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1	NANCY J. MARVEL Regional Counsel	2000 AUG 15 AM 9: 12
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3	RICHARD T. CAMPBELL Assistant Regional Counsel	U.S. EPA, REGION IX REGIONAL HEARING CLERK
4	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 75 Hawthorne Street	ı IX
5	San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 972-3870	
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7	UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION IX	
8	REG	ION IX
9		
10	IN THE MATTER OF:	) DOCKET NO. UIC-09-2008-0003
11	Mountain States Petroleum Company, Apache County, Arizona	)
12	Apache County, Arizona	) CONSENT AGREEMENT
13	Respondent.	AND PROPOSED FINAL ORDER
14	UIC Class II Well (Navajo #10)	)
15	Proceedings under Section 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)	)
16		)
17	CONSENT	AGREEMENT
18	Introduction	
19	The authority to enter into this Consent Agreement is vested in the Administrator of the second	
20	United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") by Sections 1423(c) and 1445(a) of	
21	Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"), 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c), 300i-4(a). The Administrator ha	

1. The authority to enter into this Consent Agreement is vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") by Sections 1423(c) and 1445(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"), 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c), 300j-4(a). The Administrator has delegated these authorities to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX. The Regional Administrator in turn has delegated these authorities to the Director of the Water Division for EPA Region IX (the "Complainant").

In re: Mountain States Petroleum Company Consent Agreement and Proposed Final Order USEPA Docket No. UIC 09-2008-0003

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- 2. This Consent Agreement is made in accordance with SDWA §§ 1423(c) and 1445(a), 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c), 300j-4(a), and the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits," 40 C.F.R. Part 22.
- 3. This action commenced with the issuance and filing of an "Administrative Complaint and Proposed Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty" ("Complaint"), Docket No. UIC-09-2008-0003, on April 23, 2008 (Attachment A). The Complaint alleged that Respondent Mountain States Petroleum Company violated the SDWA's Underground Injection Control ("UIC") regulations at 40 C.F.R. §§ 144.28(c)(2)(iv) and 144.28(l).

## **Admissions and Waivers**

- 4. Complainant, the Director of the Water Division for EPA Region IX, and Respondent, Mountain States Petroleum Company (collectively, the "Parties"), have agreed that settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that entry of this Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CA/FO"), pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18, without further litigation, is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter
- 5. For purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits and agrees that the Complainant has jurisdiction and authority over the subject matter of this action and over Respondent pursuant to Section 1423(c) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.4 and 22.45. Further, for the purposes of this proceeding, Respondent admits to the jurisdictional allegations of facts and law set forth in the Complaint. Respondent consents to and agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction and authority to enter into and issue this CA/FO and to enforce its terms. Further, Respondent will not contest EPA's jurisdiction and authority to compel compliance with this CA/FO in any enforcement proceedings, either administrative or judicial, or to impose sanctions for violations of this CA/FO.

6. Respondent neither admits nor denies any allegations of fact or law set forth in the Complaint. Respondent hereby waives any rights Respondent may have to contest the allegations set forth in the Complaint, waives any rights Respondent may have to a hearing on any issue relating to the factual allegations or legal conclusions set forth in the Complaint, including without limitation a hearing pursuant to Section 1423(c)(3)(A) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(A), and hereby consents to the issuance of this CA/FO without adjudication. In addition, Respondent hereby waives any rights Respondent may have to appeal the Final Order attached to this Consent Agreement and made part of this CA/FO.

## **Civil Penalty**

- 7. To account for the violations set forth in the attached Complaint, Respondent agrees to pay to the United States an administrative civil penalty of forty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$42,500.00), no later than sixty (60) days following the effective date of the Final Order (hereinafter referred to as the "due date").
- 8. The civil administrative penalty referred to in paragraph 7 above shall be made payable in accordance with any acceptable method of payment listed in the attached "EPA Region 9 Collection Information" sheet (Attachment B) which is incorporated by reference as part of this CA/FO.
- 9. Concurrent with payment of the civil administrative penalty made pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 above, Respondent shall send a written notice of payment, referencing the title and <u>docket number</u> of this case, <u>via certified mail</u>, to each of the following on the same day it makes payment in accordance with paragraph 8 above:

Rich Campbell
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street (ORC-2)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Danielle Carr
Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street (ORC-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105

