

THIS AGREEMENT, made as of the 24th day of September, 1981, between

Benjamin A. Ash, a married man dealing in his sole and separate property

of 1816 Seneca Road, Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216

herein called Lessor (whether one or more), and ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY, A PENNSYLVANIA CORPORATION

of P.O. Box 2819, Dallas, Texas 75221

herein called Lessee

WITNESSETH:

1. Lessor, in consideration of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), and other valuable consideration, cash in hand paid, receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, and of the covenants, conditions and agreements of the Lessee, herein provided, hereby grants, leases and lets exclusively unto Lessee, for purposes of investigating, exploring by geophysical and other methods, prospecting, drilling and operating for and producing oil, gases (including without limitation casinghead gas, casinghead gasoline, gas condensate (distillate), hydrogen sulfide gas, butane and any other gas, whether combustible or not), liquid hydrocarbons and associated products, whether in gaseous, solid or liquid state, by any method, including, but not limited to, natural flow, acidizing, fracturing, combustion, steam soak, steam flood, water flood, oil flood, and for injection of any substance; laying, constructing and maintaining pipelines, storage tanks, and building tanks, ponds, power stations, roads, electric lines, telephone lines, and other structures upon said land to produce, save, treat, process and transport any product produced or made therefrom, the following described land (herein referred to as "said land")

situated in Shelby County, State of Alabama, to wit:

TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, SECTION 17:

The NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

and being the same lands described in Deed dated March 7th, 1973 from Margaret A. Brown, an unmarried widow et al, to Benjamin A. Ash, and recorded in Deed Book 281, Page 378.

said land being estimated to comprise 10.00 acres, whether more or less, which acreage figure may be relied upon by Lessee in calculating royalty or other payments hereunder.

Notwithstanding the above specific description, it is nevertheless the intention of Lessor to include within this lease, and Lessor does hereby lease, all lands owned or claimed by Lessor up to the boundaries of any abutting landowner, together with any and all of Lessor's interest in any lands underlying lakes, streams, roads, easements and rights of way which cross or adjoin the said land, including all land added thereto by accretion.

2. Unless sooner terminated or longer kept in force under other provisions hereof, this lease shall remain in force for a term of ~~ten~~ ^{five} (5) years from the date hereof, hereinafter called "primary term," and as long thereafter as operations, as hereinafter defined, are conducted upon said land with no cessation for more than ninety (90) consecutive days.

3. As royalty, Lessee covenants and agrees: (a) To deliver to the credit of lessor, in the pipe line to which Lessee may connect its wells, the equal one-eighth part of all oil produced and saved by Lessee from said land, or from time to time, at the option of Lessee, to pay Lessor the market price of such one-eighth part of such oil at the wells as of the day it is sold to the pipe line or storage tanks, Lessor's interest, in either case, to bear one-eighth of the cost of treating oil to render it marketable pipe line oil; (b) To pay Lessor on gas, including casinghead gas or other gaseous substances, produced from said land and sold or used off the premises for the extraction of gasoline or other product therefrom, one eighth of the market value computed at the mouth of the well of the gas so sold or used; provided that on gas sold by Lessee the market value shall not exceed the cash proceeds received by the Lessor from such gas computed at the mouth of the well, and on gas sold at the well the royalty shall be one-eighth of the cash proceeds realized by Lessee from such sale. If, at the expiration of the primary term, at any time or times thereafter, there is any well on said land or on lands with which said land or any portion thereof has been pooled, capable of producing gas or any other mineral covered hereby, and all such wells are shut-in, this lease shall, nevertheless, continue in force as though operations were being conducted on said land for so long as said wells are shut-in, and thereafter this lease may be continued in force as if no shut-in had occurred. Lessee covenants and agrees to use reasonable diligence to produce, utilize, or market the mineral capable of being produced from said wells, but in the exercise of such diligence, Lessee shall not be obligated to install or furnish facilities other than well facilities. The ordinary lease facilities of flow lines, separator, and lease tank, and shall not be required to settle labor trouble or to market gas upon terms unacceptable to Lessee. If, at any time or times after the expiration of the primary term, all such wells are shut-in for a period of ninety consecutive days, and during such time there are no operations on said land, then at or before the expiration of said ninety day period, Lessee shall pay or tender, by check or draft of Lessee, as royalty, a sum equal to the amount of annual delay rental provided for in this lease. Lessee shall make like payments or tenders at or before the end of each anniversary of the expiration of said ninety day period if upon such anniversary this lease is being continued in force solely by reason of the provisions of this paragraph. Each such payment or tender shall be made to the parties who at the time of payment would be entitled to receive the royalties which would be paid under this lease if the wells were producing, and may be deposited in a depository bank provided for below. Nothing herein shall impair Lessee's right to market gas as provided in paragraph 5 hereof. In event of assignment of this lease and in whole or in part, liability for payment hereunder shall rest exclusively on the then owner or owners of this lease, severally as to acreage owned by each. If the price of any mineral or substance upon which royalty is payable hereunder is regulated by any law or governmental agency, the market value or market price of such mineral or substance for the purpose of computing royalty hereunder shall not be in excess of the price which Lessee may receive and retain.

