (i) with the applications to the Court, the debtor-in possession (or trustee), official committees, the United States Trustee, and any fee review committee, fee examiner, or fee auditor; and (ii) upon request, to any other party in interest. The applicant may provide the electronic data in the manner in which it maintains it. An applicant that does not maintain billing data electronically is encouraged to consult with the United States Trustee about providing paper copies of such information. The applicant's submission of electronic data does not relieve the applicant of its obligations under the Code, local rules. and anv applicable compensation or case management orders, including any obligation to provide paper copies.
- (ii) <u>Project Categories for Billing Records</u>: To facilitate effective review of the Interim Fee Applications, all time and service entries shall be arranged by the project categories. Only one category should be used for a given activity. Professionals should make their best effort to be consistent in their use of categories, whether within a particular firm or by different firms working on the same case. All professionals may appropriately discuss the categorized. The project categories set forth below should be used to the extent applicable. The following list is not exclusive, and applicants are encouraged to consult with the United States Trustee regarding the need to formulate case-specific project billing with respect to a particular case.
  - (1) Asset Analysis and Recovery: Identification and review of potential assets including causes of action and non-litigation recoveries.
  - (2) Asset Disposition: Sales, leases (Bankruptcy Code § 365 matters), abandonment and related transaction work related to asset disposition.

- (3) Assumption and Rejection of Leases and Contracts: Analysis of leases and executory contracts and preparation of motions specifically to assume or reject.
- (4) Avoidance Action Analysis: Review of potential avoiding actions under Sections 544-549 of the Code to determine whether adversary proceedings are warranted.
- (5) Budgeting (Case): Preparation, negotiation, and amendment to budgets for applicant.
- (6) *Business Operations*: Issues related to debtor-in-possession operating in chapter 11 such as employee, vendor, tenant issues and other similar problems.
- (7) *Case Administration*: Coordination and compliance activities not specifically covered by another category.
- (8) Claims Administration and Objections: Specific claim inquiries; bar date motions; analyses, objections and allowances of claims.
- (9) Corporate Governance and Board Matters: Preparation for and attendance at Board of Directors meetings; analysis and advice regarding corporate governance issues, including trustee, or examiner issues; review and preparation of corporate documents (*e.g.*, articles and bylaws, etc.).
- (10) *Employee Benefits and Pensions*: Review and preparation related to employee and retiree benefit issues, including compensation, bonuses, severance, insurance benefits, and 401K, pensions, or other retirement plans.
- (11) *Employment and Fee Applications*: Preparation of employment and fee applications for self or others; motions to establish interim procedures.
- (12) *Employment and Fee Application Objections*: Review of and objections to the employment and fee applications of others.
- (13) *Financing and Cash Collateral*: Matters under Bankruptcy Code §§ 361, 363, and 364 including cash collateral and secured claims; loan document analysis.

- (14) *Litigation*: Contested Matters and Adversary Proceedings (not otherwise within a specific project category), each identified separately by caption and adversary number, or title of motion or application and docket number, and using the Uniform Task Based Management System Litigation Task Code Set.
- (15) Meetings and Communications with Creditors: Preparation for and attendance at Bankruptcy Code § 341(a) meeting and any other meetings with creditors and creditors' committees.
- (16) Non-Working Travel: Non-working travel where the court reimburses at less than full hourly rates.
- (17) *Plan and Disclosure Statement:* Formulation, presentation and confirmation; compliance with the plan confirmation order, related orders and rules; disbursement and case closing activities, except those related to the allowance and objections to allowance of claims.
- (18) *Real Estate*: Review and analysis of real estate-related matters, including purchase agreements and lease provisions (e.g., common area maintenance clauses).
- (19) Relief from Stay and Adequate Protection: Matters relating to termination or continuation of automatic stay under Bankruptcy Code § 362 and motions for adequate protection under Bankruptcy Code § 361.
- (20) *Reporting*: Statement of financial affairs, schedules, monthly operating reports, and any other accounting or reporting activities; contacts with the United States Trustee not included in other categories.
- (21) *Tax*: Analysis of tax issues and preparation of federal and state tax returns.
- (22) Valuation: Appraise or review appraisals of assets.
- (iii) Expense Categories for Billing Records: All expense entries should be arranged by expense categories. The following expense categories should be used to the extent applicable: (1) Copies; (2) Outside Printing; (3) Telephone; (4) Facsimile; (5) Online Research; (6) Delivery Services/Couriers; (7) Postage; (8) Local Travel; (9) Out-of-Town Travel, separated by Transportation, Hotel, Meals, Ground Transportation, and