In re: Mountain States Petroleum Company Consent Agreement and Proposed Final Order USEPA Docket No. UIC 09-2008-0003

- 10. Neither assessment nor payment of a civil administrative penalty pursuant to this CA/FO shall affect Respondent's continuing obligation to comply with the SDWA's UIC Program.
- 11. If Respondent's penalty payment is not received on or before the due date, interest shall accrue on any overdue amount from the first date after the due date through the date of payment, at the interest rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury under 31 U.S.C. § 3717. In addition, a late payment handling charge of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) will be assessed for each thirty-(30) day period (or any portion thereof) following the due date in which the balance remains unpaid. Payment of any interest and late handling charges shall be made in accordance with paragraph 8 above.
- 12. Pursuant to Section 1423(c)(7) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(7), if Respondent fails to pay by the due date the administrative civil penalty assessed in paragraph 7 above of this CA/FO, EPA shall bring a civil action in an appropriate district court to recover the amount assessed (plus costs, attorneys' fees, and interest). In such action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of such penalty shall not be subject to review, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(7).
- 13. Respondent shall not deduct the civil penalty, or any interest, late penalty payment and/or administrative handling fees, from its federal, state or local income tax.

## Reservation of Rights

- 14. This CA/FO shall not affect the right of the EPA to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law.
- 15. This CA/FO, inclusive of all exhibits, appendices, and attachments, is the entire agreement between the Parties to resolve EPA's civil penalty claim against Respondent for the specific SDWA violations alleged in the attached Complaint. Full payment of the penalty assessed in paragraph 7 above shall only resolve Respondent's liability for Federal civil penalties

for the violations and facts alleged in the Complaint in accordance with 40 C.F.R § 22.18(c). This CA/FO shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, release, waiver or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers or authorities, civil or criminal, which EPA has under the SDWA, or any other statutory, regulatory or common law enforcement authority of the United States.

- 16. Compliance by Respondent with the terms of this CA/FO shall not relieve Respondent of its obligations to comply with the SDWA, the SDWA UIC Program, or any other applicable local, State, Tribal, or federal laws and regulations.
- 17. The entry of this CA/FO and Respondent's consent to comply shall not limit or otherwise preclude EPA from taking additional enforcement actions should EPA determine that such actions are warranted except as it relates to Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the specific alleged violations and facts as set forth in the attached Complaint.
- 18. This CA/FO is not intended to be nor shall it be construed as a permit. This CA/FO does not relieve Respondent of any obligation to obtain and comply with any local, State, Tribal, or federal permits.

#### **Parties Bound**

- 19. The provisions of this CA/FO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent, its officers, directors, agents, successors, and assigns, until such time as the civil penalty assessed in paragraph 7 has been paid. Payment in accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8 of this CA/FO shall terminate and constitute full settlement of the violations alleged herein.
- 20. The undersigned representative of each of the Parties certifies that he or she is fully authorized to execute and legally bind that party to this CA/FO.

#### Other Claims

21. This CA/FO shall in no way affect the right of EPA or the United States against any third party not a party to this CA/FO or the right of any third party against Respondent.

- 1				
1	NANCY J. MARVEL Regional Counsel			
2	RICHARD T. CAMPBELL			
3	Assistant Regional Counsel U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street			
4				
5	San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 972-3870			
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7	UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION IX			
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10	IN THE MATTER OF:  ) DOCKET NO. UIC-09-2008-0003 )			
11	Mountain States Petroleum Company, ) Apache County, Arizona )			
12	) [PROPOSED] Respondent. ) FINAL ORDER			
13	)			
14	UIC Class II Well (Navajo #10) Proceedings under Section 1423(c) of the Safe			
15	Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)			
16				
17	The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX ("EPA" or			
18	"Complainant"), and Mountain States Petroleum Company ("Respondent"), having entered into			
19	the foregoing Consent Agreement, and EPA having previously duly publicly noticed the			
20	Complaint regarding the matters alleged therein, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:			
21	The foregoing Consent Agreement and this Final Order be entered; and			
22	Respondent shall pay an administrative civil penalty of forty-two thousand five-hundred			
23	dollars (\$42,500.00) in accordance with the terms set forth in the Consent Agreement.			
24	This Final Order shall become effective thirty (30) days from the date that it is signed.			
25				
	In re: Mountain States Petroleum Company Consent Agreement and Proposed Final Order USEPA Docket No. UIC 09-2008-0003			

