James Piotrowski, ISB # 5911 PIOTROWSKI DURAND, PLLC 1020 W. Main St., Suite 440 P.O. Box 2864 Boise, ID 83701 Telephone: (208 331-9200 Facsimile: (208) 331-9201 james@idunionlaw.com marty@idunionlaw.com

## BEFORE THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

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In the Matter of the Application of AM Idaho, LLC for Spacing Order and to Integrate Unleased Mineral Interest Owners in the Drilling Unit Consisting of the SW 1.4 of Section 10, Township 8 North, Range 5 West, Boise, Meridian, Payette County, Idaho. Docket No. CC-2019-OGR-01-002

OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMPLETE NOTICE

COME NOW Carrie Grant, Shannon Benedict, Donald and Phyllis Gruell, Sharon Simmons, Lowell and Geraldine Davis, James and Beverly Smith, Dana Harris, and Sandra Dunlap (the effected but excluded mineral rights owners), by and through counsel of record and hereby submit their opposition to the request by AM Idaho to extend the time for completing notice to previously un-notified mineral rights owners.

By previous order, the Department of Lands provided AM Idaho with a limited time in which to complete the process of providing notice to landowners in three quarter-sections of land adjacent to the quarter-section for which AM Idaho seeks a spacing unit and integration order. If the request is granted, mineral rights owners in those quarter sections will not receive adequate time to review, research and properly respond to AM Idaho's application for spacing and integration. AM Idaho has requested an extension to complete mailing of notices until December 13, 2019. The Department may take administrative notice of the fact that postal delivery in southwest Idaho typically takes between two and five business days. Given the season (this is the busiest time of year for the USPS), delivery can be expected to fall at the higher end of that range. Thus, at least some uncommitted mineral owners would not be reasonably assured of receiving notice until five weekdays after mailing, which would be December 20.

Receiving the notice on or about December 20 would put uncommitted owners in the unreasonable position of having to evaluate the notice, seek counsel, develop an opinion and position, and submit an objection all before January 8, 2020. If such objections are submitted by postal service, they would have to be mailed no later than January 3, 2020 in order to have a reasonable assurance (but no guarantee) of their being received on or before January 8. AM Idaho's request would thus leave some uncommitted mineral interest owners having to review the notice, seek counsel, and submit objections, during the holidays, in two weeks' time. This is not reasonable in light of the important interests involved.

The request for extension should be denied or, if it is granted, the entire set of deadlies for objecting, pre-hearing conference, and hearing on spacing should be delayed to assure mineral owners have adequate time to respond.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2019

## PIOTROWSKI DURAND, PLLC

/s/ James M. Piotrowski James M. Piotrowski Attorneys for Proposed Intervenors

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2019, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the preceding Opposition to Motion in Docket No: CC-2019-OGR-01-002 by the method indicated below and addressed to the following:

Idaho Department of Lands Attn: Mick Thomas 300 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103 PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720 <u>kromine@idl.idaho.gov</u>	U.S. Mail Hand Delivery Certified Mail E-Mail	
AM Idaho, LLC c/o Michael Christian Smith & Malek, PLLC 101 S. Capitol Blvd, Suite 930 Boise, ID 83702 <u>mike@smithmalek.com</u>	U.S. Mail Hand Delivery Certified Mail E-Mail	
Kristina Fugate Deputy Attorney General PO Box 83720 Boise ID 83720-0010 <u>kristina.fugate@ag.idaho.gov</u>	U.S. Mail Hand Delivery Certified Mail E-Mail	
Joy Vega Deputy Attorney General PO Box 83720 Boise ID 83720-0010 joy.vega@ag.idaho.gov	U.S. Mail Hand Delivery Certified Mail E-Mail	
James Thum Idaho Department of Lands PO Box 83720 Boise ID 83720-0050 jthum@idl.idaho.gov	U.S. Mail Hand Delivery Certified Mail E-Mail	
City of Fruitland Attn: Rick Watkins-City Clerk PO Box 324 Fruitland, ID 83619	U.S. Mail Hand Delivery Certified Mail E-Mail	
Anadarko Land Corp. Attn: Dale Tingen 1201 Lake Robbins Dr The Woodlands TX 77380	U.S. Mail Hand Delivery Certified Mail E-Mail	

/s/ James M. Piotrowski James M. Piotrowski