

# **EXHIBIT A**

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION**

In re:	§	Chapter 11
	§	
ROCKIES REGION 2006 LIMITED	§	Case No. 18-33513-sgj-11
PARTNERSHIP and ROCKIES REGION	§	
2007 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	§	Jointly Administered
	§	
Debtors.		

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

The Court holds that the following procedures and provisions shall apply to any discovery undertaken in the above-referenced bankruptcy proceeding (“Proceeding”) in order to protect information of a sensitive, confidential, proprietary, or legally protected nature, and the privacy rights of the parties or certain non-parties. The entry of this Protective Order is not, and should not be construed as, a waiver by any party or non-party of any privilege or objection to any particular request.

## **I. DEFINITIONS**

A. “Party” means (i) the Debtors; (ii) Karen Nicolaou; (iii) Robert R. Dufresne, the Dufresne Family Trust, Jeffrey R. Schulein, the Schulein Family Trust, Michael A. Gaffey, the Michael A. Gaffey and Joanne M. Gaffey Living Trust dated March 2000, Ronald Glickman, the Glickman Family Trust dated August 29, 1994, William J. McDonald, and the William J. and Judith A. McDonald Living Trust dated April 16, 1991 (collectively, the “Plaintiffs”); and (iv) PDC Energy, Inc.

B. “Non-Party” means any person or entity not a Party who produces documents or other information or provides testimony in response to a subpoena or other process in this Proceeding.

C. “Material” is defined as documents, electronically stored information, records, tangible materials, testimony, responses to discovery, and other information produced by a Party or Non-Party in this Proceeding.

D. “Confidential Material” is defined as Material that any Party or Non-Party considers in good faith to be confidential information relating to: trade secrets, research, development, strategic planning, financial, commercial, confidential, sensitive or proprietary business, or personal information, which, if disclosed, might adversely affect the competitive position or business operations of the Party or Non-Party producing the materials, or invade the privacy rights of any person. Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Protective Order must take care to limit any designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards.

E. The “Designator” is any Party or Non-Party who produces Material in this Proceeding and designates any such Material as “CONFIDENTIAL” in conformity with Section II.

F. “Court” means the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas.

## **II. DESIGNATION OF MATERIALS AS “CONFIDENTIAL”**

A. Any Party or Non-Party who produces Material in the course of this Proceeding may designate such Material as Confidential Material if that Party or Non-Party believes in good faith that the Material satisfies the definition of Confidential Material, as set forth in Paragraph I.D.

B. The Designator shall mark the word “CONFIDENTIAL” on the face of each document and each page so designated at the time it is produced or served, or, in the case of Confidential Material contained in or on media other than paper, by affixing such a label to the information or by using its best efforts to identify the information as Confidential Material.

C. In the event that a Party or Non-Party desires to designate specific answers or responses to interrogatories or requests for admission as Confidential Material, the Party or Non-Party shall insert the word “CONFIDENTIAL” in brackets at the beginning of the specific answer or response.

D. In the case of depositions, designation of the portion of the transcript (including exhibits) that contains Confidential Material shall be made within fifteen business days after receipt of the transcript by stamping “CONFIDENTIAL” on the pages that contain Confidential Material and notifying all Parties and the deponent in writing of the page and line numbers that have been designated as Confidential Material. In the absence of an agreement on the record or

in writing, or an order of the Court to the contrary, all deposition testimony shall be deemed Confidential Material until the expiration of the fifteen-business-days period.

E. For purposes of this Proceeding, no Party concedes that any Material designated by any other Designator as Confidential Material should be treated as Confidential Material. A Party shall not be obligated to challenge the propriety of the designation of Material as “CONFIDENTIAL” at the time made, and the failure to do so shall not preclude a later challenge in this or any other action. If a Party challenges a designation, it shall give written notice to the Designator, and the Party and the Designator shall attempt to resolve any challenge in good faith on an informal basis (“meet and confer”). If the challenge cannot be informally resolved, the Party challenging the designation may seek appropriate relief from the Court; however, the burden of proof shall be on the Designator. The Material shall continue to be treated as Confidential Material until the issue relating to the propriety of the designation has been resolved.

