

✓ Prepared by Daniel Prudhomme, 389 Revere Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 25405
Source of Title: Deed Book 17-200, 32-576, & 46-378.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSSESSION

STATE OF ALABAMA }

COUNTY OF SHELBY }

COMES NOW William F. Lawrence, Jr., being of lawful age, first being duly sworn according to law, and under oath does state the following from his own personal knowledge:

THAT, on the 27th day of **September, 2002**, **Daniel Prudhomme**, a notary public for the state of Alabama, interviewed and secured the following statement from me, the undersigned **William F. Lawrence, Jr.**, whose mailing address is P. O. Box 599, Suite 126, Fairfield, Alabama 35064 and whose telephone number is (205) 783-2068.

I am over forty years of age, am a resident of Jefferson County, Alabama, have been in the employ of United States Steel Corporation (formerly known as USX) for 24 years and in my present position, being Manager of Minerals, for 13 years. To perform my job properly it is incumbent upon me to be familiar with the properties of United States Steel Corporation (USSC) in multiple Alabama counties.

THAT, I am personally familiar with all of the hereinafter described USSC acreage. USSC has two teams of four men each that have the hands-on responsibility of overseeing the care and upkeep of this acreage. One of these teams is in charge of surveying boundary lines, fire breaks, rights-of-way and other easements and for blazing property lines adjacent to other owners. The second "team of four" are responsible for the sowing, thinning, brush burning, general tending and upkeep and harvest of the timber thereon. I am thoroughly familiar and well acquainted with the location, character, extent and type of occupancy of possession exercised of the following described property, lying and being situated in the **County of Shelby, State of Alabama**, for a period of over twenty four years, to wit:

Shelby County

Township 21 South, Range 4 West:

SECTION 10: E/2 SE/4 & SW/4 SE/4. SECTION 11: All of section. SECTION 14: W/2 E/2 & E/2 SE4. SECTION 15: NW/4, SE/4, W/2 NE/4, SE/4 NE/4 & NE/4 SW/4. SECTION 21: All of section less the W/2 NW/4 & 8.0 acres, more or less, in the NE/4 NW/4. SECTION 22: All of section. SECTION 23: All of section. SECTION 26: All of section less the S/2 SE/4. SECTION 27: All of section.

All of the land above described belonged to USSC long before I became an employee. This land initially came into Tennessee Iron, Coal and Railroad Company (TCI) in the late 1800's and early 1900's. After many years and mergers and name changes TCI became the present USSC. Public records will indeed verify this long term ownership by USSC.

This land has always been used for the growth and harvest of timber and for the mining of coal. During the late nineties until around 2001 it also produced a bit of coalbed methane gas.

No individual or single family has owned any part of the described property since it came into TCI those many years ago. There is no residence/family dwelling on this property and no structure of any kind other than small mobile buildings that may be used in the mining and processing of coal.

Coal has been produced in this area off and on for somewhere around one hundred years. The coal mining operations are presently been conducted by New Century Mines which took over its predecessor's operations in 2000.

As previously mentioned, in the 1990's some of the land above described was leased for coalbed methane exploration to McKenzie Methane. They successfully produced some of these wells for a time. However, it wasn't long before McKenzie apparently fell on financial hard-times and filed for bankruptcy. Presently an outfit called Gurney Gas is operating in the area plugging these wells. To my knowledge McKenzie has no producing wells presently operating in the area.

All of the above described land is under a Wildlife Management and Public Hunting Agreement and falls into the Cahaba Wildlife Management Area which comes under the cognizance of the State of Alabama.

Alabama Power has a high voltage power transmission line that cuts right through this area from Southwest to Northeast. There are also electric lines that run to the mining sites for service. Colonial Pipeline Co. has a gas transmission line that runs somewhat parallel to the Alabama Power high voltage line and lies just under two miles to the Northeast of that line. Just slightly North of the Colonial line and running in a somewhat same direction is another gas transmission line owned by Plantation Pipeline Corporation

Treatment ponds used in the process of de-watering coalbed methane wells lie in the northern portion of the described property. In that methane gas production has ended these treatment ponds are not presently functioning as de-watering facilities.

There are churches and cemeteries in near vicinity of the described property but none lying on the property. There are no schools on the property.

The area can be accessed by use of County Highway No. 270 which traverses the northern portion of the described property. There is also a railroad right-of-way that moves through the northern part of this property. The Railroad has been in place since before 1900 and is presently a viable line operated by Norfolk Southern.