This Final Order constitutes full adjudication of the Administrative Complaint and Proposed Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty filed by EPA in this matter on April 23, 2008. DATE: 08/14/08 Steven Jawgiel Regional Judicial Officer U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 

## ATTACHMENT A

In the Matter of Mountain States Petroleum Company

EPA Docket No. UIC-09-2008-0003

Administrative Complaint and

Proposed Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty

FILED

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION IX

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REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

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IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NO. UIC-09-2008-00 0 3

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Mountain States Petroleum Company, Apache County, Arizona

Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT AND PROPOSED ASSESSMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL PENALTY

Proceedings under Section 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)

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#### COMPLAINT

## Statutory and Regulatory Authority

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA" or "Complainant") files this Administrative Complaint and Proposed Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty ("Complaint") under the authority vested in the Administrator of the EPA by Section 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"), 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c). The Administrator has delegated these authorities to the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX. The Regional Administrator in turn has delegated these authorities to the Director of the Water Division for EPA Region IX. This Complaint is issued in accordance with the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation or Suspension of Permits," 40 C.F.R. Part 22 ("Part 22") (Attachment 1).

## Description of Respondent

Mountain States Petroleum Company ("Respondent" or "Mountain States") is a
corporation organized under the laws of New Mexico. According to the records on the New
Mexico Public Regulation Commission website, <a href="http://www.nmprc.state.nm.us">http://www.nmprc.state.nm.us</a>, Mountain

In re: Mountain States Petroleum Company Administrative Complaint and Proposed Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty

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State's current mailing address is 3001 Knox Street, Suite 403, Dallas, Texas 75205, and the address of its registered agent, CT Corporation System, is123 East Marcy Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Mountain States is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Apollo Resources International, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Utah.

#### **FINDINGS**

- 2. Pursuant to Section 1422(c) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §300h-1(c), 40 C.F.R. Part 147
  Subpart HHH §§ 147.3000-3016 (Lands of the Navajo), EPA administers the Underground
  Injection Control ("UIC") program for Class II wells within the Navajo Nation. This UIC
  program consists of the program requirements of 40 C.F.R. Parts 124, 144, 146, 147 (Subpart HHH), and 148. The effective date of the UIC program for the Navajo Nation is November 25, 1988.
- Respondent is a "person" within the meaning of Section 1401(12) of the SDWA,
   U.S.C. § 300f(12).
- 4. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent owned and/or operated the following UIC Class II injection well:

UIC ID No.

AZ-446

Navajo #10 (aka DBK #10)

Inactive

Navajo #10 is a Class II enhanced recovery injection well as defined by 40 C.F.R. §§ 144.3,

144.6(b), 146.3, and 146.5(b), located in the Chuska Mountains of Apache County, Arizona, in the Dineh-Bi-Keyeh (aka "DBK") oil and gas field. The Dineh-Bi-Keyeh oil and gas field is also located on Indian Land, specifically, on land within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation.

5. The injection well subject to this action was in existence as a Class II enhanced recovery injection well on November 25, 1988 (the effective date of the UIC program in the Navajo Nation) and is, therefore, rule-authorized pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 144.22(a).

In re: Mountain States Petroleum Company Administrative Complaint and Proposed Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty

6. Sometime in May 2005 (but no later than May 31, 2007), Respondent ceased operation of Navajo #10 after earth-movement at the well site rendered Navajo #10 inoperable as a Class II injection well.

7. On August 31, 2007, Respondent sold Navajo #10 to Nacogdoches Oil and Gas, LLC ("Nacogdoches"). Nacogdoches is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Kansas according to the records on the Kansas Secretary of State's website, http://www.accesskansas.org/srv-corporations.

