

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

MARY LANSDEN SWAFFORD, as trustee
for the Mary Lansden Swafford GST
exemption Residuary Trust, on behalf of itself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

OVINTIV INC., and OVINTIV
MID-CONTINENT INC.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 21-CV-210-SPS

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT,
MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES,
CASE CONTRIBUTION AWARD, AND FAIRNESS HEARING**

A court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

***If you belong to the Settlement Class and this Settlement is approved,
your legal rights will be affected whether you act or not.***

Read this Notice carefully to see what your rights and options are in connection with this Settlement.¹

Because you may be a member of the Settlement Class in the Litigation captioned above and described below (“the Litigation”), the Court has directed this Notice to be sent to you. Defendants Newfield Exploration Company n/k/a Ovintiv Inc. (as successor to Ovintiv Exploration Inc.) and Newfield Exploration Mid-Continent Inc. n/k/a Ovintiv Mid-Continent Inc.’s (“Defendants” or “Ovintiv”) records show you are a royalty owner in Oklahoma wells with Ovintiv. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Notice shall have the meanings attributed to those terms in the Settlement Agreement referred to below and available at www.swafford-ovintiv.com.

This Notice generally explains the claims being asserted in the Litigation, summarizes the Settlement, and tells you about your rights to remain a Class Member or to timely and properly submit a Request for Exclusion (also known as an “opt out”) so that you will be excluded from the Settlement. This Notice provides information so you can decide what action you want to take with respect to the Settlement before the Court is asked to finally approve it. If the Court approves the Settlement and after the final resolution of any objections or appeals, the Court-appointed Settlement Administrator

¹ This Notice summarizes and is qualified in its entirety by the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement (“Settlement Agreement”) and the documents referenced therein, which set forth the terms of the Settlement. Please refer to the Settlement Agreement for a complete description of the terms and provisions thereof. A copy of the Settlement Agreement is available at www.swafford-ovintiv.com

will issue payments to Final Class Members, without any further action from you. This Notice describes the lawsuit, the Settlement, your legal rights, what benefits are available, who is eligible for them, and how to get them.

The Settlement Class in the Litigation consists of the following individuals and entities:

All non-excluded persons or entities who are royalty owners in Oklahoma oil-and-gas wells where Defendants (including their affiliated predecessors and affiliated successors) are or were the operator (or a working interest owner who marketed its share of gas and directly paid royalties to the royalty owners) during the Claim Period. The Class claims relate to or arise from royalty payments for gas and its constituents (such as residue gas, natural gas liquids, helium, nitrogen, or drip condensate).

Excluded from the Settlement Class are: (1) agencies, departments or instrumentalities of the United States of America, including but not limited to the U.S. Department of the Interior (the United States, Indian tribes, and Indian allottees); (2) the State of Oklahoma or any of its agencies or departments that own royalty interests; (3) Defendants, their affiliates, predecessors, and employees, officers, and directors; (4) any publicly traded company or their affiliated entity that produces, gathers, processes, or markets gas; (5) overriding royalty owners and others whose interest was carved out from the lessee's interest; (6) royalty owners who have already filed and still have pending individual lawsuits for underpayment of royalties against Defendants at the time suit is filed herein; (7) Charles David Nutley, Danny George, Dan McClure, Kelly McClure Callant, William L. Galbreath, Verdeen L. Slatten, Jack A. Slatten, Verdeen L. Slatten Family Limited Partnership, Neva M. Dorman, Ann Ellis Boles, Fischer-Jones, LLC, B.N. Taliaferro, Jr., Jack B. Searle, Tamara D. Searle, OGI, Inc., Shepherd Royalty LLC, and their relatives or trusts; and (8) officers of the Court.

The Claim Period is September 25, 2014, to April 30, 2021. If you are unsure whether you are included in the Settlement Class, you may contact the Settlement Administrator at:

Swafford v. Ovintiv
c/o JND Legal Administration, Settlement Administrator
P.O. Box 91308
Seattle, WA 98111
Call Toll-Free: 1-833-677-1102

TO OBTAIN THE BENEFITS OF THIS PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.

I. General Information About the Litigation

The Litigation seeks damages for Defendants' alleged failure to properly pay royalty on gas and its constituents. Defendants expressly deny all allegations of wrongdoing or liability with respect to the claims and allegations in the Litigation. The Court has made no determination with respect to the merits of any of the parties' claims or defenses. A more complete description of the Litigation, its status, and the rulings made in the Litigation are available in the pleadings and other papers maintained by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma in the file for the Litigation.

II. The Settlement, Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Expenses, Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, Case Contribution Award, and the Settlement Allocation And Distribution To The Class

On August 3, 2021, the Court preliminarily approved a Settlement in the Litigation between Plaintiff, on behalf of itself and the Settlement Class, and Defendants. This approval and this Notice are not an expression of opinion by the Court as to the merits of any of the claims or defenses asserted by any of the parties to the Litigation, or of whether the Court will ultimately approve the Settlement Agreement.