4. Lessee is hereby granted the right, at its option, to pool or unitize all or any part of said land and of this lease as to any or horizons thereunder, with other lands, leases or interests, or portions or portions thereof, or mineral or horizon thereunder, so as to establish units containing not more than 80 surface acres plus 10% acreage tolerance; provided, however, a unit may be established on an existing unit may be enlarged to contain not more than 640 acres plus 10% acreage tolerance, if unitized only as to gas or only as to gas and liquid hydrocarbons (condensate) which are not a liquid in the subsurface reservoir. If larger units are prescribed or permitted under any governmental rule or order for the drilling or operation of a well at a regular location, or for the obtaining of a maximum allowable, from any well to be drilled, drilling, or already drilled, any such unit may be established or enlarged to conform to the size prescribed or permitted by such governmental order or rule. Lessee shall exercise said option as to each desired unit by executing an instrument identifying such unit and the land for record in the public office in which this lease is recorded. Each of said options may be exercised by Lessee from time to time, and whether before or after production has been established either on said land or on the portion of said land included in the unit or on other land unitized therewith and any such unit may include any well to be drilled, being drilled, or already completed. A unit established hereunder shall be valid and effective for all purposes of this lease even though there may be land or mineral, royalty or leasehold interests included within the unit which are not pooled or unitized. Any operations conducted on any part of such unitized land shall be considered, for all purposes, except the payment of royalty, operations conducted under this lease. There shall be allocated to the land covered by this lease included in any such unit that proportion of the total production of unitized minerals that bears to the total production of the unit, after deducting any used in lease or unit operations, which the number of surface acres in the land covered by this lease included in the unit bears to the total number of surface acres in the unit. The production so allocated shall be considered for all purposes, including the payment or delivery of royalty, overriding royalty, and any other payments out of production, to be the entire production of unitized minerals from the portion of said land covered hereby and included in such unit in the same manner as though produced from said land under the term of this lease. The owner of the reversionary estate of any term royalty or mineral estate agrees that the accrual of royalties pursuant to this paragraph shall not be reduced from a well in the unit shall satisfy any limitation of term requiring production of oil or gas. The formation of such unit shall not have the effect of changing the ownership of any delay rental or shut-in production royalty which may become payable under this lease. Neither shall it impair the right of Lessee to release from this lease all or any portion of said land, except that Lessee may not so release as to lands within a unit while there are operations thereon for unitized minerals unless all pooled leases are released as to lands within the unit. Lessee may dissolve any unit established hereunder by filing for record in the public office where this lease is recorded a declaration to that effect, if at that time no operations are being conducted thereon for unitized minerals. Subject to the provisions of this paragraph 4, a unit once established hereunder shall remain in force so long as any lease or interest therein shall remain in force. A unit may be so established, modified or dissolved during the life of this lease.

5. If operations are not conducted on said land on or before the first anniversary date hereof, this lease shall terminate as to both parties, unless Lessee on or before said date shall, subject to the further provisions hereof, pay or tender to lessor or to lessor's credit in the Metro Bank (Downtown Branch)

Bank at Birmingham, Alabama 35201

or its successors, which shall continue as the depository, regardless of changes in ownership of delay rental, royalties, or other moneys, the sum of