Other (specify); (10); Meals (local); (11) Court Fees; (12) Subpoena Fees; (13) Witness Fees; (14) Deposition Transcripts; (15) Trial Transcripts; (16) Trial Exhibits; (17) Litigation Support Vendors; (18) Experts; (19) Investigators; (20) Arbitrators/Mediators; and (21) Other (specify). Unusual items require more detailed explanations and should be allocated where practicable to specify projects.

- (iv) <u>Billing Increments; Prohibition on Block Billing and Lumping</u>: All time entries shall be recorded in increments of .1 of an hour. All discrete tasks should be recorded separately. Each timekeeper, however, may record one daily entry that combines tasks for a particular project that total a de minimis amount of time if those tasks do not exceed .5 hours on that day.
- Budgets and Staffing Plans: All attorneys subject to the Complex Chapter (v) 11 Guidelines shall formulate budgets and staffing plans as soon as feasible after entry of an order granting this Motion or such attorney's retention. Attorneys are encouraged to follow the model budget (Exhibit C-1) and staffing plan (Exhibit C-2) attached to the Complex Chapter 11 Guidelines. Budgets and staffing plans should be agreed to between the attorney and client. Budgets can and should be amended as necessary to reflect changed circumstances or unanticipated developments. The appropriate budget period should be decided between the attorney and client. For example, the budget could be provided for the next month, the next 120-day interim period, or for any other time period as agreed. The staffing plan should use the same planning period as the budget. In the staffing plan, the number of professionals expected to work on the matter during the budget period may be disclosed either by category of timekeeper (e.g., 25 associates) or by years of experience (e.g., 15 attorneys with 8-14 years of experience). Attorneys should attach the client-approved budget and staffing plan to the Interim Fee Applications or final fee applications, as applicable, for the time period covered thereby. Both the original and any amended budgets and staffing plans should be included. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the disclosure of budgets and staffing plans by attorneys shall be retrospective only.
- e. The pendency of an objection or a Court order stating that payment of compensation or reimbursement of expenses was improper as to a particular Monthly Fee Statement or Interim Fee Application shall not disqualify a Professional from the future payment of monthly and interim compensation or reimbursement of expenses as set forth above, except as otherwise directed by an order of this Court.
- f. Neither the payment of or the failure to pay, in whole or in part, fees and expenses requested in a Monthly Fee Statement, nor the filing of or the failure to file an Objection to any Monthly Fee Statement, will bind any party in interest or the

Court with respect to the allowance of interim or final compensation for services rendered and reimbursement of expenses of Professionals.

g. The Debtors will include all payments to Professionals on their monthly operating reports, detailed so as to state the amount paid to each of the Professionals.

ORDERED that all time periods set forth in this Order shall be calculated in accordance

with Bankruptcy Rule 9006(a). It is further

**ORDERED** that this Order shall take effect immediately upon its entry. It is further

ORDERED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and consider all disputes

arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Order.