F. Any Designator may, at any time, withdraw the “CONFIDENTIAL” designation of any Material produced by that Designator.

G. The inadvertent failure to designate or withhold any Material as confidential will not be deemed to waive a later claim as to its confidential nature, or to preclude the producing Party or Non-Party from designating the Material as confidential at a later date in writing and with particularity. The Material shall be treated by the receiving Party as Confidential Material from the time the receiving Party is notified in writing of the change in the designation.

### **III. USE AND HANDLING OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

A. Material shall be used only for purposes of preparing for mediation and litigating this Proceeding and not for any other action or other purpose.

B. Access to Confidential Material shall be closely controlled and limited to individuals who have a demonstrable and bona fide need to review it. Confidential Material shall not be revealed or disclosed, directly or indirectly, in any manner or in any form, to any person, entity, or judicial tribunal other than:

1. Counsel of record for the Parties in this Proceeding, members of their firms and associates, associate attorneys, contract lawyers, paralegals, clerical and other employees or agents of such counsel who are assisting in the conduct or management of this Proceeding;
2. Any Party to this Proceeding;
3. Party deponents and litigation control group personnel for this Proceeding;
4. The Court, Court personnel, and Court reporters;
5. Outside litigation support personnel retained by any Party to this Proceeding to assist the Party in the preparation or litigation of this Proceeding;
6. Experts retained by the Parties in this Proceeding including both consulting and potentially testifying experts;
7. Any mediator retained by the Parties or appointed by the Court, and employees of such mediator who are assisting in the conduct of the mediation; and
8. Others, if the Designator so agrees in writing or, for good cause shown, the Court so permits.

C. Before any person described in Paragraphs III.B.5, III.B.6, III.B.7, and III.B.8 is given access to Confidential Material, the person shall review this Protective Order and agree in writing (by signing the Acknowledgement attached as Exhibit A) to be bound by this Protective Order. A copy of the Acknowledgement, together with a list of Confidential Material disclosed to the person and the date of disclosure, shall be retained by counsel disclosing Confidential Material until the conclusion of this Proceeding, including all appeals.

D. If Confidential Material is to be disclosed during a deposition or hearing, the agreement to be bound and consent to jurisdiction may be made on the record and under oath, rather than in writing. No person to whom Confidential Material is disclosed may disclose Confidential Material to any person other than those persons described in Paragraph III.B., above.

E. All persons who have access to Confidential Material at any time shall take all precautions necessary to prohibit access to the Confidential Material other than as provided for herein.

F. Any summaries or copies of Confidential Material shall bear the appropriate legend set forth in Paragraph II.B., above, and shall be subject to the terms of this Protective Order to the same extent as the information or document from which such summary or copy is made.

G. Any Party shall be entitled to file under seal, with the Court, documents, quotations from documents, or summaries or tabulations of documents, which have been designated as Confidential Material without obtaining further leave of the Court to file the Confidential Material under seal. Written agreement of the Designator(s) may be given to the receiving Party to file a document containing Confidential Material not under seal, in a redacted form, if the Designator(s) identifies in writing the Confidential Material to be redacted, and the receiving Party redacts all such Confidential Material prior to filing the document.

H. Upon termination of this Proceeding, whether by judgment, order, agreement, or otherwise, each Party, counsel, and other persons having possession of Confidential Material shall destroy all Confidential Material obtained from another Party or Non-Party and shall, upon request, provide written certification, under oath, of such destruction to the Designator including

all copies provided by the Party or Non-Party to any person described in Paragraphs III.B.5, III.B.6, III.B.7, and III.B.8. This requirement shall not apply to Confidential Materials necessarily included within pleadings or records of proceedings.