\$ 10.00, which shall operate as delay rental and cover the privilege of deferring operations for one year from said date. In the event that Lessee pays or tenders such delay rental, or other like payments or tenders, operations may be further deferred for like periods of one year each during the primary term. If at any time that Lessee pays or tenders such delay rental, royalties, or other moneys, two or more parties are, or claim to be, entitled to receive same, Lessee may, in lieu of any other method of payment herein provided, pay or tender such delay rental, royalties, or moneys, in the manner herein specified, either jointly to such parties or separately to each in accordance with their respective ownerships thereof. Any payment hereunder may be made by check or draft of Lessee deposited in the mail or delivered to lessor or to a depository bank on or before the last date of payment. Such delay rental shall be apportionable as to said land on an acreage basis, and a failure to make proper payment or tender of delay rental as to any portion of said land or as to any interest therein shall constitute a breach of this lease as to any portion of said land or as to any interest therein as to which proper payment or tender is made. Any payment or tender which is not an attempt to make proper payment, but which is erroneous in whole or in part as to parties, amounts, or depository, shall nevertheless be sufficient to prevent termination of this lease and to continue the time within which operations may be conducted in the same manner as though a proper payment had been made. provided, however, Lessee shall correct such error within thirty (30) days after Lessee has received written notice thereof from Lessor. Lessor may at any time and from time to time execute and deliver to lessor or file for record in the public office a declaration to that effect as to any part or all of said land or of mineral or horizon thereunder, and then by be relieved of all obligations as to the released acreage or interest. If the acreage is so released as to all minerals and horizons under a portion of said land, the delay rental and other payments computed in accordance therewith shall thereupon be deemed to be the proportion that the acreage released bears to the acreage which was covered by this lease immediately prior to such release.

6. If at any time during the primary term operations are conducted on said land and if all operations are discontinued, this lease shall thereafter terminate on the anniversary date next following the ninetieth day after such discontinuance unless on or before such anniversary date lessee either (1) conducts operations or (2) commences or resumes the payment or tender of delay rental, provided, however, if such anniversary date is at the end of the primary term, or if there is no further anniversary date of the primary term, this lease shall terminate at the end of such term or on the ninetieth day after discontinuance of all operations, whichever is the later date, unless on such later date either (1) lessee commences operations or (2) the shut-in well provisions of paragraph 3 or the provisions of paragraph 11 are applicable. Whenever used in this lease the word "operations" shall mean operations for any of the following: drilling, testing, completing, reworking, recompleting, deepening, plugging back or repairing of a well in search for or in an endeavor to obtain production of oil, gas, sulphur or other minerals, excavating a mine, production of oil, gas, sulphur or other mineral, whether or not in paying quantities.

7. Lessee shall have the use, free from royalty of water, other than from lessor's wells, and of oil and gas produced from said land in all operations hereunder. Lessee shall have the right at any time to remove all machinery and fixtures placed on said land, including the right to draw and remove casing. No well shall be drilled nearer than 200 feet to the house or barn now on said land without the consent of the lessor. Lessee shall pay for damages caused by its operations to growing crops and timber on said land.

8. The rights and estate of any party hereto may be assigned from time to time in whole or in part and as to any mineral or horizon. All of the covenants, obligations, and considerations of this lease shall extend to and be binding upon the parties hereto, their heirs, successors, assigns, and successive assigns. No change or division in the ownership of said land, royalties, delay rental, or other moneys, or any part thereof, howsoever effected, shall increase the obligations or diminish the rights of lessee, including, but not limited to, the location and drilling of wells and the measurement of production. Notwithstanding any other actual or constructive knowledge or notice thereof or to lessee, its successors or assigns, no change or division in the ownership of said land or of the royalties, delay rental, or other moneys, or the right to receive the same, howsoever effected, shall be binding upon the then record owner of this lease until thirty (30) days after there has been furnished to such record owner at his or its principal place of business by lessor or lessor's heirs, successors, or assigns, notice of such change or division, supported by either originals or duly certified copies of the instruments which have been properly filed for record and which evidence such change, or division, and of which court records and proceedings, transcripts, or other documents as shall be necessary in the opinion of such record owner to establish the validity of such change or division. If any such change in ownership occurs by reason of the death of the owner, lessee may, nevertheless pay or tender such royalties, delay rental, or other moneys, in part thereof, to the credit of the decedent in a depository bank provided for above. In the event of assignment of this lease as to any part (whether divided or undivided) of said land, the delay rental payable hereunder shall be apportionable as between the several leasehold owners, ratably according to the surface area or undivided interests of each, and default in delay rental payment by one shall not affect the rights of other leasehold owners hereunder.