Dated: December **1**, 2015

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Texas

In re: RAAM Global Energy Company Century Exploration New Orleans, LLC Debtors

## **CERTIFICATE OF NOTICE**

Case No. 15-35615-mi Chapter 11

District/off:	0541-4	User: mrios Form ID: pdf002		l of 2 Noticed: 17	Date Rcvd: Dec 07, 2015		
Notice by first class mail was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center on							
Dec 09, 2015. db		oration Houston, LLC, ds, TX 77380-1144	10210 Groga	ns Mill Road, Su	ite 300,		
db	+Century Expl	oration Resources, LLC, ds, TX 77380-1144	10210 Gro	gans Mill Road,	Suite 300,		
db			Bull Lea Road	d. Suite 200.	Lexington, KY 40511-1200		
cr	+Acock Consul	ting, L.L.C., c/o Law , TX 78213-4304	Offices of 1	Elizabeth G. Smi	th, 6655 First Park Ten, #240,		
cr	Houston, TX	st, LLC, c/o Okin & A 77002-1045					
cr	Houston, TX	loration, LLC, c/o Ok 77002-1045			St., Ste. 201,		
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cr	Suite 400,	ting Company, Inc., I Houston, TX 77056-666 rgy Partners Participat	6, UNITED	STATES OF AMERIC	A		
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cr	Baton Rouge	isiana, Department of N , LA 70802-5432					
cr	Attention:	D. Brent Wells, Houst	on, TX 77002	-1637	440 Louisiana, Suite 718,		
cr		ces, c/o Law Office o X 77868-6981	of Patricia W.	illiams Prew,	10953 Vista Lake Ct.,		
Notice by electronic transmission was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center.							
db	Century Exp	michael.willis@century loration New Orleans, L	LC, Three	Lakeway Center,	10		
cr	E-mail/Text:	Causeway Blvd., Suite 2 houston_bankruptcy@LGB	S.com Dec 07	2015 21:16:46	Jasper County,		
cr	E-mail/Text:	Dillman, PO BOX 3064 houston_bankruptcy@LGB	S.com Dec 07	2015 21:16:46	Montgomery County,		
cr	E-mail/Text:	Dillman, Post Office houston_bankruptcy@LGB Dillman, Post Office	S.com Dec 07	2015 21:16:46	Orange County,		
	C/O JOIII P.	Diliman, Post Ollice	: BOX 3004,	HOUSCOIL, IX //	TOTAL: 4		
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Addresses marked '+' were corrected by inserting the ZIP or replacing an incorrect ZIP. USPS regulations require that automation-compatible mail display the correct ZIP.

I, Joseph Speetjens, declare under the penalty of perjury that I have sent the attached document to the above listed entities in the manner shown, and prepared the Certificate of Notice and that it is true and correct to the best of my information and belief.

Meeting of Creditor Notices only (Official Form 9): Pursuant to Fed. R. Bank. P. 2002(a)(1), a notice containing the complete Social Security Number (SSN) of the debtor(s) was furnished to all parties listed. This official court copy contains the redacted SSN as required by the bankruptcy rules and the Judiciary's privacy policies.