#### **IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

A. Nothing contained in this Protective Order shall restrict or limit any Party's right to present Confidential Material to the Court during a hearing in this Proceeding, and the Parties and Non-Parties shall take reasonable steps to maintain the confidentiality of information at a hearing in the manner as the Court may direct.

B. If any Party or Non-Party receives discovery, a subpoena, or Order demanding the production of any Material designated in this Proceeding as "CONFIDENTIAL," the Party or Non-Party receiving the subpoena or Order shall, within five business days of the receipt of the request and not less than ten business days before the production of any Confidential Material, notify the Designator of the subpoena or Order in writing. The Party or Non-Party receiving a request to produce Confidential Material agrees not to produce the Confidential Material until the Party or Non-Party that originally produced or designated the Confidential Material (1) are afforded an opportunity to oppose or otherwise respond under applicable law; (2) are afforded an opportunity for a motion to quash to be heard by a court; (3) consent to the production; or (4) the Party or Non-Party do not respond to the Party or Non-Party providing notice under this paragraph within ten business days of the date of transmission of such notice. If after following the foregoing procedures the Confidential Material is to be produced, the party to whom the Confidential Material is to be produced shall first be advised of the duty to maintain confidentiality of the Confidential Material in accordance with this Protective Order



C. This Protective Order shall not apply to information or tangible items obtained by means independent of production by a Party or Non-Party through discovery or other proceedings or in some other lawful manner. The restrictions set forth in this Protective Order shall not apply to any Material which, at the time of production, is within the public domain, or which the Designator later releases into the public arena.

D. Neither this Protective Order, production or disclosure of Material under this Protective Order, nor designation or failure to designate Material under this Protective Order, shall constitute a waiver of the right of the Designator to maintain the trade secret status or confidentiality of that Material in other contexts.

E. This Protective Order may be modified or amended by agreement of the Parties. To the extent that the Parties fail to agree on a modification proposed by any Party or Non-Party, nothing contained herein shall be deemed to preclude any Party or Non-Party from seeking relief from the Court, for good cause shown, for a ruling that modifies this Protective Order in any respect.

F. This Protective Order shall not be construed as waiving any right to assert a claim of privilege or objection as to relevance, admissibility, or other grounds for not producing Material.

G. This Protective Order shall remain in effect and continue to be binding for one year after the conclusion of this Proceeding, and this Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce this Protective Order during that period.

H. This Protective Order shall operate retroactively to the inception of this Proceeding. Any Material produced before the signing of this Protective Order shall be treated as Confidential upon designation as set forth above.

**V. INADVERTENT DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED OR PRIVILEGED INFORMATION**

A. The inadvertent disclosure of Material covered by the attorney-client privilege or work-product protection shall be governed by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26, Fed. R. Evid. 502, and this Protective Order.

B. If, in connection with the pending Proceeding, a Party or Non-Party (the “Disclosing Party”) inadvertently discloses information subject to a claim of attorney-client privilege or work-product protection (“Inadvertently Disclosed Information”), the disclosure of the Inadvertently Disclosed Information shall not constitute or be deemed a waiver or forfeiture of any claim of privilege or work-product protection that the Disclosing Party would otherwise be entitled to assert with respect to the Inadvertently Disclosed Information and its subject matter.

C. If a claim of inadvertent disclosure is made by a Disclosing Party with respect to Inadvertently Disclosed Information, the Parties shall, within five business days, return or destroy all copies of the Inadvertently Disclosed Information and provide a certification of counsel that all Inadvertently Disclosed Information has been returned or destroyed.

D. Within thirty days of the notification that Inadvertently Disclosed Information has been returned or destroyed, or within a different time upon written agreement of the Parties or Order of the Court, the Disclosing Party shall produce a privilege log with respect to the Inadvertently Disclosed Information.

E. The Parties agree that pursuant to Rule 502(d): (1) a statement by a Disclosing Party that production of Inadvertently Disclosed Information was inadvertent shall be dispositive; (2) the Parties have taken reasonable steps to prevent disclosure of privileged

material; and (3) a Disclosing Party shall be deemed to have taken prompt and reasonable steps to rectify the Inadvertently Disclosed Information if it notifies the receiving Party within fourteen business days of it learning of the inadvertent production.

