

WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

Regions Bank  
P. O. Box 10247  
Birmingham, AL 35202

\* 1999-21802

05/25/1999-21802  
09:41 AM CERTIFIED

SHELBY COUNTY JUDGE OF PROBATE  
004 SMA 16.00

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR RECORDER'S USE ONLY

## ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS

THIS ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS IS DATED MAY 20, 1999, between Higginbotham Oil Company, Inc., a corporation, whose address is P.O. Box 1810, Calera, AL 35040 (referred to below as "Grantor"); and Regions Bank, whose address is P. O. Box 10247, Birmingham, AL 35202 (referred to below as "Lender").

**ASSIGNMENT.** For valuable consideration, Grantor assigns, grants a continuing security interest in, and conveys to Lender all of Grantor's right, title, and interest in and to the Rents from the following described Property located in Shelby County, State of Alabama:

Part of Lot 23 and 24, in Block A, according to the Survey of Nickerson's Addition to Alabaster, map of which is recorded on the Probate Office of Shelby County, Alabama, Map Book 3, Page 69, being more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Southeast corner of said Lot 24; thence run Westerly along the South line of said Lot 24 for 41.12 feet, to a point on the Northerly right of way line of Interstate Highway No. 65; thence to the right with an interior angle of 154 degrees 43 minutes 30 seconds and run Northwesterly along said Northerly right of way line of Interstate Highway 65 for 116.82 feet to a point on the Northeasterly right of way line of U.S. Highway No. 31; thence to the right with an interior angle of 161 degrees 50 minutes 30 seconds and continue Northwesterly along said Northeasterly right of way line of U.S. Highway No. 31 for 42.00 feet; thence to the right with an interior angle of 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds and run Northeasterly for 244.80 feet to a point on the East line of said Lot 24; thence to the right with an interior angle to 45 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds and run Southerly along said East line of Lot 24 for 256.68 feet to the point of beginning.

The Real Property or its address is commonly known as 1101 1st. Street South, Alabaster, AL 35007. The Real Property tax identification number is 23-1-01-3-001-037.

**DEFINITIONS.** The following words shall have the following meanings when used in this Assignment. Terms not otherwise defined in this Assignment shall have the meanings attributed to such terms in the Uniform Commercial Code. All references to dollar amounts shall mean amounts in lawful money of the United States of America.

**Assignment.** The word "Assignment" means this Assignment of Rents between Grantor and Lender, and includes without limitation all assignments and security interest provisions relating to the Rents.

**Event of Default.** The words "Event of Default" mean and include without limitation any of the Events of Default set forth below in the section titled "Events of Default."

**Grantor.** The word "Grantor" means Higginbotham Oil Company, Inc..

**Indebtedness.** The word "Indebtedness" means all principal and interest payable under the Note and any amounts expended or advanced by Lender to discharge obligations of Grantor or expenses incurred by Lender to enforce obligations of Grantor under this Assignment, together with interest on such amounts as provided in this Assignment. In addition to the Note, the word "Indebtedness" includes all obligations, debts and liabilities, plus interest thereon, of Grantor to Lender, or any one or more of them, as well as all claims by Lender against Grantor, or any one or more of them, whether now existing or hereafter arising, whether related or unrelated to the purpose of the Note, whether voluntary or otherwise, whether due or not due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated and whether Grantor may be liable individually or jointly with others, whether obligated as guarantor or otherwise, and whether recovery upon such indebtedness may be or hereafter may become barred by any statute of limitations, and whether such indebtedness may be or hereafter may become otherwise unenforceable.

**Lender.** The word "Lender" means Regions Bank, its successors and assigns.

**Note.** The word "Note" means the promissory note or credit agreement dated May 20, 1999, in the original principal amount of \$500,000.00 from Grantor to Lender, together with all renewals of, extensions of, modifications of, refinancings of, consolidations of, and substitutions for the promissory note or agreement.

**Property.** The word "Property" means the real property, and all improvements thereon, described above in the "Assignment" section.

**Real Property.** The words "Real Property" mean the property, interests and rights described above in the "Property Definition" section.

