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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Oil and Gas Leasing Resources for Private Landowners

(compiled May/2010 by Russell P. Kidd, Roscommon Co MSU Extension P.O. Box 507, Roscommon, MI 48653 and Curtis Talley Jr. MSU Extension 210 East Johnson Street, Hart, MI 49420)

This publication is intended to help private landowners who need assistance when negotiating a mineral lease (primarily oil and gas) on their property. Listed below is a brief listing of legal services that are available for hire as well as some informational type of resources that are available at little or no cost (i.e. through the Internet, etc.)

The **first part** of this document contains a listing of the names of attorneys and law firms that can provide legal services as it pertains to oil and gas laws. This is an update of a 2003 list, with some additions. The attorneys were contacted and asked if they were currently actively representing landowners in oil and gas matters.

This list is merely provided as a starting point for landowners searching for legal counsel relating to oil and gas leasing. Negotiating a mineral lease that truly protects the interests of a landowner involves both legal and technical knowledge of the crude oil and natural gas industry in Michigan. Therefore, in selecting legal counsel, landowners may wish to verify that the potential law firm has experience in working with landowners concerning oil and gas leasing (e.g. ask for references of previous landowner clients that they helped with negotiating an oil & gas lease). Landowners may also wish to ask whether said legal counsel is currently representing or on retainer to any of the oil and gas companies seeking to contract with the landowners in the area.

The **second part** of this document contains a listing of informational resources available at little or no charge (i.e. through the Internet, MSU Extension, etc.) that landowners may wish to consult to see if any of these sources can provide answers to their questions about oil and gas leasing.

It's All in the Lease Language …

MSU Extension advises landowners that a lease to extract minerals from underneath your land is a legally binding document. Be sure you know what the lease language really means! When negotiating a lease, a landowner should be sure to focus on more items (e.g. damage clauses, etc.) than just the monetary rewards (i.e. royalty and per acre lease payments) that they will receive. Therefore, be sure you completely understand everything contained in the lease (and its consequences) **before** signing it. If in doubt, a landowner may wish to seek legal counsel or do further research on their own. Hopefully, the information provided here can help landowners to "wade through" the often confusing and arduous process of leasing.

**** These names are being provided as a public service. MSU Extension makes no claims as to the completeness of this listing nor is MSU Extension endorsing any of the individuals or law firms listed below. Furthermore, any legal firm that can document that their organization provides such legal services to landowners can ask to be added to this list (see mailing address above).***

Legal Services

Mr. David L. Leonardson
114 E. Main Street
Suite B, P.O. Box 1705
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-7724

Susan Hlywa Topp, P.L.C.
213 E. Main Street
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-731-4014

Stefan J. Scholl, Attorney at Law
Stefan J. Scholl, P.C.
3280 Woods Way, Ste #4
Petoskey, MI 49770
231-347-3836
www.NorthernMichiganLawyer.com

Philip R. Rosi
Rosi & Gardener P.C.
735 S. Garfield Avenue, Ste 202
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-941-5878

Jeffrey Jocks
Olson & Bzdok, P.C.
420 E. Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-946-0044

Mr. Peter J. Zirnhelt, P.C.
400 E. 8th Street
Traverse City, MI 49684
231-946-8630

Joe Quandt
Zimmerman, Kuhn, Darling, Boyd, Quandt & Phelps PLC
412 S. Union Street
P. O. Box 987
Traverse City, MI 49685
231-947-7900

David McCurdy, Michael Figliomeni
& Nathan Piwowarski
McCurdy Wotila & Porteous, P.C.
120 W. Harris Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-1391
Fax -231-775-1391

David Porteous
McCurdy Wotila & Porteous P.C.
4393 220th Avenue
Reed City, MI 49677
231-832-3231
Fax: 231-832-3341

Mark Pehrson PC
409 West Ludington Ave.
Ludington, MI
231-843-3709

Doug Springstead
Springstead Law Offices, PC
214 Washington St.
Hart, MI 49420
231-873-4022

Mr. Norman D.Beauchamp
Kelly, Whipple, Zick, Keyes, P.C.
627 Fort Street
Port Huron, MI 48060
810-987-4111

Law Offices of Lawrence M. Elkus, Professional Corporation
30833 Northwestern Highway, Ste 204
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248-539-3232
Fax: 248-53-9191

Informational Resources

On the Internet…

Pennsylvania State Natural Gas	www.naturalgas.extension.psu.edu
Oil and Gas Leases	www.oil-gas-leases.com
National Association of Royalty Owners	http://www.naro-us.org/
Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (industry oriented)	www.rmmlf.org
Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment Gas, Oil and Minerals	http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3311_4111---,00.html
Michigan Oil and Gas Association (O&G industry news)	htttp://www.michiganoilandgasassociation.org/

MSU Extension

Your local Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) office also has access to several documents pertaining to oil and gas leasing *(ask for* "Grant of Right of Way Information for Pipelines, Power Lines, Etc.", "Landowner Information for Oil/Gas/Mineral Leases," Bulletin E2124, Seismic Testing on Your Property.

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