9. In the event lessor considers that lessee has not complied with all its obligations hereunder, both express and implied, lessor shall notify lessee in writing, setting out specifically in what respects lessee has breached this contract. Lessee shall then have sixty (60) days after receipt of said notice within which to meet or commence to meet all or any part of the breaches alleged by lessor. The service of said notice shall be precedent to the bringing of any action by lessor on said lease for any cause, and no such action shall be brought until the lapse of sixty (60) days after service of such notice on lessee. Neither the service of said notice nor the doing of any acts by lessee aimed to meet all or any of the alleged breaches shall be deemed an admission or presumption that lessee has failed to perform all of its obligations hereunder. Should it be asserted in any notice given to the lessee under the provisions of this paragraph that lessee has failed to comply with any implied obligation or covenant hereof, this lease shall not be subject to cancellation for any such cause except after final judicial ascertainment that such failure exists and lessee has then been afforded a reasonable time to prevent cancellation by complying with and discharging its obligations as to which lessee has been judicially determined to be in default. If this lease is cancelled for any cause, it shall nevertheless remain in force and effect as to (1) sufficient acreage around each well as to which there are operations to constitute a drilling or maximum allowable unit under applicable governmental regulations, (but in no event less than forty acres), such acreage to be designated by lessee as nearly as practicable in the form of a square centered at the well, or in such shape as then existing spacing rules require; and (2) any part of said land included in a pooled unit on which there are operations. Lessee shall also have such easements on said land as are necessary to operations on the acreage so retained.

10. Lessor hereby warrants and agrees to defend title to said land against the claims of all persons whomsoever. Lessor's rights and interests hereunder shall be charged primarily with any mortgages, taxes or other liens, or interest and other charges on said land, but lessor agrees that lessee shall have the right at any time to pay or reduce same for lessor, either before or after maturity, and be subrogated to the rights of the holder thereof and to deduct amounts so paid from royalties or other payments payable or which may become payable to lessor and/or assigns under this lease. Lessee is hereby given the right to acquire for its own benefit, deeds, leases, or assignments covering any interest or claim in said land which lessee or any other party contends is outstanding and not covered hereby and even though such outstanding interest or claim be invalid or adverse to lessor. If this lease covers a less interest in the oil, gas, sulphur, or other minerals in all or any part of said land than the entire and undivided fee simple estate (whether lessor's interest is herein specified or not), or no interest therein, then the royalties, delay rental, and other moneys accruing from any part as to which this lease covers less than such full interest, shall be paid only in the proportion which the interest therein, if any, covered by this lease, bears to the whole and undivided fee simple estate therein. All royalty interest covered by this lease (whether or not owned by lessor) shall be paid out of the royalty herein provided. This lease shall be binding upon each party who executes it without regard to whether it is executed by all those named herein as lessor. Lessor agrees that during the primary term of this lease it will not grant a top lease to any third party without first giving Lessee the right to acquire such top lease on the same terms, conditions and for the same consideration being afforded by the third party.

11. If, at, or after the expiration of the primary term hereof, and while this lease is in force, there is no well on said land, or on lands with which said land or any portion thereof has been unitized, capable of producing oil or gas, and lessee is not conducting operations on said land by reason of (1) any law, order, rule or regulation, (whether or not subsequently determined to be invalid) or (2) any other cause, whether similar or dissimilar, (except financial) beyond the reasonable control of lessee, the primary term and the delay rental provisions hereof shall be extended until the first anniversary date hereof occurring ninety (90) or more days following the removal of such delaying cause, and this lease may be extended thereafter by operations as if such delay had not occurred. SEE EXHIBIT "A" FOR FURTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS LEASE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this instrument is executed on the date first above written.

Benjamin A. Ash
Benjamin A. Ash
S. S. [REDACTED]

STATE OF ALABAMA }
COUNTY OF Shelby }

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, Sue Franklin, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, hereby certify that Benjamin A. Ash, a married man dealing in his sole and separate property, whose name is Benjamin A. Ash, signed to the foregoing instrument, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of said instrument, he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of office this 27th day of October, A.D. 19 81.

Sue Franklin
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 11-7-83

STATE OF ALABAMA }
COUNTY OF _____ }

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, hereby certify that _____ whose name as _____ of _____, a corporation, is signed to the foregoing oil and gas lease, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of said oil and gas lease, he, as such officer, and with full authority, executed the same voluntarily for and as the act of said corporation.