**Related Documents.** The words "Related Documents" mean and include without limitation all promissory notes, credit agreements, loan agreements, environmental agreements, guaranties, security agreements, mortgages, deeds of trust, and all other instruments, agreements and documents, whether now or hereafter existing, executed in connection with the Indebtedness.

**Rents.** The word "Rents" means all rents, revenues, income, issues, profits and proceeds from the Property, whether due now or later, including without limitation all Rents from all leases described on any exhibit attached to this Assignment.

**THIS ASSIGNMENT IS GIVEN TO SECURE (1) PAYMENT OF THE INDEBTEDNESS AND (2) PERFORMANCE OF ANY AND ALL OBLIGATIONS OF GRANTOR UNDER THE NOTE, THIS ASSIGNMENT, AND THE RELATED DOCUMENTS. THIS ASSIGNMENT IS GIVEN AND ACCEPTED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS:**

**PAYMENT AND PERFORMANCE.** Except as otherwise provided in this Assignment or any Related Document, Grantor shall pay to Lender all amounts secured by this Assignment as they become due, and shall strictly perform all of Grantor's obligations under this Assignment. Unless and until Lender exercises its right to collect the Rents as provided below and so long as there is no default under this Assignment, Grantor may remain in possession and control of and operate and manage the Property and collect the Rents, provided that the granting of the right to collect the Rents shall not constitute Lender's consent to the use of cash collateral in a bankruptcy proceeding.

**GRANTOR'S REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE RENTS.** With respect to the Rents, Grantor represents and warrants to Lender that:

**Ownership.** Grantor is entitled to receive the Rents free and clear of all rights, loans, liens, encumbrances, and claims except as disclosed to and accepted by Lender in writing.

**Right to Assign.** Grantor has the full right, power, and authority to enter into this Assignment and to assign and convey the Rents to Lender.

**No Prior Assignment.** Grantor has not previously assigned or conveyed the Rents to any other person by any instrument now in force.

**No Further Transfer.** Grantor will not sell, assign, encumber, or otherwise dispose of any of Grantor's rights in the Rents except as

provided in this Agreement.

**LENDER'S RIGHT TO COLLECT RENTS.** Lender shall have the right at any time, and even though no default shall have occurred under this Assignment, to collect and receive the Rents. For this purpose, Lender is hereby given and granted the following rights, powers and authority:

**Notice to Tenants.** Lender may send notices to any and all tenants of the Property advising them of this Assignment and directing all Rents to be paid directly to Lender or Lender's agent.

**Enter the Property.** Lender may enter upon and take possession of the Property; demand, collect and receive from the tenants or from any other persons liable therefor, all of the Rents; institute and carry on all legal proceedings necessary for the protection of the Property, including such proceedings as may be necessary to recover possession of the Property; collect the Rents and remove any tenant or tenants or other persons from the Property.

**Maintain the Property.** Lender may enter upon the Property to maintain the Property and keep the same in repair; to pay the costs thereof and of all services of all employees, including their equipment, and of all continuing costs and expenses of maintaining the Property in proper repair and condition, and also to pay all taxes, assessments and water utilities, and the premiums on fire and other insurance effected by Lender on the Property.

**Compliance with Laws.** Lender may do any and all things to execute and comply with the laws of the State of Alabama and also all other laws, rules, orders, ordinances and requirements of all other governmental agencies affecting the Property.

**Lease the Property.** Lender may rent or lease the whole or any part of the Property for such term or terms and on such conditions as Lender may deem appropriate.

**Employ Agents.** Lender may engage such agent or agents as Lender may deem appropriate, either in Lender's name or in Grantor's name, to rent and manage the Property, including the collection and application of Rents.

**Other Acts.** Lender may do all such other things and acts with respect to the Property as Lender may deem appropriate and may act exclusively and solely in the place and stead of Grantor and to have all of the powers of Grantor for the purposes stated above.

**No Requirement to Act.** Lender shall not be required to do any of the foregoing acts or things, and the fact that Lender shall have performed one or more of the foregoing acts or things shall not require Lender to do any other specific act or thing.