#### COUNT 1:

- 8. 40 C.F.R. § 144.28(c)(2)(iv) requires that, after a cessation of operation of two (2) years, the owner or operator of a rule-authorized well shall plug and abandon the well in accordance with an EPA-approved plugging and abandonment plan unless the owner or operator provides notice to EPA and describes actions or procedures, satisfactory to EPA, that the owner or operator will take to ensure that the well will not endanger underground sources of drinking water ("USDWs") during the period of temporary abandonment.
- 9. Beginning sometime in May 2007 (but no later than May 31, 2007) more than two (2) years had passed since Respondent had ceased operation of Navajo #10, and Respondent had not plugged and abandoned Navajo #10, or demonstrated to EPA's satisfaction that, if the abandonment was temporary, Navajo #10 would not endanger USDWs during the period of temporary abandonment.
- 10. From sometime in May 2007 (but no later than May 31, 2007) until Respondent's sale of Navajo #10 to Nacogdoches on August 30, 2007, Respondent was in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 144.28(c)(2)(iv) for failing to plug and abandon Navajo #10 in accordance with an EPA-approved plugging and abandonment plan or, if the abandonment was temporary, describe actions or procedures satisfactory to EPA that Navajo #10 would not endanger USDWs during the period of temporary abandonment.

- 11. 40 C.F.R. § 144.28(l) requires that the transferor of a Class II well authorized by rule shall notify EPA of a transfer of ownership or operational control of the well at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer. The notice shall include a written agreement between the transferor and the transferee containing a specific date for transfer of ownership or operational control of the well; and a specific date when the financial responsibility demonstration required by UIC rules will be met by the transferee.
  - 12. On August 31, 2007, Respondent sold Navajo #10 to Nacogdoches.
- On March 13, 2008, Respondent informed EPA of its transfer of ownership of Navajo
   to Nacogdoches on August 31, 2007.
- 14. Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 144.28(l) by failing to notify EPA of the transfer of ownership or operational control of Navajo #10 to Nacogdoches at least thirty (30) days in advance of the August 31, 2007 transfer of ownership and/or operational control.
- 15. These violations are subject to an enforcement action under Section 1423 of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2, which authorizes EPA to initiate civil and/or criminal enforcement actions in court, as well as to issue administrative orders that mandate compliance with the SDWA and its regulations and/or assess civil penalties for violations.

# PROPOSED ASSESSMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL PENALTY

- 16. Section 1423(c)(2) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(2), and 40 C.F.R. § 19.4, EPA authorizes the administrative assessment of civil penalties in an amount not to exceed \$6,500 for each day of violation for any past or current violation of the SDWA UIC Program, up to a maximum administrative penalty of \$157,500, in any case relating to any underground injection for the secondary or tertiary recovery of oil or natural gas.
- 17. Based on the foregoing findings of violation, EPA finds it appropriate to assess

  Respondent a civil penalty of up to \$157,500 pursuant to Section 1423(c)(2) of the SDWA, 42

U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(2), and 40 C.F.R. §19.4, for Respondent's failure to comply with the UIC regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 144 as alleged in paragraphs 1 through 14 above. In assessing a penalty for such violations, EPA appropriately took into account, in accordance with Section 1423(c)(4)(B) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(4)(B), the following factors: (1) the seriousness of the violations; (2) the economic benefit resulting from the violations; (3) the history of such violations; (4) any good faith efforts to comply with the applicable requirements; (5) the economic impact of the penalty on the violator; and (6) such other matters as justice may require.

# Brief Explanation of the Severity of Respondent's Violation of 40 C.F.R. §144.28(c)(2)(iv):

As to the severity of the violation of 40 C.F.R. § 144.28(c)(2)(iv), the SDWA assures the safety of the country's drinking water sources by preventing direct contamination of identified water supplies and minimizing the risk that any potential drinking water sources be contaminated. The UIC regulations assure that these sources are not rendered unfit by underground injection of contaminants. In determining the severity of the violation, it is appropriate to consider both the potential for actual harm resulting from the violation and the extent of deviation from the UIC regulations. The most serious violations are those that threaten human health or the environment or that violate crucial provisions of the UIC program.

The SDWA explicitly places on injection well owners or operators the burden of proving that their wells will not endanger USDWs, and thus requires that well owners or operators establish and maintain mechanical integrity to ensure that there is no significant leak in a well's casing, tubing or packer, or significant fluid movement into an USDW through vertical channels adjacent to the injection well bore. See 40 C.F.R. § 146.8(a). A well that is in use will readily evidence a lack of mechanical integrity by gaining pressure in the casing/tubing annulus or losing pressure in the tubing during injection. An unused well may never show any visible

evidence of a lack of mechanical integrity, and may result in the contamination of an USDW.