Date: Dec 09, 2015

Signature: /s/Joseph Speetjens

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Total Noticed: 17

User: mrios

Form ID: pdf002

District/off: 0541-4

**CM/ECF NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING** The following persons/entities were sent notice through the court's CM/ECF electronic mail (Email) system on December 7, 2015 at the address(es) listed below: Annemarie V. Reilly on behalf of Interested Party Ad Hoc Committee of Senior Secured Noteholders annemarie.reilly@lw.com Benjamin W Kadden on behalf of Interested Party Power Land, LLC bkadden@lawla.com, jbriggett@lawla.com;speck@lawla.com;mnguyen@lawla.com Bradley Roland Foxman on behalf of Debtor RAAM Global Energy Company bfoxman@velaw.com, sbarden@velaw.com Bradley Roland Foxman on behalf of Debtor Century Exploration New Orleans, LLC bfoxman@velaw.com, sbarden@velaw.com Bradley Roland Foxman on behalf of Debtor Century Exploration Resources, LLC bfoxman@velaw.com, sbarden@velaw.com Bradley Roland Foxman on behalf of Debtor Century Exploration Houston, LLC bfoxman@velaw.com, sbarden@velaw.com on behalf of Creditor Casey William Doherty, Jr Lakeside Energy Partners Participation Ltd. & Flint Interest II, LLC cdoherty@grayreed.com, aarmstrong@grayreed.com David A Wender on behalf of Creditor Wilmington Trust, National Association david.wender@alston.com Douglas Brent Wells on behalf of Creditor Superior Natural Gas Corporation bwells@wellscuellar.com Elizabeth Grace Smith on behalf of Creditor Acock Consulting, L.L.C. beth@egsmithlaw.com, maryann@egsmithlaw.com Gina D Shearer on behalf of Creditor Westchester Fire Insurance Company gshearer@l-llp.com, tbarrera@l-llp.com Gina D Shearer on behalf of Creditor ACE American Insurance Company gshearer@l-llp.com, tbarrera@l-llp.com Harry Allen Perrin on behalf of Debtor Century Exploration Houston, LLC hperrin@velaw.com, thawkins@velaw.com;roconnor@velaw.com John P Dillman on behalf of Creditor John P Dillman on behalf of Creditor John P Dillman on behalf of Creditor Jasper County Houston\_bankruptcy@publicans.com Orange County Houston\_bankruptcy@publicans.com Montgomery County Houston\_bankruptcy@publicans.com Joseph G Epstein on behalf of Creditor Crown Pine agent, The Campbell Group, LLC jepstein@winstead.com, Crown Pine Timber 1, LP by and through its authorized pschneller@winstead.com;deierdam@winstead.com Karl J Zimmermann on behalf of Creditor Montco Oilfield Contractors karlz@bhbmlaw.com, troper@bhbmlaw.com;cunningham@bhbmlaw.com Keith A Simon on behalf of Interested Party Ad Hoc Committee of Senior Secured Noteholders keith.simon@lw.com Kyung Shik Lee on behalf of Creditor Island Operating Company, Inc. klee@diamondmccarthy.com, lsimon@diamondmccarthy.com Matthew Scott Okin on behalf of Creditor BGI Gulf Coast, LLC mokin@okinadams.com Matthew Scott Okin on behalf of Creditor Champion Exploration, LLC mokin@okinadams.com on behalf of U.S. Trustee US Trustee nancy.holley@usdoj.gov Nancy Lynne Holley on behalf of Creditor Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. Nicholas E Morrell mmorrell@morganlewis.com Owen Mark Sonik on behalf of Creditor Sheldon Independent School District osonik@pbfcm.com, tpope@pbfcm.com;osonik@ecf.inforuptcy.com;houbank@pbfcm.com Patricia Williams Prewitt on behalf of Creditor Targa Resources pwp@pattiprewittlaw.com Reese Andrew O'Connor on behalf of Debtor Century Exploration New Orleans, LLC roconnor@velaw.com Reese Andrew O'Connor on behalf of Debtor Century Exploration Houston, LLC roconnor@velaw.com Reese Andrew O'Connor on behalf of Debtor RAAM Global Energy Company roconnor@velaw.com Reese Andrew O'Connor on behalf of Debtor Century Exploration Resources, LLC roconnor@velaw.com on behalf of Creditor Ryan Michael Seidemann State of Louisiana, Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mineral Resources seidemannr@ag.state.la.us Scott Robert Cheatham on behalf of Creditor Business Property Lending, Inc./Everbank scott.cheatham@arlaw.com, laura.vanderpoel@arlaw.com;vicki.owens@arlaw.com Shawn M Christianson on behalf of Creditor Oracle America, Inc. schristianson@buchalter.com, cmcintire@buchalter.com Stewart F Peck on behalf of Interested Party Power Land, LLC speck@lawla.com Theodore Benson Randles on behalf of Interested Party Department of the Interior theodore.b.randles@usdoj.gov US Trustee USTPRegion07.HU.ECF@USDOJ.GOV Vincent P Slusher on behalf of Creditor Committee The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors vince.slusher@dlapiper.com, sherry.faulkner@dlapiper.com;Daniel.simon@dlapiper.com Vincent P Slusher on behalf of Creditor Montoc Offshore, Inc. vince.slusher@dlapiper.com, sherry.faulkner@dlapiper.com;Daniel.simon@dlapiper.com Vincent P Slusher on behalf of Creditor Montco Oilfield Contractors vince.slusher@dlapiper.com, sherry.faulkner@dlapiper.com;Daniel.simon@dlapiper.com Zack A Clement on behalf of Creditor Highbridge Principal Strategies, LLC zack.clement@icloud.com, steven.serajeddini@kirkland.com;timothy.mohan@kirkland.com;carrie.oppenheim@kirkland.com;benjamin .steadman@kirkland.com;stephen.hessler@kirkland.com;mcclain.thompson@kirkland.com

TOTAL: 40

Date Revd: Dec 07, 2015