In settlement of all claims alleged in the Litigation, Defendants have agreed to pay Nineteen Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$19,500,000.00) in cash ("Gross Settlement Fund"). In exchange for the payment noted above and other consideration outlined in the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Class shall release the Released Claims (as defined in the Settlement Agreement available for review and download at www.swafford-ovintiv.com) against the Released Parties (as defined in the Settlement Agreement). The \$19,500,000.00 cash payment is referred to as the "Gross Settlement Fund." The Gross Settlement Fund, less Class Counsel's Fees and Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs, and other costs approved by the Court (the "Net Settlement Fund"), will be distributed to Final Class Members pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

Class Counsel intends to seek an award of attorneys' fees of not more than 40% of the Gross Settlement Fund. Co-Lead Counsel, Reagan E. Bradford and Ryan K. Wilson of Bradford & Wilson PLLC have been litigating this case without any payment whatsoever, advancing many thousands of dollars in expenses. At the Final Fairness Hearing, Plaintiff's Counsel will also seek reimbursement of the litigation expenses incurred in connection with the prosecution of this Litigation and that will be incurred through final distribution of the Settlement, which will not exceed \$400,000.00. In addition, Plaintiff intends to seek a case contribution award for its representation of the Class, which amount will not exceed \$292,500.00, to compensate Plaintiff for the time, expense, risk and burden as serving as Class Representative.

The Court must approve the Allocation Methodology, which describes how the Settlement Administrator will allocate the Net Settlement Fund. The Net Settlement Fund will be distributed by the Settlement Administrator after the Effective Date of the Settlement. The Effective Date requires the exhaustion of any appeals, which may take a year or more after the entry of Judgment. The Settlement may be terminated on several grounds, including if the Court does not approve or materially modifies the terms of the Settlement. If the Settlement is terminated, the Litigation will proceed as if the Settlement had not been reached, as further described in the Settlement Agreement.

This Notice does not and cannot set out all the terms of the Settlement Agreement, which is available for review and download at www.swafford-ovintiv.com. This website will eventually include this Class Notice, the Plan of Allocation, and Plaintiff's Counsel's application for Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs. You may also receive information about the progress of the Settlement by visiting the website at www.swafford-ovintiv.com, or by contacting the Settlement Administrator at the address set forth above.

III. Class Settlement Fairness Hearing

The Final Fairness Hearing will be held on November 3, 2021, beginning at 2:00 p.m., before the Honorable Steven P. Shreder, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, 101 North 5th Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401. Please note that the date of the Fairness Hearing is subject to change without further notice. You should check with the Court and www.swafford-ovintiv.com to confirm no change to the date and time of the hearing has been made. At the Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate; (b) any timely and properly raised objections to the Settlement; (c) the Allocation Methodology; (d) the application for Class Counsel's Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses and Administration, Notice, and Distribution Costs; and (e) the application for a Case Contribution Award for the Class Representative.

A CLASS MEMBER WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT AND DOES NOT SUBMIT A VALID REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION DOES NOT NEED TO APPEAR AT THE FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT.

IV. What Are Your Options as A Class Member?

A. You Can Participate in the Class Settlement by Doing Nothing

By taking no action, your interests will be represented by Plaintiff as the Class Representative and Plaintiff's Counsel. As a Class Member, you will be bound by the outcome of the Settlement, if finally approved by the Court. The Class Representative and Plaintiff's Counsel believe that the Settlement is in the best interest of the Class, and, therefore, they intend to support the proposed Settlement at the Final Fairness Hearing. As a Class Member, if you are entitled to a distribution pursuant to the Allocation Methodology, you will receive your portion of the Net Settlement Fund and you will be bound by the Settlement Agreement and all orders and judgments entered by the Court regarding the Settlement. If the Settlement is approved, unless you exclude yourself from the Settlement Class, neither you nor any other Releasing Party will be able to start a lawsuit or arbitration, continue a lawsuit or arbitration, or be part of any other lawsuit against any of the Released Parties based on any of the Released Claims.

B. You May Submit a Request for Exclusion to Opt Out of the Settlement Class(es)

If you do not wish to be a member of the Settlement Class, then you must exclude yourself from the Settlement Class by mailing by certified mail, return receipt requested, a Request for Exclusion to the Settlement Administrator to be received by October 20, 2021, at 5 p.m. CT. All Requests for Exclusion must include: (i) the Class Member's name, address, telephone number, and notarized signature; (ii) a statement that the Class Member wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class in *Swafford v. Ovintiv*; and (iii) a description of the Class Member's interest in any wells for which it has received payments from Defendants, including the name, well number, county in which the well is located, and the owner identification number. Requests for Exclusion must be served on the Settlement Administrator, Defendants' Counsel, and Plaintiff's Counsel by certified mail, return receipt requested and received no later than 5 p.m. CT on October 20, 2021. Requests for Exclusion may be mailed as follows:

Settlement Administrator:	Defendants' Counsel:
Swafford-Ovintiv c/o JND Legal Administration, Settlement Administrator P.O. Box 91308 Seattle, WA 98111	Craig L. Stahl Haynes and Boone, LLP 10001 Woodloch Forest Dr., Suite 200 The Woodlands, Texas 77380
Plaintiff's Counsel:	Michelle P. Scheffler Haynes and Boone, LLP 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 4000 Houston, Texas 77010
Reagan E. Bradford Ryan K. Wilson Bradford & Wilson PLLC 431 W. Main Street, Suite D Oklahoma City, OK 73102	

If you do not follow these procedures—including mailing the Request for Exclusion so that it is received by the deadline set out above—you will not be excluded from the Settlement Class(es), and you will be bound by all of the orders and judgments entered by the Court regarding the Settlement, including the release of claims. You must exclude yourself even if you already have a pending case against any of the Released Parties based upon any Released Claims during the Claim Period. You cannot exclude yourself on the website, by telephone, facsimile, or by e-mail. If you validly request exclusion as described above, you will not receive any distribution from the Net Settlement Fund, you cannot object to the Settlement, and you will not have released any claim against the Released Parties. You will not be legally bound by anything that happens in the Litigation.

C. You May Remain a Member of the Settlement Class, but Object to the Settlement, Allocation Methodology, Plan of Allocation, Plaintiff's Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Expenses, or Case Contribution Award

Any Class Member who wishes to object to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement, any term of the Settlement, the Allocation Methodology, the Plan of Allocation, the request for Plaintiff's attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses, or the request for a Case Contribution Award to Class Representative may file an objection. An objector must file with the Court and serve upon Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel a written objection containing the following: (a) a heading referring to *Swafford v. Ovintiv*; (b) a statement as to whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Fairness Hearing, either in person or through counsel, and, if through counsel, counsel must be identified by name, address, and telephone number; (c) a detailed statement of the specific legal and factual basis for each and every objection; (d) a list of any witnesses the objector may call at the Final Fairness Hearing, together with a brief summary of each witness's expected testimony (to the extent the objector desires to offer expert testimony and/or an expert report, any such evidence must fully comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, and the Local Rules of the Court); (e) a list of and copies of any exhibits the objector may seek to use at the Final Fairness Hearing; (f) a list of any legal authority the objector may present at the Final Fairness Hearing; (g) the objector's name, current address, current telephone number, and all owner identification numbers with Defendants; (h) the objector's signature executed before a Notary Public; (i) identification of the objector's interest in wells with Defendants (by well name, payee well number, and county in which the well is located) during the Claim Period and identification of any payments by date of payment, date of production, and amount; and (j) if the objector is objecting to any portion of the Plaintiff's attorneys' fees or Litigation Expenses

sought by Class Counsel on the basis that the amounts requested are unreasonably high, the objector must specifically state the portion of Plaintiff's attorneys' fees and/or Litigation Expenses he/she believes is fair and reasonable and the portion that is not. Such written objections must be filed with the Court and served on Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendants' Counsel, via certified mail return receipt requested, and received no later than 5 p.m. CT by October 20, 2021, at the addresses set forth above. Any Class Member that fails to timely file the written objection statement and provide the required information will not be permitted to present any objections at the Final Fairness Hearing. Your written objection must be timely filed with the Court at the address below:

Clerk of the Court
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma
101 North 5th Street
Muskogee, OK 74401

UNLESS OTHERWISE ORDERED BY THE COURT, ANY SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBER WHO DOES NOT OBJECT IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED HEREIN WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE WAIVED ANY OBJECTION AND SHALL BE FOREVER FORECLOSED FROM MAKING ANY OBJECTION TO THE SETTLEMENT (OR ANY PART THEREOF) AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PRESENT ANY OBJECTIONS AT THE FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING.

D. You May Retain Your Own Attorney to Represent You at the Final Fairness Hearing

You have the right to retain your own attorney to represent you at the Final Fairness Hearing. If you retain separate counsel, you will be responsible to pay his or her fees and expenses out of your own pocket.

V. Availability of Filed Papers and More Information

This Notice summarizes the Settlement Agreement, which sets out all of its terms. You may obtain a copy of the Settlement Agreement with its exhibits, as well as other relevant documents, from the settlement website for free at www.swafford-ovintiv.com, or you may request copies by contacting the Settlement Administrator as set forth above. In addition, the pleadings and other papers filed in this Action, including the Settlement Agreement, are available for inspection in at the Office of the Clerk of the Court, set forth above, and may be obtained by the Clerk's office directly. The records are also available online for a fee through the PACER service at www.pacer.gov/.

If you have any questions about this Notice, you may consult an attorney of your own choosing at your own expense or Class Counsel.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE JUDGE OR THE COURT CLERK ASKING FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS NOTICE.

STEVEN P. SHREDER