An underground injection well that is deep enough to penetrate an USDW acts as a potential conduit for contamination of the water source, and may pose a serious threat to human health or the environment. For this reason, the underlying UIC regulations require that whenever a well is unused for a period of two years, it must either be tested for mechanical integrity or plugged.

Respondent's well was unused, untested, severely damaged, and unplugged for over two years.

This amounts to a serious deviation from the UIC regulatory requirements, in addition to posing a significant risk of contamination of an USDW.

## Brief Explanation of the Severity of Respondent's Violation of 40 C.F.R. §144.28(1):

One purpose in requiring the transferor of a Class II well to give EPA notice of a transfer of ownership thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer is to ensure that financial responsibility be maintained during a transfer of ownership. Thus, 40 C.F.R. § 144.28(I) requires that the notice include a written agreement between the transferor and transferee containing a specific date when the financial responsibility demonstration to EPA will be met by the transferee. This requirement is important because the EPA must rely solely on the financial responsibility demonstration of owners and operators of injection wells to assure that these wells are not improperly abandoned or otherwise left in a manner that will endanger USDWs. Thus, in the case of transfers, it is paramount for EPA to have in place a mechanism that will ensure that there is no interruption in the financial responsibility for a well. For these reasons, we consider Respondent's failure to notify EPA prior to the transfer of ownership of the Navajo #10 well in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 144.28(I) to be a significant violation of the UIC regulatory scheme.

18. If Respondent does not contest the findings and assessments set forth above,
Respondent may make payment of a \$157,500 penalty ten (10) days after the close of the public
comment period that is provided for in 40 C.F.R. § 22.45 in accordance with any of the

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19. Concurrent with payment of any penalty made pursuant to paragraph 18 above, Respondent shall provide written notice of payment, referencing the title and docket number of this case, via certified mail to each of the following:

Dave Basinger	Danielle Carr
Ground Water Office	Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. EPA Region IX and	U.S. EPA Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street (WTR-9)	75 Hawthorne Street (ORC-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105	San Francisco, CA 94105

20. Neither assessment nor payment of a civil administrative penalty pursuant to this Complaint shall affect Respondent's continuing obligation to comply with the SDWA's UIC Program, and with any separate compliance Order issued under Section 1423(c) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c), for the violations alleged herein.

## ANSWER AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING

- 21. In accordance with Section 1423(c)(3)(A) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(A), Respondent may request, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Complaint, a hearing to contest any material fact contained in the Complaint or to contest the appropriateness of the proposed penalty set forth therein. If a hearing is requested, Subpart I of the Part 22 rules governs and sets forth the procedures for such hearing.
- 22. If Respondent requests a hearing, members of the public, to whom EPA is obligated to give notice of this proposed action, will have a right under Section 1423(c)(3)(C) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(C), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.45 to be heard and to present evidence on the appropriateness of the penalty assessment.
- 23. Respondent must, pursuant to Section 1423(c)(3)(A) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(A), send any request for a hearing to:

Danielle Carr Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street (mail code: ORC-1) San Francisco, CA 94105

## ANSWERING THE COMPLAINT

24. If Respondent intends to contest any material fact upon which the Complaint is based, or to contend that the proposed penalty is inappropriate or that Respondent is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, Respondent must file with the Regional Hearing Clerk of EPA Region IX both an original and one copy of a written Answer. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a). Such Answer must be filed within thirty (30) days after service of this Complaint. *Id.* The address of the Regional Hearing Clerk is provided in paragraph 23 above. Respondent must also serve a copy of the Answer, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a), to:

Richard Campbell
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street (mail code: ORC-2)
San Francisco, CA 94105

- 25. Respondent's Answer must clearly and directly admit, deny, or explain each of the factual allegations contained in the Complaint with regard to which Respondent has any knowledge. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b). Where Respondent has no knowledge of a particular factual allegation and so states in its Answer, the allegation is deemed denied. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b). Respondent's failure in its Answer to admit, deny, or explain any material factual allegation contained in the Complaint constitutes an admission of the allegation. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(d).
- 26. The Answer must also state: (1) the circumstances or arguments that are alleged to constitute the grounds of any defense, (2) the facts that Respondent disputes (and thus intends to place at issue in the proceeding), (3) the basis for opposing the proposed relief, and (4) whether Respondent requests a hearing. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b).