F. Nothing in this Protective Order shall limit the right of any Party to seek an order compelling production of Inadvertently Disclosed Information, or an in-camera review of the Inadvertently Disclosed Information.

## **VI. LIMITS OF THIS PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Nothing contained in this Protective Order, and no action taken pursuant to it, shall prejudice the right of any Party or Non-Party to contest the alleged relevancy, admissibility, or discoverability of the Material sought. Nor shall this Protective Order prevent any Party or Non-Party from objecting to discovery that it believes to be otherwise improper.

### END OF ORDER ###

**STIPULATED AND AGREED TO BY:**

<p><i>Lydia Webb (by permission)</i> Jason S. Brookner Texas Bar No. 24033684 Lydia R. Webb Texas Bar No. 24083758 Amber M. Carson Texas Bar No. 24075610 GRAY REED &amp; MCGRAW LLP 1601 Elm Street, Suite 4600 Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: (214) 954-4135 Facsimile: (214) 953-1332 <a href="mailto:jbrookner@grayreed.com">jbrookner@grayreed.com</a> <a href="mailto:lwebb@grayreed.com">lwebb@grayreed.com</a> <a href="mailto:acarson@grayreed.com">acarson@grayreed.com</a></p> <p>COUNSEL FOR THE DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION.</p>	<p><i>Robin Russell</i> Robin Russell Texas Bar No. 17424001 Joseph P. Rovira Texas Bar No. 24066008 HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH LLP 600 Travis, Suite 4200 Houston, Texas 77002 Telephone: (713) 220-4200 Facsimile: (713) 220-4285 <a href="mailto:robinrussell@HuntonAK.com">robinrussell@HuntonAK.com</a> <a href="mailto:josephrovira@HuntonAK.com">josephrovira@HuntonAK.com</a></p> <p>COUNSEL TO PDC ENERGY, INC.</p> <p><i>Thomas A. Weisbart</i> Mark A. Weisbart Texas Bar No. 21102650 James S. Brouner Texas Bar No. 03087285 The Law Office of Mark A. Weisbart 12770 Coit Rd., Suite 541 Dallas, Texas 75251 Phone: (972) 628-4903 <a href="mailto:mark@weisbartlaw.net">mark@weisbartlaw.net</a> <a href="mailto:jbrouner@weisbartlaw.net">jbrouner@weisbartlaw.net</a></p> <p>COUNSEL FOR THE DUFRESNE FAMILY TRUST, THE SHCULEIN FAMILY TRUST, THE MICHAEL A. GAFFEY AND JOANNE M. GAFFEY LIVING TRUST, MARCH 2000, AND THE GLICKMAN FAMILY TRUST DATED AUGUST 29, 1994 THE WILLIAM J. AND JUDITH A. MCDONALD LIVING TRUST DATED APRIL 16, 1991.</p>
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**Exhibit A**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROTECTIVE ORDER  
AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I hereby acknowledge that I, \_\_\_\_\_, am about to receive information that is being supplied by one or more of the parties in *In re: ROCKIES REGION 2006 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, et al.*, pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division. I understand that the information is or may be subject to the terms of a Protective Order entered by the Court in said Proceeding. I hereby certify my understanding that such information is being provided to me pursuant to the terms and restrictions of the Protective Order. I have been given a copy of the Protective Order, have read it, and agree to be bound by its terms. I understand that information and any documentary material covered by the Protective Order (which includes any notes or other record that I make of this material) shall not be disclosed to others, except those listed in paragraph III.B. of the Protective Order and under the terms set forth therein. I understand that upon termination of this Proceeding or termination of my services in this Proceeding, whichever is sooner, I have an absolute duty to destroy all Confidential Material (as defined in the Protective Order) and shall, upon request, provide written certification, under oath, of this destruction.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_