**APPLICATION OF RENTS.** All costs and expenses incurred by Lender in connection with the Property shall be for Grantor's account and Lender may pay such costs and expenses from the Rents. Lender, in its sole discretion, shall determine the application of any and all Rents received by it; however, any such Rents received by Lender which are not applied to such costs and expenses shall be applied to the Indebtedness. All expenditures made by Lender under this Assignment and not reimbursed from the Rents shall become a part of the Indebtedness secured by this Assignment, and shall be payable on demand, with interest at the Note rate from date of expenditure until paid.

**FULL PERFORMANCE.** If Grantor pays all of the Indebtedness when due and otherwise performs all the obligations imposed upon Grantor under this Assignment, the Note, and the Related Documents, Lender shall execute and deliver to Grantor a suitable satisfaction of this Assignment and suitable statements of termination of any financing statement on file evidencing Lender's security interest in the Rents and the Property. Any termination fee required by law shall be paid by Grantor, if permitted by applicable law.

**EXPENDITURES BY LENDER.** If Grantor fails to comply with any provision of this Assignment, or if any action or proceeding is commenced that would materially affect Lender's interests in the Property, Lender on Grantor's behalf may, but shall not be required to, take any action that Lender deems appropriate. Any amount that Lender expends in so doing will bear interest at the rate provided for in the Note from the date incurred or paid by Lender to the date of repayment by Grantor. All such expenses, at Lender's option, will (a) be payable on demand, (b) be added to the balance of the Note and be apportioned among and be payable with any installment payments to become due during either (i) the term of any applicable insurance policy or (ii) the remaining term of the Note, or (c) be treated as a balloon payment which will be due and payable at the Note's maturity. This Assignment also will secure payment of these amounts. The rights provided for in this paragraph shall be in addition to any other rights or any remedies to which Lender may be entitled on account of the default. Any such action by Lender shall not be construed as curing the default so as to bar Lender from any remedy that it otherwise would have had.

**DEFAULT.** Each of the following, at the option of Lender, shall constitute an event of default ("Event of Default") under this Assignment:

**Default on Indebtedness.** Failure of Grantor to make any payment when due on the Indebtedness.

**Compliance Default.** Failure of Grantor to comply with any other term, obligation, covenant or condition contained in this Assignment, the Note or in any of the Related Documents.

**Default in Favor of Third Parties.** Should Borrower or any Grantor default under any loan, extension of credit, security agreement, purchase or sales agreement, or any other agreement, in favor of any other creditor or person that may materially affect any of Borrower's property or Borrower's or any Grantor's ability to repay the Loans or perform their respective obligations under this Assignment or any of the Related Documents.

**False Statements.** Any warranty, representation or statement made or furnished to Lender by or on behalf of Grantor under this Assignment, the Note or the Related Documents is false or misleading in any material respect, either now or at the time made or furnished.

**Defective Collateralization.** This Assignment or any of the Related Documents ceases to be in full force and effect (including failure of any collateral documents to create a valid and perfected security interest or lien) at any time and for any reason.

**Other Defaults.** Failure of Grantor to comply with any term, obligation, covenant, or condition contained in any other agreement between Grantor and Lender.

**Insolvency.** The dissolution or termination of Grantor's existence as a going business, the insolvency of Grantor, the appointment of a receiver for any part of Grantor's property, any assignment for the benefit of creditors, any type of creditor workout, or the commencement of any proceeding under any bankruptcy or insolvency laws by or against Grantor.

**Foreclosure, Forfeiture, etc.** Commencement of foreclosure or forfeiture proceedings, whether by judicial proceeding, self help repossession or any other method, by any creditor of Grantor or by any governmental agency against any of the Property. However, this subsection shall not apply in the event of a good faith dispute by Grantor as to the validity or reasonableness of the claim which is the basis of the foreclosure or forfeiture proceeding, provided that Grantor gives Lender written notice of such claim and furnishes reserves or a surety bond for the claim satisfactory to Lender.

**Events Affecting Guarantor.** Any of the preceding events occurs with respect to any Guarantor of any of the Indebtedness or any Guarantor dies or becomes incompetent, or revokes or disputes the validity of, or liability under, any Guaranty of the Indebtedness.

**Adverse Change.** A material adverse change occurs in Grantor's financial condition, or Lender believes the prospect of payment or performance of the Indebtedness is impaired.