Those two teams of four mentioned above, as well as all field workers of USSC, are well aware of "squatter's rights" and, along with doing their day-to-day routines, remain alert to parties that may use, or attempt to use, a part of USSC property as their own personal estate. Also, we have aerial photos taken on a timely basis which are studied for such possible trespass. Such parties are found from time-to-time and are reminded to depart the premises. They normally depart after the first warning. If not, the problem is turned over to local law enforcement and the party/parties are removed. Although this will always remain a problem due to the vast amount of acreage owned by USSC, continued vigilance makes the problem a minor one. I don't remember if this particular acreage has undergone such a threat but I do know that there are no squatters occupying this acreage presently and that any prospective claims of adverse possession are non-existent.

There have been no boundary disputes concerning any of the property above. To the best of my knowledge there have been no disputes over railroad right-of-way ownership, county road right-of-way ownership nor power line right-of-way ownership.

No individual or tenant is presently occupying the described land nor has ever occupied it since my arrival twenty-four years ago. I have heard of no boundary disputes past or present concerning these specific properties.

USSC is the recognized and undisputed owner of the hereinabove described property and has had open, visible, continuous, notorious and undisputed occupancy and possession for in excess of 50 years.

To my personal knowledge no person, firm, corporation or other legal entity is claiming or has ever claimed any right, title, or interest in and to said land or has exercised any acts of possession adversely to that of the present surface owner.

I have read the entire foregoing Affidavit, consisting of three (3) typewritten pages, this one included, am fully informed of the contents thereof, submit this information as to the best my memory serves me, and execute the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

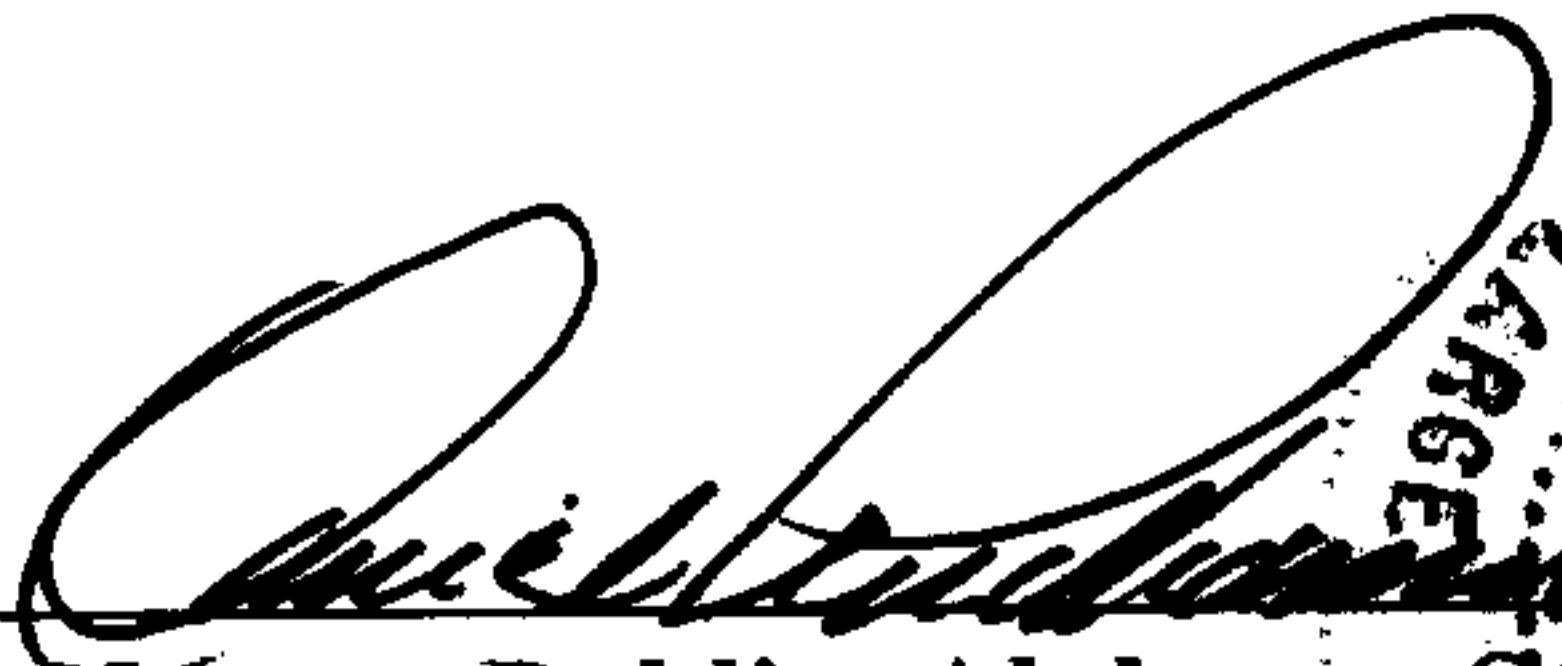
WITNESS MY HAND, this the 27th day of October, 2002.


WILLIAM F. LAWRENCE, JR.

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of October, 2002.

Commission expiration 23 July 2006



Notary Public, Alabama State at Large