GIVEN under my hand and official seal this _____ day of _____, A.D. 19 _____.

Notary Public

My Commission expires: _____

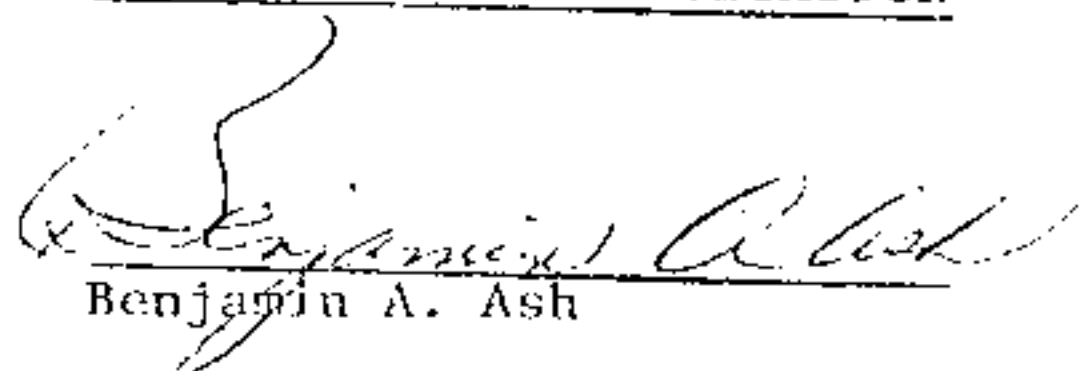
This instrument was prepared by C. Morgan Gainer Address P. O. Box 1474 Huntsville, Texas 77340

Attached to and by reference made a part of that certain Oil and Gas Lease made and entered into by and between Benjamin A. Ash, a married man dealing in his sole and separate property, as Lessor, and ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY, A PENNSYLVANIA CORPORATION, as Lessee, under date of September 24, 1981, to-wit:

Notwithstanding any thing contained herein to the contrary, Lessee shall have the option to renew this lease, in whole or in part, and extend the primary term for an additional period equal to the initial primary term commencing on the expiration date of the initial primary term by paying or tendering to Lessor, as a bonus, the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per acre for each acre renewed, on or before the expiration of the initial primary term or, if drilling or reworking operations are being conducted on the leased premises or land pooled therewith on the expiration date of the initial primary term and such operations do not result in a commercial well and the well is plugged and abandoned, payment or tender may be made within thirty (30) days from the date on which the well is plugged and abandoned. Payment or tender of the renewal bonus may be made in the same manner and into the same depository provided for the payment of delay rental. If Lessor owns an interest in the land less than the entire fee simple estate, the renewal bonus shall be reduced proportionately to accord with interest actually owned by the Lessor. In event of assignment of this lease as to a segregated portion of the land, the renewal bonus payable hereunder shall be apportionable as between the several leasehold owners ratably according to the surface area of each and the renewal option shall be exercisable severally and separately as to each assigned portion. In the event the lease is renewed and extended in part only, Lessee shall promptly file for record an instrument in the county in which the land is situated, designating the acreage released and the acreage renewed and extended. The renewal bonus shall be in lieu of delay rental for the first year of the extended term.

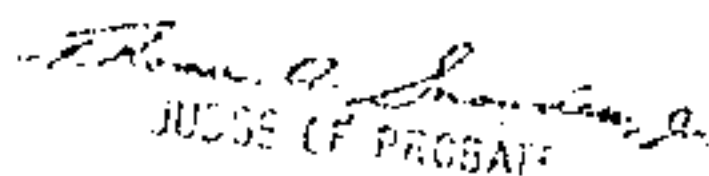
Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, this is a paid up lease and no rentals are due during the term contained herein; the rental paragraph Number 4 is completed for the payment of shut in gas royalty, should the shut in gas royalty become payable.

SIGNED FOR IDENTIFICATION


Benjamin A. Ash

STATE OF ALA. SHELBY CO.
I CERTIFY THIS
INSTRUMENT WAS FILED

1982 MAR 11 PM 1:35


THOMAS A. HARRISON, JR.
JUDGE OF PROBATE

Deed 50

Mineral 50

Rec. 15.00

Ind. 1.00

17.00