**Insecurity.** Lender in good faith deems itself insecure.

**RIGHTS AND REMEDIES ON DEFAULT.** Upon the occurrence of any Event of Default and at any time thereafter, Lender may exercise any one or more of the following rights and remedies, in addition to any other rights or remedies provided by law:

**Accelerate Indebtedness.** Lender shall have the right at its option without notice to Grantor to declare the entire Indebtedness immediately due and payable, including any prepayment penalty which Grantor would be required to pay.

**Collect Rents.** Lender shall have the right, without notice to Grantor, to take possession of the Property and collect the Rents, including amounts past due and unpaid, and apply the net proceeds, over and above Lender's costs, against the Indebtedness. In furtherance of this right, Lender shall have all the rights provided for in the Lender's Right to Collect Section, above. If the Rents are collected by Lender, then Grantor irrevocably designates Lender as Grantor's attorney-in-fact to endorse instruments received in payment thereof in the name of Grantor and to negotiate the same and collect the proceeds. Payments by tenants or other users to Lender in response to Lender's demand shall satisfy the obligations for which the payments are made, whether or not any proper grounds for the demand existed. Lender may exercise its rights under this subparagraph either in person, by agent, or through a receiver.

**Appoint Receiver.** Lender shall have the right to have a receiver appointed to take possession of all or any part of the Property, with the power to protect and preserve the Property, to operate the Property preceding foreclosure or sale, and to collect the Rents from the Property and apply the proceeds, over and above the cost of the receivership, against the Indebtedness. The receiver may serve without bond if permitted by law. Lender's right to the appointment of a receiver shall exist whether or not the apparent value of the Property exceeds the Indebtedness by a substantial amount. Employment by Lender shall not disqualify a person from serving as a receiver.

**Other Remedies.** Lender shall have all other rights and remedies provided in this Assignment or the Note or by law.

**Waiver; Election of Remedies.** A waiver by any party of a breach of a provision of this Assignment shall not constitute a waiver of or prejudice the party's rights otherwise to demand strict compliance with that provision or any other provision. Election by Lender to pursue any remedy shall not exclude pursuit of any other remedy, and an election to make expenditures or take action to perform an obligation of

Grantor under this Assignment after failure of Grantor to perform shall not affect Lender's right to declare a default and exercise its remedies under this Assignment.

**Attorneys' Fees; Expenses.** If Lender institutes any suit or action to enforce any of the terms of this Assignment, Lender shall be entitled to recover such sum as the court may adjudge reasonable as attorneys' fees at trial and on any appeal. Whether or not any court action is involved, all reasonable expenses incurred by Lender that in Lender's opinion are necessary at any time for the protection of its interest or the enforcement of its rights shall become a part of the indebtedness payable on demand and shall bear interest from the date of expenditure until repaid at the rate provided for in the Note. Expenses covered by this paragraph include, without limitation, however subject to any limits under applicable law, Lender's attorneys' fees and Lender's legal expenses whether or not there is a lawsuit, including attorneys' fees for bankruptcy proceedings (including efforts to modify or vacate any automatic stay or injunction), appeals and any anticipated post-judgment collection services, the cost of searching records, obtaining title reports (including foreclosure reports), surveyors' reports, and appraisal fees, and title insurance, to the extent permitted by applicable law. Grantor also will pay any court costs, in addition to all other sums provided by law.

**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.** The following miscellaneous provisions are a part of this Assignment:

**Amendments.** This Assignment, together with any Related Documents, constitutes the entire understanding and agreement of the parties as to the matters set forth in this Assignment. No alteration of or amendment to this Assignment shall be effective unless given in writing and signed by the party or parties sought to be charged or bound by the alteration or amendment.

**Applicable Law.** This Assignment has been delivered to Lender and accepted by Lender in the State of Alabama. Subject to the provisions on arbitration, this Assignment shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama.