## FAILURE TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT

- 27. Respondent must file a written Answer with the Regional Hearing Clerk at the address above within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Complaint to avoid entry of a Default Order against you pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.17 for a civil administrative penalty of up to \$157,500 as proposed in this Complaint.
- 28. Any penalty assessed in the Default Order will become due and payable by Respondent without further proceedings thirty (30) days after the Default Order becomes final pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(c). If necessary, EPA may then seek to enforce such Final Order of Default against Respondent, and to collect the assessed penalty amount, which may be up to \$157,500, in federal court.

## **INFORMAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

29. Whether or not Respondent requests a formal hearing, Respondent may request an informal settlement conference to discuss the facts of this case, the proposed penalty, and settlement. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b). To request such a settlement conference, please contact:

Richard Campbell
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street (mail code: ORC-2)
San Francisco, CA 94105
phone: (415) 972-3870

- 30. The parties may engage in settlement discussions regardless of whether Respondent requests a hearing. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(1). A request for an informal settlement conference constitutes neither an admission nor a denial of any of the matters alleged herein. EPA does not deem a request for an informal settlement conference as a request for a hearing. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c).
- 31. Settlement discussions do not affect Respondent's obligation to file a timely Answer to the Complaint pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15. See also 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(1). EPA will not modify its proposed penalty simply because an informal settlement conference is held.

In re: Mountain States Petroleum Company Administrative Complaint and Proposed Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty

32. The terms and conditions of any settlement that may be reached as a result of a settlement conference will be recorded in a written Consent Agreement signed by all parties. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2). In order to conclude the proceeding, EPA will execute a Final Order ratifying the parties' Consent Agreement. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(3). In accepting the Consent Agreement, Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations herein and waives any right to appeal the Final Order accompanying the Consent Agreement. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2).

## EFFECTIVE DATE

33. This proceeding is initiated by the filing of this Complaint with the Regional Hearing Clerk. For calculation of time frames provided herein, the "Effective Date" of this Complaint is the date of service. Service is complete when the return mail receipt is signed by the Respondent or a duly authorized representative of the Respondent, in accordance with the provisions of 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.5(b) and 22.7(c).

Date: April 23, 2008

Alexis Strauss Director

Water Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

In re: Mountain States Petroleum Company Administrative Complaint and

Proposed Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the original of the foregoing Administrative Complaint and Proposed

Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty was filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, Region

9, and that a copy was sent, certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Mr. Dennis G. McLaughlin III Chief Executive Officer Mountain States Petroleum Company 3001 Knox Street, Suite 403 Dallas, Texas 75205

AND

CT Corporation System
Registered Agent for Mountain States Petroleum Company
123 East Marcy Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

4/23/08

Date

Flentins

RECEPTIONIST

Title

In re: Mountain States Petroleum Company Administrative Complaint and

Proposed Assessment of Administrative Civil Penalty

#### ATTACHMENT B

## In the Matter of Mountain States Petroleum Company

EPA Docket No. UIC-09-2008-0003

## EPA REGION 9 COLLECTION INFORMATION:

## **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS**

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

ABA = 021030004

Account = 68010727

SWIFT address = FRNYUS33

33 Liberty Street

New York, NY 10045

Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read:
"D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

## CHECK PAYMENTS

If payment is made by check, the check should be made payable to the "Treasurer, United States of America"

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Fines and Penalties Cincinnati Finance Center P.O. Box 979077 St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

#### **OVERNIGHT MAIL:**

U.S. Bank 1005 Convention Plaza Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL St. Louis, MO 63101

Contact: Natalie Pearson 314-418-4087

In re: Mountain States Petroleum Company Consent Agreement and Proposed Final Order USEPA Docket No. UIC 09-2008-0003

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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was sent, first

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Mr. Dennis G. McLaughlin III Chief Executive Officer Mountain States Petroleum Company 3001 Knox Street, Suite 403 Dallas, Texas 75205

AND

class mail to:

CT Corporation System
Registered Agent for Mountain States Petroleum Company
123 East Marcy Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

8/19/2008 Date Danielle & Cary Danielle Carr

Regional Hearing Clerk

EPA Region 9