**Arbitration.** Lender and Grantor agree that all disputes, claims and controversies between them, whether individual, joint, or class in nature, arising from this Assignment or otherwise, including without limitation contract and tort disputes, shall be arbitrated pursuant to the Rules of the American Arbitration Association, upon request of either party. No act to take or dispose of any Collateral shall constitute a waiver of this arbitration agreement or be prohibited by this arbitration agreement. This includes, without limitation, obtaining injunctive relief or a temporary restraining order; invoking a power of sale under any deed of trust or mortgage; obtaining a writ of attachment or imposition of a receiver; or exercising any rights relating to personal property, including taking or disposing of such property with or without judicial process pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code. Any disputes, claims, or controversies concerning the lawfulness or reasonableness of any act, or exercise of any right, concerning any Collateral, including any claim to rescind, reform, or otherwise modify any agreement relating to the Collateral, shall also be arbitrated, provided however that no arbitrator shall have the right or the power to enjoin or restrain any act of any party. Judgment upon any award rendered by any arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. Nothing in this Assignment shall preclude any party from seeking equitable relief from a court of competent jurisdiction. The statute of limitations, estoppel, waiver, laches, and similar doctrines which would otherwise be applicable in an action brought by a party shall be applicable in any arbitration proceeding, and the commencement of an arbitration proceeding shall be deemed the commencement of an action for these purposes. The Federal Arbitration Act shall apply to the construction, interpretation, and enforcement of this arbitration provision.

**No Modification.** Grantor shall not enter into any agreement with the holder of any mortgage, deed of trust, or other security agreement which has priority over this Assignment by which that agreement is modified, amended, extended, or renewed without the prior written consent of Lender. Grantor shall neither request nor accept any future advances under any such security agreement without the prior written consent of Lender.

**Severability.** If a court of competent jurisdiction finds any provision of this Assignment to be invalid or unenforceable as to any person or circumstance, such finding shall not render that provision invalid or unenforceable as to any other persons or circumstances. If feasible, any such offending provision shall be deemed to be modified to be within the limits of enforceability or validity; however, if the offending provision cannot be so modified, it shall be stricken and all other provisions of this Assignment in all other respects shall remain valid and enforceable.

**Successors and Assigns.** Subject to the limitations stated in this Assignment on transfer of Grantor's interest, this Assignment shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties, their successors and assigns. If ownership of the Property becomes vested in a person other than Grantor, Lender, without notice to Grantor, may deal with Grantor's successors with reference to this Assignment and the indebtedness by way of forbearance or extension without releasing Grantor from the obligations of this Assignment or liability under the indebtedness.

**Time is of the Essence.** Time is of the essence in the performance of this Assignment.

**Waiver of Homestead Exemption.** Grantor hereby releases and waives all rights and benefits of the homestead exemption laws of the State of Alabama as to all indebtedness secured by this Assignment.

**Waivers and Consents.** Lender shall not be deemed to have waived any rights under this Assignment (or under the Related Documents) unless such waiver is in writing and signed by Lender. No delay or omission on the part of Lender in exercising any right shall operate as a waiver of such right or any other right. A waiver by any party of a provision of this Assignment shall not constitute a waiver of or prejudice the party's right otherwise to demand strict compliance with that provision or any other provision. No prior waiver by Lender, nor any course of dealing between Lender and Grantor, shall constitute a waiver of any of Lender's rights or any of Grantor's obligations as to any future transactions. Whenever consent by Lender is required in this Assignment, the granting of such consent by Lender in any instance shall not constitute continuing consent to subsequent instances where such consent is required.

**GRANTOR ACKNOWLEDGES HAVING READ ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS, AND GRANTOR AGREES TO ITS TERMS.**

GRANTOR:

Higginbotham Oil Company, Inc.

By

Burnis A. Higginbotham, Jr., President

(SEAL)

This Assignment of Rents prepared by:

Name: Denise Y. Hagan/Real Estate Department  
Address: 417 North 20th Street  
City, State, ZIP: Birmingham, Alabama 35203

CORPORATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF Alabama )  
 ) ss  
COUNTY OF Jefferson )

I, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for said county in said state, hereby certify that Burnie A. Higginbotham, Jr., President of Higginbotham Oil Company, Inc., a corporation, is signed to the foregoing Assignment and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of said Assignment of Rents, he or she, 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 20th day of May, 19 99

  
Notary Public

My commission expires February 7, 2002

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